

Free GIS web-based GIS applications

Map sites	Pros	Cons
Multimap www.multimap.com	Allows aerial photography to be overlaid on map.	Patchy resolution of maps and aerial photographs.
Census 2001 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/censumaps/index_new.html	Good interactive mapping tool allows key statistics to be choropleth mapped and then printed.	Additional software needed (SVG Viewer) albeit it is a free download.
Google http://local.google.co.uk	Good world coverage. Includes 'terrain' model.	Indifferent satellite imagery. No contours. Detail is best in urban areas.
Environment Agency http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/	'What's in your backyard?' utilises a range of easy-to-use interactive mapping tools to examine the local environment. Search by postcode or place name.	Consideration of environmental factors only (no layering of socio-economic data, for example).
Ordnance Survey www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/getamap	Free sections available down to 1:25,000. Easy to copy to clipboard and print.	Not customisable.
Old Maps www.old-maps.co.uk	Maps can be downloaded free of charge, searchable by postcode.	Sometimes difficult to read; cannot be imported in to other GIS / map applications.
Windows Live http://maps.live.com	Similar to Flash Earth. 3D buildings available in some urban areas; good detail in 'birds eye' view.	Mass of non-geographical information.
Magic www.magic.gov.uk	Powerful GIS application allowing interrogation of a variety of georeferenced environmental data.	Takes time to familiarise with the user interface.
Quikmaps www.quikmaps.com	Ability to draw on and label a Google map. Student friendly and suitable for example, in fieldwork investigations. Contours visible.	Need to sign in and create an account for maximum functionality.
Google Earth www.earth.google.com	Hugely powerful; very versatile.	User friendly but for advanced use some training may be necessary. Need to download and install across a network.
Flash Earth www.flashearth.com	As for Google Earth but 'flash' based means that there is no need to install.	No need to install but eats up bandwidth across a network.
Weather Underground www.wunderground.com/wundermap	Displays live weather information at a variety of scales, including local.	Heavy on adverts. Necessitates prior planning and search.
Nomad (Nottingham City Council) http://webgis.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/website/nomad/index.asp?service=public_statistics&layers=statistics	Example of local government GIS. Very good range of socio-economic and environmental indicators that can be mapped.	More applicable to those who have some prior knowledge of the locality.