

Hawkins

Leaders in forensic investigation



**Morham
+ Brotchie**
PARTNERSHIP
A Hawkins Company

ECCLESIASTICAL & HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Hawkins Group provides specialist expertise for historic and ecclesiastical buildings, offering forensic investigation, cost planning, and damage reinstatement valuations. We combine traditional knowledge with modern technology to ensure compliance, clarity, and financial confidence while preserving heritage integrity.

www.hawkins.biz

Who we are

Hawkins was established in Cambridge in 1980 and specialises in forensic root cause analysis, expert witness services and engineering consultancy to the insurance, legal, risk management and commercial sectors.

With a recognised and growing global presence, we have over 150 experts providing worldwide coverage from offices in Europe, MEA, and Asia, as well as key locations across the UK & Ireland.

Our Approach

Hawkins is approachable, responsive and provides independent reporting you can rely upon.

Our team of expert forensic scientists and consulting engineers and quantity surveyors can advise, investigate, and assist at any stage of an incident, as well as provide ongoing support and guidance.



What we do



PRE-LOSS RISK MANAGEMENT

Guidance on design, installation, and regulations to ensure safety, compliance and risk reduction.



FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

Scientific investigation into all aspects of an incident, to determine causation.



COST PLANNING

Ensuring accurate budgets for historic building projects, balancing heritage integrity with regulatory requirements, value, and financial control.



DAMAGE REINSTATEMENT VALUATIONS

Detailed reinstatement valuations for historic and listed buildings, ensuring that they are sufficiently protected in the event of a claim.



EXPERT WITNESS SERVICES

Independent and impartial technical advice, including Quantum & Delay services to assist Counsel during all aspects of litigation.



POST-LOSS ADVICE

Consultancy advice to reduce and mitigate risks, and prevent similar events happening in the future.



MAJOR & COMPLEX LOSS

Global resources and multidisciplinary teams, armed with the knowledge, equipment, and facilities to manage and investigate major and complex incidents.

Forensic Investigation

We understand the specific challenges presented by historic building structures and monuments, including the behaviours or traditional materials and building typologies. Our team can assist with identifying the root cause of structural and environmental issues, providing clear and evidence-based opinion.

Defects within historic buildings are often misdiagnosed due to lack of skill and experience in traditional materials. Our experts have the knowledge and experience to recognise the distinct differences between modern and historic building construction and to advise accurately on defects and causes of failure.

We have experience with various defects and damage relating to historic buildings including damage due to unsympathetic structural alterations, vibrations, decay, lack of maintenance, improperly planned construction works and drainage failures.

By combining our detailed technical knowledge with modern technologies, we are able to obtain the information necessary to reach robust conclusions. This includes conducting point cloud surveys, long term structural monitoring, environmental monitoring, materials testing and drone surveys.

We also have experts with in-depth knowledge of the planning act, and how this affects demolition, alterations, and extensions to listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas.



Cost Planning

Estimating the cost of repairs or intervention work on listed or historic buildings is a unique challenge requiring specialist experience. From sourcing traditional materials to complying with conservation regulations, every decision must respect the building's character while delivering value for money.

Our cost planning service navigates these complexities, giving clients confidence at every stage of the project. We analyse drawings, specifications, and supporting information to produce robust cost plans tailored to each RIBA stage, from concept design to pre-tender estimates. By factoring in listed building constraints, we ensure budgets are realistic, and risks are clearly understood, providing peace of mind on costs.

Our expertise covers a full range of cost planning solutions, such as:

- Strategic cost advice for early feasibility studies
- Detailed cost plans reflective of RIBA stage 3 design information
- Life cycle costing to support sustainable interventions
- Value engineering without compromising authenticity
- Pre-tender estimates that reflect the agreed final proposals and current market conditions

Working on listed buildings and sensitive refurbishments demands foresight. We anticipate potential issues such as hidden defects, specialist labour requirements, and extended lead times for traditional materials. This proactive approach helps clients maintain financial control

With experience across heritage projects of all scales, we provide clarity and confidence - ensuring that every pound spent contributes to preserving our heritage and built environment.



Damage Reinstatement Valuations

When fire damages a historic property, whether a church, cathedral, castle, or listed building, the financial implications can be complex. We specialise in producing damage reinstatement valuations; detailed assessments estimating the full reinstatement of buildings to pre-loss condition while meeting modern standards and listed building requirements.

By focusing on cost accuracy, we give insurers, trustees, and property owners the confidence to make informed decisions and avoid under insurance.

Our service covers every cost element of reinstatement, including:

- Demolition costs
- Specialist Conservation work sympathetic to historic properties
- Specialist trades for elements such as carved stonework, traditional timbers, cornice work, stained glass and one-off fixtures and fittings.
- Compliance with listed building regulations and statutory regulations
- Professional fees
- Contingencies which reflect the complexities of historic buildings

Our experience spans ecclesiastical properties, heritage estates, and landmark restorations; projects where precision, expertise and experience are essential.

Reinstatement valuations ensures that traditional and listed buildings are sufficiently protected in the event of a claim.



QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES

We provide market leading Quantum & Delay expert witness services through our specialist subsidiaries Morham and Brotchie Partnership (M+BP) and A Lamb Associates (ALA).

M + BP

M+BP are an established Chartered Professional Quantity Surveying practice, whose clients include individuals, corporate bodies, insurance companies, and trusts. M+BP provide QS services for all sectors with specialism in listed historic building projects and one-off complex builds. M+BP prepare bespoke cost plans to suit clients, funders, and insurance bodies, to provide the best service and most accuracy.

ALA

Our team is comprised of highly qualified industry leading experts. ALA has considerable experience across all major building and engineering sectors, with particular expertise in cross country pipelines, energy and major infrastructure projects. Blue chip multinationals, Tier 1 contractors and specialists all turn to ALA for reliable authoritative and accurate expert opinion.

Our team includes Expert Quantity Surveyors, Forensic Planners and specialists in Expert Quantum and Expert Forensic Delay Analysis. Our wide range of experience includes:

- One-off complex projects for high-net-worth individuals
- Residential builds (new/extended/extended)
- Visitor centres and museums
- Whisky distilleries
- Hospitality, including restaurants, theatres and cinemas
- Commercial fit out
- Education, government, and local authority

SERVICES

Our team of expert in-house Quantity Surveyors provide a range of services including:

INSURANCE REINSTATEMENT VALUATIONS

Our experienced team provides reinstatement valuations, with expertise in historic or listed properties. These often feature unusual or difficult to price items, such as masonry vaults, elaborate fireplaces, and traditional building methods. Using generic rates to calculate these valuations is seldom best practice, which is why M+BP advocate providing detailed costings when undertaking these exercises

PRICING PROPOSED WORKS

Our experts provide support pricing proposed works. This includes pricing proposed remediation options so that an informed decision can be made on the most cost-effective solution.

ASSESSING THE QUANTUM OF CLAIMS

We investigate and assess the reasonableness of claims received. Our experienced team will review all costs to determine if costs have been reasonably and properly incurred. We assess whether a reasonable procurement process has been followed, whether rates represent market value and whether work pricing reflects the scope. We are able to make adjustments for betterment, inflation or other relevant matters.

THE IMPACT OF DELAYS

The duration of a project can have a significant impact on the amounts claimed. Our experienced team of Forensic Planners can assess the cause of any delays to progress, determining whether all costs claimed are properly due.

Hawkins' Expertise

With a recognised and growing global presence, we have over 150 experts providing worldwide coverage from offices in Europe, MEA, and Asia, as well as key locations across the UK & Ireland. Our expertise covers a vast number of specialist areas including:

ACOUSTICS & AUDILOGY

Our experts assess and advise on acoustic design in the planning stages, and provide mitigation strategies post-construction in the event of a noise dispute.

ARCHITECTURE

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.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our civil, structural, geotechnical and fire engineers provide expert investigation of defects and failures in the built environment, including water ingress, structural collapses, storm damage and personal injuries, especially on construction sites.

CHEMISTRY & CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Hawkins' team of highly qualified and experienced chemists and chemical engineers provide expert opinion on problems associated with chemical processes in a wide variety of industries, including: post incident investigation, goods handling, environmental concerns, hazardous substances and personal injury.

CONTAMINATION

Our team of highly qualified and experienced chemists can investigate a wide range of contamination and spillage incidents.

DIGITAL FORENSICS

Hawkins experts collect, authenticate and preserve original evidence. We discover the source of a digital event or attack, how it occurred, and what information may have been lost or compromised.

ELECTRICAL

We investigate incidents including failures and injury involving most types of electrical equipment, from micro-electronics and domestic electrical appliances through to high voltage generation and distribution.

ESCAPE OF WATER, GAS, OIL AND OTHER FLUIDS

We can provide system failure analyses for incidents involving all fluids and gases in industrial and domestic settings with onsite and laboratory investigations.

FIRE & EXPLOSIONS

As a leader in forensic fire investigation, Hawkins has the necessary knowledge and experience to investigate the full scale of losses globally, and advise on recovery, liability and risk management.

FIRE ENGINEERING

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.

FRAUD

We compare physical evidence with witness accounts to establish if the evidence is commensurate with a suggested sequence of events or actions. This applies to both small and major losses.

HYDROLOGY

Our expert hydrologists and engineers have years of experience identifying the cause(s) of complex flooding incidents.

MARINE INCIDENTS

We assist on a wide range of incidents including agricultural cargoes, liquefaction, fires, explosions and chemical contamination.

MATERIALS

From medical implants to satellites, our experts are on hand to establish the cause of failure of manufactured items.

MECHANICAL

Losses often involve the failure of multi-component mechanical systems. We have the knowledge and experience to identify the cause, no matter how complex.

PERSONAL INJURY

We provide independent and expert assistance with all types of personal injury, including specialised and complex areas like slips, trips and falls, and noise-induced hearing loss.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

At Hawkins, plant pathology encompasses agricultural, horticultural, forestry, marine and contamination claims. Our experts are experienced in investigating the causes of plant diseases, crop failures and spoilage of fresh produce and agricultural cargoes.

POWER & ENERGY

We investigate all aspects of failures in traditional thermal power, oil and gas, and renewable energy sources. As well as incidents such as electric shock, gas leaks, power failure, over-voltage, equipment failure and poor design and maintenance.

PROCESSES

Our engineers help identify the cause of a problem and advise on liability and future prevention.

PRODUCT LIABILITY

We are experts in the field of product liability and often deal directly with UK Trading Standards offices or similar statutory bodies.

QUANTITY SURVEYING

We provide cost consultancy, dispute resolution, and quantum & delay expert witness services through our two specialist subsidiaries. Services include insurance reinstatement valuations, pricing proposed works assessing the quantum of claims, and the impact of delays.

RAILWAYS

We have investigated incidents including derailments, unintended runaways and accidents at level crossings.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Our investigators identify all contributory factors and analyse issues such as vehicle speed, visibility, human factors, CCTV, road positioning, weather, vehicular faults and damage assessments.

VEHICLE, PLANT & MACHINERY

We investigate fires and failures involving all types of vehicles and plant. We routinely review designs and maintenance practices to provide recommendations to our clients.



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