

40 YEARS RECORDING THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF SHROPSHIRE

Historic Environment Record: Short User Guide

Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council. her@shropshire.gov.uk

Shropshire’s Historic Environment Record (HER) is the primary source of information about the historic environment of the county – archaeological sites, finds and features, historic buildings, structures and landscapes. This document explains, briefly, *what it is, what it records and how you can access it.*

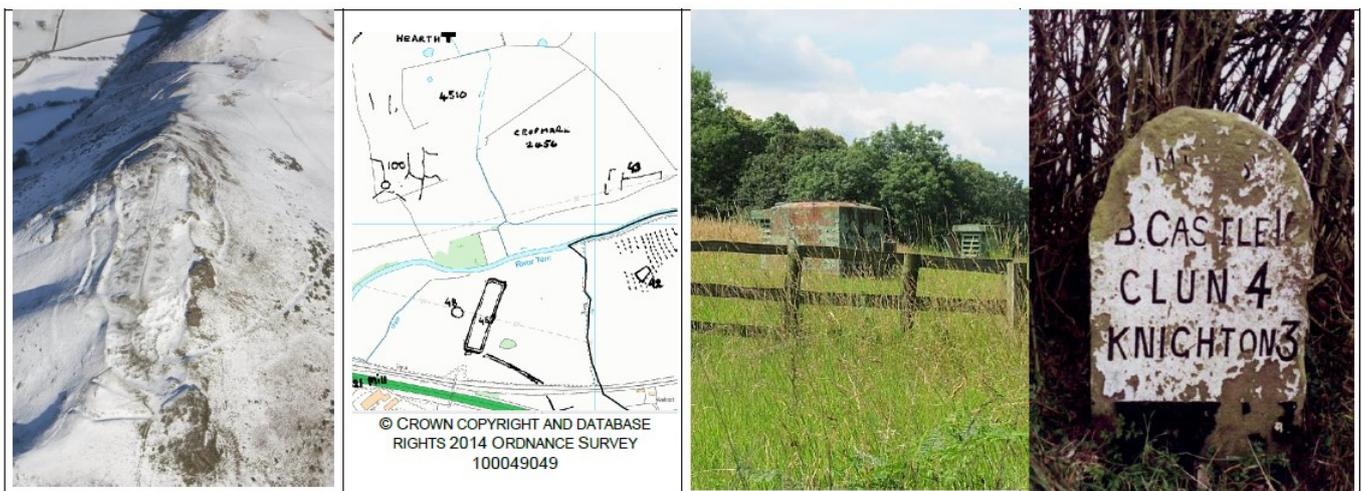
What is the HER?

The historic environment record is a continuously expanding database of the historic environment of the county. We hold core information concerning over 39,000 archaeological sites, finds and features, historic buildings, structures and landscapes in the historic county of Shropshire, all linked to computerised mapping. We are also the key repository for all reports on archaeological work and historic building recording carried out in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

We make this resource available to a wide range of researchers, individuals, archaeologists, land managers and students – and are interested to hear from anyone who wants to know more about their local heritage, or knows about historical or archaeological features they want to tell us about.

What does it record?

The historic environment of Shropshire is varied – and the diversity of the records we hold reflect this.



It’s not all about castles and hillforts...a diverse range of sites recorded by the HER: (l-r): The towering ramparts of Caer Caradoc hillfort, from the air (© Shropshire Council); mapping of archaeological features, of Iron Age to Medieval date, near Wrockwardine ; Royal Observers Corps Post, Ludlow (© Richard Webb); milestone on the A488 (© Shropshire Council).

The Historic Environment Record for Shropshire covers a wide variety of different sites and monuments, compiled from a wide array of different sources. Our records are ever growing, but here is an example of some of the different types of site we record.



Sites known only from aerial photographs. *Many of these features cannot be spotted on the ground. We can only estimate their date and what type of site they represent, from similar sites which have been excavated around the county.*

<- Cropmarks of Roman fort, near Cressage. © Shropshire Council.



Sites where earthworks, “lumps and bumps” in pasture fields provide us with clues as to what lies beneath. *Traces of **medieval ploughing**, and **deserted medieval settlement**, as well as evidence of **prehistoric and Roman activity** in the upland landscapes of the county, are recorded, like this, for instance.*

<- The earthworks of a possible Roman signal station, Linley. © Shropshire Council.



Standing building complexes, both listed and unlisted, that attest to the historic development of many of our towns, as well as the importance of the region during the Industrial Revolution.

<- The standing remains of Stokesay Castle. © Shropshire Council.



We maintain full records on archaeological fieldwork carried out in the county. This is often as a result of development projects, and includes **survey** and **excavation** as well as programmes of **desk-based research** and **building survey**.

<- Excavations at St Austin's Friars, Shrewsbury. © Shropshire Council, Archaeology Service.



We also hold the results of thematic surveys of different types of monument carried out across the county over the past 40 years. Extensive work has been carried out in both Shrewsbury and other **historic towns in the county**, drawing together information from maps, documents as well as previous archaeological work. Our collections include recent work undertaken on the **historic landscape** of Shropshire, as well as its **farmsteads**.

<- The well-studied industrial landscape of the Ironbridge Gorge. © Shropshire Council.

...amongst much more!

We hold extensive photographic and survey material of the buildings, sites and landscapes of Shropshire which support our records. Much of the source material is held at our offices based in Shrewsbury Library, and is available for consultation by appointment. Information is accessed primarily through a database linked to electronic mapping, so can be easily searched.

See our [User Policy](#) for more details of what we record and how we record it.

How can you access it?

The HER is accessible:

- **In person:** by appointment at our offices in Shrewsbury Library (see contact details below)
- **By phone, post or email:** If you cannot visit the HER in person, you can ask us to search the system on your behalf. You can contact us by telephone, by post or by email. We can then send you the results of the search as hard copy or in electronic format. When you make an enquiry, you will usually need to say 'where, what and why' with respect to your enquiry. Please always include a telephone number or email address in case anything needs to be clarified.
- **Online:** The HER makes available copies of its 'monument' records to the [Heritage Gateway website](#). This site offers a good range of search tools, allowing the Shropshire HER records to be queried in isolation or in conjunction with other local and national records.

How can I find out more?

Email: her@shropshire.gov.uk

Historic Environment Record, Shrewsbury Library, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AS