

RICS Building Surveying Conference

Venue: Convene 155 Bishopsgate

Thursday 7th of May 2026

8:30	Networking & registration
9:30	Welcome remarks from the conference chair Helen McKeown MRICS , Co-Founder, Axis Surveying Limited
9:45	Economic and industry outlook (Keynote) As the economic, regulatory and technological landscape shifts, the building surveying profession must adapt. Join the conference's opening session to gain insights into emerging demand drivers and concerns about the building surveying skills gap. Rob Elder , Agent, Greater London, Bank of England
10:05	Building Safety Act: Case law and compliance challenges (presentation) This session provides a practical update for building surveyors on navigating the Building Safety Act (BSA). With stricter scrutiny of Gateway submissions and a growing backlog of cases, surveyors face pressure to prepare robust, defensible documentation. Using recent case law, the session explores responsibilities around legacy cladding, complex refurbishments, and overlapping warranties. Join to gain guidance on managing conflicts between BSA duties, warranties, and professional indemnity.
10:50	Networking break
11:25	Building defects: Causes, patterns and practice (presentation) Defects remain one of the most complex and costly challenges across both residential and commercial sectors. This session examines the unintended consequences of remediation, the changing regulatory landscape, and the need for robust investigative skills among building surveyors. Using recent case studies, including government-endorsed remediation methods that have led to unforeseen sales and mortgage complications, speakers will illustrate why evidence-based diagnosis and repair are essential to avoid liability and reputational damage. Trevor Rushton FRICS FCABE ACI Arb , Group Chairman, Watts
12:15	Split into breakout rooms
12:20	1a: Retrofit strategies and delivering low-carbon performance across building types (presentation) Surveyors are increasingly central to delivering energy-efficient, low-carbon upgrades across residential and commercial buildings. This session explores practical approaches to sustainable retrofit, covering assessment

	<p>of existing fabric, specifying insulation and ventilation improvements, and integrating low-impact materials without compromising structural integrity. Join to learn strategies for balancing environmental performance, regulatory compliance, and client expectations in retrofit projects.</p>
12:20	<p>1b. Party walls, boundaries, and neighbourly disputes (joint presentation - lawyer & surveyor)</p> <p>Disputes over access, boundaries, and rights of light remain a common challenge in England and Wales's dense built environment. This session provides building surveyors with practical guidance on preventing minor conflicts from escalating into costly legal battles. Using recent case studies, the session will illustrate key principles, dispute resolution strategies, and best practice approaches for managing neighbourly matters.</p>
12:20	<p>1c. Fire safety and regulations: Façade systems, defects, and professional risk (presentation)</p> <p>This session provides practical guidance on navigating the current fire safety regulatory framework. Delegates will learn how to identify and assess façade defects, evaluate external wall systems and insulation for fire risk, and verify material classification and installation integrity. Participants will also explore strategies to manage duty of care, professional liability, and regulatory responsibilities to maintain safe and compliant building practices.</p> <p>Benjamin Ralph PhD CEng FIFireE FIMechE, Director, Head of Building Safety and Fire, Hollis</p>
13:05	Lunch
14:05	<p>2a. Historic buildings and the challenges of retrofit</p> <p>Surveying in historic and conservation-area contexts presents unique challenges with balancing heritage value, regulatory compliance and sustainability demands. This session will examine how surveyors evaluate the performance and suitability of sustainable materials in a conservation context while managing heritage risks and retrofit sensitively.</p>
14:05	<p>2b. New challenges and legal updates in dilapidations (joint presentation – lawyer and surveyor)</p> <p>Dilapidations remain a cornerstone of building surveying, but the landscape is shifting fast. Cost escalation, sustainability mandates, and evolving case law are changing how liabilities are assessed and negotiated. Join to uncover key challenges and trends shaping dilapidations practice.</p>

14:05	<p>2c. Responsible AI use and professional standards (joint presentation)</p> <p>As AI-driven tools become embedded in surveying practices, building surveyors are under growing pressure to ensure their use of technology meets professional and ethical standards. The new RICS Professional Standard on Artificial Intelligence Governance sets out how members must manage transparency, accountability, and fairness when using or relying on AI systems in their work. Investigate how to apply good governance when using AI and ensuring your results remain explainable, defensible, and aligned with client expectations.</p>
14:50	Transfer to next sessions
14:55	<p>3a. The future of Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) and Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) (presentation)</p> <p>Evolving expectations for EPC and MEES are reshaping how surveyors assess and future-proof buildings. This session explores the next generation of energy-performance regulation. Join to build a clear understanding of upcoming policy shifts, practical methods for integrating energy compliance into surveys, and strategies for managing client expectations in a tightening regulatory landscape.</p>
14:55	<p>3b. Strengthening client communication and reporting (presentation)</p> <p>Building surveyors produce complex technical findings every day, but the value of these insights depends on how clearly, they are communicated. Join to learn advanced strategies for producing client-ready reports, presenting technical risk, and leading communication within project teams. Through case studies, practical examples, and expert guidance, participants will refine skills in both written and verbal communication. Building your communication skills can help manage high-stakes projects, mentor junior surveyors, and reduce the potential for disputes.</p>
14:55	<p>3c. Damp, mould, and Awaab's Law (presentation)</p> <p>Following the introduction of Awaab's Law, the management of damp and mould has become a statutory, reputational, and ethical priority for surveyors and landlords alike. This focused session explores how to correctly diagnose, evidence, and report damp and mould issues, and how to comply with heightened legal duties for timely remediation. Speakers will discuss technical and the policy implications of Awaab's Law across housing and mixed-use portfolios</p> <p>Dawn Williams FRICS MCABE, Director and Chartered Building Surveyor, Eos Surveying</p>

15:40	Networking break
16:10	Closing keynote speech / Open forum
16:55	Chair closing statement Helen McKeown MRICS, Co-Founder, Axis Surveying Limited
17:00	Conference end