

CASE STUDY

North West Regional College (NWRC) and Braidwater Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)

NWRC collaborated with Braidwater, a local construction company, to digitise and revolutionise the company’s construction processes. Previously reliant on manual, paper-based systems, Braidwater wanted more efficient processes for project management, site surveys and investment decision-making. The two-year KTP project deployed cutting-edge technologies, including drones and artificial intelligence (AI), to achieve these objectives.

The college carried out a comprehensive review of Braidwater’s operations and proposed innovative technological solutions (the foundation of the KTP). One of the most successful outcomes of the project was using drones to perform site surveys. Previously, engineers conducted these surveys in person, a process that was both time and labour intensive. With drones, Braidwater now performs accurate site assessments remotely, which is much quicker and cheaper. AI was also introduced to improve decision-making in Braidwater’s investment strategy. The company now uses AI tools to analyse a range of factors for housing demand and site selection. By mining both current and historical data, the AI system provides predictive insights which allow Braidwater to make more strategic decisions. This data-driven approach helps the company identify profitable opportunities, while minimising risks.

NWRC also helped Braidwater develop a custom digital platform tailored specifically to the company’s needs. All employees, from on-site staff to office personnel, use the system to

manage tasks such as design work and project management. The platform also includes a customer-facing component, allowing homebuyers to take 360-degree virtual walkthroughs of its properties, customise aspects of the home and decide whether to purchase without the need for an on-site visit.

This collaboration with NWRC has revolutionised Braidwater’s business operations. By moving from manual systems to automated processes, the company has significantly reduced operational costs while improving overall efficiency.

