

OSGeo UK Local Chapter Draft Terms of Reference:

Mission:

The UK local chapter of OSGeo wishes to establish a focal point for developers and users of open source geospatial software within the UK, for networking and advice, and to raise the profile of open source geospatial development within the UK. It wishes to promote open source geospatial software as a viable choice for all types of user. While it has been suggested that a separate local chapter could better serve the particular geographic and logistical requirements of Scotland, the UK chapter wishes to include all regions and countries within the UK and Ireland. If there is significant interest in forming geographically separate chapters, then the UK chapter will promote these sister organisations, assist with formation and growth, and collaborate in the holding of international events.

Objectives:

- To provide a forum for discussion and promotion of Open Source Geospatial Software in the UK, and provide networking opportunities for developers and users
- To help more UK organisations discover the opportunity of open source geospatial tools, and collate business studies of successful transitions
- To raise awareness of the benefits of public access to geodata in the UK by collating links to sources of legitimate free data

In addition we would like to work towards the following:

- A fully-featured open access UK SDI
- Someday hosting the FOSS4G conference in the UK

Official representative

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If the majority of chapter members wish, the post of official representative will be elected on a periodic basis. This will be agreed via the mailing list in the first instance, and at the AGM once the chapter is officially formed.

Local Chapter work to date:

The chapter has been in formation as an idea since the FOSS4G conference in Lausanne, 2006. In 2007 and 2008, the chapter has become more active through attendance at various conferences throughout the UK, including the largest industry conference in the UK- the AGI (Association for Geographic Information) conference in Stratford in 2008. We have a wiki page at http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/United_Kingdom, which is used for promoting events and the mailing list, and in developing the chapter's mission statement. Further promotion has been undertaken in the form of presentations to interested groups in academia and local government. In 2009 the local chapter will co-organise the UK's first open source geospatial conference, in conjunction with the Centre for Geospatial Sciences at the University of Nottingham. Recently, the chapter has been

involved in a successful two-day training course in open source GIS at the University of Lancaster.

The chapter has a mailing list of approx 35 members, of which 3 or 4 are very active and have assumed roles within the nascent group. In particular, Bill Wilcox has taken on the role of collating a list of freely available geospatial data sources, Suchith Anand has been instrumental in organising both the 2009 conference but also a very successful workshop on geospatial web services in 2008, and Rob Newnham kindly presented a report on the local chapter at the FOSS4G 2008 conference in Cape Town.

There has been considerable interest and support from a number of places- in academia the Universities of Nottingham, Lancaster and UCL all have staff who are active or have expressed an interest in the chapter. Several businesses involved in the support and development of open source geospatial software have also expressed an interest in further involvement within the chapter. Furthermore, the AGI are keen to have further involvement with OSGeo by either representation at their existing Technical Special Interest Group (SIG) or by setting up a separate Open Source SIG. Representation within the AGI is an important step in raising the profile of open source geospatial software within the UK.

List of members and people that have expressed interest:

Signed up to the mailing list (35)

alberto.marti at gmail.com
alex.bell at informed.com
andrew at andrewlarcombe.co.uk
andy at simulsys.demon.co.uk
anthony at beckhome.info
chippy2005 at gmail.com
cwebster at tyadar.co.uk
d.e.reeve at hud.ac.uk
d.olner07 at leeds.ac.uk
gary.morin at keynetix.com
graeme.gould at grandunionhousing.co.uk
j.cook at oxfordarch.co.uk
jacanalejo at yahoo.es
jonathan.gray at okfn.org
martin.daly at cadcorp.com
mikesaunt at astuntechnology.com
ravivundavalli at yahoo.com
richardchidzik at hotmail.com
shansen at lisasoft.com
siva.koppula at autodesk.com
snapem at rpsgroup.com
stuarteve at gmail.com
suchith.anand at nottingham.ac.uk
tmitchell at osgeo.org
anna.eilers at farrerconsulting.com
billwilcox at wilcox53.freeserve.co.uk
dan.sims at ipl.com
denis at dwpayne.net
gis at vanbooth.com
j.huggett at archaeology.arts.gla.ac.uk
james.reid at ed.ac.uk
jason.warren at geoflex.co.uk
jdb at mail.nerc-essc.ac.uk
news at gisdevelopment.net
robert.newnham at gmail.com

Signed up on the wiki (if not on the mailing list) (14)

User:Chrisputtick

User:Leifuss

User:JoWalsh

User:andyt

User:Davidjlock

User:Simon

User:SteveW

User:Gagravarr

User:Mdgreaney

User:Mander

User:rollo

User:SimonAbele

User:Borntopedal

User:Jcrone

Additionally:

Jason Jorgenson (expressed interest at Stansted meeting in May)

Helen Wood (expressed interest at Stansted meeting in May)

Barry Rowlingson (ran course in Opensource GIS at Lancaster University)