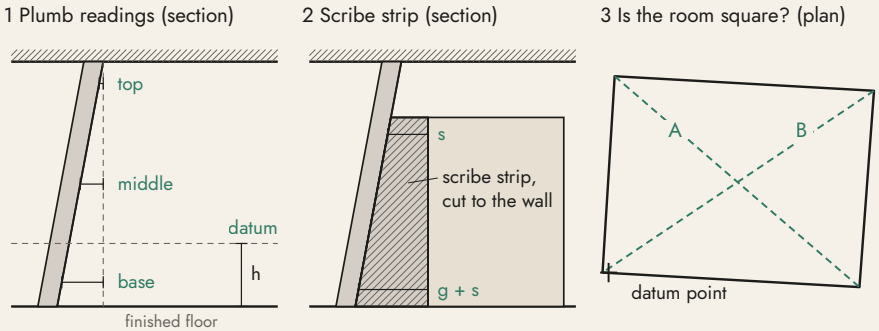
Site survey and dimension *verification*

What to measure on site, to one datum, before anything is released for manufacture, and who signs what.

AT A GLANCE

Measure	How	Tool	Record
Datum	One datum line and level, a stated height above finished floor, marked on the walls	Laser level, tape	Datum height, who set it, date
Floor level	Readings on a grid and at each wall, against the datum	Laser or water level, straight edge	Height at each point; highest and lowest
Ceiling height	At several points along each wall: at least both ends and the middle	Laser distance meter, tape	Each height; the lowest
Wall plumb	Offset from a plumb line at top, middle and base, in both directions	Plumb line, laser, long level	Offset at each height
Wall flatness	A straight edge held on the wall at several heights and directions	Straight edge, tape	Gap and where it is
Squareness	Both diagonals of the plan, corner to corner. Equal diagonals mean square corners	Tape, laser distance meter	Diagonals A and B; the difference
Openings	Width and height at several points, reveal depth and finish	Tape	The smallest of each
Services	Sockets, pipework, vents, sprinklers and anything that must pass through the work	Tape, photographs	Position from the datum and from a wall
Fixings and surfaces	What the work fixes to (backing, studs, masonry) and whether the walls and floors are finished	Inspection, the contractor's records	Positions; state and date

No tolerance figure is given here: each comes from the specification, the contract or the maker's statement.



Plumb readings, a scribe strip and a diagonals check. The lean is exaggerated. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio, not to scale.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

DIMENSIONS VERIFIED ON SITE

All dimensions that affect [items] are to be verified on site by [Contractor / maker / designer] before the shop drawings are approved. Contract drawing dimensions are design intent. Where a verified dimension differs from the drawing by more than [ ] mm, [name] is to be told in writing before manufacture.

DATUM AND SURVEY RECORD

The datum is [description] at [ ] mm above finished floor level, marked on [walls] by [Contractor] on [date]. The survey is taken to this datum after [plaster / boards / floor screed] are complete and dry. The record gives plumb readings at [top, middle and base], flatness, heights and diagonals, with the date, tool and name of the person who took them.

WHO CARRIES THE RISK OF DIMENSIONS

[Maker / Contractor] carries the risk of dimensions it has verified and signed on the shop drawing. Dimensions marked D (taken from the drawings) remain the risk of [Contractor / designer] until verified. Dimensions changed on site after release for manufacture are variations.

SCRIBE ALLOWANCE

Joinery abutting walls, floors or ceilings includes a scribe of [ ] mm, or as the shop drawing states, cut to the finished surface on site. If the surveyed gap is greater, the maker is to tell [name] before manufacture.

RELEASE FOR MANUFACTURE

Manufacture of [item] is released on a written instruction from [designer] that names shop drawing [number, revision] and the survey record dated [date]. No part is released on a drawing dimension marked D unless the instruction says so.

TERMS USED

Scribe

To shape the edge of a panel or board so it follows an uneven wall, floor or ceiling; a scribe strip is a deliberately oversized piece cut to fit.

Tolerance

The permitted difference between a stated dimension or position and what is actually achieved, such as length, flatness, plumb or gap width. Manufacturing and on-site installation tolerances are different and should be specified separately.

Shop drawings

The maker's detailed drawings of how an item will be built, with dimensions, materials, fixings and finishes, for the designer to check before manufacture.

Datum

A single reference line and level, usually a stated height above finished floor level, marked on the walls and used by everyone as the basis for dimensions and readings.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS 8000-0:2014+A1:2024 Workmanship on construction sites: general principles: named only; text not read. Confirm edition and status.
- BS 5606:2022 Accuracy and tolerance in design and construction: guide: named only; text not read.
- ISO 7976-1:1989 Tolerances for building: methods of measurement, methods and instruments: named only; text not read.
- NBS: RIBA Plan of Work 2020 and specification: shop drawings and design responsibility (17 Jun 2020, read 5 Nov 2026).
- Make Bespoke Studio: Design development: how site surveys are reconciled with drawings.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/site-survey-and-dimension-verification. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.