



## CADline Helps Lewisham Address the Issue

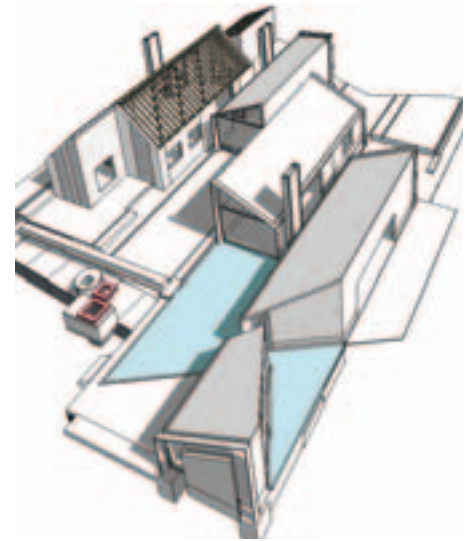
Despite the proliferation of text, email and other electronic forms of communication, our postal address is still a vital piece of our identity. When banks or other institutions get it wrong – maybe by leaving off complete lines or a house number, it's annoying and can lead to key documents being lost or misdirected. However, things can get even more serious if the emergency services or police have wrong or incomplete data.

It is also important for local authorities to have reliable information about their borough or town – not just about the houses and businesses they are responsible for, but also for land parcels and assets such as bus shelters. For this reason, for the last 12 months, local

government offices have needed to comply with the latest BS7666 2006 standard for the representation of address management, in particular with reference to gazetteers.

This is something CADline knows a few things about. Being experienced in geospatial matters as well as CAD systems, it has been implementing BS7666 compliant systems both for local government and major industry sectors for the past 15 years using its Spatially Aware Data Analysis System (SADAS).

Since the issue of BS7666 2006, it has been working closely with the London Borough of Lewisham to ensure their data is reliable and, using SADAS, held in one location.



### From CADLine web site:

CADLine which has been trading since 1990 is a consultancy and software reseller offering Autodesk and other vendors' products.

The SADAS product was designed to help the management of local authority Land and Property based assets and service delivery. CADLine states:

“An address record is the single most important and widely used bit of data by a local authority. The Local Street Gazetteer and the Local Land and Property Gazetteer modules were designed and built to directly comply and complement the BS7666 standard.”

The idea of the product is to ensure only valid data is inserted and maintained on the system. Usual web tools allow searching of the database which should facilitate web delivery to the public.

This exclusive Lewisham case study illustrates the high level of activity and progress being made on addressing which now seems to be maturing within the local authority space from a major problem only a few years ago into something we can almost take for granted.

[www.cadline.co.uk](http://www.cadline.co.uk)

## SADAS System at Lewisham

The London Borough of Lewisham now has one central Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) on the SADAS system and addresses are managed by one team, on behalf of all other back office systems. This provides one single and central source of reliable and current information, which is now being integrated into legacy systems.

The exercise has been a major one, with the council pruning many duplicated, incomplete or inaccurate addresses to ensure its master database is sound. However, the hard work has been worthwhile as council staff now realise that the LLPG will give them an accurate address, rather than having to trawl through

many different systems or even search through paper files. This frees up both resources and budget, ensuring the council is able to optimise its service to its public rather than deploying staff to run inefficient systems.



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## Then of course... is data cleaning!

Once the decision was made, CADline worked with Lewisham on the implementation process. However, there was one more obstacle to overcome before all the pieces could be put into place – the cleaning up of data which was held in an Oracle database.

In all 190,000 addresses were reduced to 146,000 because of duplication and other errors and also standardised. Once these legacy addresses were correct, the team could be confident in the knowledge that the lists would stay like this, even with information being updated daily.

SADAS controls records as they are inserted with a built-in validation and audit check, ensuring export of data to the hub is fully clear of all anomalies. Also, because data is held in standard formats it can be easily exported and imported to other national or local systems, if required.



## Final Reward

Due to the rapid success of the data cleansing, Lewisham was the winner of the prestigious LLPG Exemplar awards in October 2008. Fuad Yusuf the LLPG custodian explains: "We won the NLPG 'Most Improved' category and also received a 'Highly Commended' for NLPG and NSG best integration. Both awards have been seen as a direct result of hard work and commitment of the Lewisham and CADline teams."

Tellingly, because the data is a definitive list of addresses within the borough – and can be accessed with just one quick click - it is now being used by the police and ambulance services, as well as for other council purposes.

"An address record is the single most important and widely used piece of data to a local authority," says CADline's Oman. "Lewisham now fully complies with BS7666 2006 – but also has all the information it needs, literally, at its fingertips."



## Open System needed

Lewisham is an inner city borough, covering an area of around 14 square miles in South East London. It is responsible for providing services to 258,000 people who live locally, as well as those who work or study in the area.

Its relationship with CADline goes back a few years now, when it first investigated the idea of an LLPG.

"At the time, we had addresses in a variety of systems with no consistency or co-ordination," says Gary Simms - Property Systems Information Manager. "So we began to look around for a Gazetteer Management System that would sit on top our GIS system and become the hub for address information."

"We looked at a fair number of products. However, with most of them, we found that the system was locked down and would involve expensive consultancy to update or integrate data backdoor. What we liked about SADAS was its open, modular design, which would enable the integration and data mapping with existing legacy systems within the authority."

"As the sharing of data is a pivotal part of the plan, this was a major criterion and the key factor in making the whole project successful. This is why we had the backing of senior managers, which certainly helped the decision-making process run smoothly."

## Current and definitive data now just one click away

At the moment, SADAS is used primarily for houses and businesses, but Simms is currently planning to expand the dataset to include other assets e.g. streetlamps.

Now rather than having to search a variety of databases for one particular address, all addresses are managed by one central team on behalf of the entire authority. This not only eliminates holding the same data in many different places, it also means there is no duplication of work.

As Colin Oman, GIS product manager at CADline explains: "The next stage is to implement the legacy systems so that every council system can access SADAS. Now we can do this confident in the knowledge that the data we hold is all correct, reliable and current."

Simms continues: "We've worked with CADline throughout and the team's knowledge of SADAS, the Oracle database and also all the issues involved with the LLPG has been an important and invaluable feature of the

entire project."

"We extended the SADAS system with the inclusion of the Local Street Gazetteer (LSG), in Highways. This application links seamlessly with the LLPG module and the same street data is used for both the LSG and LLPG national hub updates. This saves an enormous amount of time and effort for the council." This Exclusive Lewisham Case Study is presented by Colin Oman, GIS product manager, CADline [www.cadline.co.uk](http://www.cadline.co.uk)

