

Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officer's Report

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 26th September 2012

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**
- b strategic issues and projects**
- c recent planning-related archaeological work**
- d progress in securing publication of archaeological reports.**

C. RESOURCES

- 3 The County's archaeological service now forms part of the Planning, Advisory and Compliance Service's environmental advice and information team within the Place Service. Sandy Kidd is a PACS Lead Officer managing natural and historic environment advisers and the rights of way definitive map. Julia Wise and Eliza Alqassar retain their previous roles in the HER and archaeological planning advice (part-time) respectively. David Green is the landscape advisor; although still working on the Historic Towns Project. Eliza went on maternity leave in June - maternity cover is being provided by Bill Boismier.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5 Strategic Issues/Projects

A meeting was held with English Heritage Designations Team to attempt to agree **priorities for future scheduling of monuments in Buckinghamshire** as scheduling has been effectively moribund locally

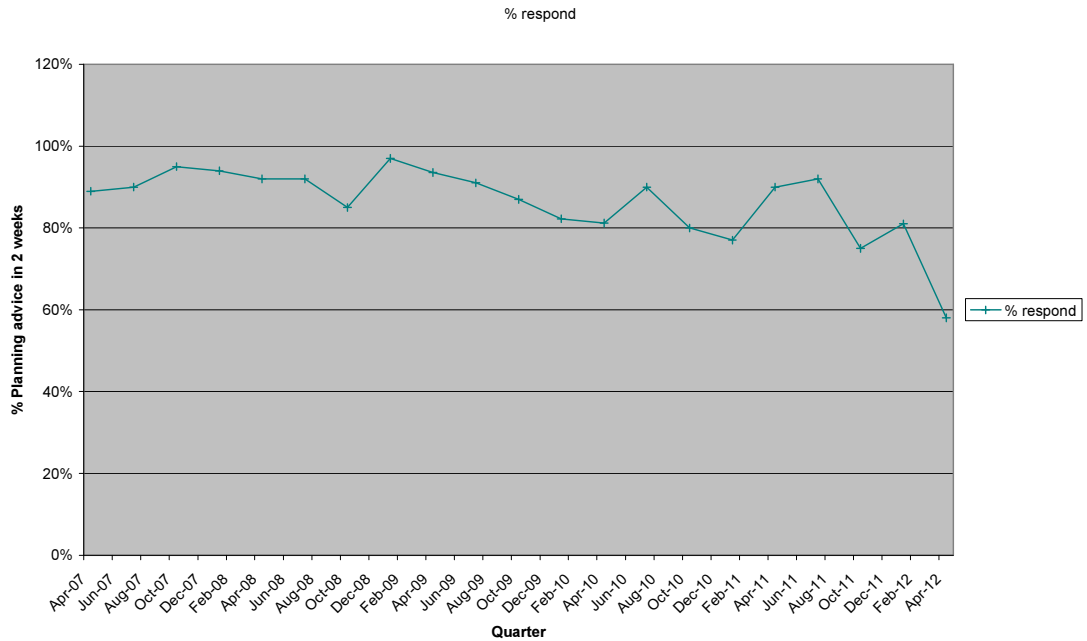
for the past decade. Four scheduling designations are being progressed this year from requests made over the past decade and following the meeting a list of further sites is to be provided to English Heritage for consideration [NB: all four lie within AVDC in part compensating a previous focus in designations of Grims Ditch in Chiltern and Wycombe]. It is felt that a short-list of 10-12 sites could be selected from a long-list of about 20. English Heritage criteria for selection include evident significance, threat and alignment with National Heritage Protection Programme objectives. Comments would be welcomed on the sites listed in Appendix C.

Comments on cultural heritage were submitted to the **High Speed 2** Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping consultation as part of the 51M Group response. The 51M response highlighted extensive concerns regarding the proposed approach to the EIA. No response has yet been received from HS2 Ltd.

Historic Towns Project reports have been prepared for all 30 historic towns and are available on the County Council's website: http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archaeology/Historic_Towns.page?
A popular publication and academic synthesis are in preparation.

6 Planning related archaeological work

Volume measures	1st Quarter 2012	2nd Quarter 2012
Total number of consultations handled	172	137
Number of planning applications handled	134	97
Planning applications responded to within 14 days (target 90%)	81%	58%
Number of development-related archaeological fieldwork projects	10	9
Success rate at appeal (target 50% annual success rate)	1 of 1	0 of 0



Statistics show a significant reduction in the proportion of planning responses achieving our 2 week turnaround target in the second quarter of 2012 despite there being fewer cases.

In March, the Secretary of State dismissed an appeal for residential development at **Quarrendon Fields**, north of Aylesbury on grounds of archaeological impact.

A full list of development-related fieldwork from January to June 2012 is provided as appendix A.

Significant archaeological investigations include full excavation of a Roman settlement on the **Arla Dairy Site, near Aston Clinton** and building recording/watching brief at the **Red Lion, Brill**. Middle Saxon burials were excavated in the **County Museum Garden, Aylesbury** where they presumably belong to the large cemetery around the conversion period minster church. Extensive evaluations are also underway on proposed major greenfield development sites to the **east and southeast of Aylesbury**. Archaeological evaluation at **RAF Daws Hill, High Wycombe** proved negative but the WW2 and Cold War Strategic Air Command Bunker has been proposed for listing along with an associated generator building.

7 Publication update (Appendix B)

Thames Valley Archaeological Services have recently published their excavations at All Souls Farm Quarry, Wexham in a monograph along with a number of similar nearby sites. 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