

United Kingdom

Mark Kibblewhite
National Soil Resources Institute



- National soil information centre and custodian / owner of outputs from Soil Survey of England and Wales
- UK National Reference Centre for Soil
- 50 academics and researchers focused on soil resources, soil systems, pedometrics and soil management; ~ 100 MSc / PhD students
- One of three academic Centres within Department of Natural Resources

Data resources: England and Wales

- All NSRI data (polygons, point data and attributes) are only available under licence (without third party access rights, but with preferential rates for bona-fide researchers)
 - 1: 250,000 soil vector map
 - 1: 250,000 simplified ‘soil scapes’ map
 - More detailed paper maps
 - National Soil Inventory (5km grid point data)
 - Profile descriptions (point data)

Data resources for UK outside NSRI

- Macaulay Institute data for Scotland (similar data and access arrangements to NSRI)
- British Geological Survey (point geochemical data – GBase; parent material data)
- Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Countryside Survey - national monitoring of habitats including soil, within land cover-based stratified sampling scheme)
- Environment Agency (point data for pollutants – 10km grid)

Practical arrangements

- Data licencing agreements
- New requirements
 - re-interpretation of 1:250,000 soil map to WRB classification
 - Standardisation of profile information (building on SODA?)
- Other developments
 - Future re-sampling of National Soil Inventory (NSI)

AOB:

Contaminated land

- No statutory register of contaminated land sites exists
- Local Authorities are required to develop and publish a local strategy for identifying and dealing with contaminated land
- The UK Environment Agencies have a duty to report every 5 years on the 'State of Contaminated Land' – the second report (2008) indicates that many local authorities have not yet made any systematic assessment of their areas for contaminated land

- NSRI has or is currently developing INSPIRE-compliant metadata for all its products
- A specific action is translation of national classifications (England and Wales, Scotland) to WRB