

## Case Study

### PLATON MEMBRANES SEAL HAND DUG BASEMENT!

Isola Platon cavity drain membranes were specified to waterproof a new basement built below a mews cottage near London's Hyde Park. To facilitate the basement construction, the entire cottage was carefully taken down to allow a 350 m<sup>2</sup> space to be dug by hand – a job which 15 men completed in just three weeks! The original yellow stock bricks were retained and catalogued to ensure the façade of the listed cottage could be faithfully replaced.

London based contractor, Martinisation Limited, was instrumental in the specification of the cavity drain membrane system. The company's vast experience in basement waterproofing led them to believe that cavity drain membranes were the fastest and most economical method of waterproofing a new construction such as this. When a traditional cementitious system is installed, latents have to be removed from the surface. However, membranes can be fixed to the walls and loose laid on floors with no substrate preparation required. A membrane system is also more effective when installed over straight construction or day work joints.

Cavity drain membranes work on the principle of allowing water to penetrate the structure but control it in the air gap and divert it to a suitable drainage point. A sump chamber was designed into the new basement floor to act as a drainage point for the system. After the installation of the new concrete floor and walls, BBA approved Platon Multi was fixed to the walls using Platon Brick plugs. For installations below ground level, a seal must be made behind the head of the brick plug using a special Brick Plug Washer or Platon Sealing Rope before the plug is hammered into the drilled hole. A minimum of five brick plugs per m<sup>2</sup> is required. BBA approved Platon P20, a heavy duty cavity drain membrane was then laid on the new concrete floor. The deep studded profile of P20 is designed to resist blockages caused by lime deposits and is therefore particularly appropriate in new construction. To ensure a watertight wall/floor joint, Platon Corner Strip was used to seal the wall/floor joint and was sealed using Platon Sealing Tape.



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To allow maintenance of the system by flushing out any calcium silicate deposits, jetting ports were installed at certain points across the floor, replacing individual P20 studs. The jetting eyes were fitted flush with the screed and can be unscrewed to allow a hose to be inserted.

When completed, the mews cottage basement will house a home cinema, office, bathroom and gymnasium.

Platon Multi and Platon P20, together with associated Platon fixings, combine to form a BBA approved sealed system which is equally appropriate for the waterproofing of basements in both new build or refurbishment projects.



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