



UK Government

# The Geospatial Commission: Unlocking the Power of Location Data

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# About the Geospatial Commission

- Lead UK geospatial policy
- Set and deliver the national geospatial strategy in partnership with others
- Hold the budget for provision of core geospatial data to the public sector



Geospatial  
Commission



# About the Geospatial Commission

- Geospatial Commission Charter
- Board of Commissioners
- Oversight across a range of UK departments
- Formal links with six key geospatial agencies



Geospatial  
Commission



# Partner organisations

## Geospatial Commission's Geo6 Partner Bodies:

1. Ordnance Survey
2. UK Hydrographic Office
3. British Geological Survey
4. HM Land Registry
5. Valuation Office Agency
6. Coal Authority

## Other important UK public sector agencies:

- Meteorological Office (Met Office)
- Office for National Statistics
- UK Space Agency
- Environment Agency
- Innovation organisations
- Other governmental departments
- Devolved Administrations



# UK's Geospatial Strategy



Mission 1 Promote and safeguard the use of location data



Mission 2 Improve access to better location data



Mission 3 Enhance capabilities, skills and awareness



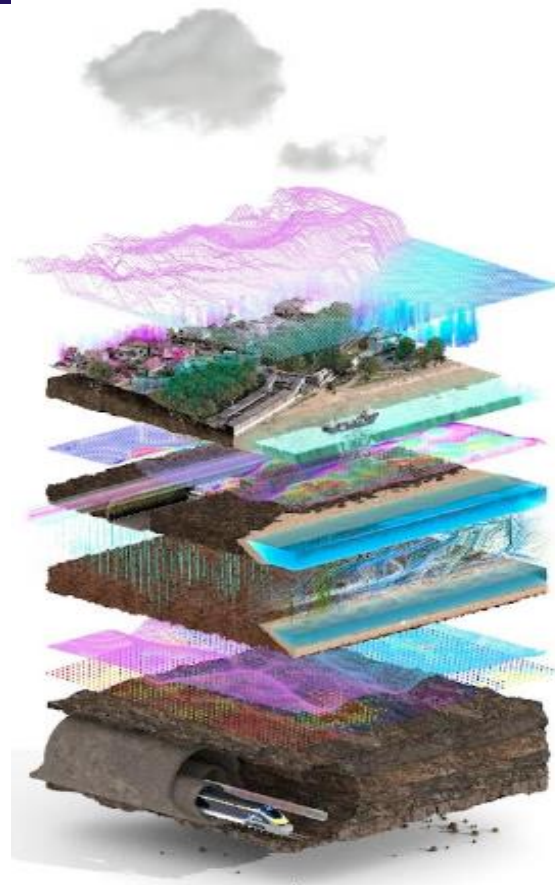
Mission 4 Enable innovation

Unlocking  
the power  
of location.



# Nine location data opportunities

1. Infrastructure
2. Transport
3. Housing
4. Environment
5. Public health
6. Emergency response
7. Ocean economy
8. Retail
9. Finance





# Location data is taking centre stage in UK's policy agenda on economic growth, environmental sustainability and social opportunity

## Key priority areas:

- **Economic growth across the UK** - equalising opportunity via spatial economics and targeted policies
- **Net Zero** - location data underpinning system-wide change to land and asset management for a sustainable future
- **Science and technology** - with data at its heart





# Geospatial Commission commitments for 2022/23

- **Continuing to rollout the National Underground Assets Register**
- **Piloting public sector access to commercial satellite data**
- **Exploring sector-specific data upgrades** in transport and property
- **Progressing the new National Land Use Data Programme**, to make the case for how spatial modelling can lead to better, joined-up strategic decisions on land use
- **Advising on location data ethics**, the building blocks for good governance of location data use, to maximise public trust and confidence
- **Making the investment case** for geospatial data transformation







# The case for: underground asset data

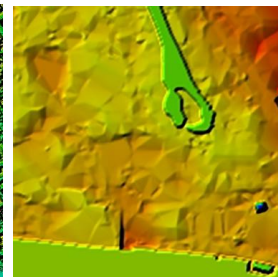
- Four million kilometres of buried pipes and cables in the UK
- Information held separately by over 650 organisations in varying formats, scales and degrees of quality
- Monumental task for data owners and planners and excavators to work efficiently and safely
- **We are building a new digital map of the underground, enabling efficient asset management and future infrastructure - worth £345 million per year to the UK economy**





# The case for: public sector access to commercial satellite data

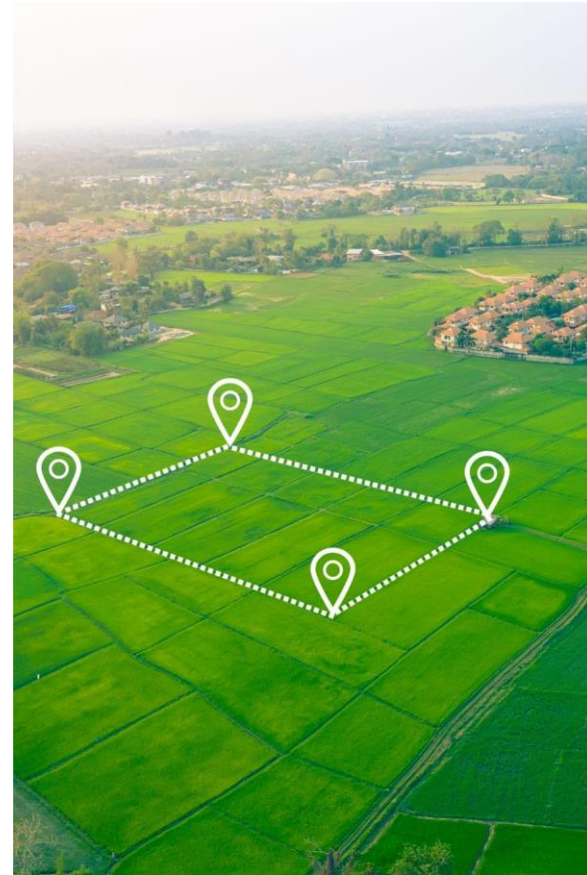
- Earth observation/remote sensed data platforms are used extensively by the UK public sector
- Approximately 2,000 organisations currently access aerial photography products via the Aerial Photography GB agreement
- Collaborative research identified key barriers to full uptake of open and commercial data
- **A collective access model for EO has the potential to unlock significant additional value in the supply market, provide access to a broader range of data and share knowledge and insight throughout the public sector**





# The case for: land use data

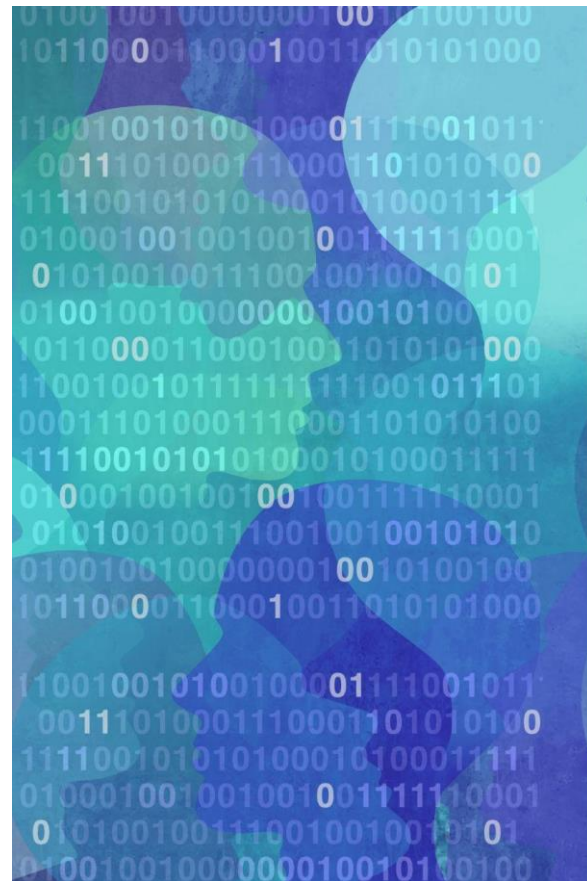
- Land is worth £5.4 trillion in the UK, but faces competing demands and multiple government targets
- No overarching strategy to reconcile trade-offs for land use change
- Change requires systems-based policy development - geographically targeted with appropriate local governance and delivery structures, considering interacting social, economic, and demographic factors
- **We are making the case for the centrality of location data, including an advanced spatial modelling capability to assess and model future land use scenarios**





# Location data ethics

- Ethical use of data is of wide interest; multiple policies, regulations and conversations
- Ethical use of location data is a key consideration - ubiquity and linking
- Aim is to keep ahead of the public narrative, maintaining public trust
- We've conducted a public dialogue and surveyed attitudes to location data use with our view in a **policy paper published in June 2022 outlining three ethical foundations:**
  - **Accountability**
  - **Bias**
  - **Clarity**





# Geospatial Commission

You can find out more about our work at:



[gov.uk/government/organisations/geospatial-commission](https://gov.uk/government/organisations/geospatial-commission)



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