

April 2026



The Sentinel

Your Monthly Bulletin from the ASC



Delivering

Insights, Updates, and Opportunities.

Introduction

Setting Benchmarks,
Leading Progress.

Simon Crane

ASC Chair



It's been a busy start to the year, and across the sector there's no shortage of activity or challenge. What stands out, however, is the consistency with which independent consultants continue to provide clarity and reassurance in an increasingly complex environment.

As we move into the next phase of the year, that foundation becomes even more important. The months ahead bring a busy and important period for the ASC, with a number of key events on the horizon. We are gearing up for the Spring Seminar, Archery & Networking Day, and the Annual General Meeting, alongside a number of partner events across the sector. These events sit at the heart of how the Association supports its members, bringing together insight, discussion, and connection to keep members engaged with the issues and evolution of the profession.

Alongside this, preparations are also underway for ConSeC, the Association's flagship event, now in its 32nd consecutive year. It remains a cornerstone in the ASC calendar, bringing together senior voices from across the sector to share insight, and highlight the issues shaping the future of security.

In the months ahead, the focus remains on strengthening collaboration across the network and continuing to demonstrate the value of independent consultancy in practice. As the ASC moves through an active period of events and engagement, the emphasis is on creating space for meaningful exchange that results stronger professional connections across the industry. It is an exciting time for the Association, and I look forward to the conversations and connections the coming months will bring.

Welcome to the April 2026 edition of *The Sentinel*.

Hear from our Board

Lee Doddridge

ASC Vice-Chair



In Q1 the ASC became a licensed body for Chartered Security Professionals, an achievement that demonstrated the strategic progress made by the Association. We also welcomed our new Chair, Vice Chair and very first COO. Now we turn to Q2 and what lies ahead.

This month the ASC will not only be exhibiting at The Security Event (28th-30th April, NEC) we have been entrusted with providing the content and delivery of Day Two of the Security Leader's Summit with many ASC members taking to the stage. In May we host the Spring Seminar at the British Library and then the AGM in June when we will vote in new members of the board. It is important for members to attend and assist the board in shaping our future and gain insights to the direction we are heading.

This month, the Home Office Section 27 Statutory Guidance for the Terrorism 'Protection of Premises' Act was published. As an Association we will study the guidance and impact to members. The SIA (Appointed Regulator) will now launch a period of consultation to assist with the Section 12 guidance. This is our opportunity to consult/advice and guide the SIA, but we will need our members to engage with us so the ASC can represent members and the wider security industry.



It is only April but the planning and engagement for **ConSec 2026** is well underway, If you haven't already done so, check out the new ASC website for more information.

www.ascuk.org





Sentinel Scholarly

Dennis Roe

ASC Director - Academic Engagement and Professional Development

The Association of Security Consultants is thriving with activity, and there's plenty for you to be excited about.

At the heart of this dynamic period is the newly established Academic Advisory and Engagement Committee, led by the ASC RISC member Archie Philipps accepting the mantle as the inaugural committee Chair. This initiative marks a significant step in bridging the gap between security consultancy and academia, promising a wealth of opportunities and collaborations. While the full scope of their work is still unfolding, the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) is set to unveil some groundbreaking developments - an event you won't want to miss! Overleaf, you can hear an interim appraisal of the activities planned, but you will have to wait for the most cutting-edge and inspiring announcements that are reserved for the AGM.

Before we arrive at the AGM, let's turn our attention now to the much-anticipated upcoming Spring Seminar. Building on the success of the Winter Seminar, which received immensely positive reviews for its unbiased presentations and inclusive atmosphere, the Spring Seminar is poised to continue this momentum. Attendees praised the event for its welcoming environment, particularly noting improvements in inclusivity for women in the security industry. The presentations from our 2025 award finalists were a standout feature, described by one as "so different to what I have seen anywhere else, and I would like more!"

Discover all upcoming **events at the ASC**

[Click here](#)

In response to this enthusiasm, the ASC is thrilled to feature two new award finalists at the Spring Seminar. These individuals will share insights into their innovative work and discuss their nominations, offering a glimpse into the future of security solutions. Previews of their presentations are available in the upcoming pages, setting the stage for what promises to be another enriching and informative event.

As the ASC continues to expand its horizons and foster meaningful connections, members and industry professionals alike have so much to look forward to. Whether it's the groundbreaking initiatives of the Academic Advisory and Engagement Committee, or the engaging discussions at our seminars and events, the ASC is at the forefront of shaping the future of the security industry. Stay tuned for more updates and be sure to secure your place at these exciting events.

Academic Advisory and Engagement Committee

Archie Philipps

RISC Member & Committee Chair



We are excited to announce the launch of the Association of Security Consultants' new Academic Advisory and Engagement Committee. Chaired by Imbert Award Judge and former laureate Archie Philipps RISC, the Committee seeks to consolidate and expand the ASC's key missions of continuing professional development (CPD), network-building, and blending cutting-edge research with real-world impact.

The Committee's work envisages centring around those missions by developing practical, impactful and mutually beneficial actions.

Firstly, building two-way relationships between the ASC and educational institutions and their students. This could include mentoring programmes, career skills workshops at universities, and presence at university fairs.

Secondly, operationalising those relationships with tangible actions. The ASC would provide opportunities for students to develop their interest and reward their achievements in security.

Existing examples include the Imbert Award for individual excellence, and the new ASCEND Award for group excellence. Further initiatives could include Award laureates offering presentations at ASC Seminars and submissions to The Sentinel. This would hone students' crucial public speaking and corporate writing skills, help them build a professional profile, and enable them to receive guidance from industry leaders. In turn, this would offer the ASC insights into the latest research and thinking in the field from some of the country's brightest minds, and as seen in my own case, serve as the beginning of long-term commitment to, and work within the ASC.



This Committee is beneficial to all parties. For universities, the ASC would be an attractive professional partner, complementing their academic development programmes with relevant professional development. For students, the ASC would act as a mentor, providing advice as they begin and develop their careers. For ASC members, this creates a valuable opportunity to earn CPD while actively contributing to their professional development. For ASC as an organisation, it strengthens its long-term influence within the security industry by helping to shape and support the next generation of leaders. In doing so, it also broadens the organisation's reach, enhancing both its visibility and membership base



IMBERT AWARD

ASCEND TEAMS AWARD



The new Committee builds on the ASC's impressive and fast-growing engagement with academia. For two decades, the Imbert Award has recognised academic excellence and innovation in postgraduate dissertations on security, risk, and intelligence.

The ASC has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Portsmouth, its first Partner Organisation. With a strong track record of students winning the Imbert Award, the partnership is designed to foster collaboration and advance the understanding and application of security and risk practices.

A few months ago, the ASC launched the ASCEND initiative, designed to give university students access to the ASC events, insight into the consultancy world, and opportunities to engage with the wider security industry.

We are looking forward to continuing to build and grow on these initiatives in the coming months and years

Hear from the ASC Awards Finalists



The 2025
MASC AWARD
Finalist



Craig Evans,
Immix

Award Entry: Immix AutoPatrol - AI-Driven Virtual Patrols for Security Control Rooms

Craig will explore how AI-driven virtual patrols are reshaping security control rooms by automating routine monitoring and allowing operators to focus on real incidents. He will cover the challenges of integrating real-time AI across mixed and legacy CCTV environments without requiring new hardware, alongside intelligent scheduling, modular AI integration, and fail-safe operation. Drawing on live deployment experience, his presentation highlights how over 90% of routine patrol activity can be automated, improving consistency, reducing workload, and enabling monitoring centres to enhance services without increasing headcount, while maintaining trust, compliance, and operational resilience.



The 2025
IMBERT AWARD
Finalist

This seminar presentation assesses the intersection between OSINT and International Humanitarian Law, examining how the proliferation of OSINT has eroded key legal protections afforded to civilian actors in conflict through the democratisation of intelligence functions, enabled by integrated, multi-source informational infrastructures which are available to civilian actors, state actors, and corporate actors alike.

Ungoverned informational spaces have created a security gap wherein civilian actors are simultaneously empowered as intelligence actors and stripped of the legal protections their status as non-combatants should afford them. Within this seminar, the implications of this shift will be explored, with arguments being made in favour of the reconsideration of civilian definitions and legal protections.



Lewis Alderton,
PhD Researcher

Dissertation: *Democratised Intelligence, Collectivised Risk: The proliferation of Open-Source Intelligence and the erosion of the Principle of Distinction*

ASC News and Updates

Home Office releases Martyn's Law guidance

The implementation of Martyn's Law continues to move forward, with the Home Office issuing Section 27 Statutory Guidance for the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (Martyn's Law), marking a significant and long-awaited step in its implementation.

The guidance has been introduced to help those responsible for premises and events better understand their responsibilities under the Act, including how to prepare for and respond to potential threats in a practical and proportionate way. It also gives security consultants a clearer view of how the Act will be applied, helping support more informed decisions and a consistent approach across the sector.

[Read Now](#)

SIA consultation on Martyn's Law

Those who are in scope of, or with an interest in Martyn's Law are invited to review new draft statutory guidance from the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The guidance explains how the SIA plans to operate as the regulator of Martyn's Law. Your feedback will help inform the final version:

[Martyn's Law: draft section 12 statutory guidance - GOV.UK.](#)

The ASC's engagement in this consultation highlights both the scale of Martyn's Law and the critical role of independent expertise in shaping a framework that will impact security across the UK for years to come.





Secure your spot now


01 | Archery & Networking Day 2026


Members Only event


This May, we're heading back to the Wye Valley Archery Centre for the return of the ASC Archery Networking Day.

It's a day designed to step away from the usual routine with a bit of friendly challenge, good company, and easy conversation in a relaxed setting.

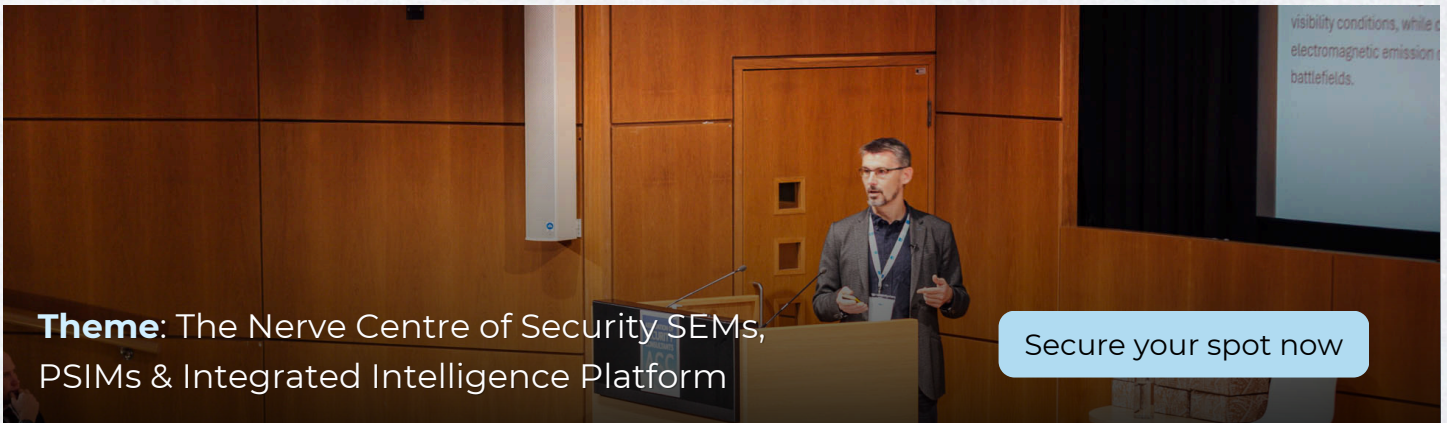
Whether you're new to archery or already have some experience, expert guidance will be there throughout.

 15th May 2026

 Wye Valley Archery Centre

 Price: **£24.00** (Inc. VAT)

02 | Spring Seminar 2026



Theme: The Nerve Centre of Security SEMs, PSIMs & Integrated Intelligence Platform

Secure your spot now

The ASC Spring Seminar is just weeks away, bringing together professionals from across the security and risk sector. Taking place on 20th May at the British Library Knowledge Centre, this year's theme looks at SEMs, PSIMs and integrated intelligence platforms.

The sessions will look at current challenges, how these systems are being used in real settings, and what is changing across the industry. It is a chance to gain useful insights and hear different perspectives from those working closely in the space.

20th MAY
2026

 9:00am – 5:00pm

 The British Library





Price: Free for asc members
£30 for non-members

03 | SecurityMATTERS LIVE

Security Matters Live 2026 is bringing a full day focused on security practice, technology, and legislation.

With live demonstrations, expert-led sessions, and open discussions, the event looks at how the sector is evolving and what organisations need to stay ahead. It's a chance to gain practical insights, discover new approaches, and connect with others across the industry.

 2nd July 2026

 Coventry Building Society Arena, Coventry

[Click here for more info](#)



04 | FSM AWARDS

5 JUNE 2026 • CBS ARENA • COVENTRY
FIRE & SECURITY MATTERS AWARDS

Security Consultancy of the Year Award

The FSM Awards recognise the people and organisations raising the bar across the fire and security sectors. It's an evening dedicated to those making a real impact in creating safer environments.

 2nd July 2026

 Coventry Building Society Arena




The ASC is proud to support the awards and present the Security Consultancy of the Year Award celebrating those who demonstrate excellence, innovation, and leadership within the consultancy space.


[Reserve Your Place](#)

05 | SJUK LEADERS IN SECURITY

As the security landscape evolves, the need for clear thinking and practical insight continues to grow. The ASC is proud to support this conversation as the Intellectual Partner of SJUK Leaders in Security

Bringing together senior professionals from across the sector, the event creates space to explore challenges, share perspectives, and strengthen the role of consultancy within the wider profession.


 2nd July 2026


 Hilton Deansgate, Manchester

[Book Now](#)



06 | AGM 2026

 10th June 2026

 Union Jack Club, London

The ASC Annual General Meeting brings members together to review the year, share important updates, and set the direction ahead.

This year's Annual General Meeting will also include the announcement of the ASC Board of Directors, marking an important moment for the organisation as we reflect on progress and look ahead to the next phase of leadership.

Members are invited to come together for an afternoon of updates from the ASC Directors, open discussions on key priorities, and time to reconnect with peers across the network.

The event is open to the ASC members and free to attend.

[Reserve your seat now](#)

Spotlight



Over the past few months, we have been putting together a cohort of leading experts on topics ranging from geopolitical instability and AI-driven threat detection to high-security design and cyber resilience.

Mark your Calendars for



ConSeC returns as the ASC's flagship annual conference, continuing its role as a cornerstone event within the UK security sector. Bringing together independent consultants, senior practitioners, and decision-makers, the day is built around meaningful interaction, shared expertise, and real industry challenges.

Theme: Smart Cities - Smart Security:
Where Urban Innovation Meets Intelligent Solutions

Delegates in attendance

250+

Organisations represented

40+

Expert speakers and contributors

33+

As cities evolve, so do the risks and responsibilities that come with them. This year's theme explores how security is adapting within increasingly connected urban environments from integrated technologies to smarter, more responsive approaches that support safer, more resilient cities.

Join us at ConSeC 2026:

29th October, 2026

🕒 09:00 AM – 05:00 PM



If your organisation is looking to exhibit or sponsor ConSeC 2026, you can learn more about the opportunities below.

[See Brochure](#)



Momentum of Collective Expertise

The first quarter of the year has laid a solid foundation for the ASC, but the momentum is only just building.

As we have seen in this edition, our strength lies in the active exchange of ideas, focusing on bridging the gap between independent consultancy and academic research to stay at the leading edge of a complex industry.

Looking ahead at the growing calendar of events, we encourage all our members to carry this *spirit* to our upcoming gatherings as an essential tool to influence the direction of our profession.

We extend our gratitude to the continued dedication to the association.

Follow our journey



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website!

