

# Rescue

**The British Archaeological Trust**

**15a Bull Plain, Hertford  
Hertfordshire, SG14 1DX**

**Telephone: 01992 553377**

Office hours: Tuesday and Friday mornings.  
Otherwise please leave a message on the  
answerphone.

*office@rescue-archaeology.org.uk*

Karen Murray  
Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services  
The Castle  
Winchester  
SO23 8UJ

18<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
cc. Councillor Andrew Gibson  
John Coughlan

Dear Ms Murray

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 collections at Hampshire Cultural Trust. We are aware that Hampshire County Council only 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, especially as the CEO of the Trust was formerly head of the Museums Service.

We would like to know what safeguards the Council put in place, should the Trust prove not capable of running the service. What arrangements were made as to the ownership of and ultimate responsibility for the archaeological and museum collections?

In addition to these questions, we ask that you advise as to why this situation has arisen and what the Council plans to do to about it, so that we can inform our members.

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