

THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE ERRORS IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION BEST PRACTICE CASEBOOK



RESEARCH
REPORT
FEBRUARY 2026



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FOREWORD

FOREWORD BY CLIFF SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GET IT RIGHT INITIATIVE

GIRI celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2025, which was a time to reflect on the extent to which things have changed over the decade. One big change is the advance of technology as a source of new opportunities to improve quality, but also as a potential source of error in its own right.

In 2023, we focused our GIRI Technology Working Group on bringing together quality professionals and technology providers. This is the fourth report that Group has produced since then, and is the second guide related to best practice.

The purpose of showcasing successful technology case studies is clear: to celebrate success, to encourage others to follow suit and to help share what has worked and why.

Part of what GIRI is here to do is to encourage collaboration at a cross-industry level and technology is an area where the benefits of this are clear.

What this report is starting to demonstrate, although it is still early days, is that Artificial Intelligence represents a step-change in technological capability. One factor holding back deployment in a high-hazard industry such as construction is a fear that AI will make mistakes.

GIRI is helping to find ways to highlight how AI can be used safely and reliably, and some of the examples in this report show how this can be done.

Cliff Smith
February 2026

“ **TECHNOLOGY IS A SOURCE OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY, BUT IS ALSO A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF ERROR IN ITS OWN RIGHT.** ”



INTRODUCTION

ABOUT GIRI

Founded in 2015, The Get It Right Initiative (GIRI) is a not-for-profit membership organisation that has adopted a multi-disciplinary approach to tackling error. Its members include clients, consultants, contractors, regulators, educators, professional institutions and trade bodies who are working together to raise awareness about the challenges of error – and to eliminate it at source.

Its goals are to:

- Create a culture and working environment to get it right from the start.
- Change attitudes and harness leadership responsibility to reduce error and improve construction quality, productivity and safety.
- Engage all stakeholders in eliminating error from inception, through operation, to completion.
- Share knowledge about error reduction processes and systems.
- Improve skills across the sector, creating a positive approach to pre-empting error.

WHAT ARE ERRORS AND WHY DO THEY OCCUR?

GIRI's definition of an error is any action or inaction that results in a requirement for re-work, a requirement for extra work or produces a defect. (A defect is any failure to meet the project requirements at handover.)

Errors can occur across the whole construction lifecycle: from upstream processes including raw materials processing and manufacturing, through to construction, commissioning and handover.

In 2016, GIRI produced a research report¹ on improving value by eliminating error. The research team used a 'Grounded Theory Method' to collect and analyse information on error in the UK construction industry. It identified the 17 most financially significant causes of error and the most effective methods for avoiding or minimising the consequences of error.

Work by HS2, which we reproduced in our report on AI and Error Reduction in July 2025, consolidated these into nine categories of error, which we reproduce in Figure 1 below.

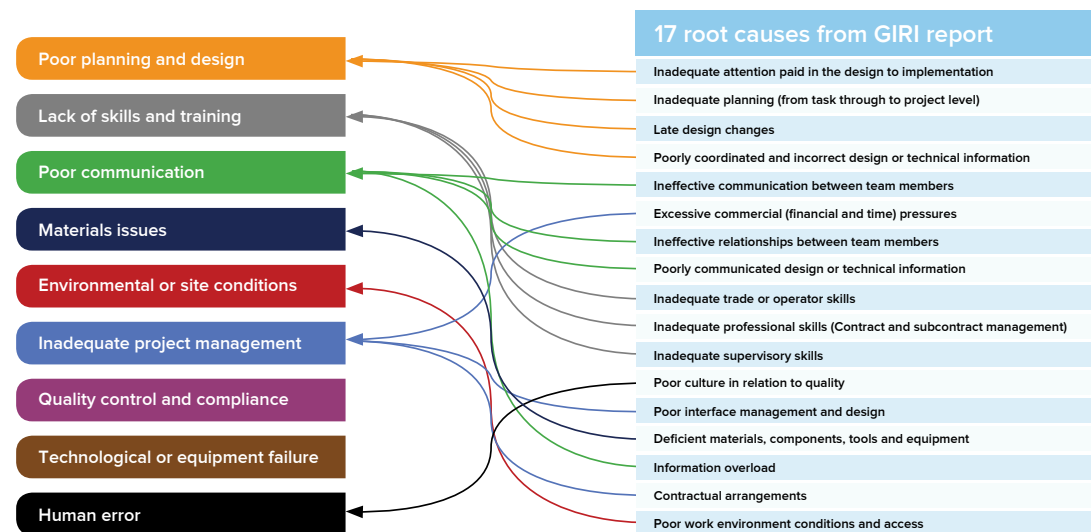


Figure 1 – Seventeen root causes of error consolidated into nine categories

THE GIRI TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP

The GIRI Technology Working Group (TWG) is a monthly forum that brings together quality professionals with technology providers from both large AEC (Architecture, Engineering and Construction) software vendors and start-ups alike. The aim is to share challenges and best practice, and to encourage the development of tools that really address industry's needs.

Speakers at recent meetings have covered the use of technology on highways projects, quality management in the space sector, competency and capability management, and various aspects of AI, including AI agents.

This is the fourth report that the TWG has produced, and the second Best Practice Casebook. (The first was published in November 2024.)

The other two publications have been:

- **The Use of Technology to Reduce Errors in Design & Construction (2023)**, which identified nine categories of technology that can be used to improve quality. It also highlighted the need for integrating technology with people and processes, and noted barriers to adoption.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Error Reduction (2025)**, which showed the potential for the use of AI in construction. It identified four of the areas set out in Figure 1 – poor planning and design; inadequate project management; quality control and compliance; and human error – as having the highest potential for error reduction through the use of AI.

- It also highlighted the potential for AI itself to be a new source of error and suggested four approaches – risk assessments; human-in-the-loop; chain-of-thought reasoning and AI assurance systems – as ways to help manage and mitigate this risk. GIRI has subsequently issued for consultation a draft exemplar policy on the safe use of AI in construction, featuring these four approaches.

STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

The first Best Practice Casebook was based around the nine categories of technology that can help reduce errors that were identified in the 2023 Report. It has become increasingly clear that the range and type of technology that can contribute to better quality outcomes goes way beyond these nine. Accordingly, we have relaxed the structure in this report to best cover the technology and benefits that are being described.

GIRI is very grateful to all the contractors and technology providers who have been willing to share details of their projects and benefits in this report. It is one of the great strengths of GIRI that members are willing to work collaboratively with colleagues in other organisations in the common goal of reducing rework and avoiding errors.



A. Collaboration and communication tools

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS ENABLE TEAMS TO WORK TOGETHER SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY

The challenge

The Targeted Catchment Investigation (TCI) programme required coordination across hundreds of field engineers, multiple delivery partners and Thames Water's operational teams. Lanes sought a software system to unify communication and reporting across all sites.

The technology solution

Lanes selected SymTerra, which allows engineers to capture inspections, asset data and site photos and videos directly from the field via mobile. These are instantly visible in real-time dashboards and automated reporting provides information to managers and Thames Water leads.

The benefits

Live dashboards and report digests eliminate silos between office and field teams. Every inspection, photo, and update is timestamped, traceable and linked to assets and RAG risk categories. Structured data and visibility reduce defects and accelerate corrective action.

The lessons learned

Embedding SymTerra into daily operations was key to enabling Lanes and Thames Water to demonstrate faster rollouts, better data integrity and fewer errors. The model is now a repeatable blueprint for transparent communication across future programmes.



Project:

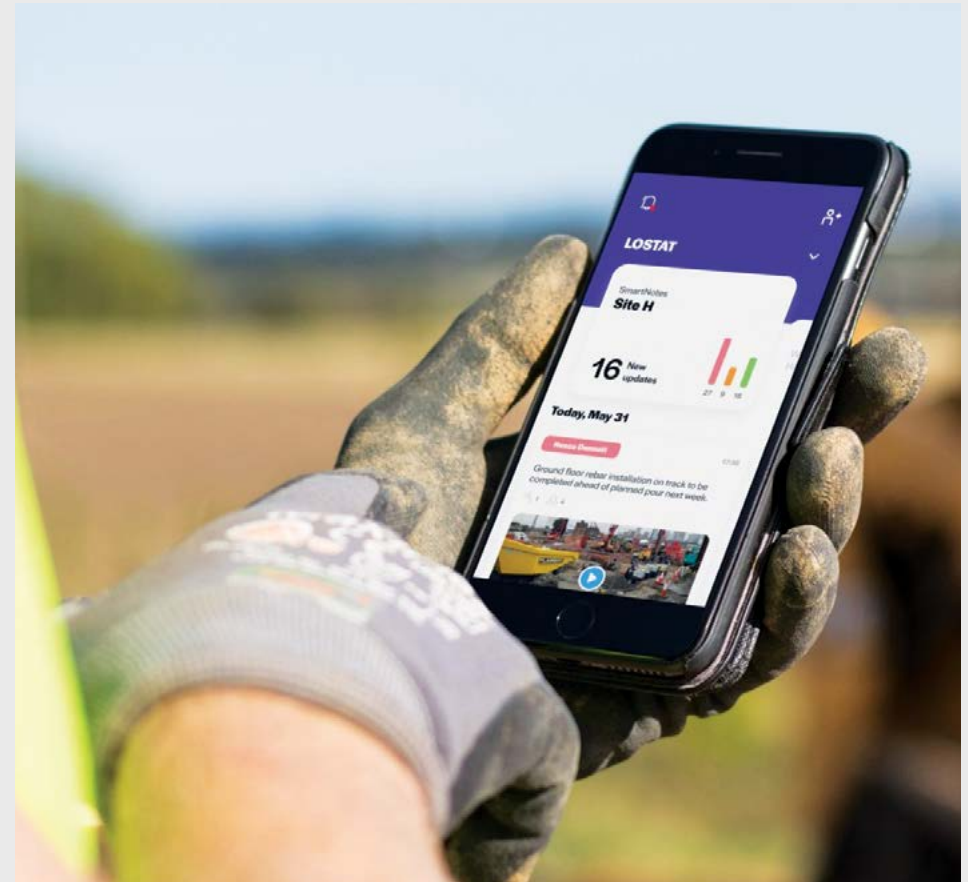
Targeted Catchment Investigation (TCI)

Contractor:

Lanes Group plc

Technology provider:

SymTerra



“ SymTerra empowered Lanes to define project criteria and objectives on a Monday and deliver a fully functioning real-time project reporting dashboard by Friday. This improves visibility for all, including the Client.

B. Competency management systems



Project:

Chalcots Regeneration

Contractor:

McLaren Construction

Technology provider:

Complete Competence Ltd



COMPETENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS HELP ENSURE AND EVIDENCE THAT PERSONNEL ARE SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED

The challenge

In line with the Building Safety Act 2022 and Building Regulations (Part 2A, Reg 11F), contractors must evidence that all personnel have the required skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours. Clients need a simple digital platform to drive adoption, provide robust evidence/validation and support continuous competence development.

The technology solution

Complete Competence has implemented a structured and transparent competency framework across all relevant job families. Each framework is meticulously documented and mapped to ensure that skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours are clearly defined and evidenced. The platform is also seamlessly integrated with a Learning Management System (LMS), providing access to targeted training materials including on-the-job training, mentoring, and self-directed learning.

The benefits

Traceable and assured compliance with less administration. This means faster onboarding, portfolio-level visibility of gaps and a continuous development pathway that lifts safety, quality and productivity across projects.

The lessons learned

The design of the user interface is very important: it needs to be intuitive and robust, so that people want to use it and can do so quickly.

“ The design of the user interface is very important: it needs to be intuitive and robust, so that people want to use it and can do so quickly.

C. Component Dimensional Assurance



Project:

Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR)

Contractor:

Galliford Try Infrastructure

Technology provider:

Leica Geosystems



DIGITAL MEASUREMENT AND MODEL COMPARISON CONFIRM COMPONENTS MATCH DESIGN BEFORE INSTALLATION

The challenge

Large, pre-cambered steel bridge beams were manufactured off-site with complex geometries, making it difficult to confirm dimensional accuracy and alignment against the design before delivery and installation.

The technology solution

High-precision laser scanning using the Leica MS60, combined with Leica Cyclone 3DR software, was used to compare scanned data against the 3D design model and as-built site data, generating deviation heatmaps and clash visualisations.

The benefits

Potential clashes and dimensional issues were identified and corrected before installation, reducing risk, avoiding rework and giving the project team confidence in geometry, tolerances and buildability.

The lessons learned

Early digital verification of prefabricated components prevents installation risk and rework, and access to accurate 3D models is critical to maximise the value of model-based comparison.

“ Access to accurate 3D models is critical to maximise the value of model-based comparison.

E. Design configurators

DESIGN CONFIGURATORS USE RULE-BASED AUTOMATION TO GENERATE DESIGNS FROM A SMALL SET OF KEY INPUT VARIABLES

The challenge

Forkers faced the need to accelerate the design process for a range of repeatable clean-water and wastewater assets. The traditional manual design approach was iterative in nature and difficult to adapt quickly as the design evolved. This led to inconsistency, an increased risk of errors, and delays due to rework across multiple schemes.

The technology solution

To address these issues, GHD's Automation Studio was implemented. This platform automates key design steps using rules-based calculations, which then generate 3D models and drawings. Each output consists of a scheme-specific Revit model and a comprehensive set of drawings, all supported by an automatically verified calculation package.

The benefits

Whereas designs previously required days or weeks to complete, the use of automation has reduced this timeframe to minutes or hours. Automated calculations enhance both accuracy and consistency. Optimised layouts also reduce material usage.

The lessons learned

Automation is particularly well-suited to repeatable design tasks where clear, rules-based design schemas exist. The most effective results are achieved by combining automated outputs with focused human review.



Project:

Lot 2, Severn Trent AMP-7 framework

Contractor:

Forkers Ltd

Technology provider:

GHD Automation Studio



“ The most effective results are achieved by combining automated outputs with focused human review.

F. Digital field management



Project:

Residential and commercial developments (various)

Contractor:

Impresa Percassi

Technology provider:

PlanRadar



“ The project shows that broad, organisation-wide adoption – not partial use – is vital for meaningful error reduction.

DIGITAL FIELD MANAGEMENT TOOLS DIGITISE INSPECTIONS AND SITE REPORTING TO REDUCE ERRORS AND IMPROVE COORDINATION

The challenge

Impresa Percassi relied on paper forms, spreadsheets and dispersed documents for inspections and non-conformities, leading to outdated or inconsistent information and a higher risk of duplicated work, miscommunication and rework.

The technology solution

The contractor deployed PlanRadar as a central digital platform for site inspections, non-conformity tracking and reporting. Mobile access let site teams, subcontractors and technical managers capture evidence, update drawings and communicate in real time, replacing fragmented workflows.

The benefits

Digital documentation meant teams worked from consistent, up-to-date plans, reducing errors from missing or outdated information. Standardised checklists improved quality assurance, while real-time communication cut unnecessary site visits. Key reporting tasks took about half the time and rework fell as issues were identified and resolved earlier.

The lessons learned

Clear communication and standardised workflows are essential to preventing errors. Digital platforms provide immediate visibility of issues and traceable accountability, reducing mistakes being “built over”. The project shows that broad, organisation-wide adoption – not partial use – is vital for meaningful error reduction.

G. Digital handovers



Project:

HMP Five Wells

Contractor:

Kier

Technology provider:

Glider Technology



“ Embedded consultants coached subcontractors, managed data collection and ensured consistent digital handover workflows.

DIGITAL HANDOVERS PROVIDE VALIDATED, STRUCTURED ASSET DATA TO ENSURE ACCURATE TRANSFER INTO OPERATIONS

The challenge

Glider supported Kier in delivering a fully digital handover for the UK's first smart prison, HMP Five Wells. Kier's BIM-enabled approach accelerated construction using modern methods and created an Asset Information Model to support operations and future digital-twin development.

The technology solution

Glider's information-management platform underpinned the handover process, providing real-time data verification, auditable RFI tracking and IFC enrichment for data-rich models. Embedded consultants coached subcontractors, managed data collection and ensured consistent digital handover workflows.

The benefits

The platform verified over 380,000 COBie records and produced 17,000 handover documents and 437 O&M manuals. IFC enrichment enabled fully data-enriched models to support efficient operations. BIM integration and digital workflows helped deliver the project 22% faster than traditional methods.

The lessons learned

Robust digital handover processes and BIM integration are essential on complex, multi-stakeholder projects. Embedding information-management expertise ensured data quality and smooth delivery, establishing a model for future smart-prison programmes.

H. Digital setting-out tools

DIGITAL SETTING-OUT TOOLS LINK POSITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD TO DIGITAL MODELS

The challenge

In order to save months off the schedule for a three-storey, 69,000-square-foot medical office building, Skanska needed to reduce rework by 75%.

The technology solution

Dusty Robotics has an automated robotic solution to print the layout information on the floor of the jobsite to a high level of accuracy using robots.

The benefits

By printing every subcontractor's layout simultaneously, conflicts and clashes could be resolved at once, allowing installation to begin immediately. This reduced rework by three quarters, was 50% faster than traditional layout methods and saved three months on the schedule. The result was a saving of \$3m for the owner.

The lessons learned

Collaboration with all trade partners (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, framing and drywall) was key. Dusty's system enables all the subcontractors to work together to see whether there are issues with layout points in the CAD before they are laid out in the field.



Project:

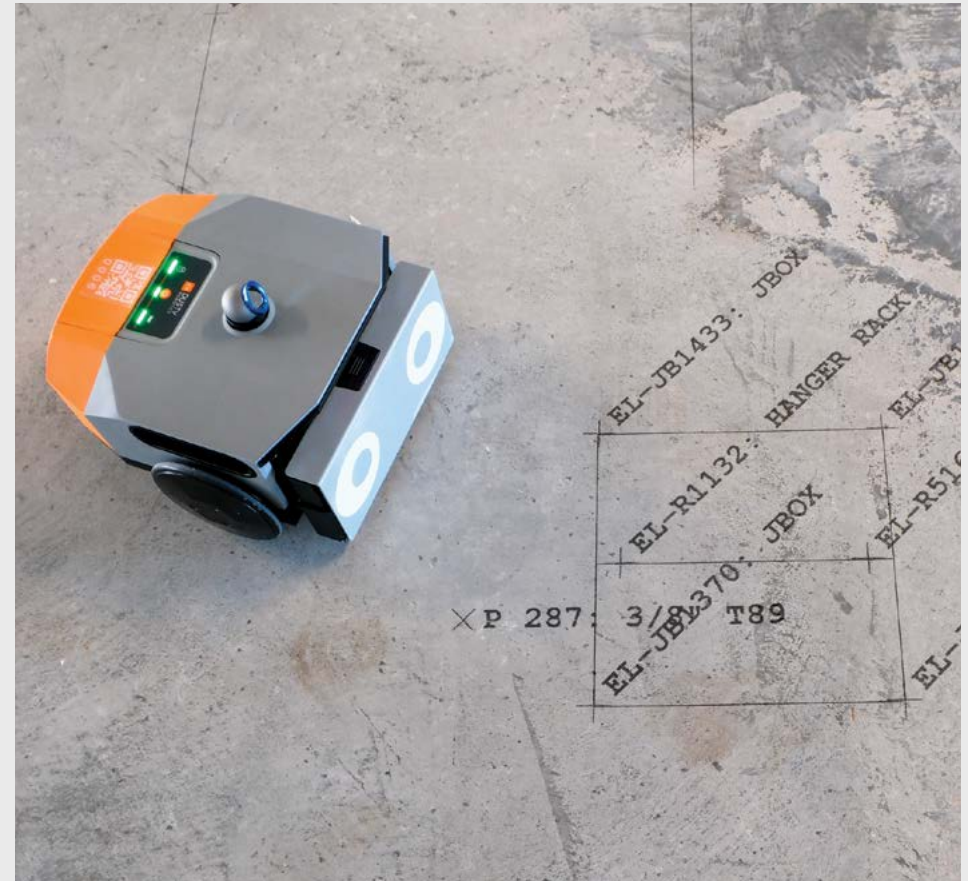
Sutter Health Ambulatory Care & Surgery Center Project, San Francisco

Contractor:

Skanska

Technology provider:

Dusty Robotics



“Dusty's system enables all the subcontractors to work together to see whether there are issues with layout points in the CAD before they are laid out in the field.

I. Lifting and placement error reduction

TECHNOLOGY THAT STABILISES LOADS TO REDUCE POSITIONING AND ALIGNMENT ERRORS

The challenge

Large bridge beams needed to be lifted and placed with high precision, but traditional methods relied on manual tag lines, leading to positioning errors, variability and delays during installation.

The technology solution

Vita Load Navigator was integrated into the lifting arrangement, using automated thrusters and memory functions to actively stabilise and control the load position and orientation during lifts.

The benefits

Beam placement accuracy improved, positioning errors were reduced, and lifts became faster and more repeatable. The need for manual correction around suspended loads was significantly reduced.

The lessons learned

Active load-stabilisation technology improves repeatability and reduces human-dependent error in lifting operations and can be scaled and reused across multiple projects.



Project:

Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR)
& A47 Blofield Schemes

Contractor:

Galliford Try Infrastructure

Technology provider:

Vita Industrial (Vita Load Navigator)



“ The technology can be scaled and reused across multiple projects.

J. Real-time process control (1)



Project:

300 Manor Road - London

Contractor:

Morgan Sindall

Technology provider:

Sablono



“ Treating construction as a live production system enables proactive intervention, reduces waiting and rework, and strengthens quality and compliance when embedded into day-to-day site operations.

REAL-TIME CONTROL OF CONSTRUCTION PROCESSES HELPS PREVENT ERRORS, REWORK AND COORDINATION FAILURES

The challenge

The scale of the 355-apartment, three-tower development demanded tight control of work sequencing, trade-to-trade handovers and verification. Morgan Sindall needed a way to manage over 50,000 site activities as a live production system, not through reactive inspections and manual reporting.

The technology solution

Sablono provided a single real-time production management platform connecting all subcontractors. Task status, handovers and proof-of-work were captured as work progressed, generating live KPIs and shared visibility. This enabled site teams to intervene early to resolve sequencing and handover risks, rather than responding after delays or defects occurred.

The benefits

Real-time production control reduced rework and coordination failures by eliminating duplicate documentation, repeat inspections and manual reporting — saving over 10,000 hours. Active management of trade handovers reduced clashes and incomplete works, lowering defect risk and enabling earlier completion.

The lessons learned

Treating construction as a live production system — with trade-to-trade handovers actively managed in real time — enables proactive intervention, reduces waiting and rework, and strengthens quality and compliance when embedded into day-to-day site operations.

K. Real-time process control (2)



Project:

Data Centre Project in Clonée, Ireland

Contractor:

MACE

Technology provider:

VisiLean Ltd.



“ The approach enabled a shift from reactive defect correction to proactive error prevention.

REAL-TIME CONTROL OF CONSTRUCTION PROCESSES HELPS PREVENT ERRORS, REWORK AND COORDINATION FAILURES

The challenge

The modular design process employed by Mace required tight process control to manage hundreds of prefabricated units, align contractors and prevent handover defects.

The technology solution

VisiLean replaced manual planning with a digitally controlled production system integrated with BIM. Real-time task tracking, mobile work instructions and live dashboards provided continuous control of workflow, early detection of process failures and rapid resolution of deviations.

The benefits

Digital production control reduced defects by 60% through earlier error detection and prevention. Ground-level modular assembly cut work-at-height by 75%, reducing risk and manual error. Real-time coordination improved workflow reliability by 43% and reduced labour inefficiencies by 45%, while continuous data feedback supported ongoing error reduction.

The lessons learned

Combining Lean methods, BIM and digital production control makes errors visible and preventable. The approach enabled a shift from reactive defect correction to proactive error prevention.

L. Real-time process control (3)

TECHNOLOGIES THAT SUPPORT TASK COORDINATION AND TEAM MANAGEMENT

The challenge

Volker Fitzpatrick resurfaced Heathrow's Northern Runway under tight time constraints in a confined airside environment. The project required strict control of personnel and plant to maintain safety, productivity and rule compliance, while reducing people-plant interface risk.

The technology solution

OWL uses high accuracy geolocation to provide live insights, alerts and actionable data to improve safety and productivity across site operations. OWL collects data and delivers real time alerts should field users deviate from the plan.

The benefits

OWL helped to ensure that the project was delivered with no Lost Time Incidents. OWL also identified improved vehicle routings reducing turnaround times. The data insights helped to identify deviations from the plan and provided behavioural safety trends to inform targeted interventions, enabling safe, as planned delivery.

The lessons learned

The project showed how advanced geo-location can enable better project delivery and ensure a right first-time approach. OWL is now being integrated with another Heathrow platform to provide further value for future airside projects.



Project:

Heathrow Airport Runway Resurfacing

Contractor:

Volker Fitzpatrick

Technology provider:

Onwave - OWL Geofencing Technology



“ OWL helped to ensure that the project was delivered with no Lost Time Incidents.

M. Visualisation tools

VISUALISATION TOOLS CREATE A CLEAR, SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF COMPLEX DESIGNS, PREVENTING MISINTERPRETATION AND MISTAKES

The challenge

London's Salisbury Square is a major City of London project to deliver a new flagship HMCTS facility. The deep, three-storey basement required complex temporary works to manage high excavation loads safely. A key technical challenge was proving that modular proprietary propping could outperform traditional structural steel solutions in speed, flexibility and buildability.

The technology solution

EVE (Engineer; Visualise; Explore) immersive 3D design environment for temporary works by Mabey Hire. Rendering a fully explorable visualisation of a project, EVE allows users to see the full project before construction work begins.

The benefits

EVE enabled Mabey Hire to use immersive 3D fly-throughs to clearly demonstrate temporary works design, installation sequence and system flexibility. This allowed teams to align early, improve buildability understanding and reduce errors and rework on site.

The lessons learned

EVE proved most effective when used from tender stage to drive early collaboration and clearly communicate temporary works design alongside permanent works. The immersive visual approach improved understanding across both technical and non-technical stakeholders and has since been reused successfully on other complex basement projects.



Project:

Salisbury Square, London

Contractor:

Keltbray and Mabey Hire

Technology provider:

EVE (Mabey Hire)



“ EVE allowed teams to align early, improve buildability understanding and reduce errors and rework on site.

WHERE NEXT?

THE CASE STUDIES IN THIS REPORT DEMONSTRATE THAT TECHNOLOGY IS ALREADY HELPING CONSTRUCTION TEAMS REDUCE ERRORS, REWORK AND COORDINATION FAILURES. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO UNDERLINE HOW MUCH FURTHER THE INDUSTRY STILL HAS TO GO.

A critical next step is to make error reduction a first-order objective of technology adoption, rather than a secondary benefit. This is particularly true for AI. While AI is increasingly being applied to efficiency and automation, its greatest value in construction may lie in reducing human and systemic error – by detecting inconsistencies, highlighting missing information, anticipating clashes and supporting better decision-making.

Software providers and AI firms have a significant commercial opportunity to prioritise error reduction explicitly in their product roadmaps, rather than treating it as an implicit outcome.

Alongside this, the industry must continue to identify and share best practice. Practical, real-world examples - such as those in this report – play a vital role in demonstrating what works, under what conditions, and why.

As digital and AI-enabled approaches mature, it will be increasingly important to refresh and expand case studies that show measurable reductions in errors across design, delivery and operations, helping clients and delivery teams move from experimentation to confident adoption.

Finally, as technology – and particularly AI – becomes more embedded in safety-critical and high-hazard environments, assurance must keep pace. Reducing errors in construction also means reducing the risk of errors introduced by the tools themselves. On this, GIRI is leading the way, and we are increasingly taking the message that safe AI for construction can unlock productivity gains into government and infrastructure stakeholders. Working together, the industry can enable technology to address the error challenge that GIRI has been grappling with for the past decade – and ensure that digital and AI-enabled approaches deliver safer, more productive outcomes.

“ A PARTICULAR FOCUS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP IN 2026 WILL BE THE USE OF AI TO REDUCE ERRORS AND, CONVERSELY, ITS POTENTIAL TO BE A CAUSE OF ERROR.

”

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COMPANIES FEATURED:

All Weather Insulated Panels (AWIP) (awipanel.com) • **Complete Competence** (completecompetence.co.uk) • **Dusty Robotics** (dustyrobotics.com) • **Forkers Ltd** (forkers.com) • **Galliford Try Infrastructure** (gallifordtry.co.uk) • **GHD Automation Studio** (ghd.com) • **Glider Technology** (glidertech.com) • **Impresa B4T** (impresab4t.com) • **Keltbray** (keltbray.com) • **Kier Group** (kier.co.uk) • **Lanes Group** (lanesgroup.com) • **Leica Geosystems** (leica-geosystems.com) • **Mabey Hire** (mabeyhire.co.uk) • **Mace Group** (macegroup.com) • **MarkedUp.ai** (markedup.ai) • **Morgan Sindall** (morgansindall.com) • **OWL by Onwave** (onwave.com) • **PlanRadar** (planradar.com) • **Sablono** (sablono.com) • **Skanska** (skanska.co.uk) • **SymTerra** (symterra.com) • **Thames Water** (thameswater.co.uk) • **VisiLean** (visilean.com) • **Vita Industrial** (vitaindustrial.com) • **Volker Fitzpatrick** (volkerfitzpatrick.co.uk)

This second GIRI Best Practice Casebook presents 13 new case studies demonstrating how organisations across the construction and infrastructure sector are applying digital tools and emerging technologies to improve delivery, collaboration and performance.

Moving beyond pilots and prototypes, these examples show clients, contractors, consultants and technology providers achieving real, repeatable impact on live projects - including measurable reductions in error and rework. They highlight practical implementation lessons and transferable approaches that help teams turn technological potential into operational reality.

GIRI will continue to promote the sharing of lessons learned and best practice across the industry, accelerating uptake of proven approaches and encouraging more organisations to embrace technology as a route to improved quality, productivity and resilience.

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Working together to eliminate error in construction

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