

# CISCO MERAKI NETWORK UPGRADE FOR WOODLAND TRUST

## The Customer



**The Woodland Trust** is the UK's leading conservation charity, committed to protecting and restoring the nation's woodlands and trees. Managing over 1,000 sites across the UK and safeguarding nearly 26,000 hectares of woodland, the Trust plays a critical role in preserving biodiversity and combating climate change. Their ambitious tree-planting initiative aims to plant 50 million trees by 2025, fostering sustainable green spaces for future generations.

## The Challenges

As part of its ongoing infrastructure modernisation programme, Woodland Trust identified the need to replace ageing network hardware at its Grantham site while aligning the environment with its wider Cisco Meraki architecture. The existing Dell edge switches had reached the end of their operational lifecycle, creating potential risks around reliability, supportability, and future growth. At the same time, the organisation wanted to standardise networking across multiple locations,

reducing operational complexity and ensuring consistency across the estate. Several critical requirements had to be addressed during the upgrade:

### End-of-Life Infrastructure

Legacy Dell switching hardware required replacement to ensure continued reliability and vendor support.

### Architectural Standardisation

The Trust sought to align Grantham with its existing Cisco Meraki deployments, creating a consistent and supportable networking model across all sites.

### Operational Simplification

Traditional switch management approaches were increasing administrative overhead. The organisation wanted to adopt cloud-managed networking to improve visibility, control, and efficiency.

### Business Continuity During Migration

The network upgrade needed to be completed without impacting critical services. Existing VLAN structures, network segmentation, client connectivity, wireless services, printers, cameras, and meeting room technologies all needed to remain operational throughout the transition. The Woodland Trust required a trusted technology partner capable of delivering a carefully planned migration with



Transputec delivered a structured and controlled network upgrade, enabling us to modernise our infrastructure while maintaining service continuity and operational stability.



**Mathew Orrey**  
Head of Technology Operations  
Woodland Trust

minimal risk, while ensuring full alignment with its long-term network strategy.

Transputec was selected based on its proven expertise in network transformation, structured implementation methodology, and ability to deliver controlled migrations within complex operational environments.

## Our Approach

### A Design-Led Network Transformation Approach

Transputec partnered with Woodland Trust to deliver a comprehensive network modernisation project, replacing legacy switching infrastructure with a cloud-managed Cisco Meraki platform while maintaining uninterrupted business operations. Rather than treating the engagement as a straightforward hardware refresh, Transputec adopted a design-led approach focused on long-term architectural alignment and operational sustainability.

### Discovery, Planning and Pre-Staging

Before implementation, Transputec conducted detailed planning and configuration activities to ensure a smooth deployment. The new Meraki environment was built and configured remotely using template-based configurations and standardised naming conventions, ensuring consistency with the organisation's existing Meraki estate and reducing deployment risk during the change window.

### Preserving Critical Services

A key objective throughout the project was maintaining service continuity. Transputec developed a migration strategy that preserved existing VLAN structures, Layer 2 configurations, and network segmentation policies. This ensured uninterrupted access to business-critical services, including:

- Wired and wireless connectivity
- Network printers
- CCTV and security cameras
- Meeting room technologies
- DHCP and supporting network services

### Phased Floor-by-Floor Migration

To minimise operational risk, Transputec implemented a structured migration methodology. The deployment was executed over a compressed three-day implementation window using a phased floor-by-floor approach:

- Second Floor Migration
- First Floor Migration
- Ground Floor Migration

Each stage was independently validated before progressing, providing clear rollback options and reducing the potential impact of any unforeseen issues.

### On-site Deployment and Validation

Two Transputec network engineers performed the physical installation and migration activities onsite.

The team completed:

- Legacy switch decommissioning

- Cisco Meraki switch installation
- Cabling integration
- Uplink configuration
- Switch stack deployment
- Network cutover activities

Following each migration phase, comprehensive validation testing was undertaken to verify:

- VLAN functionality
- DHCP operation
- Wired network connectivity
- Wireless service availability
- Printer accessibility
- CCTV connectivity
- Meeting room system functionality

### **Documentation and Handover**

Upon successful completion, Transputec provided a full operational handover, including:

- As-built documentation
- Configuration summaries
- Validation reports
- Implementation records

This ensured Woodland Trust's internal IT team had complete visibility of the new environment and could confidently manage the infrastructure from day one.

### **The Outcome**

The Grantham site successfully transitioned to a modern cloud-managed network architecture fully aligned with Woodland Trust's wider infrastructure strategy.

### **Key Improvements**

- Fully upgraded switching infrastructure based on Cisco Meraki technology
- Cloud-managed networking through the Meraki Dashboard
- Reduced dependence on traditional command-line administration
- Improved resilience through switch stacking and redundant uplinks
- Standardised network architecture aligned with existing deployments

### **Project Outcomes**

Transputec successfully delivered the following:

- Installation and configuration of the new switching environment
- Comprehensive migration validation and testing

- Preservation of existing VLAN architecture and segmentation
- Successful migration within planned change windows

### Services Successfully Validated

- Wired network connectivity
- Wireless services
- Printers and print services
- CCTV and security systems
- Meeting room and collaboration technologies

### Business Impact

The new Cisco Meraki infrastructure has delivered significant operational and strategic benefits:

- **Reduced Operational Complexity:** Centralised cloud management enables faster administration, simplified troubleshooting, and greater visibility across the network estate.
- **Improved Reliability and Resilience:** Modern switching infrastructure and stack-based redundancy improve service availability and support business continuity objectives.
- **Enhanced Visibility and Control:** The Meraki Dashboard provides real-time monitoring, reporting, and management capabilities, allowing IT teams to proactively manage the environment.
- **Future-Ready Network Foundation:** The upgraded platform establishes a scalable foundation capable of supporting Woodland Trust's future digital transformation initiatives.

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