

Rescue

The British Archaeological Trust

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Otherwise please leave a message on the
answerphone.

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Janet Owen
Chief Executive Director
Hampshire Cultural Trust,
Chilcomb House,
Chilcomb Lane,
Winchester,
SO23 8RB

18th January 2018

Dear Ms Owen

I write on behalf of Rescue, The British Archaeological Trust. Rescue is a non-party political charitable trust dedicated to supporting archaeology and the historic environment in Britain and abroad. As a charitable trust, RESCUE does not receive any state support, being entirely reliant on the contributions of subscribing members to support the organisation's work.

Rescue has been alerted by our members to current threats to jobs and potentially to the collections at Hampshire Cultural Trust. We are aware that Hampshire County Council transferred the assets and running of the Hampshire County and Winchester City museums to Hampshire Cultural Trust in 2014 and we are at a loss to understand why after such a short period these problems should have arisen. We would like to know what you think has gone wrong and what the Trust requires to operate successfully. Have commitments and agreements been honoured? Were the Trust members fully aware of the detailed situation before they were appointed? As former Head of the Museums Service we assume that you personally had a good grasp on what was required to operate effectively.

We would value your opinion on the situation and your views on what the Trust needs to ensure that sufficient specialist staff and the collections are secure for the future? We are also approaching Hampshire County Council for their views.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Jude Plouviez
Chair, Rescue

Charity Commission No. 1064836

It is Rescue policy to publish all correspondence on our website