

Introduction:

This methodology statement outlines the precautions and procedures that will be implemented during the shopfitting project to protect the existing timber floor, walls, and heritage features within the building at Mansfield Chambers, 17 St Ann's Square, Manchester. Our aim is to carry out the necessary shopfitting work while preserving the integrity of the historic building elements.

Timber Floor (GF)

The Ground Floor currently has some original timber floors in place. These will be retained and protected as outlined below and overlaid with new M&W timber flooring as per the attached specification.

Methodology for protection of Heritage Asset:

- a. The existing timber floor will be preserved by carefully levelling using 18mm chipboard installed over the existing floor. This method allows for a smooth surface while maintaining the integrity of the original timber floor.
- b. To further protect the historical flooring, any screws used during the levelling process will be inserted between the joints of the existing boards. This measure minimizes damage to the original floorboards.
- c. In areas where a new staircase opening has been created, the existing floorboards have been salvaged and reused where possible to infill the old staircase opening and other areas missing original flooring. This approach helps preserve the historical integrity of the flooring throughout the building.

Walls

Final wall finishes in M&W spaces are a combination of painted finish and wallpaper with metal trims. All front of house wall finishes are applied directly to the new wall linings, not original fabric. Original fabric is protected and retained behind the new linings as outlined below.

Existing Walls:

- a. Wall linings will not be fixed directly to the existing walls. Instead, they will be fixed to the floor joists above and the floor using 50mm wood screws.
- b. This approach will ensure that no damage is caused to the existing walls, preserving their structural integrity.

Protection of Heritage Features:

Original columns will be left exposed and painted with intumescent paint only to comply with building regulations. Column heads to be left exposed. Existing corbels are being retained and left exposed with redecoration only.

- a. All heritage features, within the building will be protected during the shopfitting works, with careful consideration given to their preservation.
- b. Barriers, protective sheeting, and foam padding will be used as needed to prevent damage to these features.
- c. Signs will be placed in the vicinity of the heritage features, alerting workers to exercise caution and avoid contact.
- d. Daily inspections will be conducted to ensure that the protective measures remain in place and that no damage has occurred to the historical features.

Training and Communication:

- a. All workers involved in the project will be briefed on the importance of preserving the building elements and the specific measures in place to protect them.
- b. Regular toolbox talks will be held to reinforce these guidelines.

Documentation:

- a. A post-project report will be prepared, documenting the measures implemented and the final condition of the building elements.

By adhering to this methodology, we aim to preserve the integrity of the historic elements within Mansfield Chambers, 17 St Ann's Square, Manchester during the shopfitting project and ensure their preservation for future generations to appreciate.