

Resources that you can get without visiting the HER.....

Worcestershire's Historic Environment Record (HER) holds over 22,000 records on the archaeology, buildings and historic landscape of the County. It is based around a SQL database linked to a Geographical Information System. By 2012 we will be able to provide online access to much of the data in the HER, via the Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway>, but currently you cannot access our HER remotely.

The HER is open to the public (by appointment) and you are always welcome to visit us, but we can provide a great deal of information online and have developed a range of complementary resources which can be used on their own, or with the results of an HER search, to allow you to gain detailed archaeological information remotely.

Below is a list of the online resources that we offer and the information that we can send out to you on request. These resources can be combined to enable you to get much more information than each can provide on their own. Please note that unfortunately, mainly due to copyright restrictions, some information cannot be accessed without visiting us.

The HER Search.

The HER database is linked to a powerful search engine and we can extract all sorts of information and then send it to you by email, on CD or on paper. You may want to know, for example, if there have been any prehistoric remains unearthed near where you live or which buildings are the oldest, or where Roman pottery has been found.

Digitisation of all sources within the HER.

The HER records are built up by taking information from a whole range of sources. As well as published books and unpublished reports, these sources include photographs, architects drawings, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, letters and notes. We are scanning every unpublished source relating to the HER (copyright permitting). These, along with the unpublished reports are linked to the HER software making them instantly accessible to HER staff. There are copyright issues to be addressed for each source type but, where appropriate, sources listed in an HER search can be emailed to you. Most aerial photographs (we have about 3000) cannot be emailed and you would have to visit us to view them, but many sources can be sent out, just ask.

The Online Archaeology Library.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/library

Since the late 1980s most archaeological information has been circulated via unpublished reports, which cannot be accessed through libraries. This site provides remote access to PDFs of most of these reports for sites in Worcestershire. Currently there are c1500 reports online. You can search the library by parish or for an individual report if you know it exists, but not on type of archaeological work or period. If you have requested a search however, it provides you with a list of reports, each with a unique number. You can then search the library using that number. You can get a search, for example of all

excavations on Neolithic sites, and use the unique numbers to call up all the relevant reports.

[The Historic Towns Website.](#)

If you are interested in any of the 13 historic towns in the County (Alvechurch, Bewdley & Wribbenhall, Broadway, Bromsgrove, Clifton-Upon-Teme, Droitwich, Evesham & Bengeworth, Kidderminster, Pershore, Redditch, Stourport-on-Severn, Tenbury Wells and Upton-Upon-Severn), we have created a series of documents on the Historic Towns Website that give a short, user-friendly and up-to-date historical and archaeological assessment of each town. If you want, you can then read the more detailed reports on the Online Archaeology Library or, as these were written in the mid 1990s, ask us for an HER search based on the town you are interested in. Please note - It is best not to ask for 'everything' on a town as you will get hundreds of records.

[The History of Worcestershire Online.](#)

We have compiled a series of PDF reports on certain periods of Worcestershire's history and these are available to download from our website. They have been written by volunteers and staff interested in a specific subject and do not, as yet, cover every period. If you are interested in a specific topic, for example, the information on Second World War defences, you could then ask us for an HER search showing you all the defences in your parish. This may lead you to the Online Archaeology Library to read reports of archaeological recording carried out on these defences.

[The Tithe and Inclosure Project.](#)

www.worcestershiremaps.org.uk

If you are interested in historic maps or looking at how your local area has changed in the last 150-200 years, then you can go to the Tithe and Inclosure website. This project provides online access to digitised 18th and 19th century maps in the county, with their attached documentary evidence. Together, these transform flat maps and documents into a powerful, searchable research tool. New maps are added as they are completed and there is not full coverage of the county yet.

[Worcestershire Online Ceramic Database.](#)

www.worcestershireceramics.org

This online database was designed to enable users to find information on all the pottery used and made in Worcestershire in the past. At the moment it covers everything from the first vessels made in the Neolithic period (6000 years ago) to those dating to the mid 17th century. For each type of pottery the database contains information on the clay used, types of vessels made, place of manufacture and date and distribution. In addition there are photographs of sherds of pottery and bibliographic references for each fabric type including cross references to other published examples where they exist. This website was created for those with a particular interest in pottery and was not aimed at the general public, although it can be used by anyone. If you just want to find out about pottery that you have dug up in your garden, then you might prefer to bring it in to us at the HER.