

EMERGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING FUND

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 22nd September 2004

Authors: Joint Report by the Senior Archaeological Officer/Treasurer and
Conservation Officer for Aylesbury Vale District Council

A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To review the operation of the emergency recording fund.

B. PROPOSED ACTION

2 The Committee is invited to:

- a) **NOTE the current status of the fund**
- b) **APPROVE expenditure of up to £1500 to assist with emergency recording of New Inn Farm, Stowe.**
- c) **AGREE to invoice the membership for £2000 of contributions divided pro-rata as agreed in March 2001.**

C. RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 3 The current balance is £2750.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6 New Inn Farm was built in 1717 to the designs of Thomas Harris and served as the original entry point and place of hospitality for visitors to the Stowe gardens. The buildings are listed grade II*, are currently on the "Buildings At Risk" register, have already suffered partial collapse, and are in imminent danger of further loss. A report by Aylesbury Vale's Conservation Officer is attached.
- 7 The National Trust have negotiated to acquire the Farm for restoration to public use as the entrance to Stowe House and Gardens but substantial funding will be required to achieve this. There is a need to undertake Archaeological Buildings Recording to document their significance and inform conservation in accordance with best practice. The Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust has offered £1500 towards recording but this is thought unlikely to be sufficient. In view of the imminent risk of major loss of this nationally and locally important building it is felt that the part-funding of a programme of emergency recording would be an appropriate use for the fund. Members are

reminded that the fund protocol (see appendix) allows for the recording of above-ground features of archaeological interest. In view of the long term archaeological research campaign by the National Trust informing the conservation of Stowe, it is considered fully justified to view these buildings as being of archaeological interest within the terms of the protocol.

- 8 It was decided at the March 2003 meeting to suspend contributions to the fund until further calls were made upon it. If funding is offered to New Inn Farm then there will be a need to bring the fund back up to viable levels to enable rapid response to future threats. According to the funding formula agreed in March 2001, £2000 would be made up as follows (although members should note that Chiltern District Council has in the past declined to contribute):

	Contribution	% Contribution
Aylesbury Vale District Council	£400	20%
Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society	£100	5%
Buckinghamshire County Council	£800	40%
Chiltern District Council	£100	5%
Milton Keynes Council	£300	15%
South Bucks District Council	£100	5%
Wycombe District Council	£200	10%

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Countywide Archaeological Committee Papers and Minutes for March 2000, September 2000 and March 2001.

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