

# OUR MAPPING STORY

## Our marine mapping journey

Covering 71% of the Earth's surface the marine and coastal domain should not have to fall behind its terrestrial counterpart when it comes to having fit-for-purpose digital base mapping.

Surprisingly though, back in 1996 when terrestrial base mapping was fit for use in GIS and widely available, there was no such thing for marine.

# Pioneering technology

**OceanWise** personnel have been the pioneering force in developing marine mapping, with the company's directors, Mike Osborne and John Pepper, both tirelessly working to get better availability to marine data in the UK which they continue to do, to this day. Why? Because marine is equally important as land and the more data you have, the more intuitive the map, and better maps mean improved understanding and better planning, which means higher efficiency and insight.

**OceanWise** is the primary supplier of digital marine mapping to the public and private sectors worldwide. We not only create marine mapping products, we work with national Hydrographic Offices adding value to their data to create the best possible solutions for the customer. As passionate users and producers of mapping data, we also spread the word on data best practice, data management and appropriate use of marine data. I.E would you prefer to receive data showing you all wrecks and obstructions on the sea bed or one where many of the wrecks have been filtered out because they are not considered a danger to navigation. We are a driving force behind the development marine mapping and where possible seek its continued advancement.

As marine mapping has developed, the emphasis today is on delivering fit for purpose maps that can be used and manipulated in our increasingly digitalised world. We believe that the creation of 'intelligent' marine mapping is key and deliver maps that are authoritative, flexible, compatible and easily integrated.

## Innovative solutions

Notably, in the last 4 years, we have developed "Raster Charts XL", a mapping product which is the first of its kind and to date we don't know of anyone else that has managed to replicate it. This unique product gives the user the familiarity of a nautical raster chart but has all the land (and land-based features) removed – instead this area is provided as transparent pixels. Why is this important? Because the 'land' in raster charts is a basic, largely yellow area and we believe is fast becoming 'out of date' for modern requirements. By removing this data, it allows the user the flexibility to include their own preferred digital land mapping, such as from a National Mapping



OceanWise ENC Web Service



OceanWise Marine Themes DEM



OceanWise Raster Chart XL

Agency, OpenStreetMap or Google Maps, thus create a much more detailed, accurate and useful picture of the land and sea environment.

## Our vision

The **OceanWise** vision of the future is the development of an 'authoritative' land-sea map of the UK that users can relate to. After all, there is only one 'skin of the earth!' Delivering such a map has never been more important as the UK witnesses climate change with more storms leading to coastal erosion and an ever changing coastline and seabed. Use of this coastal space is now increasing with offshore renewable energy projects, new coastal infrastructure and marine planning resulting in designation of new marine conservation and protected areas.

Attempts in the last 25 years to bring land and sea geospatial data together in a map all faltered, UK's definitive land mapping remains the responsibility of Ordnance Survey Great Britain and Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland with the definitive marine mapping the responsibility of **OceanWise**. We remain optimistic that all parties can work together to deliver a land-sea map that is required by data users.

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