



PRESENTATION

*Presented at the FIP Working Week 2025,  
6-10 April 2025 in Brisbane, Australia*

# **GIS AND DRONE PHOTOGRAMMETRY: TRANSFORMING SPATIAL ANALYSIS AND MAPPING INTO DIGITAL REALITY**

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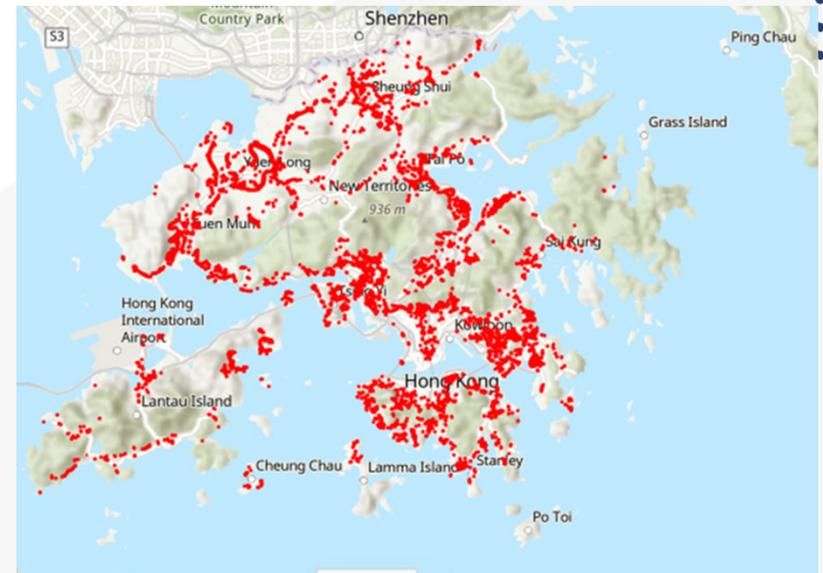
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- **Drones in earthwork construction sites**
- **Drones in deformation sites**
- **Drones in asset management**



# INTRODUCTION

- Using data of different sources is important when it comes to sustainable planning
- Urban planning challenges include efficiency, managing population growth
- We can use photogrammetry to identify vacant slopes for recreational purposes



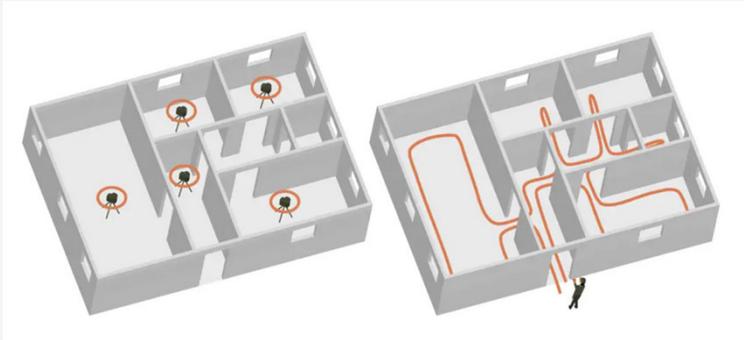
# HONG KONG CASE STUDY



The portion of slope next to Nam Cheong Street in Shek Kip Mei is how we could leverage underutilised slopes which are accessible and could potentially be used as recreational spaces for people living nearby the area

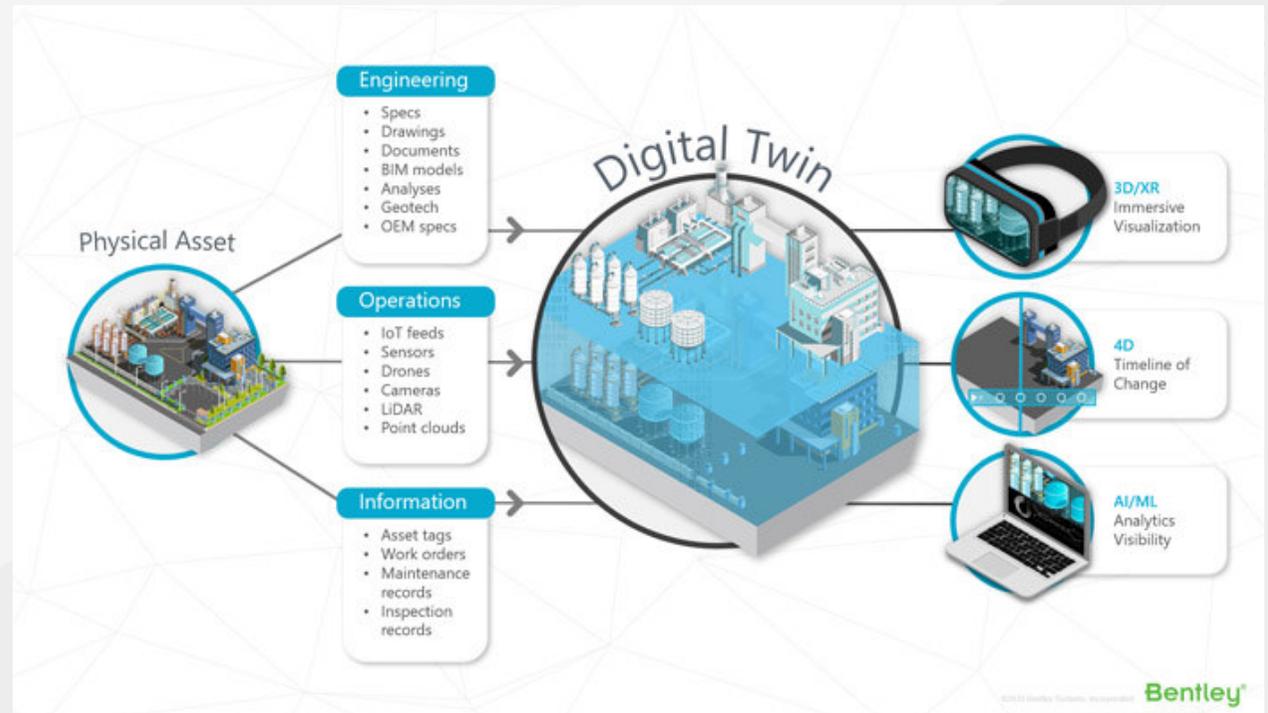
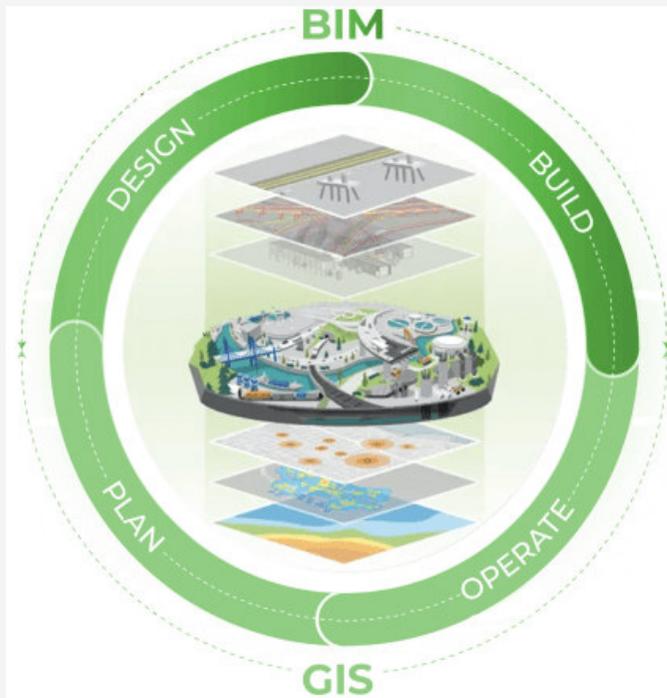


# SLAM + GIS + DRONES



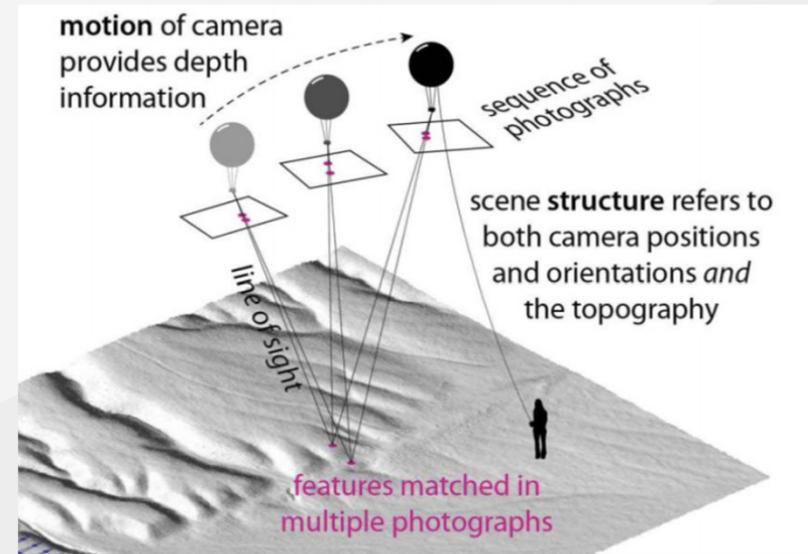
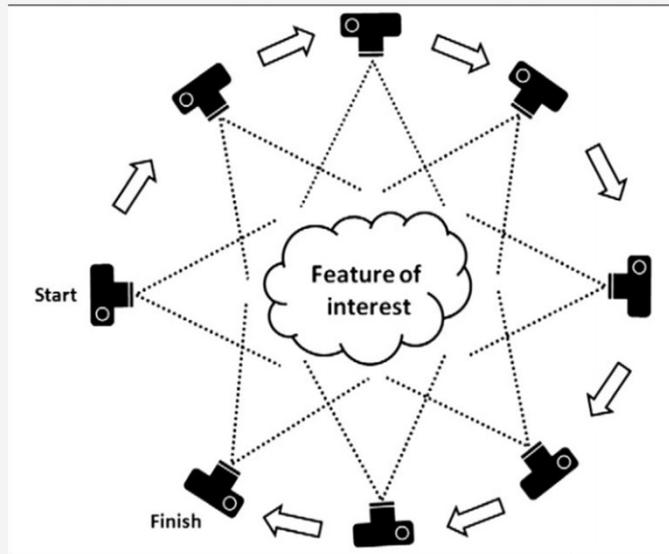
**COMPREHENSIVE DATA IN SHORT TIME  
+  
10X QUICKER THAN TRADITIONAL  
METHODS**

# GIS + BIM



Drones should be combined with GIS and BIM to generate digital twins

# STRUCTURE FROM MOTION



**Structure from Motion utilises several, overlapping aerial photographs in order to create 3D reconstruction models and extraction.**

# ADVANTAGES OF STRUCTURE FROM MOTION

- Accurate reconstruction of image in 3D space
- Uses triangulation to roughly determine the 3D positions
- Completely automated method from keypoint extraction to accurate reconstruction
- Therefore minimises the need for manual identification of photo control before processing occurs
- Create high density point clouds

(Westoby et al., 2012)

# BACKGROUND

- Photogrammetry was retrieved by combining the images together from the drone
- In this situation, an area in South East Victoria had a landslide failure which was deteriorating rapidly from one year to the next



# PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

Overall processes of  
Structure from Motion

Introduction to case  
study

Field Data Acquisition

SfM  
Computation/Processing

Post Processing (outputs)

Other case studies

# STRUCTURE FROM MOTION PROCESS

## Phase 1: Field Data Acquisition

Flight plan type suited for particular terrain or object

Photo resolution (GSD) and overlap needed for type of terrain or object

Generate ground control points network

Drone enabled optical data acquisition (nadir/oblique photos/video)

## Phase 2: SfM Computation/Processing

Automatically identifies matching points in several photos

Bundle adjustment and step-by-step 3D scene regeneration

Ground Control Point initialisation to optimise internal and external parameters of camera

## Phase 3: Post Processing (outputs)

Transformation and Georeferencing

3D Point Cloud  
Orthophoto  
Digital Surface Model  
Digital Terrain Model

(Zekkos, 2021)

# PROCESS

## Phase 1: Field Data Acquisition

Flight plan  
type suited for  
particular terrain or  
object

Photo resolution  
(GSD) and overlap  
needed for type of  
terrain or object

Generate ground  
control points network

Drone enabled optical  
data acquisition  
(nadir/oblique  
photos/video)

# FLIGHT PLAN TYPE - AERIAL COVERAGE



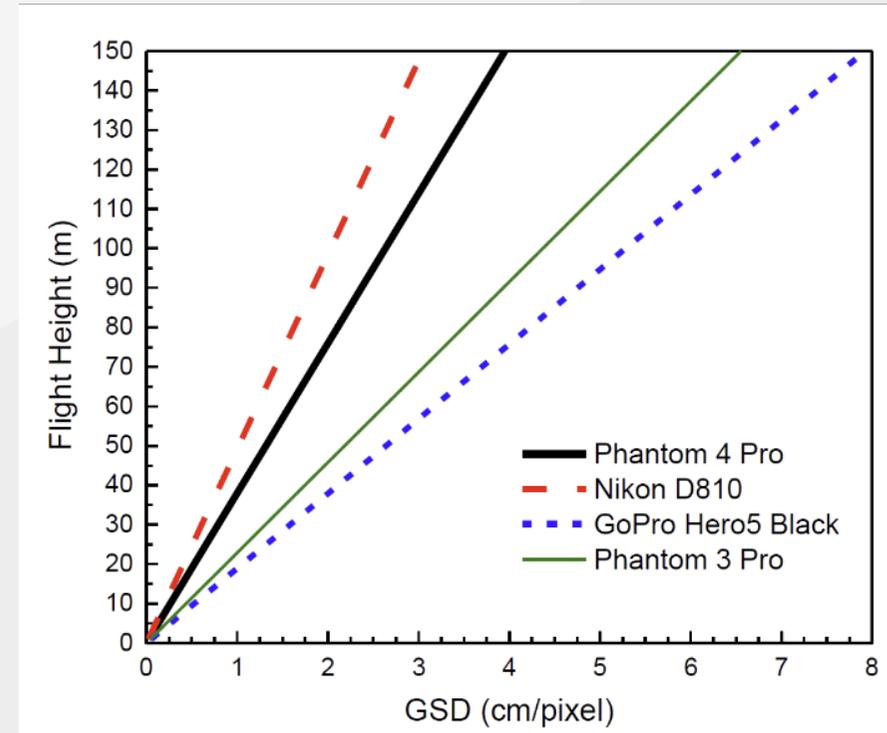
DJI Phantom 4 was used in this mission



Grid plan was used to create a comprehensive 3D model and aerial map

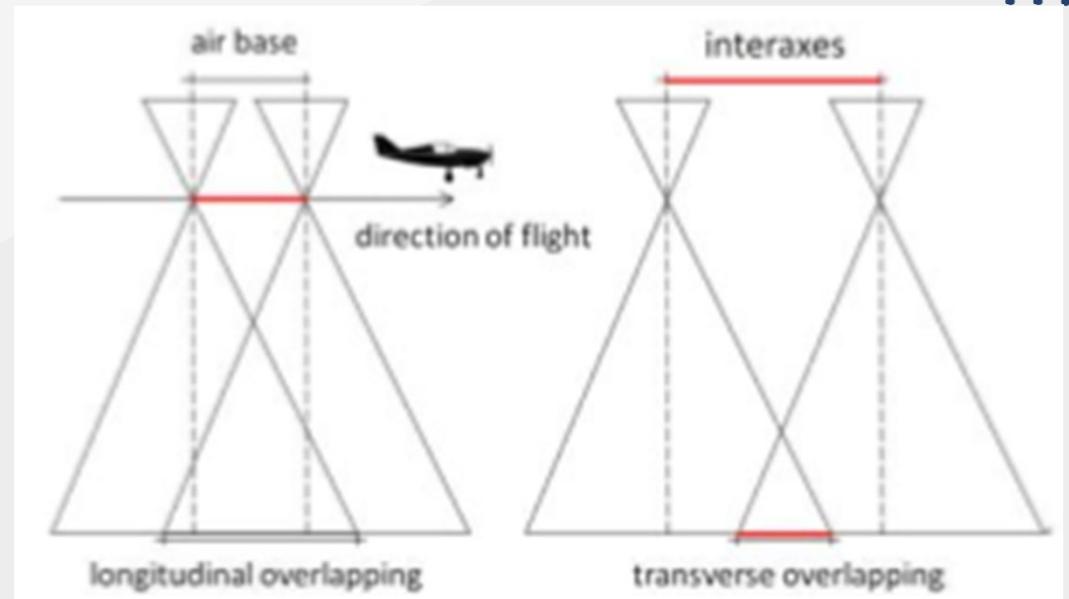
# TARGET RESOLUTION

- The GSD will depend on the extent of work you intend to do
- 2 to 10 pixels per dimension are required if you need more specific detail of features



# FACTORS FOR DRONE IMAGE QUALITY FOR GOOD MATCHING BETWEEN OVERLAPS

- Decreasing distance between camera and targeted area = increasing spatial resolution of aerial imagery
- Ensure that overlaps are maximised by decreasing the distance between subsequent photo positions



# PROCESS

## Phase 2: SfM Computation/Processing

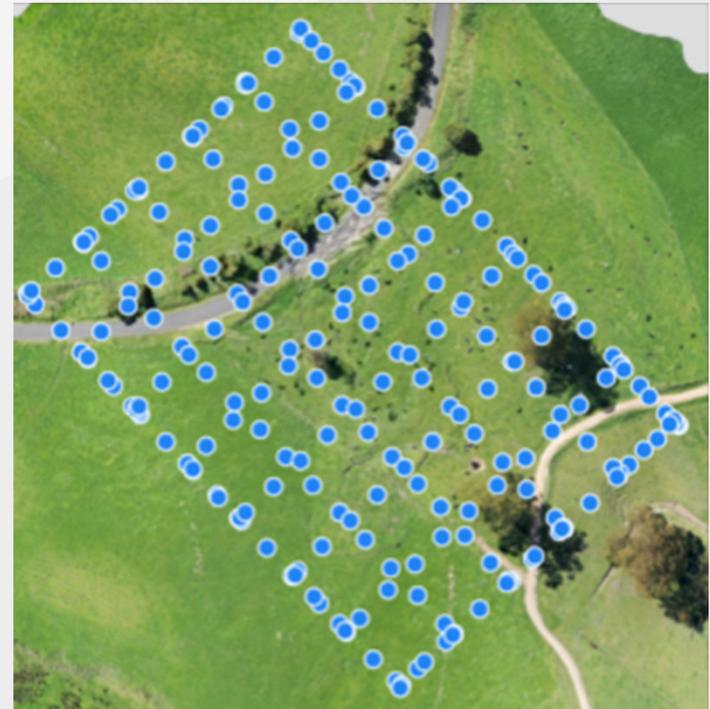
Automatically identifies matching points in several photos

Bundle adjustment and step-by-step 3D scene regeneration

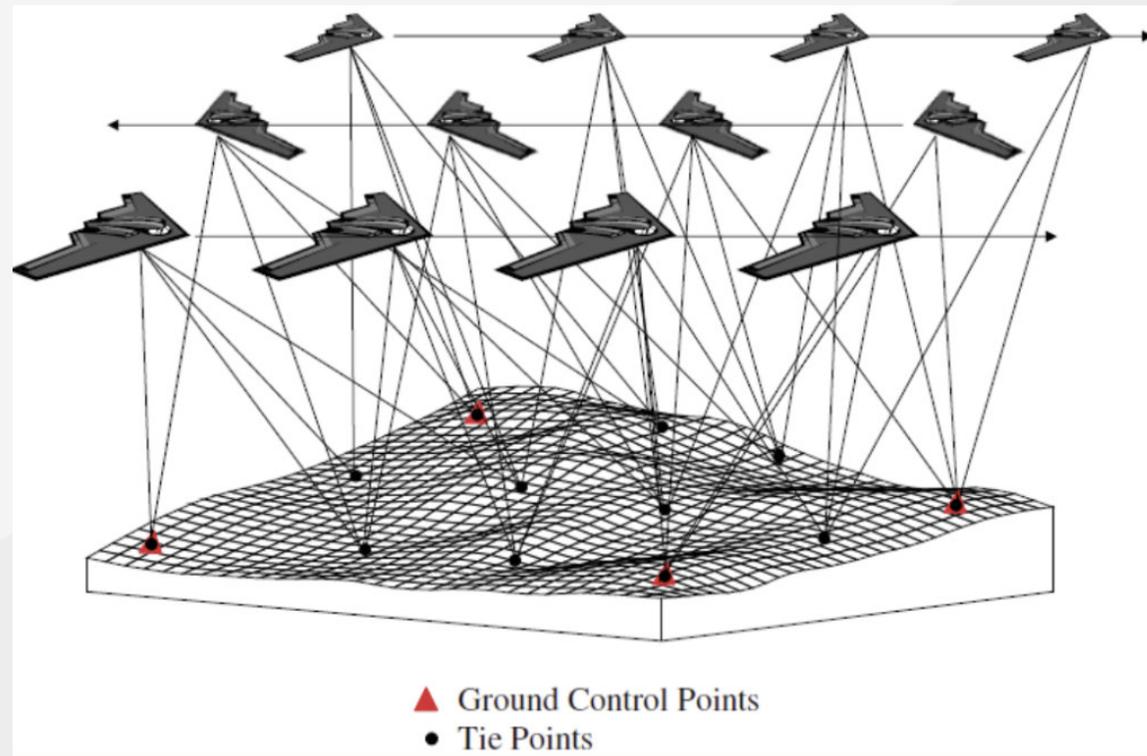
Ground Control Point initialisation to optimise internal and external parameters of camera

# STEP 1: MATCH FEATURES FROM SEVERAL PHOTOS

- For good results, you need photo overlap of 70% or more
- Factors affecting results of orthomosaic or 3D model include:
  - Photo resolution
  - Photo overlap
  - Target texture



# STEP 2: BUNDLE ADJUSTMENT AND STEP-BY-STEP SCENE RECONSTRUCTION



# STEP 3: MANUAL TIE POINTS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF ACCURACY

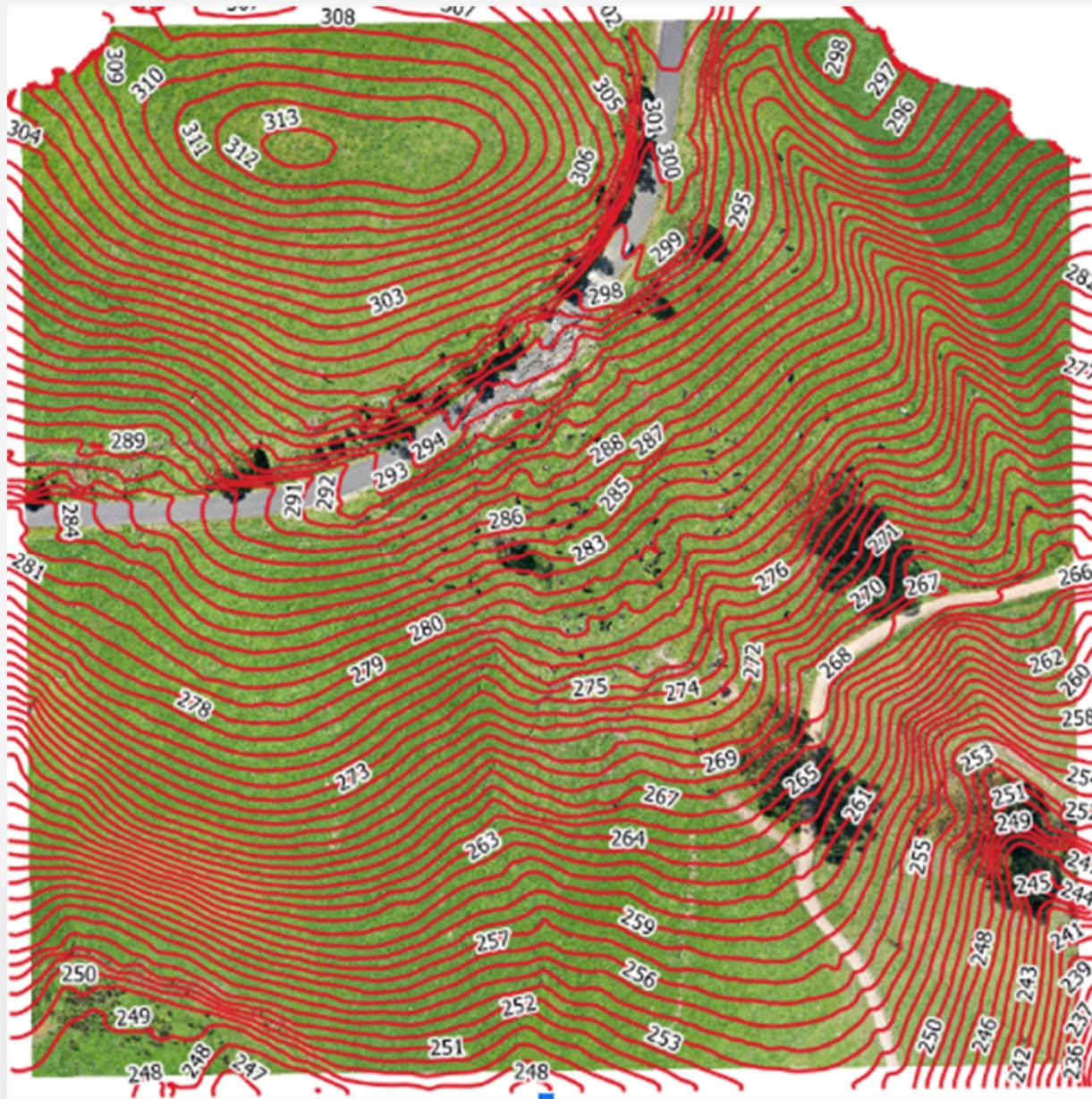
- Manual Ground Control Points can be collected from RTK GPS coordinates you have acquired on site
- This will enhance solution processing and georeferencing

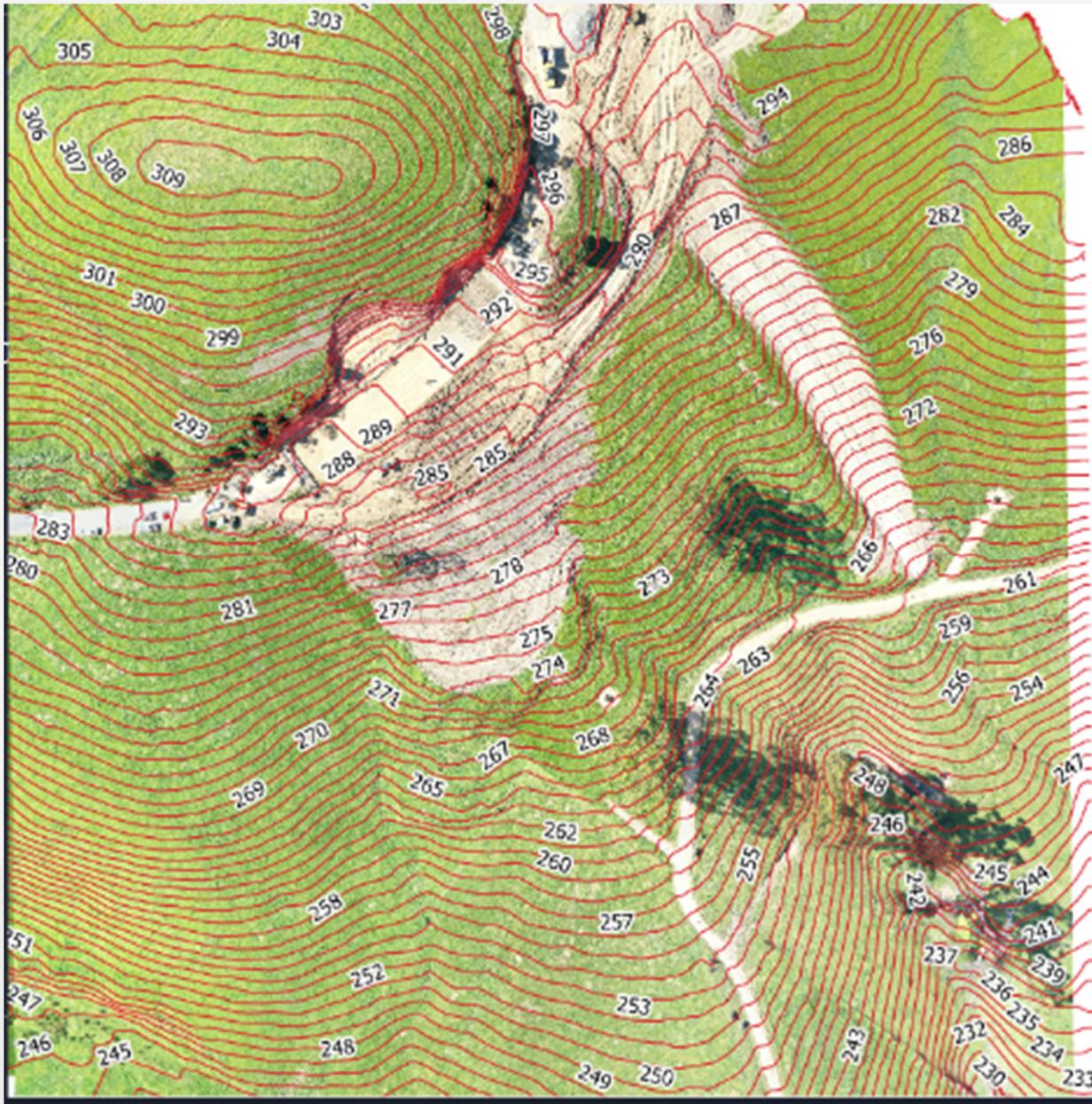
# STEP 4: POINT CLOUD DENSIFICATION



# CASE STUDY 1: CHANGE OF LANDSLIDE BETWEEN 2019 TO 2020

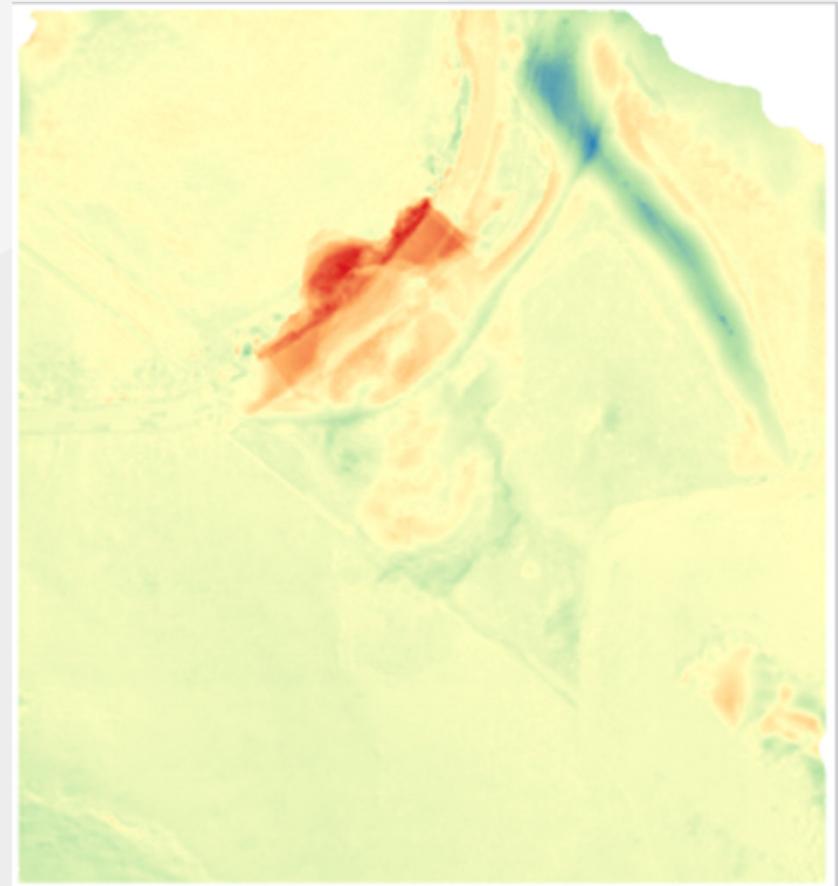




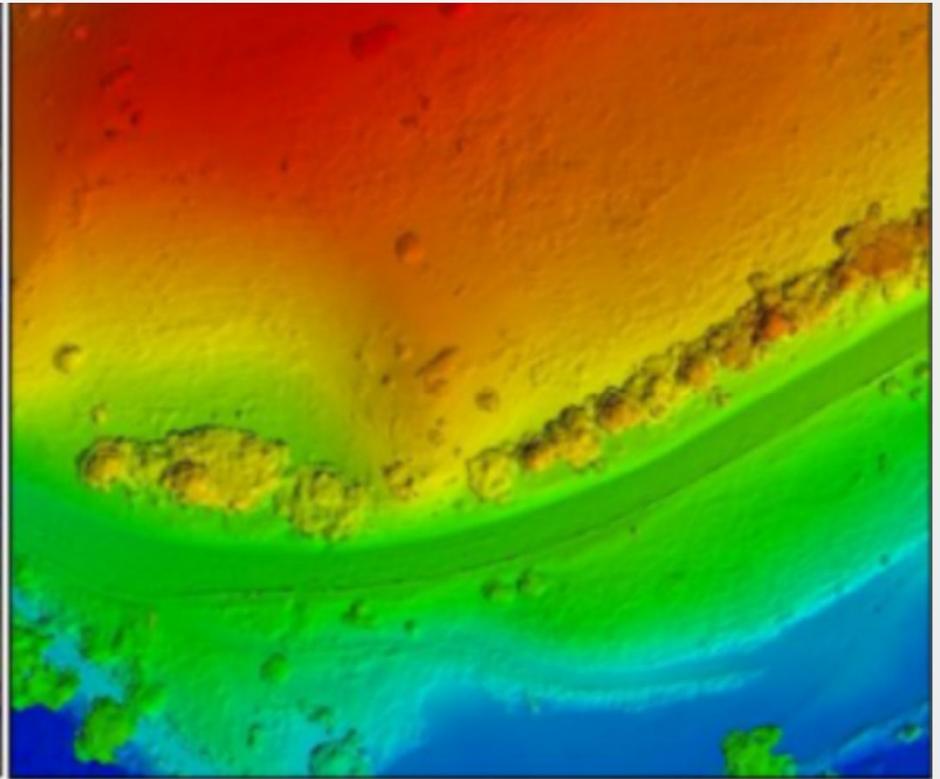


# DIFFERENCE IN ELEVATION WITH DTM FOR SEVERITY OF LANDSLIDE

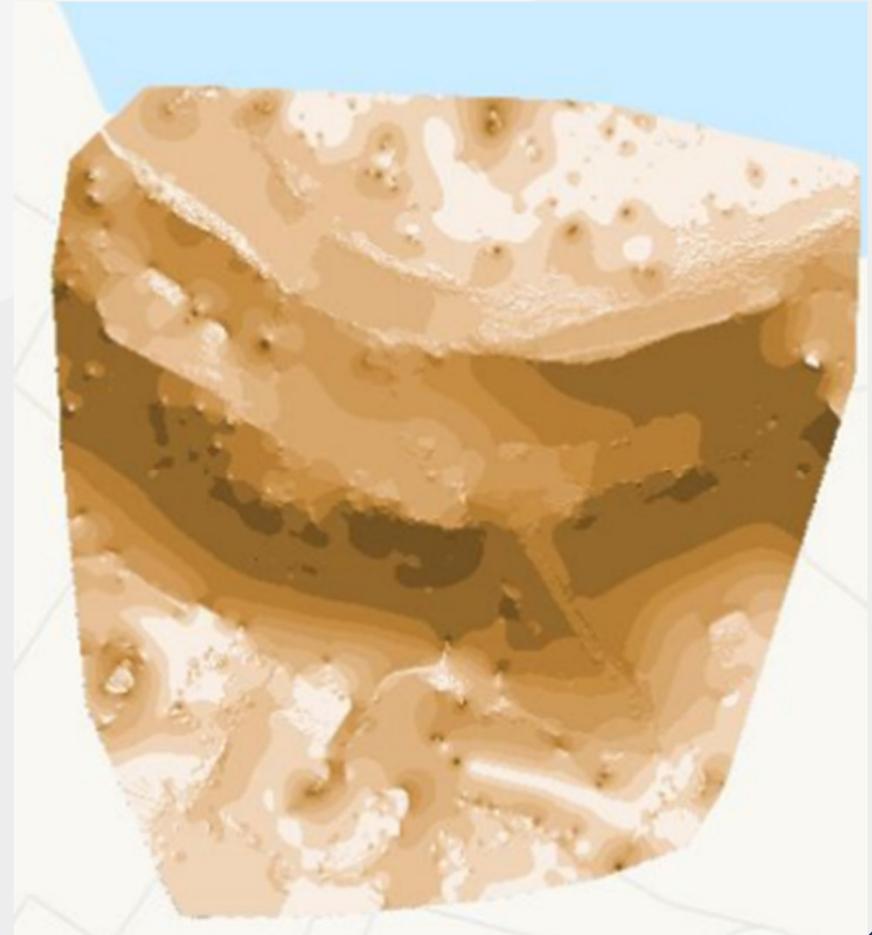
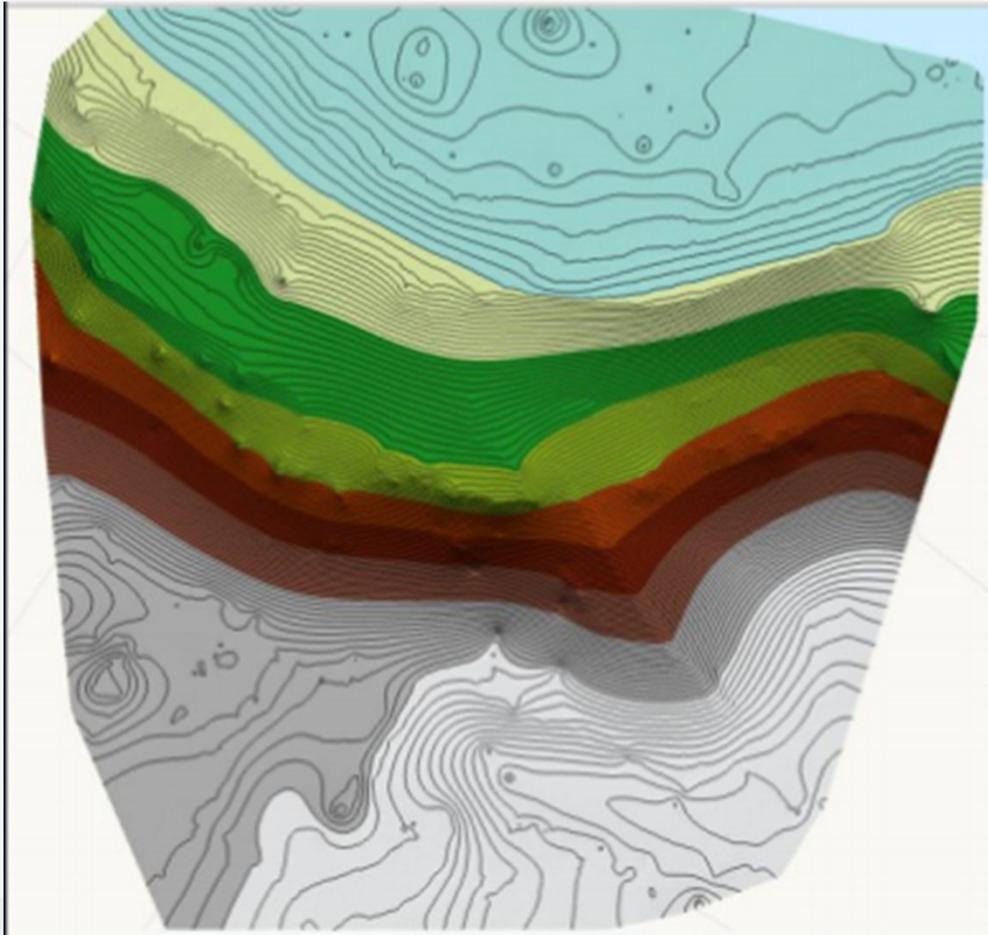
- Subtracted 2019 raster data (less severe) to
- 2020 raster data (more severe)
- The red areas showcase a difference in elevation
- between 1 to 3 metres
- The milder areas indicate that there is no significant change



# YOU CAN CREATE DSMS/DTMS



# AND YOU CAN CHECK THE SLOPE SEVERITY TO DETERMINE THE SUSCEPTIBILITY OF LANDSLIDE



# CASE STUDY #1: EARTHWORKS



**December 2023**



**April 2024**

# CASE STUDY #2: LANDSLIDE



2019



2020

# CASE STUDY #3: ASSET MANAGEMENT



# CASE STUDY #3: ASSET MANAGEMENT





Spatial Frontier emphasises creating spatial solutions for businesses, NGOs and government associations for their current needs and their plans by connecting the dots to create a story. We also have plans to distribute surveying and GPS equipment.

**To find out more:**  
**[www.spatialfrontier.com.au](http://www.spatialfrontier.com.au)**





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