

Surveying the Future: Love it and build it

Whether it is planning garden cities, restoring medieval castles, redesigning the Daytona International Speedway or negotiating the next big property deal, a qualification as a chartered surveyor is quite literally a passport to the world.

Sean Tompkins CEO of RICS



"If you think we are approaching a population of nearly nine billion people and consider the physical assets that cover the earth – from skyscrapers, airports, hotels, and ports to

rainforests, deserts and the seabed, to name but a few – surveyors are out there shaping the world that we live in and making their mark," says Sean Tompkins, CEO of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

As head of the world's largest professional body, which represents 120,000 members worldwide and has operations across the UK, mainland Europe, Middle East, Asia Pacific, North and Latin America and South Africa, Sean is well placed to talk about the opportunities overseas.

He says there is an increasing trend across the industry of professionals 'growing global' and broadening their horizons by working on diverse surveying projects across the world.

It's a trend that is supported by figures from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) which shows that, when it comes to using home-grown skills abroad, chartered surveyors are a high value commodity accounting for £530m in exported trade.

But surely, with all the talk around skills shortages, particularly in the construction industry (41% of RICS members believe there are insufficient numbers of quantity surveyors currently available in the UK) encouraging more professionals to work overseas is a bad thing?

"We shouldn't be modest about the fact that the UK is seeing unprecedented demand for qualified surveyors to work overseas; it demonstrates appreciation for high standards of professional excellence and transferable skills," he says.

And a versatile set of skills is an essential part of any professionals' toolkit and why the new RICS campaign, 'Surveying the Future' is working with industry to open it up and demonstrate the full breadth of careers and the opportunities it can offer.

According to RICS president elect Louise Brooke-Smith, a career in surveying is wonderfully diverse, opening doors to worlds that many can only dream about.

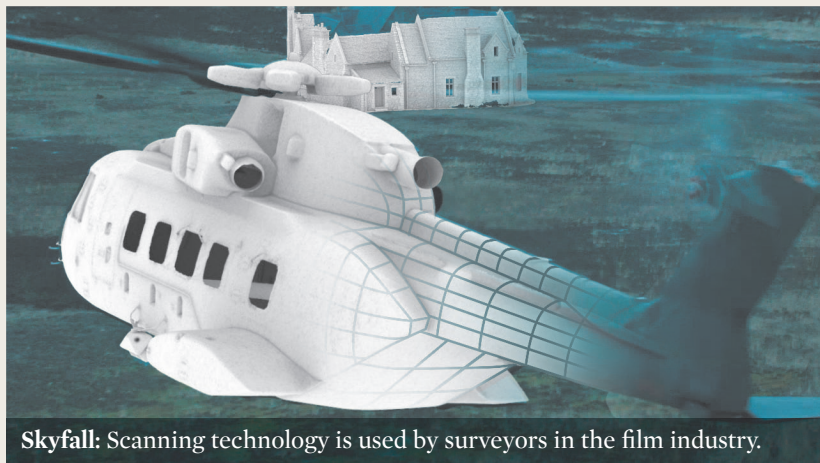


She said: "RICS membership offers a passport to professional opportunities around the world. It can give you a competitive advantage whether you're already working in the

land, property and construction sectors or a student considering a career in the profession.

"Our members have wide and varied careers from working on the latest James Bond film set, to collecting and analysing data on the front line in Afghanistan.

"Anything is possible for a chartered surveyor and our 'Surveying the Future' campaign is all about highlighting that diversity and making sure that the doors are open to as diverse a talent pool as possible."



Skyfall: Scanning technology is used by surveyors in the film industry.

**Peter Folwell
APC Candidate
Employer: Plowman Craven
Role: Business development director**



"When I was younger I wanted a career that would give me lots of variety and would see me out and about – not confined to the office environment. Completing a Surveying and Mapping degree

at the University of East London, I quickly moved into the field of Geomatics. Having been sent to Hadrian's Wall and the Accession Islands for my first two assignments, I soon realised that I'd found a career I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

"After many years in the sector, my current role is business development director for a specialist Geomatics company called Plowman Craven – a company I've had a 30 years association with. The reason I've been at the company for so many years is as a result of the exciting and ground breaking work we do. We can be measuring historic castles or palaces



Afghanistan: Surveying expertise in the Army helps to keep people safe.

**Lt Col Ian Webster
TD MRICS
Employer: British Army
Headquarters in Andover
Role: Chartered Surveyor and Military Engineer**



"Having had an interest in construction from a very early age I started work at 16 as a carpenter and joiner. On completion of my apprenticeship I set my sights on a professional career as a chartered

surveyor. Over several years I studied part time for a number of qualifications and eventually became a fully accredited member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors specialising in building control and town planning.

"Linked to my passion for all things construction I've also been a member of the Royal Engineers Army Reserve for the last 30 years, serving mostly with the 170 Engineer Group. The unit consists of both regular and reserve personnel and as a Military Engineer I have been exposed to a range of unique engineering challenges from explosive demolition and bomb disposal to bridge design and assessment of Critical National Infrastructure (CNI), deploying as far afield as the Falkland Islands and Afghanistan.

“I soon realised that I'd found a career I wanted to do for the rest of my life.”

one minute and then, the next, working on the underground or iconic commercial buildings.

"The team and I have been involved in a number of Hollywood blockbusters over the years including the James Bond film Skyfall, Pirates of the Caribbean, Harry Potter and, most recently, X Men. Working with the film industry has also seen a number of our staff members regularly travelling overseas for a prolonged period of time to work on location – something which continues to appeal to me.

"Although surveying and film production may not sound like industries that go hand in hand, modern film making actually relies a lot on the accurate measurement of sets, locations, props and people, in order to create impressive CGI animations and special effects.

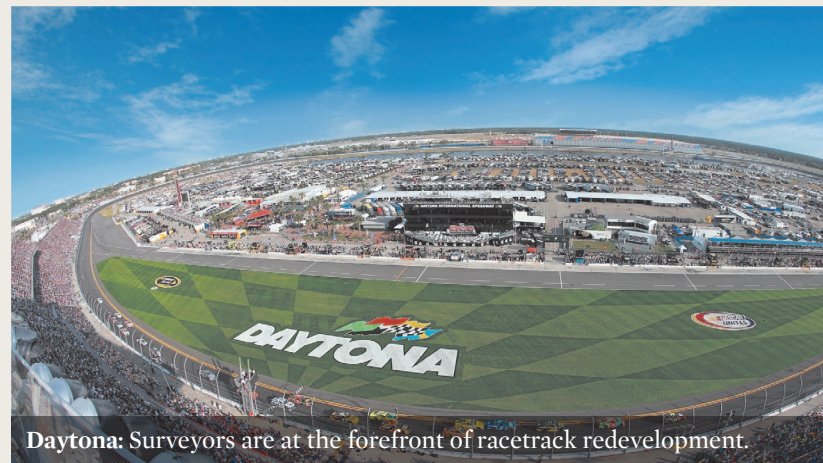
"Plowman Craven is an RICS-accredited company and we have a number of chartered surveyors working here. The RICS qualification is highly respected across the world and I am currently working towards it through the Professional Experience Route."

“With perseverance it's amazing where your career may eventually end up.”

"Although many of us wouldn't necessarily associate surveying with the Army, it is a very important skill set for the planning of military operations, many of which include an urban setting. For that reason 170 Engineer Group welcome chartered surveyors who can provide the expertise to help to keep people safe on a daily basis with the provision of infrastructure including protective structures, power and water.

"Since deploying to Afghanistan in 2010 I have worked full time for the Army, now engaged as a staff officer at the Army HQ. My final role with the Royal Engineers involved the analysis of CNI in order to understand the various interdependencies and critical nodes. Essentially, this involves collecting and analysing data to identify the unique features of urban centres to provide the Army with a vital understanding of a complex environment.

"My role is very challenging however, anyone with an aptitude for analysis, lateral thinking and a systematic approach, will almost certainly find a rewarding career as a chartered surveyor. With a certain amount of perseverance it's amazing where your career may eventually end up. I for one never thought I'd deploy to Afghanistan when I originally completed my professional qualifications all those years ago."



Daytona: Surveyors are at the forefront of racetrack redevelopment.

**Derek Muldowney MRICS
Employer: International
Speedway Corporation (ISC)
Role: Executive vice president of the ISC design department**



"Having originally completed a degree in quantity surveying at Trinity College Dublin, I've had a really varied career which has seen me working on a vast number of different projects in lots of diverse

industries. In fact, I've worked for a surveying firm in London, and in the oil fields of Houston and Asia, before eventually ending up here in sunny Florida.

"Today, my day to day role at the International Speedway Corporation (ISC) sees me directing the redevelopment and construction of a large number of leisure facilities for my employer.

"One of the most appealing aspects of my current work is the scale and high profile nature of some of the projects I'm asked to oversee. At the moment I'm responsible for leading a team of architects, designers and building contractors, whose challenge it is to modernise and redevelop the famous Daytona International Speedway racetrack.

"In overseeing the huge redevelopment

“The training and transferable skills I've developed as a chartered surveyor have certainly opened me up to a world of opportunities.”

of such an iconic motor sport stadium, I'm really drawing on all of the skills I've honed as a chartered surveyor over the years. On a daily basis I have to apply my analytical thinking and communication skills in order to motivate and effectively lead the different teams undertaking the design and planning of the project.

"The training and transferable skills I've developed as a chartered surveyor have certainly opened me up to a world of opportunities which I've tried to grasp with both hands. In fact, I'd even go as far as saying that surveyors in some ways have to play the part of a psychologist in order to communicate and get the best out of the vast number of people they end up working with on any given project.

"One tip I would give to anyone looking to enter the industry would be to persevere and stay open minded to the opportunities that you will be presented with. With the broad range of skills you'll develop as a chartered surveyor you'll be able to turn your hand to anything further down the line, whether it's directly linked to surveying or aspects of another industry."



Olympics: Surveyors ensured access was available to all at London 2012.

**Simone West MRICS
Employer: Atkins
Role: Access consultant specialising in inclusive design**



"My current role as a specialist access consultant sees me working across a wide variety of projects ensuring that the spaces we all use on a daily basis are accessible and comfortable for

people to use regardless of age and ability. "The 2012 Olympics was a particular highlight, as I led a team which was tasked with making the games the most inclusive games ever. After three and half years of planning and implementing design changes, it was incredible to see the results.

"As well as these big events, I'm also currently working with the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy (LCCCP) charity

“I led a team tasked with making the 2012 Olympics the most inclusive games ever.”

to design a new building for young service users.

"Although the Olympics and LCCCP projects are hugely different in terms of their scale, I really love the fact that I can make a huge difference to someone's life no matter how big or small a project is.

"All of the positive experiences and opportunities I've had in my career so far are, to a large extent, the result of my decision to become a chartered building surveyor.

"It's a decision I made as a teenager and was like gaining the passport to a huge pool of opportunities – ultimately giving me the skills and knowledge to pursue my current career. If you're a person who is open to new ideas, have a passion for people and love making a real difference by problem solving, then this is definitely the industry for you."

Start a career as a chartered surveyor: rics.org/uk/the-profession and follow the conversation on Twitter #SurveyingtheFuture

