



Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd

**Fire Risk Assessment
South Liverpool Homes
18-23 Cavalier Drive
Garston
Liverpool
L19 2RU**



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Approved by: Scott Brookes Technical Manager	

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this fire risk assessment is to provide an informed and structured examination of the potential fire hazards, which could cause harm to those who work in, visit, reside, or try to escape from the above property. As appropriate, it will help decisions to be made on the status of existing fire safety control measures and to ensure compliance with the current fire safety legislation. The observations and recommendations contained in this fire risk assessment are pertinent to the conditions on the date of inspection only.

Types of survey

The survey which has been undertaken, is a non-destructive type survey (Type 3), and unless there has been any reason to suspect otherwise, the inspection has been purely visual. There may have been a requirement, however, to lift ceiling tiles in communal areas if compartmentation or fire stopping issues were suspected.

Limitations

The report has been completed on the basis of the scope of works agreed with the client. Therefore, AEC cannot accept responsibility for elements that lie outside the agreed scope. The report is issued to our client in confidence and AEC has no responsibility(s) to any third parties to whom this report may subsequently be circulated in part or in full and any third parties that rely on this report do so at their own risk.

Disclaimer

The report provides an assessment of the risk to life from fire in these premises, and not building protection issues, and where appropriate, makes recommendations to ensure compliance with fire safety legislation. Whilst the assessor has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, the company will not accept liability for any loss (including loss of anticipated profits, loss of expected future business or damage to goodwill) or claim in connection with the information contained within this report.

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2 Summary

The Property

Property address	18-23 Cavalier Drive, Garston, Liverpool L19 2RU
Number of flat assessed (Type 3)	Flat 21
Version	1
Assessment date	March 2026
Assessor	Andrew Mottershead
Reviewed by	Lee Smart BEng (Hons) MCIQB MIFSM
Client	South Liverpool Housing

Building Information

Property use	Flats Purpose Group 1 (a)
No of floors	3
No of flats	6
Approach to flats	Via protected route
Approximate age and construction details.	It is of traditional construction, built approximately 2001 and appears to be of masonry construction, concrete floors and a pitched roof of timber construction overlaid with tile. The internal partitions appear to be a mixture of masonry construction and plasterboard on wooden stud, the internal fire spread of linings on the escape, circulation routes and other areas appears to be Class 0.

Approximate total building height to ridge of roof.	9.5m
Height of top floor slab	6m
External window construction	UPVC

Occupants

Are there any occupants especially at risk from fire?	At the time the audit was carried out the assessor was not made aware of any occupants that may be especially at risk from fire.
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The fire risk assessment completed, included the assessment of the structure and external walls of the building, including any cladding systems, balconies and windows.

3 Risk Score

Following consideration of current fire safety standards and controls within the premises, the assessor is of the opinion that:

The likelihood of fire occurring is
 The potential severity of harm is
 The current risk to life is (Use the table below)

Medium
 Moderate Harm
 Moderate

		Potential severity of harm		
		Slight Harm	Moderate Harm	Extreme Harm
Likelihood of fire occurring	Low	Trivial	Tolerable	Moderate
	Medium	Tolerable	Moderate	Substantial
	High	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable

ESTIMATED RISK LEVEL	Action and timescales
Trivial	No further action is required other than maintaining the control measures that are currently in place
Tolerable	No major additional controls required. However, there might be a need of improvements.
Moderate	It is essential that efforts be made to reduce the risk. The additional control measures that are recommended should be implemented within a defined time period.
Substantial	Urgent action should be taken to reduce the risk. The additional control measures, that are recommended, should be implemented as soon as possible or limitations should be imposed on the parts of the premises affected.
Intolerable	The premises or the part of the premises affected should not be occupied until the additional control measures that are recommended have been implemented.

4 Fire Prevention

Electrical

Are electrical installations and appliances free from any obvious defect?	Yes
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Are fixed installations periodically inspected and tested?	Yes
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Are portable appliances used?	Yes
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Comments: The EICR was last complete on 20/12/2021.	
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Gas

Are gas installations and appliances free from any obvious defect?	N/A
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Is gas equipment protected / located so as not to be prone to accidental damage?	N/A
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Comments: No gas installations in the communal areas.	
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Heating

Are fixed heating installations free from any obvious defect?	N/A
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Are portable heaters used?	No
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Comments: No heating in communal areas.	
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Cooking

Does cooking take place on the premises?	See comments
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Are reasonable measures taken to prevent fires as a result of cooking?	See comments
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Are filters changed and ductwork cleaned regularly?	See comments
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Comments: Yes, but within the individuals flat. Cooking is not carried out in the communal areas. The audit was to inspect communal areas and not individual flats as individual flats fall outside the Regulatory Reform (fire safety) Order 2005.

Arson

Does basic security against arson appear reasonable?	Yes
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Is there a reasonable absence of external fuels and ignition sources?	Yes
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Comments: Access control on the front door restricting access to residents and guests.

Housekeeping

Is accumulation of combustibles or waste avoided?	Yes
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Are there appropriate storage facilities for combustible & hazardous materials?	Yes
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Comments: Good level of housekeeping on the day of the inspection.

Hot Works

Are there any hot works being carried-out?	No
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Comments: None at the time of the inspection.

Smoking

Are there suitable arrangements taken to prevent fires caused by smoking?	Yes
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Comments: "No smoking" sign displayed.
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Dangerous Substances

Are dangerous substances present, or liable to be present?	No
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Comments: None on site.

Lightning

Is a lightning protection system installed?	No
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Comments: The building is unlikely to require lightning protection.

5 Escape Routes & Fire Spread

Ease of Use

Are exits easily and immediately openable?	Yes
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Do fire exits open in direction of escape where necessary?	Yes
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Are escape routes unobstructed and safe to use?	Yes
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Are there reasonable measures for the evacuation of disabled people?	See comments
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Comments: At the time the audit was carried out the assessor was not made aware of any disabled persons in the premises.
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Dimensions

Are travel distances reasonable?	Yes
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Is there sufficient exit capacity?	Yes
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Comments: Travel distances are compliant with the current guidelines of Approved Document B Vol 1 & DCLG Guidance.
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Fire Doors

Doors which are expected to be fire resisting:

- Electrical cupboards
- Flat doors
- Store cupboards

Standard of electrical cupboard door:

See action plan

Standard of flat doors:

Acceptable

Are fire doors to a suitable standard?

Yes

Is there suitable provision of self-closing devices?

Yes

Is there suitable provision of hold-open devices?

N/A

Are doors kept locked where appropriate?

Yes

Comments: See action plan referring to electrical cupboard door.

Construction & Glazing

Are escape routes protected with suitable walls and floors?

Yes

Is there adequate compartmentation?

See action plan

Is the fire stopping in the electrical cupboard adequate?

Yes

Is there reasonable limitation of linings that might promote fire spread?

Yes

Glazing which is expected to be fire resisting, including vision panels and fanlights:

N/A

Is glazing reasonable and free from any obvious defects?

N/A

Comments:

External Wall Assessment (FSA 2021 / PAS 9980)

The building is below 11 m in height. Under ADB Table 10.1, no minimum reaction to fire performance provisions apply to external wall surfaces more than 1 m from the boundary for buildings under 11 m; however, height alone is not determinative.

Based on visual inspection and available construction evidence, the building has traditional masonry external walls with no cladding, combustible insulation, or balcony attachments. There are no indicators of elevated external wall fire risk.

Accordingly, a full PAS 9980 Fire Risk Appraisal of External Walls (FRAEW) is not required. This conclusion is based on a suitable and sufficient initial appraisal, in accordance with PAS 9980 and Fire Sector Federation guidance.

See action plan referring to breaches.

Dampers, Ducts & Chutes

Are there suitable measures to restrict fire spread via ducts and concealed spaces?	See comments
Comments: As this inspection was a type 3 (non-destructive) inspection the assessors cannot verify if there are sufficient cavity barriers or dampers.	
Smoke Ventilation	
Areas where smoke ventilation is expected:	Staircase
Staircase smoke ventilation:	Openable window
Is smoke ventilation reasonable and free from any obvious defects?	Yes
Comments: Manual opening windows are in the communal areas. These will be used by the fire service for smoke control.	
6 Detection & Warning	
Is an electrical fire alarm system expected?	No
Why not?	Purpose built block of flats
Is a fire detection and/or alarm system provided?	See comments
Areas covered	Flats
Comments: The building is a purpose-built block of flats, meaning a communal fire alarm system is not required. The flats are designed for a stay put policy.	
Flats	
System Category	BS5839 Grade D LD3
Cause & Effect	Sounds alarm in flat of origin
Is the level of false alarms reasonable?	Yes
Is the fire detection & alarm provision reasonable?	Yes
Are there suitable measures for inner rooms?	N/A

Comments: A BS5839-6 Grade D LD3 fire alarm installed with smoke detection in the hallway.

7 Firefighting

Fire Extinguishers

Are fire extinguishers expected?	No
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Why not?	No statutory requirement
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Are fire extinguishers provided?	No
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Is the provision of fire extinguishers reasonable?	Yes
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Fixed Systems

Are any fixed systems provided?	No
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Is provision of fixed systems reasonable?	Yes
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Fire Service Facilities

Are there any specific fire service facilities?	No
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Types of facility	N/A
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Is provision of fire service facilities reasonable?	N/A
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Comments: Fire extinguishers are not required due to residents not being trained on their use. Occupants could potentially injure themselves fighting a fire or accelerate the fire.

8 Lighting

Normal lighting

Is there adequate lighting of internal escape routes?	Yes
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Is there adequate lighting of external escape routes?	Yes
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Is there adequate lighting in risk critical areas?	N/A
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Emergency lighting

Method of emergency lighting of internal escape routes:

Non-maintained
emergency lighting

Is this provision reasonable?

Yes

Method of emergency lighting of external escape routes:

Adequate borrowed
lighting

Is this provision reasonable?

Yes

Method of emergency lighting of other areas:

None

Is this provision reasonable?

Yes

Comments: Non-maintained emergency lighting units installed on each level within the communal area.

9 Signs & Notices

Escape Routes

Is escape route signage necessary?

No

Why not?

Single escape route

Is escape route signage provided?

No

Is provision of escape route signage suitable?

Yes

Fire Doors

Is there signage suitable for self-closing fire doors?

Yes

Is there signage suitable for locked fire doors?

Yes

Is there signage suitable for automatic fire doors?

N/A

Other signs & Notices

Is there suitable signage for fire service facilities?	N/A
Are fire action notices suitable?	Yes
Are there suitable notices for fire extinguishers?	N/A
Is there suitable zone information for the fire alarm system?	N/A
Comments: No signage issues identified.	

10 Fire Management

Procedures & Arrangements

Current evacuation policy	Stay Put
Are fire action procedures suitable and appropriately documented?	Yes
Are there suitable arrangements for calling the fire service?	Yes
Is there a suitable fire assembly point?	See comments
Are there suitable arrangements for the evacuation of disabled people?	See comments

Training and Drills

Are staff regularly on the premises?	No
Do staff receive suitable training on the following areas:	
Fire risks on the premises & fire prevention measures?	N/A
Action to take on discovering a fire?	N/A
How to raise an alarm?	N/A

Responding to the fire alarm?	N/A
Calling the fire service?	N/A
Location & use of firefighting equipment?	N/A
Are fire drills carried out at appropriate intervals?	N/A
Are employees from outside organisations given appropriate fire safety information?	N/A
Comments: Stay put policy and therefore it is not necessary to have a fixed assembly point. No disabled persons identified; adaptations will be put into place for any persons that require them.	

Testing & Maintenance

Is the fire alarm tested & records kept?	N/A
Is the emergency lighting tested & records kept?	Yes
Door entry test records	Yes
Are fire extinguishers subject to suitable tested and records kept?	N/A
Have sprinklers been tested	N/A
Have smoke vents been tested	N/A
Has the Dry Riser been tested	N/A

Comments:

Servicing and Testing Regime

SLH operates a formally adopted risk-based servicing and inspection regime for life safety systems, in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

For this building, the applicable servicing frequencies are those set out in SLH's Life Safety Systems Servicing Schedule (vX.X). These include:

- Door Entry: Annual service
- Emergency Lighting: Monthly visual inspections, Annual service, and Annual 3-hour duration test

Having reviewed SLH's risk-based approach and the property's risk profile (sub 11 metres, stay put strategy, domestic setting, low-risk occupancy), the assessor confirms that these servicing frequencies are suitable and sufficient for this building.

Emergency lighting	02/10/2025
Door entry system	02/10/2025

11 Action Plan

Task		
Priority	Low	
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	
Subcategory	Fire Doors	
Significant findings	The assessor identified that the hinges on the electrical cupboard fire door do not appear to be fire rated.	
Actions required	The fire door should be fitted with 3 fire rated hinges and the required fixings.	
Status	Identified	
Due Date	1 st November 2026	

Task		
Priority	High	
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	
Subcategory	Construction & Glazing	
Significant findings	The assessor identified that the electric meter boxes outside flats 18, 19, 20 and 22 contained compartment breaches. If a fire was to commence within one, smoke could potentially spread in to each flat.	
Actions required	All meter boxes should be checked, and any breaches should be remediated with materials that will supply 30 minutes of fire resistance.	
Status	Identified	
Due Date	1st May 2026	