

Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record Officer's Report

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 26th April 2012

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A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To advise the Forum of the work of the Buckinghamshire HER since the last BHEF meeting.

B. PROPOSED ACTION

- 2 **The Forum is particularly invited to NOTE the HER performance indicators**

C. RESOURCES

- 3 At present the HER service comprises one core member of staff with occasional assistance provided by consultants, volunteers, students and business support staff.
- 4 As reported to previous meetings, financial constraints on the County Council continue to grow leading to pressure to increase income from fees and charges to recover a greater proportion of the costs of the historic environment record. A revised charging policy was approved by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment on 16th November 2010.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5 HER Performance Indicators

Service performance indicator statistics are collected for the County Council's performance management system.

Performance Indicator	3rd Quarter 2011	4th Quarter 2011
Historic Environment Records data inputting backlog (targets: reports < 30 by March 2012)	Reports =49 Collect = 516 Total =565	Reports =40 Collect = 516 Total =556

Volume measures	3rd Quarter 2011	4th Quarter 2011
Number of Higher Level Stewardship applications handled	2	1

Number of reports received by the HER	67	37
Number of Historic Environment Records enquiries handled:		
commercial	15	12
non-commercial	9	1
UBP web-site users	NA	NA

Usage statistics for the UBP websites have not been available since the new version went live on the BCC web servers on 28th July 2010, due to technical restrictions required by BCC ITU. We are still attempting to resolve this to enable website user statistics to be collected but have not been successful to date.

Use of the HER for non-commercial purposes continues to remain comparatively low, probably as a result of people using the online versions of the database. At the last meeting of the Forum I reported that the number of commercial enquiries in the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2011 remained low overall and this trend continued into the 3rd and 4th quarters. User satisfaction with the service provided by the HER remains high, with 100% satisfaction with the HER and 84% satisfaction with the UBP website (1 unsatisfied website user).

Members will remember that at the March 2011 BHEF committee meeting it had been agreed that the top priority for HER enhancement in 2011/12 should be inputting local buildings of note in Wycombe, South Bucks and Chiltern districts. It had been the intention that this work would be completed with volunteer help by the end of March 2012. Whilst the inputting of 141 building records for Wycombe and Chiltern districts has been completed by the HER Officer, over 300 new records in South Bucks district remain to be inputted, as the student working on these has been unable to continue with his volunteering.

Prompted by the offer of volunteers from the War Memorials Trust, in October we began a project to input records of war memorials onto the HER. Unfortunately the promised help from the Trust was not forthcoming, however two HER volunteers are currently working on the project and have completed 70% of the data entry with 296 memorials entered. Once data entry is completed, the intention is to visit the accessible memorials, photograph them and carry out a condition survey.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Archaeological Reports submitted to the Bucks HER

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