# FISH-HEIRNET

# Minutes of the Autumn Strategic Meeting

# 18th Nov 2014  11.00 – 16.00

**Present:** Gillian Grayson, (EH & FISH Convenor), Dan Miles, EH & FISH Co-ordinator), Katie Green (ADS), David Thomas (RCAHMW), Sarah Howard (CBA), Mike Heyworth (CBA), Phil Carlisle (EH), Keith May (EH), Graham Tait (Devon HER), Peter McKeague (RCAHMS), Ceri Binding (Univ of South Wales), Doug Tudhope (Univ of South Wales), Suzy Blake (Staffordshire CC), Dan Pett (BM), Hugh Corley (IMSIG), Paul Cripps (Univ of South Wales), Donna Robinson (NT) Sally Carter (NMW), Mark Lodwick (PAS Wales), Graham Davies (NMW), Jeff Spencer (CPAT), Marion Page (DAT), Angharad Stockwell (GAT), Nina Steele (GAT), Charina Jones (GGAT)

## 1.      Welcome and Apologies

GG welcomed everyone to the Autumn Strategic Meeting and thanked the National Museum for hosting the meeting in Cardiff. She introduced the meeting and set out the agenda for the day. Apologies were received from Julian Richards and Catherine Hardman (ADS).

## 2.      Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

## 3.      Actions from the Last FISH-HEIRNET Meeting

See actions grid at back of minutes for open actions.

Action 5.2 There was a brief discussion on the role of the HEIRNET Register and a follow up action on GG to continue this. It was recommended that this should be included within the discussions on taking forward the TACOS recommendations.

3.1    Action on GG and MH to include this in taking TACOS forward


## 4.    Matters Arising

SC spoke about the FISHTWG E-Conference – see AOBs


[All presentations are available on the FISH website](#)


## 5. Morning Session on Strategies 11.30 – 13.00

MH introduced the morning strategic session by giving background to the establishment of HEIRNET and described various projects undertaken including user needs/analysis and the creation of the HEIRNET REGISTER.


### 5.1    Overview of Data Standards Work in Wales/ Heritage Bill – David Thomas (RCAHMW)

DT set out the present situation in Wales and described the roles of Cadw, the Royal Commission and the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. The relationship between organisations is coordinated through the Strategic Coordination Board, chaired by Cadw, and it has four working groups, including one for records which is chaired by the Royal Commission. Historic Environment Records are managed on behalf of local authorities by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts.

Arrangements for sharing information between the organisations have been in place since the mid-1990s, and public access to this information has been provided since 1999, firstly through CARN and more recently through the Historic Wales Portal ([www.historicwales.gov.uk](http://www.historicwales.gov.uk)). Information standards are managed through a group that includes representatives from all the organisations plus the National Trust and the National Museum. This group reports to the Records Coordination Group.

The sector has strong links with the cultural sector in Wales, particularly with the National Library and National Museum, one outcome of which has been the Peoples Collection Wales project.

A new Heritage Bill is being prepared and will be presented before Welsh Government in 2016. This will include requirements for statutory HERs and changes to the way the designation process is managed. The merger of the Royal Commission and Cadw will not form part of the bill as the merger was called off by Welsh Government in January 2014.


Discussion

DM asked about the political commitment to the Heritage Bill, in the light of the English Bill's failure. DT replied that the Welsh Heritage Bill took a lot from the English Bill (eg statutory HERs) and has moved it on and there does seem to be a broad political and local authority support for the Bill.

MH sits on the Advisory Board for the Welsh Heritage Bill and agreed that there does seem to be commitment from political institutions to move it forward. The CBA is really encouraged about the inclusion of the statutory role of Welsh HERs and that this may be seen as a blueprint for England.

DT explained the differences between the situation in Wales and England, eg that the HERs are supported by national government rather than local authorities and that the heritage bill is going forward as part of three bills together which binds planning, heritage and the environment closely together.

MH also explained that a suite of supporting primary, secondary legislation and guidance is being developed (eg TAM – similar to PPG16) in support of the bills.

## 5.2    Update from Scotland including SHED – Peter McKeague (RCAHMS)

PM gave an update to the meeting.  Following the launch of the SHED Strategy by Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop at the IfA Conference in Glasgow in April 2014, the first meeting of the SHED Programme Board took place in May. The Board is made up of representatives of interests in the historic environment and related sectors that curate relevant data - see the SHED web presence for details (http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/). In the last few months, members of the Board have been contributing to the development of an Action Plan, based on the Objectives in the Strategy, as well as a Programme Initiation Document to guide the programme, and a Communications Plan. Further work on PastMap, and on the development through the SMR Forum of technical specifications for polygonisation are two of the active strands of the Strategy.

A draft of an archaeological strategy is being created by Rebecca Jones and is out for consultation in 2015.

## 5.3    Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS) – Keith May (EH)

Presentation on the FISH website.

Note this presentation is actually a copy of the presentation given a week after the FISH-HEIRNET meeting at the HER Forum meeting.  It incorporates an updated information flow diagram that has taken into consideration the feedback from the discussion at the FISH-HEIRNET meeting – documented below.

Discussion

KM's presentation initiated a lengthy discussion on the role of a revised OASIS within the HER system. This discussion centred on the flow of information, from OASIS to the HER or from HER to OASIS. The issues of duplication of effort was highlighted by the HER and Welsh Trusts representatives and potentially a contrast to one of the Principles of the Heritage Information Access Strategy that states that the HER is the first port of call for Historic Environment data. The role of OASIS could be seen to contrast with this, though it was conceived to be an aid for this. More discussion on the flow of information between OASIS and the HERs is required.

PM stated that OASIS was just a transit/transfer mechanism but the main issue is how does this data painlessly be updated into the HERs – OASIS is a mechanism not just as an output.

MH asked whether the recently funded EH Business Process Mapping project will look at this.

KM said that the project is first looking at internal EH processes but will talk to HER representatives. The results of the project will be out in March, in time for the Spring FISH-HEIRNET meeting.

SB and PM discussed the issue of who was to enter event data.  This is seen by the HERs as their responsibility, but through OASIS this is the responsibility of the contractors – therefore bringing in issues of whether they understand data standards etc…

MP said that this will be an important consideration when the HERs become statutory with the Welsh Heritage Bill.

SB sees OASIS as a great way to get info/reports to the Grey Lit library, but the HERs should manage the data side.

PCripps said that the essence of the issue was not to duplicate data/info and effort, but to align OASIS with HER processes and systems so that the OASIS tools being developed can integrate and support HER data management.

MH asked how HIAS fits in with Heritage 2020…ie the current NHPP was an EH developed project that morphed into a sectoral plan. Its successor Heritage 2020 is much more of a sectoral plan rather than an EH driven agenda. Is this going to be the same with HIAS? MH explained a little about Heritage 2020 – the new framework launched by the Heritage Alliance at the end of November 2014 for consultation and it will identify priorities for the sector to engage in together. He said that Information management underpins nearly everything in Heritage 2020.


**5.4     International Updates – Philip Carlisle (EH) & Katie Green (ADS)**

**Getty Vocabulary Program ITWG (PC)**

In September PC attended the International Terminology Working Group meeting hosted in Dresden, by the Getty Vocabulary Program (GVP), as a precursor to the CIDOC Conference.

The meeting brings together the organizations responsible for the creation and translation of the Getty vocabularies. Currently the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT ) is available in English, Dutch, Spanish and Chinese with a German version currently being compiled.

Presentations were also given on the publication of the Getty Vocabularies  as Linked Open Data (LOD).

The AAT and the Thesaurus of Geographic Names have already been made available and the Union List of Artist Names (ULAN) will be published in April 2015. In addition a demonstration of the Cultural Objects Name Authority (CONA) will be available late 2015.

A detailed presentation on the ontologies used to publish the LOD was given by Vladimir Alexiev of Ontotext.

 A copy of the presentation is available online at:
https://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/cidoc_alexiev_getty_vocabs_lod.pdf

Marcia Zeng gave a presentation on creating LOD Microthesauri from the AAT. Available online at:

 http://www.slideshare.net/mzeng/aat-microthesauri

**Arches Project (PC)**

PC attended the Arches Project workshops at Euromed 2014 and ICOMOS 2014. The Arches platform is currently on version 2.0 with version 3.0 due for release in January 2015.

The Survey of LA will be the first implementation of the new Heritage Inventory Package which sits on top of core Arches and allows for the recording of Heritage Resources, Heritage Groups, Activities, Actors and Information Resources.

New functionality in version 3.0 includes the ability to "drag and drop" images and documents and the addition of a Reference Data Manager Module. The RDM allows for the creation and maintenance of multilingual SKOS-compliant controlled vocabularies, including import and export in SKOS format and adding images to a concept.

Version 3.0 will be available from January with Survey LA being launched in February.

Discussion

MH asked about the potential of ARCHES to be used for HLF funded projects and whether it could solve some of the issues of getting data generated from these projects into HERs. He asked what, at a strategic level, could be done to take this forward with the HLF? Whether it requires testing and is there a national distribution agent?

PC replied that it could and may solve various problems. ARCHES could provide a good model and there could be a suite of different databases created for the different needs of different heritage projects. The first package from ARCHES is an Heritage Building Inventory – but the potential is there to tweak this into a suite of different products.

DM asked who should take this forward to approach the HLF on the issue of getting data generated from HFL funded projects into HERs?

MH said that ALGAO went to the HLF 2 years ago about this and Ian Morrison initiated a training programme with regional HLF staff  to understand this issue at HLF project development level.

DM and NS both said that there were still issues existing with this – HLF and academic projects.

DT said that the Peoples Collection was seen as a solution to make sure it was put into HLF project designs and product descriptions.

MH suggested that individual HERs and local authorities get in touch with their local regional HLF teams to make sure HER and data issues are taken into consideration.

GC suggested that there was a requirement for having data management plans that could be developed for HLF and Academic projects – for all project funders. MH added that this was very much in line with what is being done with current conservation plans for HLF capital plans.

DP said that data management plans were developed for Micro Pasts projects.

5.4.1    Action on DP to send DM examples of data management plans.

GT spoke about the potential of ARCHES, that from an HER perspective with the issues of lots of different data, there is still no magic button to get the data into HERs… it needs to link into existing data systems or needs to access live data, update it and then give it back to the HER, to prevent all resources required for the reconciliation of records.  This theme continued after the ARCHWILIO APP presentation.

**European projects that the ADS are involved in (KG)**

ARIADNE (Advanced Research Infrastructure for Archaeological Dataset Networking)

This is a four-year EU FP7 Infrastructures funded project, coordinated by PIN at the University of Florence and ADS (Deputy Coordinators), and is made up of 24 partners across 16 European countries. ARIADNE has the goal of bringing together and integrating existing archaeological research data infrastructures, so researchers can use the distributed datasets and technologies as an integral component within archaeological research.
As Deputy Coordinators, ADS continues to be heavily involved in the overall planning and management of the project across all 17 workpackages. Highlights of our involvement over the past year include the completion of our first two deliverables: the Initial Report on Good Practices and Use Requirements (for the design of the infrastructure). As the workpackage leaders for Transnational Access and Training, we successfully organised the two online transnational access provider workshops at EAA in Pilzen and CAA in Paris, and the first of the physical transnational access provider workshops at EVA in London. We have also overseen organising the first year of 'summer schools' held by the participating technical providers (PIN, CNR and ATHENA RC). In addition, ADS has played key roles in the development of other workpackages, bringing together and synthesising the results of the user needs survey, with the holdings of the content providing partners, and the resources available to the domain. From this work we have continued to help guide the direction of the development of the infrastructure as it moves through the planning phase. We have also continued to focus effort on good practices, Linked Data, and Natural Language Processing tasks.

LoCloud (Local Content in a Europeana Cloud)

This is a three-year EU Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) best practice network. LoCloud is coordinated by Norsk Kulturrad and is made up of 32 partners across 26 European countries. LoCloud follows on directly from the CARARE project (where ADS was also a partner) and EuropeanaLocal, another recently completed best practice network, which played an important role in ensuring the digital content provided by Europeana's local and regional cultural institutions were represented in Europeana.

LoCloud will combine updated versions of the metadata mapping tools and methodology developed as part of CARARE, with cloud computing technology (along with other microservices), to help small-to-medium sized heritage organisations make their content discoverable within Europeana. In our role as aggregator for the UK,ADS will be providing additional metadata to make a larger part of our archives discoverable within Europeana, and helping a select group of other small data 30 providers within the domain to do so as well.

As the leaders of the Dissemination and Exploitation work package, over the last year ADS has overseen the dissemination planning and implementation, including the planning of a major dissemination workshop to be held at the 18th ICOMOS General Assembly in Florence, during November 2014. ADS also hosted many of the content providing partners in York for a technical workshop in September.

NEARCH (New Scenarios for a Community-involved Archaeology)

This is a five-year EU Culture Programme funded project, coordinated by the Institut National de Recherches Archéologiques Preventives (INRAP) in France, and is made up of 14 partners, across 10 European countries. NEARCH follows on directly from the ACE project (where ADS was also a partner), and aims to assess the implications of the recent economic crisis in the fields of Archaeology and Heritage, and to propose new ways of working and interacting, in particular within the different dimensions of public participation. Over the last year ADS has begun working with the organisers of the digital 'Day of Archaeology' to expand participation throughout Europe, starting in 2015. ADS has also begun working on mobile app development, which will help the public engage with historic records and archaeological resources, and in partnership with Internet Archaeology, has begun developing ideas for alternative forms of publication, adapted for different audiences. ADS is also overseeing the planning for hosting the upcoming NEARCH plenary meeting, to be held in York in December, which will include the first of the discussion workshops, titled Archaeology and communication technologies: Enabling community involvement.

### 5.5     TACOS discussion – Mike Heyworth (CBA)

MH said that there was not enough time for a full discussion on the results of the TACOS project and draft report that had been circulated to attendees before the meeting.

MH summed up the key areas based upon the key concept of sharing thinking and developing collaboration. There was a brief discussion on the value of holding such an event – with agreement from everyone that it was a very useful event, which should be repeated.

DM said about the need to develop more links with the sector – eg through IfA Special interest groups, not just Information Management SIG, but also others eg the Research and Impact group, which would potentially engage with contractors and others in the sector who don't normally engage with information management issues.

PCripps suggested a future theme for a workshop, would be Linked Data.

GG asked how we take things forward – how to keep up the momentum of TACOS

MH asked for more feedback to be sent to SH on the TACOS report and suggested that GG and MH put forward some ideas for potential forward steps that can be discussed at the next strategic meeting next November 2015.

GT and SH spoke about dissemination of TACOS, which will be through the FISH and HER FORUM lists, SH is giving a presentation at HER Forum too.

5.5.1    Action on all to send in comments on TACOS by end of November

5.5.2    Action on DM to disseminate the TACOS report

5.5.3    Action on MH and GG to look at taking TACOS forward.


## 6        Afternoon Presentations


### 6.1  Wales HER Software Suite - Marion Page (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) & Jeff Spencer (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust)

Presentation available on the FISH Website:

Jeff Spencer gave a presentation on Archwillio, the HER system used by the 4 Welsh Archaeological Trusts. He gave a potted history, and covered its functionality, management as an open source piece of software and future areas of development.
Marion Page introduced the ANDROID Archwillio App and spoke about its use and its development.

Discussion

MP spoke about the advantages of the APP being used to enhance the Trust's data and its use as a good way of engaging with younger people.

GT was interested in how the APP works with ARCHWILIO?  - for example could it be used for larger scale projects in Wales.

MP said that there was an Archwillio user group – eg a community group is given access through the back end to enter data and update it the records. These still need to be validated and there is a training need.

The value of Archwillio as an open source tool was discussed by all. Though, the development and choosing fields etc is made easier by there being only four trusts to develop the tools.

GG asked whether there was a desk top way of updating records, like the APP.

MP replied that there wasn't, but this could be achieved through the development of the Archwillio user group

DM asked about how much it was being used.

CJ replied over 1000 records have been updated, though mostly corrections. There was a spike in use after the launch.

MP said others were using the open source software – eg Paul Driscoll and Rebecca Bennett. The updates to the open source software are then available to all, eg the 3G modelling that was developed for Rebecca Bennett.

DM asked whether it was being used for commenting on heritage crime or damage.

MP replied that it wasn't but could be. CJ replied that it was being used to record coastal projects, including storm damage.

MH also confirmed that Archwillio had been used to develop the CBA online WW1 recording form.

PCripps asked whether all the development was open source.

JS replied that some, eg GIS elements was not. There was some discussion on how open the open source was.

KM and MP discussed that controlled vocabularies being sued in the APP were in English. DT and KM spoke about the potential of using Linked Data and whether there was a training need for this.


## 6.2     People's Collection – Graham Davies (NMW)

Presentation available on the FISH website

Discussion

DM asked GD how many items were there on the website, GS responded there were 45,000 so far.

GD said that it used a Creative Commons license which meant that people could upload content and repurpose items.

KM asked how popular it was with people uploading their own content. GD replied that certain subjects, eg the First World War were very popular and that it also allowed small groups to upload the results of their research.

GD said there were plenty of opportunities to expand and do different things, eg upload wheelchair access trails and building APPS (like Archwillio APP) with core national organisation partners.

GT asked whether monument data with images could be uploaded. DT replied that yes, but initially there would be many issues with matching museum objects with HER/Trusts'.

GD said that the focus was on the public contribution bit of the site – especially with public use rather than on trying to solve data standard issues of curated data. .


## 6.3     Historic Wales - David Thomas (RCAHMW)

Historic Wales is a web portal that provides access to the records of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, National Museum Wales and Cadw. The map enabled portal for historic environment information site enables simultaneous searching across eight different datasets (including national monument records, designated records, HER records and National Museum archaeological collections etc…) and hundreds of thousands of records relating to archaeological monuments, historic buildings and artefacts.

Discussion

DT explained that the website went live in Feb 2014, and although not extensively used, this is down probably towards a lack of promotion. More datasets are also to be added soon.

GT enquired whether it was targeted at different audiences.

DT replied that it was originally viewed as being for a professional audience, but this has moved towards a more general audience. But this comes associated with its own issues, eg how the data is presented to the general audience, eg the need for guidance, accessibility, usability etc….

### 6.4    The PAS in Wales - Mark Lodwick (PAS)

This presentation introduced a new HLF funded project, Saving Treasures, Telling Stories, which enables the Museum of Wales and PAS to strategically purchase items for their core collections over a five-year period.  This project also moves towards adding narratives to the collections rather than the normal finds recording, including capturing artistic narratives (eg poems, artistic representations).

### 6.5    Implementing Linked data in PAS – Dan Pett (BM)

Discussion

DP talked about the PAS website and its use of Linked Data and the move towards open data which has seen an increase in its audience (500,000) by 15% each year.

GT enquired about the issue of generating persistent URIs for Linked Data and PCripps agreed that this was a problem if URIs change.

GT asked whether the creation of persistent URIs could be incorporated into the Heritage Information Access Strategy.

6.5.1    Action on DP to send DM links to papers that show going open access has increased user numbers

6.6     Implementing SENESCHAL vocabularies at ADS – Katie Green (ADS)

Katie Green explained how the vocabularies developed from the SENESCHAL project were being implemented into the ADS.

Discussion

NS asked about the process of creating Linked Data terminologies eg as part of the process of updating HER terminologies.

CB spoke about the process of how this is achieved – eg from bulk updates from EH and the Royal Commissions.

DT,KM and PC spoke about how they are looking into the updating process so that individual members of EH /Royal Commissions will be able to update the Linked Data from their systems.

PC explained that there was a workflow process of how to add a new terminology and governance was through the FISHTWG. Training required to do this will take place in the New Year. EH is funding the domain name of Heritagedata.org which hosts the persistent URIs.

SB commented that the whole governance and process of how the terminologies are updated and posted needs to be made public and understood.

KM asked whether there were other terminologies that could be converted into Linked Data.

NS said that there were and would get in touch.

PC spoke about the development of the Thesaurus of Cultural Heritage (creating a unified Linked Data thesaurus) now we have the tools to do this.

GT enquired about the timeframe for this.

PC said that he would send out a report on the progress of this before the next FISH meeting.

6.6.1     Action on PC to send to DM information on the workflow for updating Linked Date terminologies to disseminate to all

6.6.2     Action on PC to send out a report on progress of the development of the Thesaurus of Cultural Heritage

**Any Other Business**

GT gave an update on the Data supply and reconciliation between NRHE and HERs project which has had a workshop and an online HER FORUM e-conference.   Summaries of the e-conference are

available from at https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/filearea.cgi?LMGT1=HERFORUM&a=get&f=/Data_Supply_and_Reconciliation/E_Conference_Summary_report.docx

SC gave an update on the Labels, Lithics and Landforms: e-conference on controlled vocabularies for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic data. This conference, about recording the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, discussed the use of existing terminologies and the need for improvement and enhancement of thesauri and wordlists, identified as a result of recent Historic Environment Record (HER) enhancement projects funded under the National Heritage Protection Plan. The conference considered how Palaeolithic/Mesolithic information could be better indexed and described in research resources in light of recent advances in understanding of these periods. It will also consider mechanisms for achieving this aim.

SC said it was great success with over 50 new subscribers to FISH (for the conference) and it brought together academics and HER officers together to debate the terminologies and chronologies etc. The actions will go to FISHTWG and summaries and an action plan will be posted on the FISH website and mailing list in the New Year.

GG closed the meeting by thanking everyone who had contributed to such a successful day and, in particular, the National Museum for hosting the meeting.

## Appendix 1 Open Actions

| No | Joint FISH/HEIRNET Meeting: 11ʰ November 2011 | Owner | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11.5.1 | Action to look at previous discussion on this matter relating to licensing | KN | **Open** – DM to contact KN |
| No | FISH-HEIRNET Strategic Autumn Meeting: 1st Nov 2012 | Owner | Notes |
| 5.2 | Action on all to think about the future of the Register. | **all** | Open |
| 5.3 | Action to update the HEIRNET web pages | **MH** | Open |
| No | FISH-HEIRNET Strategic Autumn Meeting: 26th Nov 2013 | Owner | Notes |
| **5.1** | Action to complete the task of vocabulary mapping and to speak to GT about it. | **PC** | Open |

| No | FISH-HEIRNET Strategic Autumn Meeting: 18th Nov 2014 | Owner | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3.1 | Action to look at the role of the HEIRNET Register as part of taking TACOS forwards | **GG & MH** | Open |
| 5.4.1 | Action to send examples of data management plans to DM for dissemination. | **DP** | Open |
| 5.5.1 | Action to send in comments on TACOS by end of November | **all** | Open |
| 5.5.2 | Action to disseminate the TACOS report | **DM** | Open |
| 5.5.3 | Action to look at taking TACOS forward. | **GG & MH** | Open |
| 6.5.1 | Action to send DM links to papers that show going open access has increased user numbers | **DP** | Open |
| 6.6.1 | Action to send to DM information on the workflow for updating Linked Date terminologies to disseminate to all | **PC** | Open |
| 6.6.2 | Action to send out a report on progress of the development of the Thesaurus of Cultural Heritage | **PC** | Open |