

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### Commercial & Residential Chartered Surveyors

- Project Management  
Design Services  
Planning Advice  
Building Regulation Advice  
Party Wall Advice  
Subsidence Advice  
Building Defects Advice  
Building Disputes  
Boundary Disputes

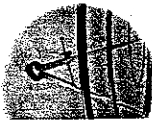
- Computer Aided Design  
Schedules of Condition  
Schedules of Dilapidations

### VALUATIONS

- Mortgage
- Capital Gains Tax
- Probate
- Insurance
- Matrimonial Purposes

- RICS Homebuyers Survey  
Building Surveys  
Structural Surveys

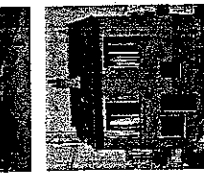
- DDA Audits  
Fire Risk Assessments  
Working at Height Inspections



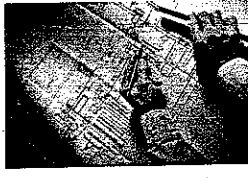
### MARTIN RALPH Chartered Surveyors & Engineers



Based in Portsmouth the practice provides a wide range of professional services to both Commercial and Residential clients.



Our range of operation varies depending on the size of project and status of client.



For the majority of residential services especially house surveys and reports we restrict our services to a range of approximately 20 miles from Portsmouth. This includes areas such as Gosport, Fareham, Petersfield, Winchester and Chichester.

Our range of operation for Commercial work is far wider, extending from Plymouth to Brighton and up to London. Commercial clients include Local Authorities, Government Agencies and National Companies.



### Organisation

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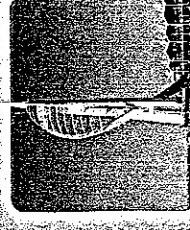
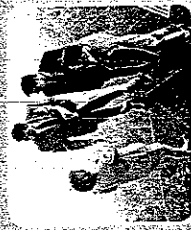
Web: [www.martinralph.co.uk](http://www.martinralph.co.uk)

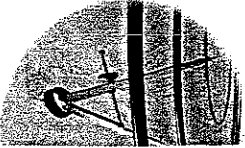
# MARTIN RALPH

Chartered Surveyors & Engineers

Issue 4, July 2008

# newsletter





# MARTIN RALPH

Chartered Surveyors & Engineers

# n e w s l e t t e r

## MARTIN RALPH *Building on Success.*

### HOME IMPROVEMENT COSTS UP BY 20%

The rising costs of transport and raw materials and a shortage of tradesmen is pushing up the costs of home improvements, according to new figures by RICS' Building Cost Information Service (BCIS).

It has found the average cost of improvement work has risen by 20 percent over the past two years for a number of reasons.

No longer can homeowners pick and choose from the glut of quality EU tradesmen as the number of central and eastern European nationals returning to their native countries is on the rise. The upward trend in oil prices is continuing to fuel the rising cost of transport, and global demand for raw materials remains at an all time high, with emerging giants such as China and India showing no signs of a slowdown

BCIS Executive Director, Joe Martin, said:

"The current downturn in the housing market is forcing some homeowners to become more creative in meeting their accommodation needs. Many are choosing to stay put and renovate or extend in order to upgrade their property rather than taking on more debt in a falling market."

## CURRENT PROJECTS

### Havant & Waterlooville F.C.

Following their success in the FA Cup this year the club are looking to invest in the development of their facilities. We are currently underway with a £400k scheme to extend the main stand and provide Football Academy Press and changing facilities to meet Conference League status.

### New MOD Equipment and Provisions Store

The practice has been appointed to design a new equipment and provision store for the Military Police Training College at Southwick Park. The value of this project will be in the region of £375k and will comprise a two-storey steel framed structure with composite profile sheet cladding.

### YMCA - DDA Audits

Having recently completed a Disabled Disability Access Audit for the YMCA at their Basingsstoke centre we are now looking to extend this service to other YMCA centres along the South Coast.

### Quindell Golf & Country Club

Following the success of the new swimming pool and gym facilities we have again been appointed by Quindell Golf Club to develop and extend the existing facilities. The proposals will include a new spa facility together with a roof patio to extend the current restaurant / dining facilities.

### Training Facilities - HMS Sultan

We are currently undertaking the refurbishment of Marine Engineering Training Facilities at HM Sultan. The project comprises an internal fit-out including building, mechanical and electrical facilities and updated internal finishes.

## EU Commission on Water

On 18 July 2007, the Commission published a Communication addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts in the European Union, including the possibility of a **Water Performance Directive for Buildings**.

Although no new laws are proposed at this stage, the Commission aims to open a debate on the ways the EU can address water scarcity and droughts in an environment dominated by climate change by listing a number of recommendations including:

Putting the **right price tag** on water, the **'user pays' principle** needs to become the rule.

**Improve land-use planning**; Key sectors in this respect are tourism and agriculture.

**Improving drought risk management**, through e.g. water stress area mapping.

**Developing a new directive** similar to the Energy Performance of Building Directive. This could cover taps, showers and toilets, rainwater harvesting and re-use of 'grey water'.

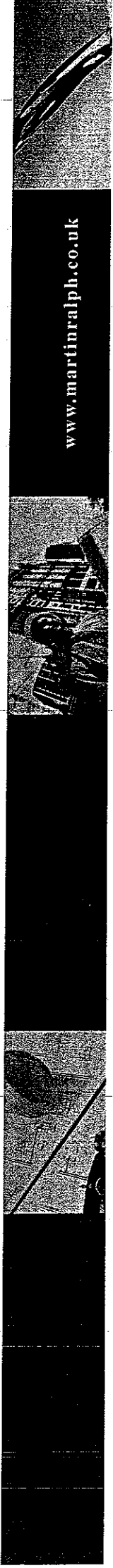
**Developing voluntary agreements** with economic sectors that need water.

The creation of a **water-saving culture**.

For any further assistance please call

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