



# CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SYMMETRY ACCESS CONTROL SOLUTIONS SPAN THE COUNTY

Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for education, social services, highways, fire and rescue services, libraries, waste disposal and planning across this area of the United Kingdom. Covering over 1000 square miles, Cambridgeshire has a population of over half a million residents and is home to one of the country's most prestigious universities.

AMAG Technology began their relationship with Cambridgeshire County Council in May 1994, after being chosen to provide access control and security solutions to the local authority at their historical Shire Hall premises.

Since this initial installation, AMAG Technology has gone on to work with Cambridge County Council on many more projects. The most recent being the installation of the Symmetry™ access control solution across another 19 Council owned sites, spanning the county including St Ives, Huntingdon, Bar Hill, as well as the city of Cambridge itself.

Two of the facilities in Cambridge and one in Huntingdon also required a video system to be included in the solution. This was made easy by the flexibility of the Symmetry Security

Management System (SMS), which is designed to allow the integration of many different applications including alarm monitoring and visitor management, in addition to access control and video.

One of the biggest challenges presented by the project was that Cambridgeshire County Council wanted to implement new contactless smart card readers, while retaining the existing magnetic stripe cards for some staff. The complexity of the solution has, at times, made meeting this criteria a challenge, but working in partnership with the staff at Cambridgeshire County Council, these issues have been overcome by implementing a combined ID card for all staff to use, that has a magnetic stripe function together with a smart card chip.

The flexibility of the Symmetry SMS has opened up a number of possibilities across the 19 buildings that now use the system. For example, Scott House, a four story building, was intended to have two floors for the local authority's usage, while the others were leased to third parties. This required a solution that allowed different parts of the building to be isolated at different times, depending on who was located on each floor. Symmetry SMS has made this a straightforward process.



"The engineers are good at finding solutions as our needs evolve."

"Our needs are always evolving and the AMAG engineers are good at finding solutions to new problems then suggesting what options are available to use," said Angela Bucksey, the Head of Business Support and Facilities Management for Cambridgeshire County Council.

To get the most out of their security solution, the key staff at Cambridgeshire County Council received training on the system delivered by the dedicated AMAG Technology training team. AMAG encourages clients to take advantage of the training sessions to fully understand all the applications within their onsite system and how to utilize the solutions for maximum benefit.

With a number of systems across different sites, Cambridgeshire County Council demanded a high level of service and support. The close relationship AMAG Technology maintains with Cambridgeshire County Council reflects the ongoing commitment to ensuring all security requirements are well looked after and operating at optimum levels.

In conclusion Mrs. Bucksey said, "The re-implementation was much easier than other non-security installations that have taken place and the service side has been great."



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