



Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement

WHAT IS NIMA?

The Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement (NIMA) is a centrally funded agreement which allows Land & Property Services Geographic Information (GI) to be used by all Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments, Agencies, Non Departmental Public Bodies, and Local Councils. Therefore, if you work for any of these organisations you can start accessing and using this valuable data.

BENEFITS FOR NIMA CUSTOMERS

NIMA is all about realising the benefits of using Geographic Information (GI) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

GI refers to anything with a geographic reference. For example an address can be Geo referenced and then represented on a map.

GIS refers to software that performs analysis and displays geographical information digitally. To expand on the previous example, we would take all the geo references of the address information provided and upload them to a GIS. In the GIS the information can be viewed graphically and different analysis of the information performed.

Benefits public sector organisations in Northern Ireland are realising by using GI include:

Financial Savings

Access to valuable datasets can save your organisation thousands of pounds.



Fire Authority of Northern Ireland has always had a need for mapping information to help with route plans. With NIMA they are now benefiting from access to additional datasets which provide useful and practical information relating to terrain, or aerial photography. The latter for example helps Fire-fighters ascertain how a roof is constructed during the hours of darkness, improving safety at the scene.

Improved Strategic Planning

Long-term strategic plans require the collation of large amounts of data. When this data can be visualised it is much easier to interpret.

“A visual image within any plan tells us much more, far more quickly and intuitively, than a thousand words.” — Paul Varley, SPTO, Head of Imaging Branch, PSNI



Belfast Education and Library Board realised the benefits of using GI by investing in a Geographic Information System (GIS). Using this software, OSNI branded datasets (available through NIMA) were combined with information about the education board's estate to determine the effect of amalgamating schools within the area. By using GI different scenarios could be simulated to aid the strategic decision making.

Improved operational efficiency

There are numerous examples of how using GI has improved business efficiency. Route planning capabilities inherent in applying GI help reduce fuel costs by determining the best route and deploying resources on the ground efficiently. Focusing targeted marketing campaigns can also be aided by using GI. Information on the demographics of the target market can be queried alongside address information to show the best places to focus bill boards and poster campaigns.



Land & Property Services applied GI to help deal with a back log of domestic properties that needed to be valued. By taking the address data of the backlog properties and incorporating them into a GIS system they were quickly able to identify clusters and deploy resources effectively.

Key facts about NIMA

Open to all NICS Departments, Agencies and NDPBs and local councils.

Provides **access to 17 OSNI branded products** including Pointer® and Orthophotography.

NIMA Helpline open 9am–4pm Monday to Friday.

Access to LPS GI Consultants for **free advice.**

No additional copyright charge for the inclusion of maps in paper publications.*

No additional charge for the inclusion of static maps on website.*

* provided that they support statutory requirements and does not compete with commercial service providers and are not part of a charged service and that all websites carry an agreed watermark.

NIMA HELPLINE: 028 9038 8407

THE NIMA PRODUCT PORTFOLIO

Vector: Vector mapping is a digital representation of topographic map features with attributed points, lines and polygons.

Raster: Raster mapping is the simplest form of digital mapping. The map is made up of a series of pixels that combine to form the image. You can produce a raster map by scanning a paper or vector map.



1. OSNI® Large Scale Vector Product – A detailed view of the landscape

Large-scale Vector is produced from LPS's large-scale digital database and is its most widely used digital mapping product. It contains 17,335 individual tiles, each based on the original large-scale maps of Northern Ireland surveyed at either 1:1250 or 1:2500 scales. LPS's Large-scale Vector product contains 190 feature types or levels.



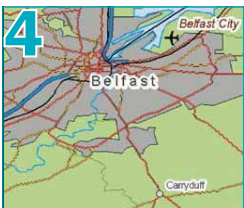
2. OSNI 1:50 000 Scale Product – A mid-scale view of Northern Ireland

1:50 000 vector data is made up of a number of distinct datasets including transport networks, relief and drainage as well as settlement outlines. These datasets provide full coverage of Northern Ireland and can be provided individually or bundled together to provide more detailed information. This product has been recently updated in an effort to standardise information in line with EuroGeographics specification.



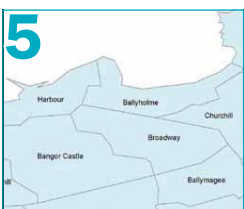
3. OSNI RegionalMap Product

The OSNI RegionalMap is a 1:250 000 scale digital vector topographic dataset covering Northern Ireland. It contains seven thematic layers; administrative boundaries, hydrography, transport, settlement, vegetation, named locations and miscellaneous (monuments, power lines, towers etc). OSNI RegionalMap can be used for Northern Ireland only or in conjunction with other harmonised datasets in the Euro Regional Map project, currently covering 31 European countries.



4. OSNI GlobalMap Product

The OSNI GlobalMap is a 1:1 000 000 scale digital vector topographic dataset covering Northern Ireland. It contains six thematic layers; administrative boundaries, hydrography, transport, settlement, elevation and named locations (geographical names). OSNI GlobalMap can be used for Northern Ireland only or in conjunction with other harmonised datasets in the Euro Global Map project, currently covering 32 European countries.



5. OSNI BoundaryMap

The OSNI BoundaryMap is a 1:1 000 000 scale digital vector dataset covering Northern Ireland. It contains all administrative units for Local Government District, Ward and NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) regions. OSNI BoundaryMap can be used for Northern Ireland only or in conjunction with other harmonised datasets in the Euro Boundary Map project, currently covering 39 European countries.



6. OSNI Road Network Product

The OSNI Road Network is a vector dataset, created at 1:1250 and 1:2500 scale, comprising line geometry for all classified roads in Northern Ireland. The geometry is attributed with road name, classification and unique street reference number which can be used as a direct link to addresses in Pointer. The Road Network dataset has been created as a continuous network.



7. Pointer®

With over 800 000 address records, Pointer® is the most comprehensive and authoritative address database for Northern Ireland. Each record adheres to a common address standard and every property has a Unique Property Reference Number.



8. Gazetteer of Place Names

Gazetteer of Place Names contains a list of the main cities, town and villages of Northern Ireland complete with Irish Grid references. Using a geographic information system with suitable software, places can be identified and listed within defined geographical areas.



9. OSNI 1:10 000 Scale Raster (Colour)

The 1:10 000 scale raster mapping has been derived directly from our OSNI branded large-scale database and provides clear, detailed and textual information on roads, buildings, fields, administrative boundaries, water features and vegetation, overlaid by contours at 10m intervals.



10. Activity Maps – Ideal for outdoor enthusiasts

LPS currently produces five OSNI 1:25 000 scale raster Activity Map Products; The Mourne, Sperrins, Lough Erne, Glens of Antrim and Strangford Lough. They are designed specifically with the outdoor enthusiast in mind. The maps show details of tracks, walks, and cliffs, while the Lough Erne map concentrates on water activities, showing navigation guides and hydrographic information.



11. OSNI 1:50 000 Scale Raster (Colour) – Mid-scale mapping of Northern Ireland

The 1:50 000 scale raster mapping is the digital equivalent of the Discoverer series (1:50 000) paper product. Colour relief shading has been removed on the raster to make it more suitable for use as backdrop mapping.



12. 1:250 000 Scale – Northern Ireland in one map.

The 1:250 000 Raster is the entry level product for raster mapping. It is LPS's smallest scale raster product. The digital image is cartographically identical to the 'Ireland North' map which is part of the 'Holiday Ireland' series.



13. Parliamentary Constituency Maps

The Parliamentary Constituency Maps are a series of 18 maps, showing the 1994 Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries complete with Ward Boundaries. Belfast constituencies are depicted at a scale of 1:12 000 while the remainder are at various scales from 1:70 000 to 1:130 000.



14. OSNI Street Map Product

The OSNI Raster Street Map series is currently made up of a series of high resolution maps including Belfast, Lisburn, Armagh, Newry and Londonderry. These maps offer clear street level backdrop mapping for use in any geographic information software. A road map of the local council area is supplied with each map except Belfast. All of the raster Street Maps are cartographically identical to their corresponding paper map equivalent.



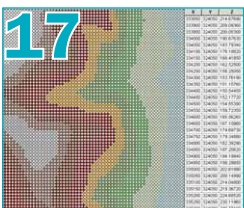
15. Historical Mapping – Views of the Landscape through time

The LPS Historical Archive provides over 20,000 scanned versions of OSI/OSNI historical mapping products dating from 1835 to the late fifties. You can access the maps free and online at www.lpsni.gov.uk by registering, opening the map console and clicking on the historical tab. The archive is a unique educational resource which gives you digital access to maps of significant cultural and social value.



16. OSNI Orthophotography Product – Enhanced Aerial photography

Orthophotography (ortho) is enhanced aerial photography. Orthophotographs are scale-accurate images that offer a detailed bird's-eye view of the landscape. The images show natural and man-made details on the earth's surface. Any distortions caused by the earth's surface or aircraft movement have been removed to make sure that the images are accurate. This process is called orthorectification. Photographs are taken in optimal weather conditions to provide the best possible images.



17. OSNI Digital Terrain Model (DTM) Products: The Landscape in 3D (10m, Enhanced 10m and 50m)

A Digital Terrain Model (DTM) is a digital file providing a highly detailed representation of the topographical (i.e. relief) variations in the Earth's surface. Combined with other digital data, such as maps or orthophotographs, it can provide a 3D image of the land surface. Consisting of terrain elevations for ground positions at regularly spaced horizontal intervals, the added dimension and visualisation offered by a DTM can help in many decision-making processes.



NEXT STEPS AFTER NIMA

Once you have signed up to NIMA we won't just leave you to it. It is important to us that every NIMA customer has the opportunity to derive as much benefit as possible from being part of the agreement.

Have a look at the table below to see what the next steps for your organisation might be:

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|---|---|--|---|
| What is the level of GI skills in your organisation? | Dedicated GI staff with specialist skills | Some staff using GI but limited skill set | No GI staff |
| Does your organisation currently have a GIS system? | GIS system installed and used for line of business. | GIS system installed but limited usage. | Limited usage of NIMA products/datasets. |
| What is the current usage of the NIMA datasets? | Widespread usage of a variety of NIMA products/datasets. | Limited usage of NIMA products/datasets. | No usage of NIMA products/datasets. |
| Diagnosis | GI Savvy | GI Aware | No GI Awareness |
| Next steps | To discover how other NIMA datasets could enhance your current GI investment call 028 9038 8407 to speak with one of our GI consultants. This service is free. | To find out how to optimise your existing GI investment call 028 9038 8407 to speak with one of our GI consultants. This service is free. | To find out how to get started call 028 9038 8407 to speak with one of our GI consultants. This service is free. |

NIMA HELPLINE: 028 9038 8407

Contact us

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