



Soil Information and Data Policy

Information paper

Department: Centre for Environment and Agricultural Informatics (CEAI)

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Cranfield University holds information and data relating to the soil resources of England and Wales. These are grouped into three principle categories:

1. Published reports and maps of soil resources;
2. Unpublished field records from soil surveys and other field research;
3. Digital soil data held in the soil and land information system; LandIS.

Particular arrangements for access to the third category have been established as part of a legal agreement between the Cranfield University and the Crown. Under the LandIS Agreement, Cranfield University has an exclusive right to grant licences for use of the data. Income from commercial data licences plays an essential role in helping to support the work of the Cranfield Environment and Agricultural Informatics Institute (CEAI). Under the agreement, special conditions apply to Departments of the Crown and to those wishing to use the data for bona fide research such that both groups pay an administrative fee but no royalties for access to soil data.

Cranfield University has adopted the following policy regarding the availability of its information and data holdings in response to the Freedom of Information Act 2004 and the Environmental Information Regulation 2004.

1. The intention of Cranfield University is to enable access to the soil information/data by any person or organisation that applies to it for access except when:

- a) disclosure of the information has the potential to prejudice the interests of a third party such as a landowner;
- b) the information is intended for future publication and its release would result in the premature publication of research;
- c) the charges levied by Cranfield University cannot be met by the applicant (further details of charges are given below).

2. The published reports and maps are available for purchase. A publications price list is available online at www.landis.org.uk, or via:

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3. Access to unpublished archive records will be granted on receipt of a sufficiently precise description of the information required and payment of a fee to cover the cost of extracting the information from the collection. This fee will vary according to the time required to extract the requested records but will be calculated using standard staff *per diem* consultancy rates.

4. Access to digital soil data will be granted under the terms and conditions of the LandIS Agreement. These are explained in more detail on CEAI's web site at www.landis.org.uk. The cost of licensing digital soil data are detailed on this web site.

The use of soil information provided by Cranfield University is subject to the normal conditions of copyright law. Licences can be made available to information users who wish to either publish or make multiple copies of soil maps or other information.

Further details are available online at www.landis.org.uk

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