# What is XML data and what are Transforms

Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a file format used to create common information formats and share both the format and the data on the World Wide Web, intranets, and elsewhere using standard ASCII text. XML is similar to HTML.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML>

Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) transformation language is a programming language designed specifically to transform an input XML document into an output document which satisfies some specific goal. There are two special cases of transformation: XML to XML: the output document is an XML document. XML to HTML: the output document is an HTML document.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML_transformation_language>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XSLT#/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XSL>

Further information and guidance on how to create and edit general xml structure and transforms can be found at

<https://www.w3schools.com/xml/default.asp>

<https://www.w3schools.com/xml/xsl_transformation.asp>

# Converting from AGS data

The specific case of converting AGS data into structured XML data allows us to conveniently query and transform the data.

It allows us to distribute large datasets across multiple files that can be collated in various ways for transforming data into different data structures.

We consume AGS files into XML documents; this is a one way process. It is not the purpose of this system to create or validate AGS data from XML data

<http://www.agsdataformat.com/datatransferv4/intro.php>

<https://ascelibrary.org/doi/abs/10.1061/40803%28187%29112?src=recsys&>

# Compatibility with global geospatial systems

There are various emerging standards for storing geospatial records and by using transforms we may convert any xml record structure into any another structure as long as the required data has been stored in some xml format.

So our particular chosen data structure format is not as important as making sure we actually store the correct spatial data.

<https://www.w3.org/2003/01/geo/>