# Google aircraft conducts aerial survey over Norwich for 3D mapping



A Google-operated aircraft conducted a distinctive aerial survey over Norwich and its surrounding areas in Norfolk, United Kingdom, earlier today. The plane took off from near Lille airport in France around 7am and began its unusual flight pattern over locations including Horsford, Rackheath, Taverham, Costessey, and Norwich itself from about 10am.

Local residents observed the aircraft's repetitive weaving movements across the sky, prompting light-hearted comments such as one from a Sprowston local who jested, "It's the French spying on us!" However, it has since been clarified that the plane was part of Google's photogrammetry efforts.

The Eastern Daily Press reports that this was not an isolated occurrence, as the same Google plane was spotted on a previous survey flight on Wednesday, March 19, covering parts of Norwich, Great Yarmouth, and Lowestoft. The aircraft's mission involves taking billions of high-resolution pictures to create detailed 3D models of cities and towns.

Photogrammetry, the technique used here, combines numerous images captured from planes and Google Street View cars to stitch together comprehensive, scale-accurate 3D computer models. This process captures specifics such as road names, lane markings, buildings, rivers, and the precise distances between these features. The resulting models provide an immersive, accurate view of urban and geographical environments.

This operation reflects Google's ongoing commitment to enhancing digital mapping and 3D visualisation technologies, offering an advanced perspective of locations worldwide through its extensive data collection initiatives.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.caa.co.uk/our-work/publications/documents/acns/acn-ar-2025-649/> - This Civil Aviation Authority notice from March 2025 details an aerial survey over Norwich, confirming the presence of a Google-operated aircraft conducting photogrammetry in the area.
2. <https://www.geoconnexion.com/news/live-interview-photogrammetry-trends-for-2024> - An interview discussing advancements in photogrammetry, highlighting the use of aerial surveys for creating detailed 3D models of urban environments, similar to Google's efforts in Norwich.
3. <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1312/8/1/52> - A study demonstrating the application of UAV photogrammetry and ground surveys for monitoring shoreline changes, illustrating the effectiveness of aerial surveys in capturing detailed environmental data.
4. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/advances-in-archaeological-practice/article/photogrammetry-and-gis-in-humanoccupied-digital-landscapes/E38B8A90EFC53B62ADEA34E2B271543D> - An article discussing the use of photogrammetry and GIS in creating digital models of human-occupied landscapes, akin to Google's creation of 3D models of cities and towns.
5. <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1312/8/1/52> - A study demonstrating the application of UAV photogrammetry and ground surveys for monitoring shoreline changes, illustrating the effectiveness of aerial surveys in capturing detailed environmental data.
6. <https://www.caa.co.uk/our-work/publications/documents/acns/acn-ar-2025-649/> - This Civil Aviation Authority notice from March 2025 details an aerial survey over Norwich, confirming the presence of a Google-operated aircraft conducting photogrammetry in the area.
7. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25125134.google-photogrammetry-plane-spotted-flying-norwich/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data