

# Public consultation on the withdrawal of Ordnance Survey Land-Line<sup>®</sup> large-scale dataset

## 1. Summary of our proposals

### 1.1 What is proposed?

Ordnance Survey has developed the OS MasterMap<sup>®</sup> product family to meet the growing needs of users of large-scale data and geographic information (GI). Since its launch in November 2001 it has been used across a diverse range of sectors and users to support a multitude of applications requiring access to detailed GI. Customer feedback confirms that the OS MasterMap Topography Layer product offers much greater benefits to the large-scale data user than its predecessor, Land-Line. Examples include the ability to select user-specified areas of data, easier mechanisms for customers to keep their data holdings up to date and enhanced integration with other Ordnance Survey datasets and user-created data. Our customers have reported that it is typically a more cost-effective solution to large-scale data needs as the user only needs to pay to license the actual data they need rather than to take entire tiles of data. OS MasterMap Topography Layer is generally an easier product for the non-expert user to use given its use of customer-friendly colour schemes to depict the data as polygons.

Ordnance Survey has stated in the past that it plans to withdraw certain large-scale data products and facilitate the migration of customers and partners to OS MasterMap. The decision to withdraw any data product is subject to a comprehensive review of individual product plans. In early 2005 a review of OSCAR<sup>®</sup> and Land-Line was carried out, and we have decided to progress our withdrawal plans for both products. In the case of OSCAR, we issued a Notice of Withdrawal on 1 April 2005, which set out a timeframe over the next two years for the withdrawal of the product.

For Land-Line, we have announced both our intention to withdraw the product and a period of formal consultation that will allow us better to assess the impact of withdrawal. The Land-Line product will not be withdrawn before 31 March 2008, in recognition of the need to allow our customers and partners sufficient time to complete their migration to OS MasterMap.

The withdrawal of the product means that Ordnance Survey will cease to license, sell, update, supply and support Land-Line by the date of withdrawal. Current users of Land-Line are being encouraged to migrate to the replacement product, OS MasterMap Topography Layer. It is recommended that all Land-Line users give timely consideration to their migration plans to ensure that they are not left without access to large-scale data once we have withdrawn Land-Line.

## Why are these changes necessary?

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, Ordnance Survey announced that it would be the replacement product for Land-Line. During the intervening four years many of our customers have migrated to OS MasterMap. The withdrawal of Land-Line will enable Ordnance Survey to focus our development resources on continuing to make OS MasterMap meet evolving customer and market needs.

## Who is affected?

All current users and any potential new users of Land-Line could be affected. These include:

- a) Customers currently using or planning to use Land-Line under an internal business use period licence.
- b) Partners incorporating Land-Line into their own commercial products and services under a specific use licence.
- c) The end-customer of such a partner product/service, which may well include members of the public gaining access; for example, through library services.

Please note that these types of usage are all available using the OS MasterMap product family.

## How should I respond?

We have provided a response form that you can fill in online at:

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/reports/>

Use of this form will help us analyse the answers to our key questions; but if you wish to provide your feedback as free text, then you are welcome to do so. Your response should reach us by the closing date **of 9 September 2005**.

Written responses should be addressed to:

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