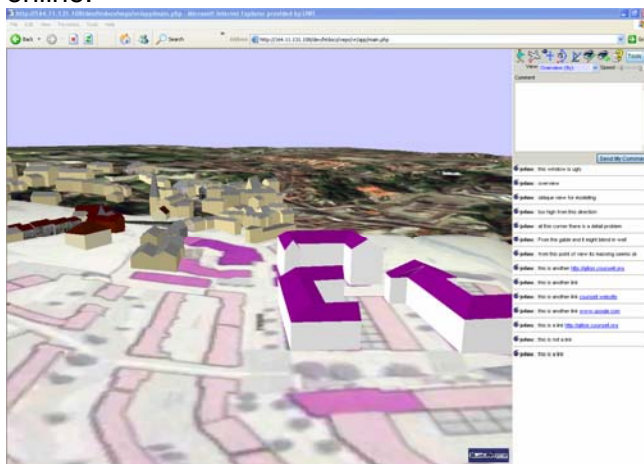


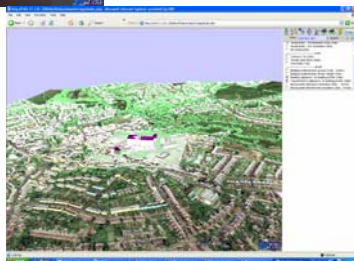
Virtual Environmental Planning system (VEPs)

3D Masterplanner Tool

During the Virtual Environmental Planning Project (VEPs) the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE) has successfully developed a prototype 3D web master-planning tool to help people understand planning proposals and share their views about them online.



The 3D Masterplanner Tool operates within either the Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox web browsers, once a free add-on has been downloaded and installed from www.cortona3d.com.



The 3D Masterplanner tool allows people to:

- View planning proposals that others have uploaded to the web within a realistic 3D scene of an existing city and/or landscape
- Comment readily on those planning proposals by attaching their text comments to any selected view. Comments and views can be explored sequentially, so telling a story. (Text comments can include weblinks and so link to images, video, or longer documents)
- Create their own alternative proposals within the context of the scene by:
 - Adopting someone else's proposal, then modifying it and inviting others to comment
 - Uploading 3D models such as wind turbines or buildings (usually created in CAD software) into the scene and freely moving them around to find the most satisfactory location
 - Creating building proposals by sketching the plan form onto the landscape and choosing height and roof shape
 - Uploading and attaching photos or scanned drawings to the walls of these buildings to give a more realistic sense of the elevations
 - Moving freely or amending the shape or size of these building proposals
 - View (and comment on) layers of alternate information, that can be switched on and off at will in the scene, for example to view an aerial photograph showing the existing situation, and compare it with proposed drawings of alternative developments.
- Layers can also show 3D scanned LiDAR points, as in the image to the left, where points on buildings are white, and trees and other vegetation are green. This 3D scan data allows the accuracy of the height and position of trees and buildings to be checked.

Further information

Website: www.veps3d.org