

B05.2

Drawing the boundaries

Ian Bush, Technical Director Information Group, Binnie Black & Veatch

Synopsis

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2002, the Countryside Agency has several new duties and powers including:

- duty to map registered common land and open country in England,
- duty to operate a closures and restrictions regime,
- duty to provide information to users and land managers

The presentation at the AGI Conference 2002 will describe the mapping and consultation process and how varied GIS technologies and spatial datasets are supporting and facilitating this project. We believe it is the first time in England that GIS technologies have been used to deliver national mapping over the web for the purpose of statutory public consultation and on-line comment. It is the first real and extensive use of the new Ordnance Survey MasterMap product. During a recent 3 month consultation period on the draft maps for the first two mapping areas the website received 6 million hits, had more than 75,000 visitors and generated over 3 million unique map images.

The work also involves the development of a system to monitor and manage discretionary and long-term restrictions/closures on the access land and the provision of this information to the public. It will look forward to the parallel feasibility work being carried out on the development of a National Countryside Access Database (NCAD). The NCAD will be the vehicle through which real-time information about access opportunities in the countryside, which is currently held in a variety of formats and databases, will be brought together and delivered to the public electronically.

bushi@bv.com