



InTouch GIS Services

How to Obtain Map Data for your Project

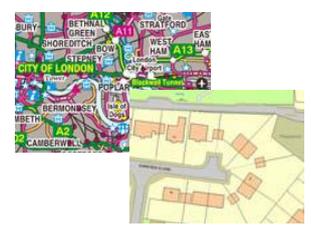
Using mapping data in your project

Whether you are undertaking a project involving locations of sites, data or assets you will need at least some element of mapping whether it is just to show the location of a site or for more comprehensive spatial analysis. Mapping data can be used in a number of ways;

- to incorporate into reports or figures as just a graphical image
- to include within AutoCad figures and drawings
- to be included with GIS packages for spatial analysis or map backgrounds
- to be imported into specialist modelling software (eg. building footprints in noise modelling software)

Mapping data can incorporate many different data sets example of which include;

- Small and large scale Ordnance Survey mapping
- Digital aerial photography
- Topographic data (spot heights and contours)
- Hydrological and flood data
- Demographic and marketing information



It is important to establish exactly what mapping product is needed (see additional “How to..” sheets on ‘mapping scales’ and ‘accuracy and precision’) but once you know what mapping data you require, these pointers should help you in identifying where to get it from.

Client supplied data

If working as a consultant on behalf of a client, the ‘least cost’ option is usually to obtain all the required mapping data from the client, either as AutoCad DWG or DXF files or as GIS formatted files (eg. ArcGIS shape files or MapInfo Tab files). If the client supplies you with a PDF file including any mapping data, the chances are that this has been produced in AutoCad and the client will have the actual mapping data available. If you need data to be included in modelling programs, AutoCad or GIS, then always ask to be supplied with the DWG file.

Be aware though that sometimes obtaining data from the client may not always run smoothly, particularly if they are a large organisation with a separate mapping or design section, or if the drawings have been produced by another third party. In these cases it may be more cost effective purchase the data direct from a mapping data supplier than spend time trying to obtain data from the client.



For local government clients and other clients with an OS MSA (Mapping Services Agreement), the Emapsite [contractor link](#) service is an efficient way of obtaining OS data products. This allows Ordnance Survey map products that have already been licensed by the client to be accessible online without the need for the client to arrange delivery of large volume datasets by FTP transfer or by copying to DVD. All that is needed is the client to register on the Emapsite contractor link service and specify their OS license number and for a small fee, all of the OS data they have will become available to a contractor working on behalf of the client.





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Purchasing and obtaining data from On-line data suppliers

If mapping data is not available from the client or it is too complicated to obtain, there are several mapping data suppliers available online for quick and cost effective data purchases.

- **Emapsite** (www.emapsite.com) - Provides online purchase and supply of geographic data from the Ordnance Survey and other suppliers. Includes small and large scale mapping, topographic height information for digital terrain models, digital aerial photography, geological and flooding data.
- **Landmark Information Group** (www.landmark.co.uk) – A wide ranging geo-information provider with a number of online services, including Promap for online mapping and OS mapping supply, Ordnance Survey Historical mapping provision, Aerial photography and other environmental datasets through their Envirocheck service (www.envirocheck.co.uk)
- **Findmaps** (www.findmaps.co.uk) - Another online services for purchase of downloadable datasets. This also provides a 'pay per view' service useful if you need to check on a data set for a site location before or instead of purchasing the data itself.
- **GeoPlan** (www.geoplan.com) – For users requiring demographic or postcode based data, Geoplan offers a large number of datasets for the UK and around the world which includes administrative and postcode boundaries, population statistics, demographic information and economic / lifestyle marketing information.
- **Ordnance Survey (Business Customers)** – The Ordnance Survey (Britains national mapping agency) provides a wide range of high quality mapping products including the very detailed OS Mastermap, background maps from 1:10,000 to 1:650,000 scale AddressPoint and aerial imagery. The commercially available datasets available to Business Customers are generally licensed on a yearly contract basis and will provide the best value for money for customers with large volume and large area coverage needs of OS products. However, there are minimum order values on various product ranges (eg. OS Mastermap has a minimum order value of £500) which may make it not cost effective for customers who require smaller area map extracts.
- **Ordnance Survey (Opendata)** – The Ordnance Survey also provide a large range of mapping products that are covered by the 'Opendata' license and are free to use without purchase. It is worth checking to see if these products can fulfil your needs before purchasing any mapping products as they do provide a very useful range of products, especially if you do not need the highly detailed large scale mapping or topographic data sets that are available under the OS commercial license arrangements.
- **ESRI (ArcGIS maps and map layers)** – For users of ArcGIS desktop or ArcGIS online, ESRI supply a large number of mapping layers that can be used as a backdrop to your mapping projects. These include aerial imagery, openstreet map, topographic and political boundary maps. For users in the UK, ESRI UK have also made available the OS Opendata layers.

