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BEFORE VIEWING THE DATA

Unpacking the data

The drone imagery package often needs to be compressed into a **ZIP** file in order to fit on the USB stick. You will need to transfer the .zip file to your hard drive before extracting the files. Extraction may take some time depending on your system. If you do not see a .zip file on the USB and instead see a directory of folders, then your imagery data was able to fit on the USB without compression and can be viewed directly from the USB.

Low-Resolution JPEG

You will find in the top level of the USB directory a **JPG**. This image is a low-resolution sample of your drone imagery and should be viewable on all systems.

VIEWING THE DATA

Simple Viewing Instructions

The easiest way to view your drone imagery on most computers is to navigate to the “GOOGLE TILES” folder in the data directory. The files in this folder may be compressed, in which case you will need to extract the files to your computer. You will find inside this folder a **.html** file and a **.kml** file, as well as some numbered folders.

Opening the .html file should automatically open your default web browser and allow you to view the orthomosaic aerial image in Google Maps at full resolution.

Opening the .kml file requires Google Earth to be installed on your computer (It can be downloaded for free from www.google.com/earth/). Google Earth will open and zoom to the survey area, showing the imagery laid over Google Earth's elevation model. Note that Google Earth does not display the imagery in full resolution and does not make use of the much more accurate elevation model created by the drone survey.

Advanced Viewing Instructions

Making full use of the drone imagery will require GIS software such as ArcGIS, Autodesk, or Global Mapper. QGIS is a free open source GIS suite that will allow you to view most of the survey data, it can be downloaded from www.qgis.org.

DIRECTORY GUIDE

Elevation Model: This folder contains the digital surface model, an elevation model created from the imagery. There are two important files, the **TIF** file and the **GRD** file. The .tif file is the original, full resolution, georeferenced image file. The .grd file is a compressed grid elevation file. Some systems may have an easier time handling the .grd file. Any other files found in this folder will be small files containing projection information for the image files.

Aerial Image: This folder contains the orthomosaic image, the aerial image created from the photos taken during the survey. There are two important files, the **TIF** file and the **ECW** file. The .tif file is the original, full resolution, georeferenced image file. The .ecw file is a compressed image. Some systems may have an easier time handling the .ecw file. Any other files found in this folder will be small files containing projection information.

3D Model: This folder contains the 3D point cloud model of the survey as a **LAS** file. A low resolution version of the 3D point cloud is included as well.

Google Tiles: This folder contains the .kml and .html file that will allow you to view the imagery using Google Maps or Google Earth. The numbered files contain the image tiles and are required in order for the .kml and .html to display properly

Raw Imagery: This folder contains the unprocessed raw imagery from the drone survey, including individual geotagged photos and the track files from the flight. The images may have been compressed into a .zip to save space on the USB.

Processing Report: This is the processing report provided by the photogrammetry software. It includes information regarding the success of the survey and the results of the processing.