



Conflict Avoidance Coalition

## BE PART OF CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WEEK 2026

# CONFLICT AVOIDANCE CONFERENCE PROMOTING CO-OPERATION IN CONSTRUCTION



**Wednesday 18 March 2026, 10.00am - 5pm**

## Programme

### Welcome and introductions

**Opening Remarks Richard Bayfield** (Chair of the Conflict Avoidance Coalition)

### Keynote Address

#### **The state of the construction industry today**

- A round-up of the latest opportunities and challenges
- What is causing disputes?
- A look ahead: what changes might there be in the pipeline

**Why are Clients adopting Conflict Avoidance Methods? Sue Barrett** (Houses of Parliament Restoration Project), **Veronica Flint Williams** (Environment Agency)

- What is the attraction of conflict avoidance?
- How to adopt conflict avoidance
- What do the contractors and consultants say?

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## **Conflict Avoidance pre contract: establishing a collaborative culture**

**Ed Moore** (Chief Executive, ResoLex)

- What can be done before there is even a contract?
- Building the team: What is a collaborative culture?
- Using the Conflict Avoidance Toolkit

## **Amending standard form contracts: do or do not? **Anthony Armitage****

(General Counsel Thirdway, and Head of the Contracts Group for the CAC)

- The do's and don'ts of amending contracts
- Why do we amend standard forms?
- Is it all the lawyer's fault?

## **International Spotlight: what we can learn from infrastructure projects abroad? **Jeremy Glover****

(Fenwick Elliott LLP, Vice President of the CAC)

- Is conflict avoidance simply a UK “thing”?
- What do the funders say? Can they influence performance?
- Dispute boards & conflict avoidance
- Examples from the Middle East

## **Why should I sign the conflict avoidance pledge **Len Bunton** (Bunton Consulting)**

- Conflict avoidance in action
- Examples from around the UK
- What's in it for me? The advantages of Gold & Silver accreditation

## **What does Gold and Silver status accreditation mean to my organisation?**

**Iain Mcilwee** (CEO of Finishes and Interiors Sector, CAC Treasurer) **Edward Schryver** (Group Commercial Director VVB Engineering, CAC Vice President)

- How do I achieve Gold & silver status
- What are the benefits (and downside) of accreditation?
- How can clients help?

## **Our challenge to you? How can we change the culture of our industry?**

- Interactive final session, putting into practice what we have learnt from our earlier discussions.
- How do we overcome the challenges to implementing conflict avoidance?
- What should the Coalition be doing for the rest of 2026?

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