



**NUCLEUS CONSULTING**  
AI Strategy & Implementation

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# AI Intelligence Report

## Meridian Build Group

Construction & Infrastructure  
May 2025

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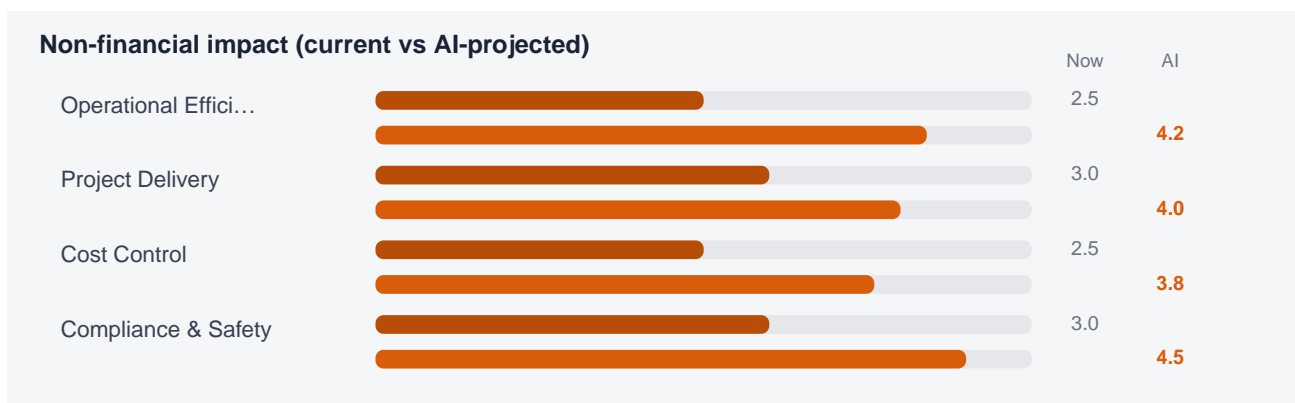
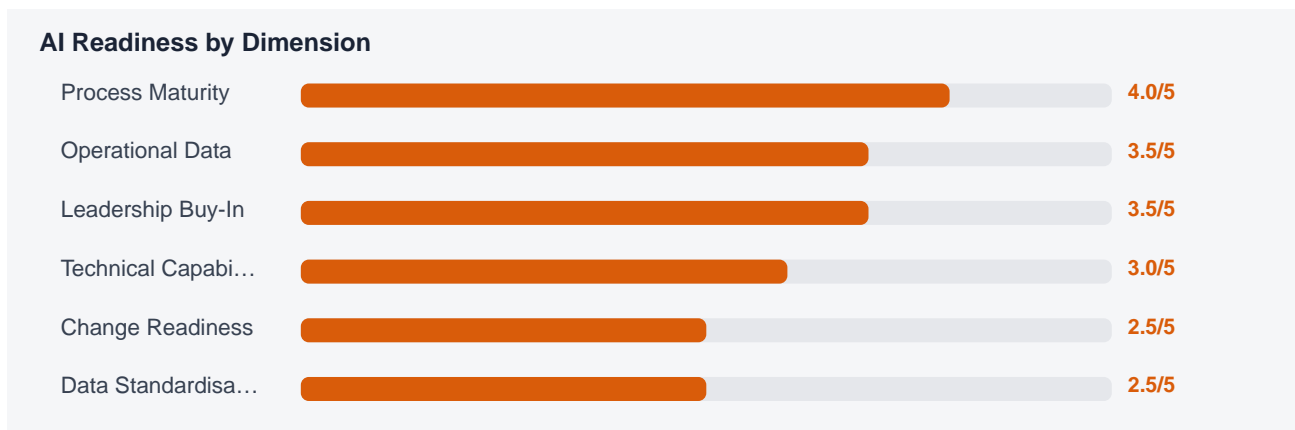
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# 1. Executive Summary

Site managers and project teams currently spend an estimated 35% of administrative time producing reports that AI can generate in minutes - safety reports, progress updates, and handover documentation that is largely templated and repetitive.

The three Phase 1 quick wins (safety report automation, invoice processing, and progress reporting) require a combined £48,000 investment and are projected to return £268,000 in Year 1, with payback in under 2.5 months.

Meridian's AI readiness score of 3.2/5 reflects a business with strong operational processes and clear data - the principal gaps are digitisation of site records and a structured approach to data standardisation across projects.



Meridian Build Group is a well-run regional contractor with strong project management processes, a clear operational structure, and a leadership team that understands the commercial pressure to improve efficiency without compromising delivery quality. The AI audit has identified six concrete opportunities across project management, commercial, and compliance functions, with a total addressable annual value of £682,000.

Three of these - site safety report automation, subcontractor invoice processing, and project progress

reporting - are classified as quick wins: operationally ready to deploy, technically low-risk, and capable of delivering a positive return within 10 weeks of investment. The combined Phase 1 investment of £48,000 is projected to return £268,000 in Year 1 at the expected case, representing a 458% net ROI and a payback period of 2.2 months.

Meridian's AI readiness score of 3.2 out of 5 reflects a business with strong operational data and clear processes, with the primary areas for attention being data standardisation across projects and a structured change management approach for site-based staff who may have limited prior technology exposure. These are addressable challenges - not blockers - and the programme is sequenced to build adoption confidence in Phase 1 before moving to more complex integrations in Phases 2 and 3.

## 2. About This Report

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This AI Intelligence Report was prepared by Nucleus Consulting over a three-week period in April–May 2025. The audit involved a structured review of Meridian's project management workflows, commercial processes, compliance documentation, and finance operations - supplemented by site visits to two active projects and interviews with the Managing Director, Commercial Director, three project managers, the Head of H&S, and the Finance Manager.

All financial projections are based on Meridian's own operational data - including hours per process, staff headcount, blended salary rates, and project volume - and validated against construction sector AI adoption benchmarks published by the Chartered Institute of Building and Procore's 2024 Construction Technology Report. Three scenarios are presented, ranging from a conservative stress-test to an optimistic case reflecting the firm's strong existing digital infrastructure.

Nucleus Consulting holds no commercial relationship with any vendor referenced in this report. All tool recommendations are based solely on fit-for-purpose assessment within a construction and infrastructure delivery context.

## 3. Your Business Today

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Meridian Build Group operates across the West Midlands and North West, with a portfolio of 12 active projects across commercial fit-out, education, and public sector new-build. Annual turnover is approximately £28 million, with a workforce of 180 including 30 direct site staff. The firm has made meaningful investment in project management technology: Procore is used across all active projects for programme, quality, and safety management, and Sage 200 provides the financial backbone.

Despite this investment, the audit identified a consistent pattern across the project portfolio: data that exists in digital form is not being used efficiently. Site managers are manually re-entering or reformatting data already captured in Procore into Word and Excel for client reports and safety documentation. Invoices arriving from subcontractors are being manually processed despite a finance system capable of receiving automated inputs. Tender documents are being assembled from scratch each bid cycle, despite a bid library that contains largely consistent method statement content.

The opportunity is not to invest in more technology - it is to connect the technology already in place with AI tools that close the gap between raw data and finished document. This audit estimates that Meridian's staff collectively spend approximately 9,000 hours per year on document creation and administrative processing tasks that AI could perform in a fraction of the time.

## 4. Where AI Can Help

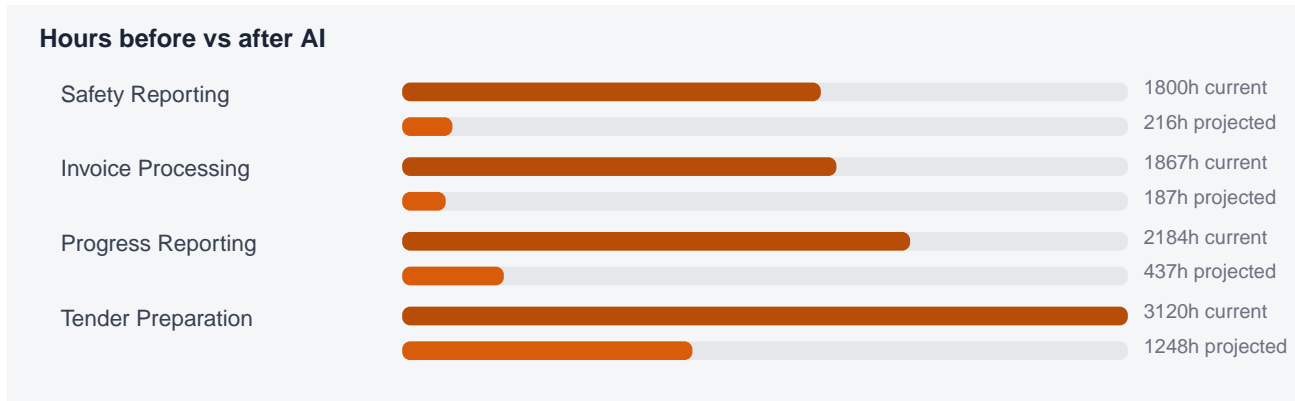
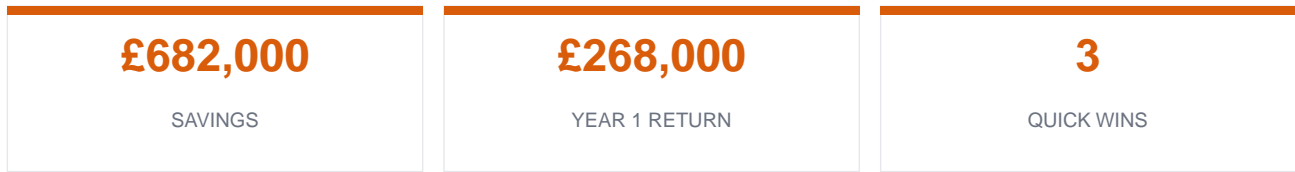
#	Opportunity	Phase	Investment	Yr 1 Return	Payback	Score
1	Site Safety Report Automa...	Quick Win	£16,000	£108,000	1.8 mo	8.5
2	Tender Document Preparati...	Short Term	£24,000	£195,000	1.5 mo	8.5
3	Subcontractor Invoice Pro...	Quick Win	£18,000	£92,000	2.3 mo	8.0
4	Material Cost Forecasting	Medium Term	£42,000	£135,000	3.7 mo	7.0
5	Project Progress Reporting	Quick Win	£14,000	£68,000	2.5 mo	7.5
6	H&S Compliance Documentat...	Short Term	£20,000	£84,000	2.9 mo	7.5

The six AI opportunities identified span four intervention types: report generation (converting structured data into professional documents), process automation (removing manual data entry and validation steps), document drafting (accelerating first-draft production of standard tender and compliance content), and predictive analytics (improving procurement decisions through data-driven forecasting).

Site Safety Report Automation addresses the highest-volume document creation task identified in the audit. Site managers already capture all the underlying inspection data in SafetyCulture - the AI simply converts this structured data into finished reports, transforming a 42-minute daily task into a 5-minute review and sign-off. Subcontractor Invoice Processing eliminates the most labour-intensive commercial administration process: the 35-minute manual extraction, validation, and coding of each of the 3,200 invoices processed annually.

Tender Document Preparation represents the largest single financial opportunity, with AI-assisted drafting of method statements and programme narratives capable of recovering an estimated £195,000 in bid team time annually - and enabling the team to pursue significantly more work. Project Progress Reporting and H&S Compliance Documentation complete the short-term portfolio. Material Cost Forecasting rounds out the programme as a Phase 3 strategic capability that applies predictive AI to Meridian's single largest cost exposure.

# 5. The Financial Case



The total addressable annual value across all six opportunities is £682,000 at the expected scenario. This is based on quantified time savings applied to Meridian's verified operational data - not theoretical maximum automation.

Phase 1 requires a combined investment of £48,000 - comprising £32,000 in tool licensing and configuration and £16,000 in implementation, training, and change management. At the expected scenario, Phase 1 returns £268,000 in Year 1, representing a 458% net ROI and a payback period of 2.2 months. In the pessimistic scenario, Phase 1 still delivers a 202% net ROI and pays back in 3.2 months - confirming the investment carries minimal downside risk even under conservative assumptions.

Phase 2 requires £44,000 and is projected to return £279,000 annually, with a payback of approximately 1.9 months at expected case. The 6-week tender library preparation phase means full benefit realisation begins approximately 16 weeks after Phase 1 deployment. Phase 3 (material cost forecasting) requires £42,000 and returns £135,000 annually, with payback in 3.7 months and increasing benefit as the forecasting model matures with additional project data.

The full 3-year programme NPV at an 8% discount rate is £720,000 at expected case, rising to £1,060,000 in the optimistic scenario. Year 1 net ROI of 458% makes this one of the clearest AI investment cases in the construction sector.

# 6. Recommended Roadmap



The implementation roadmap is designed to maximise early return while managing the change risk inherent in deploying AI tools to site-based teams who may have limited prior experience with automation technology. Phase 1 prioritises the three processes where AI simply replaces manual formatting of data that already exists - minimising the risk of adoption failure.

Weeks 1–6 focus on deploying safety report automation and invoice processing in parallel: both use data already captured in existing systems (SafetyCulture and Sage 200 respectively) and require no changes to how site staff work - only to what happens with the data they generate. Weeks 4–10 deploy progress reporting automation, building on the Procore integration established in the safety reporting workstream. Weeks 10–22 (Phase 2) tackle tender preparation and H&S documentation, both requiring a 6-week library preparation phase before AI can be deployed effectively. Weeks 22 onwards (Phase 3) deploy the material cost forecasting model.

Key dependencies before work begins: (1) Sage 200 API connectivity confirmation with the finance system administrator; (2) SafetyCulture data completeness audit to confirm all 12 projects have consistent digital inspection records; (3) Procore configuration review to confirm programme and cost data is being captured consistently across all projects. Nucleus Consulting can conduct the configuration review as part of the scoping engagement at no additional cost.

## 7. Data Gaps & Next Steps

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Three data gaps require resolution before finalising the investment decision: (1) Sage 200 API integration - Rossum and Docsumo both confirm standard connectors are available, but this should be validated with Meridian's finance system administrator before scoping; (2) Historical procurement data availability - the material cost forecasting model requires structured historical purchasing data, and the commercial team should confirm how much clean data is available and in what format; (3) SafetyCulture data consistency - the safety reporting ROI assumes all 12 projects are capturing inspection data consistently in SafetyCulture, which should be confirmed with the Head of H&S.

Phase 1 implementation controls: Safety reporting owner: Head of H&S; first 30 days: two-site SafetyCulture pilot; data dependency: consistent inspection records; success metric: daily report preparation under 5 minutes. Invoice processing owner: Finance Manager with Commercial Director sponsor; first 30 days: Sage 200 API confirmation and 100-invoice test; data dependency: supplier records, purchase orders, cost codes, invoice PDFs, and contract references; success metric: 85% straight-through processing. Progress reporting owner: Operations Director with project controls lead; first 30 days: first-draft reports for three live projects from Procore data; data dependency: programme, RFI, photo, issue, progress, and cost-summary fields; success metric: weekly report production under 30 minutes.

Recommended immediate next steps: (1) Confirm Sage 200 API connectivity with the finance system administrator (half day); (2) Request a SafetyCulture data completeness report across all active projects from the H&S team (1 day); (3) Nominate a Phase 1 internal project lead - ideally a project manager or commercial manager with credibility across the site teams to drive adoption; (4) Schedule a scoping session with Nucleus Consulting. We will deliver a scoping document, vendor shortlist, and detailed implementation timeline within 5 working days of go-ahead.