

# Information paper

## Revision policy for basic-scale products

### Purpose

This paper outlines Ordnance Survey's policy for updating its large-scale products. The products directly affected by the revision policy are OS MasterMap® Topography Layer, Land-Line®, Superplan® and Siteplan™.

### Background

As the national mapping agency of Great Britain, Ordnance Survey maintains around 234 000 km<sup>2</sup> of topographic information, ranging from dense urban conurbations to mountain and moorland areas. In order that our customers benefit from the most up-to-date mapping, it is essential that we regularly update our data.

We constantly strive to improve the quality, accuracy and content of our products even further. We value the feedback that we receive from formal market research, customer seminars and directly through our account managers. We welcome input and comment on revision policy and any other aspect of our activities.

### Details of the policy

Revision activity is split into two processes: continuous revision and cyclic revision.

**Continuous revision** is undertaken for those features of most importance to the majority of customers – mainly urban developments – or where capture is in the national interest. We aim to capture these features within six months of building being completed on the ground.

**Cyclic revision** is undertaken periodically for changes to the natural environment, which tend to be slower and less evident than additions to the built environment. This information is of use to many customers, with certain areas surveyed purely in the national interest. Capture can be most economically achieved using systematic revision at fixed intervals, typically through aerial photography.

Under the current revision policy, our priorities when capturing new detail are based on the following categories. They entirely supersede the categories applied to the previous revision programme.

### **Category A – Change captured as part of a continuous revision process within six months of completion.**

This includes those features of significant business benefit to customers where information about change is essential. All change within category A will be captured within six months after the completion of construction and includes:

- housing and associated features, including demolition but excluding extensions to private dwellings (isolated houses are currently exempt but Ordnance Survey will capture within three months if notified by a customer);
- commercial, industrial, community and public sector buildings and associated features, including extensions to existing buildings greater than 0.25 ha and any demolitions;
- communications networks (roads – including carriageway alterations due to traffic-calming schemes – railways, airports, transmission lines and so on) and associated features, including demolition;
- distinctive names associated with the above;
- major coastal and non-coastal defences designed to reduce the risk of flooding;
- property boundary fences forming part of major refurbishment programmes and which make a significant impact on map data; and
- permanent mobile or park homes with postal addresses.

### **Category B – Change captured as part of a cyclic revision process known as *national sweep***

This will include features of important business benefit to customers, but of a lower priority than the elements included in category A. All detail within this category will be captured as part of a national sweep programme. The current target for completion of the national sweep is five years in rural areas and ten years in moorland areas and includes:

- agricultural and horticultural buildings;
- quarries and other surface workings;
- field boundaries;
- water features (ponds, lakes and similar, rivers, canals, landing stages and jetties);
- forestry and other vegetation;
- tracks and paths;
- extensions to commercial, industrial, community and public sector buildings less than 0.25 ha in extent;
- apparent property boundary features not in category A, that is those erected since the initial development and not part of refurbishment programmes;
- mean high and low water when affected by change to other features in category A and B; and
- significant changes to tidelines – when evident either from photography used in the national sweep programme or when highlighted by a customer – will be incorporated into our data within twelve months.

**Category C – This will include features that currently have a low business benefit for customers**

These features will remain within the National Geographic Database specification and will therefore continue to be visible to customers, but changes will not be captured. Changes to the following detail will be captured as necessary to complete any revision of categories A and B:

- extensions to existing private residential buildings;
- private garages;
- street furniture such as guideposts, milestones and water taps; and
- archaeological information\*.

\* We are actively investigating ways of updating archaeological features in consultation with the relevant bodies.

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