## Fire Risk Assessment Mountford House



1-66, Glover Street, West Bromwich, B70 6DS

**Date Completed:** 04/12/2024

Review Period: 12 months

Officer: C. Hill Fire Risk Assessor

Checked By: A. Jones Fire Risk Assessor



#### **Subsequent reviews**

Review date	Officer	<u>Comments</u>

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#### Introduction

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RR(FS)O) places a legal duty on landlords to complete a fire risk assessment (FRA). Specifically, RR(FS)O article 9. — (1) "The responsible person must make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to which relevant persons are exposed for the purpose of identifying the general fire precautions he needs to take to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed on him by or under this Order".

This fire risk assessment has been written to comply fully with the above legislation which is enforced locally by West Midlands Fire Service. If required, complaints can be made to them by telephone on 0121 380 7500 or electronically on <a href="https://www.wmfs.net/our-services/fire-safety/#reportfiresafety">https://www.sanet/our-services/fire-safety/#reportfiresafety</a>. In the first instance however, we would be grateful if you could contact us directly via <a href="https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200195/contact\_the\_council/283/feedback\_and\_complaints">https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200195/contact\_the\_council/283/feedback\_and\_complaints</a> or by phone on 0121 569 6000.

The date of the fire risk assessment is on the front page, followed by any subsequent reviews. A recurring time frame is not set in legislation, but the Council will as a minimum review:

- High Risk Residential Buildings annually
- Other Buildings every 3 years

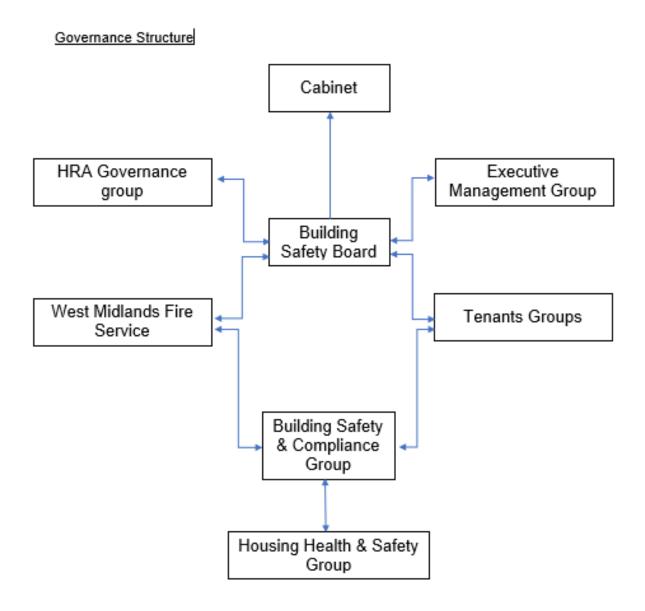
The council has procedures and policies in place that will trigger a review of the fire risk assessment. This then is recorded on the fire risk assessment. If the review suggests the fire risk assessment is not currently suitable and sufficient, then a new fire risk assessment will be undertaken and become the current fire risk assessment. The previous fire risk assessment will be retained in the building safety case for that building.

The following diagrams illustrate those procedures and persons that support the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures. This information is provided as required under the RR(FS)O.



The above processes and procedures are overseen by the Fire Safety, Manager who reports to the Head of Building Safety

These managers attend the Building Safety and Compliance Group for scrutiny which is part of the governance structure below.



To summarise the fire risk assessment, in this scenario the RR(FS)O requires the prescribed information to be recorded. The prescribed information is the significant findings of the fire risk assessment and those groups or persons especially at risk from fire. This is recorded here in <a href="section 1">section 1</a>. Also required to be recorded under article 11, are the fire safety arrangements for the planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventative and protective measures. The information shown above is part of this requirement.

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#### Significant findings

The significant findings (executive summary) of the fire risk assessment include those measures that have been or will be undertaken by the responsible person in order to comply with the RR(FS)O 2005. Groups of people especially at risk of fire include such people as remote or lone workers, at risk due to layout of the building, visitors and contractors unfamiliar with the building layout as well as those with physical, sensory or mental health issues.

A third requirement that under the order must be recorded is the fire safety arrangements. This is the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures. These are shown in the introduction.

#### Significant findings

Include a brief summary of protective and preventative measures where relevant along with any issues found;

The escape strategy is 'Stay Put Unless'. This means in the event of a fire in your flat you should evacuate. If there is a fire elsewhere in the building you should stay put unless you are affected by fire, smoke or you have been advised by the emergency services to leave.

Section number	Section Area	Individual Risk Level
Section 6	External Envelope Blockwork from ground to 1st floor.	Trivial
	Wetherby EWI render system class A2 rated 1 <sup>st</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> floor.	
	Trespa Meteon HPL to the front & rear elevations class B,s1.d0.	
	PPC Aluminium spandrel panels to front & rear.	
	Rockwool insulation to external walls.	

Section 7	Means of Escape from Fire	Trivial
	There is 1 protected staircase that provides a sufficient means of escape.	
	All communal doors along the means of escape are self-closing 44mm notional fire doors with combined intumescent strips / cold smoke seals & vision panels.	
	Lobby doors to ground floor are to FD60 standard doors.	
	Detection for AOV present in lobbies & stairwell landings.	
Section 8	Fire Detection and Alarm Systems	Trivial
	Fire detection within sampled flats is installed to LD2 standard with smoke detectors to the hall / lounge and a heat detector within the kitchen.	
	Automatic opening vents are installed to the stairwell.	
	A deluge system is provided to the bin store.	
Section 9	Emergency Lighting	Trivial
	The premises have a sufficient emergency / escape lighting system which is tested frequently.	
Section 10	Compartmentation	Tolerable
	The building is designed to provide as a minimum 1-hour vertical fire resistance and 1-hour horizontal fire resistance around flats stairwells and lift shafts.	
	All communal & flat entrance doors are minimum 30-minute fire doors with	

	intumescent strips & cold smoke seals, including those in 1-hour rated walls.	
	All service / storage cupboard doors are minimum 44mm 30-minute fire doors. Majority are 54mm 1-hour fire doors.	
	2 x communal doors require adjustment to correct excessive gaps.	
	1 x communal door requires adjustment to ensure it reliably self-closes.	
	Fire stopping to gap in 15 <sup>th</sup> floor chute room.	
	Firestopping to bin store shaft to be replaced and install intumescent ventilation grill.	
Section 11	Fire Fighting Equipment	Trivial
	There is a fire hydrant adjacent the rear entrance.	
	The dry riser outlets serve all floors from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> .	
	There is a C02 fire extinguisher within the lift motor room.	
	There is a deluge system in the bin store.	
	Maintenance contracts are in place to service the dry riser twice yearly and the fire extinguisher annually.	
Section 12	Fire Signage	Trivial
	Photoluminescent wayfinding signage installed throughout the building.	
	Directional escape signage is present.	

Section 13	Employee Training	Trivial
	All staff receive basic fire safety awareness training.	
Section 14	Sources of Ignition	Trivial
	The fixed electric tests should be done every 5 years, last test date: 08/02/2022	
Section 15	Waste Control	Trivial
	Regular checks by Caretakers minimise risk of waste accumulation.	
	Refuse containers are secured within the bin store.	
Section 16	Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors	Trivial
	Contractors are controlled centrally, and hot works permits are required where necessary.	
Section 17	Arson Prevention	Trivial
	A door entry system prevents unauthorised access.	
	Perimeter lighting is in place.	
	CCTV is in operation.	
Section 18	Storage Arrangements	Trivial
	There is a cleaner's store located on the ground floor.	
	There is a landlord's store which is accessed externally.	
	Residents instructed not to bring L.P.G cylinders into block.	

#### **Risk Level Indicator**

The following simple risk level estimator is based on commonly used risk level estimator:

Likelihood of fire	Potential consequences of fire		
LIKEIIIIOOG OT TITE	Slight harm Moderate harm Extreme		Extreme harm
Low	Trivial risk	Tolerable risk	Moderate risk
Medium	Tolerable risk	Moderate risk	Substantial risk
High	Moderate risk	Substantial risk	Intolerable risk

Considering the fire prevention measures observed at the time of this risk assessment, it is considered that the hazard from fire (likelihood of fire) at these premises is:

Low □ Medium ⊠	High □
In this context, a definition of	the above terms is as follows:
Low	Unusually low likelihood of fire because of negligible potential sources of ignition.
Medium	Normal fire hazards (e.g. potential ignition sources) for this type of occupancy, with fire hazards generally subject to appropriate controls (other than minor shortcomings).
High	Lack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase in likelihood of fire.

Considering the nature of the premises and the occupants, as well as the fire protection and procedural arrangements observed at the time of this fire risk assessment, it is considered that the consequences for life safety in the event of fire would be:

Slight Harm ⊠ Moderat	e Harm □ Extreme Harm □
In this context, a definition o	of the above terms is as follows:
Slight harm	Outbreak of fire unlikely to result in serious injury or death of any occupant (other than an occupant sleeping in a room in which a fire occurs).
Moderate harm	Outbreak of fire could foreseeably result in injury including serious injury) of one or more occupants, but it is unlikely to involve multiple fatalities.
Extreme harm	Significant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants.
Accordingly, it is considered is:	that the risk to life from fire at these premises
Trivial □ Tolerable ⊠ M	oderate   Substantial  Intolerable

#### Comments

In conclusion, the likelihood of a fire is at a medium level of risk prior to the implementation of the action plan because of the potential fire hazards that have been highlighted within the risk assessment, including the adjustment to 3 x communal doors and the fire stopping work within the bin store.

In addition to the potential fire hazards, it has also been noted that the gas main within the bin store could potentially be struck during the movement of the bins by the protruding handles. Although this risk is low, Cadent have been requested to inspect the installation and assess whether a protective barrier is required. Cadent are responsible for the gas the installation.

After considering the use of the premise and the occupants within the block, the consequences for life safety in the event of a fire would be slight harm. This is due to there being sufficient compartmentation to include nominal FD30s doors to flat entrances, notional 30-minute fire doors upgraded with intumescent strips / cold smoke seals to lobby & stairwell doors and nominal 60-minute fire doors to service cupboards also with intumescent strips and cold smoke seals, alongside suitable smoke detection to LD1 and LD2 standard within flats, automatic smoke ventilation system to the stairwell and a Stay Put – Unless policy.

Overall, the level of risk at the time of this FRA is tolerable, this will be lowered to trivial once recommended actions have been completed.

A suitable risk-based control plan should involve effort and urgency that is proportional to risk. The following risk- based control plan is based on one that has been advocated for general health and safety risks:

Risk level	Action and timescale
Trivial	No action is required, and no detailed records need to be kept.
Tolerable	No major additional fire precautions required. However, there might be a need for reasonably practicable improvements that involve minor or limited cost.
Moderate	It is essential that efforts are made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures, which should take cost into account, should be implemented within a defined time period. Where moderate risk is associated with consequences that constitute extreme harm, further assessment might be required to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the priority for improved control measures.
Substantial	Considerable resources might have to be allocated to reduce the risk. If the premises are unoccupied, it should not be occupied until the risk has been reduced. If the premises are occupied, urgent action should be taken.
Intolerable	Premises (or relevant area) should not be occupied until the risk is reduced.

(Note that, although the purpose of this section is to place the fire risk in context, the above approach to fire risk assessment is subjective and for guidance only. All hazards and deficiencies identified in this report should be addressed by implementing all recommendations contained in the following action plan. The fire risk assessment should be reviewed regularly.)

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#### People at Significant Risk of Fire

Persons at significant risk of fire does not just refer to those people with physical, sensory or mental health issues. It also includes those at risk due to the layout or features of the building such as inner rooms or dead-end conditions. Persons may also be at risk due to remote or lone working.

The RR(FS)O requires that these people are identified in any fire risk assessment.

Sandwell Council takes the health, safety and wellbeing of its colleagues, contractors, residents and leaseholders seriously. It is our policy to exceed, where possible, the minimum health and safety requirements of the law.

Residents are responsible for letting us know whether they might need a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP). The Resident Engagement Officers (Fire Safety) will conduct an assessment visit upon request. Any risk-reduction measures that are found where a PEEP is necessary and completed will be documented and taken quickly. With the consent of the resident, we will make a referral for West Midlands Fire Service to conduct a Safe and Well visit.

When a PEEP is in place, the relevant information will be kept in the secure Premise Information Box (High Rise Buildings only), which is set up to help WMFS in an emergency. The data is classified as level 1, which means it complies with the General Data Protection Regulations.

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#### **Contact Details**

The Chief Executive of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council has ultimate responsibility for the site as the responsible person identified by the RR(FS)O 2005.

The Chief Executive has put a structure in place to support the management of the site.

This includes the role of Building Safety Manager who has duties as defined within the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The contact names to support the management of the site are as follows:

#### **Chief Executive**

Shokat Lal

#### **Directorate of Place**

Alan Lunt

#### Assistant Director Asset Management & Improvement

Sarah Ager

#### **Fire Safety Manager**

Tony Thompson

#### **Team Lead Fire Safety**

Jason Blewitt

#### Fire Risk Assessor(s)

Carl Hill

**Louis Conway** 

**Anthony Smith** 

**Adrian Jones** 

#### Resident Engagement Officer - Fire Safety

Abdul Monim Khan

#### **Housing Office Manager**

Lisa Ellis

Please note, the above details are correct at the time of the production of the risk assessment and may be subject to change

#### **Description of Premises**

Mountford House Glover Street West Bromwich B70 6DS

#### **Description of the Property**

This high-rise block was constructed in 1965 of Waites concrete / brick construction with a flat roof construction. The external wall system to all elevations was installed during a refurbishment in 2010 and includes blockwork to 1<sup>st</sup> floor level, and a combination of Wetherby insulated EWI render system (class A2) from 1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> floor levels and Trespa Meteon high pressure laminate cladding (Class B,s1,d0) to the balconies including the area between the balconies on both side elevations.



The block consists of 17 storeys (inclusive of the ground floor) with 2 number dwellings to the ground floor (flats 65 & 66) and 4 to each floor above, total of 66 flats.



The block has a main entrance/exit to the front elevation and a further entrance/exit located on the rear elevation.





The main entrance to the front elevation has a door entry system with a fob reader installed. The entrance to the rear elevation is accessed by the installed fob reader. The front entrance only, has a firefighter override by use of a drop latch key.





All floors are served with one of two lift cars (odds & evens) and a single protected staircase with openable windows and automatic opening vents.







Access to the lift motor room is obtained via a ceiling hatch with zip ladder from 16<sup>th</sup> floor lobby. The hatch & ladder are accessed via a suited key and padlock. The key is stored within the firefighter's white box.





Access to the exposed flat roof area is gained via a door from the lift motor room. The key is within the firefighter's white box.



There's a cleaner's store cupboard, and electrical service risers to the

ground floor lobby area.









There are two further ground floor service risers for the gas and water supply.







There's a refuse chute installed to the rear of the building with access to a hopper on each floor. Each chute room benefits from natural ventilation and is compartmented with a 30-minute notional fire door. The bin store is accessed via roller shutter adjacent the rear entrance.





There's a service corridor with electrical switchgear to the right-hand side of the rear entrance. This is accessed with a suited cylinder key via the roller shutter door.







There's a landlord's storage area to the left-hand side of the front main entrance.



#### On arrival Information (for WMFS)

There is a firefighter's white box externally to the left-hand side of the main entrance to the front of the building. The box contains keys for the building and is secured with a firefighter's bridge-door padlock.





Access is gained via the firefighter's door override switch utilising the drop latch key from the white box.



There's a Secure Premise Information Box (PIB) located in the ground floor front entrance lobby. It is a Gerda box that utilises a standard WMFS suited key held on each fire appliance. The PIB contains floor plans, vertical plans, orientation plans, information for WMFS and documents for those with vulnerabilities who may require additional consideration if there is a fire incident (PEEP).







The fire hydrant is adjacent the rear entrance.



The dry riser inlet is internal and adjacent the ground floor lift cars. It is accessed utilising a suited bridge door padlock.



Dry riser outlets are available on each floor lobby. Each outlet is within a riser cupboard accessed with a suited 54 key.



Automatic opening vents are installed to the staircase between floors 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> also on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The information panel & override switch are adjacent the ground floor lift cars. There is a second override switch on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor landing.





AOV smoke detectors are installed to the lobby, stairwell landing & area between the lobby / stairwell & chute room doors on floors 1 to 16.



There's a firefighter's lift override switch for each lift between the ground floor lift cars. They are operated by the drop latch key.



Access to the lift motor room is obtained via a ceiling hatch with zip ladder from 16<sup>th</sup> floor lobby. The key is stored within the firefighter's white box.







Address: Mountford House	Survey date: 02/12/2024	ON ARRIVAL INFORMATION	
Glover Street B70 6DS			
BUILDING LAYOUT			
	100		
Building Height	43.9m		
Construction	Waites, Concrete brick construction - Brickwork balcony details to the front and rear elevations	to $1^{st}$ floor. The gable walls are insulated Rockwool render. The have high density laminate board.	
Number of floors	17 including ground floor		
Layout	The block consists of 17 storeys (inclusive of the accept the ground floor which has 2.	e ground floor) Each of the floors contains 4 number dwellings	
	The ground floor consists of large main entrance	e/ lobby area, 2 dwellings, lift lobby area	
	The block has 2 exits from communal areas at ti	he MAP and rear entrance of the block	
	2 lifts that serve alternating floors one serving o	odd floors and the other serving even floors.	
	Stairwell is protected with good compartmenta	ntion provided with openable windows on each floor and natural	
	ventilation to each floor of the block. Smoke ve	ents located on floors 2,7 and 16	
Lifts	2 lifts that serve alternating floors one serving of accessed from the ground floor lift lobby.	odd floors and the other serving even floors. Both lifts can be	
Types of entrance doors	Flat entrance doors are fd30s composite Perma	door	
Rubbish chutes/ bin rooms	Yes, secured behind notional 30-minute timber	fire doors.	
Common voids	No		
Access to roof/ service rooms	Access via a metal trap door on 16 <sup>th</sup> floor up a metal zip ladder into the lift motor room. A full height timber door then allows access onto the main roof.		
Occupants	Approx. 132 based on an average of 2 occupants per flats (66 flats)		
Evacuation strategy	Stay Put Unless- The escape strategy is 'Stay Put Unless'. This means in the event of a fire in your flat you should evacuate. If there is a fire elsewhere in the building you should stay put unless you are affected by fire or smoke		
Fire alarm/ evacuation alarm	The building consisting of Early warning limited to hard wire or battery smoke alarms within each of the resident's flats.		
Caretaker/ concierge	Caretaking/cleaning service that conducts regular checks of the building.		
FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM	FIREFIGHTING SYSTEMS		
Water supplies		ear access point fire hydrant / water isolation points located on rves the building outlet located in the ground floor lobby. The dry ithin the lobby area.	
Fire mains	The dry riser inlet (twin valve) is located in the ground floor lift lobby of the block and is secured with bridge door padlock with adequate signage.		
Firefighting shafts	No firefighting lifts/shafts however there are to	wo lifts serving adjacent floors of the block.	
Smoke control vents	Automatic smoke ventilation is employed. The nearest Main access point next to the fire alarn	ere are master reset key switches located on the ground floor n panel.	
Sprinkler system	A drenching system is provided to the refuse ch	nute bin store.	
DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES			
Location, type, and quantity	ROOF PIPE CEMENT - SEALED – PAINT CHRYSOTILE		
	ALL CEILINGS COMMUNAL AND STAIRWELLS TEXTURED COATING - SEALED PRESUMED CHRYSOTILE		
	ROUND FLOOR REAR CUPBOARD PIPE CEMENT - UNSEALED PRESUMED CHRYSOTILE		
SERVICES			
Electricity	Electric meter cupboards located on each floor of the block and can be seen on the floor plans for the block		
Gas	Gas isolation points located on the orientation plan		
	n.		

The communal, any workplace areas and the external envelope of the building are subject to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 as confirmed by the Fire Safety Act 2021.

The enforcing authority is West Midlands Fire Service

High/Low Rise	High
Number of Floors	17
Date of Construction	1965
Construction Type	Concrete / Brick
Last Refurbished	2009
External Cladding	Brickwork to 1 <sup>st</sup> floor. The gable walls are insulated rockwool render. High pressure laminate to the balconies and between the balconies Class B,s1,d0
Number of Lifts	Two
Number of Staircases	One
Automatic Smoke Ventilation to communal area	Yes, to stairwell.
Fire Alarm System	No
Refuse Chute	Yes
Access to Roof	Access via a metal trap door on 16 <sup>th</sup> floor up a metal zip ladder into the lift motor room. A full height door then allows access onto the main roof.
Equipment on roof (e.g. mobile phone station etc)	No

#### **Persons at Risk**

Residents / Occupants of 66 flats,

Visitors,

Sandwell MBC employees,

Contractors,

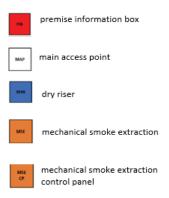
Service providers (e.g. meter readers, delivery people etc)

Statutory bodies (e.g. W.M.F.S, Police, and Ambulance)

#### **Building Plan**

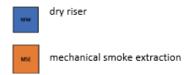
A typical floor layout showing horizontal lines of compartmentation, lift shafts, dry riser installation and AOVs etc.

The plans have been shared with WMFS electronically via their portal.



#### **Ground Floor**



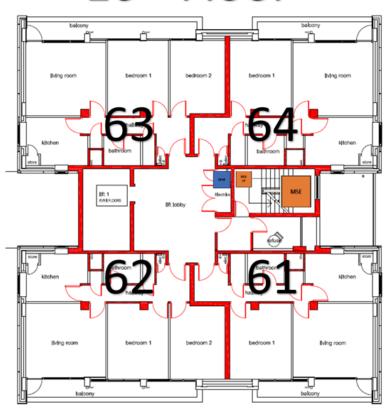


#### Typical upper floor

# 7th Floor Bring room bedroom 1 bedroom 2 bedroom 1 lin 2 son cost lin 3 son cost lin 3 son cost lin 3 son cost lin 4 son cost l



### 16th Floor



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#### **External envelope**

Following the introduction of the Fire Safety Act 2021, consideration needs to be given to the external envelope of the building for any fire risk. This predominantly means the external wall construction including any insulation filler. It also includes balconies and any other fixtures as well as doors and windows.

Details of the external wall construction have been provided to the fire service via the WMFS portal in line with fire safety regulations 2022

However, a third party approved contractor has been appointed to carry out External Wall Assessments of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Councils Higher Risk Buildings.

When completed, should the survey identify any materials that weren't previously known then WMFS will be informed via their portal.

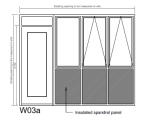
Below is a breakdown of the materials believed to be used within the external envelope and, as part of the external wall system. This is based on the information available at the time of this FRA.

It is deemed that the combination and application of these materials present an acceptable level of fire risk.





- 1) Mountford House has 4 separate areas of external cladding;
  - Blockwork ground to first floor.
  - Trespa Meteon high pressure laminate panels to balconies and concrete panels between balconies (class B,s1,d0).
  - PPC Aluminium spandrel panels fixed beside flat windows.



- Wetherby EWI render system (class A2) − 1<sup>st</sup> − 16<sup>th</sup> floors.
- 2) Mineral wool manufactured by Rockwool (class A1) has been used to insulate the external wall system.
- 3) Entrance doors and communal windows are powder coated aluminium glazed units.



4) Individual flat windows are powder coated aluminium faced timber composite double glazed units.



5) Mesh / netting installed externally over ventilated chute lobbies.



#### Means of Escape from Fire

 The site has a single protected staircase that provides a sufficient means of escape. Each staircase in width is 990 mm from hand rail to wall.





2) All corridors are of adequate width (at least 1050mm) and will be maintained clear to that width as a minimum.



- 3) None of the corridors that form part of the means of escape are dead ends.
- 4) The means of escape are protected to prevent the spread of fire and smoke.
- 5) The communal landing / staircases are protected by use of selfclosing 44mm notional 30-minute timber fire doors with vision panels. All doors have been upgraded with combined intumescent strips / cold smoke seals (refer to 10/14).



6) The ground floor lobby is protected by use of nominal 54mm FD60s doors and combination frames. These doors were installed during the 2009/10 refurbishment.



- 7) All communal doors are fitted with automatic closing devices that are checked on a regular basis by Caretaking Teams as part of their checks. Defective closing devices are replaced either by the Caretaking Team(s) or the in-house repairs team(s).
- 8) All communal fire doors are subject to a 12-week check by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 9) The final exit doors have door entry systems installed. These systems are designed to fail safe i.e. door unlocked in the event of a power failure. This prevents residents being locked in or out of the building.







- 10) Automatic smoke ventilation is employed. This is tested, inspected, and maintained by a competent procured contractor in accordance with BS7346. The frequency for the maintenance checks are twice per year (April and October) of each calendar year.
- 11) Automatic opening vents have been installed to the stairwell between the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> floor.



12) AOV smoke detectors are installed to the lobby, stairwell landing & stairwell lobby / stairwell & chute room doors on floors 1 to 16.



13) The control panel and override switch has been installed to the ground floor lift lobby.



14) An alternative override switch has been installed to the 16<sup>th</sup> floor stairwell landing.





15) A ventilation grill was noted to the head of the staircase.





16) The chute room doors on each floor are 44mm notional 30-minute fire doors with combined intumescent strips & cold smoke seals and overhead self-closing devices. The chute rooms benefit from natural ventilation.





17) A high-level metal duct provides ventilation to stairwell lobbies on each floor. The duct has been installed with a grill with built in fire damper and has been coated with a 60-minute fire protective coating.



18) Communal windows to stairwell are openable by handles except for those that are part of AOV system.



19) Communal areas are kept free of flammable items. The communal areas are checked on a regular basis by Caretaking / Cleaning teams 365 days per year and all items of rubbish are immediately removed. There is also an out of hour's service that allows combustible items of furniture / rubbish to be removed.



20) Individual floor mats were noted outside some flats. Fire rating of the mats is unknown but deemed to be of low risk.



21) Emergency lighting is provided to communal landings and stairs. Checks are done on a monthly basis by Sandwell MBC in house electrical team or approved contractor.



- 22) The surface coatings to the communal areas are Class 0 rated.
- 23) The building has sufficient passive controls that provide effective compartmentation in order to support a Stay Put-Unless Policy. Therefore, residents are advised to remain in their flat unless the fire directly affects them, or they are asked to leave by the emergency services.



24) Individual flat doors are nominal FD30s composite fire door sets with intumescent strips, cold smoke seals and self-closing devices. The doors are predominantly manufactured by Permadoor. Flat 40 has a nominal timber flush FD30s door set.





- 25) Access is gained to a sample of properties as part of the fire risk assessment to ensure the doors have not been tampered with by residents etc.
  - a) Flat 62 Door was correct with no defects.



b) Flat 44 – Door slams shut with force when self-closing and requires adjustment.



c) Flat 40 – Temporary nominal timber FD30s door with no defects.



d) Flat 29 - Door was correct with no defects.



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### **Fire Detection and Alarm Systems**

- Early warning is limited to hard wire or battery smoke alarms within each of the resident's flats. The equipment is subjected to a cyclical test.
- 2) Based on the sample of properties accessed during the fire risk assessment the smoke alarms within the flats let by SMBC are installed to an LD1 or LD2 Standard.

Flat 62 - LD1

Flat 44 – LD2

Flat 40 - LD1

Flat 29 - LD2

LD1 all rooms except wet rooms

LD2 all-risk rooms e.g. Living Room, Kitchens and Hallway.

LD3 Hallway only

- 3) There is no effective means for detecting an outbreak of fire to communal areas. The reason for this are:
  - I. Such systems may get vandalised.
  - II. False alarms would occur.
  - III. A Stay Put Unless policy is in place
- 4) A sprinkler or deluge system is provided to the refuse chute bin store. An approved contractor maintains the system. The frequency for the maintenance checks are twice per year (April and October)

of each calendar year. The control panel for the system is located in the ground floor electrical service cupboard.







#### **Section**

9

### **Emergency Lighting**

1) The premises has a sufficient emergency / escape lighting system in accordance with BS 5266 and has test points strategically located.



- 2) The self-contained units are provided to the communal landings, stairs and lift motor room.
- 3) All installed equipment is checked and tested on a monthly basis by Sandwell MBC in house electrical team or approved contractor, in accordance with current standards.

### Compartmentation

This section should be read in conjunction with Section 4

- The building is designed to provide as a minimum 1-hour vertical fire resistance and 1-hour horizontal fire resistance around flats stairwells and lift shafts. All doors are a minimum 30-minute fire resistant with cold smoke seals, including those in 1-hour rated walls.
- 2) The premise has sufficient compartmentation to limit the travel and effect of smoke and flame in event of a fire. Whilst the existing fire stopping is fit for purpose, there is a cyclical programme to ensure fire stopping as not been compromised by third parties and where applicable enhance the fire stopping.
- 3) All communal doors are fitted with automatic closing devices that are checked on a regular basis by Caretaking Teams as part of their checks. Defective closing devices are replaced either by the Caretaking Team(s) or the in-house repairs team(s).
- 4) All communal fire doors are subject to a 12-week check by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 5) All service cupboards to communal lobbies on 1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> floor are 54mm 60-minute nominal fire doors with 4 hinges per door, intumescent strips and cold smoke seals. Door are kept locked with suited 138 key mortice locks.





6) Service cupboards to the ground floor contain electrical switchgear and are secured with nominal fire doors with a steel panel to rear leaf and steel frame. The doors are a minimum 30-minute fire resistance. Doors are secured with cylinder key contained in firefighter's box.





7) Dry riser outlets on lobbies are housed in secured service cupboards (suited 54 mortice lock) with 54mm nominal 60-minute fire doors with intumescent strips and cold smoke seals.



8) Further service cupboards to the ground floor containing the gas and water risers are nominal 54mm timber FD60 doors secured with a suited 54 key mortice lock.







9) SMBC have commissioned a survey of all fire doors to flat entrances, communal corridor doors, landing doors and service cupboard doors. Evidence of the survey was noted on some doors at Mountford House and, some residents confirmed that they were expecting their flat entrance doors to be surveyed the day of this fire risk assessment. Firntec Building Compliance have been commissioned to complete the surveys via their subsidiary Ventro Fire Compliance.



10) A variety of methods / materials have been used to achieve firestopping including Rockwool, fire rated sponge, fibre cement board fire morter and intumescent pillows.

board, fire mortar and intumescent pillows.







- 11) The fire stopping / compartmentation is subject to a 12-week check by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 12) Any remedial works arising from the fire stopping / compartmentation check(s) will be actioned immediately by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 13) Individual flat doors are nominal FD30s composite fire door sets with intumescent strips, cold smoke seals and self-closing devices. Sampling revealed the doors are manufactured by Permadoor. Flat 40 has a nominal FRd30 timber flush door.





14) The communal corridors, landings & staircases from the first floor up, are protected by use of notional self-closing 44mm 30-minute timber fire doors with vision panels and 25mm rebates. It is recognised that these doors do not meet today's benchmark of a certified FD30s fire door install however, because they were installed at the time of the buildings construction and to the standard of that time they are deemed as acceptable so long as the doors are free of damage and function as they were intended to do so. It has been recognised that all of the corridor, landing / staircase notional doors in this block have been upgraded with combined intumescent strips & cold smoke seals to enhance their original design and minimise departures from today's standards.



15) Communal timber doors to the ground floor lobby are nominal 54mm to FD60s standard. These doors were installed during the 2010 refurbishment.





16) Lift motor room is ventilated to outdoors with a louvre vent. The access hatch to the motor room is secured with a suited padlock.



17) Access panels to service pipework are Supalux and bedded on intumescent mastic.



18) Refuse hoppers to the chute system are 1.5 hrs fire rated to BS 476. Part 8 & smoke containment rated to BS 7386.



19)15<sup>th</sup> floor chute room combination frame. Gap between frames require fire stopping.



20) 13<sup>th</sup> floor landing door to stairs has a gap from the handle side down that extends to 10mm. Door requires rehanging to reduce gap.





21)13<sup>th</sup> floor lobby door has an excessive gap from the handle side down that extends to 10mm. Door requires rehanging to reduce gap.





22) 6<sup>th</sup> floor landing door to stairs not reliably self-closing and requires adjustment.





23) Bin storage room – The fibre cement boards enclosing a shaft containing soil stack and gas main have been damaged by the movement of bins. The fire resistant boards should be replaced with a product of equal or better fire resistance to enable 60 minutes protection. Because the shaft contains a gas main an intumescent vent should be installed to the finished surface.









### **Fire Fighting Equipment**

1) The dry riser inlet is internal and adjacent the ground floor lift cars. It is secured with a bridge door padlock.



2) There are dry riser outlets available on each floor above ground. Each outlet is in a riser cupboard secured with a suited 54 key mortice lock.



- 3) The dry riser is checked regularly as part of the Caretakers duties.
- 4) Maintenance contracts in place to service the valves twice per year (April and October) with a hydraulic test undertaken annually (October) to comply with the requirements of BS9990.
- 5) Portable fire extinguisher (CO2) is provided to the lift motor room. Maintenance contracts in place for maintenance of the extinguisher. The frequency for the maintenance checks are once (October) of each calendar year.



6) Bin room is protected by Deluge/sprinkler system and serviced 6-monthly.



### Fire Signage

1) All fire doors display "Fire Door Keep Shut" where appropriate.



2) Fire Action Notices are displayed throughout the building.



3) Yellow LPG warning signs are displayed in the building.



4) Signage depicting the floor location of each flat is fitted to the ground floor lobby wall.



5) Photoluminescent wayfinding signage depicting floor level and flat numbers are fitted to the walls on all floors adjacent the lift car's and to the wall of each landing on the communal staircase. Signage that meets the requirement of ADB and Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022





6) Directional fire escape signage has been installed.







### **Employee & Resident Training/Provision of Information**

- All Caretaking / Cleaning Employees have undertaken fire safety training. This includes use of bespoke 'Fire Safety in High / Low Rise Flatted Accommodation' Video.
- 2) All employees are encouraged to complete 'In the line of fire' training on an annual basis.
- Caretaking Teams are not currently trained in the effective use of fire extinguishers. The only extinguishers located are within the lift motor room. Caretaking Teams are not expected to tackle fires in this area.
- Staff undertaking fire risk assessments are qualified to Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety.
- 5) Fire safety information has been provided as part of tenancy pack.
- Building safety and evacuation notices are displayed in common areas and lift cars.

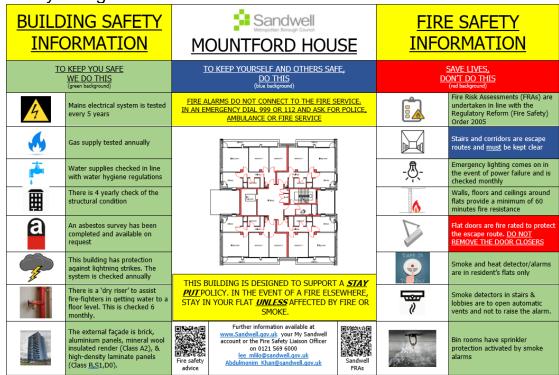




7) Information regarding use of fire doors and the Stay Put Unless fire evacuation strategy is provided to residents.



8) Information regarding building safety is contained within a Building Safety Notice. This is affixed to the wall on the ground floor lift lobby of high rise blocks.



### **Sources of Ignition**

1) Smoking is prohibited within any communal parts of the building in line with Smoke Free England legislation.



- 2) Hot working is not normally carried out. If essential maintenance requires the use of hot work processes, then corporate policies and procedures are to be followed.
- 3) Portable electrical equipment used as part of the Caretaking / Cleaning regime is subject to annual PAT Testing. This information is held by the Estate Services Manager Bryan Low.
- 4) The fixed electrical installation shall be tested every 5 years. The last inspection was 08/02/2022.



5) Service cupboards to the ground floor containing electrical switchgear are secured behind nominal fire doors with a steel panel to rear leaf and steel frame. The doors are a minimum 30minute fire resistance. Also, there is further electrical switchgear contained in a service corridor accessed externally via a steel roller shutter door. 6) There is lightening protection installed to the block. Maintenance contracts are in place for lightning conductor testing in accordance with BS 6651.



- 7) Portable heaters are not allowed in any common parts of the premises.
- 8) Gas appliances and pipework (where installed) are subject to annual testing and certification. This cyclical contract is managed by the in-house Gas Team. Gas supply pipework is internal to the building.

Email sent to SG at Cadent to inspect the gas riser in bin store which potentially requires the installation of a barrier. This would protect the main from potential impact from the movement of bins.





#### **Waste Control**

- 1) There is a regular Cleaning Service to the premises.
- 2) Refuse hoppers are accessed on each floor. Each hopper is 90minute fire rated to BS 476 part 8



3) Refuse containers are located in the bin store to the rear elevation which is the left-hand side of the rear entrance. Access is via a motorised roller shutter, key is stored in the firefighter's white box. All refuse containers are emptied regularly.



4) Regular checks by Caretakers minimise risk of waste accumulation.





5) Recycling waste is stored in containers at a safe horizontal distance of more than 6 metres away from the building.



6) 'Out of Hours' service in place to remove bulk items.

### **Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors**

- Responsive Repairs service delivered by Sandwell MBC necessitates the production of an order via the computerised repairs system. Details of any known risks are documented on the repair order.
- 2) Hot works are not permitted unless authorisation is given via the approved officer. The hot works procedure is to be followed.
- 3) Utility companies are not allowed to access any service cupboard or secure area. They must request and collect maintenance keys from the Investments office @ Roway Lane. This allows scrutiny of what is the scope of any works such as installation of tenant's broadband / phone line etc.
- 4) Where contractors are appointed to undertake major refurbishment works, Sandwell MBC Urban Design team will put control measures in place. Such Measures include: -
  - a) Pre-Contract Meetings where contractor is made aware of all working arrangements and safe systems of work to be adopted. Issues covered in this meeting will include:
    - Health and Safety.
    - Site security.
    - Safety of working and impact on children/school business.
    - Fire risk, if any.
      - Site Emergency Plan.
  - b) Monthly Site Meetings in order to monitor, review and share any new information including any new risks.
  - c) Site monitored daily whilst work is in progress by Clerk of Works / Health and Safety Officers.
  - d) Final Contractor review on completion of works undertaken.

### **Arson Prevention**

- 1) Regular checks are undertaken by Caretakers / Cleaning Team(s) 365 days per year which helps reduce the risk of arson.
- 2) Restricted access to the premises by means of a door entry system.



3) CCTV has been installed to the ground floor lobby, each entrance and around the building.



- 4) There is no current evidence of arson.
- 5) The perimeter of the premises is well illuminated.
- 6) There has been no reported fire incident since the last FRA December 2023.

### **Storage Arrangements**

- 1) Residents instructed not to bring L.P.G cylinders into block.
- 2) The tenancy conditions, Section 7 Condition 5.6 stipulates "If you live in a flat or maisonette, you, people living with you and any visitors to your property must not keep or use paraffin oil, petrol, bottled gas appliances or any other explosive, FLAMMABLE or dangerous material in the property. This restriction also applies to any storage facility situated in or attached to the block, which has been provided for your use."
- 3) No Flammable liquids stored on site by Caretakers / cleaners.
- 4) All store cupboards are kept locked.
- 5) There are no flammable liquids or gas cylinders stored on site.

### Additional Control Measures; Fire Risk Assessment - Level 2 Action Plan

Significant Findings

Action	P	lan
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It is considered that the following recommendations should be	
implemented to reduce fire risk to, or maintain it at, the following leve	:1:

Trivial ⊠ Tolerable □

Definition of priorities (where applicable):

- P1 Arrange and complete as urgent Within 10 days
- P2 Arrange and complete within 1-3 Months of assessment date
- P3 Arrange and complete within 3-6 Months of assessment date
- P4 Arrange and complete exceeding 6 months under programmed work



### Fire Risk Assessment Action Plan



Name of Premises or Location:	Mountford House	
Date of Action Plan:	04/12/2024	
Review Date:		

Question/ Ref No	Required Action	Supporting photograph	Priority	Timescale and Person Responsible	Date Completed
10/19	15 <sup>th</sup> floor chute room – Fire stop gap between frames		P2	Within 1-3 months. Fire Safety Rapid Team	

#### Fire Risk Assessment

10/20	13 <sup>th</sup> floor - Rehang landing door to stairs to reduce excessive gap on handle side down (10mm)	VEILUO FIRE COMP.  0345 38 10 999  www.wentrogroup.com contractus@ventrogroup.con contractus@ventrogroup.con contractus@ventrogroup.con contractus@ventrogroup.con	P2	Within 1-3 months. Fire Safety Rapid Team
10/21	13 <sup>th</sup> floor – Rehang lobby door to reduce excessive gap on handle side down (10mm)	PIRE COMP.  0345 38 10 999  www.ventrogroup.com  contactus@ventrogroup.com  manufadundundundundundundundundundundundundund	P2	Within 1-3 months. Fire Safety Rapid Team
10/22	6 <sup>th</sup> floor – Landing door to stairs not reliably self-closing requires adjustment		P2	Within 1-3 months. Fire Safety Rapid Team

10/23	Bin Storage room – Remove / replace damaged fibre cement boards to shaft to provide 60 minutes fire resistance & install intumescent ventilation grill to surface. (barrier to erected / contact CH)		P2	Within 1-3 months. Fire Safety Rapid Team	
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When undertaking future improvement program(s), it is advised that the observations listed below should be given consideration (noting that the safety of the residents is not jeopardised by these, and all steps to reduce any known risks have been taken).

#### **Observations**

Some communal notional fire doors show signs of wear and tear due to age. Consideration should be given to upgrade with certified FD30s door sets & combination frames as part of a future programme.



Flat 40 – replacement timber nominal fd30s door installed. Consider certified FD30s door set.



#### Signed

Chill	Fire Risk Assessor	Date: 04/12/2024
Adelan Jones	Quality Assurance Check	Date: 13/12/2024

#### **Appendix 1**

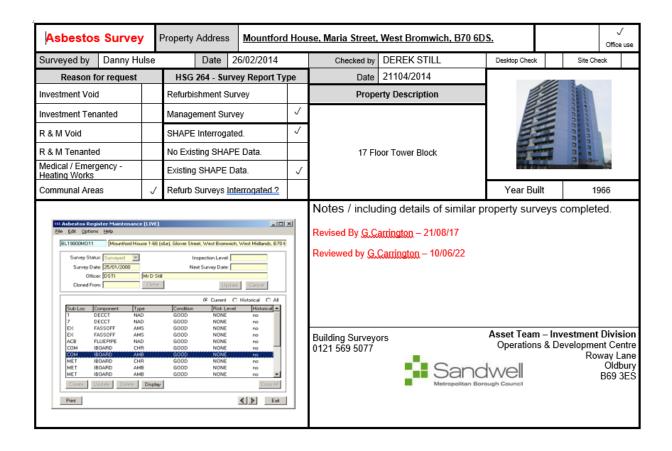
### Significant Hazards on Site and Information to be Provided for the Fire Service

Name of property: Mountford House

Updated: 10/06/2022

Premise Manager: Tony Thompson Tel. No.: 0121 569 2975

Hazard	Information/Comments
Asbestos	An asbestos survey has been undertaken of the communal areas. Survey held by Sandwell Housing (Derek Still Tel:- 0121 569 5077).  Include survey



Sample Locations		Property Address  Mountford House, Maria Street, West Bromwich, B70 6DS.								
LOCATION MATI		ERIAL	QTY	SURFACE TREATMEN	SAMPLE REF	RESULT	HSE NOTIF Y	Challed S	ACTION TAKEN ON CONTRACT	
IF DURING THE COURSE OF WOR	K SUSF	PECTED A	CM'S ARE I	DENTIFIE	D THAT ARE NO	T CONTAINED	WITHIN THIS REP	ORT ST	OP W	ORK & SEEK ADVICE
LIFT MOTOR ROOM INTERNAL WALLS		BC	ARD		NONE	881673	AMOSITE	YES	-	
LIFT MOTOR ROOM EXTERNAL WALLS		CE	MENT		NONE	BB1673	CHRYSOTILE	NO	-	
ROOF PIPE		CEI	MENT	-	SEALED - PAINT	BB1073	CHRYSOTILE	NO	-	
1 <sup>61</sup> FLOOR LANDING - COMMUNAL CEILIN	G	TEXTURE	D-COATING		SEALED - PAINT	BB1680	NO ASBESTOS DETECTED	-	-	
16 <sup>111</sup> FLOOR LANDING - COMMUNAL CEILIN	9	TEXTURE	D.COATING		SEALED - PAINT	BB1674	NO ASSESTOS DETECTED	-		
FLOORS 1 AND 7 - COMMUNAL WALLS		PA	AINT	-	SEALED	BB4570	NO ASBESTOS DETECTED	-	-	-
ALL CEILINGS COMMUNAL AND STAIRWEL	LS	TEXTURE	D COATING	-	SEALED	PRESUMED	CHRYSOTILE	NO	NO	
14 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR STAIRWELL WALL		TEXTUR	RED COAT	-	SEALED	DH254_001	NONE DETECTED	-	-	-
EXTERNAL BINSTORES DUCTING PANELS	3	ВС	ARD	-	UNSEALED	DH254_002	NONE DETECTED	-	-	-
GROUND FLOOR REAR CUPBOARD PIPE		CEI	MENT	-	UNSEALED	PRESUMED	CHRYSOTILE	NO	NO	
LIFT MOTOR ROOM EXTERNAL SIDE CLADD	ING	CEI	MENT	-	SEALED	GC1148 / 1	NO ASBESTOS DETECTED	-	-	-
ITEMS SHOWN BELO	W HAV	E BEEN A	SSESSED C	N SITE B	Y THE ASBEST	OS SURVEYOR	& ARE CONFIRM	ED NOT	то ве	ACM's.
LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAT	MATERIAL LOCAT		TION DES	CRIPTION	MATERIAL	LOCATIO	N DESC	RIPTI	ON MATERIAL
ELECTRIC AND DRY RISER CUPBOARDS TRANSOM PANELS	SU	SUPALUX								
VENT COVER PANELS COMMUNAL LANDINGS	SU	GUPALUX								
ROOF FAN VENT PIPES	S	STEEL								
COMMUNAL LANDINGS - FLOORS 1 TO 16 - FLOOR COVERINGS	٧	VINYL								
GROUND FLOOR LIFT LOBBY FLOOR TILES	CE	RAMIC								

#### ABOUT THE REPORT - PLEASE READ

All Survey Methodology is based upon HSE document HSG 264 - Asbestos: The Survey Guide. All surveyors are experienced British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) P402 qualified surveyors with extensive Surveying & Refurbishment Project experience specific to Sandwell MBC's managed housing stock.

The person or persons using this report to programme refurbishment work on site are assumed to be competent & experienced in the field of domestic refurbishment projects. A have suitable & sufficient asbestos awareness to understand the scope of this report & apply it to the project. All trade operatives working on site are also expected to have relevant asbestos awareness training & experience. IF IN DOUBT STOP & ASKI Please ensure the report covers the areas that you need to work on.

SHAPE: Sandwell MBC's Integrated ICT solution holds the Company Asbestos Register. The Asbestos Register is interrogated where relevant. The Register holds details of all suspected or confirmed ACM's is infinitely during Reductishment & Demolition programmes as well as Repairs activities for the past 11 years. It potential ACM's have been identified within difficult to survey areas such as Cavity Walls, Floor Voids etc these will be highlighted within the report. The interrogation of the Company Asbestos Register compliments the survey & report process it does not substitute the Refurbishment & Demolition Survey.

Void Properties – The Building Surveying team who undertake Returbishment & Demoition Assessors Surveys also undertake Domestic Energy Assessment Surveys, Booscope Surveys for Thermal Insulation & Fire Integrity Assessments to a representative percentage of the void turn over.

Site Overview Page 2 – This section is included to aid surveying & to ensure comprehensive survey information is detailed.

Term	Explanation
Property Address	Specific Property to which survey relates.
Surveyed by	Relates to P402 trained surveyor.
Action taken on Project	Record what action may have been undertaken to the Asbestos in question. E.g. Nothing, Repair, replace, Manage.
Type of Work to be undertaken	Relates to the envisaged type of work that the Asbestos Survey Report will be used to aid. This assists the asbestos surveyor to guide his survey methodology $\delta$ will help the users of this report decide if it is suitable for the work activity being undertaken.
ACM	Asbestos Containing Material.
HSE Notify	This highlights if a material normally requires notification to the Health & Safety Executive prior to removal. GUIDANCE ONLY.
Bulk Sample	Sample of potential ACM that is representative of the whole.
Request Sample	The item described has not been tested for Asbestos content. The item must be presumed to contain asbestos until sampling confirms. If work is going to be undertaken in this area sample should be requested prior to work starting.
Awaiting Results	If no results have been <u>detailed</u> then you must not work on these items until you receive further confirmation.
Extent	An estimate of quantity will be given where possible to aid work planning & valuation.
Labels	Materials <u>will be</u> labelled where practical. Labelling will be not be undertaken to low risk materials e.g. floor tiles, Textured Coatings etc or where labelling could easily be removed or would cause potential exposure if removed. All presumed ACM's will be labelled as "Asbestos" where practical. All sampled materials will be labelled with an "Asbestos Sampled" label.

Term	Explanation
Photo's	These will usually be provided for the front elevation of the property to aid identification.
Sampled by	P402 trained surveyor.
Checked by	P402 trained surveyor who checks report prior to issuing.
Survey Report Type	Report type is determined by the type of work to be undertaken. The reader of this report must salistly themselves that the scope of the survey is sufficient for the purpose of work being undertaken.
Returbishment Survey	HSG 284 – Refurbishment & Demoittion Survey. Surveying undertaken in all parts of the property presuming full decent homes refurbishment, which may include, New Kitchen, New Bethroom, concept & another property and property of the propert
Management Survey	A management survey is the standard survey. Its purpose is to locate, as far as reasonably practicable, the presence and extent of any suspect ACMs in the building which could be damaged or disturbed during normal occupancy, including foreseeable maintenance and installation, and to assess their condition.
Returb & Management Survey	Both Survey Report Types are ticked due to works identified at survey stage the surveyor has completed Refurbishment Survey for the works required & may have undertaken a management survey on remaining areas of the property. The report should not be used for works outside the scope stated, unless the reader assures themselves that it is suitable & sufficient.
Cavity Walls / Floor Voids or similar.	Will be assessed at survey stage & desktop assessment of similar archetypes.
Photo's	Where practical & to aid the identification of ambiguous material locations photos will be included within the report to ensure that materials are identified on-site correctly. Photos will be annotated where necessary.