

From Research and Development to Mobile Learning Tools for Education and Training Providers and their Learners

The independent evaluator's report described the mLearning project as "large and complex, developing, exploiting and integrating a range of innovative technologies and devices, and delivering mobile learning to hard-to-reach youngsters who were economically and educationally marginal. The project culminated in large-scale trials, probably the largest to date, across a diverse set of situations, organisations and of learners."

The first part of this paper reflects upon the findings of those trials (a summary of key findings can be found in Attewell, 2005) and the work of several subsequent projects inspired and informed by the project. The second part will describe work in progress on a new project moving mobile learning on from research and development into mainstream implementation in UK post-16 education and training.

This project, involving two of the original mLearning project partners, includes development of a toolkit allowing tutors to develop mobile learning materials and experiences tailored to the needs of their particular learners and context.

Development of the toolkit is an iterative process informed by collaboration with tutors and learners. Evaluation of use of the toolkit will build on and enrich the findings of the original trials by initially focussing on fewer learners for a longer time and by working closely with their tutors to better explore the pedagogy of mobile learning.

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