FIELD NOTES · CONSTRUCTION / GROUNDWORKS

Five places groundworks teams quietly lose hours

One thing that kept showing up: past a handful of live sites, a contracts manager gets hired to hold the schedule together by hand.

01 Scheduling crews across live sites

Someone works out which crew goes where, and when the next site is actually ready.

02 Getting RAMS onto site before work starts

Making sure the right version reaches the right site is often down to one person's memory.

03 Coordinating subcontractors across sites

Who's actually turning up where is often confirmed by a call the night before.

04 Tracking plant and materials as the fleet grows

Diggers, cabins, and kit move between projects as needed, and what's where is usually a walk round.

05 Capturing variations before they're forgotten

Extra work agreed on site gets logged eventually, after the detail that made it memorable has passed.

AND TWO YOU SHOULD LEAVE ALONE

Pricing a variation. A judgment call on cost and value, not a number a system can generate.

A call on site when something doesn't match the drawing. Built from experience, not a rule.

The next page: what a fix looks like.

02
THE FIX

What good looks like

Matched to the numbers on the previous page. This is the shape we'd build toward, not a specific product.

WHERE IT SLIPS	WHAT GOOD LOOKS LIKE
01 Crew scheduling	Site programmes plug into one schedule, so who's where next is a look, not a phone round.
02 RAMS, paperwork	The right RAMS version follows the job automatically, so what's on site matches what's been signed off.
03 Subcontractors	Each gang's day is confirmed against the plan, not re-confirmed by a call the night before.
04 Plant, materials	Plant and kit get logged by site as they move, so finding what's where is a lookup.
05 Variations	Extra work gets captured at the moment it happens, tied to the job, before the detail fades.

IN PLAIN TERMS

This is the shape, not the software. What you'd actually build depends on how your team already works, and some of it might not need software at all.

WHICH ONE HITS CLOSEST

Reply with the number from page one, and I'll tell you which of these you're probably already close to, and which is worth a look first.

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