



# Ordnance Survey Mapping and Data System

**Hardware, software and browser specification and  
recommendations**

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# 1 Information

The following recommendations are for guidance only and are based on current knowledge and experience. We cannot guarantee access to the Mapping and Data Centre application or a good performance whilst using it unless the basic requirements have been met.

The following information is a high level overview of the minimum specification required to enable an informed decision to be made when deciding on new hardware or upgrades to existing equipment. Ordnance Survey will periodically update this information if necessary:

## 2 PC hardware specification

The hardware specification recommends any standard current processor in a modern proprietary brand PC. Hard disk capacity is dependant upon the amount of data stored locally and also the size of applications installed. Most modern PCs are supplied with ample hard disk capacity as standard, and in a networked environment data is usually stored on the Fileserver rather than on the local PC.

The application has been tested on PCs with 512MB to 1GB of physical memory and a processor clock speed of 2 GHz.

### 2.1 Graphics cards

Graphics cards use their own dedicated video memory to store data, images and textures and a large amount of memory enhances performance. A card with 32 MB is sufficient for most business applications, but graphical applications may require a higher specification card.

The application has been tested using PCs with standard graphics cards with 32MB of memory.

### 2.2 Operating systems

The application has been tested on the following operating systems:

- Microsoft Windows® 2000 Pro
- Microsoft Windows® XP Pro
- Microsoft Windows® XP Home

## 3 Software

Whether using a PC or Apple Macintosh the following free download applications are required:

### **3.1 Java<sup>®</sup> plug-in 1.5.0**

The application has been tested using Java<sup>®</sup> plug-in 1.5.0. A free download is available from the Java<sup>®</sup> website: <http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>

### **3.2 Adobe<sup>®</sup> Acrobat Reader**

The application has been tested using Adobe<sup>®</sup> Acrobat Reader versions 6, 7 and 8 to view PDF files. The latest version (8) is available as a free download from the Adobe<sup>®</sup> website: <http://www.adobe.com/>

## **4 Browsers**

The application has been tested on PCs using the following browsers:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7
- Mozilla Firefox 2.0.0.1

## **5 Internet Service Providers (ISP)**

Internet connectivity is offered to suit a range of business needs using both networked and conventional broadband with varying degrees of performance. The two primary Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) models are ADSL and SDSL.

- Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL)

An ADSL broadband connection provides high-speed Internet access over a standard phone line, allowing telephone calls and a permanent Internet connection to use the same line simultaneously. It is known as asymmetric because it offers different transmission rates in each direction, moving data more quickly from the Internet to the PC than vice versa.

- Symmetric Digital Subscriber Line (SDSL)

SDSL features high data transmission rates moving data at equal speeds thus enabling high speed file transfers in either direction. It allows business users to take full advantage of applications that require high bandwidth in both directions.

### **5.1 Leased line**

A leased line is a telecommunications line along pre-determined routers providing the customer with a permanent dedicated link to the Internet.

## **6 Apple Macintosh**

The application has been tested on Apple Macintosh Power PCs with 500 GHz processors with a minimum of 512 MB up to 1 GB of memory.

## 6.1 Operating system

The application has been tested using Apple Macintosh OS X Tiger Version 10.4.8.

## 6.2 Browsers

The application has been tested on Apple Macintosh computers using the following browsers:

- Safari 2.0.4
- Mozilla Firefox 2.0.0.1

Java® Preferences

A separate document is available via the Extranet which explains how Apple Macintosh users can copy configuration parameters into Java® Preferences to improve physical memory performance. This is particularly relevant when using Safari as a browser.

NB. Please note that Apple no longer supports IE6 as a browser on its machines.

## 7 Plotters

Although output to a plotter is spooled, the more memory a plotter has the faster the plot can be produced. HP5500 plotters produce high grade images at speeds of up to 499 square feet per hour. These plotters have 128 MB memory as standard but they can be upgraded to a maximum of 256 MB.

HP1050, 1050Cplus and 1055cm plotters have a standard memory size of 64 MB which can also be increased to a maximum of 256 MB.

The application has been tested using all the models mentioned above with 128 MB of memory installed.