

Welcome to the NCAP Newsletter - Autumn 2015, which aims to keep our subscribers informed of new releases and upcoming projects here at NCAP.

NEWS

St Albans before the Sinkhole



A sinkhole some 20m wide opened up overnight in Fontmell Close, St Albans, on 1 October 2015. Aerial photography from 1971, accessible on the NCAP website, shows the same area before the street was built.

Visible on the photography is a cluster of industrial buildings in the area where Fontmell Close now stands; geologists believe that a brickworks was located on the site and that the void may have opened up as a consequence of the former extraction of chalk and clay deposits.

Aerial photography of St Albans between 1972 and 1990 is also available on the NCAP website, as a result of a recent public-benefit partnership between NCAP and Hertfordshire County Council. This enabled the digitisation

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and upload of over 6,000 aerial images, covering the entire county to the NCAP website.

Finding Aids and Oblique Images of Scotland Released

A new batch of 66 finding aids to aerial photographic sorties of locations across Scotland has been made accessible online.

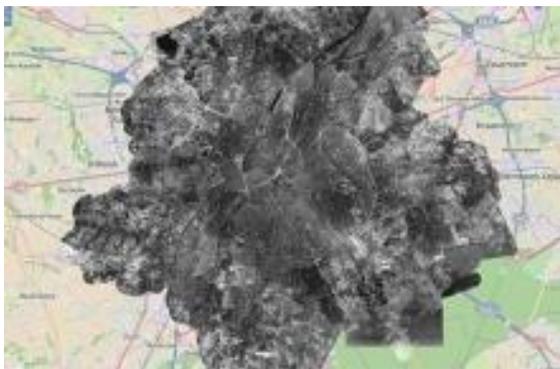


These finding aids unlock access to 20,844 oblique aerial photographs, all of which have also been digitised and uploaded to the website. The photographs were taken by Mosquito and Spitfire photographic reconnaissance aircraft between 1946 and 1950 and feature towns, military installations and landscapes across the UK.



Since we now upload sorties in their entirety, images taken on the ground during pre- and post-flight camera operation are also accessible. These 'clearing shots' reveal scenes of airfield activity, including the one above of an Avro Anson during engine start-up. In the background is a Lancaster GR1; this very aircraft is maintained in flying condition to this day by the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

Brussels Mosaic now Available



A mosaic of the Belgian capital, Brussels, is now available to view on the NCAP website.

Created from historical aerial photography taken by the RAF and USAAF in 1944, the mosaic also appears as a layer on [BruCiel](#), a new website launched by the Brussels Regional Public Service, which depicts more than 80 years of urban development in Brussels.

Temporary Closure of Search Room



The Search Room will be closed from Tuesday 27 October to Tuesday 10 November 2015, during essential maintenance work to John Sinclair House.

No visitor access will be possible while work is undertaken to replace windows and install insulation in the Search Room.

NEW GALLERY

[Borders Railway](#) – a selection of aerial photographs of locations along the route of the railway, re-opened on 6 September 2015 after 46 years.

STAFF MATTERS

Two new members of staff joined NCAP recently - Katherine Atkinson and Anne Gumbrell. Both Anne and Katherine are employed as Digitisation Assistants, whose job it is to prepare and digitise historical aerial photography for customer orders.