

**IN CONFIDENCE**

**HISTORIC MONUMENTS COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE 138<sup>th</sup> MEETING HELD IN  
CRAWFORDSBURN COUNTRY PARK  
ON  
THURSDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007 AT 1.30PM**

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**PRESENT:**

Mr R Black– Chairman  
Mr B Black  
Mrs R Evans  
Mr I Hill  
Mrs H Lanigan Wood  
Mr C Mallon  
Mr J Moore  
Dr F McCormick  
Dr E McShane  
Mr P Walsh

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr M Coulter, EHS  
Mr K Neill, EHS  
Ms C Foley, EHS  
Mr J O’Keeffe, EHS

Mr C Francey, Secretariat

**VISIT TO GREY POINT FORT, CRAWFORDSBURN COUNTRY PARK**

Mr M Thompson, EHS Regional Operations gave a brief overview of the status of Crawfordsburn Country Park and highlighted some of the management issues. He outlined some of the steps taken by EHS to raise for example, the profile of Grey Point Fort which was built in 1904 and transferred to EHS in association with the Country Park in 1971. Members were then given a guided tour of Grey Point Fort by Mr B Spence, EHS who was able to recall many local WW2 stories and show members a number of artefacts associated with that period. He informed members that EHS had done much to improve the status of the Fort and to make it accessible to the public.

Council noted some of the concerns of EHS in relation to the future of the Fort and asked that it submit a paper on proposals for the Fort. In the meantime, members are to let the Secretariat have their thoughts on the best way forward in managing the Fort.

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Submit proposals for Grey Point Fort</b>	<b>EHS</b>
	<b>Send comments to the Secretariat</b>	<b>Members</b>

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr J O’Neill, Dr K Muhr, Ms A Moreno, Mr D Flinn and Mr T Canavan.

**2. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS**

**2.1 Donaghmore Cross, County Tyrone**

The Chairman reported that he and Ms Foley visited the site of the Donaghmore Cross on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, in response to a request from a local resident to discuss the future of the Cross. There is a suggestion that the Cross should be housed rather than left in situ and EHS is considering the best option for the protection of this carved stone.

The Chairman undertook to meet with the local resident at a later stage to discuss the issues.

**ACTION: Meet with resident Chairman**

## **2.2 Visit to Brittany Region**

The Chairman informed members that he is to visit the Brittany region of France at the invitation of the Ulster Archaeological Society in June. It was agreed that in furtherance of his ambassadorial role as Chair of HMC that he should present a gift to the local historical group in Brittany. Mr Coulter informed members that EHS may by then have published two major archaeological volumes, which might be appropriate for the occasion.

## **2.3 Heritage Council**

The Chairman reported that he attended the launch of the Heritage Council's 5-year Strategy in Kilkenny on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. The Strategy was launched by the Minister of the Environment, Housing and Local Government, Mr D Roache, TD.

## **2.4 Boa Island Carved Stone**

The Chairman referred to a recent article in the Belfast Telegraph about the possible removal of the Boa Island figure to the Ulster Museum. Ms Foley explained that this was without foundation and that EHS had commissioned a condition assessment of the figure and this was due to be presented and discussed at a stakeholder meeting at the end of May. Council would be informed of the outcome.

**ACTION: Update Council on outcome of meeting EHS**

## **3. MINUTES OF 137<sup>th</sup> MEETING of 9<sup>TH</sup> February 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007 were agreed subject to the following amendment:

Item 4.1 – page 2  
Replace 'LiDAR' with "CYRAX"

## **4. MATTERS ARISING REPORT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 137<sup>th</sup> MEETING.**

### **4.1 EHS Conservation Work**

Mr Neill reported that the development proposal in the original planning application involving the site at Boa Island impinged on the scheduled area and would therefore need SMC. Several other issues had also been highlighted, including the proposed design of the buildings and possible

screening of the development. Amended plans have been submitted to PS but have not yet been forwarded to Built Heritage for comment.

Members raised the question of making a copy of the Boa Island carved stone and Mr Neill indicated that he would submit a paper to Council on who could undertake the work, the costs and how this fits in with the EHS planned management strategy of carved stones generally.

**ACTION: Submit paper on making a copy of the stone to HMC**  
**Mr Neill**

#### **4.2 Review of Environmental Governance**

Mr Coulter informed members that the report of the Review Panel on Environmental Governance was due to be launched at the end of May/June 2007. The Chairman informed members that he and the other SAC Chairs would be meeting the Permanent Secretary to discuss the report in due course.

#### **4.3 HMC Report**

The Chairman reported that progress had been made on the drafting of the HMC Report. He tabled a contents paper and indicated that he would be reviewing the various articles towards final drafting.

#### **4.4 JCIH**

Council noted that in view of Mr F Robinson's appointment as Chairman of HBC, Mr J Moore had accepted the Chairmanship of JCIH.

#### **4.5 Archaeological Research**

The Chairman informed members that the Archaeological Research Group met on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, to discuss and consider a position statement on the main archaeological problems relating to storage, recording and unpublished excavations. For example, the point was made that EHS had only produced one volume from the setting up of its archaeological survey in 1950. He tabled a draft position statement and asked that if members wished to add to this they should send comments to the Secretariat.

Council welcomed this statement and emphasised the need for excavation reports to be available in the public domain. It was recognised, however, that there could be quality issues with many reports being of a low grade. There was also a need to consider appropriate penalties if reports on licensed excavations are not published. In the case of materials, the Department had signed up to the policy on materials from excavations. There was a need to recognise the benefits to our economy of the contribution from the archaeological resource.

It was suggested that when the HMC statement has been finalised the Chairman should meet with the new Minister of the NI Executive.

### **5. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING NOT ON MAIN AGENDA**

There were no other matters arising and not on the main agenda.

## 6. THE SCHEDULING PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND : FUTURE DIRECTIONS (HM439)

Ms Foley introduced the paper on a policy relating to the Department's scheduling programme in Northern Ireland. She highlighted some of the main issues for the future direction for scheduling and covered such areas as the Archaeological resource, maintaining the schedule, the CAMSAR survey (Condition and Management Survey of the Archaeological Resource ), future scheduling policy and recommendations.

Ms Foley informed members that EHS does not work in isolation and liaises closely with other government departments and agencies such as Planning Service and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the management of the archaeological resource. However, with changes in recent years there was now a need to identify mechanisms which will fill the gaps in ensuring the protection of monuments. EHS was obliged to carry out scheduling under legislation but to date very few monuments and industrial heritage structures have been protected by the HMAO Order. It was therefore essential for EHS to have commissioned the CAMSAR and the results of this survey (2004-06) are due to be published soon. Ms Foley also addressed the 10 recommendations for taking forward the scheduling programme as set out under section 7.1.

Members welcomed the main thrust of the paper but felt that because of its intrinsic importance it would need further consideration by a sub-group of Council. Members were concerned to note that there appeared to be a substantial number of as yet unrecognised archaeological sites across Northern Ireland and a shortage of resources to ensure that survey and exploration for such sites can be made. Council believed that this was a major flaw in protecting the archaeological resource and pointed out that it had on various occasions in recent years highlighted these issues.

The position of NIEL in the context of the recent setting up of its Archaeological Forum was raised by members. NIEL had recently appointed a Heritage Officer to progress this area of the historic environment. EHS took the view that as NIEL was an umbrella organisation it could facilitate networking of stakeholders involved in archaeology throughout Northern Ireland. It could also be a major player in lobbying for resources. The Chairman informed members that he would be discussing the role of NIEL at a meeting with its Chairman on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**ACTION: Council sub-group to give paper further consideration.  
Arrange sub-group Secretariat**

## 7. PROPOSALS FOR SCHEDULING (HM440)

In accordance with the requirement for EHS to consult with Council under Article 3(6) of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, Mr J O'Keeffe presented a list of 10 sites proposed for Scheduling in counties Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone. The papers include information on the place-names by Dr K Muhr.

**Council approved the scheduling of the following sites:**

### **CO. DOWN**

IHR 03476:000

Killough Harbour

## **CO. FERMANAGH**

FER 191:139	Monea, cist burial
FER 193:026	Ballyreagh, standing stones
FER 212:94	Lissan, ,standing stone
FER 212:147	Largy, stone circle(remains of)and standing stone

## **CO. TYRONE**

TYR 49:1	Castlemervyn Demesne, stone circle
TYR 57:14	Glengen, multiple cist cairn
TYR 57:18	Glengen, stone circle
TYR 57:19	Crocknafarbrague, standing stone, possible megalithic tomb
TYR 58:37	Lislane, wedge tomb

## **IHR 03476:000 Killough Harbour**

In the case of this proposal a number of members declared an interest and took no further part in the discussions about Killough.

Council expressed concern about the increasing targeting of Killough for residential development. Some members took the view that the planners and developers did not appear to be aware of the scheduling process and its implications for development and felt that EHS should take the opportunity to reinforce this throughout government. However, Mr O’Keeffe explained that EHS had been in touch with PS about this potential scheduling and would notify them when the process had been completed. Council endorsed the proposed scheduling on the basis of the EHS criteria i.e rarity, survival, documentation and fragility/vulnerability. Council noted that the University of Ulster’s Maritime Unit had recommended the scheduling of Killough Harbour in its informal advice to EHS as one of ten harbours proposed for scheduling. Members also noted that the Nannie Sound was recommended for inclusion in the Killough scheduling by Mr T McErlean of the Maritime Unit on the basis of this unusual feature having survived as part of the maritime heritage.

### **8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS 2006-07 (HM441)**

Members noted the EHS paper on archaeological excavations.

### **9. WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS 6 (HM442)**

Members noted the EHS paper on the World Archaeological Congress due to take place in 2008. The Chairman has been invited to take part in the organisation of this Congress.

### **10. MOURNE WATER SCHEME**

Mr Deery gave a presentation on the main issues relating to the protection of the structures associated with the Mourne Water Scheme. He explained that this was a thematic survey of all the structures used in the water supply from the Mourne to Belfast and had been presented to the JCIH over two meetings. It was during the course of these presentations that some issues about the most appropriate form of protection became evident. A substantial number of the structures surveyed were recommended for listing but in the

case of the Silent Valley Reservoir, Ben Crom Tunnel and Knockbracken Reservoir there was some debate on whether or not it was more appropriate to schedule them. One aspect of this focused on whether or not it would be better to leave these structures if they were not under threat rather than schedule them. The Chairman highlighted the point raised at the second of the JCIH meetings in relation to how these structures rated with other constructions feeding into the Belfast water system and if such structures were more worthy of listing or scheduling. There was also the question of how scheduling would affect the masonry face of dams and if this would create problems for EHS in its management of the scheduled list. Ms Foley advised that in such instances where maintenance to the dam is necessary, SMC would be required. She added that it would not be normal practice to schedule water systems, especially if the systems are functioning normally.

The Chairman commented that part of the difficulty in deciding the most appropriate form of protection was brought about by the two differing sets of legislation for listing and scheduling; as a result EHS was giving conflicting and inconsistent messages on whether or not structures should be listed or scheduled. Council asked that EHS re-consider the best form of protection for these structures and also present a set of criteria for the guidance of Council in making an assessment on the best form of protection.

**ACTION: Re-consider form of protection for dams and reservoirs**  
**Draw up paper on criteria** **EHS**

#### **11. UPDATE ON FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

Mr Neill informed members of recent and pending EHS publications as follows:

- EHS Booklet "Protecting Historic Monuments on Farmland"
- County Armagh Survey – due for release in July 2007
- Nendrum Tidal Mill – due for release in June 2007

A new guide on Carrickfergus Castle is to be published as well as a more substantial publication on the Castle, town and excavations later in the year.

The Chairman informed members that Council had acquired a book for its library i.e 'Industrial Ireland 1750 – 1930: An Archaeology'. This was available for members to borrow.

#### **12. HMC OUTING**

The HMC outing had been re-scheduled to the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. It was agreed that EHS should prepare a programme focusing on County Armagh, with options including a focus on the Ring of Gullion AONB and/or a visit to Tynan Demesne to look at the various carved stone artefacts.

**ACTION: Prepare programme for outing** **EHS**

#### **13. LOWER BANN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- (a) Mr Moore reported that dredging operations at Drumaheglis on the Lower Bann are being carried out by Ballymoney Borough Council. A number of concerns had arisen about these works given the experience of the damage caused to the archaeological resource by

dredging on the River Blackwater. The LBAC has written to Ballymoney Council expressing its concerns about the dredging works.

- (b) Mr Moore informed members that he had responded through the LBAC to a consultation from the EHS:NH about a planning consultation for the proposed Bann golf course development. The site of the golf course has archaeological potential and the LBAC has drawn the attention of planners to this so that there can be full archaeological mitigation on the site.

#### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **14.1 Update on Recruitment**

Mr Coulter gave Council an update on the recruitment of curatorial staff for the EHS Built Heritage. Multiple applications have been received in response to public advertisement and interviews are due to take place at the start of May 2007.

##### **14.2 English Street, Downpatrick**

Mr Hill informed members that he had reported some work to a coach arch in English Street, Downpatrick and was wondering if these works affected this historic part of the town. Ms Foley undertook to have the matter investigated by Mr Hurl, EHS.

**ACTION:**                      **Investigate works**                      **Mr Hurl**

##### **14.3 Devenish Island**

The Chairman asked that EHS gives Council an update on the current status of the planning application for the proposed holiday complex etc; opposite Devenish Island. It was noted that Council had already expressed its objections to this development.

**ACTION: Update Council on status of planning application   Ms Foley**

#### **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> June, is to be re-scheduled and members will be advised of the new date in due course.

(the meeting finished at 5.20pm)