

Priceless artifacts protected by UTC Fire & Security's seismic detectors



York Minster

York Minster is the largest medieval gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, with an intricate masonry and world-famous grotesques overlooking York's skyline. However the beauty of this magnificent church can only be truly appreciated when stepping inside.

York Minster is now home to the newest visitor attraction in York: 'Revealing York Minster in the Undercroft: A heroic, human and historic journey', in which visitors are transported on a 2,000-year journey from York Minster's Roman foundations to the modern day. At York Minster, visitors have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view at close range five of the conserved panels in The Orb: an elliptical gallery and dome of discovery.





Pre-existing situation & UTCFS's role

York Minster Revealed is a five-year project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is the largest restoration and conservation project of its kind in the UK and is being undertaken in order to improve access to the Undercroft, South Transept, Treasury and Crypt. Pointer, a local UTC Fire & Security partner, was approached to quote for the provision of an enhanced security system, including intrusion detection and video surveillance. The intrusion platform was required to protect high value Minster assets in display cabinets in the renovated Undercroft area. Originally, fixed door contacts were specified, however, after liaising with the Minster's insurance company, Pointer advised that UTC Fire & Security's seismic vibration sensors would be the preferred solution. Another consideration was that data cabling had to be installed by a Krone-approved network cable subcontractor and all cabling had to be undertaken without harming historic and listed building materials. The entire project was required to be managed to extremely tight timescales as the Undercroft area was due to be opened by Royalty. Pointer's implementation of robust project management was therefore essential.

UTCFS's solution

High specification products were needed to protect the priceless historic artifacts. These assets were going to be made available for general public viewing and had to be fully protected from theft and vandalism. Bespoke high spec. display cabinets were to be provided to house the many objects and it was agreed that UTC Fire & Security's VV700 series seismic detector would be the chosen product to detect any attempted interference to the display cabinets. Since the seismic detectors are fully computer programmable and each display cabinet's seismic settings can be saved on file for reference and future servicing, this was clearly the right product for the job. Also, having UK Home Office approval showed the installer and end user that the product had been thoroughly tested by a third party. The seismic detectors were installed, sometimes using several to a cabinet, to offer complete perimeter protection. With this solution in place, York Minster can rest assured its historic treasures are protected to the fullest.

