## **Simple ARD Service**

Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 analysis-ready data for Scotland and Northern Ireland





#### Webinar: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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Shona Nicol, Scottish Government and Iain Davies, DAERA, Northern Ireland Environment Agency







Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot





## Webinar contents



- Background to Simple ARD Service
  - Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 analysis-ready data
    - Technical and operational infrastructure
      - Environmental applications
      - Accessing data
    - Resources for users
  - Questions
    - > ask via 'question'
    - > webinar is recorded but questions anonymised
    - recording and slides will be available after the event

## **Background to Simple ARD Service**

Ensure the Scottish public sector has access to the right skills and infrastructure to enable them to be an intelligent user of EO data and applications:

- Support the mainstreaming of EO data through removal of user burden and data complexity
- Demonstrate the benefit of analysis-ready data through pilots for a range of use cases
- Provide access to data and analytical infrastructure so they can develop into operational applications
- Train and develop technical skills within Scottish organisations



## **Background to Simple ARD Service**

#### The Northern Ireland Environment Agency's primary purpose is to protect and enhance Northern Ireland's environment.

NIEA requires a current, comprehensive habitat and land cover map for Northern Ireland, to assess Natural Capital and elements of habitat condition; to monitor change; and enhance modelling capabilities, e.g. wildfire risk management.

The Living Map of Northern Ireland project commenced in 2018. The Copernicus programme offers continuous 'open and free' access to high resolution Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 data throughout the year.

Numerous other potential dynamic applications for S1 and S2 data in Northern Ireland have emerged, such as monitoring and reporting of: wildfire damage; water level changes; forest felling and storm damage.

The Simple ARD Service offers an efficient, flexible data infrastructure from which to access archived Analysis-Ready Data, produced to standards consistent with Defra's EO Data Service for England.

The ARD archive is freely available to all public sector, academia and partners and offers the potential for greater environmental collaboration, research and innovation



## Simple ARD Service - overview

- Developed by JNCC with support from Scottish Government and DAERA Northern Ireland Environment Agency.
- Supporting use of satellite data for public sector environmental applications.
- Generating and supplying Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 analysis-ready data (ARD), including a 12-month archive.
- Providing bespoke training and support.
- Working with partners to develop analytical and operational applications.
- Launched July 2020!

## **Copernicus Programme**

ernicus

Europe's eyes on Earth



- Copernicus is the Earth Observation programme run by the European Commission and European Space Agency.
- Established in 2014 providing high quality, high frequency data free of charge.
- Family of 'Sentinel' satellites pairs of twin satellites per mission.
- Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 of particular interest for terrestrial monitoring.



## **Analysis-Ready Data (ARD)**



Satellite imagery must be processed before it can be used.

Processing methods and software exist, but require staff time, expertise and access to computing facilities.

Barrier to uptake and possible source of inconsistency.

Access to ARD saves up to 70% of project time.

JNCC were supplying ARD for public sector environmental applications in Scotland and Northern Ireland on an *ad hoc* basis.





## **Sentinel-1**



Sentinel-1 provides radar data – an example of active remote sensing.

Twin satellites, Sentinel-1a and Sentinel-1b produce new data every 2-3 days.

They gather data day and night, unaffected by cloud.



Analysis-ready Sentinel-1 data is a **2-band raster** with **10m x 10m pixels**.

It is a **backscatter product**. Radar backscatter is influenced by terrain structure and surface roughness.

Structurally complex areas such as cities have high backscatter values, while flat surfaces such as water bodies have lower backscatter values.

## **Sentinel-2**



Sentinel-2 provides **multispectral imagery** – an example of passive remote sensing.

Twin satellites, Sentinel-2a and Sentinel-2b produce new data every 2-3 days.

Imagery may be obscured by cloud.



Analysis-ready Sentinel-2 imagery is a **10 band raster** with **10m x 10m** pixels.

It is a **surface reflectance product**, showing which wavelengths are most strongly reflected by the earth's surface (and by implication, which are absorbed).

This is useful for **visualisation**, and can also give insight into **environmental conditions**, e.g. vegetation productivity.



#### **Technical and Operational Infrastructure** Standards

- Data standards were developed by JNCC and EOCoE partners (80:20 rule)
- Processing chains created by JNCC based on open source software
  - Sentinel-1 SNAP toolbox (ESA)
  - Sentinel-2 ARCSI (Aberystwyth University)
- Defra Earth Observation Data Service (EODS) use the same standards and principle processing tools so data is compatible



#### **Technical and Operational Infrastructure** Workflow

- Level 1 'raw' data pulled from Mundi DIAS platform
- Processed on JASMIN 'super data cluster'
- ARD outputs and metadata stored and distributed via CEDA
- Staff and compute resources supported by SG and DAERA/NIEA
- Storage and distribution underwritten by NCEO





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National Centre for Earth Observation



#### **Technical and Operational Infrastructure Process**

- Processed in weekly batches not fully automated
- QA/QC stage samples of processing runs
  - geographical registration (Scotland: British National Grid, EPSG:27700; Northern Ireland: Irish National Grid TM65, EPSG:29902))
  - Layers / band responses
  - Obvious anomalies
- Ingestion to CEDA
- Latency 7-14 days



#### **Technical and Operational Infrastructure** Archive

#### • Coverage

- Scotland and Northern Ireland: Feb 2019 to present
- England (EODS): Oct 2018 to present
- Reviewing existing sources to extend data further back
- Open data publicly available



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## **Environmental Applications - Habitat Mapping**

Cairngorms 2019



#### EO data use

 Used Sentinel-2 ARD and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to map habitats as input for Natural Capital Asset Index calculations.

#### EUNIS Habitat Classification

- Surface waters
   Raised and blanket bogs
   Valley mires poor fens and transition mires
   Base-rich fens and calcareous spring mires
   Dry grasslands
   Mesic grasslands
- Alpine and subapline grasslands
- Woodland fringes and clearings and tall forb stands
- Arctic alpine and subalpine scrub
  - Temperate and mediterranean-montane scrub
- Temperate shrub heathland
- Riverine and fen scrubs
- Broadleaved deciduous woodland
- Coniferous woodland

- Mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland
- Lines of trees small anthropogenic woodlands recently felled woodlands early-stage woodland and coppice Screes
- Screes
- Inland cliffs rock pavements and outcrops
  - Manmade surface (buildings and roads)
  - Other bare surface



INTELLIGENCE

SPACE

20 km

#### NatureScot

Scotland's Nature Agency Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

*SINCC* 

## **Environmental Applications - Habitat Mapping**

#### EO data use

- Used Sentinel-1 & Sentinel-2 ARD as inputs into the Living Maps Method (LMM).
- Large scale analytical use moving towards a **national habitat map** for Northern Ireland.





Seasonal Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 derived habitat map of Fermanagh



# **Environmental Applications - Forest change detection**

#### EO data use

- Automated analysis of Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 ARD to detect forest change, e.g. loss due to wind blow or illegal logging.
- Targeting site visits more efficient use of resources.
- Near real-time updates to National Forest Inventory.







## **Environmental Applications – Seagrass Mapping**





EO data use

 Used Sentinel-2 ARD and ancillary datasets to map extent of seagrass.





Mapped as seagrass - ground truth data



Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2019, processed by JNCC. Contains SEPA data © Scottish Environment Protection Agency and database right 2019. All rights reserved. © Scottish Natural Heritage. GIG joblog ID 88296

## **Environmental Applications – Burn Area Detection**



#### EO data use

• Using Sentinel-2 ARD time-series to detect fires and map burn area extent.



## **Environmental Applications – Crop Map**

#### EO data use

- Using Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 ARD with ancillary datasets to produce an up-to-date crop map of Scotland.
- Valuable tool for agricultural and environmental policy makers and regulatory bodies.





Contains Ordnance Survey, data. (c) Crown copyright and database right 2019. Data provided by Digimeo OpenStream, an EC University of Edinburgh Service.

EDINA

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



tland Crop Map

Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot

#### RESAS

Rural & Environmental Science and Analytical Services



About Crop Map

## **Environmental Applications – Water Level Monitoring**



Sentinel-2 true colour image, 25/03/2017



Sentinel-1 RGB image, red channel 05/01/2018, green channel 04/02/2018 and blue channel 12/03/2018

#### EO data use

- Using Sentinel-1 ARD time series to detect water inundation levels in Fermanagh.
- Radar can 'see' through clouds and monitor water levels as they change throughout the year.





0 500 m

Sentinel-1 RGB images for a) 05/01/2018 b) 04/02/2018 and c) 12/03/2018, R = VV, G = VH, B = VV/VH

## List of other examples of uses

- I want to access Sentinel-1 and/or Sentinel-2 ARD so that I can:
- Create productivity and wetness products to detect changes in designated sites.
- Identify woodland change and update the FC's National Forest Inventory dataset.
- Measure **natural capital metrics**: extent, quality and change.
- Undertake risk based management.
- Plan site visits, identify any access issues and likely routes and trails.
- Map extent of macroalgae on mudflats in large estuaries during peak opportunistic growing season.
- Identify areas of bare/exposed ground.
- Detect changes over time in land holdings indicating where **compliance checks** may be advised.
- Monitor urban fringe and link to ground deformation causes.
- Detect coastal changes to inform about climate change.
- Identify exact location of felling activity to be more accurate about timings and save time on site visits.
- Detect potential areas of diseased trees to help direct field visits.
- Assess stock and change in habitats across Scotland / Northern Ireland to meet reporting requirements.
- Provide local authorities with most recent information on the ground to assist with planning.
- Overlay images with **incident locations** to identify areas at risk.
- Monitor peatland restoration.
- · Identify winter born water ways to identify areas at risk and improve flood defences.

- All datasets are available under an Open Government Licence
- This means that you can:
  - ✓ Use the data commercially and non-commercially
  - ✓ Copy, publish, distribute and transmit the data
  - ✓ Adapt the data or combine it with other information
  - ✓ Include it in your own product or application







#### Imagery is supplied as:

- Sentinel-1 'scenes'
   > ~250 km x 170 km
   > ~4 GB
- Sentinel-2 'granules'
   ➤ 100 km x 100 km
   ➤ ~1.2 to 1.8 GB



#### **Simple ARD Service Sentinel-1 coverage**

• The service provides data from 7 ascending orbits and 5 descending orbits

Sentinel-1 ascending orbits:



#### Simple ARD Service Sentinel-1 coverage

• The service provides data from 7 ascending orbits and 5 descending orbits

Sentinel-1 descending orbits:







125

- Scene footprints are <u>not</u> aligned
- Pixels are not aligned.

Scenes which cover both Scotland and N. Ireland are processed twice, once in British National Grid and once in Irish National Grid.

#### Simple ARD Service Sentinel-2 coverage

- 10 granules over Northern Ireland
- 41 granules over Scotland
- 3 UTM zones: 29, 30 and 31
- Granules 29UPB, 30UUG, 30UUF are processed twice, using British National Grid and Irish National Grid CRS.





#### Simple ARD Service Sentinel-2 coverage

• Three orbits cover Scotland and Northern Ireland: 23, 80 and 123



#### Simple ARD Service Sentinel-2 coverage

• A further two orbits cover only Scotland: 37 and 66





When comparing imagery from multiple dates:

- Granule boundaries are aligned
- Pixel edges are aligned

• Data are stored and made publicly accessible via the Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA) Archive.



#### Centre for Environmental Data Analysis

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- ARD from Defra's Earth Observation Data Service is also available here.
- CEDA services are provided on behalf of the Natural Environment Research Council via the National Centre for Atmospheric Science and the National Centre for Earth Observation.
- CEDA is based within the RAL Space department of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), Harwell Campus, near Oxford.

#### **Useful Links**

http://data.ceda.ac.uk/neodc	NERC Earth Observation Data Centre – all EO datasets
http://data.ceda.ac.uk/neodc/sentinel_ard/data	Defra and JNCC Sentinel analysis-ready data index pages
http://geo-search.ceda.ac.uk/	CEDA Satellite Data Finder – interactive map with filters
https://catalogue.ceda.ac.uk/	CEDA Catalogue Search "JNCC" returns links to Defra and JNCC ARD and metadata
https://help.ceda.ac.uk/	CEDA Help pages including "Using CEDA Data Archive"



#### http://data.ceda.ac.uk/neodc/sentinel\_ard/data

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http://data.ceda.ac.uk/neodc/sentinel\_ard/data/sentinel\_1/2019/07

Each Sentinel-1 dataset consists of two files: the data (.tif) and the metadata (.xml)

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http://data.ceda.ac.uk/neodc/sentinel\_ard/data/sentinel\_1/2019/07/30



Sensor Sentinel	Date of capture	Relative orbit	Orbit asc/desc	Start time	Stop time	Dual polarisation	Radiometric calibration	Elevation data	<b>CRS</b> for terrain	Radiometric normalisation	Speckle reduction	GeoTiff format
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#### http://data.ceda.ac.uk/neodc/sentinel\_ard/data/sentinel\_1/2019/07/30

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Sentinel-2 ARD consists of 6 or 7 files; not all datasets have a thumbnail image file

#### http://data.ceda.ac.uk/neodc/sentinel\_ard/data/sentinel\_2/2020/04/20

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![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Data can also be accessed programmatically via Elasticsearch and OpenDAP API:
  - https://help.ceda.ac.uk/article/4694-ceda-elasticsearch
  - https://help.ceda.ac.uk/article/4431-ceda-archive-web-download-and-services
- JNCC, CEDA and Defra are running a project to support code sharing and knowledge exchange for ARD users funded by Copernicus Framework Partnership Agreement for Copernicus User Uptake (<u>https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/copernicus-project/</u>).
- Code sharing platform (GitHub repo) and forum to be set up by September 2020.
- Webinar scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> September details will be on JNCC website soon.

![](_page_43_Picture_7.jpeg)

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![](_page_43_Picture_10.jpeg)

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

![](_page_43_Picture_12.jpeg)

Framework Partnership Agreement for Copernicus User Uptake

### **Resources for users**

## Simple ARD Service pages on JNCC website:

- Information on the data and environmental applications
- User guide (coming soon)
- Presentation slides
- Recorded webinar
- FAQs

# E-mail support available this year:

• <u>earthobs@jncc.gov.uk</u>

![](_page_44_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### Home / Our Work / Simple ARD Service

Increasing availability of high-quality satellite data provides new opportunities to improve environmental decision making and meet evidence needs. JNCC and partners use satellite data for applications including habitat and crop mapping, risk and resilience modelling, natural capital assessment, habitat condition monitoring and change detection.

The **Simple ARD Service** was set up in 2020 to support use of satellite data for public sector environmental applications in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Commissioned by the Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the service generates and provides access to Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 <u>analysis-ready data</u> (ARD). To promote use of the ARD, we are providing bespoke training and support materials, as well as working with partners in each country to develop analytical and operational applications.

#### https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/simple-ARD-service/

Simple ARD Service

About the data

Support for users

Environmental applications

FAQs

## Acknowledgements

- Scottish Government
- DAERA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- Centre for Environmental Data Analysis
- JNCC
- Scottish Remote Sensing Working Group
- Defra Earth Observation Centre of Excellence

![](_page_45_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_8.jpeg)

# Thank you!

# Any questions?