FISH-HEIRNET

Minutes of the Autumn Strategic Meeting, Cambridge

3rd Nov 2015 11.00 – 16.00

Present: Gillian Grayson, (EH & FISH Convener), Dan Miles, EH & FISH Co-ordinator), Louisa Mathews (ADS), David Thomas (RCAHMW), Mike Heyworth (CBA), Keith May (EH), Graham Tait (Devon HER), Peter McKeague (RCAHMS),   Donna Robinson (NT) Sally Carter (NMW), Marion Sknner (DAT). Dominic Oldman (BM), Sally Croft (Cambridge HER)

1.   Welcome and Apologies

GG welcomed everyone to the Autumn Strategic Meeting in Cambridge. She introduced the meeting and set out the agenda for the day. Apologies were received from Julian Richards and Phil Carlisle (EH).

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 see AOB

No Matters Arising

4   Morning Strategic Session introduced by Mike Heyworth

4.1 National Strategies review - Mike Heyworth

MH introduced the morning strategic session by giving an overview of where the UK sector is with national historic environment strategies (including Scottish Archaeological Strategy, SHED, HIAS), government policies and papers, eg the Welsh Heritage Bill and the UK government's White Culture Paper. He described the difference between the approaches taken by England, Scotland and Wales – for example the Welsh Heritage Bill and strategy is minister led. Although there are many differences in approaches and ownership there is one common thread across all the historic environment strategies which is the austerity agenda – which is manifested by the need to work in partnership / collaboration. MH explained about how Heritage 2020 (managed by the Historic Environment Forum) fits into this and the potential for collaborative work through it. Although Heritage2020 is English focused there could be potential for further collaborations. GG said that HIAS fits into Heritage2020 under the Understanding Heritage 2020 working.

There are many changes with the national bodies – HE and EH split in England, RCAHMS & Historic Scotland merging, and potential mergers in Wales. This makes collaborative working across the UK more difficult. The situation in Northern Ireland is difficult due to financial constraints and lack of strategic approaches. However, PM said that Scotland are working closer with colleagues in NI and looking to continue this under European projects. The potential for future collaborative work under European projects was discussed as a way forward – highlighted by the role of ADS in various projects, including EUROPEANA.

4.2   National Historic Environment Information Strategies review (SHED, HIAS, Welsh Heritage Bill)

The meeting discussed various issues in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Wales - DT

DT fed back on current initiatives in Wales, and focused on the ways that the Historic Environment Data Standards Working Group for Wales (HEDSWG) is looking at ways to improve mechanisms for sharing data. There is also a focus on promoting the publicly available aggregation of all Welsh heritage data on the historicwales.gov.uk portal. A new set of Welsh language standards has been issued by the Welsh Language Commissioner, which includes publishing all web pages in English and Welsh. RCAHMW is applying for an exemption for descriptive data in Coflein. The new Historic Environment (Wales) Act became law in March 2016, and includes a statutory duty on Welsh ministers to maintain historic environment records. There is also a duty to compile and maintain a list of historic place names, which is being taken forward by RCAHMW.

Scotland - PM

PM updated the group on the launch of the Scottish Archaeology Strategy at EAA Glasgow in September

and that a draft implementation strategy was being developed for SHED. A workshop on Nov 25th will be contributing to this. However, resourcing issues have been identified. PM spoke about the success of Canmore and the value of voluntary contributions.

The group discussed different egs of voluntary contributions, eg to the Welsh People's Collection and the Trust's Archwilio app, Canmore in Scotland and the NT's heritage records online. All discussed the pros and cons, benefits and issues, for example monitoring and data quality/assurance. The various apps were discussed and there was thought to be a need to review the different apps created and being used by the various projects (eg CBA Home Front app).

England - KM

KM gave a ppt presentation (see website) that set out the timetable for this phase of HIAS, some of the business modeling that was being undertaken and the development of HERALD.

MH summed up by identifying 3 main points:

1   There are different ways of doing things in the UK but we all have broadly the same aims – but we are not selling this very well.

2   We are all moving towards different ways of engagement – and there are lots of opportunities associated with this.

3   Changing technology – we will always be behind but we need standards behind these technologies and new ways of approaching things

MH suggests that we need to try and present all this to a broader audience, maybe through a day conference.

Another suggestion of an area to look at was Linked Data – its strategic use, issues with quality etc…

4.3   Discussion on the development of OASIS (HERALD) including BIAB

LM gave an update on the development of OASIS through the HERALD project which also includes the development of BIAB, the management of which has gone to the ADS. She gave an overview of the on-going OASIS redesign, with *lite*, *standard* and *plus* levels and a changed workflow. She spoke about Archaeology Scotland's publication Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) development as part of HERALD. She gave an update on HERALD Project Design and the plan of upcoming plan of work. She also mentioned the potential use of OASIS Lite in Wales to get grey lit into the ADS digital library.

5   Afternoon Session

5.1 INSPIRE (Peter McKeague)

PM spoke about how designated and undesignated historic environment site data in Scotland are considered to be part of INSPIRE (under the protected theme), and web map services and web feature services are published to provide this. He also noted that one of the benefits of INSPIRE was that the Ordnance Survey has changed their presumption to publish policy.

GT spoke about the position of English HERs with INSPIRE and that it had been presumed – the opposite to Scotland, that English HERs weren't covered by INSPIRE. SC said that in the Eastern region of England they were publishing the metadata rather than the data, which may be a way forward for tackling the role of INSPIRE.

5.2 ResearchSpace (Dominic Oldman)

Dominic gave a presentation on ResearchSpace. The objectives of this open source project were data enrichment, data harmonisation and investigating computer reasoning and interface. This is done using knowledge representation (representing meaning and information) and Semantic Web technologies; for example using tools for search rather than by thesauri.

The group discussed the different approach made by the Historic Environment community to developing vocabularies and the methods outlined by DO and how ResearchSpace could be potentially beneficial for HERs. PC was going to go to one of the workshops and could provide an update.

5.3 A Regional HER Review (Sally Croft, Cambridgeshire CC)

SC gave a review of the situation in the East of England including the number of full time staff (9 HERs, with 60 fte) which had gone up, but the number of permanent staff had fallen. Work was being done to look at staffing levels in certain areas to see if there is a dependency on the size of the local authority and the amount of development. She gave an overview of the type of work being undertaken in the region and the issues faced.

5.4 International updates (Louisa Mathews)

Louisa Mathews gave an update on ADS's involvement in various European Projects including ARIADNE and Lo Cloud.

6 AOB

HEIRNET register. It was talked about what was happening to this – how old is the list and where should it be hosted. It was agreed that further investigation was needed into this and that HIAS might be a way of taking it forward.

6.1 Action on HE to look into HEIRNET register as part of HIAS.

7   Next meetings:

Spring technical / working meeting to be held at the HIVE in Worcester May/June 2016? MIDAS revision to be included on the agenda.

7.1   Action on AN to organise this

FISH Strategic meeting (autumn) – Scotland? November 2016?

7.2   Action on PM to look at organising this.

Representation. It was decided that Sal Croft and Sam Mellonie will be attending members of the FISH committee, to represent the HBSMR User Group.

7.3   Action on DM to add SC and SM to the FISH committee

Appendix 1 Open Actions

No	FISH-HEIRNET Strategic Autumn Meeting: 18th Nov 2014	Owner	Notes
6.6.1	Action to send to DM information on the workflow for updating Linked Date terminologies to disseminate to all	**PC**	Open
No	**FISH-HEIRNET Strategic Autumn Meeting: 18th Nov 2015**	Owner	Notes
6.1	Action to look into HEIRNET register	HE	Open

7.1	Action to organise the Spring FISH meeting	AN	Open
7.2	Action to organise the 2016 Strategic meeting in Scotland	PM	Open
7.3	Action to add SC and SM to the FISH committee	DM	Open