

Non-Technical Guide to the Use of LATIS Modelling Suite

The Non-Technical Guide to the Land-Use and Transport Integration in Scotland (LATIS) modelling suite sits within a hierarchy of documents designed to provide information on the LATIS Service. This hierarchy ranges from LATIS brochures, which provide a high level overview to the LATIS service and/or its components, to a number of technical reports and user manuals, designed primarily for active users of the modelling suite. The Non-Technical Guide sits between these two levels of information, by providing a detailed non-technical overview of what is involved in LATIS and in modelling generally. It aims to provide guidance on the modelling within LATIS to a wide ranging non-technical audience and to provide enough information to enable interested parties to identify and understand how the LATIS modelling suite may be of use to them and/or their organisations.

Who is the Non-Technical Guide Aimed at?

The Non-Technical Guide is designed to provide a broad introduction to the LATIS modelling suite and the concepts of modelling more generally. It is not a "How to..." guide for using the modelling suite. Instead, it aims to provide actual and potential users with an understanding of how the LATIS modelling suite works along with its capabilities as an analytical toolkit.

The Guide may therefore provide useful reading for those not familiar with transport and land-use modelling, including:

- Central Government;
- Local Authorities;
- Consultants;
- Academia and Health Boards.

Importantly, the document outlines the functionality of the LATIS modelling suite and may be a useful starting point for those seeking to understand the potential synergies between transport, planning and other policy areas.

How Can the Non-Technical Guide Help its Readers?

Modelling is often seen as a complex discipline for those who are not familiar with it, which can lead to a reluctance to embrace its application. It is important that these fears are overcome as transport and land-use models have the potential to be highly valuable tools in informing transport and planning policy. The Non-Technical Guide is designed to allow those not from the modelling fraternity to develop a broad understanding of what can be done using the LATIS modelling suite and how this can feed into appraisal analysis and policy development.

The Guide can also act as a companion document for those who do have a basic understanding of modelling, but require additional details on specific techniques, terms or areas of modelling. Ideally, the Guide can also provide a foundation for analysing the more 'technical' LATIS documentation.

What is Contained Within the Non-Technical Guide and How Should it be Used?

The Non-Technical Guide is provided both as a single document and as part of a series of interlinked documents on the LATIS website (www.latis.org.uk). It covers:

- Background and Context;
- The Principles of Modelling;
- TMfS and TELMoS Model Data; and
- TMfS and TELMoS Functionality.

Each section provides a comprehensive description of key themes, techniques and concepts needed to understand the LATIS modelling suite, using non-technical jargon-free descriptions and explanations where possible. An explanation of any technical terms which are used is provided via a link to an electronic Glossary document.

This format allows readers to focus on the sections that are of interest to them, allowing the Guide to be used as a 'quick-reference' document. For example, a reader may want to focus on what data has been used to determine the robustness of the Road Model and can look at this section in a stand-alone fashion.

The Non-Technical Guide can therefore either be read in its own right, or as a 'companion' to other more technical LATIS documents, which may not fully explain technical terms.

What is the Main Purpose of the Non-Technical Guide?

Transport Scotland has made a significant investment in enhancing all aspects of LATIS and is keen to encourage appropriate use of its modelling suite in national, regional and local policy formulation.

In order to maximise the benefits of using the LATIS modelling suite, it is important that actual and potential users are aware of its capabilities – that is, how can the modelling suite help them meet their aims and objectives? The Non-Technical Guide provides an overview of what the modelling suite has been and can be used for and outlines its current strengths and weaknesses. Ideally, such an approach will encourage use of the LATIS modelling suite and also allow for a better understanding of its capabilities and limitations.

The Guide is also designed to demonstrate what has been done using LATIS and, to this end, a number of short case studies detailing how the modelling suite has been used are provided alongside the main text.

It is envisaged that the Non-Technical Guide, as well as its associated stand-alone Glossary, will evolve over time to include discussions, descriptions and explanations of additional issues, model functionality and case studies as they emerge.

If you require further information regarding LATIS, please visit the LATIS website at: www.latis.org.uk.

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LAND-USE AND TRANSPORT INTEGRATION IN SCOTLAND

Non-Technical Guide to LATIS Modelling Suite Introduction

