



# GIS247 IN FOCUS

**GIS247 – expert knowledge, flexible training. Providing e-learning for GIS users.**

## In the Spotlight

### Nottingham City Council

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.



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.

One of our advanced GIS users is Thomas Keeley, Data & Information Officer, he has been using the GIS247 e-learning courses to learn new GIS skills and refresh existing knowledge. One of Thomas's recent projects has been around Play, Youth and Children's Centres; 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. 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.

The benefits to Nottingham City Council as an organisation overall are that this really is a cost effective and affordable way of delivering ongoing training and upskilling staff. Instead of a few staff benefiting 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!

Access the full article on our GIS247 website



*This article has been put together in collaboration with Wendy Conibear, who is in the GIS and Data Information Team at Nottingham City Council. Wendy also has the role of Administrator for their organisation's GIS247 training account.*

## The GIS247 Store is now open!

We have made it even easier to purchase and renew a licence to e-learning in MapInfo and ArcGIS on-line with the launch of our new on-line Store.



All types of licence are available; Ultimate, Set User and an Academic / Charity licence.

Visit: [www.GIS247store.com](http://www.GIS247store.com)

## GIS247 Course Updates

We have been busy behind the scenes updating and developing lots of new courses and other training material. Work is always on-going but what we can let you know about is...



### New training that has arrived:

- Beginners Guide to ArcGIS v10.1 – full course with presentations & exercises
- Intermediate Guide to ArcGIS v10.1 – full course with presentations & exercises
- Mastering ArcGIS v10.1 – full course with presentations & exercises
- 350+ mini modules in ArcGIS v10.1
- 350+ mini modules in ArcGIS v10.0

*All these courses and modules are now available with 'Closed Captions'. Closed captions allow you to view the text of the presentations. It's not only helpful for the hearing-impaired, but also for new users to see new technical terms in text, it provides visual re-enforcement to the audio of the training presentations and it also supports our international users where English is a second language. Also useful if you don't have headphones or have a noisy office!*

### New training that is on its way:

- Beginners Guide to MapInfo v12.0
- What's New in ArcGIS v10.2
- GIS Essentials: Projection & GIS

If you would like to see any particular training courses, modules or new software/topics become available please do let us know. Email us at [info@gis247.com](mailto:info@gis247.com)

## GIS247 E-learning Courses

- \* ArcGIS - beginner through to advanced
- \* MapInfo- beginner through to advanced
- \* ArcGIS Extensions
- \* GIS Essentials

ArcGIS and MapInfo courses are available in all software versions.



### Come and say Hello!

GIS247 is a sponsor at this year's AGI [GeoCommunity'13](#) 'Open for Business' Conference.

You will be able to meet with members of our training team on 17th and 18th September and have the opportunity to discuss your training needs. You will also be able to view our new presentations. The conference is being held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham.

## Question of the Month: What are MINI MODULES?

Mini modules are short video presentations (approx. 4 mins) which demonstrate how to use a specific function of the software. They are ideal to 'look-up' how to use a particular option on the software. It's a case of 'watch one' then 'do one'! There are over 350 mini modules available for ArcGIS v10.1 alone!

## GIS247 Website Changes

The GIS247 website has undergone quite a few changes recently. We hope you like them!

*We have changed the listing of video presentations for training courses and mini modules to show thumbnail images. This makes it more obvious that you are accessing a presentation. Once it's finished playing you are now automatically returned to the training course page so you can easily carry on with the next bit.*

*The downloadable PDF for each training exercise is also now shown as a thumbnail image. This makes it clear that it's where you access the instructions for the hands-on component. These changes have been made for all sections in ArcGIS version 10.1 courses and mini modules and ArcGIS version 10.0 mini modules. These improvements will be rolled out to the ArcGIS version 10.0 courses over the coming weeks.*

If you have any suggestions about how you would like the site to work or look please do let us know. Email us at [info@GIS247.com](mailto:info@GIS247.com)



### Beginners Guide to ArcGIS

The Beginners Guide to ArcGIS course is an ideal way for users to learn how to make good use of the key functions, whilst also giving them a great overview of the potential that the software has. Joanna Tye from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) followed the Beginners Guide to ArcGIS course. This is her experience of GIS247's e-learning:

"At AHVLA, we lead projects investigating a variety of animal disease data from across the UK and further afield. 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 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."

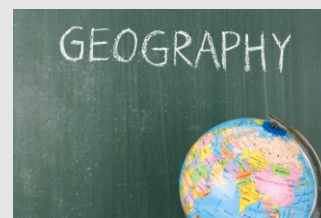
"Later I moved on to looking at density of infection and validating sampling data against regional information to improve data accuracy."

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 it definitely covered all the key areas. 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!"

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



[Access the full article](#) on our GIS247 website



### E-Learning Benefits

Training via e-learning offers huge benefits. In this issue we will focus on just two:

**Flexible** - log-in and access the training material anytime, anywhere and choose the level of training that suits you!

**Repeatable** - so that you can really consolidate what you have learnt – both presentations and hands-on exercises.

Read about all the benefits that [e-learning](#) has to offer.



### Interesting in the world of GIS...

#### How Green is our Planet?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have developed a detailed vegetation index using data from the NASA/NOAA Suomi NPP satellite. It detects the subtle differences in greenness.

Take a look at the amazing animation and images that are available showing the changing green of our planet over the course of a year.

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