

METHOD STATEMENT – INSTALLATION OF DUCTWORK AND M&E CONTAINMENT FIXED TO HISTORIC CEILING AND BASEMENT

Project: Mosley Street

Client: Joe and the Juice

Principal Contractor: HPM

Prepared by: Samuel Hurst

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1. Scope of Works

This document records the agreed methodology (as established on site with the design team and conservation team) for the installation of ductwork and M&E containment systems fixed to the existing basement ceiling, which incorporates historic structural fabric.

The works relate to the suspension and support of ventilation ductwork and electrical/mechanical containment while minimising impact to the historic ceiling structure and ensuring all interventions are controlled and justified.

2. Reference Documents

- M&E drawings and specifications
- Builders work drawings
- Conservation / Heritage Statement
- Structural engineer's details (where applicable)
- Site meetings and agreed instructions
- Photographic condition survey (pre-works)

3. Pre-Works Coordination

Prior to installation, the following was undertaken:

- Ceiling construction and joist direction were identified and verified on site
- Positions of service runs were coordinated to minimise intervention into historic fabric
- Fixing strategy was reviewed and agreed in principle with the project management team and architect
- Trial holes were undertaken where required to confirm substrate suitability
- All operatives were briefed on restrictions relating to historic fabric

4. General Installation Principles (As Agreed On Site)

- Minimal intervention approach: Fixings were limited to the minimum required
- Primary fixing into structural elements: Where possible, fixings were made into timber joists rather than decorative or fragile materials

- Avoidance of significant features: No fixings were made into visually important or sensitive historic elements
- Reversible installation: All methods allow removal without undue damage
- Load control: All loads were assessed and distributed appropriately to prevent over stressing the historic structure

5. Ductwork Installation (Wire Suspension System)

- Ductwork was suspended using a proprietary wire suspension system
- Suspension wires were fixed into suitable structural points within the ceiling:
 - Primarily into timber joists
 - Positions coordinated to avoid damage to finishes or weaker materials
- Fixings were installed using appropriate mechanical anchors suitable for the substrate
- Wire lengths were adjusted to achieve level installation without imposing lateral loads
- Fixing points were minimised and spaced in accordance with manufacturer's load data
- No direct bearing of ductwork onto historic ceiling finishes was permitted

6. M&E Containment Installation (Uni strut Trapeze System)

- Containment (cable trays, trunking, pipe supports) was installed using Uni strut trapeze brackets
- Trapeze systems were suspended from the ceiling using threaded rods

Fixing methodology:

- Where structural timber joists were identified:
 - Mechanical fixings were installed directly into joists
- Where voids or non-solid areas were encountered:
 - Approved cavity fixings were used
- Fixing types and embedment depths were selected based on substrate condition and load requirements
- Brackets were levelled and aligned to ensure even load distribution
- Spacing of trapeze supports followed manufacturer's guidance and site conditions

7. Interface with Historic Fabric

- Fixings were carefully located to avoid splitting, cracking, or damaging timber joists
- No excessive drilling was undertaken beyond agreed locations
- Decorative or finished ceiling surfaces were avoided where possible
- Where penetrations through finishes were required:
 - Holes were kept to a minimum diameter (10mm)
 - Edges were clean and controlled
- No surface-mounted loads were applied directly onto historic finishes

8. Environmental and Protection Measures

- Existing protection measures remained in place during installation
- Dust was controlled using extraction and localised drilling controls
- Low-vibration drilling methods were used to reduce risk to historic structure
- Works were sequenced to limit disturbance

9. Monitoring and Quality Control

- All fixing locations were visually checked prior to drilling
- Regular inspections were undertaken by site management
- Any unforeseen substrate issues were reported prior to continuation
- Approved fixing types and methods were adhered to throughout

10. Completion

- All ductwork and containment was securely installed and independently supported
- No unintended loading was transferred to non-structural historic fabric
- All areas were left clean with no damage beyond agreed and controlled interventions
- Final condition was reviewed against the pre-works photographic survey

11. Conclusion

The ductwork and M&E containment systems were installed in accordance with the agreed site principles, using controlled fixing methods (Wire suspension and Uni strut trapeze systems) to ensure minimal and acceptable intervention into the historic ceiling fabric while achieving the required services installation.