Surveying

**Surveying** or **land surveying** is the technique, profession, and science of determining the terrestrial or three-dimensional positions of points and the distances and angles between them. A land surveying professional is called a **land surveyor**. These points are usually on the surface of the Earth, and they are often used to establish maps and boundaries for [ownership](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ownership), locations, such as building corners or the surface location of subsurface features, or other purposes required by government or civil law, such as property sales.

Surveyors work with elements of [geometry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geometry), [trigonometry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trigonometry), [regression analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regression_analysis), [physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics), [engineering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Engineering), [metrology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metrology), [programming languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programming_language), and the [law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law). They use equipment, such as [total stations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_station), robotic total stations, GPS receivers, [retroreflectors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retroreflector" \o "Retroreflector), [3D scanners](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3D_scanner), radios, handheld tablets, digital levels, subsurface locators, drones, [GIS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_information_system), and [surveying software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_surveying_software).

Surveying has been an element in the development of the human environment since the beginning of recorded history. The planning and execution of most forms of [construction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Construction) require it. It is also used in [transport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport), [communications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communication), mapping, and the definition of legal boundaries for land ownership. It is an important tool for research in many other scientific disciplines.

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