H E I R N E T

FISH-HEIRNET   **Strategic Meeting – 6ᵗʰ Feb 2018**

Location: Council Chamber,
                       National Library of Wales,
                       Aberystwyth
                       SY23 3BU

Time: 11am – 16pm   Working Lunch provided.

AGENDA

1.   Welcome and apologies

2.   Minutes and Actions of the last meeting

3.   Matters Arising

4.   **Morning session**   **11am – 1.15**

4.1   11 -12:00 Strategic updates – chaired by Mike Heyworth (CBA)

- The wider context and changes in planning and other policies across the UK (MH)

MH gave a presentation: BREXIT has and will have a big impact across the sector including academic worries on funding and European citizens. He spoke that each country has its own historic environment strategies – in particular the formalized Welsh and Scottish strategies. In England the situation is more complicated as heritage ministers have changed a lot recently. But a DCMS heritage statement was released in December which is positive though there are planned changes to the planning system which may have potential impact on the management of the historic environment. In England the current situation is being driven by a SE focused housing crisis which may not reflect the state across England, Wales and Scotland – and could affect the

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erosion of the planning system. We need to look more to how the natural environment is being managed and learn from this.

There are continued issues of funding, both at national and local levels, with the recent case of Northampton which has gone more or less into administration, highlighting the reduction of funding and work to only that which is statutory – which does not include the HER.

But the historic environment still has great public support and we need to engage more, provide more information in particular for advocacy. We need to keep groups like FISH going and it is even more important than ever to talk, share experiences and help each other.

The group discussed various aspects of MH presentations, including holes in the coverage of HERs (eg Lancashire), the creation of a national security copy to shore this up. However, MH said that this was like putting a sticking plaster over a wound rather than healing the problem. There was a discussion over should we have a more radical approach to managing the historic environment in England, certainly look at more radical approaches than are in the current HIAS programme eg the national or regional management of the historic environment rather than local authority based.

PM spoke that there were also gaps in Scotland, – eg Dundee and Dunbar, Aberdeen city, but they have created a regional structure – creating super regional systems of coverage, plus the creation of regional research frameworks. DT asked whether this regionalization meant a reduction in the quality of the advice service and PM spoke about the development of regional research frameworks is providing a standard to be used. MH didn't think there will be a reduction in quality as pressures at a local level are causing more negative impact on the advice rather than a move to regional advice.

MH gave an update on the progress of Heritage 2020.

- Round up of strategies/ initiatives & projects of wider interest – Reps of National Organisations (HE, RCAHMW, HES)

1   Round up from England – Martin Newman

Historic England is currently going through a change programme but we are yet to know how it will affect the areas relevant to FISH.

Enriching the List is progressing very well and we have already passed one of our targets for year two which was to have 850 contributors. We have now published nearly 75k contributions containing over 111k images to over 42k list entries, so we have passed 10% of the list enriched. We have also been working with the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust on a series of workshops raising awareness of the list and getting participants to contribute to ETL. Other promotional work has included a talk at the Gardens Trust Research day and a stand at Digital Past.

Work is progressing to ensure that HE is GDPR compliant by the end of March. This has included an audit of all the personal data collected and held by HE setting out why its required, how it is stored and for how long it is retained. Work is being undertaken to ensure our online systems are compliant including to the front end of the Heritage Passport to ensure its compliance ahead of its intended complete replacement later on.

Most relevant area of HAIS are covered elsewhere on the agenda, in addition to these work is continuing on the National Secure Copy work stream to specify some consultancy to take this forward.

We have been invited to contribute our Registered Parks and Gardens data to the European Gardens Inventory http://europeangardens.eu/en/specialist-pages/home/ of the Institute European Institute for Gardens and Landscapes (Européen des Jardins et Paysages) and this has now been sent off.

2 Round up from Scotland – Peter McKeague

See appendix 1

3 Round up from Wales – David Thomas

David Thomas commented that the latest developments in Wales will be covered in the afternoon sessions, particularly the impact of the Historic Environment Act (Wales), but he noted that the sector in Wales shared the concerns raised by Mike Heyworth. He also noted there has been a significant change in personnel in the HERs in Wales over the past year, but that organisations were cooperating to establish a strong induction and training programme.

In addition, SC spoke about the Simon Thurley review of Amgueddfa Cymru (National Museums Wales) which contains a number of recommendations on future governance, partnership working, finance and income generation. Link to the Thurley Review: http://gov.wales/topics/culture-tourism-sport/museums-archives-libraries/national-museum/?lang=en

DM and SC spoke about the recently released The Mendoza Review: an independent review of museums in England: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-mendoza-review-an-independent-review-of-museums-in-england which highlighted a number of areas of concern regarding lack of archaeological experts in museums, lack of funding, archiving issues, etc… There are a number of recommendations to be carried out – some of which are the responsibility of Historic England, and we are awaiting the announcement by Historic England of an action plan to meet these.

12:00 – 13:15

4.2   Feedback on European Archaeology Conference (EAA) session and future plans to engage international colleagues – Keith May (HE)

KM spoke about his session at the European Archaeology Conference in Maastricht that came out of an action from last year's FISH-HEIRNEMT meeting. PM and DM gave presentations at the session, DM presented on the work of FISH. KM spoke about the need arising from the meeting of sharing information/ideas with European colleagues. DM spoke about a number of projects using the FISH thesauri but sometimes not knowing where to get information or advice. KM and DM said we need to look to see how we can engage more, and not just within the context of individual projects but more strategically.

4.2.1   Action on DM to look at the FISH list at the level of European representation

4.2.2   Action on group to think about how to engage outside the UK, and should it be Worldwide rather than just a European focus?

4.3   Mapping our heritage - EAA session report back – Peter McKeague (HES)

The session at the EAA conference in Maastricht was: **Mapping our heritage: towards a sustainable future for digital spatial information and technologies in archaeological heritage management** (Session organised by Philip Verhagen, University of Amsterdam)

Session recognised the enormous growth in digital spatial information
- Informs heritage management policies
- Research
- Enjoyment

And associated issues:
- Sustainability of digital repositories
- Accessibility and reliability of data
- Standardisation of data formats
- Management of property rights
- Project based focus with limited life-span

Challenges
- Accessing data
- Presentation

Session contributors are co-authoring a Position Paper on the topic for the Journal of Computer Applications in Archaeology

4.4   Introduction to The FAIR principles – Keith May (HE) & Peter McKeague (HES)
           (https://www.force11.org/group/fairgroup/fairprinciples)

KM and PM introduced the FAIR principles - that data is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable.

All agreed that these principles seem fine and all agreed that these were something that we all should be striving towards. Could FISH adopt the FAIR principles and promote them? All agreed this was feasible but wanted KM to investigate a bit more – what does this entail to adopt the FAIR principles etc… The aim would be to adopt them at the next strategic meeting.

4.4.1   Action on KM to investigate a little more the FAIR principles.

4.5   Deriving start/end dates for multilingual timespans, and periodisation /chronology
           – Ceri Binding (UoSW)

CB presented on two pieces of work he has been undertaking associated with date ranges and periods. Presentations are on the FISH website: http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Multilingual-timespan-expressions-Scottish-Archaeological-Periods-Ages.pdf

DM and PM spoke about the importance of this work with regard to projects in Scotland and England associated with linking research frameworks together and linking the English frameworks to OASIS to allow information on investigations to feed the online frameworks.

4.6   Developing standards for recording archaeological finds – Dan Miles (HE)

DM spoke about his work coming out of a Knowledge Transfer analysis of the results of the Roman Rural Settlement Project and the Report on Archaeological Finds Reports (Catermole, 2017) to look at the potential for creating standardized data tables for archaeological finds reports. DM has been working on clay pipe analysis tables and seeing how a formalized standard for the reporting on clay pipes can be organized. This is based on the work of the National Pipe Archive's guide to recording clay pipes (http://www.pipearchive.co.uk/howto/record.html). Can we develop spreadsheets or tables with standardized information groups, controlled vocabularies etc.. along with metatdata spreadsheets to facilitate the digital archiving of this data?

The aim of this is to aid in promoting "frictionless" data and the FAIR principles, so that the integration and analysis of finds data tables can be as efficient as possible aiding in the reuse and research value of post excavation analysis.

LUNCH   13:15 – 14:00

5   Afternoon session 2pm – 4pm

5.1   Development of ARCHES and the Cultural Thesaurus – Phil Carlisle (HE)

PC gave an update on ARCHES: Lincoln HER going live soon, Greater London next year. PC spoke about the development of ARCHES for the RDM that is behind the Cultural Thesaurus. DM spoke about an action from the FISH technical meeting about looking to combine the thesauri. This needs to be done. CB has done some mapping, PC suggested using ARCHES to pull in the skos versions and map from there.

5.1.1   Action on PC with PM and DT to move forward the work to combine the UK thesauri

5.2   OASIS update – Louisa Matthews (ADS)

The HERALD project is continuing and the search functions and downloads for the ADS Library incorporating the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography and Library of Unpublished Fieldwork Reports are now live at http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/

We are continuing to work on the forms required to allow Journal owners to edit material. The complexity of the data structure required to accommodate Journal Articles, Series, Monographs, Chapters/Articles in Monographs, etc. means that this is a daunting task, but one that we hope will be completed soon.

There have been some staff changes at ADS. One of our developers left for another job at the University of York, and the necessity of upgrading some of our systems have meant that the project is running to a revised timetable, with oasis release now scheduled for 2020. The oasis database has been designed, but the data is yet to be migrated.

We have recently met with the Historic England Research Frameworks project to discuss how grey literature information may be harvested by the new Research Frameworks platform.

5.3   National Museum Collections On-line - Sally Carter (NMW)

SC gave a presentation on the new work to launch the National Museums Wales Collections Online (https://museum.wales/collections/) which will put half a million records online in a searchable format for the first time.

SC's presentation is on the FISH website. http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Welsh-Collections-online-presentation-FISH.ppsx

5.4   Information Management and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act – David Thomas (NMW)

Kate Roberts outlined the changes to HERs because of the Act and the establishment of the statutory basis for HERs. This included the aggregation of information from different sources, such as the databases of National Historic Assets managed by Cadw, and the Battlefields and Place Names databases managed by RCAHMW. She also noted the impact of the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Compliance notice, which means that new records have to be delivered bilingually.

5.5   HERs and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act - Nina Steele and Calli Rouse (GAT & GGAT)

NS and CR spoke about how HERs are implementing and have been impacted by the new Welsh Historic Environment Act. See presentation: http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/HERs-and-the-Welsh-Historic-Environment-Act.pdf

5.6   The List of Historic Place Names in Wales - James January-McCann (RCAHMW)

JJM did a very interesting presentation on his work on historic place names in Wales. He outlined the issues, research being undertaken and actions.

KM asked whether any research had been undertaken looking at specific place names related to historical sites or potential sites – Ie the potential to identify possible archaeological sites through their old place names. JJM replied not yet but this was an interesting avenue of research.

Presentation available: http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/fish-heirnet/

6   AOB

DM brought up a potential move towards setting up a Knowledge Hub group for FISH-HEIRNET. Edmund Lee (HE) is setting up a heritage based Knowledge Hub network of collaborative work spaces funded through the HE Capacity Building Team. There is a potential space for FISH. This would allow the standing members of FISH to keep files, work collaboratively on documents, have a forum, question space etc… see http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Proposal-for-a-FISH-KHub-group.pptx

DM asked whether this is a way forward and would FISH want this space. All agreed that this is a good idea.

AOB 1   Action on DM to set up a Knowledge Hub space for FISH-HEIRNET on the Heritage KHub network.

DM asked whether this could be a shared space with IMSIG

AOB 2 Action on DM to explore this potential of linking with IMSIG on the KHUB.

DM brought up the potential of having a FISH related session at CAAUK conference in Edinburgh at the end of October 2018. All agreed that this was a good idea and that we should have our strategic meeting the day before to combine T&S.

AOB 3 Action on DM to contact the organisers to scope out the potential of a session at CAAUK

Next meetings

Next working meeting – June – London or Birmingham with a potential presentation on ARCHES by Lincoln.

Next Strategic meeting - Thursday 25th October in Edinburgh to coincide with the CAAUK conference.

Appendix 1 Review from Scotland by Peter McKeague

The SHED Strategy: developing Workstream 4

Introduction

Scotland's Historic Environment Data (SHED) Strategy is a sector-wide initiative to improve access to information about Scotland's historic environment.

The key aim is to work in partnership in order to protect, promote and enhance Scotland's historic environment through coordinated activity to improve the data, and the associated systems and processes.

The partnership includes government agencies, non-government organisations (NGOs), and academic institutions, working to support the public's involvement in the care and enjoyment of the historic environment through better records.

The SHED Strategy is being undertaken under the umbrella of the SMR Forum, which brings together many of the bodies that create and maintain records about Scotland's historic environment.

To find out more, download a copy of the full strategy document: SHED Strategy Final April 2014

Workstreams

There are three active SHED Strategy Workstreams, with one developing:

1. PastMap
2. Data & Standards
3. Communications and Fund Raising
4. Museums and Archives (developing)

WS 2: PastMap

The browser interface was redesigned and redeveloped so that the website is now responsive working across a range of platforms from desktop to mobile. The browser now includes a suite of background layers (ortho-imagery and historic Ordnance Survey Maps) that can be toggled on and off. The site is currently (6 February 2018) in beta accessible from the live site.

WS 2: Data standards are being harmonised, allowing us to begin to create concordance between the various datasets held by HES and the Local Authorities. We have also been successful in finding funding for a number of data improvement projects.

Work is ongoing on creating authoritative Period Lists for use in the Research Frameworks and the redevelopment of OASIS.

WS 3: nothing to report

WS 4: we aim to bring museums and archives together with organisations such as the Local Authorities and HES to explore ways to create links between our heritage data.

Both the Historic Environment and the Museums and Galleries sectors are guided by national strategies. The work of Workstream 4 will help support the key aims and objectives of these strategies. Clearly relevant are:

- *Our Place in Time* – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland.
    - B - Understand: investigate and record
    - C - Protect: care and protect
    - D - Value: share and celebrate

- Going Further – The National Strategy for Scotland's Museums and Galleries.
    - Aim One – Maximise the potential of our collections and culture
    - Aim Two – Strengthen connections between museums, people and places
    - Aim Four - Forge a sustainable future for sector organisations
    - Aim Five – Foster a culture of collaboration, innovation and ambition

We would like anyone exploring a site through Canmore or a local Historic Environment Record to be able to find out about the materials held in museums and archives that are related to that site, to find out where they can see these objects and, where possible, to link through to the appropriate part of the museum or archive website. Similarly, we would like a person using a museum or archive website to be able to link through to the Historic Environment Records for the site associated with an object. Finally, we would like a person using a museum or archive website to be able to link through to related records in other museum or archive websites.

For example, a person is looking at a museum record for a sword. We would like them to be able to:

- go to the Canmore or HER site record for the place the sword was found.

- go to a map showing all the sword finds in Scotland.
- find out about similar swords held in other Scottish museums.
- find out about other objects from the same site held in other museums.
- find out about archival records relating to the site.

Initial Objectives of Workstream 4

In order to achieve our aspirations to more closely link HER and museum/archive data, the key Objectives of Workstream 4 are:

- To gain an understanding of the relevant heritage datasets we hold.
- To explore how links could usefully be made between them.
- To gain an understanding of the standards which exist for museum and archive datasets.
- To identify and plan out the activities we will need to undertake to help deliver our ambitions.

The workstream will be developed by museum, archive and HER specialists from both local and national contexts.

Appendix 2 Open Actions

No	FISH-HEIRNET Strategic Autumn Meeting: 29th Nov 2016	Owner	Notes
4.1.1	Action to get in touch with Metaldetector database European project about standards and thesauri	DM, PC & JR	Still open
4.2.1	Action to look at the FISH list at the level of European representation	DM	
4.2.2	Action to think about how to engage outside the UK, and should it be Worldwide rather than just a European focus?	ALL	
4.4.1	Action to investigate a little more the FAIR principles.	KM	

5.1.1	Action to move forward the work to combine the UK thesauri	PC with PM and DT	
AOB 1	Action to set up a Knowledge Hub space for FISH-HEIRNET on the Heritage KHub network.	DM	
AOB 2	Action to explore this potential of linking with IMSIG on the KHUB.	DM	
AOB 3	Action to contact the organisers of CAAUK to scope out the potential of a FISH session at the conference	DM	