

PCA Case Study

Structural Waterproofing

THE PROJECT

A Victorian property in South Cambridgeshire with an existing basement converted into a playroom by the previous owner. There had been no attempt at waterproofing and 600mm of water was present in the basement, rendering it unusable.

THE CHALLENGE

Conversion of the basement into a dry, usable area, to be used as a television lounge, with a separate utility room incorporating a photographic darkroom.

THE SOLUTION

In order that the basement could be used as residential accommodation, which is classed as a Grade 3 area in accordance with BS:8102, it was decided to use a cavity drain membrane system for the waterproofing.

A new concrete floor was laid and a sump pump installed, which would pump out water entering the basement, as well as carrying waste from the washing machine outlet to the drainage system. A standby pump was installed to provide back-up should the main pump fail. An alarm was fitted to sound in the event of excessively high water level in the sum.

The property was known to suffer from frequent power cuts, so to prevent flooding in the event of a power failure a battery back-up unit was fitted, along with provision for generator which could be connected in the event of a sustained power failure.

Cavity drain membrane was supplied and fixed to the walls by qualified and experienced technicians. A new chipboard floor was laid and a plasterboard and skim finish applied to the walls



0844 375 4301

www.property-care.org

The Property Care Association (PCA) is a trade association that represents professional specialist contractors, consultants, surveyors and manufacturers in the field of structural waterproofing, wood preservation, damp-proofing, flood remediation and structural maintenance. Its members preserve and protect buildings across the UK.

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