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Historic Landfill Sites National Dataset User Guide

Version 2.0.2
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1. Introduction

1.1. This guide is for the Environment Agency's Historic Landfill Dataset (HLD) which is used by our staff and supplied complete to external organisations. These include Local Authorities (LAs) and value added resellers (VARs). You can use this guide to help you understand the Historic Landfill data in conjunction with the current data release.

1.2. Many of our datasets are dynamic and current. This means they hold data that was entered at the time the data was logged or created for example environmental monitoring data. This way, the data accuracy and mandatory nature can be more easily controlled and confirmed. However, the Historic Landfill dataset is different. The information is retrospectively collected rather than at the time it was created. In some cases, the data comes from multiple sources from many years before.

1.3. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this data, including cross-referencing historical records where multiple records existed. However, please note that we have given equal weighting to soft (computer) and hard (paper format) copy data unless we had evidence to the contrary. Remember that the very nature of the data is that it is old information and as such should be expected to be incomplete, contradictory or difficult to be certain of its accuracy.

2. Description of the Historic Landfill Dataset

2.1. We wanted to create the most comprehensive, consistent, national historic landfill dataset, so we set out on a phased project. We have now collated all data held by our area offices; we have compared and resolved differences with our own existing datasets and those held by Local Authorities. We've also used other information such as historical maps to create the final product.

2.2. The dataset format is an ESRI shape file (ARCGIS 8.3) forming the Landfill Polygon Data layer, with the boundaries digitised from a base scale 1:10,000 and an associated attribute table (in DBF format) comprising 34 fields.

2.3. The polygon and attributes describe where the sites were located, when they were used, who used them and what was deposited. In other words, where, when, who and what. This means there are name and address fields, licensee and operator information, licence issue and surrender dates, first and last input dates, and waste types, together with some historical comments. You can find more details of these attributes in appendix A1.

3. Legislation relevant to the Historic Landfill Layer

3.1. The relevant legislation includes:

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- Control of Pollution Act 1974 (COPA)
- The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
- Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (WMLR)

- Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (England and Wales) 2000 (amended 2002) (PPC).
- Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2008 (EPR)

3.2. Before 1948 there were no controls on waste disposal. The Planning Act of 1948 controlled land use and increasingly towards 1974 included conditions, which bordered on waste regulation. This was amended by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and is now covered by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The first specific regulation of Waste Disposal was COPA 1974, which gave rise to the first waste disposal licensing. The GDPO 1995 required waste regulation authorities to provide information about landfills within the previous 30 years of the request. WMLR 1974 and PPC 2000 revised and extended the waste regulation licencing regime.

4. Data quality

4.1. **Data standards:** We have made every effort to ensure the highest degree of accuracy. Inevitably there will be gaps, even in fields that are considered very important (mandatory), where data just cannot be found. Reasons for this include records being lost over time or limited data existing in the first place. We have applied our Environment Agency data standards, which are in line with government data standards. You can find details of our policy on data standards on our web site at: <http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk>

Reporting errors: Please report any errors in the data the National Customer Call centre on 08708 506506, where you will be transferred to the relevant data staff.

4.2. **Validation checks specific to the HL data:** the following outlines the validation checks specific to the HL dataset. To identify each site a new reference number was created in the format "EAHLDNNNNN" (where "N" stands for a digit from 0 to 9). This reference number is unique and is contained within the HLD_REF field. Please quote this number on any queries or questions you may have about a site. All have;

- OS prefix, Easting and Northing. These are automatically produced and set to the nearest 100m grid line South West of the site polygon's central point.
- licence issue date, after licence surrender date.
- First input date after last input date.
- No licence issue date before 1974 (date licensing came into force).
- All have an Environment Agency area.
- No fields flagged as 'unknown' or 'none'.
- All records have a site name and site address.
- Data input format for flagged fields' e.g. 'Inert' must be blank or 'Yes'.

4.3. Data entry stage validation

GIS

As stated above, the data has come from a number of sources. Soft copy data was imported. Then scans of hard copy documents from the site files were processed. Additionally, where two polygons did not match, the rule was to take the greatest extent unless clear reasons were evident for the mismatch.

Attributes

As stated above, the data has come from a number of sources. Soft copy data was imported and conflicts resolved. Then, scans of hard copy documents from the site files were processed and relevant attributes were manually copied from the scans. Each day double data inputting took place for one hour per operator. Although this won't capture any typos made by that operator during the rest of the day, it does show trends and patterns of errors. These can then be cascaded through the inputting team, minimising generic inputting errors.

Because of the multiple source data, conflicts could occur which may for example be errors or temporal changes. If the operator could not immediately see whether the conflict was an error, the item was referred to quality assurance to be resolved.

4.5. **Individual verification of data:** Where the HL team could not resolve conflicts of data, the matter was referred to local offices to benefit from local knowledge.

4.6. **National verification of data:** There is no national verification or authentication of Historic Landfill data.

4.7. **Known quality issues:** There are no known residual data quality issues.

5. What is not included in the data

5.1. Licenced (current) landfill sites.

6. Changes in the data

6.1. Any major changes to the HL data will be highlighted in this section. This means the data can be reconciled over time. We will provide an explanation for the change and if you have any questions please contact our National Data Unit on the details in appendix: A2.

6.2 Change of dataset coverage

From the 1st of April 2015 this dataset includes only data relating to England. The Environment Agency no longer supplies data on behalf of Natural Resources Wales.

7. List of abbreviations

HLD – Historic Landfill Dataset

HL – Historic Landfill

LAs – Local Authorities

LPA – Local Planning Authorities

VARS – Value added resellers

COPA – Control of pollution Act

WMLR – Waste management licencing regulations

PPC – Pollution Prevention and Control

GDPO – General Development procedure Order

8. Feedback

We welcome feedback on our data . If you have any comments please send us an email at the address below with the following details

The National Dataset to which the feedback relates.

Any feedback on the contents of the documentation

Any feedback on the data content

Any general feedback

**Data Sharing and Access
Environment Agency
Deanery Road
Bristol
BS1 5AH**

Tel: 0117 9344241
E-mail: data.info@environment-agency.gov.uk

Appendix: A1

Data fields

Name	Description	Domain A=alpha numeric N=Number	Data Type	Format/Field Length
HLD_REF	Historical Waste Data project Unique Key for each record	AAAAANNNNN	String	10
SITE_NAME	Site Name	Any String	String	200
SITE_ADD	Site Address	Any String	String	200
EA_WMLR	Environment Agency Waste Management Licence Number	NNNNNN	String	6
WRC_REF	WRC dataset reference	NNNN/NNNN	String	9
REGIS_NO	REGIS reference number	AAN/AAA/NNN	String	11
BGS_Num	BGS dataset Reference	Any String	String	4
SITE_REF	Waste Regulation Authority Licence Number	Any String	String	100
LIC_HOLD	Licence Holder	Any String	String	150
LICHOLDADD	Licence Holder's address	Any String	String	250
SITEOPNAME	Site Operator	Any String	String	50
SITEOPADD	Site Operator's address	Any String	String	250
OS_PREFIX	OS Prefix	AA	String	2
EASTING	Easting (automated at nearest 100m grid to the South West of the Site Centroid)	NNNNNN	String	6
NORTHING	Northing (automated at nearest 100m grid to the South West of the Site Centroid)	NNNNNN	String	6
EAREGION	Code identifying the Environment Agency Region in which the site is located	AA	String	2
EAAREA	Code identifying the Environment Agency Area in which the site is located	Any String	String	30
LIC_ISSUE	Date of Issue of Licence	NN/NN/NNNN	Date	8
LIC_SURREN	Date of surrender of Licence	NN/NN/NNNN	Date	8
FIRSTINPUT	Date of first input of waste	NN/NN/NNNN	Date	8
LASTINPUT	Date of last input of waste	NN/NN/NNNN	Date	8
INERT	Waste deposited at the site included Inert 'Yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
INDUSTRIAL	Waste deposited at the site included industrial waste 'Yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
COMMERCIAL	Waste deposited at the site included Commercial 'Yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
HOUSEHOLD	Waste deposited at the site included Household 'Yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
SPECIAL	Waste deposited at the site included Special 'Yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
LIQSLUDGE	Waste deposited at the site included Liquid Sludge 'Yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
WASTEUNK	Waste deposited at the site included some unknown material 'Yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
GASCONTROL	A flag recording if there was any Gas control measures installed at the site 'yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
LEACHATECNT	A flag recording if there was any Leachate control measures installed at the site 'yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
LICENCED	Was the site licenced under Waste Disposal or Waste Management Licensing 'yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3

NOLICREQ	Was the site known to have not required a licence 'yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
EXEMPT	Was the site known to be exempt from Waste Management Licensing 'yes' or blank	'Yes' or blank	String	3
BUFF_POINT	Flag (yes/no) field for Buffered Point polygons	'Yes' or blank	String	3