

CASE STUDY

Highways England

Highways England is the government-owned company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A roads. Its purpose is to connect the country by delivering £15 billion of investment on the Strategic Road Network as described in the government's Road Investment Strategy.

As a major infrastructure organisation, Highways England has to maintain large areas of land; not only the major A roads and motorways themselves but depots, verges, bridges and tunnels. Legislation requires that all of this land, however small, must be registered with HM Land Registry. In addition, some projects, such as the Lower Thames Crossing, require Compulsory Purchase of land and assessments of ground conditions for developmental needs.

As a result Highways England is a major user of geospatial data and geo-intelligence and operates two long running Geographical Information Systems, HAGIS and HAGDMS (Geotechnical).

In 2019, following extensive internal testing and an open tender award, Highways England added a significant datastore to enhance these digital platforms by making historical spatial information more widely accessible throughout the organisation; **Landmark Information Group's OS Historical Mapping Web Map Service.**

Landmark's Historical WMS gives Highways England immediate access to over 320,000 historical Ordnance Survey map images ranging from 1855-1993. The WMS is tailored specifically to Highways England needs, allowing users to show current boundaries and landscapes in their true environment and history.

In addition, Landmark provide a secure weblink for users who are less familiar with GI technology. This link allows users to set the time period of interest via a unique Time Slider which builds a mosaic of historical layers showing the user the map picture exactly as Ordnance Survey would have perceived the landscape at the time.

Image shows Junction 4 of the M60 over the historical map from 1910.

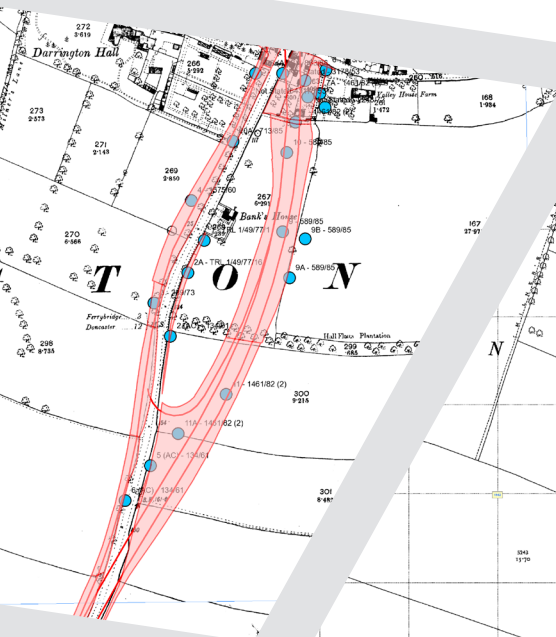


Mark Bodemeaid, GIS and Data Manager at Highways England, highlights the opportunities for users: “The restricted internal test period really highlighted the advantages of seamlessly switching between time periods while overlaying our asset data. Property teams can see how road alignment may have changed over the decades and our designers can review historic land usage before construction begins. We can now widen access to the mapping throughout the organisation by connecting to HAGIS and by providing additional contractor feeds for those working on our behalf.”

Rick Crowhurst, Public Sector Account Manager at Landmark “We have been delighted to develop the service alongside the Highways England team and have been pleased to see the wide range of potential uses. Mark and his colleagues have provided invaluable support and feedback. We look forward to hearing more from the wider organisation at training events as we develop the feed with the option to add further datasets in due course”

Landmark Solutions – part of Landmark Information Group Limited – are experts in geospatial datasets and provide major web platforms for bodies such as Sport England, Natural England, the Met Office and many others. Users of the Historical Web Mapping Services include Network Rail, Registers of Scotland and several local government bodies.

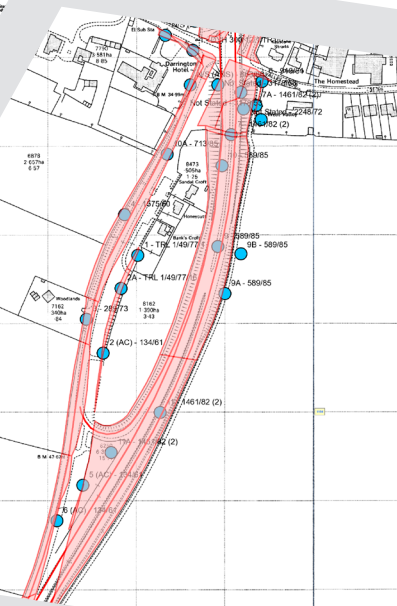
1892



1932



1962



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