



## Scotland's Historic Environment Data

### Summary of activity in 2016-17

Progress with the SHED Strategy continues to be focused through the Implementation Plan, led by the SHED Programme Board.

#### Project Meetings and Documentation

- **Programme Board:**<sup>i</sup> The Programme Board held [meetings in April and December 2016](#).<sup>ii</sup>
- **Management Group:** The Group [met in August 2016](#),<sup>iii</sup> ensuring progress was being made in the priority areas of the Implementation Plan,
- **Programme Implementation Plan:** The [Plan](#)<sup>iv</sup> was further developed and prioritised, taking account of the feedback from the [November 2015 Stakeholder Workshop](#)<sup>v</sup>, and with the addition of a 'comments' column where updates can regularly be added and made available online.
- **Sharing experiences:** Presentations on the Strategy were given to the FISH HEIRNET meeting in November 2016, and in March 2017 to visitors from [DataARC](#)<sup>vi</sup> who are developing a new international initiative looking at climate change in the North Atlantic region. A presentation on SHED was also given in March in Belfast to Northern Ireland heritage experts from governmental, NGO and commercial bodies.

#### Project Workstream Activities

In our third year we continued the work of our three key workstreams and made headway with our aspirations on polygonisation.

- **Workstream 1 – Portal:** Various improvements have been made to [PastMap](#).<sup>vii</sup> There were almost 28,000 PastMap users this year, and 27 of Scotland's 32 local authorities are now represented on the portal, although HER records for only 22 local authorities are also online in their own right. Following major improvements to the [mapping layers in Canmore](#)<sup>viii</sup> using Open Layers 3 software, discussions are underway to add this functionality to PastMap. This will allow a variety of historic and contemporary mapping backgrounds to be visible beneath the historic environment records. A further benefit of the upgrade will be that it will enable PastMap to be responsive to mobile devices. The governmental [Improvement Service](#)<sup>ix</sup> are preparing to take over the feed of updates from local HERs into PastMap, which we hope will enable more up-to-date information to be delivered through the portal.
- **Workstream 2 – Standards:** The SMR Forum [Technical Working Group](#)<sup>x</sup> continued to undertake the tasks of SHED Workstream 2, including further work on the technical specifications for polygonisation, and updating the online [lists of data standards](#)<sup>xi</sup> used for historic environment data in Scotland.
- **Workstream 3 – Comms:** The [website](#)<sup>xii</sup> continues to be maintained, through the SMR Forum.
- **Workstream 4 – Other Records:** Work is underway to bring together representatives of museums, and archives in order to explore concordance and linking with HER data, and to look at how more such data can be made available electronically and online.
- **Polygonisation:** Partnerships continued between three local HERs<sup>xiii</sup> and Historic Environment Scotland. Work on polygonisation is now well underway and making steady progress. Proposals for other polygonisation projects are being developed, with a view to submitting funding bids to HES and others in autumn 2017.

- **Other activities:** The SHED Strategy is referred to in the [Delivery Plan](#)<sup>xiv</sup> for [Scotland's Archaeology Strategy](#),<sup>xv</sup> Close links between those involved in both Strategies continue to ensure that the two initiatives mesh.
- **Further highlights from 2016-17 – see also updated [Implementation Plan](#):**
  - ★ **HES:** The joining up of data within the newly-formed organisation, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), is recognised as a priority, and progress with SHED is a Key Performance Indicator in the [HES Annual Operating Plan for 2017-18](#)<sup>xvi</sup>.
  - ★ **Canmore standards:** As part of an initiative to improve the functionality of Canmore for users, Minimum Standards for Canmore Records have been drafted, and the proportion and number of records that meet those standards will be a KPI for HES going forward.
  - ★ **OASIS/DES:** With sector support, HES has been closely involved in the funding and development of [OASIS](#),<sup>xvii</sup> helping to ensure that the new system is compatible with the Scottish context and with [Discovery and Excavation in Scotland](#)<sup>xviii</sup>.
  - ★ **Volunteering:** Volunteers have been assisting Highland Council in improving aspects of the [Highland Historic Environment Record](#),<sup>xix</sup> while in [Scotland's Urban Past](#),<sup>xx</sup> users have been invited to suggest a site and to classify existing sites –improving the quality and extent of information in the National Record.

*SHED Management Group, June 2017*

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<sup>i</sup> The 2016-17 Programme Board included representatives of: ALGAO; Archaeology Scotland; Glasgow Museums; Historic Environment Scotland; Glasgow University/Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers; Institute for Historic Building Conservation; Museums Galleries Scotland; National Museums Scotland; National Records of Scotland; Scottish Council on Archives; and the Society for Museum Archaeology.

<sup>ii</sup> <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/shed-documents/>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/shed-documents/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SHEDImplementationPlanAug2016.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SHED-Strategy-Implementation-Plan-Workshop-Nov15-Report.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> <http://data-arc.org/prototype/>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://pastmap.org.uk/>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://canmore.org.uk/map/about>

<sup>ix</sup> <http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/>

<sup>x</sup> <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/smr-twg/>

<sup>xi</sup> <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/data-standards/>

<sup>xii</sup> <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/>

<sup>xiii</sup> Shetland Amenity Trust, and a partnership between Scottish Borders, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils and Forestry Commission Scotland.

<sup>xiv</sup> <http://archaeologystrategy.scot/files/2017/01/SAS-Delivery-Plan-16Jan2017.pdf>

<sup>xv</sup> <http://archaeologystrategy.scot/files/2015/08/ScotlandsArchaeologyStrategy.pdf>, Objective 2.5.1.

<sup>xvi</sup> <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/4030/annual-operating-plan-2017-18.pdf>

<sup>xvii</sup> Via the HERALD Project - <http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/HERALD>

<sup>xviii</sup> <http://www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk/our-projects/discovery-and-excavation-scotland>

<sup>xix</sup> <http://her.highland.gov.uk/>

<sup>xx</sup> <https://scotlandsurbanpast.org.uk/urban-detectives>