

The 4 Cs project

Capital cost correlation compendium

OUR APPROACH

We have a significant amount of experience of developing robust and reliable estimates of capital costs for clients. Our aim with the 4Cs project is to collate published cost correlations and our own databases into one reference volume, give a comparison of their accuracy and range of applicability and, most importantly, give statistically derived confidence limits for the forecasts they give.

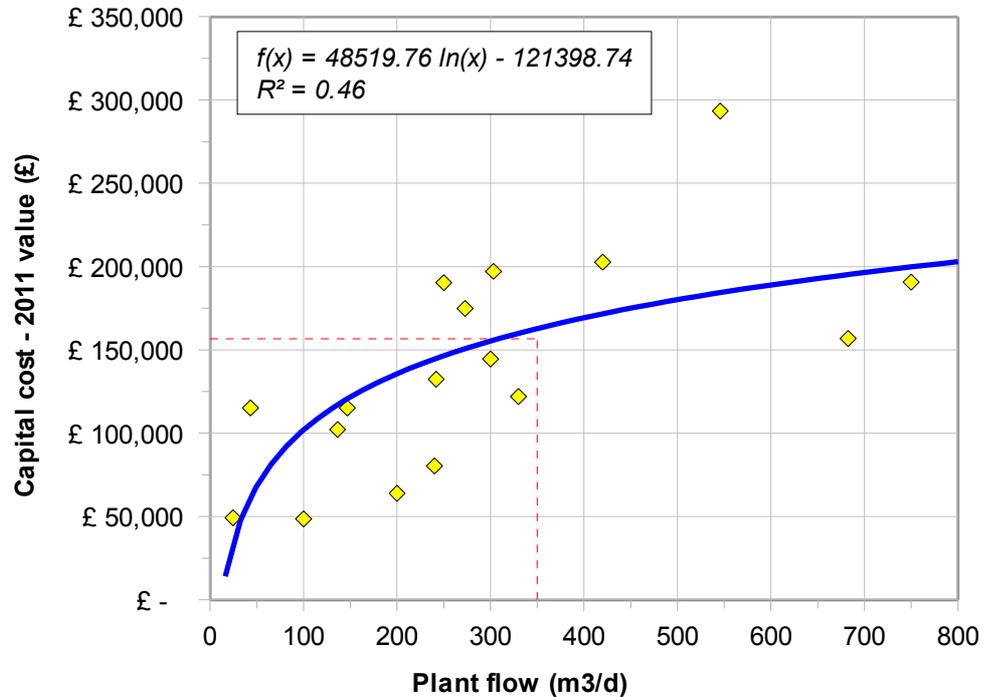
TECHNIQUES WE USE

One of our key skills is the development of empirical models using. We develop all of our models so that they can easily be used by anyone and we also ensure that we can define rigorous statistical confidence limits for all the predictions made by our models.

BENEFITS

The 4Cs project will provide a comprehensive analysis of available cost correlations for a wide range of wastewater treatment processes. The confidence limits will be invaluable for developing robust ball-park estimates for feasibility studies and optioneering work.

Cost curve for process



The ball-park capital cost estimate: it's one of the most useful services a wastewater engineering consultant can provide and yet also one of the most dangerous.

When a client has an urgent effluent treatment problem to solve, it's quite understandable that they will want to know the cost of the solution. That question may even be asked as early as the first or second meeting with a wastewater consultant. By doing that the client gets an understanding of the funds they may need to put a solution in place.

And this is where the danger comes in. An incorrect estimate, particularly one that is too low, can cause problems for the consultant, whose reputation can be badly affected if the true capital cost turns out to be much higher than they anticipated. An estimate that is too high may put too much doubt in the client's mind and cause a potentially viable project to fall at the first hurdle.

Where, then, do wastewater engineering consultants turn for robust ball-park estimates of capital cost? There are many sources of cost correlations for common processes but there can be significant variations in the forecasts they give. Also care is required when updating their results to present day monetary values.

Blackwell Water Consultancy Ltd (BWC) are proud to announce the beginning of a project to collate published capital cost correlations into a single reference. We've called it the 4C project – the capital cost correlation compendium. This will provide a valuable reference tool for anyone who needs to quick, reliable and accurate estimates of capital costs for effluent treatment plant.

Cost curve for illustrative purposes only