



CASE STUDY



Specialist Fire Compartmentation Works at Printing House

This project formed part of a unique and technically demanding fire compartmentation programme across a residential block in Aldershot. While the original scope appeared straightforward, the absence of construction specifications and the discovery of multiple unforeseen building archetypes introduced significant complexity.

Despite these challenges, ABP successfully delivered a fully compliant fire compartmentation package, working collaboratively with VIVID and third party technical specialists to ensure exceptional quality, safety, and minimal disruption to residents.

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

Unknown Substrate & Missing Specifications

The building was a relatively new development, yet no substrate information or construction specification had been issued prior to commencement.

This resulted in:

- Multiple hidden building archetypes appearing unexpectedly
- Significant variance in wall, ceiling, and support structures between flats
- A need for on site technical problem solving and bespoke solutions

Why was this challenging?

Without knowing what sits behind walls, ceilings, or voids, standard surveys were insufficient. Every area required careful investigation, intrusive opening-up, and often, complete redesign of installation methods to ensure compliance with fire strategy requirements.

Specialist Structural Requirements

As part of the works, ABP identified areas where window replacement and structural reinforcement were necessary. For example, one block required the installation of a structural aluminium post to support loads safely.

Key assessments included:

- Confirming the aluminium post could support the required weight
- Ensuring fixing methods were compatible with the unknown substrate
- Designing a compliant method to secure handrails and secondary components to the new post
- These solutions required engineering judgement, external verification, and careful integration with the property's existing fabric.

ACTIONS TAKEN

Technical Collaboration & Problem Solving

ABP worked in constant collaboration with:

- Our in house Technical Team with extensive experience.
- Third party structural and fire engineering advisers.
- VIVID's project management team.

This partnership allowed each unforeseen challenge to be assessed, tested, designed, and approved efficiently.





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Intrusive Surveys to Identify Substrate

Given the absence of specifications, ABP carried out intrusive surveys across the building to expose hidden substrates and construction types.

Techniques included:

- Opening test areas in walls, ceilings, and risers
- Removing select finishes under controlled conditions
- Capturing detailed photographic and written technical evidence for the client
- Designing appropriate firestopping measures based on real conditions

Resident management during intrusive works was handled sensitively, ensuring access was pre arranged, flexible around shift workers, and minimised for those temporarily abroad.

REGULAR CLIENT COMMUNICATION

Due to the unpredictable nature of the project, ABP maintained regular communication with the client, including:

- Weekly progress meetings.
- Immediate notification when unexpected archetypes were discovered.
- Sharing photographic evidence with all stakeholders.
- Collaborative review of revised work methods and pricing.
- Ensuring all decisions were transparent and mutually agreed.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Delivered a highly technical, rapidly evolving contract with accuracy and professionalism
- Developed innovative on site solutions to previously undocumented building conditions
- Strengthened ABP's technical competency in new build fire compartmentation
- Demonstrated the value of early intrusive surveys for future contracts

