

Method Statement for the Strengthening of Bressummers to 6 New Square.

6 New Square is a terraced building built approx. 300 years ago. It is currently used as Barristers Chambers and will remain in occupation throughout the Contract. The object of the works is to strengthen the existing bressummers using 2 methods.

1. Steel plates bonded and mechanically fixed to the underside of the beams.
2. Channels cut into the top of the beams and Steel bars and resin inserted.

The Works will involve the following operations:

1. Removing (modern) ceilings to expose the beams from below.
2. Removing carpets, hardboards and floorboards to expose the beams from above.
3. Temporary Propping to the underside of the beams whilst the cutting operation above is taking place.
4. Removing bookcases and fixed furniture to allow access to the work area.
5. Getting materials safely in and out of the building.
6. Refixing plasterboard ceilings
7. Refixing floorboards and carpets.
8. The setup of a site cabin and electrical installation to the same.

The Strengthening Works to the beams will be covered by a separate Method Statement/Risk Assessment by R G Services.

Removing Ceilings to expose Beams

The ceilings to be removed are located on the lower ground floor. The ceiling will be marked by the site manager and a strip approx. 400mm wide will be cut using hand tools. Due to the height of the ceilings it will be necessary to work of a step ladder. Investigation work has already taken place and it has been established that no services cross the point of cutting. The ceiling will be cut into small manageable pieces and passed down from one operative to another. The ceilings are contained in rooms which can be closed off and no access by client staff will be allowed either by means of signage, barriers or by locking the door. When the ceiling has been cut the spoil is to be bagged and removed from the room, and the area hovered clean.

Removing Carpets Hardboard and floor.

This operation occurs throughout the building in various rooms. The carpets are to be rolled back to one side of the room and covered with polythene to protect from dust. Care to be taken with the exposed gripper rod. A 400mm strip of hard board is to be cut using a skill saw with care taken to ensure that the blade is set to only cut the hard board and not the floor boards. Once this has been done the floor boards will be exposed. These are fixed with a combination of nails and screws. The screws will be unscrewed and the nails levered out carefully so as not to damage the boards. Only sufficient boards to gain access to the bressummer will be lifted so as to minimise the chances of a gap between the bressummer and remaining boards. This will stop any materials or operatives falling through the ceiling below and causing damage to people or property.

Propping To the Underside of Bressummers

This operation will occur in most of the rooms. The sequence of working will be as follows;

1. Cut approximate 200mm x200mm hole through the plasterboard to locate the bressummer.
2. Place a scaffold board directly under the line of the bressummer.
3. Insert Acrow prop through the hole to the underneath of the bressummer and down onto the scaffold board.
4. Make sure Acrow is plumb and tighten until it just nips and then screw into place through top and bottom plates.
5. This is a two man operation and care must be taken to ensure that the bressummer below has previously been strengthened. No propping should take place of an un-strengthened bressummer.
6. The props are to be place in rooms that are out of bounds to the client's staff and rooms can be locked to ensure no entry by the same.

Removing Fixed Furniture

This operation will occur in most rooms. The sequence of work is as follows;

1. The fixed furniture will be dismantled in the reverse order to that of which was built. (Screwed panels unscrewed, lift off panels lifted off etc.)
2. The units will be broken down into manageable sizes and then taken out of the room to be stored in 2 New Square.
3. All Furniture is to be clearly marked and labelled to ensure it is fitted back in the correct place.

Safe Transportation of Materials in and out of the Building

Most of the materials being brought into the building are of a manageable size. (They can be handled by one man safely) There are however some items that will need careful management. These items are as follows; Acrow Props. Steel Bars and Furniture.

We intend to manage this operation as follows

1. Most materials are to be brought in when the client's staff are not in the building, either before 8.00am or at weekends.
2. We will be using the same staircase as the client's staff, but we will be using the basement entrance not the ground floor.
3. All items brought in during normal working times will require 2 men to facilitate this operation, one operative carrying the load and one operative leading the way to Ensure a safe passage for both staff and operatives.
4. Any heavy/bulky items will require 3 men, 2 operatives carrying the load and one leading the way.
5. We will however try to minimise the quantity of material brought in during the day and try to confine this operation to weekends/early mornings.
6. All rebar has been cut to a maximum length of 1.7m to facilitate ease of handling.

Re-fixing Plasterboard ceilings

The ceilings to be fixed are located on the lower ground floor. All materials will be delivered to the work area prior to work starting. (Either early morning or weekends) The operation will be carried out using steps and small battery operated power tools. New MF5 channels are to be fixed across the previously cut strip of plasterboard and secured using screws. Onto this will be fixed the new plasterboard again using screws. Once the area is closed up all debris is to be removed and the area hovered and left in a clean condition.

Re-fixing floor boards and carpets.

The boards are to be fixed using either screws or nails.(Care to be taken to make sure no services are damaged) Onto this will be fixed the previously removed hard board using staples. The existing underlay is then to be stapled down and the carpet Stretched and held on the already install gripper rods. Once complete the area is to be hovered and left in a tidy condition.

Siting and installation of Cabin

The Site cabin is to be brought to site via Lincolns Inn around New Square and placed in front of 6 new Square in 3 no. designated parking spaces. When this operation is taking place we will need to close the road in this area (By means of cones and tape) to allow for safe Lifting. Once the cabin is sited, power and water will need to be connected. Water will be connected via the outside tap in the basement and power via the distribution board on the lower ground floor.