



A sculptural installation required discreet structural intervention to ensure long-term stability while respecting artistic intent and an existing foundation slab

Location: Bruton, Somerset

Client: Hauser & Wirth

Artist: Not Vital

Art / Re-use / Stability / Precision



Project Context

Located within the Hauser & Wirth arts complex in Bruton, the work forms part of an internationally recognised landscape of contemporary sculpture. The installation, created by Swiss artist Not Vital, sits within a curated outdoor environment visited by thousands annually. The piece is one of several permanent artworks requiring sensitive integration with the existing site infrastructure.

Engineering Challenge

The sculpture is tall and slender, resulting in significant sensitivity to wind loading and overturning effects. Stability was further complicated by the requirement to utilise an existing reinforced concrete foundation slab, with no opportunity for additional ballast or visible strengthening. Detailed assessment was therefore required to understand capacity, load paths, and behaviour under extreme environmental actions.

Structural Solution

Our role involved structural analysis of the steel frame and investigation of the existing base to verify adequacy. A post-fixed anchoring system was designed to connect the sculpture to the previously installed reinforced concrete slab, providing stability without altering the artwork's appearance. The solution demonstrates how fundamental engineering principles can support ambitious artworks, contributing to the long-term resilience of a culturally significant site. This approach avoided unnecessary material use and respected both environmental considerations and the client's curatorial vision for the project.

