



**A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR
HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
2004 - 2007**

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Herefordshire Archaeology
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Environment Directorate



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INTRODUCTION

Herefordshire Archaeology is the archaeological service maintained by Herefordshire Council. The service exists to assess, investigate, document, conserve, and promote the archaeology and historic landscape of the county and cathedral city. The service currently has a core staff of four, and is located within the Council's Conservation and Environmental Planning section of Planning Services, in the Environment Directorate. In 2004-5 a further seven posts were supported through external funding.

The ***Strategic Plan for Herefordshire Archaeology 2004-2007*** is a plan for the work of the county archaeological service during the financial years 2004-5, 2005-6 and 2006-7. It is designed to provide a framework within which the archaeological service targets for the annual Conservation Section Business Plan can be identified. However, it also serves as a 'linking document' that specifies actions derived from the principles and vision of the ***Herefordshire Archaeology Strategy 2004-2007***.

Five main themes or strands of activity of the service are covered in the document. The first concerns service management, the second conservation advisory work, and the third the maintenance of records. The fourth concerns archaeology projects and partnerships, and the fifth covers work related to education, interpretation and the community. In each case, the specific staff involvement in the relevant work is summarised, usually in a single sentence. There are then a series of bullet-points relating to service or sector developments, and planned actions by the service. Several of these latter are noted as specific targets for the strategic plan period and these are identified with a number in brackets, as '(T1)', '(T2)', etc.

The period 2004-2007 will see significant change in the historic conservation sector in England. A wholesale re-organisation of English Heritage is in progress, as are proposals for the entire way in which 'heritage assets' are designated and managed. These changes will, at least from 2006, have major implications for the work of local government conservation services.

ACCOMMODATION AND MANAGEMENT

The service is housed in the Town Hall and Town Hall Annexe. The County Archaeologist manages the service, supported by the Conservation Manager and administrative personnel.

- ◆ Part or all of the Planning service may be re-located from the Town Hall Annexe in 2005-6, and this will have a considerable impact upon how the archaeology service operates.
- ◆ The core budget funding for the service provides for 4.5 FTE posts but is supported by a very small revenue budget. The increasing demands upon the service are nonetheless recognised by senior management, and this has led to extra resources being made available recently for countryside advisory work and urban archaeological resource management.
- ◆ A major concern of the past six years since the service began has been capacity building to ensure that the county's archaeology is increasingly well understood and protected - and also better appreciated by residents and visitors alike.
- ◆ This has seen a suite of successful applications for project funding for the creation of a Historic Landscape Characterisation, a Sites and Monuments Record web-site and database search facility, aerial archaeological survey, and a countryside advisory post. It has also led to a series of projects looking at rural resource and conservation issues (such as for Herefordshire woodlands and river valleys), and at key county monuments such as Credenhill Fort and Croft Castle.
- ◆ A certain amount of the time of the County Archaeologist and senior archaeological staff is therefore now devoted to project planning and development, including applications for grant-aid.
- ◆ In addition, a significant programme of post-fieldwork archiving and reporting is now underway, including in 2004 the launch of a monograph series, 'Herefordshire Studies in Archaeology'.
- ◆ The amount of space required to house the staff of the service has increased in line with its project-based successes, and there are some continuing problems with IT provision and compatibility.

CONSERVATION ADVICE AND INITIATIVES

The Archaeological Advisor and the Countryside Advisor (Archaeology) provide these services (the CAA with 50% funding support from English Heritage). These staff are supported in this work by the County Archaeologist, the Archaeological Projects Officer, and the (job-share) Sites and Monuments Record Officer.

Archaeological Advice (Development)

- ◆ There is a continuing commitment during the Strategic Plan period to the provision of advice for strategic and forward planning purposes.
- ◆ This will include further contributions to the Unitary Development Plan and it is hoped also the production of supplementary guidance (T1).
- ◆ The forthcoming Planning Policy Statement 15 on the historic environment and planning will set out the framework for conservation advice and mitigation under the Town and Country Planning Act.
- ◆ The service will continue to support the Council's Development Control teams, including staff dealing with Minerals and Waste.
- ◆ The contractors' registration scheme will continue, with bi-annual review and a yearly seminar (T2).

Archaeological Advice (Countryside)

- ◆ There is a continuing commitment during the Strategic Plan period to providing rural conservation advice (especially for farming and forestry).
- ◆ This will include local implementation of the new two-level grant system for Countryside Stewardship.
- ◆ A new partnership with the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise will see initiatives concerning survey, management and promotion of the historic resources of the county's woodlands (T3: concluding agreement).
- ◆ Advisory services concerning archaeology and historic landscape matters specifically in respect of regeneration and diversification will be offered to farmers and estate owners.
- ◆ There will be a Review of the Council's estate in reference to archaeology and historic landscapes. The report to be produced will identify targets for improvement in the management of historic assets (T4).

Conservation practice and monument management

- ◆ There will be full engagement during the Strategic Plan period with the process of development of a new statutory designations system, led by DCMS and English Heritage, but also involving ALGAO.
- ◆ This will include investigation of local designation parameters (T5) and work towards the preparation and resourcing of a new system of LGA-administered consent regimes for archaeological monuments and areas.
- ◆ A programme of preparation of Conservation Management Plans will be initiated, with a target of three per year in 2005 and 2006 (T6).
- ◆ An initial Monuments At Risk register will be compiled (T7). This will include locally assessed sites as well as those identified by English Heritage regional staff from desk-based assessment. The impact of particular kinds of rural development, such as the construction of agricultural reservoirs, will also be assessed for the local Register.
- ◆ Two rural archaeological resource studies will be undertaken, pending funding. One will focus upon processes of erosion of monuments, the other the impacts of potato growing (applications for funding: T8).

Urban archaeology and regeneration

- ◆ During the Strategic Plan period an integrated approach to urban archaeology will be developed, building upon a review in 2001 and featuring both existing and former urban centres in the county.
- ◆ To facilitate this work, an Urban Archaeologist will be appointed for a limited contract period, with contributory funding from English Heritage.
- ◆ A major component of their work will involve the formation of an urban archaeology strategy for Hereford City, at the heart of which will be an Urban Archaeological Database (T9).
- ◆ A range of initiatives will be promoted for the market towns of Bromyard, Leominster, Ledbury, Kington, and Ross-on-Wye, to map, characterise, explore, document and celebrate their urban archaeology. This will include the writing of a strategic statement for each town (T10). The statements will explicitly identify the potential contribution of archaeology to urban cultural and economic regeneration.
- ◆ Further supporting projects and publications will be developed for these towns and also for former urban places (see for instance, p.8).

DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Officer (job-share) manages the county SMR. Between 2002 and 2004 this work has been supported by an SMR Assistant ('Modern Apprenticeship', 2003-4), and by 1.5 FTE staff engaged on the 'Historic Herefordshire On Line' (SMR information and access) project, operated with grant aid from the HLF.

- ◆ The Historic Herefordshire On Line project will be completed by September 2005 (T11).
- ◆ There will be a continuing commitment to maintain and upgrade the core databases (including GIS), the searchable database on the world wide web, and the supporting documentation and collections.
- ◆ Particular continuing problems identified by the SMR staff are the condition and organisation of the hard-copy collections, and a continuing backlog in the placement of new data onto the computerised database.
- ◆ The maintenance of a Historic Environment Record (HER) is likely to become a statutory responsibility for Local Authorities by 2007.
- ◆ A Development Plan will therefore be prepared for the Herefordshire county SMR in 2005-6 (T12), which will specify how the upgrading of the SMR to a 'statutory' HER will take place and be funded. It will also consider how the SMR web site will be maintained and developed.
- ◆ This is likely to involve a recommendation for the creation of a half-time post of SMR Assistant and a fixed-term appointment of an SMR Development Officer (the latter mostly externally funded).
- ◆ The Development Plan should be supported by an audit (T13). This may need to be carried out under external contract, due to limitations on current staff time. Among other things, the audit should examine the data content and retrieval systems for the computerised databases, GIS and hard-copy elements of the SMR.
- ◆ Meanwhile, a plan for the gradual improvement of the paper record and collections management has been prepared and is being implemented by one of the SMR Officers (T14).

ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Landscape Archaeologist and the Archaeological Projects Officer manage the majority of projects and partnerships that deliver the service agenda for investigation, recording, research, conservation, education, interpretation and working with the wider community. They are supported in this work by the County Archaeologist, Field Archaeologist (job-share), Project Archaeologist, and (in 2004-5) by the Community Archaeologist.

Since 2001, the project teams have completed between over two hundred archaeological surveys of estates, whole farms, woodland areas, parkland and other localities to enhance the basic record and to promote better conservation management of the identified cultural assets.

- ◆ There will be a continuing commitment to provide a service for the field monitoring of small development projects where this cannot be provided by means other than via the Archaeological Projects Officer.
- ◆ Projects will be continued and developed that investigate past and present change and conservation in the rural landscape.
- ◆ Existing project programmes will continue, pending continued provision of funding. These include landscape-wide projects for aerial archaeological survey (with English Heritage funding; completion, T15), and for Herefordshire Rivers archaeology and conservation (with EH and LEADER+ funding; Arrow valley completed, Frome Valley in progress: T16, Lugg Valley in preparation: T17, Wye valley in planning).
- ◆ Further programmes exist for woodlands archaeology survey (with Forestry Commission funding; T18), and for the archaeological survey of National Trust properties in the county (T19).
- ◆ Also included are location-specific projects at Croft Castle (National Trust; publication T20) and at Credenhill (Woodland Trust).
- ◆ New projects for which funding has been secured, and which will begin in 2004 include significant contributions to community-based Local Heritage Initiative projects at Upton Bishop and at Whitbourne (T21/22).

- ◆ Projects in development include a partnership project to record, conserve and celebrate churchyard crosses (Caring for God's Acre and EH; application T23). Another will characterise and map important archaeological and environmental deposits to assist minerals planning in the lower Lugg Valley (with the University of Wales at Aberystwyth, and the University of Liverpool; funding: EH/ALSF; application T24).
- ◆ It is intended to conduct a modest programme of internally resourced record enhancement studies. During the Strategic Plan period, this will include a survey of the Olchon Valley (assisted by the Longtown and Llanveynoe communities; T25), and a project to document the survival of the earthwork remains of deserted settlements across the county (T26).
- ◆ The long term field project to investigate nationally-important early Medieval sites in the Sutton St. Michael and Marden localities will continue with new survey and site investigations at Court Farm, Marden, between 2004 and 2006 (T27).
- ◆ Specific minor field studies to document little-understood but significant individual monuments will continue with surveys for example at Eardisley Camp and Limebrook Priory.
- ◆ Further work will contribute to the better management and enhancement of historic assets in Herefordshire Council ownership. This will include supervision of works on the remains of the Saxon town wall in Hereford (T28). It will also involve a Conservation Management Plan and guidance for information and facilities at Dinedor Camp (lead: Countryside Advisor; T29), and a Conservation Management Plan and Park Restoration Plan for Castle Green (lead: County Archaeologist; T30).
- ◆ Work in support of other Council services and associated organisations will continue, for instance with the provision of data for Tourism and Public Rights of Way walks promotions, and practical support for the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 'Overlooking the Wye' project.
- ◆ The service will continue to encourage field research projects that support the regional research agenda, such as the Cardiff University rural Romano-British settlement project in the environs of Lyonshall.
- ◆ During the Strategic Plan period it is intended to plan for and initiate a Herefordshire Archaeology Summer School, based around a research project to investigate and compare two medieval Marcher lordships (T31).

EDUCATION, INTERPRETATION AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

All Herefordshire Archaeology staff members are engaged in work that serves to raise public awareness and appreciation of the county's archaeology and historic landscape. A full events calendar is organised including an annual symposium, monthly historic landscape walks, and public talks. A full series of archaeological project reports is produced each year.

- ◆ There will be an ongoing commitment to provision of an active programme of events open to public involvement, with the monthly historic landscape walks as the flagship event series.
- ◆ The *Historic Environment Today* newsletter will be produced quarterly as a key means of informing the public about events and developments in the county's archaeology and its wider historic environment.
- ◆ Volunteering and community involvement will continue to be encouraged in Herefordshire Archaeology field projects and programmes.
- ◆ The events programme will include an *Annual Symposium* each November, normally at the Courtyard Theatre. At the same venue there will be an evening *Herefordshire Archaeology Lecture* (with a nationally prominent archaeologist talking about a key aspect of the county's archaeology, in a wider context) once every two years (T32).
- ◆ The service will organise and promote an annual *Herefordshire Archaeology Week* (associated with National Archaeology Days) each July.
- ◆ Staff will continue to be involved in the *Herefordshire Walking Festival* as that event becomes established in the county calendar (the County Archaeologist is a member of the Council's organising committee).
- ◆ Herefordshire Archaeology will support the development of county-based and more local historic heritage groups for the conduct of Local Heritage Initiative and other conservation and heritage projects, local monument management and the curation of key historic properties (T33).
- ◆ Staff members will contribute overview chapters to the series of volumes from the West Midlands Regional Research Agenda process (T34).
- ◆ Publication of volumes in the monograph series, *Herefordshire Studies in Archaeology*, will continue through the Strategic Plan period (T35).

**LINKING DOCUMENTS, ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY, AND
BUSINESS PLANS**

The Herefordshire Plan (Herefordshire Partnership)

Herefordshire Cultural Strategy

Herefordshire Environmental Strategy, 2000 - 2010

Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan, 2003-6

HC Environment Directorate Plan

Herefordshire Archaeology Strategy, 2004-2007

Conservation Section Business Plans

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
ALSF	Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
EH	English Heritage
HER	Historic Environment Record
LHI	Local Heritage Initiative
NMR	National Monuments Record
RDS	Rural Development Service
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record (county)

REFERENCE LIST OF SERVICE TARGETS FOR 2004-7

- T1 Produce Supplementary Planning Guidance on archaeology and development, and on historic landscape characterisation (2006).
- T2 Contractors' registration scheme bi-annual review and yearly seminar.
- T3 Conclude agreement for survey, management and promotion of the historic resources of the county's woodlands (end 2004).
- T4 Review the Council's estate in reference to archaeology and historic landscapes. Produce report to identify targets for improvement in the management of historic assets (mid 2006).
- T5 Investigate local designation parameters for historic assets (2005).
- T6 Conservation Management Plans produced for three sites or areas per year in 2005 and 2006.
- T7 Compile an initial Monuments At Risk Register for Herefordshire.
- T8 Two applications for funding for rural archaeological resource studies. One will focus upon processes of erosion of monuments, the other upon the impacts of potato growing.
- T9 An Urban Archaeological Database will be produced for Hereford City (project to span 2005-8), as part of an urban archaeology strategy for the city.
- T10 A strategic statement on urban archaeology and regeneration will be prepared for each of the five other market towns in the county (2006).
- T11 The Historic Herefordshire On Line project will be completed in 2005.
- T12 A Development Plan will be prepared for the Herefordshire county SMR in 2005-6.
- T13 A (preferably external) audit of the SMR should examine the data content and retrieval systems for the computerised databases, GIS and hard-copy elements (2005).
- T14 A plan for the gradual improvement of the paper record and collections management of the SMR will be implemented (2005-6).
- T15 Aerial archaeological survey project (2002-6) completion.
- T16 Complete Frome Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation project (March 2005).

- T17 Prepare and conduct Lugg Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation project (2005-6)
- T18 Woodlands archaeology survey completed (2007), and associated works including conference and publication (2007-9) planned.
- T19 Undertake archaeological survey of National Trust properties in the county (Berrington, 2005; Cwmmau, 2006; Perry Hill, 2007).
- T20 Croft Castle project – monograph publication (2006).
- T21 Contribute to LHI project at Upton Bishop (2004-5).
- T22 Contribute to LHI project at Whitbourne (2004-5).
- T23 Project planning for churchyard crosses project (project planning phase 2005, project 2006-8).
- T24 Lower Lugg Valley ALSF project application (End 2004)
- T25 Conduct archaeological survey of the Olchon Valley (2005-7).
- T26 Document the survival of the earthwork remains of deserted settlements across the county (2005-7).
- T27 New survey and site investigations at Court Farm, Marden, between 2004 and 2006.
- T28 Supervision of works on the remains of the Saxon town wall in Hereford (mid-2005).
- T29 Produce a Conservation Management Plan and guidance for information and facilities at Dinedor Camp (mid 2005).
- T30 Prepare a Conservation Management Plan and a Park Restoration Plan for Castle Green (mid 2005).
- T31 Organise a *Herefordshire Archaeology Summer School*, based around a research project to investigate and compare two Marcher medieval lordships (to begin in 2006 or 2007).
- T32 Organise the *Herefordshire Archaeology Lecture* once every two years (within the Strategic Plan period, in 2005 and 2007).
- T33 Encourage the development of county-based and more local historic heritage groups for the conduct of Local Heritage Initiative and other conservation and heritage projects, local monument management and the curation of key historic properties.
- T34 Contribute eight overview chapters to the series of volumes from the West Midlands Regional Research Agenda process.
- T35 Publish five volumes in the monograph series, *Herefordshire Studies in Archaeology* (March 2007).