



CASE STUDY:

Lidl Supermarkets

Between April and June of 2019, The Drone Co were contracted to complete 354 roof surveys of Lidl Stores across the UK, ranging from the south coast to the most northern parts of Scotland. We are currently coming to completion of this contract with around 30 stores left. Feedback from the client was positive and following this have decided to book this in as part of their annual maintenance schedule.



THE BRIEF

Assess Overall Roof Condition

Assess Gutter Condition:

- Missing Leaf Guards
- Damage to Gutters
- Incorrect Installation

Establish Gutter Types and Dimensions

Establish Parapet Location and Dimensions

Establish Overflow Drain Dimensions

Establish Roof Types:

- Gabled/Hipped/Mono-pitch etc.

Establish Roof Surface

CHALLENGES

SAFETY - Our main concern when operating Unmanned Aerial Vehicles is safety – not all the Lidl sites are suitable to safely use a drone due to proximity to people and surrounding buildings. We need to provide an alternative in these situations. Also, when we are operating a drone, we need to mitigate risk as much as possible.

TIME MANAGEMENT – Each site requires planning and risk assessment in order to be completed safely. We aim to complete around 10 sites per day which requires planning to ensure that we remain on track with the schedule.

DATA MANAGEMENT – Over the course of the project, we will have taken approximately 28,000 images. These photos all need to be catalogued into the specific site name. For some sites, we also created reports which specified roof types, gutter features and identified any issues.

SOLUTIONS

SAFETY - The Drone Co operates under a special license issued by the CAA which enables us to fly closer to buildings and people that are not in our control. We have received this due to our procedures outlined in our operations manual and our experience. In the cases where we are unable to fly the drone, we have developed an elevated mast solution. Whilst not as quick as deploying the drone – it mitigates the risks of operating near people whilst ensuring we still get the data for the client.

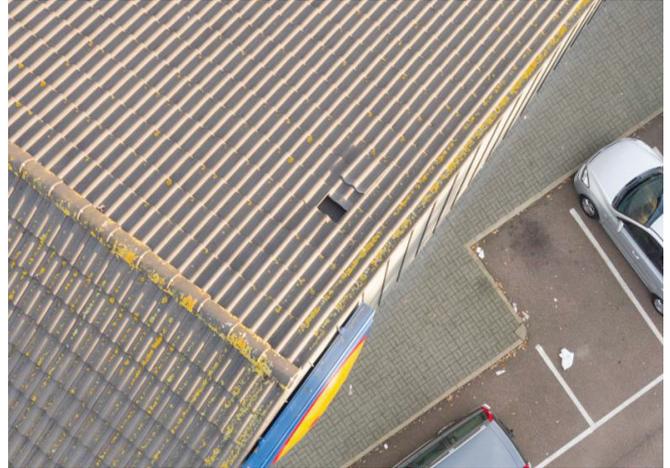
TIME MANAGEMENT – We have an efficient on-site risk assessment procedure using a tablet based application and pre-site survey that is completed before the operators arrive on site. This enables flight operations to commence as soon as the team arrive on site.

DATA MANAGEMENT – Site data is backed up on both physical hard drives and a secure online cloud storage platform. Depending on the clients requirements, following each week, we complete a questionnaire to identify in more details the specific roof features and any problems are identified for each site. This is performed by a RICS approved building surveyor.





CASE STUDY: Example Imagery



BENEFITS

- Cost Saving - no requirement for scaffolding
- Ability to get into potentially tricky areas unreachable by an operative
- Reduces Risk of sending an operative up into a potentially dangerous environment with fragile roof surfaces
- Fast Turnaround and Delivery
- Highly Detailed Imagery that is shareable to colleagues and clients

ABOUT THE DRONE COMPANY

The Drone Co are an Aerial Surveying Company based in the UK but operate across the globe. We are fully licensed with the CAA to operate commercial drones and fully insured.

We operate across the surveying and inspection sector providing a variety of services to the facilities management, construction and surveying sectors.

