

## **Developing Historic Environment Records for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**HER21 18 months on (October 2012)**

**6013 Information and Partnerships, IHBC**

The HER21 project carried out made recommendations on content of HERs and other sources of historic environment information. The project considered what data should be incorporated into the HER to widen coverage across the whole historic environment by the addition of new building and built environment records and data. A wide range of types of data was looked at examples used to look at sources of information which individual HERs might pursue as they develop. We do not know how many of these have been taken up but do know that some HERs have considered the findings. The project developed a simple matrix for assessing the primary implications for HER inclusion. We are not aware of if this has been used by individual HERs in considering material for inclusion but it still remains available as a useful tool.

Other recommendations of the report needed a national perspective and were thus more specifically for English Heritage to pursue. The recommendation was that England seeks to develop a system parallel to the Irish Architectural Archive and the Dictionary of Scottish Architects. The research showed that HERs are not able to include that information within the records without compromising the data standards, and/or putting undue resource pressures on them locally. The report suggested a stand alone digitally accessible version of a key source, the Colvin archive, linked to HER home pages and via the Heritage Gateway, which would be an 'add-on resource' to HERs. We hope that this is still being positively considered by English Heritage.