



ALGAO-UK HER Committee – Group updates

Wednesday 4th October 2017

Historic England West Midlands Regional Office, Birmingham

14. Country updates.

- i. **ALGAO Cymru**
- ii. **Scottish SMR Forum**

The Scottish SMR Forum has not met since the last meeting – next meeting will take place at the end of November.

- iii. **Historic Environment Scotland**

HES Data Management:

Much of the focus in the last few months has been on internal projects – dealing with legacy data, making internal links between different parts of HES and taking the opportunity to shape how we want to move forward, for example developing Minimum Record Standards for the inputting of new data into our systems.

Important external work has been going on relating to the OASIS redevelopment, especially ensuring that links are made with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

Work also continues on the SHED Strategy. Polygonisation projects are underway or near completion in Shetland, Scottish Borders, Stirling and Clackmannanshire. The fourth SHED Workstream, looking at links to data held by museums and archives, is also underway.

Survey work which we have been liaising on includes detailed survey of the Clyde, especially the military defences and boatyards, and there is about to be a survey on Arran which is going to test new remote sensing methodologies.

We have 'soft-launched' the Scotland's Past Form which allows input of information and digital archive by registered groups and individuals. It is easy to use, and all information can be validated before flowing into Canmore.

Finally, there is now 'Earth Science' data on Canmore Mapping, so sites can be viewed against geology.

15. Regular updates from other meetings:

- i. **ALGAO England Executive**
- ii. **ALGAO Maritime Committee**

The committee last met on 10th July.

Toby Gane (Wessex Archaeology) gave a presentation on the Marine Antiquities Scheme, running through the current industry reporting protocols relating to the marine historic environment, and explaining what the MAS is and the benefits of reporting finds. ALGAO members were urged to spread the word about the scheme.

There had generally been little contact with CITiZAN.

Chris Pater reported that the South Marine Plan was almost ready. He was unsure of the timetable for the North West, North East, South West and South East plans but the deadline for their production was 2021.

At the end of the meeting, Robin Daniels stood down as Chair and Rebecca Loader agreed to take up the role.

iii. ALGAO Countryside Committee

Countryside Committee: The most recent Countryside Committee/National Historic Environment Countryside Adviser (HECA) meeting was held on 29 September 2017 at the Birmingham and Midland Institute in Birmingham. Thirty-three people attended. A range of issues were discussed during the meeting, including Countryside Stewardship 2017 and 2018, current and future SHINE enhancement projects, possible ways to filter/reduce the number of HEFER consultations ALGAO members receive and opportunities for agri-environment schemes post-Brexit. David Robertson (Norfolk), who had been acting as Countryside chair since Ken Smith's decision to step down in January 2017, was elected ALGAO convenor at the meeting. Following appeals for a new Committee Secretary, Ruth Beckley (Cambridgeshire) has volunteered to take on the role.

Countryside Stewardship: During the 2017 application window, ALGAO members received and responded to a staggering 9604 HEFER consultation requests (more than ever before). It is acknowledged many members have been overstretched by the numbers received, but Natural England has formally thanked everyone who took part for their time and considerable effort. Linda Smith (heritage consultant) again kindly provided support during the window (ALGAO England was kind enough to fund her time). Historic England again provided funding to ensure the SHINE website was available and maintained by Exegesis. Feedback received so far suggests the website performed well, with fewer problems reported than previously.

Natural England, Historic England and ALGAO are already working together in expectation there will be a Countryside Stewardship application window in 2018. As Ministers are currently deciding whether to invite invitations in 2018 no application timetable has been set, although one possibility is ALGAO members will be asked to work on HEFERs between January and June. Ideas put forward by members during September's meeting will influence any 2018 SHINE enhancement project and potentially longer-term developments.

iv. Archaeology Data Service Management Board

Meeting 11th October 2017:

Funding - Plus side of Brexit – exchange rate means a bit more dosh; ADS has 6 months of reserves funds if needed to wind up; Budget for next year – potential large short fall in worse case scenario – not sustainable

ADS hacked in May 2017, (Around same time NHS being hacked and British Airways issues) and had to switch to new servers at short notice, took 7 – 10 days to get back up, to restore services; OASIS & Internet archaeology unaffected, data unaffected, were using systems for denial of service attack elsewhere,

Response – updating to new versions of software - affected budget as staff pulled off other projects; allocate time to check up to date in future, UoY ICT tightening up on procedures; New deposit licence for ADS CC By as default – but other options now available, if asked for Discussion on negative events and archiving, issues over what is a negative event – sparked by museums asking contractors not to deposit, unclear on definition, suggest that may be a minimum standard of info in GL report so archive (ie CAD plans, etc) not needed, issues raised about methodological issues , also not prioritise this over getting sites with archaeology archived.

ADS structure/process review in next year

ADS library – final go live Dec 2017- BIAB self correct (ie publisher/author) for old records, new stuff some auto loaders with publishers, if self publishing up date every 1 or 3 years

i. BHUG Meeting Report

Have transferred the communications over to Knowledge Hub and Nick Boldrini will soon start sorting out if people want a meeting after Decembers HER Forum. Otherwise not much to report.

ii. FISH

This group met on 9th June (after the committee meeting, but before the previous minutes were finalised), so an update was given in the last minutes. The next Strategic FISH meeting will be hosted by RCAHMWs in Aberystwyth on 6th February 2018.

iii. HBSMR User Group

The HBSMR User Group has not met since the last ALGAO meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 28th November in Warwick.

iv. HER Forum

The HER Forum summer meeting moved, for the first time in many years out of what has become its comfort zone, to the UK City of Culture 2017 – Hull. Attendance was reduced, I suspect because of the need for an overnight stay for many people but those who did manage to wangle the travel expenses met up and had a pleasant evening sampling the culture.

The meeting itself opened with a talk on the transformations to the public realm in Hull that had been stimulated by the City of Culture designation. This was followed by talks on the strategies for heritage data in England (Sarah Poppy) and Scotland (Robin Turner) providing an interesting comparison of two different ways to approach a similar problem.

After lunch, Alice Cattermole talked on her project to evaluate the enhancement of HERs with early prehistoric information and Lucie McCarthy talked on the role (or not) of the HER in the City of Culture plans. This was followed by a walk around the old town area of Hull visiting both historic features and explaining the changes that the City of Culture designation had brought.

v. OASIS Management Board

The OASIS Management Board has not met since the last meeting. Next Board meeting is on the 17th October

vi. Report from regional HER Forums

a. East of England HER Forum

(N.B. most of this is taken from July meeting)

Colchester – Undertaking an HER audit at present, looking at getting Alice Cattermole in to help. The Explorer website is coming on well, draws on the live dataset hosted by Exegesis, which instantly updates the Explorer website. Will go live in July. Moving to webhosting.

Norfolk – As of December the County Archaeologist post was deleted, and the head of Archaeological Planning has gone. Still lots of interim management arrangements, and Alice's former post is still frozen. Currently trying to advertise the Assistant post.

HBSMR on Windows 2003 server. Lots of talks with IT, but may have to be remote hosted.

NPS archaeology is closing. Currently tying up loose ends with the HER and planning.

New system with planning for DC reports.

Still working on digitisation and tackling finds info. Enormous amount of information available.

NMP is finishing in the Brecklands. Oblique APs for the area have been digitised. Hoping for the Broads to be done in the future.

Suffolk – James Rolfe is now the HER manager, Grace in HER Officer role and Alice started today as the new HER Assistant.

UAD project coming to a close. Tying up the loose ends. Very pleased with the results.

90 SHINE consultations to date – seems a bit less this year so far.

Breaking New Ground 1 project is ending, and a proposal for Breaking New Ground 2 is underway. Historic Environment Opportunities Map for Historic England is being produced.

Historic Farmstead Project – pilot planned, hopefully leading to a full project.

Cambridgeshire – HER Enquiries - Steady business from the HER with no significant impact from a small increase in fees at the start of the financial year. We continue to get a mixture of direct enquiries from commercial enquiries and search requests from our archaeological development control officers. Total numbers of searches have increased compared to this time last year.

Archives – Now the team is up to full capacity, Cambridgeshire is regularly now taking in archaeological archives again from contracting units and community groups. Collections are continually being used for research by students, community groups and academic projects. We also now have material from our collections on loan to several museums in Cambridgeshire. We are also creating a set of guidelines to modify our archive process to allow community groups to deposit their material easier.

Countryside - A total of 159 applications were received by Cambridgeshire in this SHINE period, 59 of which came after the cut-off date, this represented over 41,000 hectares. Total size of individual applications varied from 4ha to 4800ha with Cambridgeshire area applications varying from 0.04ha to 3800ha. Of the applications received 11 were Higher Tier the remainder were Mid Tier, in addition, three direct Forestry Commission applications were consulted on.

Staff Updates - Jessica has been with us since August as our maternity cover while Sally is away.

Projects - Data migration of the UAD into the HBSMR is complete and has resulted in a significant increase in new and edited records for the centre of Cambridge. New data is also slowly being added from the South Cambridgeshire NAIS project.

Outreach – we hosted two half day sessions with a local school who chose to study Cambridge Castle as part of the history G.C.S.E. The programme was met with great success and has allowed them to see how both the Archives and Archaeology team work.

IT update – V5 of HBSMR is scheduled for October. Access is still via CCC citrix although we have had some problems.

Essex – Enquiries are quieter, none at all this month so far (July).

91 SHINE consultations received (to date of July meeting).

Aerial survey currently underway. Lots of new things being discovered on the London Clay (didn't get up in time to catch the cropmarks on the gravels).

Hatfield Forest Management Information Plan – entering information into the National Trust HER. Working with Epping Forest.

Byways Archaeological Assessment funded by Highways – looking at closing some areas to off-roaders in winter.

Coastal path assessment funded by HE.

Updating cropmark data for Colchester.

Local Society funding Mesolithic assessment for Essex. Funding from internal teams as well.

Housing proposals for 6 garden villages.

Hertfordshire – Replacement staff member for DC started in January, DC are very busy. Isobel is now working 24 hrs per week. Has an assistant who is non-archaeological but very tech-savvy.

A120 bypass scheme coming up.

b. East Midlands HER Forum

East Midlands County Gardens Trusts Collaborative Research and Recording Project - HLF bid:

A steering group is currently trying to get this project off the ground with a bid for HLF money. The focus of the project will be historic parks and gardens in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. The project will prioritise landscapes which are most at risk from damage and destruction, thus excluding those already designated within Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.

This project has three fundamental aims within the East Midlands:

1. To actively engage communities and help them to learn about the significance of historic parks and gardens in their local environment and the conservation issues affecting them.
2. To build future skilled volunteer capacity to ensure the continued study, protection and enjoyment of designed landscapes.
3. To produce standardised research and recording output, including statements of significance, to feed into local and national datasets in order to enhance the protection of individual historic parks and gardens.

Our present HLF application is for a pilot project to assess the viability and sustainability of rolling out a larger, East Midlands, research and recording project that will assess all types of historic designed landscapes across the region, including parks, gardens, cemeteries and other designed green spaces.

This project will be run jointly by the East Midlands county gardens trusts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire in partnership with East Midlands Historic Environment Records (HERs) and also with Historic England, Natural England and the National Trust.

Leicestershire:

We are attempting to work collaboratively with Leicester City – bi-annual meetings with Grahame Appleby (Leicester City Archaeologist/HER Officer). Seeking to share data across the authority boundary and achieve a concordance as far as cross-boundary searches is concerned.

We are about to recruit to fill an P/T HER assistant post, we have JD and person spec agreed, need to go through recruitment process.

We continue with the process of digitising and integrating digitally captured data into the HER. This will be a major role of the HER assistant post. Specific projects in that respect (notwithstanding the huge number of slides, photographs and documentary records held by the HER that have now been scanned) is the Project Gargoyle archive of high quality images. These comprise a photographic and database archive of the decorative / figurative carvings recorded from the churches of Leicestershire and Rutland.

Looking to start an alert mapping project for development management purposes for our partner local authorities.

Enquiries are generally down in 2017, down by a third from a peak in 2014 and by 22% since this time last year (see attached graph).

Countryside Stewardship has gone well this year due entirely to the part-time support for Helen Wells (HER Officer) brought in through the current year - this post is the role we are currently looking to formalise through the recruitment mentioned above. We have processed 152 Mid tiers schemes and 19 Higher tier.

Leicester City:

The HER has been updated with improved functionality and reliability and the number of individual records has increased by c. 15% in the last 12 months. Closer collaboration has been established across the LPA boundary.

Environment Agency LiDAR data has revealed extensive ridge and furrow within the city boundary, with large areas still extant across the landscape.

Summary HER data is now publically available on the city council mapping pages. Finding the relevant page, however, is 'challenging' due to web design considerations.

Northamptonshire:

Countryside Stewardship - Charlotte has been very busy dealing with all the applications. She had a total of 17 Higher Tier and 155 Mid Tier HEFER requests.

HBSMR v5 upgrade is to take place tomorrow.

Derbyshire:

HER Officer has been busy with Countryside Stewardship consultations this summer; there were about 130 applications in total, 24 of which were Higher Tier. There is currently some concern as to whether an early Countryside Stewardship window next year with even more applications will be achievable under current staffing levels.

We are about to embark on our first HER Audit in October and will be due to complete in March 2018.

We continue to make progress towards our web-hosted HER solution with Exegesis, and hope that contracts will shortly be signed enabling us to progress to implementation before the end of the year. Following on from this we are in the early stages of planning an HLF bid to develop a public-facing front end website for the HER, perhaps in combination with the Derbyshire Record Office.

Lincolnshire:

Mark Bennet is retiring at the end of September. It is hoped that his post will eventually be filled. In the meantime, the HER Assistant Richard Watts will be covering HER related work.

They will soon be advertising for an additional Development Control Officer too.

Nottinghamshire:

Asides from business as usual we are looking to develop a scheme of HER events/open days for the next year. Initial plans are for these to include:

- Trialling HER open drop in days on a once monthly basis,
- Working with our community archaeology colleagues to establish a volunteer program to assist with digitisation of our archive,
- Holding a series of introductory HER sessions for students studying at Nottingham University/Nottingham Trent
- Running a day event for the LPA's in Notts as to what we are and how we can assist in the planning process.

c. London HER

Becky Seakins started in August as new HERO

Laura Hampden has been acting GLHER Manager since September whilst SCA focus on our HER Arches project for the next six months.

Caroline Vile has been appointed temporary HERO to back fill for Laura

Patrick Booth (HER Project Officer) is leaving at the end of October. Likely to advertise this post before Christmas or in the New Year

The HE London Office, and national teams have moved to a new office at Cannon Bridge House.

The new GLHER charging scheme is due to go live in November. Any questions let SCA know and he'll try to answer them!

d. North East HER Forum

The last meeting was on the 22nd September – draft report is below:

Presentation on HER Audits by Nick Davis

Regional rounds ups (not all submitted so far):

Northumberland – Senior staff member leaving in November due to long term illness, not clear if/how being replaced; dealt with over 250 HEFERS; involved in a couple of Landscape Projects (Lindisfarne & Hadrians Wall)

South Yorkshire

Working on a PD for research framework, hopefully for 2018- 2019; resource limitations mean HER enhancement is limited to GL inputting from DM; South Yorkshire Archaeology day due on 18th November

Next meeting 7th of March

County Durham

HER Audit ongoing, but almost finished (finalising Action Plan); Software development to allow polygonisation and other better HER – GIS linkage ongoing; enhancement mainly by volunteers, DM workload means other staff mainly GL processing new) and cleaning GL (as part of enhancement project), enhancement mainly by Volunteers, but issues regarding checking/validating records. Some work to get outstanding reports following death of a Contractor, based on best efforts fo former colleague, many reports acquired, but not all. LIDAR project linked to WWI carried out in January, leading to a follow up over spring summer – round up meeting in October, planning a follow on project for winter 2017/2018. HEFERS busy but manageable with DM drop off over summer. Significant drop off in HER visitor following charging changes (no longer cheaper for contractors to come in for searches, but visit is included free) and also guidance about DBAs (ie don't just do one unless asked by LP or us)

e. North West HER Forum

The North West HER Forum has not met since the last meeting – next meeting TBC.

f. South East HER Forum

Buckinghamshire HER:

- HER Assistant has set up Facebook and Twitter sites. Creating interpretative layers for geophysics plots and AP plots in GIS and now requesting contractors supply intervention data in GIS format.
- HS2 Ltd approached us for a new three-year SLA for a 5km buffer either side of the line. Their existing SLA licence expires in a few weeks.

East Sussex HER:

- Archaeology team changes: Casper now head of the Keep (East Sussex Record Office) and head of Archaeology Team, Greg Chuter is now County Archaeologist, and has a new assistant, Chris Greateorex. HER Assistant left in April - now recruiting replacement.
- Considering a chargeable 'neighbourhood plan pack' including HER data to help the parishes with the process.
- Upgrading to HBSMR version 5 in the summer.

Greater London HER:

- HER Officer off to work for Warwickshire HER. Recruiting a replacement and no full-time HER staff until the post is filled. Office move happening in September.
- MoLA have finished the UAD for the 18th century City of London and are now working on phased plans for the key sites.
- Archaeological Priority Areas review progressing well.

Hampshire HER:

- HER Assistant leaving tomorrow. Post to be frozen, so for the foreseeable future there will be only HER Officer dealing with the HER.

Kent HER:

- 60% of the county is currently covered by archaeological notification areas resulting in workload pressures for the planning archaeologists and the districts filtering the planning consultations they send. The team is therefore considering revising the notification areas on a similar basis to the GLASS approach.
- The Kent Heritage Crime project is taking a parish-level approach. Historic England asked for legal advice on whether metal-detecting on known burial sites contravenes the Burial Act.

Oxford UAD:

- Currently digitising events records in GIS, adding trench location plans.
- Working on UAD records for the Oxford colleges and having discussions with colleagues in Cambridgeshire about how the HER have dealt with the Cambridge Colleges.

Oxfordshire HER:

- Another corporate restructure to save £16million. Other changes include Agile working with laptops and mobile phones. Corporate pressure to reduce hard copy files and future move to Windows 10 will reduce what can be held on desktop and strict limits on personal drives.
- The HLC project will be completed in July, and loaded internally on a planning system as well as externally on public website.
- The HER's 50th birthday will be co-celebrated with the PAS's 20th birthday in November at a day-school at Woodstock Museum.

Portsmouth HER:

- No change re staffing etc.
- Upgrading to HBSMR v5 soon.

Southampton HER:

- Staff changes with loss of team leader. HER Officer has taken on the archaeology planning role as well as the HER - although not doing much of the latter. Also had to field buildings conservation enquiries, but not able to provide detailed advice. A temporary conservation officer to be appointed.
- Another restructure in progress: proposals include a single historic environment post covering all roles. This is considered unworkable and all seems rather unreal as there's currently a building boom in the city, especially flats for student housing.
- Interesting site dug by Wessex Archaeology found medieval Holy Trinity Chapel, converted to a tide mill in the early post-medieval period. Documentary evidence suggested the chapel was on the site, although exact location and survival was unknown. Also documentary references to burials but not expecting cemetery of over

a hundred burials that was revealed. Most of these are medieval, although an earlier phase could be Saxon and some of the burials pre-dated the chapel.

Surrey HER:

- HER Officer has returned from maternity leave and Andrew has returned to the HER Assistant role. There's a recruitment freeze across the authority and reorganisation of the planning team although the archaeology team is unaffected and the Listed Buildings Officer has been replaced
- The HER is working closely with the archive service, enhancing HER information with archive documents and incorporating historic mapping in GIS.
- HER charges have been increased by 2% and the service also needs to identify other sources of HER income.

West Berkshire HER:

- Alex Godden has left WBC to work in consultancy. There has been no decision on longer-term proposals to fill the post. Abi Tompkins has been appointed as a short-term part-time HER Assistant to provide cover.
- A Cultural Trust is still being mooted for the museum service and possibly the Archaeology team.
- Outreach is on the back-burner because of workload pressures, though going ahead with some guided walks for Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust.

West Sussex HER:

- Dealing with Countryside Stewardship consultations for Chichester Council as well as West Sussex.
- Numbers of HER enquiries have fallen off significantly after March.
- 75% cut to Archaeology budget this year; having to generate new income streams which includes providing cover for HER Officer in East Sussex.
- Chichester Council has been excavating Roman houses in Priory Park – amazing preservation.

Winchester HER:

- Imminent publication of the UAA for Winchester.
- Planning two projects involving the HER: one to update the planning notification areas / priority zones and another to put together a strategy for tackling the HER backlog (grey literature reports as well as data enhancement etc).

Next Meeting: Friday 6th October at Aylesbury

g. South West HER Forum

The South West HER Forum has not met since the last ALGAO-UK HER Committee. They next meet on Thursday 5th October 2017.

h. West Midlands HER Forum

The last West Midlands HER Forum Meeting was held in Staffordshire on 10th May 2017 and there has not been another since the last ALGAO HER Committee Meeting in June. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th Nov 2017 at the Shire Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

i. Yorkshire and The Humber HER working party

The Yorkshire and The Humber HER working party has not met since the last ALGAO-UK HER Committee.

2. Other Updates

i. Arches

Good work has been made on converting or creating new data for the City of Lincoln HER, and Phil Carlisle is getting the Arches graphs ready to take MIDAS compliant data. Farallon Graphics are working on customising Arches to ensure it has the functionality the City of Lincoln and the GLHER need, and GLHER are having a week of meetings in mid-October to go through with the Farallon team all our specifications and to start testing the new HER Arches with City of Lincoln data. Any questions about the project please let SCa, Phil Carlisle (HE) or Alastair MacIntosh (City of Lincoln) know.