



Department
for Education

Further Education Condition Data Collection 2 (FE CDC2)

Guidance for FE Colleges

October 2024

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Purpose of the Further Education Condition Data Collection 2

The purpose of the Further Education Condition Data Collection 2 (FE CDC2), which will be delivered in 2025, is to gather building condition data to improve our understanding of the condition of the further education college sector in England (excluding private sector providers), and to provide the evidence base to support future decision-making about FE capital funding. The FE CDC2 programme is the successor to the FE CDC programme, which ran in 2019.

By the end of 2026, we will have completed a similar programme for schools, school sixth forms and sixth form colleges and we will have a comprehensive picture of the condition of the government funded school and college estate in England.

The FE CDC2 programme will also provide FE colleges with high-level condition data to complement their own locally commissioned surveys.

Which institutions are involved in the FE CDC2 programme?

The following FE college/institutions are included in the FE CDC2 programme:

- General Further Education College (also includes Art, Design and Performing Arts and Tertiary Colleges)
- Land Based College – Agriculture and Horticulture
- Designated Institution

The term 'FE college' is used to include all of the above institutions.

The following colleges/institutions are excluded from the FE CDC2 programme and are out of scope:

- City Technology Colleges (included in the school CDC2 programme)
- Sixth Form Colleges (included in the school CDC2 programme)
- Specialist Post 16 Institutions (private providers)
- University Technology Colleges (included in the school CDC2 programme)
- Higher Education Institutions
- Independent Learning Providers

Who will be visiting my FE college?

FE colleges will be visited by one of three surveying organisations – Aecom, Atkins Realis or Rider Levett Bucknall. It is possible that you may also be visited by Arcadis who are providing technical support (including audit) to the programme. All building surveyors and engineers are industry accredited (e.g. RICS, CIBSE), will have a minimum of 3 years' experience assessing building and/or building services condition and have a relevant degree or equivalent qualification.

When will I be visited and what will it entail?

FE colleges will be visited between March and September 2025. You will be contacted by one of the three surveying organisations working on the programme to arrange two site visits. The preliminary visit will be a short visit to gather information to help with planning the main site visit, and to provide further information about the programme. The second main visit will collect data on condition. The length of site visits will depend on the size of the college. FE colleges will be notified about the number of days the main visit will take following the preliminary site visit. We aim for the visits to cause minimum disruption.

What is expected of FE colleges?

FE colleges have an important role to play in the delivery of the FE CDC2 programme. FE colleges are asked to:

- meet with surveyors when they visit and provide full access to their site(s)
- provide contextual information about their site(s)
- provide information on areas related to condition, and other asset management issues, for example, asbestos management assurance and net zero emissions.

FE CDC2 data collected

Surveyors will collect the following categories of data:

- asset/contextual site data
- condition data
- asbestos management and other data

They will:

- assess condition and priority grades for all elements within buildings in a campus
- allocate condition and priority grades as follows: condition A-D (good→bad); priority for remedial action 1-4 (immediate→more than 5 years)

FE CDC2 process

FE colleges will be contacted by surveying organisations to arrange the preliminary ('reconnoitre') visit which will explain the FE CDC2 process and review the FE college campus sites and blocks. After the preliminary (reconnoitre) visit, FE colleges will be sent a pre-survey information pack and asked to complete a questionnaire prior to the main site visit. This will be followed by the main visit to collect condition data.

The preliminary (reconnoitre) and main visits will be at the college campus level, which may have one or more sites. A college corporation may be split into multiple campuses depending on its size and locations. At the main visit, a fabric surveyor and a mechanical and electrical engineer will collect condition data and other information, e.g. asbestos management, on all buildings on all campus sites.

After the main visit the data collected will be quality assured and FE colleges will be provided with a high-level condition report. At this stage, FE colleges will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the FE CDC2 process and their condition report.

As part of the condition data collected, photographs of the FE college roof will be taken and will be included in the FE CDC2 report. These will be taken by planes flying over the FE college. These photographs will typically be taken several months before the FE CDC2 visit.

Stages of the FE CDC2 process

Stage 1: Before the main site visit

Typically, 3-4 weeks prior to the preliminary (reconnoitre) visit:

- A surveying organisation (Aecom, Atkins Realis, Rider Levett Bucknall) will contact the FE college by letter to arrange a preliminary (reconnoitre) visit and a main site visit.
- The surveying organisation's letter will be accompanied by a DfE letter explaining the purpose of the FE CDC2 programme.
- The surveying organisation will confirm the visit date with the FE college.
- The FE college will share any safeguarding arrangements.

At the preliminary (reconnoitre) visit, the surveying organisation will:

- Review the FE college site(s), block(s) and geographical location(s).
- Issue the FE CDC2 questionnaire to gather information about the site(s), wider condition issues and general asset management approach.
- Familiarise the FE college with the FE CDC2 process.
- Answer any questions the FE college may have.

Stage 2: During the main site visit

The main site visit will typically take 1-3 days, depending on the size of the FE college.

At the main site visit, the surveying organisation will:

- Hold a pre-data collection meeting with the FE college to explain how the data will be collected and that it will involve minimal disruption to classes. This will provide an opportunity to discuss any site-specific issues e.g. no-access areas or exams being held.
- Collect block-by-block condition data.
- At the end of the main site visit, notify the FE college of any immediate H&S risks or areas for further investigation.

Stage 3: After the main site visit

- FE CDC2 data will be uploaded by the surveying organisation onto the DfE CDC2 portal.
- The surveying organisation and the FE CDC2 technical quality manager will quality assure the data collected.
- A FE CDC2 report containing the key findings of the visit will be made available to FE colleges via the FE CDC2 portal, typically 4 months after the main site visit.

- FE colleges will be given the opportunity to feedback on their FE CDC2 report and the FE CDC2 programme.
- Any feedback provided will be reviewed and, where appropriate, FE colleges are provided with a response.

FE CDC2 data – benefits and limitations

The information obtained during the FE CDC2 programme will not replace existing arrangements that colleges have in place to gather detailed building condition data. FE CDC2 data will be less detailed than a typical condition survey used by FE colleges for asset management purposes. FE CDC2 will not involve an invasive survey. This means that surveyors will undertake a visual inspection only and will not access roof voids, remove ceiling tiles or test any 'plant' equipment such as boilers and heaters whilst on site. The FE CDC2 data will not include a structural assessment, nor collect health and safety information or record hazardous materials such as asbestos.

Data collected during FE CDC2 may however be a useful supplement to locally held condition data and be helpful to support local maintenance programmes or asset management plans.

FE colleges may find the FE CDC2 data useful, as it can be used to:

- contribute to a broader view of condition need at an FE college
- highlight condition issues which need attention or further investigation
- provide a view of roof condition which is not normally seen (via an aerial photo)
- provide good photographic evidence of condition issues
- highlight any gaps in building management at an FE college

The FE CDC2 cannot, on its own, provide sufficient information to inform asset management planning. This is because:

- it is not invasive (only visible condition is inspected)
- it is not structural (critical structural repairs may not be identified)
- it does not report on hazardous materials (principally asbestos)
- it does not address critical health and safety requirements such as fire and intruder alarm functionality (although surveyors observing major health and safety issues will report these directly to the FE college)
- it does not take into account detailed building use or capacity (sufficiency or places)
- it does not provide descriptions of defects and remedies or cost information for FE colleges

Access to FE CDC2 data

Once data has been quality assured, it will be available to download by FE colleges via the FE CDC2 portal. FE CDC2 reports will be made available at college campus level. FE colleges will be notified when their condition report is available and will be provided with instructions for setting up their FE CDC2 portal account in order to access the data. They will be given the opportunity to feedback on the content of their FE CDC2 condition report and their experience of the FE CDC2 programme.

Further information

Further information about the FE CDC2 programme can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).



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