

Fire Risk Assessment

1-3

**Walker Avenue,
Tividale,
B69 1NP**



Date Completed: 06/04/2026

Review Period: 3 years.

Officer: S. Henley Fire Risk Assessor

Checked by: A. Jones Building Safety Manager

Current Risk Rating = Tolerable

Subsequent reviews

<u>Review date</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Comments</u>

Contents

Section 0	Introduction	
Section 1	Significant Findings (executive summary)	
Section 2	People at Significant Risk of Fire	
Section 3	Contact Details	
Section 4	Description of Premises	
Section 5	Building Plan	
Section 6	External Envelope	
Section 7	Means of Escape from Fire	
Section 8	Fire Detection and Alarm Systems	
Section 9	Emergency Lighting	
Section 10	Compartmentation	
Section 11	Fire Fighting Equipment	
Section 12	Fire Signage	
Section 13	Employee Training	
Section 14	Sources of Ignition	
Section 15	Waste Control	
Section 16	Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors	
Section 17	Arson Prevention	
Section 18	Storage Arrangements	
Section 19	Additional Control Measures. Fire Risk Assessment	
Appendix 1	Significant Hazards on Site and Information to be provided for the Fire Service	

Section

0

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 type 1 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 <https://www.wmfs.net/our-services/fire-safety/#reportfiresafety>. In the first instance however, we would be grateful if you could contact us directly via https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200195/contact_the_council/283/feedback_and_complaints or by phone on 0121 569 6000.

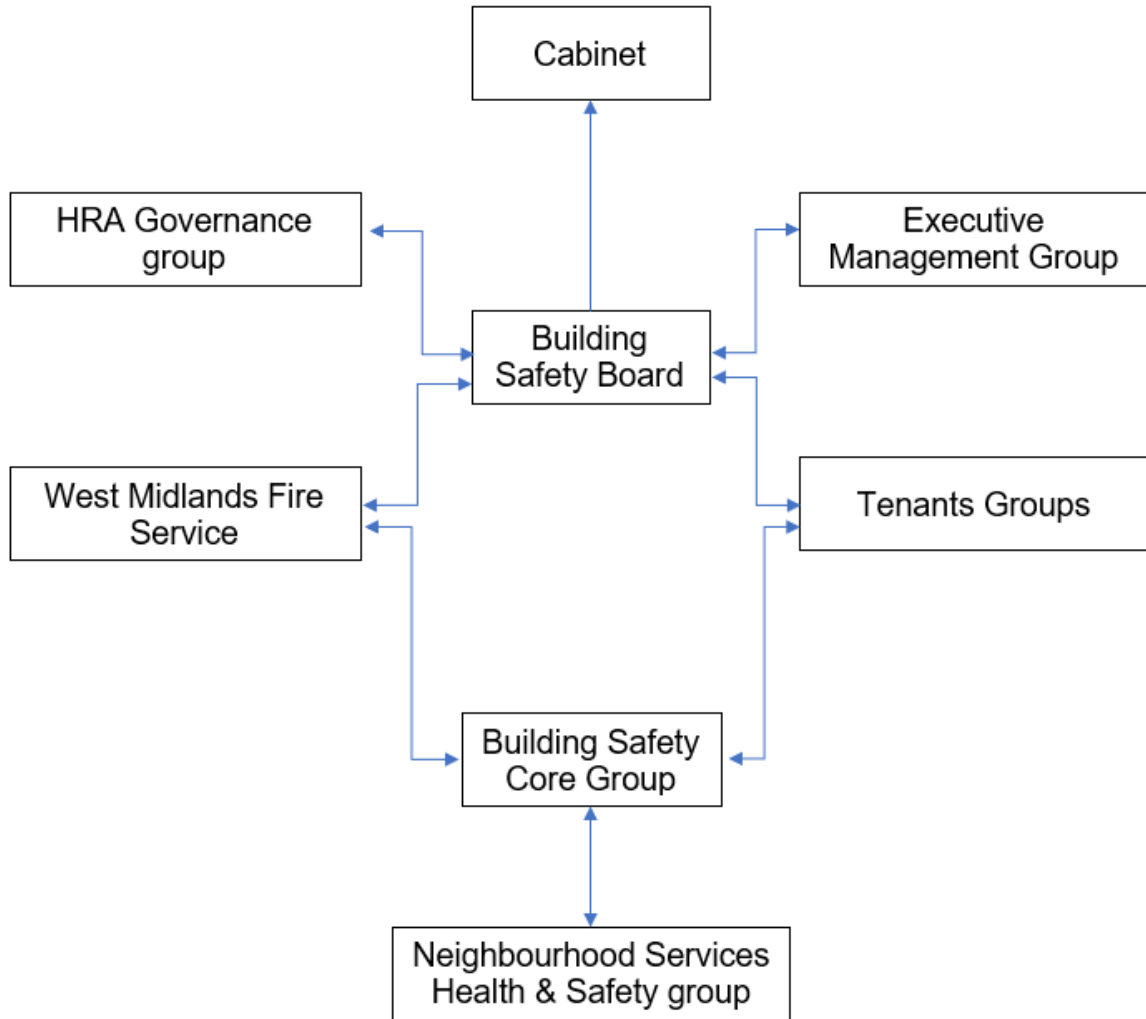
The date of the fire risk assessment is on the front page, followed by any subsequent reviews. A recurring time frame is not set in legislation. The council has procedures and policies in place that will trigger a review of the fire risk assessment. This then is recorded on the fire risk assessment. 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, Facilities and Premises Manager who reports to the Business Manager -Surveying and Fire Safety.

These managers attend the Fire Safety Core 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 [section 1](#). 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.

Section

1

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 or smoke.

Section number	Section Area	Individual Risk Level
Section 6	<p>External Envelope</p> <p>The building is of predominantly brick cavity construction, with uPVC double-glazed window units serving the individual flats.</p> <p>At roof level, timber fascia boards are installed, with asbestos-cement undercloaking soffit boards forming part of the eaves detail. The roof is finished with concrete interlocking tiles.</p>	Trivial

	<p>The main entrance assembly consists of a timber-framed unit incorporating a door, a top-light, and a side panel.</p> <p>The door contains timber and glazed sections, while the adjoining side panel is of spandrel-type construction with access panels fitted.</p>	
Section 7	<p>Means of Escape from Fire</p> <p>There is a single staircase in the block offering adequate means of escape for flat 3</p> <p>Communal hallway floors and stairway are concrete construction. Carpet fitted to stairway.</p> <p>A sample of properties were visited at the time of the fire risk assessment. Door deficiencies are listed under section 7/6</p> <p>Section 7/16 some defects and unsealed openings found within the wall require repair.</p> <p>Some compartmentation deficiencies require rectification that come on to the escape route, see section 10/6</p>	Tolerable
Section 8	<p>Fire Detection and Alarm Systems</p> <p>Each flat is equipped with a fire detection system that meets at least the LD3 standard.</p> <p>No detection in communal areas.</p>	Trivial
Section 9	<p>Emergency Lighting</p> <p>No emergency lighting is provided within the block. Lighting can be obtained from standard lights, the landing window also the entrance door.</p>	Trivial

<p>Section 10</p>	<p>Compartmentation</p> <p>The building is designed to provide as a minimum 1-hour vertical fire resistance and 1-hour horizontal fire resistance around flats.</p> <p>Flat doors are glazed fire doors FD30s offering a minimum of 30 minutes fire resistance.</p> <p>Gas service cupboard is recommended for upgrading in future refurbishments with a new door and frame. Install a sliding bolt lock on the outside to secure the cupboard</p>	<p>Tolerable</p>
<p>Section 11</p>	<p>Fire Fighting Equipment</p> <p>The premises have no provision for firefighting equipment.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
<p>Section 12</p>	<p>Fire Signage</p> <p>There is sufficient Fire door keep shut signs & No Smoking signage in place. Signage required to be fitted to the gas cupboard (ordered).</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
<p>Section 13</p>	<p>Employee Training</p> <p>All staff receive basic fire safety awareness training.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
<p>Section 14</p>	<p>Sources of Ignition</p> <p>The fixed electrical installation should be tested every 5 years. Last EICR was carried out on the 29/01/2026</p> <p>Electrical board requires enclosing within an over cupboard. Added to future refurbishments.</p> <p>Recommendation: Remove gas meters from the communal area, this is to be carried out by Cadet.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>

Section 15	Waste Control Bins are located at the side of the building, close to the block entrance/exit. Email sent to the housing manger to relocate these away from the building.	Trivial
Section 16	Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors Contractors are controlled centrally, and hot works permits are required where necessary.	Trivial
Section 17	Arson Prevention The entrance/exit door is accessible by a resident only key. There are security/safety lights fitted to externally around the building.	Trivial
Section 18	Storage Arrangements There is a storage cupboard externally, accessible with the use of a resident key. Residents should not store fuel or LPG Cylinders in their home or storage facilities.	Trivial

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 Moderate Harm Extreme Harm

In this context, a definition 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 that the risk to life from fire at these premises is:

Trivial Tolerable Moderate Substantial Intolerable

Comments

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.

A Type 1 Fire Risk Assessment of the premises at 1-3 Walker Avenue has been carried out. The assessment included a thorough inspection of the site's layout, identification of potential fire hazards, and evaluation of existing fire safety measures. The findings and recommendations have been documented.

Based on the assessment, the likelihood of a fire is deemed medium prior to the implementation of the action plan, due to the identified normal fire hazards. Considering the use of the premises and the occupants within the block, the potential consequences for life safety in the event of a fire would be slight harm. This is because the flats are fitted with FD30s fire doors, smoke/heat detection systems installed to a minimum of LD3 in all flats, one final exit door, and a stay-put strategy unless a fire strategy is in place.

Access was attempted to a sample some of the properties as part of the risk assessment. This was to ensure the doors have not been tampered with by residents.

Access was gained to flat 1, the flat door self-closer was not operating fully, and this has been actioned within this FRA.

Properties assessed at the time of the Fire Risk Assessment require repairs to fully bring their entrance doors up to full fire safety compliance.

Overall, the risk level at the time of this FRA is considered tolerable.

Once the recommended actions have been completed, the overall risk rating for the building will be reduced to trivial, subject to the implementation of the suggested measures outlined in this fire risk assessment.

A suitable risk-based control plan (where applicable) 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 are 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.)

Section

2

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 has a policy and procedure in place for Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs). This is based on tenants identifying themselves as requiring a PEEP.

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.

Section

3

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		
Executive Director Asset Manager & Improvement Alan Lunt		
Assistant Director Asset Manager & Improvement Sarah Agar		
Fire Safety Manager Tony Thompson		
Team Lead Fire Safety Jason Blewitt		
Team Lead Building Safety Anthony Smith		
Housing Office Manager Prabha Patel		
Building Safety Managers Adrian Jones Andrew Froggatt Carl Hill Louis Conway	Fire Risk Assessors Mohammed Zafeer Stuart Henley Craig Hudson	Resident Engagement Officers – Fire Safety Abdulmonim Khan Ethan Somaiya Hannah Russon

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

**Section
4**

Description of Premises

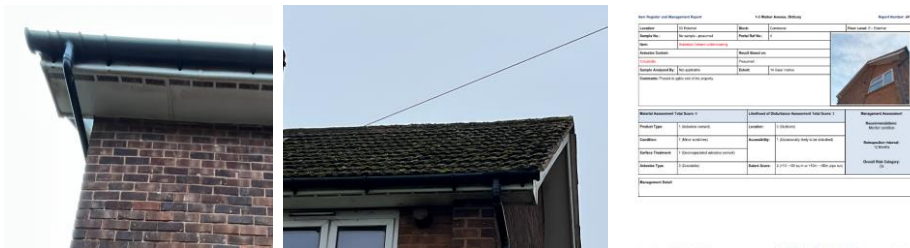
1-3
Walker Avenue
Oldbury
B69 1NF



A Type 1 Fire Risk Assessment of the premises at 1-3 Walker Avenue has been carried out. The assessment included a thorough inspection of the site's layout, identification of potential fire hazards, and evaluation of existing fire safety measures. The findings and recommendations have been documented.

Based on the assessment, the likelihood of a fire is deemed medium prior to the implementation of the action plan, due to the identified normal fire hazards.

The low-rise, two-storey block (inclusive of the ground floor) was constructed in 1965 using traditional brick cavity and concrete construction. The roofs are pitched and finished with concrete interlocking tiles. Around the roof line uPVC fascia boards are fitted with asbestos cement underclocking soffit boards.



The building is a semi-detached block adjoining 96-96a Tower Road. Access is gained via a secured side entrance. The entrance/exit door is timber construction with glass panelled inset. Access is gained with fob, flat call button and fire service drop key. Beyond the entrance, there is a ground-floor flat (No. 1) and a concrete staircase with a carpet covering providing access to Flat 3.



Next to the front entrance door and within the rear courtyard there is a safety/security light installed.



At the rear of the premises the courtyard is shared with 96-96a Tower Road. Within the building at the rear there is a small storage cupboard which is kept locked with a residential key.



Bins are situated at the side of the building close to the entrance/exit of the block. Email sent to housing manager & caretaker to look at relocating these away from door, possibly within the courtyard 16/03/2026



There is no access to the loft space from the communal area, so I cannot comment on any storage or compartmentation within this space at the time of the fire risk assessment.

The enforcing authority is West Midlands Fire Service.

The nearest fire station is Oldbury Fire Station, located approximately 1.5 miles away.

Types of fire risk assessments (FRAs) for multi-occupied buildings,

- Types of fire risk assessments (FRAs) for multi-occupied buildings,
- Type 1 is a basic, non-destructive check of common areas;
- Type 2 involves destructive sampling of common areas for serious flaws;
- Type 3 extends Type 1 to include individual flats non-destructively; and
- Type 4 is the most comprehensive, combining Type 3 with destructive inspection of common areas and flats for deep structural assessment.

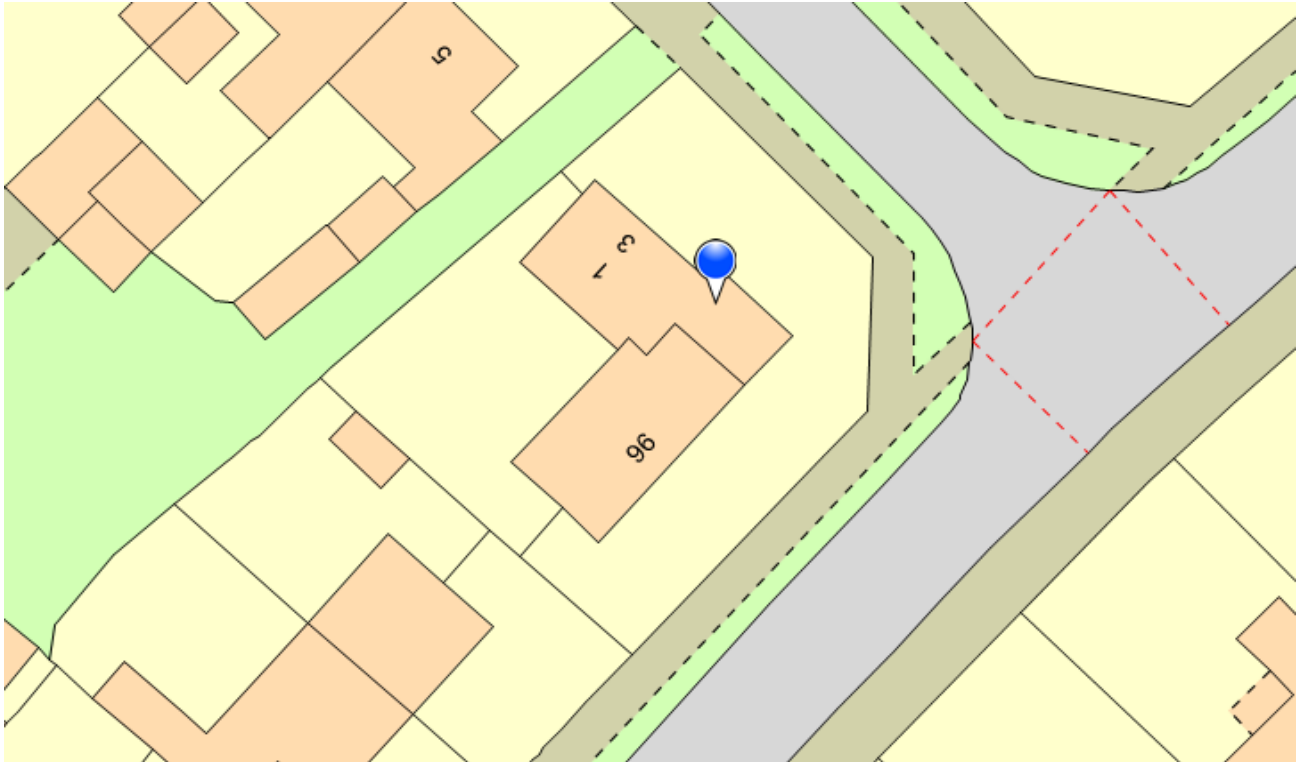
High/Low Rise	Low-Rise
Number of Floors	2
Date of Construction	1965
Construction Type	Traditional brick & concrete
Last Refurbished	Unknown
External Cladding	None
Number of Lifts	None
Number of Staircases	1
Automatic Smoke Ventilation to communal area	None
Fire Alarm System	None
Refuse Chute	None
Access to Roof void	None from communal area
Equipment on roof (e.g. mobile phone station etc)	None

Persons at Risk

Residents / Occupants of 2 flats total,
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

**Section
5**

Building Plan



Section 6

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.

Below is a breakdown of the materials used within the external envelope, it is deemed that the combination and application of these materials present an acceptable level of fire risk.

- 1) The external surface of the building is predominantly brick structure with uPVC fascia and asbestos cement undercloaking soffits. The roof is pitched and fitted with concrete interlocking roof tiles on the roof.



- 2) uPVC double-glazed units have been installed in each flat and one at the top of the communal stairway. A security/safety light is fitted above the entrance door and one at the rear of the property. The entrance door is timber construction with glazed panels.



Section 7

Means of Escape from Fire

- 1) Each property is fitted with a minimum of an LD3 detection system within the flat. See Section 8
- 2) All corridors are of adequate width (at least 1050mm) and will be maintained clear to that width as a minimum.
- 3) Furthest distance to travel is from flat 3 to the final exit, this distance is approx. 5.2 metres (5200mm)



- 4) None of the corridors that form part of the means of escape are dead ends.
- 5) Two flats are located within the block, and both entrance doors are glazed FD30s fire doors. The glazing within each door displays the EN14449 kitemark, which confirms that it is laminated glass or laminated safety glass, including types that can be fire-resistant.

However, the glazed panel above the door does not display any kitemark or stamp, so its fire-resistant properties cannot be verified.

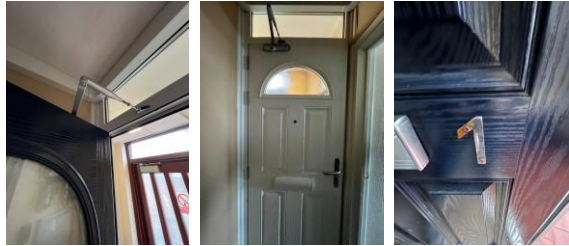


Walker Avenue 1-3 (O)	BL50640WA16 1 Walker Avenue;Tividale;Oldbury;West Midlands;	Timber Door FD30s	Not Glazed
Walker Avenue 1-3 (O)	BL50640WA16 3 Walker Avenue;Tividale;Oldbury;West Midlands;	Timber Door FD30s	Not Glazed
Walker Avenue 1-3 (O)	BL50640WA16 Walker Avenue 1-3;Walker Avenue;Tividale;Oldbury;West Midlands	Intentionally Blank	

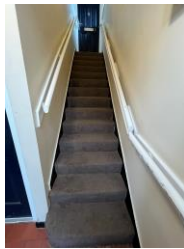
6) Access was attempted to the properties as part of the risk assessment. This was to ensure the doors have not been tampered with by residents. Access was gained to the following.

a) **Flat 1: Self closer not operating fully without assistance.**

b) Flat 3: No answer.



7) Upon the stairs a carpet is fitted up to the door of number 3; the fire rating is not known of the carpet it is deemed to be low risk as in good condition.



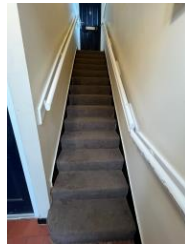
8) Flat 3 has a window shared with the communal area. This is Georgian wired glazed to protect the escape route in times of fire.



9) Within this block the first floor is accessed via a single staircase that provides a means of escape for flat 3 and has a width of a minimum of 666mm between the handrails, and 869mm wall to wall.



- 10) The flooring and stairway within this property are concrete construction, the stairway has a carpet covering fitted.



- 11) Automatic smoke ventilation is not employed. Window at the top of the stairway outside flat 3 is fitted with a manual opener; the window will assist in additional lighting and any ventilation required.



- 12) On the wall next to flat 1 the electrical fuse board is situated. See required actions under section 14/8

- 13) In the communal area on the ground floor outside flat 1 is situated the gas service cupboard see required actions under section 10/6

- 14) Gas meters: Gas meters are located outside flat 1 within the communal area of the block and are housed in small service cupboards that lack ventilation to the exterior. The cupboard doors are not fire-rated, are not fitted with appropriate lockable hardware to prevent unauthorised access, and do not display signage indicating the presence of gas installations (see Section 10/6), it is also recommended that an upgrade is carried out during future refurbishment works See Section 10.

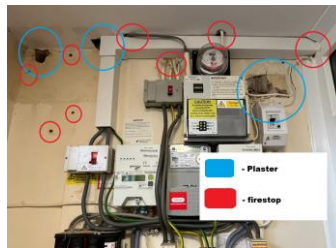
“Fire Door – Keep Shut” also “Gas meter” signage is affixed to the current door. Refer to Section 12 for the associated action.



15) Electrical consumer units and associated switchgear are installed openly within the communal area outside Flat 1, with no enclosure or access control. Their positioning within a shared escape route presents a fire-safety concern. Further detail and recommendations are set out in Section 14/8 of this Fire Risk Assessment.



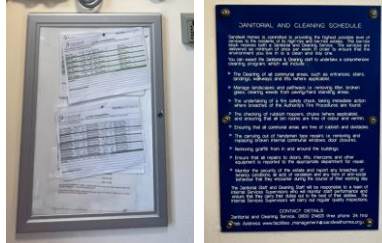
16) Defects and unsealed openings were identified in the vicinity of the electrical consumer units and associated switchgear. These breaches in the fabric of the building compromise the required fire-resisting construction and must be remedied. Their locations are indicated on the accompanying diagram and will be recorded within the action plan of this Fire Risk Assessment for corrective works.



17) The final exit doors are fitted with a push button to egress the building and are also 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). 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.



18) 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.



19) No emergency lighting is provided to communal landings and stairs. Adequate lighting comes from standard lighting also from the door and window areas.



20) Within the communal area on the ground floor next to the final exit the control unit is installed within a steel cupboard that operates the final exit door electronics.



21). The building has sufficient passive controls that provide effective compartmentation to support a Stay Safe Policy. Therefore, residents are advised to remain in their flat unless the fire directly affects them

Definitions Fire Doors.

Notional fire door – A fire door that is thought to have been installed at the time of construction. This door may not meet current building regulation requirements however is still acceptable if performing as originally intended.

Upgraded notional fire door – A notional fire door that has been upgraded. For example, with intumescent strips and cold smoke seals.

Nominal fire door – A fire door that may meet the standards specified within the building regulations but has not been awarded the official certification of doors manufactured and evaluated by an accredited, third-party testing unit and approved formally with the relevant certificates and documentation.

Certified fire door – A fire door and frame that have been approved and certified by the manufacturer. A competent person must install the door assembly.

Classifications of FD30 and FD30s fire doors include timber-based options designed to provide 30 minutes of fire resistance, with the "s" suffix indicating additional smoke sealing capabilities. Timber notional doors are a distinct category within this, referring to older, existing timber doors—often in older residential buildings—that are deemed capable of providing 30 minutes of fire protection based on an inspector's assessment rather than formal, modern fire testing certification.

Section

8

Fire Detection and Alarm Systems

- 1) Early warning is limited to resident's flats with this being a hard wire or battery smoke alarm. The equipment is subjected to a cyclical test. Residents' flats are fitted to a minimum of an LD3 standard.

Unable to access all the properties at the time of the Fire Risk Assessment, information was gained from SMBC Job Manager.

- Flat 1: LD1 system installed
- Flat 3: No Answer (LD2 information gained from Job Manager).

For information

LD1 all rooms except wet rooms

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

LD3 Hallway only

- 2) There is no effective means for detecting an outbreak of fire to communal areas. The reason for this is:
- I. Such systems may get vandalised.
 - II. False alarms would occur.
 - III. A Stay Put – Unless policy is in place

**Section
9**

Emergency Lighting

- 1) The premise is not fitted with emergency lighting.
- 2) There is standard lighting within the communal area also a landing window and final exit door to assist in lighting the communal areas from outside.



Section
10

Compartmentation

This section should be read in conjunction with Section 4

- 1) A visual inspection of the accessible areas was undertaken as part of the assessment, but areas with restricted access, i.e., false ceilings and void areas, were only inspected where readily accessible. The inspection did not reveal any breaches in compartmentation.

The survey undertaken as part of this risk assessment should not be construed as a full compartmentation survey of the building.

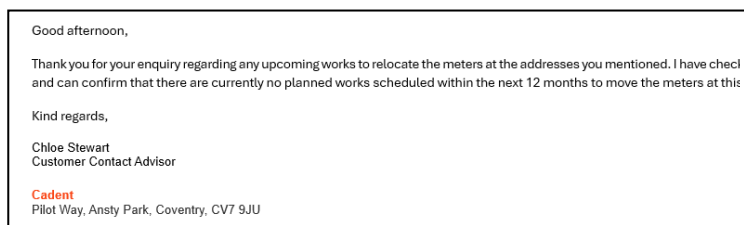
- 2) The building is designed to provide as a minimum 1-hour vertical and horizontal fire resistance, except at entrance to flats which is a minimum of 30-minute fire door.
 - 3) The building has sufficient passive controls that provide effective compartmentation to support a Stay Put -Unless policy. Therefore, residents are advised to remain in their flat unless the fire directly affects them or if they are advised to evacuate by the emergency services.
 - 4) The existing fire-stopping measures are fit for purpose, and a cyclical programme is in place to ensure that the fire-stopping has not been compromised by third parties and to make enhancements where necessary.
 - 5) A variety of methods / materials have been used to achieve fire-stopping such as intumescent mastic around penetrations.
-

6) Gas Service Cupboard located ground floor outside flat 1: Gas meters should be relocated to an external position to remove the hazard from the communal escape route. SMBC Gas team have contacted Cadent to explore this option 19/01/2026; however, Cadent have confirmed that they have no planned works to relocate the meters within the next 12 months. As such, interim measures are required, including:

- Installing suitable external ventilation to the meter cupboards.
- Upgrading the cupboard doors to fire-resistant construction.
- Fitting appropriate lockable door furniture.
- Adding compliant gas-meter identification signage.

Future Works and Refurbishment Planning: Following a meeting with the Contracts Manager, it has been agreed that this block will be added to the future refurbishment programme for ongoing review. This ensures that the issues identified are captured within planned works and that longer-term solutions—including potential meter relocation—can be implemented when opportunities arise.

There is currently no fire safety signage on the service cupboard door. Appropriate signage should be installed to clearly identify the cupboard and warn of the presence of service equipment. Refer to Section 12 for the associated actions.



a) To ensure the gas service cupboard can be reliably secured and maintain appropriate fire safety standards, a suitable sliding bolt latch or key-operated lock should be installed to assist in keeping the doors fully closed and preventing any compromise to the cupboard's fire-protective function.

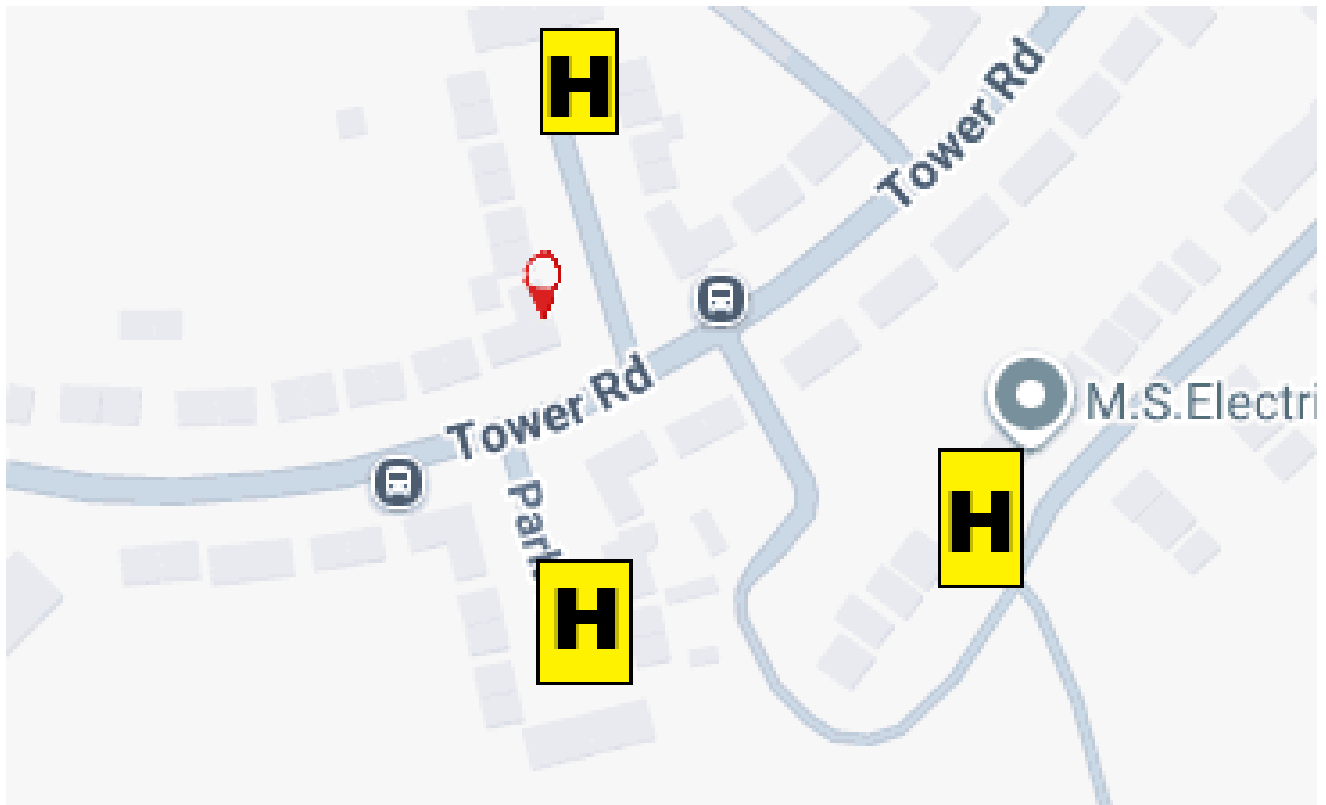


b) Flat entrances are fitted with FD30s door sets. See section 7/2

**Section
11**

Fire Fighting Equipment

- 1) There is no firefighting equipment on this premises.
- 2) Nearest fire hydrant is indicated within the attached plan. Information from <https://dataservices.riscauthority.co.uk/map/index>



Section 12

Fire Signage

- 1) The service cupboard outside flat 1 has “Fire Door Keep shut” signage installed. Although this is not a fire door and will be ungraded in future refurbishments, or the gas removed, the signage is fitted to remind all to keep the doors closed.



- a) Display signage on the gas service cupboard saying "Gas Cupboard - Do Not Use for Storage - Keep Clear" or “Gas Meter Cupboard” BS EN ISO 7010. Signage is being ordered as per conversation with line manager 20/02/2026



- b) Smoking is prohibited within any communal parts of the building in line with Smoke Free England legislation. Signage is installed to notify residents and visitors of this.



- 2) Directional signage is not displayed throughout the building. Its absence is considered acceptable, as the building layout is straightforward and does not necessitate such signage.

**Section
13**

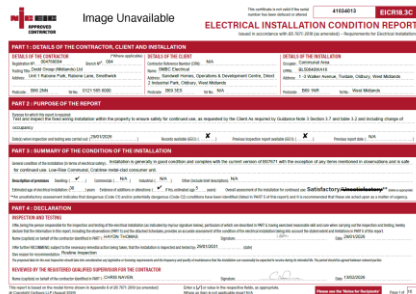
**Employee & Resident
Training/Provision of Information**

- 1) 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.
 - 3) Caretaking teams are not currently trained in the effective use of fire extinguishers.
 - 4) Fire safety has been provided as part of tenancy pack.
 - 5) Staff undertaking fire risk assessments are qualified to or working towards Level 4 Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment.
-

**Section
14**

Sources of Ignition

- 1) Smoking is prohibited on entrance and 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.
- 4) The fixed electrical installation shall be tested every 5 years. The date of the last EICR was 29/01/2026.



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

- 7) The presence of gas meters within the communal escape route introduces a potential source of ignition due to the increased fire loading associated with gas infrastructure. Although the primary concern relates to gas accumulation and interference, the lack of external ventilation, non-fire-rated cupboard construction, and absence of appropriate protective measures heightens the risk that an electrical fault, accidental damage, or deliberate tampering could act as an ignition source in the event of a gas leak.

The historic nature of the installation—dating back to the building’s original 1960s construction—means that the current arrangement does not reflect modern safety expectations under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 or contemporary fire-safety standards. These regulations require gas installations to be adequately ventilated, protected, and positioned so that they do not compromise the means of escape or increase ignition risk within communal areas.

As Cadent have confirmed that no relocation works are planned in the short term, suitable permanent ventilation must be installed to reduce the likelihood of gas build-up and therefore minimise the potential for ignition. This should include the installation of a ventilation brick or equivalent arrangement to ensure compliant airflow to the exterior of the property.

An email was sent to the Gas Compliance Manager on 19/01/2026 requesting that a job be raised with Cadent to progress this work, and the recommendation has been recorded under observations. Relevant legal and technical guidance supporting this recommendation can be found within the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998

- a) As no future works are planned with Cadent to relocate the gas meters, suitable permanent ventilation must be provided. This should include the installation of a ventilation brick or equivalent arrangement to ensure compliant airflow to the exterior of the property. This has been added to recommendations to be undertaken at a future refurb date. Meeting held on the 23/02/2026 concluded that the service cupboards would be surveyed for the addition of ventilation being added to the outside of the building.

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding any upcoming works to relocate the meters at the addresses you mentioned. I have checked our system and can confirm that there are currently no planned works scheduled within the next 12 months to move the meters at this location.

Kind regards,

Chloe Stewart
Customer Contact Advisor

Cadent
Pilot Way, Ansty Park, Coventry, CV7 9JU

- 8) The electrical switching apparatus and resident metering equipment are currently mounted on an exposed distribution board within the communal hallway adjacent to Flat 1. Although the installation is historic, it benefits from up-to-date Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICRs), and the existing wiring and fixings are therefore deemed safe at present.

However, the equipment remains unenclosed, leaving live electrical components accessible to residents and visitors. This arrangement does not align with modern expectations under BS 7671 (IET Wiring Regulations), which require electrical equipment in publicly accessible areas to be suitably enclosed, protected against unauthorised access, and housed within non-combustible or fire-resistant enclosures. While compliant at the time of original construction, the open distribution board presents a foreseeable ignition risk through accidental contact, deliberate interference, or electrical fault, any of which could lead to arcing, overheating, or fire. The lack of containment also increases the potential for flames or hot gases to spread directly into the communal escape route in the event of a fault.

In line with contemporary fire-safety legislation, including the Fire Safety Act 2021 and the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022, it is recommended that during future refurbishment works the metering and switching equipment be relocated either into suitable external protective cabinets or into each individual flat. This approach would provide improved physical protection, reduce the risk of tampering, and enhance fire containment.

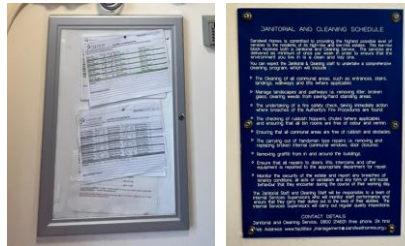
These recommendations were discussed and agreed in principle during a meeting with the Gas and Electrical Service Managers on 23/02/2026, where it was confirmed that this block will be incorporated into the future refurbishment programme for ongoing review and long-term compliance planning.



Section
15

Waste Control

1) There is a regular Cleaning Service to the premises.



2) The refuse bins for 1-3 Walker Avenue are stored close to the block entrance/exit. These are emptied with the regular waste collections. Email sent to the caretaker and housing manager (16/03/2026) to relocate the bins away from the building.



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

**Section
16**

Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors

- 1) 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 local housing office. 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
-

**Section
17**

Arson Prevention

- 1) Regular checks are undertaken by Caretakers / Cleaning Team(s) 365 days per year which helps reduce the risk of arson.
- 2) Access to the premises is by means of a key, fob that only residents or using a fire fighters drop key.
- 3) Perimeter is covered by external lighting



- 4) There is no current evidence of arson.
 - 5) There have been no reported fire incidents since the last FRA.
-

Section
18

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) Residents should not store flammable liquids or gas cylinders on site.
- 4) No Flammable liquids stored on site by Caretakers / Cleaners.
- 5) There is one storage cupboard in the rear courtyard, which is built within the building and is locked by a tenant only key.



Section
19

Additional Control Measures.
Fire Risk Assessment - Action Plan

Significant Findings.

Action Plan

It is considered that the following recommendations should be implemented to reduce fire risk to, or maintain it at, the following level:

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:

Walker Avenue 1-3

Date of Action Plan:

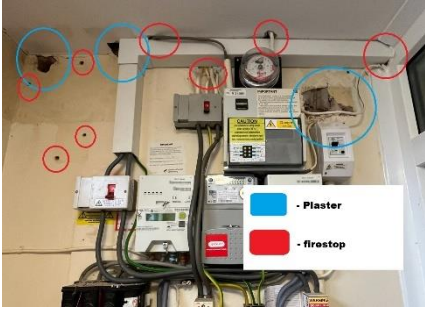

17/04/2026

Review Date:

<Insert date>

Question/ Ref No	Required Action	Supporting photograph	Priority	Timescale and Person Responsible	Date Completed
7/6a	Flat 1: Adjust the self closer. Not fully closing without assistance.		P2	Within 1-3 months Fire Rapid Response	

Fire Risk Assessment



7/16	O/S Flat 1: Defects and unsealed openings were identified in the vicinity of the electrical consumer units and associated switchgear. Plastering and silicone filling required.		P2	Within 1-3 months Fire Rapid Response	
10/6a	Gas Service Cupboard OS flat 1: Fit a suitable sliding bolt latch to the external side of the door to assist in keeping the doors secure		P3	Within 3-6 months Fire Rapid Response	

Observations

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).

- **Gas Service Cupboard:** The gas meters located within the communal service cupboard lack external ventilation and appropriate fire-resisting protection. While interim measures will reduce immediate risk (i.e. keeping them locked, appropriate signage and kept sterile), the arrangement should be reviewed during future improvement programmes to ensure full compliance with modern gas-safety and fire-safety standards, see section 14/7
- **Gas Service Cupboard:** Display signage on the gas service cupboard saying "Gas Cupboard - Do Not Use for Storage - Keep Clear" or "Gas Meter Cupboard"
- **Electrical Consumer Unit:** The electrical consumer unit and associated metering equipment remain exposed within the communal hallway, without a fire-resistant enclosure. Although current controls mitigate immediate hazards, the installation should be considered for enclosure within a compliant fire-rated cabinet as part of future refurbishment works.

Signed

	Fire Risk Assessor	Date: /04/2026
 Aderian Jones	Building Safety Manager	Date: 17/04/2026

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

Name of property: 1-3 Walker Avenue

Premise Manager: Prabha Patel

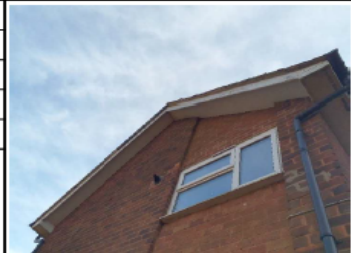
Tel. No.: 0121 569 2975

Hazard	Location	Information/Comments
An asbestos survey has been undertaken and is held by S.M.B.C. Investment Division (Tel:- 0121 569 5077).		

Item Register and Management Report

1-3 Walker Avenue, Oldbury

Report Number: J412835

Location:	03 External	Block:	Communal	Floor Level: E - External	
Sample No.:	No sample - presumed	Portal Ref No.:	4		
Item:	Asbestos Cement underclanking				
Asbestos Content:	Crocidolite		Result Based on:		Presumed
Sample Analysed By:	Not applicable	Extent:	14 linear metres		
Comments: Present to gable end of the property.					

Material Assessment Total Score: 6		Likelihood of Disturbance Assessment Total Score: 3		Management Assessment Recommendations: Monitor condition Reinspection Interval: 12 Months Overall Risk Category: C9
Product Type:	1 (Asbestos cement)	Location:	0 (Outdoors)	
Condition:	1 (Minor scratches)	Accessibility:	1 (Occasionally likely to be disturbed)	
Surface Treatment:	1 (Unencapsulated asbestos cement)	Extent Score:	2 (>10 - <50 sq m or >10m - <50m pipe run)	
Asbestos Type:	3 (Crocidolite)			

Management Detail



Report No.: J412835
Nature of Work: Management Survey
Issue Date: 25/03/2025
Client Name: Sandwell MBC (formerly Homes)
Building Services, Direct 2 Trading Estate, Roway Lane,
Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3ES
UPRN: BL50640WA16 1
Site Address: 1-3 Walker Avenue, Oldbury, B69 1NR



Order Placed By: Dean Harding
Site Contact: Dean Harding
Date(s) of Work: 08/03/2025
Technical Manager: D Ely CCP (Asbestos)
Assistant Surveyor(s): Not Applicable

Lead Surveyor:

Anton Rickards
Asbestos Surveyor

Authorised Signatory:

G Griffith
Asbestos Consultant
25/03/2025

Non-accredited activities are present within this report.

Head Office:
20 Stourbridge Road,
Halesowen, West Midlands
B63 3US
Tel: 0121 550 0224
Email: sales@bradley-enviro.co.uk

