



No unwanted passengers on this train!

The Problem

One of the services offered by the South Devon Railway (SDR) Trust, is to use a train, which comprises historic dining carriages, as a 'rolling restaurant' offering their customers an à la carte menu whilst the train completes a leisurely three hour journey between Buckfastleigh and Totnes, and back.

During an inspection of one of the dining carriages, named King George, unexpected and unwanted guests were found to be aboard. It was during an annual heavy clean that small round holes, contained within the wood panelling of the carriage, were found by the dining car manager. These were instantly recognisable as woodworm damage. The carriage is extremely valuable, eight having been built with only five surviving in preservation, so the carriage was of great heritage value, not only to SDR but to railway preservation as a whole.



Rentokils Solution

Rentokil had the solution to effectively treat the large carriage for the woodworm activity, without damaging or contaminating the vehicle with potentially harmful pesticides. Rentokils approach was to use a fumigant gas called ProFume, which is unique to Rentokil in the UK.

This fumigation process eliminates all life stages of wood boring insect infestations, within hard-to-reach areas, effectively tackling deep-seated insect infestations that other conventional pesticide application techniques cannot reach.

Customer Benefit

The main concern SDR had prior to treatment was the time that the carriage was out of use. SDR needed a quick turn around on the treatment to ensure the carriage was promptly back in use, ready for their customers to enjoy the experience of fine dining whilst on an historic train journey.

In addition, they needed to ensure that the woodworm was treated without damaging the structure or fittings in any way. The use of ProFume enabled Rentokil to control all life stages of the woodworm, but without causing any damage to the carriage.



John Haslam

SDR's Operations Manager

"The fumigation treatment was very effective, ensuring that we can continue to operate our carriage for the foreseeable future, but without the unwanted woodworm passengers!"

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