

Case Study



North Ayrshire Council



Client:

North Ayrshire Council

Industry:

Local Government

Product:

Aerial Photography



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

One of the local authorities benefitting from Aerial Photography for Great Britain (APGB) Membership is North Ayrshire Council, the local authority for West Coast of Scotland, including the towns of Irvine, Kilwinning, Ardrossan, Saltcoats, Stevenston, Kilbirnie, Dalry, Beith, Largs, West Kilbride, Fairlie, Skelmorlie and the islands of Arran and Cumbrae.

The APGB contract enables local authorities, emergency services, environmental bodies, and central government departments access to the most up-to-date aerial imagery and height data available from Bluesky – free at point of use.

Access to Digital Surface Models (DSM) at 2m, Digital Terrain Models (DTM) at 5m, Colour Infrared at 50cm, and historical aerial imagery is included as part of the contract.

Summary:

The aerial imagery available to North Ayrshire Council via the APGB contract is highly utilised throughout the organisation. They have found being able to access up-to-date, high resolution aerial imagery is integral in supporting different services within the Council to perform their day-to-day roles, enabling informed decisions and efficiencies for both time and cost.

North Ayrshire Council apply the aerial data in the following ways:

Electric Vehicles & Solar PV Installations

High-resolution imagery is crucial for its Sustainability Team, enabling desktop surveys to be conducted to determine the suitability for electric vehicle charging locations, determining car park layouts and optimal charging spots. It also helps assess roof orientation for solar PV installations. Without the aerial imagery, time-consuming site visits would be necessary.

Re-instatement of Road Categories

Aerial imagery is used to update re-instatement categories in the Road Gazetteer (a catalogue of road markings), indicating road finishes like standard, monoblock, or high amenity. Utility companies use this data from the Council for proper road reinstatement after carrying out work. Accurate, high resolution imagery enables time-saving desktop assessments instead of site visits.

Updating the Renewable Energy Database

High-resolution imagery is used to check and update the renewable energy database, allowing the planning team to verify new wind turbines, wind farms, solar farms, and other developments following a successful planning application. This method is proving quick and efficient for record updates.

Freedom of Information Requests (FOI)

North Ayrshire Council regularly receives Freedom of Information (FOI) requests from members of the public, often with vague location details, such as “at the third speed bump” or “across from the bus stop.” In these cases, aerial imagery helps pinpoint these locations, saving time and labour compared to in-person visits.



| | Imagery Specification | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Resolution | 12.5cm | 25cm |
| Coverage | Great Britain | Great Britain |
| Accuracy XY | ± 30cm rmse | ± 60cm rmse |
| Formats | Include: JPG, TIFF, ECW | Include: JPG, TIFF, ECW |
| Standard Projection | British National Grid | British National Grid |
| Tile Size | 1km x 1km (8,000 x 8,000 pixels) | 1km x 1km (4,000 x 4,000 pixels) |
| Metadata | Gemini 2.3 | Gemini 2.3 |

Get in touch today at support@apgb.co.uk