



ALGAO-UK HER Committee – Group updates

Thursday 6th October 2016

Historic England West Midlands Regional Office, Birmingham

8. Country updates.

i. ALGAO Cymru

Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016: Now this Act is in place various discussions have taken place with Cadw and RCAHMW about the statutory guidance on HERs that will be issued to support the Act. This guidance will come into force by next April. The HERs have undertaken to provide the various sets of data described in the Act through the Archwilio (www.archwilio.org.uk) web site and programming is underway to achieve this.

Discussions have also been held about the requirement for those public facing parts of the records to be bilingual, and programming to facilitate this through Archwilio. An update to the main HER is timetabled for the third quarter of this financial year. It is expected that *HeritageData.org* will be used to facilitate the translation of word lists and thesauri.

Consultation on six statutory guidance documents supporting the Act has just completed and these will hopefully come into force over the next 6 months.

A number of changes arising from the Act are proposed to Planning Policy Wales and planning guidance, and a revised Chapter 6 of that document, that deals with the Historic Environment, has been prepared. The single Technical Advice Note (TAN24) that will replace Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 and 61/96, has been undergoing consultation, which has now finished, and it is expected to be in force by April 2017.

Wales Strategic Planning Board – Records Co-ordination Group: This group (comprising *Cadw*, the *Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales*, the *Welsh Archaeological Trusts*, the *National Museum of Wales* and the *National Trust*) has now subsumed the work of the former Extended National Database Partnership, as its membership now comprises the same people, with the latter group being formally wound up, although the MoU signed by the former members of the END Partnership is still in force. The Records Co-ordination Group acts as a co-ordinator for the Historic Environment Data Standards Group which continues to monitor standards in Welsh HERs. A member of the HEDS Group has now been formally invited to join FISH representing the Welsh HERs.

Natural Resources Wales: Under the memorandum of understanding between the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and Natural Resources Wales, NRW are to draw back from offering advice on the assessment of developments within Registered Historic Landscapes in Wales and in future this advice will be offered by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. The provision of Heritage Management advice in other aspects of NRW's work (principally those areas of the former Welsh arms of the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency) are now being discussed.

Glastir (all Wales agri-environment scheme): Having come close to signing a new contract with the Welsh Government, Brexit has intervened and caused the whole agri-environment scheme to pause while it assesses the likely ramifications. It now seems likely that new Glastir advanced farm plans contracts will not be signed as under the present scheme these must run for five years and there is now no longer the guarantee of five years of European money to support this. The Welsh Government has pledged support for some form of agri-environment scheme until 2020 but it is not yet known what form this will take.

Some minor elements of Glastir (Small Grants for boundary works and Woodland Creation) may continue for the immediate future.

National Archaeological Archives Panel: The National Archaeological Archives Panel, which includes representation from ALGAO Cymru, has finalized a new standard document based on the recently published European Standard (*A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe*), and this is now with Cadw for its final approval. It is aimed to implement the standard alongside the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

OASIS: Programming for an interface between OASIS and the Welsh HERs, to allow the capture of event data and grey literature directly from HERs, is now finished but we still await final comments from ADS.

HER software – HEROS: The Wales HER software suite continues to develop under the HEROS partnership.

ii. Scottish SMR Forum

The Scottish SMR Forum met on 24th May, 2016.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar – Western Isles Council: The archaeologist post has been dropped a pay grade and the assistant archaeologist post has been axed, effectively cutting the Archaeology Service by 50%. On the positive side, Kevin Murphy has been made permanent as the archaeologist, after several years on temporary contracts.

Aberdeenshire Council: Neil Ackerman has joined Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service as HER officer, a new post created after Aberdeenshire started to provide an archaeology service for Aberdeenshire City Council.

Polygonisation Projects: after successfully getting funding from HES and other sources, two HER polygonisation projects are underway: one in Shetland, and one in the Scottish Borders, with Stirling and Clackmannanshire. Feedback so far is that both projects are progressing well, with a review of the Borders project due to take place in October.

SHED Strategy: An Implementation Plan has been agreed, and is available here: <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/shed-documents/> The SMR Forum and SMR Technical Working Group are taking the lead on many of the actions, and work has already started on several of these.

Scotland's Archaeology Strategy: was published in 2015, and on the basis of this a draft Delivery Plan has recently been produced – see <http://archaeologystrategy.scot/delivery/>

iii. Historic Environment Scotland

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9. Regular updates from other meetings:

i. ALGAO England Executive

ii. ALGAO Maritime Committee

This group hasn't met since the last meeting; therefore no update.

iii. ALGAO Countryside Committee

This group hasn't met since the last meeting; therefore no update. An ALGAO Countryside Committee/National HECA meeting will take place on 17th November 2016 in Birmingham.

iv. Archaeology Data Service Management Board

This group met on 12th October 2016.

The Board only meets Annually now, and this was the first meeting of the new annual cycle (this was only agreed at the previous meeting).

Key things to note

- 1) Brexit may affect funding streams for ADS as significant proportion of funds are European.
- 2) Some discussion about the Draft Annual report 2015-2016 (which should go live on their website in due course); 5 year strategic plan (online at <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/about/Strategicplan>)
- 3) ADS Priorities for the current financial year – mostly on course to deliver these. As part of this discussion it emerged that there is a strong correlation between the number of Digital Archives deposited for an area and the existence of an agreement between that areas museum and ADS for ADS to do the digital archiving – something for us all to note/pass on to DM colleagues
- 4) Discussion of Built Legacy Project – looking at digital archiving of results of Building recording type work. No huge surprises on this, report again should be on website in

due course. There are recommendations in the report, but not clear how this will be taken forward

5) New BIAB to be launched at HER Forum in December

v. BHUG Meeting Report

This group hasn't met since the last meeting; therefore no update. After an abortive attempt to have a meeting in July, aim is to try and have one at December HER Forum.

vi. FISH

The FISH Committee met on 8th June in Worcester. The following topics were discussed:

MIDAS Heritage: Gill Grayson and Sarah Poppy will build a review of the MIDAS Heritage HER Compliance profile into the relevant HIAS work package.

FISHTWG (terminology working group): The Thesaurus of Cultural Heritage is being updated; Phil Carlisle is working on this, and more will be presented at the November meeting.

Presentation on Data Supply and Reconciliation Project: Crispin Flower gave a presentation on this project.

HERALD update: Louisa Matthews gave an update on the HERALD project.

HIAS update: Sarah Poppy gave an update on HIAS.

Websites – FISH, INSCRIPTION AND HERITAGEDATA.ORG: Phil Carlisle will develop a strategy for the archiving/backup/future proofing of heritagedata.org.

The next meeting is on 29th November in Edinburgh.

vii. HBSMR User Group

The most recent User Group meeting was hosted by Milton Keynes Council in May 2016 (the Scottish HBSMR user group met in July). The next user group meeting will be held in 23 November in London. There has been no resolution to the failure of the user mailing list (since January 2016) which has forced the group to find another way of communicating. The ExeGesIS-provided forum has been used since shortly after the last meeting and appears to have worked well so far.

HBSMRv5 is scheduled for release in 2016 and installations will be undertaken as part of the Annual Service Visit program once available. Full-text indexing in SQL Server will also be introduced for HBSMRv5 (which permits high performance flexible text queries in a manner that is more sophisticated than currently possible in HBSMR). Storage of GIS features (geometries) will be moved into the main database.

In-depth discussion of the use and development of the Consultations module of HBSMR was undertaken at the Milton Keynes meeting.

There is now an online portfolio of HBSMR customisations (on the ExeGesIS website) to enable all users to see the kind of customisations that are possible.

viii. HER Forum

Following the demise of the last London venue, HER Forum met at the City Temple Conference centre for its summer meeting on 5 July 2016. The morning began with a panel discussion on the Environmental Information Regulations and how a recent court judgement might affect charging for HER information. There followed two talks covering Research Frameworks, firstly examining the work of local community groups and where the information generated went, and secondly the plans for future development of the frameworks.

In the afternoon, we heard about the project to identify sites of significance to the LGBTQ community and the implications of the Welsh Historic Environment Act 2016 which will give Welsh HERs a statutory footing when implemented next year. Finally there was an update on the project to investigate the practicalities of transferring the National Record of the Historic Environment's data to HERs.

The next HER Forum meeting is on Wednesday 7th December at the Birmingham and Midland Institute in Birmingham.

ix. OASIS Management Board

This group hasn't met since the last meeting; therefore no update.

x. Report from regional HER Forums

a. East of England HER Forum

Bedford Borough: No report provided.

Central Bedfordshire: No report provided.

Cambridgeshire: Our newest recruit (although with a 2nd vacant post still to be filled) Ruth Beckley began in June and was quickly immersed in updating SHINE and providing Stewardship responses. Project work to begin in 2016/17 will include the integration into the HER of the Cambridge UAD and an 'NMP-style' dataset produced as part of the HE NAIS project for SW Cambridgeshire. Enquiry numbers continue to increase each quarter.

Colchester: No report provided but will be hosting the regional meeting in December 2016.

Essex: No report provided.

Hertfordshire: No report provided.

Norfolk: In March 2016 senior management announced that the HE Service would be amalgamated with the Natural Environment Service. This resulted in the deletion of the posts County Archaeologist and Head of Natural Environment. John Jones has been in place as Head of Environment since April. Consultations on restructuring have taken place with a final structure expected in September. Throughout this restructuring the HER has been unable to recruit for the vacant Senior HER Officer post and has been running a slightly reduced service as a result. Further decisions regarding future HER staffing levels are expected later this f/y. The HER digitisation project is proceeding apace, with over 100,000 items identified and in various stages of preparation and scanning. During the summer months we've cleared an historic data entry backlog of finds-related documents and images in preparation for tackling digitisation of our finds-related documents. A volunteer completed a pilot project of cataloguing and scanning a collection of finds Polaroids which was previously inaccessible to the public, and a placement student from Bradford University due to start September will complete this. TownsWeb Archiving is currently scanning approximately 2000 aerial photographs including 1000 images of the Brecks which will be made available as part of the Breaking New Ground HLF Landscape Partnership project. Project development for the proposed Broads Landscape Partnership scheme is continuing, and this quarter we're expecting to complete an update of our Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. The number of enquiries remains high with 276 processed between May and August 2016.

Peterborough: HER business as usual with no changes planned for the current financial year. Hosted the regional HER meeting in June 2016.

Suffolk: After nearly a year in temporary accommodation, the SCC Archaeological Service has moved into a new office on the edge of Bury St Edmunds. The new office houses all of our staff, as well as the HER secondary files, grey lit library, and the county's sensitive archaeological archives from 1974 onwards. Bulk archaeological finds from the county are currently still stored off-site in Ipswich. In the last three months the Suffolk HER has experienced a sharp rise in the number of commercial enquiries accompanied by a notable increase in the number of academic and public-interest enquiries. The Suffolk Heritage Explorer website continues to receive several hundred visitors a month and we are adding new contents, downloads and records to the site on a monthly basis. We are now one year into the 18-month Ipswich UAD project and the vast majority of HER records for the borough have been enhanced. The remaining part of the project focusses on collecting and modelling deposit data and creating an Ipswich-specific web-front end via which users will be able to query the UAD records

b. East Midlands HER Forum

Derbyshire: The DerwentWISE Heritage at Risk project is continuing. The text of a book by John Barnatt on how our appreciation and understanding of the Peak District landscape has benefitted from Historic Landscape Characterisation has been submitted to Historic England. Work on the HE-funded Farmsteads Characterisation project in the Peak District, that is led by Locus Consulting, continues. Work has been slowed slightly by workload pressures and staff replacement at the consultants.

Leicestershire: The HER preparing for an office move on the 22 October. They have digitised some of the information such as the slide collection but other paper records will be held off site and will be available on request for the following day. The preparation for the move has dominated HER staff time in recent months.

Lincoln: The authority has completed its assessment of needs for a replacement database and GIS system for the Lincoln Heritage Database. It will be moving forwards with the Arches system and will shortly start work on setting up the systems and migrating their data. There is currently no date for completing this work.

Lincolnshire: The HER assistant is spending time doing commercial searches for Nottinghamshire HER (see below). A further restructure and reorganisation within the directorate is due to finish in early 2017. At the moment there will probably be minimal effect on HE services. Environmental Stewardship has taken a fair bit of time recently with over 300 consultations. There have been initial discussions regarding a further office move in 2017.

Nottinghamshire: The HERO post is currently vacant, interviews for the post have taken place but the outcome is not known at this time. The Lincolnshire HER continues to carry out searches on behalf of the Nottinghamshire HER. Lincolnshire have remote access to the Nottinghamshire County Council HER system. Lincolnshire HER is only dealing with commercial searches linked to development management and not any non-commercial requests for information nor are they doing Environmental Stewardship applications.

c. London HER

London HER: The team is back to full strength after being under staffed for 4 months when our HERO maternity cover moved to a new post in April. We have also taken on a temporary HERO to help with the additional work we are undertaking.

We are in the process of agreeing a five year licence with Thames Water which will be paid in the first year.

Currently reviewing our charging policy in light of EIR and reuse of public sector information, and looking at moving to an hourly charge with enhanced search options. We are working with our EAS and legal teams on this.

HE London Office relocating to new office, above Cannon Street station,

Summer/Autumn 2017. Not clear what desk allocation we will have, but have been told that there will be less storage space.

Arches Heritage Management System: MOUs have been signed by all parties now and a press release will go out later this month.

Working on system specifications and current workflows (both HER and development control work), looking at how they relate to each, how they will work with HIAS and HERALD, and any changes needed.

Also have begun discussions with stakeholders (London boroughs, and the Museum of London Archive, formally the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre), looking at their needs and how their workflows interact with ours. With this group, and our partner the City of Lincoln, we should cover most models of HER hosting and DC management. Later we will be looking to expand this group to include FAME, local societies (archaeological and historical), and amenities groups.

We have begun looking at potential IT service providers to support the system, and have so far identified two possible partners (training will be available for internal IT staff should hosting organisations prefer this).

d. North East HER Forum

See Yorkshire, Humber and the North East HER working party (below).

e. North West HER Forum

General: The group is hoping to join the North-east, Yorkshire and Humber HER Forum for a combined meeting in March 2017 in York. The last North West HER Working Party meeting was held on 26/09/2016.

Local Engagement: There have been further community archaeology excavations at Mellor Mill in Stockport, part of the Revealing Oldknow's Legacy project, focusing this time on Samuel Oldknow's mansion. The latest Greater Manchester's Past Revealed booklet to be published is *No. 16: Radcliffe Manor: a medieval tower in context*. The annual Greater Manchester Archaeology Day will take place on Saturday 26th November at Peel Hall, University of Salford, and will cost £10.

The Merseyside HER had four students from Liverpool University in for two week placements over the summer. The volunteers have been rectifying aerial photographs from the 1940s and '50s and checking the greenbacks for lost listings and Grade IIIs.

Revealing Cheshire's Past displays and leaflets were located within Chester Library as part of the Heritage festival.

Cheshire: Our new development management archaeologist and Doug Moir's replacement, Vicky Nash (Salford University's Centre for Applied Archaeology), will be joining us at the beginning of October. Cheshire West and Chester Council is proposing to move the Total Environment Team, which hosts APAS, from its office base in Chester, to offices at mid-Cheshire College in Winsford.

Jane Monk has been involved in the second phase of testing for website to facilitate the NRHE to HER data supply and reconciliation project. The project aims to create a platform independent system to facilitate the transfer of NHRE monument and event records to HERs.

The HERs staff has been predominantly engaged in development management advice for Cheshire East Council and Countryside Stewardship. The level of demand for HER services so far this year has been at an unprecedented level.

Cumbria CC: No report due to incorrect email address.

Greater Manchester: The contract for providing the archaeological advisory service for Greater Manchester (GMAAS) currently runs to the end of 2016 and will be meeting with AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities) representatives soon to discuss the future.

GMAAS have completed Stage 1 of the Historic England GM Historic Textile Mills Buildings at Risk Survey and are preparing a project design for Stage 2, which will include site visits to the eight other districts that have surviving mills.

The Centre for Applied Archaeology (at the University of Salford) has been awarded a Historic England grant to update the North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment. The study will take place over the next two years and will be run in conjunction with similar projects in North East England and East of England. On completion the studies will be loaded on to a wiki platform which can be updated.

Lake District National Park: No report, but very busy with the World Heritage site application.

Lancashire: No report, but Pete Illes of the Lancashire Archaeology Advisory Service LLP is attended the last ALGAO NW meeting (28/09/2016) and will be invited to attend our next meeting. Twelve of fourteen Lancashire authorities have signed up to get advice from the new commercial consultancy (LAAS).

Merseyside: The HER has now completed Phase 1 of the digitisation project, all paper records from the old SMR have now been entered into the system. The HER has now moved on to grey literature. MEAS have appointed a Development Management Archaeologist (Doug Moir) who is now providing advice to the borough councils. A launch event was held at the Museum of Liverpool.

f. South East HER Forum

This group is meeting on 4th October – report awaited.

g. South West HER Forum

This group hasn't met since the last meeting; therefore no update.

h. West Midlands HER Forum

This group hasn't met since the last meeting; therefore no update.

i. Yorkshire, Humber and the North East HER working party

The group met on 28th September. These are the minutes:

HEFER Consultations update: Cat Hopwood-Lewis explained that there had been some technical problems with the SHINE portal and delays due to Brexit decision which in some instances had led to a delay in the applications being sent to HERs.

There were more mid-tier applications than anticipated c.6000 nationally. This may be another impact of Brexit and the uncertainty surrounding it.

North-East region has cover again – Frances Fewster is back from secondment. Elaine Willett covers East Midlands, while Cat and Margaret cover Yorkshire.

Nothing is certain but working on the assumption that there will be agri-environmental

schemes next year. However, contribution to heritage protection has been substantially reduced.

Regional Round Ups

Don O'Meara (HE): New in post as North East Science Advisor replacing Jacqui Huntley.

City of York: Archaeological/HER Staff 1.5

Still exploring options other than using HBSMR in order to cut costs and create a bespoke, fully accessible and interactive HER system. Currently looking at HEROS and Know Your Place system – perhaps a combination of the two.

Over 1000 archaeological reports now online on the CYC website www.york.gov.uk/HER. This will be maintained monthly.

South Yorkshire: Considering various options, particularly HBSMR or HEROS

In early stages of considering a research agenda and assisting regional museums in preparing a consortium bid to help resolve the archiving problems.

Still 4 members of staff, though all 3 or 4 days/week. HER role 3 days/week.

West Yorkshire: The West Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data entry is now completed and now in its reporting stage and is due for completion February 2017. The Historic England funded Palaeolithic & Mesolithic Project is now completed, and has been reviewed by Historic England, Jason Dodds has returned to his post as HER Officer. WYAAS IT systems have been moved to Leeds City Council this has created a number of issues.

Informed that our budgets are now stable until 2020.

Tyne and Wear: David Heslop, County Archaeologist, took voluntary redundancy in May and his post has been deleted. Claire MacRae has been appointed as part-time (18 hours) Archaeology Officer (Claire works for the City of York for the rest of the week). So the archaeology service is now run by 1.5 people.

The HER audit revisit has been finished (albeit a bit late).

Newcastle City Council no longer purchases licences for ArcMap. The HER now runs on QGIS, the free open source software, which has taken a bit of getting used to.

Durham: Staff changes Clare Henderson left on 15th July 2016. Her post was kept and Lauren Proctor was appointed on 5th September 2016. Lauren was previously in a temporary post which had replaced Lee McFarlanes post. This still had 6 months to run, but when Lauren was promoted, this post was lost. This amounts to a 25% cut in our team. This has mainly impacted HER enhancement with us concentrating on day to day work (ie inputting GL as it comes in) with other work as and when possible.

Ongoing software development has happened to the HER focussing on the Consultations module, and the HER-GIS link. Neither are finished, but progress is being made.

Northumberland: Liz Williams still acting up as Conservation Team Manager (part-time) to cover Chris Burgess's sick leave until at least December 2016 and Karen Derham is doing an extra day per week to provide additional HER cover. NCC has moved to Google (gmail, docs, drive etc); MS Access licences are being retained for HER purposes.

Tees Archaeology: No further progress has been made with the HER Audit Action Plan, due to lack of time.

Peter Rowe has left Tees Archaeology for the post of Principal Archaeologist at North Yorkshire CC, and Rachel Grahame has replaced him in the planning role (whilst still covering HER matters for the moment). A new HER officer is expected to be appointed by the New Year. Both remaining Tees Archaeology staff remain on a 4 day week.

North Lincolnshire: Mike Hemblade resigned his post in July; attempts to replace him by various means have met with no success. Alison Williams is continuing to provide basic HER cover alongside DM workload.

The HER (ie AW & the Conservation Officer) finally moved into an office at Civic Centre where the Development Management team is based. However, those HER records not already moved to the council's archive store last year remain with the Environment Team across town, so shuttle between the two with laptop.

Redcar and Cleveland: The HER at Redcar and Cleveland is hosted by the Planning Strategy Team and maintained by Dave Marsay. Neil Cookson (NEAR) is the archaeological consultant for Redcar & Cleveland. Tim Brown is the Council's Conservation Advisor.

Enquiries strategic.planning@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Any Other Business: It was noted by many around the table that less people are visiting HERs in person.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th March 2017