HM Land Registry lays groundwork for comprehensive registration

HM Land Registry has been reaching landmarks in land registration since 1862.

In 2018 it passed the milestone of registering 86% of the land mass of England and Wales while laying the groundwork to achieve its aim of comprehensive registration by 2030, a key target for the Government and a core component of its Business Strategy.

The initial priority is to register any publicly-owned land that can be used for housing and development purposes in the areas of greatest housing need by 2020. HM Land Registry then aims to register all the land and property owned by public bodies, local authorities and local councils by the end of 2025.

A comprehensive register will make conveyancing simpler, faster and cheaper as all the information necessary for conveyancing will be in the Land Register, which is online and available to everyone to see.

In the past 12 months, HM Land Registry also made further strides in improving the conveyancing process by launching the digital Local Land Charges Register, which will make the local land charges information of local authorities in England instantly available in a standard, easy-to-read format.

In 2018, the UK Government set up the Geospatial Commission as an impartial expert committee within the Cabinet Office to drive the move to use public and private sector geospatial data more productively. Research estimates that this could contribute up to £11 billion of extra value for the economy every year. HM Land Registry, along with British Geological Survey, Ordnance Survey, Valuation Office Agency, UK Hydrographic Office and Coal Authority, have been identified as Partner Bodies of the Commission as they hold the UK’s most valuable location data. Partner bodies are working with the Commission to make the most of the opportunities presented by geospatial data.

Also dedicated to helping buyers and sellers are the start-up companies being mentored through Geovation, HM Land Registry’s partnership with Ordnance Survey which is dedicated to supporting open innovation and collaboration using location and property data. The Accelerator Programme has produced a steady pipeline of success since 2015, with 84 start-ups creating more than 200 jobs and raising £23.3 million in investment funding.