

Hawkins

Leaders in forensic investigation



THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Providing forensic engineering, forensic architecture and expert witness services for incidents relating to all aspects of the built environment during its design, construction, operation and demolition.

www.hawkins.biz

Architecture & Building Defects | Civil & Structural Failures
Construction & Demolition Incidents | Falls from Height | Fire Engineering & Fire Spread
Flooding & Hydrology | Foundations, Piling & Subsidence | Highways/Railways
Noise & Acoustics | Tunnels & Bridges | Vibration Damage | Wall & Slope Stability
Water Ingress & Basements | Wind Damage

ABOUT HAWKINS

Hawkins, established in 1980, provides specialist forensic root cause analysis and expert witness services to legal, insurance and risk management professions. We also investigate incidents for contractors and consultants.

The company has 8 offices in the United Kingdom and offices in Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore. All offices are staffed by highly experienced forensic scientists and engineers from a wide range of disciplines, including mechanical, electrical, civil, structural and highway engineering.

“Clients come back to Hawkins because of our honesty and integrity; very sound technical knowledge and expertise married with a real awareness of what our clients need – rapid response, quick accurate advice, communication of the evidence and the investigation in a way they can act upon.”

Our experts can assist with incidents and problems relating to buildings, structures and construction. The team includes a core group of civil and structural engineers together with experts in architecture, geotechnical engineering, flooding & hydrology, fire engineering, and acoustics.

As with all Hawkins investigations, we excel in providing a rapid response and high quality reports to assist our clients in understanding the technical issues of a case and the cause of the incident or defect. Our reporting is flexible, ranging from preliminary appraisals to full CPR35 compliant reports to suit the client’s needs.

In addition to investigating failures, we are often asked to review designs on a proactive basis, in order to prevent future problems. This provides our clients with confidence that their buildings or structures are sound.



OUR SERVICES

ARCHITECTURE & BUILDING DEFECTS

We investigate building defects to determine whether design or workmanship is the root cause. With experience in many sectors and across all RIBA stages from inception to occupation, we can provide advice tailored to your project. Typical investigations we would be involved with include claims relating to design co-ordination, compliance with Building Regulations and industry standards, and performance of architectural services.

CIVIL & STRUCTURAL FAILURES

We gather evidence at the scene and carry out structural analysis and design reviews to investigate the cause of collapses. Our cases range from large-scale, high-profile building collapses to partial roof collapses. These typically occur during construction or demolition or as a result of snow loading.

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION INCIDENTS

Many of our experts have a background in construction and can advise on methods and procedures relating to personal injury cases and failures of temporary works. We often review and comment on the suitability of method statements and risk assessments, as well as compare them to the actual work undertaken.

FALLS FROM HEIGHT

Whether the fall was from a roof, a window or a staircase, we investigate the cause of the fall and provide advice on whether the relevant parts of the building were compliant with safety guidance and Building Regulations.

FIRE ENGINEERING & FIRE SPREAD

Hawkins has the necessary competencies to advise on fire engineering matters including compliance with fire safety legislation and guidance, investigation of fire spread and building fire safety design, construction and management.

FLOODING & HYDROLOGY

We use hydrology expertise in cases involving flooding from surface water, groundwater, rivers and artificial sources, such as sewers and water mains. We assess the rainfall or flood event and identify the contribution of other causative factors, like drainage maintenance and condition.

FOUNDATIONS, PILING & SUBSIDENCE

Property damage caused by ground movement or foundation failure can be a result of poor design or construction. Our expertise in geotechnical engineering, combined with our investigative skills, enables us to undertake a full assessment and determine the cause.



HIGHWAYS/RAILWAYS

Whether the case involves a road traffic accident, potholes or flooding, we have the experience to advise on all highway matters relating to both design and maintenance. In addition, we have investigated railway incidents including derailments, unintended runaways and accidents at level crossings.

NOISE & ACOUSTICS

Noise and acoustics are important considerations in designing buildings. Where design consultation is required, we are able to work with the designer from the conceptual stage through to post-completion testing, enabling us to assist with defect diagnosis and dispute resolution.

TUNNELS & BRIDGES

We have carried out failure investigations for a number of major infrastructure projects around the world, including in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Qatar.

VIBRATION DAMAGE

Construction activity and traffic are two common sources of vibration that are often blamed for causing cracking or movement in buildings. We can monitor the vibration and inspect the damage to determine whether the vibration is likely to be the cause.

WALL & SLOPE STABILITY

Investigations into retaining wall and freestanding wall incidents often show that the collapse occurred due to inappropriate construction practices or poor design. Many cases have involved personal injuries. We have the expertise and specialist software to carry out detailed slope stability failure analysis, including reclamation issues.

WATER INGRESS & BASEMENTS

We carry out damp surveys and investigate flooding within buildings, including sewer and drainage problems. Typical building defects include failure of construction materials and poor installation, particularly with regard to basement waterproofing and roof construction.

WIND DAMAGE

We conduct a scene examination, design review and meteorological assessment to determine whether the damage was caused by extreme weather conditions or by structural weaknesses. With most wind related damage, typically involving roofs and cladding, we show that there were underlying construction or design defects that caused the failure.





OUR EXPERTS

Hawkins' team of experts has construction industry experience in design consultancy and contracting, in both the UK and overseas. Using this knowledge and experience, combined with skills in forensic investigation, they are able to conduct investigations into a wide range of incidents and failures relating to the design, construction and use of the built environment.

If you wish to make an enquiry or instruct us, please contact the office closest to the incident location and you will be put in touch with the relevant expert (see contact details on back cover). Alternatively, you can contact any of our experts directly – their details are on the following pages, arranged by location.

BIRMINGHAM



Tom Dale
tom.dale@hawkins.biz

Tom has a Masters in Fire Engineering and a background in fire safety and risk management. He began as a Safety Engineer for DNV, estimating the likelihood of fire and explosion events within the oil & gas industry. Tom also previously worked as an Associate Fire Engineer for WSP, where he developed strategies within a range of sectors including: residential, commercial, schools, hotels, airports, hospitals and retail developments.

CAMBRIDGE



Rosalind Lambert-Porter
ros.lambertporter@hawkins.biz

Ros has a background as an acoustics engineering consultant. She provides expert advice in relation to acoustics in buildings, environmental impact, noise related disputes and personal injuries due to noise and vibration exposure. She is assisted by Jonathan Dance.

DUBAI



Austen Smith
austen.smith@hawkins.ae

Austen has over 15 years' experience of working on projects across Europe, the Middle East, East Asia, the CIS and Australia. Whilst being focused on transport infrastructure, he was responsible for the delivery of projects of various scale and complexity across a wide range of sectors. He has a background in Construction Law and has undertaken peer reviews and given advice on code compliance, buildability and maintenance.



GLASGOW



Jon Watkins
jon.watkins@hawkins.biz

Jon has extensive experience in structural engineering design ranging from residential projects to major civil engineering works overseas. He has also worked on site for a civil engineering contractor. Jon now carries out a wide range of forensic investigations relating to structural failures, building defects, construction incidents, personal injuries and fires.

LEEDS



James Clarke
james.clarke@hawkins.biz

Beginning with experience in pharmaceutical and heavy industry project engineering, James has worked in fire engineering design to deliver fire strategies and provide advice on commercial and residential developments. James now investigates fire incidents in addition to consideration of the design, construction and management of fire protection provisions.



LONDON



Rob Baldock
rob.baldock@hawkins.biz

Rob is a Chartered Structural Engineer with nearly 15 years of building design experience. He has worked extensively with standard structural materials and more recently specialised in structural and architectural glass and associated façade systems.



Niralee Casson
niralee.casson@hawkins.biz

Niralee is a chartered architect with 10 years' experience. She has broad experience of designing different building types with a specific focus on Build to Rent, co-location and mixed-use residential projects. Niralee investigates building defects, contractual disputes and professional negligence, preparing reports that can be used in litigation and alternative dispute resolution.



Ahmad El Ghor
ahmad.elghor@hawkins.biz

Ahmad is an Associate Member in the American Society of Civil Engineering. As part of his PhD from the American University of Beirut, he collaborated with experts in structural fire engineering from The University of Texas at Austin. His research focused on improving the design standards for structural resistance to fire loads. He has design experience in both steel and composite concrete-steel structures.



Alastair Ferguson
alastair.ferguson@hawkins.biz

Alastair has been an architect for more than twenty years, specialising in the detail design and delivery of complex residential projects on urban sites. He has a background in Construction Law, and has extensive experience in negotiating appointments, risk management, and advising on building disputes.





Sarah Hooton
sarah.hooton@hawkins.biz

In addition to experience in infrastructure design and construction, Sarah has worked for over 10 years as a Fire Engineer, delivering fire strategies and advice for a range of building types including high rise residential. Her experience includes defining and monitoring temporary fire safety solutions during construction. Sarah investigates defects in design and construction of fire protection provisions, compliance with fire safety legislation and incidents of fire spread.



Paul Hughes
paul.hughes@hawkins.biz

Paul's design experience has been primarily in marine engineering. He has also worked on site, supervising the construction of bridges and retaining walls. Paul now investigates a wide range of incidents and construction related issues.



Richard Keightley
richard.keightley@hawkins.biz

Richard is a Chartered Water and Environmental Manager with over 15 years' experience in water and environmental engineering, flood risk management, hydrology and asset management. Richard specialises in the investigation of flooding and drainage issues.



Bernard Travers
bernard.travers@hawkins.biz

Bernard has worked on a wide range of structural and civil engineering projects and forensic investigations in the United Kingdom and overseas. His interests and experience include masonry, steel and concrete buildings, vibration, subsidence, wind and storm damage, façades, cladding and design reviews.



MANCHESTER



Richard Giles-Carlsson
richard.gilescarlsson@hawkins.biz

Richard joined Hawkins following a career in contracting on numerous major civil engineering projects. He has experience in temporary works, lifting operations, and coordinating subcontractor works on behalf of the Principal Contractor. Richard now investigates a variety of structural failures, building defects and construction incidents, including personal injuries on construction sites.



Mike Hopwood
mike.hopwood@hawkins.biz

Mike specialises in all aspects of Highway Engineering. With over 25 years' industry experience, he can assist with any issues relating to roads and footways, including, for example, construction, design, maintenance and layout problems and drainage. Mike is also a qualified health and safety professional, specialising particularly in CDM and construction/workplace safety.

REIGATE



Hannah Fletcher
hannah.fletcher@hawkins.biz

Hannah has worked on major civil engineering projects both in the UK and New Zealand as an engineer and project manager. She has experience in project management, structural steelwork, reinforced concrete, facades, earthworks and temporary works. Hannah now investigates a wide range of building and construction related incidents and fires.



Andy Ingle
andy.ingle@hawkins.biz

Andy has over 20 years' experience in the inspection and assessment of building defects, as well as in the investigation and rectification of damage to residential properties caused by structural movement, flooding, escapes of water and water ingress. He has a wide range of experience in relation to drainage, septic tanks and package sewage treatment plant.





Ian Major
ian.major@hawkins.biz

Ian spent 15 years working on the design, project management and delivery of infrastructure projects before moving into the field of forensic engineering and fire investigation. He has conducted numerous building and construction related investigations including personal injuries caused by wall collapses, falls and demolition work.



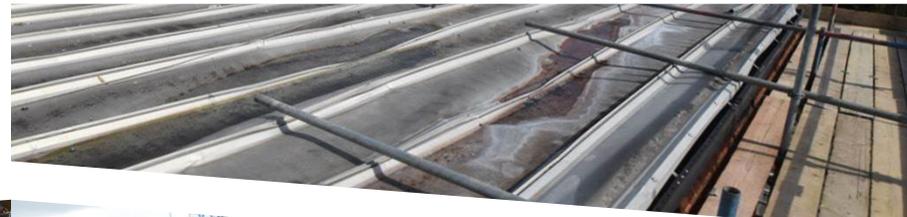
Andrew Reeves
andrew.reeves@hawkins.biz

Andrew has over 20 years' experience in the design and construction of civil, structural and geotechnical projects. He has worked for design consultants and contractors globally. At Hawkins he has investigated high profile and complex failures, often using specialist software, and is frequently asked to check or design associated remedial works.



Sam Morley
sam.morley@hawkins.biz

Sam spent 13 years as an architect in practice leading projects across the public and private sectors throughout the project lifecycle from inception to post-handover. A background in construction law and contract administration enables Sam to provide advice on issues relating to design responsibility and certification in projects with multiple parties.





SINGAPORE



Yang Dang
yang.dang@hawkins.biz

Yang has over 12 years of research and industry experience in Singapore, the Middle East and the United States. He has extensive experience in structural engineering on a wide spectrum of projects in the commercial, industrial, residential, and infrastructure spheres. Yang also has practical knowledge of geotechnical engineering, such as foundations and temporary earth stabilising structures.



Shimin Zhaung
shimin.zhaung@hawkins.biz

Shimin has design, analysis and construction support experience for various types of large-scale projects in Singapore. He specialises in geotechnical engineering and has worked on a wide range of geotechnical projects including deep excavations, retaining walls, reinforced soils, deep foundations, ground improvements and segmental bored tunnels.



OUR OFFICES

BIRMINGHAM

Suite 1, Cranmore Place
Cranmore Boulevard
Solihull
West Midlands B90 4RZ
+44 121 705 3222

BRISTOL

Fromeforde House
Church Road, Yate
Bristol BS37 5JB
+44 1454 273 402

CAMBRIDGE

Miller House
120 Cambridge Science Park
Milton Road
Cambridge CB4 0FZ
+44 1223 420 400

DUBAI

19th Floor, Office 1916
The H Dubai Office Tower
One Sheikh Zayed Road
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
PO Box 333690
+971 4 372 1260

GLASGOW

3 Orbital Court
Peel Park
East Kilbride
Glasgow G74 5PH
+44 1355 228 103

HONG KONG

Room 602, 6th Floor
Hoseinee House, 69 Wyndham Street
Central, Hong Kong
+852 2548 0577

LEEDS

4210 Park Approach
Thorpe Park
Leeds LS15 8GB
+44 113 260 0172

LONDON

88 Leadenhall Street
London EC3A 3BP
+44 207 481 4897

MANCHESTER

Southgate Centre Three
323 Wilmslow Road, Heald Green
Cheadle SK8 3PW
+44 161 493 1860

REIGATE

Discovery House
10 Perrywood Business Park
Honeycrock Lane
Redhill, Surrey RH1 5JQ
+44 1737 763 957

SINGAPORE

3 Pickering Street
#01-66
Singapore
048660
+65 6202 9280



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