

Agenda

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Date: Wednesday 10 March 2010
Time: 2.30 pm
Venue: Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury

Agenda Item	Page No
1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP	
2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To declare any personal and prejudicial interests	
3 MINUTES of the meeting held on 30 September 2009 to be confirmed	1 - 8
4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	
5 CONSERVATION AREA POLICY Report of the Aylesbury Vale Conservation Areas Officer	To Follow
6 PROMOTING HERITAGE AWARENESS WITH POLICY MAKERS Report of the County Archaeologist	9 - 12
7 MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT Report of the Archaeological Officer, Design and Conservation	13 - 16
8 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT Report of the County Archaeologist	17 - 30
9 COUNTY MUSEUM REPORT Reports of the Keeper of Archaeology and Finds Liaison Officer	31 - 32
10 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT Report of the Regional Archaeologist	33 - 34



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11 CONSERVATION OFFICERS' REPORTS

2A AYLESBURY VALE

2B CHILTERN

2C SOUTH BUCKS

2D WYCOMBE

12 EMERGENCY RECORDING FUND

Report of the Treasurer

**To
Follow**

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Forum is to be held on Wednesday 22 September, 2.30pm, Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury

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*

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 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 IN MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 2.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.17 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Members

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

Organisation

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

Officers

Mr M Andrew
Mr N Crank
Ms J Foster
Mr S Kidd
Ms K MacDonald
Mr B Thorn
Ms J Wise

Organisation

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

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Mr R Pushman be elected as Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum for the ensuing year.

Mr R Pushman in the Chair.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Gary Marshall, Sue Polhill and Chris Welch.

The Chairman advised the Forum that County Councillor Francis Robinson did not stand



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for re-election at the County Council elections held in June, which resulted in a County Councillor vacancy on the Forum. The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Brenda Jennings as the new Member of the Forum.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Brenda Jennings declared a personal interest as she was a Member of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society.

Richard Pushman declared a personal interest as he was a Member of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2009 were confirmed.

5 MATTERS ARISING

Sandy Kidd advised that at the previous meeting he had asked if Members would like to receive a presentation on the Solent-Thames Research Frameworks Project. The Officer advised that this project was not moving forward at the moment and suggested that this item be deferred to another meeting of the Forum subject to the progress of the project.

The Forum AGREED to defer the item to a future meeting.

6 PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 15: CONSULTATION

Members had received a report from Sandy Kidd, County Archaeologist.

The Officer advised that the proposed new Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS 15) is a key element of the non-statutory reforms and that it was accompanied by a draft Practice Guide issued by English Heritage. He said that the overall purpose of the PPS 15 aims to provide a more strategic and focussed national policy framework. Its key features include:

- Updates policy to reflect changes to the planning system.
- An emphasis on recognising and protecting what is deemed 'significant' about heritage assets and retaining existing levels of protection. Developers will be expected to assess 'significance' before submitting applications.
- Places greater emphasis on locally significant assets and consulting the local community
- Aims for closer integration with other objectives of the planning system; notably place-shaping, economic regeneration and addressing climate change.

The Forum was advised that there are 'demolition tests' to see if removal of an asset is justified. Resource implications and difficulties for some two tier authorities were also highlighted. The Officer advised the Forum that a fully integrated HER would cost approximately £60k to set up and approximately £10k a year to maintain.

The Officer tabled a report at the meeting 'Draft Buckinghamshire County Council PPS 15 Consultation response'. The Forum discussed the suggested responses and made the following comments:

- Members commented that point 5 and 7 were important and that they were glad those responses had been included.
- Milton Keynes will be submitting a response. The Cabinet Member for Milton Keynes commented that the Home and Communities Agency (HCA) can give planning permission. She said that would like the principles to apply to a government quango as outline planning permissions are often out of their hands.
- Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society will also be making a submission.

Sandy Kidd said he would prepare some comments and include a general comment with key points to look at. Julia Foster said AVDC will be responding with reference to the Historic Buildings side. Sandy Kidd invited Members to forward comments on the key points or on the Historic Buildings aspect.

It was noted that a response will be sent from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum and other district councils.

The Forum commented on matters of interest and concern and authorised the Chairman to submit comments to DCLG and English Heritage reflecting those concerns.

7 HERITAGE AT RISK: UPDATE

Members had received a report from Sandy Kidd, County Archaeologist.

The report updated the Forum on the outcome of English Heritage's Heritage at Risk survey of 2008.

The report updated the Forum on the current situation in Buckinghamshire compared to the averages for the South East and England. The report supplements the information received by Members at the March meeting as the list of specific at risk assets was confidential at the time of the last meeting but is now available. Members were invited to note the conclusions of the survey.

Members discussed the Heritage at Risk 2009 survey. A Member commented that they were unable to ascertain from English Heritage regarding what criteria they were looking for when conservation areas were deemed to be 'at risk'. Another Member commented that some Council's were not aware that the survey was to be published.

RESOLVED

The Forum NOTED the report.

8 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Forum received the report of the County Archaeologist, Sandy Kidd on the work of the County Archaeological Service since the last meeting of the Forum.

The Officer highlighted that after a dip last year there had been a noticeable return in case work, which was close to normal levels of activity.

The Buckinghamshire HER website came second in a national web-based poll of online historic environment records. The site has approximately 4000 users a year compared to approximately 150 personal visits to see the HER a year. The high numbers of website users highlights the value of the website.

The service has handled a large number of planning applications mainly within the Aylesbury Vale area.

Members discussed the completed restoration of Brill Windmill and the Officer highlighted that a group has been convened to help raise funds for restoration of Coombe Hill Monument. The Langley Park Restoration Project is well underway focussing on works to the Rhododendron Garden, new paths and the Lake.

RESOLVED

The Forum NOTED the report and AGREED the proposed actions.

9 COUNTY MUSEUM REPORT

Members had received the report of Ros Tyrell, Finds Liaison Officer.

Members discussed the report and how they could advertise the County Museum better and to increase awareness of all County Councillors of the Service. Brett Thorn advised that as part of promoting the museum, tours including behind the scenes tours were organised. Members discussed the possibility of holding an exhibition at the museum which County Councillors could be invited to. It was agreed that this be considered later in the future directions/Initiatives agenda item.

A Member thanked Ros Tyrell for their time and commitment to Treasure Finds.

The Forum was advised that the Portable Antiquities Scheme is 90% funded nationally and that the Finds Liaison Officer is 90% funded by the British Museum.

The report from Brett Thorn, Keeper of Archaeology, Buckinghamshire County Museum was tabled at the meeting.

The report advised that the museum is currently planning a major archaeological exhibition for 2010, to run from March to July. We are hoping to borrow from the British Museum some key items from the county, some of which have never been displayed here, including part of the Taplow Anglo-Saxon burial, the very fine Roman glass from Radnage, and the hoard of Late Bronze Age gold torcs from Milton Keynes.

RESOLVED

The Forum NOTED the reports.

10 MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Members had received a report from the Archaeological Officer, Conservation and Archaeology, Milton Keynes.

The Officer informed the Forum of the name change of the service from Design and Conservation to Conservation and Archaeology.

The report, which included photographs, highlighted three excavations: Manor Farm Quarry, Wolverton, Passenham Quarry, Calverton and Brooklands, Broughton.

The Officer highlighted that the 'Cursus' at Wolverton was the first for the County. A

Member enquired what a cursus was and the Officer informed that it was two parallel ditches, which were over 300m. There is much mystery around cursus and it is not known what they were used for. It was commented that this is Buckinghamshire's first link to Stonehenge. Samples for radiocarbon and Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating have been taken.

The Passenham Quarry, Calverton excavations have focussed on the continuation of the Iron Age pit alignment alongside the discovery and excavation of a substantial stone-built Romano-British 2nd C AD mortuary structure which was filled with cremated remains.

In Broughton excavation of five areas as part of the Brooklands expansion area has revealed early Iron Age to late Romano-British occupation.

The Officer advised that Milton Keynes Council has been awarded a grant from English Heritage to enable the HER records to be made available online via the national Heritage Gateway web portal before the end of the year.

A Member enquired how the Council was managing the HER since the previous officer had retired. The Officer advised that there was a backlog but that this had been mitigated to some extent due to the poor economic situation reducing the number of fieldwork reports submitted.

The Officer informed the Forum that Milton Keynes Council had organised an Archaeology Day and invited Members of the Forum to attend.

RESOLVED

The Forum NOTED the report.

11 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Gary Marshall, National Trust Archaeologist, Thames and Solent Region was unable to attend the meeting. A report was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED

The Forum NOTED the report.

12 CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORTS

Aylesbury Vale

The conservation area review priority list has been amended. Settlements have been identified in the Core Strategy and district wide management plan, which has been completed but not yet published.

Aylesbury Vale Conservation Officer Anne Davies is currently off sick and is unlikely to return before the end of October 2009.

Rookery Farm, Ludgershall.

An application was submitted to demolish the listed building. The Council did not feel the building justified demolition and the application was refused. The decision was appealed and went to a public enquiry. As a result the appellants withdrew the appeal and the Council are now working with the owners to save the building.

Woolpack Public House

Officers worked with the owners and encouraged them to use professional advisors for the restoration. The public house is aiming to re-open at the end of October 2009. It was noted that the building has 16th Century origins and that the fire destroyed much of the ground floor area and the adjacent thatched building.

Buildings at risk officer, (Lorraine Carter)'s contract has expired.

Chiltern

Within Chesham conservation area Officers are currently dealing with a planning application for a casino in a grade II listed building.

Wycombe

Two buildings have been added to the register of listed buildings. Both buildings are modern; Lyde End, which was designed by Paul Collinge and a modernistic church in the grounds of Fawley Court.

Permission has been granted to restore High Wycombe Station to its original Brunel designed form.

The Council have received a letter from British Telecom (BT) informing them that BT are handing over responsibility of the boxes to Parish Councils with the District Councils as administrators and facilitators. The Council are in the process of identifying iconic phone boxes and in discussions with the Parish Councils regarding taking over the phone boxes.

13 EMERGENCY RECORDING FUND:

Members had received the report by Sandy Kidd on the Emergency Archaeological Recording Fund.

The Officer advised that he would need to confirm the position of the Fund at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

The Forum NOTED the report.

14 FUTURE DIRECTIONS/INITIATIVES

The Forum had received the report of the County Archaeologist, the purpose of which was to inform the Forum on the English Heritage guidance on Overview and Scrutiny and consider its future priorities.

Members discussed the following:

- Possibility to tie in with an exhibition at the museum
- How the profile of the historic environment could be raised and how is the authority purporting to deal with key historic assets for the future.

Sandy Kidd suggested that Members think of some ideas for a conference, which may include short talks, issues around conservation and consider other issues around how we address the Historic Protection Reform assuming the introduction of Policy Practice Statement 15 (PPS 15) and for these to be discussed at the next meeting of the Forum.

Implications of addressing PPS 15 was also raised and how to implement this as a whole in a two tier area. It was highlighted that this requires a joined up approach between County and District Councils. Members were asked to consider this issue and feedback any comments to Sandy Kidd.

The Chairman advised that in his role as Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council he holds a series of receptions and suggested this may be an opportunity to exhibit some display boards such as for the County Museum, or the possibility to display in the main reception at County Hall. Members were advised to contact Joe Bradshaw, Executive Assistant to the Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council.

RESOLVED

The Forum NOTED the report.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The possibility of holding a future meeting at Bletchley Park was discussed.

16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Forum is to be held on Wednesday 10 March, 2.30pm, Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury

- Wednesday 22 September, 2.30pm, Mezzanine Room 1

CHAIRMAN

PROMOTING HERITAGE AWARENESS WITH DECISION MAKERS

To: Bucks Historic Environment Forum

Date: 10th March 2010

Author: Report by the County Archaeologist

A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To identify possible mechanisms for raising awareness of heritage issues with policy and decision-makers.

B. PROPOSED ACTION

2 The Forum is invited to:

- a. **COMMENT** on suggested arrangements for a June event
- b. **NOTE and COMMENT** upon other opportunities

C. BACKGROUND

- 3 At its last meeting the Forum considered how it could promote awareness amongst key decision-makers of heritage issues relating to both the historic environment and museums. An idea is for an event held at the county museum to coincide with the museum's 'Human' exhibition and timed for after the general election to showcase the public value of heritage, and debate future heritage policy. There would be several speakers with a regional or national profile. A budget of around £300 would be required for refreshments.

Suggested arrangements for June event

An invitation from Richard Pushman as Chairman of Buckinghamshire's Historic Environment Forum to attend presentations on the future of the heritage sector, a 'market place' on local provision and an opportunity to view the Human exhibition of half a million years of life in Bucks.

Date: mid June 2010 (i.e. during museum exhibition but after general election)

Time: mid-week

Duration: 11am –3pm

Venue: County Museum, Aylesbury

Invitees: elected members and senior officers of all six authorities, selected heritage professionals and voluntary sector. [Total no. councillors 306. Plan on 40 attending + 20 guests]

Lunch provided [cost est. £5 per head x 60 = £300]

Purposes:

1. To provide an update on key national initiatives and challenges.
2. To raise awareness amongst members of the diversity of local heritage, its public value and service provision.
3. To promote awareness of the county museum through an opportunity to view the Buckinghamshire Archaeology exhibition and talk to local experts.

Programme

Introduction and Welcome (Richard Pushman)

Talks (15-20 mins each):

1. Heritage: a view from Westminster (local MP or Culture Spokesman?)
2. Planning Policy and Heritage Protection (English Heritage, Regional Director?)
3. Museums: looking forward (Society of Museum Archaeologists, Philip Wise)

Possible extra speaker on role of NGOs? (someone from National Trust or Heritage Link or Steve Rodrick or James Moir?)

Market Place (display/stall): long-list of potential participants, mostly members of HEG – not a general invite to local societies-

1. County Museum (ERC?, FLO, something on future?)
2. County Archaeological Service (HER/Planning/GI)
3. Bucks Conservation Trust (Quarrendon Leas)
4. Bucks Historic Buildings Trust
5. Chiltern Conservation Board
6. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (Buildings Group , Book ...)
7. Bletchley Park Trust
8. National Trust
9. Milton Keynes Council
10. South Bucks DC
11. Wycombe DC
12. AVDC
13. Chiltern DC
14. Oxford Diocese

Discussion

Introduction to the exhibition and book (Sarah Gray)

Lunch

Gallery viewing with experts on hand

- 4 It would also be helpful if members could identify other opportunities for engaging with decision-makers. For example, the County Archaeology Service is to hold a training event for the Chiltern HLC Project with the Chiltern AONB and a series of promotional events for the Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project are to be organised jointly with the District Councils. The provisional timetable for these events is:

30th April 2010: Chiltern Historic Landscape Characterisation

September 2010: South Bucks District Historic Towns

November 2010: Milton Keynes Historic Towns

December 2010: Wycombe District Historic Towns
January 2011: Chiltern District Historic Towns
February 2011: Aylesbury Vale District (North) Historic Towns
March 2011: Aylesbury Vale District (South) Historic Towns

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Future Directions. Report to Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum,
September 2009.

CONTACT OFFICER: ALEXANDER (SANDY) KIDD 01296-382927

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: March 2010

Authors: Archaeological Officer, Conservation and Archaeology,
Milton Keynes Council

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Committee 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 July and December 2009.

C. PLANNING

1. Between 1st July and 31st December 2009 there were 84 consultations in respect of archaeological matters as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, and schemes by: The Homes and Communities Agency; Natural England; Anglian Water; and Eastern Electricity.

D. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

1. The Historic Environment Record was consulted by external researchers 13 times between July and December.
2. Over 8000 Milton Keynes HER records were published alongside more than 1.5 million national and local entries on the Heritage Gateway in February this year: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>
3. In November a Heritage Theme was launched on the MKi Observatory website. This digital mapping resource complements the data on the Heritage Gateway and includes Historic Landscape Characterisation, Viatores routes, historic fields and woodlands alongside building, monument and event data: <http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk>

E. STAFF

1. Nick Crank has accepted the post of Senior Archaeological Officer (start date TBC). It is expected that the vacant post of Archaeological Officer will be filled in the next few months.

F. OUTREACH

1. On November 14th the Archaeological Officer organised the third MK Council Archaeology Day. This event, held across the Central Library was well attended as usual and attracted press and radio coverage. The day centred around a series of presentations by professional archaeologists on recent work in the borough in addition to lively talks by Brian Giggins on historic buildings and Paul Blinkhorn of Time Team fame on Saxon Pottery. Ros Tyrrell and the metal detectorists and stands from Milton Keynes Museum and the Tickford Bridge Bi-centenary Committee also proved popular. Also new to the event was involvement from the Children's Library who organised an archaeological themed story time for the under fives.
2. Planning for Archaeology Day 2010 is underway. This year's event will include Louise Loe from Oxford Archaeology speaking on the Fromelles Project. Other projects likely to feature on the day include the Historic Towns Project and the Wolverton cursus.
3. On Saturday the 12th September the Archaeological Officer gave a free guided walk around the archaeology of the Ouzel valley to a group of 20 as part of Heritage Open Days.
4. An article detailing recent archaeological projects and the MKi Heritage Theme was published in the Council's Parish Newsletter in November.

G. PROPOSED ACTION

1. The Committee is asked to note this report.

Archaeological Events in Milton Keynes July – December 2009

Site	Organisation	Event	Date	Summary	Publication
Chicheley Hall, Coach House, Chicheley	Albion Archaeology / Bedfordshire County Archaeological Service	Strip, map & sample	July-August	Controlled excavation within the C18th Coach House revealed four medieval burials and cut features relating to the former churchyard boundary.	Short article
58 High Street, Stony Stratford	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Watching brief	July	Limited negative watching brief on single footing and service trench.	No
St Giles Church, Tattenhoe	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Watching brief	August	Negative watching brief on works for new path.	No
Bare Farm, Tattenhoe	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Trial trenching	October	Trial trenching adjacent to an excavated Iron Age settlement did not reveal any continuation of activity.	No
Bradwell Abbey	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Watching brief	August	Excavation of 19 footings for sculptures revealed a pitched stone surface to the west of the 'Cruck Barn'.	No
25 High Street, North Crawley	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Trial trenching	November	Trial trenching revealed traces of a late 19 th century cottage. No evidence of earlier activity was revealed.	No
Milton Keynes Wind Farm, Petsoe	Albion Archaeology / Bedfordshire County Archaeological Service	Watching brief and targeted excavation	November - ongoing	Excavations in the areas of turbine and crane base 1 have revealed a Romano-British settlement. Observations elsewhere across the development have revealed little.	Article
Cowley's Parchment Works, Newport Pagnell	Albion Archaeology / Bedfordshire County Archaeological Service	Building recording	December-January	Historic building record of C19th Parchment Works building prior to demolition.	No

Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officer's Report

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 10th March 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.**

And to CONSIDER

- e options and funding for developing the historic environment record with a view to supporting a funding bid**

C. RESOURCES

- 3 At present the service comprises three core staff plus a full-time largely externally funded post supported by English Heritage working on the Historic Towns Project and a maternity cover post (Ruth Beckley) in the Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer role. We have also been joined for 6 months by Alex Goodwin, a business administration trainee from Aylesbury College.
- 4 As reported to previous meetings, 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 legal opinion received. From 1st October 2009 the minimum charge for commercial HER enquiries increased to £90. An options paper on

charging for planning-related advice will be put to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5 **Archaeology Service Performance Indicators**

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

Performance Indicator	3rd Quarter 2009	4th Quarter 2009
Planning applications responded to within 14 days (target 90%)	91%	87%
Success rate at appeal (target 50% annual success rate)	0 of 0	0 of 0
Percentage of evaluations with a positive outcome (target 60%)	2 of 3	4 of 8
Historic Environment Records data inputting backlog (targets: reports < 30; collections < 900 by March 2010)	Reports = 29 Collect = 2321 Total = 2350	Reports = 50 Collect = 2244 Total = 2294

Volume measures	3rd Quarter 2009	4th Quarter 2009
Total number of consultations handled	183	142
Number of planning applications handled	132	98
Number of development-related archaeological fieldwork projects	25	23
Number of reports received by the HER	41	113
Number of Historic Environment Records enquiries handled:		
commercial	13	17
non-commercial	14	10
UBP web-site users	561	716

6 Historic Environment Record

Use of the Historic Environment Record by direct enquirers remains at a modest level compared to high point reached in 2005-6 but represents less than 5% of users including those using the UBP website. Volunteers are continuing to make inroads into the remaining collections backlog.

A grant has been obtained from English Heritage to make HER information available across the national Heritage Gateway portal whilst at the same time we will be migrating the UBP web site to new software compatible with that system. Subject to confirming technical and contractual matters we hope the updated system will be fully operational by summer 2010.

There is a further opportunity to bid for funding for HER development in 2010/11. English Heritage in partnership with the Institute of Historic Building 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 being available. In 2010/11 English Heritage are intending to invest a sum of £400,000 in projects dedicated to assisting HERs in the move towards full HPR Compliance in England. The scheme opened for project proposals on 15th February with a deadline of 15th April 2010. Guidance has been issued, from which the following is an extract:

Strand 2: Expanding the Content and Coverage of HERs for HPR Coverage.

Funding will be available to local authorities or organisations working in close association with them. A maximum of £40,000 will be available for any one project.

English Heritage will especially welcome applications which include multiple HERs, and/or which integrate different tiers of local government. Project teams which include HER officers and curatorial expertise from district and county/AONB/NPA level will be particularly welcomed.

English Heritage will favour applications which demonstrate integration and partnership between different tiers of local government. Project teams which include local authority curatorial representation from those with expertise of the historic built environment and landscapes will be particularly welcome.

Projects will deliver the following kinds of HPR enhancement or test cases:

Projects which test the methodology and applicability of making available the full range of commonly encountered historic environment data (for example the built environment – especially event and condition data relating to designated buildings and landscapes: HLC characterisation) through the HER or integrated within it. Here EH will be looking for creativity in accessing relevant data sources (born digital or digitised as part of project), developing consistency of standards and logicity of approaches, building on current good practice towards a common national approach, and wider consultation with user groups.

Projects which test the capture of, and/or demonstrate electronic access to valuable thematic or period based datasets at a regional or national level (for example relevant

'event' or 'monument' data held by active local groups or national amenity societies). Such projects will not consider one-time downloads, but must explore effective updating/live linkage, and must include the owners of such data sources at all stages of project planning and implementation.

Projects will be eligible if they can provide confirmation of the following:

- *Evidence of commitment to the principles of Heritage Protection Reform by the authorities managing the relevant HER(s) and associated Local Planning Authorities.*
- *Evidence of long-term commitment to HER development*
- *Evidence for demonstrable cooperative working with built environment and landscape partners*
- *Evidence of commitment to providing public access to HERS for example through Heritage Gateway (see <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>)*

An outline of a possible bid will be circulated for discussion.

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 Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Newport Pagnell and Wendover are currently out to public consultation. The project is contributing to the South Bucks Townscape Character Study being undertaken by Chris Blandford Associates for South Bucks District Council in support of their Local Development Framework. Presentations of the results are to be made in each district council area.

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 30th April and copies will be sent to local councils and community groups across the Chilterns AONB.

Progress with the **Solent-Thames Research Frameworks Project** has remained poor and a review meeting with the consultancy responsible for this project is to be held in April

At **Quarrendon Leas** a DDA compliant footpath has been built which will link the Berryfields development site to the church/moat area. IJP Building Conservation have completed a conservation survey of the church ruin estimating the cost of consolidation and repair at just over £30,000. Several possible sources of funding are being investigated. Land transfer has been postponed due to the delay in commencing development at Berryfields MDA.

The **Langley Park Restoration Project** is well underway focussing on works to the Rhododendron Garden, new paths and the lake. Works to the lake have revealed a ha-ha and foundations of a boathouse alongside Langley Park House.

AVDC has indicated it would accept amendments to address most historic environment concerns relating to the **Submission Draft of the Aylesbury Vale LDF Core Strategy**. Overall its treatment of the historic environment was generally positive and welcomed. AVDC has consulted on a green infrastructure strategy which includes Quarrendon Leas as a 'flagship project'.

8 **Planning related archaeological work**

Despite the economic down-turn development-related casework has recovered to normal levels of activity. Evaluation has been undertaken on a major speculative green-field development proposal on the outskirts of Aylesbury at '**Quarrendon Fields**'. The results show extensive early Roman settlement and as the development would also affected the setting of the Quarrendon scheduled ancient monument the service has recommended the application be refused.

Negotiations continue regarding a major flood alleviation scheme in the **floodplain at Marlow** which would include burial of a prehistoric barrow cemetery beneath a landscaped area. Small-scale investigations have been carried out in the area over the past decade by the Marlow Archaeological Society and it is hoped that the Environment Agency will afford them an opportunity to complete and publish their work alongside planning-related mitigation.

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

Emergency works at **Dinton Castle** allowed a record of the structure to be made by Northamptonshire Archeology (funded by the Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust). It is hoped the record will assist in future decisions regarding the ruin.

A full list of development-related fieldwork from July to December 2009 is provided in appendix A.

9 **Publication update (Appendix B)**

The **Taplow Court** excavation has been published by Oxford Archaeology, funded by English Heritage. Progress has been made on Network Archaeology's outstanding work. Progress on other projects is being pursued.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Archaeological Reports submitted to the Bucks HER

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Appendix A: Development-related Archaeological Fieldwork in Buckinghamshire July to December 2009

Site	Project type	Contract or	Dates	Summary	Report to HER?	Proposed publication
Aston Clinton, land rear of Brook Street	Trial trench	CAT	December	One Roman ditch, two undated ditches, ridge and furrow of medieval/post medieval date	Yes	
Aylesbury, Hampden Vets	Evaluation Watching brief	TVAS	September	Ditch with related medieval pottery	Yes	
Aylesbury, Crown Court	Watching brief	Albion	October	Negative due to modern disturbance	Yes	
Aylesbury, HM Prison	Historic building recording Watching brief	AA	October	Recording of 19 th century wing of prison prior to demolition	Yes	
Aylesbury, Exchange Street	Trial trench	AS	October	Environmental assessment indicates low potential alongside Bear Brook	No	
Brill, Kings Ride House	Watching brief	OA	September	Negative despite location within historic core of village	Yes	
Brill, 7 & 9 Temple Street	Excavation	TVAS	September	2 medieval-post medieval postholes, post medieval well, post medieval pit with wasters	No	
Buckingham, Land to the rear of 23 Church St	Excavation	Network	November	Postholes, pits, medieval pottery, cobbled surface, possible garden evidence	No	
Charndon, Old long House	Historic building recording	CA	October	Recording of fire damaged 18 th century house	Processing	
Denham, Cedar Cottage	Watching brief	ASC	September	Negative due to modern disturbance, site located in historic core of village	Yes	
Dinton, Dinton Castle	Building Recording	NA	March-October	Emergency recording of 18 th century Grade II* castle in advance of urgent repairs	Yes	
Dinton, Marsh Mead Farm	Trial trench	JMHS	August	Roman field systems and finds	Yes	
Fingest & Lane End, Laurel Farm	Watching brief	ASC	July	Negative watching brief despite proximity to medieval common edge settlement	Yes	
Frieth Hill, The	Watching brief	JMHS	October	18th/19thC? wall and lime slaking pit (undated)	Yes	

Site	Project type	Contract or	Dates	Summary	Report to HER?	Proposed publication
Cottage						
Gerrards Cross, 44 Camp Road	Watching brief	AS	July	Medieval ditches, pits, postholes and pottery	Yes	Yes
Gerrards Cross M25 Multiple sites	Excavation – strip map & sample	OA	November	Pond 4: c6 undated pits Pond 3: Negative despite good potential for prehistoric evidence	No	
Haddenham, 37 Townside	Watching brief	JMHS	November	Two pits with small amounts of 13 th century pottery, one pit undated probably later	Yes	
Haddenham, 1 Fort End	Trial trench	JMHS	December	Negative despite location adjacent medieval buildings within historic core of village	Yes	
High Wycombe, 18 Crendon Street	Trial trench	AS	September	2 late medieval-post medieval pits, 1 post medieval pit, 1 modern pit. Environmental sampling taken	Yes	
Iver, Project Pinewood	Trial trench	AOC	Sept-Oct	negative, entirely blank despite geophysics anomalies of potential interest	Yes	
Iver Iver to Slough	Geophysics Aerial photographic analysis	APS	November	Chandlers Hill area revealed substantial evidence for WWII anti-aircraft battery and circular features to be tested by trial trenching	Yes	
Leckhampstead, Valley House	Watching Brief	ASC	September	Negative despite proximity to shrunken medieval village, ridge and furrow and possible civil war site	Yes	
Maids Moreton, Church Hall	Trial trench	AS	September	Undated stone surface, possibly post medieval associated with rectory	Yes	
Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme	Trial trench	OA	November	Post holes Rectangular feature (Neolithic/Bronze Age?)	No	
Marlow, Unicorn Bridge House	Excavation	FA	December	Negative despite potential for medieval to post medieval mill remains	No	
Nether Winchendon, Manor Farm	Historic building recording, Watching brief	OA	September	Ongoing, building recording carried out, not the watching brief	No	
North Marston, Old Forge	Trial trench	NA	September	Negative despite location within historic core of village, significant modern disturbance	Yes	
Penn, Victoria House	Watching brief	TVAS	July	1 post medieval to modern boundary ditch and 1 wall	Yes	

Site	Project type	Contract or	Dates	Summary	Report to HER?	Proposed publication
Penn, Old Antiques Shop	Watching brief	ASC	July	Possible medieval posthole, undated ditch and possible post medieval wall foundation	Yes	
Penn, Tennis club	Watching brief	TVAS	September	Negative despite location in centre of Penn village – important tile industry	Yes	
Princes Risborough, Jasmine Crescent	Trial trench	JMHS	November	Negative due to modern disturbance in Victorian period	Yes	
Quarrendon Fields, Quarrendon	Geophysical survey	Stratascan	September	Extensive ditched enclosures (including a 'banjo' enclosure), trackways and pit-like anomalies.	Yes	Note
Quarrendon Fields, Quarrendon	Trial trenching	Albion	November	Geophysical anomalies noted above resolve into four areas of late Iron Age/early Roman settlement with outlying field boundaries and trackways	Yes	Note
Silverstone Circuit (pit and paddock, new track)	Excavation Watching Brief	Wessex	November	Undated/post-medieval ditches possibly associated with Luffield Priory, including historic parish boundary.	Yes	Note
Stoke Poges, Stoke Manor	Trial trench	Wessex	November	Tudor wall foundations	No	
Wexham, Langley Park visitor centre	Watching brief	NA	August	Negative despite location within Langley Park	No	
Whitchurch, Quaker Barn	Historic building recording	ASC	October	17th/18thC barn	Yes	
Wing, Overstone School	Trial trench	AS	October	negative modern services above natural geology	Yes	

Abbreviations: AA = Albion Archaeology; AS = Archaeological Solutions; ASC = Archaeological Services and Consultancy; CA = Chiltern Archaeology; CAT = Cotswold Archaeological Trust; FA = Foundations Archaeology; GSB = Geophysical Surveys of Bradford; JMHS = John Moore Heritage Services; NA = Northamptonshire Archaeology; OA = Oxford Archaeology; OA East = Oxford Archaeology East; TVAS = Thames Valley Archaeological Services

APPENDIX B: LIST OF MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION PROJECTS AT THE POST EXCAVATION STAGE
(MARCH 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 but dating considered insufficiently precise	Awaiting response from archaeological contractor and consultant - monitor
Dorney Rowing Lake & Maidenhead Windsor and Eton Flood Relief Scheme	Oxford Archaeology	Bucks CC	Multi-period sites	Draft report was expected May 2006 Delayed - still awaited. MPA advised of requirements of planning condition	Requested update from Eton College regarding compliance with planning condition. March 2010.
Wexham- All Souls Farm	Thames Valley Archaeological Services (2007)	Bucks CC	Roman settlement	Post-excavation assessment agreed	Additional field work completed- monitor.

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
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.	Pursuing 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	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. MONITOR.
Taplow Court	Oxford Archaeology (1999)	South Bucks DC	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hillfort	Major unexpected discoveries during excavation led to budget overrun. English Heritage post-excavation grant aid agreed. Draft report received July 07.	Published February 2010.
Taplow – Dorney pipeline (Thames Water)	Cotswolds Archaeology (2004)	Statutory undertaker	Iron Age settlement	Post-excavation assessment report approved (Jan 06). Draft report was expected Oct 07 then	Queried with CAT

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
				July 2009 but still not arrived.	
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.
Hardwick-Marsh Gibbon Transco Pipeline	Network Archaeology and Cambridge Archaeology 2007	Statutory Undertaker	Iron Age and Roman settlements	Post-ex assessment from Cambridge received December 2008. Network PX assessment received December 2009	BCAS to assess.



Portable Antiquities Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

Finds Liaison in Buckinghamshire

August 09 to March 10

Treasure Finds

There have been seven potential treasure cases reported in the period covered by these notes and two more from Northamptonshire. The objects from counties other than Bucks were reported by finders who live in Bucks. The FLO is able to liaise with the Coroners of other counties where necessary.

Location	Metal	Object Type	Ref No
Edlesborough	Gold	Bronze Age loops [via Beds FLO]	2009/T513
Bow Brickhill MK	Silver	Post medieval eyelet [via Beds FLO]	2009/T551
Princes Risborough	Silver	Medieval ring	2009/T594
Dorton	Gold	Post medieval inscribed ring, NEVER TO CHANGE	2009/T629
Hambleton	Gold	Post medieval inscribed ring, HART BE TRUE	2009/T641
Oakley	Gold & silver	1564 -1613 1 gold & 4 silver coins	2009/T655
Chilton	Silver Gilt	16 th -17th inscribed ring, KEEPE ME IN MINDE	2009/T757
Potterspury, N'hants	Silver Gilt	Post med medieval dress hook.	2010/T050
Potterspury, N'hants	Silver Gilt	Medieval annular brooch.	2010/T051
Bishopstone	Silver	Post medieval bodkin/pin [via Surrey FLO]	2010/T056

Table 1. Potential Treasure objects reported to the FLO since the last meeting.

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

A large amount of finds have continued to be recorded, and the total entered on the database so far is now up to 7095. The national total is over 449,114. A forthcoming upgrade and in-house redesign of the web based database will make these records more user-friendly. This should have happened already but is promised some time in March! We have been testing it over the last couple of weeks and it really does look promising

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 all invite the FLO to record the finds. This is not the case in some of the adjacent counties.

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. The snowy & icy weather has made it difficult to reach some of the meetings recently but the members have less active so no real problems have occurred

Publicity

The talk I was booked to do at the Old Gaol in Buckingham was cancelled due to the inclement weather recently but they may well rebook later in the year!

Finds Identification & Recording Sessions

The annual MK Archaeology Day was staged again by Nick Crank MK Council's Archaeologist. I had a recording and identifying table in the foyer of the Central Library. I was ably assisted by three, enthusiastic members of one of the local detector clubs & some of their finds from the area.

For general identifying I have continued to focus on three monthly Saturday afternoons at Wycombe Museum and every Wednesday in the Civic Offices in Central Milton Keynes. An increasing number of finders make appointments and come to one of these venues or to the Museum Resource Centre at Halton.

Detector Surveys in Co-operation with Professional Archaeology Units

I was asked by ASC Ltd to provide them with about five reliable detectorists to survey an area of the allotments next to the Cemetery off the Tring Road prior to the land becoming an extension to the burial ground. There was a possibility that the area could produce Saxon burials or occupation. I and my keen band of locals turned up on site with their detectors ready to go but as the day wore on it became clear that there was only allotment related modern rubbish nothing older than mid 20th century objects. The thick tussocky grass, plies of concrete shed debris and large bonfire piles made things difficult. Had the 'grass etc been removed we might have done better but not necessarily.

A similar project has been in the pipeline since autumn 09 to do controlled detecting at Fleet Marston but I await the call from the project manager [PreConstruct/CGMS] for the site as to when this will be. I look forward to a more interesting and productive survey this time.

Ros Tyrrell,
Finds Liaison Officer
Portable Antiquities Scheme

The National Trust

Report to Bucks Historic Environment Forum

10th March 2010

Stowe New Inn

Works to secure the restoration of this historic grade II* listed inn are due to commence in early March, with a completion date for the 6th June 2011. Northamptonshire Archaeology will be acting as our archaeological contractors for the project and will be maintaining watching briefs over all excavations and excavations to increase the capacity of the car park, plus all internal interventions to the buildings. Until now volunteers have played a key part in the investigation and preparation of the site, with the Bucks Archaeological Society's Buildings Recording Group assisting with the recording of a number of elevations. A second group of volunteers have undertaken a huge amount of work to clear the courtyard surfaces of debris and soil, thus allowing for recording.

Stowe Gardens

There have been a number of minor 'interventions' into the gardens at Stowe, including digging of about 40 tree pits between the Palladian Bridge and the Gothic Temple and the excavation of a series of drainage trenches between the Palladian Bridge and the Temple of Friendship. Watching briefs are maintained over all such excavations as they can reveal valuable information about the development of the gardens. The trenches on the south side of the Palladian Bridge have revealed the correct location for the original 18th century path leading up to the bridge (it has migrated eastwards due to the encroachment of trees and shrubs). Where possible the paths are restored to their original alignment but in this case the path will have to retain its existing alignment as this would otherwise necessitate the removal of mature trees.

Boarstall Tower excavations

The archaeological report on the excavations undertaken in July 2008 is due for publication in March 2010.

25 High Street, West Wycombe

As with many of the Trust's stock of tenanted historic buildings this building on the High Street requires some improvements to bring it up to standards for a 21st 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 maintains usually maintains a watching brief over such works, and in this case the work has revealed changes to fireplaces and window openings. The building retains a fine braced roof of probable early 16th century date which abuts the adjacent tenancy, thought to be late 15th century. The Trust would normally carry out dendrochronology dating but in this case many of the

timbers appear to be re-used and there is also an issue over the flimsy nature of the ceiling over which access would be required.

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. These works had a minor impact on the fabric of the building but did reveal a blocked doorway in the north wall. The door would have led to the adjacent house which historically served as the schoolmaster's house when this building served as the precursor to the Royal Latin School.

Gary Marshall
National Trust Archaeologist, Thames and Solent Region
28th February 2010