

Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN)

How to use the MEDIN portal transcript



‘Measure once, use many times’

This document is the transcript from the YouTube video 'How to use the MEDIN portal', written and narrated by Roseanna Wright.

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In this video, I'll be talking about how to use the MEDIN portal.

The portal can be accessed from the MEDIN website by hovering over the 'Data' tab and then going to 'Find Data' or there is a direct link at the bottom left of the page.

You can also access the portal by searching for 'MEDIN portal' in any browser and going to portal.medin.org.uk.

The MEDIN portal is the hub for UK marine data, a single access point for tens of thousands of existing marine data sets from hundreds of data holders.

Once you're on the portal, you'll be able to input free text search terms. The question mark icon will give you some hints and tips on how to maximize the potential of your search terms so if I just choose one of the ones that I have recently searched for – [seagrass is the example chosen].

You can also narrow down your search by date or geographical location.

You can use the drawing tool to draw a bounding box over the map in your area of interest, and this will fill in these fields for you.

You also have the option of only showing results that lie entirely within your bounded box. If you don't tick this it will show results for data sets with bounding boxes that overlap your bounding box. I'll show you what this looks like in a minute.

There are also advanced search options which give you access to additional filters like data themes, parameters, keywords, data originators, data access conditions, data formats and geographic location keywords. If you don't want to apply these now, they'll appear later in the sidebar so you can add them at a later time if you wish.

When you click search, you'll be shown all the results that match your search criteria, both in the list at the right-hand side and on the map on the left. You can use the identify tool to click on any data bounding box and it will take you to the discovery metadata record.

The discovery metadata records show all of the information that will allow you to decide whether the data might be interesting to you.

So, if you click on more details this will show all of the information. There's a title and abstract, related keywords, geographic coverage, point of contact to access the data set if required and resource locators so where possible a link to the data download will be given here. So in this case, the link directly downloads data. You'll notice as well there's a green circle up here which denotes that there is an

online resource present. Clicking on this will take you directly to the resource location section of the discovery metadata record and from there you can download the data.

If we go back to our results, there are also options where an online resource is not present. If you click on this again it will take you directly to the resource locator and as you can see there's no links so you have to contact the point of contact to request the data. In some cases where there is an online resource present clicking the green button will take you to the website where the data are available from. You might have to do an additional search to find the data set again.

So, if I go back to our search again, if I untick this box I'll just show you the results and how they differ. So, you can see how some of these datasets cover large areas of the UK they might not necessarily have data in your area of interest but they might do so it's always worth checking.

If we start a new search, we can also add layers to our map. These are reference layers so if we have the link to a WMS server and 'get capabilities' this will show all of the resources that are available from this server. If I choose one of these and then add layer it appears within the layers at the side here and has already been applied. So this is a bathymetry map, and you can see how this would help you narrow down a search area if there was a particular feature that you're interested in looking at.

I hope this has been helpful and you now feel more confident searching the MEDIN portal.