

UNIQUE PROTECTION FOR AN HISTORIC LANDMARK

The National Trust looked to OSID (Open-area Smoke Imaging Detection) for solution to protect A La Ronde, a unique house in Devon, UK.

Case Study

SENIOR FIRE MANAGER, NATIONAL TRUST:

“OSID has been installed in A La Ronde for over a year now and we’re delighted that it was so easy to solve the ongoing problems we had with the old Infrared beam detectors.”

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OVERVIEW

The National Trust was founded in 1895 with the aim of preserving the UK's national heritage and open spaces. The trust owns many heritage properties, including historic houses and gardens, industrial monuments and social history sites. It is one of the largest landowners in the United Kingdom, owning many beauty spots. It is the largest membership organisation in the United Kingdom, and one of the largest UK charities by both income and assets.



A La Ronde is a unique sixteen-sided National Trust property. The house was described by well known British writer, photographer and broadcaster Lucinda Lambton as having 'a magical strangeness that one might dream of only as a child.'

It was built for two spinster cousins, Jane and Mary Parminster, on their return from a grand tour of Europe in the late 18th century. It contains many objects and mementoes of their travels.

The extraordinary interior decoration includes a feather frieze, gathered from native game birds and chickens, laboriously stuck down with isinglass, an adhesive obtained from the swim bladders of fish.

The only practical form of fire detection for the structure is beam smoke

detection due to the fragile and delicate nature of the building. The property had long suffered spurious false alarms from the system installed in the central atrium. The cause had been identified as an inability of the system to operate reliably in an environment that exhibits medium levels of dust contamination, spiders and insects, and sunlight coming through the atrium windows.

Eurofyre, who work extensively with The National Trust were asked to propose a solution to the ongoing false alarm problems. They recommended OSID, Open Area Smoke Imaging Detection from Xtralis which works by projecting dual Infra Red and Ultra violet beams to a receiver, an Imager type device incorporating a CMOS sensor.

Eurofyre explained how OSID's unique use of dual frequencies would discriminate against dust and small objects such as spiders and insects and that this new generation beam type detector is far better at coping with the effects of bright sunlight. The existing beam set has been replaced by an OSID Imager (receiver) and an Emitter (Transmitter) and the system has proved to be effective and stable. All false alarms have ceased.



ABOUT OSID

- Simple installation and commissioning - up to 70% time saving compared to traditional beams
- Low maintenance, saving both time and expense
- High tolerance to vibrations, building movement and high airflow
- Dramatically reduces false alarms
- High resistance intruding objects such as dust, fogging, steam, reflections, sunlight, birds, insects and forklifts
- The Imager requires only 20 cm (8 in) free space for installation



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