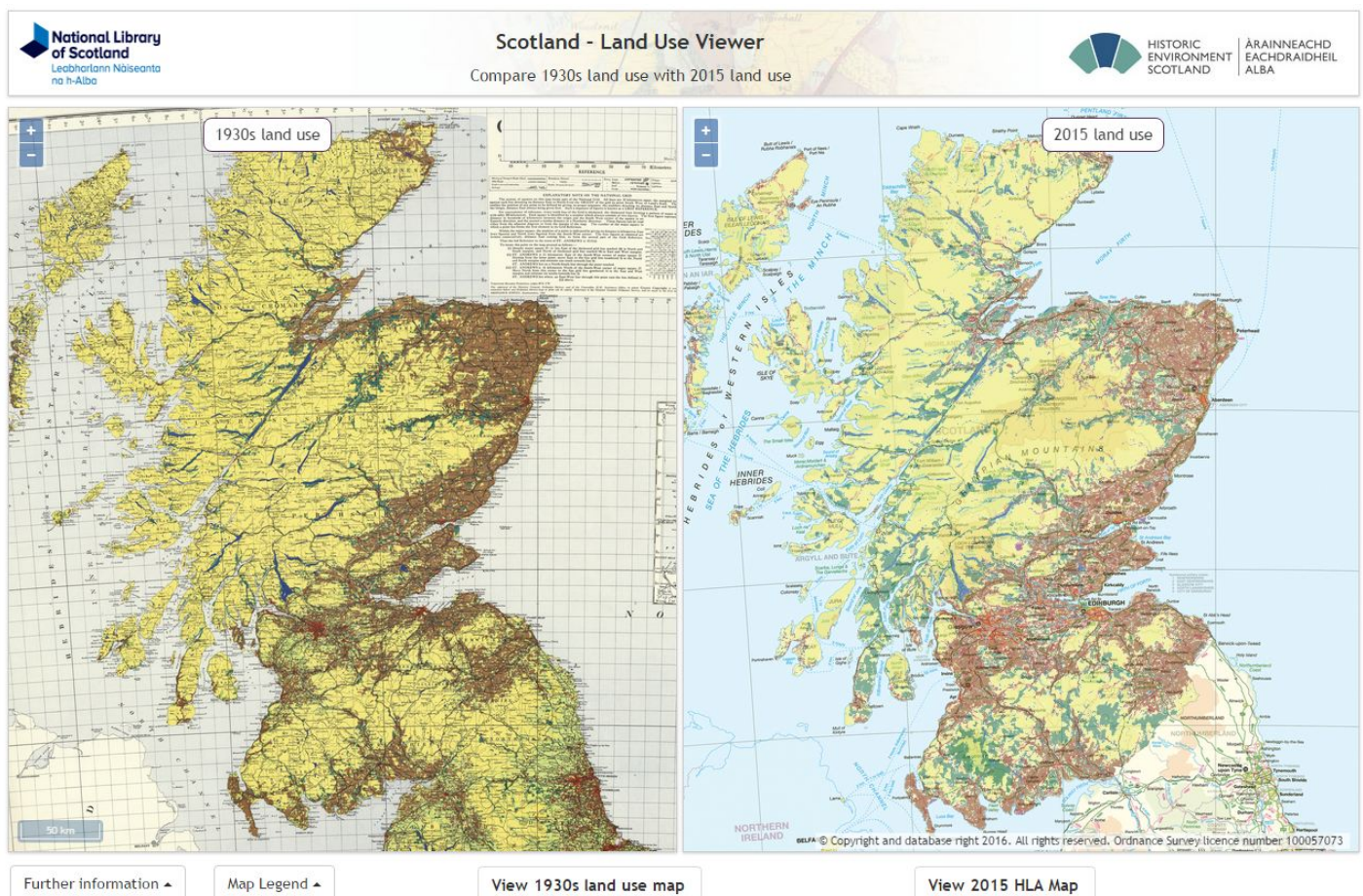# DIGITALLY RECORDING LAND USE ACROSS SCOTLAND

July 29, 2016   Historic Environment Scotland   Day of Archaeology 2016, Digital Archaeology, Landscape Archaeology, UK   Archaeology, Historic Environment Scotland, Historic Maps, HLA, Mapping, relict landuse,Scotland

I'm Mike Middleton and I work as an archaeologist for Historic Environment Scotland in the Data and Recording team, with specific responsibility for mapping. I work on two major projects; the Historic Land-use Assessment – a map of the current and relict land-use of Scotland – and a project looking to map the records in the National Record of the Historic Environment.

In my work I use sources such as historic maps, aerial photography and field survey data to try and map the known extent of sites and historic landscapes. I also work with and train colleagues so as to build mapping into their field projects.

One of our most exciting developments this year has been the completion of the Historic Land-use Assessment to give us full nationwide coverage for the first time. This has allowed us to work in partnership with the National Library of Scotland to produce a Land-use Viewer showing the change in Scotland's land-use since the 1930s.

Showing the change in Scotland's land-use since the 1930's.

The maps highlight changing land use and in particular the urban and forest expansion during this period, as well as the impact of infrastructure projects such as hydro schemes and bridges.

Having a nationwide land-use map allows us to quantify and monitor land-use change. By understanding what land-use change is happening we can start to think about how it impacts on the historic environment and this is turn can inform how we manage and target resources.

I got into archaeology because I grew up in Shetland – an area particularly rich in archaeology. As my career has developed I've come to see how archaeology is a finite resource, susceptible to land-use change. By working in archaeological mapping I feel I'm contributing by mapping the scale of the resource and by attempting to understand how land-use change is impacting on our historic environment.

Links:

Scotland: Land-use Viewer

http://maps.nls.uk/projects/landuse/#zoom=7&lat=56.7000&lon=-4.0000

HLAmap

http://hlamap.org.uk/

Canmore: The National Record of the Historic Environment

https://canmore.org.uk/