Meeting: Historic Environment Archaeology Survey Forum – March 2026

Held on: Tuesday 24 March (13:00 – 14:00)

Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Attendees:

Bedford Borough Council:

- Mercedes Planas (MP)

Other representatives from:

- Historic England
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Milton Keynes County Council

Also representatives from EWR Co.

Meeting summary:

1. **Actions from Previous Meeting:** Updates were provided on archiving, project documentation, approvals, stakeholder feedback and the proposed approach to the enhancement strategy.
2. **Scheme Updates:** The team outlined the programme towards public consultation, recent design changes and the ongoing re-scoping of survey activities to reflect updated scheme requirements.
3. **Engagement:** Updates were provided on the upcoming public consultation, stakeholder viewer enhancements, research discussions and opportunities for future forum input.
4. **Geophysical Surveys:** Survey work is progressing, with additional areas under review following design changes and discussion on implications for trial trenching scope.
5. **GI Monitoring:** Monitoring activities were reviewed, including phased delivery, integration with geoarchaeological work and future reporting.
6. **Geoarchaeology:** The team discussed updates to deposit modelling, future assessments and the proposed approach to geoarchaeological trial investigations.
7. **Trial Trench Evaluation:** Progress, programme changes, updated project designs and future trenching phases were reviewed, including the impact of weather, access and expanded scope.

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8. **Additional Surveys:** Potential fieldwalking and topsoil sampling activities were discussed, including programme considerations, land access and their role in informing mitigation.
9. **Mitigation Discussion – Preservation Below Temporary Stockpiles:** Attendees discussed factors affecting archaeological preservation beneath temporary stockpiles and the need for site-specific assessment and mitigation measures.
10. **AOB:** The proposed date for the next archaeology forum was noted and will be confirmed through future engagement.

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