

Detailed Ordnance Survey base maps now available via OS Maps API

In April last year the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PSGA) ([Link 1](#) & [Link 2](#)) came into effect, allowing public sector organisations ranging from health and emergency services, town, parish, and community councils through to central government departments in England, Scotland and Wales use of Ordnance Survey (OS) data free at the point of use.

The PSGA builds on what OS previously offered, with:

- New, richer data
- New ways to access their data
- New freedoms to share data

In relation to the above, OS launched 6 new Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). One of these APIs – OS Maps API ([Link 1](#) & [Link 2](#)) - provides accurate, up-to-date raster base maps in a format that can be consumed by Confirm.

With OS Maps API you have a choice between four map styles. You can choose between Road, Outdoor and Light styles or use their Leisure maps (see [Link](#) for examples (Note: the Night style is not currently available)). It contains the detailed OS MasterMap Topography Layer (updated six-weekly), 1:25 000 Scale Colour Raster (updated quarterly) and more. Zoom levels are already configured, making base map configuration in Confirm much easier.

On the 11th January 2021, the Public Sector Plan ([Link](#)) was launched, meaning PSGA members now have unlimited access to both OS OpenData and Premium data through the APIs.

If you wish to try out the OS Open Maps API in your Confirm environment, please find some guidance below. Please try out the API in your Confirm Test or Dev environment first for you to evaluate its capabilities and performance, before configuring in your Production environment.

Instructions

1. Contact the person responsible for OS mapping within your organisation and let them know you wish to use the OS Maps API.
2. They will need to follow [these](#) instructions to create a new Project and to generate a Project API Key on the [OS Data Hub](#) portal.

Note: You may wish to set up separate Projects to monitor usage of the API for Confirm Desktop users, Confirm Web users and ConfirmConnect users.

3. Once you have your API keys, follow these steps:

- For Confirm Desktop:
 - i. Download the files in the attached Desktop.zip file.
 - ii. Open the XML files in a text editor and replace the text <YOUR KEY HERE> (including < > characters) with your API key.
 - iii. Place both the .TAB and updated .XML files in your Confirm environment and then add to your Map Workspace(s) using the MapInfo Native (TAB) option.
 - iv. Four new layers will appear in your Map Workspace, one for each style Road, Outdoor, Light and Leisure. You can switch on and off each style as required.
- For Confirm Web and ConfirmConnect:
 - i. Download the attached Web.zip file. It contains four JSON text files, each one containing the settings for one of the four styles - Road, Outdoor, Light and Leisure.
 - ii. For each one open in a text editor and replace the text <YOUR KEY HERE> (including < > characters) with your API key.
 - iii. Browse to your Confirm Web Settings page and select the Web Map Layer Settings option.
 - iv. Select the Application you wish to apply the settings to e.g. ConfirmConnect, Customer Services, ConfirmWorkzone etc
 - v. Then copy and paste the JSON for the style you wish to apply into the base map layer settings box. Click Preview to check the settings are correct and you can connect to the API.
 - vi. Click Save to apply the new settings.

Note: As the API requires an internet connection, it may not be suitable for use with ConfirmConnect for customers with areas of poor mobile internet coverage. In this case, offline maps using SQLite remains an alternative solution.