

Ordnance Survey: Bridging Geospatial Disciplines for Evidence-Based Policy

Andy Wilson, Catrin Ridyard and James Norris (United Kingdom)

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SUMMARY

As the demand for spatially-informed policy continues to grow, the disciplines of surveying, mapping, and geospatial science must converge to deliver coherent, accessible, and actionable insights. This paper, aligned with the objectives of FIG Commission 3, explores how Ordnance Survey uses integrated spatial information management to help end users support evidence-based decision-making through simplified, stakeholder-friendly narratives.

Despite advances in data collection and analysis, a persistent gap remains between technical outputs and their practical application in policy contexts. The paper argues that bridging this gap requires not only interoperability across geospatial systems but also a shift in communication—translating complex spatial data into basic language and intuitive formats that resonate with non-technical audiences.

Using real-world examples, the paper will demonstrate how collaborative frameworks and user outcome driven approaches can enhance the usability of spatial information. It highlights the importance of aligning geospatial outputs with Government policy ambitions, ensuring that data is not only available but also relevant and understandable at the point of decision by end users.

By fostering stronger links between geospatial disciplines and embracing inclusive communication strategies, the surveying and mapping community can play a pivotal role in shaping transparent, evidence-based policies. This approach supports the broader goals of Commission 3: improving data governance, enhancing interoperability, and promoting the societal value of spatial information.