

Defect Diagnosis

Building defects can arise from poor workmanship, design failures, material deterioration, lack of maintenance or water ingress. Left unresolved, they escalate in cost, disrupt occupiers and erode property value. Accurate diagnosis, identifying root cause rather than visible symptom, is essential to ensuring the right remedial action is taken first time.

Portland Building Consultants provides expert defect diagnosis across Jersey and the Channel Islands, delivering clear, independent advice and practical remediation recommendations grounded in local construction knowledge.

Why Portland Building Consultants?

Jersey's built environment presents a distinct set of defect conditions. Our team works across traditional granite construction and modern building stock, and the coastal and marine environment features heavily in our day-to-day caseload. Render failures, corrosion of embedded fixings, salt crystallisation within masonry and moisture-driven decay are issues we investigate regularly. We understand how the Island's climate accelerates deterioration in ways that mainland benchmarks do not reflect.

Material supply constraints on the Island shape how we approach both diagnosis and remediation. We understand what products and specialist contractors are available locally, realistic lead times for imported materials, and how those factors should inform the remediation strategy recommended to a client. We also have solid experience with modern methods of construction, including timber frame and SIPs panels, as MMC-built properties in Jersey age and their defect profiles become more apparent.

Our Approach

We adopt a methodical approach to defect investigation, focused on identifying root cause and providing remediation advice that is practical, proportionate and deliverable in a Channel Islands context. Our services include:

- Diagnosing moisture-related defects including water ingress, rising and penetrating damp, condensation and mould growth.
- Investigating defects specific to the coastal environment, including render failure, salt attack, corrosion and weathering deterioration.
- Assessing granite and traditional masonry construction, including repointing failures, lintel corrosion and stone decay.
- Investigating MMC defects in timber frame, SIPs and modern cladding and facade systems.
- Investigating structural movement, cracking and subsidence.
- Reviewing workmanship, construction quality and material failures in new build and refurbishment projects.

- Providing remediation recommendations that account for Island material availability and contractor capacity.
- Supporting insurance claims, legal disputes and contractual matters with technical reporting and expert advice.

Who We Act For

- Property owners, landlords and investors.
- Managing agents and residents' management companies.
- Tenants and occupiers with repairing obligations.
- Insurance companies and loss adjusters.
- Legal professionals requiring expert technical evidence.
- Contractors and developers dealing with latent defect claims.

The Benefit

Early and accurate defect diagnosis reduces repair costs, prevents further deterioration and avoids the expense of remediation that fails to address the underlying cause. In Jersey's environment, where coastal conditions accelerate defect progression and material supply adds complexity to remediation, getting the diagnosis right at the outset is particularly important.

Portland Building Consultants provides independent, evidence-based defect diagnosis informed by genuine local knowledge, helping clients understand what has gone wrong, why, and how to fix it effectively.