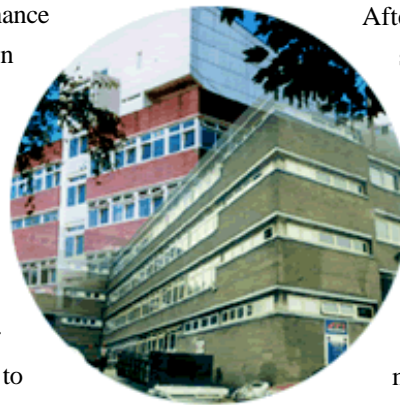


In 1993 Barnsley College became an independent educational establishment, which meant that they had to be self-sufficient and introduce new management methods. As part of this program, the management of the maintenance of buildings, equipment and furniture was considered to be of paramount importance to the college. It was deemed essential that the site was kept fit for purpose and that the infrastructure could be developed and adapted, as future needs arose. A ten-year Maintenance Investment Plan was therefore introduced which specified the repair work and maintenance needed to ensure compliance with newly developed Barnsley College Standards.

Although some planned maintenance was already in place, breakdown maintenance was still prevalent within Barnsley College. It was therefore decided that the development of a formal planned maintenance schedule was critical to the commercial future of the business. For planning and funding decisions to be made effectively, accurate cost estimates for maintenance and repair work would have to be developed as part of the Maintenance Investment Plan.



After a thorough evaluation of four systems, the IMPACT system, supplied by Matrix Resource Management Limited was chosen. The main reasons given for choosing the system were; IMPACTxp is highly user friendly both for technical and non-technical staff. The modular design allows for a building block approach to the installation. IMPACTxp is easy to implement. Data can be easily imported from other packages.

Barnsley College recognised that the most efficient method of developing the required maintenance schedules and cost projections would be to implement a computerised system. The college were already using a basic in-house system developed using Dbase 3, however this just provided a history of work done and did not provide facilities for reporting who did the work, how long it took and how much it cost.

Matrix's continual enhancement policy with regular software upgrades sent to all customers automatically and the highly competitive cost also played a major role in the decision made by Barnsley College.

Barnsley College therefore decided to purchase a commercial package, which would enable them to make the most effective use of their maintenance resources. The chosen system would have to provide the necessary cost information to help them make informed decisions about future development of the site as well as simply administer a preventive maintenance schedule.



Although implementation of any computer system can be a painstaking task, the tried and tested "Initial Implementation Service" (IIS) from Matrix provided the ideal framework to ensure a smooth and efficient introduction of the software, covering the initial installation, system familiarisation and training.

The first task was to build up the asset register, which is the heart of the Basic Maintenance Module containing details of all of the equipment and buildings at Barnsley College, for example, where it is, when it was purchased, serial numbers, and warranty details. Only information that would be useful for

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planning purposes was recorded and IMPACTxp's user defined templates provided the ideal mechanism for keeping the system as simple to use as possible.

Once the asset register had been built, work orders could be produced when required, for both planned and breakdown work. The simple work order completion routines ensured that extensive plant, task and fault histories were automatically built up. Very quickly the reporting facility within IMPACTxp was providing useful information for the management at Barnsley College which helped them make informed decisions about equipment replacement and investment in new projects.

The final phase of the project was the implementation of the Inventory Management Module, which provides comprehensive stock control and purchase ordering facilities. The close links with the Base Module enable Barnsley College to pre-plan material requirements for work orders in the form of kit lists, whilst management reports keep a close watch on spare part costs and usage.

The critical question to ask is whether IMPACTxp has lived up to Barnsley College's expectations. Happily, Dave Machen reports that the general condition and safety of the buildings are much improved since 1993. "Breakdown situations are occurring with less frequency and our response times are faster". The result is that the day to day running of Barnsley College has become more automated "leaving time for vision and time to concentrate on bigger things".

Maintenance is now seen as a pro-active task with fewer breakdowns occurring, saving time and money. Planned work now has the priority and because money is saved on breakdowns, more funds are spent pro-actively on planned work to extend the life of the assets and further develop the college. Breakdown situations can never be entirely eliminated, but Barnsley College now has the ability to set budgets and predict costs with greater accuracy, allowing the development of their business to be planned and executed in a professional manner.