ORDNANCE SURVEY GB

OS OPEN GREENSPACE – PRODUCT GUIDE

Ordnance Survey

Version history

Version	Date	Description
1.0	03/2017	Initial release
1.1	01/2019	Introduction of GeoPackage
1.2	04/2021	Introduction of vector tiles

Purpose of this document

This is the Product Guide for the OS Open Greenspace product. This Guide provides greater insight into this product and its potential applications. For information on the contents and structure of OS Open Greenspace, please refer to the Getting Started Guide and Technical Specification.

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1. Introduction

This guide contains an overview of the OS Open Greenspace product and basic information needed to understand, use and manage the product. For more detailed technical information and data format specification, please see the Technical Specification.

1.1 Product overview

OS Open Greenspace depicts the location and extent of spaces such as parks and sports facilities that are likely to be accessible to the public. Where appropriate, it also includes Access Points to show how people get into these sites. Its primary purpose is to enable members of the public to find and access greenspaces near them for exercise and recreation.

As an open data product, this will become part of OS open data portfolio, which currently consists of a range of datasets such as OS Vector Map District, OS Open Map - Local, OS Terrain 50 and OS Open Roads. For more information on the open data portfolio see the OS website.

OS Open Greenspace is a generalised product which has been automatically generated and generalised from Ordnance Survey large scale data.

1.2 Key features

The key features of Open Greenspace are as follows:

- Comprehensive coverage of publicly accessible greenspaces
- Polygons of the greenspace extents
- Access Points to depict place and type of access to the site
- Four attributes for site name to allow multiple official and/or local names to be available in the product
- Freely available online as an Open Data download and as a layer in the OS Maps consumer web service

1.3 Applications

Open Greenspace supports a wide range of customer applications that use geographical information. The product can be used alone or combined with other Ordnance Survey products, such as Open Map - Local, Open Roads or other Open Data products.

Applications of the Open Greenspace product include, but are by no means limited to:

- Encouraging activity for all
- Allowing local residents to find new greenspaces local to them
- Encouraging discovery and use of new greenspaces
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Analysing use of amenities
- Mapping routes to access nearest greenspaces
- Managing and planning greenspaces effectively

1.4 Complementary datasets

Greenspace is a topic which has seen a rise in interest and opinion over the last few years. As such, there are many other datasets available on the topic. These datasets can be used in conjunction with OS Open Greenspace to increase the potential applications, answer a wider range of questions and further promote activity and wellbeing. There are many sources of these datasets; we have included a few links below to get you started, but there are many other data sources available:

- https://magic.defra.gov.uk/
- https://data.gov.uk/

1.5 Reference system

Open Greenspace uses the British National Grid (BNG) spatial reference system. BNG uses the OSGB36 geodetic datum and a single Transverse Mercator projection for the whole of Great Britain. Positions on this projection are described using easting and northing coordinates in units of metres.

A guide to coordinate systems in Great Britain is available at:
http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/docs/support/guide-coordinate-systems-great-britain.pdf

A general introductory guide to BNG is provided at:
http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/resources/maps-and-geographic-resources/the-national-grid.html

2. OS Open Greenspace

2.1 Feature types

Open Greenspace comprises two feature types. Each feature type has associated attribution. Further detail can be found in Section 3.

The following section gives a description of each feature type:

- GreenspaceSite

  A polygon defining the extent of greenspaces such as parks and sports facilities that are likely to be open for use by members of the public. These extents are generalised.

- AccessPoint

  A point feature denoting where access to a site is located, and what kind of access is permitted at that location.

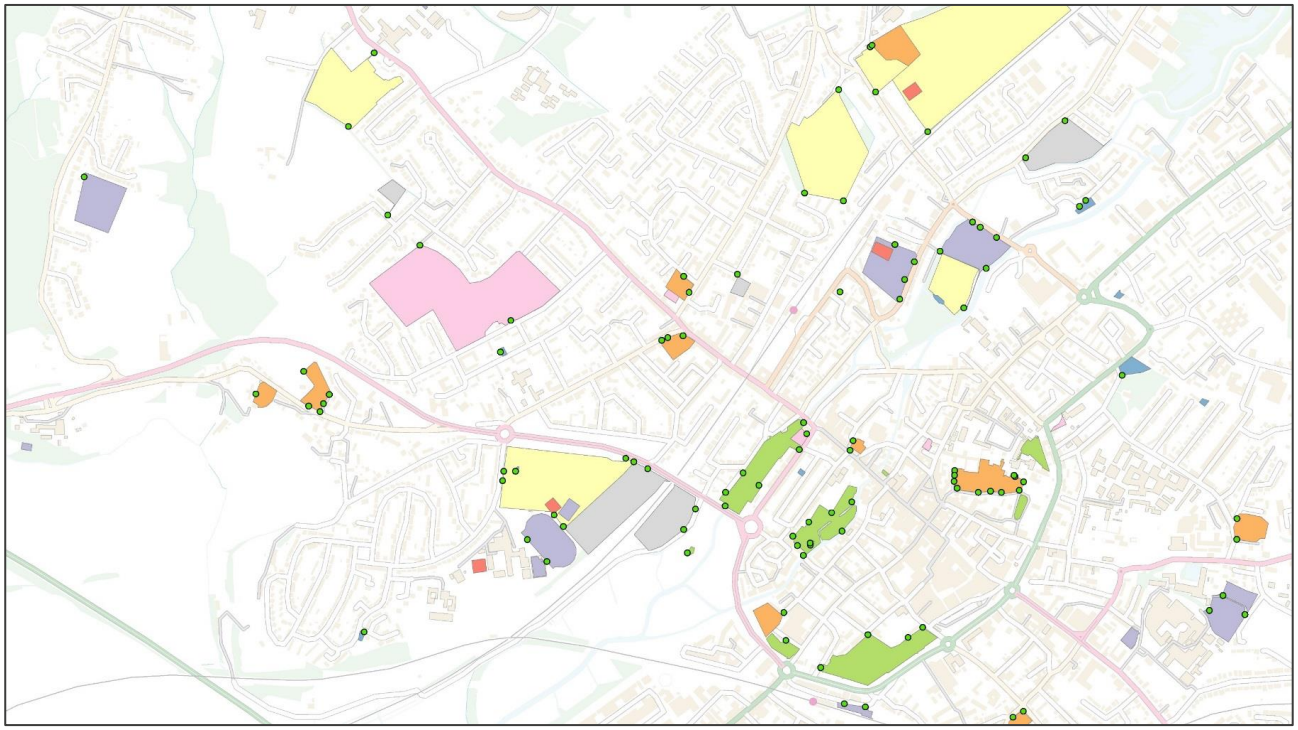

Figure 1: Open Greenspace data showing polygons and access points over OS Open Map – Local

2.2 Generalisation

The detail within Open Greenspace has been captured and automatically generalised using Ordnance Survey large scale data. Generalisation is the process of reducing the complexity of the data whilst maintaining the key elements and characteristics of the features. OS Open Greenspace generalisation applies in two ways:

1. GreenspaceSite

   All Greenspace Sites have been generalised to achieve consistency through the product. No sites have been removed during this process.

2. AccessPoint

   Access Points are not moved by the generalisation process and will remain in their actual location, allowing them to be used appropriately with large-scale data when required.

2.3 Attributes

2.3.1 Greenspace Sites

Greenspace Sites come in the form of a geolocated polygon layer that carries the following attributes:

1. ID

   The unique identifier of the site. The ID is generated each release and will change between versions of the product.

2. Function

   The function of the Greenspace Site. Functions are determined from a specific greenspace list, and only those sites which fall within this list have been included in this product. The functions included in the product can be found in the next section.

3. Distinctive Name

   The name of the site. There is space within the product for up to four Distinctive Name attributes to be populated if a site is known locally by more than one name. These will only be populated where relevant and will be populated in numerical order.

2.3.2 Access Points

Access Points come in the form of a geolocated point layer that carries the following attributes:

- ID

  The unique identifier of the Access Point.

- Access Type

  The type of access which is permitted at the particular point. The nature of access will fall into one of the categories listed in the next section.

- Reference to Greenspace Site

  The unique identifier of the Greenspace Site to which the Access Point relates.

2.4 Distinctive Name attribution

Where a site is known locally by more than one name, the product has been formatted to allow this to be populated in successive name attributes. For many greenspaces, this will rely on information from local experts, who have been encouraged to populate the information to Ordnance Survey where relevant. These names are expected to be useful in gathering more information about a site, such as its opening times or ownership information.

Names will be populated in the product where they can be sourced from relevant existing data holdings during product creation. As a result, a limited number of records will contain Distinctive Name attribution in the first release. The population of this attribute will improve over time.

2.5 Nested sites

Where more than one function can be identified within a greenspace, nesting is used. This means that where sites overlap, or where a whole site is contained within a larger site, they are published as separate polygons that overlap one another. For example, in the picture below the whole park is captured as one site, including the play areas. The play areas also have their own Greenspace Site captured separately and these sites overlap the park.

Figure 2: An example of site nesting where playgrounds exist within a park

Where nested sites are of the same function attribute, these sites will not be shown as separate but will be merged into a single site, to avoid duplicating the greenspace function on these sites.

3. Function and access types

This section contains more detail about the attributes within Open Greenspace where the attributes come from a defined list.

3.1 Function

The Functions within Open Greenspace represent the purpose of the Greenspace Site, that is, what the Greenspace Site is used for. Open Greenspace includes the following Functions:

- Allotments Or Community Growing Spaces
- Bowling Green
- Cemetery
- Religious Grounds
- Golf Course
- Other Sports Facility
- Play Space
- Playing Field
- Public Park Or Garden
- Tennis Court

Detail and description of these Functions can be found in the Technical Specification.

3.1.1 Notes for specific Functions

Religious Grounds
Religious grounds will be populated in Open Greenspace where there is seen to be a significant amount of accessible greenspace. This is defined as those where there is greater than 500m^2 of natural surface within the Religious Ground site.

Stadiums
Sports stadiums and grounds which are primarily for spectating rather than participating in sports will not be included in Open Greenspace.

Playing Fields
Playing fields should only be included in Open Greenspace where they are used by the public at least some of the time. Playing fields such as school fields which are entirely enclosed and only for use of the school, would not be expected to be included.

3.2 Access type

The types of access allowed in any given Greenspace Site is indicated in the Access Point Feature Type. These include:

- Motor Vehicle
- Motor Vehicle and Pedestrian
- Pedestrian

Detail on access types can be found in the Technical Specification.

4. Data creation

4.1 Geometry

4.1.1 Greenspace Sites

The Greenspace Site polygons are identified using topographic and textual information contained within OS large scale database. These identified Greenspace Sites are then generated using the visible physical boundaries surrounding the individual sites, for example, where a fence or wall clearly surrounds a park.

4.1.2 Access Points

Most greenspaces will include Access Points, but a limited number will not. There are certain situations in which it is not possible to capture access into a site. Where this is the case, if we are informed about and can verify additional Access Points, we will endeavour to include these. In open areas, such as a play area in a park, there is often no physical boundary limiting access to specific places, so we do not capture a point. It may not be possible to identify the access due to the limits of data capture, such as an entrance obscured by trees. It is also possible for Access Points to occur within larger polygons where they indicate access to a nested polygon within.

Inclusion in this product does not guarantee public access and users should be aware of this when accessing sites.

4.2 Attributes

In the extraction and creation of the Open Greenspace features, attribution is generated from the detailed source data and the existing site data held.

4.3 Data completeness

Ordnance Survey is committed to maintaining its products to the highest levels of accuracy and currency. The initial capture of data for Open Greenspace will be completed using our existing topographic databases and aerial imagery. As such the quality of the data will be constrained to what can be achieved with this approach. For example, where an access into a site is obscured (for example, under trees) it will not be captured. In addition, the use of our existing databases to identify the location of sites of interest means that we cannot guarantee that all relevant sites will be included in the data. However, where we are informed and can verify that a feature is missing or inaccurately depicted in the dataset, we will make the necessary amendments to the dataset within 12 months of such verification.

We have processes in place to allow expert users to feed back on the product and allow us to act on potential omissions and improvements to content, subject to accuracy checks. It is anticipated this community will assist us in improving the content in the Greenspace products after full release.

4.4 Selection of Greenspace Sites

Greenspace Sites included in this product are those which the public could use for recreational activities and outside leisure. These activities include, but are by no means limited to, sports, walking, exercise, commuting and exploration.

The sites may have restricted opening times or charges which OS is unable to publish information about. Some sites may charge for use of the facility or area or involve car park charges. Inclusion in this product does not guarantee public access and users should be aware of this when accessing sites.

Some criteria have been applied in the creation of this product to ensure the most appropriate sites are included.

Sites are only included where a definable boundary for an individual site can be depicted and where the entirety of the defined site is a greenspace. Large rural areas such as National Parks do not fall within this definition.

5. Product supply

5.1 Available formats

Open Greenspace will be supplied in GML3.2.1, ESRI Shapefile, OGC GeoPackage and vector tiles (MBTiles).

5.2 Coverage

Open Greenspace covers all of England, Wales and Scotland.

5.3 Update cycle

Open Greenspace will be updated every six months.

5.4 Supply mechanism

Open Greenspace will be available for download on the OS Data Hub OS OpenData Downloads page, with no registration required. It can be downloaded as a National Set covering Great Britain, or as our standard 100km^2 tiles. Unlike the XML and ESRI Shapefile, GeoPackage is only available as a GB tileset.

It will also be available as part of OS Maps consumer web service.

Within the 100km^2 tiles, where features cross the tile edge, the whole of that feature will be included. Therefore, customers taking adjacent tiles will find some features appearing in both tiles where they cross the boundary. It may be necessary to deduplicate this data, depending on its application.

The data will be available as a full supply only (no COU will be available).

Ordnance Survey Limited
Explorer House, Adanac Drive, Nursling, Southampton SO16 0AS
+44 (0)3456 050505 (General enquiries) +44 (0)2380 056146 (Textphone)
customerservices@os.uk www.os.uk