



## ALGAO-UK HER Committee – Group updates

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Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Historic England West Midlands Regional Office, Birmingham

### 14. Country updates.

#### i. ALGAO Cymru

##### **Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016:**

The *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016* has now been in operation for just over 18 months, Local authorities, National Park Authorities and Natural Resources Wales are gradually becoming aware of their increased responsibilities under the Act. Mechanisms for improving the flow of data in both directions are being discussed and various meetings have been held to facilitate this.

The most advanced of these discussions has involved the HERs, Cadw and NRW. It is hoped that rather than set up a traditional data exchange agreement it will be possible to set a web feature service or similar to allow access to live sharing of HER and NRW data.

As a consequence Archwilio being used by Welsh Ministers to deliver the Welsh HERs to a public audience the website is presently undergoing PEN testing and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts are seeking Cyber Security Certification.

##### **Guidance for the Submission of Data to Welsh HERs:**

Over the past few months work has been under way on preparing this document which should set ground rules (all be they aspirational!) for those needing/wanting to submit data to a Welsh HER. The finished document, which has been produced by the combined Welsh HERS, is presently being translated into Welsh and should be available to download within the next month.

##### **Historic Environment Data Standards Working Party:**

This group continues to meet and mostly to consider terminology issues. However latterly the business has also included a new sub group dealing with implementation of the Welsh Language within Welsh HERs and translation issues

##### **Records Co-ordination Group and ENDEX Working Party:**

This group continues to meet twice a year at sets an agenda for those keeping historic environment records in Wales. The group has decided to allow the National Trust to join it and it is hoped that arrangements for data sharing between the groups members and the Trust.

##### **Glastir (all Wales agri-environment scheme):**

The contract between the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and the Welsh Government to provide advice, from their HERs, on the historic environment aspects of the Glastir agri-environment scheme continues, although it still only covers the Small Grants Scheme, Woodland Creation and Woodland Management - but these consultations continue to flow. However the contract still fails to encompass the targeted elements of the farm scheme, which has meant that a whole year's worth of applications for work in these areas have gone through without any historic environment advice.

Various announcements have been made by UK and Welsh Governments about their intentions to continue to fund agri-environment schemes post Brexit, but as yet there is no clear vision as to how such funding might be distributed.

##### **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 29th Nov, 2017.

**Dundee City and East Dunbartonshire Councils** – in the autumn Rathmell Archaeology Ltd ceased to provide archaeology services to the two local authorities. Discussions are ongoing for both, but it is likely that an existing neighbouring archaeology service will take over archaeology service provision, including HER and DC.

**Spatial Hub** – HER data from the majority of Scottish local authorities is now available through Scottish Government Improvement Service's Spatial Hub, alongside other local authority spatial datasets. Discussions are continuing on the technical specifications for the dataset.

**SHED Strategy** – Workstream 4 has recently been established with the purpose "To find common ground between the digital data held by museums, archives and HERs, with a view to exploring ways to link them, increase visibility and enhance their value to users."

**Scottish graffiti project** – Alex Hale gave a presentation about HES's project to record and interpret historic and contemporary graffiti art.

**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. The Shetland project is on course to complete in March. Both projects will produce guidance and case studies.

**Other news:** Scotland has a new Planning Bill that is going through at the moment. It includes simplified development zones.

Planning fees are going up substantially; and this may have an impact on historic environment services.

Possibility that HERs may become statutory within new guidance and legislation.

BW suggested that we have a demo of the new PastMap at a future ALGAO-Uk HER Committee

## iii. Historic Environment Scotland

### HES Data Management update:

We have been moving forward on a redevelopment of our internal database which will be the focus of much of our work for the next year.

Linked to the OASIS redevelopment, HES has been working with HERs and others on the development of an authoritative period list for Scotland. The aim is to use available technology to produce a list which can deal with local terms and regional archaeology.

The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology drew to a close. One of the main Data contributions was [InSites](#), which aimed to draw attention to lesser-known sites and monuments across Scotland.

The [PastMap](#) website has been redeveloped and should be launched by the end of January.

SHED (Scotland's Historic Environment Data) Strategy work continues. Workstream 4 (Museums and Archives) has been initiated and we are working to identify small pieces of work to link data.

## 15. Regular updates from other meetings:

### i. ALGAO England Executive

January meeting has been postponed. Next meeting in March.

### ii. ALGAO Maritime Committee

The ALGAO Maritime Committee has not met since the last HER committee meeting. The main thing to report is that the committee is still looking for a secretary.

### iii. ALGAO Countryside Committee

**Update from David Robertson (ALGAO Countryside Chair), 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

#### Countryside Committee:

As reported at the last HER Committee meeting the most recent Countryside Committee/National Historic Environment Countryside Adviser meeting was held on 29

September 2017. The next is scheduled for April and we are currently trying to finalise venue booking details.

The Countryside Committee website (<https://www.algao.org.uk/subject/countryside>) has been updated. Please check it regularly, as this is where up-to-date news will be posted.

#### **Countryside Stewardship:**

The 2018 application window opened on Monday 15 January, with the SHINE website going live late on 16th. English ALGAO members should expect to start receiving HEFER requests from 17 January, with the last requests arriving in mid June (two weeks after the Countryside Stewardship application pack request window closes). The last HEFER deadlines will fall in mid July (20 working days after the last request).

Natural England is finding it difficult to predict the likely number of applications, but has suggested there could be between 5,000 and 10,000 nationally. Of these, there could be approximately 600 Higher Tier applications, with the others for 'full' Mid Tier or the newly introduced Mid Tier 'offers'.

Natural England has confirmed applications for the new Mid Tier offers will not require a HEFER. It is difficult to say how popular the new Mid Tier offers will be but, given they will be relatively easy to apply for, we should expect them to be popular. Natural England has agreed it would be fair to assume 50% or more Mid Tier applications could be for the offers. As a result, ALGAO members should probably expect to receive less HEFER requests than in 2016 and 2017.

Linda Smith (heritage consultant) has again kindly agreed to provide SHINE support to ALGAO members, this time until the end of March 2018. Work is under way to secure a replacement support officer for the remainder of the HEFER window.

Historic England is again funding the SHINE website during the 2018 window. The 2017-18 SHINE enhancement project is currently drawing to a close; the priority improvements made were based on comments made by ALGAO members during September's Committee meeting and feedback received from partners, including the National Farmers Union and the national FWAG association.

#### **iv. ALGAO/HLF Liaison**

#### **v. Archaeology Data Service Management Board**

Met on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, which was after the last ALGAO HER committee, but the report was included in Group Updates of the last minutes (meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017).

#### **vi. BHUG Meeting Report**

Not met since the last ALGAO-UK HER committee meeting.

#### **vii. FISH**

Not met since the last ALGAO-UK HER committee meeting. The next Strategic FISH meeting will be hosted by RCAHMWs in Aberystwyth on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018, where CM will be representing the ALGAO-UK HER Committee.

#### **viii. HBSMR User Group**

Following on from the summer meeting in Edinburgh, the principal of a new API and a web-based HBSMR was presented to the audience. This will draw on work already undertaken for the Highlands and for the Colchester Heritage Explorer. Votes were taken and the motion passed that the development reserve fund for this year and next will be largely devoted to putting this in action.

Exegesis want to promote use of Github website in the future for voting purposes on the development fund. It is hoped that small tweaks and requests can be voted on without the need to present them to at User Group meetings, and will give a voice to those unable to attend the meetings.

QGIS Exegesis will be arranging a two day QGIS for HBSMRs training course. This can be done either in Talgarth or in regions depending on interest.

#### **ix. HER Forum**

The winter HER Forum meeting was held as last year in the lecture theatre at the Birmingham and Midland Institute with 74 attendees. The meeting was strongly flavoured by the Heritage Information Access Strategy with updates on progress from several speakers covering the

work on the National Maritime Heritage Record and the HER work package. These were followed by a report on the Portable Antiquities Scheme's forward plan with emphasis on cooperation with HERs. In the afternoon, the HistBEKE project was explained, with updates on the recent workshops, and then the work that was being done to define Apprenticeships in the historic environment sector was outlined. Finally, the good news that funding had been secured within Historic England to replace the Heritage Gateway was announced and work on HIAS summed-up.

#### **x. OASIS Management Board**

Stuart Cakebread was unable to attend the last meeting on 17th October 2017 in Edinburgh. Next meeting: 23rd April in York; SCa will be attending.

#### **xi. Report from regional HER Forums**

##### **a. East of England HER Forum**

##### **Cambridgeshire:**

Jessica Cooper-Dunn is in place as maternity cover for Sally. Advertising for a fourth DC officer in addition to our current staff of three to deal with the ever increasing workload.

Audit is booked for October 2018.

Stats: 433 HER enquiries so far this year (April 2017-Jan 2018) in contrast to 454 for the period April 2016-March 2017. Of these 43 are student/archive enquiries, 169 are from our DC team, 57 are from commercial external enquiries and 163 are SHINE/woodland. The remaining are personal research enquiries.

Archives – with Ben in place as the permanent point of contact for research and deposition we have seen a significant increase in workload. 8% of the archaeological archive has been recalled for student/project research in the past 10 months.

Outreach – we have had a number of schools visits in recent months to the castle and bunker site. They have proved to be very popular.

##### **Hertfordshire:**

HER searches remain at same level as last year.

Simon Woods is shadowing Isobel to learn more about the HBSMR side alongside his work as DC

Audit not sure if they will go for the next phase.

Recent discoveries – Saxon cemetery in Harpenden, Roman villa at St Albans recorded via drone, multi period site at Guilston Park, recently publicised discovery of abbot's grave at St Albans, new development in Baldock with potential for an oppidum and a feasibility study at Hemel Hempstead station noting areas of significant archaeological potential. Hs2 does cross Herts but only by a very small amount, impact will be minimal.

##### **Suffolk:**

HER searches has seen a steady increase

A1 over 50 excavated sites from all periods

Some changes to team structure as manager has now left, post will not be filled directly but rather one of the current HER team will take on some new roles and parts of the wider team have been split up under different directorships.

Projects – Ipswich UAD is done, pilot project begun on historic farm buildings and loss thereof with intention of making it county wide.

##### **Peterborough:**

HER searches remain at a stable level.

Audit is currently ongoing. Noted the new online process is quicker, easier and easy to use.

Will be carrying out an EUS for Peterborough in partnership with Cambs CC; intention to begin April 2018 and be completed in c.6months.

Sarah Botfield has resigned her post as the HER officer so will be looking to fill that role soon.

Major development focus remains quarrying.

##### **Central Beds:**

The council restructure is now complete with team part of Client and Development Services HBSMR now remote hosted . Scanned vertical APs now integrated into workspace.

Green infrastructure plans are coming through and Country landscape partnership scheme underway.

Will be putting in an NMP bid

Noted that the paper archive has been hit by insect infestations (Silverfish).

Stephen Coleman was recently interviewed by Stephen Bryant as one of the longest serving HER members in the country.

**Colchester:**

Continues to hold the title of the fastest growing town in the country

HER audit is almost at an end, will be signing off before Christmas

NMP project is just wrapping up

Website is now up and running

**Norfolk:**

Latest restructure is now at an end, will be losing three posts – historic buildings officers, 1 finds ID officer and one community officer. But HER largely escaped the cull. Alice will be moving to new post and there will be a new HER team lead post

IT remains a struggle

Charges will be increased to bring county in line with others in the region but will be removing the separate GIS licence fee

Ongoing – digitisation project, HER audit set to run until March, Brecks NMP wrapping up, landscape partnership for the broads

Upcoming – Kings Lynn project announced by HE as an open tender so HER will be bidding for this

NMP team are looking to set up a project test to ground truth the AP interpretation results

HER searches at an all time high

**Bedford Borough:**

IT Issues: we are having issues with our GIS software in that it drops the mapping if you don't click within the GIS window or move the map at least once an hour. This wouldn't be a big problem except that it can take some time for ArcGIS to reopen once it has dropped the mapping (even worse if working from home where GIS takes about 30mins or longer to open in some instances). All hardware upgrades currently suspended as a result of Business Transformation whilst we move to a Digital Operating Model (DOM). Having some occasional troubles with PastScape website being slow to load or freezing (this is affecting our NMP project).

Query numbers: These seem to be on the up, averaging 2-3 queries a week over the past 3 months or so (some student/public as well as commercial).

Projects: Vanessa has been coordinating the grant funded repair work for Newnham Priory precinct wall, I believe a contractor has now been appointed for this. The NMP Phase 2 work is still ongoing, we have employed a temporary member of staff (Matt Tuohy) to assist in creating new HER entries or updating existing ones with the results from the NMP Phase 1.

Business Transformation/DOM: The Planning Service (of which we are part) will go through this process towards the end of the year, currently unclear what this means for archaeological advice and HER.

**Essex:**

No report received

**b. East Midlands HER Forum**

**Derbyshire County Council:**

Currently in the process of having HER data and HBSMR software transferred over to be being remotely hosted by Exegesis.

Currently undertaking a HER Audit with guidance from Historic England.

The HER Officer will be leaving the council towards the end of February. The post is being retained and will be advertised in due course.

**Leicester City Council:** Leicester City's HER software has been upgraded since the last update with a significant improvement in usability and stability. There have been a number of gaps filled in the last 12 months with nearly a 1000 event records now recorded and close to 2700 monument entries. Work has started to progress those sites that continue to have known issues/omissions.

Conservation Areas have now been added as a map layer to the database and associated with their respective designation entries. Similarly, locally listed assets now appear on the HER on the same basis as designated assets.

LiDAR (1m DSM) has been added to the HER and an 'archaeological' heat map is in development.

Leicester City Council rolled out a new mapping system last year and a specific Heritage version is publically available and provides summary information on heritage assets (data is refreshed every 24 hours) and a basic period selection option is available to users.

Uploading of HER data to Heritage Gateway remains 'broken' and it is hoped this can be resolved by mid-2018 (subject to IT staff availability here).

Enquiries to the HER remain steady at approximately 1-2 a month, primarily received from commercial units as part of the requirements stemming from a planning application. Requests for data for research projects remains remarkably low (3 in the past 12 months!).

#### **Leicestershire County Council:**

We have just recruited a part time HER assistant – Susan Ripper. She had been working with us on a contractor basis so we're very glad to be able to formalise the arrangement. So staffing now consists of one full time post and one three-day a week post.

The council is hoping to go to QGIS soon instead of MapInfo (as part of a massive GIS infrastructure project), as such we're looking into running HBSMR with QGIS.

2017 was comparatively quiet for HER enquiries, with the lowest amount of commercial enquiries in Leicestershire/Rutland since I started recording things systematically in 2013 (100 enquiries – the high point was 151 in 2014).

#### **Lincolnshire County Council:**

After over 20 years with Lincolnshire County Council, Mark Bennet has retired as our HER Manager. He has been replaced by Richard Watts, the former HER Assistant, who has been in post in this new role since early December 2017. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new HER Assistant, with interviews scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup>, and are hoping to have someone in post by the end of February.

The Lincolnshire Places team (in which the HER sits) have completed an office move, and are now more centrally located within Lincoln, at Lancaster House (on the corner of Orchard Street and West Parade). Visitor (and staff) parking is extremely limited at the new offices, however, although there are a number of public car parks nearby.

The HER has also recently hosted a placement student, with a Masters student from the University of York spending 3 weeks with us in December, looking at digitally mapping our aerial photography cover.

#### **Nottingham City Council**

Development control work has been the focus of activity in recent months, with lots of fieldwork taking place, but there has been some HER enhancement and it is being kept up to date.

A charging policy was introduced in December.

#### **Nottinghamshire County Council**

After successful recruitment of regular volunteers the project to digitise our old black and white slides, photographs and negatives is progressing well. This should help to preserve these images, make them more accessible and enhance HBSMR records.

Staffing wise, we have some additional resource from the recently appointed Historic Building Officer which is enabling us to make progress on our backlog.

A significant change to planning means that Nottinghamshire County Council is no longer providing archaeological advice to Districts. This is very recent and Districts are starting to put new arrangements in place which could potentially impact on HER search requests and how we receive reports.

### **c. London HER**

#### **Update from Stuart Cakebread:**

Our new charging system started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, a little later than planned, and seems to be working OK so far. We will be reviewing it at the end of March to see how it's comparing to our previous system in terms of time spent and income.

We've not been able to advertise our HER Project Officer post as there is a temporary freeze due to an internal Change Programme taking place at the moment. In addition we are also trying to renew at least one of our temporary posts which end in March.

#### **d. North East HER Forum**

Not met since the last ALGAO-UK HER committee meeting. However, an update from **Northumberland:**

The CS process was painless apart from the extra workload. Liz Williams still acting up as Conservation Team Manager (part-time) to the end of December 2017. Chris Burgess will be formally leaving in November 2017. Karen Derham is doing an extra day per week to provide HER cover. Archaeology in Northumberland - starting to compile issue 23. Consultations - 252 Stewardship consultations (47 HT, 205 MT), 6 EIA Regs consultations, 14 woodland creation scheme consultations. Northumberland Coast AONB - Coast Care is a new partnership initiative between the AONB, Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Seahouses Development Trust which funded by an HLF grant. Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape Partnership Project - the main part of the project is now entering its final three months, with an extension to complete interpretation projects. The Community Excavation on Holy Island in the summer was widely reported in the press when they discovered a church on The Heugh. Further excavations are taking place on the mainland at the site of an Iron Age enclosure at Common Slap next week. Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site - Following a series of successful externally funded projects over the last 3 years, Newcastle University has been able to continue this record by securing funding for phase 1 of a £million project to research and safeguard 18 Sites that appear on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register.

#### **e. North West HER Working Party**

##### **Update to the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**General:** The last North West HER Working Party meeting was held on the 23rd of November at the University of Salford.

*The group is seeking clarification from the Committee as to when IFP will be updated to reflect changes to HER Audit methodology. In particular; service plans, systems security policy and succession planning. Updated and, where applicable, new templates for these documents would be appreciated.*

No reports were received for Cumbria CC, the Lake District National Park or Lancashire. John Hodgson is known to have now retired from the LDNP.

##### **Local Engagement:**

**Greater Manchester:** The Castleshaw Roman Forts Hinterland Survey has discovered evidence for a thirteenth century grange. Salford Archaeology has helped deliver a community project to excavate the remains of the 1970s and early 1980s Reno Club in Hulme, Manchester. A Friends Group is being set up to look after Marple Lime Kilns, a Scheduled Monument at Risk, in Stockport. The annual Greater Manchester Archaeology Day took place on Saturday 25th November at Peel Hall, University of Salford.

**Merseyside:** The HER had six two-week placements from Liverpool University over the summer. The HER has a new volunteer, hopefully attending one-day-a-week.

**Cheshire:** The proposed office move to Mid-Cheshire College in Winsford is not going ahead. The team still need to relocate and are looking for suitable accommodation. In the meantime, the HER has been asked to scope the costs and timescales for the digitisation of the paper record. APAS have received the dataset and report for the Cheshire NMP project, which was undertaken by Historic England (York) and ARS. The HER has recently upgraded to HBSMR v.5 and migrated to QGIS.

**Greater Manchester:** The contract for GMAAS has been extended for a further 15 months until the end of March 2019. Negotiations are shortly to commence on the longer-term future of the service.

The Historic England-funded Greater Manchester Historic Textile Mills survey has been completed and indicates a loss rate of 45% since the late 1980s. Historic England has also commissioned work by Cushman & Wakefield to show how mills might have a secure economic future.

Workshops for the main archaeological periods together with a dedicated Built Heritage workshop have been completed for the North West Regional Research Framework. The resources assessment overviews have been sent out for consultation.

**Merseyside:** Dana Campbell's (HER Project Officer) contract has come to an end. An office move planned next year. The HER digitisation project is now complete. The service is increasingly seeing projects coming through on conditions that it has advised on. The HERs use of OASIS is still in the experimental stage, but has so far proven very effective. The HER has also provided a traffic light system for land allocation to the boroughs.

#### **f. South East HER Forum**

**Very brief summary of South East Regional HER Group Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October at County Hall, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire:**

Present: Rose Broadley (Kent), Nick Davis (Historic England), Andrew Dearlove (Surrey), Teresa Hocking (East Berkshire authorities), Susan Lisk (Oxfordshire), Sarah Orr (West Berkshire), Rachel Salter (West Sussex), Abi Tompkins (West Berkshire), Andrew Ward (East Sussex), Julia Wise (Buckinghamshire)

Action points and minutes of the last meeting (30<sup>th</sup> May at Oxford) were agreed.

There were verbal reports from the following recent meetings:

- ALGAO UK HER Committee meeting;
- ALGAO UK Countryside Committee & HEFER meeting;
- HER Forum summer meeting;

We discussed the following issues:

- Long term digital archives
- Outreach and feedback surveys for non-users

Those present provided individual verbal HER roundups and absent members emailed brief reports.

As this was her last regional group meeting, there was a break for champagne and cake to celebrate Susan Lisk's forthcoming retirement.



*Figure 1. SE Regional HER Group members after the latest meeting!*

Following the meeting Julia gave a quick tour of the HER.

The next meeting will be held in April at Newbury (hosted by West Berkshire HER).

#### **g. South West HER Forum**

**Know Your Place (TG/TS/CW)**

There are still some maps to be added but these should be added by the new year. All users reported that there are still a number of enhancements required to the validation portal and interface. TG has a meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan with BCC to discuss future enhancements and developments.

**Trevor Miles Archive (CW)**

Trevor Miles's archive is being recovered from his house in Exmouth by his brother and sister-in-law. The information mostly relates to medieval and post medieval pottery from Cornwall and Somerset . Includes the excavation archives for Lundy for example.

### **General Data Protection Regulations**

TG reported his discussions with GCC's Information Management team regarding the new GDPR regulations. He had been informed that personal information required to undertake the work of the HER (landowner information, finder information) was fine but might need to remove names and addresses older than six years from enquiries database. Further discussion is likely to be needed when the legislation comes into force.

### **Regional round-up**

#### **Gloucestershire**

Still waiting to move office to a smaller space within a large open plan office with little storage space. Will soon be appointing someone to carry on working on the Gloucester City HER integration and then on adding the NHRE data to the HER. 184 Shine enquiries.

#### **BANES**

Coming to the end of the audit process but this was delayed by 45 Shine applications. Conservation Area appraisals are out for consultation with mapping produced by RM. Buildings at Risk register updated with site visits. Enquiries and new reports are keeping track with the backlog.

#### **Wiltshire**

Shine apps with 25 high tier. Caseload is generally high and generally busy with enquiries. Using volunteers to decrease the backlog. SK asked how they prioritised the backlog and TS said that the WHS was the priority and then commercial and academic reports over local contributions. New work goes straight onto the HER; academic projects such as Old Sarum and Anglo Saxon origins include HER at project board level. A 2<sup>nd</sup> year Southampton Uni student, supervised by Kris Strutt, is working with the HER. The Stonehenge scheme now run by Aecom not Atkins. Writing guidance and standards.

#### **Devon**

Tithe apportionments now on the website and the RAF photographs for Exeter are now online. Also working on putting sources online and trying to replace stored contractor reports with DOIs so they can be linked to the ADS. Shine work has increased the backlog and SK asked what was the best way to look at the backlog? TS suggested looking at where there was development pressure or a need for further study and the type of backlog and working from there. SK also asked about response turnaround times – North Somerset 20 days and Wiltshire 15. Cornwall's medieval graffiti project is to extend into Devon.

#### **Dartmoor**

Shine apps have been crazy with twice as many as the previous year. AR has a new manager (Head of Conservation) and is currently working 3 days a week which might be reduced to 2.

#### **South Gloucestershire (by email)**

"By way of update here is where we are with KYP: Gloucestershire Tithes - are complete and are being processed as we speak; Gloucestershire enclosures - are nearly complete except for 3 which are parts of Berkeley, Tibberton and Upper Slaughter; Wiltshire Tithes – there are 48 maps of 360 left to georeference. Some of these also need cropping and are out with volunteers; Somerset Enclosures – Of the 149 of these about 50 have been georeferenced, but I will be putting volunteers to work on these when the above are sorted. I have a deadline to complete everything by the end of November as this is when the resource at Bristol runs out."

#### **Somerset**

Quite quiet. Around 400 shine apps leading to 45 new sites being identified by the searches. The Blackdown Hills NMP project has also identified around 800 sites. Tithe project has now done 50000+ fields up to the letter D and there has been the first enquiry for a parish survey to use it. There is a SWALGAO meeting at the beginning of November to discuss the SW Research Agenda which runs out in 2017. Recent find of a Roman lead tank cut up and compressed which has been given to the museum. A very rich South African wants to build a Roman villa and has paid Oxford Archaeology to excavate the Roman Villa on his land.

#### **North Somerset**

Audit complete and a backlog plan has been compiled and 80% of the policies and procedural documents are done. Target to decrease grey literature backlog by 15% (there are 2000 outstanding). A heritage forum is being created to decrease hands on work. Search turnaround is c.5 days. Heritage Action Zone project officer to be appointed. KYP steady and also conducting work at Middle Engine Pit and Worlebury Hillfort.

### **Historic England: Heritage Information Partnerships**

**Audits:** Six HER audits have been started on schedule using the new audit format. These are now being brought to conclusion and the first has already been successfully signed off. A further four audits are beginning during the course of this month. **Heritage Gateway Good news:** In July we were successful in our bid for digital prioritisation within the Historic England IT programme. The Gateway is now on a list of projects which will be given a proposed running order in the near future. Then work will begin on a 'road map' for the project which will outline the details and dependencies of the work. **HER Forum:** The summer HER Forum - kindly hosted by the Humber HER - took place in Hull on 04-07-17. This attracted 40 participants and proved to be a very upbeat gathering. Since then a summary of the meeting has been posted on the Heritage Gateway. Unfortunately technical problems have delayed the appearance of the videos made of the presentations. Work continues to try to correct the problems and it is hoped that the videos will be accessible through the Historic England YouTube site within the next few weeks. The forthcoming winter Forum will be at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham on 06-12-17. This will focus on the Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS) with presentations that will give updates on most of the principal work-strands. There will also be a presentation by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. **Staff:** Sarah MacLean departed the HIPs team on 26-09-17 to return to full time study. Interviews for her post will take place next week and a new appointment should be in post by November.

### **AOB**

- (CW) HLF Projects and HERs. TS stated that Wilts had a number of HLF projects with no monitoring. The problem appears to be at regional office level. AM mentioned the Foresters' Forest project which had no funding for a large HER data dump. ALGAO is addressing this issue nationally.
- AM noted that Worcestershire had asked for funding from the districts for planning advice and in response two of them had employed their own archaeologist.

#### **h. West Midlands HER Forum**

The last West Midlands HER Forum was hosted by Shropshire County Council at the Shire Hall, Shrewsbury on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

### **Staffing / Structure Updates:**

**Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust** – Gary Duckers has now joined CPAT as HER Officer, and at the time of the meeting had been in post for 7 weeks.

**Coventry City Council** – Have now moved to new offices (all grey literature was digitised and to be archived with the ADS in preparation for the move). Coventry have been awarded Heritage Action Zone status by Historic England. At the meeting it was also reported that they were bidding to be City of Culture 2021. This bid has now been confirmed as successful 😊

**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust** – The trust is recruiting again as the HER archaeologist who had been in post since September 2016 is moving on. They hoped to have someone in post by the end of 2017.

**Herefordshire County Council** – No change to staffing or structure reported.

**Shropshire County Council** – Staffing is currently stable. They are further rationalising their storage due to office moves.

**Staffordshire County Council** – Stephen Dean left the authority in September. Pleased to confirm that since this time the post has been re-filled, with Shane Kelleher joining the Council as County Archaeologist from Ironbridge.

**Warwickshire County Council** – They have a new HER Officer in post (Melanie Milward from GLAAS). Meaning they have two HER and two Planning Archaeology staff. The service now operates to a zero budget, although facilities are core funded.

**Wolverhampton City Council** – Currently relatively stable as a service.

**Worcester City Council** – No change to structure or staffing.

**Worcestershire County Council** – Wychavon DC and Malvern Hills DC have both pulled out of SLA with the county archaeology service. They have pooled resources and appointed an outside consultant to provide Planning Arch advice. They are accessing the HER remotely with read-only access and paying a portion of costs for HBSMR licenses etc. The SLAs with other districts remain in place.

Worcestershire also reported that they have been experiencing significant IT performance issues (in particular connectivity to ArcGIS) over the past three years. A remote desktop solution has now been implemented and seems to have improved the situation.

**Other News:**

A summary of work related to the recording and designation of War Memorials was given by each HER.

Historic England attending and updates were provided by their Listing team (Stuart Mee), the HIPs team (Nick Davis) and by the Regional Science Advisor (Lisa Moffet).

Peter Reavil gave a regional round-up from the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Teresa Gilmore (PAS Officer for Staffordshire and the West Midlands) has just announced that she will be on maternity leave from March 2018 for one year. Cover for her post has not yet been confirmed.

***Date and Venue for Next Meeting***

Worcestershire County Council have offered to host the next meeting in mid-May. The date, time and location tbc.

**i. Yorkshire and The Humber HER working party**

**South Yorkshire:**

Countryside stewardship enquiries were completed unproblematically. No issues with the website or system generally. We are working on a Project Design for an archaeological research framework for south Yorkshire. If this is accepted the intention is to begin the project early 2018 and for completion in early 2019. SMR consultations as per usual. Time pressures and lack of volunteer provision have limited SMR enhancement to commercial grey lit processing. The majority of development is still on the outskirts of Doncaster and on Sheffield brownfield sites. We have significant Roman industrial remains (large number of kilns) at Inland Port site at Rossington, Doncaster. The council is to fund excavations on the castle site in Sheffield in partnership with the university. Our annual event South Yorkshire Archaeology Day will be held at the Showroom Cinema in Sheffield on 18th November. Details on Eventbrite.

**North Yorkshire:**

Apart from business as usual, we had no issues with the CS website, and were relieved with our CS payment as it helped to justify the concentrated time we spent on it, though some kind of prediction of future work would make things a little easier to set aside resources. We're looking to spend what we're allowed of it on HER enhancement, as we've scanned all the paper records last year we'd like to get some help to enter it all on the HER (monuments, events, sources and GIS etc) and check data standards. We will also be accepting some student placements again after a hiatus, and we plan to have them help us with this project too.

**2. Other Updates**

**i. Arches**

**Update from Stuart Cakebread:**

We had a productive week working with the Arches developers in October.

The City of Lincoln has appointed a contractor to host their Arches system and supply maintenance and technical support. Testing will begin soon and it is expected that 'ARCADE' will go live and launch in late spring.

The GLHER has been working with the Arches developers on bulk export procedures and drawing up a detailed plan for data cleaning and migration as well as system set-up. This work will also include producing guides to using the Arches HER system, and moving to Arches HER. Currently it is expected that a test version of the GLHER Arches HER will be ready late 2018 and launched mid – late spring 2019.

Action: Suggest an Arches demo at a forthcoming meeting.