

# NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2009

### Present:

Norfolk Joint Museums and  
Archaeology Committee

Mr B J Collins (Chairman)

Mrs H T Nelson

Norfolk County Council

Mr C B A Lloyd Owen

Borough Council of King's Lynn and  
West Norfolk

Mrs E Nockolds

Broadland District Council

Mr J W Bracey

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Mr J R Shrimplin

North Norfolk District Council

Mr H C Cordeaux

Norwich City Council

Miss E J Collishaw

South Norfolk District Council

Mr C Kemp

Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society

Mr R Bellinger

### Also Present:

Mrs I E Floering Blackman – Member of the Norfolk Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee

Mr G B Hemming – Member of the Norfolk Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee

### Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R G Kybird, Dr J S Johnson, Mr E N Stanton and Mr P R Walker.

## 1 Chairman's Remarks

### (a) Mr Roger Bellinger

The Chairman welcomed Mr Roger Bellinger to his first meeting of the Advisory Committee. Mr Bellinger has replaced Mrs Elizabeth Rutledge of the Scole Committee as a representative of the Voluntary Sector on the Advisory Committee. He is President of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society, having served as the Society's Honorary General Secretary for 21 years. Mr Bellinger is also involved in many other local archaeological groups and activities, including the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, of which he is Vice-Chairman.

(b) Mr Christopher Lloyd Owen

Members paid tribute to the work of Mr Christopher Lloyd Owen who was not standing for re-election to the County Council and would therefore be retiring from the Advisory Committee following this meeting. Mr Lloyd Owen had served as a Member of the Advisory Committee since 2001, and had also been the County Council's "Historic Environment Champion", and made a significant contribution to a wide range of other cultural activities, particularly as Chairman of the Norfolk Records Committee.

## **2 Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 October 2008 were confirmed by the Advisory Committee and signed by the Chairman.

## **3 Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **4 Declarations of Interest**

There were also no declarations of interest.

## **5 Representation of the Voluntary Sector on the Norfolk Archaeological Services Advisory Committee**

The annexed report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology was received.

Members received a report that stated the Norfolk Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee had appointed a representative from the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society to serve on the Advisory Committee, following the dissolution of the Scole Committee.

The Advisory Committee placed on record its appreciation of the work of the Scole Committee which in the early 1970s had helped form the County Archaeological Units in the region and for many years had organised the publication of East Anglia Archaeology. Thanks were recorded to Mrs Elizabeth Rutledge who had served as the Scole representative on the Advisory Committee.

Thanks were also placed on record to Mr Philip Walker who was due to retire shortly as the representative on the Advisory Committee for English Heritage. He had been a great supporter of archaeological services in Norfolk for many years.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

## **6 Industrial Archaeology in Norfolk**

The annexed report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology was received.

The Advisory Committee received a report that asked Members to review "A Policy

*for Industrial Archaeology in Norfolk*”, last considered by the Advisory Committee in October 2000 and approved by the then Joint Museums Committee in November 2000.

Members referred to the work of the Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust in the preservation of windmills, watermills and wind pumps or their remains. This charity had a very close relationship with the County Council, which owned many of the properties maintained by the Trust. The Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust also had close links with the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society. For example, both organisations had worked together in partnership to restore Gunton sawmill which was open to the public on several occasions throughout the year, and the dates were well publicised in the local press. It was pointed out that publicity for popular events involving industrial archaeology, such as the Gunton sawmill open days did much to promote tourism in the county.

Resolved –

To recommend

That the Advisory Committee recommends the draft document entitled “*A Policy for Industrial Archaeology in Norfolk*” to the Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee for approval.

## **7 Proposal that Norfolk Landscape Archaeology should become an Institute for Archaeologists and Registered Organisation**

The annexed report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology was received.

The Advisory Committee noted that the Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee had agreed that Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) should apply to be an Institute for Archaeologists Registered Organisation, and that all archaeological work of the NLA should be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct and other bye-laws of the Institute for Archaeologists.

It was noted that NLA was the first archaeological organisation of its kind in the country to seek membership as a Registered Organisation of the Institute for Archaeologists. NAU Archaeology had been a member since May 2006 and gained a number of benefits. These included being part of an organisation that sets standards and issues guidelines for archaeology and, at the individual level, being part of an organisation that could help archaeologists’ career prospects.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

## **8 Half-Yearly Report of the Work of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology**

The annexed report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology was received.

The Advisory Committee received a report that described the work of the NLA from September 2008 to March 2009. Those Members who had not yet received a copy of the NLA Annual Review for 2008 were able to pick up a copy in the meeting.

Members were shown a copy of one of the new series of public guides that formed part of the Norfolk Health, Heritage and Biodiversity walks project, aimed at encouraging people to enjoy local walks on a regular basis. More guides were due to be published in the near future. Mr Gurney spoke about the work of NLA, in liaison with P&T, to provide information in the guides about the “heritage” aspects of the walks. Members considered the text, illustrations and photographs used in the guide booklets to be excellent.

Members congratulated Mr Gurney on his recent appointment as Assistant Head of the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (County Archaeologist).

In introducing the periodic report, Mr Gurney updated Members on progress to protect and manage the historic environment, to maintain and enhance the Norfolk Historic Environment Record and Norfolk E-Photo Library, to identify and record finds, to deal with enquiries and to engage in outreach. It was pointed out that the National Mapping Programme, the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Thetford Historic Environment Survey Projects all continued to make excellent progress.

In reply to questions, Mr Gurney said that a national survey commissioned by English Heritage had revealed that the threat to heritage posed by illegal metal detecting, or nighthawking, was high but arrest or prosecution remained at an all time low and penalties were woefully insufficient. The under-reporting of the crime, which created a false picture of its seriousness, made illegal metal detecting a low priority crime for the Police. It was also compounded by the difficulty in collecting evidence. Mr Gurney said that he had written to the Chief Constable to suggest that the NLA, Norfolk Police and a number of interested parties should work together to foster a climate of public opinion that the illegal search, removal and sale of antiquities was unacceptable. A reply was awaited from the Chief Constable; the matter would be considered further at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee if an agreement on a way forward could not be reached.

Members noted that the Heritage Protection Bill had not been included in the Queen’s Speech in December 2008 and it was now very unlikely that this legislation would be progressed.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

**9 Half-Yearly Report of the Archaeology Department, the Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery, November 2008-May 2009**

The annexed report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology was received.

Dr John Davies, Chief Curator and Keeper of Archaeology, said that during the period covered by the report, the Archaeology Department had continued a balanced programme of curatorial work, which embraced acquisitions, collections management, study and outreach activities.

Dr Davies drew attention to work which had begun towards a gradual re-development of Norwich Castle Keep. Work was due to begin later in the year

towards new Prison story displays in the Keep basement. Dr Davies also pointed out that the Department was liaising with the British Museum and other partners to create a major archaeological exhibition at Norwich Castle in early 2012. The Advisory Committee considered it a major achievement that the Department rather than the British Museum would be the lead partner for the exhibition.

Members placed on record their thanks to Dr John Davies and his staff for making the tour of the Shirehall that immediately preceded the meeting to view some recent archaeological acquisitions, such an interesting one.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

## **10 Half-Yearly Report of NAU Archaeology**

The Advisory Committee received on the table a report from Ms Jayne Bown, Manager of NAU Archaeology that described the work of NAU Archaeology from September 2008 to April 2009. The report included a summary of some of field work projects that they had undertaken.

Ms Bown said that during the period covered by the report, NAU Archaeology had been appointed to undertake 59 new projects in Norfolk. NAU Archaeology had also been commissioned to undertake 20 specialists find projects for other archaeological organisations.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

## **11 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Resolved –

That the next meeting of the Advisory Committee be held in the offices of Broadland District Council at a date in October 2009 to be determined after consultation with the Chairman and be preceded in the morning by a tour of St Benet's Abbey.

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm

Chairman



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