

# SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

## WHAT IS THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD?

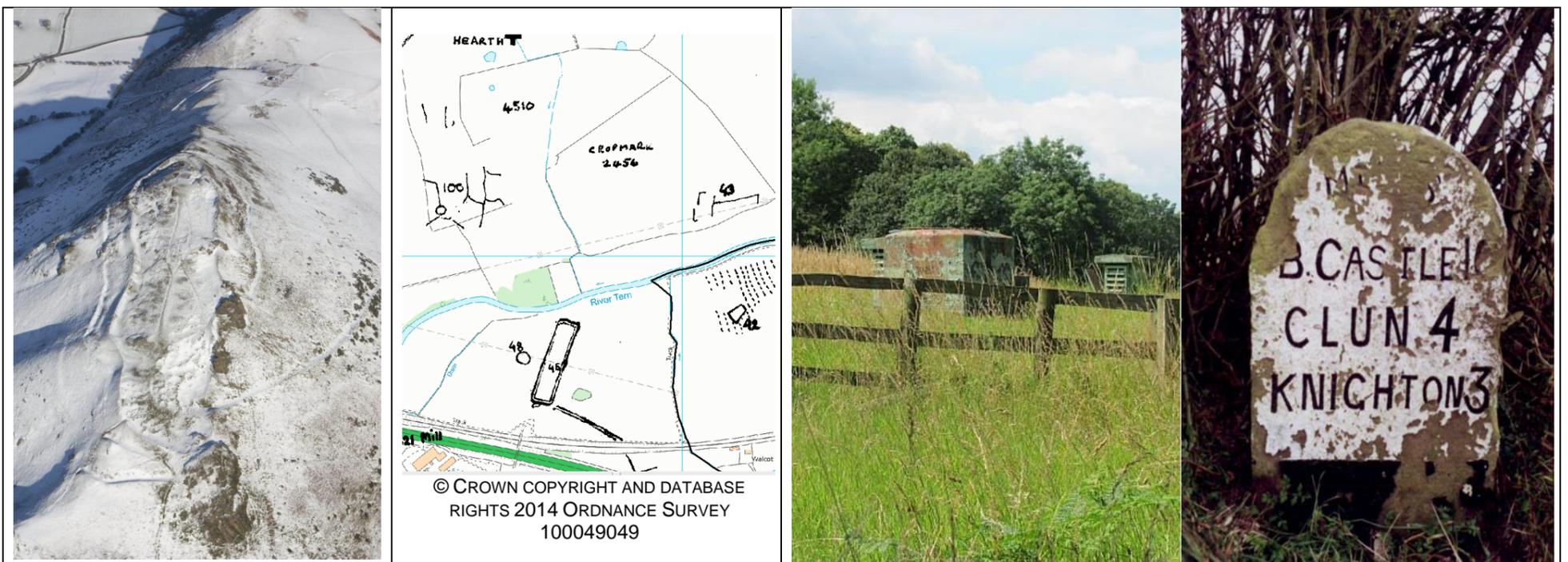
The Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER, also known as the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record or SMR) is a continuously expanding resource covering all aspects of the historic environment.

It includes not only **archaeological sites, finds and features**, but also **historic buildings, structures and landscapes**. In fact, we are interested in all features which relate to the way humans have used, settled in and exploited the landscapes of Shropshire.

The HER is compiled and maintained by the Historic Environment Team at Shropshire Council. It covers the whole of the historic county of Shropshire, including Telford and Wrekin.

The HER is based around a database linked to computer-based mapping. It holds core data such as location, type, period or date for each "Monument" or "Event" (archaeological surveys, excavations etc.). Additionally it indexes available "Sources" (documents, books, articles etc) held by the HER and by other organisations. The HER also holds extensive supporting collections of ground and air photographs, survey reports and plans, and a large library of unpublished, "grey literature" reports, mainly generated by the planning process.

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.



**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).

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Many individuals have been involved in the creation and development of the Historic Environment Record. We have a team of regular volunteers, supplemented by those who are assisting for short periods, such as work experience students, or those on specific projects. Our volunteers perform a vital role, assisting in the maintenance of the Historic Environment Record, under the supervision of the Historic Environment Team.

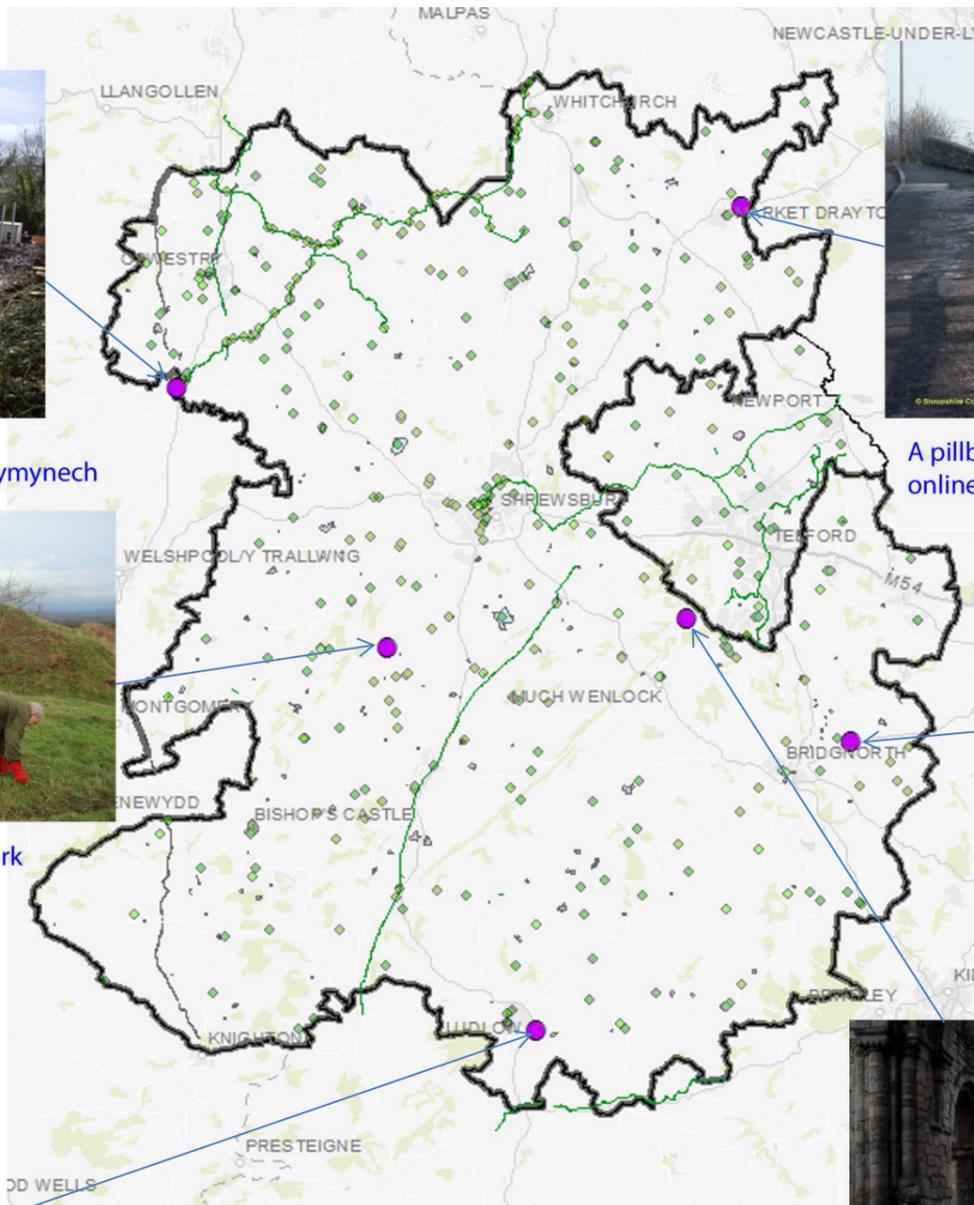
Our volunteers are working on a wide variety of projects, as you can see below. Some work in the office, compiling records, and recording information on new sites; others work out in the field, visiting, assessing and photographing elements of the historic environment.

No experience is necessary, just an interest in the county's heritage. Computer skills are useful, but further training can be given.

### Current volunteer contributions to the HER:



Volunteers were involved with excavation at The Hoffman Kiln, Llanymynech



A pillbox at Market Drayton, now viewable online thanks to one of our volunteers.



Volunteers carrying out clearance work at Castle Pulverbatch castle



An unusual wooden fingerpost, recorded by one of our volunteers.



A prisoner of war camp at Sheet Hill, Ludlow, one of many World War 1 and 2 sites, recorded by one of our volunteers



A photograph of Buildwas Abbey, now online thanks to one of our volunteers.

### A number of volunteer opportunities currently exist. These include:

- **Thematic projects** – enhancing our records for particular type of monuments, or related to the Historic Environment of particular areas. Examples include looking at wartime heritage, or recording workhouses.
- **Additional research** – we always need volunteers to undertake research to further enhance our records.
- **Checking and validating records** – a keen eye for detail is essential.
- Opportunities also exist to research and photograph historic buildings in Shropshire, including contributing to **Buildings at Risk** surveys.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE?

We would be very happy to discuss individual volunteer opportunities further.

Email: [HER@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:HER@shropshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 01743 254619

Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

## WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO WE RECORD?

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, such as this D-shaped enclosure, probably of Iron Age or Roman date.**

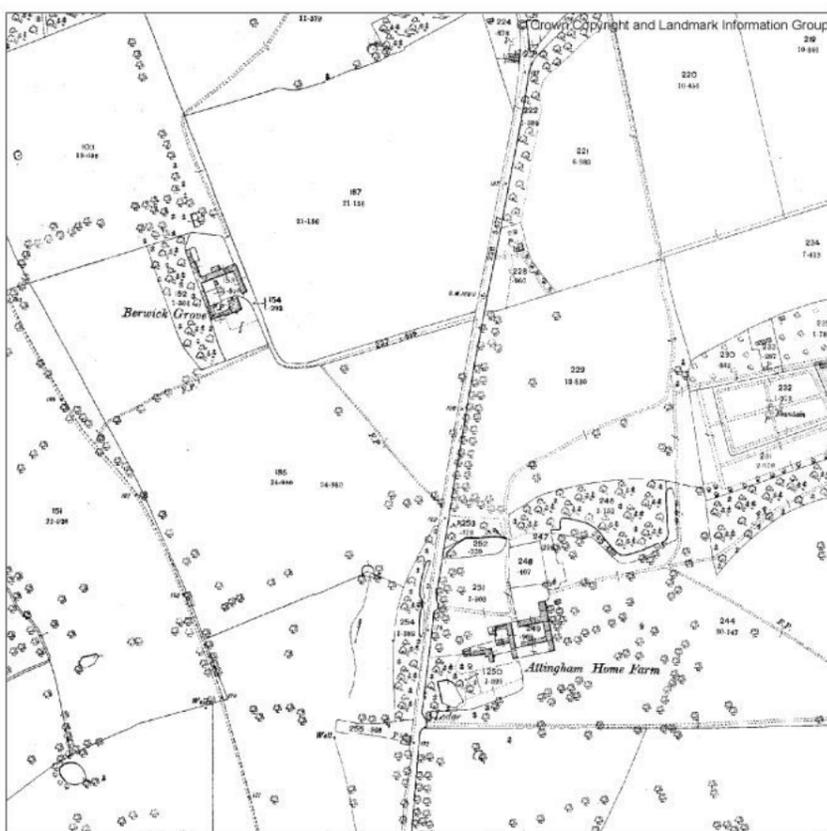
Many of these features cannot be spotted on the ground. We can only estimate their date and what type of site they represent, from similar sites which have been excavated around the county.

Sites where earthworks, “lumps and bumps” in pasture fields provide us with clues as to what lies underneath. This is part of the Deserted Medieval Village at Cold Weston, where house platforms, the former line of streets and the probable site of a watermill survive.



**Standing building complexes, that attest to the historical development of many of our towns, as well as the importance of the region during the Industrial Revolution.**

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



**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.**

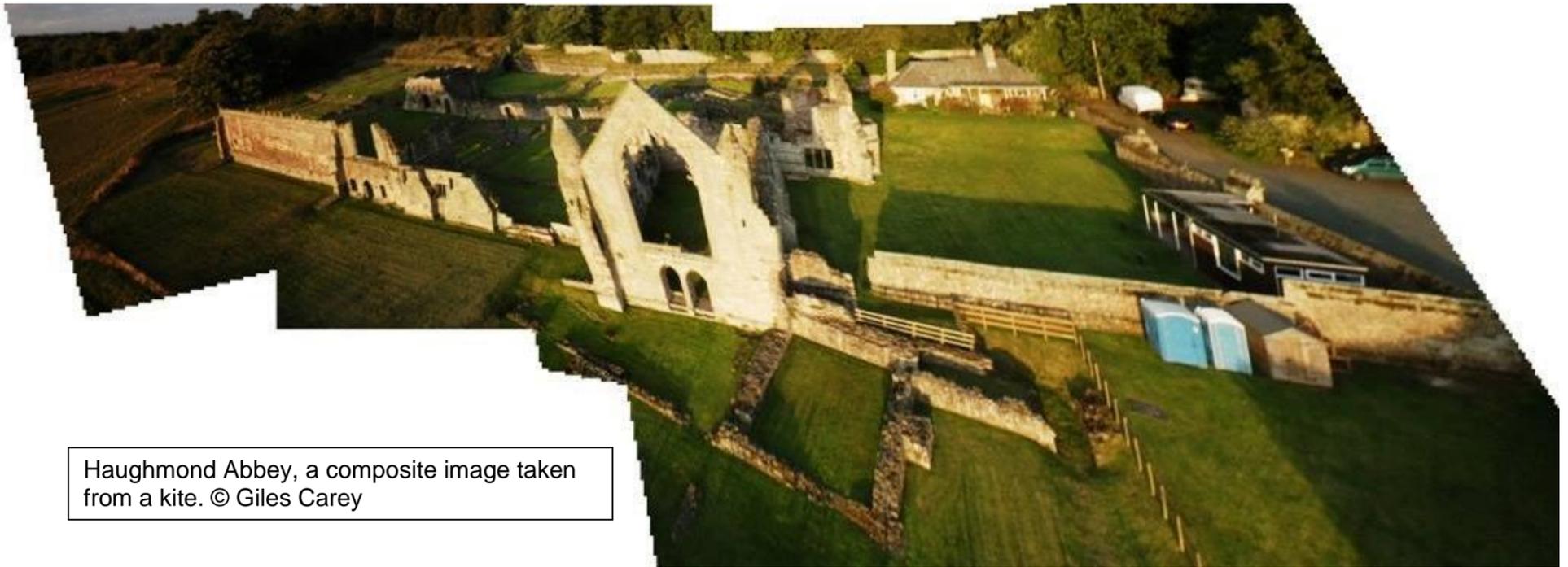
We hold extensive photographic and survey material of the buildings, sites and landscapes of Shropshire which support our records.

Much of the source material is held at our offices in Shirehall, and is available for consultation by appointment. Information is accessed primarily through a database linked to electronic mapping, so can be easily searched.

You can also find out more online, through the *Discovering Shropshire's History* website <http://www.shropshirehistory.org.uk>

## FINDING OUT MORE

**We hope that this has given you a good overview of the Historic Environment Record – who we are, the sort of things we record and how we record it.**



Haughmond Abbey, a composite image taken from a kite. © Giles Carey

### Visiting Us

If you can visit the Historic Environment Record, then you have the most direct access to assistance and resources. The HER is based in the Shropshire Council offices in Shirehall, Shrewsbury. It is usually open during normal office hours. Please make an appointment in advance, as there is limited space and staffing.

### 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.

- What location or area are you interested in? (National Grid references are a great help).
- What type or type(s) of information are you interested in?
- Why you want the information?
- 

Knowing why will help HER/SMR staff pitch their response to your specific needs, and also helps to protect the county's archaeology and historic buildings.

Please always include a telephone number or email address in case anything needs to be clarified.

### Online

The Historic Environment Record is one of the partners in the Discovering Shropshire's History website, alongside Shropshire Archives, the County Museums Service and a range of local history groups. Visit

<http://www.shropshirehistory.org.uk/>

...to search our records and find many photographs from our collections which have been digitised.

Email: [her@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:her@shropshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 01743 254619

Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND.