OS VectorMap™ District beta

Release note

OS VectorMap District was released in April 2010 as an alpha version; a prototype and our first contextual vector product at district-level resolution. Ordnance Survey has been trialling new production technologies, and is asking users to feedback comments on the product in order to refine the product specification so that we can incorporate it into a production process.

OS VectorMap District beta replaces the alpha and incorporates significant improvement, much of which was a result of user feedback. It has been mostly generated from our large-scale source database and has been generalised to a level more consistent with the district-level resolution it is intended for.

This release note lists the changes that the beta version contains. If you find an error not listed below, please send us the details at opendata@ordnancesurvey.co.uk.

What's new in the beta

The content of the beta is largely the same as the alpha, with some additions:

- Water polygons: inland water, tidal water and foreshore are now separate polygon features.

- Land polygons: all land not belonging to another feature group is represented by polygon features.

- Combined underground/over-ground railway stations: a separate feature has been created.

- Places of worship: a selection now included in the Public Amenity feature.

What's improved

Content

- The data has been generalised to greatly improve its appearance, and better complements OS VectorMap Local.

- Significant improvements to text position, orientation and sizing.

- Improved building depiction.

- Roads simplified to improve their depiction at district resolution.

- Better generalised coastline, woodland and water features. Features have been simplified and fragmentation of lines reduced, making styling quicker and easier for users.

- Public Amenities (called Community Services in alpha) content improved.

- Raster data simplified by removing community service symbols and non-national boundaries. These can still be obtained from the vector files if required.

Data

- Shapefiles will be supplied in larger tiles (100km x 100km) to speed up loading for customers.

- Shapefile structure has changed to a feature-based model.

What other issues are there with the beta

- Currency – OS VectorMap District beta is derived from large-scale data, copyright 2010. When the product is released beyond the beta, in a non-prototype form it will be created from the latest available source data.

- Inland water has not been displaced away from roads, meaning that some drains that run alongside and close to roads are obscured. This is noticeable in areas with a lot of linear drains.

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