



PROJECT  
The National Library

LOCATION  
Aberystwyth, Wales

INDUSTRY SECTOR  
Public Sector

#### THE CHALLENGE

“providing a system that would limit damage not only from fire, but from the fire protection system itself”

The National Library of Wales is a listed library in Aberystwyth. The internal atrium was infilled to create an archive store, the structure of which was a steel frame with concrete floors and block work walls across six levels. The items in storage were of a sensitive nature that would result in huge losses both financially and culturally should it be subject to a fire. Storage would have been paper based literature that would be valuable to the foundation of the library’s history and finances. Fire protection for the area would need to be a system that would limit damage not only from fire, but from the fire protection system itself.



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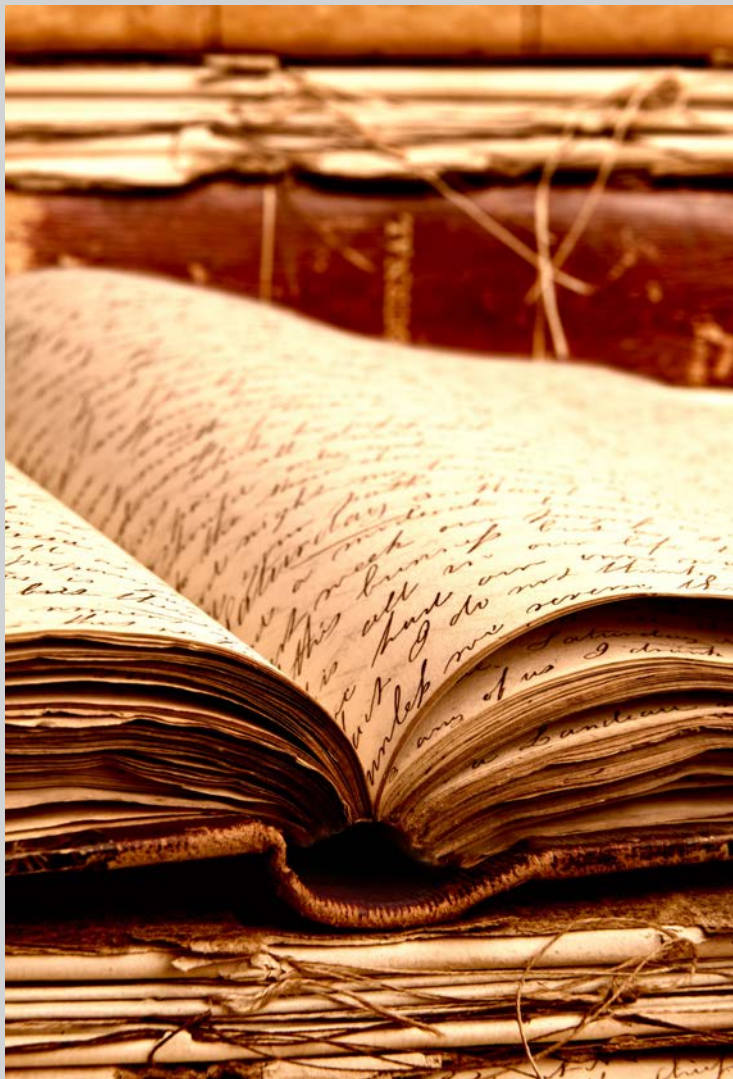


### THE SOLUTION

Vipond fire protection provided a bespoke solution that would meet the customers above referenced needs. An Inergen (IG-541) inert gas suppression system was provided. This was a centralised bank of gas suppression cylinders stored on the ground floor which fed, through a selective valve piping network, to each of the six floors. Our design team took time to engineer a solution that would limit storage footprint of cylinders but ensure the efficiency of the system was not compromised, which allowed the system to be zoned per floor via each selector valve. The installation period took place of a period of circa 6-8 weeks including commissioning and installation of the associated detection system that would automatically actuate the gas system on confirmed receipt of a signal showing a fire.

### THE OUTCOME

The bespoke options of fire protection available for heritage buildings is vast and available to Vipond on all levels, ranging from but not limited to, sprinkler, water mist and gas suppression systems. The priority is to ensure the damage to building and loss of life is eradicated when subject to a fire. Gas suppression, especially inert gas, is ideal for this type of enclosed space. It completely removes risk of water damage and only reduces oxygen levels within the risk area to a level a fire cannot burn but maintaining a level that a human can safely remain in the atmosphere. A self-contained system, no water supplies are required and can be designed to automatically detect an early fire and actuate to quickly tackle whilst still in its early stages to further reduce damage.



### COMPANY PROFILE

Vipond Fire Protection Ltd has its roots going back to 1969, when it was started as a small family owned business. In 1998 it was acquired by Vipond Inc of Canada. The company has since expanded and grown and now has 5 offices covering the whole of the UK and Ireland. Vipond Fire Protection Ltd is ultimately owned by API Group Inc.

API Group Inc. is a multi-billion-dollar parent company for 38 independently managed construction companies in more than 200 locations worldwide. API Group combines the personal attention of small-to-medium sized construction companies with the strength of a global industry leader to build a safer environment, develop leaders and bring innovation to the construction and fire protection and suppression industry. Since 1926, API Group has grown by acquisition to become the stellar multi-billion-dollar company it is today.

The secret? Our subsidiaries maintain who they are. They keep the identity, reputation, customer relationships and culture they've worked hard to establish.

API Group's subsidiaries have collectively served customers on all continents, including Antarctica.

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