

COURSE IN FOCUS: Beginners Guide to ArcGIS

The Beginners Guide to ArcGIS on-line course is the perfect place to start for people who are completely new to ArcGIS and have little experience with GIS. The course offers an ideal learning pace to engage the user, building knowledge and confidence and provides a good overview of the capabilities that the software offers. This article outlines the experience of Joanna Tye who has completed the Beginners course and Blessing Amin who is in the process of working through it on-line.



The Beginners Guide to ArcGIS course includes information on loading spatial and attribute data, symbolising data, building attribute expressions, interactive spatial selection, dynamic label management and producing maps. Joanna Tye from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) followed the Beginners Guide to ArcGIS course. This is her experience of GIS247s' e-learning:



“At AHVLA, we lead projects investigating a variety of animal disease data from across the UK and further afield. In recent years there has been an increasing demand for GIS analysis to be added to research and surveillance work as maps add a useful visual element to reports for policy makers and the results improve our understanding of the links between geography and

animal health.”

“My background is in biology and project management, so unlike my more experienced colleagues I was completely new to GIS. The Beginners Guide to ArcGIS course was most suited to me and this is what I followed at GIS247. The e-learning format allowed me to fit the training in around my other work and to add GIS elements into projects at my own pace. It also lets me go back and review the units that were most helpful.”

“After completing the ArcGIS Beginner course, I started with plotting points where samples had been taken, adjusting the symbology and developing the general presentation of the maps. The mapping definitely gave a good visualisation of the data.”

Joanna Tye from AHVLA



“Later I moved on to looking at density of infection and validating sampling data against regional information to improve data accuracy. One process I have found useful for a number of different projects is using the select by attributes (for district/region/country) and select by location (within given boundaries) to find out if any submitted coordinates are not correct. This maximises the accuracy of the data reported to senior managers and policy makers.”

The Beginners course was a great introduction to GIS for



Joanna, enabling her to make effective use of ArcGIS, “I thought the content and quality of the training was very good and the Beginners course definitely covered all the key areas. Also I liked that the hands on exercises were relatively straightforward, but still took me through the process of many of the different tools and options. So when I started using ArcGIS for real-world data, I had a reasonable feel for where I should go to do different things, even if I hadn’t done them the same way before. I now have new skills which I hope to develop further, enabling me to take on more complex GIS analysis in the future. The GIS247 course has given me a good start!”

Functions particularly useful

- Attribute & Spatial Joins
- Select by Attribute and Select by Spatial Location
- Centroid X and Y calculations
- Summary Statistics
- Convert Coordinate Notation
- Single and Graduated symbology (graduated colour ramps & normalized by area)
- Legends, North Arrows & Scale Bars

Some of the functions that Joanna found particularly useful to learn about and then applying to her work at AHVLA

Since the Beginners course Joanna has completed both the follow on Intermediate and Advanced ArcGIS courses, developing her technical capabilities. She gained distinction in both these training course assessments. Well done Joanna!

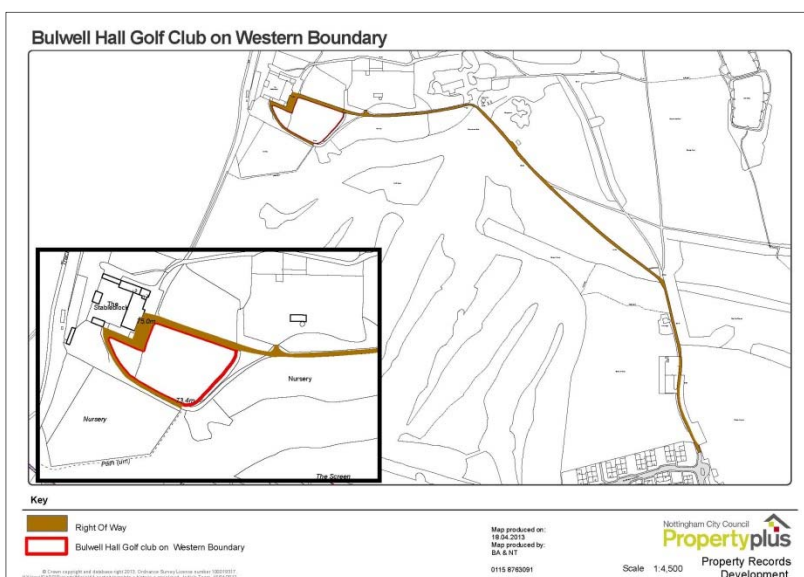


**Nottingham
City Council**

Another experience has been by Blessing Amin. Blessing is a recent employee who started work the in the Property Records Department at Nottingham City Council several months ago. This is Blessings account:

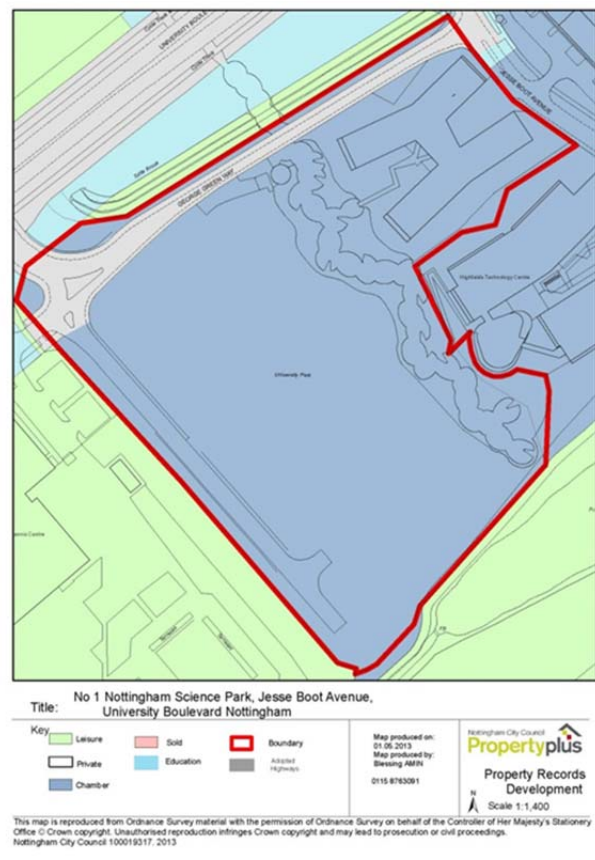
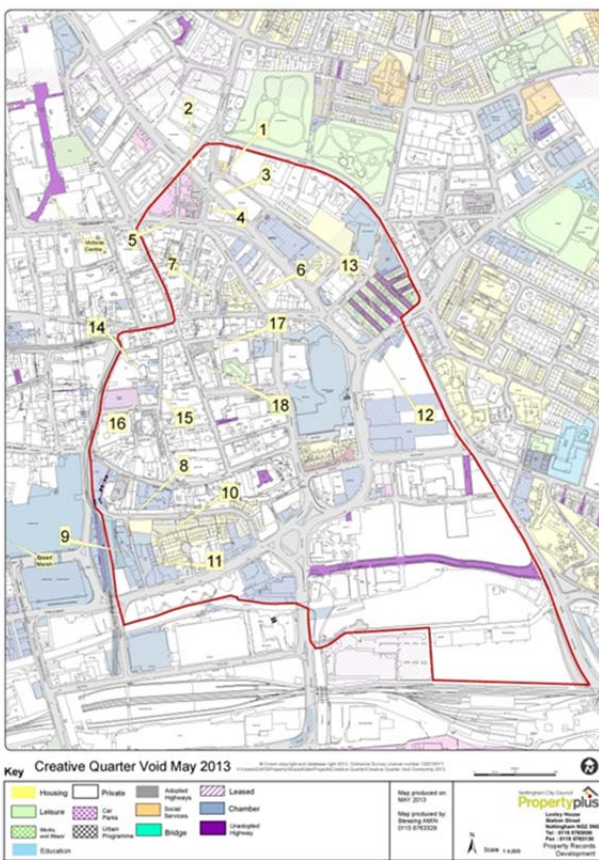
“Though I had heard about GIS I never thought how useful it was. The Property Records Team gave me the opportunity to undertake a range of training courses in the Esri ArcGIS software via their GIS247 licence. Since following the training I have used ArcGIS to create and maintain electronic spatial location records of all the Council’s land and property assets. I have prepared plans and site maps of the Council’s land and property assets for members and officers for the development and regeneration of Nottingham. I am now able to initiate and manage multiple tasks with GIS; for example using adding T-marks, red edging, shading colours, querying attributes and a range of other things.”

Blessing Amin from Nottingham City Council



“I have found e-learning the best option for me because it’s flexible, accessible and convenient. I really like the quality of the training. The presentations are loud and clear which also makes it easy to follow. I also think that e-learning will ensure that the team will keep up to date with changes in the software to maintain a competitive edge. Though am still on the Beginners course I feel that the knowledge I have gained thus far has given me the confidence to do my daily duties with competence.”

Above and below are a few of the maps that Blessing Amin has been able to create for the Property Records Team as a result of following the on-line Beginners Guide to ArcGIS course at GIS247.



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