

UKPMS VISUAL SURVEY SERVICES

- Surveyor Training
- Audit and Quality Training
- QA and Audit
- Survey Specification and Procurement
- Audit Software
- Inspector Accreditation
- BVPI QA and Audits
- Survey Interpretation
- Development of Local Rule Sets
- Production of Local Manuals
- Data Management
- Consultancy
- Workshops



Making a Success of your PMS

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UKPMS VISUAL SURVEY SERVICES

UKPMS (the United Kingdom Pavement Management System) includes two types of visual survey, CVI (Coarse Visual Inspection) and DVI (Detailed Visual Inspection). These surveys are used within UKPMS for determining authorities' local treatment and maintenance investment needs, and for producing local and national performance indicators.

Visual Condition Surveys of road pavement are known to be inherently subjective and considerable effort is needed in Training, QA and Audit to eliminate systematic errors. Visual Surveys are typically affected by:

- Deterioration being recorded to the incorrect defect
- Defects being missed
- Incorrect defect lengths or areas
- Defects being recorded in an incorrect cross-sectional position
- Surveys being carried out in the wrong location

All of the above could influence BVPI results and, if your council uses its UKPMS system to target budget spending it could mean that you are targeting the wrong sections. It is therefore essential to minimise the potential for error.

Within the UKPMS Owners Forum there is an awareness of these issues and various initiatives have been promoted to enhance the quality of visual surveys:

- Enhancements to documentation
- The setting up of City and Guilds Accreditation for Inspectors
- The setting up of a testing and accreditation process for handheld computer software used for visual surveys

Complementary to these, good practice dictates that inspectors receive good quality training and that effective survey quality procedures are in place in order to ensure the credibility of visual survey results.

CASE STUDY

In a large urban authority, a problem was first highlighted with the quality of visual survey data when comparing year-on-year results, with the latest year's results showing length of road where conditions had apparently improved significantly even though no treatments had been carried out. This was reflected in an unexpected change in BVPI results. Chris Britton Consultancy carried out an investigation and discovered that the data received over a three yearly period was inconsistent. The problems were identified as a difference of interpretation of defects between two different survey contractors.

The following recommendations were made, and implemented, resulting in subsequent improvements in data quality and client confidence in the survey outputs:

- Incorporation of audit procedures and data rejection provisions into survey contracts
- Improved training and documentation for surveyors
- The introduction of independent audits by the client

OUR TEAM

Chris Britton Consultancy has a team of consultants with extensive experience in specifying, procuring, training, supervising, and making use of visual surveys in both the public and private sector.

We have been closely involved in the development and implementation of UKPMS from its inception and are currently the DfT's UKPMS support contractor, in addition to being responsible for administering the UKPMS Owners Forum, and for developing and operating the UKPMS web site (www.ukpms.com).

We pride ourselves on our independence. We do not carry out visual surveys commercially and we do not supply UKPMS software. In this way we are able to offer a fair and independent perspective.

Chris Britton Consultancy Ltd. offers a range of complementary services that can be tailored to your needs, to help you ensure that your UKPMS Visual Surveys are of the highest quality and consistency and to enable you to maximise the benefit from your data collection investment.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

- Survey Audits and Quality Assessment
- Assistance in producing survey and documents
- Training for surveyors, survey trainers and auditors, and for managers and engineers who make use of UKPMS data
- Assistance with Survey Specification and Procurement
- An audit program, to check the format of survey data and produce audit reports for use in on-site audits and to record and report on audit survey results (Windows 2000 compliant)
- BVPI QA and Audits
- Assistance in survey processing and interpretation
- Advice on the development of custom local UKPMS Rule Sets
- Assistance in producing Local Manuals
- Data Management Services
- General UKPMS and PMS advice

As soon as the national City and Guilds assessment for UKPMS surveys is finalised and approved by the UKPMS TSG, we are planning to offer Accreditation for surveyors, with or separately from our visual survey training services.

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