

ITS Radar Helpdesk Query: CCTV Images on the Internet

Query no:	12	Query initiator	Damian Morris (Highways Agency)
Date:	24 th March 2006	Compiled by:	Rebecca McGuigan and John Paddington
Query topic areas:	CCTV on the Internet		
Categories and level of relevance:	Monitoring		
	Enforcement		
	Traffic Management Technology		Very Relevant
	Technology Solutions		Very Relevant
	Pilots		
	Tolling		
Transferability to Highways Agency:	Meets Policy Objectives		Very Relevant
	Cost/Benefits Information		
	Development status		
	Innovative		
	UK legal issues		Relevant
Summary:	Research was undertaken concerning CCTV traffic cameras and their use across the internet. The focus was on sites in the UK and Ireland. Information has been gathered on sites providing CCTV images, the image quality and also on disclaimers used.		

Introduction

This document is provided in response to the above query regarding the use of CCTV traffic cameras on the Internet. The following sections provide information on the latest research findings in this area. Our research focused on the United Kingdom and Ireland and we found 14 sites offering CCTV images over on the World Wide Web. Of the sites found providing CCTV traffic images, few held specific disclaimers. Many systems are not streamed but instead, refresh the images momentarily, some every minute, others between 5 to 10 minutes. Our findings are summarised in a table located at the end of this report.

Method of displaying images

The typical means to display traffic information this way consists of pictures that are regularly refreshed. However, Traffic Watch Northern Ireland and Reading Borough County Council website stream images via Windows Media Player or QuickTime.

CCTV image quality

The quality of images provided on all the sites are of a similar quality and cameras have a resolution of 320x240. This resolution is very similar to that provided by the Highways Agency HANET service. This resolution allows traffic to be determined but does not allow number plates or other identifying information to be distinguished.

Update speed

Typical update speed for camera images is every five minutes, although some sites have a slower update speed, depending on the availability and location of cameras.

Disclaimers

None of the sites investigated include a CCTV specific disclaimer. The sites that do provide commentary on the provision of camera images include this as part of their general frequently asked questions or site disclaimer.

Other information

Traffic Scotland and Traffic Wales provide typical views of camera images, which allow users to compare current traffic conditions to the typical views.

References

1. BBC London Jam Cams

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/travel/jamcams/camloco/camlist.shtml>

2. Devon County Council

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transport/traffic/cctv/webcam_m5_junction30_exeter.htm

3. Dublin City

http://www.dublincity.ie/living_in_the_city/getting_around/traffic_cameras/

4. ITS Nottingham

<http://www.itsnottingham.info/tvframe.htm>

5. Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

http://www.kingston.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/traffic_cameras.htm

6. City of Leicester Traffic Cams

<http://www.northlight-images.co.uk/cameras.html>

7. Reading Borough Council

<http://www.reading-travelinfo.co.uk>

8. Romanse

<http://www.romanse.org.uk/>

9. Sheffield City Council

<http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/out--about/travel-information/traffic-cameras/camera-list>

10. Traffic View

<http://vih.trafficview.org/>

11. Traffic Scotland

<http://www.trafficscotland.org/>

12. Traffic Wales

<http://www.traffic-wales.com>

13. Traffic Watch Northern Ireland

http://www.trafficwatchni.com/traffic_cameras.asp

14. Transport for London

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/capitalcams/camlist.shtml>

Site	Update time	Video	Pictures	Picture size	Typical views	Other comments	Disclaimer
BBC London jam cams	5 minutes (Outer London cameras: 9 minutes)	No	Yes	320 x 240		Only working cameras listed	No specific disclaimer but the BBC general site disclaimer is at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/terms/ FAQ for jam cams: http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/travel/services/faq.shtml
Devon County Council	5 minutes	No	Yes	384 x 288			General disclaimer: http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/disclaimer.htm
Dublin City	5-10 minutes	No	Yes	360 x 270			
ITS Nottingham	Every Minute when page is refreshed	No	Yes	320 x 240			None
Kingston	Not listed	Yes	Yes	352 x 240		Streaming images also available on the same page	General Disclaimer: http://www.kingston.gov.uk/information/your_council/council_documents/disclaimer.htm
Leicester	5 minutes	No	Yes	352 x 288			None
Reading	5 minutes	10s clips (Quicktime)	Yes	320 x 240			Short description of service on CCTV page
Romane	5 minutes	No	Yes	324 x 240			On home page
Sheffield City Council	Every Minute	No	Yes	270 x 176 or 121 x 100		Only updated during the day, also shows camera location on a map	Non-specific disclaimer, website disclaimer at: http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/policy--performance/website-policies
TfL	Not listed	No	Yes	320 x 240			General Disclaimer: http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/tandc.shtml
Traffic Scotland	5 minutes in Edinburgh and Glasgow 20 minutes in other areas	No	Yes	320 x 240	Yes	Cameras are displayed as "In Operational Use"	http://www.trafficscotland.org/Legal.htm
Traffic Wales	5 minutes	No	Yes	384 x 288	Yes		http://www.traffic-wales.com/about/about.php?lang=english&type=tandc
Traffic Watch Northern Ireland	N/A	Yes (Windows media player)	No				None
VIH	5 minutes	No	Yes	384 x 288			None