





# Construction Planning, Programming and Control

## Brian Cooke Peter Williams

**Fourth Edition** 

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Brian Cooke and Peter Williams

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#### Contents

About the AuthorsxxvPrefacexxviiAcknowledgementsxxixAcronymsxxxi

#### **1 Construction Projects** *3*

- 1.1 Introduction 3
- 1.1.1 Industry Reputation 4
- 1.1.2 Projects 4
- 1.1.3 Programmes 5
- 1.1.4 Portfolios 6
- 1.1.5 Mega Projects 6
- 1.2 Why Do Projects Go Wrong? 8
- 1.2.1 Looking for Reasons 9
- 1.2.2 Murphy's Law 10
- 1.2.3 Complexity 10
- 1.2.4 The Consequences of Late Completion 11
- 1.2.5 Construction Industry Reports 13
- 1.3 Managing the Risk of Delayed Completion in the 21st Century 14

v

- 1.3.1 Summary of Findings 14
- 1.3.2 Detailed Observations 15
- 1.3.3 Claims and Disputes 16
- 1.3.4 Project Management Software 16
- 1.3.5 Further Developments 16
- 1.4 The Latham Reports 16
- 1.4.1 Trust and Money 17
- 1.4.2 Constructing the Team 17
- 1.4.3 Post-Latham 17
- 1.5 The Egan Reports 22
- 1.5.1 Rethinking Construction 22
- 1.5.2 Accelerating Change 24
- 1.5.3 Post-Egan 24
- 1.6 The Wolstenholme Report 25
- 1.6.1 Egan Targets 26

vi Contents Wolstenholme Conclusions 26 1.6.2 1.6.3 Wolstenholme Blockers 27 1.6.4 Summary 27 1.6.5 Post-Wolstenholme 28 1.7 The Farmer Review 29 Farmer Conclusions 29 1.7.1 1.7.2 Recommendations 30 Farmer Initiatives 30 1.7.3 1.7.4 Post Farmer 31 References 31 Notes 32 2 **Project Environment** 35 2.1 Introduction 35 2.2 Industry Culture 36 Industry Customs and Practices 36 2.2.1 2.2.2 Separation of Design and Construction 37 2.2.3 Late Payment 37 Construction Supply Chain Payment Charter 38 2.2.4 Public Contracts Regulations 2015 39 2.2.52.3 Defining the Industry 40 2.3.1 Industry Classification 40 2.3.2 Industry Sector Output 41 2.3.3 Legislative Definition 43 2.3.4 Types of Work 44 2.4 Industry Clients 44 2.4.1Definitions 45 2.4.2 Types of Clients 45 2.4.3 Professional Advisers 45 2.4.4 Funding 46 2.5 Construction Firms 46 2.5.1 Industry Output 46 2.5.2 Micro Firms 47 2.5.3 SMEs 47 2.5.4 Large Firms 47 Very Large Contractors 48 2.5.5 2.5.6 The Top 100 48 2.5.7 Margins 49 2.5.8 Suppliers 50 Industry Leadership 51 2.6 The Influence of Clients 51 2.6.12.6.2 The Construction Clients' Group 52 2.6.3 Main Contractors 52 References 53 Notes 53

- 3 Project Risk 57
- 3.1 Introduction 57

Contents vii

3.1.1	Risk 58
3.1.2	Uncertainty 58
3.2	Risk Management 59
3.2.1	Principal Risks and Uncertainties 59
3.2.2	Developers 60
3.2.3	Managing Risk 60
3.2.4	Crossrail 62
3.2.5	Heathrow Terminal 5 62
3.3	Risk Assessment 63
3.3.1	Risk Categories 63
3.3.2	Hazards 64
3.3.3	Assessing Risk 65
3.4	Design Stage 66
3.4.1	Feasibility 66
3.4.2	Funding 67
3.4.3	Design 68
3.4.4	Tender Documentation 69
3.4.5	Quantity Risk 69
3.5	Tender Stage 70
3.5.1	Tender Risk 70
3.5.2	Tender Risk Allowances 72
3.5.3	Programme–Time Risk 73
3.5.4	Method Risk 74
3.6	Construction Stage 74
3.6.1	Delay 75
3.6.2	Health and Safety 76
3.6.3	Fire Risk 76
3.6.4	Supply Chain Risk 77
3.6.5	Defects 78
3.6.6	Insolvency 80
3.7	Managing Project Risk 81
3.7.1	Risk Allocation 82
3.7.2	Reactive Risk Management 83
3.7.3	Proactive Risk Management 83
3.7.4	Dynamic Time Modelling 84
3.7.5	Risk Registers 86
3.7.6	Early Warning Registers 87
5.7.0	References 87
	Notes 87
	Notes 87
4	Managing Construction Projects 91
4.1	Introduction 91
4.1.1	Definition 92
4.1.2	Scope, Delivery and Deliverables 93
4.2	Projects and Programmes 94
4.2.1	Programme and Portfolio Management
4.2.2	Phased Projects 94
1.4.4	1 114504 1 10j0015 JT

4.2.2 Phased Projects 944.2.3 Project-Based Working 95

94

4.2.4 The Size of Projects 95 4.3 Management 96 4.3.1 The Principles of Management 96 4.3.2 Organisation 97 4.3.3 Organisation Structures 97 4.3.4 Operational Divisions 99 4.3.5 Business Units 100 4.4 Team Building 102 4.4.1 Complexity 103 4.4.2 Trust 104 4.5 Project Management 105 4.5.1 Decision Making 105 4.5.2 Project Managers 106 4.5.3 Client's Project Manager 106 4.5.4 Contractor's Project Manager 107 4.5.5 Project Manager Duties 108 4.6 Collaboration 109 4.6.1 Common Data Environment 110 4.6.2 Enterprise Resource Planning 112 4.6.3 Construction Management Software 112 4.6.4 Workflows 114 4.7 Design Management 114

- 4.7.1 Design Manager 115
- 4.7.2 Pre-construction Manager 116
- 4.8 Project Management Models 116
- 4.8.1 APM Competence Framework 117
- 4.8.2 PMBOK Guide 117
- 4.8.3 Prince2 117
- 4.9 Project Stages 117
- 4.9.1 Process Models 118
- 4.9.2 Types of Process Models 118
- 4.9.3 OGC Gateway Process 118
- 4.9.4 RIBA Plan of Work 119
- 4.9.5 The Guide to Rail Investment Process 120
- 4.9.6 The Project Control Framework 121
- 4.9.7 The Construction Playbook 121
- 4.9.8 TfL Pathway 122
- 4.9.9 Infrastructure and Projects Authority Cost Estimating Guidance 122
- 4.10 Digital Construction 123
- 4.10.1 Building Information Modelling 123
- 4.10.2 BIM Models 124
- 4.10.3 Benefits of BIM 124
- 4.10.4 BIM Standards 126
- 4.10.5 BIM Levels 126
- 4.10.6 BIM Level 3 Benefits 127
- 4.10.7 BIM Downsides 128
- 4.10.8 BIM Managers *128*

#### viii Contents

- 4.10.9 Digital Twins 129
- 4.10.10 Augmented and Virtual Reality 129
- 4.11 Managing the Supply Chain 130
- 4.11.1 Supply Chain 131
- 4.11.2 Supply Chain Management 131
- 4.11.3 Supply Chain Integration 132
- 4.12 Managing Construction 133
- 4.12.1 Types of Subcontractors 134
- 4.12.2 Subcontract Scope 135
- 4.12.3 Attendances 135
- 4.12.4 Scoping of Work Packages 136
- 4.12.5 Invitations to Tender 136
- 4.12.6 Resources and Programme 137
- 4.12.7 Subcontract Coordinator 137
- 4.12.8 Lean Construction 138
- 4.12.9 Fast-track Construction 138 References 139 Notes 139

#### 5 Modern Methods of Construction 143

- 5.1 Introduction 143
- 5.1.1 DfMA 143
- 5.1.2 Modern Methods of Construction 145
- 5.1.3 Definitions 145
- 5.2 MMC Categories 146
- 5.2.1 MMC Definition Framework 146
- 5.2.2 MMC Spectrum 146
- 5.2.3 Pre-manufactured Value 146
- 5.3 Modular Construction 148
- 5.3.1 Volumetric Modular Structural 148
- 5.3.2 Volumetric Modular Non-structural 151
- 5.4 Panelised Construction 152
- 5.4.1 Open and Closed Systems 153
- 5.4.2 SIPs 153
- 5.4.3 Cross-laminated Timber 154
- 5.5 Component-Based Systems 155
- 5.5.1 IKEA 155
- 5.5.2 Site Assembly 155
- 5.6 Hybrid Construction Systems 155
- 5.6.1 Low-Rise Construction 156
- 5.6.2 Medium-Rise Construction 156
- 5.6.3 High-Rise Construction 158
- 5.6.4 Civil Engineering 159
- 5.7 Digital Technologies 161
- 5.7.1 3D Printing 161
- 5.7.2 Drones 164
- 5.7.3 Wearable Technology 164
- 5.7.4 Concrete Monitoring 164

**x** Contents 5.8 Planning for Modular Construction 165 5.8.1 The Early Stages 165 5.8.2 Construction Schedule 166 5.8.3 Erection Sequence 166 5.8.4 Installation 166 5.8.5 Site Work 166 5.8.6 Tolerance and Fits 167 References 168 Notes 168 6 Procurement and Contracts 171 6.1 Introduction 171 6.1.1 Definitions 171 6.1.2 Public Sector and Private Sector Procurement 172 6.1.3 Procurement Strategy 172 Design Procurement 173 6.1.4 6.1.5 Contractor Selection 174 6.2 Tendering 175 6.2.1 Tender Documents 175 6.2.2 Approved Lists 175 6.2.3 Frameworks 176 6.3 Special Relationships 179 Partnering 179 6.3.1 Alliances 180 6.3.2 6.3.3 Joint Ventures 181 Procurement Routes 182 6.4 6.4.1 General Contracting 182 6.4.2 Design and Build/Construct 183 6.4.3 Prime Contracting 188 6.4.4 Management Procurement 188 6.4.5 Public–Private Partnerships 189 6.4.6 Turnkey and EPC 191 6.5 Contractual Arrangements 192 6.5.1 Law of Contract 192 6.5.2 Letters of Intent 194 6.5.3 Forms of Contract 194 6.5.4 Subcontracts 194 6.5.5 Legal Jurisdiction 195 6.5.6 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 195 Standard Forms of Contract 196 6.6 JCT Contracts 196 6.6.1 NEC Contracts 196 6.6.2 6.6.3 FIDIC Contracts 197 6.6.4 ICC Contracts 198 6.6.5 CIOB Time and Cost Management Contract 198 6.6.6 IChemE Contracts 199 6.6.7 Other Contracts 199 6.6.8 Overseas Contracts 200

- 6.6.8.1 Australia 200
- 6.6.8.2 Hong Kong 200
- 6.6.8.3 South Africa 201
- 6.6.8.4 United States 201
- 6.7 Types of Contract 202
- 6.7.1 Lump Sum Contracts 203
- 6.7.2 Measure and Value Contracts 203
- 6.7.3 Cost Reimbursement Contracts 204
- 6.7.4 Target Cost Contracts 205
- 6.8 Time Management 206
- 6.8.1 Time in Contracts 206
- 6.8.2 Project Master Schedule 206
- 6.8.3 Site Possession 208
- 6.8.4 Progress, Completion and Extensions of Time 208
- 6.8.5 Liquidated and Ascertained Damages 209
- 6.8.6 Obligations Following Completion 209 References 210 Notes 210

#### 7 Estimating and Bidding 213

- 7.1 Introduction 213
- 7.1.1 Definitions 213
- 7.1.2 Tendering 214
- 7.1.3 Estimating and Tendering 214
- 7.1.4 The Construction Market 215
- 7.2 Approaches to Estimating 215
- 7.2.1 Micro Companies 215
- 7.2.2 Small Companies 216
- 7.2.3 Medium-size Companies 216
- 7.2.4 Large-size Companies 216
- 7.2.5 Estimating Methods 216
- 7.2.6 Classification 217
- 7.2.7 Early Cost Advice 217
- 7.3 Measurement 219
- 7.3.1 Pricing Documents 219
- 7.3.2 Quantities *219*
- 7.3.3 Link with Planning 222
- 7.3.4 Software 223
- 7.4 Estimating Software 223
- 7.4.1 Trade Apps 224
- 7.4.2 Price-a-Job 224
- 7.4.3 ConX 224
- 7.4.4 Cubit Estimating 224
- 7.4.5 Bidcon 225
- 7.4.6 CATO 226
- 7.5 Top-down Estimating 227
- 7.5.1 Definition 227
- 7.5.2 Traditional Procurement 227

xii Contents

7.5.3	Non-traditional Procurement 227
7.5.4	Principles 228
7.5.5	Floor Area Method 228
7.5.6	Functional Unit Method 229
7.5.7	Elemental Method 230
7.5.8	Hybrid Method 231
7.6	Cost Information 234
7.6.1	Historic Data 234
7.6.2	Sources 235
7.6.3	Indices 236
7.6.4	Inflation 237
7.7	New Rules of Measurement 239
7.7.1	Comparative Cost Planning 239
7.7.2	Cost Checking 240
7.7.3	Cost Reconciliation 241
7.8	Bottom-up Estimating 241
7.8.1	Modern Trends 242
7.8.2	Builders' Quantities 242
7.8.3	Bottom-up Estimating Methods 243
7.8.4	Unit Rate Estimating 243
7.8.5	Operational Estimating 244
7.9	Bidding 248
7.9.1	Estimating 248
7.9.2	Subcontract Enquiries 249
7.9.3	Bid Preparation 251
7.9.4	Integrated Software Platforms 252
7.9.5	Bid Submission and Formal Tender 253
7.9.6	Bid Documentation 253
7.9.7	Other Procurement Methods 255
7.9.8	Bid Management 255
7.9.9	Bid Manager 255
7.9.10	Bid Submission Documents 256
7.9.10	References 257
	Notes 257
	110105 237
8	The Planning Process 261
8.1	Introduction 261
8.1.1	The Role of Planning 261
8.1.2	Client View 262
8.1.3	Project Team View 263
8.1.4	Contractor View 263
8.1.5	Types of Programme 265
8.2	Strategic Planning 266
8.2.1	Key Appointments 266
8.2.1	Key Dates 267
8.2.3	Statutory Approvals 267
8.2.4	Financing 267
J	

- 8.2.4 Financing 267
- 8.2.5 Land Purchase *268*

- 8.2.6 Design Procurement 268
- 8.2.7 Time and Cost *268*
- 8.2.8 The Construction Period 269
- 8.3 Design Planning 269
- 8.3.1 The Design Team 269
- 8.3.2 Design Development 270
- 8.3.3 Design Management 270
- 8.4 Development Case Study 271
- 8.4.1 Project Master Schedule 271
- 8.4.2 Development Appraisal 272
- 8.4.3 Design Programme 272
- 8.4.4 Due Diligence 273
- 8.4.5 Hand-Down Document 273
- 8.4.6 Pre-construction Programme 274
- 8.5 Construction Planning 274
- 8.5.1 Tender Stage 274
- 8.5.2 Pre-construction 275
- 8.5.3 Construction Stage 276 Reference 276

#### 9 Scheduling Techniques 279

- 9.1 Introduction 279
- 9.1.1 Definitions 279
- 9.1.2 Work Versus Time 280
- 9.1.3 Gantt Charts 280
- 9.1.4 Scheduling Techniques 281
- 9.1.5 The Critical Path Method 281
- 9.1.6 CPM Software *283*
- 9.2 Linked Bar Charts 285
- 9.2.1 Useful Features 285
- 9.2.2 Basic Principles 287
- 9.2.3 Worked Example 289
- 9.3 Arrow Diagrams 290
- 9.3.1 Basic Principles 290
- 9.3.2 Worked Example 291
- 9.4 Precedence Diagrams 291
- 9.4.1 Basic Principles 294
- 9.4.2 Worked Example 294
- 9.5 Arrow, Precedence and Linked Bar Chart Relationships 296
- 9.5.1 Common Features 296
- 9.5.2 Networks 296
- 9.5.3 Overlapping Activities 297
- 9.6 Line of Balance 302
- 9.6.1 Basic Principles 302
- 9.6.2 Worked Example 303
- 9.7 Time-Chainage Diagrams 306
- 9.7.1 Basic Principles 307
- 9.7.2 Worked Example 308

**xiv** Contents

10	Construction Sequences 315
10.1	Introduction 315
10.1.1	Programme versus Work Sequence 315
10.1.2	Construction Methods 317
10.2	Resources 318
10.2.1	Labour 318
10.2.2	Construction Plant 319
10.2.3	Health and Safety 319
10.2.4	Continuity of Work 319
10.3	Temporary Works 321
10.3.1	Definitions 322
10.3.2	Legislation 322
10.3.3	Guidance 323
10.3.4	Management of Temporary Works 323
10.3.5	Temporary Works Designers 324
10.3.6	Temporary Works Coordinator 324
10.3.7	Temporary Works Supervisor 325
10.3.8	Types of Temporary Works 325
10.3.0	Work Sequences 326
10.4.1	Demolition 326
10.4.2	Façade Retention 327
10.4.3	Trenches 327
10.4.4	Soil Engineering 329
10.4.5	Pile Caps 331
10.4.5	Piled Walls 332
10.4.7	Basements 333
10.4.8	Core Walls 333
10.4.9	Top-Down Construction 334
10.4.10	Top-down, Bottom-up Construction 336
10.4.11	Offline Construction 338
10.5	Sequence Study 339
10.5.1	Sequence Diagram 339
10.5.2	Construction Cycles Times 344
101012	References 344
	Notes 344
11	Method Statements 347
11.1	Introduction 347
11.1.1	Definition 347
11.1.1	Uses of Method Statements 348
11.1.2	Clients 348
11.1.3	Consultants 349
11.1.4 11.1.5	Main Contractors 349
	Subcontractors 350
11.1.6 11.1.7	
	Specialist Contractors 350
11.2	Format of Method Statements 351
11.2.1	Tabular 351

Contents xv

- 11.2.2 Written or Prose 352
- 11.2.3 Generic 352
- 11.3 Types of Method Statement 352
- 11.3.1 Tender Method Statement 353
- 11.3.2 Construction or Work Method Statement 354
- 11.3.3 Safety Method Statement 355
- 11.3.4 Lift Plans 355
- 11.4 Preparing Method Statements 357
- 11.4.1 Contents 357
- 11.4.2 Layout 358
- 11.4.3 Structure 359
- 11.4.4 Safe Systems of Work 360
- 11.4.5 Link with the Programme *360*
- 11.4.6 Changing Method Statements 360
- 11.5 Worked Example 361
- 11.5.1 Project Description 361
- 11.5.2 Tender Method Statement 361
- 11.5.3 Construction Method Statement 365
- 11.5.4 Safety Method Statement 367 Notes 370

#### **12** Planning for Safety 373

- 12.1 Introduction 373
- 12.1.1 Human Factors 373
- 12.1.2 Pressures on Health and Safety 374
- 12.1.3 Definitions and Context 375
- 12.1.4 Planning for Health and Safety 376
- 12.2 Hazard and Risk 377
- 12.2.1 Definitions 378
- 12.2.2 Types of Hazard 378
- 12.2.3 Common Hazards in Construction 379
- 12.2.4 Identifying Hazards 380
- 12.2.5 Guidance 380
- 12.2.6 Persons at Risk 381
- 12.2.7 Risk Evaluation 381
- 12.2.8 Control Measures 382
- 12.2.9 Risk Assessment 383
- 12.3 Legal Framework 387
- 12.3.1 Primary Legislation 387
- 12.3.2 Subordinate Legislation 387
- 12.3.3 Goal Setting versus Prescriptive Legislation 388
- 12.3.4 Health and Safety Policy 390
- 12.3.5 Approved Codes of Practice 390
- 12.3.6 Guidance 392
- 12.4 Managing Health and Safety 392
- 12.4.1 HSG65 392
- 12.4.2 The Four Cs 392

xvi	Contents	
	12.4.3	Preventative and Protective Measures 393
	12.5	Planning the Work 393
	12.5.1	Task-Based Approach 394
	12.5.2	Hazard-Based Approach 394
	12.5.3	Utilising the Programme 395
	12.5.4	Statutory Duties 396
	12.5.5	Safe Place of Work 398
	12.5.6	Safe Systems of Work 398
	12.5.7	Method Statements 399
	12.6	Industry-Specific Legislation 401
	12.6.1	European Union Directives 401
	12.6.2	The CDM Regulations 401
	12.7	The CDM Regulations 2015 402
	12.7.1	Application 402
	12.7.2	Notification 402
	12.7.3	Duty Holders 403
	12.7.4	Client Duties 403
	12.7.5	Designers 404
	12.7.6	Principal Contractors 404
	12.7.7	Other Contractors 405
	12.7.8	Principles of CDM 405
	12.7.9	Welfare Facilities 405
	12.7.10	Pre-construction Information 406
	12.7.11	Construction Phase Plan 406
	12.7.12	Site Rules 408
	12.7.13	Health and Safety File 408
	12.8	Health and Safety Training 408
	12.8.1	Site Induction 409
	12.8.2	Toolbox Talks 409
	12.8.3	Task Talks 410
	12.8.4	Walk-through/Talk-through 410
	12.9	Measuring Performance 410
	12.9.1	Monitoring 411
	12.9.2	Audit 411
	12.10	Enforcement of Legislation 412
	12.10.1	Enforcement Action 412
	12.10.2	Prosecution 413
	12.10.3	Corporate Manslaughter 414
	12.10.4	HSE Prosecutions Database 415
	12.10.5	HSE Enforcement Notices Database 416
	12.11	Accidents and Incidents 416

- 12.11.1 RIDDOR 2013 416
- 12.11.2 Accident Book 417
- 12.11.3 The Cost of Accidents 417 References 418 Web References 418 Notes 418

- 13 Planning the Project 421 13.1 Introduction 421 13.2 Principles of Project Planning 421 Getting a Feel for the Project 421 13.2.1 13.2.2 Establishing Key Project Dates 422 13.2.3 Completion 422 4D BIM 423 13.2.4 13.2.5 Establishing Key Activities or Events 424 Work Breakdown Structure 425 13.2.6 13.2.7 Activity Durations 425 13.2.8 Programming Techniques 427 13.2.9 Calendars 428 13.2.10 Timescales 428 13.3 Pre-construction Planning 428 13.3.1 Pre-contract Planning 429 13.3.2 Pre-contract Meetings 429 Procurement 430 13.3.3 13.3.4 Procurement Programme 430 Procurement Programmes 431 13.3.5 13.3.6 Lead Times 431 13.3.7 Site Layout Planning 435 13.3.8 The Master Programme 435 The Baseline Programme 436 13.4 13.4.1 Managing Change 438 13.4.2 Progress 438 Requirement Schedules 441 13.5 Key Materials Schedules 441 13.5.1 Plant Schedules 441 13.5.2 13.5.3 Subcontract Schedules 442 13.5.4 Information Requirement Schedules 442 Requests for Information (RFIs) 444 13.5.5 The Target Programme 445 13.6 13.6.1 Legal Implications 445 Practical Implications 447 13.6.2 Contract Planning 447 13.7 13.7.1 Subcontract Programmes 448 13.7.2 Stage Programme 450 13.7.3 Short-term Programme 450 As-built Programme 453 13.7.4 14 Planning Cash Flow 457 14.1 Introduction 457 Insolvency 457 14.1.1 14.1.2 Cash Flow 458 14.1.3 Working Capital 458 14.1.4 Work in Progress 458 14.1.5 Client Cash Flow 459
- 14.1.6 Contractor Cash Flow 459

xviii	Contents	
	14.1.7	Cash Flow Forecasts 459
	14.2	Earned Value Analysis 461
	14.2.1	Earned Value 462
	14.2.2	Quarter-third Rule 463
	14.2.3	Cumulative Percentage Value 463
	14.2.4	The Bar Chart Programme 467
	14.3	Cash Flow Forecasting 468
	14.3.1	Preparing a Forecast 468
	14.3.2	Credit Terms 471
	14.3.3	Retentions 472
	14.3.4	Payment 472
	14.3.5	Payment Terms 473
	14.3.6	JCT SBC 473
	14.3.7	Other Contracts 473
	14.3.8	Reflecting Payment Terms in Forecasts 474
	14.4	Improving Cash Flow 476
	14.4.1	At Tender Stage 476
	14.4.2	During the Contract 476
	14.4.3	Post-contract 477
	14.5	Movement of Money 477
	14.5.1	Money In and Money Out 477
	14.5.2	Retention 477
	14.5.3	Payment Delay 479
	14.5.4	Credit 479
	14.5.5	Late Payments 480
	14.6	Working Capital 480
	14.6.1	Forecasting Working Capital 480
	14.6.2	Worked Example 482
		References 486
		Notes 486
	15	Project Control 489
	15.1	Introduction 489
	15.2	Budgetary Control 489
	15.2.1	Budgets 490
	15.2.2	Reporting 490
	15.2.3	The Reason for Budgets 490
	15.2.4	Types of Budgets 491
	15.2.5	Presenting Budgets 491
	15.2.6	Construction Management Software 492
	15.2.7	The Basis of Budgets 492
	15.3	Establishing Budgets 493
	15.3.1	Labour Budget 493

- 15.3.2 Plant Budget 493
- Preliminaries Budget 493 15.3.3

- Site Records 499 15.4
- 15.4.1 Site Diary 500
- 15.4.2 Labour Records 500

- 15.4.3 Instructions 501
- 15.4.4 Programme 501
- 15.4.5 Site Measurements 501
- 15.4.6 Variations 501
- 15.4.7 Delay and Disruption 502
- 15.4.8 Daywork 502
- 15.5 Meetings 502
- 15.5.1 Purpose 502
- 15.5.2 Types 503
- 15.5.3 Formal and Informal Meetings 504
- 15.5.4 Monthly Site Meetings 505
- 15.5.5 Weekly Progress Meetings 505
- 15.5.6 Subcontract Coordination Meetings 506
- 15.6 Key Performance Indicators 507
- 15.6.1 Types of KPIs 507
- 15.6.2 Uses of KPIs 508
- 15.6.3 Practical Applications 508 Reference 508

#### **16 Controlling Time** *511*

- 16.1 Introduction 511
- 16.1.1 Duty to Complete 511
- 16.1.2 Time for Completion 512
- 16.2 The Contractor's Programme 512
- 16.2.1 Milestones 513
- 16.2.2 Early Warning Systems 514
- 16.3 Progress and Delay 514
- 16.3.1 Delay 516
- 16.3.2 Delay Events 516
- 16.3.3 Change Control 516
- 16.4 Recording Progress 517
- 16.4.1 Progress Reporting 517
- 16.4.2 Cloud Based Reporting 519
- 16.4.3 Using the Bar Chart 520
- 16.5 Delay and Disruption 523
- 16.5.1 Reasons for Delay and Disruption 523
- 16.5.2 Definitions 524
- 16.5.3 Delay 525
- 16.5.4 Disruption 525
- 16.5.5 Types of Delay 525
- 16.6 Extensions of Time 526
- 16.6.1 Contract Provisions 526
- 16.6.2 Establishing Entitlement 527
- 16.6.3 Time and Money 527
- 16.6.4 Concurrent Delay 528
- 16.6.5 Mitigation 528
- 16.6.6 Float 529

- **xx** Contents
  - 16.7 The 'As-Planned' Programme 530
  - 16.7.1 Shortcomings 532
  - 16.8 The 'As-Built' Programme 532
  - 16.9 Delay Analysis 532
  - 16.9.1 Delay and Disruption Protocol 533
  - 16.9.2 Delay Analysis Methodologies 534
  - 16.10 Delay Analysis in Practice 534
  - 16.10.1 Showing Delay on the Programme 535
  - 16.10.2 Software 535
  - 16.10.3 Worked Example 537
  - 16.11 Project Acceleration 539
  - 16.11.1 Time-Cost Optimisation 541
  - 16.11.2 Terminology 541
  - 16.11.3 Worked Example 544 References 549 Web References 550

#### **17 Controlling Money** 553

- 17.1 Introduction 553
- 17.1.1 Forecasting Revenues and Profits 553
- 17.1.2 Declaring Profits 554
- 17.1.3 Corporate Governance 555
- 17.2 Reporting Procedures 555
- 17.2.1 Small Firms 556
- 17.2.2 Medium-Sized Firms 557
- 17.2.3 Large Firms 557
- 17.2.4 Financial Control Methods 558
- 17.3 Earned Value Analysis 558
- 17.3.1 EVA Process 559
- 17.3.2 Limitations 560
- 17.3.3 Benefits 560
- 17.4 Cost Value Reconciliation 561
- 17.4.1 CVR Terminology 561
- 17.4.2 Reconciliation Date 561
- 17.4.3 CVR Process 561
- 17.5 Cost Value Reports 565
- 17.5.1 Cumulative Value 565
- 17.5.2 Reconciled Value 565
- 17.5.3 Reconciled Cost 566
- 17.5.4 Cumulative Value and Cumulative Cost 567
- 17.5.5 Provisions 567
- 17.5.6 Profit 567
- 17.5.7 Variance Analysis 569
- 17.5.8 Date of Report to Management 571 References 571 Note 572

- 18 Controlling Resources 575 18.1 Introduction 575 18.1.1 Targets 575 18.1.2 Head Office 575 18.1.3 Resources 576 Preliminaries 576 18.1.4 18.1.5 Resource Management 576 18.2 Subcontractors 577 Pregualification 577 18.2.1 18.2.2 Subcontract Prices 578 18.2.3 Subcontract Attendances 578 18.2.4 Subcontract Programme 579 18.2.5 Subcontract Liaison 579 18.2.6 Benchmarking 579 Labour Control 581 18.3 Directly Employed Labour 581 18.3.1 18.3.2 Self-employed Labour 583 Resource Histogram 583 18.3.3 18.3.4 Resource Levelling 584 18.4 Materials Control 587 18.4.1 Materials Management 589 Waste 591 18.4.2 Planning for Waste 591 18.4.3 18.4.4 Improving Waste Management 592 Duty of Care 592 18.4.5 Site Waste Management Plans 594 18.4.6 18.5 Plant Control 596 18.5.1 Legislation 597 18.5.2 Organisation 597 18.5.3 Planning 598 18.5.4 Inspection and Maintenance 598 19 Hotel and Commercial Centre 599 19.1 Project Description 599 19.1.1 Project Details 599 19.1.2 Site Constraints 599 19.1.3 Procurement Strategy 600 Project Organisation 602 19.1.4 Design 603 19.2 19.2.1 BIM 603 19.2.2 Modular Design 603 Developer/Client Role 604 19.2.3 19.2.4 Advantages of Modular 605 CIMS-MBS Off-Site Manufacture 605 19.3 19.3.1 Modular Procurement 605
- 19.3.2 Design Stage 606

xxii Contents

- Prototype 607 19.3.3 19.3.4 Mass Manufacture 607 19.3.5 Pavment 608 19.3.6 Installation 609 19.4 Construction 609 Construction Programme 610 19.4.1 Module Installation 613 19.4.2 Modular Interface 614 19.4.3 Defects 615 19.4.4 19.5 Legal Matters 615 19.5.1 Payments 616 19.5.2 Milestone Payments 616 19.5.3 Insolvency 617
  - Reference 617

#### 20 Motorway Bridge Replacement 619

- 20.1 Project Description 619
- 20.1.1 Project Background 619
- 20.1.2 Project Location 619
- 20.1.3 The Existing Bridge 619
- 20.1.4 Project Procurement 620
- 20.2 Project Scope 621
- 20.2.1 Enabling Works 621
- 20.2.2 Permanent Works 623
- 20.2.3 Off-site Works 623
- 20.2.4 Demolition 623
- 20.3 Project Organisation 624
- 20.4 Programme 626
- 20.4.1 Pre-construction Phase 626
- 20.4.2 Tender Period and Contract Award 627
- 20.5 Detailed Design Development 627
- 20.5.1 Design of the Permanent Works 627
- 20.5.2 Temporary Works Design 628
- 20.5.2.1 Bridge Abutments and Central Pier 628
- 20.5.2.2 Bridge Deck 629
- 20.5.3 4D BIM 630
- 20.6 Construction Planning 631
- 20.6.1 Major Milestones 631
- 20.6.2 Motorway Possessions and Road Closures 632
- 20.6.3 Bridge Abutments and Central Pier 633
- 20.6.4 Bridge Deck 634
- 20.6.5 Demolition 636 Notes 640

#### **21 High Speed 2** *641*

- 21.1 Project Description 641
- 21.1.1 Business Case 641
- 21.1.2 Project Delivery 642

21.2 Route 642 21.2.1 Oakervee Review 642 21.2.2 Integrated Rail Plan 644 21.3 Project Scope 644 21.3.1 Phase 1 644 21.3.2 HS2-HS1 Link 645 Legal Framework 645 21.4 21.4.1 Parliamentary Bills 646 Acts of Parliament 646 21.4.221.4.3 Planning Permission 647 The Secretary of State for Transport (SoST) 647 21.4.4 21.4.5 HS2 Ltd 648 Formal Agreements 649 21.4.6 21.4.7 Development Agreement 649 21.4.8 The Core Programme 649 21.4.9 The Wider Programme 650 21.5 Funding and Governance 650 21.5.1 Spending Oversight 650 21.5.2 Programme Governance 650 21.5.3 Programme Governance at HS2 Ltd 652 21.6 Roles and Cooperation 652 21.6.1 Secretary of State for Transport 653 21.6.2 HS2 Ltd 654 The Client Board 654 21.6.3 Programme Representative 654 21.6.4 21.6.5 Senior Responsible Owner 655 21.6.6 Programme Board 655 21.6.7 DfT Board Investment Commercial Committee 655 21.6.8 The Sponsor or Project Boards 656 21.6.9 Principal Accounting Officer 656 21.6.10 HS2 Ltd Accounting Officer 656 21.7 Order of Cost 656 21.7.1 National Audit Office Reports 656 21.7.2 Parliamentary Reports 656 Funding Envelopes 657 21.7.3 21.7.4 Oakervee Review 657 21.7.5 Forecasting Costs 657 21.7.6 Contingency 658 21.7.7 Schedule 658 21.7.8 Oakervee Review 659 21.7.9 Phase 1 Programme 659 21.8 Project Design 660 Design Vision 660 21.8.121.8.2 Design Panel 660 21.8.3 Design Review 661 Design Strategy 661 21.8.4 21.8.5 Design Stages 662

Contents xxiii

Contents	
21.8.6	Design Critique 663
21.8.7	Station Design 663
21.9	Procurement 664
21.9.1	Design Procurement 665
21.9.2	Construction Procurement 665
21.9.3	Labour and Plant Procurement 666
21.9.4	Forms of Contract 666
21.9.5	Payments 667
21.9.6	Procurement Critique 667
21.10	HS2 Works Areas 667
21.10.1	Enabling Works 667
21.10.2	Main Civils Works 668
21.11	Construction Management 669

- 21.11.1 Area Organisation 669
- Area North Joint Ventures 669 21.11.2

- 21.11.3 Administrative Support 670
- 21.11.4 Construction Planning 670
- 21.12 Construction Methods 671
- 21.12.1 Long Itchington Wood Tunnel 671
- Colne Valley Viaduct 675 21.12.2
- Old Oak Common Station 678 21.12.3
- 21.13 Innovation 682
- 21.13.1 Logistics Hub 682
- 21.13.2 Conveyors 683
- 21.13.3 Access Roads 683
- 21.13.4 Diesel-Free Site 684
- 21.13.5 Green Tunnels 684
- 21.14 Epilogue 686 References 686 Notes 687

**Index** 689

#### xxiv

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#### Preface

The world has changed considerably since the previous edition of this book was published in 2009.

Not only have we all suffered a hugely damaging pandemic, the United Kingdom has left the European Union, and the world is seeing unimaginable levels of conflict and social change.

World supply chains remain unpredictable post-pandemic, and UK debt is more than  $\pounds 2.5$  trillion – almost 100% of GDP – with industry output seriously impacted by reduced levels of public sector spending.

On a more positive note, a huge transformation in digital technology in the past 10 years has revolutionised communications generally and construction design and management in particular such that construction projects can now be seen in virtual reality before they are built. Building Information Modelling (BIM) has transformed the interface between design, planning and construction, thereby facilitating a 'what-if' approach to planning pre-construction that was hitherto not possible.

Mobile technology has also changed unrecognisably since the first iPad was released in 2010. Mobile devices have transformed the way in which construction projects are managed and progressed, meaning that site progress and requests for information can now be processed in real time.

This period of exciting development has taken place against a background of sobering change in the UK construction scene which has witnessed the collapse of Carillion, the United Kingdom's second largest contractor and the consequently seismic effect that this has had on the construction supply chain. Official reports suggest that significant numbers of insolvencies resulted from this catastrophe and call into question the robustness and reliability of auditing standards and practices. Since then, other large contractors have suffered grinding profits and financial instability – causing disquiet amongst shareholders – and other top 100 contractors have followed Carillion into insolvency.

Despite these winds of change, the aims of the first edition have not changed.

This is a book for students of construction-related professional and degree courses – construction management, building, civil engineering, quantity surveying and building surveying alike. Students and young professionals of all these disciplines need a basic understanding of the culture and methodologies of the industry. They need to know how construction projects are procured, planned and managed, and they need to appreciate the

#### xxviii Preface

link between construction technology and the methods, order and sequence of work on site. This book aims to fulfil this need.

The fourth edition is a major rewrite necessitated by the tide of progress and changes in industry practice. The basic structure of the book is unchanged, but there are seven completely new chapters, three new major case studies and the remaining 11 chapters have been extensively rewritten and updated.

The ambit of the book has been broadened and deepened and the early chapters have been refocused on the management of projects and project risk. Major and mega-projects have been given suitable prominence in the book including the Shard, Crossrail, Heathrow T5, Hinkley Point C and HS2, and new material has been included covering joint ventures, frameworks and collaborative working.

The case studies and sequence studies in this edition cover a much wider variety of construction methods than previously and include modular construction, slip forming, tunnelling and top-down construction. In common with previous editions, health and safety and the provision of safe systems of work are integral to the book and retain their importance in a revised and fully updated dedicated chapter.

In this edition, particular emphasis has been placed on work sequences and method statements, and these chapters have been extensively revised and extended. The book is also illustrated with colour photographs for the first time to add realism to the case studies and the numerous worked examples.

Coverage of construction industry reports has been updated to include reflections on how the industry has responded to the challenges posed by Latham, Egan and so on. This includes the Farmer Review which has prompted a new chapter on modern methods of construction and a new case study dealing with modular construction. The topics of contracts and procurement have been amalgamated into a new, extensive and fully-revised stand-alone chapter. This includes coverage of a number of international contracts and the role of the programme in a wide variety of contract conditions.

Finally, this edition includes coverage of common data environments, enterprise resource planning, construction management software and the use of 4D BIM in construction scheduling.