

The UK Soil Observatory and mySoil App, How Can We Improve Digital Soil Data Tools?

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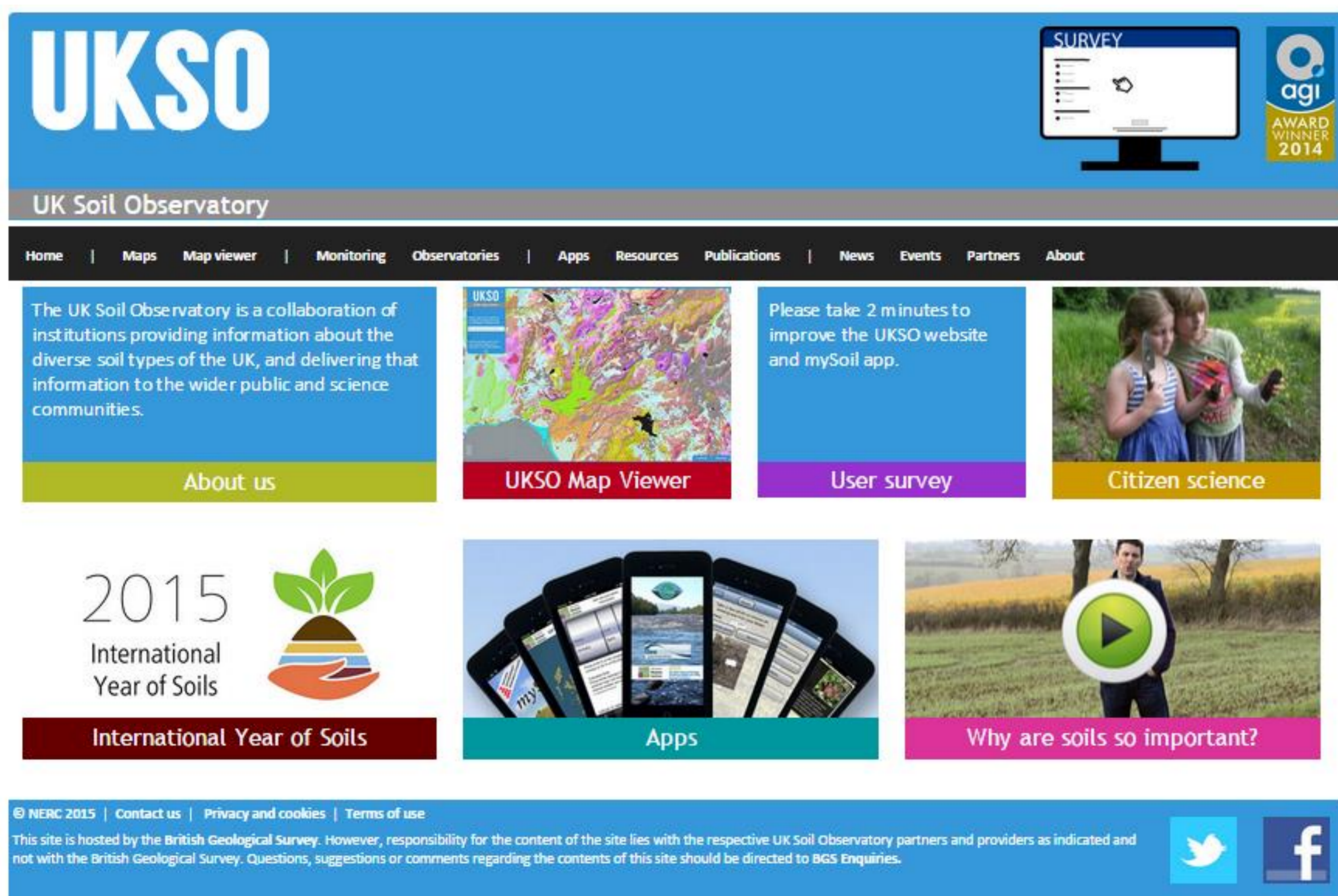
Digital technologies in terms of web based data portals and mobiles apps offer a new way to both provide information to the public, and to engage the public in becoming involved in contributing to the effort of collecting data through crowdsourcing. The UK Soil Observatory is a collaboration between major UK soil data holders to provide maps, spatial data and realtime temporal data from observing platforms such as the UK soil moisture network. Both UKSO and mySoil have crowdsourcing capability and are slowly building global citizen science maps of soil properties such as pH and texture. Whilst these data can't replace professional monitoring data, the information they provide both stimulates public interest and can act as 'soft data' that can help support the interpretation of monitoring data, or guide future monitoring, identifying areas that don't correspond with current analysis.

The mySoil app was launched in 2012 and is an example of a free mobile application downloadable from iTunes and Google Play. It currently has over 45,000 dedicated users and has crowd sourced more than 3000 data records. Recent developments have expanded the coverage of mySoil from the United Kingdom to Europe, whilst UKSO displays crowdsourced records from across the globe. We are now trying to identify which industry, education and citizen sectors are using these platforms and how they can be improved. Please help us by providing feedback or taking the survey on the UKSO website.

www.UKSO.org



Tell us what you want, take our 2 minute survey!



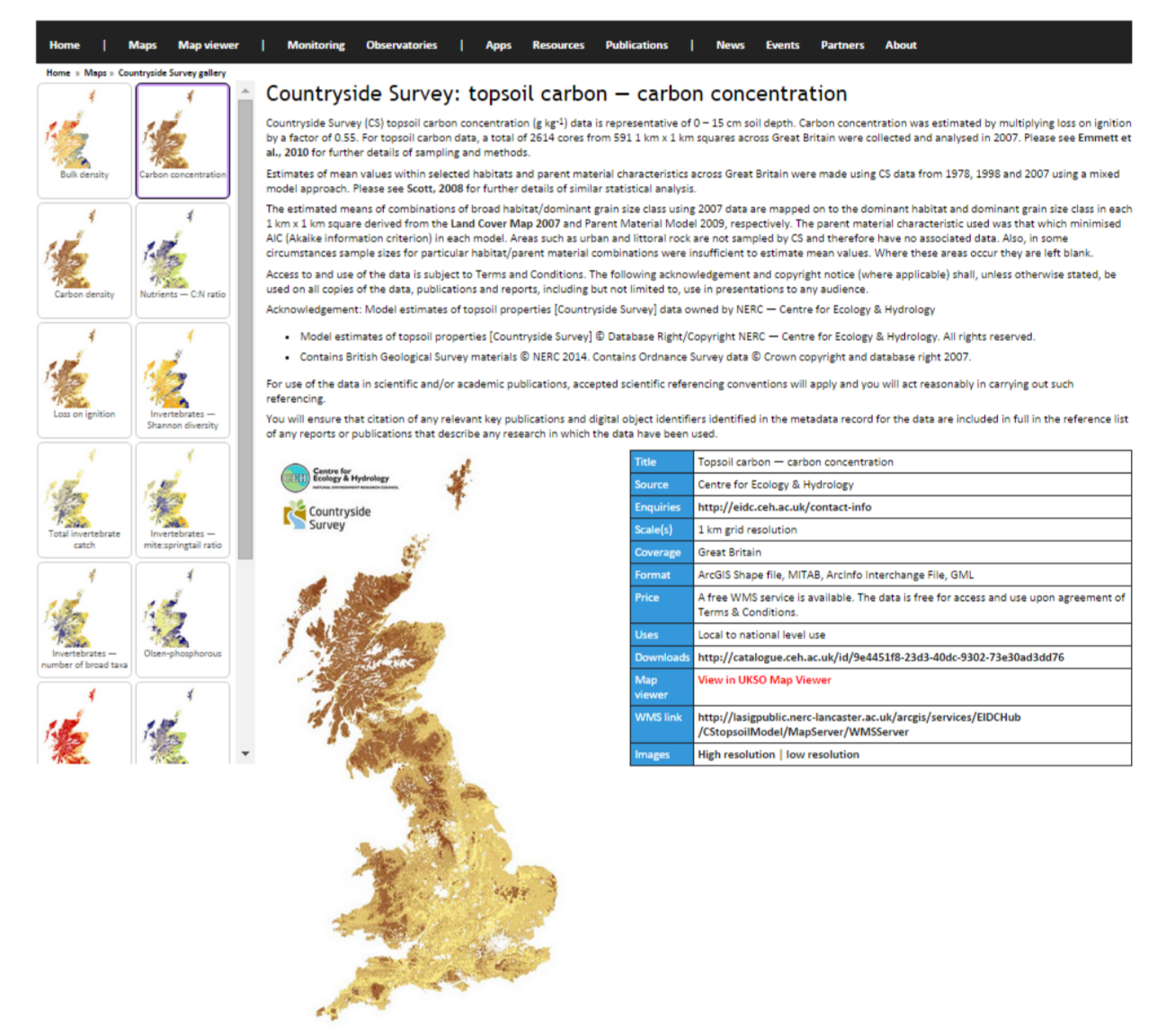
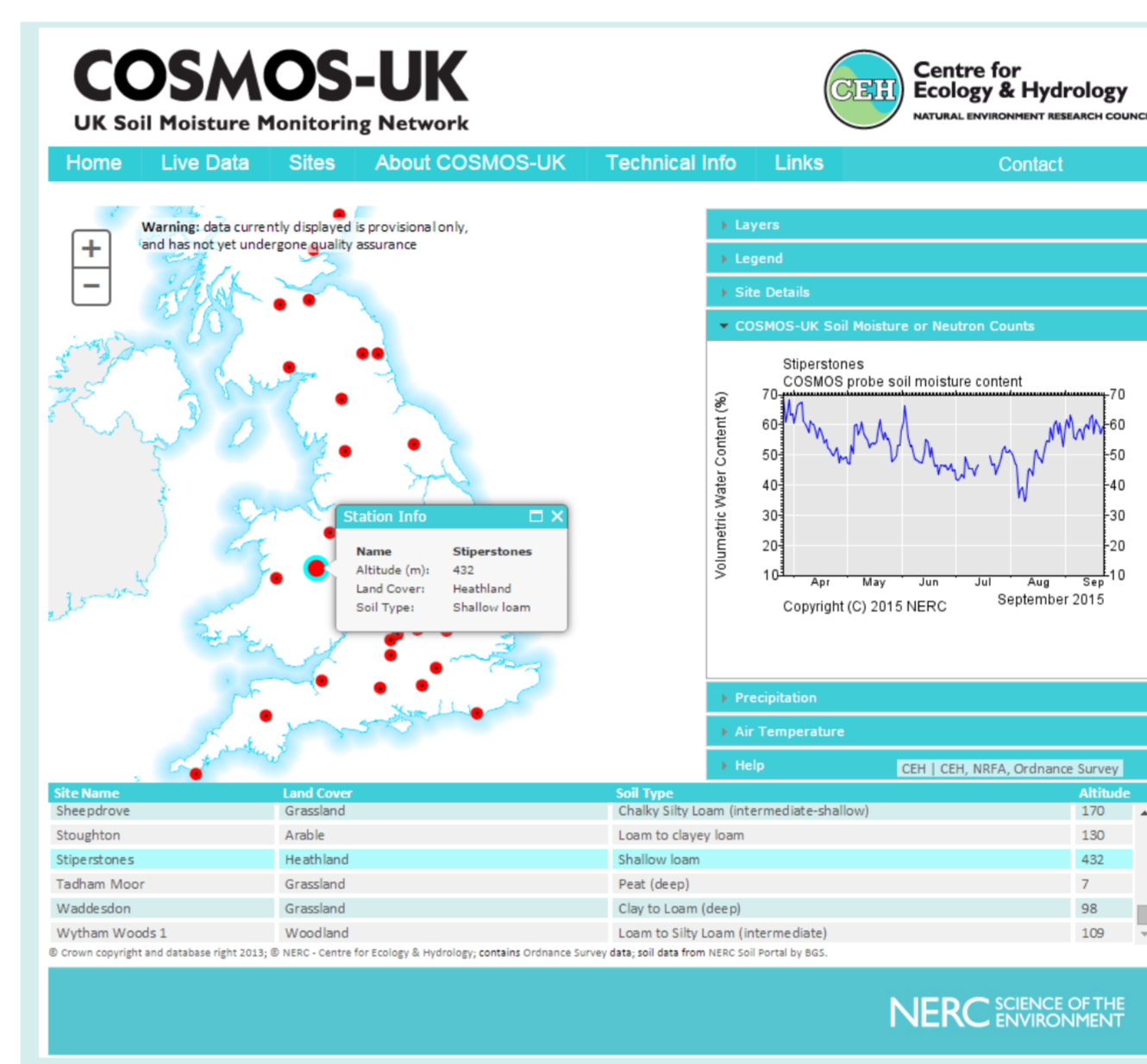
THE UK SOIL OBSERVATORY

Publicly available soil information
Lawley et al., 2014

www.UKSO.org

A WEB BASED DIGITAL PLATFORM PROVIDING:

- 115 free to view maps and data layers
- Citizen science – crowd sourcing of data
- Soil property map viewer
- Publications, News, and Events
- Live data, e.g. COSMOS UK Soil Moisture network
- Mobile version too!



App's mySoil

Free to download from iTunes and Google Play
Shelley et al., 2013

Now with more than 45,000 active users across the globe
More than 3000 data records uploaded
Visualized in the UKSO mapviewer



References

- Lawley, R., B.A. Emmett, D.A. Robinson. 2014. Soil Observatory lets researchers dig deep. Nature 509, 427.
- Shelley, W., R. Lawley and D.A. Robinson. 2013. Crowd-sourced soil data for Europe. Nature, 496:300.

UKSO partners:



mySoil partners:



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