

Research Framework Steering Group Meeting

24th September 2009

RCAHMW, Aberystwyth

Present: Gwilym Hughes, Jenny Hall, Peter Wakelin, Emily Bateman, Louise Barker, David Browne, John Latham, Jeff Davies, Astrid Caseldine

1) Apologies: Bill Britnell, Nancy Edwards, Fiona Gale, Ken Murphy, Elizabeth Walker, Chris Martin, Mark Redknap, David Austin, Emma Plunkett-Dillon, Stephen Hughes, Stephen Briggs

2) Quick recap on where we are: The meeting started with a discussion of the structure of the steering group - GH reminded the meeting that the group acted as a sub-group of IfA Cymru/Wales but had until now a flexible membership, with invitations to attend meetings being extended to all the chairs of the national working groups. It was suggested that members of the group might like to consider the composition and return to this issue at a later date. GH explained about the Heritage Ministers' Welsh Historic Environment Strategic Direction statement and Action Plan announced on 22nd September - this contained a specific reference to completing a review of the priorities for the Framework by the end of 2010.

3) Website and issues connected with its maintenance: The feedback area had been discontinued as it had been little used but costs were high. It was proposed that the feedback element was reinstated in some form – how to do this to be discussed with Orchardweb and costed. David Browne suggested that there may be money available to help some support the website through the RCAHMW's publication funds. JH to follow this up. Emily Bateman gave feedback on her use of the website and said that the text was too small to meet disability requirements and that the text was right justified. JH to ask Orchardweb about this.

4) Use of research framework: Quick informal review of how the research framework is being used. GH reported that applications for grant aid being received by Cadw frequently referred to the Framework. Independent projects, examples quoted by John Latham, were also using it. Emily Bateman said that it was being frequently used in DC process.

5) Updating research framework: Discussions of the best way to approach updating the research framework lead to the following proposal

- The national period/theme working groups would be contacted via their original chair. The Chair would be asked if they were willing to continue in the role and if not to nominate someone else if possible.

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- Via the Chairs the working groups would be asked to consider a review of the past five years to identify relevant research that undertaken, identify how it ties into the current framework and explore any amendments/review priorities to the Research Framework documents. Consideration should be given to UK wide research agendas and cross link with the Welsh agenda. Also feedback on how the Research Framework had been used.
- This should be completed by the end of March
- The work would then be turned into working documents placed on the website, inviting comment and discussion
- In September/October a two day conference would present the review of each period/discussion and invite more discussion.
- Completed documents would be submitted for the website by December

6) Conference: Discussion around a venue for the two day conference led to the suggestion that Bangor University be considered. Emily Bateman to contact relevant people in Bangor and discuss options.

7) AOB: Jenny Hall suggested that an archive of work already undertaken should be deposited with the NMRW and this was agreed. Gwilym Hughes circulated minutes from NET Heritage UK stakeholders meeting to acquaint people with the project

Minutes Approved: 22nd January 2010

Jenny Hall
Chair IfA Wales/Cymru