

## SHED Technical Specification No. 2



### 1. Covering Polygon Class:

- **Areas of Archaeological Interest**

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### 2. Introduction

This document is the technical specification to producing Areas of Archaeological Interest. These equate to Buffered Site Extent polygons in line with the methodologies developed by RCAHMS (now HES) during their Defining Scotland's Places scheme, and that of the Scottish SMR Forum's Technical Working Group (TWG) in the creation of their geo-spatial attributes recommendations.

### 3. Background

The Defining Scotland's Places pilot ran for one year from April 2010, funded by Historic Scotland and managed by the RCAHMS and developed in partnership with the SMR Forum and ALGAO Scotland.

The main products of the pilot were:

- *Historic Environment Polygonisation Standards (Scotland)* (RCAHMS et al 2011)
- *"Defining Scotland's Places Technical Guidance"* (RCAHMS et al 2011).

Following the draft issuing of these Standards and Technical Guidance documents the Scottish SMR Forum agreed to produce guidance on geo-spatial attributes for datasets held by Scottish SMRs/HERs, to recommend a standard to be applied across the regional datasets to allow for ease of integration into a national portal. This led to the production of:

- *Geospatial Attributes for Historic Environment Data: Recommendations for local authority SMRs/HERs* (SMR Forum 2011)

This current document adopts the principles laid out in Historic Environment Polygonisation Standards Scotland 2011<sup>1</sup> and follows the Polygon-specific SHED Technical Specifications No. 1 *Known Site Extents* (Middleton 2015). It is followed by SHED Technical Specifications No. 3 *Archaeological Events* (Sagrott 2017).

All of the SHED Technical Specifications can be downloaded from <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/>

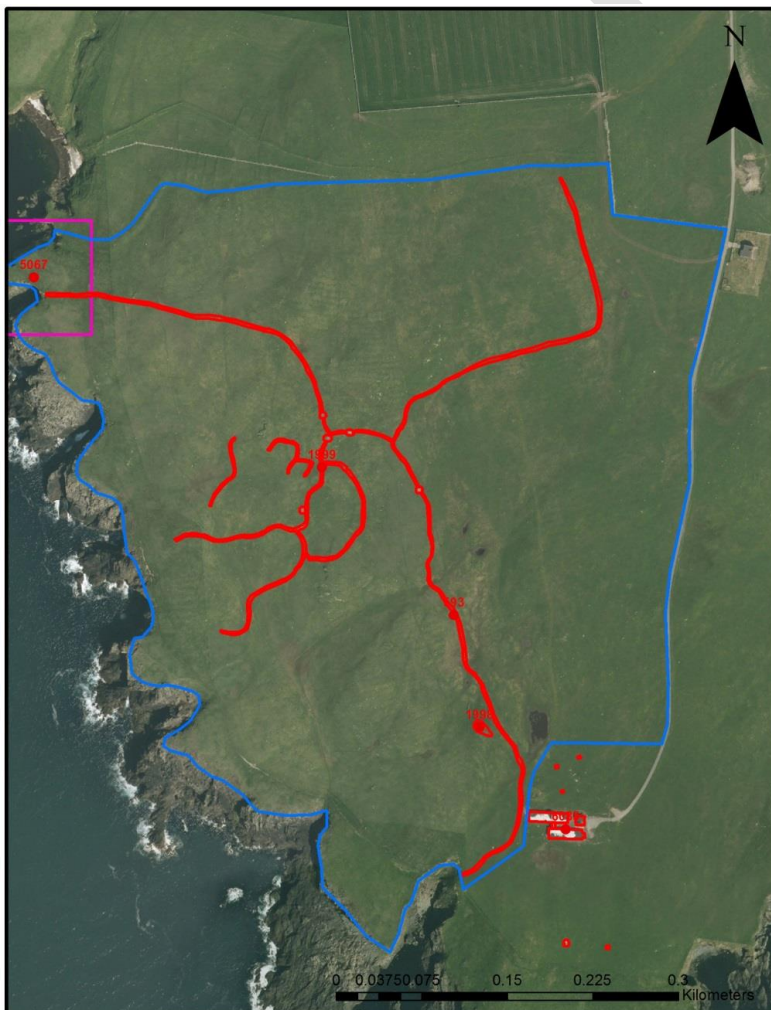
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<sup>1</sup> <https://canmore.org.uk/content/historic-environment-polygonisation-standards-scotland> [Last accessed 15th May 2017]

## 4. Definitions

1. An **Area of Archaeological Interest** polygon defines the limits of known upstanding and prospected remains, and the extrapolation of that information to assess the potential fuller extent of a heritage asset. The polygon will be created based primarily on sources and professional judgement. Area of Archaeological Interest polygons should include a buffer and should be plotted against the largest map scale available. The shape of the polygon **does not** define the limit of the known extent, but rather includes it within the larger polygon.
2. **Attribution** is the structured information attached to a polygon class in a download format. A download or exchange format is where the polygon data is independent of any associated master database. In a database a polygon is just one attribute among many associated with a record. The current national standard for heritage databases is MIDAS Heritage<sup>2</sup> In a download format a polygon must retain sufficient attribution to enable it to be used without ambiguity and it must include the unique identifier of a record in either the local or national record. This technical specification details the minimum attribution required to achieve this.

### *Areas of Archaeological Interest*



*An area of archaeological interest (blue) defining an archaeological landscape on Shetland with surviving remains (red). Image courtesy of Shetland Amenity Trust.*

<sup>2</sup> <http://heritage-standards.org.uk/midas-heritage/> [last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017]

## 5. General principles

1. **Metadata** – tbc
2. **INSPIRE Directive** - The [INSPIRE \(Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe\) Directive \(2007\)](#) mandates all European Union member states to share environmentally related datasets so that they can be easily accessed by other public organisations within their own country and in surrounding European countries. Key to delivering INSPIRE is the establishment of [Spatial Data Infrastructures \(SDIs\)](#). SDIs embrace the policies, human resources and related activities needed to acquire, process distribute, use, maintain and preserve spatial data.
3. **Area of Archaeological Interest** polygons must not use any source that might limit or impose restrictions on their dissemination. In copyright, licensed data should not be used.
4. **Area of Archaeological Interest** defines the extent of records. A single record may contain multiple sites.
5. **Area of Archaeological Interest** polygons should include a buffer around any known sites. The extent and creation method (bespoke or automatically generated) of any buffer must be identified in the attribution.

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## 6. Attribution

MIDAS identifies nine mandatory units of information or attributions a polygon requires for it to be MIDAS compliant. These are:

Units of Information	Sample information
Primary Reference Number	123
Primary Reference Number Type	Archaeological Area
Compiler (Organisation)	XYZ Archaeology group
Date of compilation	23-June-2009
Date of last update	23-June-2009
Positional Accuracy	Based on field survey using hand held GPS
Spatial Feature Type	Polygon
X Coordinate	341081
Y Coordinate	716127

The following is a list of the data fields attached to **Area of Archaeological Interest** polygons. Field names are limited to eight characters.

### FID

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Field Identified (ObjectID)	Auto-number	Auto	n/a	The field identified is created automatically and is unique within each dataset. It is a function of each dataset and should not be used as a UID.	Not to be used as a UID

### POLYTYPE

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Polygon Type	Text	30	n/a	This field identifies the type of polygon used.	Area of Archaeological Interest

### POLY\_ID

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Polygon ID	Text	50	n/a	The primary identifier allowing it to be linked to more detailed data in the database.	May include Local Authority prefixes.

## SITENAME

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Site Name	Text	150	Multiple values should be comma separated	The geographical name associated with the area depicted in the polygon	

## SITECLAS

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Monument Class	Text	254	Multiple values should be comma separated	Top level thesaurus term	Controlled data entry: The Scottish Thesaurus of Monument Types

## SITETYPE

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Monument Type	Text	254	Multiple values should be comma separated	Second tier thesaurus term	Controlled data entry: The Scottish Thesaurus of Monument Types

## URL

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Hyperlink	Hyperlink	254	n/a	Where the record is available online, the link should be embedded	

## X

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Easting	Number	Auto	n/a	This field should contain a six figure grid reference based on the Ordnance Survey OSGB36 datum. The coordinate entered should be a single location that best locates the record. The point location should sit within the area polygon.	Should come from database rather than polygon centroid

## Y

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Northing	Number	Auto	n/a	This field should contain a six figure grid reference based on the Ordnance Survey OSGB36 datum.	Should come from database rather than polygon centroid

The coordinate entered should be a single location that best locates the record. The point location should sit within the area polygon. Note: Due to the length of Britain some six figure grid references are seven figures long in the Y axis.

## SOURCE

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Source	Text	254	n/a	The source, map, chart, aerial image or document used to define a polygon	

## S\_ACCURA

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Source Accuracy	Text	15	n/a	This field gives the user information on how confident they can be in the accuracy of the polygon. The field is linked to the accuracy of the source data.	Controlled data entry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 1m</li> <li>• Within 5m</li> <li>• Within 10m</li> <li>• Within 25m</li> <li>• Within 50m</li> </ul>

## C\_SCALE

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Capture Scale	Text	20	n/a	The scale that the polygon was captured at in the GIS	e.g. 1:1250

## COMPORG

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Compiler Organisation	Text	75	n/a	This field provides the user with a guide to the organisation that created the polygon and populated the attribution.	

## COMPIND

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Compiler Individual	Text	50	n/a	This field provides the user with a guide to the individual that created the polygon	

## COMPDATE

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
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Date of compilation	Date	Auto	n/a	The date the polygon is processed. This may also be the date the polygon was created but if this is not known, it is not essential.
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**UPDATE**

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Date of last update	Date	Auto	n/a	Date of last edit of polygon. Knowing the date of update enables different parties to be sure they are using the same information.	

**NOTES**

Full Name	Format	Size	Multiples	Description	Recommendations
Notes	Text	254	n/a	Free text notes. (Note: Limited to 254 in GIS download format.) (Note2: May be unlimited MEMO field if data is stored in a database. This will be truncated to 254 if the data is exported in a download format. If this is the case it is important to make sure key notes are stored in the first 254 characters of this field or the notes state: "Long note: Please consult if truncated"	