

DataFest Event Workshop – Table 1

What HES data do you use?

Canmore x6

Photos are the best part

Many people don't know it is HES

Pastmap x4

Portal/Designations x3

Designations and consents (very useful)

DSA x3

SCRAN x3

GIS/Spatial downloads x2

Would like to use as live but there are problems at his end

NCAP x2

BARR x1

Projects being funded [Archaeology Strategy?] x1

What Should HES be doing or providing?

Links between sites (that work – dead links problems?)

Confused by the brands – which ones are HES?

Links between Canmore and Designations, and LA planning portals [I think]

More comprehensive and free APs available free and for download

Remove reference to NMRS (long out of date)

Make all RCAHMS survey plans digital and available

Clear up copyright/charging issues – relates to need for open access and current problems re NMS photos of NMS projects.

Comprehensive, standardised national polygonised HER (using known site extents)

BARR data for saved and demolished buildings

Political lobbying for Inverclyde to have an HER.

More audio-visual content

More experiential content

Ability to find related material when in a site or archive record

Event data – polygons and reports

Open access to HES data

Catalogue more of the Archive and link it to sites

Gazetteer with co-ordinates and place names as open data – added to World Historical Gazetteer

More involvement in Wikipedia and media (Go where the users are, don't force them to go to your website – they won't).

[What is good or bad about using HES data?](#)

Good

Data rich.

Mostly easy to navigate

Mostly accessible

Responsive staff

Portal appreciate the white space

SUP was a great

Canmore great for photos

InSites was a fab idea – would welcome continuing site-based articles/blog posts

Bad

Canmore search problems (top right seems to work best)

Searching

search

hard to search on theme/person/ site type/period

is still point data – we need polygons (known site extent)

map based searches

Portal map search needs improved

Listings on residential is not clear enough

Grey font on white background is not very legible

SCRAN Can't access photos that their organisation shared

Gaps in the data

Lack of links between Canmore and Portal is frustrating.

WHAT HERITAGE SECTOR DATA DO YOU USE?

- Unexpected sources – Facebook, Twitter.
- Glasgow Story, Scot Cities
- Use metadata to describe paper records
- Highland HER
- Everything from commercial units to community projects
- HES – ‘we’ll take it’ – anything to do with archaeological or heritage sites.

WHAT DO YOU WISH WAS PROVIDED?

- More visible HERs – making it clear that they’re supported by local authorities.
- Notations on what information has been updated and why it was updated
- Social value of historic buildings and memories associated with places
- Look up the talk Kenny Brophy made to the Scottish CiFA
- Clear terms of use, from everyone, both on the data we put out and on the data we use.
- Spatial data and polygon datasets
- Polygon and spatial data with appropriate metadata – currently a mix of assumed/possible/alternative lines
- Links between academic work and HES data

WHAT DO YOU FIND GOOD OR BAD ABOUT THE DATA

- Resources are splintered
- Sometimes, ease of online navigation
- Scope for income generation
- Everything about the National Map library
- HERs need to be clear about what they do
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Datafest Event workshop Table 3

Open Data - Peter McKeague

What does Open Data mean to you (from a heritage sector perspective)?

Open Data is data that can be reused for a purpose other than it was gathered without charge

Perception that Open Data is free to distribute and reuse for whatever purpose even commercial.

Acknowledged that there are different institutional approaches to making data ‘Open’ with tension between outdated models of income generation that does not wash its face and the need for Open Data driven by Government policies.

- Is Income generation effective?
 - o Driven by outdated competitive metrics of being seen to bring in revenue to the department / organisation rather than delivering the services or organisation's public task.
 - o It costs more to manage the provision and licencing of the data than is recouped through sales / licencing.
 - o Micro subscription or Freemium model would be a preferred solution if you have to charge (but then the data is not Open!)
 - o Acknowledged that image reproduction fees are a necessary evil for publication though this is a barrier to reuse of images online and in Open Access publications

There is a confusion of Open Licences, particularly for Creative Commons licences – but better than no explicit licence at all. Nobody knows what 'Commercial' means!

Data connections should be visible, e.g. Canmore can link through to the Grey Literature report on the ADS library (better still we should make our digital holdings Open and downloadable).

What standards and formats would you like to see used?

Data should be both readable by humans and reusable by machine

There is room for both – a PDF is a human readable format but the underlying data should be available – preferably in an archivally stable format (so non-proprietary formats).

(Meta)Data needs to be richly documented to understand data

No great discussion on Linked Data formats other than it can be difficult to use (data should be LOUD not LOD / LD)

On a tangent, Open source products are good and bad. They provide free alternatives to licensed products but some organisations have corporate policies excluding their use due to lack of formal technical support.

Compiled by Robin Turner

Data Quality

- Gazetteers are comprehensive, kept up to date and maintained by trusted authorities
- AI, machine learning, computer vision, etc. have been used to significantly enhance the quality and usability of the data, ensuring minimum standards have been achieved where possible
- The authority/accuracy of data is checked so that new entries have integrity – “no fake news”

Data Standards

- Standards for different types of data have been rationalised and adopted, and are used by all data managers and creators

Linked Data

- Data sources are fully linked and integrated so that the user can explore up, down and across the data
- Data on the Planning Portal and within academic research is linked to other relevant data sources like Canmore, and is available for reuse

Usability of Data

- Data is accessible for all types and abilities of user, resulting in the user base becoming increasingly broad
- Data sources are user-friendly and easy to navigate, and include helpful guidance for new users or users from outside Scotland
- Data is fully searchable, e.g. I can make my own distribution map of all the crannogs in the Western Isles
- Advanced searching functionality, as in Canmore, is extended to the HES Designations Portal, PastMap and beyond
- Different layer options are available and adaptable depending on who is using it
- Data sources use comprehensive but easy to use gazetteers (see data quality, above)
- User-appropriate and -friendly guidance exists that allows users to know what’s available across data sources
- I can find the data associated with a site by taking a photograph of the site and using the photo being used to locate it -like Google can do

Open Data

- All geospatial data held by public bodies becomes Open Data, including that from third parties as part of planning conditions
- Data is available with the least-restrictive copyright conditions, e.g. CC

Archiving and Future-proofing

- Past and present data is archived in a way that ensures future usability
- Data is screened for retention, and unnecessary iterations are discarded as “you can’t keep everything”

Data Technology and Infrastructure

- The underlying software and hardware are robust and cost effective, allowing flexible access by a broad constituency

3D and 4D Data

- Lidar, laser scanning and photogrammetric data is accessible and easy to explore by researchers and the public

Finance

- Data is free to access, use and reuse

Detailed Data

- Fieldwork data includes re-usable geospatial details of, e.g. location and depth of trenches
- Site data is properly georeferenced, and that information is available in re-usable electronic versions of graphics – i.e. not raster images embedded in pdfs
- Date of updates of information on the HES Designations Portal is visible

Roles and responsibilities

- The focus of HER data is as a development control tool, with other datasets like Canmore providing more visible cover (one person’s view)