

Oblique Aerial Photography

We've Got Every Angle Covered

Imagine being able to view the landscape from directly above as well as from four different angles.

This would provide you with the invaluable ability to view the size, shape and design of features within the built landscape as well as obtain measurements such as height, area and distance within their geographic context.

Using a new oblique photography solution offered by Cities Revealed in partnership with GetMapping and developed by MultiVision, you now have the ability to do just this. The oblique aerial imagery offers a different view of the world gained from the

more widely used vertical image. With its five angled views the solution presents a viewpoint that is much more familiar to many users.

The applications are vast and cover everything from emergency planning, security and intelligence, planning application assessment, land use identification, and construction – to name a few.

Surrey Heath Borough Council and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council are two local authorities that are keen to share their planned use of this exciting technology.

Surrey Heath Borough Council James Rutter, GIS Manager

As good as vertical air surveys are, in some instances their use can be limited. Oblique photographs enable you to see the sides of buildings and structures such as fences and walls that are particularly important for planning staff. Oblique photography enables you to see and assess the 'street scene' from the photography that cannot be achieved with traditional vertical surveys.

Departments Intending to Use Obliques

So far, planning, enforcement, tree preservation and waste services have expressed great interest in the product. However, once the oblique survey has been released for use in the Authority, many staff will find uses for it that could not possibly have been foreseen.

- Primary use of the data will probably rest with the planning department who already make extensive use of the GIS. They will use it as an aid to making assessments of planning applications. They will be able to see the building elevations, materials and structure that cannot be gleaned from traditional surveys. Importantly, they will be able to use the measurement tools built into the interface to measure building heights directly from the imagery.
- The tree service is looking forward to using the obliques too in order to make assessments of planning application sites prior to registration of the application. Heights of trees can be measured and tree canopy spread accurately assessed.
- Enforcement officers are also looking to use the oblique imagery to enable them to highlight features they should be looking for when they get out on site. The obliques show what can be seen over fences, looking round gates and seeing behind buildings – a great deal more than when standing on the ground.

- The Council is looking to move the weekly waste collection to wheelie bins. There are regulations that determine how long and on what day a wheelie bin can be left on the highway for collection. At other times the bin must be stored on the property and staff responsible for this contract are interested in using the oblique photography to determine whether properties have enough room to accommodate this storage.

Why Choose Cities Revealed?

The obliques solution was favourable to Surrey Heath because of the licensing conditions. The council did not want to have to keep paying annual fees to use the data. With the Cities Revealed solution there is a one-off capital cost and then the data can be used in perpetuity.

Furthermore, the Council also liked the 'seamless' manner in which the individual oblique images are displayed. With other products, the interface was not quite as 'slick' or as simple to use as the Cities Revealed tools. Simplicity is key because end users will not have time to master yet another complex software interface.

The oblique data will complement the Council's existing corporate GIS because they will be able to integrate the images within their existing Cadcorp intranet GIS. Users will be able to locate a property that they are interested in through their land and property gazetteer and view the property on the map, or look at vertical air surveys or other data. They propose to add an additional tool to the GIS site that the user can click on to open a new web browser window. This new window will contain the oblique photography of the building that they are interested in.