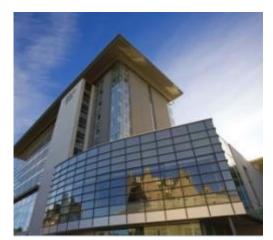
Balnagask
Outline RAAC Business
Case Review
July 2024
Issue 1









CONTROL SHEET

CLIENT: Aberdeen City Council

PROJECT TITLE:Balnagask RAAC Review

REPORT TITLE: Balnagask Outline RAAC Business Case Review

PROJECT REFERENCE: 160260

DOCUMENT REFERENCE 160260/01

a		Name Signature		Date					
al Schedul	Prepared	d by		K Browne		Held on File		17-07-2024	
Issue & Approval Schedule	Checked by			D Holmes		Held on File		17-07-2024	
Issue	Approve	d by		A Scott-Kidd	ie	Held on File		17-07-2024	
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Fairhurst is the trading name of Fairhurst Group LLP, a limited liability partnership registered in Scotland with the registered number SO307306 and registered office at 43 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT. Project

Background and Objectives

Fairhurst have been appointed by Aberdeen City Council to undertake an Outline Business Case to consider options to address issues relating to the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) roof panels at Balnagask Aberdeen.

This report will set out the following:

- Project background and objectives
- Scope of Works
- Evaluation Criteria
- Design Requirements
- Stakeholder engagement
- Timelines and deliverables

2. RAAC Background

Following the sudden collapse of flat roof RAAC panels in 2018, the Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS) issued an alert in May 2019 aimed at building owners, consultants and contractors.

The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) have since issued the following documents, which we have based our assessment on:

- Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Panels Investigation & Assessment -February 2022
- Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Investigation and Assessment Further Guidance - April 2023

RAAC is a lightweight, 'bubbly' form of concrete, commonly used in construction between the 1950s and mid-1990s. It is predominantly found as pre-cast panels in roofs (commonly flat roofs, sometimes pitched).

RAAC panels are typically 600mm wide, although this has been known to vary. Their length will vary, typically up to 6m. They typically have a chamfer along their edge meaning there is a distinctive V-shaped groove at 600mm centres between the panels. See Figure 1 showing typical RAAC panel construction.

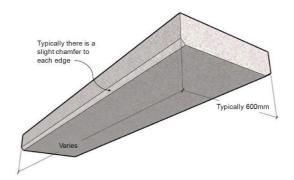




Figure 1: Typical RAAC construction



3. Existing Construction

The properties at Balnagask are two-storey buildings with traditional cavity blockwork wall construction and mono-pitched 125mm (5") thick RAAC roof panels spanning front to back, bearing onto external walls and a 100mm thick central concrete brickwork partition. See Figures 2 - 5 showing typical existing building construction. Figure 6 shows the typical RAAC panels condition observed during structural surveys.

Panels span approx. 3.5m at the rear of the property (typically above the living room and bedroom) and approx. 2.5m at the front of the property (typically above the kitchen and bathroom). These are relatively short spans, as RAAC panels can typically span up to 6m.

The mono-pitched roof construction is typically concealed behind a timber frame and plasterboard ceiling, some of which was retro-fitted (and was removed prior to inspections).

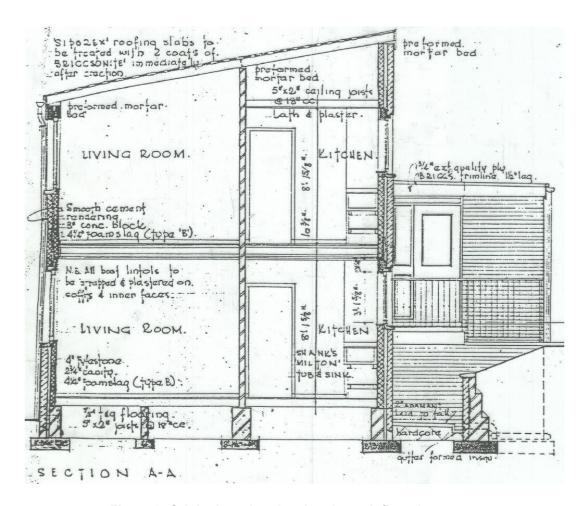


Figure 2: Original section drawing through flatted property

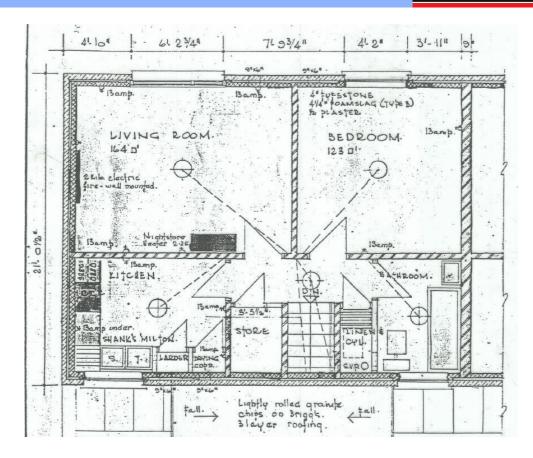


Figure 3: Original floor plan drawing of first floor flat

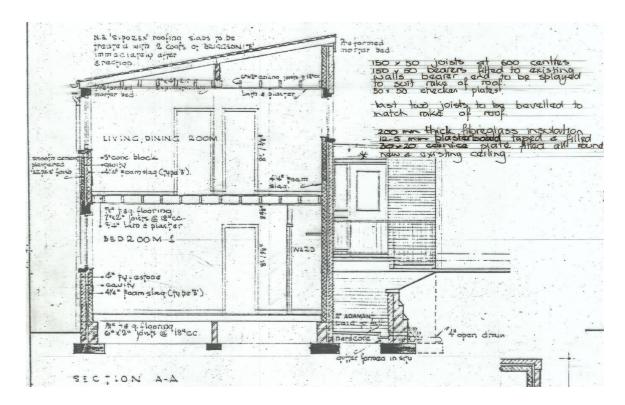


Figure 4: Original section drawing through 2-storey house

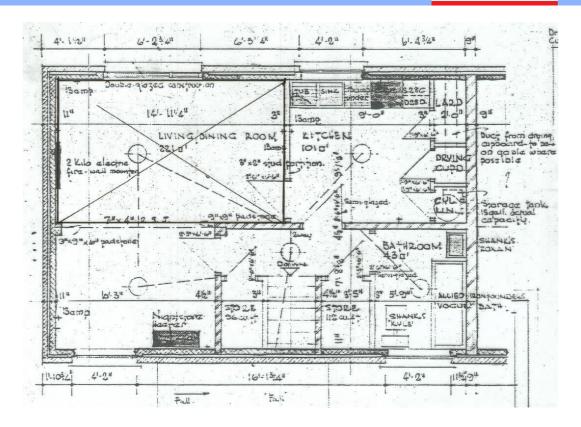


Figure 5: Original floor plan drawing of 2-storey house



Figure 6: Typical RAAC panels condition observed during surveys



4. Methodology of RAAC Panel Assessment

The intrusive inspection scope and procedure was based on guidance by The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) - Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Investigation and Assessment - Further Guidance - April 2023.

We examined the following risk factors:-

- End bearing
- Anchorage reinforcement
- Cut Panels
- Cracking
- Builder's work / building modifications
- Water ingress
- Deflection
- Potential for adverse loading

The aspects identified during our intrusive and visual surveys that gave concern were:-

- Less than 75mm bearing on internal supports
- Excessive cracking of slab panel
- Excessive deflection
- Historic water ingress (prior to roof replacement contracts over the lifetime of the properties)
- Builder's works/builder modifications

Using the IStructE Risk Assessment approach defects were classified as per Table 1 detailed below.

Risk Factors	Assessment
	External wall supports all exceeded 75mm bearing
End bearing	Internal wall supports ranged between 40mm - 60mm bearing, with 1No. panel noted to be as low as 10mm – This slab is RED CRITICAL and was propped.
Anchorage/longitudinal reinforcement	Anchorage reinforcement missing to at least 1No. panel
Cut panels	None
Cracking	Transverse cracking found along full length of panel and within 500mm of the support. Spalling and corrosion of rebar also observed
Builder's works / building modifications	Damaged units from cable conduits and SVPs
Water ingress	Dampness has been noted to underside of panels
Deflection measurements	Up to span / 133, but with major cracking and spalling
Adverse or changes in loading	Replacement roofing systems with additional insulation

Table 1: IStructE risk assessment approach to defects

Red – High Risk Amber – Medium Risk Green – Low Risk



5. Principal Observations from Property Inspections

Using the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) Risk Assessment approach we have classified the following RAAC defects;

End Bearing:

By virtue of the fact that the central support wall is only 100mm wide, none of the slabs supported on the central wall achieve the required 75mm minimum bearing, required by the IStructE guidance. Notwithstanding the fact that as part of the overall Risk Assessment we have undertaken and proven in all but one of our inspections that both longitudinal and transverse bars exist at the slab bearings along the central 100mm wide wall. Of all the slabs inspected to date, one slab within an unoccupied property was found to have a bearing of 10mm. This slab was considered **RED Critical**. Propping was put in place to temporarily address this defect.

Red High Risk Classification was assigned in the Risk Assessment for this element of the properties.

Cracking:

All of the slabs in the occupied and void properties inspected have transverse cracking, along the full length of the panel, including potential shear cracks within 500mm of the bearings. These cracks also typically travel through the full depth of the panels.

RED High Risk Classification in the Risk Assessment for this element of the properties.

Deflection:

All of the slabs in the properties inspected have deflections generally similar.

RED High Risk Classification in the Risk Assessment for this element of the properties.

Builder's works / modification:

All of the slabs in properties inspected found service penetrations/builder modifications.

RED High Risk Classification in the Risk Assessment for this element of the properties.



6. Conclusion & Recommendations

The inspections of 101 properties, to date, have shown the condition of the RAAC slabs are similar throughout the development. Given the number of properties inspected we have no reason to believe that uninspected properties will show any meaningful improvement on general condition of RAAC panels. Where there has been historic water ingress the condition of the RAAC slab and reinforcement will be measurably worse.

As a result of these findings and associated risk assessment Aberdeen City Council requested an Engineering Assessment of the following options:

Proposed Assessment Options:

- 1. Extending bearing supports
- 2. Install a timber support frame under existing RAAC roof panels
- 3. Removal of RAAC panels and replace with a new timber roof cassette system
- 4. Demolition and rebuild of properties within same footprint

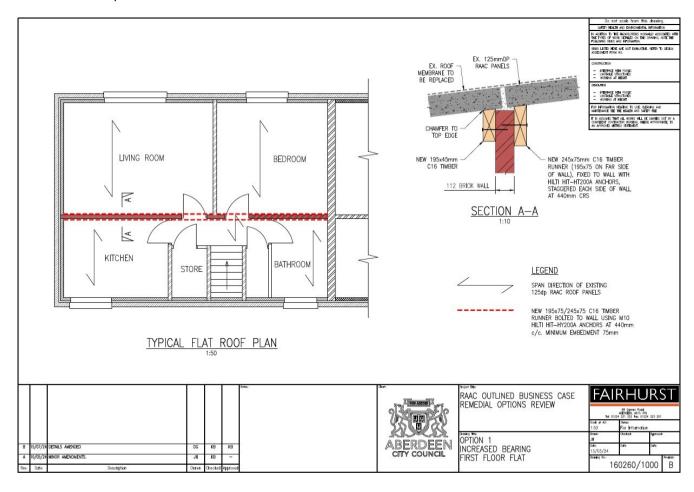
The proposed assessment options were assessed against the following criteria:

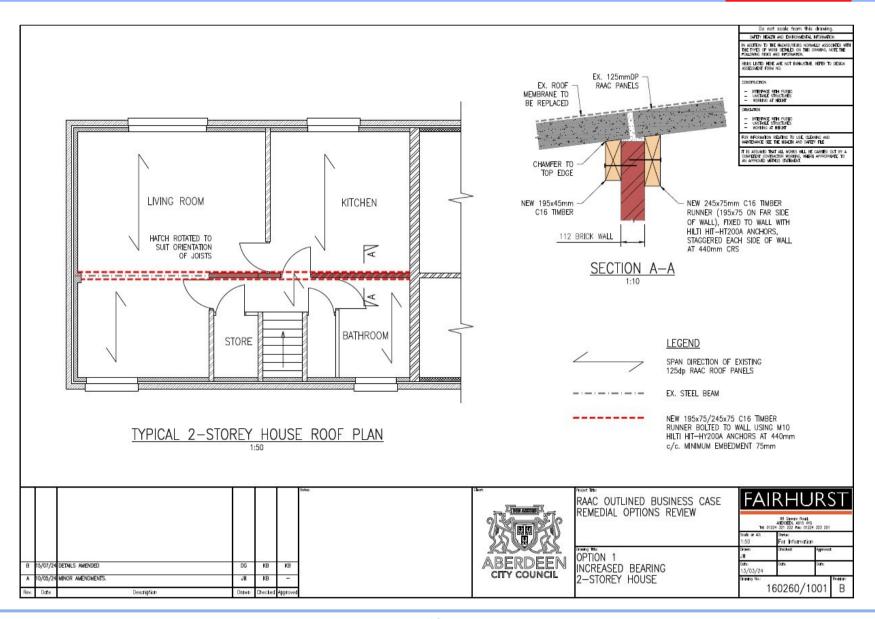
- 1. Remedial Assessment Review
- 2. Scope of Works:
 - a) Method to Install
 - b) Cost to install RAAC remedial works and undertake limited refurbishment works i.e. replace ceilings and repainting of walls/room where the repairs were carried out.
 - c) Cost for full property refurbishment and installation of RAAC remedial options
 - d) Timeline to install RAAC remedial works and undertake limited property refurbishment works
 - e) Timeline for full property refurbishment and installation of RAAC remedial options
 - f) Advantages and Disadvantages
- 3. Carbon footprint / environmental impact option review
- 4. EPC Rating option review and cost review

7. Remedial Assessment Review

Option 1: Extending Bearing Supports

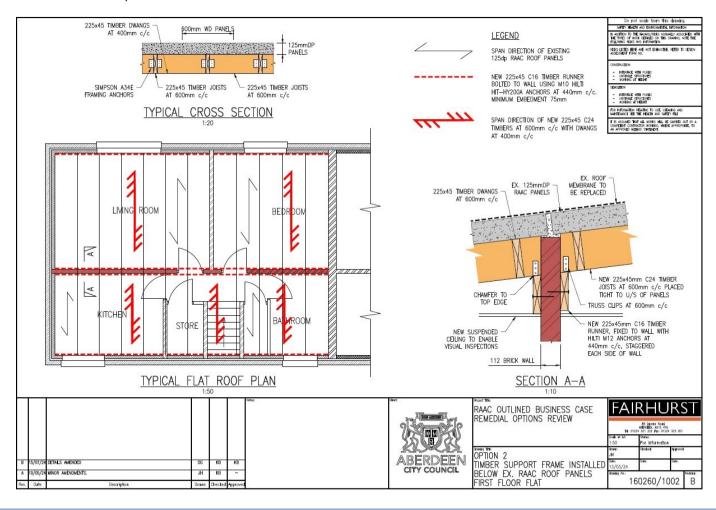
This option would involve fixing timber runners to the face of internal 100mm brick walls thus increasing bearing to satisfy the minimum bearing requirement of 75mm. See drawings 160260/1000/1001 for proposed remedial details for both the 2 storey house and flatted property. Refer to **Table 2** for a risk category assessment for each of the remedial option.

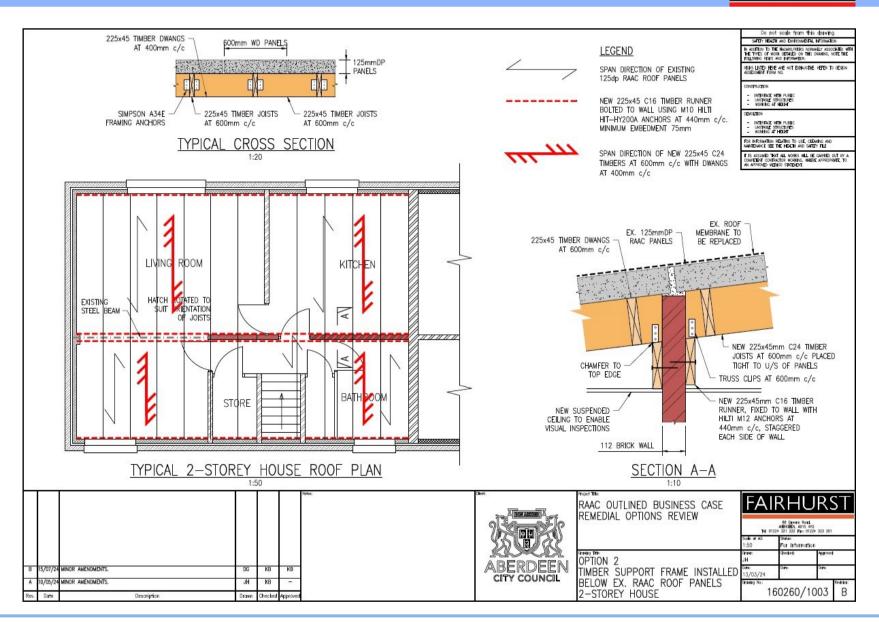




Option 2: Install a timber support frame under the existing RAAC roof panels

This option would involve installing a timber support frame under the existing roof panels which significantly reduces spans of the RAAC panels to 600mm. See drawings 160260/1002/1003 for proposed remedial details for both the 2 storey house and flatted property. Refer to **Table 2** for a risk category assessment for each of the remedial options.

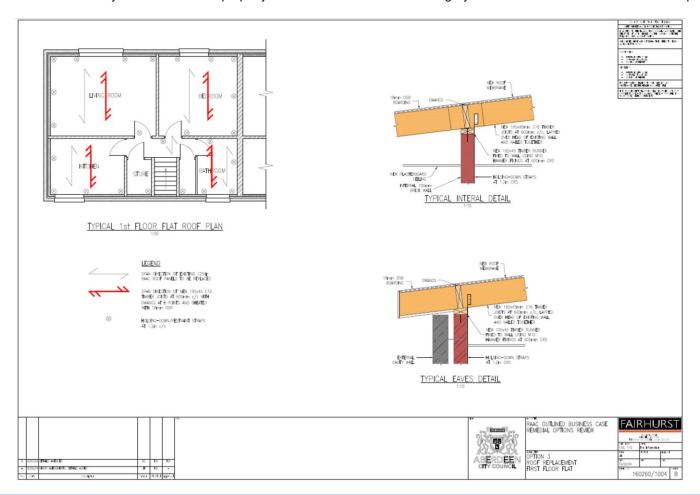


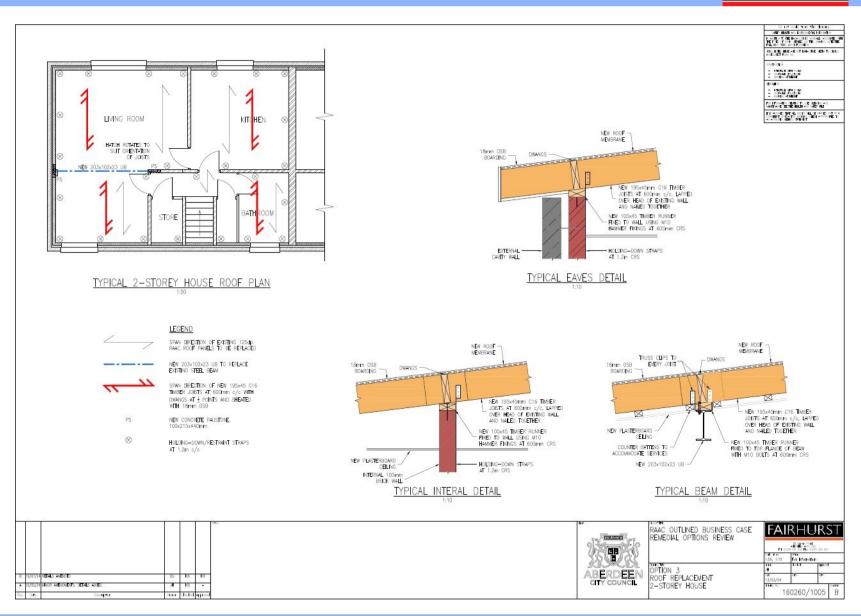




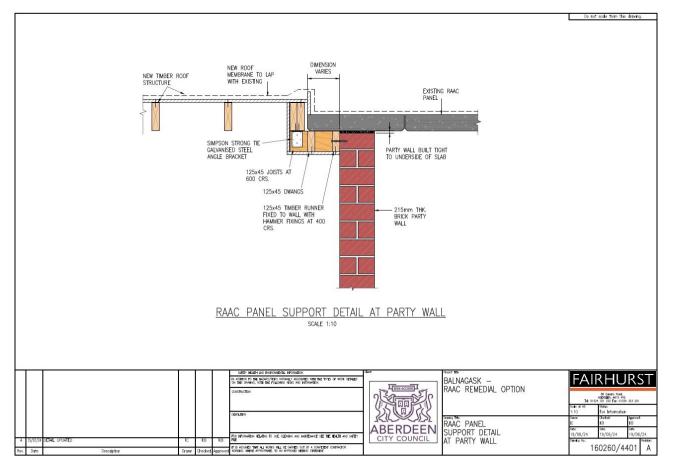
Option 3: Removal of RAAC panels and replace with a new roof cassette system

This option would involve removing the RAAC roof panels and replacing with a new timber roof structure. See drawings 160260/1004/1005 for proposed remedial details for both the 2 storey house and flatted property. Refer to **Table 2** for a risk category assessment for each of the remedial option.





RAAC Panels Party Wall Support Remedial Detail



Observations and Proposed Measures

During our surveys existing RAAC panels were found to be bridging over party walls between properties. The 215mm party wall was also found to be built tight to underside of panels. Please see adjacent drawing showing the typical as built panel arrangement. To minimise disruption to adjacent properties during the removal of RAAC panels the following has been proposed:

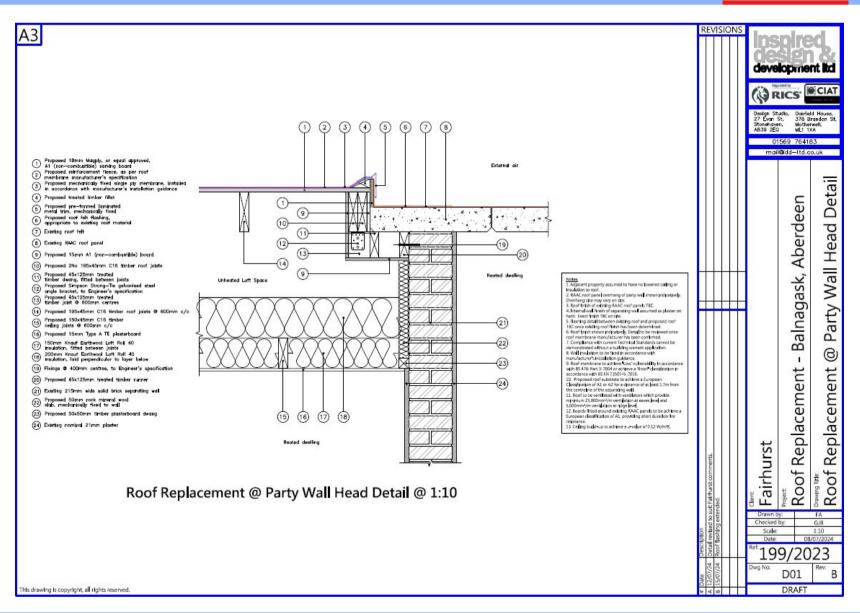
Panels Over Party Wall: Panels that are directly over the party wall will remain in place. This ensures stability and avoids unnecessary disturbance to adjacent properties.

Timber Support Frame: A timber support frame will be installed under the overhang of the RAAC panel. By doing so, a small section of the RAAC panel becomes structurally redundant. This approach allows for safer removal without compromising the adjacent property.

Sequencing of Works: The removal process will be carefully sequenced to minimise both disruption and vibration to neighbouring properties during the construction.

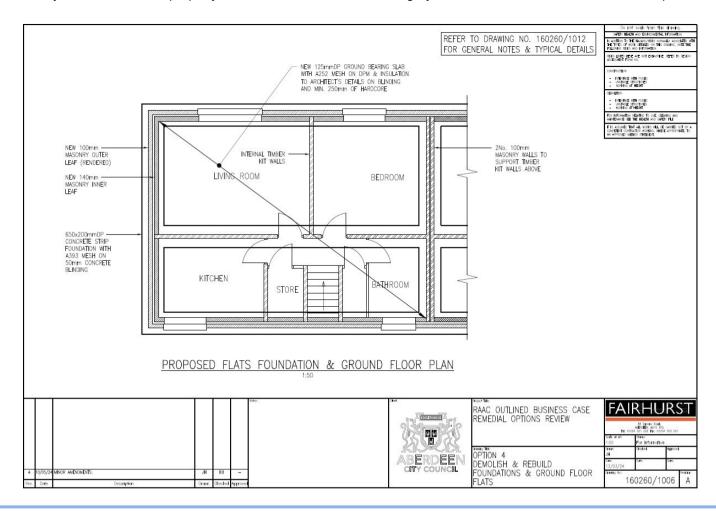
New Roof Membrane Flashing: As part of the process, new roof membrane flashing will be installed up to the external face of the party wall. This ensures proper waterproofing and protects against any potential leaks.

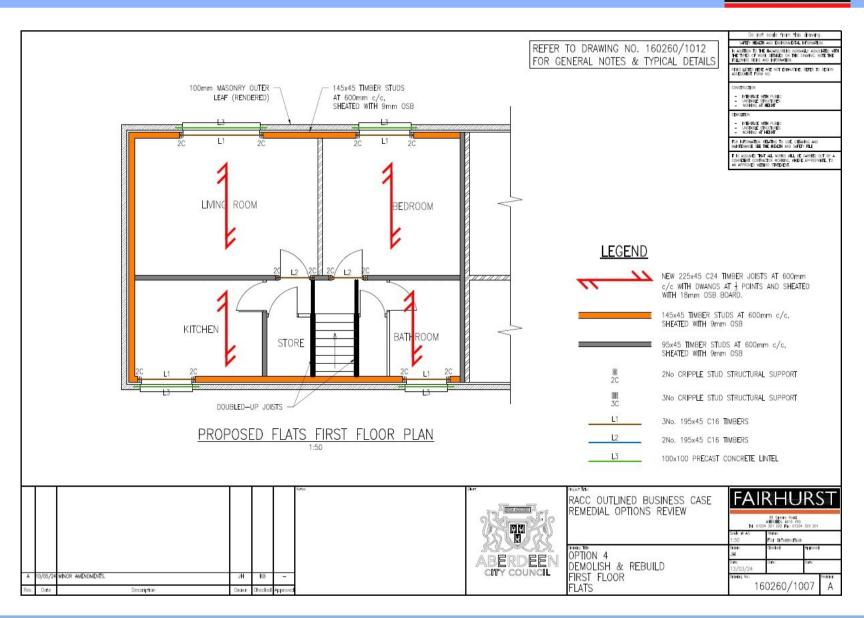
For further detailed information, please refer to the proposed Architectural drawing D01.

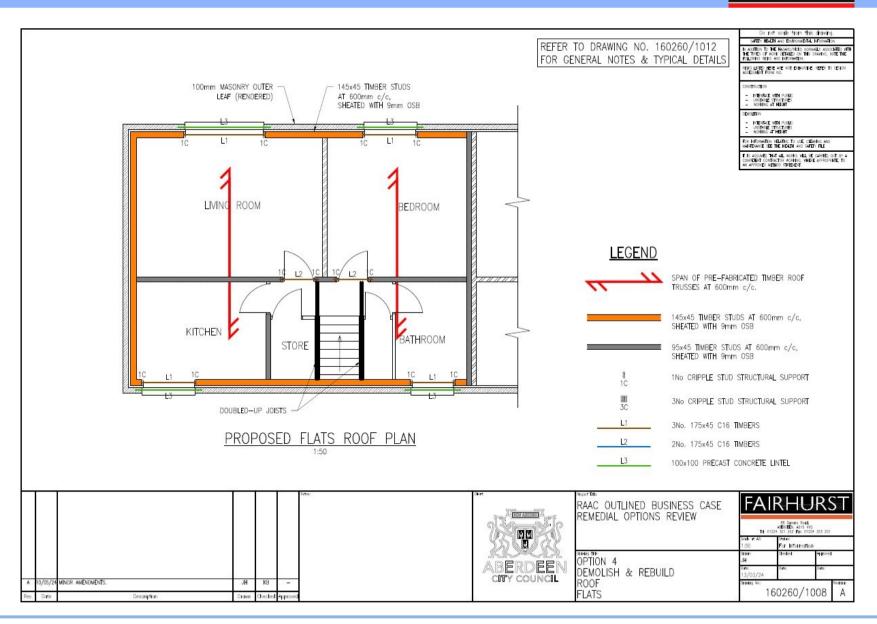


Option 4: Demolition and rebuild of properties within same footprint

This option would involve full demolition of the properties and rebuilding to modern standards using traditional timber frame construction, timber suspended 1st floor, timber roof trusses and concrete ground bearing slab supported on concrete strip footing. See drawings 160260/1006/1007/1008/1012 for proposed details for both the 2 storey house and flatted property. Refer to **Table 2** for a risk category assessment for each of the remedial option.







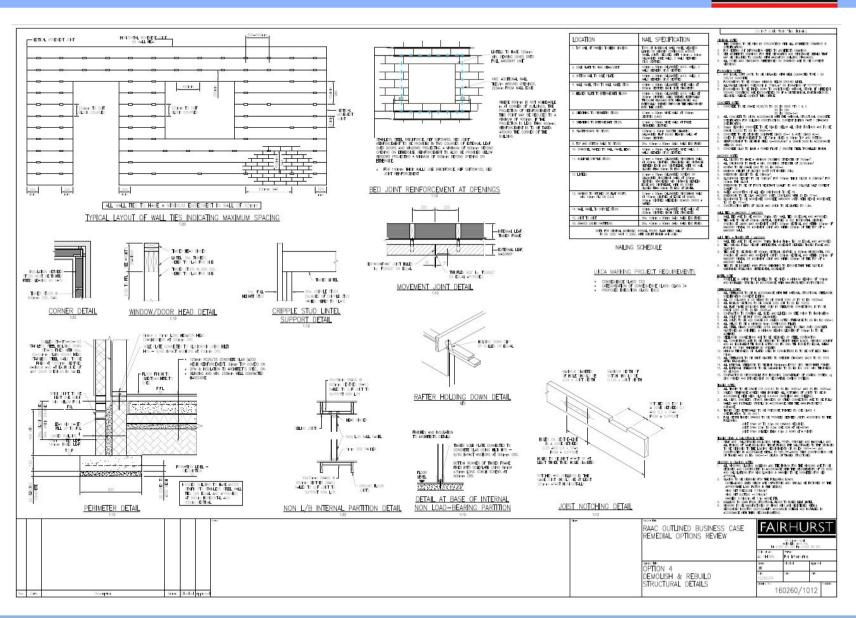




Table 2: RAAC Risk Category Assessment for Each Remedial Options

Using the IStructE risk assessment approach table 2 compares the remaining critical risks associated with RAAC against each of the remedial options and evaluates them as High risk, Low risk and where the risks are removed.

Critical Risks Items Remedial Option	End bearing	Anchorage Reinforcement	Cut Panels	Cracking	Builder Works /Modification	Water Ingress	Deflection	Adverse or Change in Loading
Option 1: Bearing enhancement								
Option 2: RAAC Panel Timber Support Frame								
Option 3:Roof Replacement								
Option 4: Demolish and rebuild								

Legend

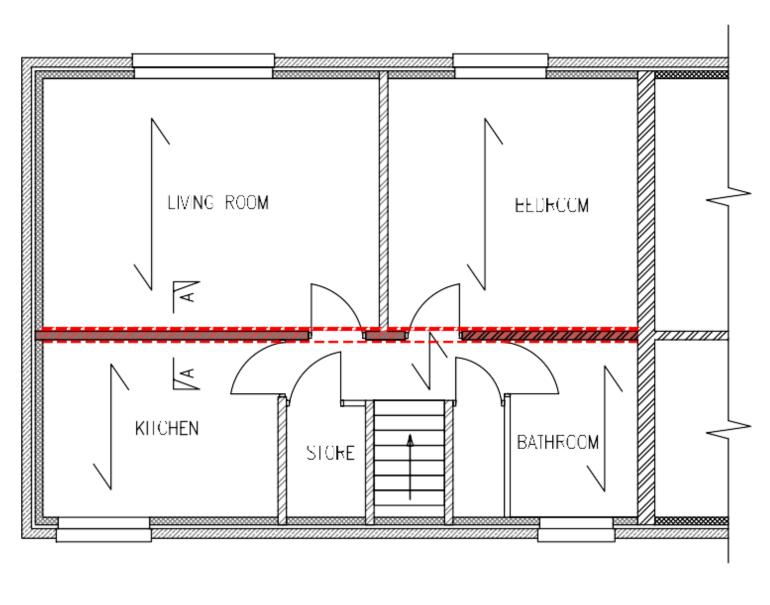
RAAC Remains a High Risk Item
RAAC Becomes a Low Risk Item
RAAC Risk Removed

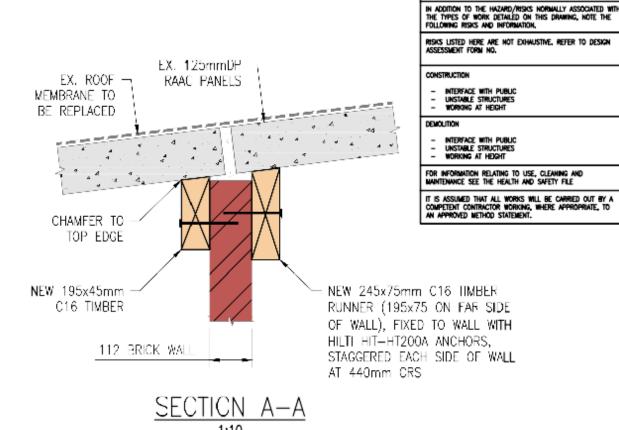
Outline RAAC Business Case Report

FAIRHURST

Appendix A:Proposed Remedial Drawing Options

Option 1: Extending Bearing Supports



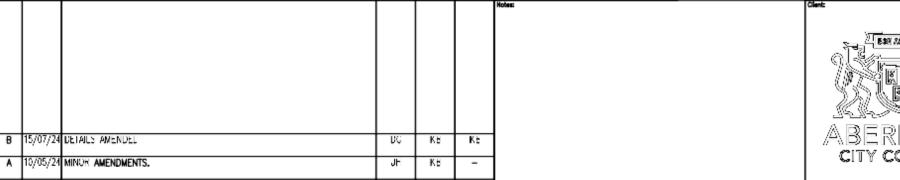


LEGEND

SPAN DIRECTION OF EXISTING 125dp RAAC ROOF PANELS

NEW 195x75/245x75 C16 TIMBER RUNNER BOLTED TO WALL USING M10 HILTI HIT-HY200A ANCHORS AT 440mm c/c. MINIMUM EMBEDMENT 75mm





Description

Dote



RAAC OUTLINED BUSINESS CASE REMEDIAL OPTIONS REVIEW

OPTION 1 INCREASED BEARING FIRST FLOCR FLAT

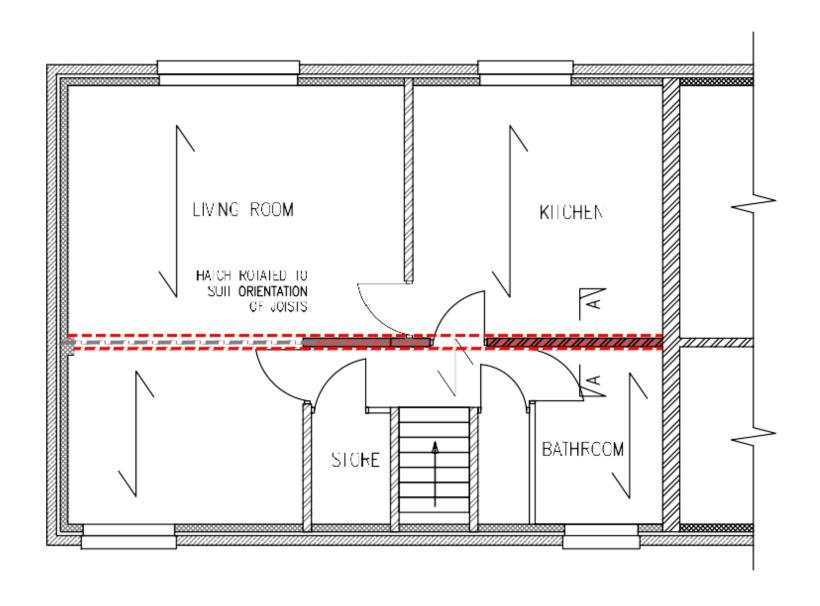
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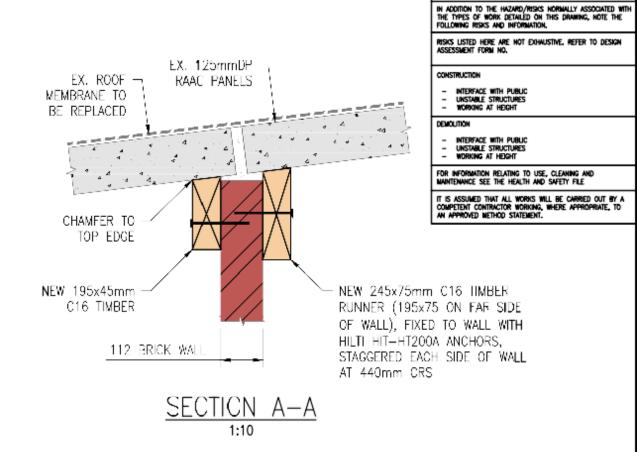
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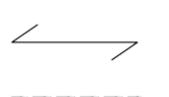
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TYPICAL 2-STOREY HOUSE ROOF PLAN



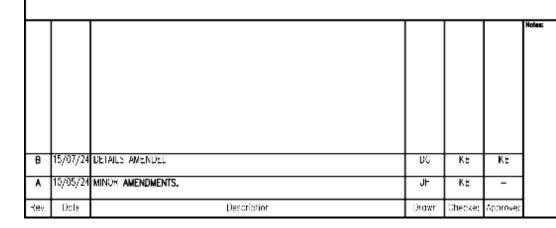


LEGEND

SPAN DIRECTION OF EXISTING 125dp RAAC ROOF PANELS

EX. STEEL BEAM

NEW 195x75/245x75 C16 TIMBER RUNNER BOLTED TO WALL USING M10 HILTI HIT-HY200A ANCHORS AT 440mm c/c. MINIMUM EMBEDMENT 75mm





RAAC OUTLINED BUSINESS CASE

REMEDIAL OPTIONS REVIEW

OPTION 1 INCREASED BEARING 2-STOREY HOUSE

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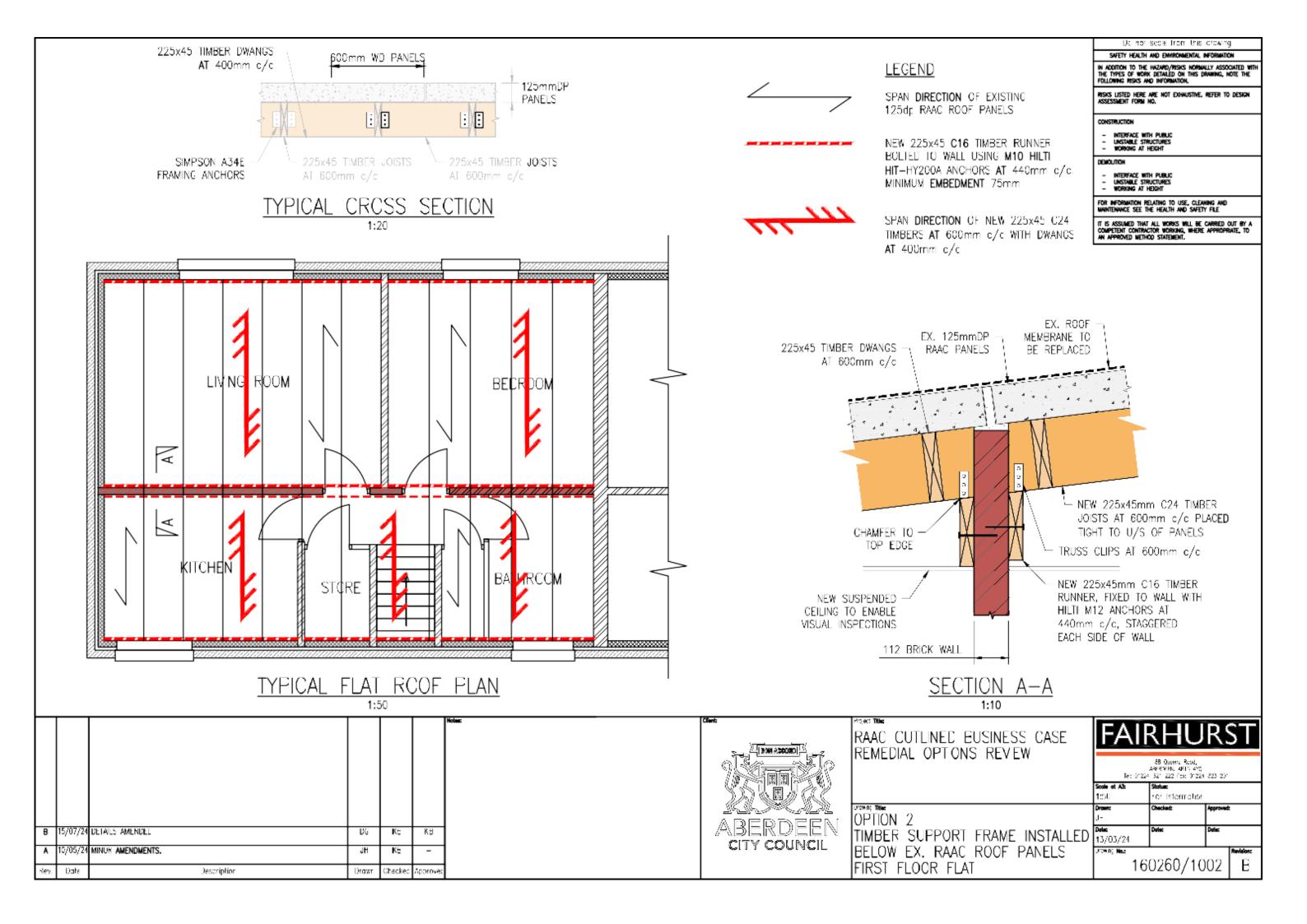
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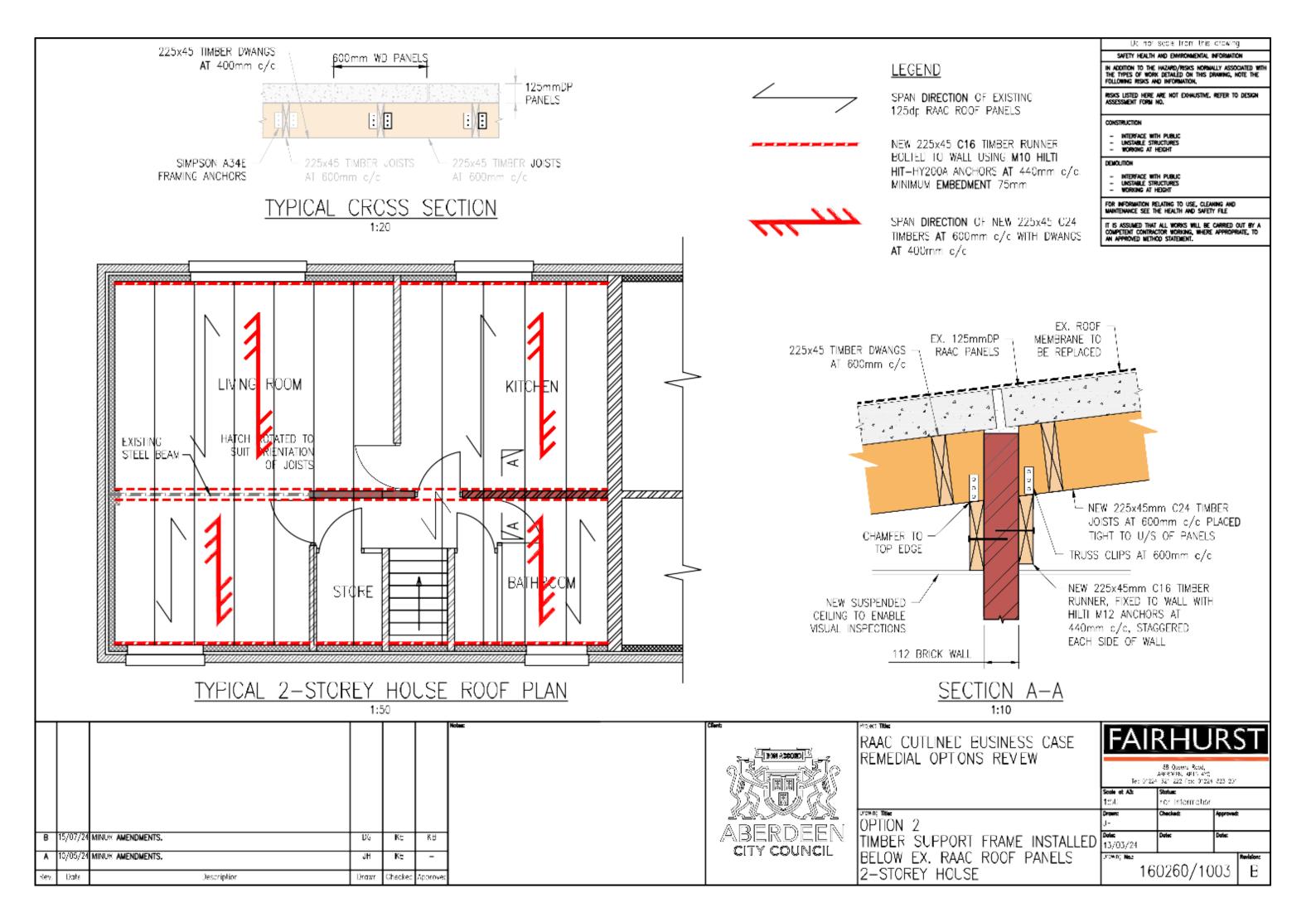
Outline RAAC Business Case Report

FAIRHURST

Option 2:

Installation of secondary support frame under existing RAAC roof panels





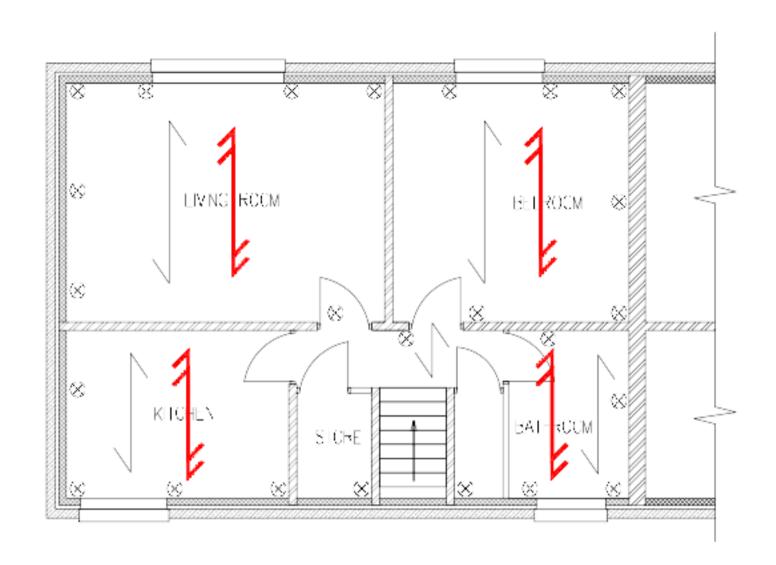
160260: Balnagask RAAC Business Case Review

Outline RAAC Business Case Report

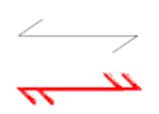


Option 3:

Removal of RAAC panels and replace with a new timber roof cassette system



TYPICAL 1st FLOOR FLAT ROOF FLAN



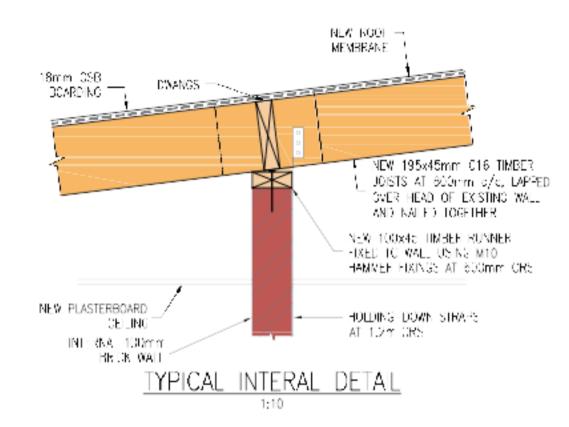
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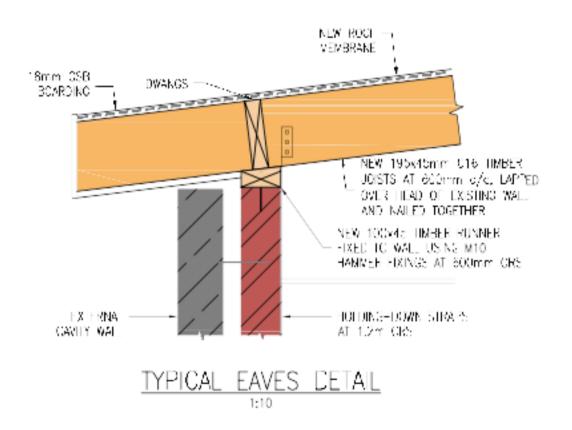
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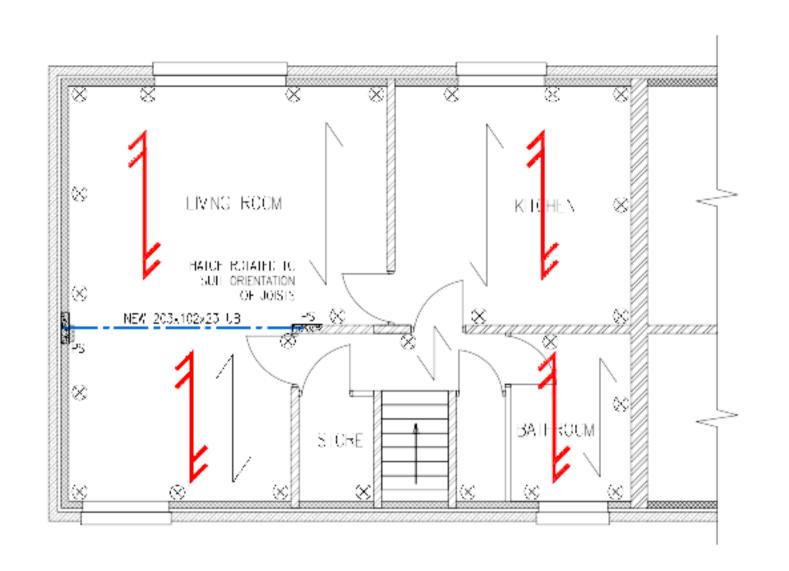
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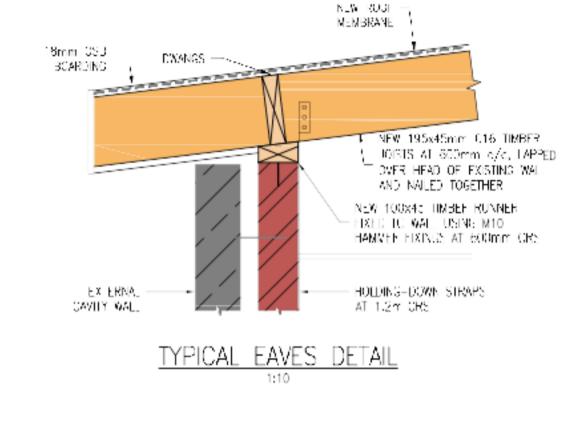
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TYPICAL 2-STOREY HOUSE ROOF PLAN

SPAN DIRECTION OF EXISTING 125dp RAAC ROOF PANELS TO BE REPLACED

NEW 203x102x23 UB TO REPLACE EXISTING STEEL BEAV

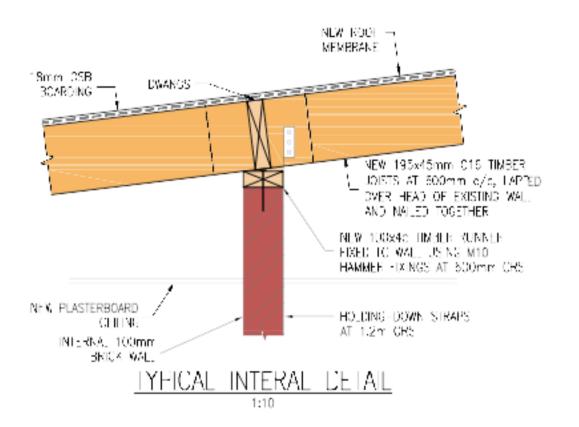
SEAN DIRECTION OF NEW 195846 CTC TIMBER JOISTS AT 800mm o/c WITE DWANGS AT \$ POINTS AND SHEATED WITE 18mm CSB

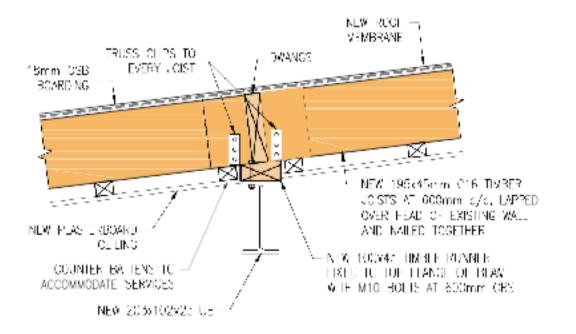
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NEW CONCRETE PADSTONE, 100x215x440mm

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HOLDING-DOWN/RESTRAINT STRAPS AT 1.2m c/c





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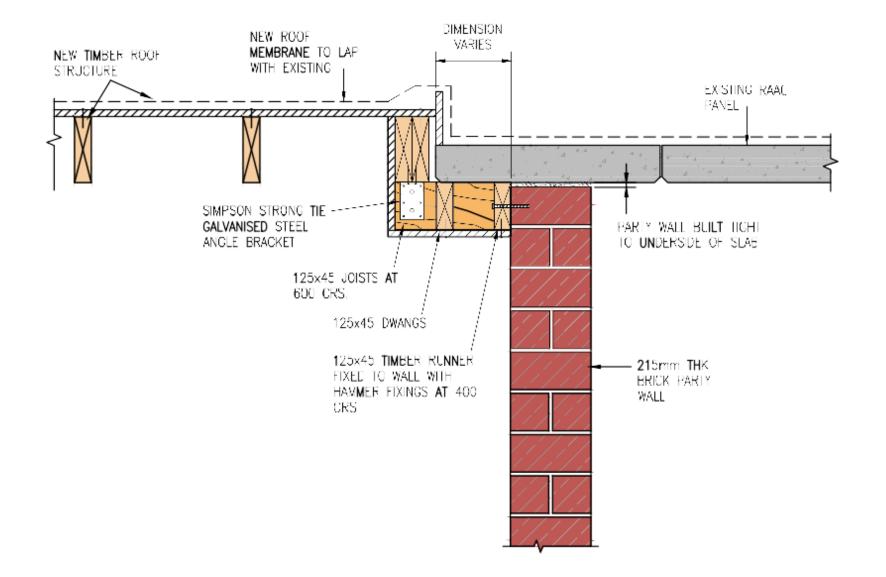
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RAAC PANEL SUPPORT DETAIL AT PARTY WALL

SCALE 1:10

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						IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARD/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING RISKS AND INFORMATION.	BON ACCORD	BALNAGASK -	FAIRHURST		
						CONSTRUCTION	2	RAAC REMEDIAL OPTION	Te: 012.	88 Queens Rood, ARERTHEN, 4815 470 24 521 222 Fox: 01224 33	223 201
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Α	15/07/24	DETAIL UPDATED	IC	KE	KΒ	FLE	CITY COUNCIL	AT PARTY WALL	Urowing No a	·	Revisions
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Proposed 18mm Magply, or equal approved, A1 (non-combustible) sarking board Proposed reinforcement fleece, as per roof membrane manufacturer's specification Proposed mechanically fixed single ply membrane, installed in accordance with manufacturer's installation guidance

External air

- Proposed pre-formed laminated metal trim, mechanically fixed Proposed treated timber fillet Proposed roof felt flashing, appropriate to existing roof material
- Existing RAAC roof panel

Existing roof felt

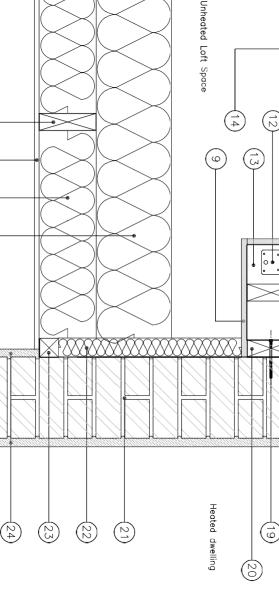
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- Proposed 2No 195x45mm C16 timber roof joists Proposed 15mm A1 (non-combustible) board
- Proposed 45x125mm treated timber joist @ 600mm centres Proposed 45x125mm treated timber dwang, fitted between joists Proposed Simpson Strong—Tie galvanised steel angle bracket, to Engineer's specification
- Proposed 150x45mm C16 timber ceiling joists @ 600mm c/c

- Proposed 45x125mm treated timber runner
- Existing 215mm wide solid brick separating wall

- 200mm Knauf Earthwool Loft Roll 40 insulation, laid perpendicular to layer below
- - Fixings © 400mm centres, to Engineer's specification

- - Proposed 15mm Type A TE plasterboard 150mm Knauf Earthwool Loft Roll 40 insulation, fitted between joists
 - Proposed 195x45mm C16 timber roof joists @ 600mm c/c



4. Internal wall tribus to separating the fact finish TBC on site.
5. Flashing delail between existing roof and proposed roof TBC once existing roof finish has been determined.
6. Roof finish shown indicatively. Detail to be reviewed once roof membrane manufacturer has been confirmed.
7. Compliance with current Technical Standards cannot be demonstrated without a building warrant application.
8. Wall insulation to be fixed in accordance with manufacturer's installation guidance.
9. Roof membrane to achieve 1 ow vulnerability in accordance with BS 476: Part 3: 2004 or achieve a 'Broof' classification in accordance with BS EN 13501-5: 2016.
10. Proposed roof substrate to achieve a European Classification of A1 or A2 for a distance of at least 1.7m from the centreline of the separating wall.
11. Roof to be ventilated with ventilators which provide minimum 25.000mm²/m ventilation at eaves level and

Fairhurst

Description

B 15/07/24 Roof flashing extended.

D01

Δ 12/07/24 Detail revised to suit Fairhurst comments

Roof Replacement @ Party Wall Head Detail @ 1:10

Heated dwelling

Roof Replacement - Balnagask, Aberdeen

Roof Replacement @ Party Wall Head Detail

REVISIONS development Itd