

CASE STUDY

GRP Ship Ladders for National Trust's WWII Fan Bay Plotting Room



Quality is not important. it's VITAL!

Client: National Trust
Sector: Construction
Project Type: GRP Ship Ladders

Vital GRP continues to support both modern industrial clients and heritage restoration projects with tailored, high-performance GRP access solutions. This collaboration with the National Trust stands as a great example of how modern material technology can enable the preservation and accessibility of our shared history.

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Vital GRP proudly partnered with the National Trust to supply custom GRP ship ladders for the historic Fan Bay Plotting Room, a WWII-era military bunker originally constructed in the winter of 1940.

Re-discovered in 2019 after decades underground, the bunker had been remarkably well-preserved. However, access to this important heritage site was severely limited due to a deep, narrow vertical shaft—posing a challenge for restoration and public access teams.

The site's tight vertical access point ruled out traditional access ladders and stairways. The ideal solution came in the form of Vital GRP's lightweight, high-strength ship ladders—designed specifically for constrained, vertical environments like shafts and bunkers.

Our ladders were custom-fabricated using pultruded structural GRP sections, offering outstanding strength-to-weight performance—far surpassing metal alternatives.

This project not only solved a challenging access problem—it also helped the National Trust open up a previously inaccessible piece of WWII history to researchers, volunteers, and potentially the public in the future.

Key Benefits of Our GRP Ship Ladders

- ✓ Manufactured from premium grade GRP
- ✓ Anti-slip surface for safe vertical climbing
- ✓ Compliant with BS 4211 and BS 5395
- ✓ Durable and corrosion-resistant, ideal for underground use
- ✓ Non-conductive and non-magnetic—perfect for sensitive or industrial environments

Interested in GRP for Heritage or Confined-Space Projects?

Contact us today to find out how our custom GRP fabrications can unlock even the most challenging access problems.

Contact Details

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