

SPECIALIST CLEANING



M40 MOTORWAY

The M40 motorway, which stretches from West London towards Birmingham, is one of the busiest in Britain with an average daily traffic flow of more than 100,000 vehicles. For drivers of these vehicles, roadside graffiti can be a dangerous distraction, as well as being unsightly and, in some cases, offensive.

In 2004, we were invited by Carillion plc, on behalf of the Highways Agency, to survey 57 graffiti sites along the M40, and to prepare a comprehensive report on how best to clean them. In fact, we identified 64 sites – and 2660 sq m of graffiti.

The graffiti was painted on bridges, underpasses and carriageway walls, and all the sites presented very different process and safety challenges. For example, many sites were adjacent to watercourses, precluding the use of chemical paint removers.

Rising to the challenge

While wishing to minimise disruption to drivers, the safety of our workers was also a principal priority. So, wherever possible, we accessed the sites from adjacent land. However, more than 20 sites required hard shoulder closure, and the erection of crash cushion barriers.

We employed the Quill Falcon Quick Wet Blast system, which uses inert media (in this case garnet) to remove the graffiti. This approach is non-toxic to plant and animal life and presents zero environmental risk. In the end, all the graffiti from 145km of motorway was removed within three weeks.

Carillion, who were delighted with our rate of work and safety procedures, asked us to return to the M40 in 2006 to carry out a similar job at a further 27 sites. This time more than 1000 sq m of graffiti was removed.

A comprehensive survey identified 64 graffiti sites along the busy M40. All presented different cleaning challenges.



“WE’RE ASKED TO DO THIS JOB ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND IT ALWAYS PRESENTS A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES. HOWEVER, OVER THE YEARS, WE’VE DEVELOPED WORKING PROCEDURES THAT ALLOW US TO WORK SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY.”

DUNCAN J MACLEAN, RHINOCEROS LIMITED

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR OTHER SERVICES AT WWW.RHINO247.CO.UK