

NORTH MAYO - DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION

9.30 am – 10.10 am

The role of AI in construction – what it means for your business

AI is being talked about everywhere but what does it actually mean for construction?

And how could it help you save time, reduce risk and work more efficiently?

Hear how AI is already being used across the industry and what is likely to come next.

We will focus on real examples not technical language.

- ▶ What AI actually is in simple terms.
- ▶ How it is already being used in construction
- ▶ How it could save time and money
- ▶ What it might mean for jobs and skills

The capability gap facing the industry and the culture change needed to become genuinely future-ready

What you should be paying attention to now

SPEAKERS

James Garner

Head of AI and Data at Gleeds

James will explain how AI is being used to help plan projects, manage costs and reduce problems before they happen.



Mat Colmer

Senior Innovation Lead at Innovate UK.

Mat will talk about how new technology is being developed and what opportunities it could create for construction businesses of all sizes. Whether you are curious, cautious, or already exploring AI, this session will help you understand what it means in practice



10.25 am – 11.05 am

Innovation in construction – what's next?

The construction industry is changing fast new tools, smarter ways of working and sustainable building practices are shaping how projects are delivered.

But what does this mean for your business and the projects you work on?

At this discussion-based session you will hear from leaders who are turning new ideas into real results.

How new technology is changing the way buildings are designed and built

Ways to work smarter and more efficiently on projects

How sustainability can be built into your work without extra hassle

Practical ideas you can use in your own business

SPEAKERS

Malcolm Clarke (Chair) MD Baxall Construction

Malcolm will share how his team is using digital tools and innovative approaches to deliver smarter more sustainable projects



Paul Hetherington Business Strategist

Paul will talk about how companies can win work, grow strategically and use digital solutions to work more efficiently



Poorang Piroozfar University of Brighton

Dr Piroozfar will explain how research in AI, digital construction and sustainable design is being applied on real projects to make construction faster, safer and greener



Whether you are managing projects, running a company, or curious about the future of construction, this session will give you useful, real-world ideas

11.20 am – 12.00 pm

Circular construction - the new rules for winning contracts

The UK Government's Circular Economy Growth Plan will change how construction projects are designed, built and procured.

Businesses will need to show how they reduce waste, reuse materials and build more sustainably to stay competitive.

- ▶ What the Circular Economy Growth Plan means for construction
- ▶ How it will affect tenders and contract requirements
- ▶ What main contractors and clients will expect from suppliers
- ▶ How SMEs can prepare now and stay competitive
- ▶ Opportunities in reuse, retrofit, and sustainable materials

SPEAKERS

Nick Adlam

Net Zero and Sustainability Specialist sharing practical ways to embed sustainability into projects and supply chains



Toby Rolleston

Managing Director MacConvilles, discussing how businesses can adapt to new circular economy requirements while staying commercially competitive



Duncan Baker Brown

Architect, Author, Speaker, RIBA Sustainable Lead, providing real examples of circular design and sustainable construction in practice



Hannah Howard Jones

Head of Property and Asset Management, managing client expectations and how to meet sustainability and circular economy goals



This panel will give attendees actionable ideas to prepare for the future, win work and deliver more sustainable, efficient projects

12.15 pm – 12.55 pm

Gatwick - building with purpose What is happening at London Gatwick and how can construction businesses get involved?

Barry Cullen

Employment and Skills Lead at London Gatwick, will share the latest construction developments at the airport and explain how Gatwick works with suppliers and framework partners. You will also hear how major infrastructure projects can help create skills, jobs and opportunities in local communities.



Latest construction developments at Gatwick
Working with suppliers and framework partners
Supporting local communities through skills and employment programmes

Creating opportunities for people entering the workforce

A practical look at how construction projects can support business growth, skills development and stronger communities.

Chaired by **Michele Augusti** IoD Sussex



1.15 pm – 1.55 pm

Where the opportunities are in construction - using data and digital to win work

Where is the work really coming from and how can you spot it before your competitors?

This session goes beyond a traditional market update, showing how data and digital tools can help you identify opportunities earlier and win more work
Which sectors are growing—and which are slowing
Where future projects are coming from over the next 12–24 months

How data platforms and digital intelligence are changing how businesses find work

How to turn market information into a practical pipeline of opportunities

SPEAKERS

Allan Wilen will share the latest market information highlighting where demand is growing, which sectors are slowing and how data can help you spot the best opportunities over the next 12–24 months.



Kevin Byrne will bring a digital platform perspective sharing what helps construction businesses stand out online, build trust and consistently win work in a competitive market



Kelly O'Haire (Chair) will guide the discussion, focusing on how businesses can combine data, digital presence and strong branding to stay visible and win more work.



2 pm – 2.45 pm

Where is the next wave of development in the Southeast?

What are the key growth areas across the region, including updates on 44 hectares (150,000m²) of new logistics and employment space.

Hear from organisations helping drive the region forward including

The All Party Parliamentary Group for the Southeast & Gatwick

Diamond Growth Gateway

Gatwick Diamond Business

Invest in the Gatwick Diamond

We will cover investment, infrastructure, planning and the projects supporting growth across the Southeast.

If you are a developer, investor, planner, consultant or part of a local authority this is a chance to

Meet key decision-makers

See where investment is going

Join the conversation around regional growth

Be part of what's happening next in the South East

3 pm – 3.40 pm

Construction Tech: building the future

Join **Matt Lacey**, Managing Director of Surveytech, as he gives an overview of the technologies transforming the construction industry.



Taking a project from inception to handover and ongoing operation, Matt will show how recent innovations will make you safer and more productive. The talk will cover a variety of technologies, from Reality capture to drones and Ground Penetrating Radar.

He will also explore some of the concepts that will underpin the development of the industry for the next decade - including AI, BIM, robotics and digital twins. Matt will also demonstrate Matterport's AI-powered digital twin platform live, followed by a Q and A so we can all learn from each other how to drive the industry forward.

THE TERRACE

9.30 am – 10.10 am

Building skills for the future of construction

Construction needs more skilled people and we will look at how we can work together to close the skills gap.

Join this open panel discussion on what businesses, training providers and the industry can do to support the next generation and strengthen the workforce.

The current skills challenges in construction

What skills are needed for the future

How employers can support training and apprenticeships

Opportunities for young people entering the industry

Improving construction training

SPEAKERS

Tyron Wain (Chair) Business Development Manager - NOCN Group



Mel Butcher Sussex LSIP Lead for Construction sharing practical experience from across the construction sector



Tracy Fisher Head of Construction, Chichester College working closely with employers to help develop the skills industry needs now and in the future



Chris Wall - Q2W - Construction Training Provider who deliver NVQs and training across the UK



Umer Mansoor, Founder, Construction Helpline



10.25 am – 11.05 am

How to win more tenders for better projects

Join us for a practical session on how to find projects others miss and actually win them. You will learn how to spot off-market opportunities and go after work even if you don't have perfect case studies ready.

We will also cover how to break into new markets, stand out from the competition and avoid the race to the bottom on price. Clear, useful and focused on what really works.

SPEAKERS

Peter Searle (Chair) since 2015 has mentored SME construction owners, leveraging Tier 1 contractor experience and serving as a Non-Executive Director and Client Project Manager.



Lucy Heathfield is the Head of Business development, using her understanding of market dynamics she is instrumental in shaping the company's forward pipeline to support Maglock's long-term growth and stability.



Natasha Gould leads marketing and business development working closely with clients and project teams to strengthen relationships, raise brand profile and generate new opportunities across the construction sector



11.20 am – 12.00 pm

Warm homes – social housing fund wave 3 - what we have learnt

Fund Wave 3 is a major UK programme helping to improve the energy efficiency of social housing across England. It focuses on homes that are currently below EPC B and C.

With £1.29 billion allocated for 2025–2028, the fund supports local authorities and housing providers to install measures such as insulation, improved windows and doors and low-carbon heating systems.

The goal is to create warmer, healthier and more affordable homes, while also reducing carbon emissions and supporting growth in the retrofit sector.

This session will explore what we have learned so far from Wave 3, the challenges organisations are facing, and how the programme is shaping the future of retrofit delivery.

SPEAKERS

Chris Brockwell (Chair) Communities Housing Investment Consortium (CHIC) who will discuss the delivery challenges and lessons being learned on the ground.



Richard Hughes representing the Construction Leadership Council who will share a national perspective on the programme and what it means for the construction and retrofit sectors



Jody Sanderson Cottsway Housing Association, bringing the housing provider viewpoint and practical experience of delivering improvements to residents' homes



Together they will discuss what is working, what could be improved and how the sector can make the most of this significant investment.



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12.15 pm – 12.55 pm

Shoreham Port and partners - resilience and decarbonisation in the construction supply chain

Ports, distributors and material suppliers are central to the construction supply chain, but their challenges from disruption to decarbonisation often go unseen.

Join Shoreham Port, Covers Timber and Builders Merchants and Cemex as they share how they are tackling market pressures, accelerating low-carbon goals and reshaping material movement across the South East. You will walk away with practical takeaways you can act on.

How materials move in the South East; a fast-paced look at the flow of construction materials through the region and how global and local pressures impact it.

Thriving in a changing economic climate. How suppliers and distributors are managing rising costs, volatile markets and evolving customer needs.

Decarbonisation in action. Real examples of ports and merchants cutting emissions and putting net-zero plans into practice today,

SPEAKERS

Tom Willis

Chief Executive, Shoreham Port

Neil Woods

Timber Director Covers Timber and Builders Merchant

Paul Reynolds

Commercial Manager, Aggregates, CEMEX

Beth Evans Gay (Panel Chair)

Commercial & Property Director Shoreham Port



1.15 pm – 1.55 pm

Planning in 2026 – What it means for Construction

The planning system is changing but what will this mean for your projects?

Join us for this open panel discussion looking at how planning could affect construction in 2026 and the years ahead.

What is changing in planning
Why projects are being delayed
What this means for costs and delivery
What businesses should be doing now

SPEAKERS

Jonathan Buckwell (Chair)

Director, DHA Planning

Guy Hannell

Area Director, Morgan Sindall
Sharing a contractor's view on planning delays and how they affect projects



Samer Bagaeen

Professor and Head of Planning School, University of the Built Environment and Technical Director (Planning) at Arcadis

Talking about changes to the planning system and what they could mean in practice

Reece Lemon MRTPI

Chair of RTPI South East, and Thanet District Council. Explaining how planning is changing and what to expect.

If planning affects your work, this session will help you understand what's coming.



2.10 pm – 2.55 pm

Resolving disputes in construction – practical steps for teams on site

Disputes can happen on any construction project. This session will look at simple and practical ways to deal with issues early, improve communication on site and prevent small problems from becoming bigger disputes.

Learn useful steps that project teams, contractors and consultants can take to keep projects moving and maintain good working relationships.

SPEAKERS

Robert Baker

Director SOCOTEC Advisory

Mark James

Partner Dispute Resolution, Knights



3.10 pm – 3.50 pm

Winning work on LinkedIn - how construction businesses generate leads

Most construction companies are on LinkedIn...

But very few are actually winning work from it.

Zoe will show how construction businesses can turn LinkedIn into real lead generation

What content actually attracts developers, architects and main contractors

Simple ways to grow the right network on LinkedIn

How to turn visibility into enquiries and real projects

Real case studies from businesses already doing it successfully.

SPEAKER

Zoe Cairns international speaker who works with businesses in the UK and around the world.

Zoe shares clear easy-to-follow ideas that you can put into action straight away to help you win more work through LinkedIn.

If you want more leads without spending on ads, this is a must-attend session.

