

## Case Study BRINGING LOCATION TO LIFE

# The journey of an address in the Police system



### AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY

**P**olice operational duties include protecting life and property, preserving order, preventing the commission of offences and bringing offenders to justice. That's a vast portfolio. And our police forces do an incredible job, responding to reports of criminal activity, mitigating risk, following up on antisocial behaviour, liaising with the public, and providing support for rehabilitation – and in all this, location plays an important role in this mix.

A precise, comprehensive geospatial reference is vital in almost every aspect of law enforcement. The ability to standardise records and correlate locations precisely is essential: more and more, law enforcement agencies are seeing the UPRN as the common denominator that links disparate aspects of their work together.

From keeping accurate records on the addresses of victims and witnesses or suspects and offenders, to using the exact location of a crime to verify an alibi, or to subsequently shape a crime-prevention policy – this means it's crucial that location details stored in an interoperable, secure way, and that the source – our National Gazetteers – are kept up to date.

By using AddressBase Premium and UPRNs to confirm and correlate incidents, and any persons involved, law enforcement agencies can share information (when appropriate and required) with each other in complete confidence, knowing the data has been authoritatively referenced. This speeds up the work of the police, and makes the service more effective in protecting citizens.

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Location is at the heart of everything we do. By using an authoritative and referenced address database with UPRNs, right across our workstreams and in every part of our work, we hope to be more efficient and effective in serving our community by bringing down crime levels, increasing our responsiveness.

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**Olivia Powell**

GIS Manager at Avon & Somerset Constabulary



Whether we realise it or not, as the people protected and served by law enforcement, we often provide the first and most important location point in a sequence of connected events. The first report of incident is the trigger for a long series of locations that may or may not need to be connected. For example:

- A call for service comes in. The call-handler records any and all addresses from that call. If the call needs attendance then the location is pushed to a dispatch team. The dispatch team will co-ordinate officers and support teams, sending them out to that location. And if a potential crime is discovered, forensics staff may also be dispatched. All recoveries will be then recorded with locations on a regional database
- In the case of a missing person, several locations may be recorded: the place where they live, addresses of relatives or associates, a location that identifies where they were last seen, where they were going to, and any places that may be significant to maximise the chances of finding that person
- In the event of a criminal offence, the location of the crime (and the addresses of the victim and witnesses) are kept in the 'offence file' so that officers may stay in contact. If offenders are found and brought to justice their records will also be added to the file. This could be eventually passed on to the Crown Prosecution Service if ending up in court.
- The location at which a crime happened is also shared with other police forces on the Police National Computer. Subject to an anonymisation process, it's also published on the police.uk open data website.
- Precise location is also essential for delivering strategic tactical responses and in co-ordinating crime prevention strategies. Intelligence Crime Analysts, for example, will run analysis on crime patterns using location as a common denominator and identify location-specific crime prevention measures: these could range from local interventions to helping partner agencies in the design out of crime or improvement in road safety.



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# We are GeoPlace

## Bringing location to life

We are GeoPlace, the team managing a central hub of around 44 million addresses and over 1.39 million streets in the UK.

We take feeds of address and street data from local authorities in England and Wales, central government, Ordnance Survey and Royal Mail. We also take data from Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands via the Improvement Service, Land & Property Services, Isle of Man Government and Digimap respectively.

This data goes through a rigorous validation process, which includes 364 Address data checks and 550 Street data checks, before being accepted into the National Street Gazetteer and National Address Gazetteer.

Overall, we update around 2 million records every month. The information in our database is also enriched with attributes from other datasets to enhance detail and quality - it's an ongoing process of co-operation and collaboration.

The end result is a unified, authoritative source for all addressing and street data in the UK.

Our Gazetteers are prized and respected national assets. They make it easier for central and local government, commerce, organisations and individuals to access Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) and Unique Street Reference Numbers (USRNs) with confidence.



GeoPlace is a public sector limited liability partnership between the Local Government Association and Ordnance Survey



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Survey