

Land & Property Services

28th October 2011

Land & Property Services delivering improved rural data

Land & Property Services (LPS) are working with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to improve the Land Parcel Identification Scheme (LPIS) for Northern Ireland. The aim of this project is to improve the accuracy of DARD's mapping system so that farmers and landowners can make accurate declarations for area based aid schemes, and to allow DARD to detect ineligible areas which have been wrongly claimed.

The project will review all of the agricultural parcels (fields) within NI to the standard required by European legislation, to allow the Maximum Eligible Area (MEA) to be accurately determined for each field, and to provide farmers with maps and other relevant information about their land. The project includes the realignment of DARD field boundaries to the relevant real world features surveyed by the National Mapping Agency (LPS), and includes splitting fields where an existing boundary feature is evident from the orthophotography and merging fields where no boundary is evident.

Over the past year a team of up to eighty technical staff has been involved in capturing ineligible areas using Spatial Studio software provided by Devonor AS. This advanced GIS technology allows creation and attribution of polygons based on orthophotography and OSNI large scale mapping.

Spatial Studio has provided an off-the-shelf GI tool which has been easily modified to accommodate and implement specific project requirements. For staff with limited previous GI experience the software has proven to be easy to learn and user friendly. Throughout this project Spatial Studio has proven to be extremely flexible and efficient and has handled large data sets in multiple formats extremely efficiently.

Spatial Studio has meet all the needs for data manipulation within the project, and has been a major factor in developing a high quality spatial data set.

Ken Stewart

Map Improvement Programme Manager
Land & Property Services