

# Presentation of the 2011 National Gazetteers Exemplar Awards

The Albert Hall, Nottingham  
3 November 2011



*Richard Mason, Managing Director of GeoPlace presenting Awards to Northumberland County Council*

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## Presentation of the 2011 National Gazetteers Exemplar Awards

This year's National Gazetteers Exemplar Awards were presented at the 'Everything Happens Somewhere – working together across the public sector' conference and exhibition at the Albert Hall, Nottingham on 3 November 2011.

The Exemplar Awards are open to all local authorities as well as organisations that contribute to the National Gazetteers through the 'candidate process'.

The aims of the programme are to:

- showcase best practice
- foster innovation
- recognise and reward hard work in the local government community
- provide a benchmark for quality and improvement.

The Award categories are:

- Citizen Award – sponsored by Department of Communities and Local Government
- Finance Award – sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
- Green Award
- Integration Award – sponsored by Society of IT Managers
- Naming Award
- Technology Awards – sponsored by UK Location
- Peer Award
- NLPG Most Improved
- NSG Most Improved
- NLPG Best in region
- NSG Best in region
- LLPG Gold Standard
- LSG Gold Standard

The Awards are judged by industry experts from across the geographical information, local government and information management spectrum;

- Bob Baber – CIPFA
- Steven Booth – GIS Professional and media partner
- Steve Brandwood – GeoPlace
- Alistair Edwardes - DCLG
- Martin Ferguson – SOCITM
- John Kimmance – Ordnance Survey
- Gesche Schmid – LGA
- Lisa Smith - UK Location

## National Gazetteers Exemplar Award 2011

This is based on audience votes from presentations from the winners of the following categories:

- Citizen Award – sponsored by Department of Communities and Local Government
- Finance Award – sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
- Green Award
- Integration Award – sponsored by Society of IT Managers
- Naming Award
- Technology Awards – sponsored by UK Location

### Winner

**West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service for 'Chimp'**



Richard Mason, GeoPlace Managing Director presenting the Award to Tim Needham, Software Architect and Caroline Watson, Textual Data Supervisor at West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service

## Citizen Award – sponsored by Department of Communities and Local Government



*Best example of a project underpinned by the National Gazetteers which delivers services to citizens. The Citizen Award is intended to reward projects where benefits have been delivered to citizens or businesses using the National Gazetteers.*

### Winner

#### **Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service for their 'Risk Information Project'**

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has improved its services to Citizens, including both the general public and businesses, through the introduction of the Site Specific Risk Information Project.

This project is about the management of key risk information, which is address based. It uses and builds upon the use of LLPGs, in particular the use of the Basic Land and Property Unit (BLPU) classification to identify buildings that should be assessed from a commercial perspective.



*Richard Mason presenting the Award to Paul Terry, Corporate Systems Support Manager, John Curtis, Head of Knowledge Management and Chief Information Office and Nicholas Cowley, Systems Support Officer, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.*

Fire fighters, are presented with information derived from the LLPG, and collate further risk information at that property. This directly supports fire fighter safety, and supports officers when a fire does occur at that location as it outlines key hazards,

building layout and other information held that assists response/ community safety activities.

Importantly any variations in address information, including BLPU classification are forwarded onto the LLPG custodians, which improves the quality of information held for other local public services provided.

From a citizens perspective through this project, Merseyside FRS has formed a stronger relationship with owners of commercial properties and overall, if an incident does occur, more structured information based upon the LLPG is available.

Merseyside FRS has through the adoption of the LLPG been able to also join up further relevant risk information, which has provided a richer understanding of that property, which has also supported significantly its overall approach to risk management and the services it provides.

The judges commented that the entry was an excellent customer facing project using the UPRN as a 'golden thread' running throughout the infrastructure. The use of building class for risk assessment was novel and innovative.

### **Runner-up Dartford Borough Council for their 'Greenheart project'**

The LLPG and LSG are supporting Dartford Borough Council and its partners in securing millions of pounds in funding, allowing them to initiate the three year long greenheart project. The thrust of the project was to improve access from the town centre to the countryside and provide improved facilities in the parkland adjacent to the town centre.

The LLPG was used to provide accurate quantifiable figures on households who would benefit from the project, becoming a key part of the competitive funding bids for individual elements.

### **Highly commended Warrington Borough Council for their project 'Close the gap'.**

In recent years Warrington has prospered and is recognised as one of the fastest growing economies in the country. However gains in prosperity and quality of life have not been distributed equally and as the town has thrived as a whole, the inequality gap has increased. The Closing the Gap project aims to tackle this.

The council is a committed member of the cross-sector Warrington Partnership and tackling deprivation issues contributes to the partnership's vision of making Warrington "one of the best places to live and work in the UK over the next 20 years".

The LLPG was used with social marketing data to highlight the borough's most vulnerable and hard to reach areas. The BLPU classification was used to identify



*Richard Mason presents the Award to Councillor Bob Barr who accepts on behalf of Warrington Borough Council*

locations which may prove difficult to consult with. Social marketing, crime, health, employment and education data was combined with LLPG point data to highlight deprivation hotspots.

## Finance Award – sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy



*Best example of saving money using the National Gazetteers. This Award intends to capture projects which can demonstrate real financial savings through the use of the National Gazetteers.*

### Winner

**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council for the 'Big bang' project.**

Barnsley demonstrates the benefits of a 'big bang' approach to rolling out its LLPG across local authority services, and serves as an exemplar to authorities which have so far not been able to maximise the benefits of maintaining a local gazetteer.



Richard Mason from GeoPlace and Bob Baber, representing CIPFA present the Award to Riley Marsden, Geographic Information Officer from Barnsley

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Until 2009, Barnsley maintained a gazetteer primarily to fulfil MSA requirements, suffering from insufficient resources and management buy-in to enable significant benefits to be derived from the investment made. Overall data quality was limited.

This project demonstrates an ambitious on-going programme of work, supported by a dedicated business case, in which a fixed-term investment in resources have yielded cashable and efficiency savings demonstrating a net gain to the council.

The project resulted in direct savings, tax claw-backs and efficiencies for the council in a number of areas including:

- Benefits and taxation
- Waste management
- Planning
- Housing

The judges commented that this was an excellent submission showing a strong direction of travel for a council with a gazetteer that was previously under-utilised for the authority. Corporate vision and a robust business case justified the initial investment of resources to make the longer term savings from a corporate LLPG. In these times of budget cuts, this case study can provide colleagues with an exemplar which may assist them to make a similar business case.

### **Runner-up**

#### **London Borough of Harrow for 'My Harrow'**

Channel migration to the web represents an immense opportunity to save money. Borough wide research facilitated by Experian Customer Insight data highlighted evident trends; 82% of residents have access to the internet and consequently have a strong desire to transact with the council.

The recently launched MyHarrow Citizen Account has significantly proven to save money whilst representing a personalised, 24/7 and above all single channel for customers to interact with the council.

Launched just 11 months ago, 7,500 residents have signed up so far. Residents have access to a host of services spanning Council Tax & Business Rates, Housing Rents, Benefits Payments, waste collection, libraries, Parking Permits and map based reporting. 96% of account holders have consequently expressed their satisfaction.

MyHarrow Account has already recuperated its circa £150k investment from slashing channel costs and promoting channel shift to the web.

### **Highly commended**

#### **Northumberland County Council for their 'Garden waste project'**

The Garden Waste Service had six areas of operation (the six former districts). All of the areas worked in different ways and had different pricing strategies.

The project produced the following financial outcomes:



- before the new Garden Waste service was introduced there were approximately 20,000 customers. 63% paid by cheque at a high cost to per transaction. The project halved the cheque payers as customers could pay online which meant savings of approximately £50,000 in the first year alone
- the optimisation of the residual and recycling service as part of this overall project – underpinned by the LLPG - will produce savings on fuel of £202,000 per year. There are plans to reduce the vehicle fleet size by two lorries at a purchase price saving of £100,000 each as well as on-going maintenance costs
- freeing up staff time, removing the need for temporary staff, reducing the need for customers to contact front-line staff, a three day registration process transformed into one short phone call.

## Green Award

Best example of where a service using the National Gazetteers has either reduced environmental impact or increased greener outcomes. This Award aims to capture the range of examples where the National Gazetteers have been used for greener outcomes.

### Winner

#### Northumberland County Council for their 'Garden waste project'

When Northumberland became a unitary authority, working practices were changed and there were opportunities to put better systems in place. The waste service was route optimised and a separate project was put in place for Garden Waste.



Richard Mason presents the Award to Ryan Gilchrist, LLPG Manager and Philip Donnelly, Team Leader (development) from Northumberland County Council.

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The introduction of a new charging policy for the provision of garden waste collection services was implemented as a savings measure, which required requests for the service to be subject to an eligibility check to ensure residents lived within the area covered by the service and if eligible for payment to then be taken.

An improved Garden Waste system was developed, underpinned by the LLPG, that has provided crucial efficiency savings in a time of budget cuts, and a service to the customer that can be completed online or by front-line staff in one call where before it could take up to three days and involved back-office.

The system included continual route optimisation using methods created as part of a full waste management overhaul.

The judges commented that the garden waste project is one of many projects that use the LLPG to transform their service area. It is an example of how the LLPG can be fully integrated into a service to provide tangible savings and efficiencies.

**Runner-up**  
**Nottingham City Council for their 'Low carbon framework'.**

Carbon reduction is a national priority and renewable energy, low carbon heat and energy efficiency all have a critical role to play in addressing the challenges of climate change. Nottingham City Council (with DECC funding) has undertaken an innovative project to develop map-based tools that will help build a local low carbon economy.

The tools developed will help increase awareness and understanding of low carbon technologies and their suitability within various locations. It is hoped to support individuals and communities in taking up these technologies, thus encouraging personal action and accountability and supporting Nottingham in meeting its Sustainable Community Strategy targets. The council will be using the tools to help plan and implement the technologies identified in its Energy Strategy.

These tools are based on a property level dataset, of which the LLPG has played a fundamental role and been used in an innovative role.



Richard Mason presents the Award to Gareth Osborne, LLPG/LSG Manager, Catherine Matthews, Address Management Officer, Duncan Richmond, Senior GIS Manager, Kamrul Kashem, Trainee GIS/LLPG Team

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## Integration Award – sponsored by Society of IT Managers



*Best example of where the National Gazetteers are linked to council services or to local partnerships. This Award seeks entries which are able to demonstrate how the National Gazetteers are linked to all other council services, or local partnerships, and the benefits of these linkages.*

### Winner

#### A 'Total Place' partnership between

- **Bristol City Council**
- **South Gloucestershire Council**
- **Bath & North East Somerset Council**
- **North Somerset Council**
- **Avon and Somerset Police Authority**
- **Avon Fire and Rescue Services**
- **Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust**
- **Great Western Ambulance Service NHS**
- **Bath & North East Somerset Trust**
- **NHS Bristol**
- **NHS South Gloucestershire**
- **North Somerset PCT**

South Gloucestershire won the funding to enable public sector partners to jointly use land and property assets in a smarter, cost effective way. South Gloucestershire Council ran the project and commissioned Bristol City Council's GIS team to undertake the technical specification and development work.

All major property assets for South West Unitary Authorities, PCT, Police, Fire and Ambulance Services were plotted onto a GIS layer and accessed through web GIS. All asset and property information that would be freely available under FOI has been plotted onto a single GIS layer and is available for all public sector and voluntary groups to view.

In addition, some asset information that may not presently be publicly available is accessed through a secure web application for use by asset managers only. This enables asset managers to record potential surplus assets and record their requirements in a particular location.

The Total Place asset management project is an excellent example of integration and partnership working to collate and map property asset data for a wide range of public sector organisations in the south West. Total Place also shows how useful the BLPD classification codes are when categorising data. During the project the asset managers were surprised by the number of assets which were unclassified and efforts have been made to improve the tertiary codes so that the use of buildings and land show up on the web application.



Richard Mason from GeoPlace and Martin Ferguson representing SOCITM present the Award to Val Purkis, GIS Manager from Bristol City Council.

The judges commented that the Project demonstrates the value of using the LLPG UPRNs as a common referencing system to join data together and provide the spatial component. The judges were particularly impressed that the project was done at local level for local benefit.

### **Runner-up**

#### **Huntingdonshire District Council for their 'Social housing' scheme**

The LLPG is instrumental and fundamental in underpinning a project to identify households under occupying social housing by two or more bedrooms within Huntingdonshire. This was part of a wider project to develop a partnership

agreement providing a framework to encourage and incentivise tenants to downsize into more appropriately sized accommodation.

It would not have been possible to complete the project without the use of the UPRN that links the LLPG with third party applications and Departments. This is probably a unique, new and exciting use of the LLPG identified by Huntingdonshire - one that could be replicated at every other local authority within the country.



*Richard Mason presents the Award to David Lloyd, LLPG Manager, Trish Reed, Housing Strategy Manager and Kate Adams, LLPG Assistant at Huntingdonshire District Council*

### **Highly commended London Borough of Harrow for their 'LLPG Integrator'**

Harrow Councils' GIS Team prides itself on the fact that its LLPG is so well integrated that it processes range from pre address creation through numerous council systems and onto targeted consumption by residents

Alongside this the 'LLPG Integrator' joins with over 20 other databases to create an LLPG master table that goes on to serve more key systems. This uses a combination of technologies such as Python scripting, Oracle 10g and scheduled tasks.

The LLPG is placed at the core of address capture and lookup channels whilst maintaining a high level of data currency.

The project was designed to provide efficiency savings and enable channel migration, better information access to citizens, improved address accuracy across

systems and to highlight the capabilities of the LLPG. Integration would not have been possible without the underlying technology.

The project aligns with the larger council corporate goal to deliver a 'Better Deal for Residents' with the overall aim to provide council services in the most cost effective manner.

### **Best practice**

#### **Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council for their 'Shared Services' project.**

In July 2007 the decision was taken for Adur and Worthing councils to work together in partnership by creating a single officer structure and providing joint, shared services to both communities. The Adur & Worthing Partnership is proving to be a nationally significant collaboration model, the first one of its kind.

A project which for 2011/2012 achieved savings of 2.3M with projected savings of 6.5M for 2012/2013.

The project involved amalgamating most services employed across both councils. This included developing one Corporate Information Team to become responsible for the LLPG; GIS; Street Naming and Numbering and the PSMA.

Adur and Worthing have successfully managed to achieve this large scale integration and have made significant financial savings, instigated more efficient ways of working whilst still producing excellent quality LLPG data, used throughout the councils and the wider public sector.



## Naming Award

*Most innovative example of street naming which is relevant to local history and geographical context This Award will be given to the candidate who the judges feel have the most innovative example of street naming which is relevant to local history and geographical context.*

### Winner

#### **Colchester Borough Council for 'Woods of Colchester'**

In 2005, two construction companies embarked on the re-development of the former Woods of Colchester factory site. From a humble beginning, with a work force of just six, Woods of Colchester grew to being one of the major employers in the Borough, employing 2000+ at its peak. Woods of Colchester was the major producer of industrial fans and motors in the British Isles. At their peak they produced more industrial fans than any other firm in the British Isles and the exports from the factory at Braiswick accounted for 60% of industrial fan exports from this country. This earned the company the title of Export Company of the Year in 1972.



*Richard Mason presents the Award to Christopher Wall, Street Naming Officer and Sarah Taylor, Geospatial and Core Data manager*

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The company was brought in 2000 by Air Movement Holdings Limited and then formed the Flakt Woods Group in 2002 by merging with Swedish company Flakt.

When the new Flak Woods Group was formed the company moved to another site in Colchester leaving their former premises available for development. Construction started in 2005 and has been built in 5 phases. In that time it has been addressed by 2 different Street Naming Officers; however the theme for the street naming has been continued throughout the construction of each phase.

In recognition of the history and importance of the site it was decided that the street names should retain reference to the site's former use. All the street names used in the site have a connection with industrial fans or a feature of the former factory.

### **Runner-up Chorley Borough Council for 'Sagar House'**

Chorley Borough Council always strives to take the historical or geographical context of an area into account when naming new streets. This particular development is being built on the site formerly occupied by Sagar House in the Parish of Eccleston; the headquarters of Pontin's Holidays Ltd has been based at Sagar House between 1987 and 2009.

Chorley's initial suggestion was to use Pontin's as the theme for the new streets being named on the development. It felt that, with Pontin's being such a nationally known company, the street names would be a fitting tribute to the site which has been used as its predominant headquarters. Chorley decided to name the 4 streets after the locations of Pontin's camp sites, with both historic and current sites taken into account.

These names received negative feedback from Eccleston Parish Council on the grounds that local residents were unhappy with how Pontin's treated the site in the latter years of their occupancy. They allowed the site to descend into a state of disrepair, and consequently sold the site to a housing developer, which was an unpopular decision locally.

Prior to the consultation process, Chorley was unaware of this opinion, and was more than happy to reconsider our decision. It invited suggestions from the Parish Council, and they informed the authority that the site was historically used as an orchard before the erection of Sagar House. Taking this into account, Chorley selected 4 new names based on varieties of apples.

### **Best Practice Birmingham City Council for 'Invention Avenue'**

The aim was to produce a list of suggested street names for different areas within Birmingham, having pertinence to local history, geography or culture, for developers to choose from if they so wished. A secondary aim was to increase peoples' involvement in local issues, engendering a feeling community spirit.

These names would be checked for duplication in the local area, for acceptability to different cultures and religions, for accuracy and relevance, in advance of

applications being made for the adoption of street names, in order to speed the naming process.

An exercise was launched by the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Street Services and was advertised by means of the city council website and leaflet distribution. The story was also picked up on Radio WM, who ran short items.

The consultation attracted over 75 entries of which 45 met the criteria. These names were suggested for use in a number of wards. All the suggestions were researched in order to validate the claims made by the proposer and only those that met the criteria appeared in the recommended list.

The resultant list was sent to the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Street Services for approval and reduced to a final list of 45 road names. This now forms the authority's approved list of street names for developments within the area, however, if a developer or landowner has another name which they would like to use, this can be considered and put forward for the above checks and councillor consultation.

The most unusual name yet to be used from this list is Invention Avenue in Handsworth.



*Richard Mason presents the Award to Julie Taylor, Technical Officer, Birmingham City Council*

## Technology Award – sponsored by UK Location



*Best example of innovative application of technology using the National Gazetteers. This Award is looking for innovative examples of the application of technology using the National Gazetteers.*

### Winner

#### West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service for 'Chimp'

West Midlands Fire Service has recently transformed its IT assets to reduce costs and improve the quality of its service delivery. Key to the success of this transition is Chimp – an innovative, highly functional and cost-effective response to the increasing demands placed on gazetteer software in the modern emergency service.



*Richard Mason from GeoPlace and Andrew Newman representing UK Location present the Award to Caroline Watson, Textual Data Supervisor and Tim Needham, Software Architect and at West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service*

Chimp is a dynamic gazetteer-generator and integrated extract, transform and load tool which can coalesce traditionally disjoint data products by generating bespoke and feature-rich gazetteer software.

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The benefits of Chimp are significant. Major advancements in frontline capability are being made due to Chimp's innovations.

Chimp uses open source technology exclusively and will itself be offered under an appropriate open license.

Both West Midlands and Staffordshire fire services are currently utilising Chimp, while two further brigades will soon adopt the technology. A recent demonstration of Chimp has resulted in an open source collaboration which shows potential for a pioneering, community-driven direction.

The judges believe that this project demonstrates genuine innovations and notable technical achievements that have combined to comprehensively meet the increasing demands placed on gazetteer software in the modern fire service.

### **Runner-up**

#### **Northumberland County Council for 'Sign of the times'**

In 2007 following the implementation of the Traffic Management Act 2004, Northumberland County Council embarked on a project to review all its existing Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's).

The aim was to consolidate some 1500 paper TRO's into an up to date, maintainable and accessible database containing just 6 TRO's for the entire County.

Northumberland is now at the stage where all the legal orders are generated directly from the survey data including the site notices etc. so the authority has ended up with the 6 TRO's that cover all waiting and loading and bay information and all in BS7666 format and once the orders are sealed these will be appended to the LSG, populating the ASD. One Way and Turning orders are now also underway.

This system provides an 'end to end' process to maintain TRO's which, incorporates high accuracy survey data, GIS display technology, linked to a gazetteer that will be available via the NSG hub.

This provides a central repository that can be used by the council itself, the utilities and highways departments, but also available to everybody who has access to the gazetteer.

### **Best Practice**

#### **Northumberland County Council for their 'Pest control' project**

When Northumberland became a unitary authority, working practices were changed and there were opportunities to put better systems in place.

The old Pest Control process involved front-line staff passing a message to back-office staff who contacted the customer and booked in through A4 paper diaries. An 'out-the-box' solution was going to cost £25,000 and it did not utilise the LLPG and so a business decision was made to develop a bespoke in-house solution.

Utilising the LLPG, the front-line staff are now able to give the customer a day, timeslot, take a payment and update the responsible Officer's Calendar at the first point of contact. The pest control officers use tablet PCs to review and update cases and the results are available real-time by front-line staff. The system can also optimise routes taken each day by the pest control officers.

This is a great example of how the LLPG can underpin services and provide a vital link between both old and new technologies and make big efficiency and financial savings.

## Peer Award

*This is an Award for an LLPG and an LSG Custodian. The recipient of this Award will be nominated by custodians and judged by the NLPG Custodian and the NSG Custodian. It aims to reward continuous commitment to the LLPG and the LSG communities.*

### Winner

**Shaun Powell from Newport City Council.**

This nomination is made on behalf of, and supported by all 22 LLPG Custodians in Wales.

Shaun has and continues to be, wholly committed to the development of the NLPG as the key property dataset for public services. He has taken a lead role in the Welsh Government project and has instrumental in persuading the Welsh Government to invest over £500k in the NLPG Project in Wales over the last two years.



*Richard Mason presents the Award to Shaun Powell from Newport City Council.*

Shaun has completely transformed the way that the NLPG has been perceived by senior management across the Welsh public service and has achieved agreement from all Unitary Authorities, CEOs, Police Chief Constables, Chief Fire Officers, the CEO of the Welsh Ambulance Trust, and senior civil servants including the Chief Information Officer, that the NLPG will be the key property dataset for Welsh public services.

Recently both Gwent Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service linked their systems to the NLPG with the other Blue Light services committed to do the same over the next twelve months.

Shaun's enthusiasm is phenomenal and he is an excellent mentor to other custodians who are happy to recognise his help in raising the standard and profile of their LLPGs. Shaun spends a considerable amount of his personal time, ringing other custodians providing advice and encouragement in the raising the standard of Wales LLPGs and to making Wales the top performing Region. This personal commitment to assisting others has resulted in Wales improving from having no Gold or Silver status UAs and nine UAs Below National Standard, in August 2009, to Wales now having 4 Gold, 11 Silver and no UAs Below Minimum Standard. Wales has also improved from being 10th in the CTax and 10th in the NNDR Regional listings, to Wales being 8th and 4th respectively. In terms of CTax only 0.3% separates Wales from Regional listings leaders Yorkshire & Humberside.

Shaun personally negotiated a financial package between suppliers and the Welsh Government that allowed Welsh UAs to integrate their LLPG with their Council Tax and NDR systems. This integration considerably improved the quality of the LLPGs and provided additional revenues of over £1.5m to Welsh UAs over the next five years.

Shaun instigated the 'Peer Review Programme' in Wales. This programme involves three or four custodians visiting other UAs with a view of sharing knowledge and identifying best practice that can be shared. This approach has recently been further enhanced so that both LLPG and LSG custodians undertake joint visits to share this learning more widely.



## NLPG Most Improved

*This award recognises the hard work that LLPG Custodians put into both maintaining their LLPG and constantly improving the integral data quality through planned work activities in order to meet internal and external Pressures. The last year has seen a large number of authorities strive towards reaching gold standard and the winner this year has been able to make significant improvements over the period in all of the improvement schedule criteria as well as data quality improvements measured through data supplied to the NLPG hub.*

### Winner

**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council**



*Richard Mason presents the Award to Andrew Cowan, Assistant Systems Implementer, Riley Marsden, Geographic Information Officer, Daniel Hart, Assistant Systems Implementer from Barnsley*

## NSG Most Improved

*Whilst there has been a lot of public focus on the NLPG in 2011, the NSG data has been quietly improving in the background at equally comparably high standards! There has been a real commitment this year to improvements in accuracy and quality across all areas of NSG data.*

*Synchronisation of the NSG and NLPG streets has been at the forefront of everybody's mind this year, and many LSG custodians, working closely with their LLPG Colleagues have made huge improvements into attaining vastly improved synchronisation, as well as developing good working relationships in the process.*

*Almost all authorities continue to fulfill their obligations to submit data on a monthly basis, and that has meant that in determining the winner of this award, the quality of the data and the improved accuracy have become key factors in distinguishing the winner.*

There were several authorities that have made a very large improvement this year and choosing a winner has been very difficult, however one Authority did stand out.

### Winner

#### Staffordshire County Council



Richard Mason presents the Award to Geoff Benn, LSG Custodian from Staffordshire County Council

## NLPG Best in Region Awards

These authorities have all been able to provide a clear message to their peers that a high quality gazetteer can bring with it success and better integration of local data. All authorities have undertaken to not only improve the content of their LLPGs but also maintain this high standard as part of their day to day gazetteer work. The NLPG Best in region is based on the top scoring authority in each region across the NLPG Improvement Schedule monitoring statistics.

### Winners

|                                          |                                                    |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| NLPG Best in East Midlands Region        | Blaby District Council                             |
| NLPG Best in East of England Region      | Maldon District Council                            |
| NLPG Best in Greater London Region       | The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames          |
| NLPG Best in North East Region           | South Tyneside MBC                                 |
| NLPG Best in North West Region           | Sefton Council                                     |
| NLPG Best in South East Region           | Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council |
| NLPG Best in South West Region           | Mid Devon District Council                         |
| NLPG Best in Wales                       | Newport City Council                               |
| NLPG Best in West Midlands Region        | Lichfield District Council                         |
| NLPG Best in Yorkshire and Humber Region | Kingston upon Hull City Council                    |



Best in the South East Region Award winners James Humphrey, GIS/LLPG Officer and Ian Winters, Senior GIS Officer from Adur and Worthing Councils



Best in West Midlands and LLPG Gold achiever Sarah Hall, LLPG Custodian from Lichfield District Council

## NSG Best in Region Award

Regions continue to play an important role in improvement to the NSG. It is very clear however that regions have had their own local challenges as well as meeting national demands. Local support and cross border working has helped solve a variety of local area issues and promote best practice.

This award has been based on overall quality of the LSG, looking at best practices, partnership working, data quality and prompt submission to the NSG. These Authorities have been identified as exceptional amongst their peers and are being recognised for their overall contribution to the NSG.

### Winners

|                                         |                                             |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| NSG Best in East Midlands Region        | Leicester City Council                      |
| NSG Best in East of England Region      | Thurrock Council                            |
| NSG Best in Greater London Region       | London Borough of Hillingdon                |
| NSG Best in North East Region           | South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council |
| NSG Best in North West Region           | Wirral Borough Council                      |
| NSG Best in South East Region           | Wokingham Borough Council                   |
| NSG Best in South West Region           | Bournemouth Borough Council                 |
| NSG Best in Wales                       | Caerphilly County Borough Council           |
| NSG Best in West Midlands Region        | Herefordshire Council                       |
| NSG Best in Yorkshire and Humber Region | Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council     |



Best in Yorkshire and Humber winner and LSG Gold achiever Martine Proctor, MIS Manager

## LLPG Authority Dataset Improvement Schedule Gold Standard

*These authorities have all achieved the highest standard across all 2011 Gazetteer Improvement Schedule criteria. This is no mean feat and the achievement made by each of the Custodians is something to be celebrated.*

|                                             |
|---------------------------------------------|
| Adur District Council                       |
| Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council       |
| Blaby District Council                      |
| Brighton & Hove City Council                |
| Caerphilly County Borough Council           |
| Cardiff Council                             |
| Charnwood Borough Council                   |
| Dartford Borough Council                    |
| Denbighshire County Council                 |
| Derbyshire Dales District Council           |
| Eastleigh Borough Council                   |
| Flintshire County Council                   |
| Forest Heath District Council               |
| Hambleton District Council                  |
| Hastings Borough Council                    |
| Herefordshire Council                       |
| High Peak Borough Council                   |
| Huntingdonshire County Council              |
| Kingston upon Hull City Council             |
| Lewes District Council                      |
| Lichfield District Council                  |
| London Borough of Southwark                 |
| Maldon District Council                     |
| Mid Devon District Council                  |
| Monmouthshire County Council                |
| Newport City Council                        |
| Northumberland County Council               |
| Pembrokeshire County Council                |
| Peterborough City Council                   |
| Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames       |
| Runnymede Borough Council                   |
| Rushmoor Borough Council                    |
| Salford City Council                        |
| Sefton Council                              |
| South Gloucestershire Council               |
| South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Staffordshire Moorlands District Council    |
| Stevenage Borough Council                   |
| Stroud District Council                     |
| Torfaen County Borough Council              |
| Worthing Borough Council                    |
| Wychavon District Council                   |
| Wyre Forest District Council                |



LLPG Gold achiever, Wendy Eburne, LLPG Custodian from Monmouthshire County Council

## LSG Authority Dataset Improvement Schedule Gold Standard

*These authorities have all achieved the highest standard across all 2011 Gazetteer Improvement Schedule criteria. This is no mean feat and the achievement made by each of the Custodians is something to be celebrated. We are delighted that there are 17 Gold authorities this year compared to just seven last year.*

|                                             |
|---------------------------------------------|
| Bournemouth Borough Council                 |
| Caerphilly County Borough Council           |
| Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council     |
| Conwy County Borough Council                |
| Denbighshire County Council                 |
| Derby City Council                          |
| Devon County Council                        |
| Gwynedd County Council                      |
| Hertfordshire County Council                |
| Isle of Anglesey County Council             |
| Kingston upon Hull City Council             |
| Leicester City Council                      |
| London Borough of Enfield                   |
| London Borough of Hillingdon                |
| Newport City Council                        |
| Northumberland County Council               |
| North Lincolnshire Council                  |
| South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council         |
| Wokingham Borough Council                   |
| Worcestershire County Council               |
| York City Council                           |



*Derby City Council LSG Gold achiever David Senior, ICT Manager (Highways)*