

PROPOSED HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 21st September 2005

Authors: Report by the Senior Archaeological Officer

A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To seek support for a proposed survey of historic towns to enhance the County's Sites and Monuments Record and management of historic urban areas.

B. PROPOSED ACTION

2 The Committee is invited to:

- a) **SUPPORT** the principle of a Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project
- b) **COMMENT** upon the long-list of towns and the selection of those to be included in the study (see appendix)
- c) **IDENTIFY** Members and Officers who should be consulted on the draft project design, and who might be involved in a "steering group".

C. RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 3 Funding is being sought from English Heritage for the project officer. At this stage it is not clear whether full funding will be available from this source or whether other "match-funding" will be required. It is anticipated that the project will last about three years and cost between £120,000 and £150,000.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5 English Heritage's national programme of historic town surveys commenced in 1992 and has now covered approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the country. The early projects were focussed on managing buried archaeological remains through the then new planning procedures set out in PPG16. More recently there has been a wider emphasis on planning for conservation and regeneration initiatives and a move towards a "characterisation" based approach, in part an urban version of Historic Landscape Characterisation.
- 6 A draft project design has been prepared which sets out proposals for an "Extensive Urban Survey" for historic Buckinghamshire, covering the

modern administrative county of Buckinghamshire and the Unitary Authority of Milton Keynes. The overall aim of the project is to inform management of the historic environment within Buckinghamshire's urban areas. Specifically, it will improve the consistency, efficiency and effectiveness of the application of Planning Policy Guidance 15 and 16; inform the preparation and review of conservation area appraisals (ref: BVPI 219); assist with the development of Town Schemes and urban regeneration projects; inform strategic proposals for intensification of land use in urban areas and act as a vehicle for engaging local communities. The potential of the project to tie in with the SEEDA funded Rural Towns Programme is under consideration.

- 7 The project design has been prepared at a time when major changes are anticipated to England's systems for heritage protection. The proposals therefore envisage fully integrated consideration of historic buildings, townscapes and related archaeological monuments and remains. The project will form part of Buckinghamshire's Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme, begun in 2002. It will be integrated into the Buckinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record (forming an essential part of its development into a fully-fledged Historic Environment Record) and will be made available to all through the "Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past" web site. For Milton Keynes, the data will be available through the Council's SMR. The project will be promoted with Conservation Officers, elected Members, the wider historic environment sector and others through the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum and other appropriate venues.
- 8 The resource to be considered is every recognisable urban area in the county upto the year 2000. The term "urban" is not precisely defined but in general a settlement can be considered to be a town if it has a relatively large and dense population, a distinct and diverse range of economic functions and a distinctive role in administration, politics and religion. Using rapid appraisal criteria, a long-list of 58 candidate sites has been drawn up (appendix). Selection will need to exclude settlements considered never to have achieved truly urban character (e.g. failed medieval market villages) and deserted sites better managed through scheduling or other means (e.g. Roman towns). The selection of modern settlements (e.g. Milton Keynes) for the study will need further consideration of methodology and purpose. About 30 or so of the long list sites are thought to be suited to detailed study in the context of this project.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

English Heritage web site

The Rural Towns Programme 2004-2011. Guidance for Prospective Applicants.

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Appendix : Candidate Towns

Roman

	Urban indicators (preliminary)					
	Size	Defences	Roadside location	Major stone buildings	Cemetery	Crafts/ Industry
Fleet Marston	√	-	√	?	√	?
Magiovinium	√	√	√	?	?	?
Olney		-				
Thornborough	?	-	√	√	√	-

No Roman towns are selected as none underlie modern settlements

Medieval

	Select? ¹	Borough	Royal manor 1086	Saxon mint	Old minster	Market (doc)	Market place	Fair (doc)	Castle	Monastic house/hospital	Lay Subsidy 1334	Market town c1600	1851 population > 1500
Amersham	##	√	-	-	-	√	√	√	-		£77.50	√	√
Aylesbury ²	##	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	?	√	£126.67	√	√
Beaconsfield	##	-	-	-	-	√	√	√	-	-	£50	√	√
Biddlesden	X	-	√	-	-	√		√	-	√			-
Brill	#	√	√	-	-	√		√	Royal hunting lodge	-	£80		-
Buckingham ³	##	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	£60	√	√
Burnham	#	-	-	-	?	√		√	-	√	£120		√
Chalfont St.Peter	?	-	-	-	-	√		√	-		£52.50		-
Chesham	#	-	-	-	-	√		√	-		£105		√
Chetwode	X	-	-	-	-	-		√	-	√	£30		-
Denham	#	√	-	-	-	√		√	-		£40		-
Fenny Stratford	#	√	-	-	-	√		√	-				-
Great Horwood	?	-	-	-	-	√	√	√	-		£70		-
Great Missenden	#	?	-	-	-	√		√	-	√	£60		√
Haddenham	#	-	-	-	√	√		√	-		£150	-	√
Hambleden	X	-	-	-	-	√		√	-		£75	-	-

¹ Select for study? ## = Definite, # = probable; ? = possible; x = exclude.

² To include the dependant hamlet of Walton with its extensive excavated Saxon settlement.

³ To include the associated hamlet (burh?) of Bourton and reference to Lamport.

	Select? ¹	Borough	Royal manor 1086	Saxon mint	Old minster	Market (doc)	Market place	Fair (doc)	Castle	Monastic house/hospital	Lay Subsidy 1334	Market town c1600	1851 population > 1500
Hanslope	?	-	-	-	?	√		√	-		£183.38	-	√
High Wycombe	##	√	-	-	?	√		√	√	√	£90	√	√
Hoggeston	X	-	-	-	-	√		√	-		£27	-	-
Iver	?	-	-	-	?	√		√	-		£120	-	√
Ivinghoe	#	-	-	-	?	√		√	-		£75	√	√
Lavendon	X	-	-	-	-	√		√			£75	-	-
Little Brickhill	#	√	-	-	-	√		√	-		£55 ⁴	-	-
Long Crendon	#	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	?	Notley Abbey in parish	£112.50	-	√
Luffield	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	√		-	-
Marlow (Gt)	##	√	-	-	-	√		√	-		£23.33	√	√
Mursley	?	-	-	-	-	√		√	-		£30	-	-
Olney	##	√	-	-	-	√	√	√	-		£135	√	√
Newport Pagnell	##	√	-	√	-	√		√	?	√	£180	√	√
Padbury	X	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-			-	-
Princes Risborough	#	-	√	-	-	√	√	√	-			-	√
Quainton	X	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-			-	-
Snelshall	X	-	-	-	-	√	-	√	-	√		-	-
Stoke Poges	?	-	-	-	-	√		√	-		£40	-	?
Stony Stratford	##	√	-	-	-	√	√	√	-		⁵	√	√
Tingewick	X	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-			-	-
Twyford	X	-	-	-	-	-		√	-			-	-

⁴ With Great Brickhill

⁵ £75 part with Calverton; £90 part with Wolverton

Additional Modern candidate list

Bletchley	##
Bourne End	?
Chalfont St. Giles	?
Gerrards Cross	##
Little Chalfont	?
Iver	?
New Bradwell	#
Milton Keynes City	? (how can EUS contribute?)
Wolverton	##
Woburn Sands	?

Select for study? ## = Definite, # = probable; ? = possible; x = exclude