

# Heritage Information Access Strategy Introduction, Background & Update

by  
Keith May



# The Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS)

- HIAS is an initiative intended to secure an improved and more cost effective approach to the ***handling of digital heritage data by EH/HE and our partners*** particularly in local authority Historic Environment Records (HERS).
- HIAS is intended to resolve long-standing issues of complexity and duplication of effort in the management of, and access to heritage data nationally, in order to improve its utility and attractiveness to users.

# The Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS)

- HIAS is an EH initiative which will be taken forward with key partners and stakeholders
- **Historic England** Draft Corporate Plan 2015-18

**Aim 2.6: Identify and protect England's most important heritage**

**“With our partners, improve access to information through Historic Environment Records and explore ways of moving towards a single means of accessing historic environment information nationally”.**

# The HIAS Vision

- Good information aids quality decision-making, and this is as true of the management of the historic environment as for any other sphere.
- It is therefore vital to share information in a timely and accessible manner.
- There are opportunities to be grasped in developing new approaches to recording and sharing historic environment information.

# 8 Principles of Heritage Information Access

Principle 1: Local Authority HERs should be the first point of call for and primary trusted source of investigative research data and knowledge

Principle 2: English Heritage should be the first point of call for and primary trusted source of national datasets such as the National Maritime Record

Principle 3: English Heritage should continue to champion the development, maintenance and implementation of standards for the creation, management and storage of digital historic environment data

Principle 4: Investigative research data or knowledge should be readily uploaded, validated and accessed online

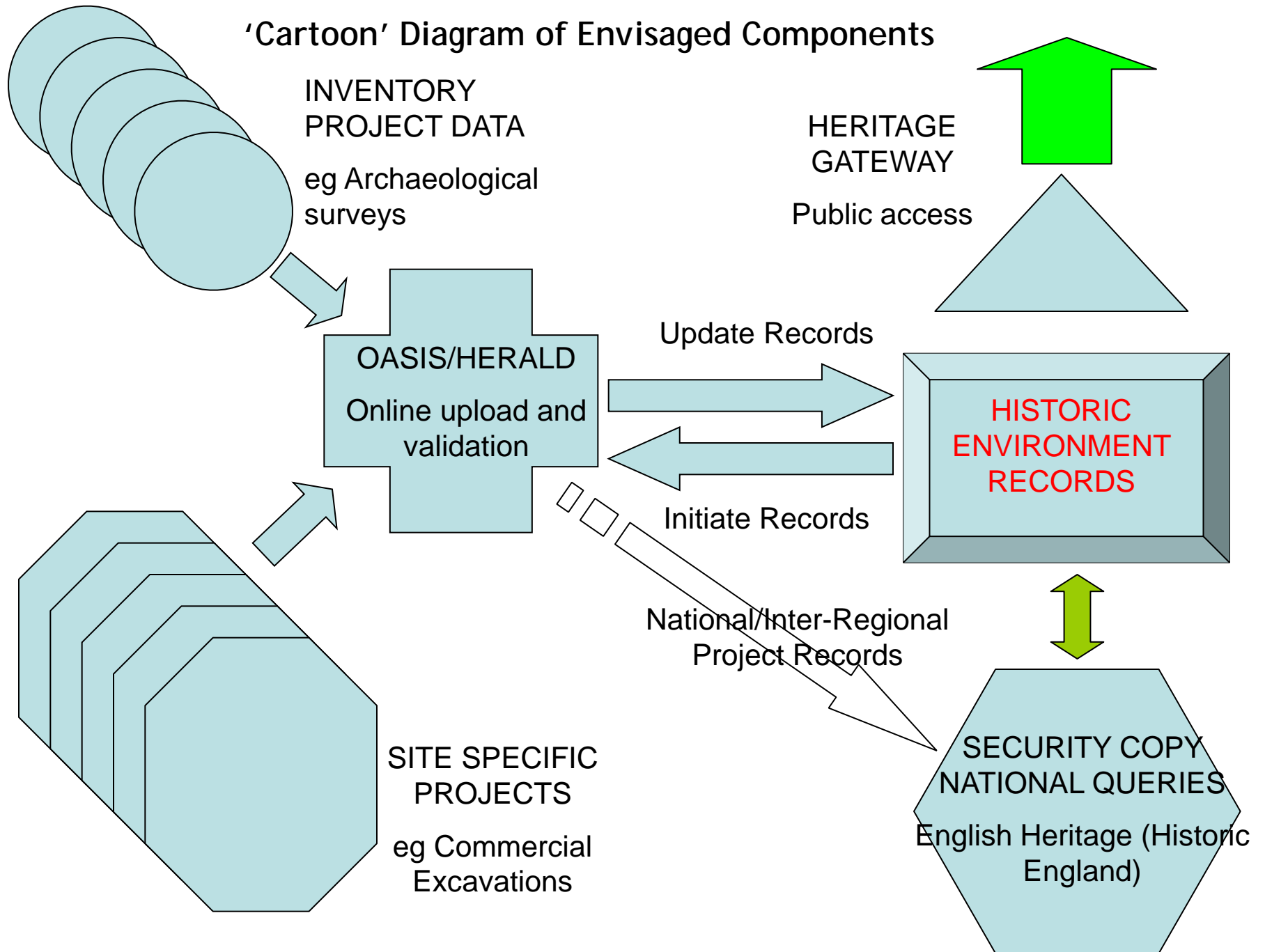
Principle 5: The national overview should be delivered online through the Heritage Gateway

Principle 6: Such data or knowledge should not be at risk of loss, fragmentation, inundation (in data), or system obsolescence

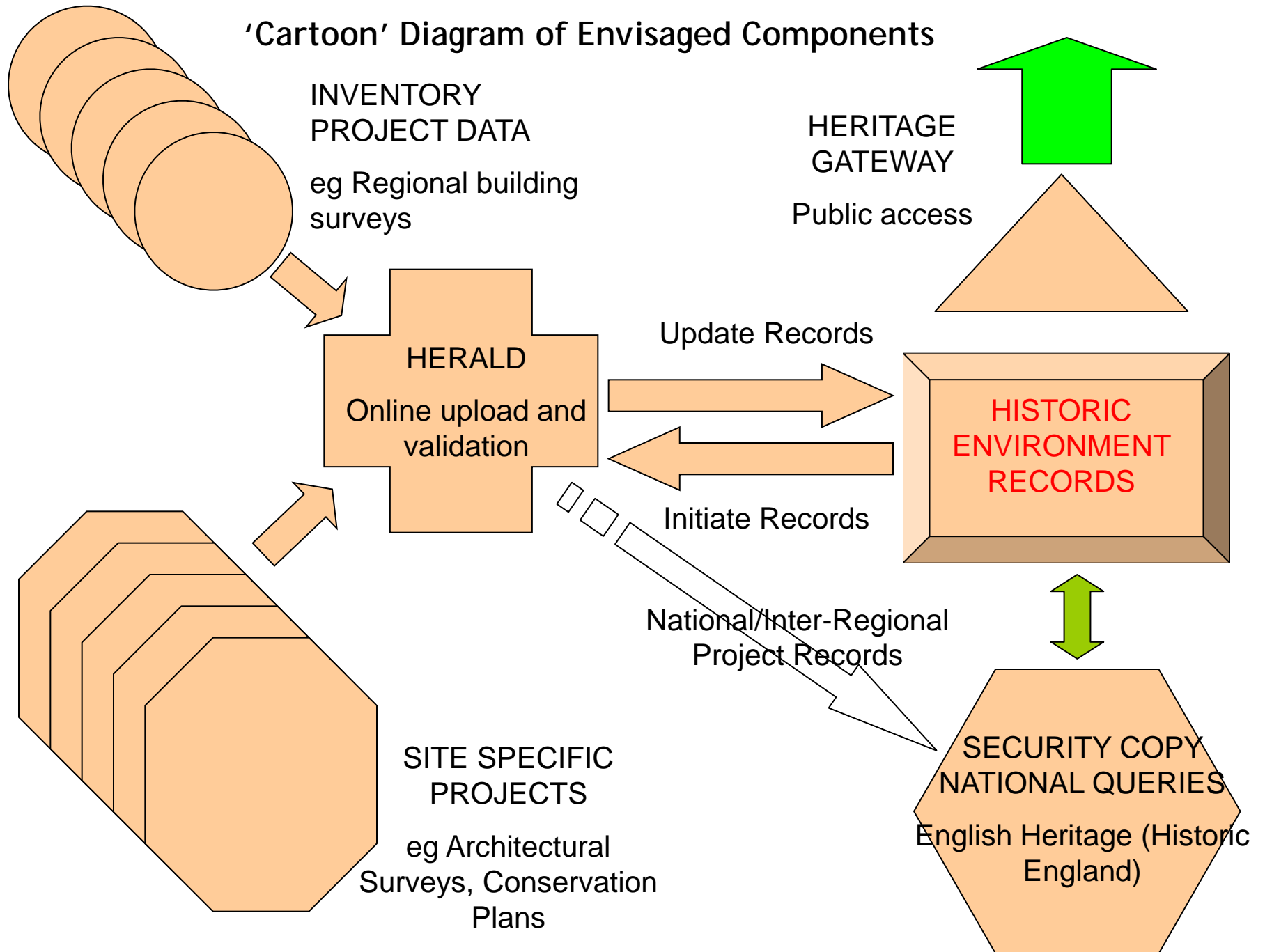
Principle 7: English Heritage should, on behalf of the nation, ensure that a security copy of all such data exists in accordance with Principles 3 and 6

Principle 8: Digital data should be supported by material archives in safe repositories accessible to the public.

# 'Cartoon' Diagram of Envisaged Components



# 'Cartoon' Diagram of Envisaged Components



# The HIAS Vision

- We do have information systems and processes for capturing, maintaining and sharing information developed over a number of years.
- These (especially HERs) are firmly enshrined in the Government's national planning policy framework.
- Some examples:



# The HIAS Vision

- HERs: Public access to monuments and events



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- ▶ Schools and learning
- ▶ People and community
- ▶ Social care and health
- ▶ Environment, housing and planning
- ▶ Roads and transport
- ▶ Business and consumers
- ▶ **Heritage, culture and recreation**
- ▶ Your council

Home > Heritage, culture and recreation > Archaeology > Historic Environment Record

## Historic Environment Record



Surrey's Historic Environment Record (HER) is maintained by the Heritage Conservation Team, Surrey County Council. It is the most comprehensive record of archaeological sites, finds and historic monuments within the current administrative county.

Formerly called the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the record has been expanded to include information relating to all aspects of the historic environment. In particular, information about historic buildings and landscape features, such as parks and gardens. Details of excavations and archaeological surveys are frequently added to the record together with environmental information. In 2007 the record was renamed the Historic Environment Record (HER) to reflect these changes. The archive currently contains around 15,500 records.

The database is now available to search on-line through the **Exploring Surrey's Past** website.

- **Request for information on a site or monument**

See also

- **Archaeology and planning**

FEEDBACK



A-Z of services

|   |   |   |   |   |     |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F   | G |
| H | I | J | K | L | M   | N |
| O | P | Q | R | S | T   | U |
| V | W | X | Y | Z | All |   |

# The HIAS Vision

- OASIS: Online entry of events/reports

## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

OASIS FORM - Login page  
<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/>

Welcome to the OASIS data collection form. Please enter your **username** and **password** below.

Username:

Password:

Login

**Please note:** The OASIS form is intended to be used for the reporting of **current** archaeological projects only. Please see [FAQ](#) for further clarification

**Please remember to keep your details up to date** using the 'Change your details' link on the menu bar once you have logged into the form. It is particularly important that the e-mail address stored within OASIS is current as this is the method by which we will keep you informed about your records.

If you do not have a username and password and you wish to enter details of your fieldwork/project please [register](#).

If you have registered and have forgotten your password please [request a new password](#).

Return to the [Project Main Page](#)

[Scheduled maintenance period: **Tuesdays 8-9am**. The website may be unavailable during this period.]

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

# The HIAS Vision

- EH Excavation Index: Archaeological Events

## English Heritage NMR Excavation Index for England

English Heritage, 1998 (updated 2011)

### Introduction

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

### Primary contact

English Heritage  
Kemble Drive  
Swindon  
SN2 2GZ  
England  
Tel: 01793 414700  
Fax: 01793 414707

[Send e-mail enquiry](#)

### Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 304

### Search this resource

The Excavation Index (EI) is a guide to the archaeological excavations and interventions carried out in England since the earliest days of scientific archaeology, and an index to the location of the excavation archives and finds. It is part of the [National Monuments Record](#), England's heritage archive. This archive contains over 12,000,000 items covering the archaeology and architecture of England including air photographs, historic and modern photographs, digital indices, and documents.

Compiled & updated since 1978, the EI currently comprises some 76,000 records of archaeological events: the majority encompassing excavations, evaluations & watching briefs since 1960, geophysical surveys and fieldwork funded by English Heritage & its predecessors. The recent addition to the Index of such activities as desk-based assessments and fieldwalking reflects the close partnership developed with the [Archaeological Investigations Project](#) of Bournemouth University under the auspices of the [OASIS Project](#) funded by the [Research Support Libraries Program](#).

*Right: 1908 Excavations at Avebury from NMR Publications Photographic Library © English Heritage NMR. Just one of over 60,000 archaeology projects recorded in the Excavation Index for England.*


The EI is updated with information from a wide range of published and non-published sources. Trawling of relevant journals, reports and monographs is augmented by direct data exchange with a number of contractors and curators across the country.

The EI fields supplied for each event to the Archaeology Data Service form a subset of the full computerised record held at the [National Monuments Record](#) and comprise:




# The HIAS Vision

- Archaeological Investigations Project



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Last updated May 3rd 2012



**ENGLISH HERITAGE**  
to see more for England's heritage  
Maintained by Open Library  
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Archaeological Investigations Project



Grey Literature Database

Please select and enter your search criteria below and then click on the button of the format you wish to view.

|   |   |  |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |  |                                     |                                     |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="button" value="Search (view as HTML)"/>  | <input type="button" value="View Map"/>   | <input type="button" value="Export Query to Excel"/> <input type="button" value="Export Query to TXT"/> <input type="button" value="Export Query to XML (for Explorer, click 'Save')"/>  |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |  |                                     |                                     |   |  |
| <p>Search by Site Name?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>  | <p>Search by Summary Keyword?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>  | <p>Search by contractor/consultant?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |  |                                     |                                     |   |  |
| <p>Search by County?</p> <p>Hold down Ctrl key to make other specific selections</p> <p>All Counties/UA<br/>Avon (Former County)<br/>Bath &amp; North East Somerset<br/>Bedford Borough UA<br/>Bedfordshire</p>   | <p>Search by Postcode?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Search by Region?</p> <p>Select a Region</p> | <p>Search by District?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Search by Parish?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p> <p>National Grid Reference (NGR) Square <a href="#">Help understanding NGR</a></p> <p>Search by NGR? Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p> |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |  |                                     |                                     |   |  |
| <p>Search by Monument Type?</p> <p>About monument types <a href="#">?</a></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>  | <p>Search by Archaeological Period(s) represented?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>                     | <p>Predefined Research Themes</p> <p>Select a theme</p>  |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |  |                                     |                                     |   |  |
| <p>Search by Investigation Year?</p> <p>Please include at least one year.</p> <p>Select All Clear All</p> <table><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1982 15</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1984 16</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1986 17</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1988 18</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1990 19</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1992 20</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1994 21</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1996 22</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1998 23</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000 24</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2002 25</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2004 26</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2006 27</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2008 28</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2010</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1982 15   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1984 16  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1986 17 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1988 18 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1990 19 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1992 20 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1994 21 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1996 22 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1998 23 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000 24 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2002 25 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2004 26 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2006 27 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2008 28 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2010 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>Search by Investigation Type?</p> <p>Please select at least one type.</p> <p>Select All Clear All</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Desk-Based Assessments<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field evaluations<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental statements<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-determination/non-planning events<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estate Management Surveys<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Surveys<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Surveys</p> | <p>Search by Planning Prompt?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> All<br/><input type="radio"/> Planning related<br/><input type="radio"/> Non-planning</p> <p>Urban or rural?</p> <p>as defined by 2001 census Select an Area Twt</p> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1982 15   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1984 16   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1986 17  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |  |                                     |                                     |   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1988 18   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1990 19   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1992 20  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |   |                                     |                                     |   |   |  |                                     |                                     |   |  |
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# The HIAS Vision


- Unpublished fieldwork reports

The screenshot displays the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website. The header features the ADS logo and a search bar. A navigation menu includes links to HOME, ARCHSEARCH, ARCHIVES, LEARNING, ADS-easy, ADVICE, OUR RESEARCH, BLOG, ABOUT US, and LOGIN. Below the menu, a breadcrumb trail reads: ALL | JOURNALS AND SERIES | GREY LITERATURE | PROJECT ARCHIVES | BIBLIOGRAPHIES | THESES.

## Library of unpublished fieldwork reports

[Introduction](#)  
[Browse by contractor](#)  
[Search reports](#)

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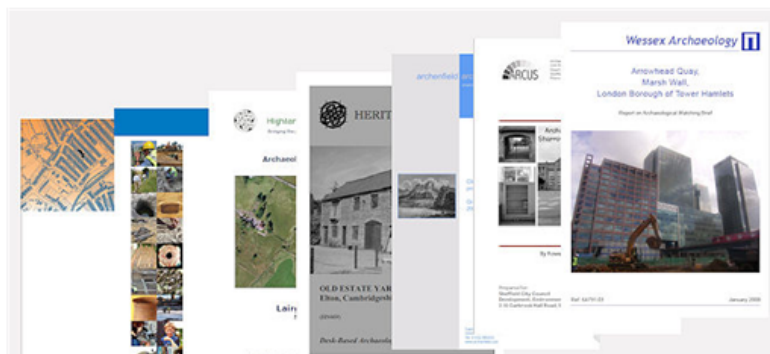
**Primary contact**  
Archaeology Data Service  
Dept. of Archaeology  
The King's Manor  
University of York  
YO1 7EP  
UK  
Tel: 01904 433954  
Fax: 01904 433939  
[Send e-mail enquiry](#)

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### Introduction

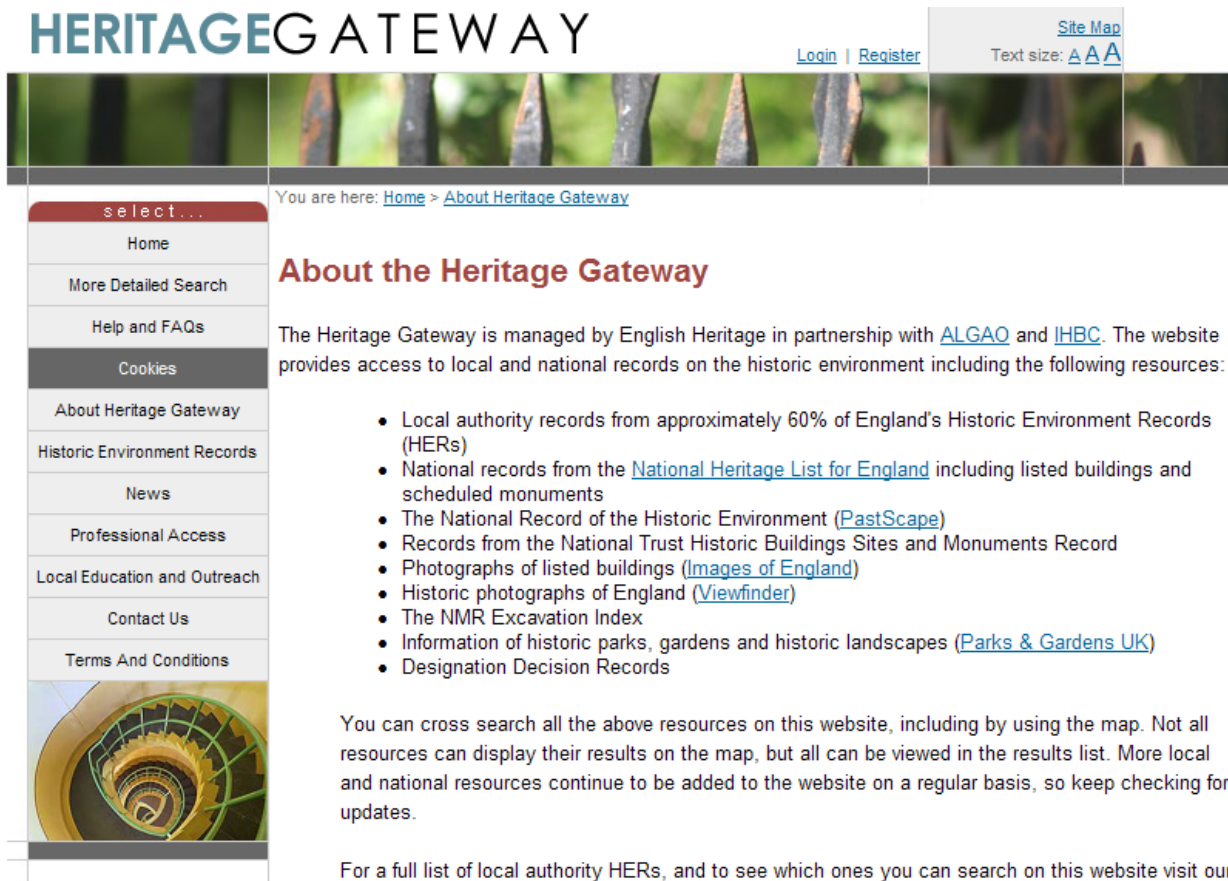
The aim of this resource is to make available unpublished fieldwork reports in an easily retrievable fashion. There are currently **25954** reports available and this number is increasing steadily through the **OASIS** project in England and Scotland.

Through this resource it is possible to list the reports by contractor, using the [browse by contractor](#) option and also to do a more advanced search filtering these reports by period, monument/artefact type and location using the [search](#) option. These unpublished reports cover archaeological interventions such as: watching briefs, excavation reports and building surveys. Desk-based assessments and specialist analysis are also included.



# The HIAS Vision

- Heritage Gateway: cross-search across multiple datasets



The screenshot shows the Heritage Gateway website. At the top, the title "HERITAGE GATEWAY" is displayed in large blue letters. To the right of the title are links for "Login" and "Register", and a "Site Map" link. Below the title is a navigation menu with a "select..." dropdown and several links: "Home", "More Detailed Search", "Help and FAQs", "Cookies", "About Heritage Gateway", "Historic Environment Records", "News", "Professional Access", "Local Education and Outreach", "Contact Us", and "Terms And Conditions". The main content area features a heading "About the Heritage Gateway" and a paragraph stating that the gateway is managed by English Heritage in partnership with ALGAO and IHBC. It lists various resources available on the site, including local authority records, national records, the National Record of the Historic Environment, records from the National Trust, photographs of listed buildings, historic photographs of England, the NMR Excavation Index, information on historic parks and gardens, and Designation Decision Records. A note mentions that users can cross-search all these resources, including by using the map. At the bottom, a link is provided to visit the full list of local authority HERs.

HERITAGE GATEWAY

[Login](#) | [Register](#) [Site Map](#)  
Text size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

You are here: [Home](#) > [About Heritage Gateway](#)

**About the Heritage Gateway**

The Heritage Gateway is managed by English Heritage in partnership with [ALGAO](#) and [IHBC](#). The website provides access to local and national records on the historic environment including the following resources:

- Local authority records from approximately 60% of England's Historic Environment Records (HERs)
- National records from the [National Heritage List for England](#) including listed buildings and scheduled monuments
- The National Record of the Historic Environment ([PastScape](#))
- Records from the National Trust Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record
- Photographs of listed buildings ([Images of England](#))
- Historic photographs of England ([Viewfinder](#))
- The NMR Excavation Index
- Information of historic parks, gardens and historic landscapes ([Parks & Gardens UK](#))
- Designation Decision Records

You can cross search all the above resources on this website, including by using the map. Not all resources can display their results on the map, but all can be viewed in the results list. More local and national resources continue to be added to the website on a regular basis, so keep checking for updates.

For a full list of local authority HERs, and to see which ones you can search on this website visit our

# The HIAS Vision

- **BUT**... Some of these systems duplicate parts of others, some have gaps, or they are not up to date...
- The variety of systems and their lack of integration create significant challenges for interrogation and understanding at a national scale...
- Approaches to data access globally are changing...
- Resource pressures mean finding the most efficient way of managing information...

# HIAS Programme

## **Initiation Phase**

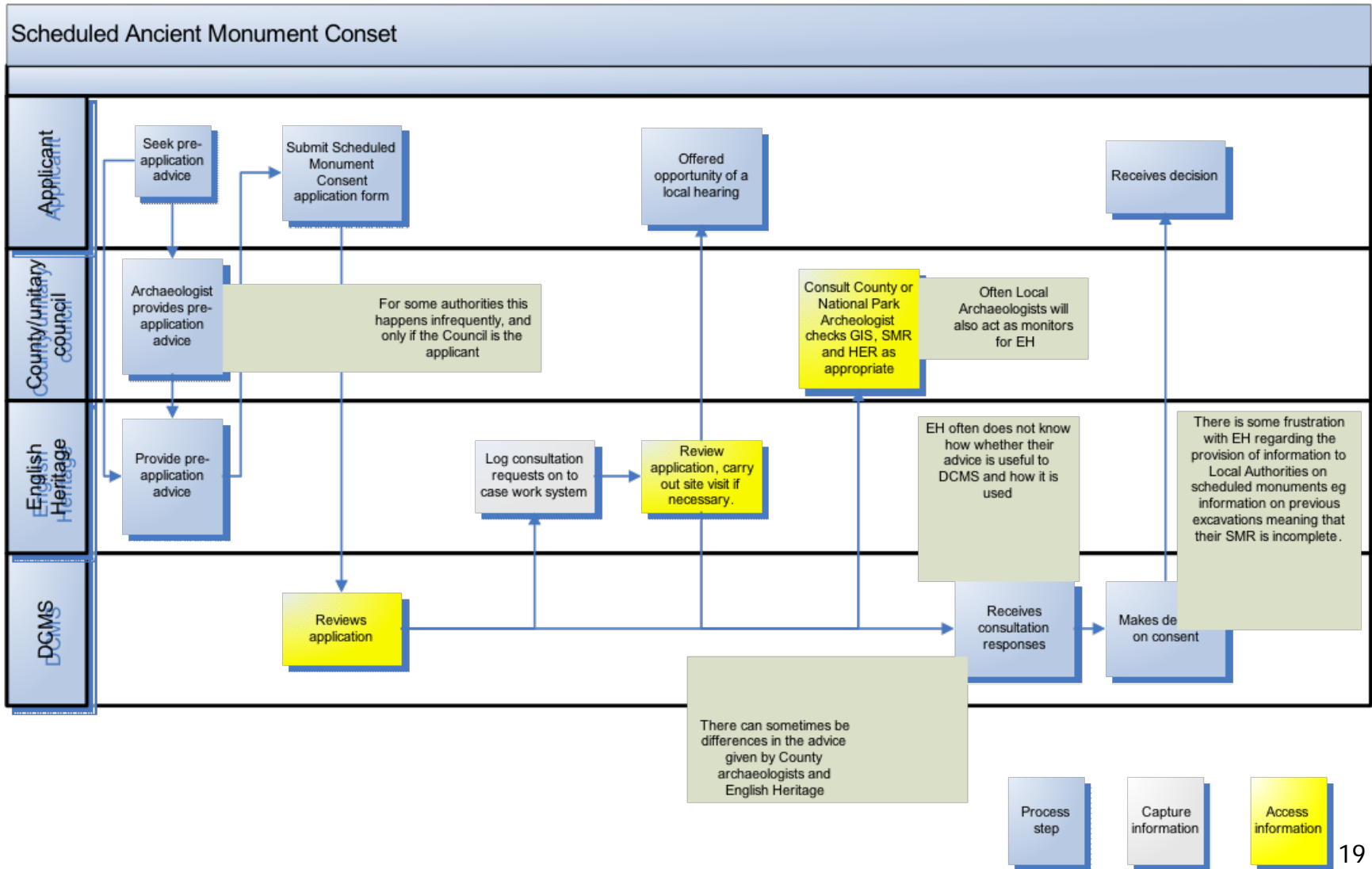
- Governance
- Communications – internal/external
- Engagement – external advisory board
- Literature Review
- Business Process Mapping of Historic Environment Information (see - next slide)

## **Next step - Transition to Phase 2**

- Work packages
- Building the business cases



# HER21 BPM: Scheduled monument consent - "as is"



# Governance

## **HIAS Programme Board**

EH currently, Steve Trow SRO

Keith May (Strategy Lead), Simon Hawkins (Programme Manager), Barney Sloane, Gill Grayson, Dave Batchelor, Lynda Bennett, Duncan Brown, Mike Evans, Steve Slade, Will Holborow, Martin Newman, John Cattell, Joe Flatman, Sandy Kidd, Anthony Streeton.

## **HIAS Advisory Board**

EH, ALGAO, IHBC, IfA, CBA, ADS, FAME, RIBA, Planning Officers Society, Archaeological Archives Forum, Society for Museum Archaeology, Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies Academic research community – The Subject Committee for Archaeology

Commercial built environment sub-sector – The Archaeology History Practice and Kathryn Sather Assoc