



WIN £100 BY BEING THE FIRST TO COMPLETE AND RETURN OUR EASY-PEASY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Email



Meridian Surveys wins contract to survey Toy'R'Us sites from Poole to Sheffield

When Toys'R'Us went into administration last year, Meridian Surveys picked up the contract to survey 10 of the retail sites in the south of England.

The surveys were carried out at a rate of two per week and completed on time. Following very positive feedback about the quality of the surveys Meridian were offered further sites including ones in the north of England that had already been surveyed (apparently poorly) by another firm.



Meridian Surveys penetrates the GRP market

Some (not all) land surveyors lift inspection covers and take invert levels, direction of flow and pipe dimensions as a matter of routine.

Meridian Surveys has gone one step further and invested in new equipment to enable it to carry out GPS (Ground Penetrating Radar) surveys for such clients as Surrey County Council.



BREAK-IN NEWS!
A surveyors worst nightmare is having expensive survey equipment stolen. Robotic total stations are particularly vulnerable and some surveys companies have even resorted to employing security guards just to protect them whilst the surveyor is working remotely.

Our worst fears were realised whilst surveying at Brent Cross this year. Our CR-V had been parked in full view of passing shoppers and, for most of the time, by ourselves. However, it was left unattended for five minutes and when we returned the window had been smashed and some of our surveying equipment, our computers and personal belongings had been removed.

Whilst Peter was negotiating for the dash cam record of a lorry parked nearby Luisa, saw somebody acting suspiciously. She gave chase and apprehended the suspect who had been unable to carry everything he had taken from the CR-V to his vehicle. Luisa recovered all of the items and even managed to get a photograph of the suspect handing the computers back from his vehicle.



Unfortunately the Crown Prosecution Service have decided not to prosecute the "suspect" as there was no



Moral of the story: "Don't mess with Luisa!"



Health and Safety on Network Rail

Meridian has surveyed on several NR sites this year. Of course, NR takes safety very seriously and all our surveyors have to be totally H&S compliant. However, as Ian (our laid-back Assistant Surveyor) pointed out, on this particular site, any express train that was going to hit us would have to crash through about a dozen mature oak trees (similar to the one he is nonchalantly leaning against) first!



STOP PRESS - Meridian has recently carried out several successful surveys with drones (please see website <https://www.meridiansurvey.co.uk/coastal-erosion>). UAVs are proving particularly useful for surveying unstable waste or stockpiles, and for coastal erosion studies.



A HEARTFELT PLEA TO ONE OR TWO DILATORY ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

Every surveyor and setting out engineer is familiar with the scenario. The developer, architect and builder have been pouring over the plans for months... and then they send the plans to the setting-out engineer the night before they want him/her on site. They expect the engineer to arrive on an unfamiliar site, with very scanty information, no control and then accurately set-out a multi-million pound development with millimetric accuracy. With the best will in the world, that is not the most sensible or professional approach.

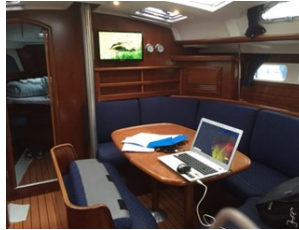
We are not having a general moan as most of our clients DO provide us with good, timely information. Just a couple do not. As a graphic example, the "WRONG SITE" above is at the site address on the architect's plan. We were provided with the information the night before and we even pointed out that the traffic reports were predicting Arctic conditions in Kent. The *wrong* site turned out to be down a very long and snowy farm track. The gate at the end was locked. When we sent a photo of where we were the builder seemed to think it was very funny. It transpired that the "RIGHT SITE" was in Surrey. Actually, even we thought it a bit funny. Sadly, though, the site address was not the only error on the plan.

By the time the data on the plan was corrected the weather in Surrey was positively balmy (as Sandra is demonstrating).

Our plea to the *dilettantes* (look it up!) that want us to set-out their site is please provide accurate data well in advance of the date for setting-out.

SITE OFFICE COURTESY OF AirBnB

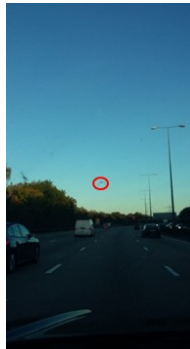
In the last year Meridian Survey surveyors have travelled extensively throughout the UK. Our regular clients seem to prefer to use a surveyor they know well rather than take a chance on somebody they don't know but is closer to the job. AirBnB has been a boon for us and the yacht we ended up staying in at Hamble Marina also proved to be a handy site office!



M25 HOLD-UPS

Although we travel all over the UK much of our work is centred around the M25. This sometimes brings additional challenges to our daily routine!

So far this year we have rendered first aid to a motorcyclist who did a double somersault in front of us and landed in the central reservation... Unbelievably, when we packed him in the ambulance



he only had a few scratches.

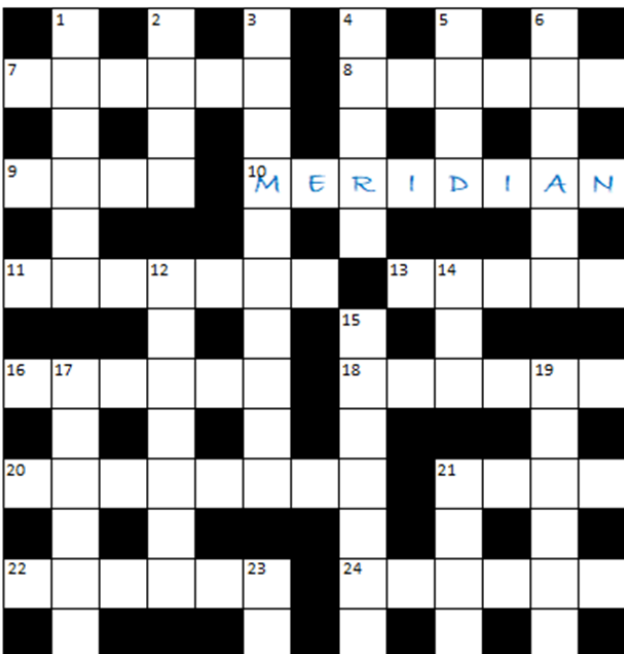
The photographs above and to the left show a swan that presumably mistook the M25 for the Queen Mary Reservoir. We eventually succeeded in encouraging it to take off again!

ARGOCAT GOES BUSHBASHING



One of the challenges faced by surveyors is surveying sites that are overgrown.

This site in Chobham was so overgrown with brambles we had to use an Argocat to bash them down. As it is amphibious we also tried using it for a hydrographic survey but that didn't work quite as well!



Across

- 7 Some surveyors call them heights (6)
- 8 What has a theodolite and a total station got in common? (6)
- 9 Tim Berners-Lee regarded it as precious and it has recently been protected (4)
- 10 Probably the BEST survey company in the world (8)
- 11 Satellite navigators are their nemesis (7)
- 13 The past participle of a verb meaning to construct (5)
- 16 You might be left out of this garden feature in America (6)
- 18 "Periodic" and "Escape" are types of these in Eccentricity Classifications (6)
- 20 This geological term may seem to offer lower prices (8)
- 21 If you use this unit of measurement in UK you may be putting both of them in it (4)
- 22 We are optimists but none of these are rose-tinted in our instruments (6)
- 24 To be or not to be is the Tribach's question (6)

Down

- 1 Perhaps ten insects are boarders (6)
- 2 The second brightest navigational star in the Northern hemisphere (4)
- 3 Definitely seems like an unbalanced unit of measurement (10)
- 4 Improvised landmark you might think comes from Australia (5)
- 5 Some surveyors get better as they are... Well, I would say that! (4)
- 6 We all know what the devil is in... (6)
- 12 The highest points in the development (7)
- 14 If it wasn't an abbreviation it might be a cornflake getting on a form of transport (3)
- 15 It joins points that any level headed surveyor might appreciate (7)
- 17 I've never heard the gutter press referred to by such a stream... (6)
- 19 You may be forgiven for thinking this soldier's affliction was a unit of measurement in WW1 (6)
- 21 What device allows an A3 drawing to fit an A4 envelope (4)
- 23 The wind that comes from this point on a compass gave its name to a waterproof hat (2)