

UK Location Preview on Map

User Guide

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Document Control and Contents

Change Summary

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Introduction

- 1 The UK Location Infrastructure lies at the heart of the delivery of the UK Location Strategy and INSPIRE (**IN**frastructure for **SP**atial **I**nfo**R**mation in **E**urope) by the UK Location Programme.
- 2 The preview on map tool will aid in the evaluation of location data, making it easier to get an initial visual evaluation. Evaluation of data is part of the whole service available for increasing access to and use of location data, being created by the UK Location Programme. This is making more opportunities for government, developers, businesses and individuals to use location data to improve decision making and to develop innovative products and services.
- 3 The UK Location preview on map tool has been developed by Ordnance Survey and data.gov.uk in partnership with the UK Location Programme. This guide is for use with the preview on map tool and provides further background to the facilities and services which underpin preview on map.
- 4 Not all location data can be viewed in the preview on map tool. If you would like to view a specific location data that is not available please contact the Data Provider for more details.

Target audience

- 5 The primary audience for this guide are data consumers who have searched for location data on data.gov.uk and want to view the location data (accessible via data provider view services) in the preview on map tool before using the view service directly or requesting any of the data they hold.

Assumed knowledge

- 6 This document does not assume that the reader is familiar with the UK Location Infrastructure . The guide has been drafted assuming that users will have some experience with the use of location data and data searching on data.gov.uk though not in evaluating location data on data.gov.uk through the preview on map tool.

Where to obtain more information

- 7 The latest version of all UK Location resources, including 'Getting Started' Guides for those unfamiliar with UK Location can be found via the UK Location Resource Centre:

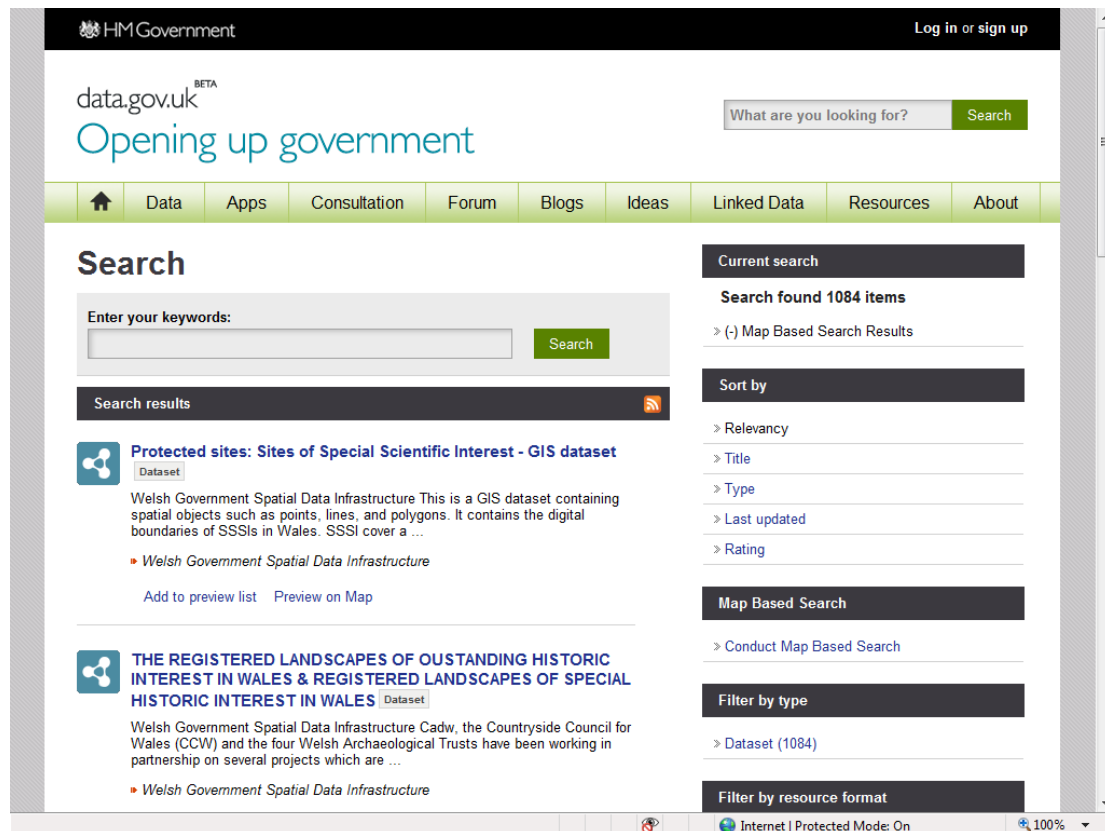
<http://location.defra.gov.uk/resources/>

- 8 We welcome feedback on the preview on map tool and your comments and suggestions are appreciated. The UK Location Programme team can be contacted thorough the UK Location Helpdesk via the contact form:

<http://location.defra.gov.uk/resources/contact-us/>

Accessing the tool

Open a web browser and navigate to <http://data.gov.uk/data> and conduct a map based search. Or start a quick search for location data to preview [here](#) and you will see a page similar to:



- 9 On the left hand side, the results of the search are displayed, on the right are tools for filtering results.
- 10 There are several options for accessing the preview on map tool. The two common access points are provided at the bottom of each data set record returned by the search that can be viewed in the preview on map tool.

[Add to preview list](#) [Preview on Map](#)

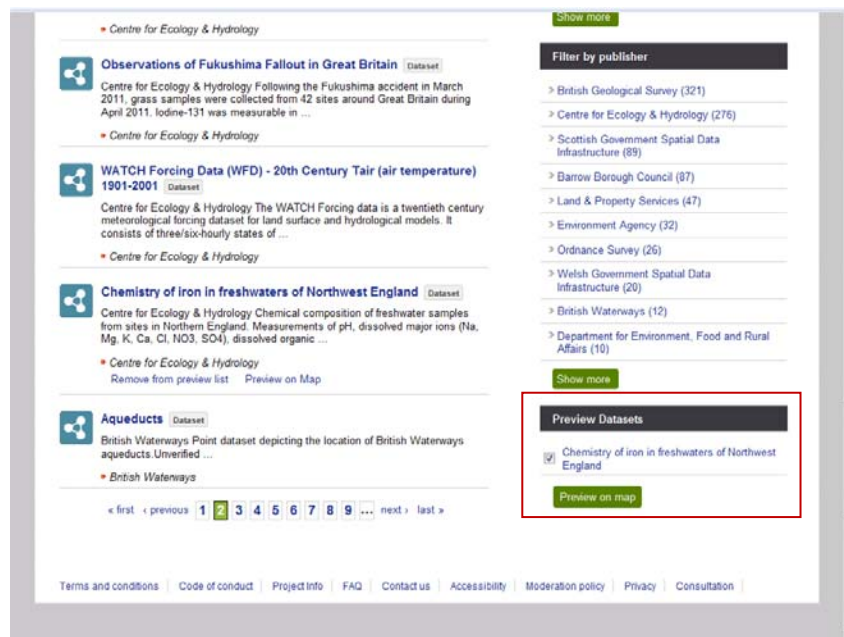
Preview on Map

- 11 Selecting 'Preview on Map' will open the Preview on Map tool for viewing of the associated view service.

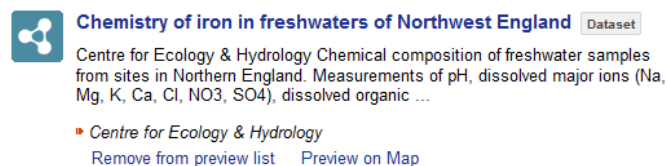
Add to preview list

- 12 Selecting 'Add to preview list' will provide each selected view service in a list, available at the bottom of the tools for filtering results on the right hand side.

- 13 The 'Preview Datasets' list will look similar to the one highlighted at the bottom left hand side of this screen:



- 14 View Services can be removed from the 'Preview Datasets' list by selecting the 'Remove from preview list' link below the data set summary.



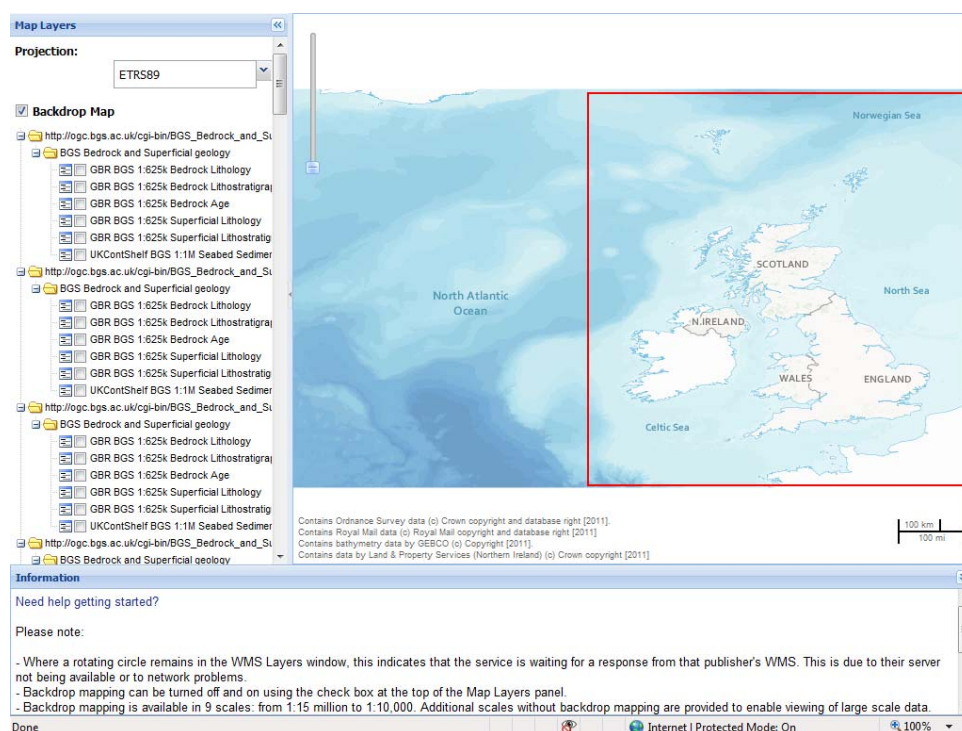
- 15 View Services can also be unchecked for the 'Preview Datasets' list so that they are not opened when the preview on map tool is accessed.



- 16 The preview on map tool can be accessed by selecting the 'Preview on map' button at the bottom of the 'Preview Datasets' list.

Preview on map tool functionality

- 17 As the preview on map tool opens it will call the Data Publishers view service (currently only web map services (WMS) are provided as view services within the UK) associated to either a service or single dataset. Datasets without an associated view service cannot be viewed in the preview on map tool.
- 18 We do not hold any data, either permanently or temporarily as the tool retrieves data from third party web map services, consequently the service may take a few moments to load into the preview on map tool. The more data sets you select to preview the longer this process is likely to take. If you have any queries over the data please provide feedback directly to the data providers using the comment functionality on data.gov.uk. The preview on map tool will open in a full window:



- 19 Where a rotating circle remains in the Map Layers tab, this indicates that the service is waiting for a response from that publisher's view service. This may be due to their server not being available or to network problems.
- 20 If you would like to return to your search results please use the back button provided in your browser.
- 21 There are three components to the preview on map tool. On the left hand side of the screen is a map layers tab, on the right a map window (similar to that used in map based search) and at the bottom an information tab.
- 22 By default no data from the view services are displayed and only the backdrop map will be displayed with a red rectangle. This represents the total spatial extent of all the datasets within your selected data service or services. Individual data set spatial extents are defined in the data providers data service metadata record.

Map layers tab

- 23 Your selected view services, and their associated data layers will be listed within the map layers tab. Within that map layers tab there are several features:
- Projection selector – with drop down list
 - Tick box for turning the backdrop map on and off
 - View service URL sources
 - Common name for the data set
 - Tick box for selecting dataset layers to make a initial visual preview
- 24 The map layers tab can be minimised by either clicking the double arrow button in its top right hand corner or click the thin frame on its right hand side. It will close down to a bar on the left hand side of the page.

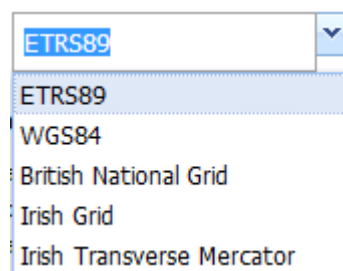


- 25 To reopen it simply click in the middle of the thin bar.



Projection selector

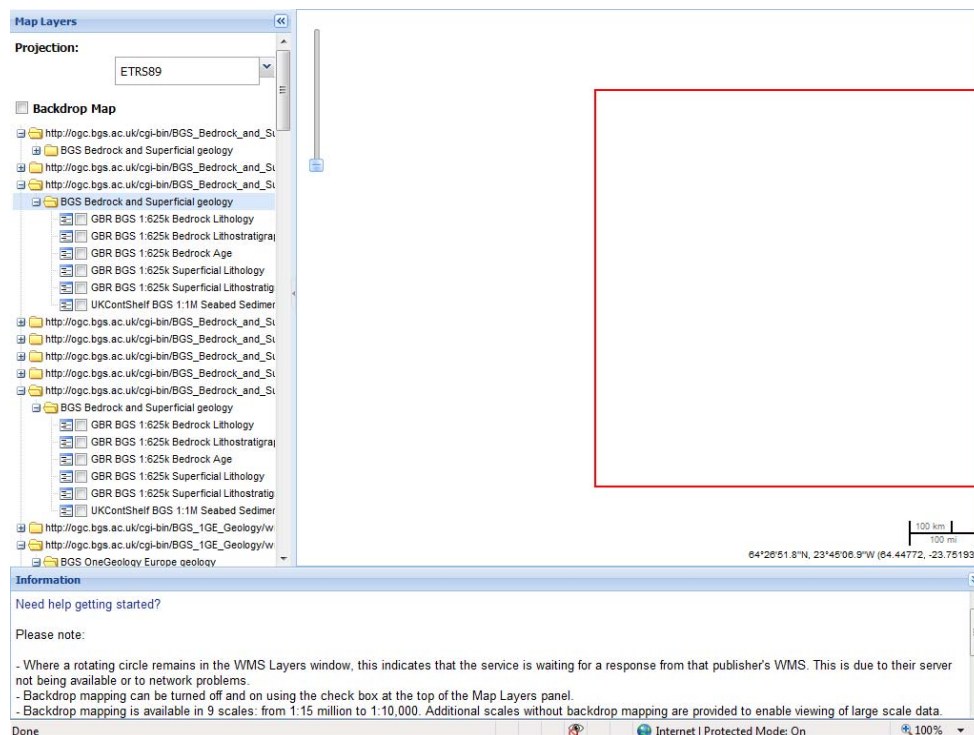
- 26 The projection selector offers the user the choice of viewing data from their selected data services in one of five different geographical projections. The default view is ETRS89.
- 27 This map projection, European Terrestrial Reference System, was developed in 1989 and ensures interoperability between datasets across the UK and Europe.
- 28 If you wish to view data at a different projection click on the drop down arrow on the right.



- 29 Click on any of the options. The image in the map window will automatically change to this new projection, and the details will be shown in the projection selector box.
- 30 Not all map layers support all projections. If a layer does not display then it may be possible for it to display by choosing a different projection.

Backdrop map tick box

- 31 The Backdrop map tick box enables the user to turn the underlying map imagery on and off so that they can more clearly view their selected data.
- 32 When this is turned off you will still be able to view the red geographical extent rectangles of the data services you have selected in the map window.



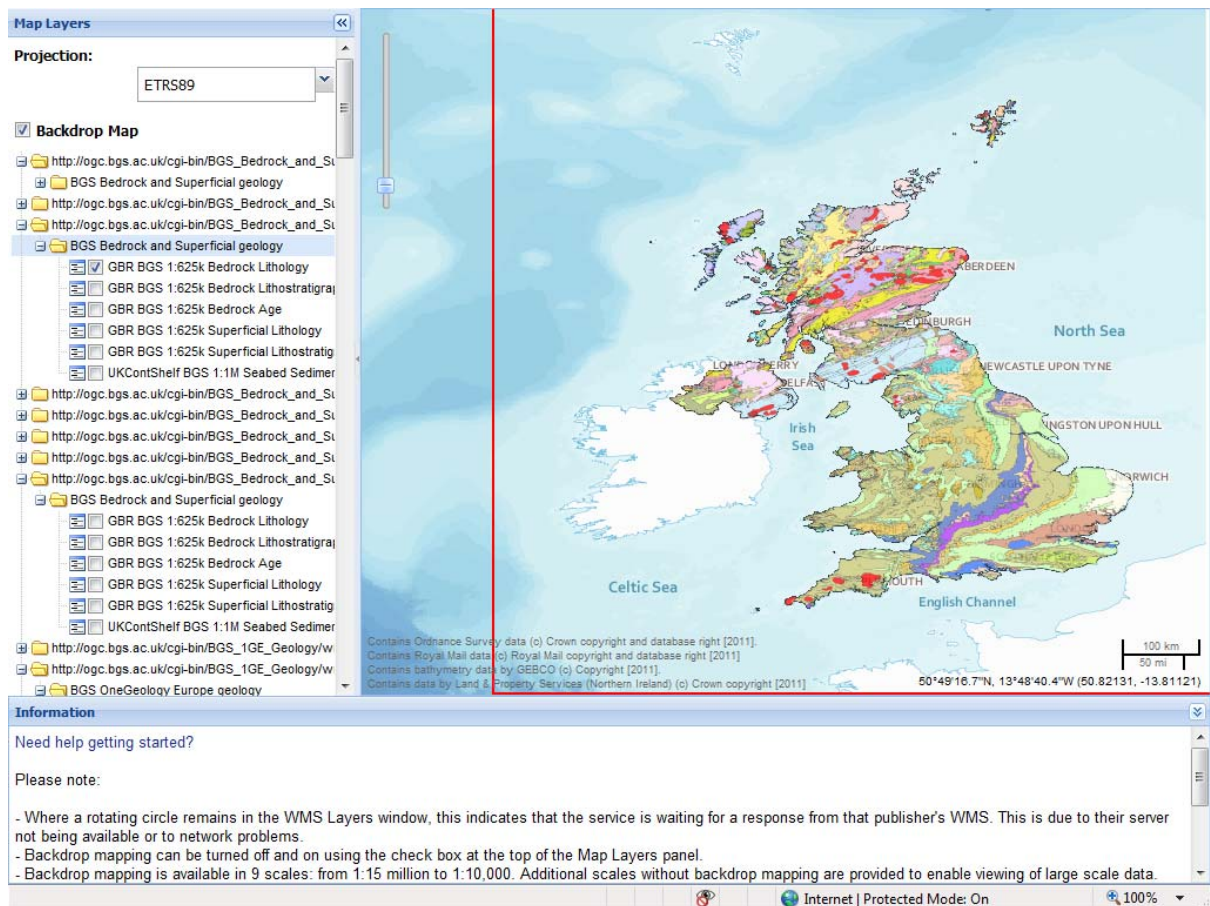
View services URL

- 33 These simply list the URL of the selected data services. If you hover over them you can see the URL in full. If the dataset licensing terms permit you may copy this link into other software.

Dataset lists and tick boxes

- 34 Each view service URL is the start of a folder structure that can be collapsed or expanded using the icons to the left of the view service URL and common name for the dataset. Each dataset layer that the service contains is listed. There may only be one per service or there may be several within one service. If you hover over each dataset you will see that it highlights and flashes up the full dataset name.
- 35 Each dataset layer has a tick box to the left hand side of its name. By default no layers are ticked when the preview on map tool is first opened.

- 36 To view the layers in the map window simply check their tick box.



- 37 For larger datasets with many features this may take a little while to load the layer into the map window.
- 38 To remove a layer from the map window uncheck the tick box.
- 39 Any number of layers may be checked at the same time. However, this can make a visual assessment difficult. Layers are provided in the order they are checked. Hence, layers that are checked first may be less visible than layers selected last. Where dataset features occupy the same geographical space you will only be able to see the one checked last, unless the Data Providers have styled the layer with some opacity.
- 40 On selecting a layer you may need to zoom in or out to see the data as the Data Publisher's view service may restrict the scales at which it can be viewed.

Map window

- 41 The backdrop mapping in the map window has been developed by Ordnance Survey using Royal Mail, General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans, Northern Ireland Land & Property Service and Ordnance Survey data.

- 42 All the backdrop mapping displayed in this window is derived from small scale data and is intended to aid evaluation of selected data sets only. It should not be used to assess their positional accuracy.
- 43 The mapping we have developed includes territorial waters as marine data will also be available.
- 44 Background mapping has been provided at a scale of 1:15000000 to 1:10000.
- 45 The lowest level of the map window zoom level is 1:2500. At this scale no background mapping will be shown. Additional scales without backdrop mapping are provided to enable viewing of large scale data.

Navigation controls

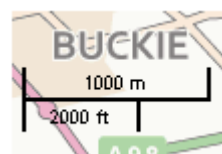
- 46 The navigation controls can be used to move around and zoom in and out of the map to search for areas of interest.
- 47 They include a pan function which enables you to move left and right and up and down around the map by left clicking and holding down and moving the map. The direction arrows on your keyboard can also be used to move around the map.
- 48 The navigation controls include a zoom function, with slide bar. There are 11 zoom levels from 1:15000000 to 1:2500. This can be operated by clicking on the zoom bar or dragging the zoom controller up and down the zoom bar.



- 49 Alternatively you can use a scroll wheel on a mouse to operate the zoom function.
- 50 You may need to pan to view the data if it is outside current map window view.

Scale bar

- 51 The scale bar is provided in the bottom right hand corner of the map and will change accordingly at every different zoom level. It shows the scale in both metric (above) and imperial (below) units.



Licensing information

- 52 Copyright details associated with the various background mapping images is constantly viewable in the bottom left hand corner of the window (regardless of what zoom level you are at).

Guide coordinates

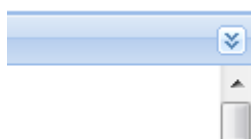
- 53 The longitude and latitude coordinates in the right hand corner of the map show the location of the cursor at any given time on the map. When you move the mouse cursor, they will change.

A screenshot of a map interface showing coordinates in the bottom right corner. The coordinates are 50°49'16.7"N, 13°48'40.4"W (50.82131, -13.81121).

50°49'16.7"N, 13°48'40.4"W (50.82131, -13.81121)

Information tab

- 54 Along the bottom of the Preview on Map tool is an Information tab. Similarly to the Map Layers tab this can be minimised and reopened in exactly the same way. The information in the tab window can be scrolled through independently of your browser.



- 55 This tab contains a link, 'Help getting started,' which opens a link to <http://data.gov.uk/preview-on-map>.
- 56 This tab also contains a summary of notes, and key things to be aware of when using the preview on map tool.

How the preview on map tool works

UK Location discovery service metadata – URL

- 57 Each data service representing UK Location datasets has to have its own discovery metadata record registered on data.gov.uk by a Data Publisher. This metadata record, containing linkage information to the dataset metadata records, describes the URL link that the data provider has created for viewing this service.
- 58 When a data service is selected for viewing in preview on map the data.gov.uk website sends a request for that view service's URL to the data provider. When the Preview on Map page opens and you activate one or more datasets from a service you will see the image of those dataset features that is being pulled from that specific server. Because the UK Location services and their datasets have all been standardised they can all be shown together in our map window.

UK Location discovery service metadata - coordinates

- 59 The preview map tool is able to physically display the extent of the selected view services (with a red box) by referencing the data service metadata record, and more specifically the geographical extent coordinates that the data provider has entered. If they have been entered correctly the red box will completely surround all features from the datasets within that layer on the map.

How to obtain data

- 60 We will be providing a further detailed user guide to assist in obtaining data. When this is available we will make a revision to this user guide with a summary and link to the new guide.
- 61 If you would like any advice on how to do this, the UK Location Programme team can be contacted thorough the UK Location Helpdesk via the contact form:

<http://location.defra.gov.uk/resources/contact-us/>