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RISK ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT

Controlled breakout, Unit 3, Canal Side Business Park, Stockport

Hollins & Reed Contracting Ltd · 12 to 14 October 2026 · In charge: Dan Hollins

Job details

Company	Hollins & Reed Contracting Ltd
Site and work area	Unit 3, Canal Side Business Park, Stockport
Planned dates	12 to 14 October 2026
Customer	Thornley Vale Estates Ltd
In charge on site	Dan Hollins
Team	Two operatives: Dan Hollins leads and checks the area each morning; Priya Shah works with him.
Work	Controlled breakout
Prepared by	Dan Hollins
Signature	
Date	

Work and boundaries

Handheld breaker. Areas: As marked on the client's site plan

Working arrangement

- Access: the floor or ground.
- The work area will be kept clear of other people.

Emergency arrangements

Continuous siren; assemble at the site gate. First aider: Dan Hollins, first aid kit in the van. Ambulances come to the main entrance: Unit 3, Canal Side Business Park, Stockport. Dan Hollins calls 999 and meets the ambulance.

Planned method

1 **Set up the work area**
Confirm the work area and scope before starting. Keep other people outside the active work area. Keep entrances and escape routes clear.

2 **Check the support and sequence**
Read the agreed removal sequence and confirm the remaining work is safe before loosening it. Stop if the condition, support or boundary differs from the record.

3 **Choose and check the breaker**
Use the specified breaker and chisel for the material and boundary. Check the tool, lead, hose, guards and connections before use.

4 **Check for asbestos before you disturb anything**
Check the asbestos survey covers exactly what you will disturb, to the full depth. Register only, or nothing: get a refurbishment survey or a sample first. Read what it says about old masonry, concrete, boards and sealants around the breakout. No survey, or a material you do not recognise: stop and get it checked.

5 **Find and isolate hidden services**
Find cables and pipes before you disturb anything: drawings, then a detector. Mark what you find. Not sure what is there? Turn the supply off, or do not start. Have cables and gas isolated by the right person and prove them dead before you start.

6 **Set the exclusion and debris zone**
Mark where people may stand and where fragments may land before starting. Change the zone if the breakout boundary or tool changes.

7 **Limit each person's vibration exposure**
Note how long each person's hands are on each tool while it runs. Take the tool's vibration figure from the maker or HSE's table and check it fits how you use it. Points per hour times hours on the trigger, added up for the day, gives the exposure: 100 points is the action value, 400 is the limit. HSE's vibration calculator does the sum. Over 100, cut it with lower-vibration kit or less time, and never pass 400. Write the result down. Sharing the work does not replace this. Keep the breaker off while repositioning. Report tingling, numbness or loss of control and stop the task.

8 **Keep dust control running**
Use this job's water or extraction method for the whole time the dusty work is being done. Stop if dust control or the work-area separation fails.

9 **Contain the water and slurry**
Keep enough water at the tool for the whole breakout and collect the slurry as it forms. Keep wet waste away from electrical equipment and walking routes.

10 **Keep debris in the planned zone**
Follow the agreed sequence and keep debris inside the defined area. Stop and report movement or an unexpected void.

11 Clear the breakout and recheck it

Remove debris by the planned route and inspect the remaining work before handback. Leave support, barriers or covers until the agreed release allows removal.

12 Clear and hand back the area

Remove tools, waste and unused materials. Check the area is clean and ready to use. Tell the customer or whoever runs the site when the work is complete.

Risk assessment

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Controls in place
People entering the work area or tripping over materials Step 1	Workers, occupants and visitors	Mark or barrier the active work area. Store tools and materials away from access routes.
Collapse or movement of the remaining structure during breaking Step 2	The breaker team and people in the structure	Use the recorded support arrangement and keep people outside the zone. Stop and get a competent decision when the condition changes.
Loss of control, electric shock or increased vibration from unsuitable equipment Step 3	The breaker operator	Use the lowest-vibration equipment that can do the work. Remove damaged tools from service and follow the maker's instructions.
Breathing asbestos fibres from old boards, sheets, sealants or insulation Step 4	The team and anyone in the building	Do not cut, drill or break any material until it is confirmed asbestos free. Licensed work is not for this method; hand it to a licensed contractor.
Hitting a live cable or gas pipe causes shock, fire or gas escape Step 5	The person doing the work and everyone nearby	Check again wherever the work moves. If you hit something, stop, keep clear and report it.
Fragments, dust or a partial collapse reaching people outside the workface Step 6	The breaker operator and everyone near the work	Keep people outside the planned zone. Use screens or barriers where the surroundings need extra protection.
Hand-arm vibration injury and fatigue reducing tool control Step 7	The breaker operator	Stop when someone reaches their limit. Keep hands warm and do not rely on gloves as vibration protection.

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Controls in place
Silica dust entering the air and fragments striking the operator Step 8	The breaker operator and nearby people	Use source control before relying on RPE, with the assessed RPE where required. Collect slurry or vacuum dust; do not dry sweep it.
Slurry spreads contamination, creates a slip or reaches electrical equipment Step 9	The breaker team and people using the area	Use the agreed collection route and stop if it cannot contain the slurry. Keep leads, plugs and electrical equipment dry and protected.
Collapse or falling fragments injure workers or others Step 10	The breaker team and nearby trades	Keep people outside the planned debris zone. Do not continue when debris or movement reaches outside the plan.
Strains, trips or a remaining structure left unstable or unprotected Step 11	The breakout team and following trades	Use the planned handling aid and keep routes clear. Record and report anything that differs from the agreed method.
Debris, tools or unfinished work left in the area Step 12	Workers, occupants and visitors	Remove waste by the agreed route. Record and protect any unfinished work.