



Buckinghamshire County Council

Planning and Environment Service – County Archaeological Service

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Mr Bill Startin

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Dear Bill

Review of Heritage Protection: Sub-Regional Partnership

I am writing in connection with the recent Ministerial Decision that included the statement that English Heritage should pilot partnerships in sub-regional groupings to test the feasibility of sharing skills, expertise and good practice. In particular, I would like to explore the possibility of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum becoming one of the pilot partnerships. As you will recall from your visit last year, the Forum is a co-ordinating and advisory body for organisations with an interest in the management of the historic environment of the historic (pre-1997 local government reorganisation) county of Buckinghamshire. It includes elected member and officer representatives from Buckinghamshire County Council, Milton Keynes Council and Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe District Councils as well as the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and Shadow Chiltern Conservation Board. The National Trust, DEFRA, English Heritage and the Diocese of Oxford have officer level representation.

In practice the work of the forum has often focused on archaeology, a legacy of its previous incarnation as an archaeological advisory committee, but members recognise the desirability of achieving a more inclusive and even coverage of the historic environment in all its manifestations. I am sure the Forum would not see itself as an ideal model at present, rather we would welcome the encouragement and support of English Heritage to help us define and move towards such a model. Perhaps it would be a suitable forum for promoting the HELM project? If you are agreeable to the principle, I would like to take this opportunity to invite representatives of English Heritage to our next meeting on Wednesday 22nd September (2.30pm, County Hall, Aylesbury) to discuss how such a partnership might work. If you would like to discuss further please give me a ring.

Yours sincerely

Alexander (Sandy) Kidd
Senior Archaeological Officer
Secretary of Bucks HEF

cc Chris Welch



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