

## Virtual Environmental Planning system (VEPs)

### Project Summary

The Virtual Environmental Planning Project (VEPs) has successfully developed and demonstrated the use of interactive, web-based technology to help people understand planning proposals and share their views about them online.

The VEPs technology allows people to:

- View planning proposals within a realistic 3D model of an existing city and landscape.
- View information about the development such as video guided tours, reports and photographs.
- View environmental information such as flood or noise models in 3D to help understand the environmental implications of development.
- Comment more easily on planning proposals by leaving their comments as text in a discussion forum or by uploading a comment as an audio or video clip.

The VEPs technology is not only improving access to information but also allowing people to actively participate in the planning process. As VEPs is web-based, it is available 24 hours a day, enabling people to view and comment on proposals without visiting a local planning office.



The VEPs applications have been developed by a partnership of organisations based in North West Europe. Demand for new homes, office space and services in this region continues to grow, putting increasing pressure on the environment. This makes it harder for planners to agree how best to develop sites that will meet a local community's needs while still protecting the environment for future generations.

VEPs will be tested in case studies in the UK and Germany. Planners and community consultation support officers will be able to use the demonstration tools as part of real consultations and have a say in how the applications can develop further.

More information about these case study areas and demonstrations of the technology are available through the VEPs website.

### Further information

**Project manager:** Andrew Richman,  
Environment Agency for England and Wales

**Website:** [www.veps3d.org](http://www.veps3d.org)

© Environment Agency