

## Case Study

**Service:** Non Destructive Integrity  
Test of Aluminium Facade

**Location:** Paddington, London

**Client:** Ardmore Group

The Novotel in Paddington is situated above the busy Paddington rail lines. Swantest were employed to design and execute a bespoke testing procedure to evaluate the integrity of the aluminium cladding façade of the hotel.

The hotel was constructed seven years ago and in that time some sections of the cladding panels had come away from the structure. Due to the hotels sensitive location above the rail lines the contractor decided to test the remaining panels.

Preconditions for our test regime included that no permanent damage to the current façade would be allowed and that the actual test procedure had to be quick to setup and dismantle so not to hinder the flow of guests and employees in and out of the hotel with maximum safety in mind.

Swantest engineers calculated wind loads and devised a system that used suction grips to fix onto the cladding without causing damage. This allowed us to test the cladding system to actual loading conditions and review the reactions, movement and integrity of the façade panels.

Key to images:

1. Applying load to the centre of the panel
2. Measuring deflection using a 25mm dial gauge
3. Overview of the testing rig
4. Swantest team executing one of the tests

