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Project F: The views of SHINE record users and creators

Client: Forestry Commission

Date: April 2023

	Name	
Title of report	Project F: The views of SHINE record users and creators	
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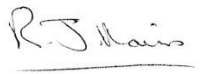
Report approved by	Richard Havis	

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Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Tom Sunley and David Robertson of the Forestry Commission for their advice and support throughout this project. The contributions and advice from the numerous consultees, including Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England, the Forestry Commission and ALGAO was much appreciated.

Glossary and abbreviations

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
CS Plus	Countryside Stewardship Plus
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ETAP	England Tree Action Plan
E.L.M.	Environmental Land Management
EWCO	England Woodland Creation Offer
HEFER	Historic Environment Farm Environment Record
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
HMAA	Heritage Management Advice Areas
LR	Landscape Recovery
Local Historic Environment Services	The Historic Environment officers maintaining the HER and SHINE and/or providing archaeological advice on planning applications and Environmental Stewardship applications
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SFI	Sustainable Farming Initiative
SHINE	Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England
UKFS	United Kingdom Forestry Standard

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1. Introduction and Background

This report pertains to the project commissioned by the Forestry Commission in December 2022, to undertake an appraisal of *The views of SHINE record users and creators on the potential evolution of the SHINE dataset for woodland creation schemes (Project F).*

To this end Place Services has undertaken several strands of stakeholder engagement, comprising a questionnaire, 1-2-1 interviews, and three stakeholder workshops to get a broad appraisal of the views of SHINE records creators and users on the potential evolution of the SHINE dataset for woodland creation schemes. The results of this engagement have been analysed and are presented in this document. Based on this analyses, initial recommendations have been made as to the next steps forward so as to accommodate the varying views and requirements of the different stakeholders whilst progressing the evolution of SHINE for use in woodland creation schemes.

Background:
Under The England Trees Action Plan action 4.6 (UK Government 2021, 33), the Forestry Commission has secured funding from the Nature for Climate Fund to deliver the three year 'National historic environment datasets for woodland creation' project. This project will:

- Increase confidence and certainty for woodland creation proposers
- Support faster assessment of woodland creation proposals
- Support delivery against government targets for woodland creation
- Address an identified barrier to woodland creation
- Improve Forestry Commission customer service
- Reduce the number of inappropriate woodland creation proposals

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987432/england-trees-action-plan.pdf

It is one of a series of Projects (Projects A-H) that have been commissioned by the Forestry Commission:-

A. Assessing the use of GIS to produce map zones of woodland creation sensitivity mapping around designated heritage assets (Lloyd-Regan et al 2022a)

B. Assessing the use of GIS to produce woodland creation historic environment/targeting maps (Lloyd-Regan et al 2022b)

C. Forestry Commission using a Historic Environment Record GIS data extract to inform decisions on Woodland Creation Planning Grant applications

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D. Assessing the use of artificial intelligence to identify and record ridge and furrow earthworks (ArchAI 2022)

E. Insights from five local historic environment services creating SHINE records

F. The views of SHINE record users and creators

G. National ridge and furrow dataset for England (ArchAI 2023)

H. National dataset for historic woodland (ArchAI 2023).

Currently the Forestry Commission notifies local historic environment services of forestry proposals and that the current UKFS requires woodland creation proposers to contact local historic environment services to get advice (and it guides them to also check HER records from the local historic environment service).

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2. Project Aims

The Forestry Commission is researching SHINE evolution: how can the SHINE methodology be updated so the SHINE dataset can be used to inform woodland creation proposals?

The aim of this project, Project F, is to gauge and record the views of the SHINE dataset record users and creators.

The Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE) is a single, nationally consistent dataset of non-designated historic environment features that would benefit from management through agri-environment scheme delivery in England. It was originally developed for Environmental Stewardship (ES) and between 2009-13 was enhanced through DEFRA and RDPE Technical Assistance funding. It has been used in Countryside Stewardship since 2015. In August 2022 the SHINE dataset contained just over 91,000 records, having been updated annually on a casework basis for agri-environment schemes received by local historic environment services.

Although the SHINE dataset is currently used to inform woodland management funded by Countryside Stewardship, it has long been recognised that, in its current form, SHINE is not suitable for use in woodland creation proposals (e.g., Lloyd-Regan et al. 2022, 38-44 & 61). Working with the 'National historic environment datasets for woodland creation' SHINE enhancement group, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), Natural England, and Historic England, the Forestry Commission wants to explore and potentially implement updates to the SHINE methodology, workflow guidelines, selection criteria, record fields, polygon standards and online portal, to build on previous investment and find out how the SHINE dataset could evolve to inform woodland creation, in addition to its existing use for agri-environment schemes (and consequently also support the SHINE dataset in working more effectively for agri-environment applicants).

The project aims to:

- Provide a critical assessment of the current SHINE methodology, workflow guidelines, selection criteria, record fields and polygon standards that is informed by the views of SHINE users and the UK Forestry Standard's historic environment requirements and guidelines (Forestry Commission 2017), as well as the views of SHINE record creators.
- Prioritise recommendations as to how the current SHINE methodology, workflow guidelines, selection criteria, record fields and polygon standards could be updated to support the use of the SHINE dataset in woodland creation. Each recommendation is accompanied by a high-level feasibility assessment. The recommendations have been discussed with the 'National historic environment datasets for woodland creation' SHINE-

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enhancement working group and the 'National historic environment datasets for woodland creation' project's Spatial Analyst (to ensure that the proposed updates are compatible with Forestry Commission IT systems).

The Forestry Commission's vision for an evolved SHINE dataset

The Forestry Commission is interested to explore whether the SHINE dataset can be evolved for use in woodland creation schemes. While this requires research (as undertaken by Projects B, E and F), the Forestry Commission has aspirations for how an evolved SHINE dataset would exist and function to meet this new purpose. It may be helpful to set out the principal ambitions here, and these are as follows:

- To continue the use of SHINE data to identify the opportunities and constraints presented by non-designated heritage assets in Countryside Stewardship applications, and for these to be recognised and addressed through management options and advice
- Ensure that an evolved SHINE dataset can inform woodland creation proposals but continue to be used for agri-environment schemes (as is currently the case through Countryside Stewardship) and that it remains a single coherent dataset
- Improve the coverage and currency of the SHINE dataset so that data is more widespread and up-to-date, with consideration of how updates occur
- Provide online access at an early stage to SHINE data to those proposing woodland creation (possibly through an online portal requiring registration).
- Revise and enhance training and documentation to ensure that the content and appropriate use of SHINE data (with necessary caveats) is understood by both its creators and users
- Ensure that the outputs of the SHINE dataset (both digital and physical) are usable and accessible by everyone proposing woodland creation or agri-environment schemes
- For SHINE data to encourage and increase contact with local historic environment services and their associated Historic Environment Record(s) to get advice and additional information
- For the Forestry Commission to play a role in resourcing the creation of any evolved SHINE dataset and support partners with challenges that arise through the evolution process

These ambitions have been developed in combination with the key partners in the historic environment sector and are intended to meet their requirements and address their concerns with the current SHINE dataset, and any evolution of it.

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3. Methodology

3.1 QUESTIONNAIRE

Online surveys were conducted with SHINE record users and creators, with each group receiving a slightly different, tailored version of the questionnaire. The survey invitations and questionnaires (see Appendix 1) were developed by Place Services in conjunction with the Forestry Commission project team. The online survey was scripted by Place Services using the SmartSurvey survey tool.

The surveys explored:

- Current/previous usage of SHINE, including reasons for non-usage
- Views towards whether SHINE could be used to inform woodland creation schemes
- What issues (including features and data) would need to be addressed to enable SHINE to be used for woodland creation

The sample for the creator survey was taken from ALGAO: England's published membership[1]. The sample of SHINE users was provided to Place Services by the Forestry Commission. National Park Authorities were invited to complete both versions of the survey given their roles mean some may be either SHINE users or creators (or both).

The questionnaire survey was conducted between 5th - 20th January 2023. Following the initial invitation email, a reminder email was sent to non-responding contacts on 12th January. In addition, a copy of the creator survey was circulated to the stakeholder list by email (see Appendix 6). In addition, stakeholders were invited to circulate the questionnaire with their colleagues or other stakeholder groups (such as the ALGAO Countryside Committee, ALGAO Planning Committee, HER Forum).

By the final submission date for the SHINE questionnaire a total of 50 creator surveys (from an invited sample of 76) and 21 user surveys (from a sample of 54) had been completed.[2]

The survey data was checked and analysed by Place Services, with 'Other (specify)' text responses coded into existing or new response

[1] **https://www.algao.org.uk/membership**

[2] In addition, one user completed a creator survey which was distributed via ALGAO contacts. Their response to the survey questions which featured in both the creator and the user survey was included within the final user survey dataset.

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codes where appropriate. All data included in this report is unweighted.

3.2 1-2-1 INTERVIEWS

Twenty-three 45-60 minute interviews were held (two had both users and creators present), these were recorded and notes were taken as the interviews were conducted. In total thirteen interviews with SHINE record creators were undertaken and ten with SHINE record users. See Appendix 4 for list of interviewees.

3.3 WORKSHOPS

Three online workshops were undertaken with key stakeholders identified by the Forestry Commission and Place Services, Essex County Council. The stakeholders were identified to ensure a range of representatives from across the forestry and historic environment sectors were given the opportunity to feedback on the project.

The aims of the workshops were to ensure early and sustained engagement with Project F.

Workshop 1 (27th Feb 2023) comprised Creators and User/Creators of SHINE records. The initial results of the questionnaires and 1-2-1 interviews were presented. The session was formatted to allow for a presentation and to provide time for meaningful feedback and discussion from stakeholders regarding the issues and opportunities presented by the proposed evolution of SHINE to inform woodland creation schemes. The outcomes of the workshop and discussion are reproduced within this report and have contributed towards the recommendations made.

Workshop 2 (8th Feb 2023) comprised Users and User/Creators of SHINE records. The initial results of the questionnaires and 1-2-1 interviews were presented. The session was formatted to allow for a presentation and to provide time for meaningful feedback and discussion from stakeholders regarding the issues and opportunities presented by the proposed evolution of SHINE to inform woodland creation schemes. The outcomes of the workshop and discussion are reproduced within this report and have contributed towards the recommendations made.

Workshop 3 (22nd Feb 2023) was held near the end of the project to inform the Creators of the outcomes of the Workshop 2 – Users, to present the combined results of the various strands of stakeholder engagement project, and to seek further input and feedback. The outcomes of the workshop and discussion are reproduced within this report and have contributed towards the recommendations made.

A copy of each of the workshop slides has been appended to this report in Appendix 4, together with transcripts of the online chat, which attendees were encouraged to use to raise discussion points and questions. The online workshops have been saved as unpublished YouTube links. Consent for recording was gathered prior to recording within each workshop.

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4 Report of findings

The results of the different strands of stakeholder engagement are presented below :-

4.1 CREATOR QUESTIONNAIRE

Base: All creator survey respondents (50)

Of the four organisations who had created SHINE polygons in the past but had stopped doing so, two said they had last been updated within the last five years (but more than three years ago), one within the last 10 years (but more than five years ago) and one more than ten years ago.

Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation create SHINE polygons (40)

Those whose said they/their organisation had never created SHINE polygons (six organisations) or that they've stopped doing so (four organisations) were asked why they don't create SHINE polygons (anymore). The following responses were given by these ten organisations:

- We do not have sufficient time or capacity to create them – six mentions
- We cover an urban/predominantly urban area – three mentions
- We do not consider there is an advantage in doing so – two mentions
- Creation of SHINE records/polygons is done by another local authority/HER – two mentions

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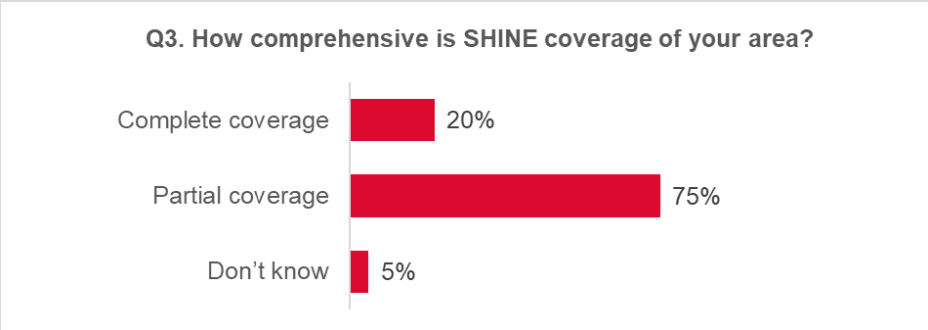

Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation create or used to create SHINE polygons (44)

Among the 44 organisations in the survey who create or used to create SHINE polygons, 98% (all but one) said they provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process. The one organisation that did not say this flagged that this was because they do not have sufficient time or capacity to do so.

Q4. Why do you/your organisation not create SHINE polygons (anymore)?	n	%
We do not have sufficient time or capacity to create them	6	60%
We cover an urban/predominantly urban area	3	30%
We do not consider there is an advantage in doing so	2	20%
Creation of SHINE records/polygons is done by another local authority/HER	2	20%
Other	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%
Grand total	10	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation had never created SHINE polygons or used to but have stopped doing so		

Q5. Have you personally ever created SHINE polygons, for example in a previous role with another organisation?	n	%
Yes	1	-
No	5	-
Grand Total	6	-
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation had never created SHINE polygons		

Q6. Do you/your organisation provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process?	n	%
Yes	43	98%
No – we've stopped doing this but used to in the past	0	0%
No – have never done this	1	2%
Grand Total	44	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation create or used to create SHINE polygons		

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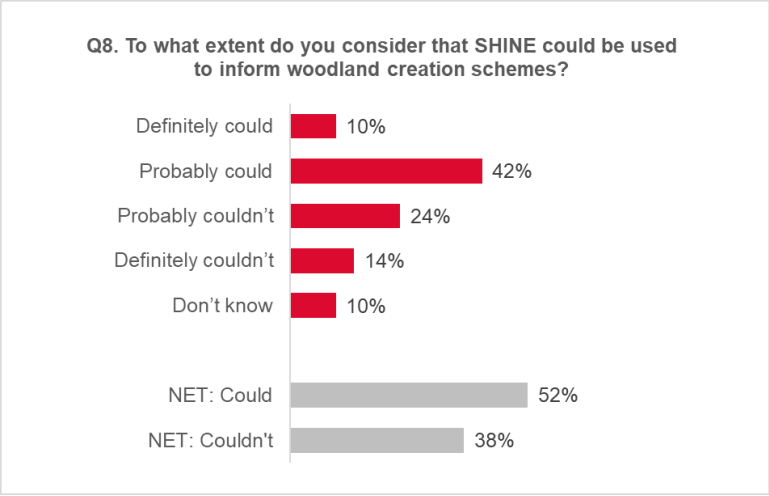
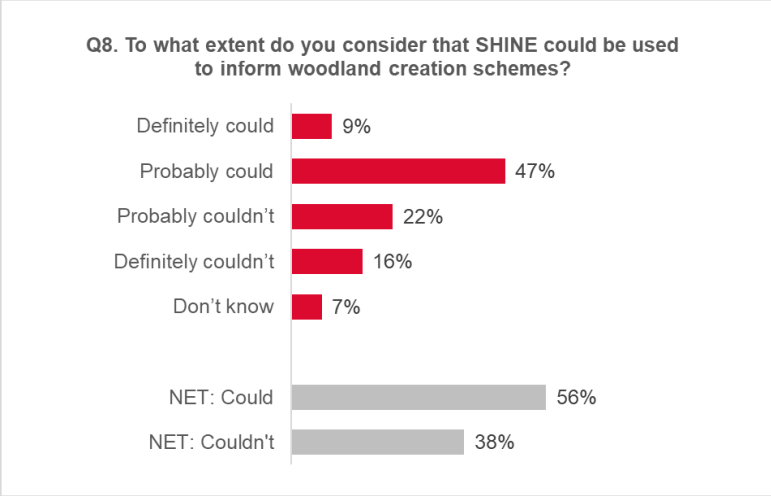
Q7. Why do you/your organisation not provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process (anymore)?	n	%
We do not have sufficient time or capacity to do so	1	-
We cover an urban/predominantly urban area	0	-
We do not consider there is an advantage in doing so	0	-
Other	0	-
Don't know	0	-
Grand Total	1	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation whose organisation create or used to create SHINE polygons but have never provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process		

The results for Question 8 are shown in three formats: - 1) based on all respondents 2) excluding those who have never used SHINE to create polygons, 3) showing the difference between the local authority types



Base: All creator survey respondents (50)



Base: All creator survey respondents except those that had never used SHINE to create polygons (45)

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	Total		Unitary Authority / Metropolitan District		County Council / shared archaeology services		National Park Authority	
Q8. To what extent do you consider that SHINE could be used to inform woodland creation schemes?	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Definitely could	5	10%	3	19%	2	8%	0	-
Probably could	21	42%	9	56%	9	36%	2	-
Probably couldn't	12	24%	1	6%	6	24%	5	-
Definitely couldn't	7	14%	2	13%	5	20%	0	-
Don't know	5	10%	1	6%	3	12%	0	-
Grand Total	50		16		25		7	-
NET: Could	26	52%	12	75%	11	44%	2	-
NET: Couldn't	19	38%	3	19%	11	44%	5	-

NOTE: *Percentages only shown for sub-group base sizes of 10 or more.*

Table does not show individual results for district council respondents (2)

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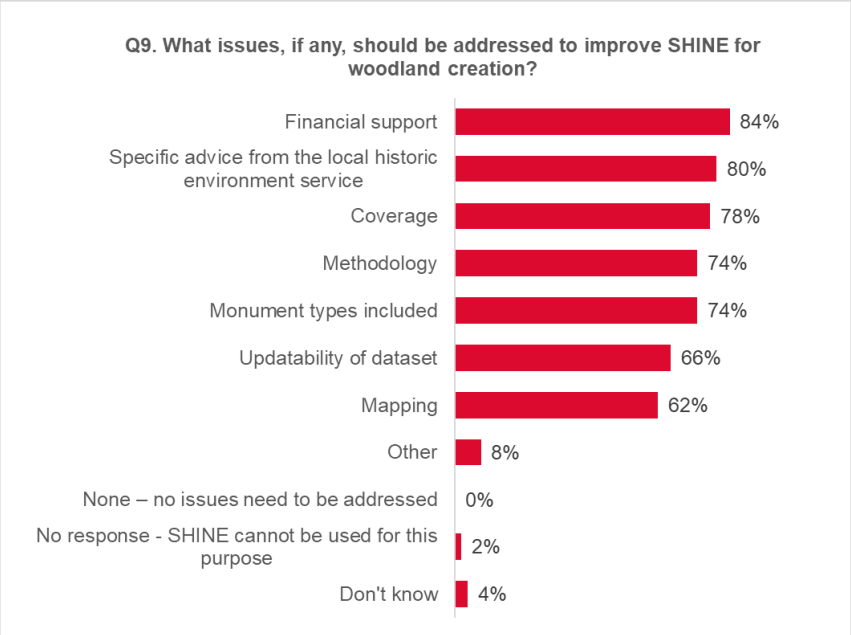

Base: All creator survey respondents (50)

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4.2 USER QUESTIONNAIRE

Base: All user survey respondents (21)

All 14 user survey respondents who used the SHINE dataset to inform their decisions (or used to in the past) had last used the SHINE dataset to do so in the last 12 months.

Of the eight user survey respondents that had never or did not currently use the SHINE dataset to inform their decisions, the following reasons were given for why not:

- I am not aware of SHINE/what it does - 2 mentions
- Do not consider there is an advantage in doing so - use local HER data requests directly with the records office or online local HER search - 1 mention
- It is not relevant to my role – 1 mention
- Limited access and application – 1 mention
- Not permitted to use it in relation to woodland creation – 1 mention
- Only use it when prompted to (CS Higher Tier grants) – 1 mention
- Don't know – 1 mention

Of the 14 user survey respondents who used the SHINE dataset to inform their decisions (or used to in the past), eleven (79%) have used SHINE for existing woodland management.

Q2. When did you/your organisation last use SHINE to inform your decisions? SELECT THE FIRST OPTION THAT APPLIES	n	%
Within the last 12 months	14	100%
Within the last 3 years	0	0%
Within the last 5 years	0	0%
Within the last 10 years	0	0%
More than 10 years ago	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%
Grand total	14	
Base: All user survey respondents whose organisation use SHINE to inform their decisions or who have stopped doing this but used to in the past		

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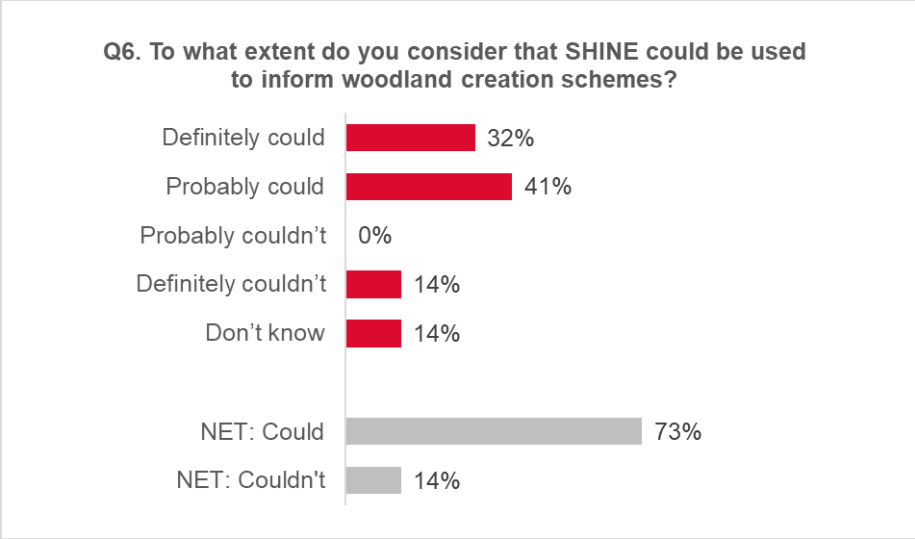
Q3. Why do you/your organisation not use SHINE to inform your decisions (anymore)?	n	%
I am not aware of SHINE/what it does	2	-
Do not consider there is an advantage in doing so - use local HER data requests directly with the records office or online local HER search	1	-
It is not relevant to my role	1	-
Limited access and application	1	-
Not permitted to use it in relation to woodland creation	1	-
Only use it when prompted to (CS Higher Tier grants)	1	-
Don't know	1	-
Grand total	8	
Base: All user survey respondents whose organisation have never used SHINE to inform their decisions or who have stopped doing this but used to in the past		

Q4. Have you personally ever used SHINE to inform your decisions, for example in a previous role with another organisation?	n	%
Yes	3	-
No	4	-
Grand total	7	
Base: All user survey respondents whose organisation have never used SHINE to inform their decisions		

Q5. Have you/your organisation used SHINE for existing woodland management?	n	%
Yes	11	79%
No	3	21%
Grand total	14	
Base: All user survey respondents whose organisation use SHINE to inform their decisions or who have stopped doing this but used to in the past		

For Q6 two charts are shown, 1) based on all respondents and 2) excluding the five respondents who have never used SHINE to inform their decisions.



Base: All user survey respondents (22)

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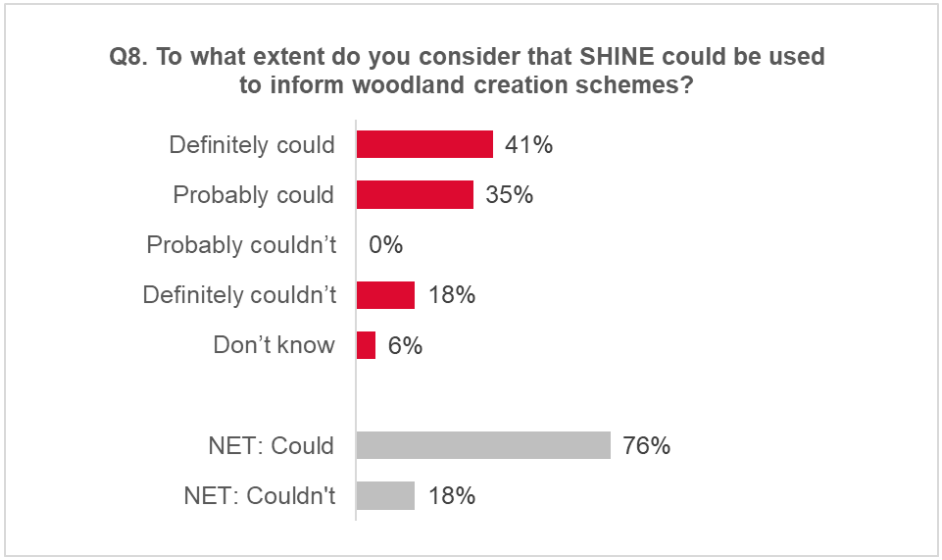
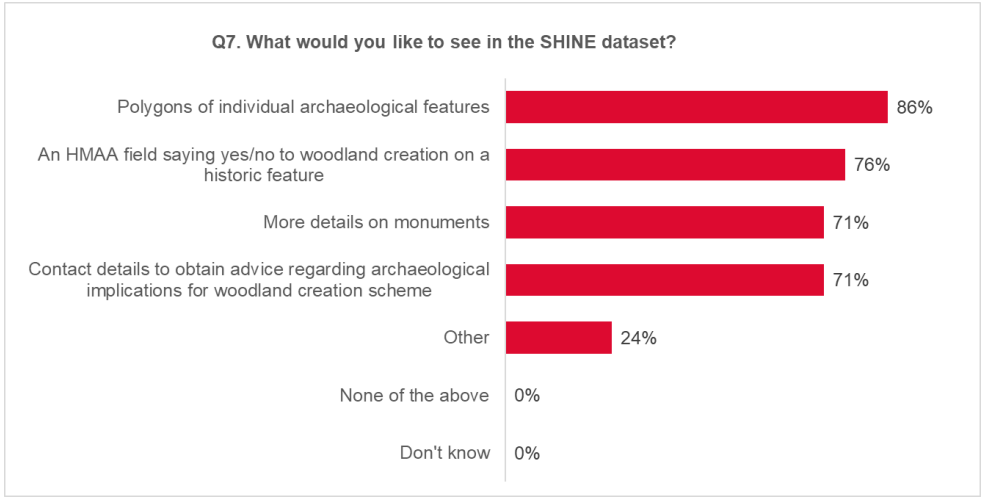


Base: All user survey respondents except those that had never used SHINE to inform their decisions (17)



Base: All user survey respondents (21)

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4.3 CREATOR 1-2-1 INTERVIEWS – SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The key findings have been grouped by themes and by frequency, to aid analysis.

The following bullet points are summaries of the comments put forward by one or more of the interview participants. In many cases they are verbatim comments, but where similar points by interviewees have been made, a single comment may reflect multiple iterations on a theme. In some cases, the comments have been slightly altered to make it clearer to the reader, but efforts have been made to not alter the sense or meaning of the original comment.

Many of the views raised in the interviews were further addressed during the Workshops and have been responded to by the Forestry Commission in Section 4.8.

4.3.1 METHODOLOGY

- SHINE data is generally only updated on a case-by-case basis meaning it is not comprehensive in coverage or always up to date.
- There are specific issues with the creation of the polygons. In particular the requirement for gaps between polygons. Creators find themselves having to clip the polygonal areas in order to fit buffer distances, and some archaeology may have to be sacrificed in order to meet the criteria. Allied to this is the lack of information as to what is happening over a County's border, so a site that straddles the border can end up with an artificial gap down the middle marking where the border is as it cannot abut the other part of itself. Elsewhere the creator finds themselves having to map extra-large palimpsests with multi-types and multiphases when several smaller sites would be preferable.
- Currently creators can only give advice on higher-tier applications and are left with no idea what is happening to or will happen to mid-tier sites. They would prefer to be consulted on the lot.
- The system needs to allow for regional variations of what is important, in some areas surviving ridge and furrow is very rare, so they would mark as being of high importance, whilst other areas have lots of ridge and furrow, so it is acceptable to pick out the best examples to SHINE
- The restrictions on polygon size (15m radius; 10m width; 400sq.m) are not always suitable for small structures such as obelisks, milestones, pill-boxes etc

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- Types of monuments allowed to be added to the SHINE dataset have changed over time, so there is no consistency

- If polygons were able to abut, it would be possible to give more specific management recommendations for different monument types, rather than having to group them together in a single polygon

- Issue around how large landscape features are handled such as historic parkland. Currently the whole park has to be added to the SHINE dataset, and then the individual features within dealt with. Should there be a separate layer for historic parkland

- The older SHINE polygons frequently need amending or adding to – they cannot be seen as a fixed-in-time item, as new information always coming forward

- There is a need to keep polygons as simple shapes, such as squares, as the SHINE system does not 'like' too many vertices or nodes crossing over

- The creator would like to know what the applicant is applying for (they are currently not told) as advice could be better tailored to the need

- The record fields on SHINE are very basic. There is no flexibility or nuance to the system

- The delays in uploading the HMAA layer need to be fixed

- The data needs to be more dynamic, as it is currently only updated when portal open. Also, the creator cannot go back and edit once something has been submitted – which poses a problem if anything overlooked

- The Heritage Gateway links could be useful, and they are currently not used very much.

- Significance (low/medium/high) needs greater clarity and consistency, as it can make a difference to advice. Extra guidance would be needed for creators and users as different historic environment services use significance differently

- Issues with 'slivers' where HMAA polygons overlap land parcels

- Would like a searchable field for monument type

4.3.2 WHY USE SHINE IF YOU ALREADY HAVE HERs ?

- Would recommend that the applicant uses the HER, gets the full suite of Development Control advice, same as they would for a development

- Outside bodies are using the SHINE dataset as if it was complete and current, when they should go to the HER for advice

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- The SHINE dataset is the closest we have to a national non-designated heritage asset dataset

4.3.3 SUITABILITY FOR FORESTRY

- Fundamental difference between Farm Environment Schemes and Forestry Schemes is that Forestry has a direct impact on archaeology whilst the Farm Environment Schemes aim to reduce impact

- The application needs to make clear whether it is for agriculture or forestry – as advice may differ. Also in a forestry context whether a site is considered to be of low or high significance may have different impacts with regard to advice

- The Forestry Commission will need to work with archaeologists on developing specific advice

- Would like to be able to recommend further work as part of the advice – such as geophysics or lidar

- There is nothing in the SHINE recording system to identify effects on historic landscape character – such as intact historic field-systems, these haven't been an issue for sites coming in to be farmed, but will be if they disappear under woodland or field boundaries are broken through to enable access for machinery/drains

- The buffers around SHINE sites will need to reflect tree growth and impacts of woodland

- There will need to be more management options to cover woodland creation and the guidance will need to be changed as it will have been moved outside its usual remit

- There is the danger of misinterpretation of the SHINE data by forestry officers who think absence of SHINE sites means absence of sites, and do not understand absence bias and potential

- Actively mapping areas where woodland used to be, but the woodland applications coming in are not for the areas that used to be historically wooded

- Would like to be able to flag lost woodland

- SHINE users in forestry do not really understand what SHINE is, why we use it, that it is not complete or the reasons behind that. There is work to be done to raise the understanding of what it is

- Addition of a flag for yes/no/maybe for suitability for woodland creation

- Needs to be made accessible, particularly earlier in the process in order for better decision making

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4.3.4 BIGGEST CHALLENGES

- In order to make it comprehensive and current it will need a major ongoing input in order to achieve total, up-to-date coverage. What will happen if some areas cannot commit to the officer time without having detrimental effects elsewhere on the workload. How will the Forestry Commission get the non-engagers to engage? The ongoing updating of the dataset will need to get embedded in HERs work-flows

- Currently there is no contact from the farmers or agents, so no feedback; the creator has no idea whether anything has happened with the site identified and also the farmer is not necessarily aware that they have only a partial dataset of what is on their farm

- The SHINE datset only identifies known sites, and does not identify areas of high probability of there being further unknown sites

- SHINE is currently prescriptive – it identifies areas where you do not want people doing things or want them taking extra care. It is not identifying areas where it would be ok to plant woodland (such as quarries)

- As EWCO moves into E.L.M. from 2025 it would be problematic to not allow SHINE use. Could lead to a decision by Defra to not require consideration of non-designated heritage assets in either woodland creation or agri-environment schemes.

- The SHINE dataset is the only non-designated national dataset that we have – however it should be complete and up-to-date

4.4 USER 1-2-1 INTERVIEWS – SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The following bullet points are summaries of the comments put forward by one or more of the interview participants. In many cases they are verbatim comments, but where similar points by interviewees have been made a single comment may reflect multiple iterations on a theme. In some cases the comments have been slightly altered to make it clearer to the reader, but efforts have been made to not alter the sense or meaning of the original comment.

Many of the views raised in the interviews were further addressed during the Workshops and have been responded to by the Forestry Commission in Section 4.8.

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4.4.1 How do Users access the SHINE datset, what do they use it for ?

- The SHINE dataset is used on a range of case work, specifically on countryside stewardship higher tier HEFER applications, but also for management plans or grant applications

- Interviewees aware of the SHINE dataset as a source of information to use during scheme/proposal planning, but consider that as a sector they are not engaging in it enough. Often this is because heritage is not their primary interest

- In addition to SHINE, or sometimes instead of SHINE, interviewees use the Historic England National Heritage List for England, MAGIC, and Historic Landscape Characterisation. Some also approach the local authority archaeological officer for advice or data

- Some consider SHINE as a national non-designated heritage asset dataset to alert farmers as to what heritage assets they have on their land. However, it is acknowledged that there will be some areas where little is known, and further research/fieldwork maybe required before making a decision

- Identification of two levels of heritage issues: the archaeology and the historic landscape. SHINE plots the known archaeology but understanding the significance of the wider historic landscape is harder

- The response from the Local Planning Authority on an application varies according to the officer's knowledge of woodland creation schemes. They sometimes treat it as having a similar impact as developments such as housing

4.4.2 How do you find the usability/content of the SHINE dataset and does it suit your requirements? This can include your thoughts on:

Record fields

- Importance of supporting metadata

- Some local HERs may not be consistently following the SHINE methodology. SHINE is meant to be a consistent dataset

- Needs a searchable monument type field, which would explain what a SHINE polygon covers

- If records are completed fully and consistently each of the fields in the SHINE records should meet the needs for intended purpose

Polygons (size and scale of capture)

- Polygon standards are something that should be revisited

- SHINE does not allow for mapping of archaeological potential

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- Some of the requirements for polygons are obsolete, date back to previous systems and are no longer relevant

- It would be useful to have overlapping polygons, separation of the detail would be really useful

- Issue with the minimum size of polygons, which do not reflect the actual size of features

- The 20m gap between features can be difficult if heritage sites are closely spaced

- Polygon 'slivers' cause issues - When a SHINE record is created, and a thin sliver goes into the next field unintentionally, it has knock on effects for the owners of the land. Should they be snapped to field boundaries? Also, there are 'slivers' created by the HMAA process

- Would like to see polygons which accurately map individual features, such as a series of banks, instead of having to do further research to understand their layout. The more accurate and detailed information the polygons can give, the more useful the data is. While that level of mapping is not available for many HER sites, if it was available that would be really helpful

- Buffer sites by an additional 10m, however some features may need more than that, especially those that are intervisible and together form a landscape, this will need to be considered on a site-by-site basis

Level of detail/information included in each record

- A more granular kind of dataset is needed, and the information is therefore much more specific to the feature - if you have the narrative it is much easier to make the case for protection

- What is needed is clear information on where and what needs to happen with an archaeological site

- The Heritage Gateway links are useful, but they are not used very much, https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/

- The current system is difficult to access and difficult to navigate, but there is no other way of finding out what the heritage assets are

Understanding what the SHINE dataset is and what it contains

- Better guidance on how these records are inputted

- If there is a change in what is needed in the dataset, it needs the guidance that underpins it updated

- Think that SHINE users in forestry do not really understand what SHINE is, neither why we use it or that it is not complete or the reasons behind that. There is work to be done to raise the understanding of what it is

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- If there is a site on SHINE we can definitely say we would avoid it during woodland creation. But there may also be potential for unknown archaeologically significant remains and SHINE is not helpful for this

4.4.3 Are there any issues in the current SHINE dataset you have identified that if they were addressed you would find it beneficial to the way you need to use the SHINE dataset?

SIGNIFICANCE

- Extra guidance on significance would be useful for both creators and users
- There is variability in how significance is used. Low/medium/high is quite tricky, though the service standard does present a list of criteria for this but doesn't give a steer on how to use it, this leads to national variability
- There needs to be a more consistent description of significance. There always needs to be a framework behind it. Especially between low and high significance. You need a record of what a heritage asset is, how significant it is, what form it takes, and this information should be formative in decision making process as to what happens next

GUIDANCE

- There is a HEFER guidance document, but it is difficult to use, and you have to think through how it works and what the references stand for. Non-specialist Forestry Commission staff and foresters really struggle to use them
- The Forestry Commission could define some criteria which would be applicable to woodland creation.
- Criteria of what's included could be refined, including improvements in consistency of attributes.
- The difference between woodland creation and land management is with management; there are ways round impacting on heritage but there is more likely to be problems with woodland planting. Need this information initially and not halfway down the process.
- Needs woodland management recommendations

METHODOLOGY

- The current method where the local HER creates the SHINE records is essential and useful
- SHINE is an important source of information for ridge and furrow

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4.4.4 What additional information would it be useful to have in the SHINE dataset in the future to allow its use in woodland creation schemes?

- Within the HMAAs there should be a field similar to 'Suitability for woodland creation' – this would be helpful, graded by 'yes, no or maybe'. That would really help with the development of the environmental land management where Defra is looking at different options and what different things this could apply to and a field indicating this would feed into Environmental Land Management. Could also be useful for our own dataset and a filter would make a big difference

- If proposing a flag for 'yes or no' to woodland creation, there would need to be detail on what specifically would be required. It cannot be utterly subjective, so there should be accompanying guidance

- There is the need to consult the right people properly about the impacts of a scheme, there is no shortcut to a proper consultation

- Advise applicants on when to consult individual HERs, and make it easier to consult by including phone numbers, job roles etc.

- Identify positive opportunities for woodland creation, within designed landscapes particularly. The positive aspects of woodland creation would be an appropriate thing to do through additional advice/identifying different areas

4.4.5 Are there any issues with the current SHINE guidance and accessibility that you think could be improved on in the future? Particularly considering the use of the SHINE dataset in woodland creation schemes/proposals?

- The heritage information is needed to ensure that it is not damaged inadvertently; accessing it should be made as easy as possible

- Would like clarification of relationship between the SHINE dataset and HEFER process

- Need to understand really early where information is held. Ideally you want to go through a screening process overall but with detail when need to drill down into it

- Want a constant simple source for information, at the end of a button. When E.L.M. gets brought in the information that I get needs to be clear, easy, and ongoing

- We get asked by colleagues for our input as to what HEFERS mean and what does the SHINE dataset know. Have to take complicated, often impenetrable documents and explain to others. Need clear guidance and training

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4.4.6 What, if any, would you say are the biggest challenges you face in using the SHINE dataset in the future, both in general and for woodland creation schemes/proposals?

ACCESS

- The SHINE dataset needs to be easily accessible
- Accessibility of SHINE data; currently it is only available on portal and needs account and individual ID. Making it accessible earlier in the process would make better decision making
- The SHINE datset is a bit of an anomaly; MAGIC has all other layers relevant to stewardship applications. It is another place to go to look at the information
- Needs guidance easily available on the internet
- Need information on non-designated heritage assets from a single source, and SHINE is the first readily available source of information
- Currently the Forestry Commission cannot use the SHINE dataset in woodland creation schemes but it would make a world of difference to have access to a non-designated national dataset for us and foresters
- If ALGAO says that the SHINE dataset cannot be used to inform woodland creation schemes, this will cause real issues for the Forestry Commission as Defra is developing a new environmental scheme (E.L.M.), and the England Woodland Creation Offer will form part of E.L.M.
- Under an EIA or EWCO application – we now have to pay for a proper historic environment response. The standard of those responses varies in usefulness. If you are paying, the response should be in line with UK Forestry Standard, and relevant to a planting scheme
- Need the information on heritage very early in the process to identify showstoppers; the more understanding you have at an early date the better

IMPROVEMENTS

- Needs more detail and interpretation, identifying what is truly important on a land holding
- Resourcing is a big issue, in order to ensure a sustainable system going forward
- Plan based data would be good, how it fits spatially. An understanding of the historic context and the specifics of the detail. A view on the level risk and its potential/value. Example – ridge and furrow is not as important in some areas as it is in others. You have got things that are designated and you know they are important and to keep away from them. But unless you are an archaeologist you cannot assess how significant the non-designated sites are; this is where SHINE comes in

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- There is a need to have expertise and information from a professional archaeologist

- Heritage should not just be a constraint in a planting scheme, it can be an opportunity to improve design and improve awareness of heritage

- The ultimate question for the SHINE dataset is a heritage feature worth taxpayers' money to be protected

- SHINE is a way of flagging up heritage priorities and opportunities and this would be the same if it was used for woodland creation

4.5 CREATOR WORKSHOP 1 – SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The key themes identified by the Creator workshop have been summarised; they echo many of the themes that were identified during the questionnaire and 1-2-1 interviews.

METHODOLOGIES

- Polygon standards were raised, particularly the issues re. gaps, size, abutments and 'slivers' needs to be addressed, but there will also need to be caution on not making maps too confusing for Users
- Concern that the Local Historic Environment Services would continue to be consulted regarding applications
- It was agreed that training and guidance would be needed for both Creators and for Users
- Agreed that there was a need for data-consistency, but with sufficient flexibility to allow for regional variations between what is significant

QUESTIONS FOR USERS

The questions that Creators would like to put to users were discussed:-

- Agreed that Users will need to make clear what each individual SHINE applications is for (agri-environment/woodland) before getting advice
- Do Users find it useful or confusing when multiple monuments are grouped together to make a large polygon?
- What would a User do if there is an application area with no SHINE data for it, would they presume that there are no archaeological implications?
- Would like more interaction with Users and feedback, did the planting scheme go ahead, was the heritage preserved within it?

ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND SHINE

- SHINE will form part of Environmental Land Management package. Currently it looks as if there will be a Sustainable Farm Initiative scheme (equivalent of mid-tier); these will not be consulted on but will not include woodland applications.

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Sustainable Farm Initiative Plus (equivalent of higher-tier) will include woodland and consultation for management options.

- The selection of sites for woodland is based on individual land-owners applying rather than the identification of the best sites for planting.

FUNDING AND TIME-RESOURCES

- Recognition by Forestry Commission that there will need to be extra funding to deal with the coverage and currency issues
- It was raised by a number of Creators that under-resourced HERs will have difficulty making bids for funding
- There will also be issues if there are tight timetables to the updating process; it is not a quick process finding new staff
- There was some discussion as to whether those Local Historic Environment Services that do not have the resources to undertake the work could sub-contract the work out to others; there would however be issues with regard to local knowledge

4.6 USER WORKSHOP 2 – SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

4.6.1 SHINE 'Creators' asked the following question of SHINE dataset 'Users'?

What additional metadata do you want included?

- Can you plant trees – yes/no/maybe
- Monument type
- Significance
- Contact details
- Option to link to the HER record

Would you like any advice embedded in the data?

- Discussion on this the as the data not just solely used for woodland creation, SHINE is also used for Farm Environment Plans, one use cannot supersede the other
- There are two elements to SHINE, the location of the archaeology is static, but the advice given is dynamic

Could SHINE dataset users provide more information upfront about the schemes for which SHINE records are created? What type of scheme is it, what are the outcomes, where and what sort of planting might happen?

- This would have to come through the consultation system for woodland creation that 'evolved' SHINE was used in
- Would better early contact with HERs help?

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Can there be work on a feedback mechanism from applicants. Did the scheme happen, was heritage protected, did the SHINE dataset help/work?

- This would have to come through the consultation system for woodland creation that 'evolved' SHINE was used in
- Improvements to the Forestry Commission Public Register are planned
- Maybe addressed by training for Users and Creators?

4.6.2 What are your ideas to enable the SHINE dataset to evolve for use in woodland creation? / What information do you need from the SHINE 'Creators' and what questions would you ask them? / What is the most important element of the SHINE dataset that has to change for you to support its use in woodland creation?

Better understanding of what SHINE is and how it is created

- Knowledge of what it shows and what needs further info/explanation
- Need for guidance and training for everyone. It needs to be clearly located on the internet so it can be accessed by anyone

Want tightly defined polygons

- Large polygons may needlessly exclude possible planting areas
- Large, aggregated features – could they be sub-divided, either by archaeological feature or by the use of HMAA polygons, or possibly the use of land-parcels

Want mechanisms to contact Local Historic Environment Services

- Keen to engage at early stage and to get more detailed information when required

Possible inclusion of hyperlinks to core HER data

- Allows greater investigation for key heritage assets

Consistent methodology

- Allows better decision making
- Significance needs to be very carefully assigned and described

Advice on whether HE features could be planted on?

- Maybe a suitability flag or Red/Amber/Green
- To steer advice conversations, not replace them

Advice on the historic environment being framed by the UK Forestry Standards

- A different regulation system to NPPF/Development Control

Simple/easy to understand data for non-designated heritage

- Raw HER data is too detailed, variable, and technical for many foresters

SHINE data and guidance/advice being online and downloadable

- Accessible, up-to-date, and linked to training

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Clear mapping outputs – maybe use of colour coding?

- Draw attention to highest significance/most sensitive

Improvements in management advice associated with SHINE (HMAA polygons or another system)

- Advice being feature specific and based on significance

Training relating to the use of the SHINE dataset

- How to use SHINE dataset and how to obtain suitable advice

Some information on the Monument a SHINE record describes

- If SHINE record is poorly titled it is hard to know what it relates to and locate on the ground

Ability to use SHINE data at an early stage in planning forestry activities

- Want to avoid show stoppers being raised late in the day

SHINE needs to be more accessible and more widely shared

- Preferably available in some form in GIS systems for Forestry Commission staff
- Need to be able to make an early registration for SHINE so that the data can be accessed as an early warning system, not part way through the process when decisions as to location have already taken place
- Use of the HEFER data download system to access mapping, so it can be downloaded and added to other datasets or printed out and carried out into field
- The current SHINE user portal is hard to navigate and understand

Broader selection of archaeological sites that are relevant to forestry

- Current selection criteria was not intended for woodland creation or forestry work

Some consideration of unknown/undiscovered heritage

- Acknowledgement that potential is a factor, and how to address this?

4.7 CREATOR WORKSHOP 3 – SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Discussion regarding the results of the User questionnaire/interviews/workshop and the combined Creator/User key findings

1) Emphasis on funding and resourcing, any evolution needs considerable investment
2) Forestry Commission needs to supply details as to who to contact to woodland applicants – ALGAO says use their contact list which should be up-to-date, also make use of generic in-boxes where available
3) Sometimes Users planning woodland not clear on what information they are asking for from Creators. The Forestry Commission are preparing standard format letters detailing what advice/data they need from Creators

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4) The workload/costs for Creators will need to include the breaking-up of existing SHINE polygons, where they comprise large, aggregated groups of features
5) UKFS standards – these are currently being revised
6) Training and guidance – this should sign-post the information that is already out there, no point re-inventing the wheel
7) Training and guidance – this needs to evolve with SHINE
8) Can SHINE deal with all aspects of archaeology, particularly potential/setting – no, will have to be dealt with by another means?

Q1 Are there any ideas about how SHINE could evolve for woodland creation that have been missed?

- Further discussion on contact details
- Funding, emphasis as to how this will be time and cost heavy and issues with existing workloads
- Dealing with very complex sites, how will these be broken up to form individual features, may not be possible for all sites
- Mitigation measures, these in themselves will have a cost implication
- Is SHINE the way to do this, should the money be spent on improving HERs ?
- Forestry Commission ran 4 pilot projects – ALGAO said SHINE evolution would be the way to go. The Woodland Creation Partnerships had identified that historic environment was a blocker to woodland creation, the current methods were slowing or stopping the process. Forestry Commission is looking for a solution to this – if not evolution of SHINE, what should be used?
- HER dataset underpins SHINE

Q2 As a SHINE dataset creator do you now have a better understanding of the needs of those who use the data?

- Some do not feel that what the Users want from SHINE is what SHINE is meant for
- If ALGAO feel strongly that Defra is going in the wrong direction with SHINE they need to write an official letter to Defra stating their opposition to its use for Environmental Land Management
- SHINE will not answer all of a User's needs – it must be part of a wider suite of data/advice

Q3 Which are the key areas to take forward?

- Polygon standards
- Improved significance/scoring
- Resourcing – including legacy SHINE - £750,000 available between 80+ HERs, but not anticipated all the HERs will be working on SHINE at the same time. If Forestry Commission fund HER improvements as well as SHINE it will spread the money thinner
- Should SHINE be taken forward at all ? Discussion on alternatives: a) Create a dataset of monument types based on HER export of data and significance, look at the reworking of the Heritage Gateway website. How would this work for HERs with no polygonal data, or where the polygons are of the field not the feature, or where there is no assessment of significance – would take a lot of reworking of data – would the FC fund this? ALGAO looked at creation of an alternative dataset previously and decided against

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b) If the Forestry Commission put money into the HERs it would need easy, free access to that data
c) The data currently on Heritage Gateway is specifically not intended for development or land management use – is ALGAO advocating a change in policy with regard to this?
d) Could the Forestry Commission Public Register be adapted – so that an applicant could upload an email to the relevant HER with a map showing proposed scheme and get a response within 20 days, the HER would not be paid if it went over 20 days or there was no response. Could this be adjusted so that if there was no response within 20 days the applicant could presume that there were no archaeological issues?

Q4 Can SHINE address all of the issues identified?

- Is all of the wish-list possible? No; there will still have to be other datasets and ways of approaching individual issues such as setting

Q5 What form would the training or guidance take?

- Training would need to be provided by ALGAO to ensure consistency
- Would need to cover both Creators and Users
- Would need to online and freely accessible

4.8 FORESTRY COMMISSION – MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE SHINE DATASET AND EVOLVING THE SHINE DATASET FOR WOODLAND CREATION

The following issues were raised and addressed during the three SHINE workshops, where Forestry Commission staff were able to communicate directly with concerned individuals/groups (e.g. ALGAO).

During the three workshops and numerous one-to-one interviews conducted as part of Project F, a number of issues were raised in relation to both the current SHINE dataset and also in any possible evolution to allow it to inform woodland creation. Many of these concerns would require further thought in order to be addressed, but some were misconceptions that reflected a need for further engagement to be undertaken and for revised/enhanced training and documentation to be produced.

However, the discussions that took place during these workshops (and in other interactions related to the national historic environment datasets for woodland creation project) allowed many of these misconceptions to be explored. In order to avoid embedding these further, it may be helpful to detail them here and provide clarity. Issues have been split into those relating to SHINE data itself and those which deal with SHINE data being used in forestry.

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SHINE dataset

1. **Use of SHINE data or evolving SHINE for woodland creation will remove or reduce contact with local historic environment services for advice and data**

Irrespective of evolving/using SHINE data for woodland creation, the Forestry Commission still intends to notify local historic environment services of forestry proposals. In addition, the current UK Forestry Standard (UKFS; 2017) requires all woodland creation proposers to contact local historic environment services to get their advice and guides the proposers to check the HER records from the relevant local historic environment service.

2. **SHINE data is too basic to use and the core Historic Environment Record (HER) should be used instead**

When correctly created (with attribute data provided to the SHINE specification) the SHINE data is suitable for those proposing agri-environment and forestry projects. The core HER data is complex and not always suitable for this audience. However, SHINE data allows local historic environment services to signpost users to the core HER data. An evolved SHINE dataset could go further in enabling access to more detailed HER records where users require to follow up on what they receive through SHINE data.

3. **The SHINE dataset only identifies opportunities to manage heritage assets**

The SHINE dataset was designed and is currently used to deal with both constraints (actions to avoid or that are not beneficial) as well as opportunities (actions to encourage or that are beneficial in terms of protection and enhancement). This is borne out in the current options available though the HEFER process for Countryside Stewardship, and similar principles would apply to woodland creation schemes if they used the SHINE dataset.

4. **Documentation about the SHINE dataset is published and widely available, so it should be understood that it is not a comprehensive dataset for non-designated heritage assets**

Whilst the SHINE dataset is acknowledged by local historic environment services to be a subset of the wider data held in the HERs of local historic environment services, this is not always understood by woodland creation proposers or those within the forestry sector. This is because the documentation relating to the SHINE methodology, workflow guidance and polygon standards are currently only available through the SHINE portal used for agri-environment scheme work. As it is important for everyone to understand the composition of the dataset, it's purpose and the caveats that relate to its use, the documentation for the SHINE dataset needs to be readily available online. Enabling understanding and appropriate use of SHINE data could also be achieved through training and improved documentation that sets out the 'terms of use' and caveats more clearly.

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5. **SHINE does not cover 'potential', historic landscape character and setting, but needs to**

Currently the SHINE dataset does not deal with any of these material concerns, and it has no mandate to do so. In woodland creation these factors can be dealt with through advice provided by local historic environment services and the use of other datasets (such as designated heritage assets datasets and HLC). Any evolution of SHINE is not intended to occur without associated advice and changes to the model of contact with local historic environment services is not being proposed. In addition, the national historic environment datasets project for woodland creation will be using a broad range of heritage datasets and is not looking to use SHINE alone.

Forestry

1. **Woodland creation is always harmful to heritage and has no benefits to heritage**

While woodland creation can have an impact on heritage assets, it has to be acknowledged that the scale of this impact varies (as is the case with various actions undertaken for agri-environment reasons). In addition, some woodland creation can be beneficial – such as restoration of historic parkland woodland, replanting of lost historic woodland or creation of areas of open space to safeguard certain heritage assets.

2. **Woodland creation and other forestry activities are another type of 'development' and should be dealt with as such**

The thought processes for considering woodland creation schemes and development (as delivered through town and county planning) are different. Most importantly, woodland creation follows the principles set out in the UKFS (the government's approach to sustainable forestry) and development schemes follow the principles set out in the NPPF. In order to get successful woodland creation schemes it is important that the advice given accords with the UKFS (i.e., is UKFS compliant). The manner in which impact on heritage assets is 'mitigated' differs in the UKFS and NPPF.

3. **SHINE data for forestry would be identifying areas where woodland creation cannot occur**

As previously stated, SHINE data identifies opportunities as well as constraints. It must not be assumed that all heritage assets identified within the SHINE dataset have no capacity to be planted (although it is true many will not). The key will be in how local historic environment services can highlight which assets could have some potential for woodland creation and identifying those where it would not be as suitable (or indeed possible).

4. **Woodland creation is always large scale and potentially very damaging/impactful for heritage**

It must not be assumed that all woodland creation schemes will involve dense planting patterns, large trees and/or conifers alone. Woodland creation is an umbrella term that can cover a variety of schemes that can vary in terms of density, species planted and

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associated below ground/above ground impact. Following on from training provided by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Forestry Commission in 2021, more information and training is needed to support local historic environment services to understand the impacts of forestry and help them to advise on proposals accordingly.

5. **Evolving the SHINE dataset for forestry would preclude other ideas for improving the woodland creation model**

While potentially evolving the SHINE dataset for use in woodland creation is a key avenue of research for the national historic environment datasets project, it does not preclude the development of other aspects. Any evolution of SHINE wouldn't be carried out instead of some other options like improving the Forestry Commission's Public Register or creating solutions to assist proposers contacting local historic environment services for their input. SHINE evolution should not be seen as an either/or scenario in this regard.

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5. The strategic framework for evolving SHINE

Currently the SHINE dataset is used mainly for agri-environment purposes, with Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER) consultations that form part of Defra's Countryside Stewardship. Defra is currently in the process of undertaking a significant reform of agricultural policy and spending in England. As part of this process a new scheme of Environmental Land Management (E.L.M.) is being developed and rolled out, in order to pay for environmental and climate goods and services.

E.L.M. will currently comprise:

1. Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)
2. Countryside Stewardship (CS Plus)
3. Landscape Recovery (LR)

Currently, consideration of non-designated heritage assets is dealt with through the use of the SHINE dataset in SFI (as well as in spatial prioritisation associated with E.L.M.). The current system of Countryside Stewardship is to be retained and improved (being referred to as 'enhanced Countryside Stewardship' or 'Countryside Stewardship Plus') within E.L.M. This was announced by the Secretary of State in December 2022. As the current system of Countryside Stewardship makes use of SHINE data to enable the protection and management of non-designated heritage assets in agri-environment schemes, it may be reasonable to assume that the SHINE dataset will continue in use for the enhanced Countryside Stewardship delivered through E.L.M.

An announcement at ministerial level was made in July 2022 that the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO), which is the Forestry Commission's flagship scheme to encourage woodland creation, will move into E.L.M. by 2025. It was stated that EWCO would not enter the Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme and thus looks likely to be part of enhanced Countryside Stewardship. While there has not been any confirmation from Defra yet that SHINE data will continue to be used in enhanced Countryside Stewardship, it may be the most likely scenario at this stage. On that basis, it seems probable that the use of SHINE data for EWCO would be the route taken in terms of consideration of non-designated heritage assets.

So the proposal to evolve the current SHINE dataset to make it suitable to inform woodland creation has been guided by the development of E.L.M. and the implied direction of travel in terms of heritage data. While no confirmation has been given yet by Defra on the data to be used in E.L.M. the likelihoods need to be acknowledged and their impact on data used within both agri-environment and woodland creations schemes understood.

For more information please see the following webpage:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-update-how-government-will-pay-for-land-based-environment-and-climate-goods-and-services/environmental-land-management-elm-update-how-government-will-pay-for-land-based-environment-and-climate-goods-and-services

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6. Assessment of key themes and recommendations

Analysis of the results of the stakeholder engagement events has identified a number of key themes regarding the current version of the SHINE dataset. Many of these are long held concerns, and this current study offers an opportunity to address at least some of them. These are listed below and ranked by priority and feasibility, with recommendations also made as to how/whether these issues can be addressed to enable evolution of the SHINE dataset so that it can be used to inform the woodland creation process.

However, it has to be emphasised that any decision regarding the suitability or otherwise of an area for woodland creation would also require consultation with the relevant local historic environment services to gain local, professional advice on the specific proposal under consideration.

1. Resourcing - Currently, local historic environment services do not have the financial resources or capacity to participate in a large-scale overhaul of the SHINE dataset.

   Recommendation: The evolution of the SHINE dataset needs full financial resourcing; this may include cost of new members of staff for local historic environment services in order to ensure that have capacity to accommodate SHINE evolution into their existing workloads. In some cases, other delivery models may need to be explored, such as the short-term hiring of specialist contractors to support the local historic environment services.

2. Polygon standards - The 20m gap requirement for heritage assets leads to either the use of amalgamated asset groups that end users find hard to work with, or portions of heritage assets not being included in SHINE polygons as they are too close to neighbouring SHINE polygons.

   Recommendation: The 20m gap requirement should be removed allowing a more accurate reflection of the distribution and extent of heritage assets.

3. Polygon standards - Currently the SHINE dataset has a restrictions on the minimum size of polygons which means that the actual size of small heritage asset types is not accurately mapped.

   Recommendation: The polygon size restrictions need to either be removed or amended so that the true scale of smaller heritage assets can be mapped. This is especially important when considering monuments potentially impacted upon by woodland creation.

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4. Polygon standards - There are currently issues with complex polygon shapes and also the accidental creation of 'slivers' that occur when offering management advice (HMAA).

Recommendation: These issues need to be scrutinised and methodologies tested to see if their occurrence can be removed or reduced in future iterations of the SHINE dataset.

5. Asset types - There is an identified need to re-evaluate the selection criteria of the monument types that are eligible for inclusion in the SHINE dataset to account for the different nature and process of woodland creation. In addition, the selection of monument types represented needs to permit flexibility in regard to which monuments are significant within the local area/region.

Recommendation: Development of new selection criteria for monument types, and improved guidance on what to include and how to identify significance.

6. Currency and coverage - Currently the SHINE dataset has only partial coverage and is only updated when individual agri-environment or forestry applications are received by the local historic environment service.

Recommendation: A decision will be needed on whether an evolved SHINE dataset will aim for total coverage and be regularly updated or whether it will be updated on a case-by-case basis as woodland creation applications are received by the local historic environment service.

7. Currency and coverage - Currently SHINE has only been undertaken for rural areas, however woodland creation applications may include the infilling of open space within urban and peri-urban areas.

Recommendation: The coverage of the SHINE dataset will need to be extended to include these urban/peri-urban areas.

8. Currency and coverage – Better access and sharing of the SHINE dataset. A lack of open access to SHINE data is a problem for woodland creation proposers and the wider forestry sector and makes it more challenging to achieve good conservation outcomes. Other similar datasets are available through portals such as MAGIC. Better access to a fit-for-purpose SHINE datset, along with clear guidance as to its nature, purpose and use would be very beneficial to the consideration and protection of non-designated heritage assets in forestry projects.

Recommendation: The Forestry Commission to work with ALGAO to consider ways to approve access to SHINE data

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and to consider whether it could become an open dataset in the future

9. Contact details - Many end users of the SHINE dataset want up-to-date, and specific, contact details for the relevant local historic environment services to enable them to obtain additional information where required and seek advice.

   Recommendation: The application form for SHINE data/advice or the metadata for each SHINE advice polygon could include specific contact details for the relevant local historic environment services. Alternatively, the ALGAO community need to update their individual details on the ALGAO website so that those proposing woodland creation can easily contact the relevant individuals/teams.

10. Advice - There is a need to identify whether an application received by the local historic environment services or Historic England relates to agri-environment or forestry, and the nature of any such woodland creation proposal.

    Recommendation: The 'consultation' form received by the local historic environment service (which may necessitate the creation of SHINE data) should include details concerning what the applicant intends to do (agri-environment or forestry scheme) and gives some basic information about any woodland creation/forestry scheme.

11. Advice - SHINE was designed to inform agri-environment scheme options (constraints and opportunities). Use of it for woodland creation gives rise to different constraints and opportunities and leads to a different thought process and advice giving mechanic.

    Recommendations: An evolved SHINE dataset would need the advice options given to the applicants to be tailored to include those appropriate for woodland creation, as well as still maintaining the existing options used for agri-environment schemes.

12. Advice - The forestry sector is keen that if the SHINE dataset evolves that it includes some indication of whether each heritage asset has 'capacity to be planted' or a relative 'sensitivity to planting'. This could be in the form of a 'yes/no/maybe' field in the dataset for each SHINE polygon, or a rating on a more nuanced scale. This could tie into advice to the applicant about consulting the local historic environment service. This would help to establish early in the process whether woodland creation is feasible within that polygon or not.

    Recommendation: The metadata to include a new data field to deal with 'capacity to plant' or 'sensitivity to planting'

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to flag suitability for woodland creation. Options for colour-coding this as part of mapping output to be explored.

13. Training - Both creators and users of the SHINE dataset would like readily available, easily accessible training and guidance on both how SHINE data is created, how it is to be used, an understanding of its limitations and where to seek further advice on a scheme.

    Recommendations: Forestry Commission to work with ALGAO to produce training and guidance for creating/using the SHINE dataset. This could include guidance manuals and online training videos that are available throughout year and can be easily sourced on the internet.

14. Asset types - Historic parks and gardens are a larger heritage asset and landscape type which have specific sensitivities, as well as potentially providing opportunities to woodland creation schemes. The way in which these are included in the SHINE dataset needs to be reviewed.

    Recommendations: Need to develop an agreed approach as some planting maybe encouraged, but it needs to be in keeping with the heritage asset. The development of an additional historic parks and gardens dataset could be explored, using the Registered Parks and Gardens as a starting-point and supplementing with the data on HLC and other sources. Alternatively, the SHINE dataset methodology should specify how to deal with parks and any new metadata fields could indicate a 'capacity for planting' or similar.

15. Advice - Local historic environment services (who create SHINE data) would like the opportunity to review and comment on any schemes (agri-environment or woodland creation) where SHINE data is used irrespective of the application tier.

    Recommendation: ALGAO to discuss with Forestry Commission and DEFRA.

16. Asset types – The SHINE dataset works on an individual site basis; it is less able to identify significant historic landscape areas that could be impacted or enhanced by woodland creation. A decision needs to be made about whether the SHINE dataset can consider historic landscape character and setting.

    Recommendation: This is a complex issue that will require further thought and perhaps the development of a separate data set. The HLC and the National Landscape Character Areas go part way to identifying historic landscape types, but they do not grade by significance or degree of survival, nor do they explore the nature of any historic woodland within those landscapes.

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17. Advice - The SHINE dataset currently identifies constraints and opportunities in relation to the heritage assets that are represented by a SHINE polygon/record. It focuses on advice for managing these assets within an agri-environment scheme. However, the current dataset does not proactively identify areas where woodland creation might be a favourable or suitable option for the land.

    Recommendation: It is considered that this may require a separate map layer or dataset, in order that there is no confusion over the role of the SHINE dataset as a means of protecting heritage assets within agri-environment (and potentially forestry) schemes.

18. Asset types – The SHINE dataset currently only records known heritage assets whose location and extent can be accurately plotted, it does not deal with the potential of an area for having further, as yet unknown, archaeology, or those areas where the presence of a site is hinted at by find-spots but cannot be accurately mapped or characterised.

    Recommendation: It is considered that this is not an issue that can be tackled by an evolved SHINE dataset. Instead, it would require individual, locally-based, advice supplied by the relevant local historic environment services.

19. Asset types - The impact on the setting of a heritage asset is more of a consideration during woodland creation schemes/proposals than it is for most agri-environment schemes.

    Recommendations: It is considered that this may not be an issue that can be tackled by an evolved SHINE dataset. Instead, it would require individual, locally-based, advice supplied by the relevant local historic environment services or in some cases by Historic England.

6.1 FINAL COMMENTS

The analysis and recommendations above are intended to support the development of an evolved SHINE dataset that would be suitable for use in woodland creation schemes/proposals.

However, it is accepted that any evolved SHINE dataset cannot address all of the issues raised as part of the stakeholder engagement process. In particular, it may not be a suitable means of addressing the impacts of woodland creation on the setting of a heritage asset or define the historic landscape character in which the asset exists. Nor can it establish the

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potential for unknown archaeology to be present within an area proposed for woodland creation.

It is also evident from the stakeholder engagement that the SHINE dataset is only one part of a process in understanding the significance of the historic environment present within a proposal area. This includes understanding any potential impacts of woodland creation and the likelihood for changes being required to the scheme or any requirement for mitigation measures. Any decision regarding the suitability, or otherwise, of an area of land for woodland creation would likely require combining the use of the SHINE dataset with advice from the local historic environment service, so that local expertise could be provided for the specific proposal being put forward.

Furthermore, it was clear from the third stakeholder engagement workshop (SHINE Creator Workshop 2 held on 22/02/2023) that an evolution of the SHINE dataset was not seen as the only way to proceed when considering non-designated heritage assets within woodland creation proposals. A range of alternative approaches were raised and briefly discussed at this workshop, and the Forestry Commission may need to hold further discussions with ALGAO regarding the feasibility and practicability of these options.

These full range of options proposed included:

1) Continue with the evolution of the SHINE dataset
    - In-line with the Forestry Commission research and engagement

2) Development of a new alternative dataset of non-designated heritage assets specifically for use in considering woodland creation schemes/proposals
    - Potentially created from HER data/other datasets but different to SHINE

3) Use of Historic England's Heritage Gateway to enable forestry proposers' access to core HER data rather than using the SHINE dataset
    - Discussions would be needed with Historic England about the feasibility of this option

4) Commission software that can 'convert' core HER data into SHINE data
    - Discussions would be needed with software developers (such as Idox/Exegesis) about the feasibility of this option

5) Provide investment for local historic environment services to improve their HERs and the data they hold. This would make it more useful/usable to the forestry sector
    - Would need to consider data access, complexity and uniformity. Discussions would be needed with ALGAO and the forestry sector

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6) Maintain the current scenario of direct consultations between woodland creation proposers and the relevant local historic environment services. Options could include using a proforma and be on a 'no-response, no-payment' basis?
    - Discussions would be needed with ALGAO and the forestry sector

While this report makes no comment on the feasibility of these options, it should be noted that there is a very tight timescale to meet the programme of woodland creation that the Forestry Commission have been mandated to deliver on behalf of central government.

6.2 NEXT STEPS FOR SHINE EVOLUTION

The national historic environment datasets for woodland creation project is currently scheduled to run until March 2025. This ties in with the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) moving into Defra's Environmental Land Management (E.L.M.) by 2025. As such, a decision on SHINE evolution is needed in a short timescale, to enable readiness for woodland creation to move into E.L.M.

Therefore, following the publication of this report (and those detailing Project E) there will be a need to move towards a decision on whether evolving the SHINE dataset for use in woodland creation is feasible and desirable. Evidence from the research projects conducted in 2022-23 will be evaluated to inform this 'in-principal' decision.

The Forestry Commission intends to produce an options paper by mid-April 2023 to set out the available ways to proceed in terms of the evolution of the SHINE dataset. These options will be scoped and assessed using the available evidence, and then put forward to the national historic environment datasets for woodland creation's SHINE-enhancement working group. This group has representation from the ALGAO, Forestry Commission, Historic England and Natural England. The intention is that this group can reach a consensus on which option for SHINE evolution is the most suitable/agreeable and make a recommendation on the manner in which to proceed. This recommendation would then be reviewed by the project sponsors within Defra.

If a decision is taken to evolve the SHINE dataset, then there would be a subsequent opportunity for stakeholders to decide upon the technical details (data content, methodology etc.) and IT infrastructure (data portal, hosting and other delivery mechanisms) before any national roll-out of the evolved SHINE dataset would occur (potentially summer/autumn 2023).

If a decision is taken not to evolve the SHINE dataset to allow its use in woodland creation, then the Forestry Commission would explore other avenues of delivery and datasets that could enable the national historic environment datasets for woodland creation

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project to deliver its mandate (a mandate set by the government's England Tree Action Plan 2021-24 action 4.6)

At the time of writing, a formal decision on SHINE evolution is expected to be taken at the end of April 2023 and the formal announcement of any such decision to be made in early May 2023.

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Forestry Commission, 2017, *The UK Forestry Standard: The governments' approach to sustainable forestry*, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh

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Robertson D. & Shaw L., 2021, *Strategic data for the historic environment and woodland creation: proposed pilot projects* (Forestry Commission internal document)

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Appendix 1: Questionnaire

The views of SHINE record users and creators on its use for woodland creation

Online survey v1.0

EMAIL INVITATION

TITLE: Exploring the potential for the use of the SHINE dataset for woodland creation

Dear <NAME>,

We would like to invite you [TEXTFILL IF ALGAO MEMBER: <as an ALGAO member> / TEXTFILL FOR OTHERS: <as a relevant stakeholder>] to complete the following survey being conducted by **Place Services** on behalf of the **Forestry Commission**.

About the survey

The Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE) is a single, nationally consistent dataset of non-designated historic environment features that would benefit from management through agri-environment scheme delivery in England. Data about suitable sites is created by local authority Historic Environment Records (HERs) and fed into the national SHINE dataset.

This survey is being conducted by **Place Services** on behalf of the **Forestry Commission** as part of a project to explore whether the SHINE methodology could be evolved so SHINE can be used to inform woodland creation proposals.

It is important that we capture the views of a broad range of stakeholders – including both SHINE record creators and users – alongside those that do not currently use the SHINE dataset.

How the data will be used

The information collected within the survey will be analysed by Place Services and reported to the Forestry Commission **in anonymised form** as part of a final project report - survey responses will be aggregated and any quotations used within the reporting will not be linked to your organisation. This analysis may be shared with wider stakeholders and/or published by the Forestry Commission.

Place Services, as part of Essex County Council, fully complies with information legislation. Click here for Place Services' privacy notice.

Completing the survey

- The survey should take between 5-20 minutes to complete, depending on your answers.
- The deadline for completing the survey is **midday on Wednesday 18th January 2023.**

To access the survey, please click the following link:
<LINK>

Should you have any questions about the survey then please contact Place Services by emailing **survey.placeservices@essex.gov.uk**

Maria Medlycott, MA, MCIfA, FSA
Senior Historic Environment Consultant
Place Services

***Place Services** is a public sector provider of environmental assessment, planning, design and management services. Place Services operates as a traded service of Essex County Council.*

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SURVEY INTRODUCTION SCREEN

About the survey

The Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE) is a single, nationally consistent dataset of non-designated historic environment features that would benefit from management through agri-environment scheme delivery in England. Data about suitable sites is created by local authority Historic Environment Records (HERs) and fed into the national SHINE dataset.

This survey is being conducted by **Place Services** on behalf of the **Forestry Commission** as part of a project to explore whether the SHINE methodology could be updated so SHINE can be used to inform woodland creation proposals.

It is important that we capture the views of a broad range of stakeholders – including both SHINE record creators and users – alongside those that do not currently use SHINE.

How the data will be used

The information collected within the survey will be analysed by Place Services and reported to the Forestry Commission **in anonymised form** as part of a final project report - survey responses will be aggregated and any quotations used within the reporting will not be linked to your organisation. This analysis may be shared with wider stakeholders and/or published by the Forestry Commission.

Place Services, as part of Essex County Council, fully complies with information legislation. Click here for Place Services' privacy notice.

PRESS <NEXT> TO START THE SURVEY

A. CREATOR SURVEY

When answering the following questions, please think about your current organisation and not any you have worked at previously.

Q1. Do you/your organisation create SHINE polygons?

a. Yes
b. No – we've stopped doing this but used to in the past
c. No – have never done this

ASK IF Q1 = a OR b
Q2. [IF Q1=a: You said you/your organisation create SHINE polygons. / IF Q1=b: You said you/your organisation created SHINE polygons in the past.] When were these last updated?

PLEASE SELECT THE FIRST OPTION THAT APPLIES

a. Within the last 12 months
b. Within the last 3 years
c. Within the last 5 years
d. Within the last 10 years
e. More than 10 years ago
f. Don't know
g. Other (please explain)

ASK IF Q1 = a OR b
Q3. How comprehensive is SHINE coverage of your area?

a. Complete coverage
b. Partial coverage (please specify on what basis – OPEN ENDED)
c. Don't know

ASK IF Q1 = b OR c

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Q4. Why do you/your organisation not create SHINE polygons [IF Q1=b: anymore]?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

a. We do not have sufficient time or capacity to create them
b. We cover an urban/predominantly urban area
c. We do not consider there is an advantage in doing so (please explain why below)
d. Don't know
e. Other (please specify)

ASK IF Q1 = c

Q5. Have you personally ever created SHINE polygons, for example in a previous role with another organisation?

a. Yes
b. No

ASK IF Q1 = a OR b

Q6. Do you/your organisation provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process?

a. Yes
b. No – we've stopped doing this but used to in the past
c. No – have never done this

ASK IF Q6 = b OR c

Q7. Why do you/your organisation not provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process [IF Q6=b: anymore]?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

a. We do not have sufficient time or capacity to do so
b. We cover an urban/predominantly urban area
c. We do not consider there is an advantage in doing so (please explain why below)
d. Don't know
e. Other (please specify)

ASK Q8-Q10 OF ALL CREATORS

Q8. To what extent do you consider that SHINE could be used to inform woodland creation schemes?

a. Definitely could
b. Probably could
c. Probably couldn't
d. Definitely couldn't
e. Don't know

Q9. What issues, if any, should be addressed to improve SHINE for woodland creation?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

a. Mapping
b. Methodology
c. Monument types included
d. Coverage
e. Updatability of dataset
f. Financial support
g. Specific advice from the local historic environment service
h. Don't know
i. Other (please specify)
j. None – no issues need to be addressed

Q10. What new additional SHINE metadata, if any, would be needed for your local historic environment service to provide advice on woodland creation proposals?

OPEN-ENDED

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ASK ALL
Q11. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Please use the box below should you wish to provide any further comments or information.

ASK ALL
Q12. As part of this research we would appreciate the opportunity to recontact a number of respondents:

a) should we wish to clarify any of your responses
b) to take part in further discussions about this topic

Please state below whether you would be happy for Place Services to recontact you in relation to this research.

☐ Yes
☐ No

IF YES: please confirm your name and email below

NAME:

EMAIL:

B. USER SURVEY

When answering the following questions, please think about your current organisation and not any you have worked at previously.

Q1. Do you/your organisation use SHINE to inform your decisions?

a. Yes
b. No – we've stopped doing this but used to in the past
c. No – have never done this

ASK IF Q1 = a OR b
Q2. When did you/your organisation last use SHINE to inform your decisions?

PLEASE SELECT THE FIRST OPTION THAT APPLIES

a. Within the last 12 months
b. Within the last 3 years
c. Within the last 5 years
d. Within the last 10 years
e. More than 10 years ago
f. Don't know
g. Other (please explain)

ASK IF Q1 = b OR c
Q3. Why do you/your organisation not use SHINE to inform your decisions [IF Q1=b: anymore]?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

a. I am not aware of SHINE/what it does
b. It is not relevant to my role
c. I/we do not consider there is an advantage in doing so (please specify)
d. Don't know

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e. Other (please specify)

ASK IF Q1 = c

Q4. Have you personally ever used SHINE to inform your decisions, for example in a previous role with another organisation?

a. Yes
b. No

ASK IF Q1 = a OR b

Q5. Have you/your organisation used SHINE for existing woodland management?

a. Yes
b. No

ASK Q6-8 OF ALL USERS

Q6. To what extent do you consider that SHINE could be used to inform woodland creation schemes?

a. Definitely could
b. Probably could
c. Probably couldn't
d. Definitely couldn't
e. Don't know

Q7. What would you like to see in the SHINE dataset?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

a. Polygons of individual archaeological features
b. More details on monuments
c. An HMAA field saying yes/no to woodland creation on a historic feature
d. Contact details to obtain advice regarding archaeological implications for woodland creation scheme
e. Don't know
f. Other (please specify)
g. None of the above

Q8. What changes, if any, might be needed with the presentation of, and access to, SHINE data to enable it to be used in woodland creation?

OPEN ENDED

ASK ALL

Q9. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Please use the box below should you wish to provide any further comments or information.

ASK ALL

Q10. As part of this research we would appreciate the opportunity to recontact a number of respondents:

a) should we wish to clarify any of your responses
b) to take part in further discussions about this topic

Please state below whether you would be happy for Place Services to recontact you in relation to this research.

☐ Yes
☐ No

IF YES: please confirm your name and email below

NAME:

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EMAIL :

Appendix 2: Creator Questionnaire toplines

Creator survey

NOTE: Percentages only shown for sub-group base sizes of 10 or more.

Q1. Do you/your organisation create SHINE polygons?	n	%
Yes	40	80%
No – we've stopped doing this but used to in the past	4	8%
No – have never done this	6	12%
Grand total	50	
Base: All creator survey respondents		

Q2a. You said you/your organisation create SHINE polygons. When were these last updated? SELECT THE FIRST OPTION THAT APPLIES	n	%
Within the last 12 months	32	80%
Within the last 3 years	2	5%
Within the last 5 years	2	5%
Within the last 10 years	0	0%
More than 10 years ago	0	0%
Other - timescale not stated	4	10%
Don't know	0	0%
Grand Total	40	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation create SHINE polygons		

Q2b. You said you/your organisation created SHINE polygons in the past. When were these last updated? SELECT THE FIRST OPTION THAT APPLIES	n	%
Within the last 12 months	0	-
Within the last 3 years	0	-
Within the last 5 years	2	-
Within the last 10 years	1	-
More than 10 years ago	1	-
Don't know	0	-
Grand Total	4	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation had created SHINE polygons in the past but had stopped doing so		

Q3. How comprehensive is SHINE coverage of your area?	n	%
Complete coverage	9	20%
Partial coverage	33	75%
Don't know	2	5%
Grand Total	44	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation create or used to create SHINE polygons		

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Q4. Why do you/your organisation not create SHINE polygons (anymore)?	n	%
We do not have sufficient time or capacity to create them	6	60%
We cover an urban/predominantly urban area	3	30%
We do not consider there is an advantage in doing so	2	20%
Creation of SHINE records/polygons is done by another local authority/HER	2	20%
Other	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%
Grand total	10	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation had never created SHINE polygons or used to but have stopped doing so		

Q5. Have you personally ever created SHINE polygons, for example in a previous role with another organisation?	n	%
Yes	1	-
No	5	-
Grand Total	6	-
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation had never created SHINE polygons		

Q6. Do you/your organisation provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process?	n	%
Yes	43	98%
No – we've stopped doing this but used to in the past	0	0%
No – have never done this	1	2%
Grand Total	44	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation create or used to create SHINE polygons		

Q7. Why do you/your organisation not provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process (anymore)?	n	%
We do not have sufficient time or capacity to do so	1	-
We cover an urban/predominantly urban area	0	-
We do not consider there is an advantage in doing so	0	-
Other	0	-
Don't know	0	-
Grand Total	1	
Base: All creator survey respondents whose organisation whose organisation create or used to create SHINE polygons but have never provide advice to Countryside Stewardship applicants through the SHINE process		

Q8. To what extent do you consider that SHINE could be used to inform woodland creation schemes?	n	%
Definitely could	5	10%
Probably could	21	42%
Probably couldn't	12	24%
Definitely couldn't	7	14%
Don't know	5	10%
Grand Total	50	
NET: Could	26	52%
NET: Couldn't	19	38%

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Base: All creator survey respondents		

Q9. What issues, if any, should be addressed to improve SHINE for woodland creation?	n	%
Financial support	42	84%
Specific advice from the local historic environment service	40	80%
Coverage	39	78%
Methodology	37	74%
Monument types included	37	74%
Updatability of dataset	33	66%
Mapping	31	62%
Other	4	8%
None – no issues need to be addressed	0	0%
No response - SHINE cannot be used for this purpose	1	2%
Don't know	2	4%
Grand total	50	
Base: All creator survey respondents		

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Appendix 3: User Questionnaire toplines

NOTE: Percentages only shown for sub-group base sizes of 10 or more.

Q1. Do you/your organisation use SHINE to inform your decisions?	n	%
Yes	13	62%
No – we've stopped doing this but used to in the past	1	5%
No – have never done this	7	33%
Grand total	21	
Base: All user survey respondents		

Q2. When did you/your organisation last use SHINE to inform your decisions? SELECT THE FIRST OPTION THAT APPLIES	n	%
Within the last 12 months	14	100%
Within the last 3 years	0	0%
Within the last 5 years	0	0%
Within the last 10 years	0	0%
More than 10 years ago	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%
Grand total	14	
Base: All user survey respondents whose organisation use SHINE to inform their decisions or who have stopped doing this but used to in the past		

Q3. Why do you/your organisation not use SHINE to inform your decisions (anymore)?	n	%
I am not aware of SHINE/what it does	2	-
Do not consider there is an advantage in doing so - use local HER data requests directly with the records office or online local HER search	1	-
It is not relevant to my role	1	-
Limited access and application	1	-
Not permitted to use it in relation to woodland creation	1	-
Only use it when prompted to (CS Higher Tier grants)	1	-
Don't know	1	-
Grand total	8	
Base: All user survey respondents whose organisation have never used SHINE to inform their decisions or who have stopped doing this but used to in the past		

Q4. Have you personally ever used SHINE to inform your decisions, for example in a previous role with another organisation?	n	%
Yes	3	-
No	4	-
Grand total	7	
Base: All user survey respondents whose organisation have never used SHINE to inform their decisions		

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Q5. Have you/your organisation used SHINE for existing woodland management?	n	%
Yes	11	79%
No	3	21%
Grand total	14	
Base: All user survey respondents whose organisation use SHINE to inform their decisions or who have stopped doing this but used to in the past		

Q6. To what extent do you consider that SHINE could be used to inform woodland creation schemes?	n	%
Definitely could	7	32%
Probably could	9	41%
Probably couldn't	0	0%
Definitely couldn't	3	14%
Don't know	3	14%
Grand Total *	22	
NET: Could	16	73%
NET: Couldn't	3	14%

Base: All user survey respondents * Note that one user completed a creator survey, therefore their response to this question is included here

Q7. What would you like to see in the SHINE dataset?	n	%
Polygons of individual archaeological features	18	86%
An HMAA field saying yes/no to woodland creation on a historic feature	16	76%
More details on monuments	15	71%
Contact details to obtain advice regarding archaeological implications for woodland creation scheme	15	71%
Other	5	24%
None of the above	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%
Grand total	21	
Base: All user survey respondents		

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Appendix 4: 1-2-1 Interviews

List of organisations contacted for 1-2-1 interviews

Stakeholder Category	Organisation	Completed survey?	Named contact	Interview
SHINE record creator Project E	Bedford Borough Council	Y	Matthew Tuohy	Completed
SHINE record creator Project E	Cambridgeshire County Council	Y	Ruth Beckley	Completed
SHINE record creator	Cornwall Council	N	Emma Trevarthen	Completed
SHINE record creator	Cumbria County Council	Y	Mark Brennand	Completed
SHINE record user	Forestry Commission	Y	David Robertson	Completed
SHINE record creator	Durham County Council	Y	Nick Boldrini	Completed
SHINE record user	Forestry Commission	Y	Catrin Jenkins	Completed
SHINE record creator	Essex County Council	Y	Alison Bennett	Completed
SHINE record user	Gide Associates	Y	Gareth Price	completed
SHINE record user	Great Northumberland Forest	Y	Abi Mansley	Completed
SHINE record creator Project E	Gloucestershire County Council	Y	Anna Morris	Completed
SHINE record user	Historic England	Y	Sarah Poppy	Completed
SHINE record user	Historic England	Y	Jez Bretherton	Completed
SHINE record user	Isis Forestry Ltd	Y	Graham Garratt	Completed

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SHINE record user	Lockhart Garrett Nicholsons	Y	Katie Stevens	Completed
SHINE record creator	Northumberland County Council	Y	Liz Williams	Completed
SHINE record creator Project E	South West Heritage Trust	Y	Jan Grove	Completed
SHINE record creator	Surrey County Council	Y	Tony Howe	Completed
SHINE record creator Project E	Cambridgeshire County Council	NA	Sally Croft	Completed
SHINE record creator Project E	Cornwall Council	N	Ann Reynolds	Completed
SHINE record creator Project E	Cornwall Council	N	Francis Shepherd	Completed
SHINE record creator	Surrey County Council	NA	Emily Brants	Completed
SHINE record user	Essex County Council	NA	Luke Bristow	Completed

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Appendix 5: Workshops

Workshop 1: *The views of SHINE record creators*

Date: Friday 27th January

Invitees were encouraged to also share the meeting within their networks, for example, through HER forums.

Attendance

53 attendees

Full Name	Organisation
Tom Sunley	Forestry Commission (Chair)
Maria Medlycott	Place Services (Presenter)
Meg Lloyd-Regan	Place Services (Coordinator)
Katie Lee-Smith	Place Services (Coordinator)
David Robertson	Forestry Commission (Workshop Support)
Alan Whitney	Hampshire County Council
Alison Williams	North Lincolnshire Council
Andrew Crabb	Dartmoor Council
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council
Anna Morris	Gloucestershire Council
Charlotte Orchard	Shropshire Council
Charlotte Walker	West Northamptonshire Council
Claire Pinder	Dorset Council
David Hopkins	Hampshire County Council
David Littlewood	Nottinghamshire County Council
Eleanor Kingston	Lake District Council
Elizabeth Williams	Northumberland Council
Emily Brants	Surrey County Council
Emily Gillott	Nottinghamshire County Council
Emily Hathaway	Worcestershire Council
Emma Trevarthen	Cornwall Council
Emma Watson	Durham Council
Fiona MacDonald	Reading Council
Francis Shepherd	Cornwall Council
Gareth Owen	New Forest National Park
Geoff Saunders	Bedford Council
Heather Hamilton	Norfolk Council
Helen Wells	Leicestershire County Council
Jan Grove	South West Heritage
Jessica Cooper-Dunn	Cambridgeshire Council
Mark Brennand	Cumbria Council

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Matthew Tuohy	Bedford Council
Neil Griffin	East Sussex Council
Nick Boldrini	Durham Council
Paul Clements	Buckinghamshire Council
Paula Allen	Warwickshire Council
Peter Watkins	Norfolk County Council
Rebecca Dumbleton	South Gloucestershire Council
Rebecca Loader	Isle of Wight Council
Richard Havis	Essex County Council
Robert Edwards	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Ruth Beckley	Cambridgeshire Council
Sally Croft	Cambridgeshire Council
Sarah Orr	West Berkshire Council
Shan Mughal	Surrey County Council
Shirley Baylock	Exmoor National Park
Sophie Unger	East Sussex Council
Suzy Blake	Staffordshire Council
Toby Catchpole	Gloucestershire Council
Tony Howe	Surrey County Council
Tori Bedingfield	Nottinghamshire County Council
Vanessa Clarke	Bedford Council
Victoria Bowns	Hull City Council

Link to recording

The workshop was recorded, with permission of attendees, for future reference. A link to the recording is available below:

https://youtu.be/S6ujrPnicqs

Chat Log

Discussion within the chat log during the workshop has been anonymised below:

Time stamp	Chat Record	Notes*
10:08	So the updated SHINE would feed in to the Sensitivity Maps?	Question was answered in the workshop verbally
10:20	Not all unitary authorities are small urban ones	Addressing a comment by speaker in the presentation. Examples provided in the chat, such as Rutland, Cornwall, Buckinghamshire, Cumbria,
10:24	One of the main issues I have is how could SHINE evolve to include geographically extensive areas of	

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	important historic landscape where large blocks of woodland planting would not be appropriate (Isle of Axholme ancient open strip fields, enclosures and turbaries). We have a Local Plan policy that protects this important historic landscape from adverse development.	
10:26	New Forest NP. We don't and have not created SHINE. Hampshire holds the HER (we don't) and so they create SHINE data for areas within the NFNP.	Response in chat: Northumberland County does the same for Northumberland NP
10:32	I'd suggest that large areas of RF survival are more important than fragmentary areas of survival	6 likes
10:38	Lots of mining, infilled land etc in Leicestershire - easy to see on geology mapping where infilled land is	
10:39	[It would be] easy enough to see where historic woodland has been by the 1st/2nd OS, doesn't need to be on shine.	Response in chat: Our natural environment team has already created maps of where woodland used to be and we will be working on HLC-type exercises to help with this side of things.
10:40	I think it would be a mistake to mix constraints and opportunities in one set of data.	6 likes
10:44	Most woodland I get seems to want to plant on R&F...	
10:45	What counts as a large survival of R&F will vary from place to place though - so I would be wary of a blanket!) hectares plus (or whatever) type rule	Verbal discussion in workshop - speaker flags that R&F in Essex is minimal and precious. Bedford and Cambs agree. Regionality is a key consideration
10:52	FC's historic environment supplementary technical guidance for woodland creation project includes eight topic based working groups, one of which will cover ridge and furrow. ALGAO has nominated a rep to sit on the R&F working group - really looking to hearing more ALGAO views on R&F.	
10:52	HLC is also very variable so I would urge caution around sweeping generalisations solely based on its use	6 likes
10:53	Yes, we're currently beginning to think about developing new methods for capturing Landscape Character and HLC and using it in this sort of context. Early days though so uncertain where it might lead.	Response in chat - It would be really interesting to hear about that as things begin to develop
11:04	For SHINE, the determination of significance is also linked to the end	8 likes

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	use of the dataset as part of Countryside Stewardship. So well managed R&F under grassland could be considered of low significance as it is in ideal management, but given the impact of woodland, this assigned low significance should not be seen as a reason not to retain.	
	Break	
11:12	Training is definitely a thing that needs addressing!	Discussion in workshop
11:13	The SHINE Guidance is on the HEFER Portal (under downloads) here: Documents and files - Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER) Portal (myshinedata.org.uk) Login - Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER) Portal Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER) Portal User Login Page	Discussion in workshop
11:13	If you scrapped SHINE for woodland creation and just had guidelines about expectations for potential applicants and guidelines for advice from us then could we cut out the double digitising process and these problems	9 likes Discussion in workshop
11:15	The time/cost of creating SHINE records across the county would most definitely be prohibitive without being fully funded.	5 likes Discussion in workshop
11:15	ESCC uses Archaeological Notification Areas for DC work and those polygons were provided to SDNP for the woodland mapping (link above). Perhaps we should have provided SHINE too.	Discussion in workshop
11:17	How much funding is available?	Answered in workshop
11:21	Do they find SHINE useful when lumping of monuments has taken place?	Answered in workshop
11:21	a forest plan is essential. where they will be planting, where there will open spaces. tree types are useful but we need to understand the impact of the tree types	9 likes Discussion in workshop
11:21	Essential I'd say to differentiate between SHINE for agri-env purposes or woodland creation	6 likes Discussion in workshop
11:21	From my point of view, being in a National Park and World Heritage Site, the historic landscape/cultural landscape is significant. Rather than create new SHINE polygons, it could potentially be more useful to use the money to look at the landscape in detail and provide a map where planting could/could not take place - a very detailed opportunity map, which would then be used in the woodland creation process and I could then comment on applications that came in as usual if I needed to. Resources wise, I don't have the capacity to continually update and maintain SHINE at the moment and if you then included	6 likes Discussion in workshop

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	woodland as well, it just wouldn't happen.	
11:22	It can also be useful to get an understanding of their land holdings in the immediate surrounding area. in the past I have suggested moving areas slightly but I am constrained by the certain knowledge of field ownership vs the potential they own the field next door which might be more useful	6 likes Discussion in workshop
11:24	Could consider COSMIC+ approach to whether it's appropriate to plant trees	Discussion in workshop
11:25	What would the FC intend to do for a site where there is no SHINE data? Would that generate a formal consultation?	6 likes Discussion in workshop
11:28	In regard to the LDNPA, Its very similar here at Dartmoor NP. Huge pressures arising from woodland creation and natural regen. schemes.	Discussion in workshop Response in chat: I think even with updated SHINE we would still want to be Consulted - SHINE might help screen areas in/out but detailed proposals would need detailed comment
11:29	I'd prefer consultations too.	
11:32	What I'd like to know from users is whether this fantastic opportunity of	Discussion in workshop
	positive land scape change; improved landscape character, improved habitat networks for biodiversity etc. - is site selection being driven by site availability or by a considered strategy as to where maximum benefit can be achieved.	Response in chat: this is exactly what our Environment Team is keen to be looking at and creating opportunity maps.
11:32	If we were in an ideal world then users of SHINE for woodland creation would provide a Heritage Impact Assessment for their planting proposals (including if necessary results of an evaluation). For those areas where planting is likely to be acceptable the HIA could be a relatively brief process	6 likes Discussion in workshop
11:33	If SHINE updating feeds into a hands off MT like process, then this should not be considered, it still needs to be considered as a damaging process & potential sites need to be taken into consideration	6 likes Discussion in workshop
11:33	You accept that Local Historic Environment services are notoriously underfunded - will you feed this back as a risk to DEFRA and those designing these national schemes highlighting the need to better support these services?	Response in chat: and also the capacity for commenting on consultations
11:38 – 11:39	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-accelerator-fund-wcaf	If it reopens will National Parks be

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	Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF) A fund for Upper Tier Local Authorities only – providing revenue support for the additional staff / consultants required to accelerate plans for tree and woodland planting.	able to apply this time around? Yes, North Lincolnshire has received WCAF for an HER post can we have notification when that funding opens again please? We have some funding from our sustainability team's EWCG scheme I've just seen Cornwall cannot apply, although we were not included in the local bid! We're also planning to work with our Natural Environment Team's EWCG programme. Northumberland cannot apply either

11:41	I would absolutely agree with the point about funding. While making funding available to do this is obviously welcome, often the issue is one of staff resource. There are already significant pressures for HERs from day to day work to other major projects (eg NRHE to HER) and going forward there may be a lot to of other demands to deliver the requirements in the levelling up bill. So various methods of support for HERs would need to be identified!	13 likes Discussion in workshop Response in chat: exactly this - I'm concerned that without clear process for applying for funding, any future funding would inevitably be awarded to those HERs in a position to produce a bid, with those that are very under resourced not being able to make use of the opportunity
11:44	the other issue with funding is timescales- deadlines for applying are often just a month or so away, which doesn't give much time to put together an application, and also having to be delivered within short timescales means we basically cant apply, as we couldn't achieve it. it took us 5 months to replace our NRHE to HER post for example - and that post already existed...	12 likes Discussion in workshop Response in chat: I agree. Many timescales are extremely tight

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		and difficult to respond to.
11:47	NRHE to HER and SHINE for woodland - please no! NRHE will already take 37% of my time over 2 years	Response in chat: that's a very interesting statistic for your time on NRHE
11:49	Guarantee that the data would be used responsibly!	Discussion in workshop
11:50	Someone to do the work for us. We could supply the data and receive the finished data back.	Response in chat: Would they know about local significance though?
11:50	Need to know that it improves heritage protection which has not necessarily been the case with ES/CS	Discussion in workshop
11:50	Avoid unnecessary duplication of datasets/effort	Discussion in workshop
11:50	more interaction with users would be good	Discussion in workshop
11:50	planning to undertake big projects like NRHE to HER can take months of prep before you even start writing the bid; which is possible because the tender specification is available online on the HE website. Something similar on the	5 likes Discussion in workshop
	FC or ALGAO website would be great (once you know what it is Tom and David!)	
11:51	Guarantee that the data was subsequently kept updated	Discussion in workshop
11:51	Better knowledge of the end goal e.g. reassurance that blank areas in the dataset won't automatically be assumed as devoid of archaeology. Perhaps education of SHINE users in what the limits of the dataset are?	8 likes Discussion in workshop
11:52	I'd need to be convinced that it was a satisfactory and effective substitution for existing consultation and advice procedures.	Discussion in workshop
11:52	I think data consistency is an important point	5 likes Response in chat: and take regional significance into account
11:54	Would need to be sure the use of SHINE was a better option than just direct HER consultation, and a means by which the cost of time spent was in some reasonable way covered	5 likes Response in chat: Exactly - goal seems to be decent baseline data (ideally a well-resourced HER) with knowledgeable, local input.
11:55	Possibly not just related to SHINE< but feedback from the process - so we	Discussion in workshop

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	know what happened for a particular proposal	
11:55	I update SHINE data all year, just because the HEFER window isn't open doesn't prevent uploading new datasets	Response in chat: It will affect how much you get paid for HEFER consultations though
11:56	At the moment we get paid for the SHINE updates, so need to make sure it doesn't affect our income	Discussion in workshop
11:59	Thanks Tom, good session 👋 Thanks guys. Cheers for this Thanks Tom and team Thanks. Really useful and informative. Have a good weekend all Thanks all Thanks Thank you Thanks Thank you. Could you make the recording available for 22nd please? It's	
	half term here, so we won't be able to make it. Thanks Tom! Really good session Thanks Tom, really good session Thanks everyone	

* comments with >5 likes are noted

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Workshop 2: *The views of SHINE record users*

Date: Wednesday 8th February

Attendance

31 attendees

Full Name	Organisation
Tom Sunley	Forestry Commission (Chair)
Maria Medlycott	Place Services (Presenter)
Meg Lloyd-Regan	Place Services (Coordinator)
Katie Lee-Smith	Place Services (Coordinator)
Alastair Stirling	Forestry Commission
Anna Georgiou	Bronwin & Abbey
Catrin Jenkins	Forestry Commission
Ceri Rutter	Forestry Commission
Chris Gibbard	Forestry Commission
Daniel Wrigley	DEFRA
Del Pickup	Peak District National Park
Elaine Willett	Natural England
Gareth Price	Gidea Associates
Gary Nobles	Forestry Commission
Hannah Fluck	National Trust
Iwan Downey	Kirklees Council
Jez Bretherton	Historic England
Katie Stevens	Lockhart Garrett Nicholsons
Luke Barker	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Mark Outhwaite	Forestry Commission
Matthew Chown	Plymouth Council
Richard Havis	Essex County Council
Sarah Poppy	Historic England
Shirley Blaylock	Exmoor National Park
Simon James	Small Woods Association
Terry Masey	Forestry Commission
Tim Oliver	Mersey Forest

Link to recording

The workshop was recorded, with permission of attendees, for future reference. A link to the recording is available below:

https://youtu.be/uj7pvKiMzIs

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Chat Log

Discussion within the chat log during the workshop has been anonymised and paraphrased below, to capture key questions and topics of discussion.

Time stamp	Chat Record	Notes*
14:28	I'm querying the middle one on the first slide- woodlands are by definition 20m wide, so I'd have thought we should be avoiding areas where there were sites that close by?	Query on specific slide – answered verbally in workshop
14:30	Might be useful to touch upon the work that David Robertson is leading on with MOU etc although not necessarily directly related?	
14:38	How much work would it be to disagregte those clumped polygons due the the 20m rule? would an updated version of shine need to be entirely new? or could some updates be automated?	Discussed in workshop Response in chat: Or explore using the HMAA as the 'disagregator'? The 20m was also about creating practical areas for management
14:45	I think far too little is made of the opportunities that SHINE features	3 likes Discussed in workshop
	offer for woodland creation ... there's untapped potential there.	
14:49	I've been thinking in terms of areas where we would want 'heritage led' approaches to tree planting and management, and where you might want 'heritage considerate approaches' A bit like spatial planning for local authorities where you identify where heritage may be an 'overiding concern' or where it might be easily mitigated (e.g. Strategic housing allocation areas, local plan areas etc)	Discussed in workshop
14:51	One suggestion would be to target larger SHINE features for disaggregating. Also I wonder if there is a case for separating out designed /historic landscape features from SHINE.	Discussed in workshop
14:53	as a creator - big difference between wooded pasture, confier plantation with access tracks, areas left for natural regeneration what are you responding to?	3 likes Discussed in workshop
14:57	SHINE fundamentally used to inform positive management opportunities AND damage avoidance for Option/capital item eligibility. The efficiencies in which eligibility checks can be a	Discussed in workshop

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	highly automated is key. Yes/No/Maybe seems to be the basic parameters to use in an automated process.	
15:01	unfortunately, the absence of a coherent national data set for heritage means that SHINE is the closest thing to fill that gap and is often pulled in directions it might not have been intended to be	3 likes Discussed in workshop
	Break	
15:18	if it was being used for woodland then possibly allowing the creator a way to provide the buffer distances needed from the boundary could be helpful	3 likes Discussed in workshop
15:26	and that advice needs to be paid for somehow, which is really hard if it's all done in an ad hoc way ...	Discussed in workshop
15:27	Ideally, as [redacted] intimates, its the 'MAYBE'/advice or endorsement point that needs to be managed and organised better.	Response in chat: I do agree, but also I am concerned with making the SHINE data too complex to work with systems
15:27	the advice (e.g. for fences) currently isn't paid for	
15:29	We are handling 500+ projects per year. Having access to better data will help us filter out projects and be better informed when we do put proposals forward for consultation.	
15:34	I'm not aware that we currently have access to SHINE. So if this could be provided we will certainly need guidance/training.	Discussed in workshop
15:54	**https://hefer-data.org.uk/** You get a PDF report!	Link shared for info
15:55	Thank you Thanks all, useful to explore the challenge further from different perspectives. Well organised Tom and Place Services. Thank you everyone! Thank you!	

* Comments >3 likes noted

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Workshop 3: *The views of SHINE record creators*

Date: Wednesday 22nd February

Attendees

49 attendees

Full Name	Organisation
Tom Sunley	Forestry Commisson (Chair)
Maria Medlycott	Place Services (Presenter)
David Robertson	Forestry Commission
Meg Lloyd-Regan	Place Services (Coordinator)
Katie Lee-Smith	Place Services (Coordinator)
Alison Bennett	Essex County Council
Alison Williams	North Lincolnshire Council
Andrew Dearlove	Suffolk Council
Ann Reynolds (PT&E)	Cornwall Council
Anna Morris	Gloucestershire Council
Charlotte Orchard	Shropshire Council
Charlotte Walker	West Northamptonshire Council
Claire Pinder	Dorset Council
Del Pickup	Peak District National Park
Elizabeth Williams	Northumberland Council
Emily Brants	Surrey County Council
Emily Gillott	Nottinghamshire County Council
Emma Trevarthen	Cornwall Council
Francis Shepherd	Cornwall Council
Geoff Saunders	Bedford Council
Grace Campbell	Suffolk Council
Heather Hamilton	Norfolk Council
Jan Grove	South West Heritage
Janice Adams	Hartlepool Council
Leonora Goldsmith	North Yorkshire Council
Louisa Cunningham	Suffolk Council
Mark Brennand	Cumbria Council
Matthew Allcock	North Lincolnshire Council
Matthew Tuohy	Bedford Council
Neil Adam	Wiltshire Council
Neil Griffin	East Sussex Council
Nick Boldrini	Durham Council
Paula Allen	Warwickshire Council
Peter Reavill	Herefordshire Council
Peter Watkins	Norfolk County Council
Rachael Abraham	Suffolk Council
Rachel Salter	West Sussex Council
Rebecca Casa-Hatton	Peterborough Council
Rebecca Dumbleton	South Gloucestershire Council
Richard Newman	Hull County Council
Robert Edwards	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Rose Broadley	Kent Council
Ruth Beckley	Cambridgeshire Council
Sally Croft	Cambridgeshire Council
Sarah Orr	West Berkshire Council
Shirley Blaylock	Exmoor National Park
Stephanie Knight	Devon Council

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Suzy Blake	Staffordshire County Council
Tony Howe	Surrey County Council
Ursilla Spence	Nottinghamshire County Council
Vanessa Clarke	Bedford Council
Victoria Bowns	Hull City Council
Zac Nellist	Sheffield Council

Link to recording

The workshop was recorded, with permission of attendees, for future reference. A link to the recording is available below: **https://youtu.be/Nuk2S5V38Bk**

Chat-log

Discussion within the chat log during the workshop has been anonymised and response paraphrased below, to capture key questions and topics of discussion.

Time stamp	Chat Record	Notes*
10:13	How often do government targets get met?	
10:25	Many of our SHINE polygons are massive which isn't useful to users	12 likes
10:29	It sounds like they want HER data with some advice.	17 likes
10:32	everything is possible with the correct funding / resourcing - I know we would struggle to deliver much of this without considerable investment in a system that is fit for purpose	7 likes
10:32	How about Forestry Commission (FC) supplying applicants with a list of phone numbers of county archaeological services?	
10:32	There is clearly going to be an issue with the size of existing polygons and the preference of the users to see individual features. If the current standards are refined, consideration will have to be given to the scale of backlog for HERs changing the existing polygons, and whether this will actually even be possible for some polygons	11 likes
10:33	to be honest, everything the users want flies directly in the face of shine core functionality	8 likes
10:34	Feature-level mapping and info is a very different beast...	
10:34	A lot of the things they want are out there [already] - contact details, definitions for SHINE polygons - so this suggests there is a communication /training issue here	7 likes
10:35	Hyperlinks to HER Monument records can already be included in SHINE too.	
10:38	The UK Forestry Standard says: "Steps should be taken to ensure that historic features, which may be adversely affected by forestry, are known and evaluated on an	19 likes

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	individual site basis, taking advice from the local historic environment services." which indicates consultation much like development control?	
10:39	In East Yorks and Hull every proposal is individually consulted upon.	
10:41	SHINE can't deal with potential - it needs professional input, not an algorithm	6 likes
10:42	Landscape character might be better dealt with by including Landscape teams in consultation processes - where they exist	
10:42	All of these issues can be dealt with via a short phone call or an exchange of emails with the relevant curator.	
10:43	The complexity of HER data in areas emphasises the need for local specialist advice, not necessarily the need for a simplified version.	10 likes
10:46	we are talking about woodland - but we have vast amounts of lost historic orchards - on orchard ridging - that we would probably support replanting with appropriate trees creating woodland pasture / orchards - but I'm uncertain this would fit with current plans	
10:47	I assume that the user feedback relates largely to their experience of the existing SHINE process - is this	Response in chat from FC Representative: RPA has been invited to join the 'National
	being fed back to the RPA (Rural Payments Agency) etc?	historic environment datasets for woodland creation' project advisory group, so user feedback will be passed to them (and to Natural England, Historic England). Idox will also get to see user feedback.
10:50	I still think there's a lot more that can be done with standards across HERs, bespoke exports focused on specific features types, and flagging with status and scores for significance, etc.	
10:50	Historic England does update Heritage Gateway (HG) several times per year.	
10:51	we do keep trying to provide contact details, currently RPA should be directing shine users to ALGAO website	
10:52	The HG details might be up to date/out of date but they are HER contacts and might not be the right team member for this	
10:52	Some HERS don't give advice.	Response in chat: depends what they ask for, it isn't always clear
10:52	Could all applications go through your [FC] own Public Register then we can all access it for our areas and comment?	
10:52	A lot of the requirements raised by end users are actually more related	5 likes

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	to training for them and how the consultation (advice) process will work rather than SHINE data itself. Won't how these things be resolved have some bearing on what information we need to supply in terms of level of detail in SHINE.	
10:54	ALGAO contact details are the right place to direct people to - if attendees today need to check their own are up to date, please do	
10:54	do most LHES [Local Historic Environment Services] have generic 'archaeology@' email addresses? that would help surely	Response in chat: sadly not everyone
10:57	we only update SHINE when we get consulted on an application so would be concerned if we weren't notified of an initial consultation allowing time to update	
1:57	As well as the massive resource issue with regards to changing / updating existing SHINE and the polygon standards you also have to consider what the original purpose of SHINE was and the automated outputs that are generated as part of Countryside Stewardship (CS) (i.e. things have to be visible and clear on mapping at an appropriate scale).	
10:59	There is the legacy issue, but there is also the workload issue of already stretched historic environment services. At the moment, SHINE is dealt with on a case by case basis as an application comes in. There is no way that I can look at our SHINE data and adapt it without significant funding outside of each woodland creation consultation. Also, specialist advice would need to come from our DM archaeologist who doesn't have capacity to add to her workload.	5 likes
10:59	With Countryside Stewardship, we are notified of an application, then we review the application area and create the SHINE records as required. For forestry we seem to be being asked to provide a complete dataset for the whole of the HERs area at what seems to be relatively short notice. Is this my misunderstanding?	7 likes Response from FC Representative in chat: This might be down to the way proposers are asking for information and advice - hopefully the guidance project and standard letters will largely resolve this sort of issue.
11:02	There is clearly value in non specialists having access to basic data that can 'pump-prime' discussions and early stage decision making. The question is how this is best achieved and the level of detail required. Some of the suggestions being made are significantly above this basic level of detail.	
11:04	just a plea to check your contact details on ALGAO and I can always edit them! we are revising the website to be able to provide better contact details	https://www.algao.org.uk/membership

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	Break	
11:12	I need to get off, but one thought from me. I spend way too much time wrangling with NE where our SHINE data is flawed and/or inadequate, but they want to hold me to the detail of it rather than get advice from me based on my experience and decent HER data. I wouldn't want to be in the same position with forestry applications. There would have to be clear indications of what was required in the response from us in terms of advice, and an understanding that the dataset is just, like the Pirate's Code, more a guideline. I'm trying to offer constructive input but am hugely aware that the time and cost implications are considerable for even a basic dataset for most of us. Thank you everyone, these sessions have been very thought provoking.	8 likes
11:18	I have a question - funding for the updating - you say you have funds, but any updating would be a huge undertaking	Answered by FC Representatives: £750k. There are currently over 90,000 SHINE records in the national SHINE dataset.
Discussion Session		
11:18	Q1. What about mitigation strategies? They could be costly.	
11:19	Would prefer some direct sourcing from the HER data rather than having to create and maintain 2 polygon datasets	Also picked up in discussion in the workshop
11:20	How will users feel when they've looked at the SHINE dataset and seen a blank, proposed a scheme and then we say there's actually some archaeology there? Surely if they feel they've done due process in the beginning they will be disappointed/cross that we seem to be sticking a spanner in their works.	
11:20	Do you know how many are within the FC planting target areas	Response in chat: FC doesn't currently have access to the national SHINE dataset, other than through individual HEFERs.
11:21	Would we expect SHINE to be for the whole dataset - or would you be looking to use woodland creation zones and therefore that would need less revisions. As a side note - talking to our internal landscape team and natural environment team with whom I currently sit (in the HER) have indicated that much of the land within current woodland creation zones would not be fit for purpose (being on tops of hills and wetland areas)	
11:21	I guess the issue is does FC want the shine data to show where applicants could plant or where applicants can't plant. I think	

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	woodland shine would need to lean one way of the other but not both	
11:24	Is the Forestry Commission considering any alternatives to trying to shoehorn SHINE when there appears to be a growing consensus that it would not be fit for purpose of Woodland creation? Plan B	
11:27	Yes but the standalone FC dataset was not practical for a whole host of other reasons, many of which are similar to shine issues. It is wholeheartedly agreed that the current process is too fractured and inconsistent but there is only so much shine can physically do. I still think SHINE has *potential* for woodland, but we need to be very clear on what it would provide and what its limitations are. Basically that it should not **replace** consultation but **assist** with it. *HER consultation	5 likes
11:29	Do you mean that direct consultations are not working? I wish I were consulted at the outset, not half way through a project.	
11:30	we have tried to contact DEFRA. they are disinclined to contact us back	
11:31	We have EWCOs on the FC public register for Gloucestershire that we have not been consulted on	
11:31	Agree with [spoken comment] , we as LA HE services, want to protect and enhance the HE. As [chat comment] says, we as ALGAO are frustrated with the lack of communication from DEFRA on improving the current situation for CS.	
11:32	Surely that is something that the FC need to take up with the woodland creators to better articulate why archaeology is not a barrier and what the appropriate processes they should be following are to ensure it doesn't act as a blocker.	
11:34	Is it a question of HERs not maintaining an improved SHINE, but providing standardised monuments data which can be combined and used by the FC as a national datasets?	Response in chat: Going down the path of exploring the potential of new/improved status/significance scoring? this is elements of the proposed standalone FC dataset but the inherent problems involved in that (most of which are faced by Heritage Gateway about combining county HERs into a single dataset) and the continued issue of currency and revisions to that

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11:34	how are other disciplines/topics managed (ecology etc) or are they all in-house in FC?	Response from FC Representative: People proposing woodland creation are required to collate information (and in some cases advice) on all elements of sustainable forestry while putting their proposals together, including ecology, water, soil, landscape, climate change, people and historic environment (see UKFS, EIA forestry regulations and FC guidance published online, including **https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-all-projects** and **https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints**. Response: do they face the same issues getting this data as we seem to be having with HE data/advice? FC: Not that I've heard

		Response: can we learn anything from how this is provided?
11:34	The woodland creation partnerships have presumably got a louder voice than us!	
11:36	where does Natural England sit with revising SHINE?	Response: good question. NE are of the opinion that revision is acceptable and SHINE will go forward under ELMs but the decision is with DEFRA
11:40	An export process may well be easier but how would that work with HER's that are largely point based rather than polygonised?	Support and Response in chat: I think that would help focus where FC needs to spend its cash to support Polygonisation Unless the FC paid for the polygonization process? Scotland have certainly implemented a polygonisation project of HERs so the methodology is out there for that
11:41	+1 for subsequent follow up comments on HG	
11:48	Yes, in principle, but aims and outcomes have to be realistic.	

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11:48	80 HERs (?) into 750k = not much per HER....	
11:50	I thought one of the key points of using SHINE was that it is in theory a live dataset (leaving aside many of us only update it as and when we get paid which has already been highlighted), if we create a new dataset from HER polygons there will need to be a mechanism for us to regularly update the dataset held by FC otherwise it will rapidly fall out of date.	Response in chat: Yes, the main thing is that HERs are the dataset that is updated regularly and anything separate from that will always fall rapidly out of date and be too resource-intensive to maintain. It sounds as though we really need a better voice with DEFRA and development of national additional standards for certain Monument types with appropriate funding to make HERs more fit for purpose for these kinds of uses, which will only continue to increase and become more varied in the near future.
11:50	Could the FC public register be improved so that applications come through there and generate an email to the relevant HER with a 20 day turnaround time like the SHINE process that is open all year round? HERs could be paid for each consultation they respond to within the relevant timescale?	17 likes
11:52	I think it's fair to say that ALGAO's comments on the pilot projects last year were based on the specific outcomes presented rather than the broader concepts. I'm sure ALGAO members would consider variations upon these higher level concepts if they were revised to take into account all of what we've learnt from these project E and F projects.	
11:54	training needs to be provided by ALGAO on the current shine process to ensure we are all doing the same thing but again there is just a time issue in that	
11:55	Training is key for both end users but also for creators...we have been trying to run SHINE refreshers from an ALGAO Countryside point of view for a while but simply don't have the resource. This has resulted in varying standards, quality and interpretation in what and how SHINE is created.	5 likes
11:55	David Robertson of the FC raises a point in the workshop about creating a portal that links to those who would need to be notified	Response in chat: we really do want to do it as part of countryside committee! That sounds like a great idea David!
11:56	Heritage Gateway v.2 - Ask HE, but what I've been party to so far would indicate that that it will be more 'inclusive' i.e. not dependent on	that is certainly what I was thinking too

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	having a pre-existing capacity to publish data online and have a greater facility to share data (so although the site may retain it's current caveats, perhaps data can be drawn from it by the FC using linked data or better). I may also be talking out of my hat and the position may have changed.	You do have direct contact at Historic England FC could talk to, please?
11:58	what about VAR?	
11:59 – 12:01	Thanks Tom David Maria Meg Katie Thank you, everyone. a useful workshop. Thank you. This has been really informative and constructive ditto! thanks all! really productive Thanks all, agree these are useful Thanks all for attending! Well done Tom Thank you everyone Thank you all	
	Thank you. This has been really informative of where thoughts are. thankyou for this, its very interesting! Thanks everyone! They think it's all over... thanks Thank you for coming along everyone thanks Thank you everyone Thank you Thank you Thanks	

* Likes logged if over/equal to 5

FORESTRY COMMISSION PROJECT MEETINGS

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Inception meeting 07/12/22

Progress meeting 21/12/23

Progress meeting 12/01/23

Progress meeting 18/01/23

Progress meeting 26/01/23

Progress meeting 06/02/23

Progress meeting 15/02/23

Progress meeting 20/02/23

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Appendix 6: Stakeholder engagement

List of all Stakeholder bodies or groups directly contacted for this project:

Bedford Borough Council
Berkshire Archaeology
Birmingham City Council
Bronwin & Abbey
Brown & Co.
Buckinghamshire Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service
Chichester District Council
City of Coventry
City of Trees
Clive Ellis Woodland Management Consultancy
Colchester Borough Council
Confor
Cornwall Council
Cumbria County Council
Dartmoor National Park
Derbyshire County Council
Devon County Council
Dorset Council
Dudley M.B.C.
Dunnewoods
Durham County Council
East Sussex County Council
Essex County Council
Exeter City Council
Exmoor National Park Authority
Forest of Marston Vale
Forestry Commission
Forwoods
Gide Associates
GLAAS
Gloucester City Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Great Northumberland Forest
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service
Hampshire County Council
Heart of England Forest
Herefordshire Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Historic England
Humber Archaeology Partnership
Institute of Chartered Foresters
Isis Forestry Ltd
Isle of Wight Council
Kent County Council
Lake District National Park Authority
Lancashire County Council
Leicester City Council

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Leicestershire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Lockhart Garrett Nicholsons
Mersey Forest
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
Milton Keynes Council
National Forest
Natural England
New Forest National Park Authority
Newcastle City Council and Tyne & Wear
Norfolk County Council
Norfolk FWAG
North Lincolnshire Council
North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire
North Somerset Council
North York Moors National Park
North Yorkshire County Council
Northumberland County Council
Northumberland National Park
Nottingham City Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Peak District National Park
Peterborough City Council
Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest
Plymouth City Council
Pryor & Rickett
Rural Advice
Rural Payments Agency
Savills
Scottish Woodlands
Shropshire Council
Small Woods Association
South Gloucestershire Council
South West Heritage Trust
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service
Southampton City Council
Southwark Council
Staffordshire County Council
Stoke on Trent City Council
Suffolk County Council
Surrey County Council
Tees Archaeology
Tilhill
Warwickshire County Council
West Berkshire Council
West Sussex County Council
West Yorkshire Archaeology Service
White Rose Forest/Humber Forest
Wiltshire Council
Winchester City Council
Wolverhampton City Council
Woodland Trust/Northern Forest
Worcestershire County Council
Yorkshire Dales National Park

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