

# GIS Transport Maps

This article illustrates and celebrates the superb qualities of the Strategi Dataset of the Ordnance Survey OpenData product. It really is a delight to use, especially now I have loaded all my own data into it. I use the Open Source QGIS product to process the data and generate graphics, and Microsoft Paint to process the graphic files further, when I want to include text. (That last is a bit of a fudge; QGIS has text facilities, but I haven't really investigated them – yet – and I wanted results quickly.)

The maps included here contain all categories of transport data included as standard with Strategi, specifically:

- railway lines open in 2011 (passenger and freight)
- motorways
- primary roads
- a roads
- b roads
- minor roads

and additionally:

- rivers
- lakes
- woodlands
- urban areas
- gridlines
- coastline

to which I have added:

- additional railway lines, opened since 2011 (or unaccountably omitted)
- closed railway lines
- railway stations, open and closed, on all lines.

The only significant (Strategi) stuff I've missed out are:

- administrative boundaries
- ferry boxes (a weird category which simply draws a rectangle beside each ferry port – there are only 17 of them)
- foreshore regions – beaches and mud flats
- general text (more weird stuff – it's actually 66,422 individual names, but they are displayed as points, and – so far as I've worked out – you have to select one and then consult the attribute list to find out what you've selected) – clearly relevant in analysis applications, but of no interest to my very restricted requirement of simply drawing maps
- various land use symbols – clearly important, but not to me
- national parks
- spot heights
- tourist symbols

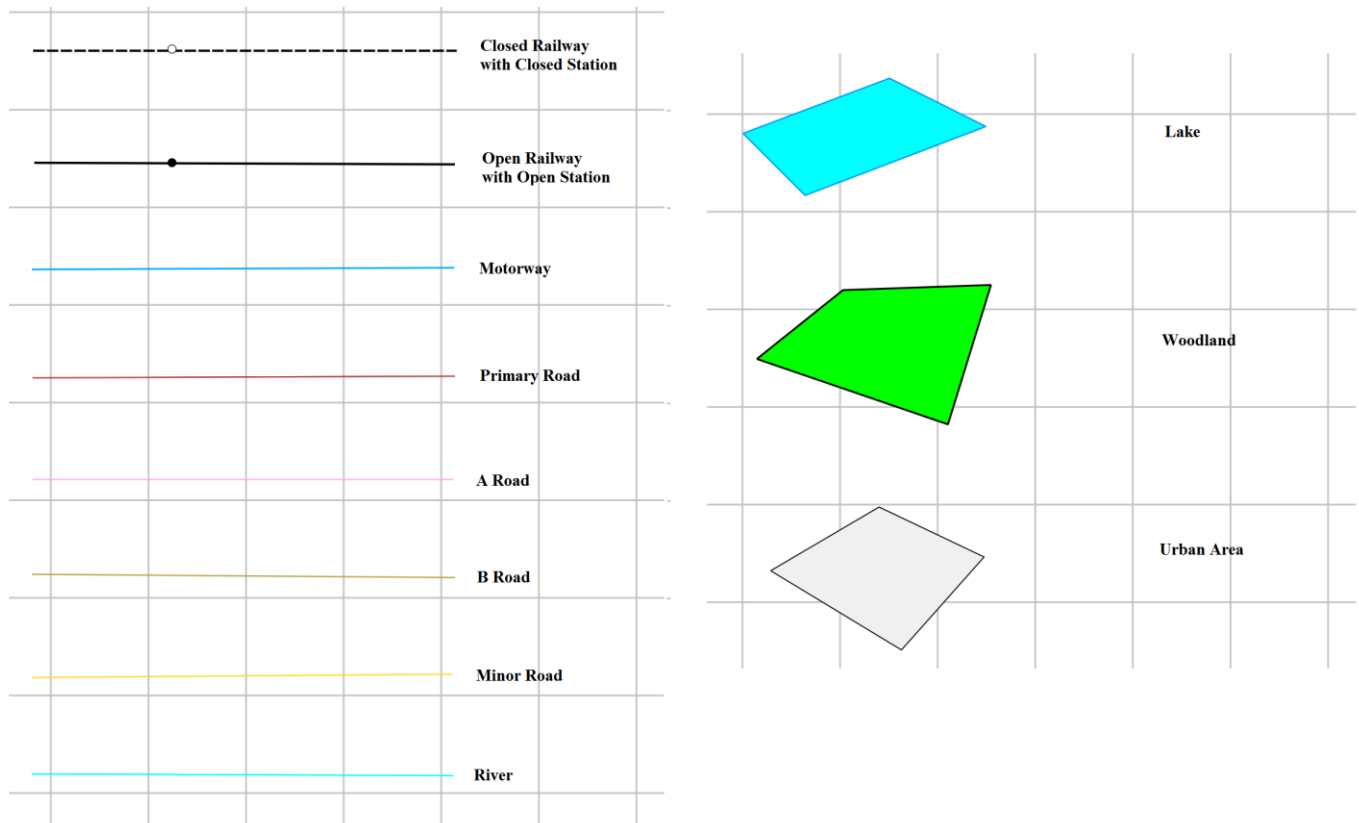
and a few more which I don't understand at all!

This really is a magnificent resource, and anybody who loves maps will adore Strategi.

The index maps are generated to a scale of 1 in 3,250,000; the overall sheets at 1 in 2,500,000 and the individual sheets at 1 in 1,000,000 but, as always, the only reliable scale is given by the 10km grid lines.

The individual sheets are presented in two versions, with full content, and with railways only. For the full content version, the following legend applies:

### Transport Maps - Legend



For the railways only version, closed railways and closed stations are given in red, and with continuous, rather than dashed lines. This gives a much cleaner result.

Urban areas don't show up at all well at these small scales. The maps are constructed by the superimposition of the various layers – each category in the above list is its own layer and they are displayed from bottom to top – and the urban layer is overwhelmed by all the superimposed lines, of which, in urban areas, there are naturally very many (lakes and woodlands suffer scarcely at all in this respect).

Accordingly, a few specimen maps of urban areas, at the larger scale of 1:250,000, are included at the end, starting at p.44 – London, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, West Yorkshire, Bristol, South Wales, Strathclyde and Edinburgh.



