

THE ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM

a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology

Secretariat:

Council for British Archaeology
St Mary's House
66 Bootham
York YO30 7BZ

Tel 01904 671417; Fax 01904 671384

roblennox@archaeologyuk.org

Convenor:

Institute for Archaeologists
University of Reading
SHES, Whiteknights
PO Box 227
Reading RG6 6AB

Tel 0118 378 6446; Fax 0118 378 6448

taf@archaeologists.net

A meeting of the Archaeology Forum was held at the RCAHMS, Edinburgh, on Tuesday 17th June 2014, 12.30 – 16.00.

AGENDA

Present: Robin Turner (RCAHMS), Pete Hinton (IfA), Jonathan Wordsworth (Archaeology Scotland), John Lewis (SAL), Rebecca Jones (HS), Mike Heyworth (CBA), Tim Howard (IfA), Rob Lennox (University of York), Ian Barnes (NT), John Lawson (ALGAO Scotlant), Tim Holden (Headland Archaeology), Simon Gilmour (SAS).

Apologies: Fiona MacDonald (ALGAO), Eila Macqueen (Archaeology Scotland), Adrian Tindall (FAME), Steve Trow (EH), Gail Boyle (SMA).

Summary of discussion:

A presentation was given by Rebecca Jones describing the progress of the Scottish Archaeology Strategy which will form an important sectoral focus over the coming decade. Key challenges, definitions and visions were described with the core principles rooted in public benefits which archaeology can create. Attendees provided critique of the process and made suggestions for improvements. Overall there was good support for the current work and considerable optimism about forward progress. Ongoing input from TAF was welcomed.

Other updates from Scotland included the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland Implementation, Historic Scotland/Royal Commission merger Bill and the joint Historic Environment Working Group. All three processes were noted as being entrenched in ongoing discussions, the overriding theme being the full and open nature of the opportunity for change in the historic environment in Scotland, being so as a result of political support and dedicated sector work. Areas for focus were highlighted, with TAF to remain engaged with the various bodies involved to provide advice and response as necessary.

Policy updates for Wales included the Welsh Heritage Bill and Planning Bill which, again, are processes which are ongoing. In addition the appointment of a new Cadw Chief Executive, Kate Clark, and soon to be appointed new Chief Executive at the RCAHMS, were discussed with a view to how the appointments are likely to influence the process.

English policy updates were given on the English Heritage restructure, about which a statement due before parliamentary recess is awaited. The replacement for the National Heritage Protection Plan is developing quickly, with the intention to have the organisation and vision confirmed by next meetings in September. The Ed Vaizey commissioned review of local archaeology services is also nearing conclusion, with TAF imminently providing comments in a closed consultation. The Historic

Environment Forum NPPF Good Practice Advice Note was noted to be due for public consultation imminently. Finally, the potential impacts of the Infrastructure Bill, currently beginning the parliamentary process, were also briefly discussed.

TAF have also produced an updated marine policy statement, on which members were invited to submit comments.

Key action points:

- TAF to feedback comments on Ed Vaizey Review report to John Howell.
- TAF members to respond to the draft HEF 'Good Practice Advice Note'.
- Individual members to provide feedback on revised TAF Marine policy.
- Finalised TAF Marine policy to be circulated to JNAPC and relevant Govt. departments.

Next meeting dates:

- i. 7th October – London (SAL)