Earlier this year, CDR Group was awarded a contract by Stockport MBC to undertake a survey of highway and street furniture assets to populate inventories in support of the development of their Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).

The collection of information on highway assets in a Local Authority area presents a formidable task in both time and cost. In terms of value and importance, the highway carriageway has undoubtedly the most significance, but the remaining "street furniture" also has a major impact on maintenance budgets and thus has a need to be considered in any asset plan.

The option of carrying out a detailed survey of the Authority’s entire highway network was rejected not only on grounds of cost, but more importantly because of the need to quickly generate data to assist in the formulation of the TAMP. Instead, Stockport MBC adopted the principle of requisitioning detailed surveys of carefully selected representative sample areas and then extrapolating the results to the Authority’s area in total. 45 sample areas were chosen that provided examples not only of different road classifications, but also of different epochs of housing developments, and different land uses (industrial / commercial / residential). The areas included everything from fast dual carriageways and congested 'A' roads, to quiet modern suburban streets, older terraced housing, pedestrianised shopping precincts and local and district centres with higher quality 'aesthetic' street furniture.

By adopting simple modest proven technologies, CDR were able to provide Stockport MBC with a timely economic solution to aid them in developing their TAMP.