



Victoria Mills, Grimsby

Using drones to protect one of North East Lincolnshire's most iconic buildings

Drone surveying Grimsby's iconic Victoria Mills makes it possible to identify potential issues in a fraction of the time and cost

Equans' certified and licenced drone surveyors in North East Lincolnshire are embracing technology to perform ongoing assessments of the Grade 1 listed Victoria Mills in Grimsby, ensuring it remains structurally sound and watertight after long-term neglect under previous ownership

Protecting the one of the area's most recognisable heritage assets

Victoria Mills is a former flourmill, built between 1889- 1906. It was brought under public ownership in 2013, after years of deterioration and disrepair took hold. In 2016 it was listed on the national architectural charity, the Victorian Society's, Top Ten Endangered buildings in England and Wales,

£2.2m was invested to make it safe following its purchase by North East Lincolnshire Council and regular surveys are undertaken on the building to ensure its structural integrity whilst long term options are sought to bring it back into use.

A modern solution to surveying

To protect the future of the eight-storey building, regular surveys are carried out. Whereas in previous years scaffolding would have to be brought in, with all its associated time and financial costs, today Equans can undertake the survey in a single day, and report findings back for consideration and repair.

The output from the drone surveys can show real-time footage and stills at every aspect and height. Thermal imaging provides further benefits, showing heat loss hotspots in need of works to address.

As scaffolding is not required, surveyors can maintain a safe distance, and the need to work at height is removed, the health and safety implications are vastly reduced, offering a much safer working environment.

Victoria Mills' current condition

A brick and masonry survey was carried out at 4m building – drone span and assessed by surveyors. No obvious blemishes or brickwork issues were identified. Some foliage has started to settle in recessed brickwork which has been identified as needing further monitoring.

One slipped roof tile was identified revealing a small hole. This will need repairing at a future date. All rainwater goods are clear and working appropriately. No blockages or debris were visible. There was no evidence of birds or other wildlife, suggesting no risk of damage caused by nesting birds.

Thermal imaging shows no unexpected heat-loss for a building of this size and condition.



Key facts

Client: North East Lincolnshire Council

Value: £500

Cost saving: £3500 against commissioned traditional survey

- ▶ CAA approved Level 4 Certified
- ▶ GVC (General Visual Line of Sight) drone pilots.
- ▶ Reduces employee exposure to unsafe conditions.
- ▶ Thermal imaging allows for surveys of heat loss.
- ▶ High quality digital imaging supplied to clients along with recommendations for remedial or preventative actions based on findings.

