



Innovation Award

Sponsored by  **MASON UK LTD**
Vibration Control Products
& Acoustic Floor Systems

★ **Joint Winner**

Create Consulting Engineers - Bodleian Storage Facility

This project demonstrated how specialist vibration expertise can play a critical role in protecting nationally significant assets during complex construction works. The facility houses copies of every publication produced in the UK, stored across four vast interconnected archive chambers containing 153 miles of shelving and an extensive sprinkler network safeguarding irreplaceable material.

The challenge emerged when plans were developed to construct a fifth storage chamber directly adjacent to the existing archive. Foundation works and ground compaction activities needed to take place as close as one metre from the occupied storage racking, raising concerns about vibration impacts on the structure, sprinkler pipework and the safe operation of elevated access platforms used within the archive.

The consultants developed a bespoke testing methodology to understand how the facility would respond to different construction activities. Trials measured vibration transfer through the slab, storage racking and sprinkler system, while linear potentiometers monitored movement within sprinkler couplings to identify any risk of

joint failure or displacement. The results enabled the team to establish safe working distances and vibration thresholds for the contractor.

The project stood out for its practical problem solving, close collaboration with stakeholders and innovative testing approach in the absence of predefined standards. It demonstrated how acoustic and vibration consultancy can directly support programme delivery while safeguarding critical infrastructure and nationally important collections. Client feedback highlighted the value of this approach. The Project Manager at Glencar Construction, praised the team for guiding the contractor through vibration trials, establishing suitable limits and identifying alternative construction methods that enabled the works to be completed *"on time and within budget, but most importantly without incident."*

Judges were particularly impressed by the originality and practicality of the work, recognising the significant technical challenges involved in understanding structural fragility and vibration risk without existing guidance. The panel praised the innovative use of testing and monitoring technology and the collaborative approach taken to develop workable construction solutions.

Acoustic Awards 2026

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These awards demonstrate the unique skills of UK based acoustic consultants in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.