

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO ARCHIVE OFFICES

Thank you for taking the time to look at this questionnaire, which is part of an English Heritage project titled **Expanding the Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base**.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire is structured into 3 sections. **Please complete multiple choice questions using the letter 'x'**. Each question has a short explanatory sentence indicating whether one or multiple boxes should be checked. For free text questions we welcome as much concise detail as you can supply. We would be grateful if you could avoid the use of 'jargon' in your replies. A brief glossary of terms is included in a separate document to help in the interpretation of some questions.

We hope you'll find everything straightforward. We've attached some explanatory notes about the questionnaire, which we hope will enable you to complete the questionnaire as fully as possible. However if you do have any problems please don't hesitate to give us a call on the numbers below, and we'll gladly talk things through. Thank you again for sharing your information with us.

Submitting the Questionnaire

Completed questionnaires can be emailed to answers@locusconsulting.co.uk. Or, if you prefer, they can be printed off and sent in the post to:

Archive Questionnaire
Locus Consulting
Park Lane House
5 Park Lane,
Donington
Lincolnshire
PE11 4UE

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR
QUESTIONNAIRE NO LATER
THAN THE**

15th MARCH 2013

CONTACTING US

Please do not hesitate to contact us using the information below if you require any assistance or advice on filling in the questionnaire.

Email: adam.partington@locusconsulting.co.uk alastair.macintosh@locusconsulting.co.uk	Telephone: 01775 821402 07882109149 (Adam) or 07557375400 (Alastair)
---	---

PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH YOUR CONTACT DETAILS:

Organisation: Somerset County Council, Archives & Local Studies Date: 1 March 2013 Author:	Position: Email: Telephone:
--	--

SECTION 1: AVAILABILITY

This section aims to find out about the types and formats of heritage information that you hold and how that information is made available to a member of the public. The format of the questionnaire is multiple choice. Please check one or more boxes for each question where relevant.

This first section comprises 3 questions and is completed on the chart on the following page:

1: HELD	Question: <i>Do you hold this type of information?</i> Response: Yes <u>or</u> No Aim: To find out the types of heritage information held within your archive.
2: ACCESS	Question: How can information be accessed? Response: Mark <u>one or more</u> boxes Aim: To understand if and how members of the public can physically access the information.
3: FORMAT	Question: What formats is information held in? Response: Mark <u>one or more</u> boxes Aim: To understand the different formats that heritage information is held in.

INFORMATION TYPE	1: HELD		2: ACCESS				3: FORMAT					
	Yes	No	Online	Remote Enquiry	Archive Visit	Not available	Microfilm	Image file	Digital document	Original document	Card index	Other
MAPS												
Current Ordnance Survey		x				x						
Historic Ordnance Survey	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x	
Tithe	x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Enclosure	x			x	x					x		
Private Estate	x			x	x		x			x	x	
Road Order	x			x	x					x		
Sale Particulars	x			x	x					x		
Other												
LISTS & REGISTERS												
Electoral Registers	x			x	x		x			x		
Directories	x			x	x					x		
Tax Records	x			x	x		x					
Rate Assessments	x			x	x		x			x		
Other												
RECORDS												
Manor Court Rolls/Books	x			x	x		x			x	x	
Manorial Surveys	x			x	x		x			x	x	
Rentals	x			x	x		x			x	x	
Diocesan Archives	x			x	x					x	x	
Ecclesiastical Parish Archives	x			x	x		x			x	x	
Other												
WILLS, PROBATE & DEEDS												
Wills	x			x	x		x			x	x	
Probate Inventories	x			x	x					x	x	
Property Deeds	x			x	x					x		
Other												
PLANS												
Architectural Drawings	x			x	x					x		
Building Control Plans	x			x	x					x		
Planning Applications	x			x	x					x		
Other												
IMAGES & MEDIA												
Photographs	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	
Aerial Photographs	x			x	x					x		
Film and Video	x			x	x				x			
Drawings and Paintings	x			x	x			x	x	x	x	
Local history library	x			x	x				x	x	x	
Technical guidance	x			x	x							x
Other - Audio	x		x	x	x				x	x		

SECTION 2: ACCESSIBILITY

As well as finding out the types of information held by your archive, we are interested to know the ways in which it is being made available to the public. This section is divided into three parts, investigating online access to holdings, remote enquiries and requests for research, and physical access by a member of the public.

> ONLINE

A growing number of archives are providing information online, including via third party websites (e.g findmypast, ancestry). The styles of website vary considerably, particularly according to the information displayed, the different structures in which information is held, and the resources available. The questions below seek to understand the different types of heritage information held online and the often individual ways in which it is presented and structured.

If none of your heritage information is available online please go to Question 2.6

2.1 How is heritage information hosted online? (Mark either 'Yes' or 'No'. Please add the address of your website in the appropriate box.)

TYPE OF SITE	Yes	No	Website address:
Third party website		x	
Local authority web pages	x		www.somerset.gov.uk
Bespoke site or sub-site	x		www.somerset.gov.uk/archives
Mobile phone site		x	
Mobile phone app		x	(name)

2.2 Approximately when did your online service become available to the public? (Month/Year)

*Answer: 1996

2.3 Can users upload information to your website?

(NO) (Delete as applicable)

2.4 If 'YES' what types of information, and can users see each other's contributions? (Free text answer)

Answer:

> REMOTE ENQUIRY

Remote enquiries are a common way of providing heritage information. This section seeks to understand what protocols are in place to supply information remotely and the different methods in which it is made available.

2.5 Do you provide a remote search/enquiry service? YES (Delete as applicable)

2.6 What material and/or data can be supplied remotely for each heritage information type (free text), and in what format can this be provided? (Multiple choice)

(e.g. Holdings list, copy of specific document, publication)

	Material/data/information	FORMAT			
		Photocopy	Printout	Scan/Photo	Other*
Maps	List, Copy, Research using documents	x	x	x	
Lists & Registers	List, Copy, Research using documents	x	x	x	
Records	List, Copy, Research using documents	x	x	x	
Wills & Probate	List, Copy, Research using documents	x	x	x	
Plans	List, Copy, Research using documents	x		x	
Images & Media	List, Copy, Research using documents	x	x	x	

*Please give details if 'Other'

> VISIT

It is likely that the most effective way of accessing the information held by an archive is to visit it in person. For the user, this represents an opportunity to tap into the knowledge and experience of archive staff. This part of the questionnaire aims to find out what heritage information is accessible through a visit, along with the practices, facilities and resources available to help access archive holdings.

2.7 What are the opening arrangements of your archive? (Please include days, times and any access restrictions in operation) (Free text).

*Answer

Monday 1pm-5pm, Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm, Alternate Saturdays 9am-1pm

2.8 What facilities are available to members of the public visiting your Archive? (Mark either 'Yes' or 'No')

FACILITY	Yes	No
Dedicated workspace	x	
Computer with catalogue access	x	
Computer with internet access	x	
Library/search room	x	
Other*	x	

*Please provide more information here

Wifi, power supply, self service photocopier for library resources, reader printers, refreshment area with hot & cold drinks & snacks, sandwich vans daily, moveable photography table

2.9 Can you provide visitors with assistance in any of the following areas? (Mark one or more boxes)

	Computer/IT skills	Officers' local knowledge	Manual searching	Interpreting information	Other*
Maps	x	x	x	x	x
Lists and Registers	x	x	x	x	x
Records	x	x	x	x	x
Wills and Probate	x	x	x	x	x
Plans	x	x	x	x	x
Images	x	x	x	x	x

*Please provide more information here

Guidance on using archives, palaeography, group introductory sessions (chargeable)

2.10 How can information be viewed by a member of the public? (Mark one or more boxes)

	Original Document	Photocopy	Microfiche /Microfilm	Digital image	Transcription or Translation	Other*
Maps	x	x	x	x		
Lists and Registers	x	x	x		x	
Records	x	x	x	x	x	
Wills and Probate	x	x	x	x	x	
Plans	x	x		x		
Images	x	x	x	x		x

*Please provide more information here

Card index for some documents with thumbnail image

NB only some documents will be available in each format

2.11 What criteria can visitors use to search information? Does this require staff assistance? (Free text)

	Geographical location search	Topic/type criteria search	Requires staff assistance?
Maps	x	x	
Lists & Registers	x	x	
Records	x	x	
Wills & Probate	x	x	
Plans	x	x	
Images & Media	x	x	

2.12 Bearing in mind your answer to Question 2.6, what additional material and/or data can be supplied or accessed during a visit (free text), and in what format can this be provided? (Multiple choice)

(e.g. Photocopy, digital image, transcription, report)

	Material/data/information	FORMAT			
		Photocopy	Printout	Scan/Photo	Other
Maps					
Lists & Registers					
Records					
Wills & Probate					
Plans					
Images & Media					

There is no difference to what we can provide during a visit to what we can provide remotely except for access to original documents

SECTION 3: ENABLING ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

Much of the information held by archives is in a raw form (e.g. original documents and maps). This section aims to find out what processes and resources are in place to assist a member of the public in the interpretation and application of information acquired from an archive office.

3.1 Please give details of any methods and materials available to help users in the interpretation of heritage information, such as user guides to your archive. (Free text)

Answer:

Series of leaflets on specific subjects such as quarry records and also on how to use the facilities and get the most out of your visit

Bookable talks and group sessions on Archives & Local Studies and a variety of specialist subjects (chargeable)

Local studies library and Quick reference books on types of documents, palaeography skills, medieval Latin etc.

Constant invigilation of staff including access to a duty archivist

Online access to resources via the People's Network

Access to a wide range of Heritage expertise onsite due to operating as a combined Heritage Service (e.g. Historic Environment & Museum)

3.2 What guidance do you have to help guide members of the public in undertaking heritage-related projects in your area? If you don't provide any guidance of this kind please enter "n/a". (Free text)

(These might include guidance on how to produce village design statements, organise local history projects, or inform building restoration projects.)

Historical research	See above
Conservation (e.g. buildings)	See above, a Senior Conservation Officer is available onsite as is an Archive Conservator
Architecture and design	See above
Education and outreach	A Heritage Learning Team works onsite and offers training and advice to local organisations
Planning-related matters	Via the Historic Environment Service based onsite
Landscape history	Via the Historic Environment Service based onsite and the Somerset VCH which is also based at the Heritage Centre
Other	See above

3.3 Are you aware of any *specific* community-led plans (e.g. parish plans, village design statements, neighbourhood plans etc.) that have used information from your archive in the past 5 years?

Answer: YES (delete as applicable).

3.4 If 'YES' please give some specific details where possible (Free text)
(e.g. location, type of plan and basic aims)

Type of Plan	Details
CLP	Queen Camel

This concludes the questionnaire. Thank you for taking the time to share your information with us.

END