Greater Manchester Accessibility Levels (GMAL) Data – Supporting Information

1   About this document

1.1   This information note was last updated in January 2024. It accompanies Transport for Greater Manchester's GMAL data released at:

https://data.gov.uk/dataset/gm-accessibility-levels

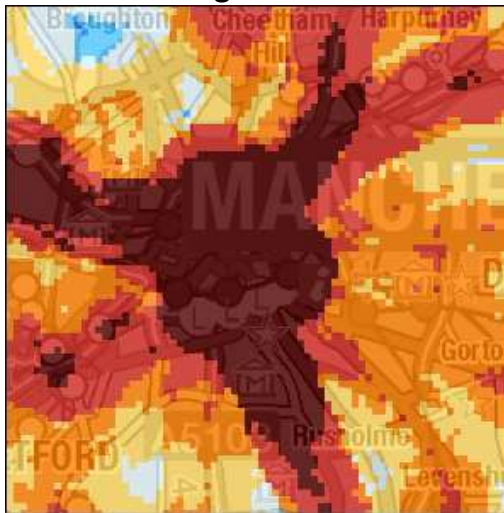1.2   See the following sections for information on:

- What is GMAL?
- Copyright and licence details;
- File formats;
- Data specification;
- Known issues and limitations; and
- Data updates.

1.3   Please email opendata@tfgm.com if you have any enquiries or feedback about the data or this documentation.
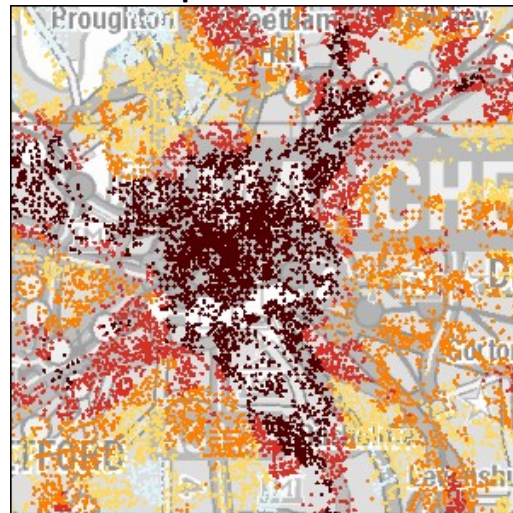
2   What is GMAL?

2.1   The Greater Manchester Accessibility Levels (GMAL) dataset represents the accessibility from locations to the public transport network, taking into account walk access time and service availability.

2.2   There are two data files – one containing GMAL values for the centroids of a 100 metre square grid system covering Greater Manchester (the 'grid' version), and one with values for the centroid of each postcode in Greater Manchester (the 'postcode' version).

GMAL 'grid' version	GMAL 'postcode' version
Contains Transport for Greater Manchester data. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2016.	Contains Transport for Greater Manchester data. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2030. Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2020. Contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.

2.3   Further information on how GMAL is calculated can be found in the accompanying "GMAL Calculation Guide.pdf" document.

3   Copyright and licence details

3.1   This free dataset is released under the Open Government Licence (OGL), a copy of which can be found here:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/

3.2   If you use the 'grid' version of GMAL, then please acknowledge the source of this information using the following attribution statement:

Contains Transport for Greater Manchester data.

3.3   If you use the 'postcode' version of GMAL, then please acknowledge the source of this information using the following attribution statement:

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4   File formats

4.1   The dataset is available in a choice of file formats:

- .tab (MapInfo)

  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MapInfo_TAB_format
- .shp (ESRI ArcGIS)

  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shapefile
- .csv – *only available for the 'postcode' version*

  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated_values

NB: The download files have been zipped to reduce file sizes.

4.2   The CSV file can be viewed in a wide range of software, but the TAB and SHP files require GIS software (e.g. MapInfo or QGIS).

4.3   Email us if you would like to request data in a format not listed here.

5 Data specification

5.1 Field names and types vary according to the file format.

5.2 The 'grid' version and 'postcode' version have the following data fields:

Field name	Type	Grid version?	Postcode version?	Meaning
GridID	Integer	Y		ID
Postcode	Char (7)		Y	Postcode
Eastings	Integer		Y	OSGB coordinates
Northings	Integer		Y	
BusScore	Float	Y	Y	Constituent GMAL score for this mode
RailScore	Float	Y	Y	
MetroScore	Float	Y	Y	
LocalLinkScore	Float	Y	Y	
LocalLink	Char (3)	Y	Y	Is there a Local Link
GMALScore	Float	Y	Y	Overall score
GMALLevel	Smallint	Y	Y	Overall level
PTALTheme	Char (2)		Y	PTAL
Altrincham	Char (4)	Y	Y	Best journey time to this destination, in minutes
Ashton	Char (4)	Y	Y	
Bolton	Char (4)	Y	Y	
Bury	Char (4)	Y	Y	
ManchesterAirport	Char (4)	Y	Y	
ManchesterMarketStreet	Char (4)	Y	Y	
ManchesterOxfordRoad	Char (4)	Y	Y	
ManchesterSpinningfields	Char (4)	Y	Y	
Oldham	Char (4)	Y	Y	
Rochdale	Char (4)	Y	Y	
Stockport	Char (4)	Y	Y	
TraffordCentre	Char (4)	Y	Y	
Wigan	Char (4)	Y	Y	

6　　Known issues and limitations

6.1　　Some parts of the dataset may be less up-to-date than the rest, for example rail data. See the Data updates section below for more information.

6.2　　The PTALTheme field is not available in the 'grid' version.

6.3　　Some past editions of the dataset included those school bus services which are available for the general public to use. The GMAL calculation included these from February 2022 to July 2023 inclusive (NB: school services do not run during the holidays, i.e. August 2022, and April 2023). Consequently, there is a slight difference if comparing historic data from before and after these changes.

6.4　　Transport for Greater Manchester would be interested to hear of any other issues that you come across.

7　　Data updates

7.1　　At the time of writing, Transport for Greater Manchester aims to update this dataset at least quarterly, if not monthly.

7.2　　GMAL is calculated using data about the public transport network that existed on specific date(s). These date(s) may differ from one transport mode to another, and can be found in the "Version.txt" file accompanying the data.