

Old aerial photographs help win legal case in Essex land use dispute

Coalville, Leicestershire, UK, 08 December 2011 - Aerial photography dating back to the 1990s has been used to secure the long term future of an Essex based nursery. Thurrock Council were claiming unauthorised uses on the greenbelt site close to Basildon and were considering enforcement action. However, using historic aerial photography, supplied by Bluesky from their OldAerialPhotos archive, and the service of a professional air photo interpreter, Greenwise Nurseries were able to prove the long term use of the majority of the site for mixed use industrial purposes.

The expert witness report and supporting aerial photographs were presented to Thurrock Council who promptly withdrew the case from court prior to the hearing and settled the matter in Greenwise's favour.

"The aerial photographs and the professional report derived from their interpretation allowed us to refute claims by the Council of over use of the site for non nursery purposes such as storage of new, reclaimed and architectural salvaged building materials," commented Mark Romero of Greenwise Nurseries. "We now have a 6 acre Brownfield site with lawful permission for retail sales, storage of building materials and other general retail items. This will allow us to develop our business and secure its long term future."

Bluesky supplied the historic aerial photography complete with certificates of authentication from their OldAerialPhotos archive providing factual and unbiased evidence for further investigation by Air Photo Services, a company that offers specialist interpretation of aerial imagery, consultancy and expert witness services. Director Chris Cox commented, "Acting as an Expert Witness and working on behalf of my client, I was able to establish, using the historic images, that the majority of the site had, in fact, been used for nursery purposes over the last 13 years."

"My work ascertained the exact proportions of different uses through accurate measurement across a definite time period and I was able to present this data in a timely and cost effective manner on behalf of Greenwise Nurseries," she continued.

The imagery supplied by Bluesky forms part of historically important archive that includes some of the earliest commercial aerial survey images, military photography from World War II and many national archives. Offering a record of most major UK cities and towns, transport and utility infrastructure and commercial property developments, the images are an invaluable resource for anyone with a personal or professional interest in local studies, genealogy, boundary disputes, environmental land use research or town planning.

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Notes to editors

[About OldAerialPhotos](#)

OldAerialPhotos is a division of Bluesky International Ltd. Holding the largest collection of historically significant commercial aerial photos in the UK, OldAerialPhotos' remit is

to preserve, enhance and make these archives available. OldAerialPhotos understands the national importance of such images as a unique record of the development of the UK and has a mission to continue to make them accessible for future generations.

Visitors to www.oldaerialphotos.com can search by simply entering a postcode, address or grid reference. Detailed search results, including the age and ground coverage, of every image that matches the search criteria are displayed and the visitor can choose to purchase a hard copy print, digital image file or photopack which includes historical and current day photos as well as certificates of authentication.

www.oldaerialphotos.com

About Bluesky

Bluesky is a UK-based specialist in aerial imaging and remote sensing data collection and processing. An internationally recognised leader with projects extending around the globe, Bluesky is proud to work with prestigious organisations such as Google, the BBC and Government Agencies. Bluesky has unrivalled expertise in the creation of seamless, digital aerial photography, 3D landscape/cityscape visualisations and prints and also runs a national mapping centre, providing digital mapping, satellite imagery and aerial photography including ultra-high resolution imagery of cities and towns.

www.bluesky-world.com

About Air Photo Services

Air Photo Services provides specialist interpretation of aerial imagery for legal, planning, archaeological and environmental issues. Its director Chris Cox acts as an expert witness in these matters, providing written and verbal evidence in court and Inquiry on behalf of her clients. With extensive experience of interpretation and CAD and GIS mapping from aerial imagery, Air Photo Services has completed over 500 contracts ranging from assessment of land use, mapping of archaeological and natural environments to the provision of advice to central government agencies, private and corporate clients.

www.airphotoservices.co.uk