

EMERGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING FUND

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 28th March 2007

Authors: Report by the County Archaeological Officer/Treasurer

A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

B. PROPOSED ACTION

2 The Forum is invited to:

- a) **NOTE the current status of the fund.**
- b) **AGREE in principle the expenditure of upto £2500 on geophysical survey of the Whaddon Chase hoard site.**

C. RESOURCES

- 3 The current balance is £6350.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. There has been no call on the fund in the past 6 months.
5. The discovery of Iron Age coins (reported by the Finds Liaison Officer) from the site of the Whaddon Chase hoard (a 19th century find) indicates that this nationally important site retains significant archaeological material. Several hundred, and by some accounts about two thousand, late Iron Age gold coins were found when disturbed by ploughing in 1849 but as far as is known no more have been found for 150 years until now. The site is amongst the largest Iron Age coin hoards ever found in Britain, the largest being a recent find of 3000 gold and silver coins found associated with a Roman cavalry helmet at a ritual site in Leicestershire. The Whaddon site is considered at risk from "nighthawk" metal detecting and potentially at risk from ploughing if there are in-situ archaeological deposits from which the new finds have been brought to the surface. No information is available on the context of the coin finds so is not known whether this is an isolated hoard or set within a larger site. In order to help establish the context of these finds, and therefore whether a major site is at risk, it is proposed to seek permission for a geophysical survey to be funded from the emergency recording fund. Negotiations have been opened with the finders and landowners. The recommended funding allocation should be sufficient for a survey of 1-4 hectares centred on the recent

finds using a combination of conventional magnetometer and electromagnetic survey as recommended by English Heritage's geophysical survey team.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous Archaeology Advisory Committee and Historic Environment Forum papers

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