

# Spotlight on

## New inSite maps

**New inSite maps have replaced the old force GIS mapping system. The new maps are easier to use, search and print. They were developed following feedback from officers and staff about the limitations of the previous system.**

The maps were developed by technical analyst Ben Hunt, who's been on a year long work placement with IT Software Solutions at Kent Police as part of a computing degree at the University of Surrey.

Working with James Nolan, assistant systems manager at the Force Contact and Control Centre Operational Support Unit, and Gavin Purnell, principal technical analyst in IT Specialist Services, he came up with the design for the system, making it as simple to use as possible while ensuring all requirements were met.

A major benefit is the ability to make the map take up the whole screen. The use of Ordnance Survey data means it can also be used in court, unlike Google maps.

By buying aerial images with Kent County Council it halved the costs, saving the force money. Ben said: 'The existing system, Force GIS, was out of touch with the current mapping websites available on the Internet. IT Specialist Services

recently completed an upgrade of the ESRI software which meant it was now possible to create a new state of the art map viewer for inSite. The force also bought new up-to-date ordnance survey map data and new aerial imagery in partnership with KCC making it a perfect time to create the new map viewer.' Requirements were defined by feedback and suggestions from users of the existing system.

Ben, pictured, said: 'It was important to make the system as easy to use as possible. One benefit of the page layout is that the map can take up the whole screen. I developed the software, with Gavin managing the map servers and James communicating with users regarding any additional requirements and feedback from testing phases.'

Before being launched, inSite maps was tested by users who had originally given their input on improving the original system, with feedback from testing built into the final product. Ben said: 'inSite maps is a good example of the systems developed in house by the Software Solutions team. It has provided officers and staff with access to up-to-date map data and aerial imagery

for the county. The system is intuitive to use and contains key functionality which will assist investigations. There are many benefits of inSite maps over the previous system including improved address searching, enhanced printing and up-to-date data layers. In particular the new maps are much easier to navigate. As a placement student with Kent Police, I was delighted to have experienced all stages of developing and implementing a new system.'

inSite maps data includes:

- **area boundaries**
- **airports and landing strips**
- **ANPR cameras**
- **cash machines**
- **CCTV cameras**
- **helipads**
- **SOS boxes**
- **public phones**

Improved scroll and zoom makes viewing easier. A drawing tool allows cordons and exclusion zones to be easily superimposed.

