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# THINK GIS

ISSUE 48  
SUMMER  
2021

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WORLD**

*NHS delivers  
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## WELCOME THIS SMARTER WORLD

**Now, more than ever before, GIS professionals have a critical role to play in helping to build a better future, explains Stuart Bonthron, Managing Director of Esri UK.**

Five years ago, Esri President Jack Dangermond appealed to people in the GIS community to use their skills and resources to address the most pressing and challenging issues on the planet. He urged them to use geospatial analysis and digital mapping techniques to make smarter decisions about everything from protecting biodiversity to building new infrastructure and delivering humanitarian relief. “GIS—your profession, your technology—provides the framework and the process for creating... a smarter world,” he said.

**This smarter world is needed now more than ever before.**

Certainly, the events of the last eighteen months have demonstrated, beyond all doubt, just how important it is for organisations to be able to understand complex situations and make fast, well-informed decisions. With the outbreak of COVID-19, public and private sector organisations alike had to address unprecedented challenges and develop new ways of working. In this issue of ThinkGIS, you can read about the many GIS heroes who lived up to Jack’s expectations, using GIS to make smart decisions and support society through the crisis ([pages 8-9](#)).

GIS played an essential role in informing some of the most pivotal decisions of the pandemic. In our cover story, you can read how NHS South, Central and West used Esri’s GIS system, ArcGIS, to help it plan and implement the roll-out of the UK’s most ambitious vaccination programme ever ([page 3](#)). Furthermore, 42 Engineer Regiment used ArcGIS to help the government share timely data about the ever-changing healthcare crisis and make rapid decisions about the siting of COVID-19 test sites and Nightingale hospitals ([page 12](#)).

As the world comes to terms with the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost all organisations will need to work smarter, whether they are redesigning high streets for an era dominated by online shopping, protecting the green spaces that were so important during lockdowns or enabling flexible working practices, now that we have all got used to working from home. Our customers are already illuminating the way ahead, using ArcGIS to create a sustainable, efficient and safer world. Nottingham City Council has used ArcGIS to inspire innovative schemes for city centre regeneration ([page 6](#)), while Arcadis has pioneered a more efficient survey and project management method ([page 4](#)). A UK research organisation, Conflict Armament Research, is using ArcGIS to trace the source of weapons and help create a better future for people whose lives are dominated by the threat of violence ([page 7](#)).

The biggest challenge that lies ahead is the need to reverse climate change. There is a clear and urgent need to repair the damage that has been done to our environment as well as begin to decarbonise the way we live, work and travel.

Some positive steps are already being made towards creating this smarter world. In particular, customers are developing new processes for enhancing, protecting and managing the environment. Costain, for example, is using ArcGIS to improve biodiversity on rail, road and utility schemes ([page 10](#)), while Affinity Water is using ArcGIS to find and fix leaks faster and conserve our planet’s water supply ([page 11](#)). Thames Estuary Partnership is using ArcGIS to work with partners and reopen fish migration routes ([page 13](#)), and Forestry and Land Scotland uses ArcGIS in the field to survey and manage ash trees ([page 5](#)).

Whether we are challenged by COVID-19 or climate change, conflict or commerce, GIS delivers the tools we need to understand incredibly complex issues, find new ways of working and living, and engage positively with others to achieve common goals. GIS professionals have the skills and technology to enable smarter decisions and help build a better future for us all.



**Stuart Bonthron**  
Managing Director, Esri UK



SMARTER WORLD

## NHS DELIVERS EFFICIENT VACCINATION PROGRAMME



NHS South, Central and West (SCW) used geospatial analysis to help the NHS vaccinate millions of people as quickly as possible.

When the NHS faced the enormous challenge of vaccinating the entire UK population against COVID-19 within an ambitious timescale, geospatial analysis brought clarity to the planning process. The GIS team at [SCW](#) used ArcGIS to help ensure that people receive the right vaccine at the right time from a site convenient to them.

Critically, SCW helped in the planning and modelling of the optimal location of vaccination sites, taking into account the number of people in the catchment area, in the target age range, for each separate phase of the roll-out. The organisation also worked with Primary Care Networks in Somerset to optimise the routing for vaccinating housebound people, to allow district nurses and GPs to reach as many vulnerable

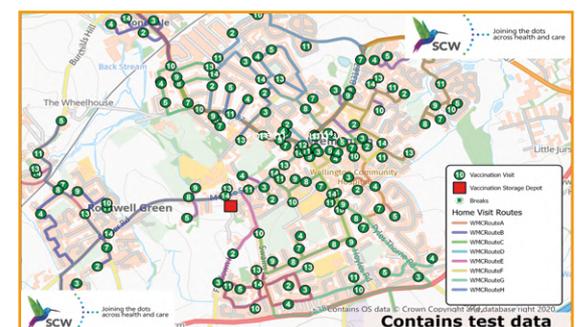
people as possible, as quickly as possible, while ensuring all available vaccines were used.

At the start of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme, SCW modelled the best locations for large vaccination sites, based on a detailed understanding of where people lived and drive times. SCW then adjusted the model iteratively to plan smaller vaccination centres at GP practices and pharmacies in response to changes in the Government's roll-out strategy. Now, SCW is using ArcGIS to keep NHS decision makers informed about the uptake of vaccinations and help them plan targeted interventions that will encourage more people to get vaccinated and prevent health inequalities.

*“Through our use of ArcGIS, we have supported the NHS to deliver a massive, coordinated effort and vaccinate millions of people in the UK in a planned and efficient way.”*

**Trevor Foster**

Associate Director, Geographic Intelligence and Mapping Service, NHS South, Central and West



SCW-produced map for optimising housebound vaccination visit routes

## ARCADIS FAST-TRACKS DATA FROM FIELD TO CLIENT



150%

improvement in project  
management efficiencies

Through the creation of a seamless digital workflow, Arcadis can transfer asset and health & safety data rapidly from the field to its rail industry client.

A leading global design and consultancy firm, [Arcadis](#) was engaged by a major rail industry client to survey around 50,000 electrical assets along 400 miles of railway lines in the UK. Traditional survey and project management methods were clearly not going to be up to the huge scale of this task, so a new approach was needed.

Drawing on its extensive engineering, GIS and building information modelling (BIM) expertise, Arcadis used ArcGIS to build a fully integrated and automated digital workflow for managing the entire project, from the capture of survey data in a live rail environment to the creation of a BIM masterplan for the electrified infrastructure. This new process has improved project management efficiencies by up to 150% and reduced data capture time by 10%. The automated flow of data from ArcGIS to the BIM model has also halved the effort needed from the design team to produce the final deliverables for the client.

In addition, the new digital workflow has improved collaboration between Arcadis, its client and its contractor, as all three organisations can view and share data via ArcGIS Dashboards and the [ArcGIS Hub](#). Everyone has real-time access to the same information, and the client can monitor Arcadis' performance against key performance indicators, at a glance, on demand. Critically, surveyors can use ArcGIS on site to notify the client immediately of any health & safety concerns observed. Rapid action can then be taken to remove potential hazards, reducing risks for all rail staff and contractors working along the railway lines - now and in the future.



An ArcGIS dashboard used for monitoring the progress of the survey project

*"The new digital workflow that we have developed with ArcGIS enables us to deliver an efficient, collaborative and high quality service for our client."*

**Gideon Simons**  
Principal GIS and Geospatial Consultant, Arcadis

FIELD MOBILITY

## FORESTRY AND LAND SCOTLAND HELPS TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY



Concerned about the increased risks to the general public, Forestry and Land Scotland is surveying thousands of ash trees and monitoring the growing threat of Ash Dieback disease.

*“ArcGIS provides the clear insight we need to make informed decisions about how best to tackle Ash Dieback and plan the level of investment that will be needed in the future to manage diseased trees and maintain public safety”*

**Alan Gale**  
Climate Change Adaptation Programme Manager,  
Forestry and Land Scotland

**6,600**

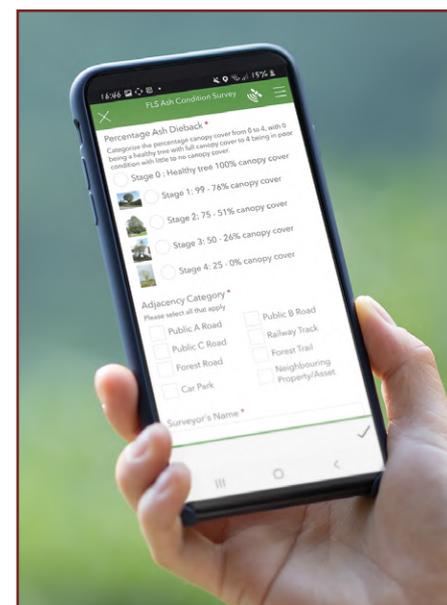
ash trees surveyed  
in two months

When ash trees become diseased, branches can break away and tree trunks can crash to the ground, causing serious injuries or even death for anyone unlucky enough to be nearby. [Forestry and Land Scotland](#) is taking action to limit this risk, by surveying ash trees on its land and monitoring their condition using [Survey123](#) for ArcGIS.

With near-instant visibility of data collected in the field, Forestry and Land Scotland can easily see ‘hot spot’ areas where there are particularly badly diseased trees or weakened branches in close proximity to high-risk areas such as public roads and paths. Then it can make rapid, informed decisions about where to prioritise its resources, to remove branches or fell trees to reduce the risks to people and property.

Forestry and Land Scotland is now using ready-made dashboards in ArcGIS Online to monitor changes in the condition of specific trees over time and measure the speed at which diseased trees deteriorate. With an improved understanding of the true

scale of Ash Dieback impacts, Forestry and Land Scotland can more accurately forecast what resources it will need to tackle the safety and environmental impacts of Ash Dieback across 640,000 hectares of Scotland’s forests and land.



Employees capture data on smartphones using Survey123 for ArcGIS

# NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LEADS THE REGENERATION CONVERSATION



In a public consultation called the 'Big Conversation', a Story Map inspired innovative schemes for regenerating a derelict shopping centre and creating a thriving city centre.

When a major retail developer went into administration at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the historic city of Nottingham was left with a partly demolished shopping centre and shattered redevelopment plans. Recognising this as an opportunity rather than a catastrophe, [Nottingham City Council](#) used an ArcGIS Story Map to engage local people and businesses in the 'Big Conversation' about what they would like the area to look like in a future beyond COVID-19.

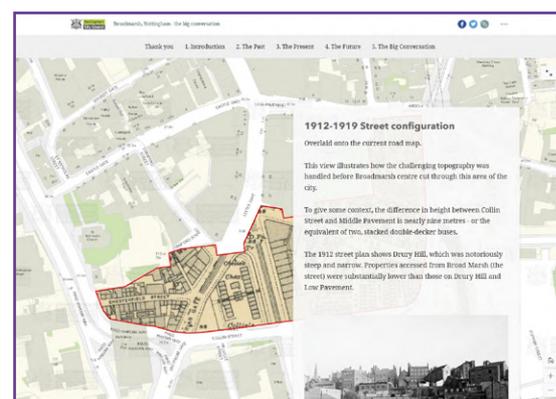
With its attractive and interactive format, the Big Conversation story map succeeded in capturing the attention of a large number of people and gained more than 12,000 views during the 10-week consultation period. Local people, developers, architects and business owners were able to use the

[story map](#) to view historic maps, see 3D models of other developments already underway nearby and learn about the history of the 20-acre Greater Broadmarsh site. The vast amount of local information in the story map helped to stimulate public interest in the city's future and contributed to more than 3,000 responses.

Significantly, using ArcGIS StoryMaps enabled the council to be entirely transparent about not only the opportunities, but also the challenges of the development site, such as large changes in elevation, planning constraints and a network of underground caves. With an accurate understanding of these issues, people could put forward innovative suggestions for the future of this prime city centre location.

*"The Big Conversation story map really captured people's imagination and helped to engage a wide audience in the process of designing a new vision for the future of Nottingham's city centre."*

**Mick Dunn**  
GIS Service Manager, Nottingham City Council



Nottingham City Council shared a vast amount of local information with the public via an interactive Story Map

**12,000**

Story Map views  
in 10 weeks

**877**  
weapons & rounds  
of ammunition  
investigated

MAP CREATOR

## RESEARCHERS TRACE THE WEAPONS OF WAR



An ArcGIS Story Map shows the likely route of Polish-manufactured weapons from Libya to Nigeria

In one of the deadliest conflicts in Western Africa, Conflict Armament Research is tracing the source of weapons and sharing this vital intelligence via ArcGIS.

*"ArcGIS gives us a massively expanded toolkit for sharing our investigative findings and raising awareness of the importance of better controlling weapon supply routes, to reduce violence in Nigeria."*

**Rob Perkins**  
Head of Research, Conflict Armament Research

Fierce clashes between herder and farmer communities in Nigeria have led to the deaths of 3,600 people since 2014, and more than 300,000 people have been displaced from their homes as a result of violence in the region. To improve understanding of how armed groups in countries like Nigeria are obtaining weapons, the independent research organisation [Conflict Armament Research](#) systematically investigates the original source and supply of arms and armaments that security forces have seized in conflict zones around the world.

In one recent investigation, Conflict Armament Research mapped the movement of 148 weapons and 729 rounds of ammunition found in Nigeria back to manufacturing plants in Europe, East Asia and the Middle

East. It visualised all the data collected in an [ArcGIS Dashboard](#), providing researchers and policy makers around the world with an easy way to examine the type, age and origin of the illicit weapons and ammunition used in herder-farmer violence in Nigeria.

In addition, Conflict Armament Research produced an interactive ArcGIS Story Map, clearly explaining how these military weapons had reached armed groups in Nigeria. The Story Map embeds mapping content from Esri Living Atlas to make the complex story of armament movements very easy for people to understand in a visual format. Government policy makers and non-governmental organisations can now use this Story Map to help them implement more effective measures to block weapons from entering Nigeria and thereby reduce the human cost of this conflict.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GIS HEROES

When COVID-19 threatened and disrupted lives, GIS heroes around the UK launched into action and used ArcGIS to overcome unprecedented, urgent and colossal challenges.

### SUPPORTING KEY WORKERS



While most of the UK was told to 'Stay at Home', key workers still needed to get safely to work. **Stuart Lester**, Data Insights Manager at Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), conducted detailed analysis with ArcGIS and identified specific areas of the Midlands with clusters of key workers who are dependent on public transport. Using this information, TfWM could then work with its partners to ensure vital transport services were maintained in these priority areas.

Sustrans, in the meantime, launched a scheme to help key workers cycle to work. GIS Officer **Flora Tiley** used ArcGIS Online to create a web map displaying more than 1,600 bike shops and repair centres throughout the whole of the UK, including 474 cycling industry offers for key workers.



### RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES



Just because the country was in lockdown, it didn't mean that emergency situations wouldn't arise and first response organisations needed to be ready for action. **Matthew Wright**, GIS lead at the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), used ArcGIS to build an interactive dashboard, showing how many lifeboat members had COVID-19 symptoms or were self-isolating and the readiness of crews at 238 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland. Developed in just 72 hours, this dashboard helped the RNLI to maintain its vital, life-saving services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Global travel restrictions threatened to hamper the actions of the specialist organisation Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL). However, **Liam Harrington-Missin**, Technology and Innovation Lead at OSRL, created an ArcGIS dashboard to provide easy access to logistical information, COVID-19 contingency plans and all the other information needed to deliver a rapid response in the event of an oil spill emergency, anywhere in the world.



### COMMUNICATING INFORMATION RAPIDLY



The ability to communicate information rapidly proved critical for many organisations. At Public Health Scotland, **Andrew Gasiorowski**, Principal Information Development Manager and GIS Lead, developed an Esri dashboard for displaying live information about the numbers of cases and deaths in Scotland. This visual solution allowed the organisation to communicate a high-level overview of what was happening in the country during the pandemic.

In London, City of London Police used ArcGIS to communicate information about the business premises that were closed, the workers who were still traveling into the City and estimated footfall throughout the area. Created by PC **Daniel Baker**, the operational dashboard helped the police to optimise the security of business premises throughout the City of London, at a time when quieter streets created potential opportunities for criminal activities.



Read articles about all these inspirational GIS heroes [here](#)

### HELPING VULNERABLE PEOPLE



At the outset of the pandemic, millions of people volunteered to help vulnerable people in their communities. **Lewis Westbury**, founder of the group Police Rewired, used ArcGIS Online to produce a web-based dashboard for the police, showing details of over 3,750 local voluntary groups. Police officers were able to use this dashboard to contact groups and provide timely, relevant safety information to support the nation's new army of volunteers.

In Scotland, Scottish Water was concerned about the potential impact that a water outage might have on vulnerable people during lockdown, if they couldn't call upon friends and neighbours to help them. **Stuart Hill**, Asset Inventory Lead at Scottish Water, developed an analytical web app using ArcGIS that displays the locations of vulnerable households, care homes, hospitals and other vulnerable groups. This solution gives Scottish Water rapid visibility of the locations of vulnerable people, making it more prepared than ever to support its most vulnerable customers if a water outage occurs.



### ENABLING HOME SCHOOLING



Following the closure of schools and the move to online learning, over 1.14 million pupils across the UK found themselves disadvantaged because they didn't have access to a laptop or computer at home. **Lindsey Parslow**, founder of the charity Business2Schools, worked with Esri UK to develop an ArcGIS web app that made it easy for individuals and businesses to donate any unwanted laptops to nearby schools. Widely publicised by the BBC, the app led to the donation of thousands of laptops and helped many more children access online learning.

Meanwhile, the Rivers Trust worked on a scheme to help parents and teachers deliver interesting online lessons during lockdown. **Anneka France**, GIS Analyst at The Rivers Trust, quickly launched a Schools Hub, using ArcGIS Hub, providing free access to a wide range of materials from virtual field trips and interactive presentations to science experiments for the kitchen. These resources made teaching easier for parents and teachers, while helping to educate young people about the critical importance of rivers.



ANALYTICAL INSIGHTS

# IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY ON LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

*"ArcGIS allows us to be smarter in how we collect, analyse, and visualise environmental data, making the implementation of innovations that reduce environmental impacts more feasible on a larger scale."*

**Katie Dawson**  
GIS Lead for Environment, Costain

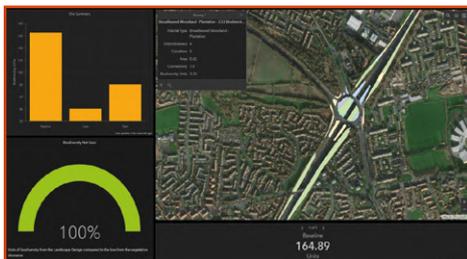
Smart infrastructure solutions company Costain is working with clients and partners to improve biodiversity on rail, road and utility schemes.

It is notoriously difficult and time consuming to collect and analyse all the data, options and costs associated with managing biodiversity for construction sites. However, an organisation committed to protecting and enhancing natural capital on infrastructure projects is now using ArcGIS to help minimise the environmental consequences of construction work and create high-value new habitats that support improved biodiversity.

[Costain](#) uses ArcGIS to capture, manage and analyse a vast amount of ecological data about sites, including land-cover and conservation areas. In the field, ecologists use ArcGIS solutions to record the distinctive qualities of different areas, assess the needs of specific species and calculate the value of the site in biodiversity units.

They then model how and when the environment will be impacted by the project and devise plans to reinstate and enrich habitats. By considering biodiversity up-front, in the design phase, Costain can plan and implement environmental schemes more cost effectively and achieve the best environmental outcomes.

In one recent road improvement scheme, Costain and its partners planted twice as many plants and trees compared to those removed, creating over 270 hectares of new habitat. Five new habitats were constructed specifically for voles, the fastest declining mammal species in the UK, as well as ponds, log piles and planting for newts, insects and other creatures. As a result, this major project has had a highly positive impact on biodiversity in the area.



ArcGIS cloud-based mapping and dashboards help visualise and analyse data to improve biodiversity management and reporting for regulatory compliance



## ANALYTICAL INSIGHTS

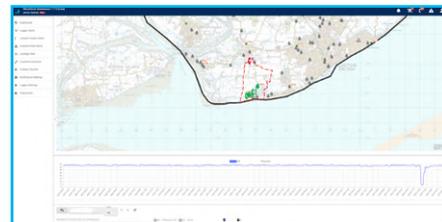
# AFFINITY WATER FINDS AND FIXES LEAKS FASTER

After beating its challenging five-year leakage reduction target in 2020, Affinity Water is now using ArcGIS to help it find and fix leaks even faster.

Every single day, enough water leaks from water pipes in England and Wales to fill 1,182 Olympic swimming pools. Water utilities are tasked with reducing this wastage, yet finding what can be tiny holes amongst thousands of kilometres of underground pipes, can be an enormous and time-consuming challenge.

**Affinity Water** estimates that it has reduced the time required to narrow down the search for a leak from around two weeks to one day, by using ArcGIS in conjunction with artificial intelligence and machine-based learning. Through its new ArcGIS-based leak modelling technique, the organisation can analyse geospatial factors ranging from the directional flow of water to the contour of the ground and the soil type, to 'learn' with greater accuracy the most probable locations of a leak.

When leaks are identified and if water outages occur, Affinity Water can also respond and instigate repairs more quickly, by using a Situational Awareness solution, developed using ArcGIS and open source technology. This browser-based application gives employees instant visibility of all incidents, on an interactive map, as soon as they occur. From the office, the field or at home, employees can easily access all the information they need to plan the best response, all from one screen, which enables the organisation to restore water services more quickly and deliver a higher standard of customer service.



Affinity Water's Situational Awareness solution shows active incidents with indicators including customer contacts, jobs and water pressure

# 1 day

to narrow the search for a leak, instead of two weeks



*"We anticipate that our Situational Awareness solution will help us to reduce the average time that properties are without water and support us in achieving our Ofwat performance target for 2020-25."*

**Sue Fenlon**  
Head of Control Operations, Affinity Water

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**42 ENGINEER  
REGIMENT ENABLES  
COLLABORATION IN  
A CRISIS**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, 42 Engineer Regiment provided the trusted data and analysis needed to inform rapid decisions, protect the NHS and save lives.

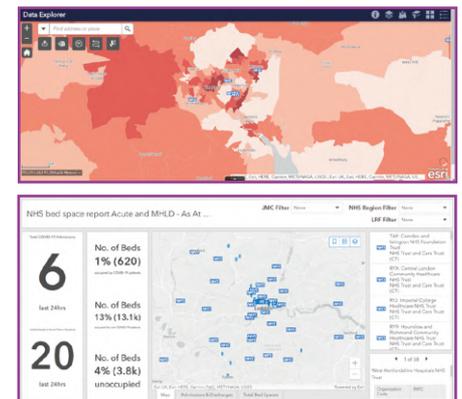
Over a thousand people were involved in planning the UK's response to the pandemic - from the Cabinet Office and national government, healthcare agencies, local authorities, the police and military. 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) used ArcGIS Online to provide all these organisations with a single source of shared data that they could all rely upon to help them collaborate during the rapidly evolving healthcare emergency.

In addition, 42 Engineer Regiment undertook a vast amount of multi-criteria analysis to give policy makers the insight they urgently needed to help them make decisions. For example, a skilled team of military geospatial analysts shortlisted and analysed potential sites for COVID-19 testing centres, taking into account local population figures, car parking, transportation access, the size of the site and distance from residential areas. They were able to accurately pinpoint the most suitable locations that would serve the largest proportion of the population and help the Government expand testing facilities rapidly.

Military Assessment Teams, comprising engineers, medics and logistics experts used an ArcGIS mobile data collection app when visiting potential sites for Nightingale Hospitals to gather information on everything from potential bed capacity to the feasibility of laying oxygen pipes. All the data collected in the field was immediately visible to all planners, across partner organisations, giving everyone instant access to the latest information. This speed supported faster decision making and enabled the construction of hospitals to commence with utmost haste, at a time when COVID-19 cases were rising at an exceptional rate.

*"42 Engineer Regiment is proud to have played a key role in enabling the Government to make faster, well-informed decisions in the battle to protect the NHS and save lives."*

**Captain Luke Parker**  
Strategic Command



Data about the health emergency, shared via ArcGIS Online



**125** species of fish face migratory obstacles in the River Thames

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# THAMES ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP REOPENS FISH MIGRATION ROUTES

*“With our ArcGIS Roadmap, we can now engage and work with stakeholders far more effectively to remove and adapt river barriers and help to sustain a diverse fish population in the River Thames.”*

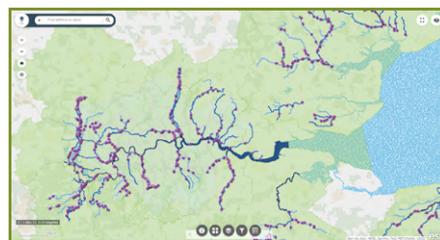
**Wanda Bodnar**  
Project Officer, Thames Estuary Partnership

A not-for-profit organisation in London is using ArcGIS to engage successfully with stakeholders and create a more sustainable future for fish in the River Thames.

Although the River Thames is one of the world’s most famous rivers, few people realise that it is home to more than 125 species of fish. What’s more, many of these species are threatened, as their migratory routes along the River Thames to high quality habitats and spawning grounds are becoming blocked by artificial barriers, such as locks, sluice gates and weirs.

[Thames Estuary Partnership](#) is now raising awareness of this pressing environmental issue with the creation of a [Greater Thames Estuary Fish Migration Roadmap](#). Produced using ArcGIS, this interactive tool combines data on fish species and their migrations, habitat quality, artificial river barriers, flood areas and riverside developments to clearly show locations where vital migratory routes are impassable. People can, for example, easily see the obstructions faced by the European Eel, a critically endangered species that travels across the Atlantic Ocean to mature from a glass eel into a silver eel in the Thames.

Thames Estuary Partnership is now using this roadmap to help it collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders and instigate schemes to improve migratory routes. Local authorities, landowners and riverside developers working in the Thames region can easily see the specific barriers that restrict access to upstream areas where the habitats are good and where fish species will thrive. They can then prioritise their investments and make better decisions that will improve the quality of the River Thames as a habitat for all fish species, as well as the marine mammals and thousands of migratory birds that call it home.



The ArcGIS roadmap showing barriers to fish migration along the Thames and its tributaries



LEARNING SERVICES

## GIS PROFESSIONALS PRAISE QUALITY OF ONLINE COURSES

*“Having been on in-person Esri courses in the past, I was dubious about how the virtual set up would work. I was very impressed and felt like I got as much out of it as I would have with an in-person course”*

**Fiona Livingston**  
GIS Analyst, Crown Estate Scotland

GIS professionals have continued to develop their skills throughout the coronavirus pandemic by attending Esri UK’s live virtual courses.

The challenges of COVID-19 have not prevented GIS professionals from developing important new ArcGIS skills and learning about GIS best practices. Since early 2020, Esri UK has been delivering all of its traditional classroom-based and on-site training courses, on topics such as moving from ArcMap to ArcGIS Pro, over the internet.

GIS professionals who have attended these live virtual courses have praised Esri UK for providing the same learning opportunities online as they would expect in face-to-face training environments. There is no need for course participants to download software, and they can communicate easily with the Esri-certified instructor via voice and text throughout the sessions.

Esri UK hopes to be able to offer face-to-face training courses again soon, but it will still continue to deliver a varied programme of online training opportunities.

In addition to Esri UK’s instructor-led virtual training courses, Esri offers over 400 eLearning modules for self-paced learning that are free for users with an ArcGIS license in maintenance. Esri also provides free Massive Open Online courses (MOOCs) in topics ranging from spatial analysis to creating geo-apps. By taking advantage of any of these learning services, GIS professionals can invest in new skills now that will help them succeed in the future.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF:

- A full programme of instructor-led virtual courses
- 400+ self-paced eLearning modules
- Free 6-week massive online open courses (MOOCs)
- Guided lessons based on real world problems with Learn ArcGIS
- Being part of the Esri Community

## EDUCATION

# NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME SUPPORTS BLACK STUDENTS

Esri UK is working alongside the organisation Black Geographers to encourage more diversity in geography education and careers.

Black and ethnic minority groups are significantly under-represented in the GIS industry and in geography professions in general. Esri UK wants to change this and has launched a new scholarship programme to encourage more young people with African, Caribbean, black or mixed black heritage to study geography and geoscience.

The [scholarship programme](#) has been introduced through collaboration with Black Geographers, a community interest company founded by university student Francesca Rockey. After discovering in 2020 that she was the only black girl on her geography course, Francesca set up a network for

other black geography students and is now actively championing geography and geoscience as a positive choice for black people.

Each academic year, Esri UK will make two financial awards. The first, the Undergraduate Award, provides funding of £30,000 (£10,000 per year for three years) available for a black student to study geography or geoscience. The second, the Master's Award, provides £20,000 for full-time study on a one-year master's programme within the same disciplines of geography or geoscience. The first students to benefit from these scholarships will be embarking on their new courses in September this year.

*“Through the Esri UK Scholarship, we hope that we can diversify both the cohort of students on undergraduate and postgraduate geography courses and the next generation of geography professionals.”*

**Francesca Rockey**  
Founder of Black Geographers





PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

## SOLVE BUSINESS CHALLENGES FASTER!



If you had ArcGIS experts on hand to guide you, how much more quickly could you deliver the new business solutions that your organisation urgently needs?

Esri UK's Professional Services group offers a range of consulting, project delivery and packaged services to help organisations accelerate the delivery of new GIS solutions and services. With hands-on technical knowledge, business experience and insight into best practices, the team can help you optimise your use of GIS and solve business challenges faster.

### NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO GET STARTED?

The Professional Services team offers a range of launchkits that have been specifically designed to get customers up and running with ArcGIS very quickly. Available at a fixed price, these packaged services have a pre-defined scope and are available for product installation and configuration, system health checks, architecture reviews and prototype development.

### HAVE A SPECIFIC PROJECT IN MIND?

Esri UK has an experienced team of GIS consultants, developers and project managers who will design and deliver a project to meet your specific requirements. Using an ISO-accredited quality management system and a range of project delivery methodologies, we will manage the scope, schedule and budget of each project phase to reduce the risk of delays and ensure your business outcomes are met.

### PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE FUTURE?

Our bespoke business and technical consulting services can be engaged at any time, to help resolve a specific technical issue or to support your long-term strategic planning. Working closely with you, we will help you maximise the value and return on investment that your organisation gains from GIS.

Find out more here:  
[www.esriuk.com/services/professional-services](http://www.esriuk.com/services/professional-services)