



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Brownfield Land Registers and INSPIRE

INSPIRE Conference

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# What is brownfield land?

"Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes:

- land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings;
- land that has been developed for minerals extraction (mining) or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures;
- land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and
- land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time."

# What brownfield land information is required?

- Under the Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 local planning authorities are required to prepare, maintain and publish registers of brownfield land that is suitable for housing in a designated format.
- The data format is that set out in the brownfield land register data standard published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
- The Regulations came into force in April 2017 and required the first registers to be published on 31 December 2017 and these have to be updated annually.

Note that this requirement is only for local authorities within England as separate, albeit similar, legislation is in place across the rest of the UK.

NB: DCLG is now the [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](#) (MHCLG)

# Why are brownfield land registers important and why the link to INSPIRE?

- Brownfield land registers will ensure that standardised information and data about brownfield land that is suitable and available for residential development is kept up-to-date and made publicly available. This will provide certainty for local authorities, developers and communities and encourage investment on brownfield land.
- Registers will also enable the aggregation of data on brownfield land that is suitable for housing, including progress being made on getting planning permissions in place.
- Brownfield land register data falls under the INSPIRE Land Use Theme and therefore has to be produced and published as such and made available through the EU Geoportal.

# INSPIRE Principles

- Data is collected once and kept where best maintained
- Data is easy to discover and reuse
- Easily combine data from different sources
- Data is readily and transparently available
- Data can be used at multiple scales
- Good governance improves data management



# The INSPIRE metadata process

**Create UK Location Application Profile Compliant Gemini 2.2 metadata records by:**

- Manually entering metadata using a user friendly form with in-line help, controlled lists and dynamic validation
- Importing xml metadata files\* in a variety of formats including: Gemini 2.2, ESRI, MEDIN and Dublin Core
- Applying full schema validation to ensure metadata is correct.

**<https://locationmde.data.gov.uk>**

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# INSPIRE Metadata Process

## **Publish this Metadata by:**

- Organisation specific Web Accessible Folder
- Download metadata as an XML file to host in WAF or in a CSW service

## **Harvest published record(s) to data.gov.uk:**

- Through the UK Metadata Editor local authorities can check and configure a harvest source and then harvest their published brownfield site record(s) directly into data.gov.uk

# What has been delivered?

- iStandUK's 'how-to' for guides for local authorities to assist in publishing brownfield registers.
- Series of training workshops aimed at local authorities tasked with delivering the registers
- Data templates and guidance to deliver INSPIRE compliant datasets in line with the LAND USE theme
- Automated harvesting of brownfield registers from data.gov.uk to enable data collation/assessment etc.

The full standard and guidance can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brownfield-land-registers-data-standard>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/brownfield-land-registers>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/permission-in-principle>



Questions?

