

# Bridging the Road Data Gap

## Weight and Width Restrictions Included

Ordnance Survey is adding heavy goods vehicle (HGV) attributes to its most detailed transport network data, OS MasterMap Integrated Transport Network (ITN) Layer.

This will make it the first ever single digital map dataset to show these restrictions applying to road bridges across Great Britain.



Points on the dataset detail the attributes of a section of the transport network and any applicable HGV restrictions. These weight and width restrictions apply to a road narrowing 'pinch point' in Eling, Hampshire.

### Unsuitable Routes

More than 110,000 bridges were surveyed to collate data for this single information source for satellite navigation, route planning and fleet management. The data will help freight and other HGVs avoid unsuitable routes while reducing traffic volume on quiet rural roads. According to Ordnance Survey it will also help reduce fuel expenditure, increase efficiency and enable businesses to give customers more precise delivery times. The bridge data is available to users of the Road Routing Information (RRI) theme of OS MasterMap ITN Layer, which already contains a range of network and routing information. Before the development of the ITN Layer, weight, width and height information was only available on an ad hoc basis from different sources.

### Freight Plans

The new dataset offers a comprehensive unified source. It will also support local authority freight plans. West Sussex County Council

is keen to ensure freight movements are properly routed.

"This data will support our aim of getting today's freight onto the appropriate roads, which should lead to more efficient and effective operations," says Tex Pemberton OBE, cabinet member for highways and transport at West Sussex. "It will help to address the issue of HGVs travelling on unsuitable roads in our rural and urban areas, something that causes distress to members of the public and local authorities alike. We, of course, support the success of business opportunity, but we must also consider the impact on the environment and quality of life."

### Weight and Width Data

The evolution of Ordnance Survey's transport network data portfolio responds to customer feedback, the commercial environment and industry issues. The RRI theme has provided height restrictions since 2004, with its customers subsequently requesting weight and

width data to complete this set.

Other key drivers in its development include a surge in the uptake of consumer satellite navigation systems and the consequent recognition that HGV drivers on occasion can be sent down inappropriate roads. Incorporating width and weight attributes into commercial and consumer systems would address an issue frustrating drivers, fleet managers, local authorities and residents alike.

### Nationally-consistent Dataset

The commercial vehicle industry records an average of five bridge strikes every day, while Transport for London receives 1,500 queries specifically concerning lorry routing each year. Satellite navigation system manufacturers have expressed an interest in incorporating this data to address such issues, but not without the availability of a nationally-consistent dataset.

Jackman continues: "Ordnance Survey can hold a central role, with obligations to Great Britain's public and our commercial and local authority customers, as well as advisor to the Department for Transport. Getting commercial goods vehicles on the right roads will go a long way to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, lowering local authority road maintenance bills and rationalising the cost of regenerating the right roads while addressing congestion and improving motoring for all road network users."

### Collaboration

Ordnance Survey will work with its partners to ensure the best use of this data, delivered to the widest possible audience. Jackman explains: "Collaboration will further enhance the dataset. For example, future developments could see the inclusion of truck stops and designated freight routes as defined by local authorities, just in the same way as we have primary route and trunk roads attribution on the relevant road links." Ordnance Survey will embark on a three-month trial project with Cambridge County Council to measure the feasibility and impact of such a scheme.

*The data is available to OS MasterMap ITN Layer RRI theme customers. For further information, visit [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/itn](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/itn).*