

Summary of work carried out by the Historic Environment Record Assistant (HERA) as at end May 2011

This post commenced in September 2009 with 50% funding from the County Council, and the rest from 6 district/borough councils and the Peak District National Park. The intention was that 50% of the time would be used to recast the Historic Landscape Character (HLC) data into a format recommended by English Heritage and the remaining 50% would be used to enhance the Historic Environment Record (HER).

As the time allocated to general enhancement only amounted to c. 2.5 hours per week per partner, and no requests to include any specific data sets had come from any of the partners, it was decided to use county-wide themes to enhance the HER. To this end we have been adding records of 18th and 19th century churches and non-conformist chapels using various sources, as these were very poorly represented on the HER. Rather than spend 2.5 hours per week on each district we felt it would be more efficient to work through the records systematically district by district. High Peak, Derbyshire Dales and Bolsover have been completed and Amber Valley is underway, with over 300 churches and chapels having been added to the HER so far.

Occasionally the HERA has also assisted the Historic Environment Record Officer, for example in helping to reduce the backlog of 'events' (records of work such as archaeological evaluations, excavations or building surveys undertaken as a requirement of the planning process), in carrying out HER searches requested by archaeological contractors and the general public, and in creating SHINE records (see ** below) in order to meet a national deadline.

The current joint-funded project continues until the end of August 2012 but we are pleased to report that the County Council has agreed to fund an extension until the end of August 2014. This will allow 6 months additional time to finish the HLC and the rest of the time will be spent on general HER enhancement across the county. If you have any specific data sets you wish to be added, please let me know.

District*	Total entries	New entries created	Entries Amended**	Events created
Bolsover	691	38	534	2
High Peak	822	89	228	3
Derbyshire Dales	1497	87	311	2
Peak Park	5538	64	323	18
Amber Valley	931	90	156	4
Erewash	524	18	159	4
South Derbyshire	1399	13	724	4

*Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire did not contribute towards the post

**The database system records a record as amended if it is edited in some way. This includes linking the record to a Historic Landscape Characterisation area or to a SHINE record (Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England – a nationally consistent dataset of historic environment features that could benefit from management within the Entry Level Stewardship scheme)