



## ALGAO-UK HER Committee – Group updates

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Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

Historic England West Midlands Regional Office, Birmingham

### 11. Country updates (country reps) – including Northern Ireland

#### i. Northern Ireland

BW has emailed the head of service at the Department for Communities, to ask if they (or the most relevant member of their staff) will join our Committee to represent Northern Ireland and the HER there (even as an observing member rather than an attending one, due to the distance).

#### ii. ALGAO Cymru

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

Further work has been done on the incorporation of WFS feeds into the Archwilio website and although initial work has met with a few problems it is hoped that marine assets and Welsh place name data will soon be collected and displayed as WFS tables from the Welsh Government geo-information website Lle.

Archwilio presently receives an average of 285 unique visitors per day, although on some days in the last three months daily totals have risen to between 700 and 1000 visits, and has only rarely fallen below 100. The vast majority of these visitors (some 96%) come from the UK, but visitors do come from as far afield as Chile and New Zealand.

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

The *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* has now been and will come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. It contains recommendations to those wishing to deposit material with the four Welsh HERs and provides guidance on desirable data standards and formats. While it is accepted that not every depositor will immediately adopt all the guidance recommendations, it is hoped that the document will help to drive up standards across Wales. It is hoped to arrange workshops for those wishing to find out more about the process in the not too distant future, and it will be interesting to see how the document will be received long term. It can be viewed and downloaded in both English at <http://www.ggat.org.uk/her/downloads/Guidance%20for%20the%20Submission%20of%20Data%20to%20Welsh%20HERs.pdf>

and Welsh at

[http://www.ggat.org.uk/her/downloads/Guidance%20for%20the%20Submission%20of%20Data%20to%20Welsh%20HERs\\_CY.pdf](http://www.ggat.org.uk/her/downloads/Guidance%20for%20the%20Submission%20of%20Data%20to%20Welsh%20HERs_CY.pdf)

##### ***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 to operate, although some might say that the numbers of farms now available for any sort of consideration under the scheme is now so small (12 across Wales) as to be virtually invisible. Consultation on the Small Grants Scheme, Woodland Creation and Woodland Management all continue.

##### ***Planning Policy Wales:***

The consultation on version 10 of this Welsh Government Policy document closed in May this year. However the draft and consultation documents are still available at <https://beta.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales-edition-10> .

As was stated last time the changes from version 9 have been largely cosmetic although it is felt that the relationship below ground archaeology and buildings (that buildings are nothing more than above ground archaeology and therefore can merit the same level of archaeological recording as anything buried) has been 'less well explained' than it might have been. It remains to be seen whether this subtle difference will be made use of by wily developers.

#### ***Portable Antiquities Scheme:***

Concerns continue to be raised about the sustainability of the PAS in Wales. The role played by the Archaeological Trusts and the HERs is key to its operation as, to all intents and purposes, they are operating as FLOs but with minimal funding – which is expected to cover the receipt of finds, liaison with finders and the transfer of data into the PAS and the HERs. The meeting which took place at the end of May promised a review of the structure and funding of the scheme in Wales but as yet we await any movement on this.

#### ***Informing the Future of the Past:***

Now that most of the various HER and planning guidance papers have been issued by Cadw and the Welsh Government, in the wake of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2018, it is hoped that various amendments can be completed on those parts of the IFP website that relate to Wales. Work has started on this task but has yet to finish.

#### ***Archaeology Data Service / OASIS:***

Frustration is growing in Welsh HERs over the (perhaps inevitable but) slow movement of progress with implementing a Welsh focused module of OASIS to copy existing event data and grey literature from Welsh HERS. It had been envisaged that some version of OASIS lite would have now been operating between Wales and the ADS but despite development work on the Welsh side ADS have yet to move.

#### ***HER software – HEROS:***

The Wales HER software suite continues to develop under the HEROS partnership. An initial meeting of HEROS users was held in Birmingham which provided an exchange of information and ideas and a very useful discussion of current practices amongst those using the software.

### **iii. Scottish SMR Forum**

Meeting held on 16/05/2018 at HES, John Sinclair House, Edinburgh:

Rob Wiseman of the University of Durham gave a presentation on the Rivers of Bronze project with some areas in Scotland being included. There was some discussion about the potential for expanding the project to other areas outside the more 'traditional' research areas of the country.

The group received an update of work associated with the Scottish Government's spatial hub which provides access for users to local authority GIS data. SMR/HER data is included within this. Work has also been carried out with exeGesIS to create a spatial hub view for HBSMR v5. users.

The SMR Technical Working Group is to be combined back into SMR Forum Group and meetings will start an hour earlier to accommodate that. The Chair of SMR Forum (currently I Scrivener-Lindley) will act as 'co-ordinator' rather than official 'chair' for the TWG. An update was received from HES from the SHED strategy Programme Board. In addition the HES funded Polygonisation project in Shetland is now complete, with that in Borders & Stirling/Clackmananshire ongoing. An update presentation of the latter was given by K Elliott. Ben Wallace gave an update on HIAS in England and trailblazer apprenticeships and other developments for wider interest

An overview of an HES project looking at data mining was given which could potentially help with the extraction of free text information, especially with regard to assisting with dating of records with default 'undated' attributes.

There was a discussion on the OASIS redesign and the proposed HER signing off/embargo period. Concern and discussion focussed specifically on embargo dates and the automatic sign-off of reports; an inaccuracy in ADS using a three month period and the potential dangers of automatic releases detailed.

The Aberdeen City HER is now on-line as part of the service provision now being given to the city by Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service. The new Highland HER website developed by exeGesIS, to be used as a template for HBSMR-Web, was due to go live in June.

#### iv. Historic Environment Scotland

Report from *HES Data Management*.

Focus continues to be on the redevelopment of our Oracle Forms database into Apex, with members of the team heavily involved in consultations with users, testing and writing guidance.

Work is ongoing on refining the lookup lists for use in the redeveloped OASIS form. Each list has been circulated to the SMR Forum for comment.

We are trying to visit every local authority archaeology service in Scotland this year to ensure we have an up to date understanding of the pressures faced and the range of work undertaken. It is hoped that this will help inform internal policy and work programmes.

We are in the early days of a couple of projects exploring aspects of data mining, one internal and one in partnership with the University of South Wales.

### 12. Regular updates from other meetings:

#### i. ALGAO England Executive (BW)

The next meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Ongoing, these are going to be 3 meetings per year (London, Birmingham, and 'Up North'), plus a virtual meeting.

ALGAO England Executive are still looking at funding issues.

#### ii. ALGAO Maritime Committee (RL)

The Committee last met on June 4th 2018

Items discussed included:

MMO licence consultations (not everyone is seeing these)

Marine plans (South Marine Plan awaiting sign off, work starting on SW, SE, NW and NE plans)

We asked for updates on HE funded projects with a coastal or marine component as local authority archaeologists appeared to have had little input:

**Coastal Risk and Priority Places** (HE project 7354) – undertaken by LUC. The project centres on the creation of an interactive map resource that will display areas of heritage sensitive to coastal change. The project is reviewing currently available data and research to develop indices of coastal vulnerability and heritage sensitivity. This will provide a means of identifying areas where heritage is most at risk from coastal processes – coastal heritage 'priority places'. The project's key outputs will be GIS data and an interactive webmap (accessible to both internal and external users) with supporting documentation and project reports. Project on course for delivery in September 2018.

**Evidence for Roman maritime activities around the English coast** (HE project 7547) - the project is investigating the evidence for maritime/maritime-related activities around selected areas of the English coastline in the Roman period. Reports of Roman finds and of potential Roman shipwrecks regularly appear in publications but there has been little or no analysis to establish the veracity of these reports and little synthesis of the finds. This project endeavours to address this situation by undertaking a baseline assessment to analyse and synthesise all known Roman evidence from five areas of the English coast; four selected because they have a history of reports of known Roman finds (the Hampshire/Sussex border, Dorset, South Devon, and South Shields) and one selected as a control (East Anglia) to ascertain whether there is a genuine absence of finds from this location. There have been delays due to the amount of unfiltered HER data and a disappointing initial response from local groups, museums and clubs.

**Understanding Fishermen's Fasteners** (Fjodr & Sussex IFCA) - Fishermen's fasteners are features that cause fishing gear to snag on the seabed. They may be natural features such as rock outcrops or items of recent material lost overboard, but in many instances, they have proved to be of considerable archaeological significance. The project sought to establish a better understanding of fishermen's fasteners, to develop methods that can be used by the fishing sector to examine fasteners, and to facilitate the recording of legacy information about fasteners held in the fishing community.

**Heritage, Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services projects** - including Project 7687 - Developing an ecosystems approach: Dry stone walls; Project 7739 - Coastal Grazing Marshes; Project 7740 Blackdown Hills AONB Case Study: An integrated approach to valuing environmental capital and services (boundaries and linear landscape features); Project 7744 Trent Valley case study (Derbyshire); Project 7745 Kent coast; Project 7747 - Heritage, natural capital and ecosystem services: Lower Severn Vale; Project 7750 - Heritage, natural capital and ecosystem services: Historic buildings and boundaries; Project 7751 Dorset Stour Case Study; and Project 7752 - Tyne to Tees Case Study.

**HIAS marine work package/National Marine Heritage Record.** RL attended a workshop on the National Marine Heritage Record in July 2018. A variety of users of the record were present, and discussion included the requirements of the various users. Perhaps of most relevance to local authority archaeologists was the question of data holdings in the coastal zone, in particular the landward extent of data to be held in the national record, and duplication of datasets. There will be a presentation at the next Maritime Committee meeting in December.

### iii. ALGAO Countryside Committee (SB)

#### England

Following the departure of David Robertson as the Chair in August 2018 the Countryside Committee has been reorganised to form a panel of representatives from each ALGAO region who will share the role of the Chair. The annual meeting will now take the form of a training/CPD workshop.

The Countryside Committee webpage has been updated and will continue to be updated as and when news comes in <https://www.algao.org.uk/subject/countryside>. A full list of regional contacts is also available on the website.

Recent consultations made by the Committee have included official consultations on the DEFRA Health and Harmony paper and the Natural England byelaws for SSSIs.

A brief assessment of county round ups from the 2018 window (25 authority responses), indicates how significant the countryside stewardship programme is for land management schemes.

authority	HEFER Consultations	High Tier received	Mid Tier received	SHINE Records created	SHINE Records enhanced	Woodland Grant schemes
total	5260	532	4485	5170	2604	84

*Invoicing for the 2018 window.*

The data should now have been passed from Exegesis to Natural England and the Rural Payments Agency with the intention that invoices will be processed soon. As yet there is no firm timetable, however. Exceptional charges will be added to invoices where authorities were required to process them after the deadline.

*SHINE support.*

For 2018 this was provided by Norfolk County Council who spent a total of 2 days on answering enquiries.

2019 window.

The current thinking is that the 2019 window will follow the same timetable as 2018 (January 2019-June 2019), however, this has not been confirmed.

*HEFER Project review*

A review of the HEFER consultation process is underway, led by the Rural Protection Agency who will now take the lead on future countryside stewardship matters. The project is very much in its early stages. Discussions continued.

*SHINE Project review*

A SHINE steering group meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018. This is to be followed by a review and planning meeting with Exegesis, probably in the w/c 15<sup>th</sup> October. Membership of the steering group was reviewed and it was noted that a representative from the RPA should be appointed to the group asap (with the RPA taking over responsibility for CS from Natural England).

Final consultation totals for ALGAO members were given as 11,220 consultations (1410 Higher Tier), while for Historic England 2096 (463 Higher Tier). Over 400 Higher Tier applications have now been accepted into stewardship. 4919 Mid-Tier applications were returned. The big disparity in no. of consultations to LPAs and no. of applications finally taken through was noted and is of concern to NE and the RPA, hence the HEFER review.

In terms of planning for SHINE 2019, there will need to be changes to the Service Standard and potentially minor tweaks to the HEFER. 9 days-worth of development time are available for changes and improvements to the SHINE portal. The Countryside Committee are going to gather feedback on issues and suggested improvements from wider ALGAO membership to feed into this process.

#### *DEFRA AESG meetings*

The next DEFRA AESG Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Sarah Orr has agreed to attend on behalf of the committee.

#### *Agriculture Bill*

The new Agriculture Bill does reference to heritage. Accompanying explanatory note 53 (<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0266/en/18266en.pdf>) provides more detail and HE believe that this is positive as it appears to put the historic environment on a similar footing to Natural Environment. It is concerning to note that any new CS scheme is not anticipated to be launched before 2027 however, which may mean a gap between existing schemes coming to an end and new schemes commencing.

#### **Wales**

Abi McCullough (CPAT) has agreed to represent Wales on the Countryside Committee, however no update on countryside stewardship in Scotland has been received at this time.

#### **Scotland**

Caroline Palmer (Aberdeenshire) has agreed to represent Scotland on the Countryside Committee, however no update on countryside stewardship issues in Scotland has been received at this time.

#### **iv. ALGAO/HLF Liaison (BW)**

Meeting in November. BW to attend and report back.

#### **v. Archaeology Data Service Management Board (NB)**

This group met on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018, ADS Management Board meeting 10/10/2018

The main points of the meeting were as follows

1. ADS had a business review recently, provided by York University staff, which identified some actions to consider. One of which was a Technical review which has been carried out and identified various things they should consider to make their systems more stable, and future proof.
2. Coupled with 1) above, Staff changes has led to a bit of a restructure. Louisa Matthews left as Collections Development Manager. Her duties have been divided between Ray Moore and Katie Green (mainly for Katie). The role of Deputy director has been re-created in the management structure, at the suggestion of the business review, and is currently being advertised. The results of this are that the role of Outreach and Comms has been removed, which the Board expressed some concern at.
3. The last two budgets have both gone slightly over, and meant some drain on reserves. This obviously cannot continue, so coupled with 1), has led to a charging review being commissioned. It has been identified that Archiving of Commercial Projects is one area where income is not covering costs, but there were others. Options for different models of charging (eg by subscription) are being considered, also.
4. Progress on actions has been pretty good, and the annual report is attached for distribution.

#### **vi. BHUG (NB)**

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

#### **vii. FISH (GT)**

This group hasn't met since the last meeting; therefore no update. The next meeting is in Edinburgh on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, and Stephanie Leith has offered to attend on behalf of the committee.

### viii. HBSMR User Group (SC)

The last user group meeting <https://hbsmrdocumentation.esdm.co.uk/about-the-user-group> was held in June 2018, hosted by the GLHER in London with 30 attendees. The next user group meeting date and location are about to be confirmed and will be circulated shortly.

Discussions and voting on development reserve issues can now be done through the GitHub <https://github.com/exeGesIS-SDM/HBSMR/issues>. This provides the opportunity for those who wish to have a voice but are unable to attend meetings to have an input, and also to free up the meeting days for discussion of more wide-ranging themes and contemporary topics. In order to gain access, you need first to register on GitHub, then email Crispin at [crispinflower@esdm.co.uk](mailto:crispinflower@esdm.co.uk) (to tell him your given username), from which you will receive an invitation to the HBSMR repository.

Training courses for the year 2018-19 including QGIS for HBSMR are listed here: <https://www.esdm.co.uk/hbsmr-training>.

Next meeting is November 28<sup>th</sup> in Northallerton.

### ix. HER Forum (CW)

A varied programme was enjoyed by the 54 attendees, starting with Catherine McHarg and Michael Gorely on the Heritage Schools Project that Historic England are running to raise the profile of heritage in schools. This was followed by Anwen Cooper discussing the Grave Goods project that was using HER data to investigate grave goods as a phenomenon in British prehistory and how enhanced data could be returned. Finally in the morning, Alastair MacIntosh demonstrated Arcade, the implementation of the arches system for Lincoln city, and Stuart Cakebread discussed the transfer of the Greater London HER to this platform. In the afternoon, Liz Long gave an update on the progress of heritage apprenticeships and then Stuart Bryant reported on his project to record the history of the development of HERs from the early 1960s until the advent of PPG16 in 1990. Gail Boyle then discussed the integration of museums into the development of the oasis system so that archaeological archives could be managed through the system.

Next meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> December in Birmingham.

### x. Other HIAS & Heritage Gateway (BW)

Partnership meeting in November to discuss roadmap of Heritage Gateway into the future. BW to attend.

**HER Guidance Document** final draft to be developed soon, and should hopefully be published by the end of the financial year.

### xi. OASIS Management Board (SCa)

This group last met on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. SCa attended. Issues discussed incl: redacting reports, validating reports (whether HER users can embargo reports for 6 months). The committee expressed concern about how DOIs were 'minted' in the process; as DOIs are crucial to HERs.

### xii. Portable Antiquities Scheme (JW)

Not received any minutes for the last PAS meeting held in July – so this report is pending.

### xiii. Report from regional HER Forums

#### a. East of England HER Forum

#### Cambridgeshire (Oct 18)

HER enquiries both commercial and non-commercial continue to increase year on year. The HER audit will begin in October alongside the completion of several projects for HE and other authorities. We are currently in the process of transferring to an Exegetis remote-hosted HBSMR with QGIS.

Interim reports from the A14 upgrade project are now in the HER and include information on the sites recorded which include: 3 Neolithic henge monuments, 7 prehistoric burial grounds (barrows and cremation cemeteries), 15 Iron Age and/or Roman settlements, mostly farmsteads, but also what appears to have been a Roman agricultural supply depot, possibly with military associations, 40 Roman pottery kilns, 3 Anglo-Saxon settlements, 1 deserted medieval village occupied from the 8th to 12th century and 2 post-medieval brick kilns.

Archives from our collections have been reappraised and used for several projects including the "FeedSax" project <http://feedsax.arch.ox.ac.uk> and the "After the Plague" <https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/after-the-plague> project.

#### **Central Beds (Oct 18)**

HER enquiries are down slightly on last year, but not significantly.

#### **Hertfordshire (Oct 18)**

Isobel Thompson has no retired as the HER officer and recruitment of a replacement is in progress. No further update.

#### **Norfolk (Oct 18)**

The HBSMR database was successfully migrated to a new server. It is still embedded within the NCC IT infrastructure, but is now accessed via a Remote Desktop connection and can be accessed by NCC staff remotely. An upgrade to v.5 will be carried out in October. Numbers of HER enquiries remain steady, with an average of 70-80 per month. However, since implementing a new charging scheme in April the HER has observed a significant increase in revenue. Ongoing projects include the HER Digitisation project (March 2020), the Broads Landscape Partnership Scheme (5-year scheme), Brecks NMP Mapping Stage2 (to be completed this financial year), and an HE project to create a UAD for King's Lynn to support the King's Lynn Heritage Action Zone (to be completed this financial year). An HER Audit will also be carried out this financial year. Heather Hamilton has now been appointed as HER Team Leader but, with the departure of our Digitisation Assistant Hannah Mellor, overall HER staffing has been reduced to 2.5 FTE. A new management post overseeing the HER and two other teams will remain vacant for the foreseeable future but recruitment to fill other vacant posts will be initiated soon.

#### **Peterborough (Oct 18)**

Completed HER Audit in March 2018. HER searches remain at a stable level. A city-centre focused EUS project will begin in Nov (to be carried out by Ruth Beckley, Cambs CC). Amanda Cameron is currently working as HER Assistant. Moved offices again to Sand Martin House on outskirts of Peterborough. Awaiting confirmation of a long-term solution to the HER database issue.

#### **Bedford Borough (Oct 18)**

No update.

#### **Suffolk (Oct 18)**

No update.

#### **Colchester (Oct 18)**

No update.

#### **b. East Midlands HER Forum**

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

#### **c. London HER**

Have taken on two (1x Arches Project Officer and 0.6x HER Officer) new temporary members of staff until the end of the financial year.

HER searches, and income, are down slightly on last year so far now averaging 61 a month.

Working on checking through our records for GDPR comp.

Will hear more about the new HE Change programme on 1st October. Not sure whether the London and South-East HE teams will merge or work side by side, or the effect on office desk space.

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

Meetings held jointly with Yorkshire and The Humber HER working party. Therefore see Yorkshire and The Humber HER working party (below).

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

#### **General**

The last North West HER Working Party meeting was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July at the offices of the Lake District National Park Authority Lodge, Kendall. No report was received for Lancashire.

Jill Collens (former Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service), spoke to the group about the Historic England funded project review of Local Government Archaeology Service in the North West.

The "Know Your Place North West" project has secured funding from the National Archives Sector Sustainability Fund. Ben Croxford and Rob Edwards attended an open meeting at Lancashire Archives in September. The meeting was to begin to scope the shape of the final product, its content and the potential for content to be provided by other organisations (i.e. HERs).

### **Local Engagement**

*Cheshire:* The Chester Archaeological Society Archaeology Conference will be held in the Lecture Theatre of the Grosvenor Museum, commencing on the evening of Friday 29th June 2018 with a keynote lecture, and continue all day Saturday 30th June. The HER is continuing to provide training to the Cheshire branch of the Gardens Trust.

*Greater Manchester:* There are new volunteers at the HER who are working on adding grey lit' reports from the backlog. University of Salford's Heritage Management module will contain an introduction to the HER and some of its history. There are no firm plans yet for project work by students on the HER but this could be developed as part of the new module.

*Lake District National Park:* A volunteer now is working with the LDNPA team. The LDNPA continues with their outreach work. Work at the Coniston Copper site has now been completed and a bloomery has been excavated. There is an upcoming level one survey of a common that has not previously been investigated. All of this work is being carried out using the network of seventy volunteers.

*Merseyside:* A Liverpool John Moores University student has completed a month-long placement in the HER.

*Other:* The North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment project has seen a strategy workshop delivered in February in Preston. Around 30 participants discussed the new format of questions and strategies.

### **Cheshire**

The Total Environment Team (which includes APAS) is hoping to move to new office accommodation in Chester by the end of the calendar year. However, this has now been called in for review against the corporate accommodation strategy. The second Cheshire NMP project, being undertaken by Historic England (York) and ARS, started in August. This concentrates on the Chester Hinterland and the northern part of the sandstone ridge.

### **Cumbria**

Mark Brennand and Jeremy Parsons are covering aspects of the HER. Updates are being made and searches are being processed. There were thirty-five HER searches since the previous meeting, twenty of which were commercial, five visited the offices.

### **Greater Manchester**

Negotiations with AGMA continuing for a longer-term agreement on funding for the service.

### **Lake District National Park**

Eleanor Kingston has replaced John Hodgson. Failure to recruit to the new HER-conservation office type role is has led to the post being split and re-advertised.

### **Merseyside**

The office move went ahead in mid-July and a new legal agreement on service funding is being circulated.

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

The SE Regional HER Group hasn't met since the last HER Committee meeting; therefore no update. The next SE Group meeting will be on 17<sup>th</sup> October in Chichester.

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

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

However, Chris Webster gave an update on Bath and North East Somerset HER: Rob Millard left and the city archaeologist retired. The council then discussed 'new ways of working' - and a contract for doing the archaeological development management work and HER this has just gone out to tender.



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

The last West Midlands HER Forum was hosted by Worcestershire County Council at The Hive, Worcester on 19th June 2018.

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

**Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust** – No change to staffing or structure reported.

**Coventry City Council** – Chris Patrick, Conservation and Archaeology Officer left in mid-March, this was widely reported in the local press. Despite promises by management that a consultant would help with workload in the short-term, and a replacement for Chris would be forthcoming, nothing has happened yet. Management have said that replacement wouldn't happen for approx. another six months. Therefore Graham Tait undertaking Conservation & Archaeology role, plus managing the HER, plus trying to manage various Heritage Action Zone projects; due to capacity planning casework is taking priority. Also, the appointment of Heritage Action Zone project officer has been delayed by Coventry City Council senior management, over concerns about listing of parts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century city centre.

**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust** – A new HER Archaeologist, Sean Derby, was appointed last autumn and has now been in post for 6 months. He is settling in well.

**Herefordshire County Council** – No change to staffing or structure reported. They have retained an intern for 1-2 days a week and are looking at the possibility of recruiting an assistant, perhaps via an apprenticeship scheme.

**Shropshire County Council** – Charlotte Orchard going on maternity leave in October. No plan to backfill post, cover for planning will be provided by Hugh Hanniford with Giles Carey picking up some of the rest of the workload. Still haven't moved offices. They are under pressure to introduce a revised charging policy.

**Staffordshire County Council** – As of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 SCC are no longer giving planning advice to districts without a paid SLA. The onus has been put onto developers to seek pre-application advice from the team (a chargeable service), with this advice being submitted with a planning application. A couple of the districts are continuing to pay for support on an ad-hoc basis to ensure they are covered. At the moment the uptake of this service has not been great and there are grave concerns that it will have negative impacts on archaeology going forward. Continuing to monitor the situation and will be talking with LPA development control officers in October. SCC have also introduced curatorial fees which have met with much less resistance (however this will become a moot point if no archaeological advice is being provided).

**Warwickshire County Council** – Working to an organisational plan which means they have to do more with less money. The heritage team together with the wider heritage and conservation team – have had their budgets cut. Only the record office and museum are not on a zero budget although the council are trying to impose income targets. The biggest threat to the planning side as they are struggling to get enough income through the district SLAs, so are looking to introduce charges to cover things like issuing briefs, checking reports etc. The HER has got enough income coming through a combination of small projects and search charges which funds two posts.

**Wolverhampton City Council** – Currently relatively stable as a service. Staffing changes higher up with the Chief Executive leaving for Lincolnshire, but no information as to who will take over.

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

**Worcestershire County Council** – Financial situation currently stable.

**Historic England** – Update on staffing and restructure, the HER Forum, HER Audits and the Heritage Gateway provided.

**PAS** – Funding secured for a further period of time. Victoria Allnatt (cover for Teresa Gilmore) is also going on maternity leave. Have developed better guidance for landowners and a new, better landowner agreement. Big increase in commercial metal detecting rallies.

##### **Other News:**

**HBSMR** - A number of HERs still have not upgraded to V5 of HBSMR (Wolverhampton, Herefordshire and Shropshire), in particular due to IT issues and/or budgetary constraints.

**HER Audits** - Worcester City undertaking HER Audit, Warwickshire and Herefordshire working on their HER Audit Action Plans. Coventry City Council's Audit has been delayed in agreement with HE due to capacity issues.

**Listed Buildings Data** – Issues around responsibilities for the supply of Listed Building Curtilage data to land charges were raised and discussed.

**Projects:**

Worcestershire County Council, working on three HE funded projects (one on 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings and one on the Freddie Charles Archive (both with Worcester City) and one on recording the condition of Ridge and Furrow). Worcester City also working on a WW100 project and community project at Mabbs Orchard.

Coventry has been awarded City of Culture 2021, has been awarded a 'Great Places' grant from the Arts Council and HLF plus has various Heritage Action Zone projects ongoing.

Staffordshire have helped the Wildlife Trust in submitting a bid to HLF for a landscape partnership scheme 'Transforming the Trent Valley'. An application has been submitted alongside this to Historic England for match funding to support two heritage specific projects, including a heritage officer post.

Herefordshire have a number of ongoing projects including at Snodhill, Dordston Hill and Preston Green, plus management plan for Offa's Dyke.

Shropshire completed 10 years of aerial survey last year as part of HE funded projects, with funding secured for further flying this year. Giles Carey will be trained in AP photography as part of this project. Team of volunteers working on variety of projects including Defence of Britain and Conservation Area Appraisals.

Wolverhampton working on the Black Country Review and a green belt review.

Warwickshire have been undertaking archaeology workshops as part of the Tame Valley Wetlands project.

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

The next meeting will be hosted by PAS in mid-November in Birmingham, date and venue to be confirmed.

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

**Humber HER** – Office move, Maritime element to HER created and received well (using NMR), Hulls' UAD Project – still recruiting a Project Officer. HER Manuals rewritten. Lots of outreach, national play days. Heritage Open Days – 6 HER/buildings tours and talks.

**Northumberland** - Audit underway, Liz Williams has returned to substantive post following three years acting-up (part-time) for Conservation Team Manager; Nick Best (DM Archaeologist) has taken a career break till September 2019, currently recruiting to fill 12 month vacancy. County Hall in Morpeth is being refurbished, relocation for 9-12 weeks. NMP project SE Northumberland. 242 CS (42 HT) and 33 commercial searches.

**City of York HER** - Still using HBSMR pending information from Greater London HER on their change of system from HBSMR to Arches. HER Audit has just been completed. Found the process to be simpler than first thought and not too time consuming. The list of actions from the Audit is long and no resource to complete them at the minute. Backlog of reports to enter onto the system is growing.

**Tyne and Wear** - Exploring use of Facebook as means of communication/promotion and re-vamping the Sitelines website (our accessible online HER). Quiet spell in planning has meant we have managed to catch up on our backlog.

**North Yorkshire** – Audit underway and near completion, pushed back due to resourcing during countryside stewardship. 578 CS in total (533MT incl. 112 WC and 45 HT). Finding it very user friendly (and patient with our delays!). Relocating again (locally) Christmas or after whilst our building in County Hall in is being refurbished.