



## **HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY**

**2004 – 2007**

Endorsed by Herefordshire Council and issued October 2004

**Herefordshire Archaeology** is the county archaeological service. Its core staff comprises: County Archaeologist, Archaeological Advisor, Archaeological Projects Officer, and Sites and Monuments Record Officer (job-share). In 2004-5 another 6.0 FTE posts are externally funded.

### **The Herefordshire Archaeology Strategy 2004-2007:**

- ◆ Sets out the vision, principles and strategic agenda for the County Archaeological Service for the next three years.
- ◆ Prefaces the *Strategic Plan for Herefordshire Archaeology 2004-2007*. This identifies service targets for annual Conservation Section Business Plans.
- ◆ Is supported by a *Herefordshire Archaeology Handbook*. This provides detail about the principles, policies, practices and work of the service.

### **The vision for Herefordshire Archaeology is for a service that:**

- ◆ Provides a regulatory and investigative framework for improved understanding and management of the County's archaeological resource.
- ◆ Actively contributes to such understanding and conservation, and acts widely as an advocate for the local historic environment.
- ◆ Provides public access to information on the resource via the County Sites and Monuments Record, and events, activities and publications.

**Service principles established since 1998 include to:**

- ◆ Promote clarity and consistency in all policy and advisory matters.
- ◆ Refrain from bidding for contract archaeology projects required as a result of advice given as planning advisers and monitors.
- ◆ Guide, brief and monitor contract archaeology in the county.
- ◆ Promote awareness and use of the Sites and Monuments Record.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for volunteering and work experience.
- ◆ Engage pro-actively in grant-aided field investigative work, and in site and resource management initiatives, and thereby to:
- ◆ Improve and guide understanding of the extent, nature and condition of the County's archaeological and historic landscape resource.

**In the Strategy period 2004 to 2007 we shall continue to provide:**

- ◆ An *advisory service* for historic conservation, actively pursuing effective resource management and supporting regeneration initiatives.
- ◆ A *documentation and information service*, centred upon the County Sites and Monuments Record, and its web-site Historic Herefordshire On Line.
- ◆ An *investigative and community service*, with fieldwork, conservation works, local heritage projects, public events and productions.

**The service will also set targets to:**

- ◆ Complete major projects and initiatives started in the period 2001-4.
- ◆ Develop new programmes, including initiatives on urban archaeology.
- ◆ Continue and develop its community focus.

**The period 2004-2007 will nonetheless see major changes in historic conservation:**

- ◆ A wholesale re-organisation of English Heritage is in progress. New national arrangements will transform the system for designation of heritage assets and the way in which consent regimes are administered.
- ◆ As responsibility for administering consents is devolved, service performance assessment indicators come into general use and (as seems likely) Sites and Monuments Records (or Historic Environment Records, as they will be re-named) become a statutory requirement for Local Authorities, new demands will be placed on local services like this one.

**The Strategic Agenda for 2004-2007 will therefore focus upon:**

- ◆ Promoting better historic asset management

The aim is to provide support for farming, forestry and rural regeneration, and to help fulfil sustainability ambitions. For instance, monument management advice, farm-based historic landscape audits, and woodland heritage initiatives will be promoted.
- ◆ Developing the Sites and Monuments Record

Further means will be sought to widen access to the databases and related information. A Development Plan will be formulated to advance the standard of coverage and service and establish a fully integrated Historic Environment Record.
- ◆ Investigating historic landscape change

This will involve more study of how landscapes have achieved their inherited character, and also how change in the present day affects this. The aim is to see how today's landscapes can be valued by communities and used as a positive asset. Central to this programme are the series of Herefordshire Rivers projects running since 2003.
- ◆ Encouraging community heritage initiatives

Besides continuing to support new local heritage study and conservation projects, the aim will be to encourage initiatives and action in the voluntary sector. This will include proposals from the community for site management works and trusteeships.

**In 2004-2007 new emphasis will also be placed upon:**

◆ Managing the Council's historic estate

The Council will be encouraged to achieve best practice with respect to the historic assets it owns. The nature and extent of its stewardship of the historic heritage will be assessed, and recommendations proposed for its improved management.

◆ Creating a new agenda for historic towns

The aim is to support programmes of urban regeneration, especially in Hereford and the market towns. For instance, urban strategies and a special Hereford database will be created, and the historic character and distinctiveness of the towns promoted.

◆ Establishing a training facility

The service can fulfil an important role in developing skills and providing opportunities for training, including encouraging participation from external trainees. To this end, it is intended to found a Herefordshire Archaeology Summer School.

◆ Assisting Council initiatives

The Council is promoting a number of projects and initiatives to which the service will contribute. Within the Strategy period, this will include planning for park restoration works at Castle Green, Hereford, and for two outdoor heritage interpretation centres.

**Herefordshire Archaeology**

Conservation Section, Planning Services,  
Herefordshire Council, PO Box 144, Hereford HR1 2YH.