Case Study

ArbAdvice

Client:

ArbAdvice, operating on the Isle of Wight, are arboricultural specialists offering a range of services including tree surveys, plans and reports for planning and development applications, health and safety reports, home buyers, insurance, and mortgage reports, subsidence reports, and consultancy services.

Industry:

Environmental Services

Product:

Aerial Photography
National Tree Map™

"Bluesky's aerial photography and National Tree Map™ have become indispensable to our work. They allow us to plan with confidence, fill gaps in topographical surveys, and clearly communicate findings to clients. This saves time, prevents delays, and ensures compliance, helping us deliver accurate results efficiently."

Ben Riches, ArbAdvice

Summary:

ArbAdvice – led by experienced arboricultural consultant Ben Riches - has been leveraging Bluesky's aerial photography and National Tree Map™ (NTM™) for several years to deliver accurate and efficient tree surveys. They have become integral to their work, enabling trees to be quickly located and marked up during on-site assessments, historical changes to be tracked for health and safety reporting, and gaps in topographical surveys filled.

Challenge:

When conducting tree surveys for a wide range of clients, ArbAdvice requires high-resolution, up-to-date visuals that provide a complete view of the site. Without this data, identifying and surveying each tree individually, especially without prior knowledge of their locations, can be extremely time-consuming. This becomes even more critical on large sites or those with a high volume of trees, where efficient planning is essential.

During development consultations, when working on services such as Tree Constraint Plans and Impact Assessments, often topographical surveys provided by clients focus primarily on buildings and omit key tree data. To deliver accurate assessments and fill these gaps, they need a reliable solution to quickly identify trees that fall into the planning area and communicate this to clients to prevent delays.

Solution:

To overcome these challenges they integrate Bluesky's aerial photography and the NTM™. Bluesky's current aerial photography is used during site visits to navigate the site and plot trees with precision. These high-resolution visuals provide an accurate view of ground conditions, allowing efficient location and mark-up of trees during the survey. When revisiting sites, for example to conduct health and safety reports, ArbAdvice use a combination of Bluesky's historical and current aerial photography to any assess changes. This helps to identify whether trees have been removed, damaged, or altered since the last visit.

The NTM™, offering detailed attributes including location, height, and canopy coverage, enables incomplete topographical surveys to be supplemented via desktop analysis. This helps quickly identify any trees within development zones and communicate findings clearly to clients. NTM™ is also used to remotely assess sites when preparing initial quotes, streamlining the quoting process, and reducing the need for early site visits.

Results:

One of the most significant advantages gained from using Bluesky's aerial photography and NTM™ is the ability to work with current data. Updated on a 2-year cyclic basis, Bluesky's high-resolution aerial photography allows ArbAdvice to confidently plan and conduct site visits, knowing the visuals closely reflect on-the-ground conditions. Bluesky's extensive archive of historical photography also helps to identify changes over time, giving better context of the land's history leading to the production of more informed reports.

By cross-referencing the NTM™ with topographical surveys, missing trees are quickly identified, helping to avoid delays, prevent planning issues, and ensure compliance. This approach saves time and as the required area is downloaded quicky from Bluesky's online Mapshop. This assists estimates for a project's scope and duration, resulting in a fast turnaround for initial quotes for new sites.

Specification	
Layers	1. Canopy Polygons (Vector Polygon) - Representing individual trees or closely-grouped tree crowns 2. Idealised Crowns (Vector Polygon) - Crown polygons visualised as circles for ease of use 3. Height points (Vector Point) - Detailing the centre point and height of each canopy feature
Coverage	England, Wales & Scotland
Accuracy Z	± 1m rmse
Classification Criteria	Trees over 3m in height
Formats	Include: ESRI Shape & MapInfo, Geodatabase, DWG, KMZ
Standard Projection	British National Grid

Get in touch today at **info@bluesky-world.com**