



CASE STUDY

London Borough of Waltham Forest

"The Cities Revealed Building Class database offers us the basis for a desktop exercise reducing the number of on site surveys required for housing audit purposes"

Housing Officer, London Borough of Waltham Forest



Overview

London Borough of Waltham Forest is using Cities Revealed's Building Class database to assist in its application for the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA13). This allowance will help to ensure that the Council's existing housing stock is in good repair and provides safe and adequate facilities for its tenants.

To qualify for the MRA, Waltham Forest is required to provide the Government with archetype information on each dwelling within its housing stock. This information enables the Government to calculate the appropriate repairs allowance based on the 13 housing types held by the Council.

Cities Revealed Categorises Housing Stock

The Problem

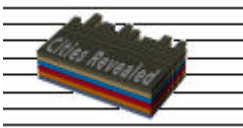
The housing type identification process that Waltham Forest employed relied upon local knowledge, site-surveys and external consultants. However, owning over 11,000 dwellings spanning an area of some 40 square kilometres, the task of identifying the housing categories specified by the Government was laborious, time consuming and expensive.

The solution

The GeoInformation Group's revolutionary database, CR Building Class™, provides Waltham Forest with immediate and accurate data on the age and building structure for each dwelling within the Council's housing stock. Housing Officers now have direct access to this information from the convenience of their desktop, substantially alleviating the need for site surveys. Consequently, this has resulted in a reduction in costs and an increase in response time for their MRA13 return.



CR Building Class data defines residential properties by age and structure



The CR Building Class database provides residential building categories defined by age and structure ranging from pre 1945 terraced and semi detached houses to post 1979 houses and bungalows.

Waltham Forest Council uses this dwelling information in conjunction with Ordnance Survey Address Point and Land-Line data to quickly identify and locate a house. The Cities Revealed high-resolution aerial photography further enhances the study area.

The Benefits for Waltham Forest

- ?? Enables housing officers to accurately identify specific housing types with the click of a button
- ?? Saves time in field surveys and consultancy costs for accumulating house type data
- ?? Capability to update database in response to housing changes
- ?? Direct access within corporate GIS
- ?? Ability to colour code generic archetypes for easy identification



About Cities Revealed Building Class

CR Building Class, the first database of its kind within the UK, consists of 8 age and 20 structural categories giving a highly detailed and cross-referenced database of 83 different property types within the urban environment.

The database has been derived by visual identification and classification of each house from

high-resolution aerial photography and further backed by field investigation by a team of architectural and landscape experts.



Cities Revealed aerial photograph overlaid with Cities Revealed Building Class data clearly defining property age and structure

Data supply

The data are supplied in a number of standard formats including ESRI's Shape and MapInfo's Tab formats and can also be linked and easily integrated with the Ordnance Survey's Land-Line and MasterMap products.

Other users

- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Greater London Authority
- London Borough of Brent
- London Borough of Camden
- London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
- London Borough of Islington
- London Borough of Hackney
- London Borough of Southwark



Telford House, Cow Lane, Fulbourn, Cambridge, CB1 5HB, United Kingdom

(t) + 44 1223 880077
(f) + 44 1223 880097

www.citiesrevealed.com

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