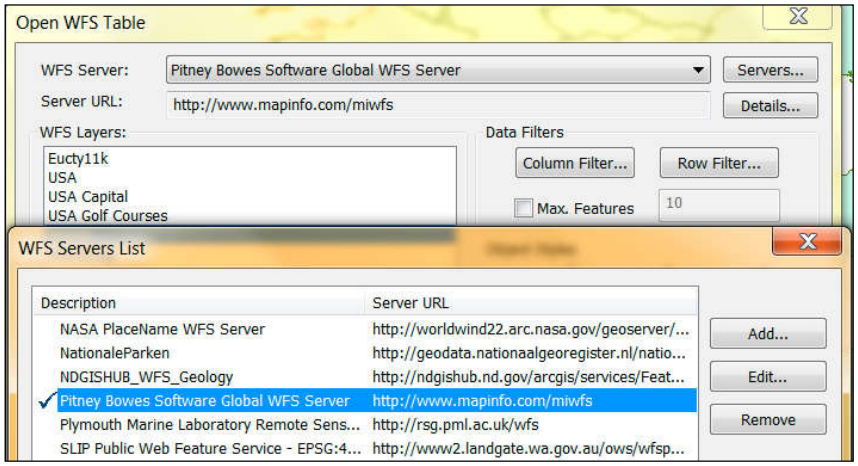
This Week's Wisdom:

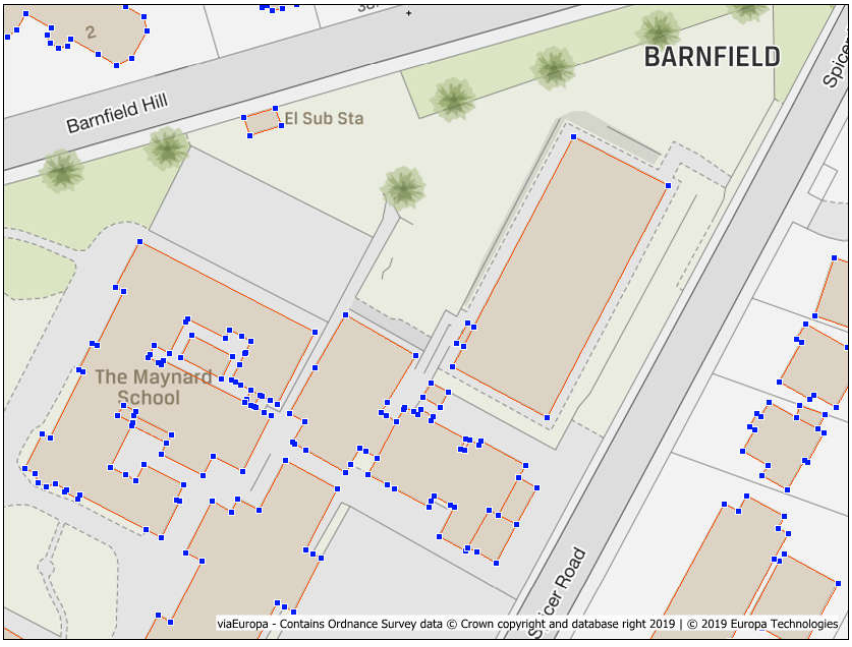
Web Services for OS Digital Map Data

Web services provide an easy way to consume ready-to-use Ordnance Survey mapping in MapInfo, Spectrum Spatial and many other mapping applications and APIs. In MapInfo Pro you already have Bing and GeoMap options set up as Base Maps, fed to you as a Web Map Service (WMS). However, these will override your map projection - and you need British National Grid.



Historically, many organisations use translation software to turn raw data from Ordnance Survey into map layers ready for use in their desktop and web mapping applications. This strategy was fine so long as you had the personnel to use the software and were able to keep up with the updates! Some OS data products are now updated every 6 weeks, making it increasingly difficult to keep up with the pace of change.

It is now possible to consume map data as a service. This also applies to authoritative Ordnance Survey data, including those products included in the Public Sector Mapping Agreement and the One Scotland Mapping Agreement. This approach avoids the need to manage updates, as these are processed already and applied to a cloud-hosted, master repository for the whole of Great Britain.



One such service is viaEuropa from Europa Technologies. viaEuropa includes enhanced support for MapInfo (TAB files are supplied for easy access) and uses OGC standards to support a broad range of other applications.

Data can be consumed either as a base map (tile server, Web Map Tile Service - WMTS or WMS) or as a Web Feature Service (WFS) to support users needing to work with vector feature geometries, such as snapping to buildings in OS MasterMap Topography Layer.

viaEuropa is already used and trusted by organisations such as Coventry City Council, Southwark Council, British Transport Police, HM Land Registry, Cabinet Office, Welsh Government and all members of the One Scotland Mapping Agreement.

Image shows viaEuropa base map with OS MasterMap Topography Layer WFS in MapInfo.

Eccles House, Eccles Lane,
Hope, Hope Valley, S33 6RW, UK
Phone: 01433 621282
Email: sales@cdrgroup.co.uk
Website: www.cdrgroup.co.uk

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