

BIM

Forward UK



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The construction and engineering industry in the UK is experiencing one of its most significant digital transformations in decades, and BIM (Building Information Modelling) is at the forefront. From a government-led initiative, BIM has developed into an industry-wide revolution that is establishing how projects are designed, coordinated and delivered in housing, logistics, infrastructure, as well as modern methods of construction (MMC).

In 2024, the global BIM market crossed USD ~8 billion, with analysts forecasting sustained double-digit growth. The UK, buoyed by the ongoing uptake of ISO 19650 standards, continues to be one of the most developed BIM markets globally, particularly for public infrastructure and large private developments.

Forces Driving Rapid BIM Adoption in the UK

The current BIM environment is defined by three forces:



1. Policy Drive: ISO 19650 as the Industry "Common Language"

The transition from PAS 1192 to the ISO 19650 suite provided the sector with a consistent, internationally aligned standard for information. It is now simply expected that ISO compliant information data management is maintained, on most public sector projects (and increasing in the private sector).

Even the mid-size contractors and developers are now embedding structured information delivery workflows into their working practices, and building credibility through the number of firms going through the process of verification against ISO 19650.

2. Value Proposition In Terms Of Time, Cost, Schedule & Transparency

Clients across the UK now certainly require earlier visibility into:

- Cost implications
- Program sequencing
- Clash detection
- Digital handover/FM readiness

BIM achieves these objectives much better than a conventional 2D workflow.

3. The Move Towards MMC, Offsite, More Complex Infrastructure

Logistics Hubs, an industrial park, hospital expansions and modular housing projects demand a level of precision and co-ordination only achievable through BIM, and cannot be delivered effectively or on a regular basis without it.



How BIM is actually being applied by Engineering Teams today

Clash Detection to minimise rework

Industry studies and project reports constantly reinforce that early 3D co-ordination will reduce costly rework on site. For instance, in multidisciplinary engineering firms that combine MEP, civil, structural and digital teams, federated models are now business as usual, as a way to reduce surprises at the end of the design phase.

4D Planning and Faster Tender Approvals

Bidding contractors on large industrial or logistics projects are using 4D BIM (model + simulation of time) to challenge programme feasibility. This increases win rates, especially on projects where clients have previously highlighted complex sequencing or tight timelines as risks.

BIM for FM: The Pain of Digital Handover Takes Grip

Clients are becoming more FM driven. Structured asset data, COBie outputs and model based O&M deliverables are providing operators the ability to move directly into digital maintenance planning and energy performance tracking— which is a focal point within the UK's net-zero commitment.

Digital Twins Are Moving From Experiments to Early Reality

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How UK Firms Use BIM and Their Scale

BakerHicks

BakerHicks, part of the Morgan Sindall Group, is a contributor to the UK BIM landscape through its multidisciplinary engineering services. The firm is supported by a 1,300-strong workforce and its parent group Morgan Sindall reports £4.5B revenues. While this is the scale at which BIM-enabled engineering operates, the company maintains a digital-first disposition, providing the clients with seamless implementation across infrastructure, industrial, and built-environment projects.



Hill Group UK

The Hill Group UK had £1.15B revenue and £90.5M pre-tax profit, providing over 2,800 homes in the last reporting year. With a 32,000+ home pipeline valued at £12.5B, BIM-coordinated workflows help with the accelerated approval and administration of large-scale residential developments. The firm's robust financial position facilitates comprehensive internal BIM and digital adoption.



ZED PODS

ZED PODS is rated for their delivered offsite manufacture of BIM-certified zero-emission modular housing. Their off-site manufacturing relies heavily on 3D coordination to remain consistent and accurate in building modules that suit tight urban settings. Domestically, their projects are sized around £3 million.



Read Construction

Read Construction's projects range from £500K to £30 million based on an annual turnover over £40 million. Their Common Data Environment is maintained in BIM 360 Docs, which facilitates their 2D and 3D models during the development process. They enhance their public and private marketability by executing structured digital workflows.



What This Means for BIM & Engineering Teams in 2025

If you are involved in design, coordination, or project delivery in the UK:

ISO 19650 is not 'optional', it is your operational backbone.

Identify one high ROI BIM use case (e.g., clash detection, 4D, or digital handover) and grow from there, connecting into implementation.

Connect BIM into FM quickly, as client expectations are shifting toward lifecycle value and the cost of FM process delivery

Digital delivery is a competitive differentiator in the construction industry, whether you are a small, medium or large enterprise.

Look across the Industry – Modular specialists, logistics contractors, etc. – are doing all sorts of workflows that are applicable to your design, digital, or BIM process now.

The UK BIM market is not expanding because it is a trend— it is being adopted because the Industry is understanding that digital coordination, structured information, and transparent project delivery mean fewer project errors, speedier approvals, and improved building performance.

What is particularly evident from the anonymised examples across the country is that BIM looks and is used differently depending on project type. The value underlying projects and in engaging in BIM design & project delivery remains the same.

FINUSHOTS

Did You Know?

The UK led the world by mandating **BIM Level 2 for all government projects** in **2016** sparking a global BIM revolution!



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Sectors Powering the UK's BIM Revolution



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