

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

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

#### **6027 From SMR to HER – Integrating Built Historic Environment Records in Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire County Council**

During the set-up phase of our HER21 project (From SMR to HER: Integrating Built Historic Environment Records in Gloucestershire) we established contacts with Conservation Officers at the 6 district and borough authorities. Gloucestershire is a two-tier authority and their views on the current HER and its future direction were vital for the project. Data they held also formed the basis for some of the enhancement work that was undertaken as part of the project (e.g. 'grade 3' buildings information). We have remained in contact with one borough whose Conservation Officer maintains close links with the HER and data exchange and closer working with this Officer has been very productive.

The HER has continued to develop its historic building content and aims to complete the addition of all listed buildings onto the database within the next year. This project was ongoing before the HER21 and we will look to develop new working relationships when historic building content is more complete

The addition of the resources identified by the project to the HER has and will increase the quality and quantity of information available from it and, therefore, the service that it can provide. Where possible the HER has already integrated these resources, for example, data from Country Life magazine and has added other sources to the HER Development Plan for later integration. There remain, however, significant but inaccessible sources of information held at the district/borough levels that are a high priority for inclusion in the HER.

The project was a very useful method of identifying the sources of information used by Conservation Officers and deriving from it a list of those that were a priority for addition to the HER. If funding was available there is much that could be achieved by examining the priority sources in more detail (for example old Grade 3 lists) but in its absence adding all listed buildings to the HER will remain the priority.