

## Axis network cameras help bring state-of-the-art surveillance to Breckland.

Future-proof next generation CCTV system set to benefit local businesses and residents.



Organization:  
Breckland District  
Council

Location:  
United Kingdom

Industry segment:  
Government

Application:  
Safety and security,  
urban surveillance

Axis partner:  
Advance Monitoring  
Solutions

### Mission

Breckland District Council wanted to invest in a new CCTV system that would take its surveillance capabilities to the next level and offer easy access to footage from across five market towns and surrounding areas. The council's priority was to find a cost-effective yet flexible solution which not only offered public space surveillance, but could support the police and also be used by local businesses and residents for their own surveillance needs.

### Solution

The council chose an IP-based surveillance system that was seamlessly digital from the camera through to the transmission network and the recording platform, with wireless technology. Advance Monitoring Solutions (AMS) was selected to install the new system with Axis network cameras specified to provide high quality images which could be shared across the council's network.

### Result

The council now has a cost-effective, state-of-the-art surveillance system that offers real flexibility when cameras need moving to vulnerable areas. The cameras are delivering excellent footage which can be accessed remotely. One of the biggest benefits is that in the event of an incident, the local police have the opportunity to save time and resources by viewing images remotely, avoiding costly travel across the region.

### Axis network cameras help bring state-of-the-art surveillance to Breckland

Covering an area of about 500 square miles, Breckland is made up of the five market towns of Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton and also a number of industrial areas and rural communities. The area's ageing CCTV system has contributed to keeping crime rates low. Having deployed the system in the mid-90s, the council was keen to upgrade the system to one that was both cost-effective and that offered flexible monitoring.

"Transferring from a fixed analog to a next generation digital surveillance system has been a challenge as we are one of the first councils to make this leap, but it was extremely well managed by AMS. We now have an extremely innovative, cost-effective and flexible system that will serve our community well for years to come."

Grahame Green, Community safety officer/crime prevention design adviser, Breckland District Council.

The council wanted to move away from traditional CCTV to a digital system that would make images taken from across the region easy to locate and share. Using cameras that could be relocated to new locations gave the council flexibility and avoided the expense of installing new cameras.

### A seamlessly digital solution

Having considered a variety of options, the council decided that an IP-based surveillance system that was seamlessly digital from the camera through to the transmission network and the recording platform with wireless technology would best fit their needs. Having considered specialist telecoms advice, the council then put the project out to competitive tender. Axis' partner, Advance Monitoring Solutions (AMS) was awarded the contract for its innovative approach to the supply, installation and maintenance of a new cutting-edge surveillance system. AMS is working with the council as part of a 10 year Public Private Partnership contract to develop the system commercially which will allow authorized partners such as residents or local businesses immediate access to real-time images.

Commenting on the system, John Wilkins, technical director, AMS, said: "Breckland District Council is one of the first councils to take the plunge and go entirely digital with its surveillance system. As the market leader in network video, Axis cameras offer the level of functionality required for this innovative system.

"We are very impressed with the council's open mindedness to realizing how the very latest technologies can bring efficiency and flexibility to public space surveillance in a way not previously seen within the industry."

Axis Communications was chosen to supply the network cameras and 70 outdoor-ready AXIS Q6032-E Network Cameras were installed in and around the region. Images from the cameras are transmitted via an Alvarion wireless system. PTZ cameras are ideal for live monitoring where the user needs to actively follow a person or object. Coupled with H.264 compression and 35x optical zoom lenses, the cameras are able to read

car license plates at distances of up to 160 meters which is about the length of one and a half football fields. The cameras deliver high resolution image quality, coupled with high frame rates which are very important when dealing with fast-moving objects and varying light conditions. The cameras are also designed to be discreet, easy to install, withstand harsh weather conditions and are also tamper-proof.

The council is also using a number of rapid deployment Axis megapixel cameras which can be deployed in 'hot spot' areas as and when required. Images from the cameras are managed by AMS via its proprietary video management and monitoring system, Medusa.

### Meeting the needs of the community

Grahame Green, community safety officer for Breckland District Council said: "The wireless system offers us a level of functionality and flexibility that our old system was unable to provide. It is now far easier and cheaper for us to relocate the Axis cameras as we no longer need to rely on costly fiber optics."

Breckland's Public Place Partnership is delivering a host of benefits to the local area, with one of the main beneficiaries being the police. Norfolk Constabulary now has the ability to share images across the network so that any video can be viewed remotely. This can help save the police a considerable amount of time and money as it means they don't have to travel to the control room or a specified control center to view surveillance images. Long term, the council fully expects its investment in the system to pay for itself by providing surveillance and security monitoring services to other people in the community such as local businesses and residents.

Grahame Green and his team are working together with AMS to ensure that the system is fully used by the police and other stakeholders. Grahame is confident that the system will help to ensure Breckland remains a safe place to live and work for many years to come as more residents and business users start to use the system to monitor their own properties.

