

ESSD-2023-78 Resubmission: ‘LCM2021 – The UK Land Cover Map 2021’ response to reviewer comments.

The authors thank the reviewers for their considered comments on our submitted manuscript. We are delighted that both reviewers are satisfied with the revisions that we have made to the manuscript, are that they are both now happy to see the manuscript accepted as is. The point-by-point comments below address the editor comments. Note that when author responses refer to specific lines in the manuscript, these refer to line numbers in the revised manuscript with tracked changes, rather than the revised manuscript where tracked changes have been accepted.

Topical editor decision: Publish subject to minor revisions (review by editor)

Many thanks for the revision of your manuscript that fully satisfies the referees.

I have only a minor change request/ question to discuss with you before I will accept the article for final publication:

(1) the data availability statement still holds the information about the anonymous access to the data for referees. Is this intended to persist in the final version too? I would be fine with this, being a big supporter of open and freely-accessible data, but maybe CEH disagrees?

Response: The intention is to remove the information referring to anonymous access in the data availability section (lines 313-321) from the final document as this referred to alternative access for data download specifically for the review process, whereby anonymous reviewer access to the data products was stipulated as a requirement. These anonymous links were time-limited for review purposes only, and will not be permanently available. However, the LCM raster products are, and will continue to be open and freely-accessible to the user community. The data is accessible via the UKCEH Environmental Information Data Centre (<https://eidc.ac.uk/>) with DOIs / links to the respective data download web pages contained within Table 6 in the submitted manuscript. To download the data via EIDC does, however, require a login. Consequently, lines 313-321 have been removed from the resubmitted manuscript. Lines 307-312 have also been removed as this text duplicated lines 297-302.

(2) Would it be possible to add a sentence about the license of your data products? The DataCite metadata includes the link to all CEH licenses and it is quite difficult to decide under which of them your land cover files are published?

Response: We have added the following sentence in section ‘6 Data availability’ to clarify this: ‘All LCM raster datasets are available under a single common licence without charge for non-commercial use which includes non-commercial research and use within public bodies and charities and their contractors. Alternative licensing can be arranged on request with commercial organisations who wish to use the datasets within their own internal business operations or to develop commercial products or services.’