

## Invest to Save Budget Final Report

### 1 Project Details

<i>Project Number</i>	23
<i>Project Name</i>	National Geospatial Data Framework Project

### 2 Management, Key Milestones & Spend

<i>Milestone</i>	<i>Projected Date</i>	<i>Projected Spend (as detailed in progress report 24/05/00)</i>		<i>Final Spend</i>		<i>Reasons for deviation</i>
		<i>Current</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Capital</i>	
<b>Project 1 – Improving knowledge about what data exists</b>						
Project Management	March 2000	£102,178		£102,667		
NGDF Gateway	March 2000	£74,128		£73,205		Marginal deviation because of the cost of software, for instance: to enable the NGDF to monitor usage of the site and to build the interface to enable data custodians to submit their data remotely cost less than expected.
Creation of the metadata and related services	March 2000	£0		£0		This is self financing as the records are input directly by the data custodian
<b>Total</b>		<b>£176,307</b>		<b>£175,872</b>		
<b>Project 2 – Enabling easier integration of datasets</b>						
Project Management	October 2000	£4,800		£0		NGDF Central management Team managed the project as part of their duties – no external Project Management was procured
Develop	October	£63,200		£76,030		This deviation is due to two

Milestone	Projected Date	Projected Spend (as detailed in progress report 24/05/00)		Final Spend		Reasons for deviation
		Current	Capital	Current	Capital	
Establish the UK Gazetteer of consistent datasets	October 2000	£130,000		£50,482		This is the single area of the project that did not deliver the required result; the conflicting business imperatives of participating public bodies could not be accommodated during this phase of the project – this may have been achieved if the budget had been set at the level required in the original bid (see Section 3 – Funding Requirement). The project did however provide a set table describing all the types of administrative, voting, census and postal areas and a comprehensive description for each one. It also has provided a comprehensive best practice guide that sets out: the Geographic Base Characteristics, Definitive Base Geography Products and Best Practice for using Base Geography. Finally a UKSGB Business Plan and Architecture Specification has been produced to inform subsequent developments.
Establish the UKSGB as a British Standard	March 2001	£4,000		£2,552		Modest deviation because less effort was required to get the British Standard to a form for public consultation (its current status). The British Standards Institute committee for geographic information will complete the process.
Total		£202,002		£129,064		
<b>Promotion of Metadata and UKSGB Gateways</b>						

### 3 Monitoring Progress

<i>Where project is ahead of schedule, outline briefly any factors that helped to achieve this</i>
Not applicable
<i>If slippage has occurred, outline the main problems experienced and any action taken to lessen their impact</i>
There was no significant slippage during this period
<i>What steps will be taken to avoid similar problems in the future</i>
Not applicable
<i>Please add any general comments you would like to make on progress so far, which have not been addressed above</i>
<p><b>Comment on the general outcomes of the Invest to Save programme.</b></p> <p>The development of the askGiraffe geographic information services (see annex A and access through <a href="http://www.askgiraffe.org.uk/">http://www.askgiraffe.org.uk/</a>), supported by best practice guidelines and a substantial awareness raising campaign has succeeded in moving forward substantially the objectives of NGDF. It has laid an infrastructure that enables geographic information holders in the public and private sectors to declare geographic information that they hold and the potential to increase the use of that data. It also gives users a single point of access to find out what geographic information data exists and a simple way of contacting the data holder. Finally, it offers access to key geographic information that identifies the name, code and extent of geographic units used in administrative, voting, postal and census activity in the UK.</p> <p>Much more could have been achieved if the minimum funding required of £1,125,500 was given. The project to date has failed to deliver a means to transpose properly information held in one geographic unit (e.g. the postcode) to another (e.g. the District Ward). The emerging British Standard will help set the methods for such a scheme, but a commercial arrangement with key data holders will need to be established for it to be implemented. Funds will have to be found to enable this.</p>

**Comment on the outcomes against the aim of each project as set out in the NGDF Invest to Save Budget specification V1.0, October 1998.**

***D.1 Aim of project: To improve knowledge about what GI currently exists***

The highlight of this project was on 20 July 2000 when the askGiraffe Data Locator (the service name for the GI Metadata service) was launched by the Minister Patricia Hewitt at a special event at Simpsons-on-the-Strand in London. The service does enable the geographic information user to search a catalogue of data holdings from the public and private sector and to identify the choice of data available and how to get hold of it. The service relies on data holders submitting information about their data to one of a family of database 'nodes' each one maintained by a different part of the geographic information community. The development of the service will be on two fronts. Firstly to continue to search for new 'nodes' - London, Scotland and Wales for regional nodes, local government for a community node. Secondly to develop the service so that it can deliver the data to the user once found to be required. The Data Locator can be accessed at <http://datalocator.askgiraffe.org.uk/>

***E.1 Aim of project: To enable easier integration of GI through the use of standards and to provide users with assurance that the information is consistent and of defined quality.***

The highlight of this project was on 26 September 2000 when the askGiraffe Data Integrator (the service name for the UKSGB service) was launched by Dr Robert Barr at the plenary session of the Association for Geographic Information Conference at GIS2000 (The largest geographic information event of the year in Europe). This has delivered the aims of the project by using hotlinks to different organisation's websites. Although this is effective in providing consistency for access to the appropriate data, this has resulted in a rather difficult to use web-site and fragmented delivery of UKSGB datasets. The major deliverable was a demonstrator of a service that would provide a more integrated solution where the user would be able to access the data directly from the UKSGB Gateway and cross relate information between the different reference systems. In this scenario, the user would not necessarily know that the data has been retrieved from different organisations. The UKSGB Business Model and the UKSGB Architecture sets out the model and the stages to develop the demonstrator into a fully operational service. NGDF's membership of the Joined Up Geography Testbed consortium will also allow the UKSGB to search for technical geographic information system solutions to help associate some of the disparate geographic units. The Data Integrator can be accessed at <http://dataintegrator.askgiraffe.org.uk/>

## Annex A – The askGiraffe geographic information services

http://www.askgiraffe.org.uk/index.html - Dr Barbara Survey - Internet Explorer

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askGiraffe

the data locator

the data integrator

Merry Christmas!

askGiraffe provides the greatest in geographical information across the UK provided by the public and private sectors. This service everybody makes access to the Data Locator and the Data Integrator services.

askGiraffe is a service of the National Geographical Institute, a charity which provides geographical information to the public.

askGiraffe website is delivered to you by NGDF. Click here to find out more

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