

Minutes

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2013 IN LARGE DINING ROOM, JUDGES LODGINGS, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 3.45 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Members

Mr R Evans
Mr M Farley
Mr G Marshall
Mr W Chapple OBE
Mr W Whyte
Mr R Pushman

Organisation

Diocese of Oxford
Bucks Archaeological Society
National Trust
Buckinghamshire County Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Bucks Heritage Champion

Officers

Mr M Andrew
Mr J Brushe
Ms J Wise
Ms K MacDonald
Ms E Alqassar
Mr N Crank
Ms S Farr
Ms S Keene
Ms E Hands
Mr S Peart

Organisation

Wycombe District Council
South Bucks District Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Buckinghamshire County Council

Milton Keynes Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
BCC
Aylesbury Vale District Council
Milton Keynes Council

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

As there were new members of the Forum and not all members in attendance it was agreed that the Election of Chairman be delayed until the next meeting.

Members agreed that Mike Farley be Chairman for the meeting.

Mike Farley in the Chair.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies of absence were received from Brett Thorn, Sue Polhill and Hugh McCarthy



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



and Corry Cashman.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2012 were confirmed subject to the following:

Item 9, County Museum Report, Paragraph 6 should read:

“Mike Farley said that the bulk of the premises of the County Museum were actually the property of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society. The Trust would take over the running of the Museum and staff in Aylesbury, as well as the Halton site, once it was redeveloped. The Trust would not take ownership of the collections or the premises”.

5 **MATTERS ARISING**

Mr Roger Evans advised that he had resigned from the Diocese. He said that he had tried to contact Mr Julian Mumby regarding a replacement but had not as yet been able to speak to him. Roger said he felt it was useful for the Forum to know what the Diocese was doing. Roger informed the Forum that he would no longer be attending.

On behalf of the Forum the Chairman thanked Roger for all his support.

The Chairman agreed to write to Julian Mumby regarding a replacement member.
ACTION: Mike Farley

HS2 had been discussed at the last meeting and Gary Marshall commented that it had been very difficult to ascertain from HS2 what fieldwork had been done, which has been very frustrating.

Members were reminded that the formal consultation would be starting this year and that the first reading of the Hybrid Bill had been heard in Parliament.

6 **ROLE AND PRIORITIES OF BHEF**

Ms Shelia Keene introduced the item and asked members whether the Forum provided a valuable place to discuss issues regarding the Historic Environment or whether this was an opportunity to look for other possible options. Shelia also asked if members did feel the Forum was valuable whether there was a need to amend or review the constitution.

The Chairman advised that Mr Cory Cashman, who was unable to attend the meeting, had sent an email with suggested topics for consideration by the Forum. His suggestions were as follows:

1: Reviewing the constitution. It is around 10 years since the constitution was agreed and I do not think that it has been reviewed in that time – does it fully reflect and have the ability to respond to contemporary realities?

2: Composition of membership. Does the present membership always ensure fully informed responses to every matter discussed? Some of our group have been poor attenders at meetings, often for reasons outside their control. This can handicap the

ability of the committee to respond knowledgeably on certain matters in the absence of such members who might otherwise usefully inform these discussions.

3: Relationship with the 5 Buckinghamshire local authorities. How do we see this relationship and what would we say was its purpose? How well do we communicate to them what we do? Is this communication patchy both in terms of time and geography?

4: Frequency of meetings.

Cory had said that he felt consideration of the issues needed to be supported by appropriate additional information to help inform the discussions and suggested these and any other similar matters could be discussed at the Spring meeting in 2014.

Mr Richard Pushman referred to the Constitution for the Forum and said that he didn't think the objects had changed and was still worthwhile. He suggested that the objects could however be more rigorously and consistently followed. Richard suggested that the membership and representation could be reconsidered. He queried the reason for having voting and non-voting members and said he thought this needed to be reviewed. He also suggested that information sharing could be improved.

Ms Sarah-Jane Farr highlighted the importance of effective advocacy and said that members had various experience and skills which could be effectively used for the Historic Environment.

It was highlighted that meetings needed to be focused and outcome based as officers are increasingly challenged about their attendance at meetings. It was commented that if officers received a presentation or attended a site visit it may be easier to justify attendance at meetings with employers as there is added value and also useful for CPD. It was commented that the expertise of the different members was important as those members could inform discussions.

Shelia asked if there was any value in having more interactive meetings and asked if this should be explored further. Shelia said if the Forum was able to inject vigour and purpose it could provide a rationale for the Forum continuing. Mr Nick Crank said that Milton Keynes Council would be happy to host a future meeting and said that a walk and talk could be arranged.

The Chairman enquired if the District Councils had Heritage Champions. In response it was commented that South Bucks and Chiltern District Councils did not have Heritage Champions. The representative from Milton Keynes Council said that they had a Heritage Champion who they wanted to provide training for and said they could invite the Heritage Champion to the Forum if there was agreement.

The Chairman summarised what he saw as the key issues as follows:

1. Committee and general advocacy of heritage as a whole
2. Interactive sessions based on localities to be used as an educational session.

He said that these issues fell within the remit of the Forum.

Mr Warren Whyte was interested in any impact that the New National Planning Framework (NNPF) had on heritage and how the Council members are dealing with applications.

All members felt that reports from members were important to enable effective information sharing. It was agreed papers should be circulated electronically in future.

Shelia suggested that the Spring meeting could be held outside County Hall at another

location. Members discussed areas of the County that might be interesting to visit and it was suggested that members could visit Stoke Mandeville old church to discuss the issues surrounding large linear development schemes. Members agreed (arrangements permitting) to visit Stoke Mandeville old church for the next meeting.

Richard updated members on Quarrendon Leas. He highlighted that he is Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust and said that the Trust is in the process of acquiring Quarrendon Leas. It is hoped that a transfer of ownership will be achieved by the end of the year. He said that once the land is acquired there will be a need for a work programme as the church ruin is deteriorating further. He highlighted that the Trust had lost a LEADER grant due to the delays in the transfer and said that help is needed to make the site suitable for public visitors.

It was suggested that future agenda items could include:

1. Re-laying stone sets and street de-cluttering in Aylesbury
2. Quarrendon Leas Management

Members were reminded that were any changes to the Terms of Reference proposed, 28 days' notice would need to be given to members and the proposed amendments would need to be circulated 21 clear days' in advance.

7 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE REPORTS

Sarah-Jane took members through her report and made the following comments:

- The County Council also recognises difficulties with HS2 sharing information about their fieldwork.
- The County Council has commented on the Draft Planning Memorandum and the Draft Heritage Memorandum.
- The Hybrid Bill allows HS2 to dis-apply statutory regulations.
- Members are invited to comment on Appendix C. Please let Sarah-Jane know by the end of November if you have any priorities on the appendix. The Council would like to submit the document to English Heritage for scheduling consideration.

The Chairman enquired about the future of the Archaeological Service in County. Shelia advised that a post had been added to the structure and work was being undertaken to fill the post.

Warren asked if Hillesden Church was on the radar in relation to HS2. He said it has stained glass dating to the 15th Century. It was also commented that it is a Grade I building. Ms Julia Wise advised that there was a lot of ambiguity in the draft Environmental Statement regarding what areas they are looking at. She said that the Environmental Statement focusses on properties within 750m of the line itself. She said Hillesden Church has not fallen off the radar but that it is outside the area that HS2 is looking at.

8 MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Members noted the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer's report which was circulated to members at the meeting (copy attached to the minutes).

John Brushe asked for an update on Bradwell Abbey. In response it was highlighted that Bradwell Abbey is a Council owned asset and that the Council were in discussions with the tenants regarding a major project for repairs.

9 EMERGENCY RECORDING FUND

Members had received the Emergency Archaeological Recording Fund Report and were invited to note the current status of the fund.

Members discussed the fund and it was highlighted that the current balance of the fund was £6,267 and that all Districts Council could apply for funding from the fund. Members were informed that Shelia Keene was currently acting as the Treasurer.

Shelia requested clarification regarding whether all contributors had paid their subs. Contributors agreed to pay subs this year in accordance with the amounts listed in the report. A member asked that funds be requested before the end of the tax year.

10 COUNTY MUSEUM REPORT

Members were informed that the transfer of the County Museum to a Trust was progressing. It was highlighted that the care of the museum was being transferred but not the ownership.

11 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Members noted the National Trust Report (attached to the minutes)

12 CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY

Nothing to report.

13 CONSERVATION OFFICERS' REPORTS

The Conservation Officers provided the following updates:

Aylesbury Vale

- A consultancy arm of the Design and Conservation team has been set up with a target of 2/3rds of the annual budget
- Quainton windmill has been upgraded to Grade II*
- There have been recent listings at Westcott
- Planning permission has been granted for the car park at Waddesdon
- English Heritage have funded a street clutter removal project in Aylesbury and more will be reported on this at a future meeting.

Milton Keynes

- There have been 473 development management consultations
- There is work being undertaken to get the Local Heritage List moving and there has been interest for designations for the New Town.
- The application at the Point Cinema was refused. There is now an application to demolish and replace with retail units.
- The Council refused the application to demolish Cofferridge Close, Stony Stratford and this is now going to a Public Inquiry.

South Bucks

- The Heatherden Wood Hall building, which is the centrepiece of Pinewood Studios has now been designated at Grade II

Wycombe

- Daws Hill nuclear bunker has been listed as II* and the generator building as Grade II
- The Council is about to commence a consultation on Local Listing
- The roof is on at Bledlow Homes
- Discussions are ongoing regarding High Wycombe Station and the possibility of a short term lease for restoration.

Chiltern

No update

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were asked to consider who would be a suitable Chairman of the Forum.

15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that dates for March and September should be arranged.

CHAIRMAN

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: November 2013

Author: Senior Archaeological Officer, Conservation and Archaeology, Milton Keynes Council

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Forum of recent archaeological matters in Milton Keynes.

B. FIELDWORK PROJECTS

1. Attached is a list of fieldwork projects (Events) undertaken in the Milton Keynes area between January and June 2013.

C. PLANNING

1. Between 1st January and 30th June 2013 there were 170 consultations in respect of archaeological matters as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, and schemes by statutory undertakers and other agencies.

D. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

1. Migration of the HER to Exegesis HBSMR software has been successfully completed. Additionally the resource will also be re-launched on the Heritage Gateway via HBSMR Gateway in the next month.

E. OUTREACH

1. On Wednesday 5th June the Senior Archaeological Officer took members of the Bow Brickhill Historical Society on an archaeological walking tour of the Ouzel Valley around Caldecotte.
2. On Saturday 10th November over 400 people of all ages came through the doors of the Central Library to enjoy a range of activities and talks at the 6th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day.

New this year was a hands-on archaeology workshop hosted by Albion Archaeology. There were also displays throughout the library on the borough's heritage plus stands from active local organisations such as the City Discovery Centre and Northamptonshire's CLASP and UNAS

groups. Event regulars Magiovinium Metal Detecting club also proved popular with their wide-ranging collections of artefacts.

In the morning local archaeologist and excavator of Bancroft Roman villa Bob Zeepvat presented a fascinating talk to a packed room, reflecting on the development of the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit (MKAU) from its beginnings in 1971 to the completion of its publication programme in 1993.

A particular highlight of the day was Professor Tim Darvill's presentation of his ground-breaking research on the origin and meaning of Stonehenge and the use of the Preseli Bluestones.

Preparations for this year's event on Saturday are complete and a programme is attached.

F. PROPOSED ACTION

1. The Forum is asked to note this report.

Fieldwork events in Milton Keynes January – June 2013

Site:	Parish:	Event:	Date	Summary:	Archaeologists:
Dovecote Farm	Astwood	Trial trenching	May	3 trial trenches on site of proposed wind turbine. Evidence for Romano-British iron smithing recovered.	Archaeology Warwickshire
McConnell Drive	Wolverton	Building recording	March	Building record of late 19th century railway works goods office.	Albion Archaeology
rear of 7a High St	Stony Stratford	Watching brief	April	Negative watching brief on extension.	ASC Ltd
The Old Swan, Main Road	Astwood	Watching brief	April	C13th/14th rubbish pits.	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd
Western Expansion Area, Area 10	Shenley Church End	Excavation	May	Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement	Border Archaeology
The Salt Box, Bedford Road	Lavendon	Trial trenching	June	Background Romano-British activity and possible medieval waterlogged remains	Albion Archaeology
Middleton Primary School	Milton Keynes	Trial trenching	June	Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement	ASC Ltd

Milton Keynes Archaeology Day 2013

Milton Keynes Central Library, Saturday 9th November 2013



Geophysical survey in progress on
Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-and-archaeology

Talks in the Local Studies library

- 11am Carry On Trowelling: The history of archaeology on film and TV - Paul Blinkhorn, Pottery expert and 'Time Team' member
- 2pm Forensic Archaeology: UK and International
Cecily Cropper, Forensic Archaeologist,
MFL Archaeology
Please note: This talk is not suitable for younger children

In the Lending Library:

- 10am - 3pm Hands-on Archaeology Workshops: Ages 8+, ASC Ltd host drop-in sessions
- Discover MK Archaeology in Milton Keynes Exhibition

In the Library Foyer:

- Finds ID by the Portable Antiquities Scheme team
- CLASP, UNAS & Wing Heritage Project displays
- Finds displays by Magiovinium Metal Detector Club

In the Children's Library:

- 11am - 11.30am 'Digging Dinosaurs': Stories, Songs & Rhymes, age 7 and under

For more information:

Phone: **01908 254259** or

Email: archaeology@milton-keynes.gov.uk

The event is FREE and open to all

Full programme here:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-and-archaeology



Portable Antiquities Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

Finds Liaison in Buckinghamshire

August 2012 – November 2013

Portable Antiquities Scheme [PAS] Database Records [www.finds.org.uk]

A growing number of finds have continued to be recorded by the Finds Liaison Officer [FLO], and the total entered on the database so far is now up to 10,244 records for the county. The national total is over 909,293 records.

Volunteers

The Bucks FLO is grateful to the hardworking volunteers who input the basic object records and upload the photos. Helen Hyre mostly works from home because the internet connection at Halton is still not particularly fast. Sarah Deacon, a temporarily unemployed archaeology graduate lives in St Albans and cannot get into Halton, works on Bucks Roman coin records from home.

Rallies, Club Digs & Meetings

Cooperation with the Scheme is voluntary and no one is forced to record what they find. To date those who organise metal detector rallies in Bucks mostly invite the FLO to record their finds.

The Weekend Wanderers have held a number of rallies in Bucks mostly on a fairly small scale producing very few finds. The exception being a larger one of about 100 detectorists at Hardwick. Unfortunately the FLO was not informed of the event in time to attend. The email from the organiser was not received till after the FLO had left the office on Friday of the weekend and so had no recording equipment. A few of the apparently many Roman coins have since been recorded.

The local detector clubs have been visited regularly and are offering their finds for recording on the database. In addition individual detectorists are being proactive in seeking out the FLO to record their finds.

Publicity

Talks to local history and archaeology groups continue to provide further opportunities to publicise the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Bucks. During the Festival of British Archaeology Finds ID sessions were laid on as part of the Cowper & Newton Museum's events and included displays by two local detectorists. The same team repeated the display at MK Archaeology Day last November. PAS had a stand at English Heritage's national event History Alive at Kelmarsh Hall, Northants. In addition the FLOs from adjacent counties spent two productive days talking to 1000s of interested people about PAS.

ITV & PAS have combined forces to produce another series of half hour programs, called 'Britain's Secret Treasures'. With Bettany Hughes & Michael Buerk. However Bucks finds have not been feature this time.

Finds Identification & Recording Sessions

These continue to focus on three monthly Saturday afternoons at Wycombe Museum and every Wednesday in the Civic Offices in Central Milton Keynes. A number of finders make appointments and come to one of these venues or to the Museum Resource Centre at Halton.

Treasure Finds (listed overleaf)

There have been twelve potential treasure cases reported from Buckinghamshire and one from Milton Keynes in the period covered by these notes. Further information of most of these will remain confidential until the Coroner has held the inquests.

From Buckinghamshire:

Ref nos.	Metal	Date	Description	Find spot
2012 T 831	Gold	Roman	Ring, small but with a phallus on the bezel	Wing
2012 T 912	Silver	Post Medieval	Bodkin	Princes Risborough
2012 T 922	Silver	Post Medieval	Spur	Aston Sandford
2012 T 940	Silver	Medieval	Pendant with crossed keys framing a face	Whitchurch
2013 T 148	Silver	Early Medieval	Part of an equal armed brooch	Princes Risborough
2013 T 219	Silver	Medieval	Brooch pin	Whitchurch
2013 T 248	Silver	Medieval	Ring	Bledlow
2013 T 304	Silver	Post Medieval	Thimble	Gawcott
2013 T 359	Silver	Saxon	Fitting	Princes Risborough
2013 T 528	Silver	Early Medieval	Harness fitting	Twyford
2013 T 567	Gold	Post Medieval	Ring Inscribed 'MORTUI MONENT MORI WH'	Wing
2013 T 602	Silver	Post Medieval	Cufflink, one of the two elements	Winslow

And from Milton Keynes:

Ref nos.	Metal	Date	Description	Find spot
2013 T 569	Silver gilt	Medieval	Annular brooch fragment	Tyringham

Ros Tyrrell,
Finds Liaison Officer
Portable Antiquities Scheme
Bucks County Museum / British Museum
1.11.13

National Trust report for BHEF meeting

November 4th 2013

Cliveden

Works are currently underway to repair the grade 1 listed South Terrace at Cliveden. This is stage 2 of up to 8 phases of work which aims to rectify serious structural problems facing the terrace, including deterioration of stonework, brickwork, ironwork and ingress of water through the terrace caused by poor drainage. The current phase of work is involved with partially dismantling and rebuilding the central staircase which is believed to have been added to the terrace c. 1720. Oxford Archaeology have been commissioned by the National Trust to complete an initial Historic Fabric Analysis and are currently maintaining a watching brief and programme of recording during the works. Removal of the cement render on the staircase – believed to date from Charles Barry's programme of work from the 1850s – has revealed high quality gauged brickwork thought to date from a slightly earlier phase of restoration dating from c. 1818. Sections of the brickwork have had to be dismantled and during this process we have recovered approx.. 50 pieces of architectural stone used in the core of the wall. Some of these pieces are highly decorative and could date from the original 1670s design of the terrace.

A report on observations arising from a watching brief over the new sewer main along the base of the terrace (2012) has been completed by Network Archaeology.

The summer spell of dry weather revealed some impressive parch marks on the north and south fronts at Cliveden.

West Wycombe Village

The Trust are currently re-roofing and refurbishing a number of the buildings in West Wycombe village and have commissioned Oxford Archaeology to record evidence exposed during the roofing works. We are also using the services of Dan Miles to undertake dendrochronology dating of the buildings and have had a number of successes – 1540s and 1550s dates for 2-9 High St, 1543/1561/1648 for the complex evolution of the Crown Court complex and 1465 for the Church Loft. Reports are being produced for the individual buildings and there will also be a synthesised report looking at the overall development of the village and styles of building construction.

Stowe Gardens

A watching brief (NT) over the rebuilding of the central culvert between the Octagon lake and Eleven Acre Lake has revealed several phases of earlier brick culvert and a stone-built culvert of probably c. 1720 date with a rockwork apron at its downstream end. Perhaps most remarkable has been the number

of crayfish recovered from under the culvert floors which have caused serious subsidence. An impressive cast bronze head of Bacchus has been recovered after unauthorised metal detecting in the gardens. We have recently deposited 140 boxes of artefacts from Stowe and other Bucks properties with the County Museums Service.

G Marshall 28/10/2013