

# A COORDINATED AGENDA FOR MARINE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS SCIENCE (CAMERAS) (2011-2016)

Ordnance Survey  
C335  
Romsey Road  
Southampton  
SO16 4GU

## 1. Background

Ordnance Survey is the national mapping agency of Great Britain. Our staff record a wide range of location based information and maintain the definitive geographic framework of Great Britain. Ordnance Survey geographic information and mapping data is readily available to Scottish Central and Local Government organisations and Non-Departmental Public Bodies under long-established supply and maintenance agreements. The same information is also widely used in academic and private organisations throughout Scotland.

Ordnance Survey data, which includes highly detailed topography, imagery, height, routing and address information, is provided in digital form which enables it to be integrated, interpreted and analysed alongside other information that has a location element. All the many examples of policy, research and delivery mentioned within the CAMERAS Consultation document contain a location element.

Ordnance Survey's digital database of the surface of Britain is known as the National Geographic Database (NGD). It is from this database that the OS MasterMap<sup>®</sup> product portfolio is produced and, from which, all of our other mapping and digital products and services are derived. The NGD is kept up to date on a daily basis with up to 5,000 changes being added to the database each day. Scottish government users have access to updated data on demand. This up-to-date geographic information constitutes a valuable resource for Scotland.

## 2. Responses

### **6. What facilities, resources and data do you think are important for Scotland to maintain?**

It is essential that the Scottish Government continues to maintain a coherent and up-to-date geographic information base that is readily available to government bodies throughout Scotland.

Ordnance Survey data is an enabler for integration, interpretation and analysis across a wide range of government and private sector data. This fact

is well recognised in Scotland and the 'One Scotland – One Geography' strategy document, published by the Scottish Government in November 2005, illustrates the potential benefits of maintaining a Scotland-wide framework of geographic information in all forms.

The clear themes of:

- cross-cutting;
- holistic approaches;
- integrated evidence;
- shared data;
- planning and forecasting;
- coherent policy making and delivery across inter-related initiatives; and
- the establishment of centres of excellence for Scotland

highlighted regularly throughout the consultation document can be achieved most effectively through shared information systems and a greater understanding of what data and information is being maintained and collected throughout Scotland.

The consultation document notes, for example, that Scotland is well placed and committed to meet a greater proportion of its energy requirements from renewable sources. However, as the document duly points out, bottlenecks and environmental trade offs associated with delivering this objective need to be recognised. The combination of accurate geographical data with other relevant datasets is vital to the identification, analysis and understanding of these environmental trade offs.

Ordnance Survey believes that the work being led by the Scottish Geography Steering Group (SGSG), comprising key policy makers from Central and Local Government, is highly relevant to the aims of CAMERAS and, as such, recommends that CAMERAS policy makers engage with SGSG if they have not already done so.

The implementation of a spatial data infrastructure that enables easy access to relevant geographic and scientific information in a form that can be shared, integrated and analysed throughout Scotland will provide benefits to a wide range of Scottish policies, including those outlined in CAMERAS.

## **7. Are there other resources that Scotland needs to acquire to support future policy development?**

Ordnance Survey recommends that the Scottish Government continue to monitor developments in geographic based information and consider partnerships with public and private sector bodies to ensure access to relevant datasets and analysis technologies.

## **3. Further information and contact details**

Ordnance Survey would be happy to discuss further the points made in our response if required.

The contact for this response is:

**Jevon Snell**  
Public Affairs  
Corporate Office (C335)  
Ordnance Survey  
Romsey Road  
Southampton  
SO16 4GU

Tel: 023 8030 5120

E-mail: [jevon.snell@ordnancesurvey.co.uk](mailto:jevon.snell@ordnancesurvey.co.uk)