



One voice for sport and recreation

GI Consultation Communities and Local Government
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Policy options for geographic information from Ordnance Survey: Consultation

CCPR Response

CCPR is the national alliance of governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation. Our 314 members represent 150,000 clubs across the UK and some 8 million regular participants. CCPR exists to promote the role of sport and recreation in healthy and active lifestyles, to encourage a policy and regulatory environment in which sport from grassroots through to elite level can flourish, and to provide high quality services to help its members to continually improve and progress.

In the context of this consultation, CCPR represents the organisations working in the broad sectors of outdoor pursuits and water recreation; the bodies who are most affected by the business strategy of Ordnance Survey. These governing and representative bodies include the Ramblers, the British Mountaineering Council, the Long Distance Walkers Association, the British Canoe Union, the River and Lake Swimming Association and the British Balloon and Airship Club.

CCPR welcomes the Government's commitment to addressing this issue which is of great importance to many of its members. The current requirement to pay for the use and re-use of mapping data impacts upon the ability of small charities and community groups to campaign and promote local access to land, water and air for sporting and recreational use. The availability of accurate access information is a key tool in the work to increase participation.

1. What are your views and comments on the policy drivers for this consultation?

Making Public Data Public:

The national governing bodies of sport and recreation are best placed to promote their sport and increase public participation. Public information which could help them and their clubs increase participation and campaign for better provision in a more cost effective way should be made public.

Location:

Information related to location is vital for all sporting and recreational pursuits, particularly those that are not restricted to a defined playing area. CCPR's statement on sustainable access to land, air and water recognises that easily available, accurate and up to date information is vital for participants in sport and recreation to know what areas they can use

and when. The importance of accurate information relates not only to physical features but also to access features including rights of way and access land.

The Government has set an ambitious target of getting 2 million people more active by 2012, for which the Department of Health and Department for Culture, Media and Sport are jointly responsible. Whilst this target relates to the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the activities included are not restricted to sport. These proposals could therefore play a key role in achieving this target by facilitating participation in a range of outdoor activities.

5. What are your views on and comments on the products under consideration for release for free re-use and the rationale for their inclusion?

Sporting and recreational organisations would for the most part be using this for community projects. National charities and NGBs may also use this data for national projects with the aim of increasing participation in their specific recreational pursuit or to help achieve a publically beneficial campaign. Large scale mapping (1:25000 and 1:50000) is vital for many sporting and recreational pursuits as it is the only mapping which has enough detail to allow accurate navigation in challenging environments and the only mapping which shows non-physical access provision such as rights of way and access land.

6. How much do you think the government should commit to funding the free product set?

It is vital that adequate funding is provided to maintain accurate mapping data. While you should never totally rely on a map when navigating in a challenging environment it is a significant tool. Inaccurate mapping data may increase the risk of accidents occurring. Even in non challenging environments accuracy is important, for example a right of way mapped in error may result in unintended trespass which could lead to unnecessary conflict.

7. What are your views on how the data should be delivered?

The data should be easily accessible to organisations with limited technological and human resources. The vast majority of people working for charities and community clubs are volunteers with limited time and resources. Simple, free and commonly used applications should be chosen to make the data as easily accessible as possible.

CCPR welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation, and would be happy to follow up on any issues that arise from this response.

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