

## **About the Heritage Gateway**

In April 2007, the first HERs came onto the Heritage Gateway enabling their data to be cross-searched. There are now more than 50 HERs online together with twelve National Datasets including:

- The National Heritage List For England ([NHLE](#))
- Designation Decision Records
- The National Record of the Historic Environment ([PastScape](#))
- Records from the National Trust Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record
- Photographs of listed buildings ([Images of England](#))
- Historic photographs of England ([Viewfinder](#))
- The NMR Excavation Index
- Information of historic parks, gardens and historic landscapes ([Parks & Gardens UK](#))
- Public Monuments and Sculpture Association
- The Milestone Society
- The Church Heritage Record

Of all the resources online over 30 now also make their data available for map searching. Each year we are continuing to add more datasets and encourage more resources to enable web mapping services.

The Heritage Gateway is managed by Historic England in partnership with ALGAO and IHBC. A key objective of this partnership has been to provide integrated access to local and national historic environment information resources.

During the past few years we have seen a steady increase in the number of visits to the website. In 2015 the site attracted 197,088 visitors. We added four new HERs together with one National Dataset, a further five HERs also enabled Web Mapping Services and one National Dataset. We anticipate that as we continue to add more resources, the number of visits to the site will increase further.

## **Our commitment to Heritage Gateway**

Historic England is committed to the continued support and ongoing development of the Heritage Gateway. We seek to raise its profile, making it a fundamental part of our strategy moving forward, encouraging engagement with and discussion of the historic environment. We believe that through this website, it is possible to provide a national network of local records relating to the historic environment

## **Joining this Growing Resource and Online Community**

Getting HER data online is often a long-term plan and can take up large amounts of resources. The Heritage Gateway can provide a quick and cost effective way of achieving this. Joining the Heritage Gateway provides a number of benefits:

- Enables cross searching alongside other national and local historic

- environment resources, including The National Heritage List for England.
- Enables spatial searching via Ordnance Survey map tools.
  - Gives access to a bespoke statistics service providing information about how many searches are carried out on your data and the number of individual records accessed.
  - If you are already online, it offers an alternative way of publicizing your data. As well as allowing users to cross search your data with national and other local data, you can also provide links to your own site from the results page. This provides you with another avenue to increase traffic to your own website.
  - The Heritage Gateway Online Resources Group offers a platform for HERs and other Data Providers to actively contribute to the website's future development.

### **Options for Making Your Data Available.**

There are various ways of coming on the Heritage Gateway:

1. Local Authority's IT department build a web service
2. Data hosted by ADS
3. HBSMR Gateway (web service for HBSMR) - data hosted by exeGesIS
4. HBSMR Gateway (web service for HBSMR) - data hosted by local authority.

The project welcomes all the above methods and they are all suitable for both bespoke databases and HERs already using HBSMR; it is up to the HER to decide which method best suits their requirements.

Heritage Gateway does not charge for providing this online service, however initially adding your data to Heritage Gateway will have associated internal and possibly external IT costs. These vary depending on which of the options you choose.

Historic England are committed to helping HERs and other data providers to join the Gateway, and may be able to provide a grant of up to £4,000 to cover the costs associated with making your data available online. We have also made a specific commitment to helping those interested in making their data available for map searching and again may be able to assist with funding for this.

Please contact [jane.golding@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:jane.golding@historicengland.org.uk) if you would like to find out more about this.

Each method is detailed below; all costs are exclusive of VAT.

#### **1) Build your own web service**

**Cost:**

Only cost is that of the local authority's ICT provision.

**Timescale:**

Set by your ICT department

**Suitable for:**

- HERs with bespoke database, or

- HERs using HBSMR, or
- HERs already with online presence, or
- HERs not already online (this method would help progress towards going online independently in the future)

**Contact:**

To discuss this option in more detail please contact  
[jane.golding@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:jane.golding@historicengland.org.uk)

With this option a single web service is built by your own ICT provider that Heritage Gateway can query. You can have more than one site using this web service so you could have the one web service for both your own website and Heritage Gateway. Heritage Gateway provides a step by step guide for building a compatible web service: Heritage Gateway Toolkit. We can also get the answers to any technical questions from our developer.

**2) Data hosted by ADS**

**Cost:**

3-4 days to build a web service @£350 a day (+VAT)

No compulsory annual fees. Currently ADS is offering an annual optional new data upload service, which may incur an associated cost (speak to ADS for more details)

**Timescale:**

c.12 weeks

**Suitable for:**

- HERs with bespoke database, or
- HERs using HBSMR

**Contact:**

Further information is available on the ADS Website at the link below  
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/HeritageGatewayAndHERs>

This option does not involve your local authority's ICT department. The Archaeology Data Service (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>) will host a copy of your database to be cross-searched by Heritage Gateway.

**3) HBSMR Gateway – data hosted by exeGesIS**

**Cost:**

For details of the costs associated with this option please visit the link below:  
<https://www.esdm.co.uk/hbsmr-gateway-costs>

**Timescale:**

3 – 6 weeks

**Suitable for:**

- HERs using HBSMR, or

- HERs with bespoke database
- HERs already with online presence

**Contact**

[xginfo@esdm.co.uk](mailto:xginfo@esdm.co.uk)

This option does not involve your local authority's ICT department. exeGesIS (<http://www.esdm.co.uk>) will host a copy of your database to be cross-searched by Heritage Gateway.

**4) HBSMR Gateway – data hosted by Local Authority**

**Cost:**

For details of the costs associated with this option please visit the link below: <https://www.esdm.co.uk/hbsmr-gateway-costs>

**Timescale:**

Set by your ICT department and exeGesIS.

**Suitable for:**

- HERs using HBSMR, or
- HERs with bespoke database (would need to migrate data to HBSMR to use this method)
- HERs already with online presence, or
- HERs not already online (this method would help progress towards going online independently in the future)

**Contact:**

[xginfo@esdm.co.uk](mailto:xginfo@esdm.co.uk)

This option involves exeGesIS (<http://www.esdm.co.uk>) working with your local authority's ICT department to build a web service.

**Summary of options**

Having your data hosted by ADS or exeGesIS will not involve your ICT department but it may cost money to update the copy of the database and refresh the information available on Heritage Gateway. exeGesIS charges an annual fee for its hosting service inclusive of ongoing service and maintenance.

If you choose to host your own data either by building your own web service or using HBSMR Gateway, you will be able to refresh the data at no extra cost but it does involve working with your ICT department. The HBSMR Gateway option has an associated annual support/licence cost.

**What next?**

If you have any questions about joining Heritage Gateway please contact [jane.golding@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:jane.golding@historicengland.org.uk)

