

## Unilever (Marmite) Gatehouse and Link Corridor

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### Client information:

**Unilever plc**  
Wellington Road  
Burton on Trent  
Staffordshire



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**Value:** £330,000.00

**Short description:** Construction of new link corridor and extension and refurbishment of gatehouse

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This project took place on a live food production site and entailed two distinct work streams.

Gatehouse -The existing gatehouse is the hub of the site undertaking the roles of security, reception and weighbridge. The existing building was doubled in size with a new extension, completely re-roofed and then internally re-decorated with new finishes. Throughout this element of works, the gatehouse remained in full operation, so very close management of safe pedestrian and visitor access was controlled with moving temporary access ways as the job progressed. Daily, sometimes hourly, liaison with the security personnel ensured that the day to day operations of the Unilever site were uninterrupted. All primary controls for security and fire alarm systems ran through the gatehouse so these needed to be maintained at all times.

Denman investigated options for bringing in a temporary gatehouse for the duration of the works and whilst this was simple to achieve, our client decided not to proceed with this because of the works involved in temporarily relocating the major services controlled from the existing gatehouse.

When it came time to break through from the new extension into the old, this was arranged for a weekend, where users of the gatehouse were much reduced and the works could proceed in as short a time period as possible. Following on from that point, we completed certain areas at a time, then moved the security personnel into that zone, whilst we worked on another area. Whilst this was time consuming, it was the way in which our client wished to proceed.

Some of the materials specified had to be imported from Europe and were on an extended lead in. Denman therefore needed to prioritise the finalisation of the relevant design details in order to ensure that these components could be specified and ordered in good time.

Denman were able to provide cost savings by altering the roofing system specified, to something that was equivalent in terms of performance but offered better value for money.

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Our team formed a close bond with the security personnel who were having to operate in conditions very different to their usual environment, but relationships remained cordial throughout the process due to constant communication.

Link Corridor - The site contains a number of independent warehouse buildings and this resulted in material and finished product being transported in the open from one to another. We constructed a steel framed and metal clad link building, with rapid rise auto shutter doors to allow an enclosed link between buildings. The location of the link was challenging given the proximity of many moving vehicles associated with the production side on site, along with the need to break into the building, with multiple new doorways, where the main production lines were located. Close co-ordination between all site and factory activities was undertaken, with daily briefings between ourselves and our client in order that both parties could continue with no negative effect on the other.

Denman worked closely with key Unilever personnel on site to ensure the works were carried out with very little disruption to the activities on site. Where possible, works took place within normal working hours, but some of the activities took place during quieter periods at weekends to allow the site to function as normal.

Given the volume of vehicles entering site, Denman provided a daily schedule of our anticipated deliveries with approximate times to co-ordinate these with the Unilever works functions and this worked well.

Safety was a key priority with the volume of vehicle movements and strict speed limits and segregated vehicle and pedestrian areas were adhered to.

All personnel required a specific Unilever induction, along with our own Denman induction. To ensure that the client was not overwhelmed, Denman worked with Unilever to adapt the factory standard induction, removing some elements that were not relevant and this was then delivered by Denman on behalf of Unilever.

