



GeODC Helps Surrey Heath Borough Council Improve Accuracy of Planning Records

Surrey Heath Borough Council has awarded a contract to data capture and conversion specialist GeODC to improve the accuracy of essential council information. Following a national programme to improve the accuracy of Ordnance Survey mapping, Surrey Heath was faced with the challenge of updating over 18,000 planning application boundaries. GeODC, having successfully completed a pilot project, was awarded the contract based on their technical solution, their extensive quality control and track record.

As a result of the Ordnance Survey (OS) Positional Accuracy Improvement Programme (PAI) an estimated 70% of Surrey Heath's base mapping was affected, this in turn impacted on approximately 40% of council generated information. Historical planning applications form an essential record of development and change within the borough and are frequently used by the public, interested third parties and the council. On completion of the OS PAI in excess of 18,000 planning application boundaries no longer corresponded to the underlying base mapping.

"Planning application boundaries are very complicated," said James Rutter, GIS Manager at Surrey Heath Borough Council. "They frequently bear little, if any, correspondence to the underlying base mapping. In addition, as a result of the OS PAI programme not only were real world features on the map base moved, in some instances the feature was actually changed."

GeODC worked closely with Surrey Heath in order to ensure the mapping improvement project exactly met the Council's specific requirements. Using MapRite, the market leading PAI software from TENET Technology, GeODC completed the pilot project delivering two sets of data. The first was created using MapRite's standard configuration; a sophisticated rule driven algorithm which determines the most appropriate solution for each object when considered in relation to the post PAI mapping. The second dataset was processed using a customised configuration that was tailored to match the Council's specific business rules.

"Prior to awarding this contract we evaluated a number of solutions," continued Rutter. "Based on recommendations from other Councils and our own benchmarking we decided that it was important that our chosen contractor could work with the MapRite software, had the expertise to understand our specific requirements and the experience to deliver accurate data to agreed timescales. GeODC came out head and shoulders above the rest."

In addition to the customisation of the standard MapRite configuration GeODC also provided an extensive quality assurance and control process. Each record, once processed using the customised MapRite configuration, was allocated a confidence metric; a level used to highlight records that require manual intervention or specialist interpretation. Further quality assurance processes ensured both the consistency and accuracy of the resulting data.

Additional Notes:

About Surrey Heath

Surrey Heath is one of the most prosperous areas in the country with higher than average household income and low unemployment. Based in the market town of Camberley, Surrey Heath covers 36.5 square miles in northwest Surrey with mixed urban and rural landscape.

About OS PAI

The OS PAI programme, which predominantly affected rural areas, was developed to enable the capture of 1:2500 scale mapping to a greater absolute accuracy. Improving the accuracy of the position of map features in relation to the OS National Grid, this programme has also improved the relationship between OS mapping and data positioned using GPS.

About GeODC

GeODC is a specialist data capture and conversion company providing a range of services for the GIS and Local Government market. The company is a partnership between Oxford Data Capture Ltd and Genesys International Corporation combining Oxford Data Capture's flexible data capture, conversion and consultancy projects with the global data generation, manipulation, management and maintenance facilities of Genesys. GeODC have more than 25 years experience delivering data solutions to both public and private sector organisations.