



ALGAO-UK HER Committee – Group updates

Thursday 26th May 2016

Historic England West Midlands Regional Office, Birmingham

8. Country updates.

i. ALGAO Cymru

Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The **Historic Environment (Wales) Bill** has now received royal ascent and has become the **Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016**. The Act augments the legislation laid down in the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979** and the **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990** and gives Welsh ministers some additional powers in relation to scheduled monuments and listed buildings. From an HER perspective it is important because it states that “ . . . *Welsh Ministers must compile and keep up to date a historic environment record for each local authority area in Wales . . .*”, thereby making Welsh HERs statutory.

Initially the Bill had proposed giving Local Authorities this duty, but this had been rejected relatively late in the Bill's progress for three main reasons.

Firstly; as each local authority in Wales must have a Welsh Language Policy it is perfectly possible for them all to be different – this raised the prospect of the existing four HERs having to comply with 21 different policies and potentially having to maintain 21 differing levels of Welsh language capability. This was seen to be potentially difficult.

Secondly; while (as far as is known) the Welsh local authorities are perfectly happy to use the HER services offered by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts this arrangement could not be specified in legislation as this would unduly restrict local authorities' right to choose how they maintained and operated an HER. However if a local authority then chose to 'go it alone' under such an arrangement it was felt that the Welsh Government may find it difficult to ensure that standards were maintained and benchmarks met.

Thirdly; the recent Williams report raised the very real prospect of another round of local government reorganisation in Wales within the next two years. It was felt that this could throw any arrangements arrived at about the maintenance of HERs with the current unitary authorities back into the melting pot. It was thought this may be potentially difficult, and time consuming, to resolve.

The Act specifies a number of areas that the HERs will have to ensure that they cover. These include;

- (a) details of every building in the authority's area which is included in a list compiled or approved under section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (c.9),
- (b) details of every conservation area in the authority's area which is designated under section 69 of that Act,
- (c) details of every monument in the authority's area which is included in the Schedule compiled and maintained under section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (c.46),
- (d) details of each of the grounds in the authority's area which are included in the register of historic parks and gardens compiled and maintained under section 41A of that Act,
- (e) details of every conflict site in the authority's area which the Welsh Ministers consider to be of historic interest,

- (f) where a public authority (whether by itself or jointly with other persons) maintains a list of historic landscapes in Wales, details of every historic landscape in the local authority's area which is included in the list,
- (g) details of every world heritage site in the authority's area,
- (h) details of every other area or site or other place in the authority's area which the authority or the Welsh Ministers consider to be of local historic, archaeological or architectural interest,
- (i) information about the way in which the historic, archaeological or architectural development of the authority's area, or any part of it, has contributed to the present character of the area or part and about how that character may be preserved,
- (j) details of relevant investigations carried out in the authority's area and of the findings of those investigations, and
- (k) a means of accessing details of every historic place name in the authority's area which is included in the list compiled and maintained under section 34.

Most of these are already covered by the HERs but some things such as '*details of every conflict site*' and the '*means of accessing details of every historic place name*' will be depended on work now underway by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales.

Cadw will set out a series of guidance papers about working under the new Act over the course of the coming year, and various parts of the legislation may not be enacted until this guidance has been agreed and issued. However the Act is expected to be fully in force by April 2017.

Similarly 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, is now out to consultation. It is expected that Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 and 61/96, which deal with archaeology historic buildings will be replaced by a single new Technical Advice Note (note 24) during the year.

Natural Resources Wales. The memorandum of understanding between the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and Natural Resources Wales has now been signed. This memorandum sets out how NRW, who now have no in-house heritage expertise, will deal with the historic environment, and the areas that they will consequently ask the Trusts to deliver on their behalf. This includes access to HER data by NRW and how this might be achieved is now being discussed.

Glastir (all Wales agri-environment scheme). It looks as if the problems that have thus far prevented the production of a new contract to allow the HERs to produce management reports for applicants to his scheme has finally been resolved – although as yet no contract has been signed! However a list of farms selected for the next round of applications (2017) has been released to the WATs by the government and the process of selecting those farms that require management reports begun. It has now been accepted that the opportunity to provide management reports for the application round for 2015-16 has been lost. This is highly regrettable.

National Archaeological Archives Panel

The National Archaeological Archives Panel, which includes representation from ALGAO Cymru, had finalized a new draft standard document based on the recently published European Standard (*A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe*). However this document, which had been sent to Cadw for consultation some time ago, has finally been returned to the panel with a number of questions being raised about its form and format, and it is now expected that the issuing of a final document might be delayed. It had been hoped that this standard might be referenced by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, but this is not now possible (the Act having already come out), but it is hoped that the supporting guidance may cross reference the standard.

OASIS lite. Programming for an interface between OASIS and the Welsh HERs is now underway and it is hoped that once testing is complete the HERs will be able to download data and grey literature directly into the OASIS system. It is hoped that this will make the HERs the primary source for event information in Wales with ADS acting as the digital repository for grey literature

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 24 November, 2015.

Highland Council Archaeology Service – after a reorganisation following VERS, Andy Puls (archaeology officer) has now been moved into the Conservation Officer post. This effectively means that the service has been reduced from 3 to 2. This will most likely mean that Ian will only do HER work half of his time, taking up some of the development management work.

Local Authority Archaeologists. As of 31 March, 2016 there are 21.8 FTE archaeologists employed across 32 local authorities in Scotland. This is a decrease of 11.4% from 2014 when there were 24.6 FTE. However several new posts will at least temporarily improve the picture.

Aberdeenshire Council – now that the SLA between Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and Aberdeen City Council has been formalised, Aberdeenshire will be creating a new HER post soon.

Polygonisation Projects – after successfully getting funding from HES and other sources two polygonisation projects are being started: one in Shetland, and one in the Scottish Borders, with Stirling and Clackmannanshire. Polygonisation of historic environment data has been identified as an objective in the SHED Strategy, and areas with little or no polygons were the priority to tackle with projects like these. The Shetland post is for one year, and the Scottish Borders post is for two.

SHED Strategy - The SHED Strategy Programme Board met in April, and have been developing a draft implementation plan, with feedback from the workshop held last November. A report on the workshop is available on the SMR Forum website, and a summary of last year's activities and the draft implementation plan will be available here soon: <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/shed-documents/>

BW will attend the next meeting.

iii. Historic Environment Scotland

HES Data and Recording

Much of our externally-facing work at the moment is focused on the [SHED Strategy](#). Two polygonisation projects have begun, based in Shetland and The Scottish Borders, and HES Data and Recording is offering guidance and assistance with set up where required. Meetings have been held of the SHED Programme and Management Board, and links have been made with museums, offering another opportunity for joint working and online linking. The services offered via the [Canmore](#) website are continuing to develop. Behind the scenes, work is proceeding on developing Canmore Mapping and a renewed online input form, which will allow volunteers to input data, which will be checked and validated before flowing into Canmore.

Data projects we are involved in at the moment include mapping the shipyards and the defences of the Clyde through time, continuing to develop our role as a MEDIN data repository and increasing the number of external links which we make available through Canmore. Work on a project linking Canmore records to the Dictionary of Scottish Architects has been completed, enhancing almost 5000 building records.

The completion of the HLA project has begun to show results, with the National Library of Scotland producing a [map viewer](#) allowing anyone to compare landuse in Scotland between the 1930s and the present day.

9. Regular updates from other meetings:

iv. ALGAO England Executive

The ALGAO England Executive met on 15th March, and Graham Tait attended (as Ben Wallace was busy).

Main points were:

Environmental Information Regulations. The Local Government Association (LGA) have engaged solicitors to liaise with nominees (generally local authority legal teams) at Local Authorities. They have sent them the Information Commissioner's Office amended guidance on charging under EIR: <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1627/charging-for-environmental-information-reg8.pdf>. Quinton to add this to the communications email that

he will send out to members before Easter. Graham suggested that Exec produce a whole new 'Charging for Archaeological Curatorial Services Advice Note' rather than sending-out an additional note.

Survey. ALGAO survey for 2016 has nearly been finalised. This is unlikely to change much in subsequent years. HER Action: When this survey has been finalised, and gone out to members, take this to HER User Groups (such as BHUG, HBSMR Users Group, etc), to ensure that HER systems can extract this data as simply as possible.

Historic England meetings feedback

The "HE Listing Group + ALGAO HER liaison" (previously called "HE HDM/ALGAO HER Liaison") will probably no longer take place, as this duplicated other meetings. A change will be that HE members of staff will be able to speak at the ALGAO-UK HER Committee (not just observers). Gill Grayson will also attend the ALGAO strategic meeting (and will be invited to attend the ALGAO-UK HER Committee meeting).

Website. Will be revised in-time for the ALGAO UK meeting at the end of June 2016. New logins will be issued to anyone who requests them. Quinton stated that group secretaries and chairs will be able to edit pages that 'belong' to them (both 'public' and 'private' pages), and documents will be able to be available to the public, or only to 'logged-in' ALGAO members (on 'private' pages).

IHBC liaison. The IHBC and ALGAO are looking at drafting a memorandum of understanding.

Historic Environment Forum (HEF). ALGAO are involved in the HEF, along with 28 other groups. ALGAO sit on the Heritage Protection Reform sub-group, looking at reducing the burden for local authorities and owners of heritage assets. ALGAO are being involved as much as they feel is necessary.

Planning reform. The housing bill (including brownfield registers). It was agreed that not much could be done about this bill, but ALGAO needs to help make the system work. ClfA are looking to strongly defend the old system, and are looking for case-studies where things have gone wrong because of a lack of advice and pre-determination work. Exec thought that it was worthwhile getting involved and seeing how this can benefit; therefor to liaise with the ClfA. 73 councils across England will pilot one of the new brownfield registers.

National Mapping Programme and scheduling. Optimistic about more NMP. Historic England have been asked to look to scheduling more, and look to NMP recommendations for scheduling.

HLF meeting. Following a good meeting in December, Ben Wallace had a meeting last week with Sara Crofts from the HLF, specifically about HERs and the HLF. It was very good and Ben will email an update to the Exec (and HER Committee) in due course. ALGAO next meet with HLF in June.

Agri-environment & countryside. Suppliers are being set-up and Purchase Orders are being issued for the 2015/16 scheme. Ken Smith has suggested raising invoices anyway, if possible. Jez Bretherton from Natural England and Ken Smith from ALGAO have had only a little information from Defra about what is happening to payments. Ken suggested that historic environment funding was a (comparatively) small sum of money, so wasn't prioritised by Natural England. Ken also suggested that it wasn't worthwhile causing too much of a fuss about the scheme (i.e. threatening to pull out of the scheme), as Natural England / Defra might just pull the plug entirely.

Ken noted that a glitch in the Natural England Stewardship computer system resulted in some conditions for scheduled monuments (applied by Historic England) haven't 'gone through' to the agreements, and some high-risk scheduled monuments are not being protected as part of the scheme. They will be re-inserted in 2017.

The new application 'window' for next year has just opened. Expressions of Interest are being requested from now to the end of April (for higher-tier) and now and the end of May (for mid-tier). These will be scored against the criteria from mid-May to June. Consultations with Historic Environment Services are anticipated from the beginning of June to the end of September for 2016. There will be a 20-day turn-around time again this year. Ken tried to get an earlier and longer consultation period, but did not get anywhere with Defra / Natural England. Ken has asked Natural England to send in consultations singly and not in batches. Ken stated that Natural England say they can't supply the same data as previously on what has gone into stewardship schemes this year.

Graham suggested that next year the process needs to be less rushed, and payment needs to be much earlier. Graham stated that he understood the difficulties in this scheme from Defra / Natural England; but requested that there was more communication from Ken and Jez with both ALGAO nominated members, as well as HER Officers and agri-environment historic environment officers, to let them know what was happening. Ken agreed that this would be beneficial.

It is understood that the next ALGAO Countryside Committee/National HECA meeting will be held in the last couple of weeks of April (timed in advance of the consultation window opening).

v. HE Listing Group + ALGAO HER liaison meeting

The “HE Listing Group + ALGAO HER liaison” (previously called “HE HDM/ALGAO HER Liaison”) will probably no longer take place, as this duplicated other meetings.

vi. ALGAO Maritime Committee

The committee has not met since the last meeting. However, there are two updates:

Marine Antiquities Scheme The committee commented on the Marine Antiquities Scheme briefing paper. Although the concept of the scheme was welcomed, it was felt that the proposals were confusing, contradictory and required further discussion.

HIAS Marine Historic Environment Data Roles and Responsibilities Workshop. Robin Daniels and Becky Loader attended the HIAS Marine Historic Environment Data Roles and Responsibilities Workshop in March and Robin presented the committee’s concerns about the proposals for marine datasets. The following are notes on the workshop provided by Joe Flatman following the meeting:

Notes

Underlying principles: concerns were raised of the threat to the underlying principle of intermeshed historic environment data that seamlessly covers land, coast and sea by this project; also of the inter-linked risk of building a dataset to meet short-term planning needs of particular organisations rather than the long-term needs of the historic environment.

Remit: HE to just define what they will hold as ‘a’ national record, not ‘the’ national record; let others (esp. LPAs) then decide what they will hold – and make clear that this is the case in all comms? This also allows for the differences to be realised between what an LPAs coastal planning responsibilities are and the extent of HER data holdings, which may not coincide. Concern here that any use of the term ‘national’ implies there is no need for anything local – a perception / comms / branding issue for HE to be aware of. Have – and promote - a vision instead for different nationally-held and locally-held elements of data with shared standards/approaches, etc., formalised through protocols; include within this re-wording of Principle 2 to remove ‘national’ (see action below). Use instead agreed national data standards to aid compatibility / seamlessness? Plus have a strategy / engagement plan for cross-working? This also aids long-term discussions of UK-wide commonalities? Overall, it was agreed that we need an overlap; possibly HER remit to boundary of LA and HE extent to MHW?

Data review: need to review / map marine heritage data held more widely across HE (e.g. marine planning applications held by MPU); particular issue here between records for the extent of the formal application, and wider records of the swath of seabed analysed before submission of the application, which may be much greater in extent. Also need to undertake an audit of who holds what data in which formats – then develop a model and pilot this for future cross-working; within this, set out a broader vision for English coastal waters (e.g. akin to old RCHME / EH document already circulated); involve wider sector, e.g. CBA, JNAPC, etc. via H2020 framework.

Data range / standards: flagging of NI sites is crucial in the marine zone given the relative paucity of designated assets; this would aid the HE/MMO relationship; clarifying HE’s remit here to hold detailed info on non-designated marine sites is crucial. This needs to also go out to 200nm to meet MMO responsibilities/needs: we know from previous work (e.g. by Mark Dunkley?) that this isn’t as much data as some might fear? We already have UKHO wreck data out to 200nm which provides a useful baseline for just how much info there is. Also develop a shared principle of

data standards, formats and archiving for wider work, e.g. with MoD for 1986 Act wrecks.

Systems: develop underlying systems to make them less terrestrially-focused, and the problems that incurs, e.g. need for parish fields but no lat/long coordinates; use also agreed terminology/metadata e.g. for ship names, types, etc. – via National Historic Ships UK? Ensure that any future system has monument types / fields that you can turn off and on to allow for such differences; see older Wessex Archaeology and other ALSF projects that explored such problems. Also ensure record points and polygons. Haphazard approach at the moment, not good enough to have either/or.

Archives: what is HE's responsibility for physical marine archives as well as digital data? Same as for LAs? Go down MEDIN DAC route here... Include improved flagging of grey lit here via metadata; also links / metadata to records in museums, archives, etc., e.g. NMM; this also helps make data more useful to a wider range of people, thus demonstrating a broader utility/value.

Actions

1. HIAS Principle: revise Principle 2 to 'Historic England should be the first point of call and primary trusted source of national datasets' (losing 'such as the National Maritime Record') (GG/JF/SP)
 2. HIAS Roles and Responsibilities: revise Appendix 1 to reflect responsibilities of HERs (BS/GG/JF)
 3. Vision and Strategy: seek to take forward the development of a new vision and strategy for the marine historic environment through Heritage 2020; explore whether *England's Coastal Heritage* (EH/RCHME March 1996) could provide a model (ALL to review).
 4. Partnership: update work package document and any other relevant HIAS documents to reflect the fact that this a partnership initiative (SP/JF/GG)
 5. Defining minimum coverage for HERs: consider whether this could form part of the proposed HER definition (BW)
 6. Defining the scope of a national dataset: take forward a pilot project to better understand how the proposed data overlap might work and what this might look like. This needs to include the ability to view the data rather than having to rely on data exchange (GG/JF/RD/BW)
 7. Data model, data standards and terminology: review existing models, standards and terminologies and identify work that needs to be done to support the new partnership approach (GG/HM/RD/BW + FISH)
 8. Extending the record to 200nm: check how many records this might involve using the UKHO wreck data / SeaZone data layer on deskGIS (HM)
 9. Quantify how many new wrecks we identify from the Droit data, and how many of the Droits are adding knowledge to already identified wrecks (HM)
 10. Event data: develop a better understanding of how event records are used currently and how we might use them in the future. (HM to follow this up in package and the Collecting and Validating Data Work Package)
 11. Archives: take forward conversations on how we can reconnect with museum and archive data. (GG/JF to flag with HIAS Advisory Board)
- It was agreed that we should take forward work on the pilot, data standards etc in parallel with discussions about a new vision and strategy. Although they are clearly linked, there isn't a dependency. It was also agreed that discussions about the archive should be taken forward in parallel with this work.

vii. ALGAO Countryside Committee

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viii. Archaeology Data Service Management Board

We discussed various things, the main items of interest, I think, were:

Changes to ADS rights management – which is going to be more Open Access than it was, assuming old rights holders sign up to them. This probably won't significantly change how people use ADS, as it's more of a behind the scenes change.

The other main discussion point was the ADS five year plan, which covers 2016 – 2021, and is a review of the previous 5 year plan, but a bit earlier (that was to last until 2018). There was nothing wildly contentious/unexpected in there that I saw, though a few things were picked a part slightly by the committee.

There were also some demos; of an Exeter related archive, and other things but I had to leave before they were all done.

Next meeting is scheduled for 12th October 2016.

ix. BHUG Meeting Report

There hasn't been a BHUG meeting since the last ALGAO-UK HER Committee, though Nick Boldrini is tabling one for after the Summer HER Forum – assuming people want to have one.

x. FISH

There hasn't been a FISH meeting since the last ALGAO-UK HER Committee. The next meeting is on Wednesday 8th June in Worcester.

xi. HBSMR User Group

The most recent User Group meeting was hosted by Milton Keynes Council in May 2016 (the Scottish HBSMR user group is to meet in July). Ongoing problems with the user mailing list (since January 2016) have meant that the group has had to find other ways of communicating so it was decided at the meeting to use the ExeGesIS-provided forum as a means to do this in the interim whilst the mailing list problems were resolved.

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. Headed up by Sarah Orr (West Berks) with demonstrations from Julia Wise (Bucks CC), Leonora Goldsmith (North Yorkshire CC) and Steve Ellwood (ExeGesIS on behalf of Herts CC), customisations of the module including time-logging and report/letter template tools were presented. Further research and discussion will be carried out before development requests are put forward at the next meeting (date and location TBC).

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.

xii. HER Forum

Perhaps surprisingly, an additional spring meeting in Swindon proved popular with numbers only slightly down on the regular events. The format was also different with the morning occupied by a workshop considering the future of HER Audits, Benchmarks and Outcomes Frameworks. Large numbers of Post-It notes were collected at the end, so hopefully much useful feedback will be obtained.

There were three talks in the afternoon: Martin Newman reported progress on the Enriching the List project that is piloting adding user comments and photos to the National Heritage List for England, Linden Groves reported on the establishment of The Gardens Trust and how this combined body will work in future, and Patrick Booth described the review of constraint area mapping in the Greater London area.

In a further innovation, the afternoon speakers' presentations were videoed and have been made available on the [Historic England YouTube channel HER Forum playlist](#). Viewing figures are:

- Enriching the List – 80 views
- The Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust – 66 views
- Archaeological Priority Areas – 45 views

The committee agreed that this was a useful way of making presentations accessible, and asked for these to be videoed at future events.

xiii. OASIS Management Board

The minutes of these meetings have been circulated to the committee separately.

xiv. Report from regional HER Forums

a. East of England HER Forum

Bedford Borough: A further £25million pounds worth of cuts have been announced over the next 4 years, on top of the £81million pounds already saved. We remain without a dedicated HER officer for the 6th year running and there is no doubt that the Record continues to suffer from the lack of a dedicated officer. Whilst, at present, we cannot go into detail as to ongoing discussions with management, the Archaeology Service's future is unclear. We are being asked to progress the possibility of a minimum wage apprentice with the National Apprenticeship Service, to work in the HER, as funding is available centrally for a number of new apprentices across the council. A two-year, HE funded, NMP project is underway in the Borough (undertaken by Skylarkaeology) and is already producing exciting results and hundreds of new sites and valuable new information for the strategic management of this previously under-appreciated heritage landscape. Work experience student continues to enhance WWII records.

Central Bedfordshire: About to undertake an online audit revisit following our audit in 2011/12 and will be part of the 2nd phase of the NHRE to HERs project in June/July. Visitor numbers for last financial year were good, and are on a similar trajectory for this year. We have published our 2016/18 Forward Plan addressing both backlog tasks and development/enhancement tasks, and work on completing these tasks is underway – including a capital bid to digitise all the aerial photographs. IT issues have reared their head again, and serious consideration is being given to moving to an Exegesis hosted service to alleviate these problems. There are no budgetary pressures facing our service this financial year.

Cambridgeshire: Newly recruited to the 1st HER/Archive post (2nd post still to be filled), Ruth Beckley begins in June. Project work to begin in 2016/17 will include the integration into the HER of the Cambridge UAD and a dataset produced as part of the HE NAIS (NMP style) project for SW Cambridgeshire. We've had two very successful Bradford University placement students this year, Rebekah Hart and Rose Karpinski, a process which we hope to continue in the future.

Colchester: No report provided.

Essex: The Historic and Built Environment team are required to make a profit to support the council frontline services (as part of Place Services, which receives no direct financial support from ECC). The team exceeded the income target for 2015/16 and have an increased target for 2016/17. It is intended to expand the team to achieve this. Complex student HER enquiries are now charged. The internal SLA with ECC providing funding for unpaid aspects of HER work has ended. Project work within the team includes hosting a conference on Capability Brown, aerial reconnaissance (including a probable Late Iron/early Roman ritual enclosure close to the Gosbeck's complex in Colchester), Ipswich NMP project, Flood Risk project with Oxford Archaeology, NMP assessment for Greater London, archaeological assessments of proposed SuDS, Characterisation for Epping Forest District Council, Local List project for Braintree District Council, and providing heritage policy support for the London Borough of Havering. We have completed a revised HER audit.

Hertfordshire: Recently upgraded to HBSMR v4. Charging under the Environmental Information Regulations has been resolved.

Norfolk: In Oct 2015 NCC began a public consultation on proposed budget cuts which included a 27% reduction of Historic Environment Service funds and loss of 5.5 FTE (due to an extremely strong response, these cuts were entirely dismissed in Feb 2016). An internal management review run in parallel to the consultation resulted in the deletion of the County Archaeologist post. The Historic Environment Service is being amalgamated with the Environment Service. Throughout the restructuring, we have been unable to recruit for the Senior HER Officer post vacated by Alice Cattermole and has therefore been running a slightly reduced service and have developed a small reports backlog. Further decisions regarding future HER staffing levels are expected in July. The HER digitisation project is proceeding apace – all grey literature has been scanned and processed (identified over 100,000 items which are in various stages of this project). A volunteer has completed a project to digitise our photo register and over the summer we will be running a pilot project to

digitize between 1000 and 2000 images for the Breaking New Ground HLF Landscape Partnership project. Expecting to receive data from the 8th in the East project to integrate and are involved in the development of a wide range of projects for a proposed Broads Landscape Partnership scheme. The number of enquiries continues to rise, with 266 processed between Jan-March 2016.

Peterborough: HER business as usual with no changes planned for the current financial year.

Suffolk: The Suffolk County Council Historic Environment and Natural Environment teams have merged with cross-team links being built and collaborative projects being developed. We are currently still being housed in temporary offices, pending our move to new offices in Bury St Edmunds (next 3 months), and our paper files are still in storage. As such, although we are continuing to offer the full range of HER services these are currently quite limited in their scope. Capacity has increased with the recruitment of two new Assistant HER Officers. Ben Donnelly-Symes and Grace Campbell. As of the beginning of May our HER Officer, James Rolfe, began an 18-month secondment with our archaeological planning team.

Currently 6 months into the 18-month Ipswich UAD project and the project officer, Hannah Cutler, is making very good progress. The UAD is being built within HBSMR as an enhanced part of the Suffolk HER and has included the development of a custom module to record details of archaeological stratigraphy.

b. East Midlands HER Forum

Derbyshire: An undergraduate placement student has been tidying up and enhancing the HER records for Listed Buildings in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site area. The DerwentWISE Heritage at Risk project funded a day's consultancy with Exegesis to use the Designations module in HBSMR to automatically create very basic Monument records for Listed Buildings. The enhancement of these records has proven to be very useful in correcting duplication and confusion. The records will be uploaded to the DerwentWISE Heritage at Risk website ready for volunteers to start completing their surveys. The enhancement will make it easier to transfer the data back in to HBMSR at the end of the project. Training days for the project volunteers have started.

Leicester: Grahame Appleby is now in post at Leicester City following the retirement of Chris Wardle.

Leicestershire: The HER is planning for an office move that is upcoming. To this end they have been looking at digitising their paper records and working on methods of managing the newly created digital data. In particular, they are considering the need to change work priorities and processes once the office move has occurred.

Lincoln: There is a continuing assessment of needs for a replacement database and GIS system for the Lincoln Heritage Database. Various options are under consideration with Arches being one of the applications.

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 start shortly. At the moment there is no further information on how this will affect the HE services.

Northamptonshire: From the beginning of the year a permanent full-time HER Officer, Charlotte Walker, has been in place. The HER is part of the Heritage and Archives Service and have recently moved offices from County Hall to the Northamptonshire Records Office.

North Lincolnshire: The HE staffing is stable at the moment although one of the two members of staff is on career break leave until the end of August.

Nottinghamshire: Virginia Baddeley the Nottinghamshire HER Officer since 1986 has retired. The post is currently vacant and Lincolnshire HER have been employed 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 the day to day running of the HER nor any non-commercial requests for information.

c. London HER

Results of the Comprehensive Spending Review better than expected. Some departments still effected and reorganising, but Planning largely unaffected.

Still unclear whether we will be staying in Waterhouse Sq or moving when the current lease expires in 2017, although EH will be moving out.

Our maternity cover HERO moved to a new HE post in March, and our temporary HER Project Officer also moved to an internal post in April. We have been given approval to recruit a new temporary HER Officer until March 2017, but it is likely that there will be only two of us until late July or August when Mel returns from maternity leave.

There have been a number of issues with HBSMR since our upgrade to version 4. Most have now been fixed, but exegesis and Captia are still working on the remaining problems.

Due to the level of work we have and the resources available, we are undertaking an HER development project to look at ways we can change how we work and if there are things we can cut out. As well as creating workflows for all our work, and that of the archaeological advisors, we are also working with the Museum of London Archive to see if there are ways we can work closer, and reduce duplication of work.

The GLHER has been approached by the Getty Conservation Institute to work with them and another HER on a pilot project to develop a new HER system based on their Arches heritage management system.

d. North East HER Forum

Durham.

DCC are supporting a Stockton to Darlington Railway Historic Track bed audit. This is linked to possible moves to try and get the route WHS status.

We have finally been given IDOX planning software to log our responses – and our getting to grips with this. The Consultation process is ok, though the software is a bit clunky.

After Lee left in June last year, Lauren Proctor started in November. This is a 1 year only downgraded support post. We suggested this as a replacement for Lees post, but as a permanent post, and we are still trying to get it made permanent. Since November, Lauren has started doing Planning, and also HER Enhancement, and has entered the 1980's Durham Archaeological Survey onto the system, and is now working through checking/enhancing our GL files.

We have also had volunteers doing stuff, including logging all OASIS numbers, so we hope to soon (ish) have DOIs for all the reports online incorporated into our records.

Due to issues relating to Designated Assets on DCC owned land, we are involved in a project to try and identify all these – we are doing SM's, other teams are doing other types of asset.

We have organised (partially – more to sort out) a 1 day LIDAR day school on 15th October, to focus on some WWI sites

Stats

HER Visits 2 (seems to be dropping alot)

Contractor Searches 22

Non-Chargeable Searches 22

Tyne and Wear.

HER re-audit due to start in April.

Claire MacRae is on secondment from York City Council, one day a week, helping with HER enhancement and day-to-day imputing of grey literature reports, events etc. She is presently also adding historic pubs to the HER.

David Heslop, County Archaeologist, is taking voluntary redundancy and will leave in May. The post will then be deleted. A part-time (18 hours) Archaeology Officer post will be advertised in March (to help Jenny Morrison with DM and HER).

The Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team will be no more after March. Gateshead Council cut our budget last year. This year Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils are following suit. For this reason Peter Derham, Historic Buildings Officer, is being made redundant. He too will leave in May. The 4 districts will still pay Newcastle City Council for an archaeology service. All 5 districts have Conservation Officers so will still have historic buildings provision despite Peter leaving.

Newcastle City Council is getting rid of ArcMap (to save the cost of licences) and staff will use QGIS instead. Jenny Morrison has training on this on 3 March.

Northumberland

Liz Williams still acting up as Conservation Team Manager (part-time) to cover Chris Burgess's sick leave until at least March 2016 and Karen Derham is doing an extra day per week to provide additional HER cover

Preparing next issue of Archaeology in Northumberland (vol 22) due out in April 2016

Hoard of bronze axes, sword and spearhead found by metal detectorist near Amble; colleagues went to investigate and record site and finds have been reported to PAS liaison officer

22 commercial searches undertaken since last meeting in September 2015

NCC is moving all staff from Microsoft Office applications to Google (gmail, docs, drive etc) by summer 2016; MS Access licences are being retained for HER purposes but may stimulate further discussion on migrating to another platform

Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape partnership project has started its Community Archaeology project which runs alongside similar Archive and Geology projects, and is eager to recruit volunteers over the next two years

Northumberland HER joined Heritage Gateway in October 2015 following work with Durham CC to use data held on the Keys to the Past website

Other Business

Nick Boldrini is the HER ALGAO rep for the North-East. He is also joining the ADS Management Board (one or two meetings a year) and will feed back to this group after his first meeting. Send any suggestions for ADS to Nick.

Data supply and Reconciliation between NRHE and HERs – Graham Tait did the feasibility study. Exegesis is recruiting HERs to do a couple of days of paid work. They are particularly looking for North-East bespoke HERs. York has volunteered but has heard nothing yet. Contact Crispin Flower to volunteer.

HER Outcomes Framework – this is finished and was signed off this week. The report will go onto Historic England's website. The aim is that HEROFs will feed into HER audits.

Victoria Bowns reported that there has been no archaeology manager at Humber Archaeology Partnership for 8 months but someone has now been appointed.

Nick Davis asked if anyone had heard from Redcar and Cleveland's archaeological advisors? No one had. Neil Cookson from NEAR is apparently providing advice. Dave Marsay is looking after the HER.

No one knows what Middlesbrough is doing.

Merseyside is getting an archaeologist again. It doesn't save money in the long term getting rid of your archaeology service.

Jenny Morrison suggesting having a training element in future meetings to encourage more people to come. Nick Boldrini suggested lidar interpretation. Designation was also suggested.

e. North West HER Forum

The North West HER Working Party met on the 11th February 2016.

General. There is to be a start-up meeting in York in early March re: Research Frameworks for the north-west and north-east England. The intention is to run update projects in parallel in the two regions, with similar structure & online presentation. The main thrust of the update will be to review major changes.

The group is to explore the possibility for occasional (possibly themed) combined meetings with the North-east HER Working Group.

Local Engagement. CBA north-west Spring meeting – will be on the first weekend of May (Saturday 7th, at Staining Village Hall near Blackpool). Lake District Archaeology Conference 2016 will be held at the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick on October 2nd.

Cheshire. Along with Conservation and Tree officers from Total Environment, the Archaeology Planning Advisory Service was invited to informally meet members of the Chester Civic Trust. It was a good opportunity to highlight the function and purpose of the HER and to talk about their research and recording projects including War memorials recording and the compilation of local lists for CWAC borough.

Our latest service review is ongoing, though at present, it is not expected to recommend any further changes.

Cumbria CC. Cumbria is now in the process of finding a replacement IT system for their HER and are visiting the Lake District and Bangor to assess their HERs. Historic England has been approached regarding funding for an upgrade.

Greater Manchester. The contract for providing the archaeological advisory service for Greater Manchester (GMAAS) currently runs to the end of 2016, but there is to be a meeting with AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities) representatives at the end of February to discuss the future.

Meanwhile, GMAAS have secured funding from Historic England for a Stage 1 project that will review the surviving textile mills in Greater Manchester. This will be a Buildings at Risk survey.

The Centre for Applied Archaeology (at the University of Salford) has applied to Historic England for a grant to update the North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment. Mike Nevell is currently preparing a project design and it is intended to have a number of period leads and specialists putting this together, as happened ten years ago. However, the update will not be published as a new monograph but instead results will be posted on an updatable website. It is proposed to undertake a review of key projects that have had a bearing on the research framework rather than do an in-depth analysis. There will be public and sector consultation events.

The School of Environment and Life Sciences has approved a proposed new archaeology degree, which will be taught by the Centre for Applied Archaeology. The degree will be 'Archaeology and Geography with Professional Practice' (single honours).

Ian Miller, formerly of Oxford Archaeology North (OAN), has joined Salford Archaeology at the Centre for Applied Archaeology in the role of Assistant Director.

Lake District National Park. Funding from Defra for National Parks has been protected, with slight increases for the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales NPs due to extensions to their areas.

Lancashire. The consultation phase ended last Monday and it is expected that the archaeology service is to close. Lancashire CC will maintain the existing HBSMR software and potentially keep 2 licences. There is the possibility of maintenance of the HER for 1 day a week, but this does not appear likely.

Merseyside. The HER is now at 80% complete for Phase 1 of the digitisation project (Phase 1 being the paper SMR records). MEAS are not yet providing a planning advisory service but have begun recruitment for an archaeologist (planning). The closing date for applications is 11th February with interviews on the 24th.

f. South East HER Forum

Attendees. Andrew Dearlove (AD-Surrey), Julia Wise (JW-Buckinghamshire), Paul Cuming (PC-Kent), Rachel Salter (RS-West Sussex), Rosanne Cummings (RC-Canterbury), Sarah Orr (SO-West Berkshire), Sophie Unger (SU-East Sussex), Stuart Cakebread (SC-Greater London), and Teresa Hocking (TH-East Berkshire authorities).

ALGAO Meetings/ Minutes. There was particular discussion of the lack of liaison and engagement with national and local HLF projects such as Citizen and Home Front.

Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS). SU had responded to the HIAS consultation survey in conjunction with the East Sussex archives and museums services. (No-one else present had responded). There was a discussion of the HIAS principles – in particular of issues with Principle 4 (online access) and Principle 7 (security copy). SO had attended the most recent Heritage Gateway meeting but said that it was taken up by database issues and there was no discussion of how the critical relationship to HIAS will be developed. There was concern that OASIS was seen as the primary dissemination mechanism of information to HERs and that HIAS appears to be heavily committed to the development of OASIS.

HER charges & EIR/RoPSIR. Group discussed conflicting legal advice provided by their legal teams over whether or not HER information fell under the Environmental Information Regulations and the implications for HER charging of the East Sussex case judgement. There's also a lack of clarity over the appropriateness of relying on the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations and HER copyright. It was agreed that ALGAO be asked to approach the Information Commissioner's Office directly on behalf of HERs for definitive advice. ACTION: JW to suggest this at the ALGAO UK HER Committee meeting on 26th May.

Archaeological archives. There was a discussion of the current situation across the region. Many museum stores are either closed or rapidly running out of storage space for physical archives. There was concern that museums are not dealing with digital storage issues.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme. There was a brief discussion of concerns about last year's process, the delay in payments, and lack of training. Both AD and JW reported that Natural England had refused to pay for applications where SHINE polygons were not created or edited, despite detailed advice being provided. Both said that they were considering whether or not they could participate in the scheme in 2016. There was general agreement that the online consultation process was a big improvement on the old system.

National HLC Project. Those HERs with completed HLC projects had provided the data to Natural England via Ben Wallace, some under licence. It was noted that the project is not due to be completed until later in the year, so there may still be an opportunity to provide datasets.

Outcomes Framework. The group briefly discussed the outcomes framework and linkages with local authority appraisals, HER Audits and Action Plans (HE are currently revising the Audit spec to include the HER Benchmarks) and HIAS work packages such as the HER definition.

Group Reps. JW is due to continue as regional rep on ALGAO UK HER Committee for the rest of the year until September/October 2016, when a new rep will be needed.

News Roundup. Verbal summaries from Buckinghamshire, Canterbury, East Berkshire, East Sussex, Greater London, Kent, Surrey, West Berkshire, and West Sussex. Staffing pressures reported by Surrey and Greater London HERs; recruitment currently underway in Kent; new HER Assistant for Buckinghamshire; HERO post now permanent in East Sussex (subject to SLAs with district councils). Restructuring on hold in West Sussex; office moves likely for Greater London HER; possible outsourcing of heritage services being considered in West Berkshire. HER charges revised in Surrey and West Sussex. Heritage Crime pilot projects underway in Kent, East Sussex and West Berkshire.

AOB. SU flagged up the legislative changes in the new Housing and Planning Act. ACTION: JW to raise concerns at ALGAO UK HER Committee meeting on May 26th.

g. South West HER Forum

Cornwall

- New funding for permanent, full time HER Assistant.
- Have moved office and the paper collections are now in store until the move to the Cornwall Archive building which will be shared by the Record Office.
- IT support has improved dramatically upon the removal of BT Cornwall.
- Audit revisit completed.
- HBSMR licences were the subject of the procurement process due to their cost. An advert was placed in the national press and responses were received from HBSMR and HEROS as well as two from Slovakia and Croatia! The Exegesis quote was finally accepted for 2 years.
- A volunteer is currently scanning c.5000 listed buildings photographs and attaching them to the relevant records.

Exmoor National Park

- CD now part time and there has been no indication that the other 2 days will be filled.
- Exegesis service visit initially caused problems with the website which are now fixed
- RCZA project staff have started working on the HER direct to remove the need to add data afterwards.
- Looking at the SM data as part of a quinquennial assessment.
- Doing a buildings at risk survey next year. Also running signposts survey.
- All buildings officers and archaeologists from the national parks meeting at Dunster next month.

Dartmoor National Park

- Considerable pressure on services and staff. The Dartmoor Trust has contributed some money towards the HER but still only working 2 days per week and a 1 year contract.

- IT restricts data sharing with Devon HER so AR accesses the Devon remote server but not all relevant GIS layers are on it so also uses QGIS to view those.
- AR involved in some aspects of Moor Than Meets The Eye but not others so expecting a data dump at some point.
- Historic buildings officer retiring but will be replaced.

Wiltshire & Swindon (Tom Sunley by email)

- New HER Assistant Jacqueline Ramsay started in April. She is working part-time and has replaced Emma Whitcombe. Jacque previously worked for the Wiltshire Council Museums Service.
- The Wiltshire & Swindon HLC is now scheduled to finish in June/July – the report is just being finalised before the launch event to be held at the History Centre in Chippenham.
- Wiltshire HER data is being prepared for upload to the Know Your Place Website, queries to pull the data out of the HER have now been written by Exegesis (for no cost) and meetings with Council IT are being setup to work out the nature of the WFS transfer to Bristol City Council servers.
- The HER are still involved in the Farmsteads Project (sponsored by Historic England), a Canals Project (Wilts and Berks Canal Trust) and North Wessex Downs Characterisation Group.
- Principal HER enquiries relate to the A303 Stonehenge road/tunnel scheme (massive data requirement!) and as part of a contract with Thames Water (data for northern portion of the county)

Dorset

- Possibly on the move again into the basement or to the Record Office but have finally been able to get on with HER work.
- Wessex Water are contributing to putting the results of one of their schemes into the HER.
- Working on cataloguing historic buildings colleagues' photographs of historic buildings.

Gloucestershire

- Still recovering from a 'Worksmart' programme which saw the adoption of thin clients and the moving of the servers to Corsham. Slow GIS speeds might have been improved by loading any shapefiles onto the SDE rather than accessing shape files over the network – something, apparently, ArcGIS is very bad at. Have not tried to process the backlog of lidar data yet.
- Working on adding the Severn Vale NMP data to the HER which will complete NMP coverage for the county.
- Setting up connections to the Know Your Place website ready for its launch in Gloucestershire.
- Have been told by legal that the latest decisions regarding charging for environmental information means we cannot continue licensing data to Thames Water for anything more than the cost of producing the data.
- Working on housing allocations for the Cheltenham local plan.
- AM & TG trying to fit in enhancement work.
- Remaining projects team staff (x2) have had contracts extended to continue writing up & depositing project archive.

Gloucester

- Connection to the Gloucestershire HER working well.
- Over half way through the deposition of the City Excavation Unit archive with the Museum.
- 70% of the old city HER now added to the Gloucestershire system.

Bristol City

- Heritage Framework document recently published putting the HER at the forefront of projects run by the City Council and external organisations such as the HLF.
- The Heritage Forum, involving external stakeholders and led by the Civic Society is holding a conference in October. The Forum is looking at Heritage at Risk and a local list.

- Two new full time conservation officers have been appointed and will be contributing to the HER.
- Audit completed.
- In June PI will be moving offices and will no longer have public access to the HER and no physical archive (which has been dispersed to the Record Office and libraries).
- Looking to expand KYP content to include City's building plans.
- BARAS being wound up leaving the issue of publication and archiving backlogs.

Devon

- Re-prioritising the HER tasks following re-organisation: SK queried data exchange agreements with the MOD. ND stated that the MOD HER is possibly on hold for the moment but that it might be worth contacting Richard Osgood. SK also queried how others ran audience research but it was generally felt that the responses were of negligible value although CJ noted that results were better when they send their surveys every three months.
- The HER is externally hosted by Exegesis. SK looking at a ways of reducing the cost of licences by moving to a runtime licence but no one had any opinion or knowledge!
- Looking to cache OS maps but IT proving unhelpful.
- Environment data online soon.
- Schools resources being developed (PI suggested building evaluation from learner and teacher perspectives into the resources).
- New NMP project on the Blackdown Hills using embedded contractors.
- EUS even more nearly finished.
- North Devon RCZA – contractors not communicating the HERs in Devon or Cornwall.
- Tithe maps still being digitised.
- SK's hours up by ½ day per week.

South Gloucestershire

- HER now fully on a cloud server and the KYP extension for South Gloucestershire went live in February. So far 70 contributions with 45 approved.
- Working on a joint spatial plan housing allocations with BANES. Moves towards a new 'West of England' authority are progressing.

GGAT

- The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill became an Act in 2016 with statutory footing for HERs in April 2017. It will be a statutory duty of Welsh ministers with guidance on the use of HERs, interactions and maintenance to be produced. There will be an increase in funding from Welsh government.
- Audit was completed last year.
- Now two HER officers.

Somerset

- Finally transferred to HEROS on a cloud server. Seems to work and in most areas seems to be an improvement.
- AD now employed to put things into the system.
- Currently installing Heritage Gateway link.
- The new HER website at www.somersetheritage.org.uk but not complete yet.
- Have also appointed an Assistant Conservation Officer for 2 years.

Historic England - Heritage Information Partnerships (HIPs) Report:

- 2 full audits and 6 audit revisits undertaken. 1 new revisit begun.
- 2 rapid audits (abbreviated process to underpin succession planning in cases of rapid staff turnover) undertaken 1 in progress.
- HIPs team members attended: East of England, Yorkshire, Humber & North East, North West and West Midlands regional HER meetings, the ALGAO HER Committee and an HER Outcomes Framework workshop.

- Meetings were held with 2 individual HERs to support succession planning (these meetings are offered to any HER which is faced with having to make sharp 'transitional' arrangements or encounters sudden staffing changes).
- The HER Forum winter meeting (08-12-15) attracted 64 participants.
- An extra 'Springtime Special' HER Forum was held in Swindon on 09-03-16. 51 people attended. This was partially used to workshop ideas for the impending revision of the HER Audit process.
- Developments to look forward to in the near future are that we (HIPs) will be taking over the management and maintenance of the Heritage Gateway and that Mark Barratt (OASIS) will be joining our team soon (although no change is, at present, envisaged in his current role).

North Somerset

- Vince Russett retired after 20 years to be replaced on a lower grade. DS currently working full time on HER for 3 months until replacement in place.
- Undertaking an audit at the moment.
- Newly appointed Conservation Officer Kate Hudson McCauley remains in post.
- DS continues to run a successful project at Middle Engine Pit (a HAR site) in Nailsea.
- Voluntary groups still strong.

h. West Midlands HER Forum

The last West Midlands HER Forum was hosted by Warwickshire County Council in Warwick on 19th May 2016.

Staffing / Structure Updates:

Sandwell – Mark Watkins and Mark Stretton still sharing the HER work. They are hoping that they will be able to resource having one full day a week dedicated to HER work.

Wolverhampton and Walsall – Ellie Ramsey still working on part time basis for Wolverhampton (along with two Conservation Officers). Walsall are still receiving advice from Ellie as required.

Coventry – The HER will be moving offices in 2017 and Graham Tait is currently assessing digitisation of all grey literature to facilitate this.

Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust – Historic Environment Wales Bill now passed, with a commitment for funding from CADW for HERs going forward.

Shropshire – Penny Ward has now retired after 34 years in post and Giles Carey specifically thanked her for all her work in developing the Shropshire HER over that time. They have a new Conservation Office in post (Livvy ??) who will be dealing mainly with casework. The service has now been transferred back into Shropshire Council after having been seconded out to the Council's 'trading company' and it looks as though the decision is for the service to now remain part of the Council's core functions. Charlotte Orchard will shortly be going on maternity leave. Her post will not be backfilled though some of her work will be covered by Hugh Haniford with support from Giles.

Worcester City – Steve Macleish's post (Conservation) has now been replaced by Julie Lynn, who will mainly be working on Conservation Area appraisals.

Herefordshire – Liam Delaney is now in post as HER Officer, with the service now back under Archaeology (rather than under Archives where it had been). The Archaeology service has a total of three staff and they are lacking Conservation Officer cover. They are also needing to generate income to cover up to 50% of Liam's time.

Warwickshire and Solihull - The service is now in Community Services and back with Country Parks, Heritage, Museums and the Field Service. The threat of having to operate a cost-neutral service (with zero budget) is looking like it will be enforced, though they are currently negotiating this.

Staffordshire County Council – A decision has finally been made to TUPE transfer Debbie Taylor to Amey and this will happen on the 1st June 2016. The HE service (comprising now only 2 members of staff) will be able to buy back up to 50% of Debbie's time largely to support planning work providing that at least some income is generated to offset this. SCC is still in

discussion with districts over potential charging protocols. After a series of meetings with them many were resistant to the idea of charging developers at pre-app stage and how this could be enforced with several indicating that they would prefer to maintain the status quo through paid for SLAs. We are now updating the business case for income generation providing a costed SLA option for districts as an alternative way forward.

Other News:

In general across the region the number of enquiries and consultations appear to have increased. Some authorities in the region have been focussing work on neighbourhood planning and a number are also (or will be) involved in the NRHE to HER pilot work.

Some concern was raised across the region in relation to the new round of Countryside Stewardship applications. There has been little information coming through about updates to the online system and when this will go live (and therefore when consultations may begin to arrive) and also about when training for the new system and updated service standards will be delivered.

Date and Venue for Next Meeting

Coventry have offered to host the next meeting on Wednesday 9th November 2016.

i. Yorkshire and The Humber HER working party

Humber Archaeology Partnership. Between September to March 2016, new Activity's added: 62 and new Monuments added: 127, Monument Amended 1505

Both SMR enquiries and visitors to the SMR have been very busy. Demolition Notices for Hull City Council have also been very busy.

We received in total so far 36 Countryside Stewardship Schemes, of which 1/3 of the monuments that fell within the Countryside Stewardship Schemes had to be SHINE

We have managed to add a good amount of Activity's to HBSMR thus making them more searchable for members of the public and for our search requests. These include both current reports as well as some backlog reports that had been waiting to be added to the SMR.

We are continuing to digitise our large and small scale cropmark complexes and the associated monument information. This has allowed us to add a lot of additional information to existing records, along with fully digitizing the extent of these monuments as well as highlighting new monuments that need to be created.

Someone has been appointed the Archaeology Manger, but we do not know who that is at the moment. The existing three members of staff are still covering the work. The main running of the SMR and the covering of the Archaeology Mangers duties continue to fall with the Senior SMR Officer.

We have a long-term volunteer who always makes a useful addition to the team, helping out with several tasks, mostly including SMR enhancement.

York. HER enhancement and uploading of grey literature and consultations is now done by Claire MacRae (as part of a wider heritage management role). This has enabled a backlog of information to be uploaded such as Conservation Area Appraisals, Village Design Statements, Conservation Management Plans (all of which were on HER 2012 audit list of recommendations) as well as other 'monuments' such as Buildings of Merit identified by the CAA of the historic core.

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

Only John Oxley (City Archaeologist) in permanent post re- archaeology and HER.

South Yorkshire. Consultations: 10 academic, 20 commercial, 17 general

Enhancement activity: Finally finished processing grey literature backlog of c250 reports built up over the last 5-6 years, especially while no SMR officer in post. This assisted in part by a number of volunteer placements. Next major tasks: consider how to deal with NMR data and upgrade physical filing system. Also: Deserted/Shrunken Medieval Villages, CoE church data, tidying and consolidating linear features (roads/Roman Ridge).

	Created	Edited
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Monuments	54	166
Events	142	51
Sources	208	96

Volunteers: 2 graduate students, assisting with grey literature backlog. Work experience placement student for a week in April.

Funding: ARO post funded for another year (3 days/week). Role includes some planning work when needed, including all statutory undertaker and scoping consultations. Service overall suffered a small cut absorbed by one of the planning archaeologists dropping a day, so all 4 staff now part-time.

Software: Trying to negotiate with IT provider over HBSMR upgrade. Likely to be to v4 at most. Also considering HEROS, though not in a position to compare directly yet.

Archaeology Day: Event at the Showroom cinema in November sold out as usual. Next event will be held there again on November 19th this year. Details very much tbc.

North Lincolnshire. Stats - 48 new mon records, 61 events. Only 3 commercial searches.

Office & management – New Senior planning officer line managing the HER has been appointed – Joe O’Sullivan, ex. Selby District. Office space for the HER at Civic centre is said to be available shortly.

Personnel – As of March, Mike has gone on Career Break, duration 6 months. Alison Williams will provide basic cover for HER; other measures are being investigated.

IT – HBSMR was moved to a new SQL server location in November 2015, after other applications caused a very disruptive slow down. Exegesis service visit December 15, and imminent Heritage Gateway upload.

Enhancement – No systematic/thematic enhancement projects in operation at present.

North Yorkshire. Our Principle Archaeologist Lucie Hawkins is taking up a post within the Humber Archaeology Partnership; her position has been recruited for and interviews have taken place (results pending). NYCC now have a fully separate HER room for public searches, which has aided in helping justify the need to keep our physical archive. This has seen a bit of a boost in HER visitors. The digitisation of the further information files, OS record cards and various other archive material is almost complete (though not yet logged). We’re currently undertaking the retrospective polygonization of those events without and addressing sites with no descriptions. Another key project we’re contributing to is the River Rye Catchment Partnership, aiding in the development of several potential projects thematically focusing on the river and all its associations.