OpenStreetMap

OpenStreetMap uses the Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike licence. There are no usage restrictions which means you can use OpenStreetMap for whatevery purpose you like. Works that are based on OpenStreetMap data inherit the licence.
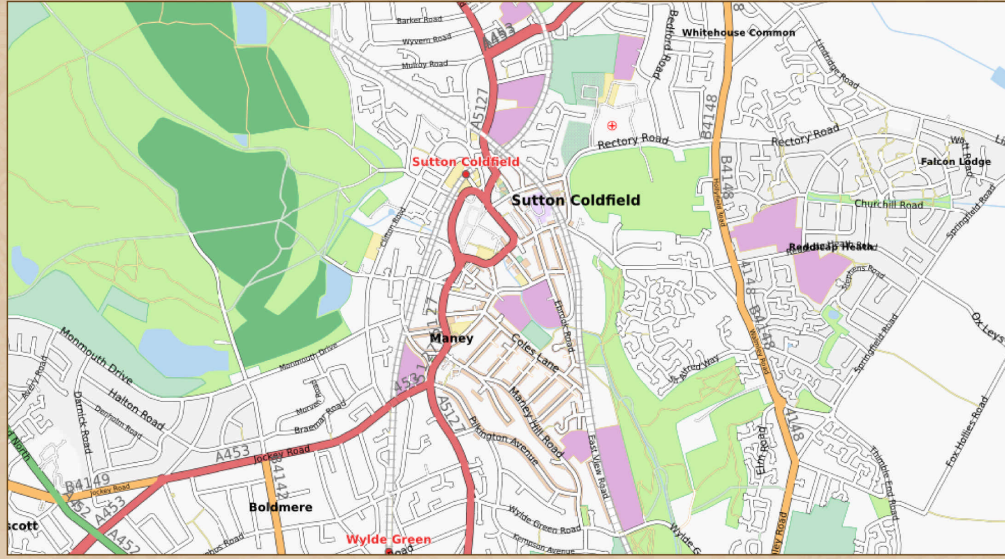
The map on this double page shows an excerpt of OpenStreetMap mapping centred on Sutton Coldfield. Like the partially complete local map of Kings Heath on the reverse side it was created with Open Source software. Many Open Source programs have been created specially for OpenStreetMap.
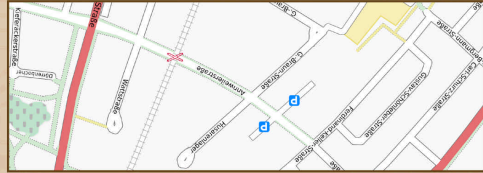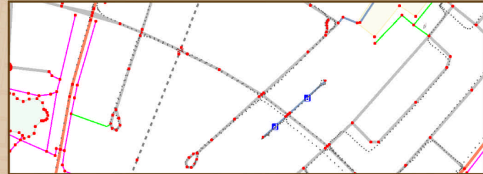
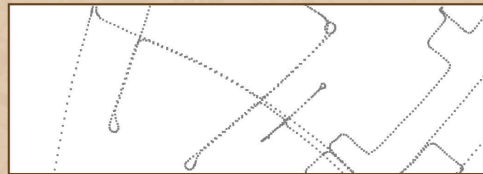All map images from OpenStreetMap, CC-BY-SA 2.0.

OpenStreetMap

Your very own map of the world

How does OpenStreetMap work?

The map data for OpenStreetMap is collected in various ways. The most common method is recording tracks from journeys using a GPS device similar to SatNav. The GPS receiver stores the current position every second and produces a breadcrumb track of the route you have walked, ridden or driven.

While the GPS logs the current position, the data acquirer (we call them mappers) notes down important information like street names, important features and other things that they would like to see on the map. Mappers use a notepad, dictaphone, or digital camera to collect this information. Later at the computer, the mapper re-draws over the GPS tracks and augments the new data with the other information. The results are then uploaded to the central project database, and soon after the new data is visible for anyone on the map.

The GPS track is compared with other data and refined in the editor

The server accepts the new data and renders new map images.

Why a free new world map?

The project was started because most maps you think of as free actually have legal or technical restrictions on their use, holding back people from using them in creative, productive or unexpected ways. In a flyer like this we would not be allowed to print them, for example. Plus, they're often not current or complete. Errors are fixed only slowly.

The most important difference with OpenStreetMap is you get the map data, not just the map images created from the data. You need the actual data if you want to create your own maps or use the data on a variety of devices in other ways. Because of this, OpenStreetMap has people like you and me collecting raw data themselves, world-wide, sometimes as a team and sometimes on their own.

With our own data we become independent of commercial providers, just like Wikipedia. Everybody can take part. JOIN US TODAY!