

What is INSPIRE?

1. The INSPIRE (*IN*frastructure for *SP*atial *IN*foRmation in *E*urope) Directive aims to facilitate the sharing of location information across the public sector for the benefit of environmental policy. Inspire regulates the public access to location information related to the environment according to specific technical standards.
2. INSPIRE requires public sector bodies to publish certain location information according to technical specifications. The specific types of location information are detailed in three data theme annexes listed in Appendix C. The requirements are to:
 - create and register metadata about INSPIRE relevant location information on data.gov.uk (for annex I and II themes by December 2010 and for Annex III themes by December 2013)
 - publish INSPIRE data in compliance with INSPIRE web services (by November 2011 for discover and view services and by December 2012 for download services)
 - provide INSPIRE datasets in INSPIRE compliant format for new datasets included in annex I by November 2012 and for existing annex I datasets by November 2017.
 - Further datasets come under the regulation by 2013. In this case, if new datasets were required the implementation deadline would be 2015 and for existing datasets 2020.¹
 - be able to share data with European Community bodies and to monitor the implementation of INSPIRE
3. The UK Location Programme at the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is overseeing the implementation of INSPIRE in the UK. The Local Government Association is working with Defra, other government departments and local authorities to develop sustainable solutions for the implementation of INSPIRE. This guide will give a brief update from the 2010 update and revises what local authorities have to do to meet INSPIRE requirements for Annex I data and reviews requirements for Annex II and III datasets.

What are the requirements for local authorities to implement INSPIRE?

4. Local authorities that create data as part of a public task will be responsible to comply with INSPIRE. Local authority datasets that fall under INSPIRE Annex I data themes include:
 - Addressing (LLPG/NLPG)
 - Transport/Road networks (LSG/NSG)
 - Hydrography (Drainage features)
 - Protected Sites:
 - Conservation Areas
 - Local Nature Reserves
5. The Local Government Association is working together with the UK Location Programme to develop a cost effective solution for the implementation of INSPIRE in local government. We propose that datasets should be published where possible through national portals to reduce the burden on individual authorities to implement the infrastructure (please, see Appendix A and B for further details).
6. The Local Government Association have agreed with national portal providers to publish

¹ Dates pending on entry into force of implementing rule

- Addressing through the NLPG National Portal
- Streets through the NSG National Portal
- Conservation Areas through English Heritage*
- Local Nature Reserves through Natural England*

* applies to local authorities only with similar proposals under review for Wales

- Addressing and street data arrangements are already in place with GeoPlace through the Mapping Service Agreement for local authorities to make Local Land and Property Gazetteers and Local Street Gazetteers available to their respective national portals.
- The LGA have agreed through a memorandum of agreement with English Heritage and Natural England to publish their data as part of a national dataset and that there will be no direct cost to authorities to provide this service. In return, local authorities will have the responsibility for providing up-to-date data to the national portals.
- English Heritage and Natural England are coordinating the collection of local datasets and have published their respective datasets on data.gov.uk. Further information and contact details are provided in Appendix A.
- Compliance with hydrographic data is a new requirement introduced through the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The obligation only applies to highway authorities (counties and unitary authorities) who are responsible for recording drainage structures and features which fall under the hydrographic theme. The LGA is finalising arrangements with the Environment Agency to publish local authority drainage culverts as part of the detailed river network. We will keep local authorities updated about progress. The INSPIRE publication deadline of 9 November will not apply to this data set as the flood and water management act has been newly introduced. A revised deadline will be issued once a proposal for publication has been agreed.
- There are no requirements for police or fire organisations under INSPIRE Annex I data, however, there may be under Annex III.
- Local authorities can opt out of the proposal to publish protected sites data through national portals and publish their data through their own or other partnership web services. However, there will be no financial assistance in meeting the INSPIRE obligations. If you are planning to make your own publishing arrangement for protected site data, please e-mail the Local Government Association at inspire@local.gov.uk to let us know about your intention and publish the metadata on data.gov.uk

Future requirements

- Draft data specifications for Annex II and III data have been published for consultation by the European Commission, this consultation is now closed. The LGA in consultation with local authorities have reviewed statutory requirements of local authorities to publish the data (see Appendix C for complete list). Local authorities do not need to create any datasets under Annex II. However, local authorities will have to publish multiple datasets to comply with many of the Annex III data themes.
- To understand the possible implications of INSPIRE for local authorities, the LGA is carrying out a survey to determine local government readiness and possible impact on the future of INSPIRE. The LGA will provide further updates about future requirements once the data specifications have been finalised and analysed further.

What help is available to meet INSPIRE compliance?

- The UK Location Programme is leading on the implementation of INSPIRE in the UK. The UK Location Programme in collaboration with the Ordnance Survey and the Cabinet Office (data.gov.uk), have developed open source tools to help with the implementation of INSPIRE. The following tools are available to implement INSPIRE:
 - a metadata editor² to create and edit metadata

² Metadata editor available on <http://location.defra.gov.uk/resources/discovery-metadata-service/>

- registration and discovery of metadata through data.gov.uk
- extensions to open source applications for discovering and viewing INSPIRE data

Tools may also be provided by your own software supplier.

16. The UK Location programme has also published a set of getting started guidance to help with the understanding and implementation of INSPIRE. The guidance is available on <http://location.defra.gov.uk/resources/>.
17. Guidance specific to local authorities for meeting INSPIRE compliance is published on www.lga.gov.uk/GIresearch. Barrow Borough Council have implemented an open source solution for INSPIRE publishing services which the LGA has documented in a case study published on <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/20246680>. The LGA has also set-up an INSPIRE Advisory Network (IAN)) to seek expert feedback and guidance from local authorities on the feasibility of implementing INSPIRE in local government.
18. Information specific to the implementation of INSPIRE in local authorities are available on <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/214148/home.do> or e-mail inspire@local.gov.uk .

Appendix A: INSPIRE information and contact details:

INSPIRE implementation in local government:

- <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1254606>
- <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/214148/home.do>
- e-mail: Local Government Association: inspire@local.gov.uk

INSPIRE and the UK Location programme:

- <http://location.defra.gov.uk/>
- <http://data.gov.uk/data>
- Support: <http://location.defra.gov.uk/resources/contact-us/>

Publishing of gazetteers by GeoPlace:

- www.geoplace.co.uk
- e-mail: support@geoplace.co.uk

Local Nature Reserves published by Natural England:

- General information about INSPIRE publishing by Natural England: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx>
- Download of local nature reserves:
- http://www.gis.naturalengland.org.uk/pubs/gis/GIS_register.asp
- <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/local-nature-reserves>
- Contact details for data collection and updates: Sally.Pinnegar@naturalengland.org.uk

Conservation Areas published by English Heritage

Metadata published on <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/conservation-areas>

For any specific INSPIRE enquiries, contact:

- Nick.SEAL@english-heritage.org.uk
- Phil.Garner@english-heritage.org.uk

Data collection and update is coordinated through regional heritage data coordinators as follows:

- London and South East: Jonathan.Bradley@english-heritage.org.uk
- South West and West Midlands: Nicholas.Hanks@english-heritage.org.uk
- East Midlands and East of England: Lucy.Richardson@english-heritage.org.uk / Helen.Woodhouse@english-heritage.org.uk
- North West, North East, Yorkshire and the Humber: Petra.Wade@english-heritage.org.uk

Appendix B: Update on INSPIRE compliance for Annex I datasets provided by Local Government

Dataset	National Provider	Metadata published on Data.gov.uk	Web Mapping Service	Download Service	Data Compliance
Addresses (AddressBase)	GeoPlace	http://data.gov.uk/datasets/national-land-and-property-gazetteer	Likely to be early 2012 on OS OnDemand	December 2012	November 2012
Street Gazetteer	GeoPlace	http://data.gov.uk/datasets/national-street-gazetteer	Tbc	Tbc	November 2017
Hydrography: Drainage Culverts	New obligation under the Flood and Water Management Act. Finalising arrangements with Environment Agency to publish water course features under the detailed drainage network	http://data.gov.uk/datasets/detailed-river-network	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Protected Sites: Conservation Areas	English Heritage	http://data.gov.uk/datasets/conservation-areas	December 2011	November 2012	November 2017
Protected Sites: Local Nature Reserves	Natural England	http://data.gov.uk/datasets/local-nature-reserves	December 2011	http://www.gis.naturalengland.org.uk/pubs/gis/GIS_register.asp	November 2017

Appendix C: INSPIRE dataset requirements for local authorities

Abbreviation	Data Theme	Authority Level	LG obligation under consideration
Annex I			
CR	Co-ordinate reference systems		Not required
GR	Geographical grid systems		Not required
GN	Geographical names		Not required
AU	Administrative units		Not required
AD	Addresses	Districts and Unitaries	Required
CP	Cadastral parcels		Not required
TN	Transport networks	Unitaries and Counties	Required
HY	Hydrography	Unitaries and Counties	Required
PS	Protected sites	All	Required
Annex II			
EL	Elevation		Not required
OI	Orthoimagery		Not required
LC	Land Cover		Not required
GE	Geology		Not required
Annex III			
AC/MC	Atmospheric Conditions/Meteorological Geographical Features	Unitaries and Counties	Unlikely
AF	Aquaculture & Aquaculture Facilities		Unlikely
AM	Area Management/Restriction Reporting Zones/Reporting Units	All	Required
BR/SD/HB	Bio-geographical/Species Distribution/Habitats & Biotopes		Under Review
BU	Buildings	Shire districts,	Required

		unitaries	
EF	Environmental Monitoring Facilities	All	Required
ER	Energy Resources		Required
HH	Human Health & Safety		Under review
LU	Land Use	All	Required
MR	Mineral Resources	Unitaries and Counties	Required
NZ	Natural Risk Zones	All	Required
OF/SR	Oceanographic Geographical Features/ Sea Regions		Unlikely
PD	Population Distribution		Unlikely
PF	Production Facilities	All	Required
SO	Soil		Not required
SU	Statistical Units		Unlikely
US	Utility & Governmental Services	All	Required

Note: The Annex III assessments of dataset requirements for local authorities has been made through analysing the draft data specifications. Finalised data specifications are expected next spring.