

Call for Papers

42nd Annual Conference and General Meeting

Loughborough University

7th - 9th September 2026

General Theme

Network and Connectivity in Construction

Important Dates

Submission of abstracts:	23:59hrs GMT, Friday 16th January 2026
Notification of decision about abstracts:	Monday 16th February 2026
Submission of full papers for initial review:	23:59hrs GMT, Friday 10th April 2026
Notification of decision on full papers: (following initial review)	Monday 18th May 2026
Submission of final papers:	23:59hrs GMT Friday 19th June 2026
Notification of final decision on paper: (after final review)	Monday 13th July 2026



**Association of Researchers in
Construction Management**

We are delighted to announce that the 42nd ARCOM Annual Conference will be hosted on 7-9 September 2026 at Loughborough University, Loughborough, UK. The last time ARCOM was held in Loughborough was in 1994, with Professor Emeritus Tony Thorpe as Conference Chair.

In addition to being home of Loughborough University, Loughborough has historically acted as a hub for people, goods, and technology. It has one of the oldest and largest street fairs in England, documented as early as 1221, and farmers and workers gathered in 'Hiring Fairs' where contracts for the year were negotiated and agreed on the spot. During the industrial revolution, Loughborough benefited from the canalising of River Soar and the opening of the Grand Central Railway, where it gained its status as a trading hub for hosiery and textiles. Due to its central geographic position and extensive transport links, Loughborough is well connected nationally and internationally by rail, road, and flight networks.

The rich industrial heritage of Loughborough and its strategic logistical location links perfectly with the theme for ARCOM 2026, "Network and Connectivity in Construction". This theme captures issues at the heart of construction management research – namely, bringing disparate elements together to build solutions to meet societal needs.

In its broadest sense, this can relate to the collaborations of project teams, the interface between construction processes, the creation of new linkages by use of digital technology and data exchange, innovative use of construction logistics, integrated solutions to meet sustainability objectives, and strengthening our workforce through inclusive practices.

We are particularly interested in receiving submissions within the following areas:

Contract management	Infrastructure development
Design and technology	Offsite construction
Digitalisation	Performance
Disaster management and resilience	Procurement
Equality, diversity and inclusion	Sustainability
Health, safety and wellbeing	Pedagogic research
Human resources management	Other related topics

Submission and Peer Review Process

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Please submit an abstract of around 170 words and include up to 5 keywords via the MyARCOM online portal. Abstracts will be sent to two referees for peer-review. From this peer-review process, an abstract will be either accepted or rejected. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 23:59hrs GMT on Friday 16 January 2026.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS FOR INITIAL REVIEW

Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit full papers. Full papers must be less than 10 sides of A4 (including all references, tables, graphics and illustrations). **All papers must be submitted on the ARCOM paper template**, which is available for download from the Conferences section of our website [www.arcom.ac.uk]. Each paper will be sent to two members of our Scientific Committee for peer-review. Following this process of double-blind peer-review, papers may be accepted, accepted with minor alterations, accepted with major alterations or rejected. The deadline for the submission of full papers for initial review is 23:59hrs GMT on Friday 10 April 2026.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS FOR FINAL REVIEW

After initial review stage, the authors of papers that were accepted with minor alterations or accepted with major alterations will be asked to revise their papers with the reviewer feedback in mind and resubmit their work for a final review. The final review will result in papers being either accepted or rejected. Papers submitted for final review should be in 'ready for publication' condition as there is no further opportunity for further adjustments. The deadline for the submission of full papers for final review is 23:59hrs GMT on Friday 19 June 2026.

PRESENTATION AND PUBLICATION OF ACCEPTED PAPERS

If a paper is accepted for presentation at conference, its authors will be formally invited to present their paper in person at conference. **At least one of the authors/co-authors** of the paper must **register for the conference** and **be able attend conference** to present the paper and answer questions on their work. Authors of accepted papers will have a choice of formally publishing their paper as an indexed paper within our Annual Conference Proceedings or making their paper available to other researchers as an ARCOM working paper via MyARCOM.

Network and Connectivity in Construction

The ARCOM 2026 theme 'Network and Connectivity in Construction' highlights the importance of holistic and systemic solutions, of crossing divides, and of bridging differences of understanding. The nature of network and connections in construction can be explored as research environments in a plethora of contexts. Here we highlight four subthemes we consider important for our research community to address:

1. The connections between people and processes in construction contexts. This encompasses the study of interfaces between and within organisational processes. They include the cultural understanding between organisational stakeholders to achieve project and organisational objectives, and the knowledge exchange required to enable the integration of new systems.
2. The data networks that allow for the correct cataloguing of information for easy retrieval; and conversely, the timely identification of faults within a network for rectification in construction and maintenance. Further exploration in this topic includes exploring how existing networks need to be extended to integrate new digital technologies, and what the industry needs to do to better prepare for a digital revolution.
3. The temporal connectivity between construction activity and the wider urban environment. This includes considering the building beyond what conventionally constitutes the construction phase, of embracing a whole lifecycle approach, and meeting the needs of end users and future generations.
4. The interrogation of our supply chain and logistics links both on the construction site and in construction processes more generally. Beyond the construction site, this includes the exploration of opportunities for collaboration and partnership between academia and industry, and the strategies for addressing our skills demands through education and training.

In embracing the theme of network and connectivity, we resist the temptation of silo thinking and silo working. In this sense, the theme is also a call to action for critical evaluation of the status quo, for promoting joint-up thinking in addressing complex problems, and for seeking new connections that can pave the way for innovative solutions.

Organising Committee

Professor Craig Thomson, Glasgow Caledonian University

Dr Apollo Tutesigensi, University of Leeds

Dr Vivien Chow, Loughborough University

Dr Nicola Callaghan, Glasgow Caledonian University

Dr John Spillane, University of Limerick

Dr Léon olde Scholtenhuis, Twente University

Dr Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo, Birmingham City University

...together with the other 12 members of the ARCOM Committee who will be confirmed at the ARCOM Annual General Meeting scheduled for 2nd September 2025.

Venue Information

Situated along the River Soar, Loughborough was linked to UK's network of canals in 1778, allowing it to trade goods across the UK and marking its status as an important inland port. It is home to Britain's last working bell foundry, built in 1859, which over the years has cast some famous bells including for St. Paul's Cathedral in London, St. Thomas' Church in New York, St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney and Cape Town's City Hall.

The world's first package tour was created by Thomas Cook Company and launched on 5 July 1841 where passengers travelled by rail from Leicester to Loughborough. The party of 485 people travelled in open tub-style carriages and was accompanied by a band, and the ticket price was one shilling per person. This, of course, makes Loughborough the original package tour holiday destination!

Loughborough is positioned in the East Midlands region of the United Kingdom. It is well connected through transport links: a mere 80-minute train ride to London St Pancras Station, and 2 hours train ride to Manchester Piccadilly Station. The nearest regional airport is East Midlands Airport (30 minutes by car) which services a variety of European cities. The nearest international airport is Birmingham International Airport (1 hour by car).

Conference Fee

The conference fee for ARCOM 2026 will be decided by the ARCOM committee in the spring of 2026. An early-bird discount will apply for all registrations received by 23:59hrs GMT on Tuesday 30 June 2026. The usual discounts for paid-up ARCOM members and PGR students from an institution with a current ARCOM institutional membership will also apply. Please note that accommodation is not included in the conference fee.



Loughborough University



The West Park Teaching Hub



Great Central Railway, Loughborough

Best Paper Prizes

....paper prizes will include:

ARCOM Award for International Issue(s)
David Langford Commemorative Award
ARCOM Award for Sustainability
Paul Townsend Commemorative Award
Rod Howes Commemorative Award
...and others

Contact and Further Information

For further information please visit the Conferences section of the ARCOM website - www.arcom.ac.uk

Conference Chair: Dr Vivien Chow, Loughborough University

Conference Secretary: Dr Christopher Neilson, The University of Manchester

Email queries should be directed to conference@arcom.ac.uk in the first instance