Arboriculture Surveying – Simon Jones Associates Ltd

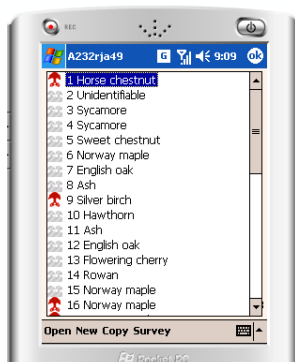Simon Jones Associates Ltd. provides a full range of arboricultural consultancy services.

Accord IS was tasked to create an application for Simon Jones Associates Ltd. to assist staff on a development site carrying out tree surveys. The application needed to reduce costs by reducing paperwork and time spent re-entering the survey results as well as improve the turnaround time for clients reports.

With some sites having in excess of 1,000 trees to be surveyed, reducing input time on each tree as well as processing time back at head office was important to Simon Jones. This would enable him to release the survey results to the clients more quickly as well as controlling his internal time and costs.

Accord IS have written an application that is loaded onto handheld PDA's and taken out to site where the tree survey data is collected. As each tree is surveyed the data is checked and if a tree cannot be completed at this point it is visually highlighted on the screen to remind the surveyor to complete the information later. Obvious errors such as trees that are too tall or too thin are highlighted at input time to prompt the surveyor to recheck their information.

On return to the office the handhelds are connected with the master database. The survey results are imported where they can be QC'd before the system produces tailored output for reports for the clients and also to export tree positions for use by dedicated AutoCAD plotting software.

As a result of this application Simon Jones Associates have reduced their survey time per tree by 20% as well as reducing head office costs by 15%.

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