



HEIRNET

FISH-HEIRNET

Minutes of the Autumn Strategic Meeting

1st Nov 2012 12.00 – 16.00

Present: Gillian Grayson, (EH & FISH Convenor), Dan Miles, EH & FISH Co-ordinator), Julian Richards (ADS), David Thomas (RCAHMMW), Leanne McCafferty (RCAHMS), Sarah Howard (CBA), Mike Heyworth (CBA), Phil Carlisle (EH), Keith May (EH), Mandy Roberts (EH), Isabel Holroyd (Consultant), Graham Tait (Devon HER), Nick Boldrini, Durham HER), Nick Poole (Collections Trust), Donna Robinson (NT), Dan Pett (BM), Roger Bland, BM.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Edmund Lee (EH), Victoria Bryant (Worcestershire CC) and Paul Cripps (Wessex).

GG and MH spoke about the background to why the two groups have come together to have joint meetings.
Attendees introduced themselves and the organisations they represent.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Two typos were corrected on the attendee list.
The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

MH spoke about Introduction to Standards and Guidance of Archaeological Practice (ISGAP), a suite of resources developed for community projects (<http://www.isgap.org.uk/>) and developing guidance for HLF funded digital projects.

GG spoke about the redevelopment of Informing the Future of the Past (IFP) as a Wiki.

PC explained about the SENESCHAL Project in which ADS are co-investigators with the University of Glamorgan.

3. Actions from the Last FISH-HEIRNET Meeting

See actions grid at back of minutes for open actions.

Actions 7.2, 7.3 (HEIRNET), 4.1 (FISH) and 2.3, 9.1, 10.1, 11.3.1, 11.4.1, 12.1, 15.7.1 (FISH-HEIRENT) all closed.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising

5. “Review of HEIRNET activities and products since 1998” – Mike Heyworth

MH gave a presentation on the background, activities and achievements of the HEIRNET group, starting with their main aims of developing a strategic vision of information management in the UK and encouraging collaboration and partnerships – the latter is still very relevant today. MH provided a time frame of the group and gave details about key reports as well as the creation of the HEIRNET Register and of HEIRPORT which was an early prototype of the popular cross-searchable catalogues/indexes in today's sector.

A discussion continued from this presentation:

Need for the HEIRNET Register

All discussed the need and future of the Register, which in its present condition is not being updated by ADS and is out of date. All agreed on the value of having a UK wide registry (rather than individual country ones – eg on the Heritage Gateway).

NB spoke about the need (from correspondence with Ed Lee) to maintain a registered name so as to uniquely identify datasets in the sector, to support functions such as automated data exchange or mash-ups of data from various sources.

All discussed the format of the Register – is this format still useful or is there a 21st century way of disseminating this information.

NB and SB enquired about updating the Register, JL said that in its present form it is not viable and there are resource implications.

All discussed whether it should be taken down, agreement was made that the Register stays up but with a disclaimer or “health warning” added to it by ADS.

The role and functionality of the Register needs to be discussed and decisions made on its future.

5.1 **Action** on JL to put a disclaimer / health warning on the Register.

5.2 **Action** on all to think about the future of the Register.

5.3 **Action** on MH to update the HEIRNET web pages

Role of HEIRNET

Discussion turned to the role of HEIRNET within the sector –did it want to “own” resources, deliver projects etc...

MH spoke about HEIRNET not being a delivery body but to provide a strategic and outward looking vision – it is a collaborative/sharing forum.
GT said that it was very important to link up resources, data etc and HEIRNET could be a way to promote this – through an advocacy role.
GG saw HEIRNET as providing the strategic vision and FISH delivering products.
NP introduced the concept of creating a “Commons” – possibly a “Heritage Commons” which could provide a platform for UK wide linking – strategically and technically.

- 5.4 **Action** on Ed Lee to look into Commons and liaise with NP on the establishment of the Cultural Commons.

Conference/Workshop

The idea of organising a conference/workshop on current issues and projects was brought up and discussed by all. The discussion talked about who could be involved and possible links with the current Getty project and other European projects.

All agreed that this was a good idea and should be investigated.

- 5.5 **Action** on GG to take forward the idea of organising a conference/workshop.

6. “Digital Libraries and the Digital Agenda for Europe” - Nick Poole

NP gave a PPT presentation on recent initiatives and funding opportunities within the European context. NP explained that the UK is often absent from the European agenda but that there were opportunities.

NP's presentation led to a discussion.

JR spoke about ADS involvement in European projects and that he believed HEIRNET could have a role to link to broader initiatives in Europe.

NP said that many issues of non engagement arise higher up at government level and that there is a need for a presence at meetings and providing a collective approach and voice.

All agreed there are opportunities but that this was a complicated area.

NP's presentation FISH_Digital_Libraries is available on the FISH Members File store.

7. Re-establishment of the BIAB Technical Panel

SH had circulated before the meeting a BIAB Update and Future Work paper (available on the FISH Members File store). She spoke about having better web stats and possible future plans for linking with other resources and re-establishing the BIAB Technical Panel.

SB/NB spoke about the possibility of linking with HER records – using BIAB for bibliographical sources.

KM spoke about the strategic need to look at the different resources and linking BIAB with OASIS.

JR thought this could be part of the User needs survey to develop OASIS.

SH said that Bournemouth Uni (AIP team) were looking at linking BIAB with OASIS reference numbers.

GG saw a need to have a broad strategy on this whole area.

DM suggested BIAB technical panel could be a FISH working group – as most of the attendees to FISH would be part of a Technical Panel.

MH/GG suggested BIAB become a standing item on the FISH-HEIRNET meeting agenda.

- 7.1 **Action** on DM and SH to liaise on setting up a FISH BIAB working group.
- 7.2 **Action** on GG/DM to have BIAB as a standing item on meeting agendas.

8. FISH Update

DM updated the meeting on progress from the latest FISH-HEIRNET Technical meeting including the completion of the updated MIDAS Heritage Version 1.1 which is available on the EH website: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/midas-heritage/>

DM said that most actions from the Spring Technical meeting were underway and that they would be reported on in the next technical meeting.

DM spoke about the FISH website development. MH offered training of the Drupal CMS system for the website (currently on CBA's server). DM talked about the investigation of using free website creation tools that would enable rapid updating and multiple cross-organisation editing access.

- 8.1 **Action** on DM to look at FISH website options

PC spoke about the establishment of the FISH TERMINOLOGY WORKING GROUP (FTWG) out of the ARCHAEOLOGY TERMINOLOGY WORKING GROUP (ATWG) and extending its remit from just archaeological controlled vocabulary to incorporate broader Historic Environment terminologies. Ultimately the aim was to establish FISH Thesauri that were approved by the sector through the working group. The group would meet prior to FISH-HEIRNET meetings and PC would report to the meetings.

He spoke about the need to broaden the membership and expertise and asked for ideas from the group. The attendees spoke about possible additions and ways to approach organisations, such as the National Trust, Northern Ireland and Manx National Heritage, PAS and IHBC.

- 8.2 **Action** on SB to ask at HER ALGAO for a representative
- 8.3 **Action** on IH to liaise with CILIP
- 8.4 **Action** on DR to find a National Trust representative.

9. Reports from Contributing Organisations

9.1 Report from CBA

MH reported on the restructuring of CBA, new colleagues and a new website with logo and community message. He reported on a growing membership and that they were about to undertake a review of resources and how the various products, sites etc link up.

9.2 Report from RCAHMW

DT reported that there was a lot going on at the Commission with the outcome of the government review in association with the findings of the Chitty report that identified overlaps between the service provision of CADW, RCAHMW and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. Various options for organisational change were now being looked into. DT also reported on the Heritage Bill for Wales which is due in 2014.

9.3 Report from RCAHMS

LM updated the meeting on the RCAHMS merger with Historic Scotland and heritage legislation that is due in 2014.

9.4 Report from the National Trust

Nothing to report.

9.5 Report from ADS

JR reported on the Wiki format Standards and Guidance good practice guides with Oxbow books publishing hardcopies.

JR reported on the Impact and Value project carried out by John Houghton and Neil Beagrie undertaken in spring 2012 and which will be in the public domain in 2013 and which highlights the economic benefit of data online.

JR reported that ADS were involved in two European projects:

- an infrastructure project, ARIADNE, in which PING (Italy) and ADS are co-leaders
- "Lo-Cloud" – the next stage of the Europeana project

JR also updated on the Bedern Group, that there is to be statement in the New Year on "value of data preservation" through an agreement to work on areas of best practice.

9.6 Report from Portable Antiquity Scheme

DP updated on the PAS that there were 500,000 visitors a year. Although there were very little funding for IT development a Sparkle End point was being developed. There was also a large HLF project funding groups to record PAS data.

9.7 Report from EH Capacity Building Team

DM and KM updated the meeting on the progress of the Information Access Strategy and the Research Resources Strategy.

9.8 Report from EH Heritage Data Management

MR reported increases in user numbers for the National Heritage List for England and that there were 50 resources now cross searchable on the Heritage Gateway with designation decision data soon to be added as a resource.

GG spoke about looking at the user journey and needing a better understanding of user access and use of the available data.

10. Future arrangements for HEIRNET and FISH

GG spoke about continuing the trial sharing of meetings between FISH and HEIRNET and that there wasn't a need to review the Terms of Reference of the groups. The two email lists were to be integrated.

10.1 **Action** on DM to look at integrating the FISH and HEIRNET email lists.

11. Agenda themes for the Spring Technical meeting

These were to be continued from the last Technical meeting.

12. AOB

GG spoke about organising a final training session through the ADS for the FISH Toolkit and asked for any interested parties.

GT and SB spoke of their interest and also that the HER Bespoke User Group should be asked.

12.1 **Action** on SB to send out an invite to BUG.

12.2 **Action** on DM to contact Peter McKeague about possible FISH Toolkit training.

Appendix 1 Open Actions

No	Joint FISH/HEIRNET Meeting: 11^h November 2011	Owner	Notes
11.5.1	Action to look at previous discussion on this matter relating to licensing	KN	Open – SJ to contact KN
No	FISH-HEIRNET Technical Spring Meeting: 14th May 2012	Owner	Notes
6.1	Action to look into the Midas Heritage Change No. 8 on Heritage Asset Management Activity.	PC/SB	Open for Fish Technical Meeting SB to post to HER Forum.
6.2	Action to speak to Mark Dunkley regarding Pt.15 Height Below Ordnance regarding marine depth below.	KJ	Open for Fish Technical Meeting
6.3	Action to look into the Mandatory link between Designation and Protection information group and Heritage Asset Theme.	PC	Open for Fish Technical Meeting
6.4	Action to check whether these changes will affect the HER Midas Heritage Compliance profile.	SB/PC	Open for Fish Technical Meeting
6.5	Action to carry out changes and correspond with SJ the changes required to Midas XML by next meeting.	PC (and Tanja Watson (TW))	Open for Fish Technical Meeting
No	FISH-HEIRNET Strategic Autumn Meeting: 1st Nov 2012	Owner	Notes
5.1	Action to put a disclaimer / health warning on the Register.	JL	Open
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
5.4	Action to look into Commons and liaise with NP on the establishment of the Cultural Commons.	EL	Open
5.5	Action to take forward the idea of organising a conference/workshop.	GG	Open
7.1	Action to liaise on setting up a FISH BIAB working group.	DM, SH	Open
7.2	Action to have BIAB as a standing item on meeting agendas.	GG/DM	Open

8.1	Action to look at FISH website options	DM	Open
8.2	Action to ask at HER ALGAO for a representative on FTWG 8.5	SB	Open
8.3	Action to liaise with CILIP	IH	Open
8.4	Action to find a National Trust representative.	DR	Open
10.1	Action to look at integrating the FISH and HEIRNET email lists.	DM	Open
12.1	Action to send out an invite to BUG.	SB	Open
12.2	Action to contact Peter McKeague about possible FISH Toolkit training.	DM	Open

