

Digital Britain Unconference (London): Session report

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Name of session: National-scale digital infrastructure

Key questions considered:

1. What are the digital equivalents of the Millennium Dome or Buckingham Palace?

Action points that could be included in the Digital Britain final report:

1. A National Geospatial Backbone - sort of like an online Ordnance Survey, but with two additional features. Firstly, an API to allow ordinary citizens to upload map features and layers. Secondly, a trust system to allow groups like local authorities, police and fire services to add features to the national map in a trusted way so that ordinary users could see what they publish. The purpose of the utility would be to genuinely build a digital Britain: a layer over the entire country showing where things are, what they are, and what they mean.

How might these proposals be funded? This is a fairly cheap project - most of the data is already owned by the Government in the form of Ordnance Survey and other mapping tools. Perhaps it could even be done by some group like the BBC - sort of "data broadcasting."