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Project takes firm's reputation to monumental heights

A MAINTENANCE contract based at a height of 200m has played a vital role in the preservation of one of London's most iconic attractions.

Experts from Blunt Construction, of The Old Fire Station, in Hazeley Road, were called upon to help with the £4.5m restoration of The Monument.

Designed by Sir Christo-

pher Wren, the flame-topped remnant of the Great Fire of London was built in 1677 and stands 202ft high, making it the tallest 'skelined' stone column in the world.

The project, which is being funded by the City of London Corporation, has involved the cleaning and repair of the stonework and the re-erect-

ing of its statue's golden orb.

The monument is scheduled to reopen to visitors shortly.

Blunt Construction, which has also worked on projects at the Houses of Parliament and Claridge's Hotel, preserved the appearance of the column by ensuring that all materials were perfectly matched.

The 50-year-old family firm, by itself, was a turnover of £2m, has been a member of the National Federation of Builders for 19 years and used its rich work experience to help complete the job.

"The support we've received from the NFB has been invaluable throughout the project, particularly their guidance on

health and safety issues," said Blunt Construction director Colin Weeks.

"This has been extremely successful and prestigious work for us and the fact that we are only a

plate of 100m from quality five advice has been a real benefit."

Andrew Dore, regional director for the NFB said: "With so much bad news

surrounding construction, it is important that the industry had someone to champion the firms that are doing great work.

"It is great to see a company being able to contribute to such a landmark project. Their innovative work is a fine example of the diversity of our members."