



Case Study

Elmbridge Borough Council

Modern - accurate, current, clear aerial imagery

Overview

Local Councils have powers to make Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have a detrimental impact on the local environment.

Spanning an area of 100 sq kms, Elmbridge Borough Council is responsible for the management of a large TPO portfolio of 800 orders covering some 8000 individual trees and many woodland areas.

The Problem

The Council formerly relied upon TPO data in the form of hand drawn maps that were created from laborious site surveys. Plotting and managing a large TPO portfolio over such an expansive area via this method proved incredibly resource intensive.

The Solution

Recognising the value of high-resolution aerial photography in viewing the accurate location of all their trees, Elmbridge Borough Council invested in Cities

Revealed™ **Modern** aerial photography solution for the entire borough.

The 12.5 cm pixel resolution imagery enables the Council's tree officers to see practically every tree and shrub from the convenience of the desktop saving time and effort in site surveys. The countryside rangers have identified small whips planted on the commons.

The photography is proving a valuable asset within a broad range of tree preservation applications:

Development Proposals

The aerial imagery is used within the Council's GIS to help Tree Officers visually assess within seconds the extent to which trees will be affected by proposed

developments. Before applications are registered, preservation officers are able to assess a whole site on screen in order to request any additional information required from the developer such as a tree survey and implication report.

Applying TPOs

Tree Officers use the photography to assess whether or not to investigate further the need to apply tree preservation orders to sites. The imagery offers such a high level of ground detail that Officers are able to digitise around the trees within a GIS instead of taking measurements on site. When plotting groups of trees, the photography is used to draw around the extent of the canopies to represent the group more accurately than simply a set of trunks. *continues overleaf >>*

*"Cities Revealed **Modern** aerial photography is a major technological breakthrough that is helping us to make quick and accurate decisions needed for modern tree management".*

E-Government Development Manager, Elmbridge BC

Tree Management

In conjunction with English Nature, Elmbridge Borough Council has established a 15-year felling programme to restore the Esher commons SSSI. Current as well as past photography, captured in 1940s, are compared and used in public consultations to demonstrate that in a majority of the proposed felling areas tree cover was sparse or never existed.



Trees plotted on a **Modern** aerial photograph to provide immediate retrieval of TPO information

TPO Enquiries

Contractors and the general public regularly call the Tree Preservation Unit to check whether a tree is protected by a TPO. Officers can now easily locate the

tree in question direct from the desktop and provide a status check immediately over the phone. This is helping Officers to work far more efficiently and effectively than ever before.

Prosecutions

Cities Revealed aerial photography has been successfully used in prosecutions. It is extremely effective in demonstrating a visual amenity that no longer exists due to the illegal felling of trees. The photography plays an important role in providing Magistrates with highly visual evidence.

Benefits

Modern – accurate, current, clear aerial imagery

Aerial imagery presents the world in a recognisable way and is therefore quick and easy to use.

Many features present on aerial imagery are not found on standard maps, enhancing the power of the analysis.

The detection and identification of key features can be seen from aerial imagery, which reduces the need for site visits, saving both time and money.

The accuracy of high-resolution imagery enhances the decision-making process.

No specialised training is required to use Cities Revealed Modern aerial imagery.

Aerial imagery can be used as base mapping in isolation or as an additional, complimentary data layer to other geo-referenced data.

A globally recognised brand that continues to set the standard for aerial photographic products.

A 7000 strong Cities Revealed user community, supported by an annual, residential conference.

Other applications

Map & land use verification

Risk evaluation

Environmental management

Infrastructure planning

Archaeology mapping

Policy planning

Property development

Asset management

Network planning

Legal and court case support

Architectural and planning presentation support



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