



Slide 1

CIAT – Module 4  
Design & Development  
of a Robust Detail



robustdetails®


Welcome to Module 4 – Design and Development of a Robust Detail

Additional notes:

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Slide 2



### Module 4 Contents

This module will cover the following topics:

- What is a Robust Detail
- Design of the Handbook
- Choosing and registering Robust Details for your Site
- Checklists and Annex guidance
- Pathway to candidate detail



This Module will cover the following topics  
Use slide text

Additional notes:

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Slide 3

**What is a Robust Detail**



**ABOUT THE SCHEME**


The **robustdetails**® scheme is an alternative to pre-completion sound testing for satisfying Part E of the Building Regulations.

It covers New adjoined dwellings (so not any conversions, home extensions or building refurbishments)

Using the scheme avoids the uncertainties of pre-completion sound testing.

Robust Details Limited's activities **supplement** (rather than replace) BCB compliance monitoring

BCB needs to be satisfied with compliance



The scheme can be used as an alternative to Pre-completion sound testing between new adjoined dwellings only – so no conversions, extensions; and also not student accommodation or care homes unless they are categorised as flats under Part B. It obviously covers Part E in England and Wales, but the same scheme can be used in Northern Ireland, as they have the same performance standards.

There's a separate scheme for Scotland, as they have much higher standards – to give an idea, there are

72 Details for E&W

13 for Scotland

This is a complementary service, so building control still need to go to site to the checks as they would for any other aspect.

We do go to site, but this is only to check that the Details are performing and the scheme remains fit for purpose.

**Continued overleaf**

Additional notes:

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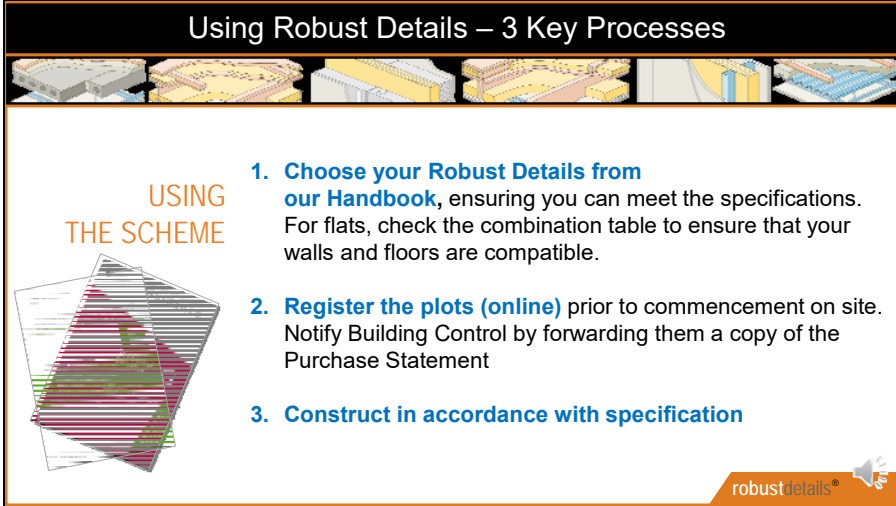
While on site we can do a bit of knowledge transfer, so we can tell the builder what he needs to do to comply with the Detail, but we are not licenced or authorised to check for Building Regulations – it is still very much the job of building control to check compliance, and by that I mean that the plots have been registered; and the construction meets the specification

Additional notes:

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Slide 4



The slide is titled "Using Robust Details – 3 Key Processes" and features a header with six architectural cross-sections. On the left, the text "USING THE SCHEME" is positioned above a graphic of overlapping architectural drawings. The main content consists of three numbered steps:

- 1. Choose your Robust Details from our Handbook**, ensuring you can meet the specifications. For flats, check the combination table to ensure that your walls and floors are compatible.
- 2. Register the plots (online)** prior to commencement on site. Notify Building Control by forwarding them a copy of the Purchase Statement
- 3. Construct in accordance with specification**

The Robust Details logo is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

So the person using the scheme needs to:

Select an appropriate Robust Detail, ensuring that all the specifications can be met; and include these in the design drawings

Then they need to register the plots with Robust Details and use the registration documents to notify building control before work starts on site

And finally, ensure that on-site, the construction is in accordance with the robustdetails specifications.


Additional notes:

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Slide 5

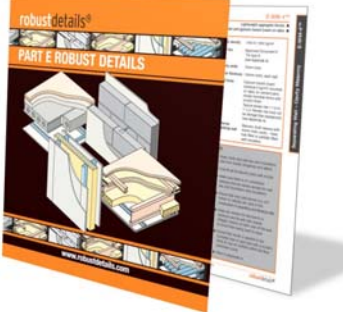
**Using a Robust Detail**




To use the robustdetails® option, the 'Person carrying out the work' **must**:

**Select** appropriate Robust Details from the **Handbook**, and

**Design** in accordance with the relevant Robust Detail specification(s)



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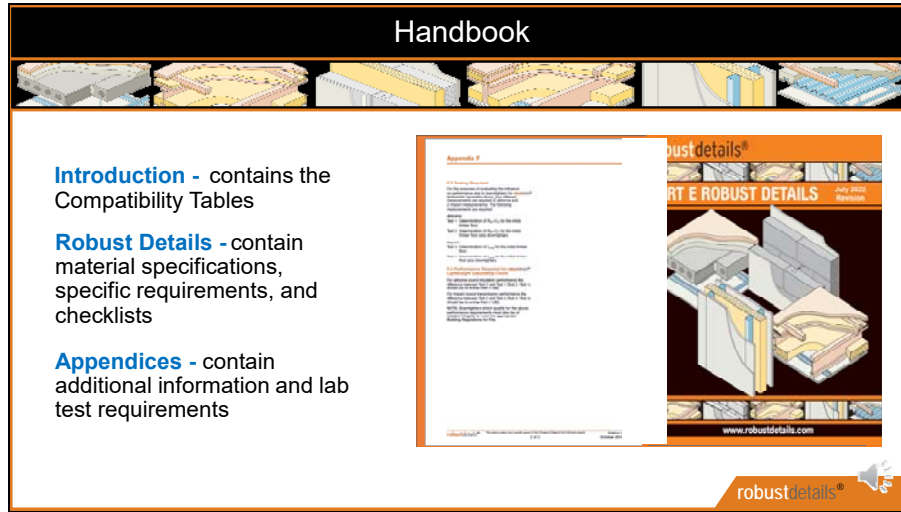
OK, so we said you need to reference the Handbook in order to select a Detail and to see the specifications

So let's look at the Handbook in a bit more "detail"

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Slide 6

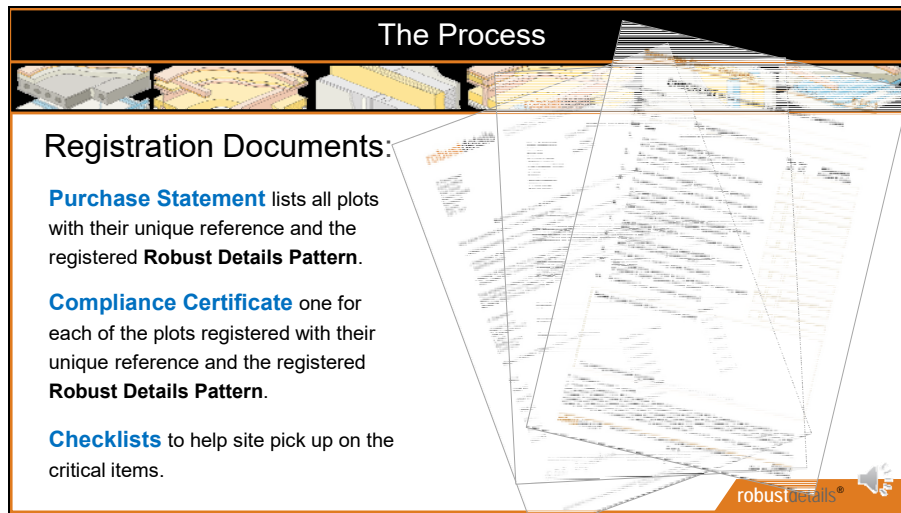


Explanation of the slides when going through the animation

Additional notes:

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Slide 7



We also said about registering, So let's look at the registration documents:

Purchase statement is the only mandatory scheme document, as it gives proof of registration – copy to BCB, so they can schedule inspections

·  
Ideally, building control would be on site seeing everything – but if this is not possible, they can ask the builder to complete the Compliance Certificate to declare they've built in accordance with the Detail

·  
The Checklist lists all the critical items, and is really for site to check that these are in place – but again, building control might ask for it as evidence.

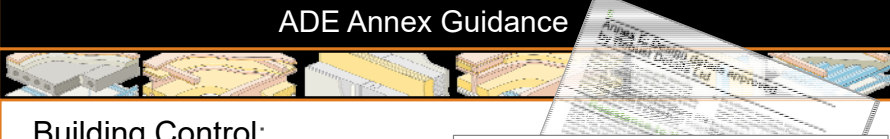
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Slide 8

**ADE Annex Guidance**



**Building Control:**

**Annex E of Approved Document E** gives guidance to BCBs in relation to the robustdetails® scheme.

**BCB should be satisfied** that the relevant requirements have been met.

If **Registration** is invalid, or **Construction** is not in accordance with the Details, then the separating elements can become **subject to PCT**.

If the notification is itself valid but the work is not carried out in accordance with the design detail or details, the relevant separating structures become subject to sound insulation testing under Regulation 41 or 20(1) and (5). It would be open to the builder to take remedial action such that the building control body was satisfied that the work had been brought into compliance with the specified detail or details. With that exception, testing under Regulation 41 or 20(1) and (5) would be needed on all structures that have been subject to a valid notification under Regulation 41(4) or 20(1) and (5) but which in the opinion of the building control body have not then been constructed in accordance with the specified detail or details.

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That's the registration side of things, now lets look at the Approved Documents. Annex E, at the end of ADE explains how the scheme fits in with Building Regulations; and identifies the responsibilities

We mentioned earlier that builders need to notify building control before work starts on site – this is so the whole construction can be inspected

If notification is late, the BCB won't necessarily know what has been constructed – so they can ask for a test to prove the performance.

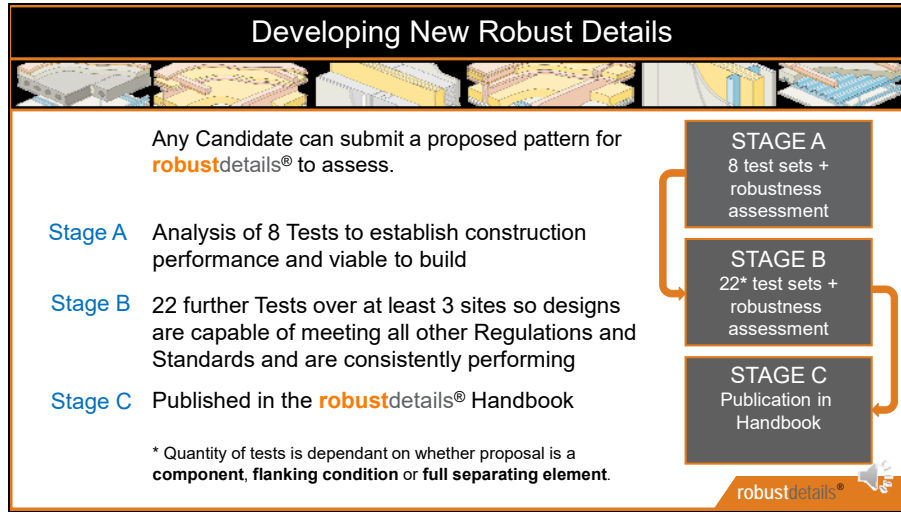
If the BCB is confident that what has been built meets the RD spec, they could accept the late registration.

If the construction doesn't match a RD specification, then the BCB can ask for a test; or if there is only a minor deviation, they could ask for remediation to bring it back to the spec. If this cannot be done to your satisfaction, you can ask for all separating elements to be tested.

Additional notes:

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Slide 9



So how do new Robust Details get developed.

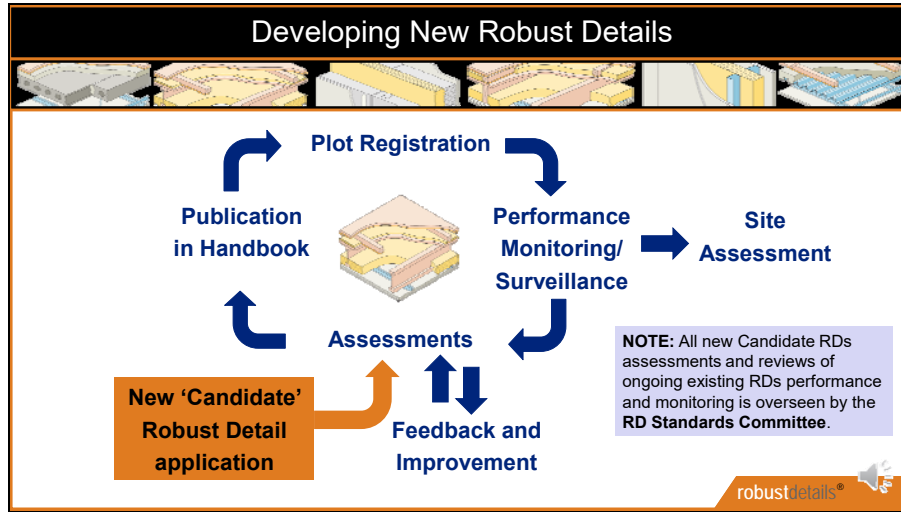
The assessment and approval of a new Robust Detail is based on 30 tests conducted on real developments, and is done in 3 stages:

**Stage A** looks at the first 8 tests to see that the construction is capable of hitting the performance standards; and that it is not over-complicated to build. If successful, it goes on to **Stage B** which checks its ability to consistently hit the performance when subject to different site conditions and variations in workmanship. Then if it gets through that assessment, it can be published in the Handbook as a new Robust Detail which is **Stage C**

An associated benefit testing on real sites is so the designs can stand up to the scrutiny of other Regulations and standards

Additional notes:

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So looking at the whole picture, we can see where the new Details come in...  
Once published in the Handbook, they can be registered for use on sites.

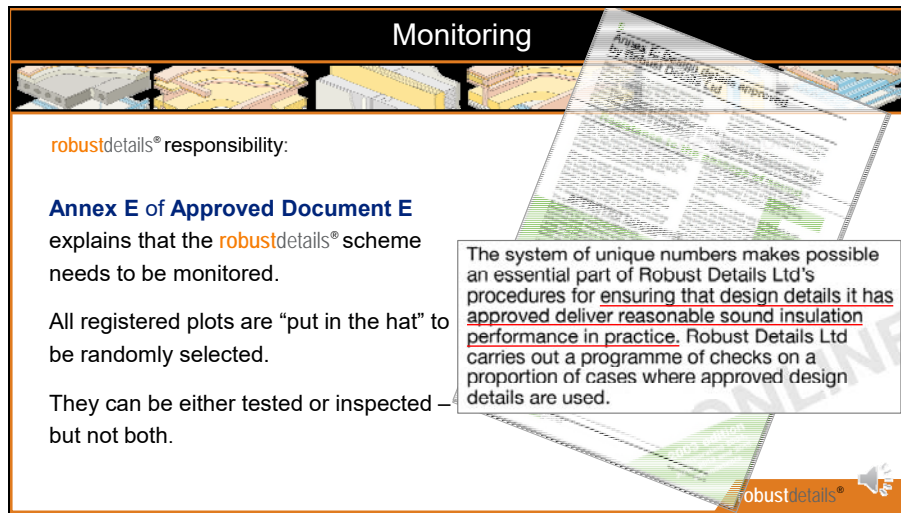
To ensure they continue to perform i.e. out in the wild, we randomly pick registered plots for monitoring – we'll look at that in detail a bit later

If the monitoring picks up any trends in poor performance, or the Detail being built consistently wrong, this is fed-back to the proposer; and is also borne in mind when similar new Details are proposed e.g. toolbox talks for screeded floors.

Additional notes:

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Slide 11

The slide is titled "Monitoring" and features a header with architectural drawings. The main text describes the company's responsibility for monitoring registered plots. A callout box explains the unique numbering system used for design details. The Robust Details logo is in the bottom right corner.

**Monitoring**

robustdetails® responsibility:

**Annex E of Approved Document E** explains that the robustdetails® scheme needs to be monitored.

All registered plots are “put in the hat” to be randomly selected.

They can be either tested or inspected – but not both.

The system of unique numbers makes possible an essential part of Robust Details Ltd's procedures for ensuring that design details it has approved deliver reasonable sound insulation performance in practice. Robust Details Ltd carries out a programme of checks on a proportion of cases where approved design details are used.

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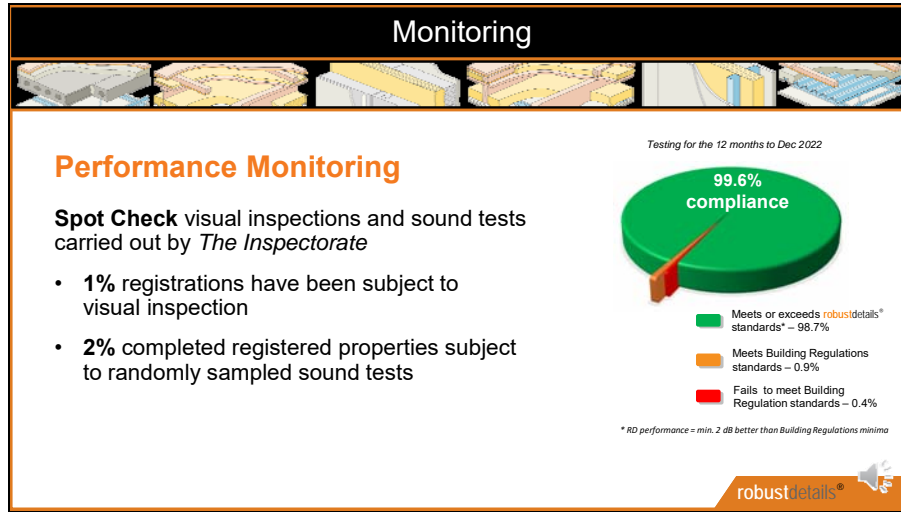
So back to Annex E, and now our responsibilities

Although we also visit site, this is to randomly sample registered plots check that the Details are performing as they should; and the scheme remains fit for purpose – we are not there to sign off for Building Regulations.

Additional notes:

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To do this, we have independent consultants who do the monitoring for us, and this comprises of an inspectorate team completing visual spot checks and random sound tests. This covers 1% of registrations for a visual check during build and 2% of registered plots have a random Sound Testing at the end of the build.

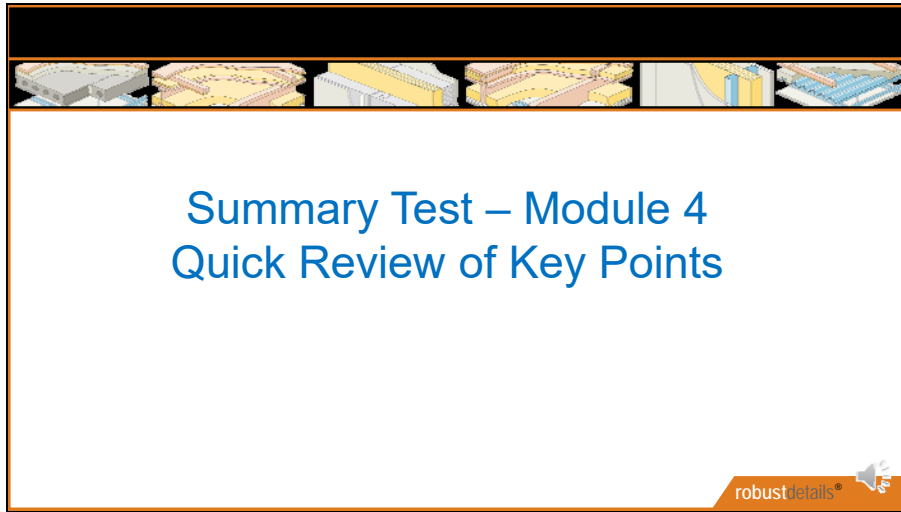
So this is considerably less than the 10% recommended for pre-completion sound testing

To put this into some sort of context, we've now sound tested around 23000 dwellings, and the levels of compliance achieved by the industry are very encouraging, as you can see.

Explain the colour system

Additional notes:

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Summary Test – Module 4  
Quick Review of Key Points

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Now for a quick TEST to recap on Module 4


Additional notes:

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Summary Test – Module 4



No.	Question
1	Does the Robust Detail (RD) route replace the building control function for the regulations?
2	What are the 3 key processes when using a Robust Detail?
3	If a site uses RD construction designs and has not registered the site, does the site still need to be sound insulation tested?
4	If a registered site undergoes an RD Inspection what does a 'green' outcome indicate?
5	What was the proportion of site inspections up till 2022 rated 'green'?
6	When developing a new 'candidate' RD or amending an existing RD how many stages are involved in the assessment and publication?
7	How many total tests are required for a new RD?
8	To have an early indication of test performance of the new candidate construction RD how many tests should be submitted at the first Stage A?
9	What are the three registration documents provided to sites/companies that register with RD compliance route?
10	Who should sign the site RD checklists?



Here are 10 questions – you may wish to PAUSE the recording and test yourself against these questions.

Once you have answered all of them – the next slide provides the answers.  
In 10 seconds the slide will change so press pause now if you want to test yourself first.

Thank you for following Module 4.


Additional notes:

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### Summary Test – Answers



No.	Answer
1	No, building control functions and operations are the same. The RD route is a supplement to the activities and provides an alternative compliance route to sound insulation testing.
2	(1) <b>Select</b> your RDs for the plots (2) <b>Register</b> the plots with Robsut Details (3) <b>Build in accordance</b> with the RD construction guidance.
3	Yes it will require to undergo sound insulation testing, as only sites registered with Robust details do not test.
4	The site has complied and met or exceeded the RD performance requirements
5	99%
6	3 stages: A, B and C
7	30
8	8
9	Purchase statement, Compliance Certificate and Checklists
10	Site manager or lead person supervising the construction works on site?



Here are the answer to Module 4’s quick test.  
How did you do?



Thank you for following Module 4

Additional notes:


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End of CIAT – Module 4  
Design and Development of a  
Robust Detail



This is the end of Module 4 – Design and developments of a Robust Detail

Additional notes:

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