

Case study: Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty makes progress toward greener and leaner project management with Site Progress Mobile

The challenge

The trials of gathering and capturing project progress updates are a familiar challenge for planners. No planner will be unfamiliar with the paper mountain that can accumulate during projects, as multiple parties are furnished with programme printouts to mark up and annotate on a regular basis. Not only does this affect cost and efficiency, there are obvious environmental factors too.

There are certain times during a project when activity intensifies more than others, significantly increasing the number of progress updates to manage – and the fit-out stage of a large accommodation project is a good example. Part of the ground or first floor may be nearly complete, but there are still elements of that sequence to progress. With that plus another floor that's just starting there might be 10-12 sheets of A3 with programme activities, which also need an input on the progress.

Gathering updates from everyone on a weekly basis could rapidly accumulate a lot of paper. Somebody has to go around and physically hand people print outs to get progress updates. With fit-out, even if it's just one section, there are a lot of activities that relate to it within the programme, spread out over several pages. Common complaints included that people couldn't see it properly, that the spreadsheet when printed out was too small for them, and it was hard to fit to page.

The solution

The Site Progress Mobile app from Elecosoft enables planners to send out the progress update requirements



quickly and easily to on-site colleagues equipped with iOS or Android devices. The app allows the team to stay on top of core business tasks and record important information without going through tons of paper.

David Grant, a planner for the Major Projects team at Balfour Beatty has been trialling the Site Progress Mobile app

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from Elecosoft for the past 12 months, testing its effectiveness across two major London student accommodation projects using his current five Site Progress Mobile licences as an adjunct to the company's Asta Powerproject licensing.

The benefits

An important part of any planning project is working to deadlines. The time absorbed by inputting the updates back into the programme was a significant driver. The app has enabled the team to streamline the processes as site managers can now do their own data entry on site. Once the data the team sent back are imported into the programme, a drop-line is created for the progress period automatically, with the progress updated against it.



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With an app that can be used on the mobile phone or iPad, all the information needed is there in front of the planner. All they need to spend time on now is checking everything is correct. It is a more efficient way of completing the raw data entry so they can spend more time scrutinising the information and assessing the ramifications of the current progress position .

The app helps by keeping all information in one place and ready to go, combined with the means to take photos and immediately attach it to the programme activity, making it easier to find later.

Customer quote

David Grant, a planner for the Major Projects team at Balfour Beatty, said: “It’s easy, there’s a nice display, it’s succinct and it make sense as you scroll through it. It’s a lot easier to get support if you can send something to their iPad and they’ve just got to open an app to go through it, than it is to drop off 40 pages of Excel spreadsheets that they need a magnifying glass to read. We can now send them something they can use easily, on a piece of tech they already have. It’s easier to navigate than a pile of paper, and not so much of a chore. It’s far easier to get people to submit on time.

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About Elecsoft

Elecsoft is a leading international provider of software and related services to the architectural, engineering, construction and retail industries.

Our core product, Asta Powerproject, provides solutions for managing any size and any type of project and is widely recognised as one of the world’s leading project management software solutions for construction.

More information about Elecsoft and its products can be found at elecsoft.com.