

## CCTV brings double benefits for Cornwall College

*Two leading-edge CCTV systems are being used on campus at Cornwall College, but their purposes could not be more different. One network is helping minimise security risks, while the other records images of fish, insects and sea life.*



New cameras and recorders have been installed by Truro-based Perspective CCTV to boost security at five sites including a wildlife conservation centre alongside Newquay Zoo and the College's headquarters at John Keay House in St Austell. Discussing the installation with academic staff led to a realisation that CCTV could also be used to great effect in the classroom.

### County-wide campuses

Cornwall College was established in 1929 and has grown to become the largest further and higher education college in the UK with over 56,000 students. It has campus sites in Falmouth, Newquay, St Austell, Saltash and Camborne and incorporates Duchy College of Agriculture. Cornwall College is also an important part of the devolved structure for the University for Cornwall and has over 2,500 students studying at university level.

### Lateral thinking

The original intention had been to use CCTV at the Newquay site purely as a security measure. This soon changed once Perspective CCTV director Andrew Oakes met Dr Mike Kent, who is head of the Newquay campus.

Dr Kent had been looking at systems for filming animal behaviour but specialist equipment was proving very expensive. "I went



to do the survey for the security system and it came up in conversation,” says Andrew Oakes, who provided a description of Dallmeier’s MPEG 2 recording system, which could be used with a Vista VPC9130 camera to give crystal clear DVD quality images at 25 frames per second. The recorder can be used to sample, say, one minute every hour without anyone needing to be there, explains Mike Kent. “This means we can do behavioural observations in a two hour class session, looking at data that has been gathered over seven days.”

### Increased security



Newquay has also been fitted with CCTV as part of a security system which is being rolled out to other college sites across the county. The project to introduce new CCTV systems started about 15 months ago at the time of the renovation of John Keay House, which is both the College’s corporate headquarters and a campus. The site had been bought about two years ago. “We had inherited an analogue, black and

white CCTV system which was becoming expensive to maintain,” says head of IT services Steve Cant. The renovation brought the opportunity for an upgrade.

CCTV is being used to detect problems such as intrusion and vandalism common to large sites. “We’ve found that CCTV works well as a deterrent,” says Steve Cant. “By making cameras visible we prevent any potential security issues, whilst making our staff and students feel safer in their environment.”

The core system uses Dallmeier hard disk recorders (DLS 6, upgraded to 12 channels) each of 480GB capacity and with built-in CD writers. The cameras are all from Vista, with three types used: Vista internal and external vandal-resistant domes and the Protos 3 professional range of full bodied cameras.

Outreach locations such as the Newquay campus have mobile security patrols visiting the site, but no full time presence. In these situations, intelligent motion detection equipment raises an alert if people are on site, while ignoring animals. This is achieved through the use of Dallmeier’s all-in-one motion detection and recording unit, the DVS 600, upgraded to have 12 inputs.

Other locations such as Camborne and John Keay House have permanent security teams on site. The recorders are connected to the college network, and the recordings can be accessed using Dallmeier’s PView software. Centralised monitoring is carried out at John Keay House. Remote locations such as Newquay can send an alarm is sent if the motion detector is triggered so that the roving patrols or police can be called.

The intention is to roll the upgrade out to other campus locations. Perspective will carry out the work. “The genuine success story of reducing the incidence of problems on and around our Newquay site will help the case for development of CCTV elsewhere,” says Steve Cant.

### Making choices



Steve Cant had carried out wide-ranging research prior to tendering for an installer and was initially interested in an IP-based system. “Towards the end of looking at the IP products we looked at the Dallmeier solution as well. It was a system that impressed us, but we didn’t specify that as the only solution when we tendered.”

Andrew Oakes is a strong advocate of the Dallmeier recorders, used in conjunction with Vista cameras. “They are the only products we install,” he says. “Every system we put in has a Dallmeier recorder in it and that makes a big difference especially on the engineering front. Our engineers know the equipment inside out.” The products are all sourced from Norbain. “As a supplier they are streets ahead and the service is second to none.”

“The use of fairly traditional cameras meant that it measured up very favourably against a fully IP based system in terms of price without any loss of functionality,” says Steve Cant. Picking the right installer was essential and he had very clear ideas about the type of company that he wanted to deal with. Experience from installation of different types of technology had convinced him of the merits of specialist, local companies. “Quite often we are able to get a very good one-off project pricing from larger national companies but we tend to get very poor service,” he says. “We have now hooked up with local suppliers that win through significantly on the post sales support.”

Steve Cant was particularly impressed by Perspective’s knowledge of the products and Andrew Oakes’ level of passion and commitment. “Right from the start he was confident that it would do everything we wanted and he was convinced it was the best out there - and it did prove true.”

The installation went very well. “They’ve worked very hard and tidily and fitted in the work around a busy college environment,” says Steve Cant. Innovations in cabling dramatically cut the installation time at John Keay House from an estimated six weeks to just two. Perspective minimised disruption by putting the recorders in four separate places instead of in a central control room. “John Keay House is such a huge building that the cabling could have taken a long time,” says Mr Oakes. The four recorders each receive input from local cameras and feed into a hub, giving seamless access.

### **Perspective CCTV**

Truro-based Perspective CCTV has grown from scratch to having a base of 150 clients in just four years. Its business model is that a customer buys a system and a comprehensive maintenance agreement too. Andrew Oakes shuns cut-throat competition for work, preferring to concentrate on offering top quality equipment based around Dallmeier recorders and Vista cameras backed by a high level of service. "Our business model from day one has been to promote service contracts. We know what we want to do and we are sticking to it."

[www.perspective-cctv.co.uk](http://www.perspective-cctv.co.uk)

[www.cornwall.ac.uk](http://www.cornwall.ac.uk)