Developing a Spatial Data Infrastructure for Cultural Heritage

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Outline of talk

What is a Protected Site?

The role of RCAHMS

The work of the Discovery Programme

Archaeolandscapes (Arcland)
Annex I Protected Sites and the wider Historic Environment

A Protected Site is defined as an

“Area designated or managed within a framework of international, Community and Member States' legislation to achieve specific conservation objectives” [Directive 2007/2/EC].

“..a Protected Site is an area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means.” [International Union for the Conservation of Nature]
Annex I: Protected Sites and the wider Historic Environment

Implementation in Scotland

Published metadata and WMS for designated sites including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Gardens and Designed Landscapes. Developed a hosted WFS service for Conservation Areas on behalf of local authorities.

Published metadata and WMS for the National inventory of the archaeological and built heritage (Canmore). Are preparing WMS for more detailed datasets. Are promoting INSPIRE principles to Local Authority archaeological services.

Elsewhere a much more restrictive interpretation of ‘Protected Sites’ focuses on only those sites that are protected through statutory designation.
Annex I Protected Sites and the wider Historic Environment

Why the wider historic environment matters

• European Union and Sector policies
  The Valetta Convention on the Archaeological Heritage (1992)

• Only about 7% of the known archaeological resource is protected through statutory means

• Informing the designation process

• Managing the historic environment through other effective means
  Planning guidance (Planning Advice Note 42 in Scotland)
  Stewardship and voluntary agreements

• Expectation and best practice

• Stimulating research

It is the wider historic environment that is most at risk and has most to benefit from INSPIRE
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Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

Identifies, surveys and interprets the built environment of Scotland

Preserves, cares for and adds to the information and the items in the National Collection relating to the archaeological, architectural and historical environment

Promotes public understanding and enjoyment

Provides Scotland with a national inventory of the architectural and archaeological heritage as set out by the Granada and Valetta Conventions
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Initial Web Map Service developed as part of redevelopment of RCAHMS Canmore mapping application http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/
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Additional Web Map Services in development for aerial survey mapping programme
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WMS also released through Scottish SDI for remote consumption by end users
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The Roman Empire: a shared cultural heritage
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Our understanding of the cultural heritage is informed through:

- Observation (Field Survey)
- Prospection – Aerial Reconnaissance
- Prospection - remote sensing
  - LiDAR
  - Geophysical Survey
- Excavation
- Documentary research
- Cartographic research

... to build up a holistic understanding of the archaeology and built heritage
Proliferation of Spatial Data
ArchaeoLandscapes Project
ArcLand SDI
User Community Ties
Developing a Spatial Data Infrastructure for Cultural Heritage

Summary

• Europe shares a rich cultural heritage

• Wealth of spatial information documents that heritage

• Limited awareness and implementation of INSPIRE for Protected Sites

• Addressed through adopting principles behind INSPIRE through participation in National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures

• and a thematic Spatial Data Infrastructure for Culture Heritage
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