

Public consultation on the withdrawal of Ordnance Survey Land-Line[®] large-scale dataset

Summary of results and next steps

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1 Background

Ordnance Survey is committed to meeting the demand for enhanced detailed topographic datasets covering the whole of Great Britain. This commitment has led to the creation of the OS MasterMap® product family, including the OS MasterMap Topography Layer. At the time of launch of OS MasterMap Topography Layer in 2001, we announced that it would be the replacement product for Land-Line. During the intervening four years many of our Land-Line customers have migrated to OS MasterMap. Withdrawal of Land-Line will enable us to focus our development resources on ensuring that OS MasterMap continues to meet evolving customer and market needs.

Our customers confirm that the OS MasterMap Topography Layer product offers much greater benefits to the large-scale data user. The change-only update mechanism available for OS MasterMap layers allows the user to keep their holding current, while the data association capabilities of OS MasterMap make it much more suitable for applications that require user-created data features to be associated with the underlying topography.

Our general position has been that Ordnance Survey should give at least 12 months' notice of our intention to withdraw Land-Line. We have already announced that, whilst we remain committed to the withdrawal of Land-Line, it will not take place before March 2008.

We recognised that we need a means of understanding the impact of withdrawal on our customers and partners. Therefore Ordnance Survey launched a public consultation into the withdrawal of Land-Line, which ran between 31 May 2005 and 9 September 2005.

2 Our proposal

Withdrawal of Land-Line means that, by the withdrawal date, customers and partners will need to have ceased to use Land-Line and have migrated to OS MasterMap or another dataset that meets their particular needs.

This means that Ordnance Survey will cease to license, maintain (that is produce and distribute updates), supply and support Land-Line.

In the consultation we drew customers' attention to a number of specific areas on which we were especially interested in receiving feedback. These were:

2.1 Date/timing

We have stated that the withdrawal will not take place before 31 March 2008 and so we asked customers to assess the impact of withdrawal on the assumption that withdrawal could take place from that date onward. We asked whether the impact of withdrawal on our customers' organisations varied with the choice of withdrawal date. If they did feel that the impact varied with the withdrawal date chosen, we asked them to provide reasons for the difference in impact.

2.2 Migration

We asked whether our customers have a clear plan of how they will migrate to OS MasterMap to ensure their continued use of large-scale Ordnance Survey data once Land-Line is withdrawn. We asked what they envisaged to be the major challenges in making this migration and whether the impact of withdrawal would vary with the choice of the different migration options that they have. For example, our flagship replacement product is OS MasterMap Topography Layer, but some users of Land-Line may also be considering the use of Superplan[®] through the Ordnance Survey Options[®] network or a *view, plot, export* style service from an Ordnance Survey Licensed Partner. We asked whether there were ways in which Ordnance Survey can assist our customers in making their plans for migration to the replacement products.

2.3 Special requirements

OS MasterMap has the same level of topographic detail as Land-Line but contains much more information. We asked our customers whether, after Land-Line has been withdrawn and they have migrated to OS MasterMap, they envisage a need to be able to access older Land-Line data holdings or materials based on Land-Line data.

3 The consultation process

Public consultation began on 31 May 2005 and ran until 9 September 2005. The process was designed to comply with the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Consultation (see section 6 below).

4 Outcome of the consultation

In total, 249 responses from Land-Line customers were obtained, representing all the market sectors that Ordnance Survey serves. Forty-eight responses from non-Land-Line customers were also obtained.

We employed several ways in which customers were able to provide us with their feedback. The following table shows the methods that customers selected.

Table 1: Current customer respondents to Land-Line consultation split by communication channel

Format of response	No of respondents
Telephone interview	120
Use online questionnaire	95
Face-to-face interview with Ordnance Survey member of staff	26
Other (free-form letter, email and so on)	8
Total no of responses	249

Responses were obtained from across the different market areas that use Land-Line. The following table indicates the split of responses by market and shows that the greatest level of response was obtained from the local government, and land and property market sectors.

Table 2: Current customer respondents to Land-Line consultation split by market sector

Market Sector	No of respondents (as % of total)
Land and property	32
Local government	20
Central government	14
Other commercial	11
Utilities	9
Transport and distribution	5
Other	5
Partner	4

In terms of the level of importance that customers attribute to Land-Line within their organisations, 29% of all respondents said that it is absolutely critical, with a further 22% saying that it is very important to their organisation.

Land-Line was found to be used every day by more than three fifths of respondents.

The importance of Land-Line was found to be directly related to usage patterns, as those using Land-Line on a 'company-wide' and on an 'everyday' basis rate importance of Land-Line the highest.

The key departments that use Land-Line within customer organisations were found to be planning, engineering, transport/logistics, environmental, GIS and architecture.

In terms of the key uses being made of Land-Line, these were found to be housing/planning, map design and production, and for environmental assessment/monitoring.

4.1 Date/timing

One third of all respondents said that a withdrawal date of March 2008 would have no impact on their organisation. Three quarters of respondents said that this date would have either some or no impact on their organisation.

A total of 21% of respondents stated that the withdrawal date of March 2008 would have a high or a very high impact on their organisation. Of those who said that March 2008 would have a high or very high impact on their organisation, half said that waiting until a later date would make no difference to the impact.

4.2 Migration

A total of 36% of respondents were confident that their migration will be complete within the next two years. Those customers who were most advanced in their migration plans were customers within central and local government.

Three quarters of all respondents were confident that their organisation would be prepared for withdrawal by March 2008.

Over 60% of all respondents, and in particular those using Land-Line in NTF, thought that OS MasterMap Topography Layer was the most appropriate replacement product for Land-Line in their organisation. Superplan was also seen by some respondents as a suitable alternative product, particularly those customers currently using Land-Line in DXF.

Many customers from the commercial market sectors asked Ordnance Survey to provide them with additional information about alternative Ordnance Survey products to Land-Line.

4.3 Special requirements

One third of respondents said that they would require access to their archive holding of Land-Line after withdrawal. The most common reason for requiring access was for use of historical data and also to meet legal obligations. The requirement in terms of frequency of access was found to vary by market sector, with some markets requiring access on a daily basis and others only needing to access their archive on an ad hoc basis. Similarly, there was a variation in the archive epochs that different customers required access to, with some requesting access to their entire archive and others only requiring access to Land-Line for the 12-month period immediately preceding the withdrawal date.

5 Next steps

The consultation has provided a wealth of information about the impact of Land-Line withdrawal on our customers and the extent of the need for continuing access to customers' own Land-Line archives after withdrawal. This information will form a key input to final decisions on the timing and the precise terms of the product's withdrawal. When all the remaining issues have been resolved we shall issue a formal Notice of Withdrawal, giving a minimum of 12 months' notice to our customers.

6 The code of practice

The consultation process has been designed to meet the six criteria of the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Consultation:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

7 Contact

If you have any questions or comments on this paper, or on any other aspect of the consultation, please contact:

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Annexe A: List of organisations that responded to the Land-Line consultation (and allowed their names to be published in this summary report)

Abbey Corrugated Ltd
Aberdeen City Council
AIG Consultants Ltd
Airbus UK Ltd
Arcadis Geraghty & Miller Int Inc
Arran Estate
Asher Associates Ltd
Association for Geographic Information (AGI)
Ateb Consult
Aylesford Newsprint Ltd
BAE Systems Ltd
BAE Systems Marine Ltd
Bath & NE Somerset Council
Black & Veatch Consulting Ltd
Boyer Planning Ltd
Bridgend County Borough Council
Bristol Water Plc
British Waterways
Broadway Malyan
Brunel Surveys
Bullen Consultants Ltd
Castle Morpeth BC & Alnwick DC
Charles Haswell & Partners Ltd
Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Chivas Brothers Ltd
Cholmondley Estates
Chris Blandford Associates
City of Edinburgh Council
CL Associates
Cliff Technologies
Codair Design & Publicity Ltd
Coal Authority
Colchester Borough Council
Comprehensive Design(Edinburgh) Ltd
Corinium Architectural Services Ltd
Corus Construction & Industrial
Cory Environmental Ltd
Countryside Agency
Countryside Prop(Special Projt)Ltd

County Environmental Services Ltd
Dalgleish Assoc Ltd
David Lock Associates Ltd
Defence Estates
DEFRA
Devonport Management Ltd
DHP11
Dotted Eyes Ltd
Dreweatt Neate
DSM Nutritional Products (UK) Ltd
Dunlossit Trustees Ltd
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
East Midlands Int'l Airport Ltd
Edaw Ltd
EDF Energy – Networks Branch
Energy Networks Association
English Heritage
English Partnerships
Entec UK Ltd
Enville & Stalybridge Estates
Environment Agency
Farmade Management Systems Ltd
Foggo Associates Ltd
Forth Valley GIS (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils)
Geoffrey Walton
Gillespies LLP
Gloucestershire Wildlife Management
Gloucestershire Police
Golder Associates (UK) Ltd
Grosvenor Estate Holdings
Hankinson Duckett Associates Ltd
Highlands & Islands Airport Ltd
Highways Agency
HOSDB
Huntsman Petrochemicals (UK) Ltd
Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd
Ibstock Brick Ltd
Inca (Projects) Ltd
Jacobsjibb Ltd
Jeremy Benn Associates Ltd
Kemira GrowHow UK Ltd

Kier Construction Ltd Mining Div
Land Registry
Landale & Co
Landscape Agency Ltd
Leicestershire County Council
London Borough of Camden
London Waste Ltd
Longdown Management Ltd
Lothian Estates
MapInfo
Macaulay Land Research Institute
Matthew Dugdale Estate
McNicholas Construction Co Ltd
Mike Chamley Associates Ltd
MLM Consulting Engineers
MWH UK Ltd
N C Architects
Nash Seaman Partnership Ltd
National Assembly for Wales
Norfolk County Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Somerset Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
Novar Estate
NPower Renewables Ltd
Office of National Statistics
Onyx Sheffield Ltd
Ormsary Farmers
Owen Williams Ltd
Oxfordshire County Council
Park Royal Partnership Ltd
Parkman Ltd
Pear Technology
Pear technology services ltd
Peter Brett Associates
PFA Consulting Ltd
PHILIP'S
Pirelli Cables Ltd
Poole Harbour Commissioners
Powys & Brecon Beacons Nat Park

R H & R W Clutton
RCAHM Scotland (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland)
RCAHM Wales (Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historic Monuments of Wales)
Record
Registers of Scotland
Roger Tym & Partners
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
RSW Geomatics Ltd
Scotsman Publications Ltd
Scottish and Southern Energy Plc
Scottish Executive
Scottish Natural Heritage
Severn Waste Services Ltd
Sheffield Wildlife Trust
Shetland Heat Energy & Power Ltd
SLR Consulting Ltd
Smiths Gore
Soft Teach Educational
South Hams District Council
South Holland Internal Drainage Brd
Southern Water
Sprunt Ltd
Staffordshire County Council
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Stanley Bragg Ptnrship
Stockeld Farms Ltd
Suffolk County Council
Surrey Police
Symonds Group Ltd
TACP Architects
TAG Farnborough Airport Ltd
Temple Cox Nicholls
The Bristol Port Company
The Community Housing Group
The Dunnottar Trust
The Highland Council
The Woodland Trust
Three Valleys Water
Thurrock Council
Tilhill Forestry Ltd
Tim Leon, Chartered Land Surveyor

TouchLondon
Treework Services Ltd
Turfrax Group Ltd
Urban Mines Ltd
WA Fairhurst & Ptnrs
WBB Minerals
Welsh Development Agency
West Sussex County Council
Wind Prospect Ltd
Wokingham DC
Y R M Ltd
Yorkshire Water