

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Conservation Advisory Group 21st April 2004
Leader & Conservation Portfolio Holder
AUTHOR/S: Conservation Manager

MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT - 2004/05

Purpose

1. To advise members of the progress of the Monument Management Project (MMP) and seek support for proposed new initiatives within 2004/05.

Stephen Macaulay, Project Manager Cambridgeshire Archaeology (Cambridgeshire County Council) will make a presentation on this project.

Effect on Corporate Objectives

2. The Monument Management Project (MMP) has at its core the need to protect, preserve and promote some of the Counties most important ancient monuments, many of which are of not only national but international importance. This requires the highest quality of professional advice and work and through this allows these monuments to be widely accessible to the people of the district and Cambridgeshire.

The project meets both county council and South Cambridgeshire District Council's objectives by :

- Delivering high quality services on ancient monuments of National Importance.
 - Improving access and interpretation to local communities.
 - Contributing to sustainability by ensuring that these monuments are protected and preserved for future generations both for archaeology and where appropriate their nature conservation value. (A number of the sites are both Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Sites of Special Scientific Importance).
 - Creating an effective partnership project between Cambridgeshire County Council, English Heritage and South Cambridgeshire District Council as well as a focus for joint working with parish councils and local communities.
3. The MMP contributes to the achievement of the 2004/05 Annual Priorities by :
 - Improving the delivery of services aimed at improving access to the countryside.
 - Contributing to the establishment of effective management procedures for historic sites within and around the growth areas.

Background

4. **MMP aims**

SCDC have worked in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and English Heritage on the Monument Management Project (MMP) since 1992. The MMP aims to both preserve sensitive archaeological sites and enhance their interpretation and public access. In addition, the project offers free advice, recommendations and general input for all archaeological sites and monuments to the public and owners throughout South Cambridgeshire. The success of the project is such that English Heritage now propose its extension to facilitate continued beneficial management of important monuments until 2006.

5. Cambridgeshire County Council have appointed a full time Countryside Archaeological Advisor (Adrian Scruby) who started in January 2004. In future he will report on the progress of the MMP, although Stephen Macaulay will still be involved in archaeology grants in relation to outreach and public programmes.

6. The project is financed by a package of grants from English Heritage, *matched* by funding from Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. SCDC contributed £3,000 to the MMP in 2003/4 from the Archaeology Grants budget, within the Conservation Portfolio. During 2003/04 the Council also supported individual projects from the Heritage Initiatives Fund, notably the successful Archaeology Training Project held at Fulbourn during August/September 2003.

7. At present a total of 22 individual sites are entered into the MMP scheme across the County (with a further 5 Pocket Parks owned by the Cambridgeshire County Farms Estate managed for the benefit of the public, archaeology and the environment). The largest number are within South Cambridgeshire, these are outlined below.

8. **Existing sites managed under the Monument Management Project in South Cambridgeshire are:-**

(i) **Bartlow Hills, Bartlow**

Managed directly by the county archaeology section. This magnificent site has received on-going scrub management and rabbit control as well as a programme of guided walks, public interpretation and access. The site interpretation board has been vandalised on a number of occasions, most recently in November 2001 and needs to be monitored. Scrub is removed from the mounds annually and the access paths are maintained. The site is located on a number of well-used public footpaths and is regularly used by locals for dog walking etc.

Proposed action 2004/05 : The owner has signed a renewal of the management agreement this year that will commence for 5 years from 1st April 2004.

(ii) **Motte & Bailey Castle, Castle Camps**

Remains of the largest castle in Cambridgeshire. We are working in conjunction with the local Parish Council and local schools (Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme) on this site. The owner sold Castle Farm itself in

2001, however he has retained ownership of the bailey and deserted village earthworks. Works related to the re-development of Castle Farm have affected the management of the site but have been dealt with by English Heritage. This site has great potential and would benefit from increased visitor use and interpretation (i.e. leaflets). A number of footpaths cross the site and it has de facto public access as a result.

Proposed action 2004/05 : Sections of the Norman motte are being cleared of scrub in an on-going programme, to aid both preservation and interpretation

(iii) **Medieval Moat, Caxton**

The conservation work is carried out by farm workers at the request of the owners. The site has three moats, of which the southern has been under the main management. Where clearance has occurred a healthy grass cover has been established quite quickly. The site is cut for hay but grazing should be encouraged (again). The site is home to one of the County's largest badger setts.

Proposed action 2004/05 : conservation work has not progressed as fast or as widespread as first envisaged, consideration to be given to bringing in external contractors to advance the initial clearance works.

(iv) **Deserted Medieval Village, Clopton**

One of the most impressive deserted villages nationally, let alone in Cambridgeshire, as a result it features in a number of National Curriculum texts. New owners bought the site in 2002. The site has been cleared of rubbish and other tipped material. Agreement has been reached with the owners to allow greater access and school visits throughout the site. The site has a large badger sett that will be protected as part of the scheme. Areas around the villages (including two moated sites) have been cleared of scrub, and rubbish has been removed from the most southerly moat. Animal action (badgers) is a problem on the northern moat. Tree, scrub and animal poaching are being tackled in the MMP scheme. The site has interpretation and is on the Wimpole Way 'ridge' walk.

Proposed action 2004/05 : The owner has signed a renewal of the management agreement this year that will commence for 5 years from 1st April 2004.

(v) **Round Moat, Fowlmere**

Clearance work continues to keep the moat free and grass is beginning to re-colonise the interior (to great effect) where picnic areas have been laid out. The site is managed with the Parish Council and a great deal of local interest and involvement has developed.

Proposed action 2004/05 : The owners (Parish Council) have signed a renewal of the management agreement this year which will commence for 5 years from 1st April 2004. In addition a new committee of the Parish Council has been set up to aid the on-going management of the site and aims to work closely with the archaeology section to improve management and promote greater involvement of the local community.

(vi) **Dunmowes manor (aka Zouches Castle), Fulbourn**

This site is now managed by the Archaeology Section, the Local History Society and the Fulbourn Manor Estate (owners) in the MMP. Long term the site has been planned to be grazed by sheep, however this is not feasible at present. The Fulbourn Estate Countryside Stewardship Agreement runs for another 3 years and there will then be a review of the overall management. The AFU Training Excavation has been held at the site in 2001, 2002 and in 2003 (each year part funded by SCDC). This was very successful and has demonstrated excellent preservation of the old manor.

Proposed action 2004/05 : Implementation and monitoring of the Stewardship scheme; improved interpretation.

(vii) **Mutlow Hill (Fleam Dyke), Gt. Wilbraham**

Bronze Age Barrow, Roman Temple and later re-used as a medieval *meeting place*. The site is open to the public, with a display board, and is on the Fleam Dyke footpath.

Proposed action 2004/05 : On-going programme of scrub clearance and conservation work on the site by the Green Belt Team (of the Wildlife Trust) and local volunteers interested in environmental conservation

(viii) **Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, Gt. Wilbraham**

This is the second ploughed site to be removed from arable cultivation under the present MMP scheme. Important Anglo-Saxon cemetery (similar to Barrington and Oakington) that has produced bronze brooches, spear heads and early Saxon artefacts, its removal from cultivation will protect the site for the future.

Proposed action 2004/05 : Maintenance of the rough grassland and agreement to protect from ploughing; improved interpretation.

(ix) **Roman Road, Worsted Street**

The MMP officer sits on the Roman Road Steering Group and this works closely with the Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke in coordinating management and conservation works along the linear route.

Proposed action 2004/05 : Advice and recommendations have been produced for forthcoming management plans and input into interpretative material (cf Friends of Roman Road & Fleam Dyke LHI grant in 2002). A Guided walk is now planned for the monument in the summer of 2004 (21/07/04) as part of Cambridgeshire Archaeology's public events programme.

(x) **Worts Meadow Medieval Moat and Deserted Medieval Village, Landbeach**

County Farms Pocket Park with guided walks are held each year around the site and the historic village in general. A new Countryside Stewardship Agreement was put in place during 2003/04. This will guide additional conservation work on the moat and will attempt to attract more visitors to the site.

Proposed action 2004/05 : On-going development of the new stewardship scheme.

- (xi) **Giants Hill Medieval Anarchy Castle & Deserted Medieval Village, Rampton.**
County Farms Pocket Park, public events are regularly held at the site. There is now an annual living history weekend (held in June) on the monument staged by the Medieval re-enactment group Regia Anglorum and the Cambridgeshire Archaeology. The event has become very popular and has been extended to run on both Saturday and Sunday with over 1200 visitors coming to the weekend in 2003. In addition a guided walk is held on the site each year that regularly attracts over 50 visitors. The site has been kept clear of nettles for access and scrub clearance continues.
Proposed action 2004/05 : Development of the interpretation and access programme; on-going scrub clearance.
- (xii) **Car Dyke Roman Canal, Waterbeach**
County Farms Pocket Park. Work continues to remove scrub in conjunction with a wildlife plan to encourage the use of the site as a habitat. Clearance work also allows an improved visual appreciation of the site. A number of school tours were held at the Car Dyke during 2003/04 and a guided walk in the summer attracted over 80 visitors.
Proposed action 2004/05 : Development of the interpretation and access programme; on-going scrub clearance and habitat enhancement.
- (xiii) **Car Dyke, Roman Canal, Cottenham Cambridge Research Park)**
The conservation management plans for the Cambridge Research Park development (on the former site of Landbeach Marina) are to include management of the Car Dyke where it crosses the site.
Proposed action 2004/05 : On-going development of the conservation plans to include erection of new interpretation boards on the site and liaison.
- (xiv) **Moulton Hills, Bourn**
One of a group of three Roman burial mounds. Work includes removal of damaging scrub and rabbit control. Site no longer in the MMP, it has not been very successful, with clearance work not stabilising the site. The surrounding undergrowth and hedges would have needed to be cleared for more effect and there was no grass colonisation. Might need to consider grass seeding, however project not included at present.
Proposed action 2004/05 : Research project (Community Archaeology Project with LHI support) for 2004-5 to establish the sites origins, which may not necessarily be Roman burial mounds but possibly linked to early medieval metalworking.
- (xv) **The Biggen, Duxford**
New agreement in 2001 with the Parish Council. The site is now under beneficial management and is cut annually.

Proposed action 2004/05 : development of new gate access and interpretation.

(xvi) **Grinnell Hill, Melbourn**

In the MMP since 2002, this is a joint agreement with the Parish Council to manage the last clearly visible barrow on a once much large cemetery on the outskirts of Melbourn.

Proposed action 2004/05 : On-going management of vegetation, re-establish grass on the slopes; control rabbits and erect marker posts at the base to prevent plough encroachment.

(xvii) **Fleam Dyke (Various Sites)**

Developing from the new Fleam Dyke Steering Group, CCC Archaeology has both direct and indirect management agreements on sections of the Fleam Dyke. All management is in partnership with English Nature and The Wildlife Trust. Two sections have MMP Agreements with the owners (White & Hicks), agents (Wildlife Trust) and Archaeology for scrub management, plough damage prevention, and general conservation improvements (see also Mutlow Hill plus interpretation). In addition sections southeast of the A11 managed by English Nature and The Green Belt Project (Wildlife Trust) are supported by CCC Archaeology.

Proposed action 2004/05 : On-going conservation and management works. Development of a linked scheme for the Linear Sites to improve access and interpretation on this site.

Considerations

9. **Proposed MMP development work for 2004-5**

In addition to the on-going work outlined for the individual sites above, key elements of the archaeological work on the MMP for 2004/05 in the district are proposed as follows:

- (a) *New sites added.* A number of new sites are currently being considered in South Cambridgeshire for entry into the MMP and/or renewal of existing agreements (5 years standard).
- (b) *On-going Management.* All the sites in the MMP have at least one annual visit, close liaison with owners and all other interested parties, the arrangement of conservation work and general site management, including where appropriate access and interpretation.
- (c) *Advice & information.* Guidance to be provided for existing sites under management, as well as schemes drafted for those that do not have formal agreements.
- (d) *Cottenham Moat project.* A project in conjunction with the developer, parish council and CCC Archaeology is in development for Cottenham Moat and is proposed for formal entry to MMP from April 2004 (delayed from 2003). These will commence in 2004 once English Heritage agrees the programme of works.

- (e) *An updated list of key sites* under threat will be produced and discussed with English Heritage for possible inclusion into the MMP scheme.
- (f) *Guided Walks and Publication.* It was suggested in 2003 that each issue of the South Cambs Magazine should include an article on a site in the MMP and some information on a guided interpretative walk. This would then eventually be compiled into a publication of guided walks around all sites with public access in the MMP. This programme can now be advanced with the appointment of the new Countryside Archaeological Advisor but will need financial support to enable illustrative material to be designed and used for both the South Cambs Magazine and the on site walk guides.

Options

- 10. Support for these initiatives is entirely discretionary, therefore, the Conservation advisory Group are asked to consider the following options :
 - (a) To continue to support the Monument Management Project in 2004/5, and recommend that the Conservation Portfolio Holder allocates a sum of £3,000 from the Archaeology Grants budget, specifically to support the existing MMP sites and authorises the continued development of partnership initiatives with the county archaeologists to secure the preservation and enhancement of key archaeological sites in South Cambridgeshire, as described in this report.
 - (b) To continue to support the development of wider interpretation and access to the MMP sites by recommending that the Conservation Portfolio Holder, allocates a sum of upto £1,500 from the Conservation Budget 2004/05 to support the design and publication of guided walks for monuments in conjunction with the proposed South Cambs Magazine articles, outlined above.
 - (c) Not to support the funding arrangements for the Monument Management Project in 2004/5 or the development of further partnership initiatives with the county archaeologists, setting out the reasons for this option.

Financial Implications

- 11. The Conservation budget for 2004/05 includes an allocation of £3,000 for *Archaeology Grants*. It is proposed that this sum is used specifically to support the existing MMP sites and partnership scheme in 2004/5. The proposed additional allocation of upto £1,500 to support the publication of illustrations and design for the guided walks articles for the South Cambs News can be also funded from the Conservation budget 2004/05.

Legal Implications

- 12. None Specific.

Staffing Implications

13. None specific. The MMP is managed by the county archaeological section with a full time Countryside Advisor in post from January 2004, in consultation with the Conservation Manager.

Consultations

14. Each site subject to MMP or archaeological intervention is subject to extensive local consultation, initiated by the County and English Heritage, the national statutory body who oversee Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Conclusions/Summary

15. The Monument Management Project has been very successful in achieving its objectives of both preserving components of the historic environment and enhancing physical and intellectual access to important archaeological sites. It is hoped that the partnership arrangements will continue to develop in 2004/5 to continue to expand on this success. Reflecting this success is the other partners' commitment to fund a full time Countryside Archaeological Advisor from January 2004.
16. It is, however, clear that a range of initiatives need to be developed to address the potential of the district's vast archaeological heritage. A possible model which may influence future key projects is the Devils Dyke Project which has recently received lottery funding and was developed by a local steering group. Similar steering groups have been formed to promote proactive management for Fleam Dyke and Worsted Street Roman Road. These steering groups include the key statutory bodies (English Heritage, English Nature and Cambridgeshire County Council) as well as landowners, Friends groups, Parish Councils and representatives of SCDC.
17. The general level of interest in the South Cambridgeshire's archaeology can be gauged by the number of successful public events held throughout the year on important monuments. These include guided walks at: Car Dyke (Waterbeach), Worts Meadow (Landbeach), Giants Hill (Rampton) and Fulbourn Moat (& Training Excavation). Each tour attracted at least 50 visitors. In addition an archaeology day was held in conjunction with Milton Country Park 10th years anniversary celebrations. School talks were held at Car Dyke and Rampton, and several hundred people attended the (now annual) Living History weekend at Giants Hill, Rampton. It is, therefore, considered important that the Conservation Portfolio Holder and Conservation Advisory Group continue to support these initiatives in 2004/5 and monitor their achievements to build on the success of these projects.

Recommendations

18. It is recommended that the Conservation Advisory Group :
- (a) resolve to advise the Conservation Portfolio Holder to endorse option 10(a) above, to support the allocation of £3,000 from the Archaeology Grants budget, to contribute to the Monument Management Programme in 2004/5 (as identified in paragraph 8)

- (b) resolve to advise that the Conservation portfolio Holder endorses Option 10(b) above and authorise an allocation of upto £1,500 from the Conservation Budget to support the further interpretation of the MMP sites via the South Cambs Magazine and guided walk leaflets (as identified above in paragraph 9{f}).
- (c) Invite the County Archaeologists to present a six month progress report to the Conservation Advisory Group and Portfolio Holder on the on-going Monument Management Programme during 2004/05 (to include developing archaeological initiatives) for consideration and prioritisation for the future development of the project.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: None

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