

ZEH Software Gives the London Borough of Brent a Renewed Confidence in Plotting

GIS Analysts Plot Images Quickly and Easily

"Fire and forget". This is how the London Borough of Brent describes their plotting experience after implementing ZEH Software's PLOT EXPRESS together with ESRI's ArcView 3 and ArcGIS 8. They simply submit their files to print and then forget about them, moving on to the next task at hand. They can do this because they know the images will plot just fine, every time. No longer do they have to baby-sit plots for hours or approach the plotter with nervous apprehension. No longer does the plotter spit out wasted meters of blank paper followed by a system crash. ZEH Software and ESRI UK worked together to provide the London Borough a renewed confidence in plotting.

"When you think about the time and money you can waste just trying to get plots out, ZEH Software can pay for itself very quickly", said Alisdair Maclean, GIS Manager of London Borough of Brent. "There's the GIS Analysts' time waiting for their PCs while the print spools, then there's my time and the IT department when things go wrong. We wish we'd found ZEH years ago!"

Before ZEH, GIS Analysts often dreaded requests for images received from various service units. Images included parks, sports facilities, controlled parking zones and political boundaries, or ward maps. Whenever these images included aerial photography and raster data, file sizes could reach 500 MB or more. On most plotters, these large files would take forever to plot, if at all. Large wall maps were out of the question. With ZEH Software's GIS plotting solution, Brent Council was able to do something they had never done before. They plotted a single high-resolution map of the entire borough. The image covered an area of 40 square kilometers at 12 ½ cm resolution. The map, an uncompressed 2 ½ GB file, plotted with clear and precise detail that users could not believe. Users are now better able to prepare for special events.



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ZEH Implementation at the London Borough of Brent

The plotting environment at London Borough of Brent includes ESRI's ArcView 3, ArcGIS 8, PowerPoint, and PaintShop Pro applications. The primary plotter is an HP Deskjet 800. Common maps plotted include Ordnance Survey maps that can be at 1:20,000 or 1:10,000 scales printed on a single A0 sheet. GIS Analysts can plot from 5 desktops into the ZEH Plot Management System. GIS Analysts also commented that they like the web access into the ZEH PLOT EXPRESS system. The simple, easy to use interface shows them the status of their plot jobs. It allows them to schedule and prioritize their workloads with confidence.

About the London Borough of Brent

The London Borough of Brent was created out of the re-organisation of London's Government in 1965. Its component parts, with only a few exceptions like Queensbury, are derived from Hamlets, which began as self-supporting communities in forest clearings, some of which date back as far as the Dark Ages. Brent Council is organised into five main service areas: Corporate Education, Arts & Libraries, Environment, Housing, and Social Services. Much of the GIS plotting is geared toward the Environmental Services area, which includes service units like Building Control, Parks, Planning Service, Sports Services, Street Care, and Transportation.