



ALGAO-UK HER Committee – Group updates

Wednesday 7th June 2017

Historic England West Midlands Regional Office, Birmingham

8. Country updates.

i. ALGAO Cymru

Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016

On the 31st of May 2017, one year on from the introduction of the *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016*, the statutory guidance on the maintenance of Welsh HER has been published and the maintenance of an HER has become a statutory function of Welsh Ministers. Local authorities and the other relevant bodies (National Parks, Natural Resources Wales) have been informed of the commencement of statutory HERs and have been reminded that as well as being required to make use of the HER in their normal business functions they are also required to 'contribute' to their development and improvement. Given that this contribution is also expected to be cost neutral it will be interesting to see how they carry out their newly found responsibilities.

Welsh Ministers, having adopted the existing HERs of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts as their statutory HER, have also required that this statutory HER be displayed through an amended version of the Archwilio website, which now gives bilingual access to the 11 'layers' of designation which now comprise the statutory HER. This has also been released on the 31 May and can be found at <http://www.archwilio.org.uk>

Various other statutory guidance documents were also published on the 31 May, dealing with the *Interim Protection and Review for Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings*, a *Simplified scheduled monument consent process* and the *Recovery of Costs for Urgent Works to Listed Buildings*.

In addition to the above new planning guidance, *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan-24/?lang=en>), has been published which replaces *Welsh Office Circulars* 60/96, 61/96 and 1/98 which dealt separately with the historic environment and listed buildings. *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Wales) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2017* (<http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/sub-ld11034/sub-ld11034-e.pdf>) has also introduced a requirement for a *Heritage Impact Statement* to support listed building and conservation area consent applications, which will replace the current requirement for a design and access statement. Although this will only become a legal requirement from 1 September 2017 many applications are already being accompanied by *Heritage Impact Statements* and it is interesting to see that the assessment process is being used not only for listed buildings but also for a range of 'field monuments'.

To accompany the statutory guidance Cadw has also published the first titles in a new series of best-practice guidance documents: *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*, *Managing Change in World Heritage Sites in Wales*, *Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales*, *Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales*, *Managing Conservation Areas in Wales*, *Managing Historic Character in Wales*, *Managing Listed Buildings at Risk in Wales*, *Managing Lists of Historic Assets of Special Local Interest in Wales* and *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*. These can be found at <http://www.cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/publications/?lang=en>

Glastir (all Wales agri-environment scheme)

The Welsh Government have finally managed to issue a new contract to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts to provide advice, from their HERs, on the historic environment aspects

of the Glastir agri-environment scheme (although it only covers the Small Grants Scheme, Woodland Creation and Woodland Management). This has been a lengthy process which has involved putting the contract out to public tender and then thinking about the results of that process for many months! As yet the only consultations to be issued under the new contract are a limited applications under the Small Grant Scheme, which were in fact in advance of the contract, and a handful of Glastir Woodland Creation cases.

It is expected (hoped) that a second contract, for the main round of 2018 applications, will be issued sometime soon.

HER software - HEROS

The Wales HER software suite continues to develop under the HEROS partnership. As part of the preparation for changes to its role under the Historic Environment (Wales) Act Archwilio has been re-programmed to display 11 layers of historic environment information and will work across all major computing platforms, including PCs, tablets and other touch screen devices, and all types of mobile phone. The new and improved version of the website was released on 31 May.

ii. Scottish SMR Forum

The Scottish SMR Forum met on 17th May, 2017.

Spatial Hub – The SMR Forum has been liaising with the Scottish Government Improvement Service to get HER data onto the Spatial Hub. This will satisfy the local authority requirements for INSPIRE compliance. It is also an aim of the SHED strategy to provide a national polygonised dataset of HER data and make it available as web services. The first upload of data is taking place in June.

SHED Strategy – Several HER-related priorities have been identified through the implementation plan, encouraging support and possible funding for HER polygonisation projects and others. Members of the SHED Programme Board have met with national archives and with ASLAWG (Archivists of Scottish Local Authorities Working Group) to get HERs specifically mentioned in LA records retention schedules as records to be kept permanently (to ensure that HER records are not deleted by LAs in future, especially in the case of an archaeology service being shut down).

Scottish Rock Art Project – This project undertaken by HES will train groups of local volunteers to record rock art sites, revisiting known sites and recording new ones. The project team is liaising with the SMR Forum regarding data transfer between the project and HERs.

Polygonisation Projects – We had an update from the two HER polygonisation projects that are currently underway: one in Shetland, and one in the Scottish Borders, with Stirling and Clackmannanshire. Both projects are being given additional funding from HES to be extended. Both are progressing well, but targets set at the outset are now deemed to have been a bit too ambitious, which has led to the projects carrying on longer than originally planned.

SMR TWG – The TWG has been working on the technical specifications for historic environment polygons. Number 2 (Areas of Archaeological Interest) and Number 3 (Event polygons) are now available on the SMR Forum website: <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/data-standards/spatial-data-standards/>

The TWG has agreed a data structure for the annual Canmore downloads from HES so that these can be consistent across all the HERs, and this will allow Exigesis to develop a download tool for all HBSMR users.

Discussion about Periods continues, and will be essential to have an agreed list of period names to allow cross searching of HER data, especially at this time of developing regional research frameworks. Once the Scottish list has been agreed it will be shared with FISH.

The next Scottish SMR Forum will be held in November.

iii. Historic Environment Scotland

9. Regular updates from other meetings:

i. ALGAO England Executive

ALGAO England Executive met in March. BW attended. Discussed minerals, PAS, Brexit, Next meeting on 15th June.

ii. ALGAO Maritime Committee

The Maritime Committee has not met since the last ALGAO-UK HER Committee. Their next meeting will be 10th July.

iii. ALGAO Countryside Committee

Countryside Committee:

The most recent Countryside Committee/National Historic Environment Countryside Adviser (HECA) meeting was held on 17 November 2016 at the Carrs Lane Conference Centre in Birmingham. Forty three people attended.

After many years as ALGAO Countryside Convenor, Ken Smith decided to step down from the role in January 2017. Ken's dedication and hard work will be sorely missed. As an interim measure, David Robertson, previously Secretary to the Countryside Committee, has agreed to temporarily take on the role of ALGAO Countryside Convenor. An election to choose the next permanent convenor will take place at the next meeting of the Committee. The Countryside Committee is currently looking for a new Secretary. Unfortunately until a volunteer comes forward, the Committee will not be able to hold meetings.

Countryside Stewardship:

ALGAO members are expecting most Higher HEFER requests to arrive between mid June and late July/early August. However, HEFER requests for Higher Tier Woodland Only applications, Mixed applications and some selected Higher Tier applications started to arrive in March. To date numbers received by individual ALGAO members vary, with the highest numbers received by Devon (41), Northumberland County (37), Kent (36) and Cumbria (32) (figures correct up to 30 May 2017).

ALGAO members started to receive Mid Tier HEFER requests in March and will continue to receive them until 31 July. To date numbers received by ALGAO members vary, with the highest numbers received in Devon (107), North Yorkshire (116) and Cumbria (106) (figures correct up to 30 May 2017).

Early in 2017 Historic England commissioned Exegesis to enhance the SHINE website (www.myshinedata.org.uk). Exegesis has completed their work on priority enhancements, the majority of which were suggested at November's Countryside Committee/National HECA meeting and all of which have been agreed by the SHINE steering group (Historic England, Natural England and ALGAO).

Linda Smith has kindly agreed again to provide SHINE support to ALGAO members during 2017 (and ALGAO England has been kind enough to provide funding for this). The SHINE support team (<https://www.myshinedata.org.uk/contact>) are also be available to help.

Over the last year or so a number of ALGAO members have asked for further SHINE training. As part of the SHINE enhancement project Exegesis has created two SHINE training videos, one for Historic England and one for ALGAO members. This is in response to feedback from last year, when running face-to-face training courses limited numbers of people attending. This year anyone who wishes to be trained can watch the video in their own time. The training videos are now available to on the SHINE website to staff who work for ALGAO members and have registered on the website.

iv. Archaeology Data Service Management Board

No meeting since last Committee

v. BHUG Meeting Report

Not much happening. Nick has set up a new KHUB list, and still sorting out getting that working, and until that's sorted won't be trying to do much else. Probably won't be trying to arrange a meeting before the Winter HER Forum.

vi. FISH

This group met on 9th June (after the committee meeting, but before these minutes were finalised). Therefore an update is given below:

- **Discussion of Building Information Modelling (BIM) for heritage:** BIM is used to describe a collaborative process for the production and management of structured electronic information for managing buildings. It embeds key product and asset data and a 3d model that can be used for effective management of information throughout the project lifecycle.

Main concerns were that as BIM develops, digital archiving with a Trusted Digital Repository (such as the Archaeology Data Service) is essential for any Historic BIM. ADS will get involved with this.

- **UNICLASS:** UNICLASS is a unified classification system for all sectors of the UK construction industry. This is being updated to provide a classification to aid the adoption of BIM. Peter McKeague (Historic Environment Scotland) has looked at an exploratory mapping of Historic Environment thesauri and UNICLASS terminology, and will be taking this further when the Thesaurus of Cultural Heritage is completed.
- **Research Frameworks:** A wiki system is being developed for storing and accessing research frameworks starting with NE, NW and the East of England Archaeological Research Frameworks, and a built environment research framework. This is being carried out by Landward Research Ltd (Doug Rocks-Macqueen).
- **Thesaurus of Cultural Heritage:** This work to join the English, Welsh & Scottish thesauri, and new permanent URIs to be created in <http://www.heritagedata.org/> will be done in-time to enable the revised OASIS product to be completed (early 2018).
- **FISH Terminology Working Group:** There is an issue with getting terminologies updated with the FISH Terminology Working Group (TWG). There is an understanding by the FISH committee that the FISH terms-of-reference and 'flowlines' needs updating, and there is a need for better communications with specialists. The (Monument Type) Classes needs to be updated, and this will be looked-at by FISH TWG. (e.g. "agricultural buildings" are not part of "agriculture"); so there will be big changes to the top-level classes.
- **Thesaurus of Cultural Heritage:** Historic England want the <http://www.heritagedata.org/> website brought in-house. It will hopefully happen (has been agreed by Scotland and Wales), but this can't happen 'til 2018/2019 financial year. Then a heritage data reference manager needs to be built, and is being done as part of the ARCHES platform; this will be carried out by the end of this financial year.
- **HIAS:** A number of strands of HIAS of HIAS relate to FISH. This includes marine data standards. HIAS is one year into phase 3 of HIAS. This is the 'development' stage. Includes HERALD project. Marine. Heritage Gateway. Business processes in Historic Environment. etc. Then training, promotion, and monitoring.
- **Websites:** New FISH website now live. <http://heritage-standards.org.uk/>
- Note: New MIDAS XML v3 to be created; to enable Heritage Gateway developments to work. This will also update MIDAS. (This comes out of maritime issues). This will be done as part of one of the HIAS work packages.
- **Reports from Contributing Organisations:**
- Wales: statutory HERs.
- Scotland: Scottish Historic Environment data group - produced polygon standards, will circulate to FISH.
- England:
 - Commemoration of WWI. War Memorials Register (Imperial War Museum) and War Memorials Online (War Memorials Trust) and NHLE - providing links between data.
 - The database that is used to maintain the NHLE - the UDS - can add extra datasets and the data that this holds. GT suggested that links between HERs and the NHLE be looked-at - suggested that someone from Historic England (Phil Carlisle?) is invited to the next ALGAO-UK HER Committee to discuss this.
 - Historic England Corporate Plan will be released very soon.
 - Historic England Research Agenda will be published soon.
 - Historic England became an Independent Research organisation (IRO).
 - Looking at how Historic England produces guidance.
 - National Trust - Heritage Records Online (<https://heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org.uk/>) - well received.

vii. HBSMR User Group

- Joint meeting in Edinburgh with Scottish HBSMR User Group - disappointing number of England reps, may reflect travel constraint by 'distance' rather than 'cost', but still beneficial to have both groups together for first time in a good few years.

- Exegesis have implemented V5 now, and HBSMR will soon be able to run with QGIS as well, giving the potential to reduce GIS software licences for HERs.
- Exegesis also looking at more 'mobile friendly' and web-based versions of HBSMR to widen access for HERs without the need for lots of licences. Feedback from the User community is currently being sought to help shape this project.
- Use of GitHub to allow logging of development requests and to enable users to actively see these requests being followed up/actioned.
- A demonstration of the Shetland digitisation project was given, making good use of the new mapping facilities in V5 of HBSMR, allowing multiple features to be added to one monument record with each feature being linked to its original source.

viii. HER Forum

The HER Forum hasn't met since the last meeting; therefore no update

ix. OASIS Management Board

The Board met on the 26th April

- The search interface for The ADS Library was launched in beta on 6th March. The admin and reporting interface for the ADS Library will be completed in June.
- The Board went through the draft OASIS 2 functional specifications and a final draft has been produced taking up comments from review. Need to:
 - discuss with Ben Wallace how reporting on OASIS Lite and standard OASIS are going to be reported back to Historic England
 - follow-up with ALGAO regarding the automated release of reports timing
 - what statistics are required for reporting
- Existing SLAs with HES and HE now out of date, so need to start looking at these
- Report from England
 - 4,500 proxy validated reports
 - All but one Quakers meeting House project records signed-off
 - 741 research/specialist reports now in library
 - First Crossrail records signed-off on behalf of GL HER.
- Report from Scotland
 - Still some issues with wind farm reporting.
 - A backlog of records is accruing due to pressure of work/commitments to other things
- Report from ADS
 - Number of Reports added to the Grey Literature Library from OASIS: 2,170 – an increase of 176, this includes the October 2016 transfer, but does not include the April 2017 transfer, which has not happened yet.
 - Allocating two people to undertake the HERALD Project Manager role, with a split between HERALD Project Manager (Internal), responsible for the build of the new system, and HERALD Project Manager (External) with responsibility for liaison with external stakeholders and project reporting. Jo Gilham will be taking the lead on the internal role, whilst Tim Evans will take responsibility for the externally-facing aspects.
- Next Meeting Edinburgh October

x. Report from regional HER Forums

a. East of England HER Forum

Central Bedfordshire:

- All aerial photos have been scanned and the last few flights are being georectified, then whole set will be returned. Have had samples of the scans and very impressed with quality.
- Moving to HBSMR being hosted by Exegesis – ongoing IT issues prompted this move, hoping this will provide a robust resolution.
- Currently undergoing restructure, no immediate threats to HER about ongoing drive to reduce storage/paper use to save space and bring staff in from satellite

offices. Again, no immediate threats as HER in a (very) small storage room and have had no dedicated functional room since became CBC – the current room is not suitable for use as office or meeting room.

Bedford Borough:

- Skylarkaeology/Historic England have completed Phase 1 of the Bedford Borough NMP Project, identifying significant numbers of new sites within the borough, as well as additional information on existing sites. Phase 2 began in February 2017. New sites range from unusual co-axial field systems (could be prehistoric or later) to WWI practice trenches.
- Struggling to fulfil number of SHINE responses.
- Struggling with HER backlog clearance.

Cambridgeshire:

- Since December there has been a steady income of HER searches, no significant drop or rise. Stewardship has also opened and we are not getting as many as the record numbers for last year although we are also getting woodland consultations both via SHINE and directly.
- Staff updates – Ben has been with us since January and is taking over as the primary contact for archive deposition for Cambridgeshire. Sally left on maternity at the end of April and has now had a very prompt and quick delivery of Evelyn Anne Calista Croft (under 3 hours!) on 19th May.
- Projects – transfer of the UAD into the HBSMR is ongoing, due to finish by the end of June and has resulted in a significant increase in new and edited records for the centre of Cambridge. Information from the NAIS data project is also slowly being transferred into the HBSMR.
- Outreach – In June we will be hosting two half days of sessions with a local school who have chosen to study Cambridge Castle as part of their history G.C.S.E.
- IT update - We have recently started having HBSMR hosted through CCC citrix. This has significantly improved the network speed for the team and overall we have not had many issues so far. The whole team has also recently transitioned from desktops to laptops which has solved some of our hardware issues as some of our desktops were over 10 years old.

Peterborough:

- Peterborough and Cambs are now a combined authority. To my knowledge, there are no immediate plans to merge the planning services.
- Sarah Botfield is still on sick leave but may return at the beginning of June.
- The HER grey literature reports, and other bits and bobs, will be digitized before summer 2018, as planning, policy, enforcement and tech team will move to a new location.
- It is anticipated that the financial year 2017-2018 will be challenging...

Hertfordshire:

- really busy – so I suppose that's bullet point 1. (Not the only one, I see)
- Also, attempting to reach an agreement with HS2 over licencing is taking up time.
- SHINE is as well, but at least not as frantic as last time (so far).
- Falling behind with reports, but it's not serious yet. Having Kate's position backfilled means we are back up to three planning archaeologists so there are a lot of new ones coming through.
- Chilterns Hillforts Project is nearly ready to go to the HLF, and have been involved in steering meetings and providing data about that. Orchards East is new East of England project, which we will be involved with for background information. Crossrail 2 has started gathering data....
- Our Heritage Gateway mapping problem is still not resolved.

Colchester:

- Earlier this year, Colchester Borough Council successfully transferred to application hosting by exeGesIS. Since then, we have upgraded to V5 of HBSMR.

- Enhancement progresses well and Essex CC Place Services has been commissioned to undertake a NMP enhancement project for the Borough.
- A new Colchester Heritage Explorer (Colchesterheritage.co.uk) is currently under construction, developed by Alice Cattermole working with exeGesIS. It is anticipated that this will be launched in June.

Suffolk:

- James Rolfe has now been appointed permanently as the HER manager, Grace has been promoted to Archaeological Officer (HER) & Ben Donnelly-Symes left for Cambridge HER
- We have just appointed a new HER assistant (2 years fixed term) who will start at the beginning of July, who's main task will be to tackle our backlog.
- We have been given the go ahead by corporate IT to move to HBSMR being externally hosted by Exegesis with the consultations module.
- Last year we had an increase in commercial searches of 30%.

Norfolk:

- Since December 2016, the Norfolk Historic Environment Service has experienced several staffing changes. County Archaeologist, David Gurney, has left the service and his post will not be replaced due to amalgamation with the Environment Team. Our head of service is now John Jones. Our head of archaeological planning has also left the service and David Robertson is temporarily taking on this role. We've welcomed John Percival and Steve Hickling to our archaeological planning team. Our senior Finds Identification and Recording Officer, Andrew Rogerson, has also announced his retirement and we're currently recruiting for his position. Within the HER, the post of Senior Historic Environment Officer (Records) remains frozen, with duties being carried out by Alison Yardy and Heather Hamilton.
- Due to reduction in staffing a small reports backlog had formed, but this has been greatly reduced during the past six months. We've also been liaising with the archaeological planning team to create a new joint tracking system for fieldwork. This was implemented in April and both teams are already seeing significant improvement in work flow. The HER digitisation project is set to continue over the next three years, making the primary paper archives from our collection available digitally. The most recent scanned items include a large archive of borehole reports, original HER and OS index cards, and internal data transfer forms. Work on the Breaking New Ground HLF Landscape Partnership project has been completed, resulting in a resource of 1000 digital aerial photographs of the Brecks area as well as air photo transcription following the NMP methodology. The development stage of the Broads Landscape Partnership scheme is complete and the stage 2 application has been submitted.

Essex:

No report received

b. East Midlands HER Forum

Derbyshire: The restructure has now been implemented and the resultant Conservation, Heritage and Design Service now incorporates the World Heritage Site team, but a few posts have also been lost. Archaeology team wise, half a post has been lost, leaving 2 and a half posts in place. The HER post remains. The HBSMR remote hosting contract is now being looked over by our Legal team, and we are hoping to go ahead with it soon. Countryside Stewardship consultations are being covered by the HER Officer; over 60 applications have been received so far, 22 of which have been Higher Tier. This hasn't left much time for anything else other than the usual HER consultations and enquiries.

Leicester: The City Archaeologist would like to create a deposit model for the HER, although this may be a long-term goal, what with only one member of staff covering HER and DC. Systematic enhancement of each HER record has also started to take place, with the aim of improving the quality of information that is recorded.

Leicestershire: Currently have a part time HER Assistant, who is helping to sort out a lot of things that would otherwise be left undone. Still working through photographs that were found during the office move last year, sorting out and linking slides that had been digitised, linking scanned summary sheets to HBSMR – there are plenty of long term 'sorting out' projects to

do. They have also been given a huge archive of figurative carving photographs from Leicestershire and Rutland churches that need going through (the latest instalment of 'Project Gargoyle'). The HER Assistant is also helping check Countryside Stewardship applications, of which there have been 75 so far (as of 30th May). This year has been the quietest in the last 5 years for commercial HER enquiries (though roughly on a par with 2013). Still happily using HBSMR via the hosted option, which has sorted out a lot of ICT problems but there are issues due to the intermittent slowness of the council network. Though they currently use Mapinfo, QGIS is being looked into as a replacement.

Lincoln: Work on the Arches project is ongoing, in partnership with the Getty Conservation Institute and Greater London HER. Work is currently focussing on achieving MIDAS Heritage compliance, with the aim of completing by December 2017.

Lincolnshire: Will be undertaking an office move in October 2017 but will still be in Lincoln. There will be less space and there is extremely limited car parking at the new offices. Budgets remain very tight. Following the retirement of the County Archaeologist, Dr Beryl Lott, interviews for a replacement taken place. Ian George has been offered, and has accepted, the position. Ian is currently an HE Inspector of Ancient Monuments in the West Midlands. Staff have been dealing with a large number of Countryside Stewardship applications. The HER is working with the local Historic Gardens Trusts to put together an HLF bid for funding for a research and recording project on historic parks and gardens in the East Midlands. The second year students from the archaeology undergraduate course at Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln have visited the HER for a familiarisation exercise as part of their course. One of the County Council's young apprentice trainees has just finished their six month secondment with Historic Environment Services. They gained new experiences and hopefully benefited from the experience.

Northamptonshire: Archives and Heritage Service are required to manage a £100,000 reduction to their revenue budget for 2017/8. Following on from public consultation, the service is ceasing full public access to the Records Office and HER on a Friday. Instead staff will focus on tasks that will generate income for the service, as well as increase the provision of online resources and raising the service's profile. By doing this, it is hoped that further cuts will not be necessary. The HER is now on the Heritage Gateway, and they are also able to engage with the Countryside Stewardship process this year.

Nottingham: The City Archaeologist post continues to cover both DC and HER work on a part time basis, although this will hopefully change to full time in the near future. The media has been taking a great interest in archaeological work in the city, in particular regarding the caves (of which there are now more than 700 recorded in the HER), and several big features have appeared in the newspapers and on TV. The work that is being carried out with the caves, including the caves policy in the emerging Local Plan, the HER, the Nottingham Caves Survey Project, the Festival of Caves, media work and other initiatives is beginning to change how the caves are viewed and appreciated. This has made negotiating to preserve them, in situ, much easier than it might otherwise have been.

Nottinghamshire: The Nottinghamshire HER has been looking to raise its profile in the county and make people aware of the resources and public service they provide. HER Open Days have been arranged for June inviting people to drop by their office and view our archives and discuss any heritage projects they may be involved in. These will also be used as a platform to launch a social media profile. Notts HER has also recently been working with colleagues in Adult Learning Services (Inspire) to provide work experience opportunities for young adults with learning differences; the first placement has been digitising their archive of illustrations and they hope to continue this relationship in the future.

c. London HER

- Small reduction on the number of searches received in 2016-17, slightly up this year so far
- Working on revised GLHER charging policy, and hoping to go live 1st July to coincide with the relaunch of the HE Enhanced Advisory Service
- HER Officer Mel Millward has left to move to the Warwickshire HER, post advertised
- Temporary HER Officer, Laura Hampden, has had post renewed for a further 12 months, but now working 3 days a week rather than a full week
- HE London Office moving to new Cannon Bridge House in mid-September

d. North East HER Forum

The last North East meeting was a joint meeting with Yorkshire and the North West – see Yorkshire and The Humber report.

e. North West HER Forum

There hasn't been a meeting of the NW HER Working Group since the last committee meeting (last meeting being on 10/01/2017). However, some members of the group did travel to York to attend the meeting of the NE & Yorkshire groups in March.

f. South East HER Forum

This group hasn't met since the last meeting – next meeting on 30th June; therefore no update.

g. South West HER Forum

Know Your Place (TG/TS/PD)

CP (via TS) reported that Dorset now interested in KYP. North Somerset about to go live Wiltshire reported around 600 records have now been added the vast majority by Archives volunteers. The Archaeology Field Group is also interested in using KYP. TG and TS mentioned some of the enhancements that are needed to the validation portal. Bristol's IT department are looking at what possibilities there are for development. PD reported he was now looking after the volunteers and map geo-referencing. The new policy for caching the maps is to only do so once the whole county is ready. 70% of the maps have been done in 1½ years leaving the remaining 30% to be done by June. The volunteers are working through HEROS at home. PD to look into publishing the public contributions as a WFS so HERs can access the layer through GIS.

Regional round-up:

Exmoor National Park Much of the current project for the next year or so (surveying standing stones, Listed Building survey etc.) depends on what happens with staffing. The RCZAS report is still in the revision stage. Started to receive SHINE consultations (6 so far).

Dorset New basement home is not as bad as expected and has resulted in a more spacious office. Archivists now seem to be keen to join Know Your Place after initially not being so.

BANES Dealing with a backlog in double figures. KYP is running but RM is not validating yet. Local list is being resurrected with support from the Conservative Council.

Wiltshire Stonehenge is taking up a lot of service time and they are looking for some Council money to backfilling the A303 work. The upside of the work is that there will be lots of archaeology. The HLC and Farmsteads Projects are finished. HE audit is on the horizon. Hope to add more monument information to HER records at the expense of reduced commercial enquiry turnaround times.

Devon Looking at high priority backlog but this has been overtaken by SHINE (80 so far). Planning to put pdf versions of source works online via Heritage Gateway (a project set up Graham Tait). EUS is online via the ADS. Tithe Maps online need sorting out before a planned web-server move. Forest Enterprise have asked for a licence to use HER data.

South Gloucestershire Triple figure backlog of reports but PD now has someone to help. Lots of PSP Joint Spatial Plan work (BANES, N. Somerset, Bristol, S Glos) Forgotten Landscapes Project assessing lidar using volunteers and will produce a guidance document (with Rebecca Bennett) on Lidar processing. Accommodation has been squeezed and PD now works at home quite a lot.

Somerset Volunteers working on linking tithe apportionments to the digitised maps starting with the 27500 fields in the A-B parishes. A303 work also affecting Somerset at Camel Hill and around Taunton. Hinkley Point development has started although the archaeology is now at the post ex stage. Have had 40 SHINE apps so far. CW raised the problem missing geophysical reports and of evaluations being informed by geophysics results only without an HER search. CW chasing reports from contractors. AM reported that Glos has also had geophysics reports buried in the back of desk based assessments.

Gloucestershire Also noticing consultants not contacting the HER and using geophysics to inform work (see Somerset). 18 FEPs so far. Andrew Armstrong is looking to complete the work on the Gloucester City HER using a person employed by GCC and seconded to his project. Work has begun to refurbish Shire Hall in Gloucester. A site in Bourton-on-the-Water has produced radiocarbon dates for what appear to be Mesolithic totem poles. Have begun discussion with HE regarding accessing NHRE-HER data early.

North Somerset Action Plan and Audit are now complete and starting to add and update records. Successful bid for Weston Heritage Action Zone. KYP will go live in a couple of weeks. Now have an online HER request form and a shared HER mailbox. Turnaround times are improving.

h. West Midlands HER Forum

The last ALGAO West Midlands HER Meeting was held in Stafford on 10th May 2017, with representatives from Staffordshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Wolverhampton, Coventry and Warwickshire present along with Nick Davies, Lisa Moffet and Pete Boland from Historic England.

Staffing / Structure / Office Updates:

Most of the HERs have remained consistent in their staffing levels since the previous meeting, though Will Steele has moved into Warwickshire's field unit with Melanie Millwood (previously from the Greater London HER) recruited as a replacement.

Charlotte Orchard has now returned to work with Shropshire Council 3 days a week following maternity leave.

Jeff Spencer has left Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust to join CADW as a field monument warden, while Ian George will be leaving Historic England in June to take up a role with Lincolnshire County Council as heritage manager. The group would like to wish both Ian and Jeff all the best in their new roles.

Warwickshire have some concerns over the situation for their planning advice service following Stratford's withdrawal from their SLA, leaving a shortfall in their budget. They are currently investigating ways of securing further funding, but ideally would like to get Stratford back on board.

Coventry will be moving offices in October 2017.

Other News:

Countryside Stewardship:

All HERs reported that Higher-Tier and some Mid-tier applications were coming through. Issues were raised over who is responsible for providing ongoing advice in relation to the Historic Environment, in particular for our region where there is no Historic Environment Advisor and particularly with the departure of higher level leads (in Jez Bretherton and now Vicki Hunns).

Listed Buildings Minor Amendments: A number of HERs in the region have been involved in work with the Minor Amendments Team at Historic England. All stated that the minor amendments team have been brilliant in helping to deliver amendments, with any issues identified resolved rapidly and the group would like to acknowledge all their help and pass on their thanks.

Neighbourhood Planning: An update on the neighbourhood planning was provided to the group by Pete Boland from Historic England. The variability in consultation on Neighbourhood Plans from county to county was noted.

HER Enquiries: A general downturn in the number of commercial HER enquiries was noted across the region.

Contractor Reports: Herefordshire noted that they had still been having issues with being notified of archaeological works and with the submission of reports. They have implemented a system of issuing Event numbers at the WSI stage and have found that this has really helped in keeping track of what's going on.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th Nov 2017 at Shropshire Council, Shire Hall, Shrewsbury.

i. Yorkshire and The Humber HER working party

Northumberland: Liz Williams still acting up as Conservation Team Manager (part-time) to cover Chris Burgess's sick leave until at least June 2017 and Karen Derham is doing an extra day per week to provide HER cover. The new issue of Archaeology in Northumberland (vol 22) was published in December 2016. It is available to view on the County website or to purchase for £5. 27 commercial searches and 3 searches for Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture), with 145 new monument records and 127 new event records undertaken since September 2016. Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape Partnership undertaken – a community project which carried out an excavation with volunteers on the Northumberland coast near Fenham in October to investigate cropmarks identified by the NE RCZA. The team

confirmed the presence a defended settlement, exposed a section of one of the ditches and examined a slice of the interior. Volunteers have also cleared away gorse, bramble, bracken, sand and rubbish from two World War Two coastal gun emplacements at Newtown and Cocklawburn, with the aim of improving access and finding a 21st century use for the historic structures. The AONB have been awarded an HLF grant for a volunteer project called Coast Care to help in the management of the AONB's natural and cultural heritage.

West Yorkshire HER: WYAAS has moved offices from The Registry of Deeds in Wakefield to the West Yorkshire Joint Services at Morley, south Leeds. WYAAS now has 3 core staff and two part time staff. Finds Liaison officer for South & West Yorkshire is to be funded for a further year, with York Museum are providing maternity cover for Treasure. The Historic England Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for West Yorkshire has now been successfully completed (after six years & £400,000). WYAAS have created 110 new HER records and edited 594 since the time of the last HER WP meeting. WYJS website and also the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service elements of the website have been re-done. There is still some missing educational material to upload.

Yorkshire Dales National Park: Miles is now senior historic environment officer following Robert White's retirement. Rebecca Cadbury-Simmons is our new (and first) community heritage officer, organising the We Dig Community! test pitting project with the YACs in Bainbridge this summer. Linda Smith has been appointed countryside archaeological adviser following Miles' promotion. We have been unsuccessful so far in appointing a historic environment project officer on a fixed-term contract to tackle the major enhancement task that confronts us now we have 25% more park than last year with a bigger chunk of Cumbria and a sliver of Lancashire. CS 2016 – we had 94 applications and earned £13,500 so it was worth it! We have our annual Archaeology Day on April 8th at Barbon in the south Cumbria extension area. Other projects include an HLF development grant has been awarded to the park, in partnership with Friends of the Lake District, to develop a Landscape Partnership project to conserve and enhance the landscape and heritage of the Westmorland Dales and to encourage visitors to appreciate it. Other projects are the Muker barns project which is using a legacy to fund conservation work and Every Barn Tells a Story: the history and culture of field barns in Upper Swaledale, an HLF funded research and recording project.

York: 1.5 staff covering DC and HER, Exploring alternative systems to HER – HEROS and Arches. Have a test version of HEROS installed which we are playing with. Going to start using DOIs (where we have them) instead of URLs for our grey lit reports which are already online on the council website.

North Yorkshire: Apart from business as usual, the charging review still not finalised by legal – we were hoping for it to coincide with the new financial year but it looks close to closing soon. Have had 133 countryside stewardship applications so far and counting so this has been our main focus recently, last year brought in approx. £54k.