

Data Sharing in Infrastructure and Urban Systems

30 October 2024 Joanne Leach, UKCRIC Executive Manager

UKCRIC's Vision

Inspired infrastructure for better living

UKCRIC's Mission

To connect research with policy and practice in infrastructure and urban systems



UK COLLABORATORIUM FOR RESEARCH ON INFRASTRUCTURE & CITIES



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UKCRIC's work is driven by four Scientific Missions, each working to develop and deliver breakthrough research for the benefit of society.

The Scientific Missions are the framing through which UKCRIC facilitates the delivery of interconnected, integrated and transdisciplinary research programmes and projects.

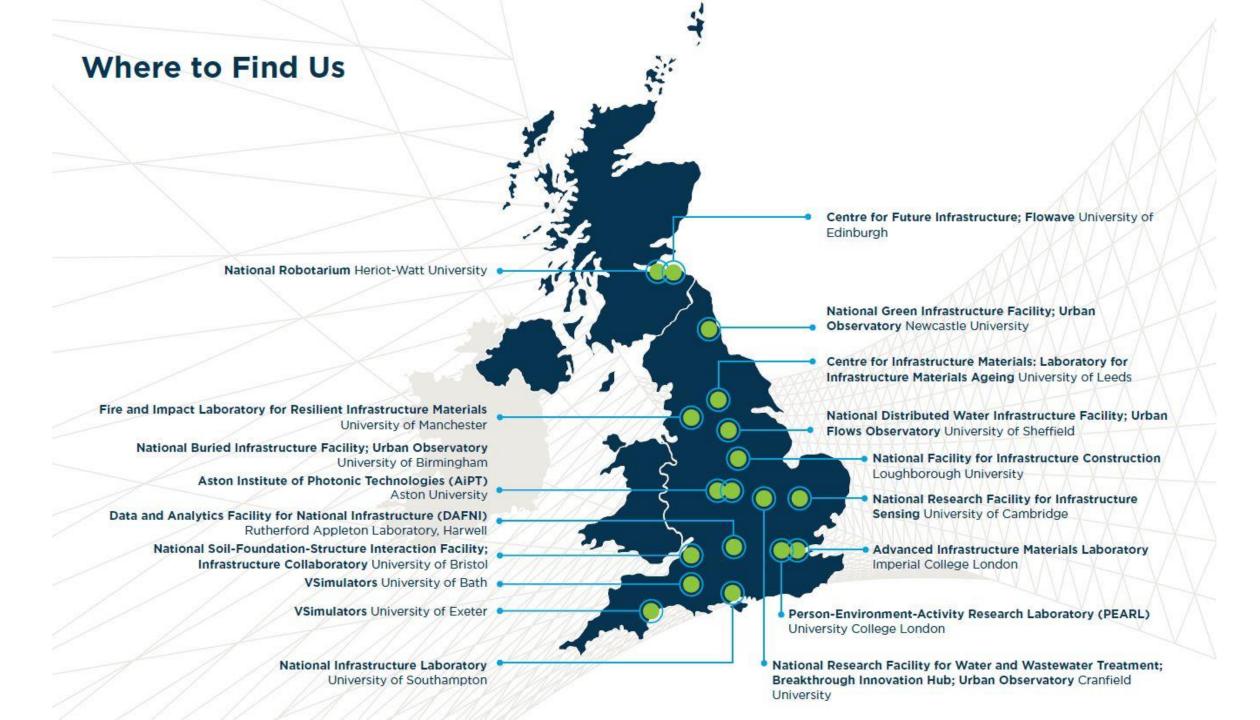
Transformational infrastructure and urban systems for a changing world

Infrastructure and urban systems for one planet living



Infrastructure and urban systems as drivers of equity, inclusion and social justice

Ownership, governance and business models for infrastructure and urban systems









Guiding questions for the workshops

- 1. This discussion is predicated on the need for a 'national research cloud' that supports research data sharing. Do you recognise this need?
- 2. In your experience, what motivates data sharing?
- 3. What are the benefits and barriers you have experienced when sharing, exchanging and reusing data?
- 4. Can you recommend any data sharing best practices? Examples might be for data policies; data sharing agreements; and data annotation, terminology and ontologies.

Data cloud v. data library

How can the UK transform its data into research assets that can be used to benefit society?

The workshops sought to identify the benefits and enablers of and the barriers to data sharing, exchange and reuse.

Workshop 1

The challenges of and opportunities for data sharing between industry and academia

There is the nature of data, which is one layer, and there is the nature of data sharing, which is another layer.

Then there is the nature of the data library itself.

For data sharing relationships to be productive those in the relationship need to ask: what is data, for what is it going to be used, and how is it going to be contextualised?

The nature of data

What is data? What does a national research data library consider data to be?

Data is not "a clean thing"

- It varies along the spectrums of quality, context and accuracy
- What it actually measures may not be the same as what it thinks it is measuring

Data exists within a sensemaking context (a context that makes sense of the data). Data on its own is meaningless. The user must have a way of contextualising it / benchmarking it.

The nature of data sharing

For data sharing relationships to be productive those in the relationship need to ask: what is data, what is it going to be used for, and how is it going to be contextualised?

Three elements are required if data is to be effectively shared:

- 1. knowing the purpose of the data
- 2. knowing the provenance of the data (its origin story)
- 3. trusting the data and its source

Willingness to share data is low. Willingness to use shared data is high.

The nature of a data library

Data sharing is more than creating a depository or a federated library. Data sharing requires an ongoing dialogue between the data supplier and user about how the data is being interrogated:

- Are the analyses being proposed sound?
- Is the data being used in a way that is valid and robust?
- Can the data answer the questions being asked of it?

The library must incorporate services that support easier ways to access data, easier ways to establish benchmarks, easier ways to conduct insights and analytics on the data.

"Data sharing must develop a purpose, otherwise it is a hammer looking for a nail."

Data sharing infrastructure *is* infrastructure and should be recognised as a class of infrastructure that falls under the remit of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) (shortly to be NISTA – the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority).

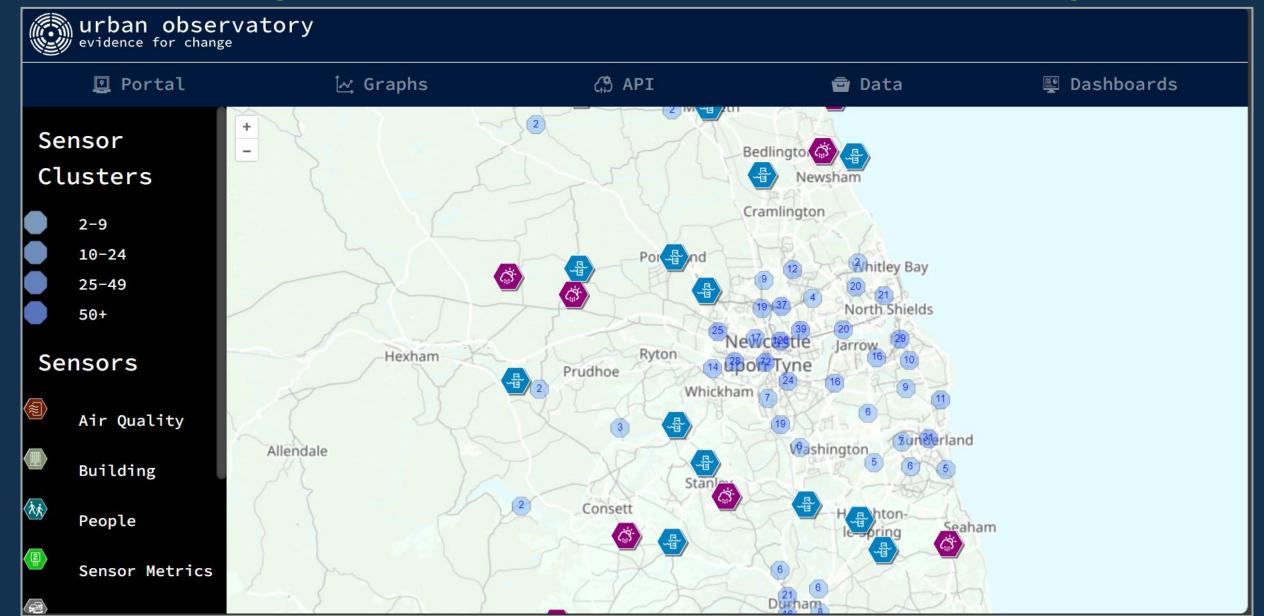
Data sharing infrastructure can't be owned by one group. It is a shared resource.

Mark Enzer

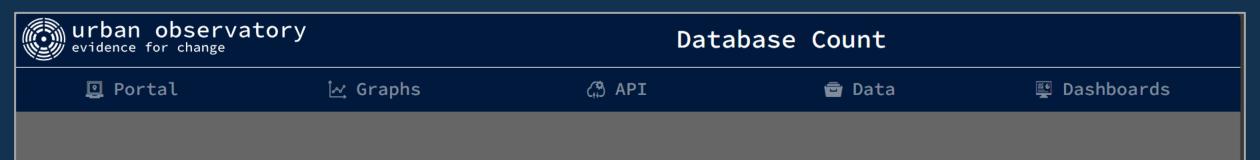
Workshop 2

The challenges of and opportunities for data sharing in urban observatories

University of Newcastle's Urban Observatory



Database count

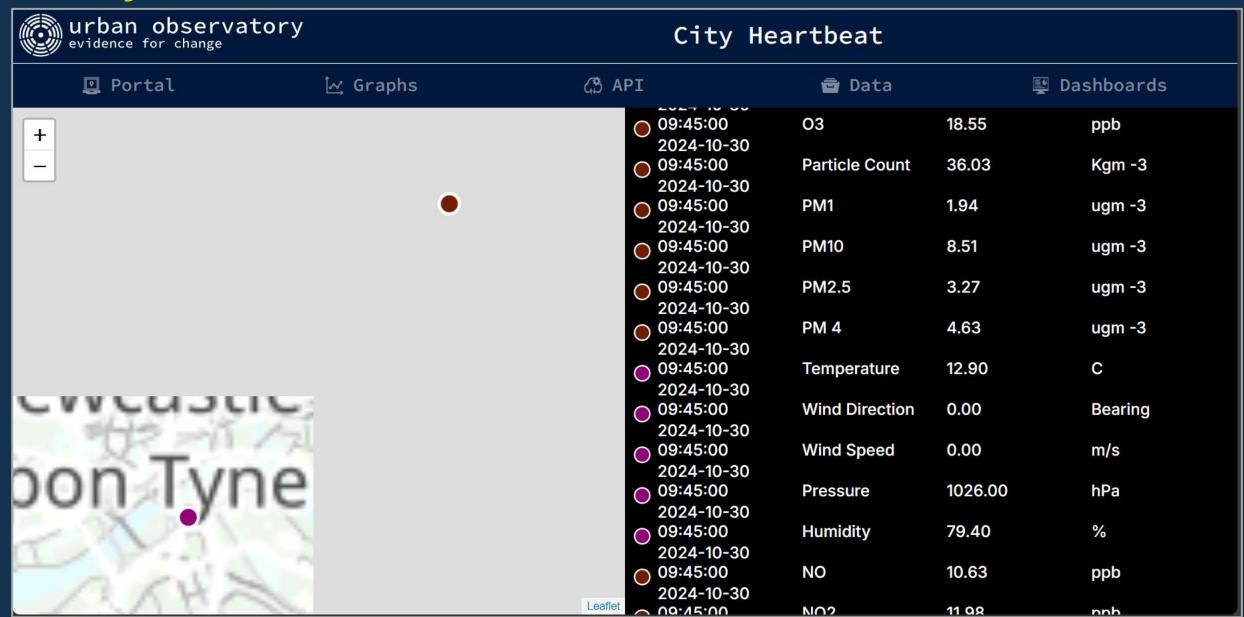


Live Newcastle UO Records

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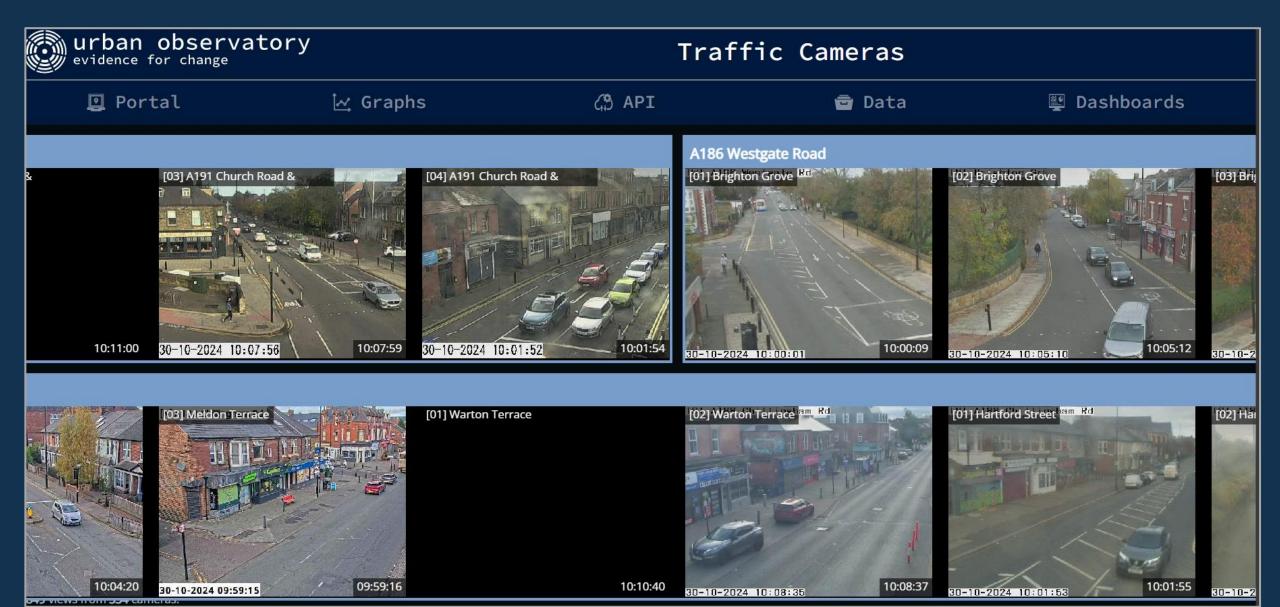
two billion, seven hundred and eighty two million, five hundred and forty three thousand four hundred and twenty six

City heartbeat



Traffic cameras

https://newcastle.urbanobservatory.ac.uk



Each group faces particular pressures that influence their ability to share data (such as commercial sensitivities and the ability to handle near-live data streaming), but they also recognise the opportunities afforded by sharing data and see the potential in taking a 'data-sharing first' approach to their work.

Thank you

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