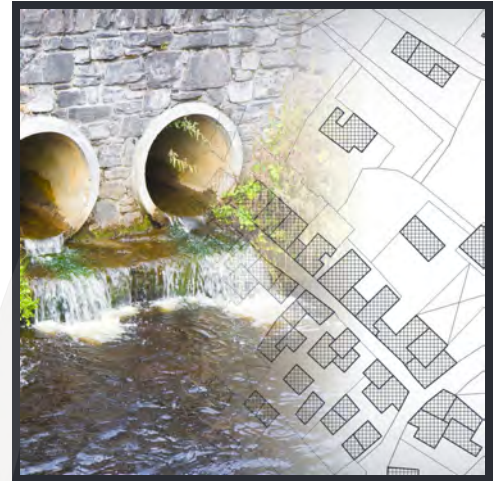


COST NEUTRAL GULLY SURVEYING SERVICES

THE PROBLEM

Understanding the borough drainage network was the important starting point to create a gully cleansing programme.

Without detailed knowledge of the number and location of each gully the council was working blind. Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) commissioned KaarbonTech to undertake a comprehensive survey of its nearly 41,000 gullies.



THE APPROACH

Over a period of 12 weeks, KaarbonTech's fully trained surveyors walked the entire network carrying out detailed inspections of nearly 41,000 individual gullies. They established that approximately 9,500 gullies were not recorded in the system and 23% of the entire system was unknown.

The process involved the surveyors dipping each gully pot to ascertain the quantity of silt in relation to its capacity. A new enhancement for KaarbonTech - the silt slider - enables its surveyor to choose from a visual representation on their device, to record the capacity of each pot. The system records the percentage of silt found to the nearest quartile.

A visual map-based version of the borough and silt report was created displaying those gullies full to 50% capacity or greater.

THE RESULT

All newly found gullies were added to the Gully SMART software. With the new and auditable information displayed visually, the team could establish the areas most in need of cleansing to give the programme initial focus. Sandwell MBC was able to create a risk-based gully cleansing programme created on the demands of the network, using the knowledge of gully condition and capacity.

Overall Sandwell could create a risk based cyclical programme for all highway gullies with its enhanced data whilst additionally scheduling in any necessary gully repairs. By working smarter, the budget savings associated with having a risk-based gully cleansing programme warrants that gully surveying becomes a most effective cost neutral exercise.

