

CONFERENCE



Building Surveying

Shaping the future of building surveying





Type of event

Face to face



CPD Hours

5.5
Formal

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The RICS Building Surveying Conference is the UK's premier event for building surveyors, offering an unrivalled platform to address the sector's most critical challenges and opportunities, bringing together experts, decision-makers, and innovators to address the industry's latest developments. This year, the conference tackles pivotal topics such as fire safety compliance, regulatory compliance, climate resilience, sustainable building practices, and the transformative impact of emerging technologies.

Featuring tailored breakout sessions, engaging discussions and unparalleled networking opportunities, the conference covers fire safety, defect management, and adaptive reuse, technical due diligence, dilapidations, neighbourly matters, and social equity in buildings. Participants will gain actionable insights from industry leaders and thought-provoking case studies.

As the profession stands at a pivotal moment to influence public safety and community resilience, this face-to-face conference empowers attendees to stay ahead of developments, drive excellence, and shape the future of building surveying. Don't miss this opportunity to network, learn, and lead.

RICS Building Surveying Conference

Venue: The Mermaid London, 2 Puddle Dock, London, EC4V 3DB

Date: 13 May 2025

08:30	Registration and networking		
09:30	Welcome remarks from the Conference Chair		
09:35	The latest market trends and economic outlook		
10:00	Latest on the Grenfell Report and remaining compliant in fire safety		
10:50	Refreshment break & networking		
11:20	Navigating the latest defects		
12:10	Breakouts		
Room	<i>Main room-a</i>	<i>Room-b</i>	<i>Room-c</i>
12:15	Tackling climate resilience	Addressing the changing demands of TDD	The latest on neighbourly matters
13:00	Lunch		
14:00	Futureproofing buildings: Retrofit, BREEAM Refurbishment, and adaptive reuse for sustainable success	Dilapidations: Examining the classification of items and why it is important	A detailed overview of current building regulations
14:45	Transfer to next session		
14:50	Exploring building conservation case studies	Contract administration - How to avoid disputes	How can building surveyors support social equity in buildings
15:35	Refreshment break & networking		
16:05	The future of surveying - exploring technology, AI and the evolving role of the surveyor		
16:50	Wrap up conference		
17:00	Conference close		

Programme

08:30	Registration and networking
09:30	Welcome remarks from the Conference Chair Helen McKeown MRICS, Technical Director, AECOM
09:35	Opening Address The latest market trends and economic outlook Jennet Siebrits, Head of Research, CBRE
10:00	Latest on the Grenfell Report and ensuring compliance in fire safety This session will provide an in-depth update on the most recent developments from the Government Response to both the Hackitt Report and the Grenfell Inquiry Report and the impact on building surveyors' responsibilities. It will cover key lessons learned, updates to fire safety regulations, and practical guidance on maintaining compliance with the Building Safety

	Act and other related standards. Attendees will gain actionable insights to enhance fire risk assessments, improve building safety strategies, and meet evolving regulatory demands. David McCulloch FRICS , Chair of RICS Fire Safety Working Group, Building Safety Team, Balfour Beatty, UK Construction Services
10:50	Refreshment break & networking
11:20	Navigating the Latest Defects This session will provide the latest diagnostic techniques, common causes of defects, and practical solutions to mitigate risks. The session will provide surveyors with essential insights into identification, diagnosis, and remediation of building defects. It will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical case studies and innovative diagnostic techniques including sprayed foam roof insulation • Managing structural and non-structural issues • Improving reporting accuracy and mitigating client risks.
12:10	Transfer to breakout sessions
12:15	<p><i>Please choose one of the following sessions</i></p> <p>1a. Tackling climate resilience: Preparing buildings for a changing climate This session will explore the key challenges posed by climate change, including flooding, overheating, and structural degradation, and their impact on buildings. Attendees will gain insights into assessing vulnerabilities, implementing adaptive measures, and advising clients on sustainable solutions. Practical case studies will illustrate innovative approaches to retrofitting existing buildings and designing resilient new structures. Learn how to integrate climate resilience into your practice, ensuring buildings remain safe, efficient, and fit for purpose in a rapidly changing world, includes an update on Whole Life Carbon Assessment.</p> <p>1b. Addressing the changing demands of TDD This session will delve into the essential elements of TDD, including PFI Asset Handback Surveys, building fabric and services assessments, environmental considerations, and regulatory compliance checks. Attendees will gain practical strategies to enhance their due diligence processes, reduce risk, and add value for stakeholders. Whether you're tackling large-scale commercial projects or smaller portfolios this presentation will equip you with the tools to deliver robust and reliable TDD services in a dynamic property market.</p> <p>1c. The latest on neighbourly matters This session will provide Building Surveyors with a focused overview of the professional standards and behaviours expected of chartered surveyors administering the party wall etc. Act. 1996 highlighting their key roles and responsibilities. Topics will include serving notices, resolving disputes, and best practice for working with adjoining owners and appointed surveyors.</p> <p>Michael Cooper BSc (Hons) FRICS FPTS, Director - Head of Neighbourly matters and Building surveying, Cooper's Building Surveyors limited</p>
13:00	Lunch Break
	<p><i>Please choose one of the following sessions</i></p> <p>2a. Futureproofing buildings for sustainable success</p>

14:00	<p>This session explores innovative approaches to enhancing the sustainability and functionality of existing buildings through retrofit, BREEAM refurbishment, and adaptive reuse. Our expert speakers will delve into the latest strategies for reducing carbon footprints, meeting regulatory standards, and maximizing the lifespan of structures while preserving their character and value. Attendees will gain practical insights into integrating modern sustainability principles with the demands of heritage conservation and evolving building uses.</p>
14:00	<p>2b. Dilapidations: The classification of items and why it is important</p> <p>Understanding the classification of items in a leased property is essential to properly addressing dilapidations, meeting break clause pre-conditions and other legal obligations, and ensuring effective lease agreements. This session breaks down the crucial differences between integral items, landlord's fixtures, tenant's fixtures, landlord's chattels, tenant's chattels and discusses alterations, improvements, additions, Works (as defined in a licence) and fittings, fixtures, and chattels.</p> <p>It will explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why these classifications matter under common law, and • how misclassification can lead to costly misunderstandings or disputes regarding tenant obligations <p>By understanding what needs to stay, what can go, and what rights tenants have, landlords and tenants alike can better manage property condition and compliance throughout and at the end of a lease term. This knowledge is vital for any professional involved in property management or legal matters related to leases.</p> <p>Janet Bignell KC, Falcon Chambers</p>
14:00	<p>2C. A detailed overview of current building regulations</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of the current building regulations and newly introduced requirements. We will touch on key updates from the Building Safety Act and review Duty Holder requirements with a focus on PAS 8671 framework for competence of individual principal designers. Attendees will gain insights into the implications of these changes, new accountability measures, and the introduction of new roles. This session will give attendees an insight on how to implement these requirements, ensuring compliance, and maintaining high standards of professional practice.</p> <p>Join us to stay ahead in a rapidly changing regulatory landscape and understand how these developments impact your work and responsibilities.</p> <p>Michaela Perry-Kay, Class 2 RBI MRICS, C. Build E MCABE, Senior Building Control Surveyor, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council</p>
14:45	
14:50	<p><i>Please choose one of the following sessions</i></p> <p>3a. Building conservation</p> <p>Building conservation is a key area of expertise for building surveyors, particularly as the demand for preserving historic structures continues to grow. This session will delve into the principles and practices of conserving and maintaining buildings of historical and architectural significance, while balancing the need for modernisation and functionality.</p> <p>3b. Contract Administration – how to avoid disputes</p> <p>Disputes in construction projects can be costly, time-consuming, and damaging to professional relationships. For building surveyors, understanding the legal landscape and knowing how to navigate potential conflicts is essential for ensuring smooth project delivery and maintaining client trust.</p>

	<p>This session will provide an update on new contracts (JCT2024) and in-depth overview of key construction contract law principles, focusing on how building surveyors can proactively identify and avoid disputes. Topics will include contract management, communication best practices, handling variations, and the role of surveyors in dispute resolution. Practical strategies will be shared to help surveyors manage risks, resolve conflicts early, and ensure compliance with industry regulations.</p> <p>3c. How can building surveyors support social equity in buildings</p> <p>This session will provide building surveyors with essential knowledge on accessibility regulations, including the Equality Act 2010 and relevant building codes. Attendees will learn how to assess and improve accessibility in both new builds and existing properties, from ramps and doorways to signage and facilities. Real-world case studies will highlight common challenges and effective solutions in achieving accessibility for all users.</p> <p>Join us to explore how building surveyors can contribute to inclusive design, enhance their professional practice, and ensure compliance with accessibility standards to create environments that are truly welcoming for everyone.</p> <p>Tracey Proudlock, Company Director, Proudlock Associates Ltd</p>
15:35	Refreshment break & networking
16:05	<p>The future of surveying – exploring technology, AI and the evolving role of the surveyor</p> <p>The surveying profession is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by rapid advancements in technology and artificial intelligence (AI). For building surveyors, understanding these changes is crucial to remaining competitive and relevant in an increasingly digital world.</p> <p>This session will explore how emerging technologies, such as AI, Building Information Modelling (BIM), drones, and augmented reality, are reshaping the surveying landscape. Attendees will gain insights into how these tools are improving efficiency, accuracy, and decision-making, while also examining the evolving role of the surveyor in the context of automation and data-driven processes.</p>
16:55	<p>Closing remarks by the Conference Chair</p> <p>Helen McKeown MRICS, Technical Director, AECOM</p>
17:00	End of conference

Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

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