

The Welsh Government harnesses CGI location technology

Providing a single electronic register of all Common Land and Towns or Village Greens in Wales.

The 22 Local Authorities in Wales are responsible for maintaining records of Common Land and Towns or Village Greens in Wales. Common Land is subject to the rights enjoyed by one or more persons to take or use part of a piece of land or of the produce of a piece of land, which is owned by someone else. To inspect the open register and maps, landowners, farmers and the public had to physically travel to Local Authority offices, costing time, money and delays.

Maintaining paper-based maps and records that were over 50 years old was becoming harder and costlier for councils. The records had hand-drawn notes and changes that were often hard to read. Recording a full audit history of who made the changes and why it was difficult to maintain, often resulting in the requirement of legal services to identify the official legal register from those that were void. Resolving these issues was time-consuming and costly to the Council and public.

Sharing data between other departments or organisations outside the Local Authority was impossible, and the records were physically degrading from repeated handling, water damage or tearing.

The aim was to have a single electronic register of all Common Land in Wales, where access online was possible through a few clicks of a mouse.



The Welsh Government maintains records for:

- 1,700 commons, towns and village greens
- 12,500 maps
- 25,000 register pages
- 69,250 land and right entries



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The solution

Because of CGI's long-standing collaboration with numerous government departments and agencies, CGI innately understood the need for any solution to embrace the Digital First Agenda, in particular the use of open architecture and open standards.

To deliver this vision, CGI employed proven open architecture and standards, which offered all the tools needed to deploy location-based services and provide significant efficiency gains. Built on open architecture and standards to the Common Land service integrates a geospatial portal with back-office admin tools to allow data management including complex geometry editing.

To ensure it met the need for efficiency, we provided location-enabled self-service tools. CGI also provided supplier management of the third party scanning provider who digitised the paper records and maps. We used an agile development process to deliver a user interface that was compliant with Welsh Governments GEL2 standards for design.

CGI's approach throughout had quality and Stakeholder engagement at its heart to ensure the Welsh Government remained in control. We used a foundation electronic register/web portal that could cope with high reuse, consistent management and security. The data migration included a National Data capture specification that detailed the requirements for scanning text and boundaries and specified how the digitisation and transformation of the text and boundary records would be conducted. Quality was managed throughout the data migration process through manual inspections, spot checks and automated routines, including a review of all deliverables.

The benefits

Using open-architecture principles and the latest open standards, CGI provided an intelligent solution to a complex set of challenges. As a result, each of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales is working towards a single data store while maintaining autonomy over their own register content. The benefits will be:

- The preservation of this valuable legal data record
- A single electronic register of all Common Land and Towns or Village Greens in Wales
- Reduced burden on public and Local Authorities
- Sharable, quality data

The result for the Welsh Government and CRAs will be efficient improved geospatial data quality, uniformed processes and enhanced interactions with customers with nationally aligned processes for inspecting and maintaining Common Land registers and maps for Wales.

The project referenced in this case study was delivered by SCISYS, which CGI acquired in December 2019.

About CGI

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world. At CGI, we are insights-led and outcome-based to help clients accelerate returns on their investments.

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