

# Meet Neil Trewick

## Finalist for the RICS Matrics Residential Property Surveyor of the Year Award 2023

### Neil Trewick AssocRICS

Sava graduate, Residential Building Surveyor and Director of Trew Surveying Ltd.



#### What was your background before becoming a surveyor?

I was a secondary school maths teacher and prior to that worked in recruitment for 8 years.

#### What made you consider training as a surveyor through Sava?

I have had an interest in houses ever since buying my first house at the age of 24, which needed a lot of work doing to it. I undertook most of this work myself with the help of a family member in the building trade. In my early career after university, I worked as a recruitment consultant and I also noted surveyors always being in demand which was another big appeal. If ever I called a surveying firm to explore their recruitment needs, they were always open to new surveyors so it seemed like they were never out of work.

#### What drew you to qualifying as a surveyor through Sava?

A friend of mine had enrolled on the Sava course the year prior to myself and it sounded like it was exactly what I needed. I had a mortgage so couldn't afford to leave my job. Being able to study part-time was ideal.

#### How did you find juggling your qualification with work?

I found it pretty manageable. I've done degrees before so I'd consider myself academic, which was undoubtedly one of my strengths as I progressed through the qualification, especially during the assessment stage where it's largely lone working.

I was able to drop down to supply teaching which enabled me to dedicate two days a month to attend training sessions and I managed to complete the qualification in 18 months around my teaching career.

I worked hard, powered through in the evenings, and tried to keep it Monday to Friday. When you're a full-time teacher you do that anyway, so I kept that routine.

#### What has been the highlight of your surveying career so far?

I've just burst onto the scene really. I was lucky enough to win Best New Sole Trader at the Tees Business Awards after just 7 months of starting Trew Surveying Ltd. Starting Trew Surveying was a big highlight for me, but if I win a RICS award that might trump everything else. I've also earned a lot of money doing something I love, which is the dream.

“  
...everything is about the people now. New surveyors are changing the game in this way.”

#### How has your work life changed since the early days after qualifying?

When I first qualified, I found employment with a firm and found myself finishing early and playing golf a lot! Since starting my own company, golf has taken a bit of a backseat but I get

the flexibility of controlling my own workload and choosing how many surveys I do.

#### What do you love most about being a residential surveyor?

I survey in the morning and once that's complete the rest of my day is up to me. I can go home and write reports up straightaway or if the sun is shining I may choose to play golf and write reports in the evening. I never work weekends anymore and I feel more in control.

#### What advice would you give to anyone thinking of joining the profession?

Just do it. If you enjoy learning and providing a service to people, it's a great job and you learn something every day.

Nowadays, customers want a 5-minute phone call summary rather than to read their whole survey, so speaking to people is key – from the initial quote stage to the final survey delivery. This never used to happen, but everything is about the people now. New surveyors are changing the game in this way.

Remember that online reviews are important for getting new business – customers are more likely to post a review if you provide a personal service.

#### How does it feel to be a finalist in the RICS Matrics Surveyor Awards?

I feel proud. There's a bit of imposter syndrome – you wonder why people have picked you. As a sole trader, it's great to get recognition – a pat on the back from your professional body. If I won, it would inspire more confidence in me and my services. I mean, I'll definitely market it!

Discover  
Sava's  
surveying  
diploma

