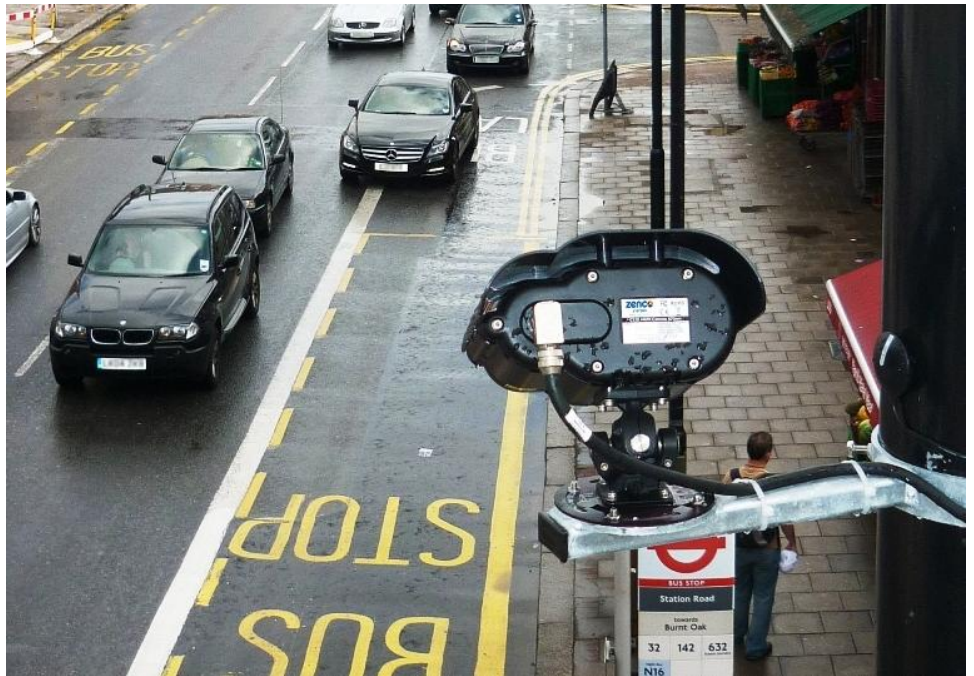


Bus Lane Enforcement

The ZenGrab LaneWatch bus lane enforcement solution adopted by the London Borough of Barnet has slashed PCN processing costs and improved contravention detection rates.

The London Borough of Barnet has switched to unattended bus lane enforcement on a 4 mile stretch of the A5 following successful trials. The Zenco LaneWatch system, which uses automatic number plate recognition (ANPR), replaces an attended system that comprised CCTV analogue cameras and digital recording equipment.

The A5 — Edgware Road — began as an ancient trackway within the Great Middlesex Forest, and later became a major route for the Romans. Traffic levels have steadily risen in more recent times, and this is why Barnet sought ways of improving bus lane enforcement on the route.



The new system eradicates the need for contraventions to be identified and captured by operatives working shifts in the council's CCTV control room.

The ZenGrab LaneWatch system streamlines the review process, which has cut processing costs by 75%, the council estimates. Since the system went live in July 2011, there has also been a substantial rise in contravention detection rates.

Devika Samlal, Barnet's policy and projects manager, said: "Operationally, the Parking Industry remains on the brink of keeping up with technological advances. This has become increasingly important as operational efficiencies impact directly on savings. The LaneWatch system provides the perfect 'package' of equipment and an enforcement solution rolled into one whilst utilising existing wireless technology."



Quality evidence

Barnet's legacy bus lane cameras are now used for public space security. Adrian Ford, Zenco's sales director, said: "LaneWatch is our unattended bus lane enforcement camera that uses proven ANPR technology to detect and identify vehicles using bus lanes during restricted periods and, where appropriate, automatically record video evidence of possible contraventions taking place.

"The video evidence captured is wirelessly sent to our hosted ZenGrab Core where it is stored until it is downloaded by our In-station software for review."

An initial trial of LaneWatch was undertaken at The Hyde on the A5. "Results were impressive, demonstrating a high accuracy capture rate and an improved video quality," said Ford. "Further market analysis followed and by January 2011 a full LaneWatch roll-out was planned for the summer."

The LaneWatch cameras were procured from Civica Limited as part of a back-office upgrade of Barnet's existing CE notice processing system.

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Ten of the existing 11 legacy CCTV sites were upgraded to use LaneWatch cameras.

The video evidence gathered by the ZenGrab LaneWatch cameras is wirelessly and securely transferred to the council's control room using Home Office standard encryption techniques. The evidence is then reviewed by staff to confirm that contraventions have taken place. The LaneWatch cameras have 'Approved Devices' certification and the process for capture and review complies with this.



Gary Jillings, Barnet's project officer, said: "Having played an integral role in CCTV bus lane enforcement since the London Borough of Barnet took on the powers to enforce in 2004, I have seen the transition from analogue video stream to digital capture and issue.

The introduction of the LaneWatch cameras has completely transformed and streamlined our bus lane enforcement operation. The new unattended system does not compromise the quality of video and the accuracy of the data captured and

"The introduction of the LaneWatch cameras has completely transformed and streamlined our bus lane enforcement operation."

Converted in to PCN's is being maintained at levels consistent (if not higher) with the best traditional bus lane enforcement teams. I was initially sceptical, but after seeing LaneWatch working first hand, we have been very impressed and definitely see this as the future of bus lane enforcement.

System accuracy is complemented by an exempt vehicle list, which comprises the number plate details of those vehicles permitted to use the bus lanes. These 'white lists' are uploaded to the LaneWatch cameras wirelessly. The cameras ignore 'white list' vehicles, which means that time is not wasted transmitting and reviewing unnecessary contravention clips.

The council was pleased that the cost of installing the system was offset by savings in processing costs and improved contravention detection rates within the first 4 months of operation!



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The road to LaneWatch Barnet's involvement with Zenco goes back to 2008 when Zenco upgraded the legacy CCTV traffic enforcement system with their ZenGrab Capture Station attended CCTV enforcement solution. This greatly improved efficiency and reduced costs but it was still necessary to have a large number of CCTV operators and equipment to run the system. Those requirements are no longer necessary when using LaneWatch and contravention capture rates have also improved dramatically. Barnet's enforcement manager Jose Garcia said: "It is apparent that even when employing the best enforcement technology available you cannot convince some selfish drivers to keep to the correct lane on the road and give priority to public transport. Whilst driver behaviour is changing and the vast majorities of drivers do not drive or park in the bus lanes, it is still the exception that proves the rule!"