Overture Map Types Explained

Information provided by GPT-4.1.

Overture Maps Foundation provides open map data in a set of standardized layers, each called a "map type." Here' an explanation of the real-world meaning and content of each map type you listed, based on Overture' documentation and general mapping concepts:

1. **address**

Real-world meaning:

Represents specific locations where people can receive mail or packages, such as homes, businesses, or public buildings.

Content:

Street addresses (house/building number, street name, city, postal code, etc.)

Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude) for each address

Address components (unit, floor, etc.)

2. **building**

Real-world meaning:

Physical structures constructed for human use or occupancy.

Content:

Footprints (2D outlines) of buildings

Building heights (sometimes)

Building types (residential, commercial, etc.)

Associated metadata (name, address, etc.)

3. **building_part**

Real-world meaning:

Subdivisions of a building, representing different sections, wings, or floors.

Content:

3D geometry or attributes for parts of a building (e.g., different heights, uses, or architectural features)

Relationships to parent building

4. **division**

Real-world meaning:

Administrative or political subdivisions, such as countries, states, provinces, counties, or municipalities.

Content:

Names and codes for each division

Hierarchical relationships (e.g., city within a state)

Reference to boundaries

5. **division_area**

Real-world meaning:

The actual geographic area covered by an administrative division.

Content:

Polygon geometry representing the area of a division (e.g., the outline of a country or city)

6. **division_boundary**

Real-world meaning:

The lines that define the limits between administrative divisions.

Content:

Line geometry for the borders between divisions (e.g., the border between two countries or states)

7. **places**

Real-world meaning:

Named locations of interest, such as cities, towns, villages, neighborhoods, landmarks, or points of interest (POIs).

Content:

Place names and types (city, park, restaurant, etc.)

Coordinates

Additional attributes (population, importance, etc.)

8. **segment**

Real-world meaning:

Individual sections of transportation networks, such as roads, railways, or paths.

Content:

Line geometry for each segment

Attributes (road type, speed limit, direction, etc.)

Connectivity information

9. **connector**

Real-world meaning:

Special links that connect different segments in the transportation network, often representing intersections, ramps, or transitions.

Content:

Line or point geometry

Information about how segments are connected (e.g., a ramp connecting a highway to a local road)

10. **bathymetry**

Real-world meaning:

The measurement of the depth of water bodies (oceans, seas, lakes) and the shape of underwater terrain.

Content:

Depth values (below sea level)

Underwater contours and features (e.g., trenches, ridges)

11. **infrastructure**

Real-world meaning:

Man-made structures and facilities that support society, such as bridges, tunnels, power lines, pipelines, etc.

Content:

Geometry and attributes for infrastructure elements

Types (bridge, tunnel, dam, etc.)

12. **land**

Real-world meaning:

The physical surface of the Earth that is not covered by water.

Content:

Landmass outlines (continents, islands)

May include elevation or terrain data

13. **land_cover**

Real-world meaning:

The physical material at the surface of the earth, such as vegetation, urban areas, bare soil, or water.

Content:

Classification of surface types (forest, grassland, urban, etc.)

Polygon geometry for each cover type

14. **land_use**

Real-world meaning:

How humans use the land, such as for agriculture, residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational purposes.

Content:

Classification of land by use (farmland, park, industrial zone, etc.)

Polygon geometry for each use area

15. **water**

Real-world meaning:

Bodies of water on the Earth' surface, such as oceans, lakes, rivers, and reservoirs.

Content:

Polygon and line geometry for water features

Attributes (name, type, flow direction, etc.)

Summary Table

Map Type Real-World Content Example

Map Type	***Real-World Content Example***
Address	123 Main St, Springfield
Building	Apartment block, office tower
building_part	East wing, 3rd floor of a mall
division	State of California, City of Paris
division_area	Polygon of California' area
division_boundary	Border line between France and Germany
places	Eiffel Tower, Central Park, Tokyo
segment	A stretch of highway, a railway section
connector	Highway on-ramp, intersection node
bathymetry	Depth of the Atlantic Ocean
infrastructure	Golden Gate Bridge, Hoover Dam
land	Outline of Africa, Greenland
land_cover	Forest, urban area, desert
land_use	Farmland, residential zone, industrial park
water	Lake Superior, Amazon River

References

- Overture Maps Data Schema
- Overture Maps Documentation
- General GIS and mapping knowledge