

Appendix A: Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officers' Report

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum
Date: 7th April 2022
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

To advise the Forum of the work of the County Archaeological Service (BCAS) since the last BHEF meeting (23rd September 2021).

Report Summary

- The Team has been working hard to continue to deliver an excellent service to our customers throughout the pandemic, working from home in the main. We are now working to a 40/60 split in working from the office and home. Planning consultations have continued at a high level and the major infrastructure schemes are progressing.
- HS2/Fusion – Field work has largely been completed but there are a number of sites to be monitored during the construction phase.
- East-West Rail – The field work has been completed and the reports are being supplied.
- Heathrow – In December 2020 the Supreme Court ruled the proposal was legitimately based on previous, less stringent, climate targets at the time it was agreed. This enables Heathrow to now seek planning permission for the runway. So far, we have not been consulted but expect it will return in the near future.
- Western Rail link to Heathrow - Network Rail had anticipated that they would ask the Council to recommence work on the Environmental Assessment and public consultation after May 2021. So far, we have not been consulted on this.
- Outreach & Publicity Update
- HER Report
- Buckinghamshire Heritage Portal

B. PROPOSED ACTION

The Forum is particularly invited to NOTE:

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

C. RESOURCES

The Council's Archaeology Service forms part of the Planning, Growth and Sustainability Directorate. Philip Markham is the Senior Archaeology Officer, Lucy Lawrence is the Archaeology Officer, Julia Wise is the HER Officer (part time), and Paul Clements is the HER Assistant.

Service Review & Restructuring

The Heritage and Archaeology Team is now in place within the Environmental Specialists and combines the archaeology team with the Heritage/Conservation Officers. Paul Rhymes is the Team Leader. The team is managed by Eliza Alqassar as Historic and Built Environment Manager. Eliza also manages the Ecology team whilst Rebecca Hart manages the other Environmental Specialists teams which includes Arboriculture, BMERC (Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Record Centre) and Urban Design and Landscape.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Strategic Issues/Projects

High Speed 2:

It has been a busy period with HS2/EKFB Teams meetings on numerous topics including, updated method statements, landscape design issues and assessing no further works proposals as sites and areas come to a close. Interim reports, reports, and post excavation assessments (PXA) are being supplied for comment but with very tight turnaround times. Schedule 17 pre-application meetings take place most weeks; these are similar to planning applications and involve road, design and planting issues which could impact on the historic environment. For these applications Phil Markham covers archaeology, Fiona Webb covers the Heritage Team issues for the Aylesbury Vale area and Catherine Murray covers the Chiltern and South Bucks area. Site meetings in person are taking place and have been more frequent as Covid 19 restrictions were lifted. FUSION, HS2's archaeological contractor will be wound up later this year as the field work will largely be completed. FUSION may bid for the next phases of work, the analysis and archiving. Fusion has been busy on site despite the changeable weather. RSK/Headland will be undertaking archaeological works during the construction phase.

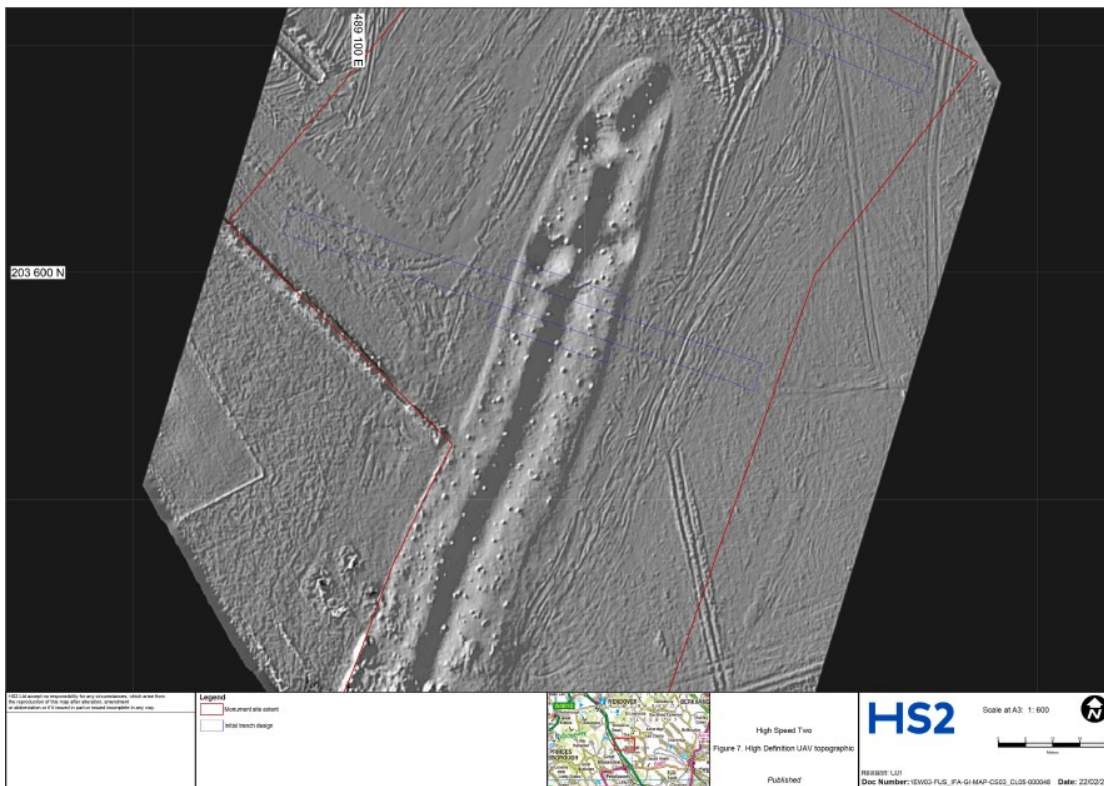
St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville

Field work here has now been completed and the post excavation report assessment is being worked on. The final resting place for the excavated burials is yet to be agreed but will be in the diocese.

Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument/Hunts Green Farm, Great Missenden

Archaeological investigation has been undertaken including a geophysical survey, a topographic survey, trial trenching and excavation. A couple of trenches have been excavated across the Scheduled Monument and the results of this will inform the full excavation of the monument. It is hoped that some of the monument can be preserved in situ and this depends on the EKFB construction design which has yet to be supplied. The works to the monument will be undertaken

by a Schedule 19 application which will need to be approved by the Secretary of State under Historic England’s guidance.



High-Definition UAV Topographic

East–West Rail

Fieldwork along the route has been completed, but limited archaeology has been identified to date. The remains which have been encountered are mostly small-scale Roman settlements. The field work reports are now being supplied.

New National Designations:

There have been no new additions to the national list.

Planning related archaeological work

Volume measures	3rd Quarter 2021	4 th Quarter 2021
Total number of consultations handled	206	176
Number of planning applications handled	140 + 29 LBC	121 + 29 LBC
Consultations responded to within 21 days (target 90%) (200) & (175)	200/206 97%	175/176 99%

Number of development-related archaeological fieldwork projects requested	56	36
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:

There has continued to be local and media interest over a site near Buckingham (reported to BHEF in March 2019). This excavation took place in 2018/19 and since then post-excavation cleaning and conservation of the skeletons has been underway. We understand that Network Archaeology have provided the developer with updated costings to cover the rest of the post-excavation works, to include DNA analysis and carbon 14 dating, together with the publication and archiving of this significant site. We contact Network on a regular basis to see if we can help expedite these works. We now understand that Network has not been paid for all the work that they have currently undertaken, and that the developer is unwilling to pay for further works. The planning application permission has now lapsed and enforcement and legal say there does not appear to be away to make them pay to finish the works. Following requests for updates on the situation a letter was sent to Network from Steve Bambrick, Director of Planning and Environment. Network have responded to this saying they have had a meeting with the developer and is in discussion on ways of taking things forward.

St Rumbold’s Well Scheduled Monument Buckingham; Unfortunately, a planning condition was not attached to the consent of the adjacent development (the developer also owns this area) despite advice from us and Historic England. The conservation and interpretation of the monument has been included in the S106 as part of a sports and leisure contribution. We are in discussion with the Town Clerk for Buckingham Town Council and Council colleagues on ways to address this issue. The conservation and interpretation work are linked to a land transfer which is being discussed. A new footpath will be crossing the field in which the well is situated linking the new development to the disused railway footpath.

Publication update (Appendix C)

Outreach and Publicity

In September Julia provided a display on the Local Heritage List project during Heritage Open Day in Aylesbury, demonstrated the online platform and ran a timeline activity for members of the public. In October Julia provided displays on the Local Heritage List project and a themed display on historic markets, fairs, and shops in Buckinghamshire at the annual Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference in Wycombe Abbey. Lucy and our Heritage colleagues helped Julia man the display stall during the event and both displays were provided as online ‘virtual stalls’ on the Bucks Arch Soc website.

Lucy gave a talk to Amersham WI in October and an online talk on the excavations at Soulbury as part of the Archive service's annual Buckinghamshire History Fair in November. Paul provided social media Blogs, Facebook, and Twitter posts on a range of topics but particularly promoting the online talks provided for Knowing Your Place and the Local Heritage List project.

Chalk, Cherries, Chairs and the Chilterns Hillforts Project

These two projects are run by the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB). Members of the Environment Team attend steering group meetings and provide advice and we have provided financial support and HER information to both projects. The Beacons of the Past, Chilterns Hillforts Project is drawing to a close in 2022 but has been successful in its aims and objectives of further understanding the hillforts of the Chilterns and sharing this knowledge with the wider community. This has been a very successful partnership with the CCB, and discussions are on-going on how the data will be supplied to the HER.

BCAS have just agreed to take the lead on one element of the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs project called The Mystery of Grim's Ditch. Starting on April 1st, 2022 and running for two years, the archaeology team will be directly responsible for organising the research programme and outreach activities planned for this element of the wider project.

Festival of Archaeology

Following the successful online tutorials in 2021, the Archaeology Team are this year organising an in-person event. The theme of the 2022 Festival of Archaeology is 'Journeys' and so we are focusing on the county's medieval pilgrimage route, to the well of Rector John Schorne at North Marston. The day will include a drop-in session at the village hall, with stalls from the Bucks and MK Finds Liaison Officer, the Young Archaeologists Club (both Aylesbury and Chilterns branches), the North Marston Historical Society as well as both the Archaeology and Heritage teams from Buckinghamshire Council. Guided walks around the village will also be available for members of the public to sign up to.

Knowing Your Place

Updated summaries for the Knowing Your Place project continue to be submitted, and in turn each gets updated to the Buckinghamshire Heritage Portal. There are still many parishes left to be updated though, and additional volunteers would be welcomed.

Local Heritage List

The Local Heritage List continues to progress well. Over 2000 nominations have now been made, and the team are working through each nomination in turn to determine whether they should make the final list. Specifically, in terms of archaeology, there are over 250 nominations, of which over 100 have now been assessed. The sites vary from areas of known Palaeolithic activity through to a Cold War bunker.

Historic Environment Record (HER) report

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

Performance Indicator	3rd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021
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Historic Environment Records data inputting backlog (targets: reports < 30 by March 2022)	Reports = 24 <u>Collect = 511</u> Total = 535	Reports = 20 <u>Collect = 511</u> Total = 531
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Volume measures	3rd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021
Number of Countryside Stewardship applications handled	0	0
Number of reports received by the HER	27	26
Number of Historic Environment Records enquiries handled: commercial	21	35
non-commercial	0	2

Paul has been dealing with the bulk of HER enquiries and all the Countryside Stewardship applications in 2021 to free Julia up to work on the Local Heritage List project.

The HER at 50

The Buckinghamshire HER and Milton Keynes HER are both 50 years old this year. Initiated by Michael Farley in 1972, using a format and methodology developed by the Oxfordshire HER (the first HER in the UK), with evening class and other local volunteers collecting information from existing sources and identifying sites on the ground. A dedicated HER Officer was appointed in 1976 and the record was computerised in 1985. Covering the whole of the administrative county of Buckinghamshire including Slough and Milton Keynes, the HER was separated into two discrete HERs following Milton Keynes District Council becoming a unitary authority in 1997.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 2022

HER consultations to support Countryside Stewardship funding applications are continuing in the same format as 2021 while the transition to the proposed new Environmental Land Management Scheme is still in the pipeline (expected to go live in 2024). The application window for 2022 opened on February,

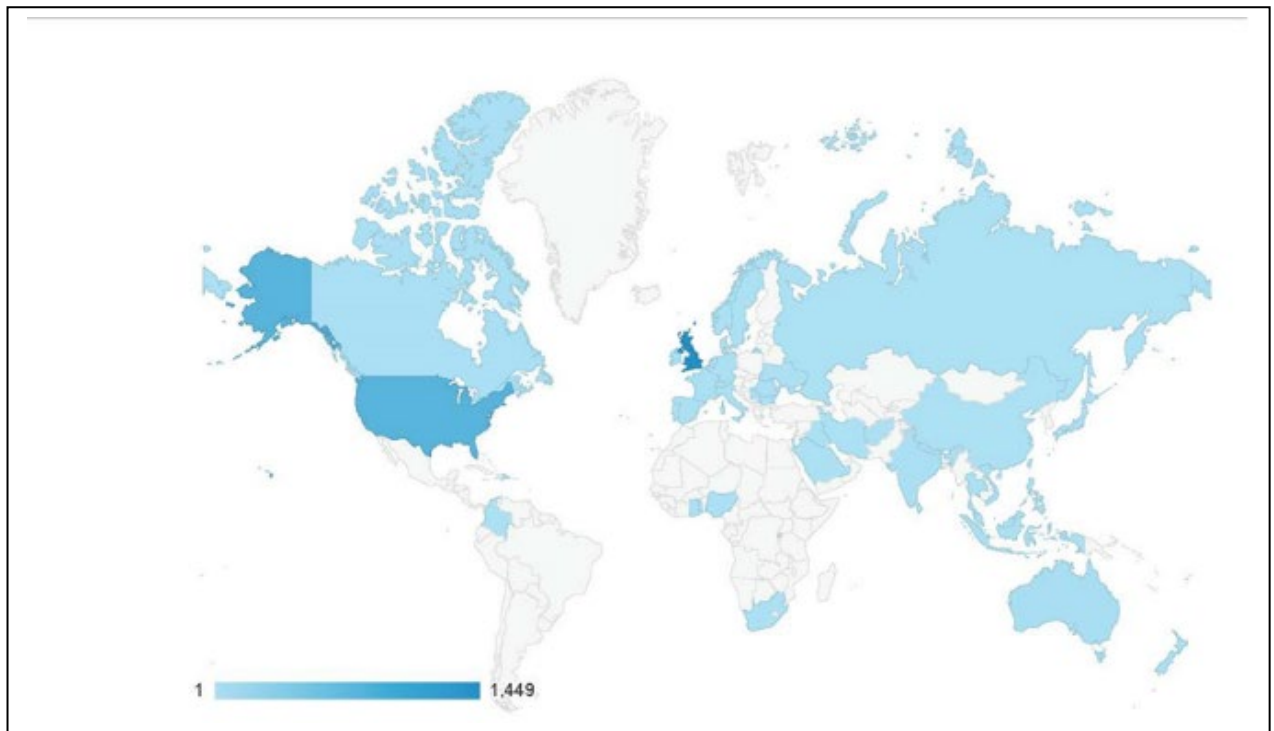
Buckinghamshire's Heritage Portal

Statistics on user numbers and page views have been collected monthly from September 2020, when analytical tools were added to the website.

	Users	Page views	% new users	% regular users
July	3,169	3,037	90%	10%
August	3,571	3,442	91%	9%
September	3,213	3,088	92%	8%
October	2,588	2,468	89%	11%
November	2,691	7,519	89%	11%
December	2,503	7,007	88%	12%

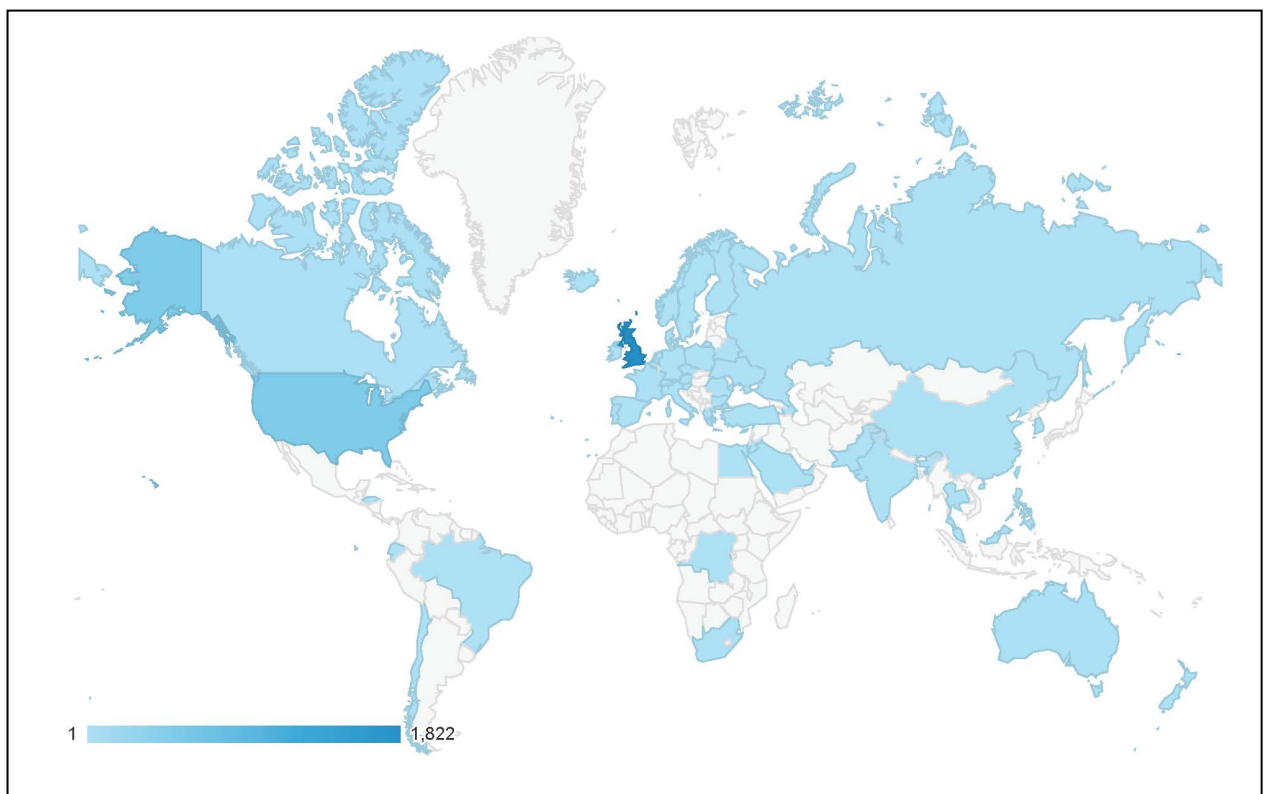
Initially 85% of Heritage Portal users were based in the UK, but the geographic spread of users has been widening consistently and we now have users in every continent and sub-continent, with 73%

of users based in the UK in December 2021 and a growing spread of users in South American and African states.



Above: Location of users in December 2020.

Below: Location of users in December 2021.



HER enhancement and volunteer projects

Paul updated the HER with the latest information from the Portable Antiquities Scheme database in September. This has added 662 new records to the HER, all of which have needed editing to make them compatible with the HER database.

Julia updated the HER with thematic records for 19th and early 20th century gasworks following specialist research by Professor Russell Thomas for a Historic England Research Report, which he kindly supplied to the HER.

Work has started on the first of two Aerial Investigation and Mapping projects in north Buckinghamshire, following a successful project start-up meeting on 23rd November. This is an Historic England-funded project being carried out by a company of external specialists, Skylarkeology, and will record and map evidence from aerial photography and LiDAR directly in the HER database. The data will be a significant new source of information and will be particularly useful for development management, strategic planning and for the Buckinghamshire Local Plan.

The HER volunteer working on the milestones project returned to work in October and is busy enhancing the records for milestones.

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project is continuing to make good progress with 100 reports completed, 5 reports in draft and work underway on a further 8 gardens. The volunteers are also researching public parks as a contribution to a national Gardens Trust project, and it's hoped can be published as a small booklet on Buckinghamshire's Public Parks.

Emergency Recording Fund

At the September 2020 BHEF committee meeting it was agreed that following the transition to a Unitary authority, that Buckinghamshire Council would contribute 80% (£800) of the annual contributions to cover the total previously contributed by the legacy district and county councils. As per previous agreements, Milton Keynes Council would contribute 15% (£150) and the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society would contribute 5% (£50).

The current fund stands at £7800.

No funds have been spent since 2013, when the fund was used to excavate a Roman casket burial.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Archaeological Reports submitted to the Buckinghamshire HER

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Appendix B – Archaeological fieldwork undertaken September 2021 – March 2022

Project	Parish	Type	Contractor	Results
Beeches Park	Beaconsfield	Eval	Cotswold Archaeology	
5 Oxford Road	Aylesbury	Eval	Witham Archaeology	Possible continuation of IA hillfort ditch
Rose Farm	Longwick	Exc	PCA	Prehistoric activity – work ongoing
Tesco Car Park	Aylesbury	Eval	TVAS	negative
140 Vicarage Road	Pitstone	Eval	KDK	negative
Stoke Mandeville AGT1	Stoke Mandeville	Eval	Albion	Prehistoric and Roman evidence, likely associated with farmstead seen to north
Land West of Rowsham Road	Bierton	Exc	TVAS	Awaiting results
Chinnor Road	Bledlow	Eval	TVAS	Awaiting results
Sedrup Farm	Bishopstone	Exc	LP	Saxon settlement site
Fleet Marston	Fleet Marston	Exc	COPA	Roman town
Manthorn Farm	Chetwode	Exc	COPA	Roman agricultural centre
The Old Boathouse	Taplow	Eval	PCA	Ongoing
Misbourne Greenway	Great Missenden/Wendover	Fieldwalking	Wessex	Prehistoric and Roman artefacts
Old Arngrove Farm	Boarstall	Historic Building Recording	AOC	
Land at Little Chalfont	Amersham	Geophysics		Negative
Former Defence School	Beaconsfield	Eval	Cotswold	negative
Larks barn	Long Crendon	WB	JMHS	Poss ring ditch
Land at Westhaven and Green View	Ludgershall	Eval	TVAS	Med ditches
Leckhampstead Road	Akeley	Eval	Icknield	Awaiting results
Uplands Conference Centre	High Wycombe	Historic Building Recording	AOC	
Glebe Field	Haddenham	Eval	Cotswold	Saxon sunken floor building and inhumation
Little Middle Farm	Waddesdon	Geo		Awaiting results
Aylesbury Golf course	Aylesbury	Exc	INFRA	Med and post-med agricultural activity

Appendix C: List of major archaeological excavation projects at the post excavation stage (March 2022)

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Denham, Former Sanderson Site	MoLAS (2005) Cotswold Archaeology (2014-15)	South Bucks DC	In-situ Early Mesolithic occupation site and environmental deposits	Cotswold Archaeology commissioned to undertake post-excavation publication for whole site – July 2017	Cotswold supplied post excavation research report October 2021. Asked for minor amendments. Update requested March 2022 – should be supplied April 22
Dorney Rowing Lake & Maidenhead Windsor and Eton Flood Relief Scheme	Oxford Archaeology	Bucks CC	Multi-period sites	Draft publication reports received and agreed November 2012. Second volume (of 3) formally published December 2013. Environment Agency pursued April 2014. Contractor pursued August 2015 – expected final volume publication March 2016. Contractor chased up June, July, September and November 2016 – expected draft finalised Christmas 2016 and copy editing in New Year 2017.	Asked for an update March 2020 – August 2020 Oxford apologised for the delay – hoping to return to it this Autumn – may be ready for copy editing by end of 2020. September 21 Author has been on long term sick but hopes to get to it in a month or two. Asked for an update March 22 – report should be supplied April/May 22

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
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	Pursue agreed publication of summary in Records of Bucks. Asked for an update September 21. Network update March 22 fully reported awaiting entry into Recs Bucks
Princes Risborough, Whiteleaf Hill	Oxford Archaeology (2006)	Non-planning HLF project with BCC as client	Re-excavation and restoration of scheduled Neolithic oval barrow	Partly published in Records of Buckinghamshire 2007. Proposed publication in PPS – progress uncertain. Client raised with contractor in 2014. Oxford Archaeology chased up November 2015, June, July and September 2016. Timetable agreed, with progress report November 2016 and draft report December 2016, with submission to PPS in December 2017.	Synopsis supplied and it's intended to get the report into PPS 2019. Asked for an update February 2020. August 2020 asked Oxford for an update Asked for an update Sept 21. Asked for an update March 22

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Taplow, Berry Hill Farm	Wessex Archaeology (2017)	Bucks CC	Early Iron Age and Roman ladder settlement	HER reports submitted. Further mineral extraction consented. Fieldwork completed summer 2017. PXA has been supplied and comments made	Update from Wessex May 21 – Draft publication report to be supplied October 21. Delayed until March – April 2022 Asked for an update March 22 – there has been a transfer of staff and this is now being looked into

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Dormer Avenue, Wing	Foundations Archaeology (2016)	AVDC	Saxon and medieval settlement	Fieldwork concluded March 2016. No interim or assessment report received, despite being assured we would receive it in April 2017.	<p>Draft final report received and commented on December 2018. Final report expected Autumn 2019 and publication in Recs of Bucks Spring 2020.</p> <p>Report to be supplied by April 2020</p> <p>Asked for update May 2020 – told report imminent</p> <p>August 2020 asked Foundations for an update – delayed by Covid-19 but is the 1st report to be worked on when staff fully back</p> <p>Asked for an update September 21.</p> <p>Asked for an update March 22 – Foundations hoping to finish research Easter 22</p>

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton	ULAS (2014)	AVDC	Roman road and Iron Age and Roman settlement	Fieldwork concluded Sept 2014. Draft excavation report received April 2017. Final report received April 2018. Publication work to commence summer 2018.	Report arrived by BHEF; Recs of Bucks article to be submitted this year Update 30/12 – not included in Recs of Bucks 2021 – email sent to chase. Asked for an update September 21 – to be submitted for the next journal. Asked for an update March 22

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Former BOCM site, Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville	Network Archaeology (2013)	AVDC	Roman camp/settlement	Fieldwork completed 2013. AVDC discharged condition without consulting us.	<p>A developer not associated with this application has a letter saying that Network will be paid to complete the outstanding works</p> <p>Update February 2020 – Network provided a fresh quote October 2019</p> <p>August 2020 asked for an update from Network Asked for an update September 21. Update March 22 still awaiting funding, the developer is reported to have ceased trading</p>

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
West End Farm, Buckingham	Network Archaeology (2019)	AVDC	Cemetery with mass burials	Fieldwork completed January 2019.	<p>Post excavation analysis and reporting outstanding.</p> <p>August 2020 Network says that skeletons have been processed – DNA testing and C14 have been included in the revised post ex costs Developer not progressing the site and not paying for the post ex. Planning permission has lapsed, enforcement can't take place – have asked Network for costs to complete the work and produce a report. March 22 Network in contact with developer now and may progress works</p>

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Cornwall Meadows, Buckingham	CFA	AVDC	Saxon and med settlement	Fieldwork completed October 2019	<p>Still awaiting fieldwork report. Update requested March 2020</p> <p>August 2020 The draft report has been approved by CFA and has been supplied. Edits requested 07/09/20 but not yet received by 07/01/20. Asked for an update September 21 – Author has been on long term sick, a revised report has been written but still needs work – should be available before Christmas. March 22 asked for an update. Report supplied</p>