

## **Policy Statement - OS MasterMap Topographic Identifiers – TOIDs**

### **Definition**

A TOID is a unique sixteen digit reference identifier associated with every feature<sup>1</sup> defined by a point, line and/or area within Ordnance Survey large scales topographic mapping and address products and transport networks of Great Britain. The TOID is based upon the Digital National Framework (DNF) concept and the principles that underpin DNF. The TOID contains no intelligence (e.g.: coordinate position) about the feature, nor can information be derived from either the allocated number or the process by which it is allocated. The TOID will remain with the feature throughout the feature's life and will not be reassigned to a new feature when the existing feature is deleted.

### **Function**

Within Ordnance Survey datasets the TOID is the unique identity of each:

- feature (discrete point, line and area) within the OS MasterMap™ Topography layer,
- street link and node within the OS MasterMap Integrated Transport Network (ITN) layer,
- address/property within the OS MasterMap Address layer.

TOIDs can be shared with other users across different applications and systems. Data can be cross-referenced: for example, a user's object or information may be linked to underlying geographic objects. This allows for easier data association and greater accuracy, focusing on real-world objects; and for information re-use. TOIDs facilitate correlation of data from different sources or datasets, for searching, analysis and querying of both own and third party data, as an aid to information management, enhanced analysis and quicker decision making. Collections of features may be aggregated into real-world objects such as schools, hospitals etc. by assigning a Feature Collection Identifier that references the composite TOIDs.

### **Permitted Use**

Ordnance Survey is committed to enabling the widest possible sharing and use of TOIDs in data association, information exchange and analysis applications, among and between users in both the public and private sectors, and particularly in the interests of promoting joined-up government, the re-use of information and the minimising of duplication.

Hence, while Ordnance Survey is obliged under delegated authority to protect the Crown's intellectual property rights in the allocated TOID and in its association with OS MasterMap products, we allow the royalty-free use of TOID records and their associated TOID version numbers in perpetuity by third parties provided that the Ordnance Survey data used/shared is restricted to the TOID (16 digit identifier) and associated version number only.

The inclusion of Ordnance Survey data attributes other than the TOID record or associated TOID version number may require licensing, as may datasets derived from Ordnance Survey data. Where any doubt exists users should contact Ordnance Survey.

For further information on the DNF concept and on planned developments in the structure and use of DNF compliant unique identifiers, please refer to the appropriate pages of the DNF web site: [www.dnf.org](http://www.dnf.org).

### **Ordnance Survey, March 2005**

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<sup>1</sup> A "feature" is a digital representation of a real world entity or an abstraction of the real world. It has a spatial domain (attribute), a temporal domain, or a spatial/temporal domain as one of its attributes. Examples of features include almost everything that can be placed in time and space, including desks, buildings, cities, trees, forest stands, ecosystems, delivery vehicles, snow removal routes, oil wells, oil pipelines, oil spills and so on. Features are usually managed in groups as feature collections.