

What Would Medieval Masons Think of Drones?

Here at Sky Revolutions, we like to think that our medieval cathedral masons would have approved of, or at least be fascinated by, new drone technology. We can't hope to match the inestimable skills of these structural instigators (who of course almost never saw their work completed), but we can pay homage to their dedication by monitoring their incredible legacy.

These days, it's pretty much given that drones can be a force for good, especially when it comes to scrutinising hard-to-reach areas. It's no wonder then that the ecclesiastical and heritage sectors have embraced this aerial technology, knowing that drone surveys save time and money - and are a great deal safer.

In fact, the efficiencies that drones provide mean they can be used as preventative tools - to identify potential risk, as much as reactive tools deployed only retrospectively after damage has occurred.

Our increasingly changing weather is already challenging our buildings - old and new. The latest University of Cambridge and IPCC study states that: "buildings face major risks from the projected impacts of climate change, having already experienced a big increase in extreme weather damage in recent decades."

The good news is that we can manage these risks. By sending a drone up to inspect a tower or spire, or to check the integrity of stonework, lightning straps etc., we can be proactive and act before damage occurs.

Of course, the view that drones afford is not one that our mason and architect/engineer ancestors experienced. Back then, the only people able to see the beauty of medieval towers and spires close-up were the steeplejacks of the day. But by necessity, theirs was a time-consuming and risky honour - sadly, our history books tell countless tales of falls from spires and towers during construction.

Drone inspections not only negate any human working-at-height risk, they also show us the physical condition of our heritage buildings in the most incredible detail; so much so, that you can imagine (if not witness) the chisel marks hidden from view for more than 800 years.

As well as helping our clients to manage and maintain completed buildings, much of our work at Sky Revolutions helps construction companies keep tabs on work-in-progress. Through fixed masts and of course drones, we're able to deliver imagery that helps constructors monitor progress and then market their development to end-users.

Time-lapse films are one of our most popular offers whereby a six-month construction is condensed into a minute's satisfying footage. How amazing would it be to travel back in time and plant one of our masts next to any of our stunning cathedrals and see its construction first hand?



Getting into the air with a camera clearly helps the stewards of our heritage make important maintenance decisions. But it also helps broaden the appeal of our heritage to those of us who may otherwise be less appreciative of what it took to create these buildings.

Master masons may have lacked today's technology, but they more than made up for that in ingenuity, engineering expertise and dedication. We think the least we can do is make the best use of modern inspection tools to protect and share our heritage for the masons of the future to study and enjoy.

ENDS.



Notes for Editors

Sky Revolutions Ltd.

Sky Revolutions is one of the UK's most authoritative voices in aerial imaging, surveying, and aerial surveying. The company offers exceptional quality multi-sector time lapse, aerial imaging, and surveying services to private and public sector institutions, Europe-wide.

Sky Revolutions is a dedicated team of professionals with more than 20 years' experience in construction surveying. Valued for their specialist surveying skills, Sky Revolutions offers effective advice and data interpretation as well as filming, mapping and CAD services.

Sky Revolutions is known for leading the way with aerial imaging and remains the only organisation using 100' masts to provide a free standing, at-height image solution for large construction sites. Highly qualified and accredited, its UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) expertise helps customers access complex and often hazardous environments, see and record the condition of assets from a birds' eye view, and make informed assessments quickly, safely and cost-effectively. The company uses some of the most sophisticated drones in the market to capture ultra-high definition images at a fraction of the cost of traditional aircraft surveys and with fewer risks than platform or scaffold use.

Sky Revolutions was one of the first UK organisations to realise the benefits of drones in surveying. Drones or UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) offer significant advantages in surveying and high-level inspection.

To find out more, or to request original files, film, or image samples, or to request an interview or comment, please contact:

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