



Nottingham
City Council

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

This article has been put together in collaboration with Wendy Conibear from Nottingham City Council. Wendy is a Senior Mapping Officer and member of the GIS and Data Information Team. She also has the role of Administrator for the GIS247 training account at Nottingham City Council.



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At Nottingham City Council, we are now coming towards the end of the second year of accessing the e-learning resources on GIS247.

We have had 46 users who have actively been using the training across 15 different departments. The range of training material that has been accessed is very broad, and we have GIS users who are new to GIS, whereas we also have some more advanced users too. One of the benefits of the on-line training is how it caters for these different audiences.



Some of the users have been on different versions of the software as an organisation wide upgrade from ArcGIS v9.2 to v10 is taking place. Access to the training has therefore been a great help in the upgrade process allowing all users to be well supported throughout.

The e-learning approach to training has been a great advantage, providing an excellent way to make training easily accessible for a large number of staff. This has also enabled a smooth transition in the upgrade to ArcGIS v10. This level of access to training would not be possible with a face-to-face approach as it would have been too expensive and resource intensive to run.



We have a database of all GIS users across the organisation and so emails are sent directly to staff informing them of the availability of the GIS247 training and any updates. Users are encouraged to also use the training to refresh knowledge, as well as learning new skills.


Some of Nottingham City Council's GIS users who have achieved a certificate for their training using GIS247 resources

In addition to email contact with GIS users to encourage engagement with the training we have in the past provided open room sessions, where users can go and work through relevant training modules away from their desk. Although a big benefit of e-learning is that you can access it anywhere and anytime!










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 GIS247

Using GIS at Nottingham City Council

-  Using GIS at Nottingham City Council
-  On-line Mapping Tools at Nottingham City Council
-  How as a GIS User do I Access the GIS Data?
-  Producing High Quality Maps at Nottingham City Council
-  Creating Data at Nottingham City Council
-  Sharing Nottingham City Council's GIS Data
-  The ArcGIS Software at Nottingham City Council

We have also been able to develop some modules in collaboration with GIS247 which are bespoke to Nottingham City and outline some of the key areas to consider as a GIS user at Nottingham City Council: data protocols, file structures, copyrights etc. to ensure we are all following the same guidelines. Our users can access these as well as the other GIS247 resources at any time.

Introduction to the bespoke e-learning presentations for Nottingham City Council

One of our more advanced GIS users is Thomas Keeley, Data & Information Officer in the Family Community Team. Thomas has

been using the GIS247 e-learning courses to support his learning of new GIS skills and refresh existing knowledge - "GIS247 has definitely given me a huge boost in my skills for using ArcGIS. Not only have I discovered far faster ways of doing tasks that used to be very time consuming, but I have also learnt other ways of presenting and analysing data that have proved very valuable in our on-going analysis of services."

Thomas has done a lot of work recently around the Play, Youth and Children's Centres in the City, focusing on the people who attend each centre and where they come from. Thomas explains, "being able to map out how far individuals travel and where they attend has been incredibly useful, allowing this information to be presented to both colleagues and counsellors in a way that is instantly understandable. This has enabled us to plan a much better distribution of services in the areas that are needed, allowing us to cut costs while increasing the effectiveness of our services."



The GIS247 training has been invaluable and e-learning provides flexibility to access the training as and when you require it. It also means you can go back and review certain modules to consolidate the learning experience. The on-line training does require a degree of self-motivation and we have requested that users obtain the support from their managers and the training is tied into performance appraisals to ensure time can be dedicated to the training.

The benefits to Nottingham City Council as an organisation overall are that this really is a cost effective and affordable way of delivering on-going training and up-skilling staff. Instead of a few staff benefitting from one off training sessions; we are able to allow an unlimited number of staff access to training, across a wide range of areas and abilities, which is available all year round. The training represents great value for money when compared with on-site training and has been positively received by our GIS users.

We will be renewing our Ultimate licence to GIS247 training for a further 12 months!

