

ORDNANCE SURVEY GB

OS Open Names – User Guide

Version History

Version	Date	Description
2.0	17/07/2019	New Format Release
2.1	01/10/2019	Amendments to Purpose of this Document

Purpose of this Document

This is the User Guide (hereinafter referred to as the 'Guide') for *OS Open Names* (hereinafter referred to as the 'Product').

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Contents

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	About OS Open Names	4
3.	Using OS Open Names.....	6
	Public sector.....	6
	Emergency services.....	6
	Land & property.....	6
	Banking, finance and insurance.....	6
	Utilities.....	7
	Leisure.....	7
	How to use the data.....	8
4.	Product Structure	9
5.	Attribution.....	14

1. Introduction

This user guide describes the main features of the data, suggests how customers can use the data and explains how the data is supplied. Whilst some of the more technical information may be of greater interest to those using the data on a regular basis within applications, everyone reading this user guide will gain an understanding of the key concepts of the data and the benefits an organisation can obtain from using it within location-based applications.

Resources

The following documents are associated with the Product:

1. OS Open Names – User Guide
2. OS Open Names - Technical Specification

Target Audience

This document is intended for:

- Users with no technical knowledge in GIS but are comfortable navigating the internet
- Users with technical knowledge in GIS.

Feedback

Ordnance Survey welcomes all feedback. If you have any comments or require further information, please make contact using the [details](#) above or via our [website](#).

2. About OS Open Names

OS Open Names is a geographic directory that contains basic information about identifiable places (Named Place). The content of the Product is divided into themes based on their type and local type classification values. The data contains accurate and current settlement names, road names and numbers, postcodes and their locations with additional contextual information and links to other datasets. It is designed for use across all market sectors and can be used for web service and mobile development. In addition to the data product, OS Open Names content is available through the OS Places application programming interface (API).

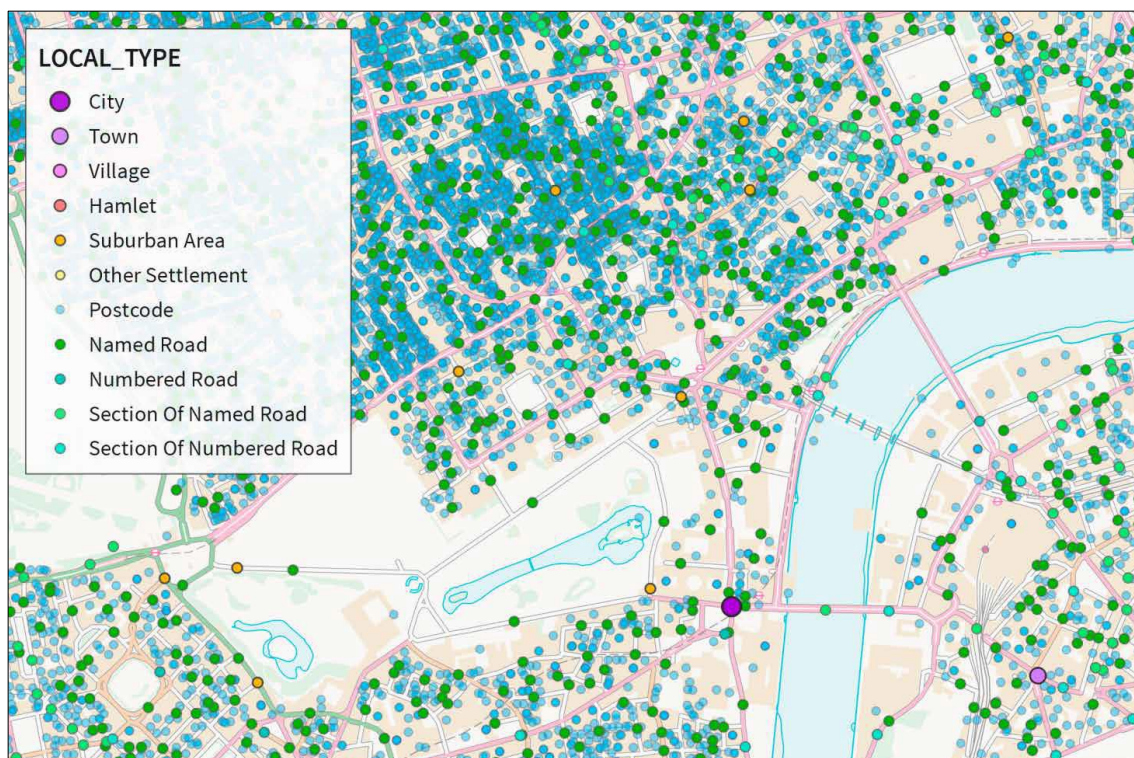
The primary use of the product is to provide the location for a named place to support a wealth of activities such as discovery, identification, visualisation, geocoding, routing and navigation and linking diverse information.

The name of the place is the key property used for querying. It is also recognised that a place may have multiple names; an official name, which may be defined in multiple languages (English/Welsh or English/Gaelic), for example, Cardiff (English) and Caerdydd (Welsh). Where relevant we give a second name, with the language being specified.

Names are not unique, so additional location information is provided to enable users to refine their query to select the Named Place they are interested in. These include: postcode district, populated place, district/borough, county/unitary authority, European region and country.

The OS Open Names specification will extend the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) Geographical Names theme to ensure that it is compliant with European open data initiatives.

The example below shows the range of features included in the Product.



OS Open Names has a resolution of 1 metre. The definition of how the locations are generated are outlined in the Technical Specification.

OS Open Names will be updated from Ordnance Survey's data content stores and released every three months to ensure the latest named features are published.

It's available in three open formats; comma separated value (CSV), Geographic Mark-up Language v3.2.1 (GML) and GeoPackage.

The persistent, unique identifier enables features to be quickly and easily identified and can be used for better data management. The exception to this is the Section of Named Road and Section of Numbered Road which don't have a persistent identifier. More information on this can be found in the Technical Specification.

The links to DB Pedia and GeoNames encourage wider use of the product and enable users to more easily embed it into their systems and processes if they already use one of these.

The contextual geography attributes, such as DISTRICT_BOROUGH enable features with the same name to be identified quickly through enhanced querying and for greater accuracy of results.

Bounding boxes, or Minimum Bounding Rectangles (MBR), are given for roads and settlements. This can be used to quickly zoom to the extent of a feature in a GIS map widow, application or web service.

3. Using OS Open Names

OS Open Names can be used across all sectors of industry for a wide variety of purposes; only a few of which are shown in the following examples. Primarily, it will be used to identify and locate named places; however, when combined with other Ordnance Survey products the range of uses increases.

Public sector

Some Public Sector services rely on accurate and up to date road names and numbers. Having access to a product that's maintained quarterly will be a huge advantage to delivering efficient services.

Emergency services

As an emergency services planner you want to allocate your resources in the most efficient way when an emergency is reported. OS Open Names can be used as part of the process to quickly identify the location of the emergency and your resources to therefore determine the most efficient way to manage them.

Land & property

As a land and property manager you want to assess the suitability of potential sites for a new building. Using OS Open Names you can quickly identify the settlements and roads in an area as part of the assessment.

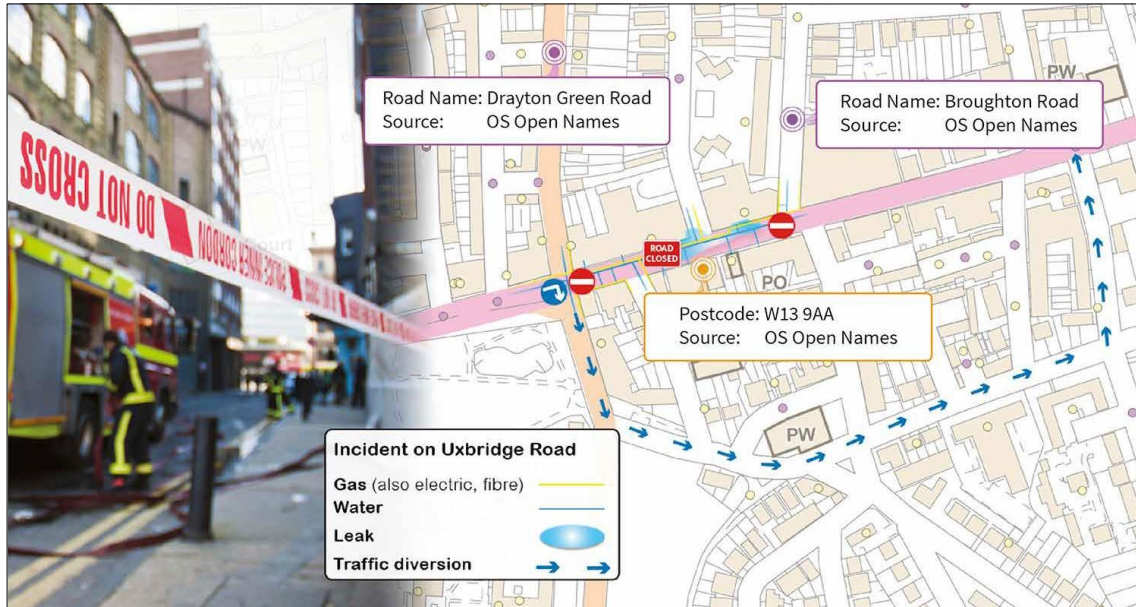
Banking, finance and insurance

As a senior analyst for flood risk modelling for an insurance company you may need to identify the settlements, roads and postcodes affected by a flood. OS Open Names can be used to quickly identify a list of named places, roads and postcodes in an area at risk of flooding.



Utilities

As a planner for a utilities company you need to act quickly to deploy your resources following an incident. OS Open Names can be used to determine the location of the incident and to assist with the management of resources. When linked with OS Highways Network – Routing & Asset Management Information, routing around incidents becomes possible.



Leisure

As a tourist new to an area you may want to discover places of interest or activities to take part in. OS Open Names can be used to locate named places, and by linking Ordnance Survey data for additional information.



Sector	Uses
Central and Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating where a person is, allowing nearest services to be matched to them. • Improving local planning capability and analysis. For example, journey information, patient transport and traffic management. • Linking and collaborating with other departments through data sharing. • Enabling citizens to search for their location to manage tasks such as planning applications. • Also used in interactive maps for planning and citizen reporting problems back to a council.
Land and Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker, more accurate location searches for site analysis, planning applications and conveyancing.
Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency planning. • More accurately identifying locations to help improve response times. • Recognising different names for the same location.
Web services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location look-up for routing. • Location of a named place. • Where is someone or something?
Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor leisure activities. • Where's my nearest? • Where am I? • Where do I want to go?
Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop evaluation of locations for initial risk analysis.

The table above gives some further uses and applications for OS Open Names.

How to use the data

For guidance on using the data please refer to our Getting Started Guide, found on the product support pages of OS Open Names.

4. Product Structure

The data provides a nationally maintained view of Named Places for Great Britain containing the following types:

- Populated Place including; cities, towns, villages, hamlets, other settlements and suburban areas.
- Transport Network including; named and numbered roads and section of named and numbered roads.
- Postcodes.

The product represents Named Places as point geometries primarily for the purpose of naming and locating these features. Additional contextual location information is provided to aid with the identification of features. Links are also given to other gazetteers including DBpedia and GeoNames.

The Named Places are discussed in this guide in INSPIRE-compatible terms with reference to the INSPIRE data specification for Geographical Names. The attribute naming convention takes into consideration the attribute names in the other Ordnance Survey products for consistency.

There is a detailed hierarchy of feature types which extends the INSPIRE Geographical Names. This enables you to quickly and easily access the data you want. The product contains the following feature types:

Value	Definition
Airfield	A named area of ground where aircraft take off and land. It may have some permanent buildings but it is smaller than an airport and may be for private use only.
Airport	A named site where aircraft land and take off and which provide facilities for handling passengers, air freight and servicing aircraft.
Bay	A named area of open water, which is largely surrounded by (and often sheltered by) land.
Beach	A named area of sand and/or shingle either adjacent to, or straddling, mean high water or the shore of an inland water feature such as a river or lake.
Bus Station	A named place where buses begin, break or end their journey and at which passengers may embark or disembark.
Bus Station,Coach Station	A named place where buses and coaches begin, break or end their journey and at which passengers may embark or disembark.
Channel	A named relatively narrow stretch of water, connecting two more open bodies of water.
Chemical Works	A named site where the principles of chemistry are applied to materials to create different materials on a large scale.
Cirque Or Hollow	A named natural depression in the landscape.
City	A named centre of business and population, vested with City status by virtue of Royal Charter.
Cliff Or Slope	A named steep cliff or slope running from the cliff-tops down towards the sea.

Coach Station	A named place where coaches begin, break or end a journey and at which passengers may embark or disembark.
Coastal Headland	A named prominent mass of land raised above the surrounding tidal water on several sides.
Electricity Distribution	A named site used to handle electricity as part of the process of distributing electricity nationally.
Electricity Production	A named feature where electricity is generated on a large scale.
Estuary	A named partially enclosed area of sea, at the mouth of one or more rivers.
Further Education	An educational establishment for academic and vocational qualifications below degree level undertaken after age 16.
Further Education,Higher or University Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education and Higher or University Education.
Further Education,Higher or University Education,Non State Secondary Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education, Higher or University Education, and Non State Secondary Education.
Further Education,Non State Primary Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education and Non State Primary Education.
Further Education,Non State Primary Education,Non State Secondary Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education, Non State Primary Education, and Non State Secondary Education.
Further Education,Non State Secondary Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education and Non State Secondary Education.
Further Education,Non State Secondary Education,Primary Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education, Non State Secondary Education, and Primary Education.
Further Education,Primary Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education and Primary Education.
Further Education,Primary Education,Secondary Education,Special Needs Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education, Primary Education, Secondary Education, and Special Needs Education.
Further Education,Primary Education,Special Needs Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education, Primary Education, and Special Needs Education.
Further Education,Secondary Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education and Secondary Education.
Further Education,Secondary Education,Special Needs Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education, Secondary Education, and Special Needs Education.
Further Education,Special Needs Education	An educational establishment providing Further Education and Special Needs Education.
Gas Distribution or Storage	A named site associated with the storing or supply of gas to users.
Group Of Islands	A named set of islands in the sea.
Hamlet	A settlement smaller than a village.
Harbour	A named area of naturally or artificially protected water on a coast where boats can anchor or moor.
Helicopter Station	A named facility from where bodies such as the police or ambulance service operate helicopter operations.

Heliport	A named airport specifically designed for use by helicopters.
Higher or University Education	A named site where students study at National Qualifications Framework level 4 and above.
Hill Or Mountain	A named area of land that is higher than the surrounding land.
Hill Or Mountain Ranges	A named chain of mountains or hills bordered by highlands or separated from other mountains or hills by passes or valleys.
Hospice	A named medical facility to care for patients with terminal conditions.
Hospital	A named medical facility that provides second level care.
Hospital,Medical Care Accommodation	A named medical facility providing second level care and long term medical accommodation.
Inland Water	A named area of permanent non-tidal water that cannot be given a more refined classification.
Island	A named area of land completely surrounded by water.
Medical Care Accommodation	A named site that provides both long term medical accommodation and medical care.
Named Road	Distinctive name for a road.
Non State Primary Education	An educational establishment for children from the ages of seven to eleven that is not funded by the state.
Non State Primary Education,Non State Secondary Education	An educational establishment providing Non State Primary Education and Non State Secondary Education.
Non State Primary Education,Secondary Education	An educational establishment providing Non State Primary Education and Secondary Education.
Non State Primary Education,Special Needs Education	An educational establishment providing Non State Primary Education and Special Needs Education.
Non State Secondary Education	An educational establishment for children of eleven years and over, that is not funded by the state.
Non State Secondary Education,Primary Education	An educational establishment providing Non State Secondary Education, Primary Education.
Numbered Road	Department for Transport road number for Motorways, A Roads and B Roads.
Oil Distribution or Storage	A named depot where oil is stored.
Oil Refining	A named facility where crude oil is refined.
Oil Terminal	A named storage point and distribution centre at the head of an oil pipeline.
Other Coastal Landform	A named area of landform on the coast for example a stand alone rock or a steep-sided gully.
Other Landcover	A named area of land in rural areas.
Other Landform	A named prominent mass of land raised above the surrounding terrain on several sides.
Other Settlement	London Borough, Urban Development, Rural Locality, Crofting Locality or Named Group of Buildings
Passenger Ferry Terminal	A named site facilitating the embarkation and disembarkation of pedestrian ferry passengers.
Passenger Ferry Terminal,Vehicular Ferry Terminal	A named site facilitating the embarkation and disembarkation of pedestrian ferry passengers, and ferry passengers and their vehicles.

Port Consisting of Docks and Nautical Berthing	A named complex with extensive infrastructure where a ships cargo is loaded and unloaded or vessels berthed.
Postcode	Royal Mail postcode eg. SO16 0AS.
Primary Education	An educational establishment for children from the ages of seven to eleven that is funded principally by the state.
Primary Education,Secondary Education	An educational establishment providing Primary Education and Secondary Education.
Primary Education,Secondary Education,Special Needs Education	An educational establishment providing Primary Education, Secondary Education, and Special Needs Education.
Primary Education,Special Needs Education	An educational establishment providing Primary Education and Special Needs Education.
Railway	A named railway network.
Railway Station	A named site comprising a building and platforms by a light railway network or railway network where a light rail vehicle or train may stop to pick up goods or passengers. Excludes tram stations/stops.
Road User Services	A named area for supply of fuel, refreshments and so on near a road.
Sea	A named area of sea that cannot be given a more refined classification.
Secondary Education	An Educational establishment for children over 11 years old.
Section Of Named Road	Section of road name inside a settlement, where the road passes through multiple settlements.
Section Of Numbered Road	Section of road number inside a town/city, where the road passes through multiple towns/cities.
Special Needs Education	A specialist school for the teaching of those with disabilities.
Spot Height	A named spot height, the location is usually, but not always a summit; for example, it may represent the highest point in an administrative area.
Suburban Area	A separately named urban area within a larger town or city.
Tidal Water	A named area of water affected by normal tidal action that does not fall into a more defined category.
Town	A centre of business and population with an area in excess of 2.5 square kilometres. Some smaller places are also historically considered towns, for example, where they are market or former county towns.
Tramway	A named system of guided busway(s). See Guided Busway. NOTE: this is not for normal bus routes or a rapid transit system, running on rails (often incorporated into a road surface) and powered by electricity from overhead cables.
Urban Greenspace	A named open (non-built up) area for recreation within or on the perimeter of an urban area.
Valley	A named natural linear depression, following the alignment of a natural watercourse.
Vehicular Ferry Terminal	A named site facilitating the embarkation and disembarkation of ferry passengers and their vehicles.
Vehicular Rail Terminal	A named facility where freight vehicles may be transferred to or from the rail network.

Village	Settlement smaller than a town, but larger than a hamlet.
Waterfall	A named steep fall of river or stream water, where its course is markedly and suddenly interrupted.
Wetland	A named area of land subject to regular and seasonal flooding.
Woodland Or Forest	A named area of natural or semi-natural tree cover.

5. Attribution

The table below shows the attributes that are available in the Product. More detail on these can be found in the Technical Specification.

*GeoPackage only

CSV/GeoPackage	GML
FID*	Not in GML
ID	<names:NamedPlace gml:id>
NAMES_URI	<gml:identifier>
Not for CSV	<gn:inspireId>
Not for CSV	<gn:beginLifespanVersion>
Not for CSV	<gn:endLifespanVersion>
NAME1	<gn:spelling>
NAME1_LANG	<gn:language>
NAME2	<gn:spelling>
NAME2_LANG	<gn:language>
Not for CSV	<gn:sourceOfName>
Not for CSV	<gn:nativeness>
Not for CSV	<gn:nameStatus>
TYPE	<gn:type>
LOCAL_TYPE	<gn:localType>
GEOMETRY_X	<gn:geometry>
GEOMETRY_Y	<gn:geometry>
MOST_DETAIL_VIEW_RES	<gn:mostDetailedViewingResolution>
LEAST_DETAIL_VIEW_RES	<gn:leastDetailedViewingResolution>
MBR_XMIN	<gml:boundedBy>
MBR_YMIN	<gml:boundedBy>
MBR_XMAX	<gml:boundedBy>
MBR_YMAX	<gml:boundedBy>
POSTCODE_DISTRICT	<names: inPostcodeDistrict xlink:title>
POSTCODE_DISTRICT_URI	<names: inPostcodeDistrict xlink:href>
POPULATED_PLACE	<names:inPopulatedPlace xlink:title>
POPULATED_PLACE_URI	<names:inPopulatedPlace xlink:href>
POPULATED_PLACE_TYPE	<names:inPopulatedPlace xlink:role>
DISTRICT_BOROUGH	<names:inDistrictOrBorough xlink:title>
DISTRICT_BOROUGH_URI	<names:inDistrictOrBorough xlink:href>
DISTRICT_BOROUGH_TYPE	<names:inDistrictOrBorough xlink:role>
COUNTY_UNITARY	<names:in CountyOrUnitaryAuthority xlink:title>
COUNTY_UNITARY_URI	<names:in CountyOrUnitaryAuthority xlink:href>
COUNTY_UNITARY_TYPE	<names:in CountyOrUnitaryAuthority xlink:role>
REGION	<names:inEuropeanRegion xlink:title>
REGION_URI	<names:inEuropeanRegion xlink:href>

COUNTRY	<names:inCountry xlink:title>
COUNTRY_URI	<names:inCountry xlink:href>
RELATED_SPATIAL_OBJECT	<gn:relatedSpatialObject>
SAME_AS_DBPEDIA	<names:sameAsDBPedia xlink:href>
SAME_AS_GEONAMES	<names:sameAsGeoNames xlink:href>