

ADE Background Images Tutorial

By Morten Blindheim

This is a tutorial on how to download and add satellite imagery as background image in Airport Design Editor (ADE). This tutorial is aimed at users of GMapCatcher 0.8.0.6 and SAS.Planet.

GMapCatcher only uses HERE for their satellite imagery, while SAS.Planet allows you to choose between several providers, including Google Maps.

This tutorial uses Greenville Municipal Airport (6D6) as an example.

Downloads

ADE: <http://www.airportdesigneditor.co.uk/index.html>

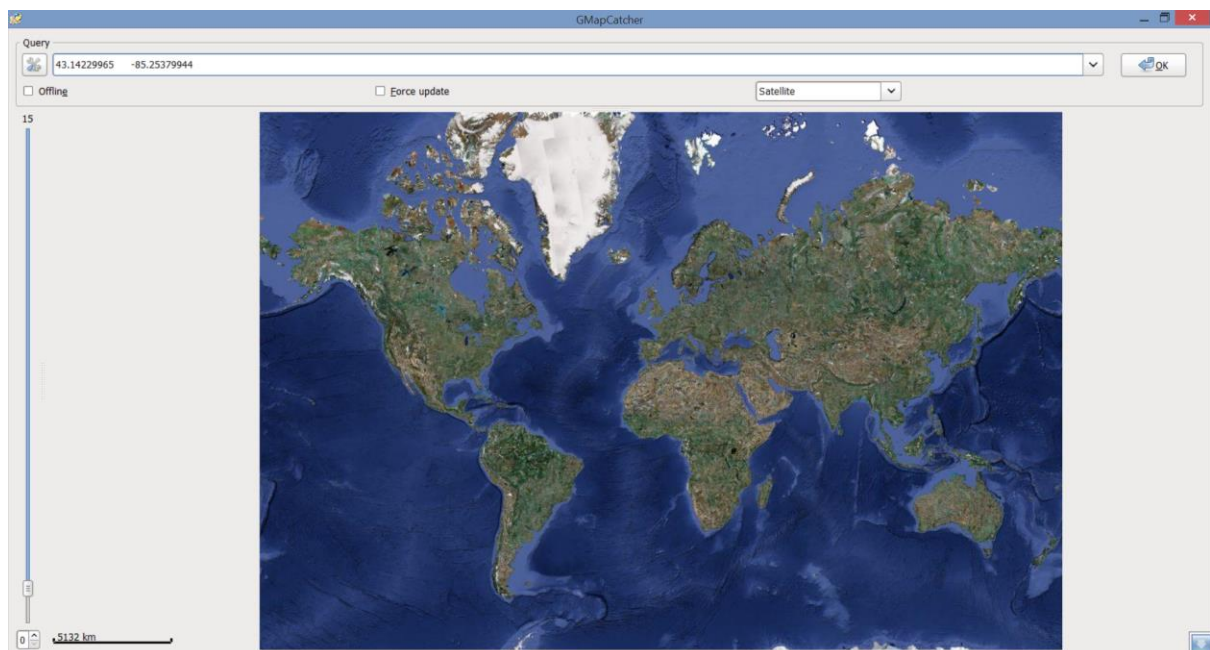
GMapCatcher 0.8.0.6: <http://sepuweb.com/GMapCatcher/GMapCatcher-0.8.0.6.exe>

List of GMapCatcher dependencies: <https://code.google.com/p/gmapcatcher/>

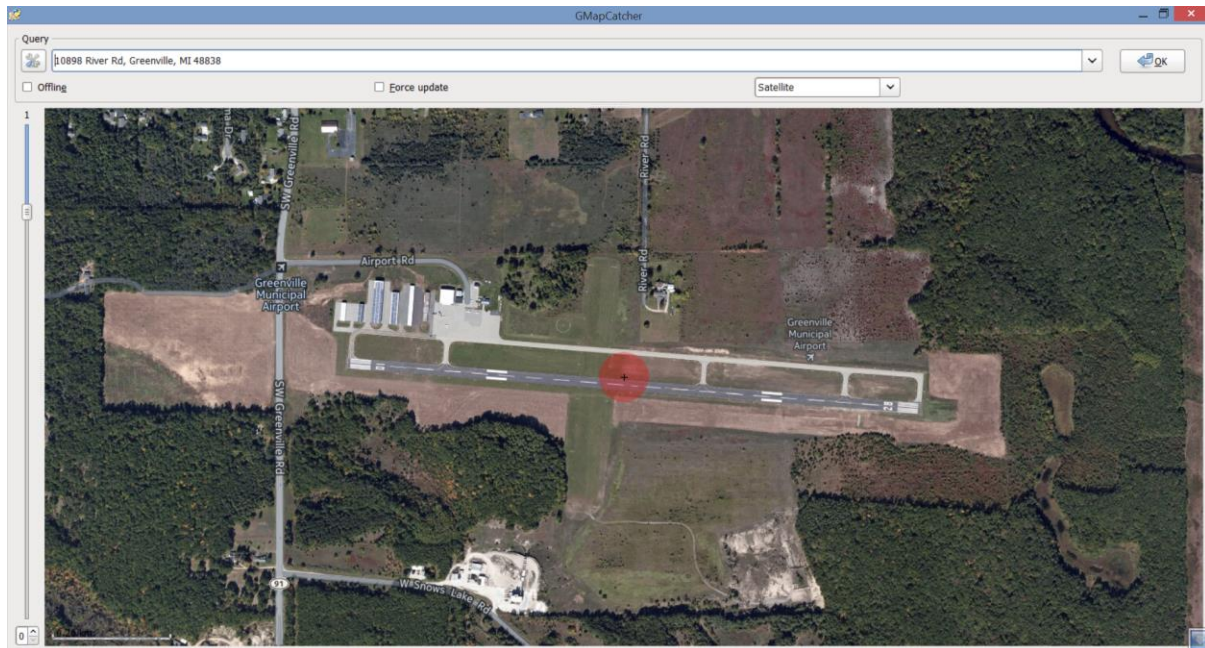
SAS.Planet: <http://www.sasgis.org/download/>

GMapCatcher

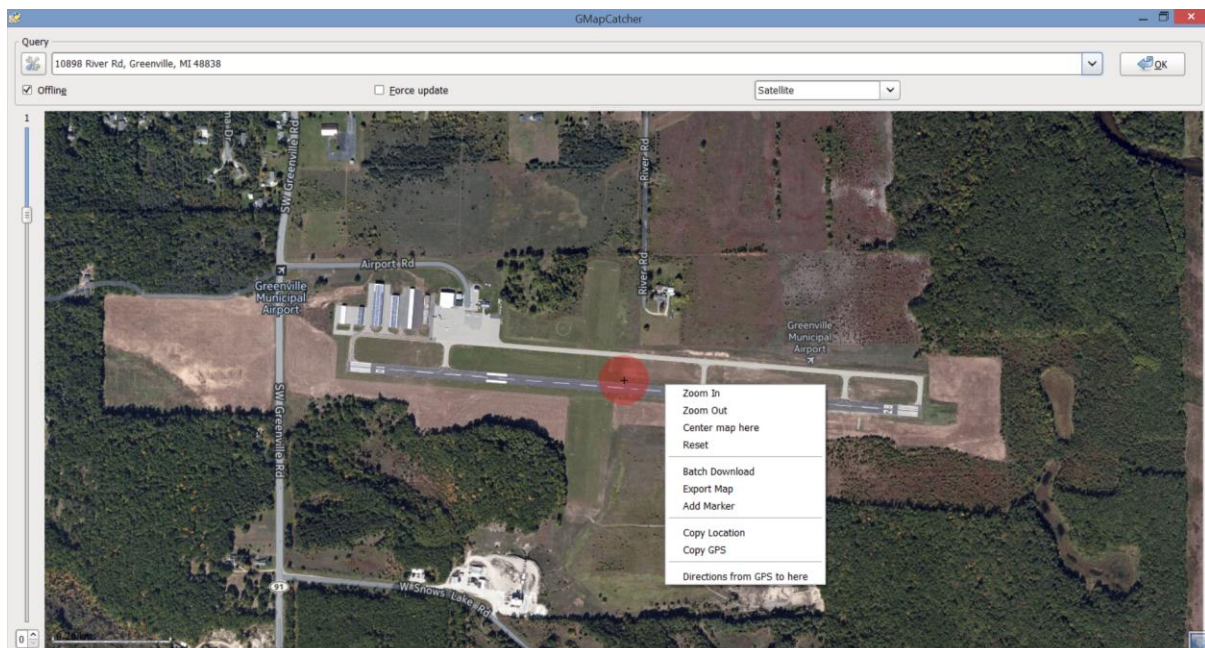
Start up GMapCatcher and copy coordinates of the airport in the search field. Ensure the Offline checkbox is unticked.



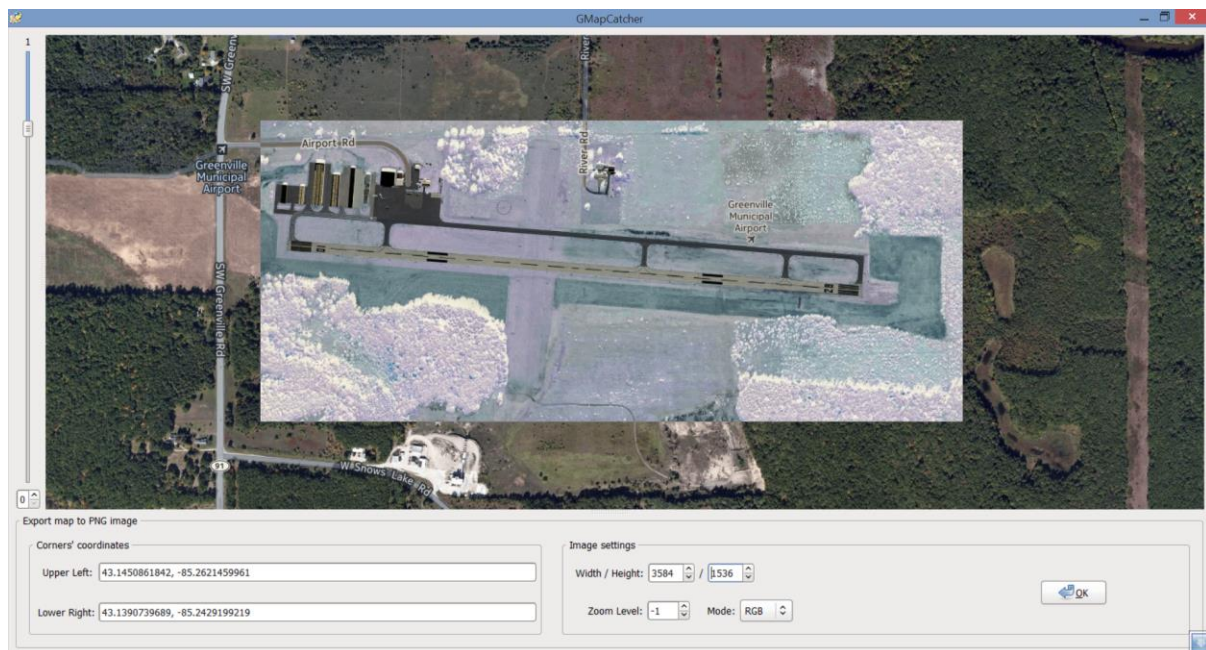
Zoom in to the required zoom level (level 0 should be good enough). Navigate around the airport and its surrounding area to ensure all necessary tiles are downloaded. If not, the map export may fail and you will have to restart GMapCatcher.



Right-click anywhere on the satellite image and select Export Map. Please note that the coordinates occasionally are reset to 90°N,180°W. In those cases you can either navigate back to the airport's location, or restart GMapCatcher.

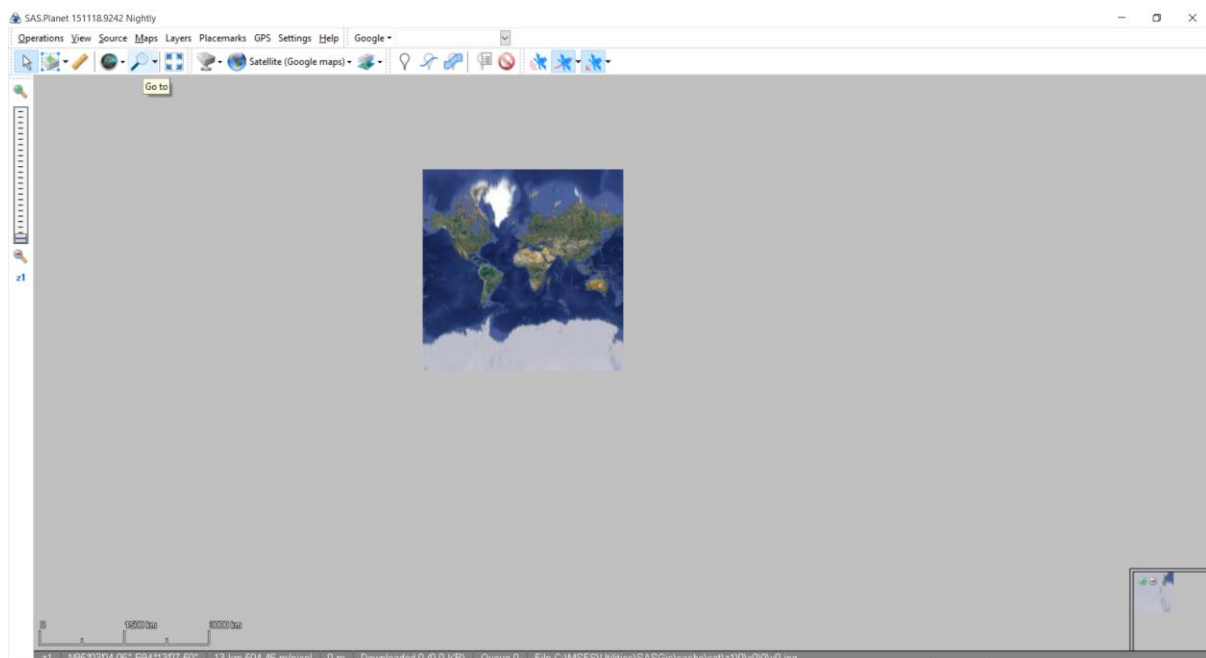


Change the Width and Height using the up/down arrows and set required zoom level. (In this case zoom level -1 will create a 10mb image file, whereas zoom level 0 will create a 2.5mb image file). Take note of the corner coordinates. The file will by default be saved to C:\Program Files (x86)\GMapCatcher.

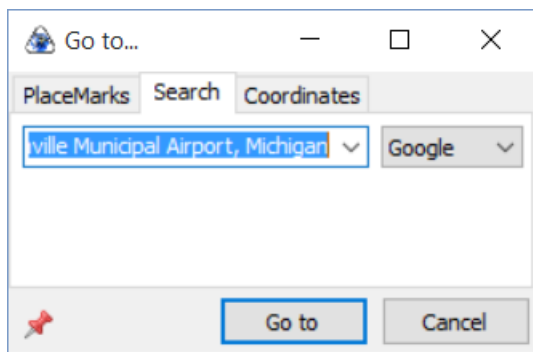


SAS.Planet

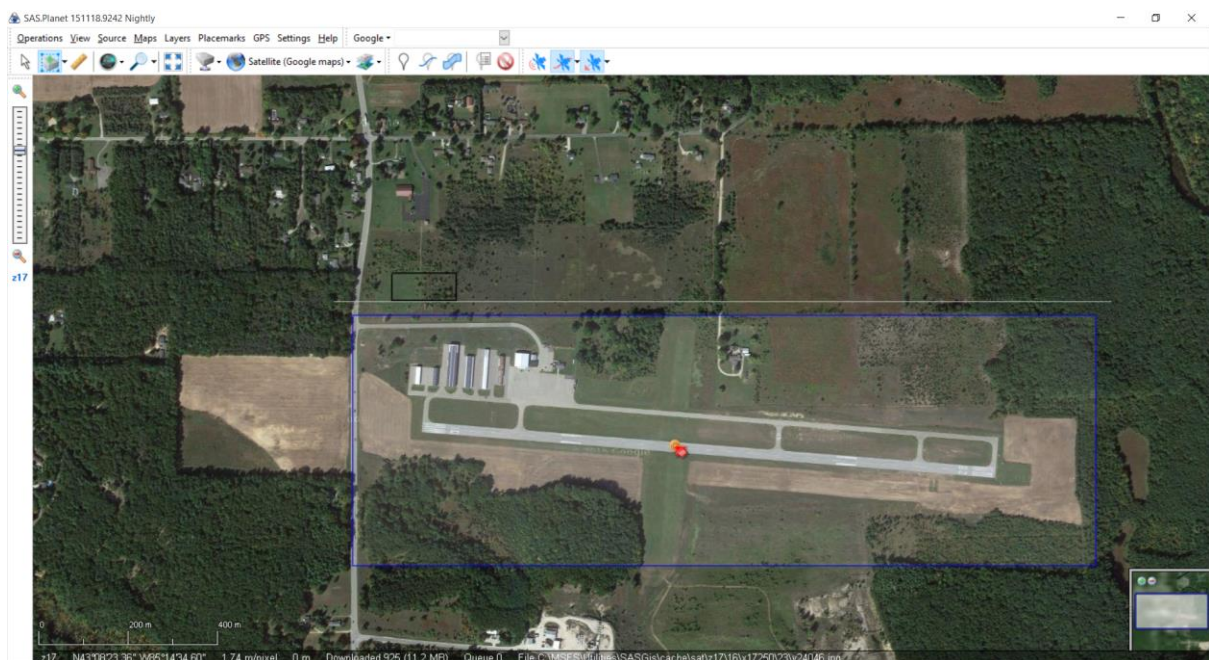
Start SAS.Planet and either zoom in to the airport's location, or click the magnifying glass to search for the airport.



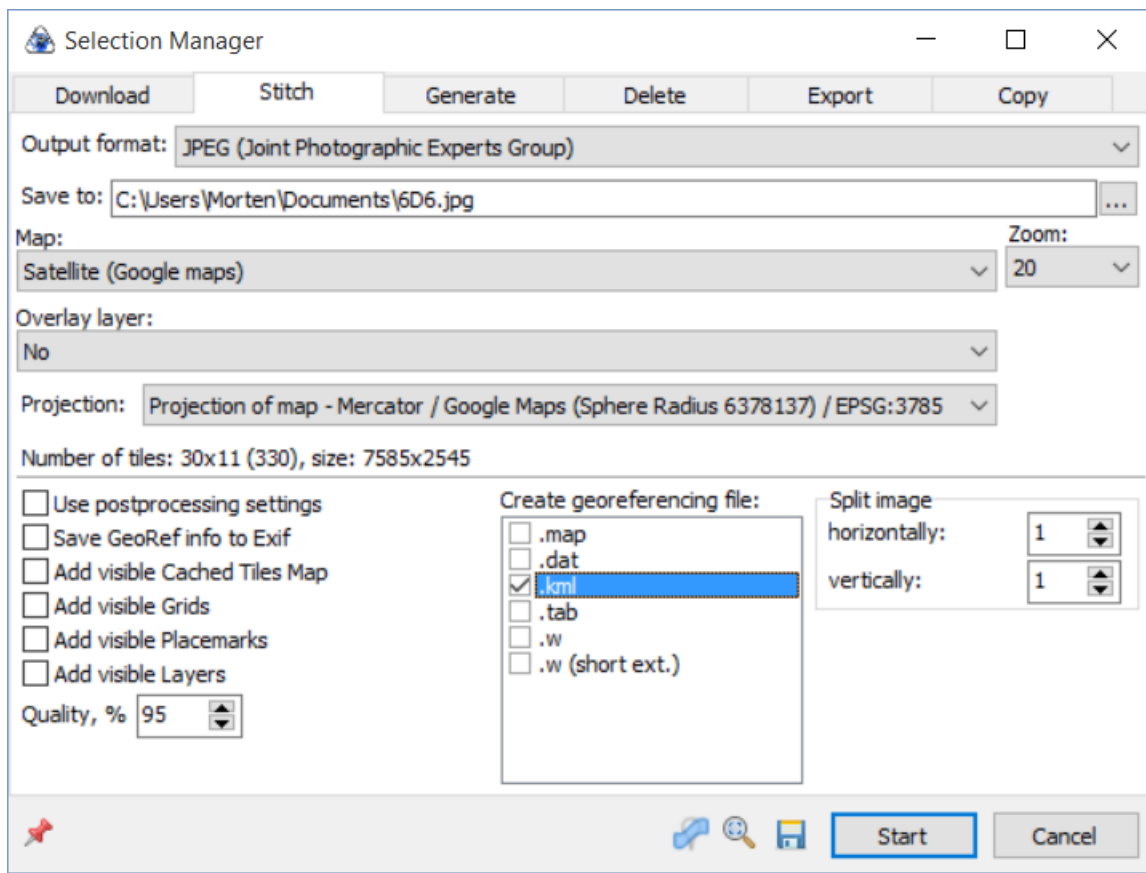
Select the Search tab and type in the airport name.



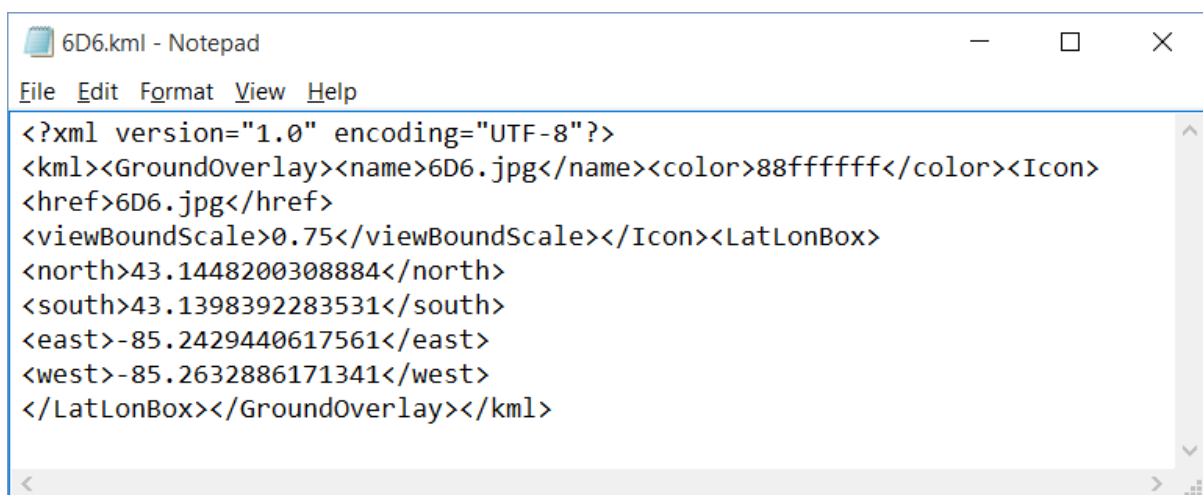
Zoom in to the desired zoom level and navigate around the airport. Zoom level 20 will be enough in most cases. Zoom out, click the selection icon, and select an area to export.



Select a filename to save the image to and tick to create a .kml georeferenced file.

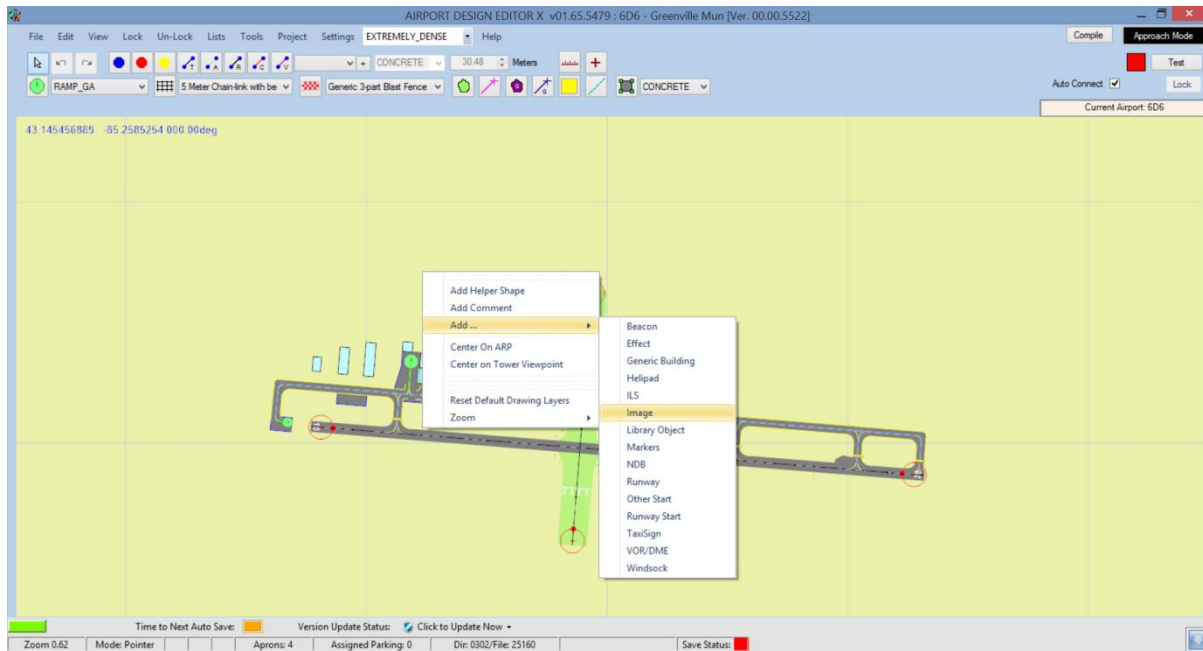


The .kml file will be saved to the same folder as the image file. When adding the image to ADE; the north value corresponds to Top Left Latitude, south value to Bottom Right Latitude, east value to Bottom Right Longitude and west value to Top Left Longitude.

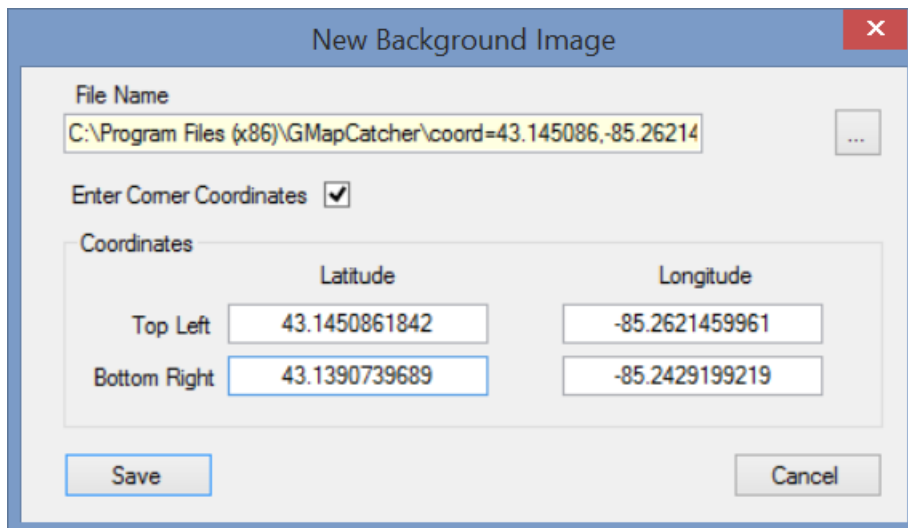


Adding background to ADE

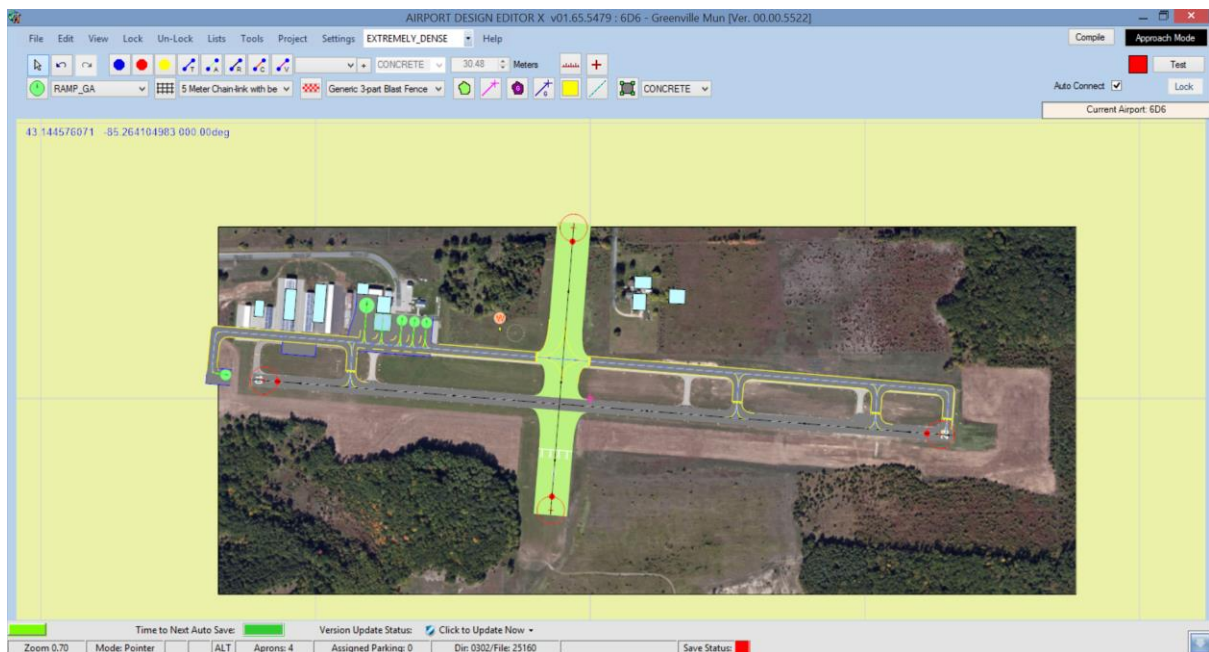
Start ADE and load the stock airport file. Right-click and go to Add--Image



Select the saved file. You will get a warning if the file is larger than 7.5mb. Tick Enter Corner Coordinates and paste in the coordinates you took a note of earlier. Click Save



Et voila, you now have an accurate background image in ADE.



For any feedback or questions, please contact me at morten@oneclickhangar.com, <https://twitter.com/oneclickhangar>, <https://www.facebook.com/OneClickHangar> or <http://oneclickhangar.com>

Thanks to Rustam Alhas for suggesting SAS.Planet.