

# GIS Musings – Newsletter January 2014

InTouch GIS Service – providing Geographical Information Systems, Spatial Analysis and Mapping expertise  
Issue 2



**Welcome** to the January 2014 edition of GIS Musings, the latest newsletter from InTouch GIS Services. It is traditional at this time of the year to look back over previous achievements and to look forward to new opportunities the new year will present. On both of these counts, InTouch has a lot to celebrate and look forward to.

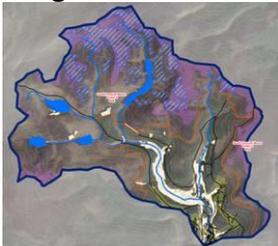
## InTouch at the ReCentre



InTouch GIS is now working with the [ReCentre](#) based at Bradford University. This new purpose built sustainable innovations centre fosters collaboration amongst SMEs, the University and Bradford Council, delivering innovative solutions for sustainable development. Links with several of the other SMEs based at the centre including Grow Bradford, World Development Movement, GreenGain, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Bradford University and Bradford City Council are all ready bringing in lots of interesting collaborative work opportunities.

The building itself is now regarded as one of the most sustainable buildings in the world having the highest BREAM score and being constructed from hemp, with passive solar gain, rain water harvesting and PV energy source.

## Integrated Catchment Management Planning

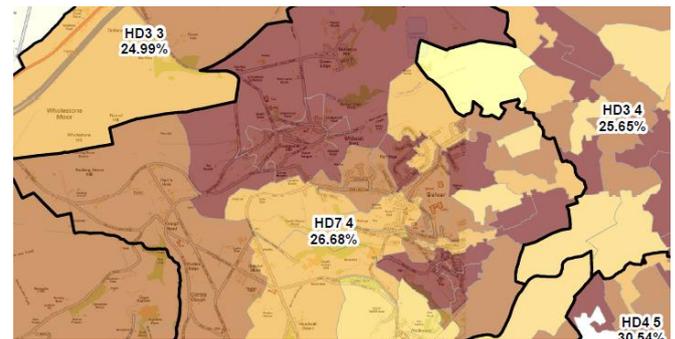


InTouch has been working with [Treesponsibility](#) to produce an integrated catchment management plan for the Hebden Water catchment above Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. The site of devastating flooding during 2012, this collaborative work

involving Calderdale Council, the Environment Agency and other local groups aimed to identify suitable land management practices for the moorland plateau as well as identify areas suitable for tree planting to stabilise the slopes and reduce the flood peak within the catchment. InTouch GIS provided data integration and mapping expertise to this project, pulling in data from various sources including datasets from the Environment Agency, Local authority and other specific local surveys.

InTouch GIS is also working with [‘Moors for the Future’](#), identifying areas of gullying and erosion on the Kinder Plateau area of the Peak District. This is helping to reverse the damage caused by more than 150 years of industrial pollution, wildfires and overgrazing that has stripped plant life from large areas of peatland.

## Population Analysis and Census Mapping Keep Slaithwaite Special Community Group



"Keep Slaithwaite Special" is a community group set up to promote and encourage the thriving community and local economy of Slaithwaite Village. Their latest campaign, relating to a proposed new retail development in the village centre required independent analysis and mapping of local population profiles in the area. Using the latest 2011 census data, InTouch provided detailed population and household profiling of the catchment area of the new development. By using this bespoke service provided by InTouch GIS, more up to date and accurate information could be used than had previously been provided by other organisations using standard 'off the shelf' services.

## InTouch Delivers ArcGIS and MapInfo training

InTouch GIS has delivered training courses in both ArcGIS and MapInfo software, both as a structured 'Introduction to MapInfo' 2 day course and as a more practical project related 1 day consultancy service.



Both approaches to training were well received by the clients which included SAC consulting and Leicestershire County Council.



Working on behalf of [PinPoint Training Ltd](#), InTouch provided an Introduction to MapInfo course for highways and transportation staff at Leicestershire County Council's head office. The standard course was adjusted to incorporate trainees own data sets they used on a day to day basis, a much more meaningful approach to understanding how the software works than the 'standard' training data sets sometimes used.



Bespoke training on ESRI's ArcGIS software was also provided to [SAC consulting](#) in Edinburgh during an intensive 1 day session. This covered more advanced functionality provided by ARCGIS 'Extensions'. including Surface modelling, viewsheds and ZTV's (Zone of Theoretical Visibility), complex polygon overlays, geodatabases and raster catalogs.

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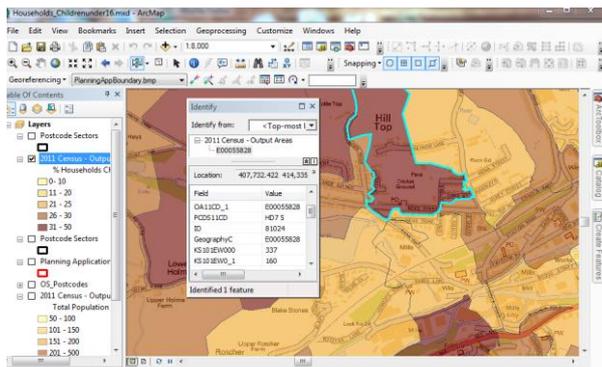
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## GIS Tips

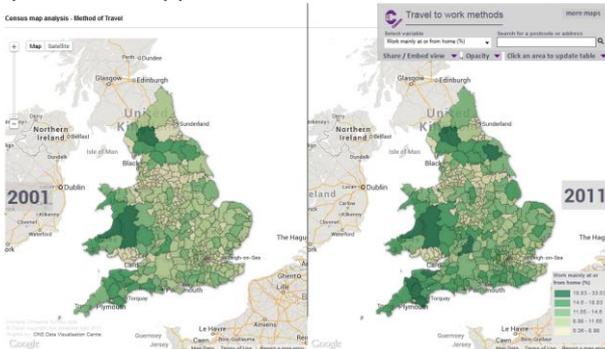
### Mapping the 2011 Census

The census, taken every 10 years in England and Wales, was last undertaken on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Data derived from the 56 questions on the census questionnaire is now available online from the [Office of National Statistics](http://www.ons.gov.uk) (ONS).

Much of this information is available for use within GIS and mapping systems, allowing population information for specific locations to be analysed. Also the spatial distribution of population characteristics to be mapped over a larger area.



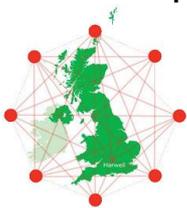
The census makes use of 'output areas', 181,408 covering the whole of the England and Wales, allowing data from census tables to be mapped in detail. Interactive maps are available online from the ONS or the data can be downloaded for use within more specific GIS applications.



[ONS Interactive maps](http://www.ons.gov.uk)

InTouch GIS can help access this information and analyse population and household information for specific sites, local areas or at a regional level.

### Satellite Catapult



InTouch GIS is involved with the national satellite applications Catapult ([sa.catapult.org.uk](http://sa.catapult.org.uk)), a new innovation and technology company developing new ideas in the space and satellite product industries. A workshop in Leeds during December covered many interesting topics: use of SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) for catchment management planning, the impacts of GNS satellite navigation systems and the implications of accidental and deliberate signal interruptions.

### Sourcing your Mapping Data

In the last issue of Mapping Musings, I discussed the use of the OS Opendata range of products available free from the Ordnance Survey. When specialist and detailed mapping is needed, there is a range of websites available which allow online specification, ordering and delivery of your mapping data.



Emapsite ([www.emapsite.com](http://www.emapsite.com)) is one such site providing an easy, flexible and reliable way of purchasing mapping and other spatial products, for use in GIS or CAD. Your area of interest can be defined either by drawing the required area on screen, specifying from co-ordinates or by uploading a GIS file. After selecting the products required, your products are normally available to download usually within 10 – 15 min, sometimes sooner.

### Photography by InTouch



InTouch Photography has also been busy during 2013, providing photography for WelcomeFest music festival and continuing with travel and sports photography. If you have an event that you need photographing, do get in touch.

### Getting in touch with InTouch GIS Services

InTouch GIS provides a range of services to help you use your spatial data more effectively. Whether you are a consultancy offering GIS and mapping to your clients, or a user of spatial data in your own right, InTouch can help you make the most of your spatial data and GIS software. So for help and advice on all things spatial, get in touch with InTouch.

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