

# ARCHAEOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

**Report By: Conservation Manager**

## **1 Wards Affected**

County-wide

## **2 Purpose**

- 2.1 To receive and agree the draft for consultation of a Supplementary Planning Document setting out the Council's detailed policies and approach to managing archaeology within the planning process.

## **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The cost of printing and publication together with the associated consultation arrangements will be met through existing budgets. In this regard the Conservation Section will liaise with the Forward Planning Section and undertake consultations in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.

## **4 Background**

- 4.1 The preparation of an Archaeology and Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is included in the Council's Local Development Scheme (January 2008) and is being produced in accordance with regulations introduced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It expands upon a range of archaeology policies set out in Development Plan Documents, most particularly Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The UDP policies are 'saved' as part of the Council's 'Local Development Framework' for a minimum of three years. Policies ARCH1 – 8 in the UDP refer to archaeology matters.
- 4.2 Once adopted the expanded detail in the SPD will be material considerations when determining planning applications.
- 4.3 The aims of the SPD are to:
- Explain and supplement the policies on archaeology and development;
  - Provide greater certainty to developers as to what is expected in situations where archaeological considerations affect development;
  - Make clear that this issue is one that needs to be considered at the outset when preparing proposals for development and should not be an afterthought; and
  - Ensure best treatment, through preservation in situ and/or recording, of the archaeological resource.

4.4 The SPD is drafted in two principle parts:

- Part 1 sets the context in which the guidance is set, explaining the contribution archaeology makes to the culture and distinctiveness of the County; what archaeological remains comprise and their vulnerability; the policy background; and how what is proposed fits into the wider context of heritage protection.
- Part 2 contains detailed guidance and advice for those involved in the planning process.

The document also has a number of appendices containing a range of additional information that users of the SPD may find useful.

4.5 With particular regard to Part 2 the guidance:

- Places emphasis upon early consultation and the carrying out of preliminary assessments to appraise the significance of any likely remains that might be present on any site.
- Advises that sufficient information should be available early in the process to enable the importance of any archaeological remains to be identified prior to determining any planning application. The types of pre-application assessments and evaluations and when they are required are described.
- Describes the process for appraising the significance of archaeological remains and how these should be treated. There will be the presumption that any nationally important remains will be retained 'in situ' while remains of lesser importance should be preserved by record.
- Gives advice upon the options available for preservation in situ of important remains, and when and how these are required.
- Similarly gives advice upon mitigation through investigation and recording for remains of lesser importance.
- Explains the measures available to enhance remains and provide public access.
- Sets out what to do when unexpected discoveries of remains occur and how they should be treated.
- Describes a range of associated matters including certain works where planning permission is not required; archiving material and dealing with community interest in excavations and the information and artefacts found.

4.6 The Council's' Statement of Community Involvement sets out the procedures for public consultation upon SPDs and this will be followed. A Consultation statement and other documents, including a Sustainability Appraisal will accompany the SPD. All comments received through the consultation will be reported to this committee along with any recommended changes.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) be recommended to agree the publication of the draft Archaeology and Development SPD for consultation purposes.**

**Background papers**

Local Development Scheme (January 2008)  
Statement of Community Involvement – (March 2007)  
Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (March 2007)  
Sustainability Scoping Report (December 2007)