

# Asta Sitecontrol

## ASTA SITECONTROL – MORE THAN JUST SITE CONTROL FOR BOVEY CONSTRUCTION

From its humble roots as a traditional small construction company, Bovey Construction has grown organically into a successful, multi-award-winning, independent construction firm with a reputation for specialist one-off, luxury-specification and high-quality renovations and new builds.

It works closely with architects to create landmark properties for its customers who have furnished Bovey Construction with an excellent track record of references. Architects choose to work with Bovey for its good management system which ensures there will be no quality issues, and individuals choose Bovey because they trust it to deliver to time and to quality, while keeping them closely involved.

Running up to eight highly complex, high-specification projects at a time, yielding a turnover of millions of pounds a year, requires complete control and visibility if quality is to be maintained and reputation protected. Sitting at the heart of Bovey Construction's day-to-day operations is the business hub on which success relies: Asta Sitecontrol from Asta Development.

For any site manager or planner the pressures of managing projects are intense. Asta Sitecontrol, integrated with Asta Powerproject, provides Bovey with a joined-up solution to management and planning, including a central library for documents, variation management, progress tracking, daily recording and cost control and reporting.

### ▶ WHY ASTA SITECONTROL?

John Farquharson is the project planner at Bovey Construction. One of his responsibilities is to produce a task-driven programme of works for every contract and each site manager works to this programme. John uses Asta Powerproject, also from Asta Development, to do this. When John saw a demonstration of Asta Sitecontrol, with its ability to link in to Asta Powerproject, John realised he could



provide the whole business with an integrated, end-to-end planning and management system that every member of staff could use not only for their unique job but to communicate with the rest of the business. Explained John: "I immediately identified three distinct areas that would make Asta Sitecontrol really useful for us:

Its ability to link with Asta Powerproject would give everyone, whether in the office,

on site, in the quantity surveyor's office or in the estimator's office, the power to keep in touch with everyone else at every stage of a project's life;

Variation and Change Requests, which have caused us so many headaches in the past, would keep all information on every variation in one place, including its cost;

The Daily Diary, which among other things would allow site managers to tick off

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completion against each task and input progress and near instantly replicate this on Asta Powerproject back in the office -- with versions kept available at all times, all visible to management -- and then lock it down so that no information can be amended, giving us a complete and unique record of events."

## ▶ ASTA SITECONTROL MEETS THE UNIQUE DEMANDS OF A NICHE BUSINESS

In Bovey's business projects are predominantly high-end and one-off and they are complex because they are one offs -- any problem or challenge is therefore likely to be unique. Such is the specialist nature of each job that a site manager is assigned to a single project from the outset, and stays with that project from beginning to end. Although a site manager is running one project at a time, they are in reality juggling thousands of aspects in any project at a time, some require a lot of attention, some less -- but they all need to be managed well. "In our business the parts you need might be specialist or their installation might need a certain skill. It's not like traditional building. A specialist part might take a long time to order, and carry more risks in terms of when they will arrive, throwing the whole project out. For example, a curved glass balustrade might not be simple to procure or install, we might need to bring in specialist subcontractors. All of this we can coordinate and manage in Asta Sitecontrol -- so it is crucial to our success," said John.

Another aspect of niche builds that makes Bovey's job highly specialist is location. A high-end build is often high-end because of the location that the customer demands, like the side of a cliff with panoramic views. This brings its own challenges. Bovey overcomes these challenges by planning around scenarios and timeframes using Asta Sitecontrol. "It often occurs that a particular build unexpectedly requires a product that is new to us, for example, a current contract requires a Green Roof which consists of built-up waterproof layers topped with pre-grown fully established Sedum, explained John. "All of the information that is acquired at the estimation stage thankfully is located in SiteControl, without it we would have to reinvent the wheel when it comes to build stage. In addition any new specifications and sourcing information are added and next

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time we come across this need, we don't have to repeat the process. All information is retrievable at a later date."

One feature of Asta Sitecontrol that John finds particularly useful for both the site manager and the programme planner is the functionality of the diary page. Said John: "The diary page lets us see progress and completion of individual tasks, but a unique and very useful feature is its ability to import photos. This has proved an essential tool in the construction phase. For example, recently, while working on a refurbishment contract, we uncovered an existing support beam which was undersized according to the specification. The site manager took a photo of the beam, uploaded it into Asta Sitecontrol (with date clearly visible) in the diary page and locked it. The architect was emailed the photo directly from Asta Sitecontrol, showing a true record of events. It was then decided quickly and efficiently which way to proceed."

Bovey also discovered that Asta Sitecontrol is not only ideal for site managers and planners.

## ▶ ASTA SITECONTROL FOR OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Before Asta Sitecontrol was used as a site tool, Bovey realised that it would fulfil its need for a back-office management system to control and centralise its records. Setting it up as an office system also meant that everyone would be trained on it and would understand its capability before it was used onsite.

Neil Turner, Managing Director, Bovey Construction, explained why Asta Sitecontrol is an essential part of the day-to-day operation of the business. "Asta Sitecontrol is our repository for all on-site information accessed in the office. Up until a year ago, information and documentation lay with different personnel in different places around the organisation. Asta Sitecontrol now houses all information about Bovey's projects, from the client's phone number, to the site diary, to orders, subcontracts in place, project programmes and even photos. It is resident on our server and everyone in the office uses it, so we can access anything we want any time we want."

Neil and the team like the ease of use of Asta Sitecontrol; a simple drop down menu gives Neil a list of all projects in progress and all information on what they are tendering for. One click and Neil is instantly provided with whatever information he needs to know about any aspect of his business.

"For example," said Neil, "When a tender enquiry comes in, the minute we agree to



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take on that job, we give it a project number and the whole project is collated in Asta Sitecontrol. We receive and archive all information into a project file so it is all available in one place. It holds everything from meetings notes, to specifications, to email strings, to requests for information and other correspondence. This is particularly important for our business because when we hand over from tender to project, it is not necessarily the same set of people who will be handling it, so there are no lengthy briefings and the project can be executed straightaway. Asta Sitecontrol closes that bridge for us, between the tender and execution by project managers and subcontractors. All information is to hand ready for the project to start. The system really is central to what we do, and far more to us than just site control.”

## ▶ ASTA SITECONTROL AS AN AUDIT TRAIL

Requests for Information (RFIs) or Change Requests are central to any construction programme, and they need to be managed well. They are difficult to maintain manually and prior to implementing Asta Sitecontrol Bovey found the process cumbersome.

“What Asta Sitecontrol has given us is a process for RFIs that is embedded into the software. It’s easy to maintain and most importantly it gives us an audit trail. We can see exactly when a particular piece of information was requested from us or when we made a request for a piece of information. It’s an incredibly important feature.”

“Anyone can use this feature, from the buyer to the quantity surveyor to the site manager. If, for example, I want to ask a question about the contract that isn’t clear, I can issue a request in SiteControl, a unique number is allocated to it and it is sent automatically to the Architect. All responses are then collated. It is very valuable in this respect



and of utmost importance to contracts, because if it’s not made clear and if the question isn’t asked early enough, we can be held responsible for the delay later on. The request is time bound and dated, giving a particular amount of time for them to supply the information we want. I then have no problem following that response and its trail—it really is key to the management of many complex projects.”

At any time during a project’s lifecycle, Asta Sitecontrol can provide a detailed report that shows the stages and status of all those requests. “This is beneficial to me because I’m not working on the project,” said Neil. “It gives me full transparency; it tells me who raised the request, the dates and what all the responses were.”

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“Asta Sitecontrol also has the capability to price out those requests,” continued Neil, “but we’ve decided not to pursue that yet, we want to get everything else secure and embedded in our infrastructure before we start using the extra features -- we want eventually to embed all aspects of Asta Sitecontrol into our system.”

## ▶ ASTA SITECONTROL HELPS MITIGATE RISK

From a senior management point of view, Asta Sitecontrol is also a tool that helps determine risk. It allows them to see jobs in terms of their financial and programme implications. It shows details of why a project is going to delay and where responsibility for that delay lies -- at the company’s door or at the door of the client or the contract administrator.

“For any risk, I need to be able to demonstrate any claim. Using Asta Sitecontrol I can show evidence for any part of the programme, because everything that is logged in Asta Sitecontrol is an indisputable true record of events and is often accompanied by photographic evidence. It would be very hard for anyone to disprove anything we say, we have the proof that they received something or we sent something in terms of requests. Asta Sitecontrol is annotated in such a way that I don’t even have to trawl through data or information to get to what I want -- I have a clear document numbered and ordered to allow me to find what I want when I want it -- it’s very specific and very transparent. Right from the start SiteControl has been a true asset to our business.”

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## ▶ ASTA SITECONTROL DELIVERS END-TO-END MANAGEMENT

Using Asta Sitecontrol, especially in conjunction with Asta Powerproject, has given Bovey a total management system, which links every employee, every communication with all stakeholders and delivers full visibility of progress. Said John: “The beauty of Asta Sitecontrol is its functionality; everyone can use it, and they can use it just for the part that they are responsible for. It allows us to specify exactly who can share or see which information and we can restrict levels of information. It gives us an all-round management tool that everyone has a stake in, from the quantity surveyor with his valuations and variations, to the estimator at tender stage, to the site managers using their unique parts, to finance to control costs through to senior management and the control of day-to-day operations. It truly has excellent functionality.”

## ▶ COST SAVINGS WITH ASTA SITECONTROL

John explained that the uptake of Asta Sitecontrol was swift and seamless for the business and required little expense on



training and support. “Asta Development was so helpful that it required only an initial viewing for Neil and myself to start using it. Five licences later, it took only a couple of remote presentations, which Asta obligingly tailored to each employee, to convince the whole workforce of its ease of use and intuitiveness. There was no resistance, like you often get when introducing a new software tool, everyone is happy using it.”

Cost savings are always hard to quantify, but in terms of the reporting capability, Bovey has saved between 50 percent and 70 percent in resources and time by using Asta Sitecontrol.

“It is a very intuitive piece of software,” said Neil, “so it doesn’t even require much investment in training. The value to our business in terms of guaranteeing currency and accuracy of our data is immeasurable. Managing the system before we had Asta Sitecontrol used to be so cumbersome, the magnitude of scale in total savings is enormous.”

## ▶ ABOUT ASTA DEVELOPMENT

Asta Development is a leading international developer of project, portfolio and resource management software which provides solutions for managing any size and any type of project.

Since its launch in 1988, the company’s core product, Asta Powerproject, has evolved and improved driven by regular feedback from users and the use of the latest technologies available. It has proved its capabilities over the years on high-profile projects throughout the world and is now used by thousands of planners in a wide variety of industry sectors in the UK, Europe, Asia Pacific and the US. Asta

Development supports customers directly from its offices in Oxfordshire and Shropshire. Outside of the UK, Asta Development has a network of distributors who supply, train and support customers, with the software available in up to seven different languages. Asta Development is a part of Eleco plc, a holding

company focusing on software and advanced off-site building systems for the construction industry. The company is listed on the London Stock Exchange’s Alternative Investment Market (AIM). More information about Asta Development and its products can be found at [www.astadev.com](http://www.astadev.com) and information about Eleco plc can be found at [www.eleco.com](http://www.eleco.com)

## ▶ ABOUT BOVEY CONSTRUCTION

Bovey Construction is a traditional independent construction company working predominantly with private clients and specialising in one-off high-specification, high-quality renovations and new builds. It works typically in close co-operation with architects and the customer to create high-specification landmark properties and is supported by its substantial track record with excellent reference from clients, architects, engineers, NHBC and LABC inspectors.

Quality, Communication and Health and Safety are keenly focused and supported and Design, programme and costs are monitored in partnership with Clients and Architects, the approach designed to achieve excellent build quality and sustain long-term relationships.

More information about Bovey Construction can be found at <http://www.boveyconstruction.co.uk/>

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