

Using GIS to Support Diverse Business Operations



Customer

Galbraith is a leading independent property consultant with expertise covering a broad spectrum of property related services. Specialising in Estate Agency Sales and Lettings for Farms and Estates, rural estate management, forestry management and land agency services for the energy and utilities sector, Galbraith has a team of 240 employees. These include professional members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and members of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

The Galbraith team provides all aspects of property consultancy, from commercial asset management and investment appraisal to agri-business funding and agricultural arbitration, and is qualified and experienced in the relevant areas of practice.

Problem

With offices across the UK, including Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Ayr, Blagdon, Castle Douglas, Cupar, Elgin, Galashiels, Hexham, Inverness, Kelso, Penrith, Perth and Stirling, Galbraith offers an unparalleled breadth of skills across all property sectors combined with a local hands-on approach.

However this diverse operation, both in terms of day-to-day activities as well as geographic coverage, meant requirements for accessing, interrogating and sharing maps and geographically related data were also diverse.

Galbraith already had a legacy Web GIS but, as the requirement for access to information, both internal and public domain resources increased, this system was not keeping pace. The older system was also not delivering either the functionality, flexibility of use or administrative control required by the business. Galbraith identified a number of features and functionality required from a replacement system before deciding to work with Stirling based technology company thinkWhere to deploy their market-leading groundMapper online GIS product.

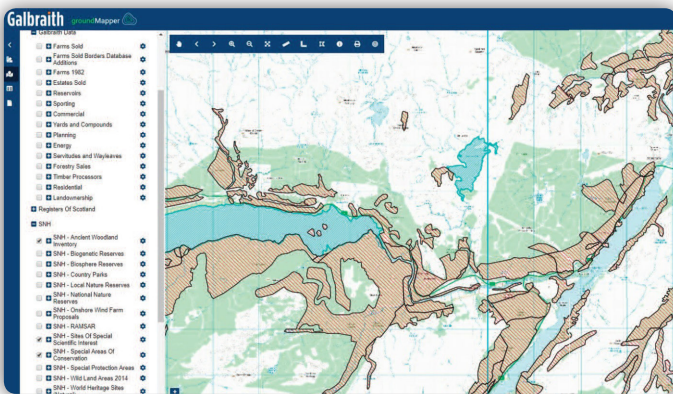
It was also important to Galbraith that they could connect and interact with a well-qualified team of developers to define product enhancements that not only delivered to their technical specification but also provided administrative control, audit tools and the benefits of a complete managed service.

“Working with thinkWhere, at the early stages of groundMapper 2 development, allowed us to define a solution that met our complex requirements.”

“groundMapper gives us easy access, provides easy to use tools and allows collaboration within teams, between teams and with external stakeholders.”

Daniel Campanile
Associate GIS Manager
Galbraith

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Solution

groundMapper is an easy to use online GIS for managing project based maps and associated data and for sharing information with internal or external stakeholders. groundMapper is supplied complete with a range of Ordnance Survey and third party mapping and users can add project specific mapping and associated data including documents, photos, drawings and reports. groundMapper projects are delivered as online interactive web mapping viewers which can be shared with partners and stakeholders and are accessible anywhere through a basic web browser.

The latest version of groundMapper, as used by Galbraith, includes the ability to add, update and manage custom geographic datasets, incorporates what3words geocoding and has the capacity to add non-spatial data and look-up tables. The system also offers online data editing, advanced document management and additional data services.

In Action

Described by Galbraith as a 'go to' tool for accessing maps and geographic information, groundMapper is currently being rolled out across the company in order to keep Galbraith at the forefront of spatial data and visualisation for a wide variety of services offered.

Data collected meticulously by Galbraith over many years has all been fed into the groundMapper system. This means users, as well as clients, can benefit from a rich and varied data resource. In addition, other thinkWhere hosted datasets can be accessed. These include Ordnance Survey open data as well as free-to-use datasets from organisations such as Scottish Natural Heritage, the British Geological Survey and the Environment Agency.

Early examples of groundMapper in use within Galbraith include staff accessing a subset of 'sold data' to provide comparable evidence for a valuation. The online GIS is also being used by teams of surveyors to access additional intelligence such as land ownership, land use, soil quality and other site constraints to help understand the impact of these characteristics on projects.

Summary

The new groundMapper system brings numerous improvements over the previous Web GIS and provides Galbraith with easy access to a wealth of information including comparative sales data, environment designations and land ownership.

Benefits

- Zoom-able, pan-able, easy to navigate maps complete with drawing, printing and measuring tools
- Access to frequently updated public domain datasets as well as specific operational data
- Ability to overlay multiple datasets and upload ancillary documents
- A fully auditable system which is independently hosted providing stability, support and security
- A complete managed service with comprehensive performance and service levels

thinkWhere uses leading edge cloud, Open Source and GIS technologies, to develop innovative software and solutions, backed by a wide range of GIS implementation, consultancy, support and training services.

thinkWhere provides an online platform for storing, sharing and using maps and geographic data, and helps solve real-world problems using open data and open technology.