

AGENDA



# RICS Wales Conference 2026

A defining year for the built and natural environment in Wales

### Course level

Foundation



### Type of event

Face to face



### CPD Hours

6.5  
Formal



### Included in

Professional Package

# Book your place today

[Click here](#)

2026 is set to be a defining year for the built and natural environment in Wales. A Senedd election and the formation of a new Welsh Government will bring fresh priorities for housing, infrastructure, business, land use and energy.

Against this backdrop, RICS has launched Manifesto RICS Cymru 2026, highlighting the vital role of the built and natural environment in Wales, sectors that contribute more than £17bn to the Welsh economy each year.

At this year's RICS Wales Conference, we will explore what these political, economic and environmental changes mean for the profession. The conference will examine the opportunities and challenges facing surveyors, and consider how RICS expertise through qualifications, insight and standards can help deliver positive outcomes for Wales.

Wales continues to navigate economic uncertainty, global market fluctuations and international pressures. These conditions make it more important than ever to address key issues such as project delivery, skills development and sustainability.

Don't miss this year's conference, where industry experts will share insights on housing, business rates, energy efficiency and infrastructure, alongside discussions on mental health, economic trends and cost management.

Join us at the RICS Wales Conference 2026 to connect with professionals from across the country, stay informed on the latest industry developments and regulations, and

# Programme



UK&I  
16 Jun 26

## Time zone:

BST

8:00

### Registration and Networking

9:00

### Welcome Remarks from the Conference Chair

Speaker(s): Matt Haynes MRICS, Wales Board Chair

9:10

### Introduction from RICS

Speaker(s): Clare Johnson, RICS Market Director, Central Region

9:20

### Welsh Market Dynamics

Wales has a new government, with new priorities for the built and natural environment – but what does that mean for surveyors, your work and the opportunities and challenges it presents. Wales has also seen an increase in new construction, particularly in the residential sector. Additionally, the trend towards remote working may impact the demand for commercial spaces, requiring surveyors to adapt their expertise to new types of assessments.

Speaker(s): Sam Rees, RICS Senior Public Affairs Manager, Wales

10:00

### Welsh Infrastructure - Core Valley Lines/South Wales Metro Case Study

The presentation will tell the story of the Transformation of the Core Valley Lines into the CVL Metro - an industry leading programme of work that will transform the lives of the people of South Wales through improved connectivity and opportunity.

Our speakers will walk us through the journey of innovation, collaboration and the use of cutting-edge technology to drive engineering solutions, deliver efficiently and provide opportunity for passengers and industry through this once in a lifetime investment.

Speaker(s): Wayne Bridgen, Amey, Dan Tipper, Transport for Wales



## Time zone:

BST

10:45

### Break

11:15

### Breakout 1 - Understanding and Implications of the 2026 Revaluation

The 2026 revaluation marks the first of a three yearly revaluation cycle and, in this presentation, we will cover - The revaluation outcomes by sector; Stakeholder and client perspectives; The introduction of different multipliers and removal of reliefs; Challenging a rating list entry where you believe it to be wrong; Are business rates here to stay?

Speaker(s): Helen Edwards MRICS, Director, WSP GL Hearn, Jane Shankland MRICS, Director, Cooke & Arkwright, Alan Colston MRICS, Chief Valuer, Valuation Office Wales

11:15

### Breakout 2 - Residential Update Reforms to Home Buying and Selling, and Residential Valuation Updates

An overview of current Professional Practice activity, including insights into the standards pipeline, covering topics ranging from flooding and resilience to the growing role of artificial intelligence, and the latest work to update the Assessment of Professional Competence . The session will also provide an update on RICS' public affairs activity such as home buying and selling reform, proposed commonhold and leasehold reform, key developments within RICS, including changes to the CPD Framework, the new RICS Member App, and new pilot routes into membership.

Speaker(s): Nigel Sellars FRICS, RICS Senior Specialist - Valuation and Investment Advisory

12:00

### Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Built Environment (Panel Discussion)

With pressures ranging from tight contracts and long working hours, to managing complex budgets and the rising costs of supplies, various reports have emerged, stating many in the industry struggle with their mental health. In the past, organisations have focused more on physical injury than on mental health.

Speaker(s): Lucy King MRICS, Gelar Property, Noel McGonigle, HR Director, UK, Europe and the Middle East at Savills. Oliver Williams, Consultant, Public Health Wales, Sybil Taunton, RICS Head of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



## Time zone:

BST

12:45

### Lunchbreak

13:10

### Mental Health and Wellbeing Breakout Activities

Speaker(s): Emily Van de Venter, Consultant, Public Health Wales

13:45

### RICS CEO Update

Speaker(s): Justin Young, RICS CEO

14:10

### AI in Practice: Building the Judgement Your Profession Now Demands

RICS's new professional standard on responsible AI use became effective on 9 March 2026. It requires members to develop and maintain sufficient knowledge to support responsible AI system use, but it doesn't tell you how. This session bridges that gap. Drawing on nearly thirty years of building technology for people who do real work in the built environment, Richard Scott cuts through the noise to show what AI actually is today, what it can do for surveying practice, and how to develop the judgement that turns compliance into genuine capability. Practical, grounded, and opportunity-focused.

Speaker(s): Richard Scott, Founder, Evolvity.ai

14:45

### From Membership to Meaning: Showing the Value of Surveyors in Wales

Why RICS had to change its approach. Wales as the guinea pig- new ways of collaborating. The value framework - three pillars, one profession. Content opportunities in depth - community & society impact. The plan for 2026, 27 and beyond.

Speaker(s): Mike Hurst, RICS Head of Marketing and Regional Experience

15:10

### Break



## Time zone:

BST

15:30

### Breakout 1 - Legal Update

The L&TA consultation. The proposed ban on upwards only rent reviews. Recent replies to enquiries case law.

Speaker(s): Russell Price DJM Solicitors

15:30

### Breakout 2 - Building Safety

The Welsh Government has announced significant updates to the Building Regulations in Wales, effective from July 2026. These updates are part of a broader effort to improve building safety and control processes in Wales, aligning with the reforms in England. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the details to understand how these changes may affect current and future projects

Speaker(s): Mark Tambini, Welsh Government, Head of Building Regulations Policy

16:10

### Breakout 1 - MEES and the impact on the Commercial Property Market

The shift toward sustainable practices and green building standards, to include retrofitting to reduce energy consumption and lower carbon emissions, is impacting property valuations. This trend is expected to accelerate as environmental concerns gain importance.

Speaker(s): Lucy King, Director, Gelar Property, Rob Wall, Assistant Director (Sustainability) British Property Foundation

16:10

### Breakout 2 - Public Sector Topic

To be confirmed

Speaker(s): To be confirmed

16:50

### Closing remarks from the Conference Chair

Speaker(s): 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.

Americas, Europe, Middle East & Africa  
**[aemea@rics.org](mailto:aemea@rics.org)**

Asia Pacific  
**[apac@rics.org](mailto:apac@rics.org)**

United Kingdom & Ireland  
**[contactrics@rics.org](mailto:contactrics@rics.org)**



**[rics.org](https://www.rics.org)**