

SHINE: How can the baseline for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of Environmental Stewardship on the historic environment be improved?

Monitoring theme objective: ES interventions on the historic environment

What's the problem?

The Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE) is an England-wide dataset of undesignated archaeological sites suitable for management under Environmental Stewardship (ES). It is the result of an earlier partnership project between the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), English Heritage and NE that devised a protocol for the transfer of archaeological site data from Local Authority Historic Environment Records (HERs) into a form that could be used by the Genesis Land Use database. SHINE represents a baseline dataset which is provided to applicants entering the Entry Level Scheme part of the Environmental Stewardship scheme. This not only encourages better awareness and take up of historic environment options, it also alerts land managers to the presence of historic environment (HE) features on their holdings and to the requirement that they should be protected for the duration of the agreement. Additionally, this dataset enables more effective monitoring of the impact of agri-environment interventions for the historic environment and as such, needs to have reasonable coverage of historic environment assets across the whole of England's countryside, if the delivery of Environmental Stewardship is to be most effective.

What are the aims of the project?

This project builds on two earlier SHINE projects to develop the baseline of HE data. This information will enable accurate monitoring of the effectiveness of AES interventions in protecting and enhancing the historic environment. In 2011 and 2012, approximately 51 % (41) HER areas received funding through RDPE-funded SHINE project to enhance the baseline of known undesignated sites. These would be eligible for management under ES. These earlier SHINE projects had resulted in the verification of all existing sites for the participating areas, along with the identification of over 22,000 new SHINE sites, to a total of 42,374 sites or groups of sites that could be managed under ES.

In SHINE2013, the aim was to encourage those Local Authorities which had yet to participate in the programme, to transfer their data, as well as enhancing existing information from those LAs that had already been working with SHINE.

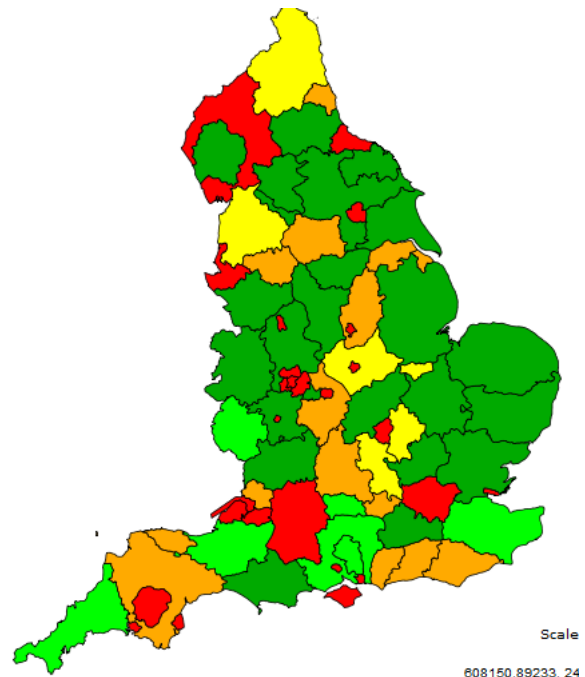


Figure 1: SHINE map of Progress from May 2012: the dark green areas show the key areas that had had data uploads within the previous month, enhancing the baseline information (Source: www.myshinedata.org.uk/progress)

Which policy areas will the research inform?

The information gathered provides a baseline that allows more effective monitoring of the effects of agri-environment funding on the rural historic environment. It also has a role to play in the future development of new schemes and how they may deal with undesignated assets.



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What are the results from the project and how will they be used?

This final year of funding for the enhancement of the SHINE baseline ensured more positive coverage across all areas of England, with very few areas where data is un-enhanced.

During 2012-13 thirty two Local Authority areas were funded through the project, which included a 'Small HERs' application that was administered by ALGAO and saw the rapid assessment and verification of sites within nine smaller HERs, mainly those with rural hinterlands.

Activity in 2013 increased the number of SHINE records from a starting point of 42,374, representing an individual site or geographically closely grouped sites, to 56,745 records. Since its inception in 2009, 71 (89%) of HERs have now participated in SHINE.

Local Authorities concentrated enhancement activity on high and medium significance sites that fell within specific areas – for example, holdings with ELS renewals or expiring classic agri-environment schemes.

Work undertaken by each LA was monitored throughout the enhancement process and was subject to a final quality assurance prior to sign off by the ALGAO SHINE Coordinator, in order to ensure that the data standards required by the SHINE protocols, as well as good practice in elements such as naming features, had been adhered to.

In addition to enabling the evaluation of scheme impacts on the HE, the acquisition of this data will have a strong impact on delivering the protection of undesignated historic environment features in ELS and in HLS.

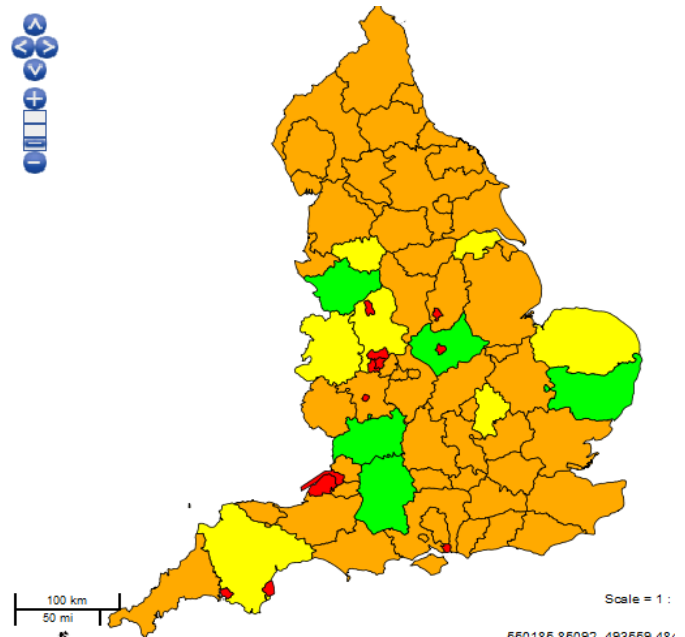


Figure 2: SHINE map of Progress from May 2013: Very few red areas – those where there has been no enhancement of the SHINE dataset - now exist (Source: www.myshinedata.org.uk/progress)

Where can I find further information about this and related research?

www.myshinedata.org.uk is a website designed for use by farmers, land agents, Environmental Stewardship applicants, local authority HERs and SHINE partners. It includes search tools to give land managers more information about the archaeological and historic sites on an Entry Level Environmental Stewardship application area, and allows the monitoring of progress for each HER area.

For further information please contact Victoria Hunns, Natural England
victoria.hunns@naturalengland.org.uk

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