

InSITU

Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure for Tourism and Urban Regeneration

Welcome to InSITU

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Contacts

All case studies are just getting started, so if you are interested in becoming involved please contact Clare Redwood at London Metropolitan University on 0207 133 5099, c.redwood@londonmet.ac.uk or Joanne Leach at the University of Salford on 0161 295 2690, j.leach@salford.ac.uk.

What is GIS-P?

InSITU will develop and test new tools to incorporate local 'lay' knowledge using Geographic Information Systems for participation (GIS-P).

Firstly, focus groups of local participants will be convened in each case study area (London, Manchester and York). Each focus group or 'local panel' will provide detailed input into proposals to

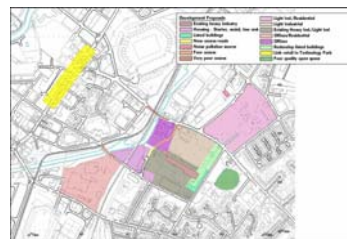
InSITU will capture the local knowledge, views and preferences of the social groups who are likely to be affected, so that workable solutions can be designed.

This will be achieved through the innovative application of Geographic Information Systems for participation (GIS-P) to widen participation in urban design and heritage provision, so that the benefits to the locality can be maximised.

Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), InSITU's research is being undertaken by a consortium of three leading research centres: London Metropolitan University (TRaC at the Cities Institute), the University of York (Stockholm Environment Institute) and the University of Salford. InSITU's project partners include Local Authorities, Regional Development Agencies, the National Trust, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Foundation, the Institute of



GIS-P Session in Progress



GIS-P Digitised Map (Map reproduced courtesy of Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved)

Field Archaeologists and Tourism Concern.

upgrade historic streetscapes in their neighbourhood.

The contributions of the local people will then be mapped onto detailed, paper-based plans that are subsequently digitised and presented in a format that can be readily interpreted by practitioners.



GIS-P Focus Group

Website

InSITU will soon be on the web at www.insitu.org.uk so please watch this space...

Why Use GIS-P?

A key challenge for InSITU is to test and develop tools that will integrate physical, social and cultural dimensions and will allow diverse local stakeholders to engage with decision-makers on a more level playing field. GIS-P has a number of important features:

- The plans produced by different focus groups (e.g. different age groups or types of businesses) can be superimposed so that points of conflict and consensus can be identified. Thus, it provides transparency and trace-

ability. The participation data can then be fed directly into the processes of planning and design in a more direct manner than was possible hitherto.

- GIS-P enables continuing involvement in design solutions from the concept design stage through to implementation and beyond. It allows participants to frame issues and problems in their own terms. This enables local residents, small businesses and community organisations with a rich knowledge of their area to influence regeneration in a way

that is usable and useful to those planning regeneration projects.

- Practitioners – such as urban designers and transport planners responsible for implementing traffic calming or the creation of new pedestrian routes – can therefore use this local intelligence to develop workable design solutions that are acceptable to diverse local communities and interest groups in areas that are experiencing the problems as well as the opportunities associated with regeneration and rapid change.



Capturing Different Perspectives

The Study

InSITU will study the effectiveness of GIS-P as a tool to enable local participants to inform urban design. This will be done by conducting research on live regeneration projects in three cities:

- In London there will be two case studies, both in Hackney. The first will enable a panel of local users – residents, hospital workers and patients – to evaluate a scheme to provide a safer and more accessible pedestrian route from Homerton (Silverlink) station to Homerton University Hospital. The second case study will focus upon the response of young children and their parents to the presentation of Sutton House: a National Trust property that is being

developed as an innovative educational and community resource.

- The York case study will look at the city's plan to improve the use of the spaces between York's major tourist attractions and significant landmarks.
- The Salford case study will examine a proposed new health walk development in the Lower Kersal area of the city, which aims to improve the physical environment and facilities in the Littleton Road Neighbourhood Park and River Irwell footpath areas adjacent to the NDC funded Sports Village Complex.

Each case study will hold a

'roundtable' meeting before each focus group to inform the preparation of the GIS-P database formats used by practitioners, such as site briefs, plans and specifications. The roundtable meetings will be made up of practitioners from each case study area.

InSITU will meet twice a year with its Steering Group, tasked with overseeing the progress and delivery of the project as well as offering impartial advice and guidance to the research teams.

Sustainability, social inclusion and good urban design are high on the Government's agenda to achieve the desired 'urban renaissance'. In areas where heritage-led regeneration is being encouraged, it is acknowledged that there is sometimes tension between the accommodation of visitors and the requirements of local people. However, with an early input to the design process from local stakeholders the problems are not necessarily impossible to resolve. InSITU will help local authorities make the most of opportunities to deliver significant improvements to the public realm for local residents, workers and small businesses, especially in disadvantaged urban areas.

About the EPSRC and SUE

InSITU is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) as part of its Sustainable Urban Environments (SUE) action research programme.

The EPSRC is the UK Government's leading funding agency for research and training in engineering and the physical sciences.

SUE is a programme of 15 research consortia dedicated to improving quality of life and supporting sustainable development whilst meeting the needs of industry, commerce and the service sector.

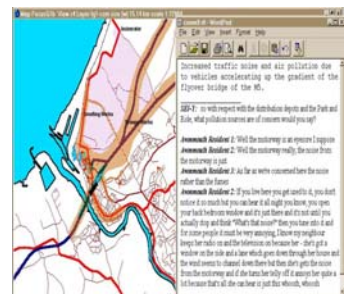
Further information about the EPSRC and SUE can be found on the EPSRC's website www.epsrc.ac.uk.



Visualisation : Before



Visualisation : After



The Final Digital Map (Map reproduced courtesy of Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved)



Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

