



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Minutes

## *Countywide Archaeological Advisory Committee*

**AGENDA ITEM: 5**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTYWIDE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
20 MARCH 2002 IN MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY,  
COMMENCING AT 2.35PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.45PM.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

#### **Members**

Mrs C M Aston (Chairman)  
Cllr Cashman  
Mr M Farley  
Cllr C B Oliver

#### **Organisation**

Buckinghamshire County Council  
Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Bucks Archaeological Society  
Wycombe District Council

#### **Officers**

Mr M Andrew  
Mr B Giggins  
Mr S Kidd  
Mr G Marshall  
Mr D Pickard  
Mrs C Street  
Mr B Thorn  
Mr S Went

Wycombe District Council  
Milton Keynes District Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
National Trust  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Bucks County Museum  
South Bucks District Council

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Jones, Buckinghamshire County Council; Cllr Sir John Horsbrugh-Porter, Chiltern District Council; Ms L Stone, Chiltern District Council; Mr M Anderton, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Mr C Welch, English Heritage; Ms J Wise, Buckinghamshire County Council; Mr R Evans, Oxford DAC and Cllr B Morsley, Milton Keynes Council.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr M Farley declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Consultant Archaeologist. Mrs C Aston declared non-pecuniary interests due to her involvement with the AONB Chiltern's Conservation Board, and the Regional Committee of the National Trust.

### **3 MINUTES**

There were a number of comments on the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2001. Members agreed that an amended copy of these minutes would be presented for confirmation at the next meeting of the Committee.

### **4 MATTERS ARISING**

None.

### **5 MODERNISING THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Committee received a report from the Senior Archaeological Officer, which detailed responses to the invitations to new members and the recommendations of a working party set up to examine the constitution of the Committee.

During discussion of the report, members made the following comments:

- The proposed name of the Committee was rather long, the word 'Countywide' could be removed and the title forum preferred, making the name: 'Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum'.
- Clarification was required regarding the co-opting of individuals on to sub-committees (section 3c).
- Raising the profile of the historic environment could be achieved by visiting sites of interest, or by holding meetings at the sites, resources permitting, to which both elected members and Parish Councils could be invited.
- A role of the Committee could be to advise Councillors throughout the county on historic environment issues.
- The priority topics listed in the report should include remains of industrial and wartime history, which are disappearing rapidly. Members were asked to raise this concern with their respective Councils/Groups.
- Committee members were keen to continue receiving detailed listings of archaeological projects, and it was suggested that Conservation Officers could contribute reports.
- An offer by the National Trust Representative to submit a regular report at subsequent CAAC meetings was welcomed by members.

Members further commented that the regular reports brought to the Committee could focus attention on the most important historic environment issues, and that these reports could form a future work programme for the Committee.

As the meeting did not have the requisite five members to amend the Constitution, the Senior Archaeological Officer agreed to make further amendments to the constitution, which would be recommended to the next meeting of the Countywide Archaeological Committee.

## **RESOLVED**

### **The Committee:**

- a) **Welcomed the nomination of new (non-voting) members by the National Trust, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Diocese of Oxford.**
- b) **Agreed the request for voting membership received from the Shadow Conservation Board for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**
- c) **Instructed the Secretary to advise the membership of the intention to consider a change of the Committee's name to the "Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum" and amendments to its constitution at the Committee's next meeting.**
- c) **Agreed the list of topics outlined in paragraph 7 as priorities for practical measures designed to facilitate a more holistic approach to the historic environment, with an emphasis on wartime and industrial buildings at risk under the first topic.**

## **6 MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members received a report of the Archaeological Officer, Design and Conservation, Milton Keynes Council, informing them of current archaeological matters in Milton Keynes.

Members noted that, regarding the consolidation works to the church and churchyard at Stanton Low, the large amount of moulded stone that had been salvaged was being stored at a field centre, and would eventually be placed in the archaeological archive.

Members felt it was important for archaeological articles to be published in the *Records of Buckinghamshire*, and that if possible this should not be a slow process. It was further suggested that items listed on the regular reports that had also been placed on the Sites and Monument Record (SMR), could be signified by having an asterisk by them.

## **7 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members received a report of the Senior Archaeological Officer, advising the Committee of significant archaeological events in Buckinghamshire that had occurred since the last CAAC meeting.

A member of the Committee queried whether the public should approach the SMR through the County Council or the National Trust. In response the Senior Archaeological Officer commented that there needed to be an exchange of information between the two organisations. He further suggested that once the timescales for the national Sites and Monuments Record policy review had been agreed, a local working group could be assembled to put forward proposals for sharing or exchange of data in relation to the SMR.

Members were informed that the next meeting of the sub-committee to address the project design for the 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past', SMR Outreach Project, would be taking place on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, and not on 1<sup>st</sup> April, as stated in the report.

An education pack that had been produced by the Oxford Archaeology for Eton College and Eton Aggregates regarding, 'The Archaeology of the Eton Rowing Lakes', was circulated to CAAC Members. Seventy copies had been given to the County Council for distribution to schools. Members commented on the high quality of the pack, and it was agreed that the Chairman should send a letter to the College of behalf of CAAC thanking them for their generous donation, and asking if it would be possible for a few more copies to be made available to Buckinghamshire libraries.

## **RESOLVED**

### **The Committee:**

- a Noted the Service's Outputs and Performance Indicators and the generally satisfactory performance in relation to the latter**
- b Approved the reorganisation of the County Archaeological Service, and recognised the need to secure long term funding for this enhanced provision**
- c Noted progress with Strategic and Conservation Projects**
- d Noted recent development-related archaeological casework in the county and approved the Chairman to write to the Bursar of Eton College in thanks for the gift of Rowing Lakes Education Packs to the County's schools.**

## **8 COUNTY MUSEUM (ORAL) REPORT**

The Committee received an oral report regarding the County Museum. Three major items were noted:

- 1 A Keeper of Archaeology had been appointed at the beginning of February
- 2 The County Museum had received notification of the intention to deposit the archives from 34 archaeological sites since the last meeting of the CAAC.
- 3 News had not yet been received regarding the bid for the post of Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer. A further meeting was being held in April to consider this issue.

Regarding Item 3, Members were informed that the bid was being looked at again to assess its long-term sustainability. Members noted that such posts provided significant benefits and that the need for such a position in Buckinghamshire was compelling. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Roger Bland to 'strengthen his arm' over the matter.

## **9 THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY STATEMENT AND PLANNING GREEN PAPER**

Members received a report of the Senior Archaeological Officer, detailing the Government's policy statement on the historic environment and the potential implications of the Planning Green Paper.

Members broadly welcomed the proposed changes contained in the report but were disappointed that no response had been received regarding representations that they had made about 'loopholes' they had identified at an earlier stage.

The Senior Archaeological Officer commented that the training for elected Members in respect of the historic environment could be addressed through CAAC. He requested that members of the Committee bring to the next meeting suggestions for future training events.

Members commented that the policy principles set out in PPGs 15 and 16 were too lengthy.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Committee:**

- a Noted the potential implications of the Planning Green Paper and Historic Environment Review**
- b Endorsed the Future Actions listed in paragraph 15 of the report.**

## **10 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee received a report of the Senior Archaeological Officer, reviewing progress on the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Management Plan.

Members congratulated the Senior Archaeological Officer on his impressive report, detailing the excellent progress made on the Management Plan. The Committee noted that the majority of the actions listed were being carried out and that the small team involved had made good use of working with partners to achieve the set targets.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Committee:**

**Welcomed the excellent progress made so far with implementing the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Management Plan.**

## **11 EMERGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING FUND**

Members received a report of the Senior Archaeological Officer and Treasurer reviewing the operation of the emergency recording fund.

Members were informed that payment was yet to be received from Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils, and that payment of outstanding contributions was essential to return the fund to an adequate level. Members were further reminded that agreement had been made to 'weight' the contributions required, according to the different District areas.

To help ensure payment was received on time, it was suggested that invoices be issued promptly at the start of each financial year.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the Committee:**

**Instruct the Treasurer to write to outstanding contributors reminding them of their previous commitment to contribute to this fund.**

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee was informed by Mr Went of a decision by South Bucks District Council to no longer nominate an elected member to this Committee. The Chairman agreed to write to South Bucks District Council, to obtain clarification and encourage the continued attendance of their elected member on the Countywide Archaeological Advisory Committee.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

**MRS C ASTON  
CHAIRMAN**