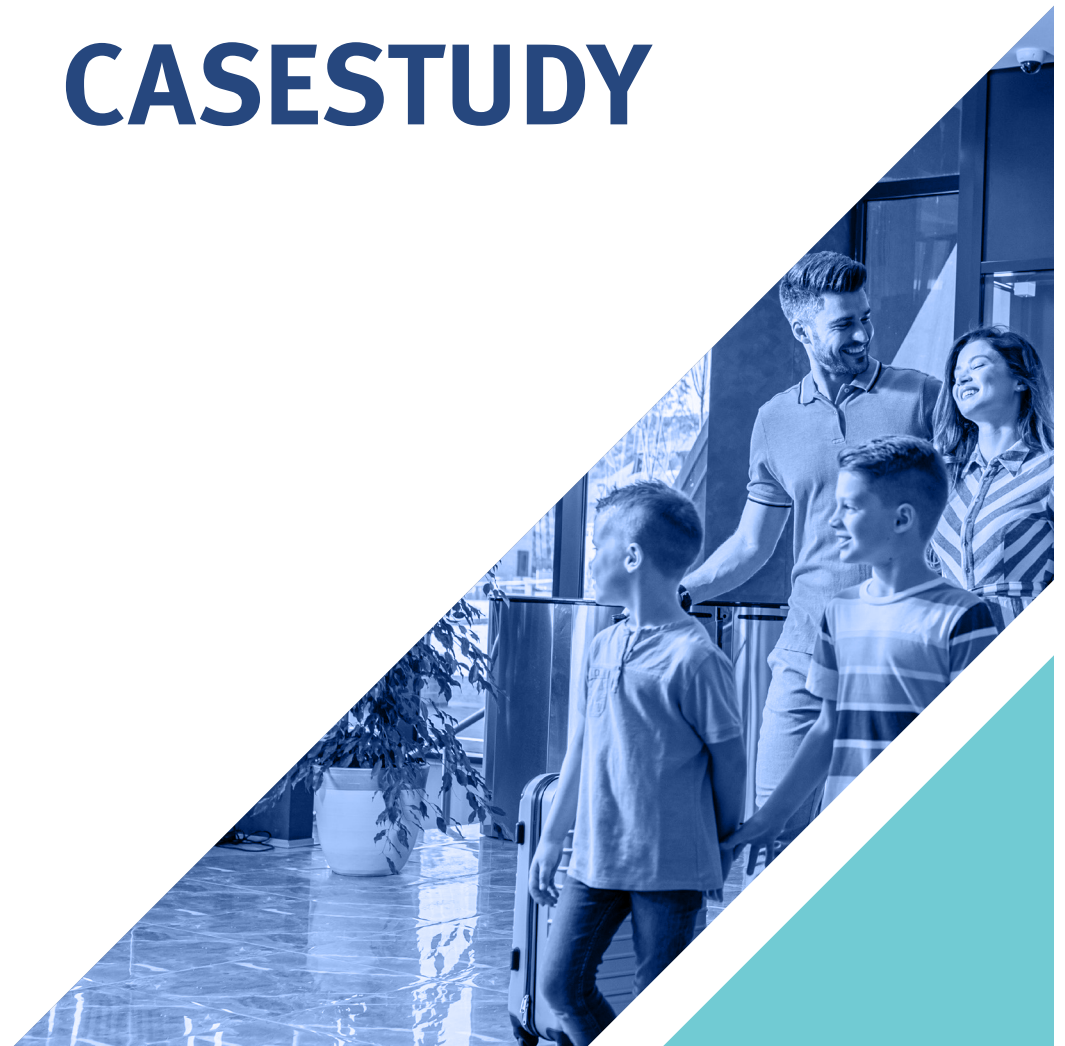


# THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

 **HOCHIKI**  
**CASESTUDY**





## HOCHIKI HELP TO PROTECT A NATIONAL TREASURE AT THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE ARCHIVE

THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE NATIONAL ARCHIVE COLLECTS, PRESERVES, RESTORES, AND SHARES THE FILMS AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES WHICH HAVE HELPED TO SHAPE AND RECORD BRITISH LIFE AND TIMES SINCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CINE FILM IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY. MOST OF THE COLLECTION IS BRITISH ORIGINATED MATERIAL, BUT IT ALSO FEATURES INTERNATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT HOLDINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. THE ARCHIVE ALSO COLLECTS FILMS WHICH FEATURE KEY BRITISH ACTORS AND THE WORK OF BRITISH DIRECTORS.

Founded in 1935 the archive now comprises over 275,000 titles in total consisting of feature, non-fiction, short films (dating from 1894), 210,000 television programmes and some artists' films. It is one of the largest film collections in the world. Notable collections include the Charlie Chaplin outtakes collection, Carol Reed famous for directing *Oliver!* and David Lean's collection which includes *A Brief Encounter*, a film which is widely cited by film critics, historians, and scholars as one of the greatest films of all time.

A dedicated team of BFI Archive experts ensure that the collection is preserved and developed for future generations and made widely accessible to today's audiences.

Charged with keeping the building, the precious contents, and people safe were TP Fire and Security. Founded in 1990, this life safety company has now grown from humble beginnings in rural Norfolk to establishing itself as one of the UK's largest and most trusted life safety installers with offices in London and the Midlands.

The project was particularly complex and lengthy, due to the size and layout of the building, but also because BFI Archive staff worked in a 'clean environment,' meaning no dust could be anywhere near these old and priceless film collections. This meant TP Fire were only able to work a few days a week and only at night so as not to disturb the vital work of the film experts.

The brief was to remove an old and conventional fire alarm system and replace it with a new and modern addressable system which included Hochiki smoke and heat detectors, sounder bases, manual call points and dual relays. As soon as the new system was commissioned the old system could be stripped out, and the new Hochiki devices went live. This ensured the building had a fire detection system in place throughout the installation.

*Commenting on the project Kevin Harris, Technical Design Manager at TP Fire said: "We've worked with Hochiki for years and years and always trust their team and the products. This job at the BFI Archive was quite an unusual one. The working patterns we had to adopt were overnight and although our installation teams always work in a clean and efficient manor, this job required us to work in an almost sterile environment. The Hochiki devices, in particular the sounder bases, are simple "click and play" requiring no hard wiring, unlike many other similar rival companies which need to be hard wired, this made an already complex job much easier to install and to adapt as required by the client.*

*Hochiki always provide reliable devices which are at a decent price, and aesthetically they are well designed too. Our account manager is brilliant and on the rare occasion where we might need technical support, they are always helpful"*

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