

Phase One Planning Forum – Heritage Sub-Group Meeting Notes – 11th December 2018

Date & time:	11 th December 2018: 13.45-17.00 (lunch from 13.00) IET Birmingham: Austin Court 80 Cambridge Street, Birmingham, B1 2NP
Chair:	Helen J Wass

Item	Topic	Lead
1	Welcome and introductions	Chair
2	<p>General update - presentations attached</p> <p>Geoarchaeology HS2 summarised the work underway regarding geoarchaeology. WCC asked when there would be a deposit model for Area North be available? ACTION: HS2 to arrange a specific Geoarchaeology session to include interested LPAs.</p> <p>STEM HS2 summarised the school/university talks and placements that had been provided and supported. This will continue throughout the lifespan of HS2.</p> <p>HERDS digital platform HS2 announced that the HERDS Digital Platform is live. Instructions and training to be provided by HS2. It will facilitate information exchange and collaboration. NB: it does not replace the formal uploads to Sharepoint of Code 1 HS2 approved documents. WCC noted that the Gviewer element (which is to follow) will be really important for LPAs and would assist them in their review of the works being carried out. NCC noted that this system seemed more accessible/useful than Sharepoint.</p>	HS2

	<p>SCC asked when login instructions would be issued? And will it include HER officers.</p> <p>ACTION: HS2 stated that login instructions would be after Christmas, and yes, it can include HER officers. Information regarding training will follow.</p> <p>HS-G ACTION: HS-G members to send names and details.</p> <p>Historic Environment Records and OASIS HS2 announced the arrival in January of an historic environment data manager to support the Phase One Historic Environment team. HS2 acknowledged the ongoing issue with the HS2 OASIS forms and confirmed that they continue to work with their supply chain and the ADS to clarify this.</p> <p>WCC asked about when HERs can accession information.</p> <p>ACTION: HS2 stated that setting the process for this would be an early task for the new data manager.</p>	
3	<p>Area Team 2018 Review and forward look to 2019</p> <p>Area North The Area North EWC presented on their work in 2018 and a forward look to 2019.</p> <p>Their extensive LIDAR work had been particularly useful in identifying landscape features such as hollows, ridge & furrow and field boundaries. Some geophysical anomalies have been shown to be late prehistoric in date during evaluation works.</p> <p>Questions and Discussion GLAAS noted that some locations appeared to have gone straight from trial trench evaluation to excavation.</p> <p>The EWC explained that they had employed contingency areas to assist in the characterisation of the archaeological remains. WCC stated that this approach related to evaluation rather than mitigation and that they found it useful.</p> <p>SCC asked when the Project Plans for large scale areas were to be provided for comment.</p>	EWC Area teams

The EWC confirmed that they would be delivered early in the New Year with provisional site start dates in March 2019.

SCC asked if access routes for mitigation sites were included in the archaeology programme?

The EWC confirmed that they were, as they often had to accommodate large construction traffic.

Area Central

The Area Central EWC presented on their work in 2018 and a forward look to 2019.

Highlights included the work at St Mary's Stoke Mandeville. The first burials have been revealed as well as the structure of the church itself.

Approximately 80% of the planned geophysical survey had been completed across Area Central.

59 trial trenching sites had been completed, about a quarter of the way through.

Questions and Discussion

WCC asked how the EWC has arrived at the 30 'new sites' for Stage 2 works?

The EWC explained that those 'sites' had been identified not just through geophysics, but also included blank areas surveyed for other reasons.

WCC asked if there would be other 'sites' beyond the 30, reflecting concerns that some areas wouldn't be looked at.

The EWC confirmed that this was likely as they are only 80% through geophysical survey and also that surveys based on landscape study were ongoing; the baseline needed to be completed first.

NCC asked if the Project Plans, rather than the WSIs were the only opportunity to comment on proposals for, e.g. Illets Farm and Blackgrounds.

The EWC confirmed that the Project Plans were the key documents for comment by the county planning archaeologists (WSIs contain additional non-archaeological information).

The EWC noted that the county planning archaeologists should be engaged with early in the preparation of the Project Plans. He acknowledged that this had been happening imperfectly in the early stages, but was working more effectively now.

NCC: Asked if Project Plans for Edgcote were on the way? The EWC confirmed that PPs for Blackgrounds trial trench and Metal Detector survey would be with them shortly.

NCC and WCC raised concerns that they received no feedback in relation to the comments they had provided on PPs. They wished to understand the reasoning for why some comments had not been addressed.

HS2 Action: HS2 confirmed that it was working on a process for how EWCs/HS2 feedback responses to consultee comments.

WCC noted that if they were not satisfied then they would take the matter higher.

NCC provided positive feedback for the EWC historic environment manager they dealt with.

The EWC encouraged the county planning archaeologists to contact him directly with any specific concerns.

NCC raised concerns about Schedule 17 pre-application discussions regarding main works at Edgcote.

SNDC raised concerns that the design was progressing ahead of engagement with them.

HS2 highlighted that the central area historic environment manager was leading on this and was in active discussion with the main works contractor.

Area South

The Area South EWC presented on their work in 2018 and a forward look to 2019.

Questions and Discussion

GLAAS asked about the percentage of remains to be retained and those to be re-buried?

The EWC explained that it came about from consultation with the Archbishops' Council and Historic England and GLAAS.

	<p>Sufficient remains will be excavated archaeologically to enable an appropriate sample to be retained for analysis.</p> <p>HS2 noted that work was in progress regarding the reburial location and whether an archive of human remains could be achieved.</p> <p>A sift process looking at options was nearing completion and HS2 will inform parties of the decision as soon as internal governance has been completed.</p> <p>This continues to be discussed with the Archbishops' Council. Historic England has been kept informed.</p> <p>Area Central EWC asked about the level of recording being undertaken in the on-site the processing facility?</p> <p>The Area South EWC described the work carried out - washing drying, rapid assessment looking at age, sex and pathologies, not full osteometrics. Full assessment will occur afterwards, some on site and some in the labs at MHI. Cultural material is also assessed.</p> <p>HE asked about the coffin plates – is it the likely to be the largest collection?</p> <p>EWC confirmed that there was a high recovery rate of coffin plates.</p> <p>WCC asked about visit to St James's burial ground.</p> <p>Only people critical to the site works are allowed access to the burial ground.</p> <p>Post meeting note: subsequent discussion with the Archbishops' Council has provided the following clarity regarding access to site:</p> <p>HS2 made a formal request to the Archbishops' Council, on behalf of all of its supply chain across Phase 1, for specific authorisation (under para 8.1 of the Undertaking) for various parties to attend site on the burial grounds other than for carrying out the works (para 4.1.2).</p> <p>For all the sites we requested authorisation for entry to site and processing facilities for stated professional development and knowledge sharing/training purposes by HS2 and Contractor staff, as well as for visiting professional archaeologists.</p>	
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	The Church has agreed to this.	
4	AOB HS2 noted that the next meeting would be in London 14th March , and asked for any agenda items or volunteers to present on issues.	