

DR RICHARD GREGORY BENG (HONS), CENG, MICE, PHD HEAD OF PORTS AND HARBOURS

University of Wales, PhD in masonry recycling technology 2004

University of Wales, BEng (Hons) in Civil Engineering 2001

Chartered Engineer (UK) 2008

Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2026 to Present Solis Marine, UK
Head of Ports and Harbours

As Head of Ports and Harbours at Solis Marine, Richard's work involves acting on behalf of P&I and H&M insurers, brokers, lawyers, ports and harbours owners/managers/operators. His responsibilities include conducting damage investigations, preparing expert reports for arbitration and court proceedings, carrying out damage surveys and offering loss prevention support to marine insurers.

2025 to 2025 KBS Maritime, UK
Design Manager

Richard acted as a structural design manager overseeing infrastructure projects for the infrastructure delivery partner at Portsmouth Naval Base. Richard was responsible for providing technical direction for infrastructure projects, including establishing technical requirements, evaluating tender responses and undertaking inspections to monitor contractor performance during the execution phase. Richard oversaw projects that included reroofing listed buildings, replacing RAAC planking, structural remedial works to extend the working life of a road bridge spanning part of the harbour and the replacement of the bearings.

2024 to 2024 CCi/Rimkus, UK
Associate Director

Richard worked on legal disputes relating to industrial building defects, construction works and highway design. He investigated the cause of cracking and spalling to precast concrete units at two domestic waste processing centres and prepared an expert witness report on the issue. Whilst at CCi Richard was also responsible for providing post-fire assessments of vehicles and buildings to insurers.

2020 to 2024 EFI Global, UK
Principal Forensic Investigator (structural)

Richard's work at EFI Global as a Forensic Engineer involved acting as an expert witness and providing technical expertise to legal professionals and the insurance industry. In this role, he was responsible for leading investigations from commencement to completion and was typically involved in both investigating and providing an opinion on causation and providing expert advice regarding making structures safe and/or specifying repairs. Richard provided expert opinion in maritime cases, which included establishing the cause of a jack-up barge that sank whilst being relocated and a navigation beacon marking the approach to St Peter Port on Guernsey after it was subject to a vessel impact. He provided expert opinion for three river walls where the retaining structures failed and expert advice relating to causation and remedial works after damage to dock walls at four different ports within the UK. In addition to maritime cases, Richard was also responsible for investigating building defects and structural collapses, vehicle and escapes of water, earthquake and fires at domestic and industrial buildings. Whilst at EFI Global, Richard was also responsible for undertaking product investigations and personal injury claims.

2017 to 2020 WYG, UK
Associate Structural Engineer

Richard led a multi-disciplinary team undertaking station redevelopment projects which included upgrading the car park at Cheltenham Spa Station, including the provision of disabled access requirements, charging facilities and 70 additional parking spaces. He was responsible for leading the design approach for redeveloping the station and adjacent public realm at Plymouth Station, including concepts to redevelop the station entrance and an adjacent multi-storey mixed use tower block, demolish and relocate a multistorey car parking facility. Whilst at WYG, Richard also led and undertook work in the Defence and Heritage Building sectors.

2012 to 2017 Opus International Consultants (UK) Limited (Fareham Office), UK
Principal Engineer/Team Leader/Work Group Manager

Richard joined the Opus Fareham Office to supplement the existing Marine Design Team, and over five years, progressed to the level of Work Group Manager with responsibility for teams in the Marine and Rail sectors. He led a marine team designing marine infrastructure, including reinforced concrete and sheet pile harbour walls, jetties and pontoons, dolphins and mooring piles. Richard was also instructed to inspect jetties, piers and other marine structures for client owners, insurers and the MOD and provide reports confirming their structural condition and providing advice on future maintenance requirements and strategies. He was responsible for the structural design of a lock gate to protect a marina from waves during storm events. The gate was subject to a legal dispute, and Richard provided three witness statements as part of the adjudication and arbitration process, with Opus successfully defending their position on six of the seven allegations.

2010 to 2012 Trinity House, UK
Civil Design Engineer

Richard was the Chartered Civil/Structural Engineer within the organisation that owns and maintains the operational lighthouses in England and Wales. He was responsible for maintenance works and major engineering projects, including the installation of a jetty and solar and wind renewable energy systems at Casquets lighthouse to enable it to operate on renewable energy. Whilst working at Trinity House, Richard completed a program of structural inspections to determine the condition of the navigation mark beacons around the coast of England and Wales and the Scilly Isles. He also instigated and oversaw an investigation to confirm the condition of the Royal Sovereign lighthouse after identifying a pattern of staining around the top of the tower.

2005 to 2009 Opus International Consultants (UK) Limited (Rossett Office), UK
Graduate Engineer to Structural Engineer

Richard joined the bridge assessment team, undertaking inspections and performing calculations to determine the safe load capacity of railway bridges. He gained experience working with a wide range of modern and historic structural materials, including cast iron, wrought iron, early steels and stonework. Richard later worked in the structures team and gained experience designing new build structures and structural alterations, design of multi-storey steel and concrete structures. He was also responsible for the supervision and checking of structural and fabrication drawings, inspection of existing buildings and preparation of structural reports.