

Choosing the Best Route with Autodesk® Buzzsaw®

Collaborative project management solution helps Waterman CPM streamline new link road assessment

“I estimate that using Autodesk Buzzsaw has enabled us to reduce the costs of communication and administration by 40% and we have been able to pass these savings on to our client.”

– Mitch Peacock,
Waterman CPM’s
IT manager



Project Summary

“We work with a complete range of consultants – for example, agricultural, archeological, ecological, geological, socio-economic, noise and vibration, transportation, air quality, tourism and water resources to name but a few,” says Mitch Peacock, Waterman CPM’s IT manager.

Waterman CPM, one of the UK’s most respected environmental, planning and design consultancies manages the planning process for clients ranging from large house builders and other commercial organisations to private individuals. As concerns about the environment intensify, so this task becomes increasingly stringent and complex, involving multiple environmental statements and often leading to a public enquiry.

As Peacock explains: “We recognised that we could offer added value to clients by streamlining the processes surrounding this service. Autodesk Buzzsaw on-demand collaborative project management solution enables us to do this.” He reports that Buzzsaw has:

- Reduced overall communication and administration costs by 40%
- Helped eliminate the risk of non-current information being incorporated into critical documents
- Accelerated interaction between diverse professionals
- Enabled the fast communication of CAD-based drawings and other documentation

The Challenge

Manage and share

Part of the Waterman Group, Waterman CPM specialises in providing sustainable and practical environmental solutions for clients such as developers, planners, architects, government agencies and the transport industry. As Peacock explains, it’s a fast-moving world, with new policies coming into force all the time: “Anything we can do to simplify matters helps both ourselves and our clients,” he says.

“Our more complex projects involve many consultants, all looking at different aspects of a proposed development or land management. Consequently, coordinating environmental statements was a real headache. There were so many documents flying around via email that it was becoming very difficult to identify the latest information.

“We really couldn’t afford the risk of an outdated document being included in a vital document, especially as many of our jobs go to public enquiry.”

Waterman CPM

The Solution

Most appropriate

The crunch came when the team began working on a major project to choose the best route for a new bypass. "Our client wanted us to investigate three options to assess which would have the least impact on the surrounding environment. There were many constraints to take into consideration and it was quickly apparent that there would be an extensive amount of different information, including CAD and GIS data, to record and we would need to find some way to effectively manage and share it."

Peacock says that he had been aware of Buzzsaw ever since it was first introduced onto the market but had never had the opportunity to use it. He did look at some alternative products, but felt, "they weren't quite up to the job. It made sense to use an Autodesk solution because we knew it would integrate well with AutoCAD".

Buzzsaw, an on-demand collaborative project management solution is the leader in providing unprecedented visibility and control across an entire portfolio, allowing firms to proactively manage projects, optimise performance, and accelerate time to profitability at each stage in the project lifecycle. By facilitating better management and administration of processes and tasks through all phases of the project lifecycle, it helps speed processes, increase team accountability, and keep projects on time and on budget.

Waterman CPM now runs Buzzsaw sites for two clients and has worked closely with Autodesk Consulting to ensure it is getting the best from its

investment. "We worked together on such areas as setting up our file structure – and we seem to have got that just right as we haven't changed it since," says Peacock.

Sarah Capes of Autodesk Consulting explains "Although Buzzsaw is quick and straightforward to implement and use, we can help customers get an even faster return on their investment in the solution by listening to exactly what they need to do and assisting in some of the more detailed functionality."

Buzzsaw holds all current project drawings and documentation securely online so that all authorised personnel have instant access at any time and wherever they are. This makes it ideal for collaborative projects involving a diverse range of consultants as it ensures all key information is held in one single and safe location.

The Results

Less work – more value

"Now the whole thing is really running smoothly, we're happy and our clients are happy too," says Peacock. There is a lot of activity on the site with numerous people accessing the latest information every day.

"Our colleagues who are working on the project like the fact that there's no more sitting waiting for something to be emailed to them – as they know they will be informed as soon as the latest information is posted on the site." Even managing the site has involved less work than anticipated.

"We budgeted for the administration of the Buzzsaw site to take around three or four hours a month – in fact it has only been taking one hour."

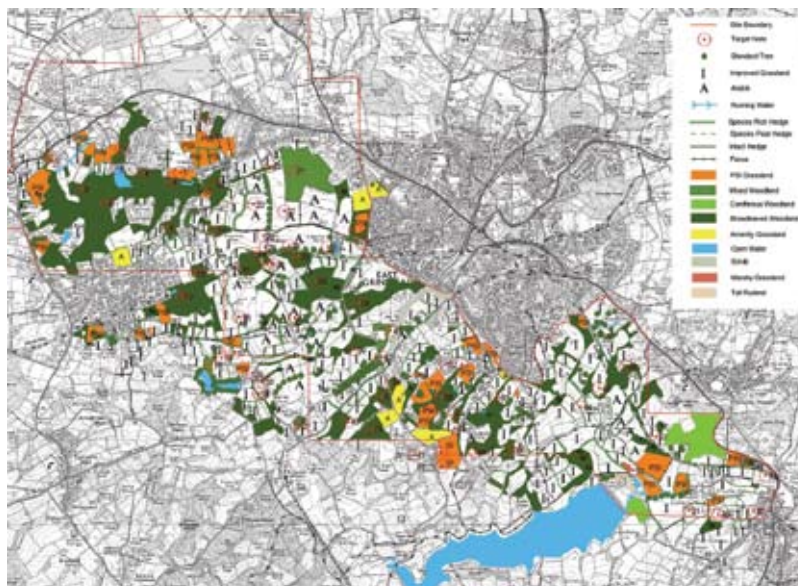
He adds that the main advantage of using Buzzsaw is that it helps Waterman CPM to keep its fees competitive. "As consultants we charge clients for our time. The more we streamline our work the better value our service becomes.

"I estimate that using Buzzsaw has enabled us to reduce the costs of communication and administration by around 40% and we have been able to pass these savings on to our client. No wonder they are convinced that the solution is great."

Peacock says that now Buzzsaw has proved itself, he will recommend using it on further large-scale projects, "particularly when there is a consortium of clients and a large consulting team". He is also considering moving on to Buzzsaw Professional and working again with Autodesk Consulting to customise business processes to help accelerate workflow further.

"And we are also thinking of having a Buzzsaw site of our own. Part of our service to clients is the sharing of current information and we produce a considerable number of paper reports. If these were all held on a Buzzsaw site and we issued clients with individual log-in details, they could access and download these whenever they wanted," he concludes.

For more information or to learn more, visit:
www.autodesk.co.uk/buzzsaw



Waterman CPM enhances service to clients with Autodesk Buzzsaw