

# Geographical Association

## Highly Commended Award 2003



### Judges' Citation

**AEGIS 3** is the latest and much improved version of this Geography focused GIS software package. The software is specifically designed for use in the secondary school classroom and a good deal of thought has gone into making the functionality and contents relevant and user friendly.

The simplicity of design and uncluttered look of the controls in the previous version have been kept, but a lot more has been added. It is now even easier to import Ordnance Survey map data. A new feature is the ability to insert 'hot-spots' into the map, for example at fieldwork data collection sites. These work in the same way as Internet hyperlinks and clicking on them will reveal a photo, text or whatever you have chosen to link to the site.

The key strength of this version is the quality of the exemplar material. There are now a large number of interactive worksheets included on the disk covering a wide variety of geographical topics. These can be used by teachers straight away or can very easily be adapted or extended to suit. The sample files make good use of the ability of the software to present the data provided in a number of different ways such as choropleth mapping, flow lines or indeed by adding proportional symbols or pie charts to a map.

At the simplest level **AEGIS 3** provides a very powerful yet easy way to create a variety of geographically relevant maps that can be copied into word processor or presentation packages. Alternatively, and more profitably, the students themselves can use the software to explore data or geographical techniques or even to make the move from paper-based to an effective digital coursework presentation, which goes well beyond the creation of graphs with spreadsheet tools. This is an excellent and innovative resource. Even those have not considered introducing GIS into their teaching before should find an occasion to have a look at this product and to use it with their students.