



A historic municipal building is sensitively transformed to house a vibrant restaurant, integrating bold services, structure, and heritage elements

**Location:** Winchester

**Client:** Lenny Carr-Roberts

**Architect:** Design Engine

Hospitality / Refurbishment / Heritage / Collaboration



### Project Context

Located within Winchester's Grade II listed Guildhall, we supported the conversion of a section of this landmark civic building into Shoal, a restaurant and takeaway specialising in fish & chips and regional fare. The Guildhall, built in 1875, has long served as a centre for civic and cultural life. Winchester City Council reopened the Guildhall for private use in 2022.

### Structural & Drainage Engineering

AWA was engaged to design all structural and drainage alterations required for the restaurant fit-out. Our scope included adapting existing timber floors, introducing wall penetrations for service routes, and coordinating closely with the architect (Design Engine) and specialist kitchen designers to ensure structural integrity alongside equipment installation. We also engineered extensive drainage systems to facilitate the change of use, carefully integrating new plumbing and utility routes within a listed heritage context.

### Construction Phase & Collaboration

During construction, AWA's team remained highly responsive on site as opening-up works revealed hidden details in the historic fabric. We liaised continuously with the architect and kitchen-services specialists to adapt our designs to real-world constraints while preserving heritage elements such as timber flooring. This reactive design approach ensured the project met both regulatory requirements and practical restaurant functionality in a tight 15-week fit-out period.

