

Scotland's Historic Environment Data

Summary of activity in 2017-18

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:**ⁱ The Programme Board held [meetings in May and November 2017](#).ⁱⁱ
- **Management Group:** The SHED Management Group, a sub-group of the Programme Board, [met in April, November 2017 and March 2018](#),ⁱⁱⁱ to ensure that the SHED Implementation Plan was being delivered.
- **Programme Implementation Plan:** The Plan^{iv} was further developed and prioritised, with progress being made on a number of fronts – see below.
- **Sharing experiences:** Presentation on the progress of the Strategy was given to the UK HER Forum in July 2017.

Project Workstream Activities

In our fourth year we continued the work of our key workstreams and fully established a fourth, and continued to make headway with our aspirations on polygonisation.

- **Workstream 1 – Portal:** Significant improvements have been made to [PastMap](#).^v A [blog](#) outlining the changes was published by HES^{vi}, which include a new look, historic map bases, mobile responsiveness, and better functionality. There were 33,175 PastMap users this year, and 25 of Scotland's 33 local planning authorities are now represented on the portal, although HER records for only 22 local authorities are also online in their own right. The governmental [Improvement Service](#)^{vii} are preparing to take over the feed of updates from local HERs into PastMap, which will allow more up-to-date information to be delivered through the portal.
- **Workstream 2 – Standards:** The SMR Forum [Technical Working Group](#)^{viii} continued to undertake the tasks of SHED Workstream 2, including further work on the technical specifications for polygonisation, [including areas of Archaeological Interest](#)^{ix}. The online [lists of data standards](#)^x used for historic environment data in Scotland continued to be added to and updated, now including standards for museums and archives data, for thesauri and for spatial data.
- **Workstream 3 – Comms:** The [website](#)^{xi} 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. Pilot projects are underway to link small sets of Canmore records with sets of records at the NMS, Glasgow Museums and the Glasgow Women's Library.
- **Polygonisation:** Polygonisation was completed for Shetland, and is at the half way point for the Scottish Borders/Stirling/Clackmannanshire Partnership. HES has concorded MESH polygons to Canmore sites, meaning that polygons are available for over 10,000 architectural sites for Edinburgh. Additionally, event polygons have been added to DSP for the Antonine Wall, Cramond and Inveresk.

- **Other activities:** Contributing to the delivery of the SHED Strategy is a measure of the success in the [HES Annual Operating Plan 2018-19](#)^{xii}, and sector activity continues to be monitored in the [Delivery Plan](#)^{xiii} for [Scotland's Archaeology Strategy](#),^{xiv}
- **Further highlights from 2017-18 – see also updated Implementation Plan:**
 - ★ **Canmore standards:** The [Minimum Standards for Canmore Records](#)^{xv} are now in play. These new measures show that only 36% of existing records meet these standards and it is an ongoing priority for HES to improve this: it is a KPI in [the current HES Corporate Plan](#)^{xvi}.
 - ★ **OASIS/DES:** With sector support, HES continues to be closely involved in the funding and redevelopment of [OASIS](#),^{xvii} helping to ensure that the new system is compatible with the Scottish context and with [Discovery and Excavation in Scotland](#)^{xviii}.
 - ★ **SCAPA: Scotland's Archaeological Periods and Ages:** For many years now there has not been consensus on periods and date ranges in use across record systems in Scotland. There is no published list of Scottish periods, as exists in England and some other countries. With the emergence of regional Research Frameworks and the redevelopment of the online OASIS form for reporting archaeological fieldwork, there is a pressing need for initiatives to provide a possible way forward. SCAPA collated existing period lists and date ranges from HERs, museums and HES to create [authoritative terminologies published as Linked Data](#).^{xix} Draft scope notes for each period label were produced and it is intended to ask ScARF users to help refine these notes to improve the content.

SHED Programme Board, June 2018

ⁱ The 2017-18 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.

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

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

^{iv} <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/shed-documents/>

^v <http://pastmap.org.uk/>

^{vii} <https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2018/04/scotlands-history-mapped/>

^{vii} <http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/>

^{viii} <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/smr-twg/>

^{ix} <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/data-standards/spatial-data-standards/>

^x <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/data-standards/>

^{xi} <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/>

^{xix} <https://pub-prod-sdk.azurewebsites.net/api/file/8ba2fc11-f2c2-4372-8ea4-a8c700fffb25>

^{xiii} <http://archaeologystrategy.scot/files/2017/01/SAS-Delivery-Plan-16Jan2017.pdf>

^{xiv} <http://archaeologystrategy.scot/files/2015/08/ScotlandsArchaeologyStrategy.pdf>, Objective 2.5.1.

^{xv} <https://canmore.org.uk/sites/default/files/Minimum%20Record%20Standard.pdf>

^{xvi} <https://pub-prod-sdk.azurewebsites.net/api/file/092be19d-ffd1-490c-a827-a67a00b94794>

^{xvii} Via the HERALD Project - <https://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/HERALD>

^{xviii} <https://archaeologyscotland.org.uk/join-us/discovery-and-excavation-scotland/>

^{xix} <http://heritagedata.org/live/schemes/scapa.html>