



Britain's most trodden paths?

The Lake District tops a league table of Britain's favourite outdoor routes. The new league tables are compiled from 10 years of routing data from Ordnance Survey's (OS) digital outdoor products. The analysis of over half a million routes reveals just how highly revered the Lake District is. Eighteen of the top twenty most popular places to create a route fall in the heart of the Lake District National Park, close to popular tourist locations Keswick, Ambleside, Grasmere, Helvellyn and Scafell Pike. The other two top twenty places are in Snowdonia and Yorkshire Dales. OS has also produced a league table of the most popular towns and cities where people like to create routes. Again the Lake District prevails with Keswick and Ambleside topping the table. www.os.uk

Arun District Council grasps opportunities by migrating to Cadcorp GIS

A district council in West Sussex is using GIS and web mapping technology from Cadcorp, to power a range of internal and public-facing geospatial applications. When Arun District Council (ADC) was informed by its software supplier that the internet and intranet GIS products it was using were nearing end-of-life and would no longer be supported, the Council went to the market to find replacements. Following an open and competitive tendering process, ADC chose to deploy GIS technology from Cadcorp. Today that technology is being used throughout Arun. Peter Marsh, Systems Development Manager at ADC said: "The procurement exercise was initiated by the pressing need to replace both internal and public-facing web GIS products and Cadcorp meets all of these requirements." www.cadcorp.com

Esri UK Volunteers Clean up Local Canal

Ten employees from Esri UK have spent a day working with the charity, the Canal & River Trust, as part of a project to spruce up the Grand Union Canal. In the last twelve months, more than 40 Esri UK staff have been involved with various tasks to help improve the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal. In their latest outing, the team has been busy repainting a footbridge which crosses the canal and filling sandbags which, once in place, will be used to help protect the canal bank from water erosion. Richard Parry, Canal & River Trust chief executive, said: "The volunteers have been doing a fantastic job in helping us to look at this stretch and they should be proud of their efforts." www.esriuk.com



Ctrack Launches Executive Dashboard

Ctrack, has launched an Executive Dashboard to enable users of its advanced vehicle tracking solutions to access business critical summary data in easy to understand charts and tables. As a result, fleet operators will now be able to gain added operational insight and business intelligence through their telematics system, identifying trends and underlining route causes within seconds. This sophisticated and easy-to-use tool enables users to monitor key performance metrics such as driver behaviour, fuel efficiency, fleet utilisation and productivity in a single view. The Executive Dashboard has been designed to support small fleets as well the largest enterprises with the capability to display whole fleet data with drill down through division, region or branch to individual vehicle or driver. www.ctrack.co.uk



Peter Fitzgibbon,
Editor

Flawed intelligence

If the report of the Chilcot Inquiry' castigates the intelligence service for its reliance on flawed human intelligence, it rather sidesteps what flawed IMINT or image intelligence was used to justify the claim that Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction posed "a real and present threat" to world peace. Even so, it's worth noting the testimony given by Carne Ross, who was First Secretary responsible for the Middle East at the UK Mission to the United Nations: 'Aerial or satellite surveillance was unable to get under the roofs of Iraqi facilities. We therefore had to rely on inherently unreliable human sources (who, for obvious reasons, were prone to exaggerate).'

What we can say is that remotely sensed imagery purporting to reveal the threat was published in the media in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. It rather begs the question: was the media equally gullible in reproducing this imagery – and the accompanying analyses – at face value?

It was something we questioned in our March 2003 issue following Colin Powell's presentation of satellite imagery to the UN. Having sought the opinion of acknowledged remote sensing expert Bhupendra Jasani of King's College London, it was, we argued, open to wide interpretation. "The evidence so far presented, coupled with mixed findings from the UN weapons inspectors in Iraq, is sufficient for many in 'Old Europe' to remain sceptical and to fear the repercussions of rushing (or being pushed) into further conflict in the Middle East." Our conclusion: "More hard evidence is needed to overcome the torrent of rhetoric, half-truths and transatlantic sniping that simply fuels public disquiet."

Two months later, as Iraqis tasted the first fruits of 'freedom', we put pen to paper once more, noting the silence of the geospatial community on the issue – with a notable exception. A resolution adopted in March by the Association of American Geographers suggested, 'A pre-emptive attack by the United States in Iraq without the backing of the international community could undermine global stability, heighten tensions in South West Asia and the Middle East, precipitate a humanitarian and environmental crisis in Iraq, and undermine US efforts to combat international terrorism.' Prophetic?

1. <http://www.iraqinquiry.org.uk/the-report/>



NM Group Expand Geographic Reach - Winning First Major Project In Norway

NM Group has announced they have been awarded a significant survey project with Norwegian grid operator Statnett. The project is to acquire around 1,100 km of HV transmission data situated along the Western Norway. NM Group will produce a 3D model of the grid to determine conductor clearance and new engineering projects. Additionally they will provide high resolution imagery and 2D topographic mapping in order to update Statnett's ESRI geodatabase. Greg Lewis, Senior Project Manager commented "We look forward to working with Statnett on this important new contract. We are very confident that we have the expertise and long experience required to deliver an excellent solution that will improve safety and increase reliability for our client". www.nmgroup.com

GGP Systems partners with Bramble Hub.

GGP Systems Ltd (GGP) announced that in partnership with Bramble Hub, it has officially joined the Crown Commercial Service Local Authority Software Agreement Framework - LASA (RM1059). Thanks to Bramble Hub acting as prime contractor, GGP has become an approved subcontractor/supplier to Local Government via RM1059. This is another step forward for GGP as it continues to extend its offerings within the public sector. In order to be accepted on to the LASA RM1059 Framework and be available for use by Local Government, the GGP solutions were submitted for approval against a strict set of evaluation criteria and assurance checks. As well as a leading supplier of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), GGP is also a major provider of systems for managing centralised address datasets. www.ggpsystems.co.uk

EARTH-i and what3words keep an eye on the Farnborough International Airshow from above

EARTH-i joined forces with what3words to provide the organisers of the Farnborough International Airshow with an up-to-date map of the entire area, for use during the show. With a simple three-word address of every 3m x 3m square of the airfield and exhibition site, this can then be used to manage logistics, visitor direction and emergency response efforts. This means the Farnborough operations team can react efficiently to situations that arise, knowing exactly where everything and everyone is. So a team member in the field can simply say "I need backup at friday.visit.look" and others can navigate there easily, while the team in HQ can see exactly where this location is, using the image of the site overlaid with what3words. www.earth.space www.what3words.com



Airwave strikes gold with two RoSPA health and safety awards

Airwave received two gold awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) at a ceremony at ExCel London on 21 June 2016. Airwave achieved the Gold award for overall health and safety performance for the third year in a row as well as a second consecutive Gold Award for Fleet Safety in the annual scheme. Richard Bobbett, CEO of Airwave, said: "We are delighted that RoSPA has once again recognised Airwave for our ongoing commitment to maintaining outstanding health and safety in the working environment and on the road. Airwave's employees operate in some of the country's most remote and challenging locations to maintain the Airwave Network, which delivers 99% coverage across the landmass of Great Britain." www.airwavesolutions.co.uk



Scottish road safety inspections to get geo-referencing technology boost

Exeter-based RouteShoot Limited has secured a new 12-month contract to deliver GPS and video capturing software for road safety inspections in Scotland, a contract that will see them collect 372,000km of video footage – the equivalent of a trip to the moon. RouteShoot has secured this major new contract from Performance Audit Group in Glasgow thanks to the RouteShoot's extensive knowledge and expertise of GPS and video capturing via smart phones or tablets. The contract will see RouteShoot providing a cloud-hosted video and mapping content management system for safety patrols and route inspections to PAGplus, who deliver detailed road audits and monitoring on behalf of Transport Scotland to monitor contractor performance. All inspection and surveying activities will be recorded using RouteShoot's video platform. www.RouteShoot.com.

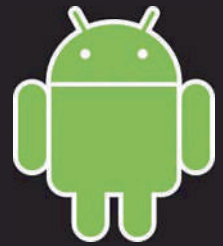
Eircode data and services now available from Europa Technologies

Europa Technologies is pleased to announce that it has been appointed as an official Eircode Provider and can now supply a full range of Eircode data and services. This strategic relationship will extend Europa Technologies' seamless addressing capabilities to the whole of the United Kingdom and Ireland. Eircode is Ireland's postcode system, launched in July 2015. It enables people and businesses to find every address in Ireland. As an official Eircode Provider, Europa Technologies is able to supply either of the two data Eircode products: ECAF (Eircode Address File) is the base reference data containing all 2.2 million address points and ECAD (Eircode Address Database) incorporating ECAF, contains additional data for each address such as alias address information, geo-coordinates and other data. www.europa.uk.com

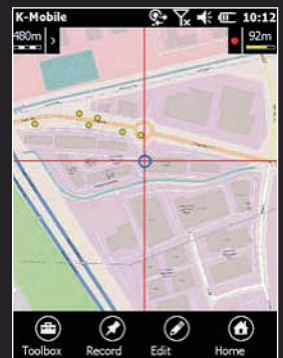
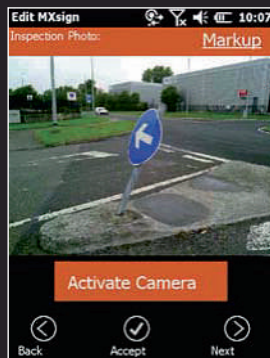
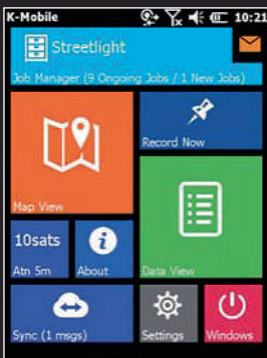
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