Reducing the impact of positional accuracy improvement (PAI)

Data audit

Data audits examine the quality and completeness of the data and the metadata that should go with it. A data audit can reduce the amount of work that needs to be done under PAI by identifying the data that does and doesn't need to be edited after PAI. A sample data audit matrix is available to download on this site.

User audits

User audits examine the frequency, extent and importance of data to the users. They can reduce the amount of work that needs to be done under PAI by identifying data that is never used, rarely used or used in a manner that is unaffected by the positional accuracy of the data.

Prioritise

Are all the datasets used within the organisation? Especially if resources are in short supply, prioritising datasets will help maximise the efficient use of those resources that are available. Can you split datasets into :

- Those that have to be manually edited or transformed and quality assured thoroughly?
- Those that can be transformed and quality assured at a later date?
- Those that don't need transforming?
- Datasets that are never used/redundant/so out of date they are misleading anyway?

Global Positioning System (GPS)

Consider capturing data using GPS – keep one copy at the GPS accuracy and use an amended copy to match existing pre-PAI Land-Line® data. Switch to the more accurate original copy once PAI implementation is complete – the positional alignment will be much better. Use www.gps.gov.uk website to convert GPS coordinates to OSGB36® National Grid.

Sharing data

Do you share datasets with other organisations? Is there scope to share out the transformation task between you so that several users aren't all replicating the same work and you avoid ending up with several datasets of the same information that are inconsistent with each other.

Avoid duplication of effort

If you take data from a source, wait until the originating organisation has moved its data and get a new copy – no point in shifting it yourselves and duplicating effort!

Communicate with users

Whilst doing the implementation there is an increased need to communicate with users.

Restrict views on the geographical information system (GIS) so certain data can only be viewed at certain scales, to give you time to move datasets.