Term	Acronym	Definition
Architecture, Engineering and Construction	**AEC**	*Acronym for the architecture, engineering and construction industries.*
BIM Execution Plan	**BEP**	*Written plan of engagement of a BIM enabled team, this should include all stakeholders, exchanges and processes.*
Bridge Information Modelling	**BrIM**	*BIM for Bridge design and Construction, term is synonymous with BIM, but for a particular subset.*
BS1192:2007 - Collaborative production of architectural, engineering and construction information. Code of practice		*Defines the methodology for managing the production and use of information throughout the project lifecycle and supply chain, including design, construction, operation and deconstruction. Provide the outline methodologies for setting up the BIM project. Relies heavily on the Code of Procedure for the Construction Industry, published by CPIC.*
Building Information Modelling	**BIM**	*Generic term used to describe process by which deliverables (drawings, reports, specifications and schedules) are created. This is independant of any software. Processes can be defined individually, there is no "right way". Building is used as a verb, not a noun.*
buildingSMART		*A neutral, international and unique non for profit organisation supporting open BIM through the life cycle.*
buildingSMART Alliance	**BSA**	*Leading international not-for-profit organization devoted to identifying and delivering construction "share structured data" standards such as IFC and ISO Standards. Formerlly known as The International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI). See http://www.buildingsmartalliance.org/*
Clash detection		*Process of identifying conflicts and issues by 3D collaboration and coordination. Also known as Interference checking.*
Cloud		*Group of computers that are used for processing large amounts of information remotely from the computer hosting the originating program.*
COBie UK 2012		*UK specific version of COBie spreadsheet. Generally identical to COBie, but uses UniClass classification in place of OmniClass.*
Common Data Environment	**CDE**	*Defines a process for sharing data throughout the design lifecycle. It incorporates a system of model and document versioning and revisions to be used.*
Computer Aided Design and Draughting	**CADD**	*Generally similar to CAD, but can also encompass BIM. Some hold that BIM is a subset of CADD.*
Computer Aided Drawing	**CAD**	*Generally; Computer Aided Drawing or Draughting (Drafting), vector based programs for generating drawn deliverables. This is generally held to an antonym of BIM.*

Construction Information Modelling	CIM		BIM during the Construction process, term is synonymous with BIM, but for a particular phase of the design, construction and maintenance process.
Construction Operations Building Information Exchange	COBie		Information exchange requirement for BIM projects, although not always required. Format is spreadsheet, generally in Microsoft Excel. The spreadsheet is completed as the project progresses by various parties.
Construction Project Information Committee	CPIC		Responsible for providing best practice guidance on the content, form and preparation of construction production information, and making sure this best practice is disseminated throughout the UK construction industry
Construction Project Information Committee	CPIC		Promoting collaborative working within the construction industry. See http://www.cpic.org.uk/en/
Data Set			Term used to describe the data contained within a design.
Digital Projects			Gehry Technologies owned modelling package. Built on top of the Catia program base, with specific tools relevant to building design.
Family			A file that contains objects that may be used in a design. They are referred to as "Families" as they can contain one or many members that are differentiated by changing parameter values.
Family Category			Families usually belong to a category to assist filtering in a project, an example could be "Trees", which would be the category for several families in a project.
Federated Model			Compilation of Models from one or more programs that can define a complete or partial Data Set for a design.
Green Building Extensible Mark-up Language	gbXML		File format to exchange building design data. Usually used to extract building volumes to send to calculation engines and return results to BIM modelling program. This file format is "Open", so can be addressed by any program.
Industry Foundation Classes	IFC		Open source language used for Interoperability. Is sometimes used as a BIM deliverable.
Information Delivery Manual	IDM		see BIM Execution Plan
Integrated Project Delivery	IPD		Contractual form relevant to the BIM design and construction process. Not widely used outside of the USA at present.
International Alliance of Interoperability	IAI		Founded in 2001 (renamed buildingSMART in 2007) and originally formed as a collection of international 'chapters'. The IAI was collectively responsible for the buildingSMART concept and the ISO standard of Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) for Building Information Models.

Interoperability		Term used to describe the ability to translate program data from one platform to another.
Landscape Information Modelling	**LIM**	BIM for Landscape design and Construction, term is synonymous with BIM, but for a particular subset.
Level		Object defining floors in a building or grade heights that can be defined by a plane.
Level of Detail	**LOD**	The specification detail required for elements of the project at any particular stage. The information becomes more rich as the project moves closer to the construction stage.
Mass Model		Type of model file that contains only the volumes desciribing a project or component.
Model		General term used to refer to the computer file, or files, that contain BIM data.
National Building Specification	**NBS**	A range of inter-related specification and information products for the Construction Industry, including Landscape
NBS BIM Library		Free-to-use resource of NBS standard BIM content available in Industry neutral IFC and formats for Revit, ArchiCAD, Vectorworks, Tekla and Bentley.
OmniClass		Classification system as used in the USA, similar to UniClass but sufficiently different to not be Interoperable.
Open BIM		Universal approach to the collaborative design, realization and operation of buildings based on open standards and workflows. Open BIM is an
Parameter		Container for information in BIM platform. This information may be in any format; text, numerical or formulaic. Parameters have the ability to change during design or construction and may alter other aspects of the design
Parameter (Instance)		An Instance parameter is an information container that has a value particular to a single entity in a BIM model.
Parameter (Project)		A Project parameter is an information container that has a value that can be applied to an entire project. For example; project name.
Parameter (Type)		A Type parameter is an information container that has a value that is applied to a set of objects in a BIM model. Changing this value will alter many objects at once.
Parametric Modelling		A model or feature defined by relationships between component entities that are governed by rules and constraints. Changing a rule or constraint or modifying a part of the model often has implications on the component parts and/or the entire model.

Platform		Computer program family used for BIM, CADD or CAD processes. No one platform is required for BIM, in fact no platform is needed at all, only COBie is required for BIM at the most basic level as specified by HM
Project		Often a single file or federation of files that contain the information on a particular design.
Property		A property is an information container that usually does not have the ability to be easily changed or change other values or geometries.
Site Information Modelling	SIM	BIM for Site design and Construction, term is synonymous with BIM, but for a particular subset.
Specifiers' Products Information Exchange	SPie	Similar to COBie formats, but for products used during construction. Not widely used outside the USA currently.
System Family		A type of Family that only exists inside projects, no external file can exist of this family type (may be a Revit specific term).
Trailing Edge		Term used by HM Government to describe the the least technically advanced companies within the construction process. This is the target audience for the Government's BIM mandation.
UniClass		Classification system as used in the UK and defined by the National Building Specification. This groups objects into numerical headers to order specification documents and filter BIM models. This has recently been fundamentally revised to help encompass BIM
Unified Design		Design process by which all designed aspects are considered as a whole and are of equal value. A project developed by a multi-disciplinary team working together with shared responsibilities and shared goals.