SMR News

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A Note from the Editor
Martin Newman, English Heritage

Welcome to the 12th issue of SMR News and a happy New Year to all readers. I know this piece is normally a note from the chair but as Emma is on maternity leave I've stepped in to say a few words.

It has been quite a busy time since the last issue: there was a very good meeting of the SMR User Group in Leicester chaired by Jason Siddall in Emma's absence. This included a presentation by Stewart Bryant on the future direction of SMRs which led to an excellent debate. Although Lord Renfrew's amendment on statutory status was withdrawn this was still a very timely discussion. The results of this have been written up by Stewart for this issue. The afternoon session saw presentations including one on the involvement of SMRs in FISH by Edmund Lee and another on the HITITE project by Philip Carlisle, both of which have been turned into articles for this issue.

The HBSMR User Group Meeting in Preston

There was also a meeting of the HBSMR Users Group in Preston, at which exeGesIS demonstrated the next release of the software (v2.1) which will be available at the end of January.

GIS functionality was a major talking point following on from the FISH e-conference and the GIS paper produced by a sub-group of users. The meeting also had a presentation from Jason Siddall on a project to standardise SMR terminology for archive types and events, details of which are also appearing here.

This issue also contains pieces from Dave Barrett on ALGAO liaison and Adrian Brown from the Centre for Archaeology on their data management. I hope you'll find it interesting reading.

The next SMR User Group is already being planned. The topic of finds recording in SMRs has been suggested for the discussion session at the next meeting. Suggestions for presentations have been copyright and impact of the Freedom of Information Act. If you have any suggestions for this or the next Issue of SMR News please let me know on martin.newman@rchme.co.uk.

The ALGAO English Heritage SMR Working Group: Update on Recent Progress
Stewart Bryant, Hertfordshire County Council

The ALGAO English Heritage SMR Working Group was set up 18 months ago in order to develop a joint agenda for developing SMRs. This followed the publication of the joint co-operation statement between EH, RCHME and ALGAO (*Unlocking the*

Past for the New Millennium (RCHME, ALGAO & EH, 1998) and the Baker report on SMRs (*An Assessment of English Sites and Monuments Records,* (Baker, 1997)). The Working Group comprises David Miles, Nigel Clubb, Gillian Grayson, Matthew Stiff and Dave Batchelor from English Heritage, and Jan Wills (Chair), Stewart Bryant (Secretary) and Dave Barrett (SMR Committee Chair) from ALGAO. In addition, Paul Gilman from Essex County Council has also been co-opted for some meetings.

The importance of Working Group's role has been enhanced since the political profile of SMRs was dramatically raised following the proposed amendment to make them a statutory responsibility of Local Government, as part of the Culture and Recreation Bill at the end of the last Parliament. Although the Bill and the amendment fell, the need for SMRs to be properly defined and have a clear development strategy, has been recognised by government (see page 15 of the recent Government Statement on Historic Environment Policy, *The Historic Environment a Force for Our Future*, (DCMS, 2001)). The confusion over the acronym 'HERC' - which first appeared in Power of Place - has also stimulated debate and the need to have a clear definition of SMRs (see also David Miles article in SMR news no. 11, p.1).

In the spring of 2001, the Working Group, therefore, set itself a deadline to produce a framework document on defining and developing SMRs by the end of 2001 and for this then to be developed into a joint policy document by April 2002.

The Draft Framework Document
The document is entitled *Guidance on National Definitions and Standards for SMRs: Draft Framework*. Its most important suggestion is that the definition and development of SMR should occur in two stages.

Stage 1 is proposed to be a basic, robust and clear definition and standard that will, hopefully, include most current SMRs. Criteria for the standard include:

1. Evidence that the SMR is used for planning & management, education and research, and has some public access,
2. Appropriate qualifications and training for SMR staff,
3. Existence of policies on access, education and research,
4. The SMR is computer-based and actively managed,
5. The SMR has core data fields,
6. The SMR has a development plan.

Stage 2 is a currently less well-defined 'enhanced' standard for SMRs, which would lead to them eventually becoming Historic Environment Records 'HERs'

Provisionally, Stage 2 would include the following:

1. Inclusion of buildings and other historic environment data sets (e.g. historic landscape characterisation and Intensive/Extensive Urban Survey data),
2. Enhanced public access to appropriate SMR data via the Internet,
3. Adoption of a GIS standard,
4. Prioritised reduction of data backlogs to an appropriate level.

The draft framework document was discussed in two 'workshop' sessions at the last SMR Forum meeting on 26th October. Many useful suggestions came out of the discussion and – where possible- these have been incorporated into a revised draft. This has been circulated to the ALGAO SMR Committee, and is available, upon request from Caroline Ingle (caroline.ingle@essexcc.gov.uk).

The Next Steps
The framework document will be developed into a joint policy document early in the New Year by Gill Chitty, as an English Heritage funded project. The project will be monitored by the Working Group and there will be a consultation exercise, including the SMR community, before it is finalised. It is intended that the joint policy statement will form a key part of the forthcoming Government consultation on SMRs mentioned in the Government Statement on Historic Environment Policy.

References
ALGAO English Heritage SMR Working Group, 2001, *Guidance on National Definitions and Standards for SMRs: Draft Framework*

Baker, D. & Baker, E., 1997, *An Assessment of English Sites and Monuments Records*

DCMS, 2001*, The Historic Environment, a Force for Our Future*, www.culture.gov.uk/heritage/historic_environment_review.html

Miles, D, 2001*, Sites and Monuments Records or Historic Environment Record Centres? A Problem of Terminology*, in *SMR News, Issue No. 11*, available at www.english-heritage.org.uk

RCHME, ALGAO & EH, 1998, ALGAO, *Unlocking the Past for the New Millennium*

The Centre for Archaeology and Heritage Information Systems

Adrian Brown, Head of Information Management & Collections, EH CfA

The English Heritage Centre for Archaeology (CfA) and its predecessors (the Central Excavation Unit and the Central Archaeology Service) have been carrying out archaeological fieldwork since 1975. To date, we have conducted nearly 500 separate projects, on sites across England. The CfA has been using databases to manage information about these projects since 1990, and in 1997 we developed our current system, CASPAR (CAS Projects and ARchives), using Microsoft Access 97. CASPAR is a historic environment information resource system designed to provide the following functions:

- To hold core data on each project and the associated fieldwork events.

- To manage a catalogue of the documentary archive associated with each project.

- To track registered files associated with each project.

It is designed to hold both project management and archaeological information, and effectively acts as an in-house SMR for CfA projects, with an integrated collections management system for the associated archives. Compatibility with established data standards was considered essential, and CASPAR was designed in accordance with the *Recording England's Past* data standard (RCHME, 1993), adopting the Monument-Event-Archive model. In order to be compatible with our project management practices, this model was expanded to include the concept of a project, whereby a project may comprise one or more events, each taking place on one monument. Subsequently, minor modifications have been made to the data model to ensure continued compatibility with *MIDAS*. Wherever possible, standard terminologies such as the *Thesaurus of Monument Types* (RCHME/EH, 1998) and those adopted by the *Inscription* initiative (FISH, 2001) are also used.

At the heart of the system is the project record (see Figure 1), which holds core information about the project.

Figure 1: The Project Record

Linked to each project record may be one or more fieldwork event records (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: The Event Record

Also linked to the project record is the detailed documentary archive catalogue (see Figure 3), which is based on the CfA model for archival description (see Brown & Perrin, 2000).

Figure 3: The Archive Item Record

CASPAR was designed in part with the aim of simplifying data exchange with the NMR and SMRs. At the completion of each project, data is submitted to the appropriate SMR, and to the NMR Signposting team, for inclusion in the Excavation Index. Conformance with *MIDAS* means that we are able to supply data in a format which can be easily imported into other heritage information systems. Although we primarily supply this data on paper, we are also able to provide it in electronic form, normally as delimited text files or Access 97 tables, and have successfully supplied large quantities of records to the NMR digitally.

The CfA is now seeking to disseminate this information to a wider audience, principally via the Internet. Metadata on all CfA projects currently recorded on the NMR's Excavation Index is now available via the Archaeology Data Service's on-line catalogue. In the near future, under the umbrella of our Digital Archiving Programme, we intend to enhance those records through the addition of high-level metadata signposting the digital archives associated with those projects. Finally, we hope to use the on-line form developed by the OASIS project to allow fully electronic delivery of our data.

Bibliography

Brown, A. & Perrin, K., 2000, *A model for the description of archaeological archives*, English Heritage

FISH, 2001, *Inscription*, www.inscription.org.uk, mda

RCHME, 1993, *Recording England's Past: A Data Standard for the Extended National Archaeological Record*

RCHME/English Heritage, 1998, *Thesaurus of Monument Types*, 2nd edition,

Management Information Development

Jason Siddall, National Trust

As you no doubt know we have been focussing on the development of management information in SMRs since summer 2001. Martin has asked me to report back to you on the progress of this development. You would all be forgiven for thinking this has been put on hold, seemingly gone a little quiet. Actually, that couldn't be further from the truth. As you will have seen in the last issue of SMR News, a small article was written discussing the issues surrounding management (I would be grateful to receive comments on that).

The National Trust archaeology staff is conducting a number of research projects to develop our understanding of the issues and critical areas of inclusion that are required to develop a practical management information component to HBSMR, the system produced by exeGesIS SDM Ltd. These include a review of monitoring terms and content, base line research into the fields and terminology needed to record management information (in effect this may well form the MIDAS Information Scheme), and drafting basic designs for how we apply the new forms to HBSMR.

Originally I had envisaged that we should have this completed by December, however we feel that such research is key to the form being useful and the standards that under pin it are strong enough to be applicable to all SMR's (irrespective of HBSMR). One such research project is being conducted by our research assistant who been asked to look at monitoring and management terminologies used in SMR's throughout the UK. If you do record such information and would like to be involved I would be grateful if you could contact me so I can pass on your details. I hope the research will be completed by spring of next year and I will ensure that you receive the final results which will represent a baseline line review. As the results become available I will seek to hold an open forum with all interested parties to develop the standards, content and terminologies for recording management information. I would welcome any comments, and for those of you that have or intend to contacted me concerning this development I will ensure that you are involved in the research and its development.

Development of archive & sources and monument terminology,

This project is a joint initiative being run by The National Trust, English Heritage (Data Service Unit) and FISH (Forum on Information Standards in

Heritage). I would like to invite as many people as possible to be included in the development of these terminologies.

The peer review will shortly be coming to an end. Once this has been completed the results will be processed and made available to as wide an audiences as possible.

Aim:
1. To review and develop an understanding of current practices in recording archive types on heritage recording systems.
2. To develop content and terminology standards for Monument Status, Source and Archive type lookups held in heritage recording systems.
3. To improve consistency of terminology used for key tables within heritage recording systems.
4. To improve and enable ease of data exchange between county SMR's, English Heritage and The National Trust.
5. To develop accepted procedures for the development of terminology and content standards.
6. To broaden the scope of inclusion in the MIDAS information scheme "Bibliography, Documentary Archive and Objects"
7. To increase the debate within the HBSMR community for dealing with data standards in key lookup tables.
8. Increase and promote liaison between users.

Key Dates

19/10/2001	Project management, design and scope (final draft documents).
1/11/2001	Monument Status Terminology Research Publication
8/11/2001	Presentation of the project at the HBSMR User Group
29/11/2001	Presentation of the project to FISH
19/11/2001	Contact details obtained for peer review members.
30/11/2001	Draft terminology list for Monument Status and Source & Archives sent out for peer review.
10/12/2001	Peer Review begun (including an e-mail discussion on the FISH forum list and paper review).
10/1/2001	Completion of Peer Review.
25/1/2001	Monument Status and Source & Archives Terminology finalised and placed inscription website.

Towards a Data Content Standard for UK Sites and Monuments Records

Edmund Lee, English Heritage

This article sets out how the MIDAS data content standard can be applied to the needs the UK SMR community, and in particular the English SMRs. It is intended to contribute to the current discussion on the statutory status of SMRs – but let me emphasise at the outset that data content standards are only one aspect of that discussion (see fig 1).
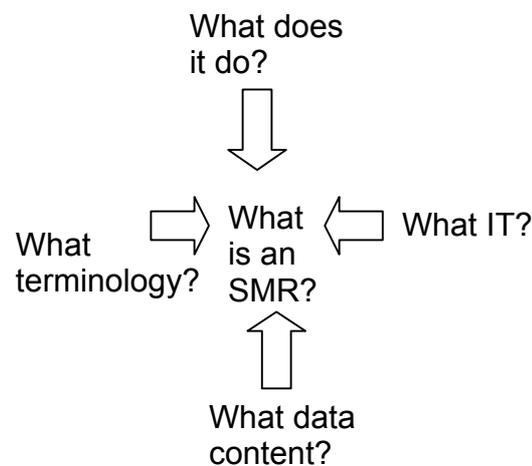

Fig 1 Issues in Data Standards for SMRs

The first principle is that data must follow function. It is the answer to the question 'What is an SMR for?' that must determine the data that they need. Stewart Bryant at the recent SMR User Group proposed a two level standard for SMRs – a basic functionality that all SMRs must strive to achieve, and a future definition of purpose to guide the development of SMRs over the next few years. What follows looks at a possible 'Basic' standard, with the assumption that the basic function of the SMR is its role in the planning system. This assumption may be incorrect, or over-simplistic, but it serves to illustrate the approach to developing a data content standard.

The next thing to in mind is that MIDAS was developed to meet a wide range of different recording requirements. It specifically and deliberately avoids a rigid definition of what is and what is not 'compliant' to the standard.

The consequence of this is that, within the MIDAS framework, a particular community of users must develop a specific content standard that meets their requirements. The MIDAS manual, in Part Two (pages 13 to 17, or online at www.rchme.gov.uk/midas/manual/define.html) sets out how to develop a MIDAS compliant content

standard. Each Information Scheme can be seen as a separate 'component' of a data standard that can be bolted together, lego-style, in different combinations to meet the needs of a particular community. The 'Names and References' scheme is the essential 'hub' onto which all the other schemes are attached (or – for more complex approaches – the scheme which glues together the different aspects of an inventory). A further refinement is that, within each Information Scheme there are both 'Recommended' and additional units of information, so that each Information Scheme could be included in the SMR standard in either greater or lesser detail.

Note also that there may be information that is required by a particular community that is not currently included in MIDAS. That's fine – but these additional units of information will need to be defined by the community in the same way as those in the standard to ensure that they are used consistently. Paul Gilman, for example has suggested an additional unit of 'Final Outcome' to record the end results of planning cases (e.g. permission to demolish was refused on the recommendation of the SMR – the building remains standing). Details of additional units will need to be discussed and agreed – and may be incorporated into future editions of MIDAS. (See Fig 2)
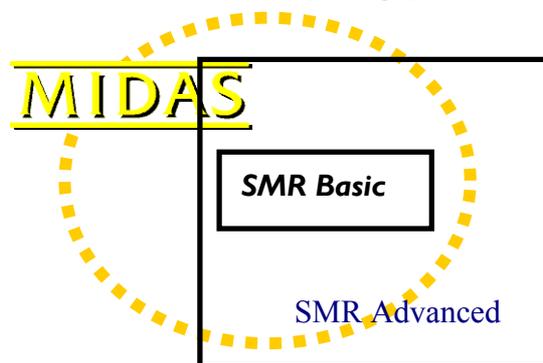
MIDAS and the SMR standards.
The Basic standard is more rigidly defined within the looser structure of MIDAS. The Advanced standard contains the Basic standard, and more of the MIDAS standard, and may define areas beyond the scope of MIDAS. MIDAS may also contain information that is not (or not yet) relevant to SMRs.

Fig 2 Overlap of the MIDAS and SMR Standards

So, let's look at the Basic content standard. The essential requirement here is to be able to identify sites that require consideration within the planning system. Just to get started, let's assume that this means taking just the recommended units of information from the Information Schemes 'Names and References', 'Monument Management', 'Monument Character' and 'Location'. This gives us a list of the following units of information. This leaves out Events, People and Organisations and the

awkwardly named 'Bibliography, Documentary Archive and Objects'. Let me repeat – this is just an illustration of how a basic standard might be derived, and the SMR community may require that some or all of these are included too, even in the Basic standard.

Primary Reference Number
Date of Compilation
Date of Last Update
Name
Description
Compiler
External Cross-reference Other Inventory Number
External Cross-reference Other Inventory Name

Protection Grade
Protection Status
Management Proposal Name
Management Proposal Recommendation
Management Proposal Work Proposed
Management Proposal Outcome
Management Proposal Type

Monument Type
Constructional Material
Period
Maximum Date
Minimum Date

O.S. Grid reference Easting
O.S. Grid reference Northing
O.S. Grid reference 100 km square
County
District
Parish

Full details of each unit available in Part 2 of MIDAS or at
www.rchme.gov.uk/midas/dictionary/index.html.

Defining such a list is the start of the process, but not its end. Beyond the remit of the current MIDAS standard are other issues that the SMR community will need to address. These include:

- technical details of each of the units of information,
- terminology used,
- where the data should properly originate,
- where it needs to be maintained
- technical standards for interoperability of datasets.

However the basic discussion of what needs to be recorded to meet the functional requirement for an SMR must task place first to inform these issues.

HITITE: The Heritage Illustrated Thesaurus. An Online Resource For Monument Identification

Phil Carlisle, English Heritage

1. Introduction

The HITITE project intends to develop an image-based thesaurus for the built heritage. The Thesaurus of Monument Types attempts to classify the structural remains of archaeological cultures as well as the more commonplace structures of the everyday built environment.

It contains over 6,300 terms relating to archaeological and architectural sites and monuments, many of which would be unfamiliar to the lay person.

Initially, using a subset of the terms contained within the Thesaurus of Monument Types, the HITITE project will build an interface allowing the user to interrogate databases indexed with terms from the thesaurus without the need to understand the terminology. This will be achieved by allowing the user to search for images of monuments or buildings he/she is interested in and then providing them with the appropriate term relating to the selected image.

2. Finding Information

The Internet is a powerful information resource and an excellent medium for knowledge sharing. However, at present searches on the Internet are reliant, to some degree or other, on the user having some knowledge of the subject area. This is particularly true when the subject area has its own specialized terminology.

How does a user know what keyword to use when searching for information on the humps and bumps which scatter the landscape of southern England, when they do not know that, what they are actually interested in, are barrows?

3. The HITITE solution

The project will initially build a demonstrator which will store definitive images of 500 terms used to record monument types in the National Monuments Record Centre database. These images will then be indexed with metadata relating to their shape, size, function, age, building materials etc.

By asking the user to answer questions relating to the monument they are interested in and matching their answers to these criteria it should be possible for him/her to retrieve images which resemble the monument they are interested in. (Figures 1 and 2).
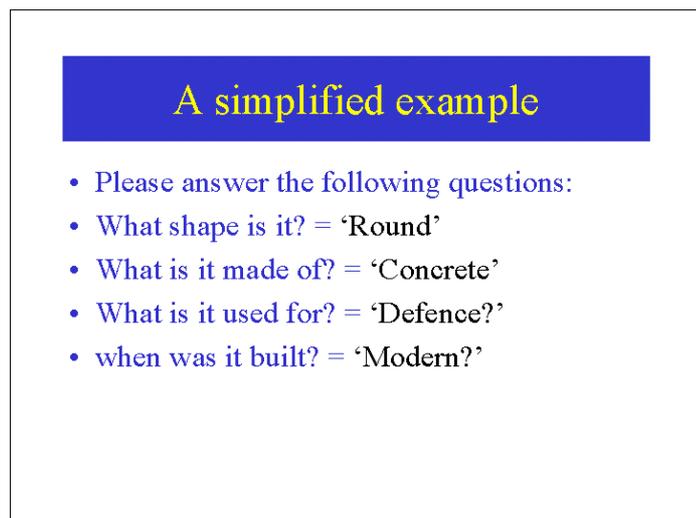

Figure 1: A simplified example of possible metadata associated with the definitive images.
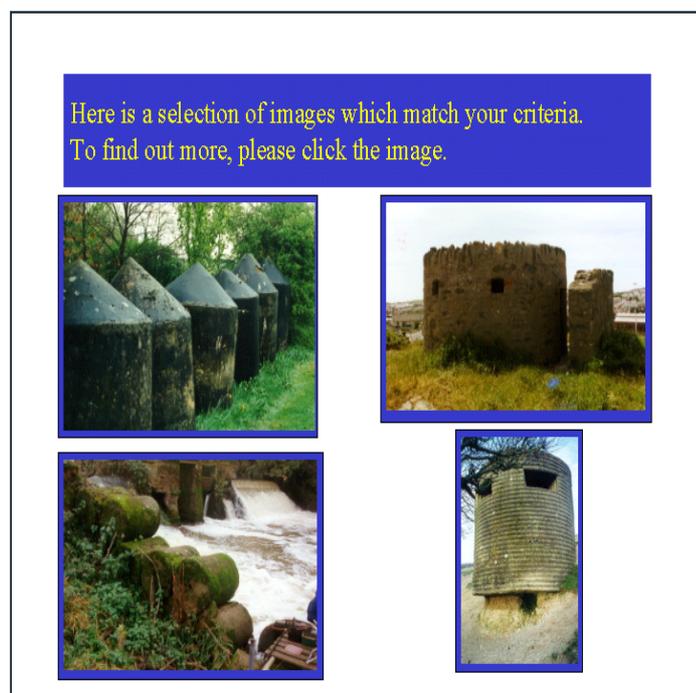
Figure 2: A sample of the results retrieved using the criteria.

These images, linked to the terminology used to them will allow the user to retrieve text based information from any source by simply using the image provided.

The project also intends to allow access through two other user interfaces.

The first interface will allow basic text-based Boolean searches for those already familiar with the terminology thus allowing direct access to the database without having to answer questions relating to the metadata.

The second interface will be a series of VR landscapes, each of which will relate to one of the classes used in the Thesaurus of Monument Types. For example, the user will be able to 'fly' over a virtual religious, ritual and funerary landscape populated with a church, graveyard, barrow, henge etc. By hovering over the 3D image, users will be able to get further information about the monument type as well as see images associated with it.

5.   Conclusion

The concept, from which the HITITE project stems, of answering questions to identify a given thing is not new, one need only look at Botanical field guides and taxonomies. However, we believe, it is the first time such an approach has been used for the identification of monument types.

Once the concept has been proven to work the project will be extended to include the remaining 5,800 terms, and more funding will be sought to extend the methodology to other thesauri used within the heritage sector as well as the possibility of a multi-lingual version.

Afterword

The contract for the HITITE Project was finally signed in September 2001 allowing the project to begin in October. The project team is currently working on the user-needs analysis.

The Future Co-ordination of SMR Groups/ Committees and ALGAO

Dave Barrett, Derbyshire County Council and Convenor of the ALGAO SMR Committee

Back in the summer Emma Jones circulated a message on SMR Forum about reorganising the relationships between the various groups and committees that have developed to address SMR matters. This was prompted by a concern that there was a growing communication problem between the different groups and a danger of conflicting messages or recommendations coming out from them. As Emma pointed out, there was discussed at the ALGAO SMR Committee back in July and the committee recommended that the User Group and the HBSMR User Group should in effect come under the ALGAO SMR Committee. The topic has since been discussed at the HBSMR User Group and there generally seems to agreement that this arrangement would be sensible.

It may be worth just saying a bit about the ALGAO SMR Committee as it may appear as a rather shadowy body to some people!   ALGAO (the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, for those of you who were embarrassed to ask!) has a number of specialist subject committees who deal with issues and help develop initiatives and policy, respond to various consultations and liase with other national organisations. These all report to an Executive Committee, which in turn has direct contacts with many national bodies in particular English Heritage and CADW, but also organisations like the Local Government Association and English Nature. Currently the SMR committee is chaired by me and is largely made up of SMR officers rather than ALGAO members. It deals with and has reports about, a whole range of issues concerning SMRs and records. In the past the committee has had a major input into developing projects and policy, exemplified by the Joint Co-operation Statement and the SMR Manual as well as the SMR Strategy which was launched at the IFA conference in Brighton in 2000.

The benefit of organising the groups this way is that it sets out a clear line of communication, both up and down, and it should ensure that we are all, hopefully, speaking with one voice on the issues which concern us. It also means that if there are any particular recommendations, problems or concerns identified by either the User group, or the HBSMR User Group, or indeed any other working parties which may be set up to deal with specific issues. These can be taken up by the Executive Committee at a suitably high level. For example, there is an ALGAO/EH SMR Working Party set up to deal with strategic issues, where concerns can be raised.

In practice the meetings of the various groups will need to be co-ordinated to ensure the most effective flows of information. The User Group and HBSMR User Group meetings should generally be closely followed by a meeting of the SMR Committee. This will allow any issues identified by the groups to be raised quickly. In addition the convenors of the groups should attend or at least send written reports to the SMR Committee. Equally we need to ensure that information is being passed down from the SMR Committee effectively. Currently all those on the SMR committee mailing list and all members of ALGAO receive copies of the minutes of the SMR committee so hopefully these are widely seen. If anyone is not seeing them please let me or Caroline Ingle know and we will try to ensure that you do.

I feel that this arrangement will be a positive step and will improve communication between us all. The whole issue of SMRs and records is a very live one at the moment and the coming year could be a very important one for SMRs, so it is important that we all know what is going on. I hope people do agree that it is a positive step, rather than an example of galloping megalomania on my part! However, if any

one has any problems with it or indeed any comments generally I would be happy to hear from them.

Assessing the Content of English SMRs

Martin Newman, English Heritage

During discussions at the SMR User Group meeting in Leicester it was suggested that a rapid assessment should be made of what each SMR actually holds/records in order to assist with the setting of a basic standard for SMRs. Although the HEIRNET project is providing some of this information the meeting felt that greater detail was required.

In order to provide this, a single page questionnaire has been drawn up and will be sent out shortly to every SMR Officer in England. Questions are also being asked about computerisation and GIS as it is a while since these areas have been assessed across the whole SMR community.

It would help greatly if all those who receive questionnaires could return them as quickly as possible. This will enable analysis to start so a report can be produced in time for the results to be presented at the next SMR User Group meeting.

News

Reports Available on the Web
Recently several reports which will be of interest to SMRs have been published on the web.

The Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions has published the Planning Green Paper, *Planning: Delivering a fundamental Change* It is available at:
www.planning.dtlr.gov.uk/consult/greenpap/

The Department for Culture Media and Sport has produced its response to EH's Power of Place entitled *The Historic Environment, a Force for Our Future*

www.culture.gov.uk/heritage/historic_environment_review.html.
Power of Place is itself available at www.english-heritage.org.uk
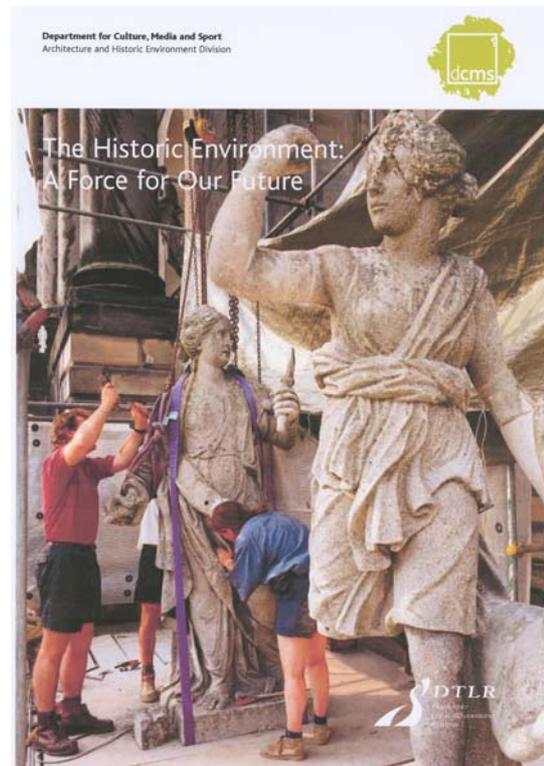
People
Bob Edwards has replaced Bruce Howard as the SMR Officer for Hampshire.

Paul Thompson is the Museum Archaeology Officer for Coventry.

Linda Smith, the SMR Officer for North Yorkshire is on secondment to DEFRA for one as an archaeological advisor/Countryside Stewardship project officer for the Yorkshire region. The secondment began on the 1st October.

Nick Boldrini, is the SMR Computing Officer for North Yorkshire County Council.

Emily Brants has become the new SMR Officer for Surrey.

Gillian Grayson, head of Heritage Data at the NMR will be going on maternity leave from the 18th January.

Other News
Congratulations to Cheshire SMR who have been awarded a grant of £104,000 by the HLF.

The next HBSMR Users Group meeting will be taking place in Shrewsbury on the 17th May, details to follow.

A volunteer is still required to host the next SMR User Group meeting, you will need to have a room available that can o accommodate circa 60 people.

The Data services Unit will shortly be producing a fact sheet on applying for HLF grants. We need to know what areas you would like to see covered. If you can help with either this of the SMR User Group meeting, please contact Martin Newman by emailing martin.newman@rchme.co.uk.

Using Sites and Monuments Records
A day course on using SMRs is being run by the University of Leeds on the 25th March. The course Tutor will be Stewart Bryant from Hertfordshire. The course is sponsored by EH in association with IFA and the Archaeology Training Forum.

The course will appeal to archaeologists and students of heritage management. The course is de signed to cater for those operating in independent, commercial, national agency, local authority or university environments and volunteers.

The objectives of the course are to provide an introduction to the structure and content of SMRs, including their history, management and policy framework. It will provide a guide to using SMRs as a component of field and research projects as well as how to present the results of SMR searches in reports and how to produce reports which can be readily assimilated into SMRs.

The background reading for the course is Informing the Future of the Past: Guidelines for SMRs (Fernie and Gilman), which is available from EH.

The courses is one in a series of one day courses in Professional Archaeology being run by the University of Leeds School of continuing Education. The fee for each course is £50. Further information is available from Carol Would, Tel – 0113 2336633 or email c.would@leeds.ac.uk

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If you wish to contribute to future editions of SMR News please contact Martin Newman at English Heritage, National Monuments Record Centre, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2GZ, phone – 01793 414718, fax – 01793 144770, email – martin.newman@rchme.co.uk.

MIDAS

Interested in Participating in a Peer review?

Where watercraft and aircraft are preserved in, or as, museums then the SPECTRUM standard should be used to document them. In many cases, watercraft and aircraft, through abandonment, or accidental or deliberate destruction, have become features of the archaeological landscape. The existing MIDAS standard for monument inventories will cater for a large part of the data relevant to these sites. However, there are areas unique to these increasingly high-profile subjects yet to be addressed; and so the time is now right to produce an annexe to MIDAS to cover the recording of such sites.

The completed draft will shortly be the subject of a peer review and will be circulated to any interested parties. If you would like to take part in this peer review please contact:

Kieran Byrne
Data Standards Supervisor
Data Services Unit
National Monuments Record Centre
Great Western Village
Kemble Drive
Swindon SN2 2GZ

Tel. 01793 414870
Email:
kieran.byrne@rchme.co.uk