

**HIGHWAYS AND HERITAGE**

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Author: Report by the Senior Archaeological Officer  
Presentation by Shaun Pope on the Environmental Guidelines for Roads

**A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1 To discuss matters relating to highway management and heritage arising from the updating Local Transport Plan.

**B. PROPOSED ACTION**

**2 The Committee is invited to:**

- a) **COMMENT** on the matters raised in the presentation
- b) **SUPPORT** the review of procedures for evaluating major schemes
- c) **SUPPORT** the review and extension of the Chiltern Environmental Guidelines for Roads.

**C. RESOURCES**

- 3 Not established.

**D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4 The Local Transport Plan sets out the County Council's strategy, vision and implementation programme for all forms of transport for the five-year period 2006-2011, The main effects of Transportation on the historic environment can be broadly identified as related either to major new transport infrastructure or to small-scale projects/ongoing maintenance of the highway network. The Strategic Environmental Assessment for the recent review of the Bucks Local Transport Plan highlighted issues relating to each.
- 5 Major projects, such as the Stoke Hammond/Linslade bypass currently under construction, are usually planned to avoid listed buildings abut often have a significant impact on undesignated archaeological remains and historic landscape. Assessment of impacts on cultural heritage is required under EIA Regulations and to comply with planning policy and guidance. Existing procedures ought to be reviewed to reflect current best practice in archaeological evaluation and also to

take account of historic landscape character (HLC). New rail projects (e.g. Crossrail) present special issues over which the County Council has limited influence.

- 6 The effects of minor works are typically rather different. English Heritage in "Streets for All: South East" have recently drawn attention to how street furniture and surfacing can change the character of an area. Locally the "Environmental Guidelines for the Management of Roads in the Chilterns" provide a model which could be extended across Buckinghamshire. Shaun Pope of BCC Transportation will explain the guidelines and their current review. Copies of the guidelines will be available at the meeting. It is suggested that discussion could focus on identifying the key issues of concern. Do the Environmental Guidelines provide a model for the rest of the county? What elements require special consideration? How widely should they apply? Members may feed back ideas at the meeting or subsequently.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Bucks Local Transport Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Chiltern Environmental Guidelines for Roads

English Heritage Streets for All South East

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