

APPLICATIONS GUIDE

HERITAGE – CULTURE – ARTS

Heritage sites are part of our shared history and whether it's the priceless artefacts contained within them, the buildings themselves, or both, the fire safety and security of these sites is of paramount importance. The nature of the sites present many unique challenge and innovative approaches are often needed to protect them.

Sensoco Systems have a wealth of experience in the heritage sector. We have maintained, installed and upgraded many fire and security systems in working museums, galleries and arts / cultural sites with minimal disruption to the building fabric, staff, public and normal site operation. We can provide solutions to the challenges that most of these individual and unique sites face and have highlighted some of these challenges and solutions to them.

PROTECTION FROM FIRE

Fire is one of the biggest threats to listed buildings, cultural sites and the artefacts contained within, as they are simply irreplaceable. If a fire did start it is not just the financial loss of priceless pieces, it is the loss of thousands of years of culture and history as once it is gone, it is gone. Therefore advanced detection and suppression methods are vitally important.

The Solution: We can advise on a range of advanced, early warning detection systems to identify the potential start of fire at the earliest stages, whilst still being resilient to false alarms. We are also experts in suppression so if a fire is detected it can be automatically extinguished with a system designed to put the fire out whilst not causing damage to artefacts and the building fabric, whether it is a gas or water based suppression system.



SECURITY – CCTV / ACCESS CONTROL

Priceless works of art and artefacts need to be shown off to their best advantage whilst remaining secure from the wrong kind of attention. CCTV really plays its part in monitoring and keeping artefacts safe. It is also vital to keep the public safe and secure in large open spaces with large crowds where it is difficult to monitor individuals and their activities.



The Solution: We provide state of the art CCTV systems with clear images and advanced analytics to notify operators of missing / moved objects, left objects and people / activity in restricted areas. We also offer remote CCTV monitoring with live voice announcements so buildings can be monitored and intruders warned when not occupied.

We provide advanced access control systems to restrict and monitor access to specific areas and ensure the buildings are secure at all times. CCTV, access control and intruder detection can be linked into an integrated security package.

PRESERVING BUILDING FABRIC AND AESTHETICS

Whilst installing (and maintaining) fire and security systems is of paramount importance, it is important that this is done sympathetically to cause minimal impact to the building structure itself and with aesthetics in mind.



The Solution: We offer wireless systems to minimise running cables, albeit the nature of some historic buildings with thick stone walls makes it difficult get signals to all areas. This is where systems with “Mesh” technology where all devices “talk” to each other and hybrid systems with part wired / part radio devices come into their own.

We provide aspiration smoke detection systems where pipework can be concealed in the building fabric and capillary tubes run to protected areas with small sampling holes providing invisible detection compared to traditional point detectors.

COMPLIANCE, COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE

It is essential to comply with fire legislation for buildings to opened to the public and also important to ensure any specific insurance requirements are met to make sure the building, artefacts and business are fully covered. It is not always possible to follow the relevant British Standards to the letter due to the unique nature of the buildings, so it is important to work with an organisation with experience of heritage properties that can advise on innovative solutions and agreed variations to provide effective fire and security cover.

The Solution: Senseco are experienced in heritage properties and have worked with various trusts and stakeholders to overcome challenges, so have a wealth of experience and practical solutions to draw on. We are LPS1014 certificated to prove our competence to design, install, commission and maintain fire systems, our sprinkler division are LPS1048 certificated, and our gas suppression division are certified to LPS1204 and are Ansul distributors for cooker hood suppression. All systems we offer are compliant with the latest British and European Standards.



MAINTENANCE



It is important that any maintenance regime fully tests the systems installed with minimal disruption to staff, the public and the operation and fabric of the building itself. Systems and the service providers need to be flexible to accommodate changes of layout and exhibition spaces. Also many heritage properties have a mix of different systems, old and new, so it is important that a service provider can support a wide range of equipment and is experienced in the heritage sector.

The Solution: Senseco are particularly experienced at maintaining heritage, culture and arts sites which can be on either a periodic visit, weekly attendance or manned site basis. We are used to working around opening times to minimise disruption and working with stakeholders to provide a flexible approach to changes of gallery / exhibition space use. As an independent company we can support a wide range of different systems. We provide detailed service records electronically and via a client portal for compliance and reassurance.

If you'd be interested in discussing your site / application, or any of our other services:

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