

Standardized prototype drawings provide more efficient flow for Hovås Mätkonsult

By: Love Jansson

At Hovås Mätkonsult, one has developed a standardized way of working, controlled by the prototype drawings presented in Topocad. This contributes to the flow of information in the projects, says Filippa Christiansen.

About five years ago, Hovås Mät-Konsult decided to work more productively in the projects. The company had grown and opened a new office in Karlstad. They already had an office in Uddevalla and the head office was located in Gothenburg. It was decided to review how the information flowed in the daily operations.

- At that time, we had a need to achieve a standardized and efficient workflow, says Filippa Christiansen, office manager and mapping, surveying and GIS consultant.

With an extensive knowledge, the company perform assignments for municipalities and authorities, but

also for private individuals and other services for the whole surveying area, from survey to stake out, both regarding buildings and infrastructure. Different basis and maps are provided for the customer's needs, such as management maps for parks. Now they were looking for a smarter way of working in the various projects.

Four prototype drawings assure a high-quality workflow

In practice, this meant using Topocad's capacity in a more thoughtful manner and as an internal tool in the customer projects. An assurance for a high-quality workflow.

With a guidance of how to implement the projects, four typical working methods were identified, which were arranged into four prototype drawings, accompanied by related system files. The four prototype drawings are site maps, basic maps, maintenance maps and project surveying. For each

prototype drawing, the layers have been defined in Topocad. It has been decided in advance which properties the layers should have including the correct code, line type, line size, symbols and color. It forms the basis of the project.

When a new project is started, the Topocad prototype drawing opens in conjunction with the task, whether it is new building, basic map, maintenance or surveying. Filippa and her coworkers do not need to take time to think about which layers should be included, whether the coding is correct or considering other business data. Everything is already ready and available, as long as the correct code has been used in the field.

Same basis for all employees

The workflow to and from the field becomes easier because all data is in the correct layer. Filippa gives an example. The object "manhole of waste water" is coded and added to the certain layer for manhole of

waste water. The code list is exported into a file to a field computer. When the manhole of waste water is surveyed and the survey data is emptied from the instrument, the information will automatically end up in the correct layer in Topocad.

- Since all the properties, layers and codes are ready from the start, we use our method to create an effective flow, from field to finished map product.

Everyone at Hovås Mätkonsult uses the same prototype drawings. It gives several advantages, Filippa says.

- When everyone works with the same sub team and the same map settings and codes, we get both a higher quality and a more efficient workflow. We don't have to adjust properties and other things because everything is predefined. We also get a clearer order of the projects and the map products become standardized no matter who did it.

Another advantage is that the project is no longer so tied to a person as before.

- If one of us starts a project in Uddevalla and becomes ill or obstructed, a staff member in Gothenburg can take over and continue. We lose no time and can use our resources in a more productive manner.

Martin Widholm, a colleague of Filippa, tells us that each prototype drawing has its own form created from Topocad's sheet template.

- It facilitates when we fill in information about the property, map type and similar data.

We don't need to create them, the foundation is already completed in the software.

Creating new codes when needed

Overall, there is a similarity in the work of the various prototype drawings. The codes you use are often national, such as the Swedish model. But it's not like that for the maintenance area. Therefore, Hovås Mätkonsult have developed their own codes.

- We have created our own codes

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for different care areas, such as high-rise grass areas.

This is then used to determine the size of the green area and, for example, for a housing company to be able to outlay the maintenance work. When needed, they define codes and complete prototype drawings with new information as new prerequisites are launched.

Their working method with the four general drawings has also contributed to a clearer overview of the projects. As a result, delivery deadlines are kept in a better way. It is of course important in an industry where the market's thirst for GIS data seems to be endless and fueled by the national construction boom.