

# Agenda

## *BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM*

**Date:** Wednesday 22 September 2010  
**Time:** 2.30 pm  
**Venue:** Bletchley Park (Drawing Room, The Mansion,  
Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB)

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Page No</b>
<b>1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN</b>	
<b>2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP</b>	
<b>3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To declare any personal and prejudicial interests	
<b>4 MINUTES</b> of the meeting held on 10 March 2010 to be confirmed	<b>1 - 8</b>
<b>5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b>	
<b>6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICES AND THE COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW</b> Discussion	
<b>7 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD: PPS5 AND THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT</b> Report of the Historic Environment Record Officer	<b>9 - 16</b>
<b>8 MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT</b> Report of the Senior Archaeological Officer, Conservation and Archaeology	
<b>9 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT</b> Report of the County Archaeologist	<b>17 - 24</b>

Appendix A – to be tabled.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



<b>10</b>	<b>HIGH SPEED TWO (HS2)</b> Report of the County Archaeologist.	<b>25 - 28</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>COUNTY MUSEUM REPORT</b> Reports of the Keeper of Archaeology and Finds Liaison Officer	<b>To Follow</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>NATIONAL TRUST REPORT</b> Report of the Regional Archaeologist	<b>To Follow</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>CONSERVATION OFFICERS' REPORTS</b>	
<b>2A</b>	<b>AYLESBURY VALE</b>	
<b>2B</b>	<b>CHILTERN</b>	
<b>2C</b>	<b>SOUTH BUCKS</b>	
<b>2D</b>	<b>WYCOMBE</b>	
<b>2E</b>	<b>MILTON KEYNES</b>	
<b>14</b>	<b>EMERGENCY RECORDING FUND</b> Report of the Treasurer	<b>29 - 30</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>16</b>	<b>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b> Provisional dates to be agreed:  Wednesday 16 March, 2.30pm, Mezzanine Room 3, County Hall, Aylesbury Wednesday 21 September, 2.30pm, Mezzanine Room 3	

---

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

*For further information please contact: Katy MacDonald on 01296 383604  
Fax No 01296 382538, email: [kmacdonald@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:kmacdonald@buckscc.gov.uk)*

**To all Members of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum**

# Minutes

## *BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2010 IN MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 2.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.14 PM.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

#### **Members**

Mr C Cashman  
Mr R Evans  
Mr M Farley  
Sir J Horsbrugh-Porter  
Mrs V McPake  
Mr G Marshall  
Mr R Pushman (Chairman)

#### **Organisation**

Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Diocese of Oxford  
Bucks Archaeological Society  
Chiltern District Council  
Milton Keynes Council  
National Trust  
Buckinghamshire County Council

#### **Officers**

Mr M Andrew  
Mr S Kidd  
Mr B Thorn  
Ms J Wise  
Ms K MacDonald  
Mr N Crank  
Ms M Miller  
Mr R McDonald  
Ms E Hands  
Mr S Peart

#### **Organisation**

Wycombe District Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Bucks County Museum  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Milton Keynes Council

Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Milton Keynes Council

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies were received from Brenda Jennings and Hugh McCarthy.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 March 2010 were confirmed subject to the



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



following change:

Page 4, Agenda Item 9, The Archaeological Service in Milton Keynes has changed its name to the Conservation & Archaeology Team and therefore line 1 should read "Members received a report from the Conservation and Archaeology Team, Milton Keynes".

#### **4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Members were advised that in relation to the Heritage Protection Reform a project review meeting had been arranged for April 2010. The Officer also informed the Forum that the current position for Planning Policy Statement 15: Consultation could be published around Easter but that there was uncertainty due to the General Election.

The 'Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire' book was circulated at the meeting for Members and it was commented that this was a positive piece of work.

Mr Kidd highlighted that he may put forward the ruin Church in Quarrendon as a site at risk.

#### **5 CONSERVATION AREA POLICY**

Members had received a report from Emilia Hands, Conservation Officer, Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The AVDC Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to provide additional guidance to parties about the interpretation and application of the Council's Conservation Area policies. The Conservation Area SPD explains the policy framework for this guidance and summarises the process by which Conservation Area within Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) are designated, appraised, monitored and managed.

The draft supplementary planning document is available on the AVDC website or can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search/?s=a&k=SPD>

The SPD forms part of the emerging AVDC Local Development Framework, (LDF) and acts as an important linking document between the LDF policies and AVDC's Conservation Area Appraisals, Management Plans and associated documents.

The Conservation Area Management Plan - District Wide Strategy is a document produced by consultants for AVDC.

The Officer informed the Forum that there is a District wide Conservation Management Plan which has been produced by consultants on behalf of AVDC and said it is a working document that provides short, medium and long term programmes for addressing generic management issues in the Conservation Areas throughout the district. The document informs the Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document and will inform the individual Conservation Area Management Plans which will be produced for each of the Conservation Areas within the district. AVDC received a grant from English Heritage. The Officer said Members should contact her if they required a paper copy of the document.

A Member asked if there was a similar process in other Council's and the Officer advised that she was not aware of any although all Council's have Local Delivery Frameworks.

She stressed that AVDC had fought hard for conservation. Milton Keynes did have a couple of area actions plans but said that these were cut for the core strategy and said that they did not have a linking document.

A Member asked if appraisals are underneath SPD as they had difficulty in getting a reference to conservation in their District Core Strategy.

The Forum supported the document and congratulated those involved in the initiative.

## **6 PROMOTING HERITAGE AWARENESS WITH POLICY MAKERS**

Sandy Kidd, County Archaeologist, gave the following update:

Promotion of awareness amongst key decision-makers of heritage issues relating to both the historic environment and museums was discussed at the last meeting. An idea is for an event to be held at the County Museum to coincide with the museum's 'Human' exhibition to showcase the public value of heritage, and debate future heritage policy. There would be several speakers with a regional or national profile.

An event in mid June has been proposed and the Officer said he had been speaking with Sarah Gray, Bucks County Museum to try and co-ordinate this.

The Officer said it would be helpful for Members of the Forum to identify other opportunities for engaging with decision-makers and highlighted that The County Archaeology Services is to hold a training event for the Chiltern HLC Project with the Chiltern AONB as well as a series of promotional events for the Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project which are being jointly organised with the District Councils.

The Forum was advised that the Milton Keynes Archaeology Day is to be held on Saturday 13 November 2010 10am-4pm, Milton Keynes Central Library.

It was commented that the aim is to try to attract high earners to Milton Keynes and that leaflets have been distributed to new developers and large employers with the aim to made contact with local businesses and gain support for Heritage.

An Officer made the suggestion of opening the event invitation to be held at Bucks County Museum to key businesses.

A Member suggested that the invite be extended to members of the Historic Churches Trust.

A Member asked how people are going to be targeted apart from the invitation and it was suggested that support may be needed from the Districts.

A Member asked if Chiltern Museum could contribute to Bucks Museum. In response an Officer commented that Bucks County Museum has contacts and commented that Chiltern Museum is private and that joint working was difficult as Chiltern Museum is a museum of buildings.

A Member commented that Bucks County Museum is difficult to find. He went on to say that there should be a signpost in town and that promotion of the Museum's existence was needed.

An Officer asked if the Forum was happy with the proposal and asked if Members would consider helping out at a stall.

**The Forum AGREED the proposal.**

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

Members had received a report from Nick Crank, Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council.

The Officer drew Members to the Archaeological events in Milton Keynes from July to December 2009

Members were informed that there had been 84 consultations in respect of archaeological matters between 1 July and 31 December 2009.

The Historic Environment Record was consulted by external researchers 13 times between July and December 2009.

In November a Heritage Theme was launched on the MKi Observatory website. This digital mapping resource includes Historic Landscape Characterisation, Viatores routes, historic fields and woodlands alongside building, monument and event data: <http://mkiobservatory.org.uk>

**The Forum NOTED the report**

## **8 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT**

Sandy Kidd, County Archaeologist, gave the following report:

Use of the Historic Environment Record (HER) by direct enquiries remains at a modest level. Volunteers are continuing to make inroads into the remaining collections backlog.

A grant has been obtained from English Heritage to make Historic Environment Record (HER) information available across the national Heritage Gateway portal whilst at the same time the UBP website will be migrated to the new software compatible with that system.

English Heritage in partnership with the Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers is developing a strategy for HPR compliant HERs. It is envisaged that implementation of this strategy will take place between 2010 and 2015, subject to funding. In 2010/11 English Heritage are intending to invest a sum of £400k in assist HERs move towards full HPR compliance in England. The scheme opened for project proposals on the 15<sup>th</sup> February with a deadline of the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Members were advised that guidance has been issued and he talked Members through an extract of the guidance.

The Officer said that there are a number of possible projects and said that he would produce a report by February 2011 but that the focus would be on improving people's understanding and that it would be a desk based exercise.

The Officer said he would be approaching the Chiltern AONB for support for the proposal.

The Officer invited comments on the proposal and Members made the following points:

A Member suggested that the Farmers Union should be approached for support in

advance.

A Member then asked if the Forum needs to see any published outcome and the Officer said that there needs to be consideration about what can be achieved. There would have to be a report and a summary would also be desirable as the project must enhance the HER.

The Officer was asked if Milton Keynes could feed in to the evidence base barn and he responded that it might be possible to include Milton Keynes in this or to look at the possibility of a joint bid. The Officer said he would discuss with the Milton Keynes Archaeology Officer.

**Action: Nick Crank to confirm with Sandy Kidd**

The Officer advised the Forum that the scheme is sufficiently interesting to be of appeal to English Heritage as it is using established methodology. A Member asked if it would be better to target the project more and the Officer advised that this had been considered but that it was felt better not to keep it wider.

A Member asked if it would be more appealing to reach some agreement with Milton Keynes and in response the Officer advised that Milton Keynes have been unable to reach an agreement as present. The Officer said he would need to speak to English Heritage to see if they have been penalised or not regarding whether a different HER is required or if it is acceptable to be different authorities.

The Officer then went on to provide the Forum with an update of projects with a strategic, conservation and/or interpretation nature. This included the following:

Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project  
Chiltern Historic Landscape Characterisation Project  
Solent-Thames Research Frameworks Project  
Quarrendon Leas  
Langley Park Restoration Project  
Aylesbury Vale LDF Core Strategy

Funding has been secured from English Heritage for a popular publication and training day to promote the Chiltern Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. The publication is to be available for the training day on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The Forum was advised that the Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project has not gone out to consultation as yet but that this would be happening shortly.

It was commented that two speculative plans had been received for the Aylesbury Vale LDF Core Strategy in Fleet Marston and the Quarrendon fields. The Forum was advised that Buckinghamshire County Council and English Heritage had recommended the Quarrendon application be refused. It was highlighted that the Fleet Marston application had been withdrawn but that the Quarrendon application had not yet been determined.

Draft proposals have been received by English Heritage for listing Cold War rocket research structures at the former Westcott Royal Ordnance Factory.

The Taplow Court excavation has been published by Oxford Archaeology, funded by English Heritage detailing the Bronze Age and Anglo Saxon settlement monument.

A Member commented that they would be interested in Windmill and asked if any information was available. In response the Officer advised she had seen only one

proposal for Bucks and said that the physical impact is modest but the visual impact is huge. Members were advised that English Heritage has guidance on wind farms.

Two new planning policies are out for consultation. They are not on Historic Environment but we need to ensure that Historic Environment is recognised in both of those and that we are consistent with what the Policy Practice statement says on these matters.

A Member asked if Officers are aware of the proposed link from London to Birmingham and highlighted the implication for the historic landscape.

## **9 COUNTY MUSEUM REPORT**

Members had received the report of Ros Tyrell, Finds Liaison Officer and Brett Thorn, Keeper of Archaeology.

The new exhibition *Human* will feature at the County Museum from the 6 March until the 11 July 2010. *Human* tells the story of Bucks from the Ice Age to the Tudors through the people and objects left behind.

The Chairman congratulated the team for the wonderful exhibition and the very thorough survey of that period.

## **10 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT**

Members had received the report from Gary Marshall, National Trust Archaeologist, Thames & Solent Region.

### **Stowe New Inn**

Contractors are currently on site with restoration works scheduled to commence in early March 2010 with a completion date for the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Demolition work has to be done before the restoration and reconstruction can start.

### **Stowe Gardens**

There have been a number of minor 'interventions' into the gardens at Stowe, including digging of about 40 tree pits and excavation of a series of drainage trenches. Watching briefs are being maintained over all such excavations as they can reveal valuable information about the development of the gardens.

### **Boarstall Tower excavations**

The archaeological report on the excavations undertaken in July 2008 has been sent to HER and is due for publication in March 2010.

### **25 High Street, High Wycombe**

This building requires some improvements to bring it up to standards for a 21<sup>st</sup> century commercial tenancy. Improvements are required not only to the provision of services (water, electric, drainage) but also to ensure that the building achieves the best possible environmental standards. The Trust usually maintains a watching brief over such works, and in this case the work has revealed changes to fireplaces and window openings.

### **Buckingham Chantry Chapel**

Works have recently been carried out to allow for the installation of a toilet in the building. The building has been taken back in hand by the Trust and is now run as a second-hand bookshop and café.

### **Clifton**

Have been doing a conservation plan process which is due for completion end of March/beginning of April.

A Member enquired what the National Trust's interest was in Hartwell House. In response the Members was advised that the National Trust is the owner of the lease.

An Officer asked what the emerging proposals for the golf club at Stowe were. In response the Forum was advised that the Trust had acquired the Parkland and that the golf course was to be moved from the garden to the park landscape. He said that the plans of design had not been drawn up as yet. The Trust feels that the golf course is detrimental to the garden.

## **11 CONSERVATION OFFICERS' REPORTS**

### **(i) AYLESBURY VALE**

The following was reported:

The number of planning applications being received has dropped off but listed building applications have increased.

Work has started again in Prebendal Park.

### **(ii) CHILTERN**

The following was reported:

With regards to conservation areas, the planning process takes into account the high proportion of green belt and areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

### **(iii) SOUTH BUCKS**

The following was reported:

The conservation area review process is continuing. Part of Farnham Royal has been declared a new conservation area and becomes the latest of 19 conservation areas in the District. South Bucks District Council has designated the area around Church Road to help protect its distinctive character and to celebrate the history of the village where life revolved around the parish church and manor farm.

It is hoped that the community of Stoke Poges can be encouraged to join in the process of the review.

Kingsmill cottage is to be included on the Buildings at Risk register.

### **(iv) WYCOMBE**

The following was reported:

A timber war memorial at Wheeler End Common has been added to the list. It is one of very few memorials made of wood.

Malcolm Blanksbe has been appointed as Heritage Manager.

Work is being carried out on the High Wycombe conservation area appraisal.

A Member asked if restoration of the Brunel shed had been agreed. The Officer advised that this has been agreed and said that there are a number of leases to sort out but it is hoped that work will commence this year.

**(v) MILTON KEYNES**

The following was reported:

Milton Keynes has recently appointed as full time conservation officer that shall be responsible for the Bucks Archaeological Register

Conservation area reviews are ongoing

There are spare funds for Bletchley Park from English Heritage

The planning projects at Wolverton Park are about to be completed. There are two listed buildings which has resulted in a major re-generation scheme

Vanessa McPake advised that Milton Keynes Council are to invest money into their own Council owned Grade II listed buildings.

**12 EMERGENCY RECORDING FUND**

Members received the report of the County Archaeologist/Treasurer and were asked to review the operation of the emergency recording fund.

It was highlighted that the current balance of the fund was £8250 and that no contributions for 2010/11 financial year were therefore required.

**Members NOTED the current status of the fund**

**13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Roger Evans, Oxford Diocese, apologised for being unable to present a Diocesan report but said that he hoped to provide an update for the September meeting.

**14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Forum is to be held on Wednesday 22 September, 2.30pm, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes.

**CHAIRMAN**

## Historic Environment Record: PPS5 and Future Development

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010

Authors: County Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record Officer

### A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To advise the Forum of the publication of PPS5 (Planning for the Historic Environment), progress on development of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and to seek views on future priorities.

### B. PROPOSED ACTION

- 2 **The Forum is particularly invited to NOTE:**

- a **progress to date in developing the Buckinghamshire HER into a PPS5 compliant record**

#### **And to CONSIDER**

- b **options for further developing the HER and its use**

### C. RESOURCES

- 3 The HER Officer is a permanent full-time post core-funded by the County Council, with assistance provided by Business Support staff, unpaid volunteers and student placements, and (when funding allows) occasional temporary contract staff.

### D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4 **Policy Background**

*Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5) was published in March 2010; it makes clear that the effect of development plans and proposals on heritage assets of archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest and their settings is a material planning consideration. PPS5 applies whether or not the heritage asset is designated (i.e. a listed building, conservation area, registered park or scheduled monument). PPS 5 and the supporting guidance documents published by DCMS and English Heritage stress the importance of HERs as key planning information tools and as local portals for heritage information. This role is particularly important for non-designated heritage assets for which the HER would normally be the primary source. PPS5 says that all local planning authorities

should either maintain or have access to a historic environment record (HE2.2) and that as a minimum the HER should be consulted by the applicant where a heritage asset is or may be affected.

The supporting Practice Guide to PPS5 also published in March 2010 makes the following statement on HERs:

'All local authorities have access to a Historic Environment Record (HER). HERs will usually provide the core of information needed for plan-making and individual planning decisions. HERs are information services that aim to provide comprehensive access and regularly updated resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographical area for public benefit and use. They consist of databases linked to a Geographic Information System (GIS), together with associated reference collections and are managed by dedicated staff. HERs are unique repositories of, and signposts to, information relating to landscapes, buildings, sites and artefacts spanning from the Palaeolithic period to modern times. Their content complements and enriches the collections of museums, archives and libraries, and underpins the work of historic environment services in local authorities to identify, record, protect, conserve and interpret the historic environment designation and planning decisions. DCMS intends to publish guidance for local authorities on the maintenance of HERs.'

DCMS Draft Guidance on HERs published in May 2008 makes the following statement on the content of an HER:

'As a minimum, this should include information about all registered heritage assets; locally designated heritage assets; heritage assets with archaeological interest that are neither 'registered' nor 'locally designated'; findspots; and investigations of the archaeological, architectural, historic or artistic interest of a place or landscape. It should also include the product of the National Mapping Programme (NMP) and all historic characterisation studies, conservation area appraisals and historic area assessments.'

## **5 Buckinghamshire HER**

The HER data audit carried out in 2000 identified the recording of undesignated historic buildings and 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century industrial, civil and military complexes as particular areas of weakness. A number of inputting projects using volunteers have attempted to address some of these shortcomings and the HER has also benefitted from thematic recording projects carried out by English Heritage. Appendix 1 outlines the current content of the Bucks HER in compliance with the existing national guidance.

In March 2008 a report on transforming the County Sites and Monument Record into a fully-developed HER in advance of Heritage Protection Reform was presented to this Forum. The report included a consideration of the content of an HER, with a detailed five-year Action Plan and also made recommendations for data sharing with the District Councils. The initial priority in preparing the HER for PPS5 has been to develop the recording of national and local heritage designations including scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, listed buildings, conservation areas and locally listed buildings. All these

datasets are now complete and up-to-date. Appendix 2 shows progress with the HER Action Plan.

In March 2009 a temporary member of staff enhanced existing HER records by adding cross references to 250 buildings reports held in the National Monuments Record and in June 2009 a volunteer added references to historic building recording reported in Records of Buckinghamshire. An undergraduate student on work placement in July and early August this year undertook the inputting of significant undesignated historic buildings (local buildings of note) identified in Conservation Area appraisals from 2000 onwards. The work was completed for Aylesbury Vale district with records for 488 buildings added to the HER. Appendix 3 summarises the HER's records for historic buildings with a breakdown by district. It shows that the HER contains records for a significant number of unlisted buildings of historic interest; and also that for the majority of listed buildings the HER holds additional information over and above the list description.

## **6 Other Recent Developments**

Recording of historic landscapes was strengthened by migrating the completed Historic Landscape Characterisation data into the HER database in May 2008.

Since April the HER has been available online through English Heritage's 'Heritage Gateway' portal, thanks to a £6,000 grant from English Heritage and in July 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past' was redesigned and migrated to new software.

As reported at the last Forum meeting English Heritage has made available a number of small grants this financial year to assist HERs to move towards full Heritage Protection Reform compliance. The Archaeology Service developed a funding bid to make full access to the live networked HER database available to Conservation Officers in the District Councils and to other partner organisations. The bid was submitted to English Heritage in April for consideration under the HER21 funding stream but was not successful.

## **7 Proposals for future development of the HER**

Despite the emphasis in PPS5 on the importance of the HER as a source of information on the historic environment, our own data suggests that there doesn't yet appear to be extensive use being made of the HER for the historic built environment by conservation officers or by planners (although it may be that UBP and Heritage Gateway are being used). We have not as yet noticed an increase in applicants being referred to the HER for appraisals related to historic buildings and conservation areas; nor a greater number of reports to the HER generated by such activity. There is apparently a need for greater recognition of the role of the HER in contributing information on

undesigned heritage assets, providing additional information on designated heritage assets and in providing information on the setting of heritage assets. We have begun to explore with AVDC how planning notification maps for historic interest might be generated from HER data but progress has been slow due to other workload pressures. Further suggestions for promoting use of the HER for planning purposes would be appreciated.

The table in Appendix 1 identifies historic buildings as the main area in need of enhancement. Appendix 4 sets out a number of proposals for enhancing the recording of historic buildings in the HER and we would like the Forum to assist us in prioritising these for future action.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 HER database records

Appendix 2 Progress with the HER Action Plan

Appendix 3 Number of HER records for historic buildings

Appendix 4 Proposals to enhance HER recording of historic buildings

**CONTACT OFFICER: JULIA WISE 01296 382072**

## Appendix 1 HER database records

Record types	HER database records	Comments	GIS mapping
<b>International Designations</b>			
World Heritage Sites	None in Buckinghamshire		NA
<b>National Designations</b>			
Scheduled Monuments	Complete & up-to-date		Yes
Registered Parks	Complete & up-to-date		Yes
Listed buildings	Complete & up-to-date		Yes
Registered battlefields	None in Buckinghamshire		NA
<b>Local Designations</b>			
Conservation Areas	Complete & up-to-date	Includes local note buildings in Aylesbury Vale	Yes
Locally listed buildings	Complete & up-to-date	Wycombe District only	Yes
<b>Archaeological sites and monuments</b>	Complete		Yes
<b>Historic buildings</b>	Partial coverage	Further enhancement required (see Appendix 4)	Yes
<b>Historic places</b>	Complete	(?)	Yes
<b>Designed landscapes</b>	Complete		Yes
<b>Findspots (including detailed finds records)</b>	Partial coverage	Comprehensive records for Palaeolithic to Saxon finds; significant concentrations of medieval and later finds only. Enhancement with Portable Antiquities data required	Yes
<b>Environmental archaeology</b>	Complete		Yes
<b>Planning Consultations</b>	Complete & up-to-date		Yes
<b>Historic Landscape Characterisation</b>	Complete		Yes
<b>Extensive Urban Survey (historic towns characterisation)</b>	No	Data to be migrated into HER on completion of project	Yes
<b>National mapping programme (aerial photo sites)</b>	Partial coverage	Thames valley only. Seek opportunities to extend coverage in future projects.	No
<b>Archaeological investigations and historic building recording</b>	Partial coverage	Complete coverage of significant investigations since 2000	Yes
<b>Bibliographic sources</b>	Yes		NA
<b>Themes (synthetic overviews available on 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past')</b>	Yes		NA

JW 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010

## Appendix 2 Progress with Key Outcomes of the HER Action Plan

Key Outcomes	Progress	Comments
<b>HER Policy and Planning</b>		
Review and update the HER Action Plan on an annual basis	Ongoing	Action Plan updated continuously; reviewed annually
Local recording practice & procedures documentation completed by April 2010	Nearly completed	Target date extended at annual review
Service Level Agreements with District Councils negotiated and in place by April 2010		Not achieved but remains an aspiration
<b>HER Content</b>		
Develop the HER into a fully-developed on-line HER by April 2012		HER fully on-line. Further enhancement required
Recording of national and local designations meet requirements of proposed new heritage protection regime by April 2011	Completed June 2010	Enhancement of undesignated assets, especially buildings is next priority
<b>Staff Resources</b>		
Secure resources for HER Assistant post by April 2010		Resources not available
Maintain/develop volunteering with a target of at least 70 hours per annum	Ongoing	Annual targets exceeded
<b>Information Technology</b>		
Migrate HLC dataset into HER database by April 2008	Completed May 2008	
Migrate EUS dataset into HBSMR by April 2011		EUS project likely to be completed by April 2012
Long-term digital data storage & maintenance issues resolved by April 2009	Nearly completed	Target date extended at annual review
Initiate ITU technical appraisal of approved IT option from HER Report by April 2009	Initiated August 2008; appraisal completed April 2010	Need to secure resources for implementation
<b>HER Access</b>		
Complete the "Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past" Project by December 2007	Completed November 2007	Website upgraded summer 2010
Maintain a program of monthly publicity focused around 'Site of the Month'	Ongoing	Monthly programme not maintained due to workload pressures but intermittent enhancements do occur.
Continue to promote the UBP web site for educational use and seek resources to maintain related activities	Ongoing	Low level promotion only. Resources for activities not available
Continue to monitor and make improvements in response to customer feedback	Ongoing	Residents' Panel survey of UBP website completed January 2009 and improvements to design made in March 2009. Website redesigned and migrated to new software July 2010

JW 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010

### Appendix 3 Number of Buckinghamshire HER records for historic buildings

	Number of historic buildings recorded in HER	Number of listed buildings recorded in HER	Number of listed buildings with additional information in HER	
Aylesbury Vale	3,591	2,887	2,069	(71.6%)
Chiltern	1,049	985	748	(75.9%)
South Bucks	786	730	504	(69%)
Wycombe	1,347	1,232	729	(59.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,772</b>	<b>5,836</b>	<b>4,050</b>	<b>(69.3%)</b>

JW 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2010

## Appendix 4 Proposals to enhance HER recording of historic buildings

Theme/Project	Enhancement/New Records	Notes	Priority
Farmstead characterisation project	Mostly new records	In discussion with English Heritage regarding funded project in 2011/12	
War memorials	New records	Imperial War Museum database online	
Entrance lodges in Wycombe District	Mostly new records	Gazetteer in thesis with HER	
Public sculpture	New records	Archive (& database?) at Reading University	
Local buildings of note in Wycombe, South Bucks and Chiltern districts	Mostly new records	Aylesbury Vale completed by volunteer	
Complete recording of destroyed furniture factories in High Wycombe	New records	Spreadsheet with HER	
Complete recording of milestones	Enhancement	Ongoing volunteer project; Milestone Society spreadsheet with HER	
Public houses	Mostly new records	BAS Historic Buildings Group Project	
BCC Historic Buildings Officers' photos in CBS	Mostly enhancement		
Information from published local histories	Mostly new records		
Roger Evans' slide collection in CBS	Enhancement	Not catalogued; possible BAS HBG project?	
Sales catalogues in CBS			
Architects' plans & drawings in CBS		Not many collections held by CBS	
Details of BCC- owned buildings in CBS			
Details from archived planning applications		Establish what archival material held by Districts	
Architects' plans & drawings in RIBA collections		RIBA collections searchable online. Establish who were/are key local architects.	
Articles from key architectural journals (The Builder, Architectural Journal, Architectural History, Architectural Review, Country Life, Vernacular Architecture) and thematic journals		Some indexes available online; Many journals held at NMRC and RIBA. Oxford Brookes University has important architectural library.	
Information from Conservation Officers' casework	Mostly enhancement		
Information from English Heritage thematic research projects			
English Heritage building survey reports	Enhancement	Index searchable online	

## **Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officer's Report**

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 22nd September 2010

Author: County Archaeologist

### **A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1 To advise the Forum of the work of the County Archaeological Service since the last BHEF meeting.

### **B. PROPOSED ACTION**

- 2 **The Forum is particularly invited to NOTE:**
  - a **resources and performance indicators, including the review of charging policy**
  - b **progress with strategic projects**
  - c **recent planning-related archaeological work**
  - d **progress in securing publication of archaeological reports.**

### **C. RESOURCES**

- 3 At present the service comprises three core staff; although Eliza Alqassar now works part-time (Monday to Wednesday). In addition David Green is externally funded post supported by English Heritage working on the Historic Towns Project and also internally project funded to manage the preparation of a Landscape Character Assessment for Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe Districts. Ruth Beckley and Alex Goodwin left in April 2010.
- 4 Financial constraints on the County Council continue to grow leading to pressure to increase income from fees and charges to recover a greater proportion of the costs of the historic environment record and archaeological planning advisory service. A draft charging policy has been consulted upon and agreed in principle with the District Councils. A decision paper on charging is to be put to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment shortly. Further savings will be required over the next three years.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5 **Archaeology Service Performance Indicators**

Service performance indicator statistics are collected for the County Council's performance management system.

<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2010</b>	<b>2nd Quarter 2010</b>
Planning applications responded to within 14 days (target 90%)	82%	%
Success rate at appeal (target 50% annual success rate)	0 of 0	0 of 0
Percentage of evaluations with a positive outcome (target 60%)		
Historic Environment Records data inputting backlog (targets: reports < 30; collections < 900 by March 2010)	Reports = 41 Collect = 1277 Total = 1318	Reports = 37 Collect = 1277 Total = 1314

<b>Volume measures</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2010</b>	<b>2nd Quarter 2010</b>
Total number of consultations handled	147	156
Number of planning applications handled	107	117
Number of development-related archaeological fieldwork projects		
Number of reports received by the HER	41	160
Number of Historic Environment Records enquiries handled:		
commercial	21	23
non-commercial	9	6
UBP web-site users	968	716

6 **Historic Environment Record**

Use of the Historic Environment Record by for non-commercial purposes has dropped off in the first half of 2010, probably as online access has improved this is more convenient with direct contact only being necessary for specific detailed queries. Inroads continue to be made into the collections backlog - by the end of June it was at its lowest level since records began in 1997.

An English Heritage grant has allowed HER information to be made available across the national Heritage Gateway portal. Exegesis SDM Ltd have also migrated the UBP web site to new software compatible with that system.

There was a further opportunity to bid for funding for HER development in April and a bid was submitted to provide Conservation Officers with direct access to the digital HER. Unfortunately the HE21 funding stream was over subscribed and our bid was not successful.

Options and proposals for future HER development are outlined in a separate paper.

## 7 **Strategic Projects**

This section provides a summary of projects with a strategic, conservation and/or interpretation nature. Most of these projects are being pursued in partnership with other organisations and involve drawing in substantial amounts of external funding.

The **Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project** is funded principally by English Heritage supported by Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council. Studies of Aylesbury, Bletchley & Fenny Stratford, Burnham, Newport Pagnell, Princes Risborough and Wendover are currently out to public consultation. The project is contributing to Townscape Character Studies being undertaken by Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils in support of their Local Development Frameworks. Presentations of the results are to be made in each district council area. The project is due to be completed in autumn 2011.

The launch of the Chiltern Conservation Board and English Heritage sponsored **Chiltern Historic Landscape Characterisation Report** is to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Copies will be sent to local councils and community groups across the Chilterns AONB.

Progress with the **Solent-Thames Research Frameworks Project** has remained slow with negotiations continuing with Oxford-Wessex Archaeology and English Heritage.

At **Quarrendon Leas** a sources of funding are being investigated for conservation of the church ruin with a linked educational project. Land transfer had been postponed due to the delay in commencing development at Berryfields MDA but it is hoped that progress can be made over the next six months.

The **Langley Park and Combe Hill Monument Restoration Projects** are managed by BCC Country Parks and the Natural Environment Team respectively and are now complete, or nearing completion.

A separate report will be provided on **High Speed 2**.

## 8 **Planning related archaeological work**

Considerable uncertainty pervades the field of planning and development due to the combination of economic downturn, revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies and proposed reforms to introduce 'localism'. This uncertainty particularly affects Aylesbury Vale where it is intended to withdraw the Proposed Core Strategy leaving the scale and location of new development undetermined at present.

The Environment Agency flood alleviation scheme in the **floodplain at Marlow** on the site of a prehistoric barrow cemetery which was reported to the March 2010 was granted planning consent subject to conditions but seems unlikely to proceed for the foreseeable future due to lack of funding.

A full list of development-related fieldwork from January to June 2010 will be tabled as appendix A.

## 9 **Publication update (Appendix B)**

A revised post-excavation programme has been agreed with Oxford Archaeology for the joint publication of the **Dorney Rowing Lake and Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme**. The situation with other projects is summarised in appendix B.

## E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Archaeological Reports submitted to the Bucks HER

**CONTACT OFFICER: ALEXANDER (SANDY) KIDD 01296 382927**

APPENDIX B: LIST OF MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION PROJECTS AT THE POST EXCAVATION STAGE  
(SEPTEMBER 2010)

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Bierton, Church Farm	Tempus Reparatum (1996)	AVDC	Bronze Age and Saxon to Medieval settlement	Contractor bankrupt. Developer unwilling to take responsibility. Planning enforcement case referred to AVDC but no progress.	Archive held at County Museum but planning case not recoverable.
Bierton, 80 Aylesbury Road	Network Archaeology (2004)	AVDC	Medieval boundaries and prehistoric crouched inhumation	AVDC requested to initiate enforcement action (Mar 07)	Seeking to pursue enforcement action. NO ACTION – FOLLOW UP
Weedon, Weedon Hill MDA	Wessex Archaeology (2006)	AVDC	Roman malting and field system	Draft report commented upon March 2009. Further radiocarbon dating agreed August 2010	Monitor
Dorney Rowing Lake & Maidenhead Windsor and Eton Flood Relief Scheme	Oxford Archaeology	Bucks CC	Multi-period sites	Revised publication programme agreed with Oxford Archaeology July 2010 for publication by September 2011	Monitor
Wexham- All Souls Farm	Thames Valley Archaeological Services (2007)	Bucks CC	Roman settlement	Post-excavation assessment and draft report agreed	Monitor to publication

<b>Site</b>	<b>Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)</b>	<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	<b>Principal Archaeological Interest</b>	<b>Situation</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Chesham, Sainsbury's sites	Lindsey Archaeological Services (1998)	Chiltern DC	Medieval/Post-medieval urban tannery	Draft report submitted to Records of Bucks. LAS gone out of business. Discussed publication of summary March 2009.	Pursue completion with Naomi Field
Great Missenden, Bury Farm	Network Archaeology (2002)	Chiltern DC	Medieval moat and pottery production. Post-medieval barns.	Report received by HER and comments sent November 2009	Pursue agreed publication in Records of Bucks.
Denham, Former Sanderson Site	MoLAS (2005)	South Bucks DC	In-situ Early Mesolithic occupation site and environmental deposits	Post-excavation assessment & updated project design agreed but no progress and new developer querying Px requirement. CAS wrote to SBDC requesting support on seeking compliance July 2009.	No action – pursue with SBDC
Taplow – Dorney pipeline (Thames Water)	Cotswolds Archaeology (2004)	Statutory undertaker	Iron Age settlement	Report submitted for publication in Recs of Bucks	None
Taplow, Berry Hill Farm	Wessex Archaeology	Bucks CC	Early Iron Age and Roman boundaries	HER report submitted. Further mineral extraction consented.	Work to date only merits illustrated summary report but may be appropriate to combine with further investigation.

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Hardwick-Marsh Gibbon Transco Pipeline	Network Archaeology and Cambridge Archaeology 2007	Statutory Undertaker	Iron Age and Roman settlements	Post-ex assessments from Cambridge and Network agreed.	Monitor to publication



## HIGH SPEED 2

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 22 September 2010

Authors: Report of the County Archaeologist

### A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To alert members to the potential implications of the proposed HS2 project for Buckinghamshire's historic environment

### B. PROPOSED ACTION

- 2 **The Forum is invited to:**

**NOTE the report and the planned Environmental Summit.**

**REQUEST a report on the heritage implications of the HS2 consultation to the March 2011 meeting.**

### C. RESOURCES

- 3 Undefined at present but likely to be a major commitment over many years.

### D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. On 11th March the Government published the High Speed 2 report. It is part of a Command Paper on high speed rail which Lord Adonis announced to Parliament. The Department for Transport is the sponsor/promoter of the scheme. The report identifies a preferred route for a high speed railway line from London to the West Midlands and some of the other options that were considered. The preferred route goes through the west side of Buckinghamshire. The route skirts close to some villages and towns and will have an impact on the Chiltern Hills. The Coalition Government has shown a commitment to High Speed Rail though including it in the Queen's Speech, the government will "enable the construction of a high-speed network". No timetable for the work or details on routes were given. The announcement only said the Bill would be introduced in "due course". On the 24th June changes by the Coalition Government to the remit of HS2 Ltd were published. This has put back the date for public consultation from Autumn 2010 to the New Year
5. Buckinghamshire and the District Councils have recently jointly hosted the HS2 Stakeholder Summit that concentrated on the overall Business

Case for HS2. The Chair was Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher and speakers included John Bercow MP, Steven Baker MP, Christian Wolmar (transport journalist and broadcaster) and HS2 Action Alliance. Another summit is being organised for 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 to examine the environmental impacts of the HS2 proposals. An independent speaker has been identified to outline the historic environment issues based on in-depth experience of HS1 and other major infrastructure projects. The possibility of convening an HS2 historic environment technical working party for the whole is being considered.

6. A wide range of historic environment impacts can be anticipated:

- direct physical harm to historic buildings, landscapes and sites;
- noise and visual effects on the setting of heritage assets and
- severance of historic landscapes.

Rapid GIS-base appraisal of the preferred route indicates that many potentially serious impacts can be identified, for example:

- Amersham: cutting and tunnel entrance north of the town could affect the setting of the conservation area.
- Fleet Marston: cuts through Roman Akeman Street beside a large Roman settlement.
- Great Missenden: cuts through Grims Ditch (SM) and adjacent to Jenkins Wood medieval enclosure.
- Hartwell: cuts through Hartwell grade II\* historic park, 350m from Hartwell House (grade I) and might destroy grade II listed Glebe House.
- Hyde End: cuts through Hyde Farm, a grade II listed medieval building and nearby prehistoric and medieval artefact scatters.
- Twywell: route lies 120m from the grade I listed parish church and even closer to the grade II vicarage.
- Shardloes Park: 1.2 km cut through the grade II\* historic park to the north of the A413. Also adjacent to a Roman settlement.
- Stoke Mandeville: passes through the site of St.Mary's Church and deserted village
- Waddesdon: affects the setting of the village conservation area and historic park.

Maps will be presented at the meeting. In addition to the above, there will also be substantial effects on historic landscape character and on archaeological remains, including as yet unidentified sites.

7 It is understood that the consultation in the New Year will be accompanied by an 'Appraisal of Sustainability' with a full Environmental Impact Assessment to accompany the Draft Hybrid Bill which would give authority to construct the line. It should be noted that

the Hybrid Bill would in all likelihood disapply heritage legislation. The Forum may wish to respond to the 2011 consultation.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail>.

[http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/transport/high\\_speed\\_2.page](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/transport/high_speed_2.page)

**CONTACT OFFICER: ALEXANDER (SANDY) KIDD 01296-382927**



## EMERGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING FUND

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 22 September 2010

Authors: Report of the County Archaeologist/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) **ENDORSE the allocation of £1000 to the National Trust for the investigation at 40 Church Street, West Wycombe; and**
- b) **CONSIDER whether to request contributions for 2011/12.**

### C. RESOURCES

- 3 The current balance is £8250.

### D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. In July 2010 human remains were unexpectedly found during the excavation of a trench on the north side of the building at 40 Church Lane during July of 2010. Examination by forensic archaeologists employed by Thames Valley Police confirmed that the remains were likely to be ancient. The trench was excavated to allow for the construction of a retaining wall and the continuation of the excavation was therefore monitored by Northamptonshire Archaeology, leading to the recording and exhumation of four skeletons. No finds or artefact material were associated with the graves, which assumed a north-south alignment, suggesting that they may not be Christian. One of the interments was made face down. The results of radio carbon dating on one of the skeletons are awaited, as is the osteo-archaeology report, which should tell us the date and sex of the individuals buried. Other similar but poorly recorded and undated finds in the area suggest the presence of large cemetery. West Wycombe is a known focus of Iron Age, Roman and medieval settlement so establishing the extent and date of the cemetery is of significant archaeological interest.
5. The overall cost for the watching brief, dating and post-excavation reporting will be £3160, plus VAT. As the discovery was unexpected and the work fell outside of planning control, a contribution of £1000

from the emergency recording fund was approved by the chairman in order to enable full investigation and radiocarbon dating.

6. At the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 meeting it was minuted that £8250 was considered to be a 'reasonable reserve'. No contributions were therefore required for the 2010/11 financial year but members will need to consider whether to request contributions for 2011/12.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Information supplied by Gary Marshall, National Trust Archaeologist

**CONTACT OFFICER: ALEXANDER (SANDY) KIDD 01296-382927**