



The Future of Environmental Practice for Surveyors.

Presented to FIG Intergeo Conference 9/10/06
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The Proposition

The RICS is one of the oldest professions managing and developing land and property in UK and worldwide

As the environmental agenda has become more prominent, so has the role of the environmental surveyor

Surveyors are uniquely positioned to take a leading role in the future of environmental practice


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The Traditional Role of Chartered Surveyors

- 50% of UK land mass managed in some way by chartered surveyors
- RICS Formed in 1868, now 120,000 members in 120 countries worldwide
- Predecessors were land stewards
- Most treasured natural and heritage managed by land managers
- Sustainability always was a key aspect of land management
- Economics, social aspects, environment, use of natural resources
- A subliminal recognition of sustainable management –
- The first environmentalists?

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Key roles

- During pre- industrialisation, during the industrial revolution and in the post industrial era, surveyors have played a KEY role in
- Assessing
- Measuring
- Evaluating
- Developing
- Renewing
- Managing land and property assets

Involvement at all stages of the land and property life cycle

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The Size of the Opportunity to 2010 by Sector

Environmental UK consulting market £4 billion. Growth range 20 - 200%.

- Nearly all surveyors impacted by environment issues.
- Growth driven by legislation.
- Greater accountability by business

Rural economy valued at £17 billion; 5 - 20% growth, 9% pa until 2010.

- Rural change management, development and consultancy

Geomatics value £150 billion to the UK. GIS - growth 10.7% to 2010.

Minerals and Waste minerals turnover £33 b, value of market £10.4 - £33.6 b.

- Significant activity in extraction, recycling and waste management.

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Surveyor Opportunities

By background and training have a key understanding of the context and application of environmental practice

- Understanding of legislative and regulatory frameworks
- Understanding of economics of land
- Understanding of client aspirations for - investment, asset management, development.
- Understand the role of specialists
- Understand how these fit together and integrate
- Communication skills
- Practical and pragmatic approach

A unique platform for the application of modern environmental practice.

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Current and future roles

- Specialist activities:
- Environmental assessment
- Environmental audit
- Environmental risk assessment
- Environmental management

An environmental practice may apply all these:
For example-
Environmental assessment of rural and urban land, protected species, hazardous materials, environmental risk assessment of brownfield land, urban regeneration, environmental management and mitigation.
At both strategic and specialist levels

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The Range of Roles for Surveyors

As client - Government, corporations, individuals
As project manager
As environmental coordinator
As sector specialist – minerals, waste, geomatics, rural, environmental
As technical specialist-

- GIS
- Ecology
- Land economics
- Building design
- Land Contamination
- Rural management
- we counted 60 specialists who may be involved in EIA.....

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The Opportunity

Surveyors have developed these spatial, assessment and management skills, which are at the heart of modern environmental practice in UK and worldwide.

They are in a strong position to play a major role in taking environmental practice forward in the 21st century.

RICS International Environment Faculty are committed to realising this opportunity for our members by:

- Taking the professional lead
- Providing guidance to practitioners and
- Spreading the word

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