

## case study

Bylor uses AssetTagz to track materials at Hinkley Point C



### AssetTagz



+44 (0)333 900 6060



info@assettagz.com  
assettagz.com



AssetTagz Limited  
Ashgates, 5 Prospect Place  
Millennium Way  
Pride Park  
Derby  
DE24 8HG

### Overview

AssetTagz has been working closely with Bylor to come up with an industry first solution that solves the material tracking and management issues faced in Formwork, Falsework, Scaffolding and Propping, not just for Hinkley Point C, but across construction sites across the world, on a daily basis.

The solution has allowed Bylor to deliver, track and return stock items to site on a just-in-time basis, even though the storage depot is located off-site. Key information is up-to-date and easily accessible at all levels and across all devices, not just those with access to a PC. This has resulted in:

- A significant reduction in the time and cost associated with previous manual processes
- More accurate, up-to-date data that Bylor can be confident in – resulting in better, faster Supply Chain decisions
- An overall reduction in spend on new stock and materials

**“By digitising all paperwork, we have improved efficiency and visibility. Yard operatives now access requests directly without physical visits or printouts. Having access to a live stock inventory enables faster communication with site and means we can offer alternatives which reduces new purchase spend.”**

Sean Griffiths, FFSP lead, Bylor for Hinkley Point C

## Background

FFSP, also known as Temporary Works, stands for Formwork, Falsework, Scaffolding and Propping. It forms one of the first and most crucial stages of a construction project as it enables the permanent concrete structure to be built. In a nutshell, Formwork is used to hold concrete in place until it hardens. Falsework is the temporary structure that is used to support the Formwork, using Scaffolding and Props.

Hinkley Point C (HPC) is one of the largest construction sites in Europe and the biggest nuclear power plant in the UK. As the main civil contractor on the site, Bylor has been an intrinsic part of the construction programme at HPC since work began back in 2016.

Bylor FFSP has multiple projects running on the site at any given time so there is a real and urgent need to keep track of formwork and other stock items that are delivered to and returned from the various work areas around the site. On a site as large and busy as HPC, this is no mean feat.

Compounding this is the challenge of space, which is at a huge premium on the site. So much so that Bylor has moved its yard off-site to a bigger space just outside Avonmouth. It is imperative that stock is tracked in real-time so that materials are used to their optimum capacity and new orders are fulfilled with existing stock wherever possible to control the use of space as well as costs.

However, with FFSP there are further complications to throw into the mix. Take scaffolding poles as an example: What leaves the yard as a 3m length will invariably get cut into smaller sections, so how do you successfully identify it and track it throughout its journey to when it is returned to the yard at the end of the project? That really is the million-dollar question and one that has eluded the formwork and falsework industry - until now.

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## The issue

Bylor already had a central ERP system in place, but once the requisition had been placed, from there on in the process was manual and largely paper-based: paper pick lists, written goods received notes and print outs of spreadsheets. There was no way of checking stock out and returning it to stores without recording it manually.

The sheer amount of paperwork involved meant a lot of time was being spent updating the central system, which invariably meant stock levels were out of date and inaccurate.

Manual data entry is prone to errors, things can get duplicated or missed off. Ultimately there was little confidence in that data with the incumbent system.

What Bylor needed was a system that works in real-time, so the centralised system can be updated far more quickly ensuring the information being recorded is accurate and up-to-date.

## Before...

It was difficult to keep our system up-to-date due to the use of a paper based system. Paper reports would often not be handed in to the admin team or get lost or destroyed in the wet. It was also slow when we did update it, meaning the data wasn't always accurate and trustworthy.

The yard operatives were very reliant upon the admin team to facilitate them in the requests and tracking of material. This was an inefficient use of time as the operatives would often be back and forth to the office. In addition, we didn't have a system for recording when the assets were moved, which when items were disputed being delivered, there was no evidence to confirm otherwise.

Another issue we faced was we couldn't reserve stock without physically moving stock in to reserved orders. This would cause issues with space and canceled requests being put back in stock. We would therefore have to double handle material meaninglessly.

## Now...

Having AssetTagz has allowed Bylor to update our system quicker due to removal of all paperwork through digitising the process. This has allowed us to be more efficient and allows greater visibility for all with access.

The system also allowed our yard operatives to have access to all requests negating the need to visit the office and ask for requests to be printed.

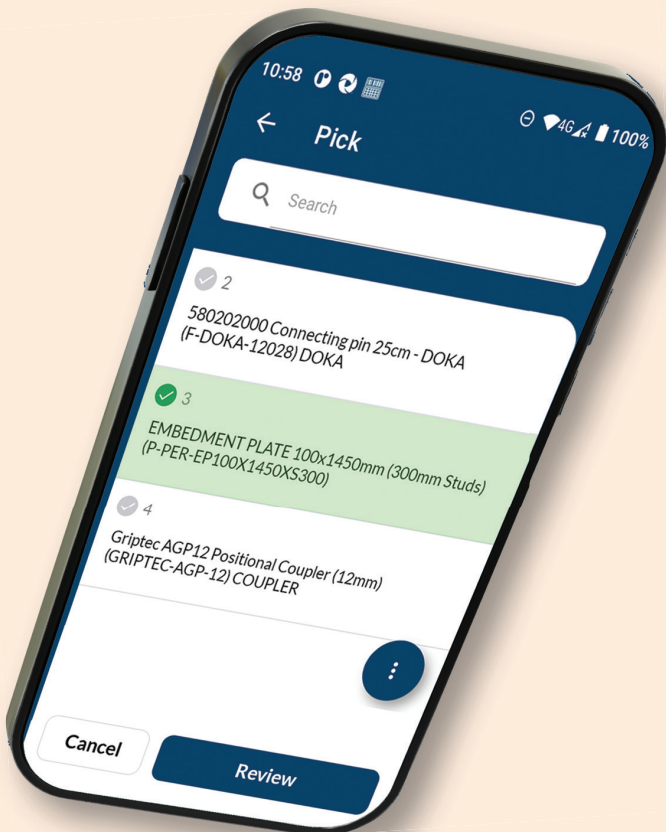
The operatives have live access to the stock too, which speeds up information sharing with site as well as offering suitable other alternatives which reduces our spending on new items.

## The solution

Using AssetTagz, Bylor now has visibility of every piece of formwork from the moment the request comes in, to when it is picked on the electronic pick list to the time that the item is returned and put back into stock.

When an automated request comes in, Bylor can see upfront which items are required, if they've got the stock to fulfil it and where the item is located. With AssetTagz, items in stock can now be automatically reserved, making it easy to order in any additional items needed. As well as making the whole process more user friendly, key information is up to date and easily accessible at all levels across all devices, not just those at the PC. Something that simply wasn't possible before.

But, it's not just a one-way street: When an item comes back from site, it is immediately signed back in and stock levels automatically replenished and updated. AssetTagz makes the entire process of managing stock easier and far more streamlined with less risk of error.



## How does it work?

- 01.** Once a requisition comes in from Bylor's central database, the list is imported into AssetTagz and an automated pick list is created.

Picklists can be assigned to specific individuals so each picker only sees a refined version of the list that is relevant to their job.
- 02.** Pickers use the AssetTagz app on a handheld device to search for the item required. The advanced search facility within the app means the picker can start typing the name or code of any asset and a live stock list will come up along with location information.
- 03.** Once the items have been picked and successfully delivered to the job site, a notification is received, the item location is recorded and the central system is updated.
- 04.** Similarly when an item is returned from site and received back into stock, a further notification is received which is the signal to update the central system again which ensures stock levels are accurate and up-to-date.



“Ultimately Bylor now has far better visibility and control over its stock and materials meaning we can run a much leaner and more efficient operation at Hinkley Point C.

With the data we now have we can start to spot trends and even predict scenarios so that we can forecast future requirements, taking the pressure off the Supply Chain.”

Sean Griffiths, FFSP lead at Bylor for Hinkley Point C

## The results

### **A reduction in spending on stock and materials**

Bylor are able to optimise capacity on existing stock and materials and because fewer items are being ‘lost’, less new stock needs to be purchased.

### **A significant reduction in the time and cost of administering manual processes**

The admin burden on staff on the ground has been alleviated and they can be redeployed on more added-value tasks.

### **More accurate, up-to-date data that Bylor can be confident in**

Because the central database is updated much more quickly, managers now have confidence in the accuracy of the data meaning better, faster Supply Chain decisions can be made.

## The future

2025 is set to be another exciting year, with AssetTagz working hand-in-glove with Bylor to develop and implement an end-to-end Tag and Track system for materials and assets whereby any item can be tagged and tracked from the point of manufacture or delivery by the supplier.

Important information is then held about the asset, including tracking its location during transportation, recording who has inspected it, where it was at any given time, and its status on site as part of the construction process.

Finally, this data can be used to manage maintenance, and when the time comes, recycling / decommissioning. When in place, this will extend the use of the system to enable full Supply Chain management, from Procurement through to Compliance, Sustainability and more.