

**NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2012**

**Present:**

Norfolk Joint Museums and  
Archaeology Committee  
Mr P Duigan

Norfolk County Council  
Mr J Ward

Borough Council of King's Lynn and  
West Norfolk  
Mrs E Nockolds

North Norfolk District Council  
Mr T FitzPatrick

South Norfolk District Council  
Dr C Kemp

Great Yarmouth Borough Council  
Mr B Coleman

Breckland District Council  
Mr T Monument (substitute for Mr R Kybird)

English Heritage  
Mr W Fletcher

Also in attendance:

Mr A Wright – Member Champion for the Historic Environment at Norfolk County Council

**1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2011 were confirmed by the Advisory Committee and signed by the Chairman.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Bracey, Mr R G Kybird, Mr D Buck, Mr B Bellinger, Mr S Altman and Mr E N Stanton.

**3 Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**4 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5 Historic Environment Service Reporting Arrangements**

The annexed joint report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology and the Director of Environment, Transport and Development was received.

The Advisory Committee discussed the possible impact the negotiations between the County and District Councils could have on the reporting arrangements for archaeology to the Joint Museums & Archaeology Committee.

The Historic Environment Manager said that because the Historic Environment Service was no longer part of the Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service and was located in Environment Transport Development (ETD) that the Historic Environment Service (HES) should report on historic environment matters when

necessary through its own Panel, (the ETD Overview Scrutiny Panel) and that the existing links with museums should be maintained by means of (1) continued liaison and joint working by officers and (2) an annual report that he would present directly to the Joint Museums & Archaeology Committee.

The Advisory Committee supported the approach that was suggested by the Historic Environment Manager, subject to it being recommended to the Joint Committee that the Joint Committee should receive six monthly rather than yearly reports on archaeology.

The Chairman pointed out that the consideration of archaeology at Member level had been a great success. The Advisory Committee met twice a year to receive reports not only from the Historic Environment Service but also from NPS Archaeology and the NMAS Archaeology Department, and some of the Members of the Advisory Committee had an expert knowledge of archaeological issues.

In reply to questions, the Historic Environment Manager said that if meetings of the Advisory Committee were suspended pending the outcome of negotiations on the future of the Agreement, then he would continue to report to the Districts and other stakeholders as required through other meetings, such as the Great Yarmouth Heritage Forum. The main area of integration between the HES and the NMAS would continue to be HES's Identification and Recording Service for Archaeological Finds (I&RS) and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). HES staff working on the I&RS and PAS would continue to be in regular contact with their former NMAS colleagues in the Archaeology Department and the relocation of the HES to ETD had not, and would not, diminish the day-to-day liaison and the effective joint working between the two departments.

The Historic Environment Manager went on to say that the Historic Environment Champions at both county and district level would continue to be kept fully informed about archaeology issues. Districts would be invited to send Members to attend "Member Development Days" on archaeological issues and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to the Joint Committee would have no implications for the Area Museums Committees.

The Historic Environment Manager said that there was already an agreement with the Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee for an annual report, and he felt that that was an appropriate interval, coinciding with the preparation of the HES's Annual Review.

### **Resolved**

To recommend to the Joint Museums & Archaeology Committee that the meetings of the Advisory Committee be suspended pending changes to reporting arrangements to be agreed between the County and District Councils in a revised Agreement for the Provision of a Joint Museums and Archaeology Service and that in the meantime, the Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee should receive six monthly reports on archaeology.

## **6 Report on the Historic Environment Service 2011/12**

The annexed report by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development was received.

Mr David Gurney, Historic Environment Manager (County Archaeologist) said that

during the period between September 2011 and mid-February 2012 the HES had commented on 428 applications and issued 112 briefs.

The Advisory Committee noted that this made this the busiest year ever, and reflected the general upturn in development. Among the many development-led archaeological investigations in 2011, the discovery of a hoard of Middle Bronze Age alloy metalworks during an excavation at Hopton-on-sea in September 2011 was especially significant. The hoard, which comprised two torcs, two bracelets and two quoit-headed pins, was deliberately, possibly richly, placed in the fill of the ditch. It was potentially the first hoard of its type to have been archaeologically excavated since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and was submitted for consideration as Treasure.

It was pointed out that amongst the many thousands of finds of local, regional and national importance, the following were particularly interesting or significant:

- A 15<sup>th</sup> Century gold livery badge in the form of a “Gothic” jousting shield, from Sustead.
- Henry, Prince of Wales, hawking vervel, 1610-12, from Cley-next-the-sea. The badge and inscription referred to Henry Frederick, son of James I and Anne of Denmark. Henry was born in 1594 and created Prince of Wales in 1610. He died of typhoid fever in 1612.

During 2011/12 the gatehouse and medieval earthworks of Burnham Norton Friary were transferred to the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, as was the Bronze Age Burial Mound, known as Fiddlers’ Hill at Warham, with an event on site recreating the legend, which gave the site its name. Work continued on other Heritage assets which, in the longer term, would be more appropriately owned by or managed by other organisations or community groups.

Since October 2011, 537 new monument records had been added to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record and 1,171 source records. The integration of the former Buildings and Landscapes Team’s records had continued, with the majority of the Photograph Print Archive now added to the NHER. The award-winning *Norfolk Heritage Explorer* website – the online version of the NHER – continued to attract a high number of users, with more than 90,000 visitors since March 2007 and up to 140 users a day. The HES continued to encourage local communities to download and reproduce (in, for example, Parish magazines), the user-friendly Parish Summaries, which provided an overview of the Historic Environment in each of Norfolk’s 540 modern civil parishes. Many users also contributed new information to update or enhance the NHER. Now five years old, the website was currently being re-designed and updated to bring it into line with modern internet technology and was due to be re-launched in April 2012. See [www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk)

The Norfolk National Mapping Programme Team were currently working on a project covering the “Group Points” of Norwich, Thetford and the A11 Corridor. In 2011 reports on Norwich and Thetford mapping were completed and could be downloaded from:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/national-mapping-programme/norwich-thetford-a11-corridor-nmp/>

During 2011/12 the HES continued to work on the designation of heritage assets and to provide information from the NHER to English Heritage as part of the

designation consultation process. One interesting recent addition to the NHER was a prohibition (no entry) sign at Coast Road, Overstrand, dating to 1904-19. The first traffic signs were introduced in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century by the "Bicycle Union", but it was not until 1904 that local authorities were allowed to erect their own road signs. In 1919 the establishment of the Ministry of Transport led to increasing standardisation, and, over the years, the gradual removal of any earlier signs. Those that survived today were mostly to be found in museums.

From April 2012, the HES would be hosting a one-year Community Archaeology Training Placement. This post was one of just twelve funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and NCC was the only local authority to be awarded a placement. The trainee and the Community Archaeologist would be co-ordinating an intensive series of heritage events throughout the coming year.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

## **7 Half-Yearly Report on the Activities of NPS Archaeology**

The amended report by the Archaeology Manager of NPS Archaeology was received.

Mrs Jayne Bown, Archaeology Manager of NPS Archaeology said that during the reporting period from September 2011 to January 2012 NPS Archaeology was invited to bid for 133 projects, of which 106 (71%) were Norfolk projects. NPS Archaeology undertook work on 96 new projects during this period and issued reports on 54 projects of which 39 (72%) were reports on sites in Norfolk.

NPS Archaeology produced 133 written schemes for investigation and fee proposals for potential projects. This total was made up of excavation (15), evaluation (44), watching brief (43), field walking (1), historic building recording (3), geophysics (4), other (14). Remaining project bids were made up of Desk-based Assessment/Environmental, Impact Assessment/Heritage Statements (9). The appointment rate for projects in the last 5 months was 55% of the tender bids submitted.

The Advisory Committee received a list of the Norfolk projects and brief summaries of some of the most important projects which included a community excavation that took place at Thorpe Langley School where pupils of all ages had the opportunity to gain hands on experience of an archaeological excavation and to discover Roman evidence. The school was keen to develop the project further, perhaps as an after school club. Negotiations to set up other community excavation projects were underway with several interested group.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

## **8 Half Yearly Report of the Archaeology Department, Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery, October 2011 – March 2012**

The annexed report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology was received. Dr John Davies, Chief Curator and Keeper of Archaeology explained the wide range of duties and activities undertaken by Norwich Castle Archaeology Department, which

was part of the Curatorial Collections Management Section of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Dr Davies said that the Department continued to monitor Treasure cases, working in conjunction with staff from the Identification and Recording Service. Last year (2011), saw a small rise in the number of Treasure cases recorded in Norfolk, with a total of 79, up from the low of 67 in 2010 and on a par with the 80 found in 2009. 2012 looked set to be another bumper year, with 26 cases already recorded by mid-February. A number of important acquisitions had been made in the last six months, aided by the Department's funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund's "collecting cultures" scheme – the only such grant awarded to an archaeological project in Britain. The scheme had enabled a number of acquisitions to be made.

Dr Davies added that an international conference on the theme of "Norman Castles" was being developed and would be held at Norwich Castle on 17-18 May 2012 involving contributions from prominent scholars in England and Normandy. The conference would embrace the theme of castles, from their earth and timber beginnings to the magnificent stone keeps associated with the Normans today, while showcasing new research into key Norman sites in England and Normandy. Reflecting on Norman period architecture and artefacts, the conference would also look towards new approaches in museum presentation. Twenty prominent scholars from France and Britain would participate in the programme over two full days.

Staff were also planning a conference on the subject of "oral history in Archaeology". Based on a pioneering project being piloted in the Archaeology Department, this symposium was being provisionally scheduled for Autumn 2012 or Spring 2013.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

Chairman



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