

RESPONSE TO HER QUESTIONNAIRE

A total of six completed questionnaires were returned and one set of comments. I have set out the responses below.

1. Historic maps: catalogue of all known historic maps and where they are held, catalogue of copies of historic maps held in the HER.

The HER holds a catalogue of the historic maps of Derbyshire we know about (excluding O.S and Sanderson which are available digitally) and where they are held. The HER also has (paper) copies of many of these. Do you think access to these catalogues via the HER would be:

Four respondents felt that access to this was 'essential' and two 'useful'.

2. Parish Files: collection of as yet un-catalogued material held in the HER on a civil parish by parish basis.

These are very varied in what they hold. They can contain unpublished field work, unpublished research, photographs or correspondence.

Only two respondents felt access to these was essential and four useful. Given the as yet un-catalogued nature of the files this is not surprising.

3. 'Grey Literature' catalogue of unpublished material with details of location and mode of access.

Grey literature mainly consists of reports generated through PPG 16 but also contains reports on building surveys carried out by RCHME and other unpublished research reports.

As above two felt this was essential and four useful. This may be due to the perception that the grey literature is predominantly archaeological and not greatly relevant. This is to some extent true but there are an increasing number of building recording reports and these will undoubtedly continue to grow in numbers.

4. Photographs of buildings: historic photographs, survey photographs from 1975 to the present either in the form of transparencies, photographic prints or digital images.

Three felt access to these was essential and three useful.

5. DCC intends to make information from the HER available digitally.

There are various ways in which this can be done.
Please rank these in order of preference:

Four respondents preferred the option of having copies of information for inclusion in their own GIS systems, one access via the Heritage Gateway and one via the Derbyshire

Partnership Mapping Portal. We do currently provide info for loading into GIS systems when requested and we can continue to do this.

6. The material the HER is likely to need to obtain from city/district/borough sources for incorporation in the HER is as follows:

Please tick those you think would be most useful to include in the HER.
It would so be useful to know how you currently hold this data (i.e. digitally or on paper).

	Useful to HER?	How currently held?
Conservation Area Appraisals		
Management Plans		
Details of building recording obtained as a requirement of PPG 15.		
Photographic material		
Any copies of historic maps you hold		

All but one respondent felt all of these would be usefully included in the HER. Unsurprisingly records were held in a mixture of paper and digital media but a significant amount was already held digitally. For example all respondents held Conservation area appraisals digitally.

7. Local Lists

Only one respondent confirmed they had a local list of buildings, one had a partial list and one was collecting information on non listed buildings of merit during the course of carrying out Conservation Area Appraisals.

8. Additional information

Are there any other datasets not mentioned already that you think should be considered for inclusion in the HER?

The only other source of information suggested was the reports produced by the Derbyshire Buildings Survey. Copies of most of these are already lodged in the HER as paper copies.

Conclusion.

The questionnaire has proved useful in highlighting data sets that it is felt valuable to include in the HER and will certainly inform the production of a strategy for the development of the HER which we will be producing in the near future.

The national situation with regard to HERs is still unclear and this does complicate developing priorities. For example EH still seem committed to providing some resource for HER development but they haven't yet decided what this will entail. Clearly we do not want to commit resources to specific tasks if EH are going to provide resources for these

in the near future. For example, one possible theme being considered for funding is the inclusion of local lists in the HER. Also the Draft PPS and associated Guidance documents have yet to appear and what these contain about HERs will obviously have an impact on any priorities we decide on.

We will be discussing access to the data sets with IT support at the County Council to see what data sets we can make available relatively easily. The preference for us is to make the HER available via the developing Heritage Gateway but there may be a variety of solutions available depending on the nature of the data sets. We are always happy to copy selected fields of data for inclusion into individual GIS systems, the obvious downside of this is of course that the data needs updating on a regular basis. Also some feedback on the value of the data and errors and omissions would also be welcome.

Hopefully this is the start of what will be an ongoing process of consultation as the national situation becomes clearer (hopefully when the draft PPS 15 and associated guidance is published) and the DCC strategy for the HER is developed.