



APPLICATION

Archaeology

“CR Historic aerial photography will give us the ability to rapidly assess, change, and view archaeological evidence from a vital point in history” Suffolk County Council



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Overview

Councils have a statutory duty to maintain County Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) to ensure that areas of historic interest are not needlessly destroyed by development.

The problem

Information on SMR databases is often derived from sources of varying accuracy and these may impact on the exact location of historic sites.

For example:

- ?? Incorrect plotting may occur from positional inaccuracies contained within county scale maps
- ?? Features plotted from oblique air photos may introduce perspective distortions
- ?? Hardcopy photographs require laborious scanning and registering to a national grid
- ?? Misleading information can result in serious inaccuracies in the plotting of scheduled areas

Historic Air Photos Help Reveal Archaeological Sites

The Solution

The GeoInformation Group offers CR Historic, the first available digital coverage of vertical aerial photography flown between 1945 and 1952, is a georeferenced database for use with and complimentary to other imagery and mapping. This photography provides an extremely effective and accurate data source in the identification and mapping of historic sites as well as the verification of features and boundaries.



Roman Fortifications, Richborough, Kent

The seamless nature of the photography enables archaeologists to efficiently reproduce whole counties from one direct source. Large or complex earthworks, soilmarks and cropmarks, may all be revealed by the photography to show the possible location of an archaeological site.

As the imagery within the CR Historic database was captured around the WWII era, both the urban and rural landscapes are shown prior to bomb damage and housing development. Such information may reveal invaluable clues on the location of historic settlements that may otherwise be obscured from view today.



Cities Revealed's free viewing software further aids archaeologists to quickly and effortlessly compare and contrast temporal aerial photography through multiple viewing windows as well as through its blend and swipe functionality.

For instance, excavated sites can be directly compared with other areas possessing similar characteristics. This can help researchers to make more informed interpretations about the nature of what is beneath the land prior to a site visit.

Furthermore, evidence of land use change can be easily communicated by comparing historic and modern day photography.



Historic centre of Rochester in 1945 and 2002

Benefits of CR Historic

- ?? Accurately and rapidly reveals historic features of interest and site boundaries
- ?? Delivers full compatibility with GIS and OS mapping
- ?? Communicates valuable information for public presentations and exhibitions through an easily understood medium
- ?? Presents an immediate and direct comparison of temporal air photos to expose features of interest and monitor change over time
- ?? Records further detail of minor and often transient detail often missing from historic maps
- ?? Verifies the location of historic footpaths and boundaries



Medieval ridge and furrow, Hadrians Wall

About CR Historic

- ?? 1945 – 1952 vertical aerial photography
- ?? 1 metre resolution or greater
- ?? Map registered and mosaiced to provide seamless photomap
- ?? Georectified to fit OS mapping
- ?? Contrast enhanced for optimum quality
- ?? Compressed and supplied with free viewing software

CR Historic Users

Councils across the UK are using CR Historic aerial photography within many applications from interpretation and recording of archaeological features to monitoring land use change and boundary verification. These include:

- ?? Cheshire County Council
- ?? Cambridgeshire County Council
- ?? Suffolk County Council
- ?? Swale Borough Council



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