



British Sugar TOPSOIL, the UK's largest supplier of topsoil to the construction, landscaping and amenity sectors, is the first, and only, topsoil manufacturer to have its product accepted as a BIM (Building Information Modelling) Object within the NBS National BIM Library. Planners, architects and construction professionals now have direct and immediate online access to the product's data, which they can import into their project's BIM-enabled software.

Building Information Modelling (BIM) brings together all the data and information about every component of a building in one place and allows anyone involved with the project to access that information for whatever purpose. BIM data can be used to model the entire building lifecycle – from concept and design to demolition and re-use of construction materials. This holistic 'from cradle to grave' approach helps prevent errors creeping in at the various stages of development and construction by integrating the different aspects of the design more effectively and minimising the risk of mistakes and abortive costs. In short, BIM increases efficiency and interoperability between clients, stakeholders and each of the construction disciplines.

British Sugar TOPSOIL's Andy Spetch has been instrumental in establishing the company's Landscape20 topsoil as the industry leader. He sees BIM as an incredible opportunity for product suppliers to make their product information readily available in a consistent and immediately accessible format for interrogation by all construction disciplines:

"By 2016 all construction projects procured by UK central government must use the managed data aspect of BIM. With our Landscape20 topsoil data now in the NBS National BIM Library I would expect to see a corresponding uplift in sales as the product is specified and larger projects come online. This is an exciting time for the construction sector and its suppliers. BIM has been viewed by some suppliers with suspicion and as just another government initiative that could be costly to engage with for little return. I personally believe that, as the BIM Library becomes populated with product data, we will wonder how construction projects were ever successfully undertaken before BIM existed."

For information on BIM visit www.thenbs.com/bim and to access the NBS National BIM Library, visit www.nationalbimlibrary.com .