

Want to have a go yourself?

1. You need to download Google Earth Pro. If you haven't used it before, you might find these tutorials useful.

- a. Introduction to the Basics – tutorial -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIK27l3unng>

- b. Tools - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa7c4SVzo0I>

These will tell you how to navigate round Google Earth, place and save pins in places you want to remember, look at satellite images from different times, and so on.

2. So, got the basics?

Let's download sites from Historic England.

(You can also download sites from Cadw, Historic Scotland, and Northern Ireland Historic Environment data from the government website, though some are easier to find than others.)

3. Historic England – Download the List: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/data-downloads/>

4. Click Download GIS Listing Data.

5. It takes you to the Download Area: you'll need to register, but it's free, and will not spam you or pass on your details.

6. You'll be offered zip files of:

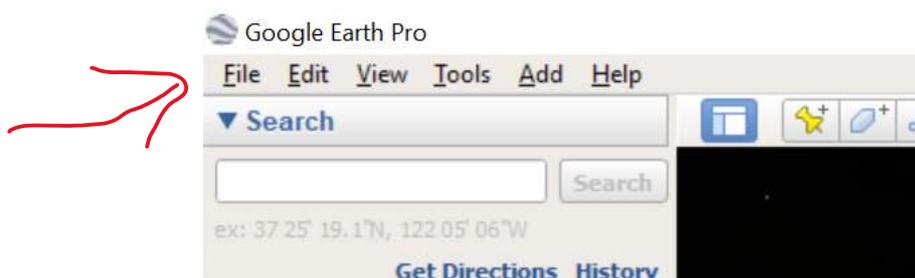
- **Listed Buildings**
- **Scheduled Monuments**
- **Registered Parks & Gardens**
- **Registered Battlefields**
- **World Heritage Sites**
- **Protected Wreck Sites**
- **Heritage At Risk**

Take a moment to notice the file sizes – Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings are pretty big.

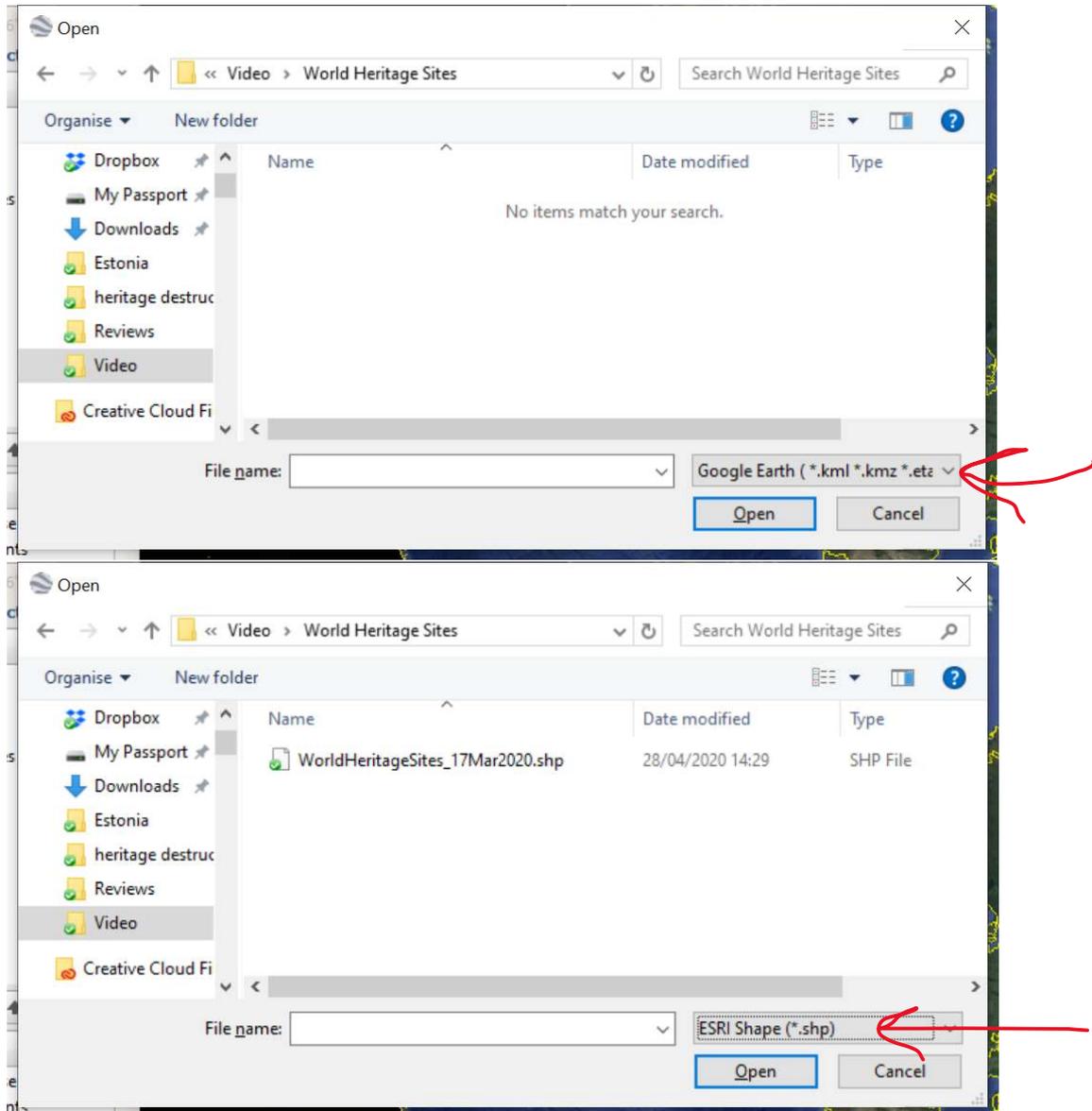
7. Download as many or as few as you want and unzip them.

8. The file formats are ESRI shapefiles (.shp): ESRI is a company who make a GIS system (a Geographic Image System, used to make spatial data. They are one of the main industry standards for spatial data.) A shapefile is made up 6 individual file types. Without all 6 parts (all saved in the same folder), the shapefile will not function correctly. Computer programmes designed to read them will open all 6 together by opening the .shp file.

9. In Google Earth Pro, on the top menu, go to **File / Open**



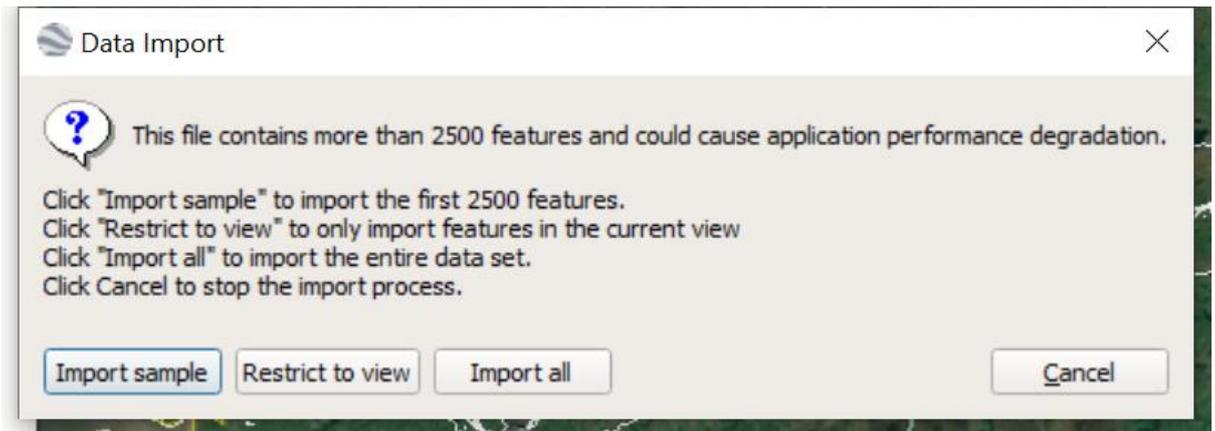
10. The **Open** window pops up. Use the dropdown menu to change the file type from **Google Earth (.kml .kmz)** to **ESRI Shape (*.shp)**



11. Select the files you want, and click **Open**. (I will use the World Heritage sites as an example).

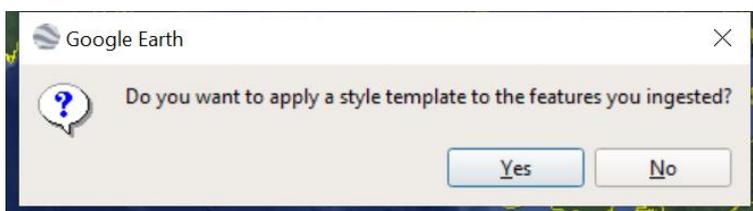
NB: The larger files will only work well on newer computers. You might want to open a smaller file, like World Heritage sites to begin with.

12. If it is a very large file with more than 2,500 features (like Listed Buildings, or Scheduled Monuments), you will get the following **Data Import** popup.

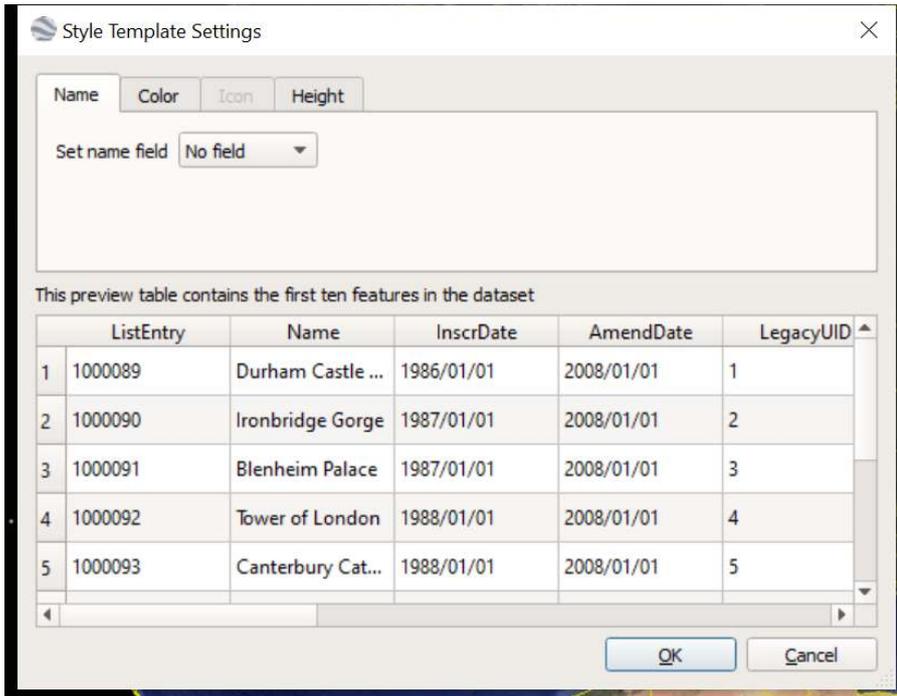


- a. If this popup does not appear, skip the next steps and go to point 13.
- b. **Import all** will import all the files: only a very good computer will be able to handle this.
- c. **Import Sample** will import the first 2,500 features, in the order Historic England have saved the file.
- d. The best option is **Restrict to View**. This will open only files related to your current view.
At this point, you may wish to cancel the import, and zoom your map view into a particular area, perhaps around Hadrian's Wall (east to west coast?), or near your house. Then reopen the file, following the above steps.
If your computer still struggles with the file, zoom in a bit more.
- e. Once you have zoomed in the screen to only show a small amount of map (small being relative to the whole of England), then **Restrict to View** should open a smaller number of sites that your computer will be able to cope with.

13. When you click **Open** (or one of the above options), a pop up box appears



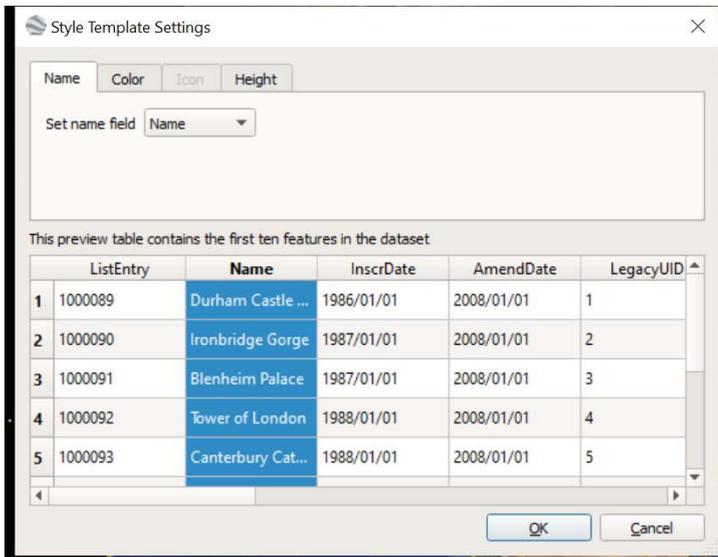
14. Click **Yes**. The **Style Template Settings** box pops up



15. You will see the box **Set name field** is set to **No Field**.

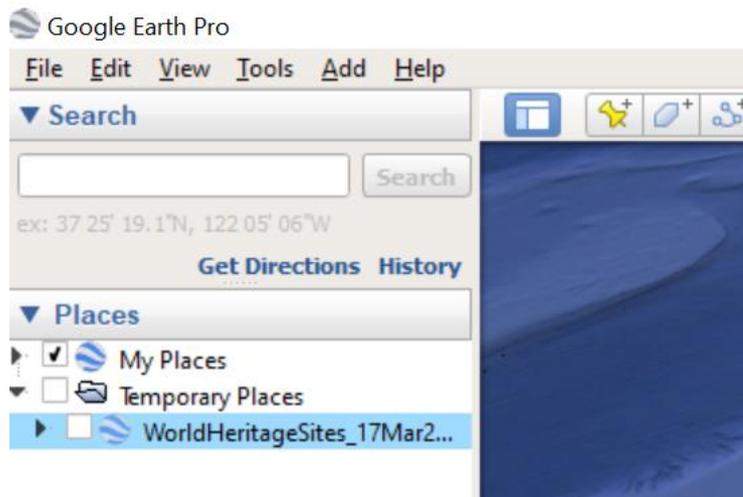
The fields (i.e. the column names for the data) are listed below – for the World Heritage Data, the fields are ListEntry, Name, InscrDate, etc...

16. From the dropdown list, choose **Name**, and press **OK**.



17. Google Earth will ask if you want to save the style template – I always say **Cancel**, but it's up to you.

18. The file you have selected will open in your **Temporary Places**. This means when you close Google Earth, it will not automatically save.



You may wish to click on the file, and drag and drop it into **My Places**. This means it will automatically save, and will still be there when you reopen Google Earth Pro.

19. Tick the check box, and the sites will appear.



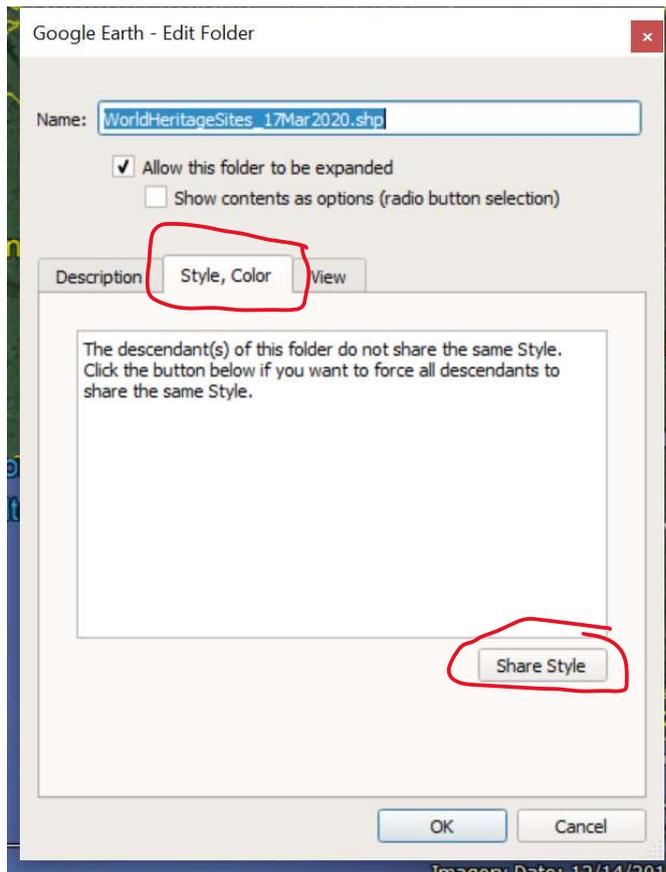
20. You will notice two things:

- a. The satellite image displays on a tilt, rather than flat, from the top down.
- b. Files which are polygons (that is, boundaries of areas, rather than points) automatically appear as filled in white areas.

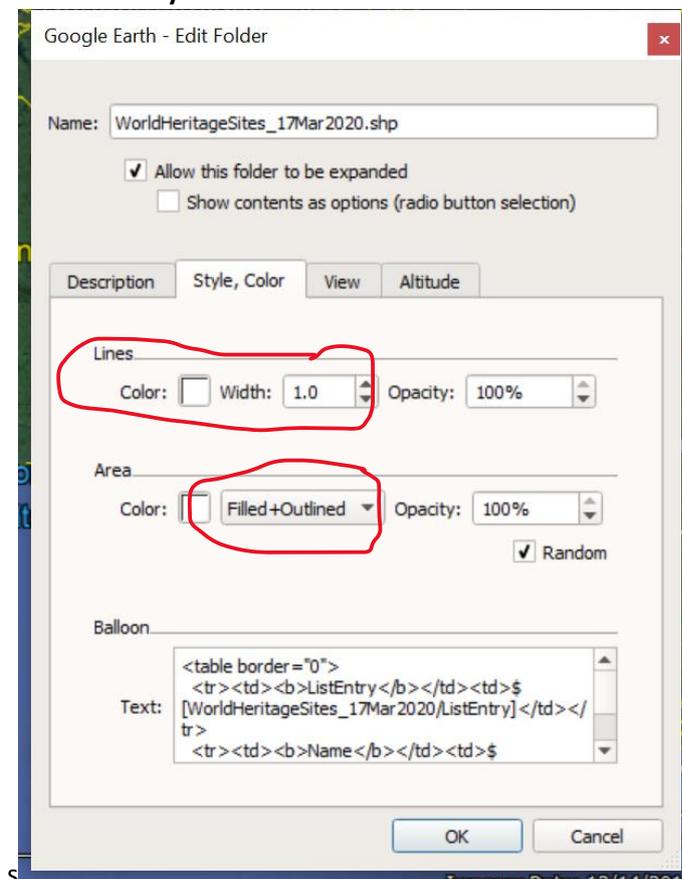
21. To reset the angle of display, to appear flat from the top down, press the 'R' button on your keyboard.

22. To change the filled in polygon to outlines (or change the fill colour, or any other aspect)

- a. Right click with your mouse on the file name (WorldHeritageSites_17Mar2...) in the **Places** directory.
- b. Select the last option: **Properties**
- c. The **Edit Folder** box pops up. Chose the second tab – **Style, Colour**



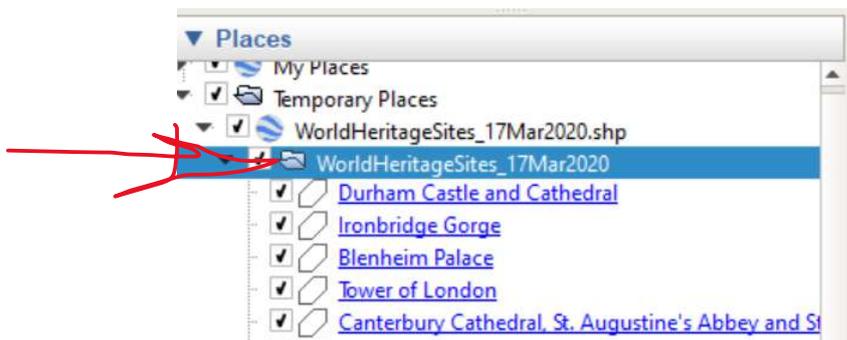
- d. To make a change that affects the whole folder, rather than an y individual place, click **Share Style**.



- e. Use the dropdown box to change **Area** from **Filled and Outlined** to **Outlined**.
- f. You can then change the **Line colour** (above) to be any colour you like by clicking on the **Colour** box, and any thickness you like using the **Width** box.
- g. Click **OK**
- h. All your sites should now be outlines.

23. Click on the arrow next to the File Name in Places to get the list of site names. (If you did not select **Name** in the **Style Template** box when you opened the file, these will all say <No Name>). You may want to sort the file, so all the parts appear together.

- a. To do this, left click with the mouse on the folder



and chose **Sort A-Z** from the menu.

24. And you're off – enjoy. You can

- a. scroll across the landscape to explore and find sites,
- b. or double click on them in **Places** to go straight to a site,
- c. click on them on the map to find out what they are,
- d. look at how they change over time
- e. and have a good explore!