



EMPOWERING LOCAL COUNCILS
WITH GREAT TECHNOLOGY

Parish Online Mapping – Group Subscription

Service Definition

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2. OUR QUICK INTRO

“Your time is precious so let us cut to the chase. We created Parish Online Mapping in 2008 to help local councils access the latest Ordnance Survey mapping.

Since then it’s developed into a cloud-based GIS system that lets councils create maps for asset management, neighbourhood plans, biodiversity plans and more.

It’s praised for its simplicity and huge catalogue of datasets.

The real power of it is that we can share data from higher tier councils down to all parishes in your area, and vice-versa, capturing key local knowledge.

Parish Online Mapping works best when the Local Authority funds its access and shares key data to the parishes. This helps with community engagement.

Please consider Parish Online Mapping as part of your GIS ecosystem.”

Chris Mewse, Managing Director

3. INTRODUCTION TO PARISH ONLINE

3.1. OUR APPROACH

Parish Online is a brand wholly owned by Geosphere and our sister CIC, Local Authority Tech. We believe geospatial data and tools have a place in all aspects of UK Government, so we've designed services that break down as many barriers as possible to give GIS data and capabilities to your whole organisation, and where applicable, the public.

Our suite of Parish Online services have been designed to be low-cost, practical and high performance. We maintain close relationships with our subscribers to make sure you have the best service possible and the best experience for your users.

3.2. OUR SOCIAL VALUE

We take the principle of providing social value seriously, so have created our very own organisation dedicated to focusing on delivering positive change for UK Government.

Local Authority Technology Community Interest Company receives subscription revenue from our services and spends it things we believe add value, including;

- Subsidising **regional events** to make access to services and information easier locally and breaking down barriers to opportunity (in 2025 we contributed to over 30 events),
- **Investing in software** and technology to improve how Local Authorities operate, thus being a catalyst for economic growth (such as Hub, the public information portal),
- Using reserves to suppress and **discount services**, and,
- Switching our own, and customer services over to **100% renewable technology**.

3.3. WHY CHOOSE US?



Enthusiastic and responsive team. We care about how geospatial data can be used to solve everyday problems. It's not about GIS for the sake of GIS, it's about the answers. We'll bring your ideas into our roadmap, and quickly resolve any issues you have.



High quality cloud-first technology. We've created cloud-based services since 2007 and we lead the way in delivering reliable and scalable cloud geospatial services. Our software requires no local infrastructure, and is perfect for remote working.



We own our software. Our software continuously improves. We've built everything in-house using open source and homegrown components. We don't have to rely on a parent company for updates or improvements. Our development is customer focused.



Clear, competitive, no-nonsense pricing. All our services have been priced to easily demonstrate a return on investment. We don't have hidden extras, lock away extra features or have different tiers for different levels of performance.

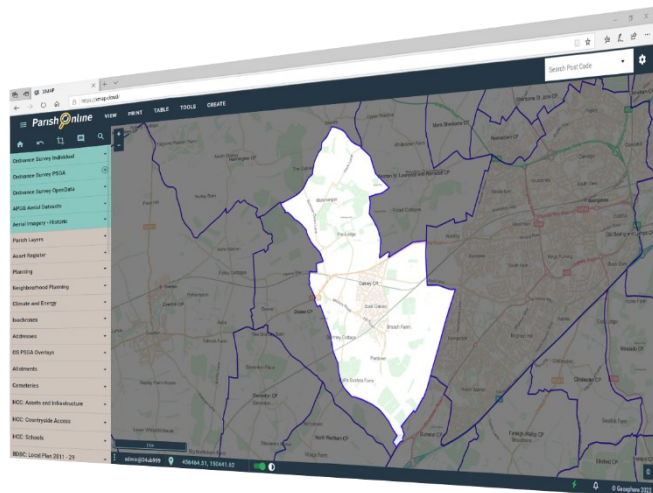
4. SERVICE OVERVIEW

4.1. OVERVIEW

Parish Online is a cloud-based digital mapping system (or Geographic Information System (GIS)) designed for town, parish and community councils.

Parish Online allows council staff to view digital mapping data from a variety of sources to help them understand their local area, and gives them tools for creating their own mapping data for asset management, asset maintenance, neighbourhood plans, planning assessments, and anything else that the council needs to do.

Historically, local councils have been underserved when it comes to affordable and accessible technology as they're perceived as "too small" to be worth focusing on. We think that's unfair, so we've invested in making a tool that's affordable for any size of council, and allows councils to carry out their work with the same professionalism, care and attention as other tiers of government.



At its core, Parish Online gives access to the latest high resolution digital mapping from Ordnance Survey, as well as aerial photography and datasets from Environment Agency, Natural England, and other regional environmental bodies.

Parish Online includes printing, measuring, drawing and a host of analysis tools that help councils with their work. We've also included read-only and collaborative datasets that allow councils to harness and share their local knowledge internally, with other councils and with the public.

We're proud that local councils have been able to utilise our software to keep their data safe and secure, and does not get lost when clerks and councillors leave the council. This is critical for good working practices and organisation resilience.

All this results in a service that brings local councils into the 21st century with a resilient, powerful, secure tool to help them with their work.

4.2. SOFTWARE OVERVIEW

- Capture your information.** Information can be lost in a variety of ways, whether it's a broken laptop, a corrupted file, or the information is simply stored in someone's head. Parish Online gives councils a cloud database to store the information, which can then be regularly updated, shared amongst colleagues, and passed onto successive clerks.



Figure 1: Assets recorded on a map with detailed positioning and attribution

- Unique cross-department/organisation data sharing.** Parish Online has best-in-class data sharing capabilities that allow data sharing between different tiers of government. This means local councils get access to information from higher tier councils, and those councils benefit from local council's local knowledge. This is critical for different tiers of Local Government or for Government Bodies wanting to share data in real time.

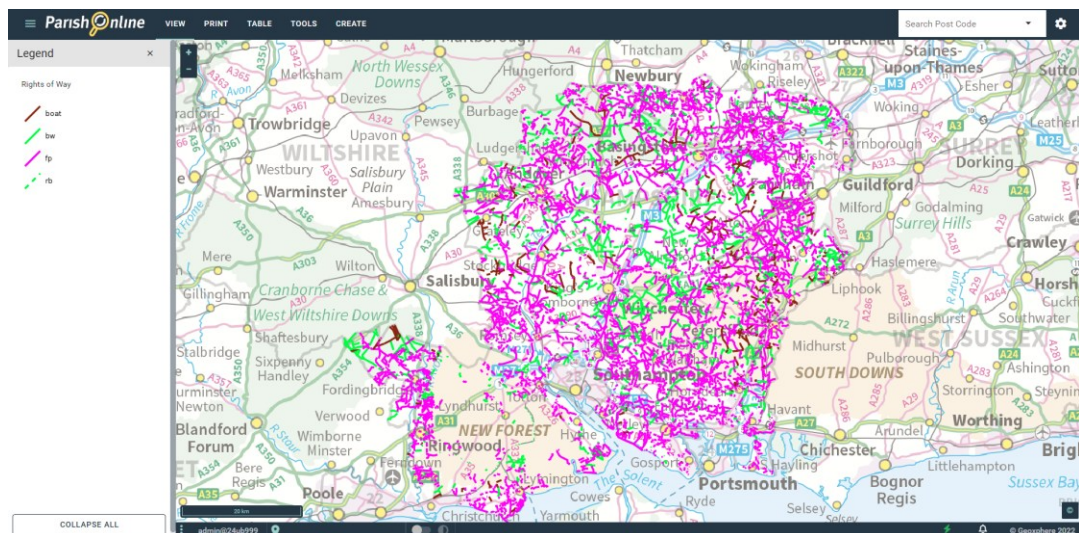


Figure 2: Public Rights of Way data for a whole county area

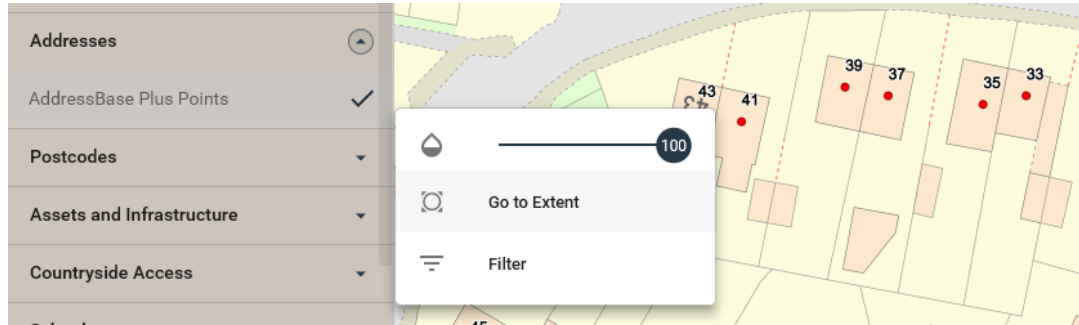
- **Aligns with remote / home working policies.** Parish Online can be accessed via a login from any web browser. This allows staff and councillors to access definitive information from wherever they are.
- **Tools designed for Local Councils.** Our software has been built and fine-tuned over 12 years to meet the needs of local councils of all sizes.
- **Works on Desktop, Tablet and Mobile.** Parish Online works through any modern web browser so users can access data and tools wherever they are.



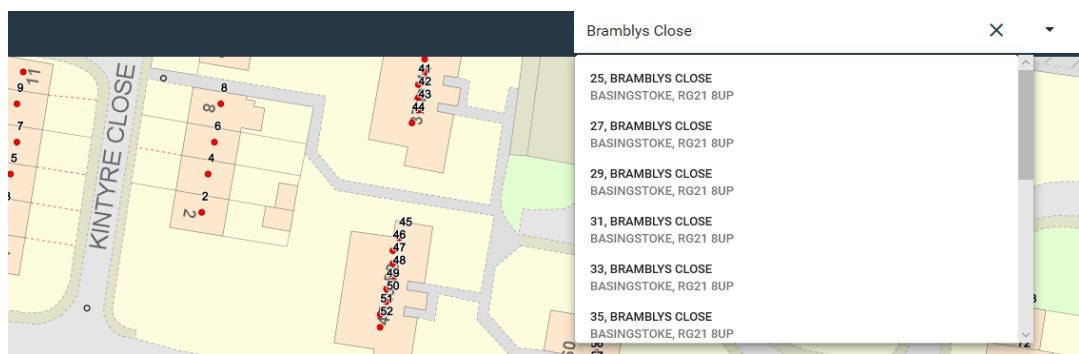
- **Unlimited usage and infinitely scalable.** We don't put any usage restrictions on your Parish Online account. Use it as much as you like. It scales and adapts to your usage, giving you high performance all the time.
- **No server management.** We take care of all infrastructure so you don't have to choose server specifications or apply upgrades. It's all taken care of.
- **Encrypted and secure.** All communications through Parish Online are encrypted and our infrastructure and software holds up to rigorous penetration testing.
- **Web accessibility.** We conduct regular accessibility reviews on our software to make it usable for anyone.
- **Plugin-free.** Parish Online works without any browser configuration, modules or plugins.
- **Rapid deployment.** You can be up and running on Parish Online in a matter of minutes.

5. SOFTWARE FEATURES

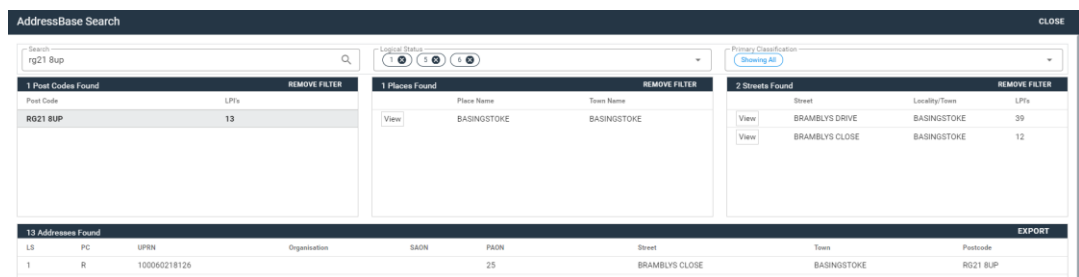
- **Layer Control.** The Layer Control in the side-bar makes it quick and easy to find and enable different datasets. It has expandable collections so themes of layers can be easily grouped. It has built-in options such as; Zoom to Extent, Add Feature, Slide Transparency, and Filter.



- **Quick Search.** The search bar gives users an OS AddressBase quick search. Selecting an address zooms the user straight to that location.



- **Advanced Address Search.** This full-screen view gives a deep-dive into either AddressBase. Users can search and filter by postcode, town, LPI or building type. Results can be shown on the map or exported to CSV.



- **Editing.** Editing of layers can be enabled for any layer in Parish Online. This is controlled by the administration tools to ensure data integrity. Points, lines and polygons can be added, edited or deleted to conform to set attribution and styling criteria. Any edits have a data trail including user and time.

The Feature Editor has options to apply custom rectangle shapes, such as a full-sized football pitch onto the map.

The editor has snapping built-in, which can be set to snap to the layer being edited, or another layer in your account.

Parish Online includes pre-built layers allowing editing straight away without needing to set up your own layers. This can be used for your Asset Register, or Allotment Plots, for example.



Figure 3: Freehand shapes being drawn with text attribution included

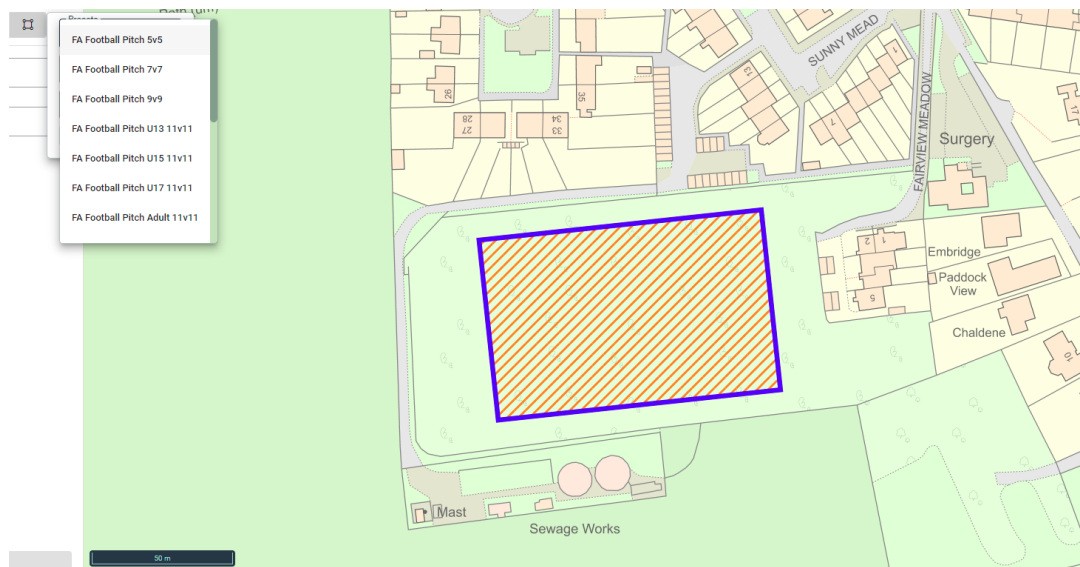


Figure 4: Standard rectangle shapes being created

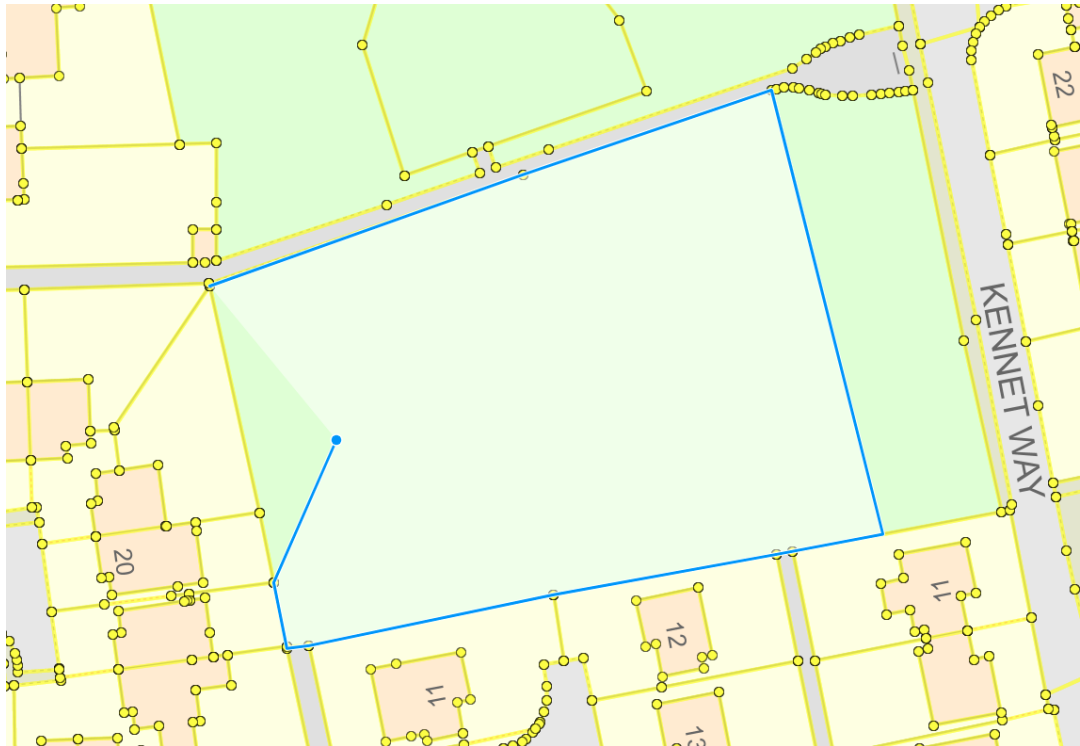


Figure 5: Snap to MasterMap with ease

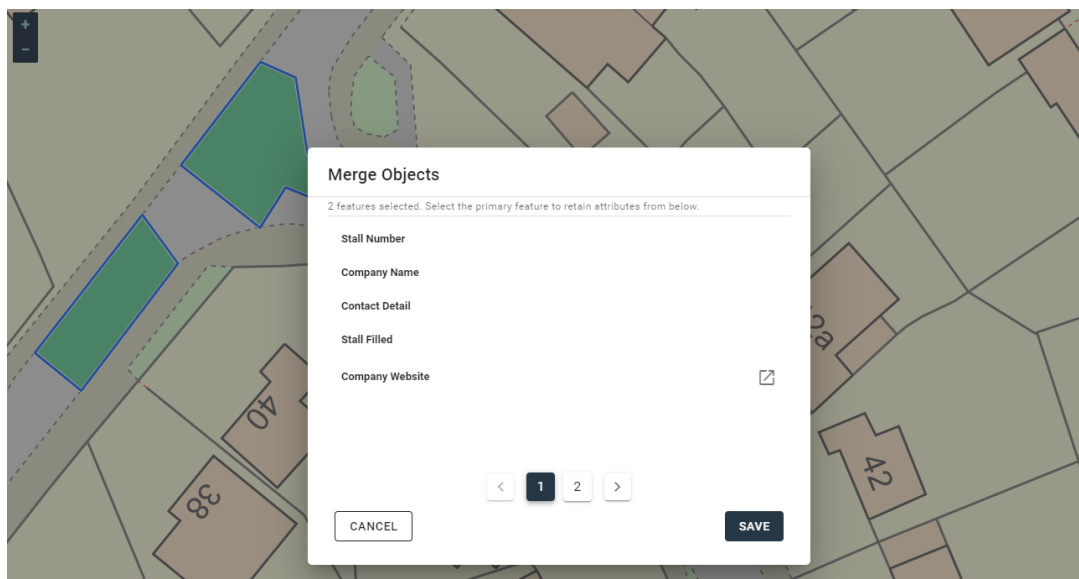


Figure 6: Create Multi-polygon objects from existing features

- **Styling.** Options for styling the layers with a range of symbology, fill styles and labelling. Layers can be styled with a single style or by classes, so features will change their colour depending on information stored within them. This allows dynamic and engaging maps to be produced. XMAP includes a vast array of symbols covering many themes, including environment, society, civil security and asset management.

Style Options

Style Type
Single

Class Column

Label Column

Label Min Scale
1

Label Max Scale
1

☐ Force Labels

☐ Displace Labels

Labels

Label editing requires "Label Column" to be used.

Text Size
10

Text Colour
DISABLED

Font

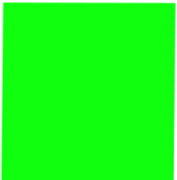
Label Colour
DISABLED

Label Size
0

Classes

Fill		Pattern			Line			
Colour	Opacity	Type	Colour	Size	Width	Colour	Width	Dash
	100	None					2	0

Preview



- **Table View Search and Edit.** This spreadsheet-style view of a map layer has filtering and sorting features to easily find content. Attribution for map objects can be edited from this view, retaining the text/date/number/drop-down formatting options. Rows can be selected and found on the map or exported to CSV.

Table View

Layer: Buildings

Column

Type Contains

Value

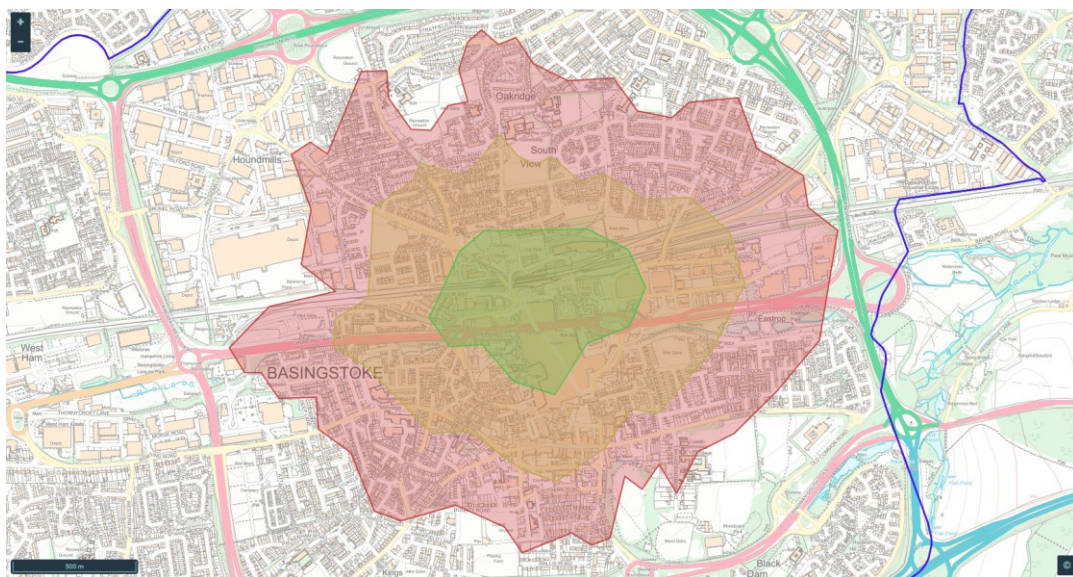
Category	UPRN	Name / Description	Description of Location	Date Purchased	Asset Value (GBP)	Replacement Value (GBP)	Last Valuation Date	Valuation Frequency (Months)	Last Inspection Date	Inspection F (Months)
Village Hall				1957-02-01						
Office Building				2010-02-02	500000	280000				
Shed										
General / Multi-purpose Bui...	100060237424			Date Purchas...		75000	Last Valuation...		Last Inspecti...	
General / Multipurpose Building						280000				
Office Building										
Office Building				2021-12-08	500000	280000	2021-12-08			
Beach Hut										

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VIEW ON MAP

EXPORT

- **Travel Time (Isochrones).** Generate multi-time isochrone polygons representing travel time by walking, cycling and driving.



- **Data Extract.** A spatial search tool that finds all map objects found within a user-defined area. This works on a single layer at a time. It has filtering capabilities so only returns map objects of a particular type. Useful for extracting residential addresses, for example.

Data Extract

Extract From

AddressBase Plus Points

Column Filter

Filter Value

Postal Address	UPRN	IDNR	LPI Key	Language	Organisation	SACN	PAON	Postcode	SACN Order Num	PAON Order Num	Easting	Northing	USRN	Street Name	Locality Name	Town Name	BLPU Class	BLPU Classification	Logical Status	Custod
STREET RECORD, APPLE TREE CLOSE, OAKLEY, RG23 7HL	10000171441	10633410	21287359	E			STREET RECORD	RG23 7HL			457541	149788	2103960	APPLETREE CLOSE		OAKLEY	PS	Parent Shell, Street Record	approved / official	1705
OAKLEY MANOR, RECTORY ROAD, OAKLEY, BASINGSTOKE, RG23 7ED	10000449540	10699083	17816397	E			OAKLEY MANOR	RG23 7ED			456858	150287	2103578	RECTORY ROAD		OAKLEY	RD02	Residential, Detached	approved / official	1705
THE LODGE, OAKLEY MANOR, RECTORY ROAD, OAKLEY, BASINGSTOKE, RG23 7ED	10000449541	10699084	9192274	E		THE LODGE	OAKLEY MANOR	RG23 7ED			456868	150324	2103578	RECTORY ROAD		OAKLEY	RD02	Residential, Detached	approved / official	1705
66, PARADOWN, OAKLEY, BASINGSTOKE, RG23 7DZ	10000449593	10699085	21583398	E			66	RG23 7DZ	66		457930	148997	2103948	PARADOWN		OAKLEY	RD02	Residential, Detached	approved / official	1705
68, PARADOWN, OAKLEY, BASINGSTOKE, RG23 7DZ	10000449594	10699086	21438212	E			68	RG23 7DZ	68		457935	148980	2103948	PARADOWN		OAKLEY	RD02	Residential, Detached	approved / official	1705
70, PARADOWN, OAKLEY, BASINGSTOKE, RG23 7DZ	10000449595	10699087	22390512	E			70	RG23 7DZ	70		457935	148964	2103948	PARADOWN		OAKLEY	RD02	Residential, Detached	approved / official	1705

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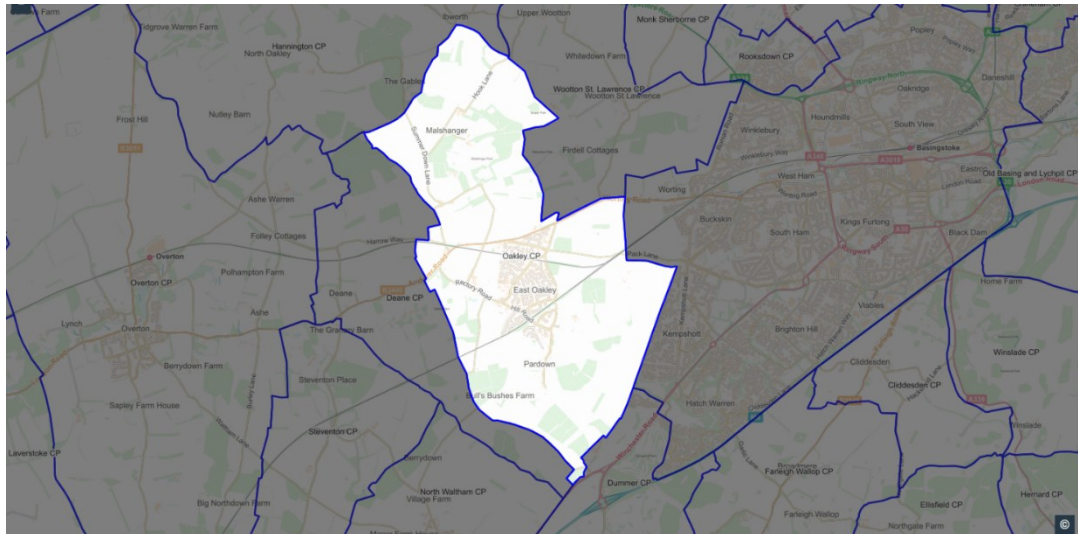
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EXPORT

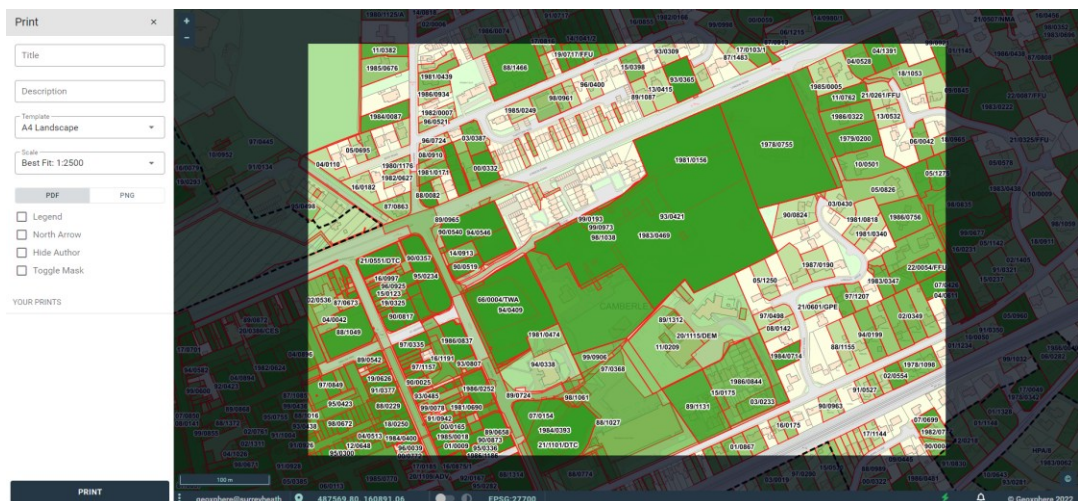
CLOSE

RUN

- **Map Mask.** Focus the map on the geographic extent that's important to your team. There are three style options including transparent white, transparent black and solid white.



- **Print to PDF or PNG.** The Print tool allows users to create professional, branded, accurate documents ready for distribution or physical printing. It allows the user to set the location, scale, legend, paper size and layout.

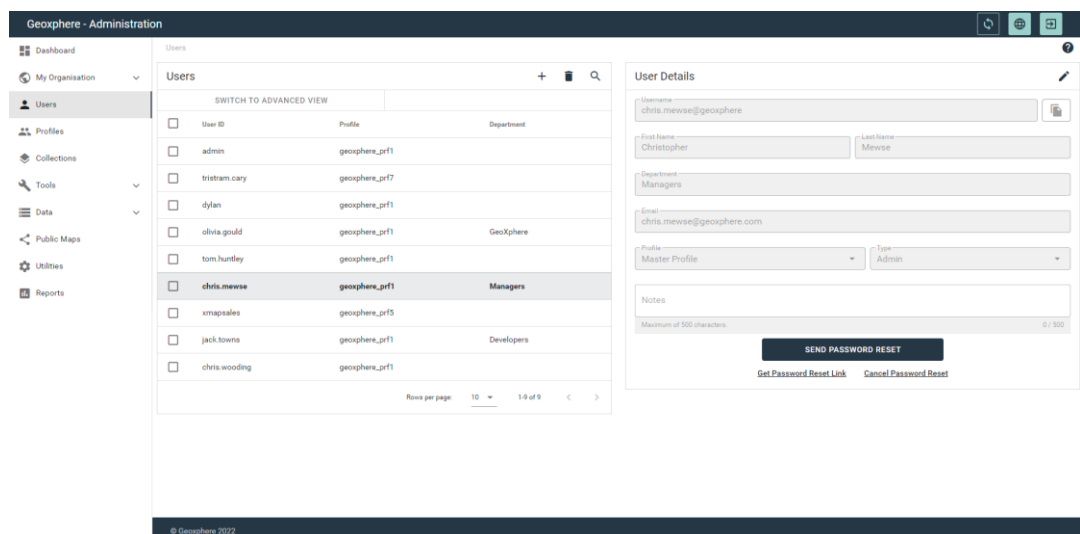


- **Bookmarks.** Used for recalling a specific location and set of enabled layers. This is useful for taking users back to specific project sites without having to re-enable layers manually.
- **Attachments.** If permissions allow, documents can be uploaded and stored against a point, line or polygon feature. This is used for attaching photos of damage to assets, insurance documents, instruction manuals or anything else required.

- **Measure.** A free-hand distance and area measurement tool that displays the results in the user's unit preference.

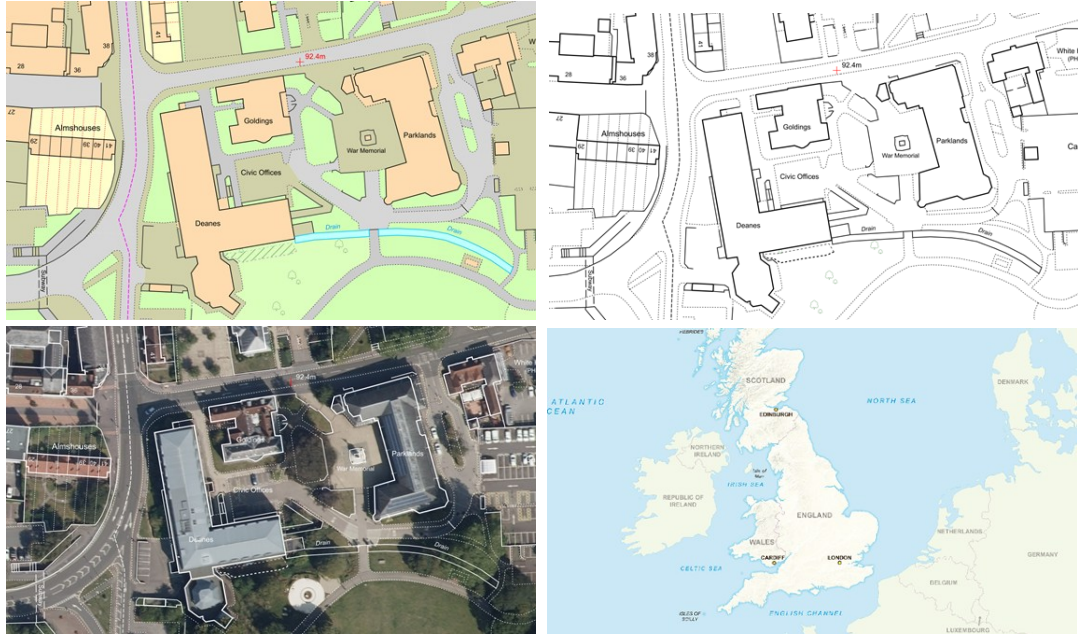


- **Annotation.** A free-hand tool for marking-up the map ready for printing. The tool allows unstructured data to be added, but this is only visible to that user. Points, Lines, Areas, Circles and Text Labels can be overlaid on the map.
- **Coordinate Finder.** A lookup tool for navigating to specific coordinates in British National Grid or Latitude/Longitude.
- **Asset Register Export.** This allows your Asset Register information to be exported in a variety of formats, include a PDF report with a map.
- **User Manager.** This allows you to create, edit and delete user accounts. It has batch options including changing profiles and sending password reset emails.



6. DATA FEATURES

- **Built-in Ordnance Survey PSGA and OpenData stack.** Parish Online includes a fully-maintained Ordnance Survey stack with three style options; standard, greyscale (black & white) and white (for viewing on aerial photography).

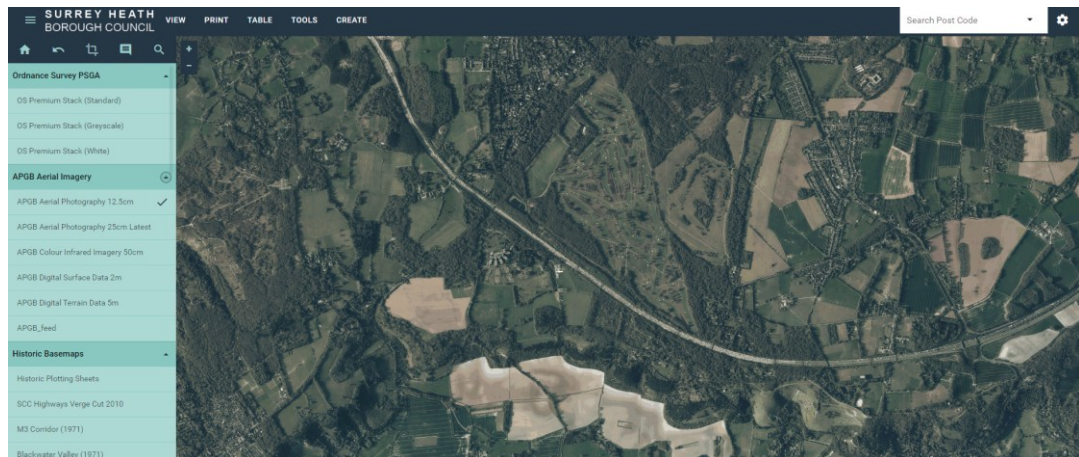


** aerial photography only shown here to demonstrate an OS mapping style (see aerial photography hosting below for detail on bringing aerial photography into Parish Online)*

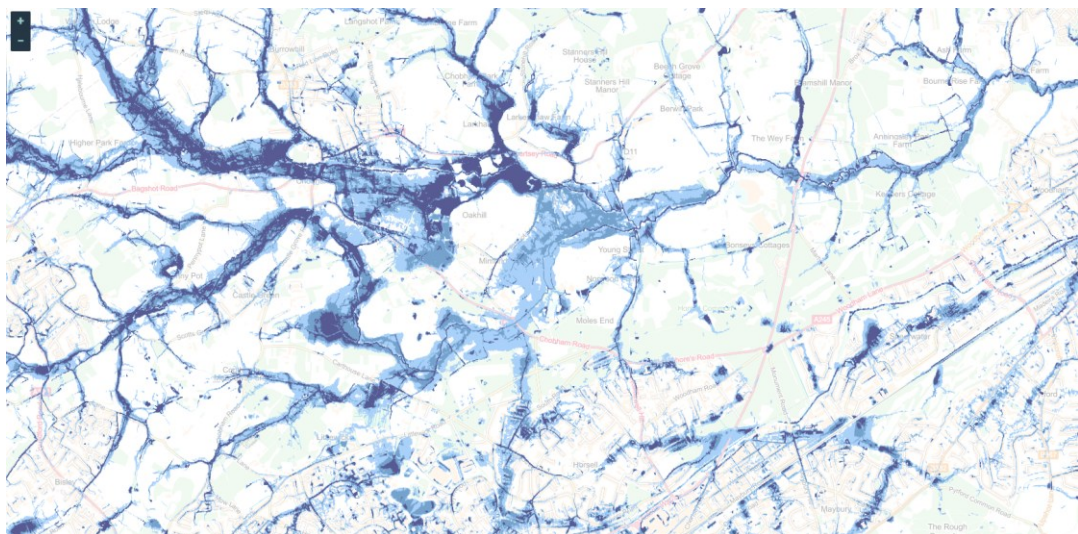
- **Built-in Ordnance Survey NGD Addresses.** We keep a fully-updated national copy of OS NGD Addresses which is available to users as a point layer and as a search (as described in section 5).

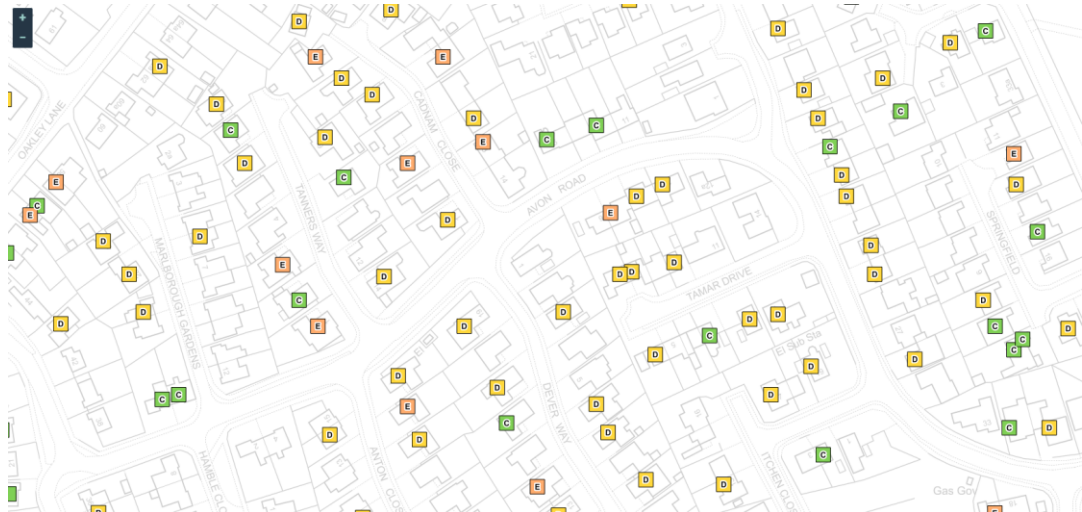


Aerial Photography. An APGB Membership can be connected to Parish Online to give high resolution aerial photography for the whole country.



- **Over 250 3rd Party managed layers.** We maintain over 250 data layers from a variety of government agencies and include them in your Parish Online account. This means you get the benefit of having the data for the whole country, and you don't have to keep them updated yourself. Sources include:
 - Ordnance Survey
 - OS NGD datasets
 - Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
 - Environment Agency
 - HM Land Registry
 - Natural England
 - Department for Transport
 - Historic England
 - Natural Resources Wales
 - CADW
 - DEFRA
 - Coal Authority





7. PUBLISHING FEATURES

- **Public Map.** The Public Map is a tool to create interactive, embeddable maps on your website. They can be embedded as iframes, displayed as full-screen web GIS apps or integrated into back-office systems.

The Public Maps are based on data from your account so will show up-to-the-minute information.

They can be implemented as a simple iframe or built up using an easy-to-use building-block API. This is a great low-code way of creating customised web maps.

TPO Map

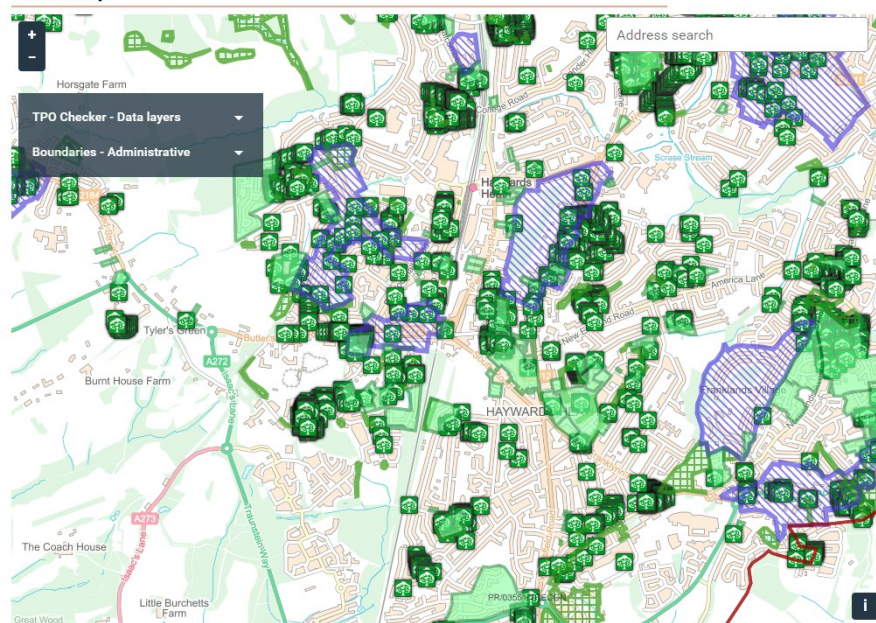


Figure 7: Mid Sussex District Council utilise the Public Map to display TPO records for use by the public and tree surveyors.

8. DATA MANAGEMENT

8.1. BACKUP & RECOVERY

SUPPLIER-SIDE

Geosphere operates a backup and recovery system that takes rolling backups which are then systematically stored in another location off-site to the main application.

CUSTOMER SIDE

In the event of any customer loss of data where the XMAP system has a copy or backup, we will provide a re-supply of the latest copy available. This excludes deletions made through the XMAP Admin Panel.

8.2. DATA SECURITY

XMAP is hosted on high security cloud servers. Only key senior personnel have access to the hosting environment. The XMAP suite has been penetration tested by qualified external bodies at the request of customers.

9. JOINING AND LEAVING THE SERVICE

9.1. SIGN UP

Once a request is made to join the XMAP service, a member of the Geosphere team will be in contact to discuss the contractual and technical aspects of the sign up process.

In most cases, 80% of the system can be established on day 1.

A start date will be chosen for the on-boarding process. This is usually made as part of a face-to-face virtual or online meeting but can be implemented within a day if necessary.

9.2. TECHNICAL DEPENDENCIES

To be able to use XMAP, the customer must have one of the following Web Browsers and a high speed Internet connection;

- Edge Stable Channel
- Firefox Stable Channel
- Chrome Stable Channel
- Safari Stable Channel.

It is recommended that the customer have a broadband connection with a minimum of 2MB download and 1MB upload speed.

9.3. ON-BOARDING

A new customer account is created immediately, and a plan is laid out for the initial deployment and the company-wide roll-out.

The deployment process includes:

- Branding of the account
- Establishing base layers and public sector data feeds
- Consultation on structure of user accounts and profiles
- Batch creation of user accounts and profiles
- Training of administrator on Admin Dashboard
- Training session for department representatives

9.4. OFF-BOARDING

Any map data created or edited with XMAP will be supplied back to the customer in the event of ending their subscription to the service. The data will be made available in common, open file formats unless otherwise specified by the customer.

9.5. END OF CONTRACT

At the end of the contract the customer will have no further access to the service and all logins, public feeds and public-facing maps will be terminated.

10. AVAILABILITY

10.1. PERFORMANCE

XMAP services are hosted on virtualised cloud servers. They provide both a highly available and scalable hosted solution with no single point of failure. Geosphere offers 99.9% SLA on its services and has a 99.999% SLA for its ISP backbone infrastructure.

Geosphere cannot provide a minimum download time for each map refresh due to the variations in customer's Internet connections. However, test show that under normal conditions on a Broadband connection map refreshes take less than 2 seconds.

10.2. AVAILABILITY

XMAP is available to use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a 99.9% minimum uptime.

10.3. PLANNED MAINTENANCE

All maintenance and updates to the hardware and software will, where possible, be carried out outside of normal working hours to mitigate the risk of any disruption.

Planned downtime events will be communicated to the customers with good notice.

Status of services are available here: <https://status.xmap.cloud>

11. SUPPORT

11.1. SUPPORT HOURS

Remote support by email will be provided between 0900 and 1700 Monday to Friday, excluding Public Holidays. The customer will also have a dedicated point of contact for specific contract or product queries.

11.2. SUPPORT TICKETS

Geosphere assigns a Point of Contact to the customer. This ensures customer issues are dealt with in a personal and considered way.

Geosphere provides fast, unlimited off-site support through our ticketing system.

11.3. KNOWLEDGE BASE

The Knowledge Base has self-service tutorials and guides to help with using Parish Online service. <https://support.parish-online.co.uk/portal/en/kb/parish-online>

11.4. GENERAL SUPPORT

Geosphere engages with our subscribers to ensure they get the best possible service. We conduct regular reviews and vary meeting schedules and calls as per the client's requirements.

12. REFERENCES

References available on request.

13. DEMONSTRATIONS

To request a demonstration email support@parish-online.co.uk. We'll set up a fully-featured account and give support to help establish workflows and dataset management as required.