

AIM UP case study



ABC ANCHORS

A project Commissioned by Aim Up - working alongside Showplace and Alternative Piling

This project highlights how screw piles can successfully replace traditional concrete foundations on sensitive sites, while supporting rapid installation, environmental protection, and long-term performance.



A Sustainable, Non-Concrete Foundation Solution by ABC Anchors

Project Summary

Client: Showplace

Project: Aim Up Activity Centre (The Hub)

Location: Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Foundation Solution: ABC Anchors screw pile foundations, installed by Alternative Piling

Result: A sustainable, planning-friendly, non-concrete foundation solution supporting a high-quality community building.

ABC Anchors were delighted to be involved in the foundations of the Aim Up Activity Hub in Cheltenham, working alongside Showplace and Alternative Piling to deliver a sustainable, planning-friendly solution using screw pile foundations. The project demonstrates how modern screw piles can replace traditional concrete foundations on sensitive sites while supporting rapid installation and long-term performance.

Aim Up is a Gloucestershire-based charity supporting adults with disabilities, complex needs, and mental health conditions. Their mission is to help people live the life they want through supported living, outreach support, and community projects. The Hub was commissioned as a new activity centre to bring people together in a safe, welcoming environment for fitness, creative sessions, and social events.

Site Constraints and Planning Requirements

The Hub was constructed within the grounds of an existing Aim Up property, on land that previously formed part of the main building's car park. The site was subject to stringent planning conditions, including the requirement for no permanent concrete foundations, protection of tree roots and groundwater, rapid on-site installation, and a design that complemented the Regency surroundings of Cheltenham.

Why Screw Pile Foundations Were Used

To meet the planning and environmental constraints, screw pile foundations supplied by ABC Anchors were specified and installed by Alternative Piling. Screw piles provided a low-impact, non-invasive foundation solution that required no excavation or concrete, significantly reducing environmental disturbance while allowing rapid deployment on site. The screw pile solution enabled the building to be raised above ground level, protecting tree root systems and groundwater conditions, while offering a fully removable and reversible foundation solution if required in the future.

Structure and Materials

Showplace delivered the building using their Moda temporary structure system, adapted for year-round use. Kingspan roofing and cladding systems were incorporated to achieve the required insulation performance, while natural slate cladding from Cupa Pizarra was selected to blend with the surrounding architecture. Architectural glass was used to maximise natural light and transparency.

Project Outcome

The completed Hub has been extremely well received by Aim Up. Feedback highlighted the quality of the finish, the visual impact of the slate cladding, and the distinctive honeycomb pattern. Given that traditional construction was not viable on the site, the Hub has exceeded expectations and now provides a landmark space for the people Aim Up supports.

