

UWE Estates Design Specification

Chapter 5: Fabric, Structure & Acoustic



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5.1 Change Control

Version Number	Date of Issue	Chapter Ref	Brief Description of Change(s)
1.5	01/05/19		Various updates throughout all detailed in 2019 version
1.6	NOV 2019		Various updates throughout all detailed in 2019 version
2021	JAN2021		Various updates throughout all detailed in 2021 version
2022	JAN2022		Various updates throughout all detailed in 2022 version
2023	JAN2023		Various updates throughout all detailed in 2023 version
2024	FEB2024		2024 Design Guide overhauled to Design Specification. All sections amended. Chapter 10 Acoustic Design merged into this Chapter
2025	JAN2025	5.9	Details added of modular fire-stopping extension considerations.

5.2 Introduction

To provide flexible space, Designers should anticipate future changes in use and internal layout but not at the expense of appearance, acoustics, thermal capacity, or stability. The requirement for flexible spaces will obviously influence the structural form, and lead to the use of non-load bearing internal walls where practicable.

There will need to be ample accessible service routes to accommodate future alterations or expansion of services as technology and teaching techniques evolve. Raised floors and/or generous supply of floor ducts is to be included with all projects to avoid trailing leads and to assist with future alterations and flexibility of room layout.

5.3 Furniture and furnishings

The Designer must liaise with the College / Client initially, in the selection of furniture and furnishings. The package may be removed in all or part from the Works Contract for the Client to manage separately. All furniture and furnishings must be specified to be fire retardant and fully compliant with the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations.

There should be a choice of seat, bench, and desk / workstation heights, with and without arms or backrests and visually contrasted from room finishes. Sink fittings are to be operable by someone with reduced manual dexterity.

Tables, desks, and seating to be movable and designed to enable disabled users to sit with colleagues, particularly in canteen/refectory areas and common rooms. Some seating should be more enclosed, providing more privacy or a quieter area.

Furniture in offices should provide more conformity. UWE preference is 1200mm x 800mm straight desks with under-desk pedestals or lockers. At least 1 sit/stand desk should be added per rank of 6 desks for more accessibility. For buying options and the preferred Supplier List, contact the Furniture Category Lead at purchasing@uwe.ac.uk

[Appendix 1C of the UWE Bristol Circular Economy Plan](#) lays out clear sustainability standards for furniture that should be considered for all new build and refurbishment projects. Where possible, the Higher Education sector Sustainable Furniture Framework should be used to identify suppliers that adhere to these principles. Before purchasing new furniture:

- Can the existing furniture be used, or refurbished?
- Can the furniture requirements be met from current UWE supplies? Contact reuse.furniture@uwe.ac.uk to find out.
- Can refurbished furniture be purchased? Contact sustainability@uwe.ac.uk for current suppliers.
- Ask the supplier about leasing options, rather than purchasing.

If suitable furniture cannot be sourced via any of these routes the following criteria should be applied to purchases of new furniture:

- Has high secondary material content (provide% by weight) of recycled, refurbished and reused wood, metal, plastics and textiles.
- Is modular and has long production runs to ensure that individual items or components can be replaced.
- Is designed to aid disassembly - to facilitate reuse, refurbishment, repair and ultimately recycling, either in part or in whole.
- Has readily available spare parts to facilitate refurbishments and repair.
- Is consistent with furniture used elsewhere in UWE to increase reusability.
- Only contains certified sustainable timber i.e. FSC or PEFC
- Is delivered in returnable packaging systems i.e. for multiple use (all associated supply packaging to be removed by the supplier for reuse by themselves)
- Minimises hazardous chemicals used in the manufacture of items.

When procuring new furniture, a 'whole life' approach should be taken, factoring in use and end-of-use costs to the decision process. Supplier take back of end-of-use and legacy items should also be considered as part of the procurement process.

5.4 Emergency Refuge Spaces

- Emergency Refuge Spaces are to be provided on every storey (except ones consisting only of plant rooms; and except those providing direct access to a final exit) of each protected stairway providing an exit from that storey.

- Refuges should enable direct access to the stair. Refuge should be provided on each final exit leading onto a flight of external stairs.
- Minimum size 900mm x 1400mm. Door width no less than 850mm.
- Accessible to anyone with limited mobility and/or in a wheelchair.
- The Refuge must not reduce the width of the escape route or obstruct the flow of people escaping.
- Refuge Communications, reference Chapter 7 for full voice communication requirements.
- Refuge Communications should be able to identify the presence of someone, and communicate with a control room operator, via appropriately situated outstations. Any number of communication devices must be able to be used at any time in the event of more than 1 person at different refuges.
- Communication systems must be readily operated by, and comprehensible to any person. There must be instructions, and the instructions must be correct.
- Communication panels should be green, or otherwise indicated by a green sign.
- Blue mandatory sign (circle) worded 'Refuge - Keep Clear'.
- Directional Signage to the refuge is clearly visible from all directions. Illuminated signs are required in public areas, high footfall areas, etc.
- Refuge must be enclosed within a fire-resistant construction.
- Refuge must be directly accessed by a flat, safe route.
- Approach routes to the Refuge must have auto-doors so each Refuge can be accessed by anyone. Activation of the fire alarm must not affect the ability of anyone to be able to operate the auto-doors.
- Communication located in an escape route free from obstacles, wall-mounted at 900mm to 1.2m above the floor in an easily accessible, well illuminated, and conspicuous position free from obstruction.
- Cables used for EVC systems need to have "enhanced" fire performance (cables with standard fire resistance performance in a refuge communication system may be acceptable where the system is intended for use only in disabled refuges and not for fire-fighting or similar purposes by the fire and rescue service and where such cables would be capable of operating correctly during the period specified by the evacuation strategy for the building.)
- Refuge Spaces at Lift Lobbies: if it has been determined that the refuge spaces are not available as required by EN81-20:2014, then UWE would expect a Design Specification derogation against 2.2 of the EHSRs of Lifts Directive 2014/33/EU to be sought from BEIS, UWE Estates Management, and UWE H&S Team

5.5 Structural details

Open plan areas shall be designed with the capacity to accommodate additional partition walls which may be required in the future and that office space may change to larger open-plan rooms etc. UWE requires a large grid and as large as possible finished floor to finished ceiling height commensurate with a reasonable cost.

Floors should be designed so that filing cabinets can be positioned mid span, away from external walls. Maximum load signage must be fitted where required, to ensure maximum loads are not exceeded.

The structural capacity of roofs should allow to add reasonably foreseeable additional plant without subsequent structural work.

Details on the fabric of the building in respect of fire-retardant specification, fire safety and fire spread, must all be reviewed by the UWE H&S Team in advance.

Due to the risk of fire, a risk evaluation within the design risk register is required for any proposed timber framed structures on UWE sites.

5.6 Circulation Principles

5.6.1 Building Entrances

- See Section on external doors, below.
- Entry control communication units are to be visual as well as audible and shall be accessed from both a standing and seated position.
- Avoid separate entrances for disabled users.
- Do not install revolving doors.
- Doors must not have 'weather bars' since they create a barrier to wheelchairs and can be a trip hazard.

5.6.2 Steps and stairs

- Upstands shall be used on the side edges of steps where there are gaps between the step and the wall.
- Steps to have handrails on both sides.
- The contrast strip shall be on the nosing of the step. Top and Bottom Steps to be different contrasts.
- Stair risers shall be solid (no open staircases).
- Glass must not be used for the tread or riser of stairs.

5.6.3 Horizontal circulation

- Consider chamfering or angling corners to facilitate wheelchair user turning and to enable deaf or hard of hearing users to see others approaching.
- Corridor doors will be fitted with hold open devices in preference to power assisted opening devices. 30N is the maximum allowable force to open a door.
- Do not use digital keypads; UWE requires swipe card access.

5.6.4 Vertical circulation

- For short rises and ease of maintenance, ramps shall be installed wherever possible, and not lifts.
- Install passenger lifts larger than the minimum 1100mm x 1400mm in Part M wherever possible.
- Fold-down stair climber platform lifts are not recommended as they can obstruct the clear width of stairs and compromise means of escape.
- Freestanding enclosed vertical platform lifts must conform to Part M 1100mm x 1400mm minimum size, with power assisted doors. The lift must be able to take the load imposed by motorised mobility aids.
- Enclosed platform lift controls to have single press button operation, so that users are not required to keep continuous pressure on the button for the full extent of travel.
- All lifts should be operable independently without requiring staff assistance.

- It is important that push button devices are positioned in close and sensible proximity to the door they operate, such that nobody is expected to dash from the button to the door.

5.7 Sustainable Material Selection

Designers shall take account of the sustainability impact of the materials selected. A life cycle perspective shall be taken regarding the choice of material, i.e. from cradle-to-cradle which includes considering disposal as well as the end-of-life reuse and recycling of the material.

To support our sustainability commitments, UWE requires designers to follow the principles below:

- Consider the source of materials – locally sourced generally being preferable.
- Consider the reputational risks associated with extraction activities.
- Consider the embodied carbon of materials selected and opt for the lowest carbon options. Embodied carbon is included in the UWE-wide net zero carbon commitment.
- Minimise waste on and off site – monitored, measured, reported to Sustainability Team.
- Plan for the reuse of materials produced as part of the construction phase.
- Make use of reused or recycled content in construction materials, fixtures, and fittings.
- Use materials with ease of repair, maintenance, and end-of-life dismantling in mind.
- Minimise the use of toxic and/or polluting materials in the design.
- Be able to report environmental impact, recycled content and embodied carbon of materials.
- Materials supply to comply with all applicable legislation throughout its supply chain.

Materials should be sourced/produced under internationally acceptable environmental, social, and ethical guidelines and standards (for example, FSC for timber). This includes sacrificial materials such as hoarding.

Designers are expected to use A rated materials/products from the BRE Green Guide to Specification wherever reasonably practicable.

UWE advocates the use of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) over PVC, apart from in the case of underground ducts.

UWE needs all materials to be robust to the wear and tear of a university. UWE Campuses are exposed sites and masonry must have good resistance to moisture, frost and not be susceptible to staining.

The cost and risks of maintenance and cleaning must be considered. Pre-finished materials are preferred to materials which require painting or other ongoing cyclical maintenance activities.

Apart from aesthetic reasons, materials selected for the external fabric should not be prone to premature fading when continually exposed to the elements (timber and copper are obvious exceptions). Materials should be resistant to premature degrading because of exposure, such as certain render finishes. Likewise, all exposed elements should be easily cleanable.

5.8 Building fabric and envelope

Fire stopping and compartmentation must be an integral consideration of the design and installed as early as possible. The Fire Strategy, Fire Compartmentation Drawings, and details of all Fire Stopping installations must be provided in the O&M Manual on handover. UWE have standardised upon certified approved fire stopping projects as supplied only by Quelfire or Rockwool.

The performance at all junctions and intersections must be maintained. All openings within the envelope are to be compatible visually and technically with the external walls.

Guidance on the use of insulation materials is given in the LPC Design Guide for the Fire Protection of Buildings.

Consideration must be assigned to design out future pest control problems, regarding vermin as well as pigeons, etc. Projects and Contracts over £2.5M should employ a specialist Pest Control Consultant.

At Concept Design stage (RIBA Stage 2) consideration is to be given to the possibility of birds roosting/perching/nesting on flat ledges, cills, openings etc and the consequential impact on cleaning and maintenance, and the health and safety impact from faeces, feathers, parasites etc. Steps are to be taken to eliminate flat ledges, cills, openings etc or provide anti-bird measures at Developed Design stage (RIBA Stage 3). Such anti-bird measures must be easily accessed for maintenance and cleaning i.e. not require MEWP, scaffolding etc.

5.8.1 External Envelope

The materials selected for the envelope must be robust, readily available, and preferably obtainable locally with a minimum life span of 60 years and not subject to early surface deterioration. This is especially relevant when selecting a facing brick. Plastic coated products are to be avoided unless the durability of the coating has been proven and is protected by a sound warranty.

The British Standard BS9999 and Clause 35 on External fire spread and building separation must be followed. This applies to the standalone building, as well as the separation distances between adjacent buildings.

5.8.2 Roofs & Roof Access

The roof structure must be designed and installed in accordance with calculated wind loadings and exposure conditions. Weather tightness, high insulation and vapour control performance will be maintained across all roofs, including interfaces with external walls.

Wherever possible, designs should prevent the need for access onto roofs. If routine access is required to a roof a fixed means of access **must** be provided. UWE's preference is that access should be via a stairway (e.g. extension of the stair core) rather than ladder. Level, stable routes should be provided over roofs (e.g. a walkway of suitable construction fitted on to a profiled roof system).

Locks shall only be operable by Estates key suite 1513 or UWE Swipe Card access control.

Permanent fixed guarding is the preferred edge protection. The installation must be a KeeGuard system, or equal approved. Rail Safe systems are not to be installed.

All new handrails must be installed using the manufacturer's components and specifications, and must comply with BS13700:2021 permanent counterweighted guardrail systems. Every proposed quotation and final installation will require a site-specific wind speed calculation conforming to wind loading criteria in accordance with BS EN 1991-1-4 plus Amendments. All guardrail installations must be designed for specific wind speed calculation in relation to the location, height of building and exposure level. All suppliers and/or manufacturers will have to provide calculations to comply with this requirement.

Fall restraint equipment can be specified. Fall arrest equipment is not to be used.

A detailed risk evaluation is required in the following circumstances:

- If access is to be via a ladder rather than stairs.
- If a fall restraint system is required. If so, the installation must be a Latchways system, or equal approved, and positioned so that it requires the use of a 1500mm lanyard. It must be compliant with Part L. It must be accompanied by a calculation package. Design life must be not less than 25 years. All components should be stainless steel and installers must be approved by the system supplier.
- If access to the roof is via a trapdoor/ opening roof light.

Roof drainage is to be designed in accordance with BS 12056-3.

5.8.3 Roof lights

Roofs which are partially or entirely glazed should be designed to prevent breakages or a fall.

UWE will never commission or accept a walk-on glazed roof. While accepting they are technically feasible, UWE will not allow them.

Upstands, non-fragile surfaces and, where necessary, handrails should be used to prevent people inadvertently walking or falling onto (and falling through) glazed roofing. Signage and demarcation of designated routes may be used to supplement the preceding measures.

Designs should minimise the need to clean gutters and rainwater goods and glazing to roofs. The access and maintenance strategy should explain how this will be done.

Designers must consider maintenance access to control gear and operators for roof lights or vents. As explained in the Chapter 2, these should be accessible from a place of safety (e.g. on a protected roof, with no risk of falls). The access & maintenance strategy (described in Chapter 2) must explain how glazing panels will be replaced in the event of breakage.

When replacing slate roofs or installing a new slate roof, subject to Listed Building Consent and general Planning conditions, consideration should be given to the use of artificial products with high levels of recycled content. This may be specifically relevant to the Glenside campus.

5.8.4 Windows

Windows are to be prefinished with no need for subsequent cyclical maintenance such as painting/staining or sealing. UPVC window systems must be avoided.

The design of the windows should permit cleaning of the external glass to be undertaken from within the room if possible, or by pole fed systems externally. The window cleaning methodology is to be included in the access and maintenance strategy.

In mechanically ventilated buildings, opening windows are to be restricted to 150mm max. In naturally ventilated buildings windows this shall be 300mm max. If there will be vulnerable users (e.g. a nursery), the opening must be 100mm max. Ironmongery to be robust, suitable for institutional use and subsequently available for the recommended life of the window.

Silicone is only to be used as a secondary form of sealant, not the primary form of weatherproofing.

It should be possible to reach and operate the control of openable windows, skylights, or ventilators in a safe manner (i.e. people are not at risk of falling). Where this is not possible due to an obstacle or excess height, tele-flex or similar control gear is to be provided. Where there is a danger of falling from height, tamper-proof devices should be provided to prevent the windows opening too far.

No window, skylight or ventilator shall be positioned in a location that is likely to expose any person to a risk to their health or safety when opened. Open windows, skylight or ventilators should not project into an area where persons are likely to collide with them. The bottom edge of opening windows should normally be at least 800mm above floor level unless there is a barrier to prevent falls.

Manifestation, preferably in etched glass, to be used wherever there is a risk of collision of persons or where modesty may be compromised. For example, floor-to-ceiling external windows or glass balconies could potentially pose a threat to the dignity of someone wearing a skirt or shorts.

The function of the room is to be considered at the design stage to facilitate the appropriate level of privacy. Permanent obscured glazing should be used rather than retrofitted films.

Daylight glare to be controllable by blinds.

Solar gain should be minimised using external fittings in preference to internal.

5.8.4.1 Large, glazed panels

Glazed panels should be sized to allow replacement to be undertaken using simple manual handling techniques with simple mechanical lifting aids. The need for the use of cranes, even 'spider' mini cranes, to replace panels should be avoided wherever possible. If a designer believes (on balancing the competing design considerations) large panels are the best design solution, it must be discussed with the Principal Designer and recorded in the 'design risk register'. The access and maintenance strategy should also detail how this operation would be carried out.

5.8.5 External Doors

Robust external doors will be provided to all entrances and means of escape locations. Additional doors will be required to plant rooms and refuse areas. Typically, main entrances will be double doors, fully glazed, automated (operated by sensors and push button controls) and have level access wherever possible. Buttons must be near the doors.

Entrance doors should have lobbies to prevent wind/draughts, suitable for predicted pedestrian traffic, and designed accordingly to function in high flow periods.

Sliding Doors are to be avoided. Swing Doors are to be installed.

Doors on a maintenance route must be wide and high enough to accommodate any necessary mobile plant which has been considered necessary for subsequent maintenance activities.

Physical door locks are not permitted on any emergency escape routes nor exits. Break glass tubes are not permitted. Maglocks should be installed for security.

Access control (card reader system) to be fitted to enable doors to be secured as and when needed, such as out of hours. Doors are to be allocated to an access control Tier: Tier 2 – Magnetic Lock; Tier 1 – Physical Lock; Tier 0 – No Lock. There are numerous criteria which would place a door into a specific Tier and therefore Estates, Security, and H&S Teams must all be consulted. Chapter 3 explains the UWE Security Strategy. Chapter 7 explains automated doors and Chapter 8 explains the IT infrastructure. On automated doors, if there is a fire alarm or electrical failure, exit from the building must be possible by pushing through doors. However, without power nor access, entering the building is not possible if there are no door handles fitted externally to the doors.

Fittings and ironmongery are to be of a high quality, robust stainless steel. Lock cylinders to be euro-profile on UWE Kaba master Suite, with thumb-turns fitted to the non-secure side off all lockable internal doors.

PVCU external doors must be avoided. Where doors are fully glazed, the door is to have a mid-rail to resist twisting and reduce subsequent re-glazing costs. The rail at the door head is to have a minimum depth of 150mm.

Doors must not have weather bars as they create a barrier to wheelchairs, trolleys etc. and can be a trip hazard.

The factory applied colour to steel or aluminium doors is to be resistant to fading, this particularly applies to the UWE red.

5.8.6 External Finishes

Full details of the specification of all external materials must be provided from a fire safety perspective.

5.8.6.1 Cladding

Cladding to be lightweight with high thermal performance, good aesthetic appearance and fire resistance. The chosen finish should mitigate solar gain and consideration should be given to the careful use of colours.

The cladding system is to be integral with the glazing system with a minimum 40-year lifespan. The system is to be suitable for exposed conditions with stainless steel fixings.

Silicone is only to be used as a secondary, and never the primary, form of sealant.

To facilitate construction and replacement, cladding panels must be in unit sizes to allow easy handling using readily available plant/equipment and trade skills. The need for a crane during subsequent replacement of any parts should be avoided wherever possible. If a designer believes (on balancing the competing design considerations) large panels are the best design solution, it must be discussed with the Principal Designer and recorded in the 'design risk register'. The methodology must be included in the access and maintenance strategy within the health and safety file.

The design of the system should consider independent removal of individual panels to allow for maintenance and replacement of damage and insertion of additional openings for new windows etc., or to allow working access for future refurbishments of upper floors.

If may be foreseeable that during the life of the building, high level access will be required on the external façade of a clad building. An access and maintenance strategy and design risk evaluation (contained within the 'design risk register') shall confirm what access is required and what access equipment is to be used.

If timber cladding is to be used, designers must consider the flammability of the cladding, proximity of adjacent buildings and ensure designs and specifications limit the risk or extent of loss due to fire. BS9999 offers further information about the management of the fire risk posed by timber cladding.

5.8.6.2 Curtain Walling

Curtain walling to be of good aesthetic appearance with passive measures to reduce solar gain if necessary (such as brise soleil, overhangs) and specialist glazing. Transoms and mullions to give clear sight lines and be integral to system used.

The design should comply with the recommendations of the Centre for Window and Cladding Technology ([CWCT](#)) 'Standard for systemised building envelopes.' with regard to:

- Internal and external environment
- Air permeability
- Thermal performance
- Access and safety
- Design life

5.8.6.3 Render

Render to be to current British Standards and be fully bonded to substrate with a good appearance and colours to be sympathetic to surroundings. The render is to be self-coloured. The surface is not to attract dirt and debris and is to be easily cleanable with low pressure water.

Detailing of adjacent cills, capping, flashings etc., to prevent moisture penetration. Roof overhangs to be of sufficient dimensions to avoid "drip" staining.

Where external wall insulation is to be utilised the protective render is to be self-coloured, sufficiently robust to resist light impact damage and when damage has occurred, easily repaired without the need for specialist equipment or expertise. In the long term, the system should allow over painting.

5.8.7 Rainwater Goods

UWE prefers the use of cast aluminium or iron rainwater goods. If, on balancing different design considerations, plastic is preferred, high density polyethylene (HDPE) is preferred over PVC.

5.9 Fire Stopping

Refer to Design Specification Chapter 3 for full details on the UWE Fire Strategy and all other fire related requirements, including the **GOLDEN THREAD**.

All specifications or other designs for fire stopping around linear joint seals, service penetrations and small cavities must conform to the current editions of:

- Section 10 of Approved Document B of the Building Regulations.
- The Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP) Red Book Fire Stopping: Penetration Seals for the Construction Industry.
- ASFP Red Book Fire-stopping: Linear joint seals, penetration seals and cavity barriers
- ASFP Technical Guidance Document TGD 17: Code of practice for the installation and inspection of fire stopping systems in buildings.
- ASFP On-site guide to installing fire-stopping.

These documents set out what fire-stopping solutions can be considered for different applications and matters to consider during installation. Fire stopping must be an integral design consideration, rather than an afterthought, to ensure that it is aesthetically in keeping/co-ordinated with the fabric and mechanical designs.

UWE expects early consideration of fire-stopping options that are flexible and adaptable to changing infrastructure demands without compromising reliability and protection against fire and smoke. The use of flexible, modular, and adaptable fire-stopping products that can easily accommodate the requirement to add and remove electrical and data cables, as well as small pipes, must be considered. Any product must be compatible and certified for use with the Quelfire or Rockwool products. One example only, is LeGrand EZ-Path product is certified for use with Rockwool Fire batt.

Only competent third-party installers are to be used for fitting only third-party accredited and certified fire stopping products. Principal Contractors are responsible for ensuring the competency of fire stopping installers whom they appoint and should undertake suitable monitoring of work during the construction phase. Evidence of third-party accreditation will be required at handover and may be requested at any time during the works.

UWE standardise on certified approved fire stopping products as supplied only by Quelfire or Rockwool. These products cannot be mixed in the same location. No expanding PU foam of any description is to be used for the purposes of firestopping, regardless of any purported fire rating properties. Other firestopping manufacturers may be considered to suit applications that have not been subject to testing by either Rockwool or Quelfire. Any such details must be submitted to UWE for acceptance **prior** to installation and a derogation agreed. In extreme circumstances it might be necessary to accept an Engineering Judgement from the manufacturer and/or suitably qualified fire engineer.

All fire seals shall be labelled, in accordance with TGD 17, using a label or plate affixed to the seal or adjacent supporting construction. This shall contain the seal number, fire resistance period, and installer company details including name of operative and date of installation.

Seal number should use the code CAMPUS/BUILDING CODE/FLOOR/ROOM NUMBER/UNIQUE IDENTIFIER (1, 2, 3 etc.).

All the label/tag information shall be supplied in an excel spreadsheet using the same headings as the label/tag. Photographs of each seal shall be inserted in a final column. If the project is being modelled in BIM, alternative arrangements can be agreed as part of the BIM execution plan.

The location of fire stops must be shown on the as-built drawings, detailing the seal number and thus enabling UWE to cross refer to the excel spreadsheet and undertake routine inspections.

UWE require that traditional methods of construction, such as block or plasterboard partition, are used to construct fire compartment walls. This instruction is mainly aimed at instances where there is a temptation to 'build' partitions from fire batt. Using fire batt as a construction method of construction is not allowed. Fire batt can only be used to close penetrations within traditionally constructed walls.

Here is an example of an accepted form of construction, where Quelfire products and fire collars are used within a framed plasterboard partition.



Examples of fire bat construction that is not allowed –



5.10 Internal Finishes

5.10.1 General Provision

- Robust durable finishes appropriate to each functional space.
- For renovation projects, consider the building's character and existing finishes. All material patches should blend as closely as possible. Some buildings on campus have an existing palette that must be matched. Coordinate with the UWE PM.
- All specified materials must demonstrate suitability for use in an institutional setting, with similar regularity of cleaning and maintenance.
- Colour-through homogeneous materials are preferred.
- Avoid material(s) that require routine sealing or significant specialized maintenance.
- O&M documents must clearly identify and note all finishes, including extent of coverage.
- Stencil fire rating above ceiling at all fire-rated walls, in 150mm high letters at 6m centers.
- All finishes must complete curing & drying (off-gassing) prior to Substantial Completion

5.10.2 Internal Walls

Internal walls shall be designed and constructed so that they provide a secure and stable partition between areas and spaces throughout the campus. The type and nature of any internal wall will have to be discussed and agreed by UWE Estates prior to construction, and this will be based on the general location, use of the room / area and the possible need for future flexibility.

Where block work is to be used, blocks should not weigh more than 20kg to reduce manual handling risks during construction or subsequent alterations. A risk evaluation (contained within the 'design risk register') is required if a designer wishes to specify blocks in excess of this weight.

Consideration to be given when constructing new stud partitions to incorporate additional support battens for the UWE Toprail support system, or radiators etc. When constructing corridor walls, fire resistance, durability, robustness, and good sound resistance is essential. If masonry corridor walls cannot be provided (it is the UWE preference that corridor walls are masonry), 9.5 mm plywood can be included behind the plasterboard to provide added resistance against penetration damage.

Consideration to be given for the use of Class 0 paints in escape routes. Class 0 Paint is an additional level of protection for walls or ceilings where limited combustibility is required in high-risk areas, such as escape routes. To comply with Class 0 materials must have a Class 1 Surface Spread of Flame and low fire propagation index, in accordance with BS 476 Part 6.

If half-height internal walls are used (typically used to demark zones or functional areas in robotic or engineering buildings), they should either be short enough that someone in a wheelchair can look over or vision panels etc. should be positioned at appropriate points.

Reference Design Specification Chapter 8 for the Provision of Digital Displays.

5.10.3 Internal Doors

Fire Door Assemblies are not to be installed. Certified Door sets are to be installed. Where existing door assemblies, and/or existing and new door sets form part of a fire separating element, they must fully comply with the requirements of BE EN 1634-1, BS EN 1634-3 and BS 9999 as applicable. Fire door sets must also be CE/UKCA marked, where applicable. A fire compartment may fail if a fire door set is installed into a surrounding element that is not proven by test to provide the required period of fire resistance. All works must consider the surrounding fabric elements before installing any new fire door sets, including over panels, etc.

All fire doors and frames are to be manufactured and installed as a single door set and appropriately certified before hand over.

All fire doors must allow integral devices for other systems to be fitted to them without compromising warranty or door integrity i.e. fitting access control devices, auto openers, flush bolts, etc.

All Fire Doors are to be fitted by installers registered with a UKAS accredited third party fire door installation certification body such as FDIS, BM Trada, etc.

UWE aims to minimise the number of automated doors to an absolute minimum, and only install hold-open devices where necessary. Where required, corridor and main circulation doors are to have hold open devices to BS EN 1155, interfaced with the fire alarm. No closer shall incorporate a hold open device unless it is an electronically powered device in accordance with EN 1155.

'Dorgard' door hold open devices are not to be used.

The maximum opening force for doors on accessible routes is 30 Newtons (N) between 0 and 30 degrees and 22.5 N between 30 and 60 degrees. Cam action closers are preferred over rack and pinion 'projecting arm' closers as they usually achieve lower opening forces.

Door closures should be deliberately flexible to allow the closing speed to be suitable for the environment in which it operates. Guidance in BS1154 suggests a smooth closure from 90 degrees to fully closed within a time of between 3 and 7 seconds.

Due to their low closing movements, door closers size 1 and 2 are not suitable for use on fire doors. Door closers with an adjustable closing force shall be capable of adjustment to at least power size 3 to BS EN 1154. The power size shall also be specified to suit the mass of the door.

Door gaps shall be in accordance with manufacturers installation instructions but will normally not exceed 3mm \pm 1mm at the top and sides and 10mm at the threshold. Where cold smoke leakage is a requirement (usually identified as S or Sa on the door schedule), threshold gaps shall not exceed 3mm at any point. The use of a proprietary CE marked drop seal might be appropriate in these circumstances. Always check the door manufacturers certification.

Doors must not have weather bars. They create a barrier to wheelchairs, trolleys etc. and can be a trip hazard.

Timber doors are to be self-finished to negate the need for subsequent redecorating. The head rail is to have a minimum depth of 150mm.

All fire door signage shall comply with BS 5499-10: 2014. Appropriate signage is determined by door location, use and whether it is being held-open.

Fittings & ironmongery are to be of a high-quality finish, robust stainless steel.

Where doors (or gates/shutters etc.) are powered, they must 'fail safe'. The electrical design Specification provides details of the required interface with the fire alarm system.

5.10.3.1 Door Locks

Physical door locks are not permitted on any emergency escape routes. Break glass tubes are not permitted. Maglocks should be installed for security, or thumb-turn devices.

Locks are to be profile to fit UWE Kaba 20 cylinders, with thumb-turns fitted to the non-secure side off all lockable internal doors.

Plant Room doors, riser doors, service doors etc. must all have UWE Estates key suite 1513 fitted.

Lift Motor room doors and HV Electrical doors must have specific Estates key, to be dictated by Estates Electrical Engineer.

Reference section 5.9.5 for requirements on physical locks and access control.

5.10.4 Plasterboard

- Plasterboard must not be used on ceilings without UWE's express permission (as it has historically concealed pipework etc.)
- If it is permitted, adequate access provisions shall be made.
- Where pipes and cables are boxed in access must be provided.
- Plasterboard should meet WRAP requirement for recycled content.
- Plasterboard wall linings are not deemed suitable for high trafficked locations (i.e corridors), communal areas (i.e. social spaces) or student accommodation. Plasterboard wall linings should be assessed for suitability, but restricted to teaching, learning or office areas, unless otherwise authorized by UWE Estates.
- Consideration should be made for ply-backed detailing or alternatively the use of wallboard.
- Wet areas and/or tile backer board:
 - Use cement backer board for tile.
 - Paper-faced moisture resistant gypsum board panels are not permitted.

5.10.5 Tiles

5.10.5.1 Floor Tiles

- Cross-fall finished floor to floor drains.

- Maintain adequate substrate to prevent lifting of tiles due to thermal dynamic movement by hidden services.
- Glazed or polished tiles are prohibited.

5.10.5.2 Wall Tiles

- Colour contrasts to comply with BS 8300 (see visual contrast, elsewhere).
- Ceramic floor and wall tiles should not be used in wet areas (including kitchens, laundries and academic areas requiring high levels of hygiene). Instead, UWE prefers the use of vinyl safety flooring and flexible vinyl systems. The solution can also include a vinyl ceiling finish (see below).

5.10.6 Suspended Ceilings

- Ceilings should be designed to be easily accessible for maintenance and other access requirements, such as future technology installations. The depth of void must be adequate to accommodate integrated light fittings and the layout of the grid must align with M&E design.
- Ceilings within a wet, humid or hygienic environment including areas that require regular cleaning will have a product selected to suit the conditions. This can include interlocking vinyl planks.
- Tile size (unless planks) generally will be 600 x 600 with painted perimeter shadow batten.

5.10.6.1 Voids created by suspended ceilings.

The void created by a suspended ceiling should be 600mm minimum deep under flat structural soffits in order to accommodate services. This distance can be reduced depending on the nature of services with the void: Mechanical and electrical designs must be co-ordinated with the fabric/structural design to inform these decisions.

5.10.7 Flooring

- UWE can provide approved flooring systems and products for specific locations and uses.
- In general, flooring (both internal and external) shall be non-slip (even when wet).
- Floor tiles must be of a suitable size so as NOT to introduce manual handling issues for installation, maintenance, and replacement Contractors.
- Flooring must comply with general provisions in BS8300.
- Flooring shall not "turn up" the wall more than 150mm without a colour change.
- Building entrance: Primary & secondary walk off barrier matting with metal trim as applicable.
- Lift floors: Rubber tiles, classified under EN 685 for heavy use (standards 23, 32 and 41).
- Wet laboratories: Use chemical resistant flooring (also see comments in 'specialist areas', below).
- Stair Treads & Risers: Colour contrasts to comply with current guidance.

5.10.7.1 Specialist areas

Due to the diverse range of activities undertaken at UWE, there will inevitably be circumstances when standard flooring solutions are inappropriate. Examples: In one workshop there was the potential for freshly welded metal or droplets of molten metal to come into contact with the floor. Potentially, some substances may be handled which require or prohibit the use of very specific floor finishes.

The following UWE project processes will help the team to arrive at a considered and suitable solution:

- The project brief will establish anticipated teaching activities. The implications for design and specification must be established through discussion (e.g. the weight, temperature or physio-chemical properties of materials or substances etc. that may come into contact with the floor).
- Flooring solutions should be identified that meet the demands/constraints.
- Technical data and samples of bespoke products should be obtained and discussed with the client and cleaning services. The College may need to adopt specific management arrangements for the floor, leading to changes in risk assessments or standard operating procedures.
- Potentially, there may be a mixture of bespoke floor finishes through a technical area. The reasoning behind the various selections may be lost over time and eventually activities may change, meaning that the chosen floor surfaces become inappropriate. Handover documentation should explain why the various, bespoke floor surfaces were chosen. This might be conveyed in a simple, annotated plan included in the O&M information.

The HSE slip assessment tool (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/sat/index.htm>) should be used if there is doubt about the ability of a bespoke product to reasonably prevent slips and provides information that can help influence cleaning regimes or College operating procedures.

5.10.7.2 Raised floors

No raised floors at UWE must be classified as light under the MOB PF2 PS standard (or BSEN 12825 Class 1 and 2). The majority of office and teaching spaces will be MOB PF2 PS medium standard (or BSEN 12825 Class 3 and above). Circulation spaces may need to be MOB PF2 PS heavy standard (or raised floors may be inappropriate) depending on the anticipated loads. See 'imposed loads and performance' earlier. Any raised floor should be a minimum distance of 250mm from floor finish to structural floor to allow for services.

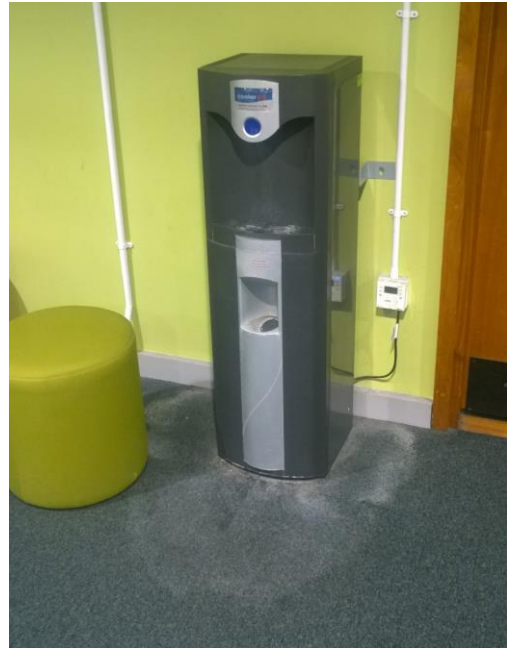
5.10.7.3 Prohibited flooring materials

- Specialty flooring: bamboo, cork and laminate.
- Wood flooring, except at gymnasiums and certain other specialised functions.
- Masonry flooring: Not permitted if it has significant fill and/or requires routine sealing or significant specialized maintenance.

5.10.7.4 Carpeting

For offices, circulation spaces and lecture rooms carpet tiles are the preferred option.

- Any existing carpeting removed for renovation must be recycled where possible. Justification must be provided for non-compliance.
- Construction: Solution dyed, bleach proof nylon construction. The use of polypropylene pile carpet is to be avoided.
- Minimum manufacturer's warranty for wear, edge ravel, tuft bind, delamination, and static control:
 - Barrier matting: 5 years
 - Offices, teaching rooms and other areas: 10 years.
- UWE wishes to avoid staining around drinking fountains due to leaks and spills (as shown to the right). The choice of fountain and selection of floor covering should limit these unsightly stains.



5.10.8 Painting

- The UWE palette of colours shall be used.
- UWE will consider the use of water-based undercoat and gloss finishes where appropriate.

5.10.8.1 Teaching Walls

In teaching spaces, teaching walls (i.e. the walls on which images will be projected etc.) must be 00NN 16/000 – Grey. This helps to accentuate the screen and is of great benefit to students with certain cognitive and visual impairments.

5.10.9 Vision Access/visual contrasts

- The need for contrasting colours between floors and walls and doors; stair treads and risers; doors and handles; walls with switches/sockets etc. is well established.
- While the UWE standard specifications support effective contrast, it is incumbent on designers to review colour contrast of adjoining materials and seek advice if in doubt.
- Busy, highly patterned surfaces to be avoided.
- Columns can be at risk of 'blending in' to the background and may need manifestations to ensure they are visually distinct.

5.10.10 Acoustics

- Provide appropriate acoustic absorbing surfaces to teaching and meeting spaces and to reception, refectory, assembly and sports/leisure areas where there are hard surfaces that cause reverberation issues.
- Ensure adequate sound resistance of structure for acoustic separation, particularly between teaching spaces, interview rooms, residential accommodation, and performance areas.
- **For student accommodation:**
 - Approved Document Part E: Resistance to the Passage of Sound
 - British Standard (BS) 8233:2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings
 - BS 4142:2014 Methods for rating and assessing commercial and industrial sound.
- **For other space types:**
 - Building Bulletin 93: Acoustic Design of Schools
 - British Council for Offices Guide to Specification 2014
 - British Standard (BS) 8233:2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings
 - BS 4142:2014 Methods for rating and assessing commercial and industrial sound.

5.10.11 Fixtures and Fittings

- Notice boards located within corridors or escape routes are to be enclosed.
- Specialist fixtures and fittings for science laboratories, computer laboratories, engineering workshops etc. will be specified separately according to building/room use. However, designers are invited to bring their expertise forward and suggest solutions.

5.11 Provision for storage, deliveries and movement of materials

Through consultation with stakeholders, design teams must establish the storage and delivery requirements. Lack of storage is a frequent source of frustration. Different faculties and services have different requirements. In some cases, storage (e.g. for hazardous substances) must be secure and have a range of other controls and precautions (e.g. alarms, general or forced ventilation etc.).

In relation to deliveries, the access and maintenance strategy should set out where and how materials will be delivered to the building. Design teams will need to consider:

- Catering supplies
- Teaching materials
- Stationery supplies and office equipment (including desks and photocopiers)
- Materials required for routine maintenance and life cycle redecoration/refurbishment.

Such considerations are likely to inform the size of lifts and specification of doors (such as double leaf or leaf-and-a-half) especially into plant areas, on main access routes etc.

5.12 Catering design

An attractive, varied and efficient catering experience supports UWE's overarching priorities, Strategy 2030 and other strategic policies. Specifically, it promotes, among other things, a positive student experience, the wellbeing of staff and students, inclusivity by meeting varying dietary needs and requirements, and Value for money (e.g. through more efficient services or by designing catering facilities that can be changed to respond quickly and cheaply to changing food trends).

Clear Way Finding is required to signpost designated catering areas.

It is critical that Hospitality and Catering are engaged and engaged early enough to provide a critical input into design. Hospitality and Catering will assess catering needs for the new or refurbished space, ensuring this fits into the overarching catering strategy to include KPI's of the sustainable food plan. Then a specialist catering design team can prepare more detailed specifications.

The project brief, and budget should clarify who is responsible for providing plates, cutlery, trays, cooking utensils etc.

5.12.1 Production Kitchens

Production kitchens are significantly larger and more complex than deli / café/ bar and vending operations. They are busy spaces with a diverse array of catering equipment and activities. Much more detailed analysis will be required to determine what represents 'adequate' storage or washing facilities, for example. There is a need for very high standards of co-ordination between mechanical and electrical services, incorporation of numerous safety devices (e.g. emergency cut off devices) and liaison with other UWE stakeholders (e.g. the UWE Fire Advisor).

IT must be provided, such as connections for EPOS (electronic point of sale), network points, Wi-Fi, telephones, printers, etc.

Kitchens should be capable of accommodating duplicated appliances to cater for specific dietary requirements.

5.12.2 Deli/Café/Bar Style Operation

Considerations must be given to the general layout, room specifications and service style.

Mechanical and Electrical services must include for waste streams, such as grease traps and filter replacement / disposal.

IT and phone lines, such as connections for EPOS (electronic point of sale), PDQ (processing data quickly), network points, Wi-Fi, telephones, printers, etc.

General Service Requirements, including but not limited to segregated waste streams for food / liquids / variety of recyclables / landfill / etc.

Finishes, for aesthetic appeal as well as resilient to robust and regular cleaning, etc.

The design of a modern retail Deli/Cafe catering outlet should only be undertaken by a specialist catering Design Company with experience in delivering a "Turnkey" package, in coordination with the

UWE Hospitality Team, to ensure a full understanding of the commercial aspects and technical issues demanded from the proposed outlet.

The Outlets should be so designed to create a modern bright space with the emphasis on a de-skilled or semi-skilled food production, and able to offer a range of quality light meals, snacks, sandwiches, and beverages. Consideration to design if location to be licensed for the sale of alcohol.

5.12.3 General Layout and Room Specifications

The operation will ideally be a self-sufficient unit but could be partly supplied via a larger local central catering operation.

Stores for back up stock would be required as will modular refrigeration & freezer units. Ventilated dry storage should be provided with adequate shelving space for holding stock equivalent to 30 days.

Modular cold storage units would ideally be divided into three areas, High risk storage, low risk storage and freezer storage. This facilitates the implementation of the food handling elements of the food safety act.

Depending on style an area would also be required for the Chef / Manager to receive goods and to conduct cashing up. This would normally be sited close to the entry point for goods.

There will only be a limited use of crockery with reusable or closed-loop disposables mainly being used. A dishwasher will be required for the washing of crockery and utensils, and this should be sited within an area away from food preparation areas.

This operation will produce waste and therefore, consideration should be given to separating food waste from waste that can be recycled.

Waste areas should be identified as under counter and external recyclable waste bins. External enclosed bin areas should be considered within the design or have a holding facility away from food preparation areas whereby waste can be stored prior to being taken to main waste storage areas.

A separate lockable COSHH cupboard with shelving and Belfast bucket sinks should be provided for cleaning and chemicals.

5.12.4 Kitchen Design

The operation is dependent upon a minimum of food being prepared on site and therefore the space required is relevant to the operation. However, sufficient space should be given to produce food in a safe and organised manner maintaining separate areas for high and low risk food preparation.

The operation should allow raw and cooked foods to be prepared in separate areas, having dedicated refrigeration, sinks and prep benches for those areas.

Cooking equipment should be adequate for use, with the extra ability to meet demands for increased business. Low intensity food production methods are advised for Deli/Cafe/Bar style food operation refrigeration and oven and frying equipment to be selected for purpose of design. Extraction fan to be fit for purpose of selected equipment.

A balance of equipment power requirements should be achieved, and the UWE Decarbonisation Strategy must be followed with consideration to gas versus electrical cooking equipment. Additional electrical power to be available for any future additional equipment needed.

Separate sinks are required for food use and cleaning use. Adequate hand wash sinks are required. Sinks to be accessible to users with reduced dexterity.

The catering environment to be temperature controlled with adequate fresh air make up and if feasible adequate natural light.

All finishes within the service area should be of an impervious nature and cleanable with the ability to be regularly sanitized.

The position of pest control measures will need to be discussed/agreed with the current contractor and considered in the design.

The potential need for duplicated appliances to cater for specific dietary requirements must be established early on: This will have significant implications for space requirements, as well as services.

5.12.5 Service Style

Operation is relatively low skilled with the emphasis being placed upon low intensity food production. The length of the main service counter would be dependent upon the design space and offer, with a back counter.

Space should be given to chilled, ambient, hot, and retail space for grab and go.

The design must consider the flow of customers to prevent bottlenecks and queuing issues. This may affect the type of coffee machines utilised which could be self-service, barista style or bean to cup.

Consideration shall be given to the careful management of staffing levels required to operate the food service points. Staff migrate between counters during quieter periods, as they are adequately trained in all areas.

Provision must be made for menu designs, specific to each counter. Incorporated logos may be required. These menus could be on digital menu screens, boards hanging from the ceiling that are interchangeable, be placed on back walls or, if the design asks for it, on floor or counter stands.

The food service counters should include:

- Limited hot section, Chilled Deli, Salad section, and Hot Snacks
- Grab and go, with easy access to tills for speed of service to include cold drinks, sandwiches, and boxed salads etc.
- Quality coffee and hot beverage offer on back or front counter.
- Each area of the counter outlet will serve and display from either hot (dry heated solid tops) or cold (chilled self-selection and served) units. This could be of a mobile nature for use elsewhere or fixed as part of the shop fitting.
- Space on the counter and their approaches should provide for the merchandising of trading up items. Each outlet will require power and data connections to operate POS systems and widescreen confirmation of service times and menu offerings.
- Easy access or dispense of plumbed-in, free drinking water to be available in all food service outlets.
- Microwaves and Hot Water points for customer use should be considered in designated locations.

5.12.6 Finishes

Consideration should be taken in applying the selection of kitchen finishes in order to ensure compliance with health and safety and the food safety act.

- Ceramic floor and wall tiles are not permitted.
- Ceiling finishes should have a plastic faced cleanable tile on a white corrosion resistant grid. A 600mm² grid is advisable. Light fittings should be enclosed vapour proof fittings with diffusers fitted in to the ceiling grid.
- Floors should be anti-slip vinyl or quartz screed with 120-150mm coved edges.
- Wall finishes should be of a cleanable and impervious nature vinyl sheeting with an integral biocide is advised.
- Doors should be manufactured with cleanable laminate surfaces.
- All paint surfaces should be either low VOC Matt or eggshell.
- Food server counters should be manufactured in stainless steel with decorative polymer counter tops or granite and have decorative laminates to the front facing elevations. Any joins to be finished in impervious materials that are suitable for the area.
- Impulse space should be designed into the counter along with an element of retail.
- Back counters should be manufactured in stainless steel with stainless steel work surfaces.

5.12.7 Seating area

- Social spaces should have a variety of seating which would suit the varied dining styles offered.

- The mix of seating ideally would include fixed seating, breakfast bars, soft seating areas, and wheelchair / limited mobility accessible areas and seating.
- The colour scheme should be so designed as to create a bright and airy environment with the use of neutral tones accented with stronger feature colours.
- Flooring to be cleanable and possibly include some carpeted areas where soft seating is present. Consult with UWE Cleaning Services before specifying.
- The use of audio-visual facilities should be utilised within the space for information purposes, therefore data cables would be required in those areas.
- Electrical sockets and USB ports should be supplied for customer charging equipment to at least a third of the tables.
- The seating area shall be designed so that it can be used flexibly, such as a social or breakout area, and may need televisions, marketing screens etc. These requirements are to be established in the initial brief, needing power, data etc.

5.12.8 Vending Operation

5.12.8.1 General

Vending can be used to capture sales in areas of significant footfall or designed to provide an additional out of hours service to back up retail catering operations.

It can be used to provide a service in remotely located areas away from the main Catering operations.

Vending machines have changed significantly in recent years and can be used to supply a range of hot and cold food and drinks.

There may need to be a potable water supply, small power, and drainage. New beverage machines are 16Amp, for example.

Include data points and Wi-Fi boosters for futureproofing.

5.12.8.2 Design

The design of a retail Vending Operation should only be undertaken by a specialist in Supplying Vending or a catering design company with experience in delivering such a service. This ensures that the design is client based with a full understanding of the commercial aspects and technical issues demanded from the proposed outlet. The Outlets should be so designed to create a discreet vending operation which is carefully sited and fits well within a given social space.

A Vending operation will require the use of a remote storage facility sufficiently large enough to hold back up stock particularly where the supply of chilled drinks are required through vending. Space is also required for storage of hot beverage products and drinks cups.

It may be that chilled back up space is required where sandwiches and chilled snacks are held in situations where the vending machines are stocked more than once per day.

The stores should be adequately lit and well ventilated. Dry storage should be provided with adequate space for holding stock equivalent to 3-5 days.

All stock is subject to the requirements of the Food Safety Act.

Vending produces waste and therefore, consideration should be given the provision of separating wet waste from waste that can be recycled. To this effect consider the use of waste and recycling units adjacent to the vending area. As mentioned above, drainage may need to be considered.

5.12.8.3 General Service Requirements

The University Health and Safety Team should be consulted at an early stage of the design process to ensure that the vending is not sited so to cause any restriction or hazard in public spaces and will satisfy statutory regulations.

Social spaces may be adjacent to the vending area, and consideration should be given to a variety of seating which would suit the operation.

Vending is often best placed within a shop fitted housing which can be designed and built to complement the local scheme.

Consider the use of anti-slip flooring to the area immediately in front of the vending machines due to the potential slip hazard created by spillage.

5.12.9 Tea Points

Strategic Tea points are required within office areas and will be a minimum area of 4m² and will consist of Vinyl flooring, overhead and under counter storage, sink with draining board, and a fridge.

A dishwasher may be required, as well as a separate cold-water dispenser (Hydration Station) and separate boiling water unit can be supplied. Combined boiling / ambient / chilled water units are not permitted.

Space must be allocated for a variety of food waste, recycling, and landfill bins. Counter-top food caddies will be required as well as under-counter bins.

Appendix 1C - Furniture and associated items

Relevant Colleges/function	<i>Estates, space management, finance, procurement, sustainability team, College technical and support teams</i>
Estimated annual scope 3 carbon	<i>1,200 tonnes CO2 equivalent</i>
Annual expenditure	<i>>£1.7 million per annum</i>
Annual waste (tonnes)	<i>tbc</i>
Annual reuse saving	<i>Approximately £100,000 p.a. over last 5 years</i>
Reuse target	<i>10% by value</i>

Sustainability standard for furniture

UWE Bristol Colleges to adhere where possible to the university’s furniture catalogue. Greater uniformity across the university will, over time, allow for significantly increased internal reuse of furniture and facilitate greater resilience and flexibility in furnishing rooms at short notice.

Incoming furniture will be tagged with a unique identifier and entered on an asset tracker. This will enable tracking of furniture asset and more efficient addition of surplus items to an online reuse portal.

We will make use of sharing platforms and other technology solutions to first maximise internal reuse and second offer items for sale or for free to local charities.

Where suitable we will make use of refurbished items and receive furniture via sharing platforms to offset the need for new purchases.

We will relaunch the furniture reuse project as the library of things, extending the range of shared and reusable items and encouraging a culture of sharing across Colleges.

We will review intranet guidance associated with furniture procurement, reuse and disposal and align it with the intentions of this standard.

When procuring new furniture UWE Bristol will take a “whole life” approach, allowing us to factor in-use and end-of-use costs to the decision process. We will aim to purchase furniture that:

- Has high secondary material content (provide % by weight) of recycled, refurbished and reused wood, metal, plastics and textiles.*
- Is modular and has long production runs to ensure that individual items or components can be replaced*
- Is designed to aid disassembly - to facilitate reuse, refurbishment, repair and ultimately recycling, either in part or as a whole.*
- Has readily available spare parts to facilitate refurbishments and repair*
- Only contains certified sustainable timber i.e. FSC or PEFC*
- Is delivered in returnable packaging systems – i.e. for multiple use (all associated supply packaging to be removed by the supplier for reuse by themselves)*
- Minimises hazardous chemicals used in the manufacture of items*

Supplier “take back” of end-of-use and legacy items will be increasingly anticipated in supply contracts in order to maximise producer responsibility. Services employed by the university for furniture disposal will be procured in a way that ensures best outcomes for sustainability and reuse.

We will aim to encourage sector purchasing consortia to adopt circular economy drivers such as the above, or equivalent standards, as the norm for future tenders.