



HEIRNET

FISH-HEIRNET

Minutes of the Autumn Strategic Meeting, Edinburgh

29th Nov 2016 9.30 – 12.15 & 13.00 – 16.30

Present: Gillian Grayson, (HE & FISH Convener), Dan Miles, HE & FISH Co-ordinator), Julian Richards (ADS), David Thomas (RCAHMW), Mike Heyworth (CBA), Keith May (HE), Graham Tait (Coventry HER), Peter McKeague (HES), Kirsty Lingstadt (HES), Emma O’Riordan (SOCANTSCOT), Sarah Poppy (HE), Robin Turner (HES), Stefan Sagrott (HES), Stephanie Leith (SCOTSMR),

1. Welcome and Apologies

GG welcomed everyone to the Autumn Strategic Meeting in Edinburgh, and thanked HES for very kindly hosting the meeting and PM for making all the arrangements. GG introduced the meeting and set out the agenda for the day. Apologies were received from the PAS.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Actions from the Last FISH-HEIRNET Meeting

There was a discussion on the future of HEIRNET Register, including the difficulties of maintaining a register up to date and the various models that could be used (but would require resource). JR commented that the information in the Register is in ArchSearch. One potential option is to host it on Heritagedata website. Also the UK JISC data discovery service was about to go live which could highlight the archaeology subsection.

No Matters Arising

4. Morning Strategic discussion session

Introduction to the morning session – Gillian Grayson (HE)

4.1 The European dimension – Julian Richards (ADS)

- **Update on European projects & Brexit**

Julian Richards introduced challenges facing us with BREXIT, though it was difficult to discuss in detail as we still have no details but he did talk about the impact of this uncertainty on involvement of British researchers in European projects, a risk of a brain drain, reduction of European research funding (ADS gets 40% of its funding from Europe) and a more inward looking agenda for Britain.

He also highlighted some positives, including the Horizon 2020 funding stream is still available for at least 2 years and other European funding that is not EU and therefore not affected – eg the COST actions (not large grants but for networking/training/conferences), which pre dates the EU. There is also potential for European Research Council funding that may be important. Plus there are potential opportunities outside of Europe, e.g. North and South America, China, Australasia etc...

JR also spoke about various projects that may be of interest to UK heritage:

DARIAH, E-RIHS - Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science, E-RIHS UK, COST actions (non EU ARKWORK project, SEADDA (aim to help countries set up digital archives – Saving European Archaeology from a Digital Dark Age) and the European Detector database – this last project could be interesting as it could include harmonising vocabularies and including data standards.

Discussion on the potential for the European Detector Database – PC & DM spoke about the start of a project to look at English archaeological reference collections and that could be useful for this European project as it could be used for multilingual vocabularies. DT also spoke about the move towards developing more multi lingual vocabularies in Wales and would be interested in seeing how multilingual vocabularies are being implemented and used in systems.

4.1.1 Action on DM and PC to get in touch with Metaldetector databases

Group discussed the potential for HEIRNET to be more European focused – e.g. inviting representatives of European projects to talk at the meetings and post on the FISH Forum email group.

4.1.2 Action on DM & JR to look at the potential of European involvement in FISH-HEIRNET – inviting representation and promoting the use of the FISH Forum to European projects

4.1 Strategic updates – chaired by Mike Heyworth (CBA)

- **The wider context and changes in planning and other policies across the UK – Mike Heyworth**
- **Round up of strategies/ initiatives & projects of wider interest – Reps of National Organisations (HE, RCAHMW, HES)**

MH introduced the national strategies session summing up changes to the historic environment sector in the UK, including the Welsh planning policy chapter on heritage, a new policy statement in Scotland and the creation of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and in England challenging changes including permissive development increasing, brownfield register and the introduction of Permission in Principle. The push in England for new housing could have a real impact on how the historic environment is considered within planning. Another important change is to aggregate environment schemes (in particular after BREXIT).

From a marine perspective, the UK is more joined up, but we are seeing a more divergent approach, eg the big impact of Dover dredging which have highlighted commercial pressures v. heritage protection.

MH said that we have some really good heritage champions in Parliament but we need more and a bigger voice.

MH updated the group on the implications of implementing The Hague Convention (1954) and that Scheduled Monuments were not on the list. It wouldn't be possible to protect all the SAMs, but there is the need to highlight some.

MH ended with the continuing changes and challenges to the planning system there may be a need to look at the whole area of local and national significance and there is the potential that may be the current/traditional heritage protection model could be shaken up.

4.2 National Strategy summaries

Scotland strategic update (Robin Turner)

Our Place in Time is the sector's strategy for the historic environment in Scotland & HES was given more responsibility for making it happen by bringing the sector together to work collectively to achieve the aims. There is some nervousness around changes to the planning system but the update of the Scottish historic environment policy was useful, making it fit for purpose within the current policy framework.

There is a new initiative "What's your heritage" which is a long term process looking into what the public values of the historic environment so that it can be acknowledged and protected. It will bring more public and expert opinion together which could have an impact on for example designation, to take into account public opinion/perception of the historic environment.

The [Archaeology Strategy](#) is being implemented under 5 key aims. Scotland's Historic Environment Data

Strategy (SHED) was also being taken forward, there was a workshop last November and the implementation plan has been published. The full implementation plan is available online at: <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/shed/> and a summary of activity during 2015-16 is available at: <http://smrforum-scotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SHED-2015-16-Summary.pdf>

There may be changes to planning policies eg permitted development etc.... but wait and see.

SL updated the meeting from the perspective of the Scottish SMR Forum on local authority staff cuts – eg Highlands from 3 to 2, Dumfries 2 to 1 and the Western Isles from 2 to 1. The focus was now firmly on planning with limited time for other commitments. The SHED strategy is great but there are limited resources and there had been a drop off in the SMR Technical Group workshop attendance.

Wales strategic update (Dave Thomas)

There is currently a review of heritage organisations in Wales, which is investigating better ways of working, particularly with regard to back office and commercial functions. The review is due to be delivered to Welsh Government at the end of January 2017.

As a result of the new Historic Environment (Wales) Act that was passed in March 2016, Cadw have published their on-line designations database Cof Cymru. The HERs are preparing to become statutory, and are reviewing their content and scope to comply with the definition in the Act, and liaising with local authorities and other public bodies over ways the services will be delivered. The Royal Commission have started work on a list of historic place names.

New Welsh language standards are also having an impact, and work is underway to translate controlled terminologies and to increase Welsh language descriptive content.

PM spoke about Scott's Gaelic vocabulary being mapped to controlled vocabulary concepts, but they were not being published on Canmore. There was a new Gaelic HES officer but as of yet there wasn't a legislative driver as there is in Wales.

England strategic update

KM gave an update on the progress of HIAS.

The principle of Historic England working with Local authorities to enhance and rationalise national and local heritage records has been included in the government's Culture White Paper with a broader ten year timescale for the longer-term objectives.

HIAS is now into the 3rd Phase of the programme which is covering development of systems and updating of processes, including the work on the HERALD project for upgrade of OASIS. KM gave information on two new business mapping projects on historic built environment data and HE internal systems (AMIE).

Overall there will be eleven work packages in Phase 3, most of them continuations from the work packages in phase 2 but with additional inclusion of a work package on Heritage Reference Data being led

by Phil Carlisle and a Training and Benefits work package led by Sarah Poppy, the HIAS Programme Manager and Keith May.

Further information on Phase 3 of HIAS, along with reports from the completed HIAS phase 2, is available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/heritage-information-access-strategy/>

KM also spoke about the potential for big data projects of Heritage information, contributing to science funding and projects. JR and KM said that there may be risks that others look at historic environment big data projects and we were not involved and there could be issues with lack of standards and quality issues. This led to a brief discussion on potential issues with reuse of data projects and that we want to encourage people to reuse data but we want it to be reused well!

GG spoke about the importance of HIAS being included in the Culture White Paper. This is an important driver for taking the strategy forward. GG also spoke about the success of opening up the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) as a crowdsourcing project to allow user generated content to “Enrich the List”.

GG updated the meeting on the introduction of enhanced advisory services, which were now operating smoothly, and the strategic importance of Government disposals, infrastructure and Heritage Action Zones

GT gave an update from the HER ALGAO committee on the continued squeezing of resources (30% cut in English local authority staff from the recent Landward [Archaeological Market Report 2016](#). HIAS is seen as a positive move to making data more accessible and taking the strain off HER staff.

DM told the meeting that the new [Historic England Research Strategy](#) was out at the end of November/beginning of December.

4.3 Discussion on the role of FISH-HEIRNET – chaired by Gillian Grayson

What is the role for FISH-HEIRNET in supporting more joined up approaches in areas of common strategic interest?

The meeting discussed the role of FISH and HEIRNET. There is still a role for the strategic FISH-HEIRNET meeting to discuss and share ideas, provide advice amongst the national agencies, local authorities and organisations. Very much still a role for this – for example shared issues – e.g. what to do about open reuse of data. With dwindling resources, there is also the need to look at how we can contribute to individual strategies and shared aims and objectives. There are a number of shared projects e.g. OASIS and BIAB which need cross border input and engagement. There is also the issue of resources needed to maintain standards and who was responsible for this. An example is the Heritagedata website with shared Linked data vocabularies – but is funded and resourced by HE.

It was noted that there was limited engagement of the academic sector with FISH-HEIRNET and that this could be improved.

There was still a role for FISH – maintaining and developing standards, lists, terminologies etc.. Due to reduced T&S and time commitments maybe arranging FISH and FISHTWG meetings on the same day could be arranged. The role of FISH working groups was talked about, FISHTWG is a working group of FISH and has an important role – maybe this working group is actually the future of FISH.

5 AOB

JR brought up the future of the Portable Antiquity Scheme (PAS). The PAS database is now used by academics more than HERs, however there are issues with staffing, funding, software and the data structure which is old with no strategic support and will soon not be fit for purpose. In April 2017 a new 3 year funding agreement is due but does not include investment in the database – which does require considerable re-investment. The ADS are investigating taking a backup copy and MH said that a 3 year strategy was being developed by the stakeholders.

DM spoke about a project in England to look at developing a database that can be used for ceramic fabric and form types for county, regional and national ceramic reference resources. This could be extended to other types of archaeological object types and the potential for the ARCHES platform to do this was being looked into.

DM also spoke about the development of the Know Your Place South West that was putting HER data online alongside old mapping and community generated content. This was a 300k HLF project that was contributing to community engagement as well as heritage projection. The relationship of this site and the Heritage Gateway should be investigated.

GG informed the meeting that she would be stepping down as Convenor. DT has accepted to take on the role and DM for the time being will stay as FISH Secretary to support the transition of convenor. GG thanked Dan Miles for all his support over the years and wished DM well in his new role as Convenor.

KM asked the meeting to thank Gill Grayson for her role as FISH-HEIRNET convenor for the past 5 Years.

6 Next meetings:

The next FISH-HEIRNET strategic meeting has been proposed to take place in Wales in November 2017 – potentially at the RCAHMW offices in Aberystwyth.

The summer FISH technical meeting date will be arranged, potentially on the same day as the FISHTWG summer meeting.

6.1 Action on DM and DT to organise venues and dates.

7 Open Afternoon Session

Presentations from the sessions at the open meeting are available from the [FISH website](#)

13.00 – 13.25	Ian MacKay	Improvement Service:	Spatial Hub
13.25 – 13.45	Julian Richards	Archaeology Data Service	The Ariadne Portal
13.45 - 14.50	Peter McKeague	Historic Environment Scotland	Enhancements to Canmore Mapping
13.50 – 14.10	Phil Carlisle	Historic England	The Thesaurus of Cultural Heritage
14.10– 14.25	5 minute round up of Heritage Strategies		
	Keith May	Historic England	Heritage Information Access Strategy
	Robin Turner	Historic Environment Scotland	Scotland’s Historic Environment Data Strategy
	David Thomas	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	Welsh Language Standards
14.25 - 14.45	Discussion and coffee		
14.45 – 15.05	Peigi MacKillop	Historic Environment Scotland	Scotland’s Urban Past
15.05 – 15.25	Julian Richards	Archaeology Data Service	OASIS redevelopment and ADS Library
15.25 – 15.45	Dan Miles	Historic England	Moving on from OASIS – creating knowledge from information - developing a digital platform for English Research Frameworks
15.45 – 16.05	Emma O’Riordan	Society of Antiquaries of Scotland	ScARF : Scottish archaeology as a regional jigsaw – creating localised frameworks.
16.05- 16.15	Close		

Appendix 1 Open Actions

No	FISH-HEIRNET Strategic Autumn Meeting: 29 th Nov 2016	Owner	Notes
4.1.1	Action to get in touch with Metaldetector database European project about standards and thesauri	DM, PC & JR	
4.1.2	Action to look at the potential of European involvement in FISH-HEIRNET – inviting representation and promoting the use of the FISH Forum to European projects	DM & JR	

6.1	Action to organise venues and dates for the next FISH technical summer and FISH-HEIRNET November strategic meetings	DM & DT	
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