MIDAS HERITAGE
HER COMPLIANCE PROFILE

Detail of carving, York Minster
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MIDAS Heritage HER Compliance Profile

Introduction

MIDAS Heritage helps you decide what information to record
MIDAS Heritage is a data standard for information about the historic environment. It states what information should be recorded to support effective sharing and long-term preservation of the knowledge of the historic environment. It has been designed to be flexible and adaptable to a wide variety of different situations. Users therefore have a choice as to which parts of the standard they comply with, depending on the sort of information they are interested in.

Complying with MIDAS Heritage gives you many benefits
Compliance with MIDAS Heritage confers the following advantages:
- ♦ Improved access to information
- ♦ Ability to build on existing research
- ♦ The cost of sharing information is lowered
- ♦ New technologies, sharing the same standards, can be easily used
- ♦ Data is more easily archived

HER Compliance Profile – an agreed way for HERs to use MIDAS Heritage
A Compliance Profile is a way for a community of users to agree which parts of the standard they wish to comply with, and how they will use it. It is a document which must be used in conjunction with MIDAS Heritage, rather than as a stand-alone tool.

A collaborative approach created the Compliance Profile for HERs
The Historic Environment Record community is one of the largest groups of MIDAS Heritage users. It recognised that producing a Compliance Profile would be a major priority in implementing the standard. A project team, consisting of members drawn from HERs in England, Wales and Scotland, plus representatives of English Heritage, was therefore formed to develop the Profile, and met several times at the National Monuments Record in Swindon. This Compliance Profile is the result.

The Compliance Profile ensures consistency across the HER community
The project team looked at MIDAS Heritage from the viewpoint of an HER. MIDAS Heritage states that some information is mandatory; in other words, if you are going to use a particular Information Group (such as Monument, for example), there are certain Units of Information which you must include in order to be compliant with the MIDAS Heritage standard. Other Units of Information are optional, but a Compliance Profile can specify that, for a particular user community, these should be upgraded to mandatory. This has been done for the HER Compliance Profile in a number of places.

Concentrating on data, not on the system or recording practice
This Compliance Profile concentrates on dataset compliance only, not system compliance. MIDAS Heritage gives no guidance on the way in which users should implement the standard; it does not recommend a data structure for a database, for example, or specify the exact way a system should store data. (See p. 19 of MIDAS Heritage for details on this.) However, if you are designing a new HER database, the Compliance Profile will be invaluable during the design stage, to ensure that your system is compliant with MIDAS Heritage.

If you have an existing dataset, it can be mapped to MIDAS Heritage (in a process of comparing the information in the fields of your database with the units of information in MIDAS Heritage) to find out if you are compliant with the standard. Help is available from the Forum for Information Standards in Heritage (FISH) if you require it.

The Compliance Profile does not replace MIDAS Heritage. Rather, it creates a unique blueprint for the way in which HERs have agreed to use the standard. In order to use the Compliance Profile, you will have to refer closely to MIDAS Heritage itself.

MIDAS Heritage and the Compliance Profile also do not give guidance on recording practice; information on this can be gained from *Informing the Future of the Past: Guidelines for Historic Environment Records,* 2nd edition (www.ifp-plus.info).

What does Mandatory mean?
Both MIDAS Heritage and the HER Compliance Profile use the term Mandatory to describe some Units of Information. By this, we mean that it is mandatory to record the information where it is available. In some cases, information may be missing, for example the End Date of an activity which is still in progress. In other cases, it may be necessary to enter suitable default values for a Mandatory field. MIDAS Heritage gives more guidance on this issue (p.19 and p.26).

MIDAS Heritage is an ongoing work: you can become involved
MIDAS Heritage is a dynamic standard that is continuing to develop in response to the needs of the sector. If you would like to become involved in this work, you will be very welcome. The Forum for Information Standards in Heritage is the overseeing body (www.fish-forum.info) and we particularly welcome new members. Please visit our website for more details.

The HER Compliance Profile

How to use the HER Compliance Profile
The HER Compliance Profile sets out in detail which parts of MIDAS Heritage an HER should comply with (see the Introduction for more information on this). MIDAS Heritage itself contains comprehensive instructions on the creation and use of Compliance Profiles, and we recommend that you read this before you use this Compliance Profile (p. 17-21).

The HER Compliance Profile Table Explained In More Detail
Information Group – these are all defined clearly in MIDAS Heritage, with a section of the document devoted to each. Please refer to MIDAS Heritage to find out about them.

Mandatory? – the options in this column are either Mandatory or Aspirational. Mandatory Information Groups are those which the HER Compliance Profile working group felt were essential for an HER to record. Aspirational are those which an HER may record if it wishes, but are not essential. Mandatory and Aspirational in this column refer specifically to the HER Compliance Profile. You should note that if you do decide to use an Aspirational Information Group, you should comply with MIDAS Heritage as regards which Units of Information in that Information Group to record.

Compliance Level – the options here are Level 1 (basic compliance) and Level 2 (full compliance). Level 1 is where all Units of Information defined as Mandatory in MIDAS Heritage are recorded, and all relationships between Information Groups defined as Mandatory are also present. Level 2 builds on this, with the Optional Units of Information also recorded where appropriate, and the Optional relationships between Information Groups are present. Levels 1 and 2 in this column refer specifically to MIDAS Heritage. They do not equate to the benchmarks set out in *Historic Environment Records: Benchmarks for Good Practice*, 2002

Locally Mandatory Relationships – these are relationships which, although listed as Optional in MIDAS Heritage, are Mandatory in the HER Compliance Profile.
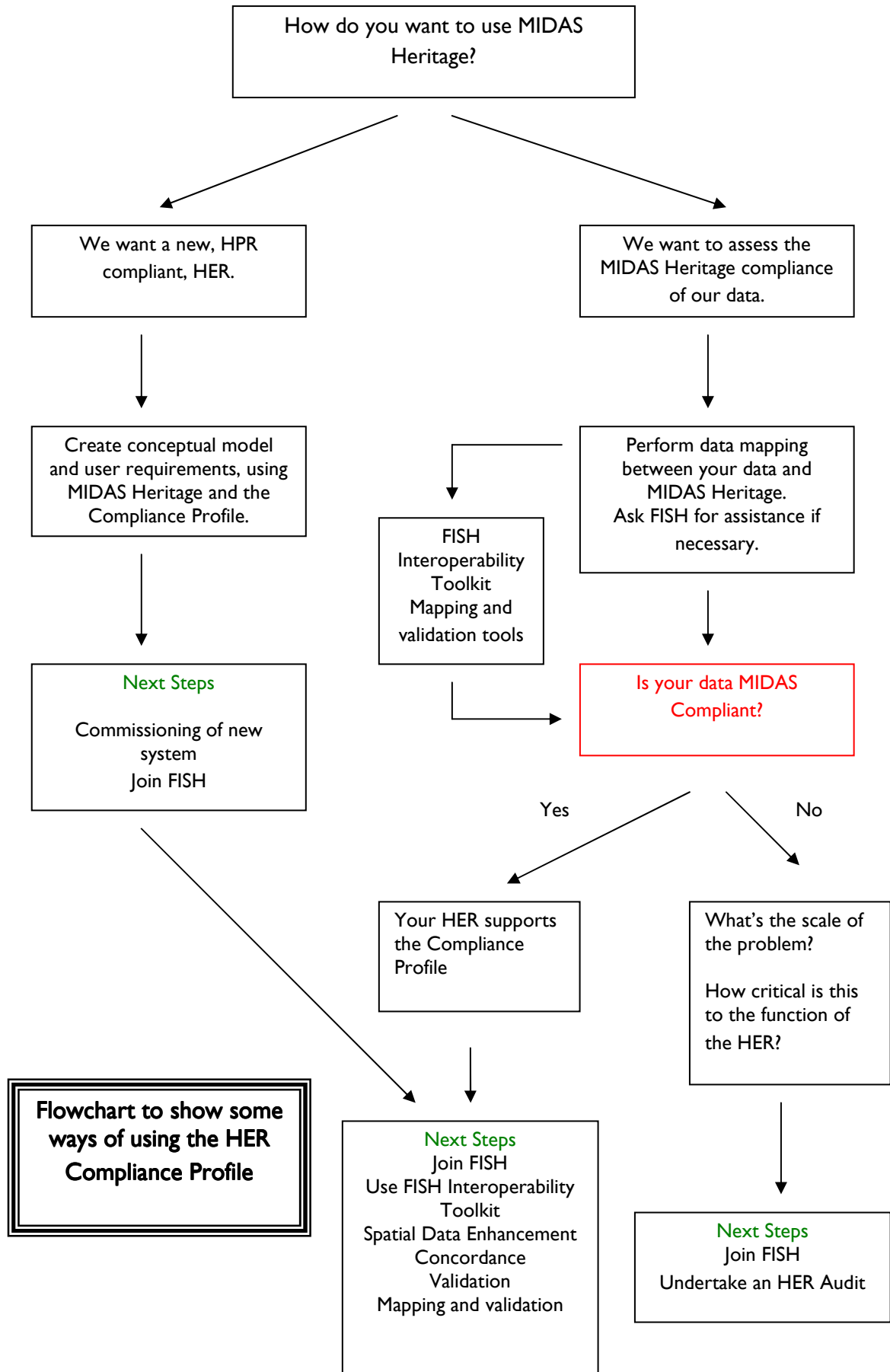
Locally Mandatory Units of Information – these are Units of Information whose recording is listed as Optional in MIDAS Heritage, but which have been defined in the HER Compliance Profile as Mandatory. (It is worth noting here that MIDAS Heritage provides a Dictionary of all the Units of Information, in which it defines each one separately together with some help on how to use it. The Dictionary of Units of Information can be found on p. 107 of MIDAS Heritage).

The HER Compliance Profile Table

Information Group	Mandatory?	Compliance Level	Locally Mandatory Relationships	Locally Mandatory Units of Information
Area	Mandatory	Level 1	Research and Analysis; Archive and Bibliography	
Monument	Mandatory	Level 1	Map Depiction; Investigative Activity; Designation and Protection	Heritage Asset Name; External Information System; External Information System PRN; Evidence; Compiler (Person)
Artefact and Ecofact	Mandatory	Level 1	Archive and Bibliography	
Investigative Activity	Mandatory	Level 2	Map Depiction	Activity Name; Compiler (Person); External Information System PRN; External Information System
Designation and Protection	Mandatory	Level 2	Map Depiction	External Information System; External Information System PRN
Heritage Asset Management Activity	Mandatory	Level 1	Designation and Protection	Compiler (Person)
Casework and Consultation	Mandatory	Level 2	Heritage Asset Management Activity	
Research and Analysis	Aspirational			
Historical Event	Aspirational		Archive and Bibliography	
Archive and Bibliography	Mandatory	Level 2		
Narrative and Synthesis	Aspirational			
Management Activity Documentation	Mandatory	Level 1		Compiler (Person)
Location	Mandatory	Level 1		
Map Depiction	Mandatory	Level 2	Heritage Asset Management Activity	Data Capture Process; Compiler (Person); Precision; Data Capture Scale
Date and Period	Mandatory	Level 2		Scientific Date; Scientific Date Method
Actor and Role	Mandatory	Level 1		Compiler (Person)

Please note that **Designation and Protection** and **Heritage Asset Management Activities** are Information Groups which will be subject to review in the light of emerging legislation.

The grey fields in the table have been left intentionally blank.

How do you want to use MIDAS Heritage?

We want a new, HPR compliant, HER.

We want to assess the MIDAS Heritage compliance of our data.

Create conceptual model and user requirements, using MIDAS Heritage and the Compliance Profile.

Perform data mapping between your data and MIDAS Heritage. Ask FISH for assistance if necessary.

FISH Interoperability Toolkit Mapping and validation tools

Next Steps

Commissioning of new system
Join FISH

Is your data MIDAS Compliant?

Yes

No

Your HER supports the Compliance Profile

What's the scale of the problem?

How critical is this to the function of the HER?

Flowchart to show some ways of using the HER Compliance Profile

Next Steps
Join FISH
Use FISH Interoperability Toolkit
Spatial Data Enhancement
Concordance
Validation
Mapping and validation

Next Steps
Join FISH
Undertake an HER Audit

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Glossary of Terms

MIDAS Heritage contains a glossary of terms which are frequently used throughout the data standard. For your convenience, we have reproduced here the definitions of some of them. Please see the full MIDAS Heritage document for the entire glossary.

Compliance Profile
A document setting out a specific information system or dataset, or community. The level of compliance with the standard (Non-compliant, Level 1, Level 2) for each MIDAS Heritage Information Group.

Dataset
A collection of entries. The term is used to distinguish the data (the actual recorded facts) from the database or other information system, which is the hardware and software used to store and process the data.

Data Standard
A statement of what data should be recorded, and how the data should be recorded, to facilitate consistency between information system entries and between different information systems using the same standard.

Heritage Asset
The main subject of interest of most MIDAS Heritage information systems – the documented real world and conjectured or proposed things that the information recorded relates to. 'Heritage Asset' has a much broader definition within the context of Midas Heritage and is not limited to historic features which enjoy statutory protection.

Acknowledgements