

My journey from seasoned builder to residential surveyor in 18 months

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Sava graduate, residential surveyor and owner of Horizon Surveys



What was your background before training as a surveyor?

My background was in building, having been a builder for more than 20 years running my own building contractors firm, landscaping firm and also doing a lot of property development.

What made you pursue a career in residential surveying?

Covid hit in 2020, my long-time business partner retired and this motivated me to make a change. After a few months off looking for new ideas and projects, I came across Sava and the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation, and after a few phone calls back and forth, I decided to go for it!

I am not one for hanging around, so decided a week or so before the course started, even opting for the Nottingham course as it started sooner than the Manchester course which is actually much closer to me.

How did you find completing your training with Sava?

The course went well. It's a lot of information to take in over a short space of time, but the tutors are good, and my assessor, Anne Hinds, was absolutely brilliant. She guided me and was always on hand to help with my queries.

I was lucky that just as I went into the assessment stage of the qualification, I found a surveying mentor locally. He was great and actually employed me part time to shadow him as an assistant. This experience was invaluable! Without it I think my career choices once qualified would have been very different.

I completed my surveying qualification in October 2023. I was part of the February 2022 intake in Nottingham, so it took me approximately 18 months to complete, which is quicker than the average time of 24 months. I worked part time doing smaller building jobs whilst undertaking the course, so that helped with the timescales; I think for those working full time it's understandable it would take longer.

What have you been up to since achieving your surveying qualification?

Post qualification, I carried on working with my mentor for a few months to

gain experience (office and inspection) while going through the process of applying for my Associate membership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (AssocRICS).

Once my membership application went through, I knew my path would be to start my own practice, having been self-employed for so many years previously. In February 2024 the decision was made, Horizon Surveys was registered and the process of RICS Regulation started.



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There were a lot of hurdles, from insurance to software and CRMs, but a month or so later it's all coming together. I have an office, work coming in, and I am about to take on someone to manage my admin so I can concentrate on what I enjoy, the inspections themselves. Who knows what the future holds from here.

Would you recommend the Sava diploma to others?

I would recommend the Sava diploma as it's an alternative, vocational route into a profession historically unavailable to many people from a non-educational/traditional background.

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surveying diploma

