

## A07.1

## Looking at census output for the wider issue of neighbourhood statistics

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### Synopsis

The availability of GIS methods and Ordnance Survey information in a digital form enabled new collection and output geographies - described to previous AGI conferences - to be developed for the 2001 Census with the entire database geo-referenced for flexible use. New agreements will allow geography to be delivered with statistics free at the point of use via the Web and other media.

The output geography will be used from 2003 to provide the basic small areas with around 125 households for Neighbourhood Statistics, and a programme has been initiated to tackle the issues of maintenance, change and links to other geographical bases. The methods first applied in the Census for automatic zoning may also be used to build the basic units into better intermediate areas for statistical purposes.

The presentation will include a brief resume of the innovation brought about by the Census, describe what will be available from the Census and the opportunities for the GI community, and provide up to the minute information on developments in wider use.

### The author

Chris Denham is head of Census Output and Geography at the Office for National Statistics. He is a geographer by training and has been involved in five censuses of population. His role has always been one of innovation and improvement in the Census and associated data sources, and he believes that the 2001 Census marks some major steps forward. He runs the project which has ensured that the main output will be free at the point of use with conditions which encourage joined up applications, with access through the Neighbourhood Statistics Website as an option. He particularly looks forward to seeing the use of a fully modernised geographical base for output which is a culmination of first moves towards GIS over three decades ago.