

How to obtain digital map data

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MapPilot

MapPilot is a scheme funded by DfES (supported by Becta) that provides improved access to Ordnance Survey digital map data. The project will extend until July 2008, and is already having an impact in schools.

What is the purpose of MapPilot?

The purpose of the trial is to understand more fully the benefits of teaching with map data whilst establishing how access to these resources can be provided as effectively as possible in the long term, by offering a trial service to improve access for schools. There are also a number of technical challenges that relate to delivery of map data to schools, and MapPilot provides an opportunity to explore how these may be overcome.

What data is included in the MapPilot?

Data that schools are already authorised to access via their local authorities is included in MapPilot. However, we have not included data that is in the process of being migrated to new products. For example, the pilot does not include Land-Line® data as this is now being migrated to OS MasterMap®.



Land-Line data (left) is now being replaced with OS MasterMap data (right).

Data for any area in Great Britain is available for:

- OS MasterMap Topography Layer
- OS MasterMap Integrated Transport Network™ Layer
- 1:250 000 Scale Colour Raster Data
- 1:50 000 Scale Colour Raster Data
- 1:10 000 Scale Black and White Raster Data
- Boundary-Line™ data
- OS Street View® data
- Code-Point®
- Code-Point with polygons

Data for a school's own local authority area is available for:

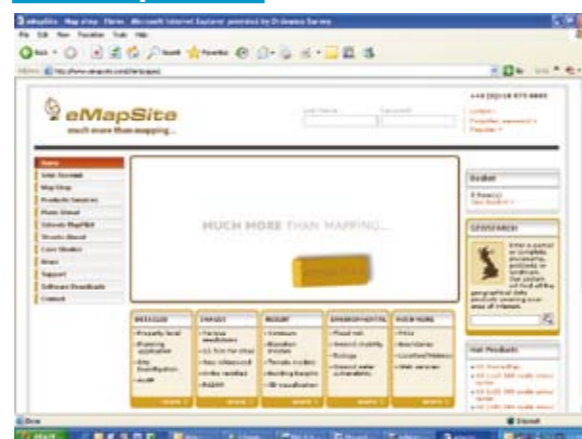
- ADDRESS-POINT®

How do I get hold of MapPilot data?

There are several ways to obtain and use map data. Please note that you do need software that can read the map data. Suppliers of these geographical information systems (GIS) are listed on page 36.

- Some software suppliers are able to embed map data directly into their product before it is delivered to you. They will usually offer an area of data relevant to your school. Once you have the product you may be able to obtain more data of other areas yourself by accessing

www.emapsite.com.



- Some software suppliers offer a web-based service, so you will be able to view the data online for areas of interest to you. You will not be able to (or need to) obtain further data for these products directly from MapPilot.
- Some products leave the choice of data entirely to the school, which can download or view data directly from www.emapsite.com
- If you already have a school GIS and want to add map data from MapPilot, visit www.emapsite.com or contact your software supplier for advice.

Is there a charge for MapPilot data?

Ordnance Survey MapPilot data is free of charge.

How much MapPilot data can I have?

There are physical limits on the amount of map data that schools can download and it would be impracticable for schools to download large amounts of large-scale data. However, you can order most data for any area of Great Britain.

What about other map data not included in the MapPilot?

Ordnance Survey produces other map data products that are not included in the national MapPilot. One example is height data. During the trial period additional products will be made available to individual participating schools that are already experienced with using GIS, to assess the potential for teaching and learning of these products.

How do I participate in MapPilot?

You may participate in MapPilot in three ways:

- Your software supplier may make data available to you. You need do nothing additional except that it would be helpful if you would respond to any questionnaires they may send about your use of their product.
- You may download data directly from the MapPilot. Statistics will be automatically gathered about your data use.
- If you are experienced at using map data, you may choose to join a select community of schools across the country that is investigating the use of map data in more depth. If you are interested in playing a part in helping to shape the future use of GIS in schools then please email your details to mappilot@becta.org.uk

How do I find out more?

More information can be found at www.emapsite.com. Click on Schools MapPilot for full information.

What happens at the end of MapPilot?

We are already aware that many schools would prefer not to be responsible for downloading map files that need to be stored on their own local systems. Technological advances in web technology now make live data streaming more achievable than ever before, and everyone has become used to using web mapping. However, there is a big difference to delivering maps via the web as a static image to delivering maps that are in vector form that the user can actually change and more fully interact with.

Which map data should we aim to deliver to obtain the best results for teaching? This is one of the questions we will be examining during the MapPilot.

At the end of the pilot the answers to this and many other questions will help to define a service for schools for the longer term. Keep reading *mapping news* to find out about how the trial is progressing!

Other sources of Ordnance Survey digital map data

MapPilot is a trial and no changes have been made to other supply options for map data. Many schools already have an excellent supply service for map data from their local authority, and these services will continue.

The Ordnance Survey data available from a local authority is the same as for MapPilot except that:

- it will usually be restricted in area to the local authority; and
- if a local authority purchases additional Ordnance Survey map data they may make this available to local schools too.

Every local authority has an **Authority Liaison Officer** (ALO) who can advise what map data can be provided to local schools. To find out the contact details of your local ALO contact:

Customer HelpLine: 08456 05 05 05
Welsh HelpLine: 08456 05 05 04
Email: customerservices@ordnancesurvey.co.uk

I am an academy/city technology college/independent school. Can I obtain Ordnance Survey map data?

Unfortunately, none of the above schools are covered by the Ordnance Survey Mapping Services Agreement, which supplies map data to local authorities. However, with the number of academy schools set to increase, we are working to construct a licence to cover 'state-funded independent' schools, and to provide a service for independent schools.

To obtain Ordnance Survey map data become an active participant in the MapPilot. This will give you temporary access to data for a specific classroom project.

To find out more please email your contact details to mappilot@becta.org.uk. This option will be of most interest to schools that already have some experience of GIS.

