Contents

A  Introduction to the report
B  About the Inspection
C  Overall assessment and summary of the condition ratings
D  About the property
E  Outside the property
F  Inside the property
G  Services
H  Grounds (including shared areas for flats)
I  Issues for your legal advisors
J  Risks
K  Energy efficiency
L  Surveyor’s declaration
   What to do now
   Description of the RICS Building Survey Service
   Typical house diagram

RICS is the world’s leading qualification when it comes to professional standards in land, property and construction.

In a world where more and more people, governments, banks and commercial organisations demand greater certainty of professional standards and ethics, attaining RICS status is the recognised mark of property professionalism.

Over 100,000 property professionals working in the major established and emerging economies of the world have already recognised the importance of securing RICS status by becoming members.

RICS is an independent professional body originally established in the UK by Royal Charter. Since 1868, RICS has been committed to setting and upholding the highest standards of excellence and integrity - providing impartial, authoritative advice on key issues affecting businesses and society.

The RICS Building Survey Report is reproduced with the permission of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors who owns the copyright.

© 2016 RICS
Introduction to the report

This Building Survey is produced by an RICS surveyor who has written this report for you to use. If you decide not to act on the advice in this report, you do this at your own risk.

The Building Survey Report aims to:

- help you make a reasoned and informed decision when purchasing the property, or when planning for repairs, maintenance or upgrading of the property;
- provide detailed advice on condition;
- describe the identifiable risk of potential or hidden defects;
- where practicable and agreed, provide an estimate of costs for identified reports; and
- make recommendations as to any further actions or advice which need to be obtained before committing to purchase.

Section B gives an outline description of what the inspection covers. A more detailed description is contained in the ‘Description of the RICS Building Survey Service’ at the end of this report.

Any extra services provided that are not covered by the terms and conditions of this report must be covered by a separate contract.

After reading this report you may have comments or questions. If so, please contact the RICS surveyor who has written this report for you (contact details are given in section L).

If you want to complain about the service provided by the RICS surveyor, the surveyor will have an RICS-complaint complaints handing procedure and will give you a copy if you ask.
**About the inspection**

**Surveyor’s name**
- Philip Marsh MRICS

**Surveyor’s RICS number**
- 5020155

**Company name**
- Cosey Homes Chartered Surveyors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of the inspection</th>
<th>Report reference number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 26th June 2017</td>
<td>SAMPLE BS COSEY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related party disclosure**
- The survey and report have been undertaken by Philip Marsh MRICS BSc Building Surveying.
- I can confirm that there is no conflict of interest in relation to this report.

**Full address and postcode of the property**
- XXX

**Weather conditions when the inspection took place**
- Dry and sunny.

**The status of the property when the inspection took place**
- Unoccupied and furnished.

**Property address**
- XXX
We inspect the inside and outside of the main building and all permanent outbuildings. We also inspect the parts of the electricity, gas/oil, water, heating, drainage and other services that can be seen, but these are not tested other than through their normal operation in everyday use.

To help describe the condition of the home, we give condition ratings to the main parts (the ‘elements’) of the building, garage and some parts outside. Some elements can be made up of several different parts.

In the element boxes in parts E, F, G and H, we describe the part that has the worst condition rating first then briefly outline the condition of the other parts. The condition ratings are described as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Defects that are serious and/or need to be repaired, replaced or investigated urgently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Defects that need repairing or replacing but are not considered to be either serious or urgent. The property must be maintained in the normal way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No repair is currently needed. The property must be maintained in the normal way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NI</td>
<td>Not inspected (see ‘Important note’ below).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important note: We carry out a desk-top study and make oral enquiries for information about matters affecting the property.

We carefully and thoroughly inspect the property using our best endeavours to see as much of it as is physically accessible. Where this is not possible an explanation will be provided.

We visually inspect roofs, chimneys and other surfaces on the outside of the building from ground level and, if necessary, from neighbouring public property and with the help of binoculars. Flat roofs no more than 3m above ground level are inspected using a ladder where it is safe to do so.

We inspect the roof structure from inside the roof space if there is safe access. We examine floor surfaces and under-floor spaces so far as there is safe access and permission from the owner. We are not able to assess the condition of the inside of any chimney, boiler or other flues. We do not lift fitted carpets or coverings without the owner’s consent. Intermittent faults of services may not be apparent on the day of inspection.

If we are concerned about parts of the property that the inspection cannot cover, the report will tell you about any further investigations that are needed.

Where practicable and agreed we report on the cost of any work for identified repairs and make recommendations on how these repairs should be carried out. Some maintenance and repairs we suggest may be expensive. Purely cosmetic and minor maintenance defects that have no effect on performance might not be reported. The report that we provide is not a warranty.

Please read the ‘Description of the RICS Building Survey Service’ (at the back of this report) for details of what is, and is not, inspected.

Property address

XXX
Overall assessment and summary of the condition ratings

This section provides our overall opinion of the property, highlighting areas of concern, and summarizes the condition ratings of the different elements of the property (with only the worst rating per element being inputted into the tables). It also provides a summary of repairs (and cost guidance where agreed) and recommendations for further investigations.

To make sure you get a balanced impression of the property, we strongly recommend that you read all sections of the report, in particular the “What to do now” section, and discuss in details with us.

Overall Opinion

The property is considered to be a reasonable purchase although there are a number of defects which require attention and which will require some expenditure at the outset. I would not expect any particular difficulty on resale in normal market conditions, provided that the necessary works are carried out to a satisfactory standard.

You should investigate the cost of these works prior to commitment to purchase. Once known, you may wish to re-negotiate the purchase price to reflect them.

It is very important that you read this report as a whole. In the main body of the report, I have given elements a Condition Rating of 2 or 3, I particularly refer you to the section at the end of the report entitled ‘what to do now’. You must make sure that you have all of the repairs needed investigated by reputable contractors so that you are fully aware of their scope and financial implications before you purchase.

This report should be construed as a comment upon the overall condition of the property and is not an inventory of every single defect. The report is based on the condition of the property at the time of my inspection and no liability can be accepted for any deterioration in its condition after that date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section of the report</th>
<th>Element number</th>
<th>Element name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E: Outside the property</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Inside the property</td>
<td>F1, F3, F7</td>
<td>Roof structure, Walls and partitions, Woodwork (e.g. staircase and joinery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G: Services</td>
<td>G1, G2, G4, G5</td>
<td>Electricity, Gas/oil, Heating, Water heating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H: Grounds (part)</td>
<td>H2</td>
<td>Permanent outbuildings and other structures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Property address

XXX
## Overall assessment and summary of the condition ratings (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section of the report</th>
<th>Element number</th>
<th>Element name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E: Outside the property</td>
<td>E1</td>
<td>Chimney stacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E2</td>
<td>Roof coverings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E3</td>
<td>Rainwater pipes and gutters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E4</td>
<td>Main walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E7</td>
<td>Conservatory and porches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Inside the property</td>
<td>F2</td>
<td>Ceilings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F4</td>
<td>Floors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F8</td>
<td>Bathroom and kitchen fittings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G: Services</td>
<td>G3</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G6</td>
<td>Drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H: Grounds (part)</td>
<td>H1</td>
<td>Garage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section of the report</th>
<th>Element number</th>
<th>Element name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E: Outside the property</td>
<td>E5</td>
<td>Windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E6</td>
<td>Outside doors (including patio doors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E8</td>
<td>Other joinery and finishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Inside the property</td>
<td>F5</td>
<td>Fireplaces, chimney breast and flues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F6</td>
<td>Built-in fittings (e.g wardrobes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F9</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G: Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H: Grounds (part)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Summary of repairs (and cost guidance)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repairs</th>
<th>Cost guidance (where agreed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please note the following on costing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) These figures are very rough.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) We have not listed all possible costs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) The expenditure will depend on the level of the finishes expected and the outcome of further investigations recommended.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear moss and other obstructions from roof valleys, cut back trees with shrubbery that could possibly dislodge tiles, clear guttering of vegetation and remove any vegetation that could cause downpipe movement.</td>
<td>£ 350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repointing house and garage roof verges.</td>
<td>£ 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace conservatory window where window seal has failed.</td>
<td>£ 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate bedroom ceiling crack; if not due to loading issues from above refix boards as required, rake out joint fill with covering strip and plaster skim over with decoration. Other ceiling areas around the property have similar but less obvious board joint issues. As such the cost is dependent on the extent of the works.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General cleaning of walls, removal of mould from around windows and redecoration throughout, this would follow making good to any areas of wall. Remove old sealant between walls and appliances and replace with new to bathrooms and en suites. Removal of old floor coverings with replacement. The cost depends on the extent of the works and choice of finishes. However, a rough estimate could be between £7000.00 and £15000.00.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove built in bedroom fittings and replaster walls.</td>
<td>£ 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install mechanical extraction fans to bathroom and en suites that extract to outside. Fans are approximately £40.00 each. The cost of the works depends on the contractor and the routes taken for the fans to outside.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fit new hinges to kitchen cupboard.</td>
<td>£ 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fit gully grating to side waste.</td>
<td>£ 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace internal front glazing to safety glazing in dining room area. The cost depends upon the choice of finish and contractor. It could be around £500.00.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove rotten glazed timber storage building.</td>
<td>£ 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear shrubbery from around house wall. The cost depends upon the extent of the works.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear shrubbery from garden walling, repointing and replacement of damaged bricks. The cost depends upon the extent of the works.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Property address**

XXX
Overall assessment and summary of the condition ratings (continued)

Formal quotations should be obtained prior to legal commitment to purchase the property.

Further investigations

- Structural engineer to check timber ridge to roof and crack in wall between kitchen and cloakroom.
- In the dining room the area of wall above the living room door has a crack down it that also follows the slope of the ceiling. This is not believed to be significant but should be checked still.
- Roof and chimney condition to be checked at high level.
- Once vegetation remove; the condition of the house walls, garden walls and timber fencing can be assessed.
- Check detailing and condition of weathering where conservatory roof abuts the property.
- Check that roof space insulation is not obstructing soffit vents.
- Roof to be thoroughly inspected internally including condition water tank and cylinder and make sure loading are not causing cracking to ceiling in bedroom below.
- An asbestos survey should be undertaken before textured ceilings and floor tiles are worked on or removed and the boiler room roof space is used. Other areas may also contain asbestos.
- Have suitably qualified contractor check the condition of the water softener.
- Lift the lid of the metal and plastic inspection chambers to both sides of the property to assess the condition of the lids and drains.

Further investigations should be obtained prior to legal commitment to purchase the property (see ‘What to do now’)

Property address

XXX
## About the Property

**Type of property**
- Detached bungalow.

**Approximate year the property was built**
- 1980s.

**Approximate year the property was extended**
- 2010.

**Approximate year the property was converted**
- N/A

**Information relevant to flats and maisonettes**

### Accommodation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Living rooms</th>
<th>Bed rooms</th>
<th>Bath or shower</th>
<th>Separate toilet</th>
<th>Kitchen</th>
<th>Utility Room</th>
<th>Conservatory</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Name of other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower Ground</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>En suites, dining room and lobby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof Space</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Property address**
- XXX
Construction

The property is constructed from cavity walls with facing brick, a solid floor and pitched roof covered with concrete tiles.

Means of escape

Satisfactory as all rooms open onto the hallway leading to a suitable exit. All rooms have doors on them as such there are no inner rooms.

It is recommended that bedrooms be provided with windows suitable for means of escape and mains interlinked fire detection with battery backup be fitted throughout.

In accordance with Approved document B, Escape windows must have an unobstructed clear, openable area. The minimum dimensions are:
- Exit free area: 0.33m²
- Minimum width: 450mm
- Minimum height: 450mm

A basic rule is, if the opening is 450mm wide, the height must be at least 750mm, which will create an open area of 0.33m².

Security

There is a security system fitted, the details of which should be clarified.

The present condition of the access doors may not comply with insurance company requirements. Many insurance companies insist that five lever mortice locks are fitted to all exit doors and further advice should be sought from your insurance company to confirm that the present locking mechanisms will comply with their requirements.

Property address

XXX
About the Property (continued)

**Energy**
We have not prepared the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). If we have seen the EPC, then we will present the ratings here. We have not checked these ratings and so cannot comment on their accuracy.

We are advised that the property’s current energy performance, as recorded in the EPC, is:

**Energy Efficiency Rating**
64 see EPC later in report

---

**Services (Mains)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see section K for more information about the energy efficiency of the property.

**Central heating**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fuel Source</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid fuel</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other services or energy sources (including feed-in tariffs)**

N/A

**Grounds**

The property has a front garden with block paved drive and detached double garage.

The rear garden has a shed, timber glazed store, conservatory and greenhouse in it.

---

**Property address**

XXX
About the Property (continued)

Location

![Map Image]

*Notes Photo - 2*

Facilities

Local Environment

Other Local Factors

Property address

XXX
Outside the property

Limitations to inspection

For the purpose of this report, only significant defects and deficiencies readily apparent from a visual inspection are reported. Services can only be fully assessed by specialist testing.

Building standards are continually being upgraded and older properties can become increasingly out of date due to the passage of time, leading to a requirement for improved efficiency. It is inevitable, therefore, that these homes will probably have higher running costs compared to newly built properties.

We have not exposed the foundations of the property and without doing so, you must accept the risk of unseen defects. However, unless noted within this report, we have not noted any above ground problems which relate to defective foundations or signs thereof.

We have not carried out any geological survey or site investigation and cannot confirm the nature or characteristics of the soil with regards to fill or possible contamination. Normal legal searches should confirm the past use of the site and if instructed, we will advise further.

Our examination of the roof covering was confined to an inspection from ground level. Due to the geographical lay of the land, only a very limited inspection could be carried out of the rear roof slope.

E1 Chimney stacks

There is a brick chimney to the rear elevation which appears on the whole to be in fair condition.

The flaunching should be checked, any vegetation removed from the chimney and any pointing required to be done to prevent damp ingress to the chimney.

Chimney repairs tend to be relatively expensive as, due to Health and Safety legislation it will almost always be necessary to erect scaffolding to carry out any chimney repairs.

Chimneys are naturally exposed to the elements and adversely affected by rain, snow and frost. They are also exposed to heating and cooling. The brickwork and mortar is particularly susceptible to frost damage which often results in erosion and ‘spalling’ of the brickwork. Porous brickwork absorbs moisture which freezes and expands in cold weather and forces off the exterior face of the brick. This is known as spalling.

Flaunching to chimney pots are not visible from the ground level and may need repair. This will also apply to the lead flashing that although may be partly visible its effectiveness cannot be assessed from distance. Lead should be well pointed into the brickwork and well fitted with appropriately fitted soakers 150 mm of up stand forming a lead apron to prevent water ingress.
The roof is covered with concrete tiles and appears to be in acceptable condition. The verge requires clearing out of moss and other potential obstructions. The verge to the projecting gable roof requires repointing. There are two ridge vent tiles that allow the two soil and vent pipes to vent to outside.
Outside the property (continued)

E3 Rainwater pipes and gutters

The rainwater goods are UPVC and appear to be in acceptable condition.

To the rear elevation there is shrubbery within the gutter and obstructing part of the view of the downpipe. This should be cleared to prevent blockages and overflowing.

We cannot comment upon the serviceability of the system or confirm the water tightness of the joints, unions or connections. These items should be regularly maintained and checked. Gutters can easily get blocked by leaves and debris which can cause overflow resulting in damp walls. The stop ends are particularly vulnerable to leakage.

As it was not raining at the time of the inspection it was not possible to determine if there any areas which are leaking.

![Photo - 5](E3 Rainwater pipes and gutters)

![Photo - 6](E3 Rainwater pipes and gutters)

E4 Main walls

The walls are cavity construction with facing brick, there are front and rear gables which are largely glazed.

The condition of the walls could not be fully ascertained due to the amount of shrubbery growing around the property. It is suggested that the shrubbery be cut back to prevent any damp bring trapped between the wall and shrubbery and penetrating the wall.

The main gable where the boiler room is located has worn brickwork at low level, however, this is not considered to be of concern nor is hairline cracking to projecting gable sections.

At high level to the main gables are vents in the wall to assist with roof ventilation.

Property address

XXX
Outside the property (continued)

**E5 Windows**

The windows are UPVC double glazed and appear to be in fair condition.

**E6 Outside doors (including patio doors)**

The property has a front, side and two sets of rear patio doors.

All are safety double glazed units and appear to be in fair condition.

**Property address**

XXX
Outside the property (continued)

E7 Conservatory and porches

The conservatory has a solid floor and is formed from UPVC double glazed windows and doors with plastic roof. There is no damp proofing to the floor or walls.

One of the top panes of the conservatory requires replacement as the seal has gone.

![Photo - 11](image1)

![Photo - 12](image2)

E8 Other joinery and finishes

The property has vented UPVC soffits and fascias which appear to be in acceptable condition.

![Photo - 13](image3)

Property address

XXX
Outside the property (continued)

E9 Other

Property address

XXX
Inside the property

Limitations to inspection

Comment cannot be made on areas that are covered and concealed or not otherwise readily available. There may be detectable signs of concealed defects, in which case recommendations are made. If greater assurance is required on the matter, it would be necessary to carry out exposure works. Unless these are carried out prior to legal commitment to purchase, there is a risk that additional defects and consequently repair work will be discovered at a date.

It should be appreciated that original parts of the property are period in nature. Accordingly such parts of the structure and fabric should not be expected as new and regard should be given to to the natural deterioration of older products. It is possible that defects could occur between the date of survey and the date of which you take occupation.

Roof space was inspected from shoulder height position standing on a ladder, this inspection has its limitation.

Fitted floor coverings prevented inspection of the floor surfaces beneath.

Damp meter readings have been taken to internal wall surfaces where possible without being restricted by built-in kitchen fittings or heavy furniture.

F1 Roof structure

The roof is trussed and supports a traditional felt to both the main part and the converted garage part which is now habitable. The existing roof space wall separating the house from the garage still remains.

The ridge was not visible but the roof appears to undulate along its length externally.

All timbers and fixings appeared to be in acceptable condition. The main roof is insulated at ceiling joist level with loose fill insulation, it should be ensured that the insulation does not block the soffit vents.

There is a small amount of insulation in the boiler room roof space, some of which may be asbestos based.

Property address

XXX
Inside the property (continued)

The ceilings are a mixture of plaster skim and artex. In the front storage cupboard there is a crack and dark staining to the ceiling, however, no dampness registered to these areas on the damp meter.

In the rear en suite and main bathroom there is an area of ceiling which appears to have been patched up in the past, it could be due to repositioning of light fittings. No damp was detected.

In the rear end bedroom with the built in wardrobes there was evidence of a patched up crack with bulging. The crack appears to be straight and is believed to be due to poor fixing of boards or contraction and expansion at board edges. There is a water tank and cylinder in the loft so it is possible that they or possessions in the roof space have overloaded this area of ceiling.

Property address

XXX
Asbestos in Artex;

Artex is a trade name (along with Wondertex, Suretex, Newtex, Pebblecoat and Marblecoat) which has come to be used to describe all thick plaster-like paints that were used to create decorative effects, most commonly on ceilings, but, often on walls too. Within the building trade these are referred to as textured coatings and the non-asbestos versions are still used to this day.

Up until 1984 the manufacturers (or even the ‘Artexers’ themselves) added small amounts (3 - 5%) of Chrysotile (‘white asbestos’) to their decorative paints. The fibres gave strength and consistency to the compound and made it much easier to apply.

There are no overwhelming safety reasons to remove Artex because it’s perfectly safe when left in-situ. In fact, the opposite is true because the removal process (through scraping) disturbs the material and causes fibre-release.

Up until 2006 contractors needed a license to remove this material but this is no longer true. That said it’s always best to use a specialist when removing asbestos because they use techniques to prevent fibre release.

There are specialist products available that soak into the paint and turn it into mulch that can be easily scraped off. This is not for the faint-hearted as these products contain some pretty unpleasant chemicals. You would certainly need to wear adequate protective clothing to ensure that your face and skin don’t get splashed.
Inside the property (continued)

**F3 Walls and partitions**

The walls are a mixture of wallpaper and plaster skim. They are in fair condition generally and require cleaning and redecoration. There were no signs of damp.

In the kitchen, bathroom, cloakroom and ensuite there was tiling to walls.

In the cloakroom there is a crack that runs through the tiles and along the bed joint. This crack is evident in the other side of the wall in the kitchen where it has been skimmed over. This requires further investigation by a structural engineer.

Where built-in fixtures and fittings are removed replastering may be required particularly to the rear end bedroom.

Property address

XXX
Inside the property (continued)

Photo - 22

Photo - 23

Photo - 24

Photo - 25

Property address

XXX
Inside the property (continued)

F4 Floors

The floors are a mixture of vinyl and carpet with tiles in the kitchen.
The finishes are showing signs of age with carpets being stained in places. All will require replacement in due course.
The bathroom has vinyl tiles which may contain asbestos, these tiles may also be under other floor coverings.

F5 Fireplaces, chimney breast and flues

There is a fireplace in the living room with a solid fuel burning appliance within it. The fireplace appears to be in fair condition.
Inside the property (continued)

F6 Built-in fittings (e.g. wardrobes)

In the rear end bedroom is a wall to ceiling multi door wardrobe occupying one whole wall. On one of the other walls is the remains of the built-in head board and bedside table/drawers.

In the corridor and just off the dining room are built-in storage areas.

Property address

XXX
F7 Woodwork (e.g. staircase and joinery)

Skirting board, timber doors, frames and window cills are in fair condition with cleaning and decoration required.

The front internal glazing in the timber door and glazed walling in the timber frame is not safety glazing.
Inside the property (continued)

F8 Bathroom and kitchen fittings

The bathroom contains a WC, bidet, hand basin, bath and over bath shower. The fittings are old but appear to be serviceable. New sealant is required between the walls and fittings.

The kitchen is fitted with cupboards, drawers and a range. In the cupboard under the sink is a water softener, this may have leaked in the past as there is salt on the floor of the cupboard and rusty hinges.
Inside the property (continued)

The rear ensuite comprises WC, handbasin and shower cubicle. The front ensuite is a wet room with shower, handbasin and wc.

Both appear to be in ok condition with modernisation required in the rear ensuite.

Property address

XXX
Inside the property (continued)

Photo - 41

Photo - 42

Photo - 43

Photo - 44

Property address

XXX
Services

Services are generally hidden within the construction of the property. This means that we can only inspect the visible parts of the available services, and we do not carry out specialist tests. The visual inspection cannot assess the services to make sure they work efficiently and safely, or meet modern standards.

Limitations to inspection

As a general note regarding services, we are not specialised in this field and therefore recommend that you seek specialist advice on all service matters. The items below should be regarded as helpful comments and suggestions. They are not a full and complete assessment of any problems that may exist.

The main service installations within this property have been subjected to a visual inspection only and no intrusive checks have been carried out. The information provided in this part of the report is purely for your consideration only.

No services were tested.

G1 Electricity  Safety warning: The Electrical Safety Council recommends that you should get a registered electrician to check the property and its electrical fittings and that a periodic inspection and testing is carried out at the following times: for tenanted properties every 5 years or at each change of occupancy, whichever is sooner; at least every 10 years for an owner-occupied home. All electrical installation work undertaken after 1 January 2005 should have appropriate certification. For more advice contact the Electrical Safety Council.

The electric meter is located on the front wall behind shrubbery whilst the consumer board is located on the wall to the side of the front door.

The consumer board is fitted with circuit breakers and appears in good condition. It is recommended that at any change of ownership the electrical wiring should be checked by a qualified electrician registered under a competent person scheme.

Earth bonding was not checked. Earthing is used to protect people from the risk of electric shock. If the earthing arrangements within your electrical installation were defective or inadequate, you could receive an electric shock from the equipment or appliance metal casing.

The purpose of earthing is to provide a path for electric fault current to flow safely to earth to enable the circuit breaker or fuse to operate. Bonding is the connection of the incoming metal gas and water pipes to and is vital for your protection from electric shock. In a correctly earthed installation, any appliance or equipment developing a fault to the metal casing, will be quickly disconnected by the operation of the circuit fuse or circuit breaker. In the absence of certification surveyors will have to give designation three to this item.

The recessed light fittings should be checked to ensure that fire hoods are fitted above them.

All electrical wiring, installations, fixtures and fittings should be inspected and tested by an electrical engineer registered under a relevant competent person scheme listed on governments competent person scheme website.

In the absence of certification surveyors have to give designation three to this item.

Property address

XXX
G2 Gas/oil  Safety warning: All gas and oil appliances and equipment should regularly be inspected, tested, maintained and serviced by a appropriately qualified Gas Safe Engineer or Registered Heating Engineer and in line with the manufacturer’s instructions. For tenanted properties by law a 12 monthly gas safety check must be carried out on every gas appliance/flue. A gas safety check will make sure gas fittings and appliances are safe to use. This is important to make sure that the equipment is working correctly, to limit the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning and to prevent carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from leaking into the air. For more advice contact the Gas Safe Register for gas installations, and OFTEC for oil installations.

The oil fired boiler is located in the boiler room accessed externally through a timber door in the main side wall. It’s flue discharges through the same wall. The oil tank is located in close proximity to this area.

All gas installations and associated fittings should be inspected and tested by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

In the absence of certification surveyors have to give designation three to this item.
The stop cock is located under the kitchen sink and has a black alkathene water inlet pipe attached to it. In the roof space is the water tank.

The tank condition should be checked by a suitably qualified plumber and the water softener by a specialist.
Services (continued)

The heating system comprises oil fire boiler, radiators throughout and wall mounted thermostat. In addition in the living room is a solid fuel burning appliance within the fireplace.

All solid fuel appliances and associated fittings including chimneys, flues, fireplaces and hearths should be inspected and tested by a contractor registered under a competent person scheme listed on the government’s competent person scheme website.

All heating system components and any water cylinders should be inspected and tested by an engineer registered under a competent person scheme listed on the government’s competent person scheme website.

Property address

XXX
In the absence of certification surveyors have to give designation three to this item.

The water cylinder is located within the roof space of the main house. The water cylinder should be inspected and tested by an engineer registered under a competent person scheme listed on the government’s competent person scheme website.

In the absence of certification surveyors have to give designation three to this item.

**G5 Water heating**

The water cylinder is located within the roof space of the main house.

The water cylinder should be inspected and tested by an engineer registered under a competent person scheme listed on the government’s competent person scheme website.

In the absence of certification surveyors have to give designation three to this item.

**Property address**

XXX
G6 Drainage

The internal drainage that was not boxed in appeared to be in fair condition.

The cloakroom and utility wastes discharge to a gully to the side of the property covered with plastic. The plastic is slightly damaged. A gully grating should be fitted.

Adjacent to this gully is an inspection chamber, the lid was not openable as it may have been concrete in in places. The other side of the gate is another chamber, this lid was liftable with the condition of the lid and chamber being is acceptable condition.

Externally to the other side of the property near to the boiler room is a screwed down plastic inspection chamber lid. This was not lifted.
Services (continued)

Photo - 57

Photo - 58

Photo - 59

Photo - 60

Property address

XXX
Services (continued)

G7 Common services

N/A

G8 Other services/features

N/A

Property address

XXX
H

Grounds (including shared areas for flats)

Limitations to inspection

All areas accessible unless otherwise stated in the body of the report.

We have not consulted any Geological or Ordnance Survey Maps and have been unable to establish any details as to the previous use of the site. We are unable to comment within the terms of this report, which is restricted in its scope, as to whether there are any hidden problems with the ground upon which the property is built, nor are we able to comment on the possibility or otherwise of the property being affected by any other matters. Your solicitors should check this aspect.

H1 Garage

The garage is a detached double garage. It is approximately 5-7 years old and is built from brickwork, has a solid concrete floor, trussed roof supporting what appears to be breathable felt, a first floor decked storage area and concrete tiled roof. The vehicular access doors are metal and remote controlled, to the side is a timber personnel door.

The garage appears to be in fair condition with all rainwater goods, soffits and fascias being UPVC however, repointing is required to the roof verge in places. The rear and side on the boundary could not be inspected.

Property address

XXX
Grounds (including shared areas for flats) (continued)

Photo - 65

Photo - 66

Photo - 67

Photo - 68

Property address

XXX
Grounds (including shared areas for flats) (continued)

H2 Permanent outbuildings and other structures

To the front of the property is garden boundary walling which is largely overgrown but there is evidence of frost action on bricks with spalling.

Between the house and garage is a brick planter with a tree growing in it.

To the rear of the property there is a timber shed and greenhouse which are in fair condition. The greenhouse is safety glazed.

There is a timber glazed store which has ivy growing through it, evidence of rot to timbers and glazing that is not safety glazing.

There is also a free standing solid fuel burning appliance on the patio.

Property address

XXX
Grounds (including shared areas for flats) (continued)

Photo - 71

Photo - 72

Photo - 73

Photo - 74

Property address

XXX
The boundary fencing is largely obstructed by vegetation. The fencing that was visible appeared to be old and will require replacement in due course.

There is a pond in the rear garden.

Running to the side and rear of the property is a private wood.
Grounds (including shared areas for flats) (continued)

Photo - 78

Photo - 79

Photo - 80

Photo - 81

Property address

XXX
Grounds (including shared areas for flats) (continued)

Photo - 82

Photo - 83

Photo - 84

Property address

XXX
We do not act as the legal adviser and will not comment on any legal documents. However, if during the inspection we identify issues that the legal advisers may need to investigate further, these will be listed and explained in this section (for example, check whether there is a warranty covering replacement windows). You should show your legal adviser this section of the report.

**I1 Regulation**

Building regulations are statutory instruments that seek to ensure that the policies set out in the relevant legislation are carried out. Building regulations approval is required for most building work in the UK. Building regulations that apply across England and Wales are set out in the Building Act 1984 while those that apply across Scotland are set out in the Building (Scotland) Act 2003. The Act in England and Wales permits detailed regulations to be made by the Secretary of State. The regulations made under the Act have been periodically updated, rewritten or consolidated, with the latest and current version being the Building Regulations 2010.

The solicitor should check that Building Regulations sign off is in place for the garage conversion and detached double garage. If not a Regularisation application will be required this comes with a cost and involves exposing various elements of the construction and undertaking remedial works were necessary to meet the Building Regulations.

The solicitor should check for certification issued by engineers/contractors registered under the governments competent person scheme website for the double glazing, conservatory, electrical and oil installations, along with the solid fuel burning appliances.

Boundary fence and wall ownership should also be ascertained for maintenance and repair obligations.

**I2 Guarantees**

N/A

**I3 Other matters**

N/A
This section summarises defects and issues that present a risk to the building or grounds, or a safety risk to people. These may have been reported and condition rated against more than one part of the property or may be of a more general nature, having existed for some time and which cannot be reasonably changed.

**J1 Risks to the building**

Vegetation growing onto the roof, in guttering and around downpipes could lead to tiles being dislodged, blockages in gutters with overflowing and movement of downpipes leading to leaks and ultimately damp penetration into the house.

Vegetation growing on the wall could prevent moisture evaporation and as such could lead to damp penetration into the house.

Insulation in the roof space that blocks soffit vents could result in condensation in the roof space with decay and rot of timber.

Verge repointing is required to the house and garage roof to provide stabilisation and prevent damp ingress.

The ridge of the roof and crack in the wall between the cloakroom and kitchen should be assessed by a structural engineer to ensure there are no stability issues.

The loading in the roof space and ceiling crack in the bedroom below should be assessed to ensure there is no relationship as this could lead to ceiling collapse.

New sealant is required in places between the sanitary fittings and walls to prevent damp ingress between the two.

The side waste gully should have a grating fitted to prevent vermin and debris entry system which could block the drain.

If there are not fire hoods over recessed lights the heat generated by the lights could lead to fire.

Mechanical extraction does not appear to extract to outside. Instead it discharges into the roof space which could lead to wetting if timber and decay.

**Trees:**

Over 60% of all subsidence claims are triggered by trees.

Tree roots absorb water for photosynthesis and moisture evaporates from the leaves through transpiration. The active period is predominantly in spring and early summer when tree growth is at its maximum. Larger trees in shrinkable clay soil can extract sufficient moisture to cause soil shrinkage. This may lead to subsidence. A mature deciduous tree can remove in excess of 50,000 litres of water a year.

Tree species vary considerably in their ability to cause clay soil shrinkage. Some species are not good at rooting to depth on clay soils while species like Oak, Willow, Poplar and Eucalyptus are able to maintain viable roots to a depth of several metres. In most soils, however, there tends to be a mixture of soil types and so many species will be able to grow roots to sufficient depth to influence buildings where the foundations are not deep enough.

The age, health and past management of trees will also be an important factor. Trees of full maturity with little potential for future growth and have not caused damage to a building in the past may be less of a consideration as a risk than trees which are growing vigorously and increasing in size.

---

**Property address**

XXX
Depending on the species, the roots of a tree will extend to greater breadth and depth in search of moisture (indeed moisture removal of up to a depth of 6m can take place) in exceptionally dry summer periods and drought. Planting young trees also needs planning.

Although they will not extract sufficient moisture initially to present a risk to the property, this may readily change as it grows.

Each tree has a ‘zone of influence’ - the area from which a tree absorbs moisture. The potential impact on a property depends on whether a property sits within the zone of influence. The extent of the zone depends upon the type of tree and the location of other trees.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) has produced a guide for tree types against recommended distance from the property; however it must be stated that this represents the maximum distance. It can be accessed through their website - www.abi.org.uk/Information/Consumers/General/49588.pdf.

Below is an extract of the main species.

Species Normal Mature Height (m) Safe Distance (m)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Mature</th>
<th>Height (m)</th>
<th>Safe Distance (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apple/pear</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beech</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elm</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Chestnut</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plum</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poplar</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruce</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yew</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ivy:

What is it?

Ivy is a woody stemmed, self-clinging climber that can grow quickly to cover fences, walls and buildings. It is a cause for concern owing to its rapid pace of growth and worries about potential damage to the support structure.

Appearance;

Ivy is recognised by its dense, evergreen foliage. In its climbing state it has three- to five-lobed glossy leaves. It attaches itself to supports by producing aerial roots along the stems. When the stems are pulled away from...
the wall, they often leave behind the unsightly root ends, that persist and can often only be removed with wire brushes or pressure washing.

The problem;

Self-clinging climbers such as Boston ivy and Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus sp.) do not usually cause damage to wall surfaces, but common or English ivy (Hedera helix sp.) supports itself by aerial roots and where these penetrate cracks or joints they may cause structural damage. Sound masonry is unaffected. Its dense cover can hide defects in the fabric of the building and hinder maintenance work. Ivy may also provide access for intruders and harbour pests such as mice.

Where brickwork is sound, the main problem is to keep growth away from gutters and paint work.

It has been suggested that vegetation attached to walls could lead to dampness resulting from slower drying conditions following rain. This may be plausible on a south-west facing wall where the rain is driven by prevailing winds. However, other sources suggest that such plants will have a slight drying effect on mortar and will also provide some degree of insulation in winter, particularly evergreen ivies covering exposed north and east-facing walls.

Large climbers can pose a risk to buildings. Such problems are most likely with older property, those with shallow foundations and those built on clay soils.

Control;

Non-chemical controls;

Where possible, use non-chemical methods. The stems should be cut back to the ground and the woody stump dug out.

If proximity to foundations prevents removal, regular cutting of the stems to ground level may weaken the ivy over time, but is unlikely to kill it.

Chemical controls;

* Ivy can be killed by severing the stem and treating the stump with a proprietary stump and rootkiller (e.g. Scotts Roundup Tree Stump & Rootkiller, Bayer Tree Stump Killer, Doff Tree Stump & Tough Weedkiller and William Sinclair Deep Root Ultra Tree Stump & Weedkiller)

* Top growth may be treated with Vitax SBK Brushwood Killer or glyphosate, but ivy is not easily controlled by weedkiller sprays due to the glossy nature of its leaves. Repeat application may be necessary. Once the foliage has been killed, it can be pulled from the wall.

Dead foliage and stems are relatively easy to remove from walls but aerial roots are persistent and can only be removed using a hard brush or paint scraper.

J2 Risks to the grounds

The private wood to the side may have vegetation growing in it other than trees that could cause problems to the property such as Japanese knotweed.

The garden walling brickwork has spalled due to frost action, this process may lead to destabilisation of the wall overtime.

Ivy growing on timber fencing can lead to damage, rot and decay.
**J3 Risks to people**

Glazing in critical locations such as inside the front entrance could lead to injury through unsafe breakage.

All service installations should be checked.

Asbestos may be present in floor tiles, the boiler room roof space and in the textured ceiling coatings.

Asbestos:

Asbestos can be found in any building built or refurbished before the year 2000. Materials that contain asbestos are not dangerous unless they are disturbed or damaged and fibres are released into the air. It is when these fibres are inhaled they can cause serious diseases.

Asbestos can take many forms and was used in many areas including loose fill insulation, lagging, sprayed coatings, asbestos insulating boards (found in places such as partition walls, door panels, ceiling tiles, soffits, panels under windows, around baths, around boilers), floor tiles, textiles such as, fire blankets and composites such as, flash guards in fuse boxes and in toilet seats and cistems, textured coating on walls and ceilings (artex), asbestos cement was used in places such as; roofs, wall panels/cladding, downpipes and gutters, flues, water tanks, fire surrounds and pipes.

It is recommended that before any removal, demolition or repair works are undertaken a full asbestos survey is carried out by a suitably qualified surveyor. Some works need to be undertaken by a licensed contractor and some works are notifiable to the HSE. All works should be undertaken in accordance with health and safety guidance and legislation and any waste containing asbestos correctly disposed of.

**J4 Other**

N/A
Energy efficiency

This section describes energy related matters for the property as a whole. It takes account of a broad range of energy related features and issues already identified in the previous sections of this report, and discusses how they may be affected by the condition of the property.

This is not a formal energy assessment of the building but part of the report that will help you get a broader view of this topic. Although this may use information obtained from an available EPC, it does not check the certificate’s validity or accuracy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K1 Insulation</th>
<th>See EPC for recommendations.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K2 Heating</td>
<td>The heating system should be inspected and tested for efficiency by a suitably qualified heating engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K3 Lighting</td>
<td>Lighting recommended to be replaced with energy efficient fittings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4 Ventilation</td>
<td>Soffit vents to be checked to be free of blockages internally. Appears to have been condensation around windows as such trickle vents recommended. Mechanical extraction fitted in bathroom and en suites does not appear to extract to outside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K5 General</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Property address

XXX
Surveyor's declaration

“I confirm that I have inspected the property and prepared this report”

Signature

Surveyor's RICS number | Qualifications
--- | ---
5020155 | MRICS

Company

Cosey Homes Chartered Surveyors

Address

36-40 Duke Street

Town | County
--- | ---
St Helens | 

Postcode | Phone number
--- | ---
WA10 2JP | 03300535823

Website | Fax number
--- | ---
www.coseyhomes.co.uk | 

Email

philm@coseyhomes.co.uk

Property address

XXX

Clients name | Date this report was produced
--- | ---
XXX | Tue 21st Nov 2017

RICS Disclaimer

1. This report has been prepared by a surveyor (‘the Employee’) on behalf of a firm or company of surveyors (‘the Employer’). The statements and opinions expressed in this report are expressed on behalf of the Employer, who accepts full responsibility for these. Without prejudice and separately to the above, the Employee will have no personal liability in respect of any statements and opinions contained in this report, which shall at all times remain the sole responsibility of the Employer to the exclusion of the Employee. In the case of sole practitioners, the surveyor may sign the report in his or her own name unless the surveyor operates as a sole trader limited liability company.

2. This document is issued in blank form by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and is available only to parties who have signed a licence agreement with RICS. RICS gives no representations or warranties, express or implied, and no responsibility or liability is accepted for the accuracy or completeness of the information inserted in the document or any other written or oral information given to any interested party or its advisers. Any such liability is expressly disclaimed.

Please read the ‘Description of the RICS Building Survey Service’ (at the back of this report) for details of what is, and is not, inspected

Property address

XXX
What to do now

Getting quotations

The cost of repairs may influence the amount you are prepared to pay for the property. Before you make a legal commitment to buy the property, you should get reports and quotations for all the repairs and further investigations the surveyor may have identified.

You should get at least two quotations from experienced contractors who are properly insured. You should also:

• ask them for references from people they have worked for;
• describe in writing exactly what you will want them to do; and
• get the contractors to put the quotations in writing.

Some repairs will need contractors with specialist skills and who are members of regulated organisations (for example, electricians, gas engineers, plumbers and so on). Some work may also need you to get Building Regulations permission or planning permission from your local authority.

Further investigations

If the surveyor is concerned about the condition of a hidden part of the building, could only see part of a defect or does not have the specialist knowledge to assess part of the property fully, the surveyor may have recommended that further investigations should be carried out to discover the true extent of the problem.

Who you should use for these further investigations

You should ask an appropriately qualified person, though it is not possible to tell you which one. Specialists belonging to different types of organisations will be able to do this. For example, qualified electricians can belong to five different government-approved schemes. If you want further advice, please contact the surveyor.

What the further investigations will involve

This will depend on the type of problem, but to do this properly, parts of the home may have to be disturbed and so you should discuss this matter with the current owner. In some cases, the cost of investigation may be high.

When to do the work

The condition ratings help describe the urgency of the repair and replacement work. The following summary may help you decide when to do the work.

• **Condition rating 2** – repairs should be done soon. Exactly when will depend on the type of problem, but it usually does not have to be done right away. Many repairs could wait weeks or months, giving you time to organise suitable reports and quotations.

• **Condition rating 3** – repairs should be done as soon as possible. The speed of your response will depend on the nature of the problem. For example, repairs to a badly leaking roof or a dangerous gas boiler need to be carried out within a matter of hours, while other less important critical repairs could wait for a few days.

Warning

Although repairs of elements with a condition rating 2 are not considered urgent, if they are not addressed they may develop into defects needing more serious repairs. Flat roofs and gutters are typical examples. These can quickly get worse without warning and result in serious leaks.

As a result, you should regularly check elements with a condition rating 2 to make sure they are not getting worse.
Description of the RICS Building Survey Service

The service
The RICS Building Survey Service includes:
• an inspection of the property (see ‘The inspection’);
• a report based on the inspection (see ‘The report’); and

The surveyor who provides the RICS Building Survey Service aims to give you professional advice to help you to:
• make an informed decision on whether to go ahead with buying the property;
• make an informed decision on what is a reasonable price to pay for the property;
• take account of any repairs or replacements the property needs; and
• consider what further advice you should take before committing to purchase the property.

The inspection
The surveyor inspects the inside and outside of the main building and all
permanent outbuildings, but does not force or open up the fabric. This
means that the surveyor does not take up carpets, floor coverings or
floorboards, move furniture, remove the contents of cupboards, roof
spaces, etc., remove secured panels and/or hatches or undo electrical
fittings. If necessary, the surveyor carries out parts of the inspection when standing
at ground level from public property next door where accessible. The
surveyor may use equipment such as a damp-meter, binoculars and torch,
and may use a ladder for flat roofs and for hatches no more than 3 metres
above level ground (outside) or floor surfaces (inside) if it is safe to do so.

Services to the property
Services are generally hidden within the construction of the property. This
means that only the visible parts of the available services can be
inspected, and the surveyor does not carry out specialist tests. The visual
inspection cannot assess the efficiency or safety of electrical, gas or other
energy sources; plumbing, heating or drainage installations (or whether
they meet current regulations); or the inside condition of any chimney,
boiler or other flue.

Outside the property
The surveyor inspects the condition of boundary walls, fences, permanent
outbuildings and areas in common (shared) use. To inspect these areas,
the surveyor walks around the grounds and any neighbouring public
property where access can be obtained.

Buildings with swimming pools and sports facilities are also treated as
permanent outbuildings, but the surveyor does not report on the leisure
facilities, such as the pool itself and its equipment, landscaping and other
facilities (for example, tennis courts and temporary outbuildings).

Flats
When inspecting flats, the surveyor assesses the general condition of
outside surfaces of the building, as well as its access areas (for example,
shared hallways and staircases). The surveyor inspects roof spaces only if
they are accessible from within the property. The surveyor does not inspect
drains, lifts, fire alarms and security systems.

Dangerous materials, contamination and environmental
issues
The surveyor does not make any enquiries about contamination or other
environmental dangers. However, if the surveyor suspects a problem, he
or she should recommend a further investigation.

The surveyor may assume that no harmful or dangerous materials have
been used in the construction, and does not have a duty to justify making
this assumption. However, if the inspection shows that these materials
have been used, the surveyor must report this and ask for further
instructions.

The surveyor does not carry out an asbestos inspection and does not act
as an asbestos inspector when inspecting properties that may fall within
the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. With flats, the surveyor
assumes that there is a ‘duyholder’ (as defined in the regulations),
and that in place are an asbestos register and an effective management plan
which does not present a significant risk to health or need any immediate
payment. The surveyor does not consult the dutyholder.

The report
The surveyor produces a report of the inspection for you to use, but cannot
accept any liability if it is used by anyone else. If you decide not to act on
the advice in the report, you do this at your own risk. The report focuses on
matters that, in the surveyor’s opinion, may affect the value of the property
if they are not addressed.

The report is in a standard format and includes the following sections.
A Introduction to the report
B About the inspection
C Summary of the condition ratings
D About the property
E Outside the property
F Inside the property
G Services
H Grounds (including shared areas for flats)
I Issues for your legal advisers
J Risks
K Energy Efficiency
L Surveyor’s declaration

What to do now
Description of the RICS Building Survey Service
Typical house diagram

Condition ratings
The surveyor gives condition ratings to the main parts (the ‘elements’) of
the main building, garage and some outside elements. The condition
ratings are described as follows.
Condition rating 3 – defects that are serious and/or need to be
repaired, replaced or investigated urgently
Condition rating 2 – defects that need repairing or replacing but are
not considered to be either serious or urgent. The property must be
maintained in the normal way.
Condition rating 1 – no repair is currently needed. The property must be
maintained in the normal way.
NI = not inspected.

The surveyor notes in the report if it was not possible to check any parts of
the property that the inspection would normally cover. If the surveyor is
concerned about these parts, the report tells you about any further
investigations that are needed.

The surveyor does not report on the cost of any work to put right defects or
make recommendations on how these repairs should be carried out.
However, there is general advice in the ‘What to do now’ section at the end
of the report.

Energy
The surveyor has not prepared the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)
as part of the RICS Building Survey Service for the property. If the
surveyor has seen the current EPC, he or she will present the energy-
efficiency and environmental impact ratings in this report. The surveyor
does not check the ratings and cannot comment on their accuracy.

Issues for legal advisers
The surveyor does not act as ‘the legal adviser’ and does not comment on
any legal documents. If, during the inspection, the surveyor identifies
issues that your legal advisers may need to investigate further, the
surveyor may refer to these in the report (for example, check whether there
is a warranty covering replacement windows).

This report has been prepared by a surveyor (‘the Individual Surveyor’) merely in his or her capacity as an employee or agent of a firm or company
or other business entity (‘the Company’). The report is the product of
the Company, not of the Individual Surveyor. All of the statements and
opinions contained in this report are expressed entirely on behalf of
the Company, which accepts sole responsibility for these. For his or her part,
the Individual Surveyor assumes no personal financial responsibility or
liability in respect of the report and no reliance or inference to the contrary
should be drawn.
Description (continued)

In the case of sole practitioners, the surveyor may sign the report in his or her own name unless the surveyor operates as a sole trader limited liability company. Nothing in this report excludes or limits liability for death or personal injury (including disease and impairment of mental condition) resulting from negligence.

Risks
This section summarises defects and issues that present a risk to the building or grounds, or a safety risk to people. These may have been reported and condition rated against more than one part of the property or may be of a more general nature, having existed for some time and which cannot reasonably be changed.

If the property is leasehold, the surveyor gives you general advice and details of questions you should ask your legal advisers.

Standard terms of engagement
1 The service – the surveyor provides the standard RICS Building Survey Service ('the service') described in the 'Description of the RICS Building Survey Service', unless you and the surveyor agree in writing before the inspection that the surveyor will provide extra services. Any extra service will require separate terms of engagement to be entered into with the surveyor. Examples of extra services include:
   • costing of repairs;
   • schedules of works;
   • supervision of works;
   • re-inspection;
   • detailed specific issue reports; and

2 The surveyor – the service is to be provided by an AssocRICS, MRICS or FRICS member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, who has the skills, knowledge and experience to survey, value and report on the property and is a member of the RICS Valuer Registration Scheme.

3 Before the inspection – you tell the surveyor if there is already an agreed or proposed price for the property, and if you have any particular concerns (such as plans for extension) about the property.

4 Terms of payment – you agree to pay the surveyor’s fees and any other charges agreed in writing.

5 Before the inspection – nothing in this clause 5 shall operate to exclude, limit or otherwise affect your rights to cancel under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013 or the Consumer Rights Act 2015, or under any such other legislation as may from time to time be applicable. Entirely without prejudice to any other rights that you may have under any applicable legislation, you are entitled to cancel this contract in writing by giving notice to the surveyor’s office at any time before the day of the inspection, and in any event within fourteen days of entering into this contract. Please note that where you have specifically requested that the surveyor provides services to you within fourteen days of entering into the contract, you will be responsible for fees and charges incurred by the surveyor up until the date of cancellation.

6 Liability – the report is provided for your use, and the surveyor cannot accept responsibility if it is used, or relied upon, by anyone else.

Complaints handling procedure
The surveyor will have a complaints handling procedure and will give you a copy if you ask. The surveyor is required to provide you with contact details, in writing, for their complaints department or the person responsible for dealing with client complaints. Where the surveyor is party to a redress scheme, those details should also be provided. If any of this information is not provided, please notify the surveyor and ask that it be supplied.

Note: These terms form part of the contract between you and the surveyor.
This report is for use in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.
Typical house diagram

This diagram illustrates where you may find some of the building elements referred to in the report.