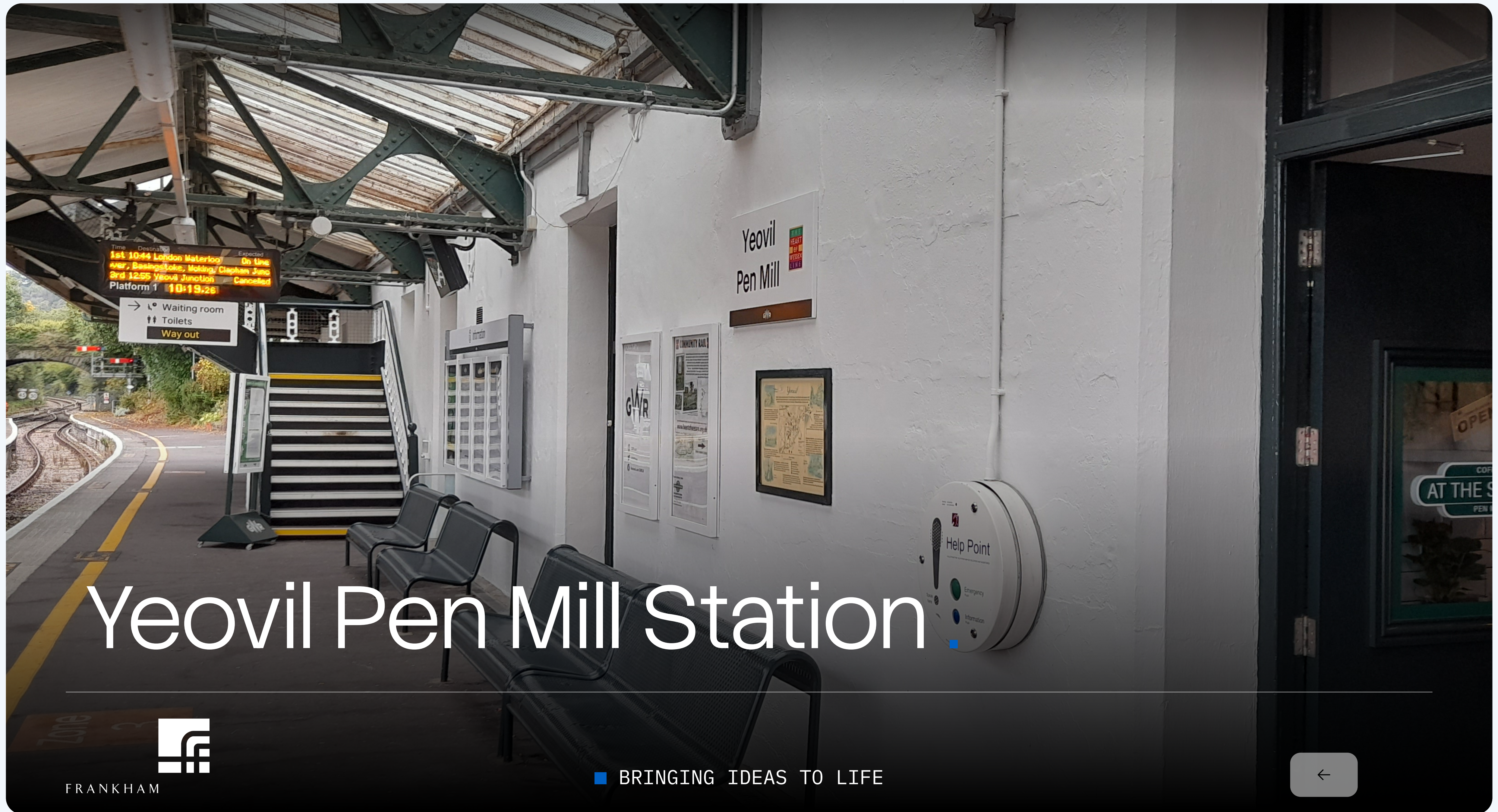




Yeovil Pen Mill Station



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■ BRINGING IDEAS TO LIFE



Frankham was appointed to provide structural engineering services for the design of a new fall arrest walkway system to the Platform 1 canopy at Yeovil Pen Mill Station.

COMPANY	Frankham
CLIENT	Octavius Infrastructure Ltd
LOCATION	Yeovil, Somerset
SECTOR	Transport
SERVICES	Structural & Civil Engineering

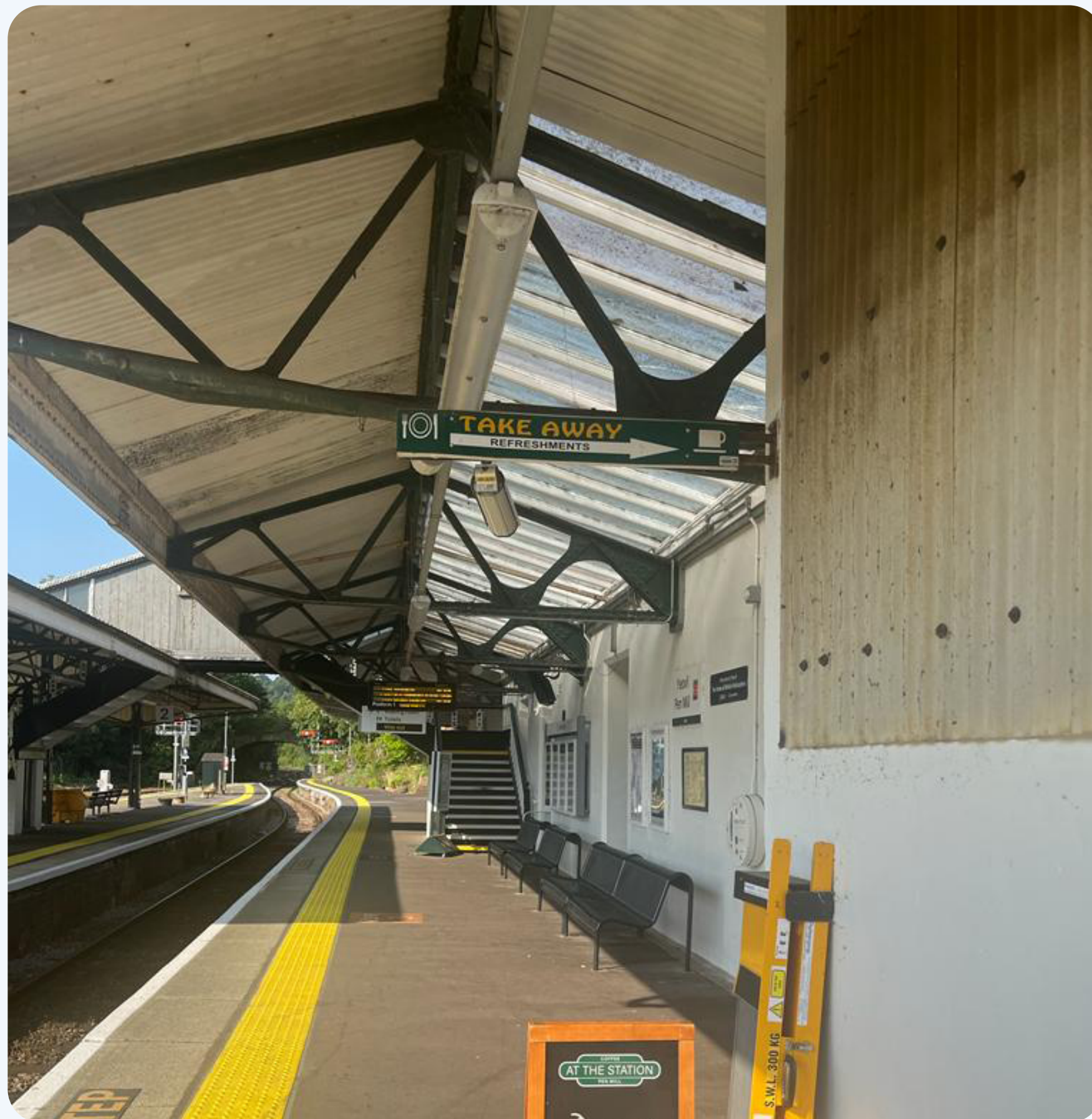
The project formed part of planned maintenance and asset management works aimed at improving safe access for inspection and upkeep of the station's roof structures.

The scheme required a practical engineering solution that integrated with the existing canopy structure, while ensuring compliance with current safety and accessibility requirements and minimising disruption to station operations.

The primary scope of works included:

- Replacing the existing glazing on platform 1 canopy
- Installation of new access hatches
- Replacing existing box gutter
- Inspection of the canopy structure
- Completing a quantitative assessment of the existing canopy structure

Frankham were responsible for producing the detailed design, including carrying out the inspection, design development, quantitative assessment of the station canopy structural capacity and delivery of the design assurance package.



The existing timber canopy structure presented several technical challenges.

As a live railway environment, access for inspection and delivery of works needed to be carefully managed and coordinated.

A key consideration was assessing the capacity of the existing roof construction, including supporting timber elements and sheeting, to accommodate additional maintenance loads introduced by the new walkway system. The variability and age of the structure meant that original design information was limited, requiring a detailed on-site assessment to inform robust design solutions.

In addition, the integration of the new walkway with existing features such as the box gutter system and canopy detailing required careful coordination with box gutter supplier design inputs ensuring optimal designer structural interfaces and buildability.

We adopted a structured approach, beginning with a targeted site inspection to assess the condition of the timber structure, gutter housing and potential support locations.

This informed a structural assessment of the canopy to determine its capacity to accommodate new maintenance loads. Where defects or limitations were identified, the design incorporated allowances for localised timber repairs, including resin repairs and scarf splice details, to extend the life of the existing structure.

The proposed solution included:

- A Glass Reinforced Plastic fall arrest walkway system and access hatch to provide a durable, lightweight access solution.
- Specification for replacement of roof sheeting where existing materials were deemed inadequate.
- Integration with third-party gutter design to ensure a coordinated outcome.

The design was developed with a focus on buildability, safety and long-term asset performance.

■ THE OUTCOME



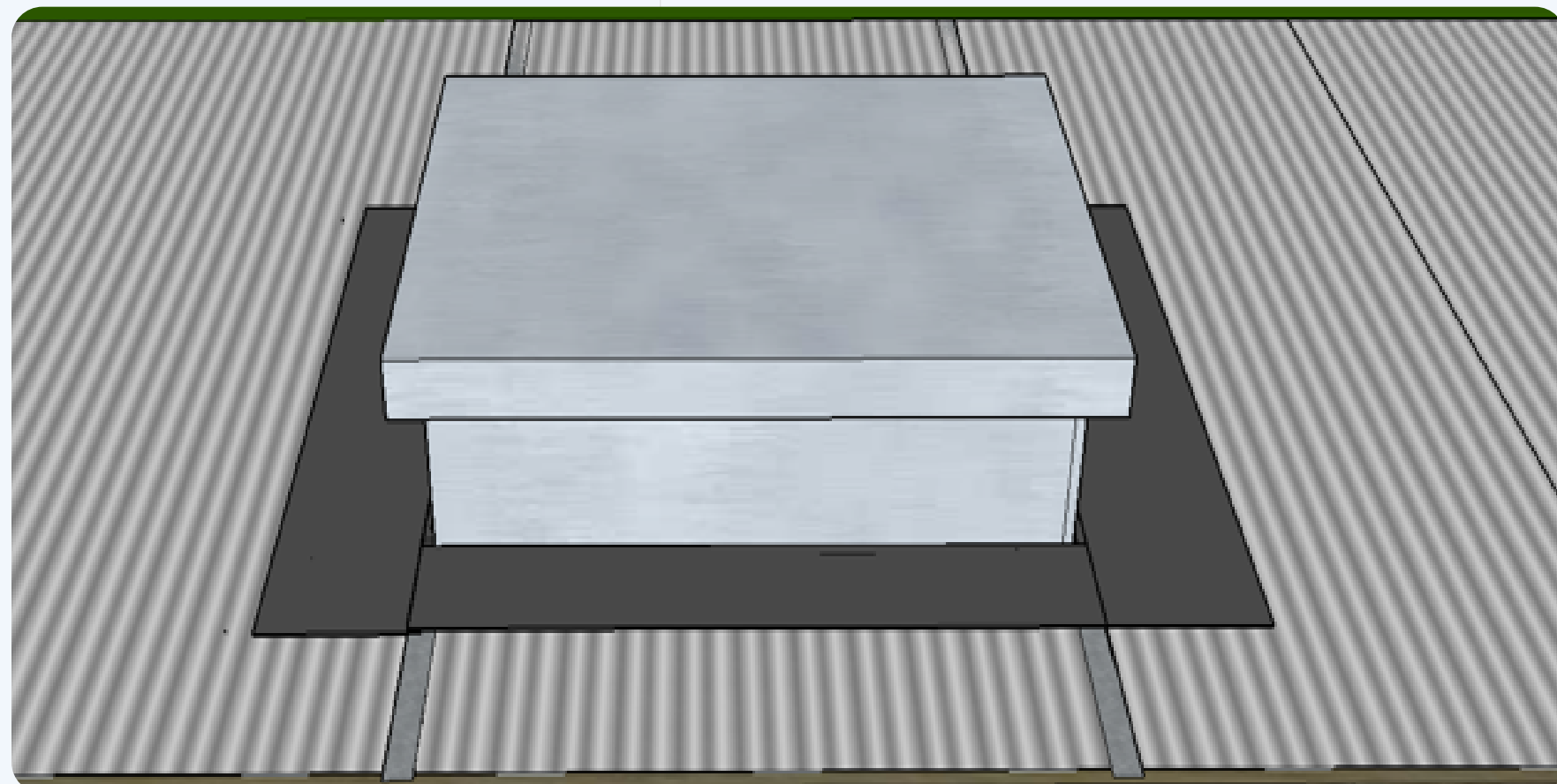
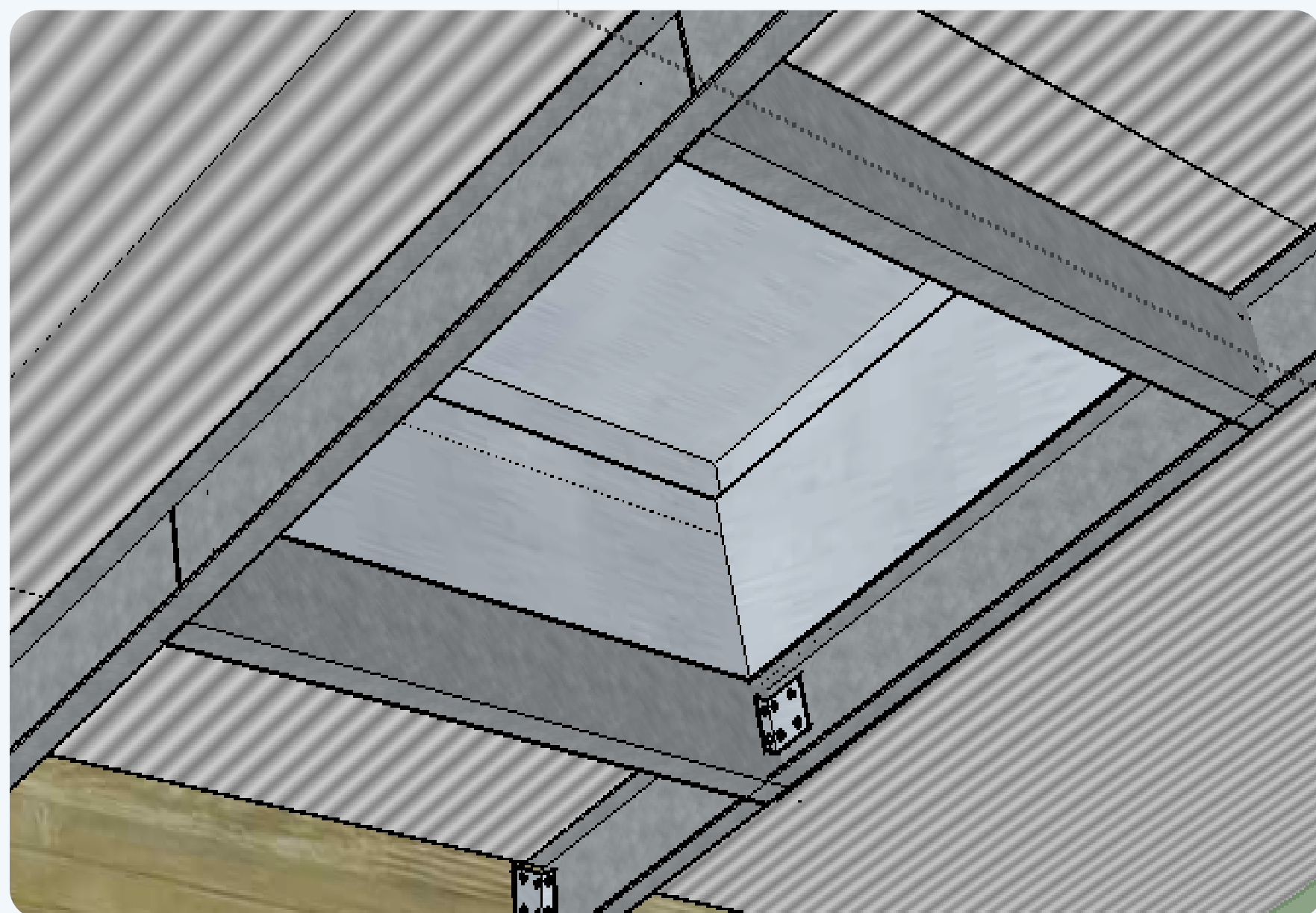
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The project delivered a safe, practical and compliant fall arrest walkway system solution

that enables ongoing inspection and maintenance of the station canopy without compromising operational requirements.

The design minimised unnecessary intervention to the existing structure while addressing key safety considerations, ensuring an efficient and cost-effective outcome for the client.





Frankham's pragmatic and client-focused approach added significant value to the scheme.

Through careful review of the original brief, we identified an opportunity to enhance safety by minimising the risks associated with working at height. While the initial proposal required maintenance operatives to access and traverse the canopy roof using the man safe system, Frankham recognised the inherent risks associated with this approach and developed an alternative solution.

The revised design introduced access hatches within the canopy, enabling maintenance activities to be undertaken safely from below using scaffold access. This eliminated the requirement to work directly on the roof and reduced fall risk significantly. The proposed approach was well received by the client, who welcomed the improved safety outcome and subsequently progressed with the Frankham-led solution.



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■ GET IN TOUCH

Contact us

Whether you have a new project, a tender invitation, or a general enquiry, our expert team is ready to listen

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