

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL****SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ECONOMY  
20 JANUARY 2011****ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRESS****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report advises members as follow:
- the latest changes within Exeter Archaeology (EA);
  - progress with archaeology reports and projects funded from the Economy and Tourism budget; and
  - information relating to archaeological projects carried out in the city for both ECC and external clients.

**2.0 LATEST CHANGES TO EXETER ARCHAEOLOGY**

- 2.1 In response to a downturn in business and reciprocal drop in income - in large part the result of the recession - Members approved two stages of restructuring of EA in 2009/10, reducing core staff numbers from 31 to 15. The Service now operates by supplementing this reduced core team with temporary staff, appointed on a project specific basis. Over the last year, this has resulted in a team (constantly adjusted) of between 20 and 30.
- 2.2 Projects set up to address City Council obligations to publication backlog, outstanding Scheduled Monument Consent projects and archive deposition, identified in the report to Members of 29th September, have been ongoing with appropriate levels of success in most areas. Efforts to deposit archives have been hindered to some extent by museums, such as the RAMM, being unable to take archives during redevelopment.

**3.0 ECONOMY AND TOURISM FUNDED WORK****Work to date**

- 3.1 The purpose of this programme of work is to make available to the general public, in a range of formats and media, the results of archaeological and historical investigations and research undertaken by Exeter Archaeology on behalf of the City Council.
- 3.2 This has included:
- production of a booklet presenting the history and development of the Custom House and Quay to a public audience;
  - production of a booklet presenting the results of the 1970s Exe Bridges excavations to a public audience;
  - part production of a publication presenting the results of the 1970s Exe Bridges excavations to a public and academic audience;
  - completion of a chapter on the medieval houses of Exeter for a publication on Westcountry houses intended for a public and academic audience; and
  - production of an illustrated account of Elizabethan inventories (to be published in early 2011) for a public and academic audience;

Costs of the production of booklets can, at least in significant part, be offset through sales. Healthy sales of all booklets (and the Princesshay booklet produced last year) have already been made.

- 3.3 Beneficial arrangements have been agreed with Southampton University to allow Professor Mark Stoye (author of the successful book on the city wall 'Circled with Stone') to compile an illustrated book describing the history and development of the Underground Passages. Utilising Professor Stoye's demonstrated skills in this area, this book is designed to appeal to both an academic and public audience, and to enhance the knowledge and reputation of this key heritage attraction.

#### **4.0 PROJECTS FUNDED BY OTHER CLIENTS**

- 4.1 It is intended to report more fully on the work of Exeter Archaeology at the meeting, and therefore only a summary written account is provided. 2010 has continued a recent trend of difficult years for Exeter Archaeology, with further restructuring of the organisation resulting from the dual impact of the recession and significant increases in competition from other commercial companies. However significant work has been undertaken both within the city and throughout the Southwest.
- 4.2 A significant body of fieldwork has been undertaken at the former St Loye's College campus for the developer URV, exposing significant Roman military and prehistoric remains. Work to publish the results is now underway.
- 4.3 Work has continued throughout this year, funded by English Heritage, to complete the publication of the results of the excavation of the newly discovered Roman fort at Calstock, Cornwall. This project has brought some useful income.
- 4.4 In collaboration with Devon County Council, English Heritage has funded an assessment of all Exeter Archaeology investigations in Exeter. This has provided useful funding and will result in a valuable resource for any future research.
- 4.5 Work to support numerous developers with planning related matters has continued throughout the year, resulting in significant financial benefit.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Exeter Archaeology operates as a direct service organisation and is anticipating a turnover of just over £600,000 for 2010-11.
- 5.2 For Economy and Tourism projects the Archaeology in Exeter budget allocation for 2011-12 is £26,000. It is proposed that in 2011-12 this will include:
- production of a booklet on medieval Exeter for a public audience;
  - production of a booklet on the Exeter's medieval ecclesiastical establishments for a public audience;
  - completion of a publication presenting the results of the 1970s Exe Bridges excavations to a public and academic audience;

- final production of a publication of the Elizabethan inventories of Exeter for a public and academic audience;
- consideration of production of a booklet on Exeter churches for a public audience;
- consideration of production of a book of annotated illustrations of Exeter's historic building for a public, principally a school-age, audience;
- production of a publication describing the development and history of the Underground Passages for a public and academic audience;
- where possible, to open archaeological excavations to the public; and
- in collaboration with the Economy and Tourism Service, the identification of efficient ways in which to promote and advertise the results of this and previous year's work to a public audience - through use of dedicated website space and other means.

5.3 Costs of the above promotion are likely to be in the region of £4,000. Costs of the production of booklets can, at least in significant part, be offset through sales. It is possible that sales of the Elizabethan inventories and Underground Passages publications, which are likely to have and international appeal amongst both an academic and public audience, could recover costs. It is considered that both will raise the profile of the heritage of Exeter on a regional, national and even international stage.

5.4 Much of this work will be of benefit to the Tourism unit and individual interpretation projects that they are being developed.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDED**

6.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) note the sound progress being made to establish a financially viable archaeological contractor within a constrained economic environment; and
- 2) note the work that is being undertaken to present the work of Exeter Archaeology to a public and academic audience. In particular the publication of the Elizabethan Inventories and Underground Passages will raise the profile of the heritage of Exeter on a regional, national and potentially international stage.

**TIM GENT**  
**HEAD OF EXETER ARCHAEOLOGY**

## **ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

Background papers used in compiling this report:

*None*