

The development of a remote-download visitor counting system

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Following the first International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitor Flows in Recreational and Protected Areas, English Nature identified a need to implement a system of visitor counting on a selection of the 170 National Nature Reserves which it manages across England. A prime requirement of the system was that it should involve a minimal amount of field staff time to harvest the data.

Following a competitive tendering exercise, Teknovisiot were appointed as contractors to develop their GSM-based system for use by English Nature.

This paper will discuss the requirements identified by English Nature and how the system was developed in conjunction with Teknovisiot to meet those requirements. It will include a summary of problems encountered and how these were overcome. The presentation will include examples of data provided by the system.

It is believed that the system now developed by Teknovisiot on behalf of English Nature would have considerable potential for any site manager who has access to a mobile telephone network on their land and an internet modem in their office.

Outline of paper:

- The requirement and issues surrounding it, including limited staff time, vandalism and mis-use.
- The equipment involved.
- The data harvesting and data-transfer arrangements.
- Examples of data collected and how it may be used.
- Summary of problems encountered.
- Costs.