

WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD COUNTY COUNCIL IMPLEMENTS A NEW PARKING CONTROL SOLUTION USING CASIO IT-500M30CB HANDHELDS

Casio IT-500 handhelds have improved reliability and increased efficiency in parking enforcement.

This year, Windsor and Maidenhead County Council's parking strategy set out to obtain a co-ordinated and consistent approach to parking across the borough.

The strategy, influenced by local views, takes a close look at parking enforcement and outlines targets to increase the turnover of parked cars and guarantee the more effective use of available on-street parking space. It also sets out its aims to avoid congestion and dangerous conditions for road users and pedestrians.

The Council decided to use the Casio IT-500 since it offered a reliable camera to capture photographic evidence and a water resistant and robust design that was easy to use.

Windsor and Maidenhead County Council covers the main towns of Windsor, Maidenhead, Ascot, Eton, Datchet and many smaller villages. The main area for the ticket patrols is Windsor, where Her Majesty the Queen's residence is situated, with smaller areas in Eton and Maidenhead.

At present, Windsor and Maidenhead County Council has approximately 50 parking attendants and issues approximately 300 – 350 tickets per week. Parking attendants patrol on the street pay and display areas along with the car parks and the Resident Permit areas of Windsor.



Windsor Castle

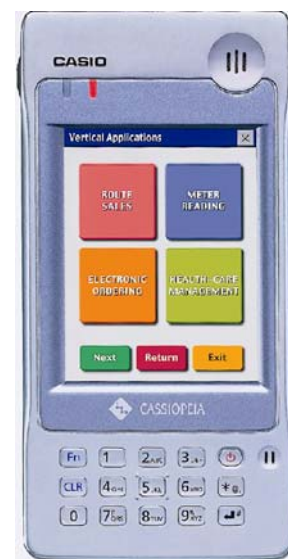
Once they have identified an offence, they document it, taking images of the vehicle, its number plate and position on the Casio IT-500. At the end of their shift, the data is downloaded and the council writes to the unfortunate offender, notifying them of their offence and the fine they are required to pay as shown below.

The time stamped photographic evidence supplied by the IT-500 provides irrefutable proof that the vehicle was in a certain place at a certain time so any queries or tall stories can be dealt with efficiently.

OFFENCE	Car Park fine	On Street fine
No Ticket / Permit	£50.00	£30.00
Overstay	£50.00	£30.00
Not in Bay / Obstruction	£50.00	£30.00
Disabled Bay	£75.00	£50.00

Functionality Available on the Casio IT-500:

- Integrated Digicam
- Weather Proof to IP54
- Good screen performance in most lighting conditions
- Wireless connection to a mobile printer (via Bluetooth)



The IT-500





The challenge:

In line with Windsor and Maidenhead County Council's parking strategy, it was necessary to find a more efficient and reliable way of dealing with parking enforcement. Fundamentally, they wanted to improve reliability of the mobile technology devices and their accuracy when taking images of illegally parked vehicles and their registration numbers. This had been the major problem beforehand since parking attendants could not see the images they were capturing and the quality was poor.

"Since we have had these machines they...have been a success. The picture quality is superb and even takes photos in lower light conditions"

Since the implementation I have heard no complaints from the attendants using the machines (a first) and...no machine has had to be returned for repair."

Andrew Shurey
Team Leader – Parking,
Windsor & Maidenhead
County Council

The solution:

The Casio IT-500 running on Langdale's NETApEn software combined the latest handheld technology with well-established and mature software for comprehensive street management. For each offence, information prompts pop up to ensure that legally adequate evidence for each offence is captured. This process is controlled by sets of filters and the parking attendant can enter additional evidence whenever it is required such as sketches and hand written notes.

A camera built in to the unit means that photographs (stamped with the vehicle registration, notice number, date and time) can be taken without additional equipment. A bar code reader allows accurate and rapid scanning of the road fund licence on the new style tax discs, or of barcoded permits.

A ticket can be issued and printed by an operator in seconds if the situation requires it, minimising the risk to attendants, and the chance of drive aways. This is one of the fastest units on the market checking information on more than 75,000 permits in under half a second!

In the back office, an IT-564IO cradle in a daisy-chain configuration is used to download information from a number of handhelds simultaneously. This information is kept on the handhelds for seven days, enabling data recovery if necessary. The IT-500s total integration with the back office system allows access to information on, for example, persistent offenders and evaders or permits.

This effective enforcement equipment is more than paid for by the reduction in work in the back office and the gains from the use of the supporting evidence collated with each entry.



Ticketing is just one type of application already in use on the Cassiopeia range of handheld computers. Casio along with selected partners, can offer a wide range of hardware and software solutions including bar-code scanning and data capture, field force automation, healthcare and transportation applications.

About Casio Electronics Co Ltd:

Casio Electronics Co Ltd is the UK subsidiary of Casio Computer Co Ltd and is a major manufacturer of industrial handheld computers and other corporate and consumer electronics products. The Mobile Technology Division is dedicated to the provision of business-changing solutions, offering a range of products suited to applications for a wide range of industries such as transport and retail.

For more information visit www.casio.co.uk/mobility.

About Langdale Systems:

Langdale Systems is a British company specialising in hand-held computing solutions. Langdale designs and installs systems for local government and other users – parking and associated activities – and is a leader in the application of pen-based computing applications and paperless forms.

For more information visit www.langsys.co.uk or email sales@langsys.co.uk

Press Contact:

Kevin English Tel: 020 8208 7843

Email: kenglish@casio.co.uk

Casio Electronics Co Ltd

Mobile Technology Division

Unit 6, 1000 North Circular Road

London NW2 7JD

Tel: 020 8450 9131

Email: enterprise@casio.co.uk

