

Record of Site Visit

Job Number: 14356
Project Title: O2 Apollo, Manchester

Date of Visit: 04.08.2022
Time of Visit: 13:00

Site Visited: O2 Apollo, Manchester
Purpose of Visit: Inspection opening up works at partition wall at Whiteroom Lounge Bar

Engineer: Andrea Manenti (AM)
Person Visited: Keith Forshaw (KF)

Introduction:

Booth King Partnership Ltd. (BKPL) visited for a second inspection the O2 Apollo Theatre in Manchester on the 04th of August 2022.

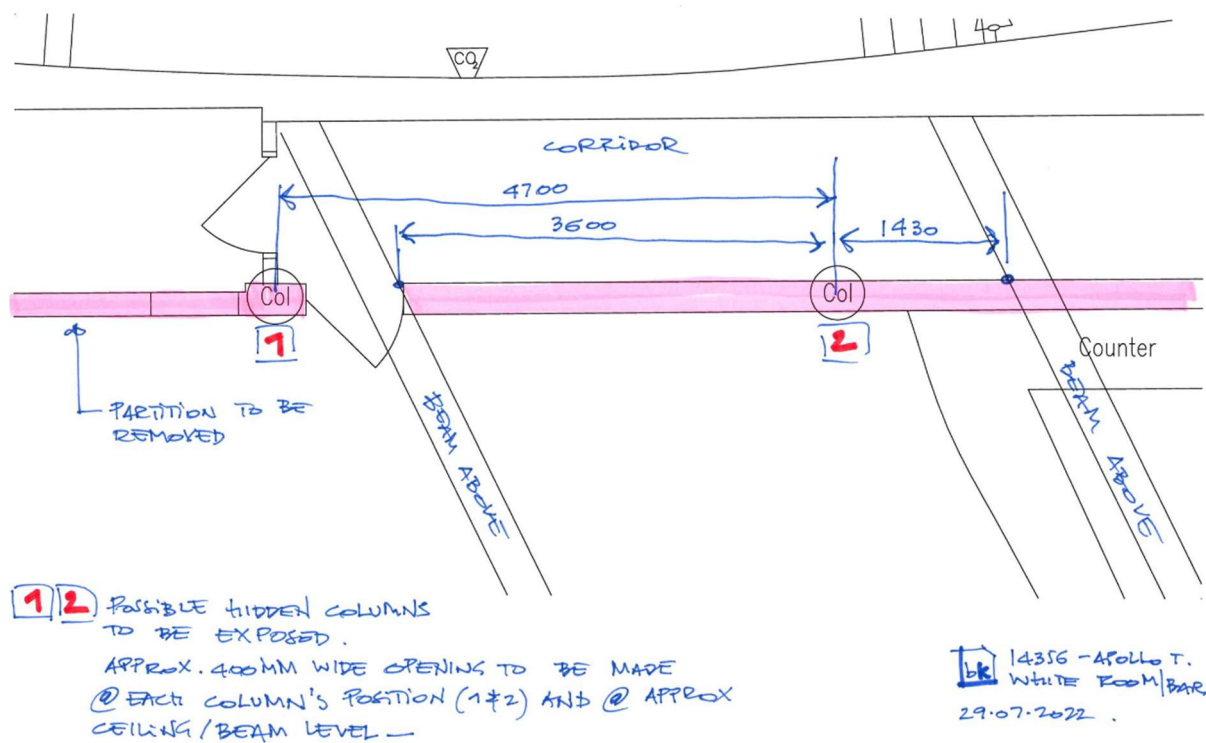
Please refer to BKP report dated 11th of January 2022 – attached to this report – for preliminary inspection's findings.

As recommended in the first report, some opening up works were required to understand the structural typology of the partition to be removed (at the moment finished with plastering on two layers of 12mm plasterboards), as well as to investigate further the presence of hidden columns within the partition wall, in line with two of the three large circular columns from the bar lounge at level below.

The following report highlights the findings.

Observations

As shown in the sketch below, two areas were requested to be exposed to investigate structural build-up of the partition wall and presence of potential structural columns in line with position [1] and [2] as sketched below.



The images below show the opened patches as well as the typology of partition wall. This appear to be a brick thick wall (approx. 215mm thk).

The wall in position [1] was broken through to confirm its overall thickness but also to expose the soffit of the slab above, showing a continuity of the concrete cast slab over the partition. No evidence of a structural elements in line with the column below was visible.

The wall in position [2] was also exposed from its finishes to show similar brickwork wall structure as in position [1]. The opened patch extended from the end of the downstand beam above for approx. 500-600mm. No evidence of a structural elements in line with the column below was visible, although due to some discrepancies between the electronic AutoCAD files and real dimensions on site (as shown in the attached), the exposure of the brickwork wall behind the finishes was undertaken closer to the downstand encased steel beam.

Refer to the photos below for clarity.

Conclusions

Following this second inspection and based on what exposed and found, it is believe that the partition to be removed is non loadbearing. The following have been considered:

- There is no continuity of loadbearing structure at level below.
- The structural arrangement of the floor plate at Upper Circle Bar Level (where the partition to be removed is) and the Projector Room above is consistent, with the difference that at the upper floor there's no evidence of a partition (or loadbearing) wall in line with the one to be removed and at level below (as highlighted within the first report).
- The downstand beams above the partition to be removed, appear continuous and spanning from the front wall to the corridor wall opposite the one to be removed.
- Signs of continuity on the RC slab above the partition.
- No signs of hidden structural columns have been found in line with the circular columns at level below.

It is finally recommended that during the demolition of the wall, the principal contractor to take all relevant precautions in order to remove the wall safely. It is moreover required that an engineer is called to witness the demolition works as they progress.



Photo 1 – Position [1] - View of the partition wall's opening works.



Photo 2 - Corridor for the far end to show both of the opening up works completed to expose downstand beams and wall.



Photo 3 – Position [2] – Exposure of partition brickwork wall and downstand beam.



Photo 4 – Position [2] – link between RC downstand beam and brickwork wall.