

**Overview:**

ShareGeo Open is a spatial data repository that promotes data sharing between creators and users of spatial data. It is the place where researchers, students and lecturers at UK HEFE institutions can deposit data for anyone to download and use. This will both increase the use of spatial data and forge links between data creators and data consumers. Data held in ShareGeo Open can also be discovered through aggregating search portals such as Go-Geo!. ShareGeo Open was developed as part of EDINA's continuing goal to ensure continuity of access to data for the UK academic and education sector.

**Why do we need ShareGeo Open?**

In spring 2010 the UK government made a significant number of datasets freely available to the general public. This included many core datasets held by the Office of National Statistics, Central Government and Ordnance Survey.

The availability of national coverage core data licensed under open data licences creates a framework under which the sharing of derived data is permitted. ShareGeo Open provides the infrastructure to enable that data sharing.

**Why Share?**

The key benefit of sharing data is that datasets are created once but used many times. There is therefore an economic cost saving advantage to sharing data, but to maximise this benefit data must be easy to find and its fitness for purpose must be easy to identify. Submitting data to a searchable repository such as ShareGeo Open makes data easy to find and simple structured metadata will inform users of how the dataset was created. In addition, sharing data can stimulate research and foster links between researchers.

**History:**

ShareGeo Open is the culmination of several JISC funded geospatial data repository projects .

- GRADE (Geospatial Repository for Academic Deposit and Extraction) investigated the technical and cultural issues around the sharing and reuse of geospatial data..
- ShareGeo Digimap was developed from GRADE and aimed to allow Digimap users to share data that may be subject to copyright restrictions. Users of ShareGeo Digimap had to be registered with Digimap and only had access to data that was covered by their institutions subscription. ShareGeo Digimap sat behind a UK Federation login.