# MapThat Paves The Way For Atkins' Greater Success

Atkins Highways & Transportation has improved its speed and efficiency, enhanced its service offering to clients, and looks set to cut business costs. This is the result of Atkins implementing the interactive mapping webGIS system, MapThat, in its Inform™ suite of applications which provides end-to-end control and automation over field maintenance activities.

Atkins Highways & Transportation supports the maintenance and repair of road networks for local authorities and the Highways Agency through its Inform™ solution which helps organise and schedule projects and deploy 'gangs' of road maintenance workers as efficiently as possible. Alongside the mapping solution for works management, the system features a range of other applications which were already in standard use, such as satellite navigation to direct gangs to sites and a performance management module which allows clients to track work in progress.

As their previous web-mapping solution came to the end of its life, Atkins recognised the need to upgrade to a faster, more cost-effective solution that would be easier to use and would present a superior user interface in order to facilitate wider adoption. The new technology would also have to help Atkins to deliver an even better service provision to clients.
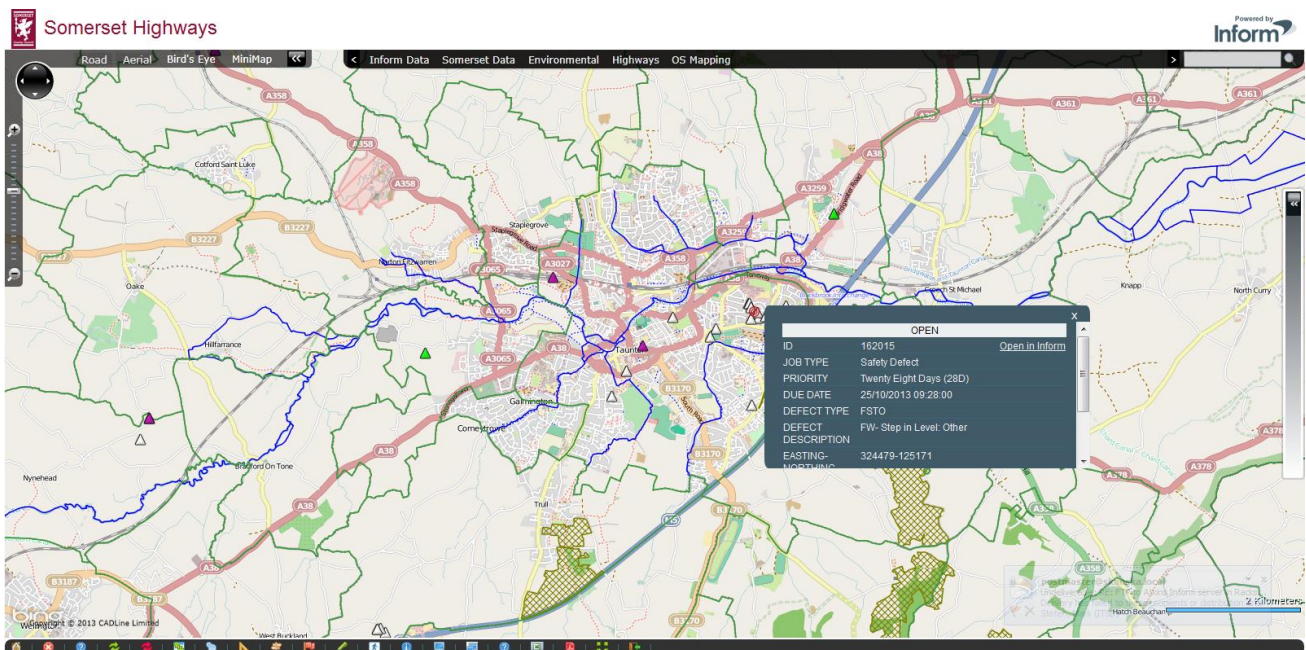
"We considered various external providers, plus the updated version of our existing mapping technology," says Tim Hughes, Technical Manager. "In the end, we found Cadline's MapThat to be the most appropriate solution for our needs."

Cadline provided Atkins with installation and configuration services, plus training and support. The training included bespoke workshops for super users and for the technical support team, which elicited good feedback from all concerned.

Tim and his team are delighted with their newly enhanced system. "MapThat is completely in line with current consumer technology and therefore what people are used to experiencing," he enthuses. "It's faster and more responsive than our previous software and the superior graphics are aesthetically pleasing, making it easier and more of a pleasure to use."


Tim appreciates the flexibility of the new software and the fact that his team is now in control of the configuration and changes. Previously, specialist skills were required to alter their mapping system and the team was paying for consultancy time. "Ease of use has greatly improved," says Tim. "Now, when we implement a new solution, we simply load the project data onto the system and it's ready to use."

With MapThat, Atkins' clients now have clearer visualisation of where their works are and can plan them in a shorter space of time, using an enhanced level of information. "The speed of the visualisation and planning work has vastly improved," explains Tim. "The greater efficiency means not only a smoother planning process for us, but that we are providing a more advanced service to our clients."

"Cadline's rapport with us is really good," continues Tim. "It's great to have the benefit of their expertise, whereas previously we lacked this kind of support because we had developed our work management system completely in-house."
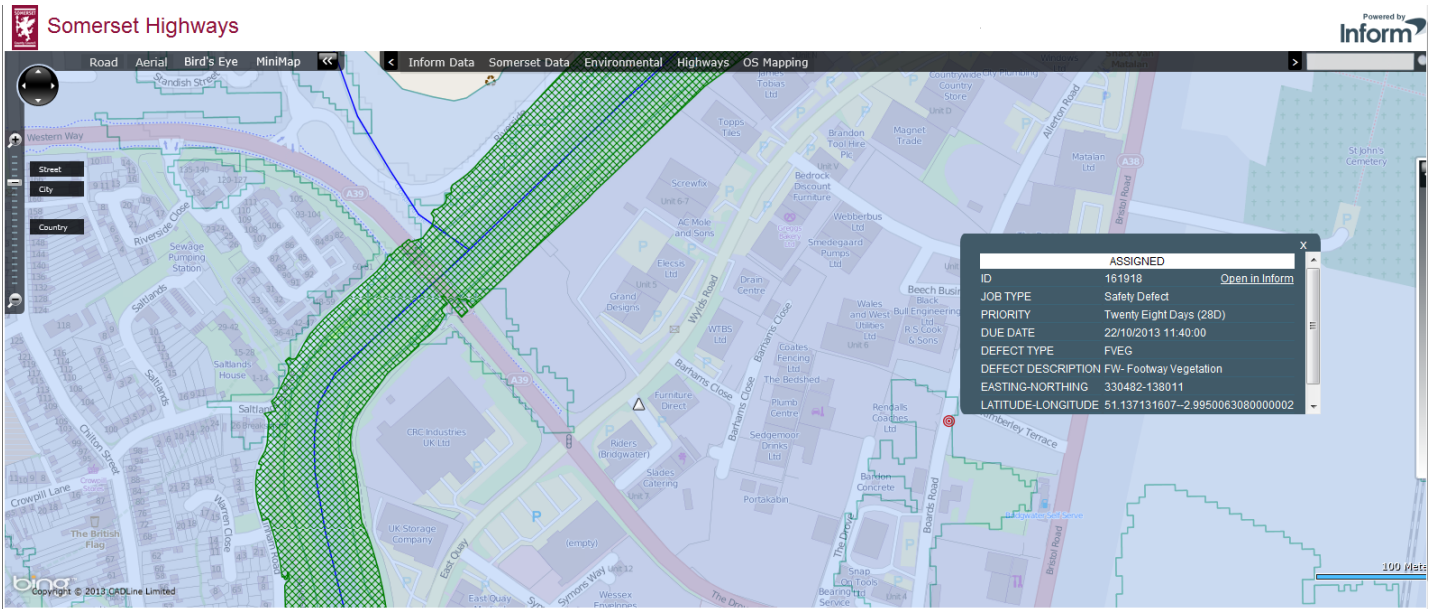
Atkins Highways & Transportation's business planning model shows they will have recouped the new system's set up costs after 18 months, and after that there will be significant cost savings.

The company's future considerations include utilising MapThat in the Consultancy sector of the business too, for sharing geographical information, creating geographical data stores, and helping them visualise their data in a clearer, more readily accessible format.

Cadline (a Platinum Awarded Autodesk partner) also supports Atkins across the group to help them maximise the benefits of a range of Autodesk products.