

GIS data types

Format	Description
GeoJSON	Based on JSON, often used in web development.
KML	XML based open standard.
GML	XML based. An open spatial data schema to enable interoperability between independent GIS applications and with internet GIS in mind
Shapefile	Proprietary and popular ESRI file format.
CSV	Data held in traditional CSV files

GeoJSON

Aspect	Details
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation. Based on the JavaScript programming language and ideal for use in web maps.
Lightweight	Text based, and not too much markup
Readable	Relatively easy to open in a text editor and read

KML

Aspect	Details
XML	eXtensible Markup Language. Based upon XML.
Google	Developed for use with Google Earth, which was originally named Keyhole Earth Viewer
Open	KML became an international standard of the Open Geospatial Consortium in 2008

Shapefiles

Aspect	Details
Proprietary	ESRI based format. Non open.
Common	Used everywhere. Compatible with most software.
Integration with PostGIS	Easy loading and exporting from PostGIS

GML

Aspect	Details
XML	eXtensible Markup Language. Based upon XML.
OS	Used by Ordnance Survey as part of certain products such as MasterMap.
Tricky	Can be tricky to use and import into databases while maintaining all the data

CSV

Aspect	Details
Comma separated	Columns are separated (typically) by commas. Data that could itself contain a comma is normally wrapped in quotes. e.g. and address "110 The Laggar, Corsham"

values	
Tabular	Can be opened in a variety of software that takes table data, such as Excel and Access
WKT	GIS data is often included in CSV through the use of 'Well Known Text' standard, or alternatively simple X/Y values in separate columns
Readable	Easy to open in a text editor and read

```
EX1 1EE,10,E18000010,E10000008,E07000041,E05003502,S,POINT (292079 92307)
```