



**ROB BUCKLEY**

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## FACING REALITY

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALREADY HERE AND WE ARE ALREADY HAVING TO DEAL WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES. BUT WE ALSO HAVE TO DO MORE TO AVOID REACHING THE POINT OF NO RETURN FOR THE EARTH**

Over the past nine years that I've been editing *GeoConnexion International*, the number of articles that we've published about climate change has increased. Partly, that's down to awareness. As well as the various political discussions between countries around the world, there have been grass roots movements and demonstrations bringing the need for action on climate change into the spotlight.

But I think there's another factor at play, too: the simple fact that we're already having to deal with the impact of an already changing climate. From an increase in the number of natural disasters through the pressures on resources to changes in not just the way we live but to *where* we live, climate change is already transforming people's lives around the globe. Sometimes in unexpected ways.

On page 34 of this issue, Mary Jo Wagner speaks

to the California Department of Water Resources in the US to find out how climate change is resulting in surface subsidence – and how the department is addressing the issue. Also in this issue, on page 38, David Viner, Alasdair Smith and David Gold consider how geospatial data can help to optimise land use and mitigate climate change risk.

However, we need to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a world in which we emit a net zero amount (and perhaps even a negative amount, one day). Here, again, geospatial technologies and information will play an integral part. On page 18, we have a special supplement looking at just some of the approaches being adopted and developed to stop our planet becoming uninhabitable.

I hope you enjoy the issue.



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## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PLACES

**THIS YEAR'S EVER-POPULAR GEOPLACE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTED THE VALUE OF ADDRESS DATA IN SUPPORTING THE NATION'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELLBEING**

Organised as a virtual event and livestreamed to a 1,000-strong audience, the annual gathering of those involved in matching people to addressable places convened over two days in May.

A key talking point was the impact of Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) on driving efficiencies and service improvements in local government. That impact has grown since 2020 when their use was mandated as the public sector standard for referencing and sharing land and property information. The benefits of these unique identifiers were spelt out in a paper<sup>1</sup> published last year by GeoPlace (a partnership between the Local Government Association and Ordnance Survey (OS).

A growing number of businesses, not least in the residential property sector, are now eager to take advantage of those benefits and the challenge is to make UPRNs more accessible, useable and, above all, affordable. For while

their personal use is free via the GeoPlace FindMyAddress portal, their commercial use and sharing with third parties is currently prohibited without an AddressBase licence from OS.

Even so, real estate company Zoopla has embarked on migrating from its own property ID codes to UPRNs via an AddressBase Premium licence. Antje Bustamante, its Director of Data & Analytics, says the benefits of being able to access accurate address data are significant, with an increase in the quality of leads, faster conveyancing and a reduction in fall-throughs.

But with an AddressBase Premium licence ranging from £15,625 for a single-seat to £125,000 for unlimited seats<sup>2</sup>, one wonders how many businesses will be encouraged to follow Zoopla's lead.

1. <https://static.geoplace.co.uk/downloads/Addressing-the-UK.pdf>  
2. 2020 figures

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