



*"What used to take weeks can now be done in hours using Buzzsaw. In fact, even allowing contractors plenty of time to consider documents, it is cutting timescales in half."*

Vernon Le Corre  
Information Control Manager  
Bovis Lend Lease

## High Achievers

Bovis Lend Lease, the main contractor for the construction of the tallest building in Leeds, is using Autodesk Buzzsaw, an on-demand collaborative project management (CPM) solution, to dramatically cut turnaround time for drawings and documents on the Bridgewater Place project.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

#### High-level Management

As one of the world's leading construction and project management companies, Bovis Lend Lease is no stranger to large, record-breaking projects. Operating in over 30 countries and with regional hubs in the UK, Australia and the US, its portfolio is like a roll call of prestigious buildings such as the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, the Times Warner Center in New York and the twin Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur.

One of the latest in this list is the Bridgewater Tower, a 32-storey, mixed use building which will become the tallest building in the thriving city of Leeds. As main contractor on this high-profile project, Bovis Lend Lease is responsible for around 40 subcontractors.

To help keep control and avoid the delays often encountered when so many firms are involved on one project, Bovis Lend Lease is using Autodesk Buzzsaw on-demand CPM solution.

This is:

- Ensuring around 200 users have on-demand access to all project drawings and documentation wherever they are and at any time of day or night.
- Currently managing and keeping secure around 53,000 project documents.
- Halving the time taken to turn around drawing approvals and co-ordination.

### THE CHALLENGE

#### The Numbers Game

It's often said that there is safety in numbers. But this certainly isn't the case when managing projects. It's a simple equation. The more people who need to see a certain drawing or document, the more time it takes. It only takes one person to cause a bottleneck and the whole project can miss certain milestones and become delayed.

This is not only costly, but can also result in bad publicity. This is especially the case when the building in question is set to become a local landmark.



The Bridgewater Tower in Leeds is a case in point. Tall towers are always high profile by their very nature – but at one stage this one was even linked to the BBC Leeds website via webcam so local residents could watch its progress.

Equally, if someone key to the project doesn't have access to a drawing or other information, communication breaks down and misunderstandings ensue.

This was the dilemma facing Bovis Lend Lease information control manager, Vernon Le Corre. He had lost faith in traditional methods of distributing information:

"It gets unwieldy when you have above a certain number of subcontractors – for example, on this project we have around 40 – all in different locations. I would need to post large drawings to everyone involved – if they were lucky they would get it the following day, but then they may need to show it to others and so on. It could end up taking weeks," he explains.

He also stresses the need to keep control of who has seen what. "People forget they've seen something or versions get muddled up. It's so easy for mistakes to be made and, if these go undetected, they can cause serious design faults.

"We just can't afford for this to happen."

## THE SOLUTION

### Keeping Clients Happy

Vernon explains he had used Autodesk Buzzsaw in a previous role. "I'd found it a very productive tool; easy to use and a quick and efficient way of enabling architects and subcontractors redline and comment on drawings almost as soon as they were issued."

Autodesk Buzzsaw is an on-demand CPM tool that makes all project information available online whenever it is needed. Designed to keep projects on schedule and within budget, it enables users to communicate, share and track project information and drawings throughout project teams, giving main contractors complete control.

Knowing the benefits of the solution, Vernon was pleased that it was chosen to be used on this particular project. "Our client was happy too, as it's known to be a market-leading system."

Now, he has been able to cut the amount of time given to contractors to consider and comment or approve drawings from fourteen to seven days. "This gives them plenty of time as there's no need to factor in postage delays," he explains.

"As administrator I can also see who has logged on and off, who has opened documents and downloaded drawings. At any given time this gives me a good idea of the progress of the project and can immediately alert the team if things are being held up.

"Because the information is online, our 200 or so users can access it at any time – on their laptops if need be – and in any time zone if they are travelling. This helps continuity and keeps the workflow moving.

"Subcontractors can also use our standard Request for Information (RFI) forms and post them on Buzzsaw. The architects then answer – again via Buzzsaw – as soon as they can, sometimes instantly, but often within hours, which prevents any hold-up on site."

Bovis Lend Lease has been working with Autodesk Buzzsaw reseller Hobs Reprographics plc to get the best value possible from its investment. Hobs also provides a support service to the Bovis team: "When we do need hard copies of drawings I transfer them to the Hobs folder on Buzzsaw," explains Vernon. "They then download and print these from Buzzsaw. This means we don't have to do any full-scale printing from this office at all."

Adam Box of Hobs explains: "Autodesk Buzzsaw always offers good return on investment, but because of our thorough, long-term knowledge of the product we've helped maximise this – for example, through efficient use of DWF files.

"Bovis Lend Lease Bridgewater Place project has around 11,000 DWF files on the system. These provide the most compact way to hold information and ensure the team makes full use of the space available."

## THE RESULTS

### New heights

"We've had no significant setbacks and the work continues to flow smoothly, thanks to Buzzsaw," says Vernon. "It has allowed us to streamline processes so that communication between us, the subcontractors and the client is no longer a problem."

With the eyes of the city watching the tower move upwards, this news will cause a collective sigh of relief among everyone involved.

In fact, Vernon himself has found a good way to keep the whole, extended team informed on the progress of the project and in doing so also boost morale. "Not everyone working on the project is based in Leeds; they are all widely dispersed.

"Every few days or so, I take a photograph of the tower and post it on Buzzsaw site. This lets everyone know how it's growing and they can measure how much they have all achieved."

There's no doubt Vernon is exploring the potential of Autodesk Buzzsaw on-demand CPM solution – and taking it to new heights.

### For More Information

To learn more, visit:

[www.autodesk.co.uk/buzzsaw](http://www.autodesk.co.uk/buzzsaw)