

CASE STUDY:

Neil Trewick AssocRICS

Trew Surveying Ltd

Director/Surveyor

Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation graduate



What was your role and background before joining the course?

I was a secondary school maths teacher looking for a change of career. Prior to going into teaching I had worked in Recruitment.

What made you consider a career in residential surveying?

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.

What is it in particular that drew you to Sava and the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation?

A friend of mine had enrolled on the Sava course the year prior to myself so when he told me about it, it sounded exactly what I was looking for. I had a mortgage so couldn't afford to leave my job so being able to study part-time was ideal.

Would you recommend the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation to others looking to pursue a new career? (If so, why?)

Yes definitely, there is a huge amount of content squeezed into the course and although you will feel overwhelmed at first, it's amazing how much you realise you have learnt when you do start work as a surveyor. If you have another job as I had, it was just the right balance to be able to commit to the 2 classroom days each month and then I could juggle the home study around my work/life commitments.

What would you say has been the highlight of your journey so far?

There have been a number of highlights: getting to 100% on the Sava wheel of progress, securing my first surveying job, and starting my own business... but the biggest highlight has happened just recently and is being shortlisted for two Local Business Awards (Best New Sole Trader & Standout Achievement). Hopefully, I will be lucky enough to pick up one of those awards at the ceremony on 10th November!!

After qualifying, which career path did you take?

I had secured a job to start upon completion of my diploma with an established family firm that was looking to expand and branch out into new geographical locations so I headed up the Teesside and North East wing. I progressed rapidly and learnt so much during my time there, but after 15 months the company, unfortunately, went into Liquidation, leaving me with a difficult decision: find a new job or start up on my own...

I chose the latter and 1 week later Trew Surveying Ltd was up and running. I had to move quickly as I had 11 clients who had also been affected by the previous company's liquidation and had lost their money for surveys already booked. I carried out those surveys at my own expense, starting the business on a negative financial footing, but it seems I certainly gained some positive Karma.

Now, 7 months later the business is thriving! We are sponsors of Middlesbrough FC and will be looking at hiring staff in the near future. I have also been shortlisted for two awards at the Tees Best New Business Awards.

Did you work while completing the diploma? If yes, please tell us how you found managing both work and completing the diploma.

Yes, I was changing careers from a secondary school maths teacher, so I continued supply teaching which allowed me the flexibility to take the days off that were required to attend the classroom sessions. There is no sugarcoating it, it's tough. You must be willing to put in the work to get through this course; there is only so much the Sava lecturers and assessors can teach you, after that, it is up to you to carry on with extra reading and research. For me, finding a mentor who will allow you first-hand surveying experience was the key to completing the course successfully. If the motivation is there, then this is the perfect pathway to an excellent career.

If you could give one piece of advice to learners who go through the process, what would it be?

Find a local surveyor who will be your mentor as early in the process as you can and make time available to spend with them as often as they allow. All the books and classroom learning in the world will never quite compare to seeing buildings first-hand with someone who can guide your eye to faults and defects.