

POSITIONAL IMPROVEMENT: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LARGE-SCALE VECTOR CUSTOMERS

Dear Customer,

As a customer of our Large-scale Vector product, I am writing to inform you about:

1. Some planned changes to the data
2. The potential impact of the changes to customers
3. How Land & Property Services (LPS) will help customers minimise the impact of these changes.

Planned changes to the Large-scale Vector data

Currently we are embarking on a pilot programme to investigate the value of carrying out a Positional Improvement exercise for the Large-scale Vector database. Over the years the survey methods used to compile the database have continuously evolved as technologies have improved – this has resulted in positional inconsistencies within the data. Positional Improvement is about redressing these inconsistencies for the benefit of our customers.

In the first instance we are running a pilot that will focus on a number of sample tiles covering urban and rural areas. This reflects around 1.5% of the database.

The sample areas are listed below:

- Hollywood
- Fermanagh – Lisnaskea Area
- Fermanagh – Rosslea Area
- Ballywalter
- Whiteabbey

Specific tile information is available on request.

The Positionally Improved tiles will be contained within our Large-scale product and will be supplied to customers.

Potential impact of the changes to customers

We understand that significant changes to the Large-scale Vector product can impact on our customers (especially those who use the mapping within the sample area as a backdrop for their own data). The types of impact customers can anticipate, for data within the pilot area include:

- If you **overlay the Large-scale Vector product with your own data layer** you may notice a shift in the base data;
- If you have **digitised your data from paper plans** it is likely your data will no longer match up with the Large-scale mapping. For example, a utility company may have originally digitised an electric cable or water main along a footpath. After the pilot you may find that the line has shifted from the footpath to run under a house or into the road;
- If your **data has been collected by GPS** then you may already have noticed that your data does not match up with our base mapping. For instance a water main that you know runs along a footpath may not appear as expected. Following the pilot exercise you should find that your data is matching the base mapping more accurately.

Minimising the impact of the changes: Link File

As part of the pilot we are also developing a 'link file' to enable customers to move their data in line with the Positionally Improved mapping. Link files contain a series of local relationships or links which map the positional differences between the pre and post Positionally Improved detail. These relationships allow you to move your own assets in line with the Positional Improvement. We intend to make these link files available, to allow you to assess the impact of Positional Improvement on data you hold.

Timescale

The Positional Improvement pilot is likely to be completed by the end of April 2009, with the results loaded into the Large-scale database for user access.

It is our intention to provide customers with regular updates on progress.

If you do not wish to receive updates please email me on verity.douglas@osni.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Verity Douglas

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