

D & M ROSS BUILDERS Demolition Works Method Statement

1. Introduction

This method statement outlines the safe system of work for demolition operations carried out by D & M ROSS BUILDERS. Demolition involves the systematic dismantling or destruction of buildings, structures, and infrastructure, which presents significant risks, including structural collapse, falling debris, exposure to hazardous materials, dust inhalation, and uncontrolled movement of plant and machinery.

To ensure safety, all work must comply with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM), the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Work at Height Regulations 2005, the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, and BS 6187:2011 (Code of Practice for Demolition).

All demolition activities must be **planned, risk-assessed, and carried out by competent personnel** using appropriate safety controls such as **structural surveys, exclusion zones, dust suppression measures, and safe dismantling techniques**.

This method statement applies to all **demolition activities including soft strip, structural dismantling, mechanical demolition, and explosive demolition** undertaken by **D & M ROSS BUILDERS**.

2. Scope of Works

The demolition process consists of the following key stages:

1. **Pre-Demolition Planning and Risk Assessment**
 - Conducting a **full structural survey** to identify hazards such as unstable elements, hazardous materials, and underground services.
 - Reviewing **demolition plans and sequencing** to ensure controlled dismantling.
 - Appointing a **competent person** to oversee demolition operations and enforce safety procedures.
2. **Site Preparation and Safety Measures**
 - Establishing **exclusion zones, barriers, and warning signage** to prevent unauthorised access.
 - Conducting **asbestos surveys and removal** where applicable, following the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.
 - Ensuring all **plant and demolition equipment is inspected and maintained** before use.
3. **Soft Strip and Hazardous Material Removal**
 - Removing **non-structural elements** such as doors, windows, fixtures, and electrical installations.
 - Identifying and safely removing **hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead paint, and gas pipes**.
 - Implementing **dust suppression methods** such as water spraying to reduce airborne contaminants.
4. **Structural Demolition Process**
 - Using **controlled mechanical demolition techniques** such as high-reach excavators, breakers, and loaders.
 - Employing **progressive dismantling methods** to reduce the risk of structural collapse.
 - Monitoring for **unexpected structural movement or material instability** during works.
5. **Waste Management and Material Recycling**
 - Segregating **waste materials** such as concrete, steel, timber, and hazardous waste for proper disposal or recycling.
 - Transporting debris **safely to licensed waste disposal facilities**.
 - Maintaining **records of waste transfer and disposal compliance**.
6. **Site Clearance and Final Inspection**
 - Ensuring all **demolition debris, barriers, and plant are removed safely**.
 - Conducting a **final safety inspection and reinstating the site** for further works.
 - Handing over the **site to the client or project manager** for final approval.

3. Planning The Works

Pre-Demolition Planning and Risk Assessment

1. Conduct a **full structural survey** to identify hazards, including weak structural elements, unstable materials, and potential collapse risks.
2. Review **demolition plans and sequencing** to ensure that the work follows a controlled and logical order.
3. Ensure all necessary **permits to demolish** are obtained from local authorities and regulatory bodies.
4. Appoint a **competent person** to oversee demolition operations, ensuring compliance with safety procedures and risk assessments.
5. Conduct an **underground service survey** to locate and isolate gas, electricity, water, and drainage connections.
6. Develop an **emergency response plan**, including procedures for structural failures, hazardous material exposure, and first aid provision.

Site Preparation and Safety Measures

1. Establish **exclusion zones** around the demolition area, clearly marked with fencing and warning signage to prevent unauthorised access.
2. Conduct a **pre-start briefing** to ensure all personnel are aware of the demolition sequence, risks, and safety controls.
3. Ensure all **demolition plant and equipment (excavators, breakers, high-reach machines)** are inspected, serviced, and fit for use.
4. Implement **dust suppression methods**, such as water spraying and mist cannons, to minimise airborne dust.
5. Provide **noise and vibration monitoring**, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and reducing disruption to surrounding areas.
6. Confirm all **temporary works and structural supports** are in place before commencing structural demolition.

Soft Strip and Hazardous Material Removal

1. Remove **non-structural elements** including doors, windows, fixtures, floor coverings, and non-load-bearing partitions.
2. Conduct a **pre-demolition asbestos survey**, ensuring all asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) are identified and removed by a licensed contractor in compliance with the **Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012**.
3. Identify and remove **other hazardous materials**, such as lead paint, PCB-containing equipment, and fuel tanks, following waste disposal regulations.
4. Disconnect and safely remove **electrical wiring, gas pipes, and water services** before commencing demolition.
5. Maintain **air quality monitoring** in enclosed demolition areas to protect workers from dust and hazardous material exposure.

Structural Demolition Process

1. Use **controlled mechanical demolition techniques**, such as high-reach excavators, hydraulic breakers, or controlled collapse methods, as per the demolition plan.
2. Progressively dismantle structures **from top to bottom**, ensuring that no section is left unsupported.
3. Monitor **structural integrity throughout demolition**, stopping work immediately if unexpected movement occurs.
4. Use **temporary propping and bracing** where necessary to prevent premature collapse of structures.
5. Ensure all personnel maintain a **safe distance** from active demolition zones, remaining within designated safe areas.
6. Remove steel and concrete sections in **manageable loads**, using lifting equipment where necessary to avoid uncontrolled collapse.

Waste Management and Material Recycling

1. Segregate demolition waste **on-site**, categorising materials into concrete, steel, timber, bricks, and hazardous waste.
2. Transport **non-recyclable waste to a licensed disposal facility**, ensuring all movements are documented with waste transfer notes.
3. Crush and reuse **concrete and masonry waste** where possible for site backfill or road sub-base material.
4. Store **scrap metal safely**, ensuring it is free from contaminants before being transported to recycling facilities.
5. Implement **environmental controls**, ensuring that waste handling complies with the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**.

Site Clearance and Final Inspection

1. Remove all **remaining demolition debris, fencing, and exclusion zones**, ensuring the area is safe for subsequent works.
2. Conduct a **final inspection**, ensuring all works have been completed in line with the demolition plan.
3. Check for **subsidence, ground stability issues, or exposed hazards**, ensuring the site is left in a safe condition.
4. Complete all **handover documentation**, including waste transfer records, clearance certificates, and safety sign-offs.
5. Handover the **site to the client or project manager**, confirming that all demolition works have been completed to specification.

4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements

The following PPE must be worn at all times during demolition works to ensure the safety of all personnel involved.

1. **Safety Helmet (BS EN 397 compliant)** – Protects against falling debris and impacts from structural collapse. Chin straps must be used in high-risk areas.
2. **High-Visibility Vest or Jacket (BS EN 471 compliant)** – Ensures workers remain clearly visible, particularly around demolition machinery and exclusion zones.
3. **Safety Footwear (BS EN ISO 20345:2011 compliant)** – Steel-toe or composite-toe boots with midsole protection to prevent injuries from falling materials and sharp objects.
4. **Gloves (BS EN 388 compliant)** – Cut-resistant and impact-resistant gloves must be worn when handling debris, hazardous materials, or demolition tools.
5. **Eye Protection (BS EN 166 compliant)** – Safety goggles or full-face shields must be worn to protect against flying debris and dust exposure.
6. **Hearing Protection (BS EN 352 compliant, if applicable)** – Required when using heavy demolition equipment such as jackhammers, hydraulic breakers, or saws.
7. **Respiratory Protection (BS EN 149 compliant, if required)** – Dust masks or respirators must be worn in environments with airborne particulates, hazardous fumes, or asbestos risks.
8. **Fall Protection Equipment (BS EN 361 compliant, where required)** – A full-body harness and lanyard must be used when working at height or in areas with potential structural collapse.
9. **Protective Overalls or Disposable Coveralls** – Must be worn when handling hazardous materials such as asbestos or lead-based substances to prevent contamination.

All PPE must be **inspected before use**, correctly fitted, and replaced if damaged or defective. Personnel are responsible for maintaining their PPE and reporting any defects immediately.

5. Finishing and Post-Operation Procedures

At the end of demolition works, the site must be **fully secured and cleared of hazards** to allow for further construction or redevelopment activities.

1. **Secure the work area** – Ensure all tools, plant, and access equipment are removed or properly stored to prevent unauthorised use.

2. **Conduct a final site inspection** – Verify that all demolition debris has been cleared, and that there are no remaining structural hazards.
3. **Assess ground stability** – Check for any subsidence, underground voids, or potential hazards left by demolition works before allowing further site access.
4. **Ensure proper waste disposal** – Confirm that all hazardous materials, including asbestos, lead, and contaminated debris, have been disposed of according to legal requirements.
5. **Complete documentation** – Record details of the demolition process, including structural assessments, waste transfer records, and any incidents encountered.
6. **Report any incidents or near misses** – Any structural failures, equipment malfunctions, or unsafe conditions must be reported to site management and recorded in accordance with **RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013)**.
7. **Final safety review** – The demolition supervisor must conduct a debrief with all personnel involved, identifying lessons learned and recommending improvements for future demolition projects.
8. **Site clearance and handover** – Ensure the area is clean, all exclusion zones are removed, and confirm the completion of works with the site manager or client representative.

This method statement ensures that all demolition works carried out by **D & M ROSS BUILDERS** are conducted **safely, efficiently, and in full compliance with UK regulations**.