

## Developing Historic Environment Records for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

HER21 18 months on (October 2012)

6024 Using HERs under revised Ecclesiastical Exemption Order 2010,  
Cambridgeshire County Council

Have you continued to work in collaboration with the teams/individuals you met through the course of your project?

I already knew and worked with some of the individual and corporate stakeholders involved in this project, and work has continued with them along similar lines. Hence the Church of England is looking to make more use of their reports for closed churches.

The Statutory Advisory Committee on Redundant Churches is looking to both archive and disseminate its assessment reports on closed churches. After discussions internally and with others, the committee has agreed to make use of the ADS OASIS system, and will shortly be uploading reports.

These reports are produced by members of staff with significant expertise in church buildings and contents, and are further refined by contributions from the committee members who are themselves experts in many fields, such as architecture, archaeology, furnishings, stained glass etc.

These reports are a snapshot of a church building as it leaves the exemption and passes to secular control, and will be important for future information and curation. Using OASIS ensures that HERs will be notified when reports in their area become available so they make use of them.

Have your working practices altered as a result of your project?

Not really! We have had very few additional enquiries or submissions as a result.

Has this increased the quality of the service and do you expect this to carry through into the longer term?

The recent interest by the Church of England in making use of OASIS to disseminate closed church reports is very welcome.

Have you any plans to develop your project or has it acted as a springboard to other projects?

We did consider undertaking a survey of exempt places of worship to create traffic light alert system for them, but resources mean it is still on hold.

Have you any advice to give those taking inspiration from your project?

To remember that when dealing with an exempt denomination, that the process of exemption is, to them, as real and important as the secular planning process is to those outside the denomination.