

Appendix A: Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officers' Report

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum
Date: 4th March 2019
Authors: Senior Archaeology Officer (Phil Markham), Archaeology Officer (Lucy Lawrence), Historic Environment Record Officer (Julia Wise), Historic Environment Record Assistant (Paul Clements)

A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To advise the Forum of the work of the County Archaeological Service since the last BHEF meeting (10th September 2018).

Report Summary

- Staff changes: Lucy Lawrence is proving to be an excellent member of the team in the Assistant Archaeologist role and the team is now up to full strength.
- HS2 Ltd: Phil attended the Heritage sub Group meeting in Birmingham during December and we have been kept up to date by Fusion over the last few months. Evaluation works are being undertaken in a number of places including St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville, and an open day was organised by FUSION/HS2.
- East–West Rail: Phil is continuing to have discussions over the documents and conditions which should be included in the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO). To address the archaeological evaluation and mitigation issues in the Environmental Statement another document is going to be produced; the Heritage Delivery Strategy. Evaluation for the proposed ecological mitigation sites and compounds is continuing.
- Western Rail Link to Heathrow: We have agreed a project specification for archaeological evaluation and field work has been undertaken; Lucy and Phil have been invited to monitor these works.
- Heathrow New Runway: A number of meetings have taken place over the heritage strategy and comments from us and other local authority archaeological services have been acknowledged and documents have been revised. A draft document covering the archaeological issues was promised for the autumn of last year and Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) regularly says it will be supplied in 6 weeks' time.
- Oxford/Cambridge Expressway: We have been invited to a number of meetings over this and a specific historic environment meeting was attended by Phil and Lucy in November. We expect an update in the Spring.
- The team have worked hard to promote the archaeology service through recent talks, events and interviews. We are also improving our presence online through changes to our website.

B. PROPOSED ACTION

2 The Forum is particularly invited to NOTE:

- resources
- strategic issues and projects
- recent planning-related archaeological work

C. RESOURCES

3 The County's archaeological service forms part of the Transport Economy Environment Service's Environment Team within Environment Services. Philip Markham is the Senior Archaeology Officer, Lucy Lawrence is the Archaeology Officer, Julia Wise is the HER Officer (part time), Paul Clements is the HER Assistant and Eliza Alqassar is the Environment Team Leader.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4 Strategic Issues/Projects

- **High Speed 2:** We continue to provide advice through the HS2 Ltd Heritage Sub-Group and the next meeting is due in April. Lucy and Eliza will be attending an HS2 seminar on the archiving issues for the whole route in February and we understand that Brett and Sue will also be attending. Historic England keeps us updated on Schedule 17 works and we discuss appropriate responses where required. The Schedule 17 works come through the district council planning departments and we are usually consulted when the applications come in. After a flurry of consultations last year these are less frequent at the moment.

Field work has and is taking place in a number of areas including Calvert, Fleet Marston, Stoke Mandeville, Great Missenden and in the Colne Valley. Fusion and/or their archaeological contractors supply us with draft project specifications for comment and we sometimes request minor amendments. The evaluation field work around St Mary's Stoke Mandeville has been completed for the time being while a mitigation strategy is drawn up. We expect to be consulted on this prior to the field work beginning. Our two Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (HERDS) Managers, Rachel Wood and Dan Hounsell have informed us that the following evaluation sites will be started during Late January and February:

Rocky Lane, south of Wendover (CBC13217)
Grove Farm, south of Wendover (CBC13219)
Kings Pond Cottage, Great Missenden (CBC13211)
Shepherds Furze Farm, Calvert (CBC13230)

The HERDS Managers ensure that all field work and recording is undertaken to the same standard and format. We are being invited to monitor the work and make comments, which appears to be working well. It is envisaged that the information produced will be in an appropriate HER format for easy data entry although this has not yet been agreed with the HER community. HS2 has agreed a three year service level agreement for our HER data.

- **East–West Rail:** East–West Rail: Phil is continuing to have discussions over the documents and conditions which should be included in the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO). The environmental statement is not clear in places and this was agreed by Atkins. To address the archaeological evaluation and mitigation issues another document is going to be produced, the Heritage Delivery Strategy and the contents of this have been discussed but we have not yet seen a draft copy. This scheme is currently at public inquiry where ecological issues are part of the Council's concerns. Evaluation for the proposed ecological mitigation sites and compounds is continuing and Atkins consult us over the project specifications and initial findings.

Atkins supplied a project specification covering 11 sites having geophysical surveys starting in January and the project specifications for the evaluation of the following ecological mitigation or compound sites:

A3: Marsh Gibbon (CBC12810)
A4: Claydon Junction (CBC12811)
B1: Steeple Claydon (CBC12812)
B2: Verney Junction (CBC12813)
B4: Little Horwood (CBC12816)

In November we monitored the evaluation of site B14 near Swanbourne which has recorded a small Iron Age/Romano-British settlement.

- **Heathrow New Runway:** Heathrow New Runway: A number of meetings have taken place over the heritage strategy and comments from us and other local authority archaeological services comments have been acknowledged and documents have been revised. A draft document covering the archaeological issues was promised for the autumn of last year and Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) regularly says it will be supplied in 6 weeks' time. Historic England and other counties likely to be impacted by the proposal are equally concerned over the delay/lack of appropriate documentation. A service level agreement to pay for our time spent on this scheme has been agreed.
- **Western Rail Link to Heathrow:** We have agreed a project specification for archaeological evaluation and field work has been undertaken; Lucy and Phil have been invited to monitor these works.

These works tie in with the current excavation works taking place at the Langley/Richings Park mineral site where Wessex Archaeology are working. We expect the reports on the findings in the near future. Due to access and ownership issues further evaluation will be required.

- **Oxford/Cambridge Expressway:** We have been invited to a number of meetings over this and a specific historic environment meeting was attended by Phil and Lucy in November. The Expressway’s consultants, Jacobs, have supplied us with the shape files for the proposed corridor and the HER has supplied the requested information. We expect an update in the Spring.
- **Chalk, Cherries, Chairs and the Chilterns Hillforts Project:** These are two projects being run by the Chilterns Conservation Board. Members of the Environment Team attend steering group meetings and provide advice and we have provided financial support to both projects. The application for funding for the *Chalk, Cherries, Chairs* landscape partnership scheme from the Heritage Lottery Fund has now been approved and the scheme will commence in Spring 2019. The *Chilterns Hillforts Project* has now commenced and survey work will begin this Autumn.
- **New National Designations:** DCMS added 1 building to the List between July and December 2018, at Grade II: the war memorial Calvary cross in St Mary’s churchyard in Aylesbury.

5 Planning related archaeological work

Volume measures	3rd Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2018
Total number of consultations handled	170	150
Number of planning applications handled	135	137
Planning applications responded to within 21 days (target 90%)	98% Target Achieved	99% Target Achieved
Number of development-related archaeological fieldwork projects	46	35
Success rate at appeal (target 50% annual success rate)	N/A	N/A

A full list of development-related fieldwork is provided as Appendix B.

Significant archaeological investigations include:

Buckingham: Network Archaeology has been excavating an interesting burial site where remains have been interred singularly and multiply and in various positions and orientations.



There have currently been few finds but the buckle below is provisionally dated to the tenth to the twelfth century.



Both Images are Copyright Network Archaeology

6 **Publication update (Appendix C)**

7 **Outreach and Publicity**

In September 2018 Eliza gave the opening talk on HS2 and the Bucks Perspective to a packed audience at the Buckinghamshire

Local History Network Conference in Aylesbury. She and Lucy also took a poster display on HS2.

A public open day at Stoke Mandeville old church was run by HS2 Ltd in September, with displays and talks held in the Community Centre. Julia took a poster display which was very popular and heavily used by both HS2 and the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society as it provided an overview of the whole project in Buckinghamshire.

Also in September Julia assisted with 'Muddled Museum' events at Aylesbury and Chesham organised by Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society as part of their 170th anniversary year.

In October Eliza gave a talk on Recent Archaeological Discoveries to the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society in Chesham.

In November Eliza promoted the work of the archaeology service on Wycombe Sound Radio during an interview about the work of the Environment Team at BCC.

Lucy has been working hard to improve and update the archaeology service web pages.

8 Historic Environment Record (HER) report

The HER performance indicator statistics are shown in the tables below:

Performance Indicator	3rd Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2018
Historic Environment Records data inputting backlog (targets: reports < 30 by March 2019)	Reports = 8 Collect = 517 Total = 525	Reports =3 Collect = 517 Total = 520

Volume measures	3rd Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2018
Number of Countryside Stewardship applications handled	0	0
Number of reports received by the HER	13	33
Number of Historic Environment Records enquiries handled:		
commercial	21	32
non-commercial	1	4

HER enhancement and volunteer projects

The HER volunteer working on the milestones project is still making final edits to the existing entries. From January we have a new volunteer working on creating and enhancing records for schools in the county. The HER currently has very patchy coverage of schools, mostly the listed and locally listed buildings and it has been a longstanding aspiration to complete coverage of these much-valued local community heritage assets.

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project is continuing to make good progress with 59 reports completed, 1 report in draft and work underway on a further 8 gardens. In addition the volunteers are also researching artists' gardens in Buckinghamshire, which will probably be published as a short article.

9. Emergency Recording Fund

The Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum (BHEF) manages the Emergency Recording Fund. The Emergency Recording Fund was established in September 2000 by BHEF. The purpose of the fund is to enable the emergency recording of important archaeological remains which are unavoidably under imminent threat of significant damage or destruction without adequate provision for their recording. The fund covers the administrative areas of Aylesbury Vale District Council, Chiltern District Council, Milton Keynes Council, South Bucks District Council and Wycombe District Council.

Since 2000 the fund has been called upon five times. The most recent uses of the fund include the excavation of a high-status Roman casket burial discovered by metal detectorists near Whitchurch (cost c. £6k), and the excavation of Neolithic human remains in Milton Keynes (cost c.£2k). In both cases the recovery of these significant remains would not have been possible without the Emergency Recording Fund.

In 2001 it was agreed that contributions should be weighted depending on the size of each local authority (doubled in the case of Milton Keynes Council to reflect its unitary status). The table below shows the current contribution made by each local authority. Income is typically £1000 per annum, although occasionally the contributors have had a "holiday" when the fund has not been called upon.

Table: Size and contribution of each authority (as agreed in 2001)

	Area (km ²)	% Contribution	£ Contribution (2018/19)
Aylesbury Vale District Council	903	20%	£200.00
Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society	n/a	5%	£50.00
Buckinghamshire County Council	1564	40%	£400.00
Chiltern District Council	196	5%	£50.00

Milton Keynes Council	309	15%	£150.00
South Bucks District Council	141	5%	£50.00
Wycombe District Council	325	10%	£100.00

Invoices have been issued for this year's contributions. There has been no expenditure from the fund in 2018-19.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Archaeological Reports submitted to the Buckinghamshire HER

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