



i The legend of the physical map consists of various **map signatures** and **map symbols** which represent selected natural and artificial features, created by man through time, of the landscape shown in the map.

1 Elevation

Elevation and sea depth are distinct natural features of a physical map. They are measured in metres or feet and shown as single points of altitude or depth and contour lines. On physical maps, the space between two contour lines is coloured – on the land surface generally from green colours (lowlands or depression) over ochre colours (hills) toward light and dark brown colours (mountains and high-altitude ranges). For sea depth the colours vary from white (shallow) over light blue (deep) to dark blue (very deep).

Land heights and sea depths
(in metres)

Water features

- River
- Navigable river
- Canal
- Navigable canal
- Lake
- Reservoir, dam
- Swamp, marsh

3 Settlements

Within the English language, there is no agreed definition to distinguish different types of settlements – cities, towns, villages and hamlets. In many other languages, however, they depend on the residential population living within the defined limits of a settlement. Therefore settlements are distinguished according to their population in this atlas. Please observe that the number of inhabitants represented by each settlement symbol can vary between maps of different scale.

Settlements

	Population over 5,000,000
	1,000,000 – 5,000,000
	500,000 – 1,000,000
	100,000 – 500,000
	20,000 – 100,000
	under 20,000

A **city** is a relatively large and permanent settlement, mostly with urban characteristics. Many cities have a particular administrative, legal, or historical status.

A **town** is thought of as larger than a village but smaller than a city.

A **village** is a clustered human settlement or community, larger than a hamlet, but smaller than a town or city. Often located in rural areas, they consist of fixed dwellings fairly close to one another, not scattered broadly over the landscape.

A **hamlet** is usually a rural settlement which is too small to be considered a village. Generally, it consists of just a few houses with no communal services such as a church, school, or shop.

4 Transport

Apart from four modes of transport (road, rail, air, water), pipelines for the purpose of transporting oil, gas or water may also be listed.

Railway

An Eurostar high-speed train

Motorway

Motorway junction in Dublin

Ferry

Dover ferry port

5 Borders and administration

Borders define geographic boundaries of political entities such as countries or provinces. Each entity has a seat of administration such as a capital.

National border

Border and customs controls in the UK

London National capital

Capital of the United Kingdom

Edinburgh Provincial capital

Seat of the Scottish Parliament

6 Individual map symbols

There are some map symbols which do not fall into any of the aforementioned categories. Most of them have a historic and touristic significance – the most frequently used are listed on the right.

Ruins, national heritage site

Stonehenge

Border wall

Hadrian's Wall

National park boundary

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs N.P. (Scotland)