



Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum held on Thursday 29 September 2022 in Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP, commencing 2pm and concluding at 3:15pm.

Members present

P Brazier, B Chapple OBE, R Excel, C Harriss, Mason and M Woods

Others in attendance

K Farooqi, Horton, P Markham and Martin

Apologies

E Alqassar, Cllr Bradburn, N Crank, Cllr Hall and T Hogg

Agenda Item

1 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED

Members of the forum voted to confirm Cllr B Chapple as Chairman for the ensuing year.

2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED

Members of the forum voted to confirm Cllr P Brazier as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3 Apologies/Changes to membership

Apologies were received from Nick Crank (Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council), Gary Marshall (Buckinghamshire Archological Society), Eliza Alqassar (Buckinghamshire Council), Ruth Page (Buckinghamshire Council), Cllr Robin Bradburn (Milton Keynes Councillor), Cllr McPake (Milton Keynes Council) and Cllr Hogg (Buckinghamshire Council).

4 Declarations of interest

There were none.

5 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting held 7 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

6 Chosen Focus: Recent Outreach Projects in Buckinghamshire

Joanna Horton, Heritage and Archaeology Team Leader gave a presentation which was appended to these minutes. The presentation highlighted the Heritage Team's outreach work and activities.

- The Buckinghamshire Local Heritage List project was underway. The team were liaising with Bucks Garden Trust and other key stakeholder to compile the list.
- The team received government funding for a project officer, 22 other councils also received funding. The Buckinghamshire local list had received the highest number of nominations across all councils and highlighted the teams hard work and dedication.
- The public were able to nominate buildings, archaeological sites, works of art, parks and other assets to be considered for the list. Over 2600 nominations had been received during phase one of the project and 798 recommended sites would be taken forward to Cabinet on 6th December.
- It was clarified this was a nationally designated list of historic sites and buildings already listed did not need to be nominated. It was confirmed Quarrendon Leas was already on the list and people were encouraged to nominate buildings not listed.
- Being on the list would not necessarily change permitted development rights however, it would make it easier for planning officers to know if a building had heritage merits.
- Over 38 groups and societies had advertised the list to its members.
- The project had been promoted at various events including Heritage Open days and Bucks County Show.
- The project had been advertised to Councillors in newsletters and on social media. This was a 'people's project' and talks with local groups were ongoing.
- A member of the forum queried why Mentmore was not on the list however, it was advised the heritage assets for this area had already been included on the records.
- Work with volunteers had started with a toolkit available online to help with the nomination process and assessment information.
- The Local List Project Officer had engaged with children and students to encourage them to nominate buildings and assisting with site visits.
- There had been enquires from Transport for London regarding information about the Metropolitan line. The Canal and River Trust had been in touch about nominating locks and bridges. This information would prove useful when dealing with planning enquires.
- The next stage of the project would involve further engagement with volunteers as nominations were received. The internal panel would review sites to be put forward for recommendation. Phase one would conclude by December with recommendations taken to Cabinet.
- There was an Archaeology Day held at North Marston in July which was well

attended. The Young Archaeology Club attended alongside residents and the local history society.

- A rare missing Buckinghamshire milepost was discovered in a garden in Oxfordshire. It was restored and would be reinstated soon.

It was confirmed the local heritage list was a national list and sites added to the list would not receive listed status. There was the potential for some sites to be recommended for the national heritage list. The project would be considered a celebration of Buckinghamshire and the list would potentially help buildings at risk of demolition as they would gain heritage status.

There would be a request for further funding for the Heritage List Project Officer role as funding was due to end by March 2023. Phase two would focus on religious and community buildings. Phase three would look at workshops and wicket restoration.

7 Update From Members and Partners

Members and partners provided verbal updates.

Doug Stuckey, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, a written update was appended to these minutes.

- The Open Day at North Marston was a useful and well attended event.
- The Autumn newsletter was available on the Bucks Archaeological Society website.
- The report from the archaeological dig at Great Linford, Milton Keynes was available with axe heads and bronze heads discovered.
- The Buckinghamshire Local History Network (BLHN) 2022 annual conference was held on Saturday 1st October in The Oculus at The Gateway, Aylesbury. There was also a local history fair to increase the knowledge of the County's heritage. There were two Bucks Archaeological Society prizes presented.
- The records of Buckinghamshire volume 62 had been published online with volume 63 available soon.
- The society had 390 members, with lectures held online via zoom these enabled members who had moved away from the area continued to support the society.

Mike Woods, Bucks Conservation Trust.

- Maps and information on Quarrendon Leas was circulated to members of the forum. The site was 200 acres located in the North of Aylesbury.
- The Bucks Conservation Trust and Buckinghamshire Council 1.8km cycleway project was underway.
- The archaeological evaluation was completed.
- The footpath and permissive cycleway was subject to a ten-year agreement between the Council and Trust. Buckinghamshire Council were assisting with the acquisition of the land to the east of the site to enable the cycle paths to link from east to west.

- Work started on the site after the bank holiday with projects agreed with Historic England. The central area of the remains of St Peters would be levelled out to make the area easier to manage and reduce flood risk.
- The new cycleway and greenways were under consultation with other groups. The first route would link up with the national cycle route to Winslow.
- It was highlighted Quarrendon Leas was previously a hidden asset however, due to the new routes the area was being used by school children, cyclists and people with pushchairs.
- In 2017 a masterplan was produced to restore Aylesbury as a garden town by producing greenway around the town over a 30-year period.

Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer, Buckinghamshire Council presented a report appended to these minutes.

- The team were busy with HS2 reports with often a short turnaround time. There were Schedule 17 applications which required approval. These were not planning applications but part of the HS2 Act which required the local authority planning team to feedback on road layout, designs and any heritage implications of construction work.
- There was one Schedule 17 application which had been approved with the decision appealed by HS2.
- The fieldwork was nearly complete with final areas to be complete by contractors. The final field arch would be completed by 2024. Due to difficulties the Grim's Ditch fieldwork would likely be completed by 2026.
- The team were busy providing advice on multiple applications including solar farms, woodland surveys and residential queries. The team were assisting with enquires for the Historic Environment Record (HER), Countryside Stewardship Scheme and local heritage list.
- The team had undertaken a number of outreach and partnership activities including Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Day and Bucks County Show.
- Buckinghamshire History Festival (organised by Buckinghamshire Archives) was taking place throughout November further information available at: <https://histfestbucks.co.uk/>

Robert Excel, Milton Keynes Heritage Association.

- The Heritage Open Day consisted of over 200 events across ten days. The events were very well attended with figures suggesting a better attendance than last year.
- The association had over 70 members however, it was noted the longer term effects of covid19 had resulted in a reluctance to participate in events particularly by the older generation.

Sam Mason, Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury.

- The Picasso exhibition in April was not as well attended as hoped however, visitor numbers to the museum were increasing steadily.
- The Summer Science exhibition held from July to September was very well attended and enjoyed particularly by school children.

- The Beautiful Bucks exhibition was currently on show and would run until 5th November. The exhibition showcased paintings of Buckinghamshire from local artist Brian Bennett who sadly passed away recently.
- The next exhibition running from November to next year would be Your Amazing Brain. This was currently on display at Banbury Museum with input from Oxford university neurology department.

Cllr Clive Harriss, Buckinghamshire Council highlighted discussions were ongoing with HS2 to try and mitigate the effects of construction work.

Cllr Rachael Matthews, Buckinghamshire Council advised she was the Deputy Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration. Aylesbury had been identified for regeneration and improvement with the aim of driving more business into the town.

8 Date of the next meeting/AOB

March 2023 Date TBC

Any Other Business:

Doug Stuckey highlighted HS2 archaeology wing Fusion would attend the rescheduled conference at the end of October. Over 100 people were due to attend the conference. It was noted Fusion would be disbanded soon.

Cllr Clive Harriss advised the Buckinghamshire archives would be relocated with a new premise being investigated. The archives were currently kept at RAF Halton and it was hoped a suitable location would be found which would enable income generation. A Member highlighted the Northamptonshire archives were kept purpose build Chester House which housed an archaeological site, shopping facilities and an education centre.

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Recent outreach work in Buckinghamshire

Engaging the Community

Eliza Alqassar, Historic and Built Environment Manager



Progress on the Buckinghamshire Local Heritage List project

- Very much a **team effort**
- **Audit** of known heritage assets in summer 2021
- Local Heritage List **Project Officer** appointed August 2021
- Local Heritage List **platform** launched September 2021: <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire>
- Established criteria and commenced **Review Panels** Autumn 2021
- Appointment of **Assistant Heritage Officer** March 2022

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Headlines

- **Over 2600** candidate sites nominated!
- We currently have **160 registered users** on our Local Heritage List web platform
- A core group of **18 volunteers** are busy nominating, researching and enriching sites online.
- Currently involved with **38 groups and organisations**.
- **15 parish councils** are working with us to add local buildings of note to LHL.

Buckinghamshire Council Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List

Home Guidance Get involved Map List Contact us Forum Register Log in

Welcome

Welcome to Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List Portal. Here you will find lots of information about our Local Heritage List, including guidance on how you can get involved in our project and nominate candidate sites.

Buckinghamshire has a large number of locally important heritage assets, which contribute positively to the local character and identity of Buckinghamshire, and which are valued by local people. These heritage assets, which may be buildings, archaeological remains, parks, gardens or public works of art, sometimes have little or no protection, and over time our special places can be lost. By adding these heritage assets to a Local Heritage List we can ensure their local importance is recognised and taken into account in the planning process. Once on the list, these assets become known as Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs). They differ from those sites that have statutory protection and national designations, such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has made funds available to twenty-two Local Authorities, including Buckinghamshire, as part of a national initiative to improve the provision and standard of locally held Lists of Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHA).

How to get involved

We are keen to capture those heritage assets that are important to the people of Buckinghamshire and we are therefore asking for members of the public to nominate candidate sites for the Local Heritage List.

We are also encouraging anyone with a particular interest in heritage to volunteer to help us assess the candidates and improve our records for each site. Follow the tabs above for more information and details of how to make nominations or volunteer.

Pann Mill waterwheel, High Wycombe
Photo of waterwheel at Pann Mill in High Wycombe

'I am me' sculpture, Aylesbury
Photo of paraplympic themed sculpture outside The Exchange building in Aylesbury

Formal gardens at Danesfield House
Photo of formal gardens at Danesfield House in Medmenham

Events

We have actively engaged in events to promote the project including:

- Chalks, Cherries & Chairs Fun Day on Wycombe Rye summer 2021
- Buckinghamshire Local History Conference autumn 2021
- Heritage Open Days autumn 2021
- Festival of Archaeology/Bucks Open Day summer 2022
- Buckinghamshire County Show summer 2022
- Buckinghamshire Local History Conference autumn 2022



Reaching out to communities – the people’s project

Over the past nine months we have reached out to the following groups and societies:

- [Amersham Museum](#)
- [Amersham Society](#)
- Archaeology in Marlow
- [Beaconsfield and District Historical Society](#)
- Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society
- [Buckinghamshire Garden Trust](#)
- [Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust](#)
- [Buckingham U3A Architecture Group](#)
- [Burnham Heritage Society](#)
- Chalfont St Giles History
- [Chesham Society](#)
- Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society
- Chiltern Open Air Museum
- [Chiltern Society](#)
- [Coleshill History Group](#)
- [Hedgerley Historical Society](#)
- [High Wycombe Society](#)
- [Lacey Green History Society](#)
- Little Chalfont Society
- Marlow Archaeology Group
- Marlow Society
- [North Marston History Club](#)
- [Royal Agricultural University](#)
- Stewkley Local History Group
- [Stoke Poges Society](#)
- Western Turville Historical Society
- Wing Heritage Group
- [Wingrave and Rowsham Heritage Association](#)
- Winslow History
- [Visit Bucks](#)
- [YAC Chiltern](#)
- [YAC Aylesbury](#)

Most have advertised LHLP to members through inclusion in newsletters, member correspondence, or meetings.

We are actively working with the groups highlighted in blue, either by members creating and uploading list nominations onto the website, voluntary assistance at events and working parties, or through LHLPO providing talks and leading meetings.



Working with volunteers

- We have a core group of **18** volunteers helping to identify candidate sites, draw on desktop research, and enrich the nominations.
- Working parties have been very successful.
 - A visit to Marlow proved extremely conducive by identifying and nominating a dozen or so buildings not scheduled or on existing local list.
 - A visit to Amersham in March to assess and photograph a list collated by Amersham Society and TfL, supported by Cllr Williams (Deputy Leader of the Council).
- Volunteer toolkit within website:
 - Recorded tutorial to help with using the web platform - step by step guidance on nominating and recording candidates.
 - Timeline – guidance on dating a building.
- Printable forms and guides to assist with assessment.

Building Assessment

Introduction

Assessment is simply about looking and understanding.

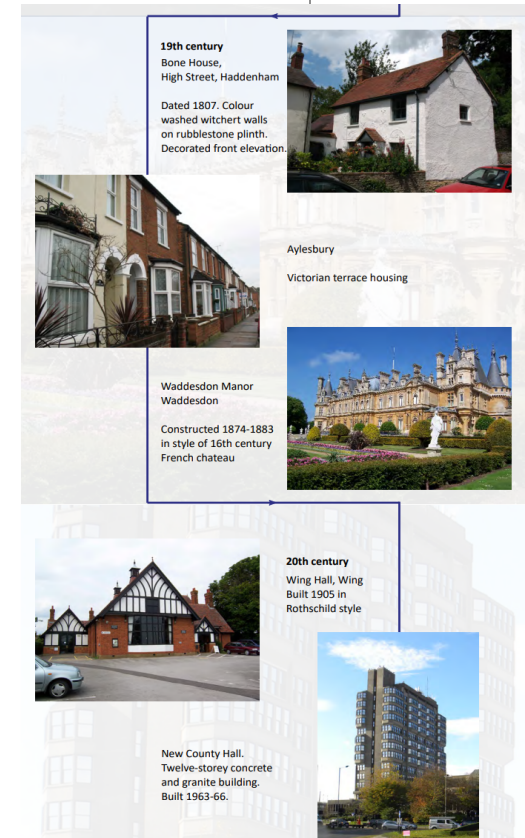
Looking carefully at and understanding your building will inform what you choose to record. View your chosen site from as many angles as possible.

Before you visit your site or building, ensure that:

- you are properly equipped with suitable clothing and equipment.
- you have selected safe and accessible points to observe, record or photograph.

Your safety is paramount, but your own responsibility.

Name	Date
Building Name	Approx. Age/architectural style/period
Address	Grid Ref. Candidate status
Site type: Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive/military <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Place of worship <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (describe)	
Building Condition: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruin <input type="checkbox"/> Roofed <input type="checkbox"/> Partly roofed <input type="checkbox"/> Unroofed <input type="checkbox"/> Inhabited <input type="checkbox"/>	
Building materials (walls): Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Timber <input type="checkbox"/> Witchert <input type="checkbox"/> Glass <input type="checkbox"/> Flint <input type="checkbox"/> Render <input type="checkbox"/> Tiles <input type="checkbox"/> Ashlar <input type="checkbox"/> Rubble <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (describe)	
Building materials (roof): Stone Tiles <input type="checkbox"/> Clay Tiles <input type="checkbox"/> Slates <input type="checkbox"/> Thatch <input type="checkbox"/> Glass <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (describe)	
Describe building materials of interest (e.g. brick bonds/patterns, string courses, cruck frames, materials typical of locality?)	
Features of rarity or interest: Extended <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Roof <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Goods <input type="checkbox"/>	
Describe:	
Context (Group value? Community importance - nostalgic value?)	
Photographic evidence: Be selective and choose views 1 where appropriate. Remember to photograph the front	



Engaging with the younger audience

In October 21, the **Chiltern Young Archaeologists Club** learnt about the architectural history of the village of Jordans and assisted our visiting Local List Project Officer by investigating and assessing the village with her, and nominating four sites for Local Listing

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Engaging with students

Our Project Officer teamed up with the Cultural Heritage students from the **Royal Agricultural University** to nominate and assess buildings within Lee Common village for the Local List. The students will continue their research by enriching their nominations with historic and architectural details through desktop research, before submitting their findings for final assessment. Oxford Brookes and Portsmouth Universities are keen to work with our Project Officer next term.

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Online talks and resources

Monthly talk uploaded to Bucks LHL Portal and advertised on social media

Talks already produced and on LHLP:

- The Local Heritage List Project by Eliza Alqassar
- Heritage assets and significance by Paul Rhymes
- Talk on using Buckinghamshire's Heritage Portal by Lucy Lawrence
- Demonstration on how to nominate a Local Heritage List asset by Jo Horton
- Introduction to Buckinghamshire Archives by Katherine Gwyn
- Understanding the historic parks & gardens of Buckinghamshire by Claire de Carle
- Knowing Your Place - Buckinghamshire's Historic Parishes by Lucy Lawrence

Forthcoming talks:

- Identifying and assessing NDHAs
- Rothschilds Buildings
- Traditional Shop Fronts
- Lumps and Bumps

Link to YouTube page:

- [YouTube: Bucks Council Heritage and Archaeology](#)

Resources

Dating buildings

Criteria assessment assistance

HE toolkit and training resources

Useful links i.e. Pevsner guides, Bucks Garden Trust, HEAN7, guide to photographing

Next steps for the LHL project

- Continue public engagement and enthusing volunteers
- Continue nominating, enriching and assessing candidate sites
- Continue Review Panels to agree on sites being put forward for adoption
- Continue delivering a number of online tutorials and blogs
- Continue supporting PCs and other groups
- Aiming for adoption of the a Phase 1 list December 2022 and Phase 2 in 2023

For further details please email
localheritagelist@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire's LOCAL HERITAGE LIST

Buckinghamshire has a rich heritage. Many of our key sites and buildings benefit from statutory protection as listed buildings or scheduled monuments. However, locally-important heritage assets, which contribute positively to the character and identity of Buckinghamshire, often have little or no protection, and over time these special places can be lost.

The Local Heritage List Project aims to identify and celebrate some of these important heritage assets.

Can you help us?

You can help by:

- ◆ Nominating a building, site or feature to be considered for inclusion on the Local Heritage List
- ◆ Volunteering to assist us with survey and assessment work

Our Project Officer may also be able to help with additional information on how local groups, schools and Parish Councils can get more involved.

Contact localheritagelist@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Please use the QR code below or browse our website at local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire for more details and to sign up.



Buckinghamshire
Council



Archaeology Day at North Marston

On Saturday 30th July, members of the Heritage and Archaeology Team ran an open day at North Marston, as part of the Festival of Archaeology and the Bucks Open Weekend. The event was well attended, and great fun was had by all involved. We have had lovely feedback, with particular praise for our “thoughtful” guided walk.

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Restoring our heritage – the missing milepost

In July 2021, Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Service were contacted by Peter Gulland, the Bucks representative of the Milestone Society, to inform us that a Buckinghamshire milepost had been discovered in an Oxfordshire garden.

The milepost was originally located on the Brill road at Hillesden, marking 13 miles to Brill and 3 to Buckingham, and is thought to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Whilst not as old as some of our other mileposts, this one is particularly significant as it is located on a non-turnpike road, which is rare in Buckinghamshire. It is last recorded as having been in place in the late 1980s, after which it appears to have been taken from its location and somehow ended up in a private back garden.

The current homeowner was keen to see it back in its rightful place and so Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Service arranged to collect it. It was in a very bad state of preservation (see photo 1) and so it was taken to Moss' Blacksmiths in Thame to be stripped back, re-painted and re-signed (photo 2). It is currently stored at the Council's Gawcott depot and will be reinstated in its original position in October!

