



**RESCUE**  
The British Archaeological Trust  
[www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk)

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 12.00**

**At Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre, Wellingborough, NN29 7EZ**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 10 May 2025
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chair's report
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report, adoption of accounts and appointment of accounts examiner
7. Elections of Officers and members of Council
8. Any other business

**The formal AGM will be followed by lunch at 12.30, and an open meeting at 13.00 on the subject of "Archaeological Archives: Crises and Creativity", then a tour of the venue.**

The Archaeological Resource Centre is at Chester House Estate, Higham Road, Little Irchester, Wellingborough NN29 7EZ.

Car parking is available on site. The nearest rail station is Wellingborough and lifts from there can be booked by prior arrangement with us – contact [secretary@rescue-archaeology.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rescue-archaeology.org.uk)

## **RESCUE The British Archaeological Trust**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held at 12:00 on Saturday 10 May 2025, At Roman Circus House, Colchester, CO2 7GZ**

In the Chair: Jo Caruth

*Apologies for absence:* Tony Howe, Robin Densem, Diana Friendship-Taylor, Suzanne Keene, Nigel Slater, Louise Bacon, Giles Carey, Sue Mulligan

1. *Minutes of the previous AGM held on 11 May 2024 :* The minutes were passed as an accurate record *nem con* and signed by the Chair.
2. *Matters arising from the minutes.* There were no matters arising.
3. *Chair's report and the Secretary's report are attached below*
4. In addition, the Chair paid tribute to the outgoing Treasurer, Diana Friendship-Taylor, and the Secretary paid tribute to the outgoing Chair, Jo Caruth. Both were thanked for their service to Rescue.
5. *Treasurer's report:* The Chair gave the Treasurer's Report. The accounts are healthy. The Chair mentioned the legacy from John Wells and the £3000 grant to publish a hard copy of First Aid For Finds (possibly this year). There has been no increase in membership prices for some time, but there was no case for an increase. The number of members continues to reduce slightly each year.  
Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Valerie Carpenter and seconded by Jude Plouviez.  
Reappointment of the independent examiner Timothy Codd was proposed by Jo Caruth and seconded by Dan Phillips. Both motions were carried *nem con*.
6. *Elections of Officers and new members of Council:* Dan Phillips was nominated as Chair by Jo Caruth and seconded by Valerie Carpenter. Tony Howe was nominated as Vice Chair by Jude Plouviez and seconded by Hana Morel. Rebecca Hawkes-Reynolds was nominated as Treasurer by Jo Caruth and seconded by Dan Phillips. Valerie Carpenter was re-appointed as Secretary, nominated by Jo Caruth and seconded by Jude Plouviez.  
Jo Caruth was nominated as a Member of Council by Valerie Carpenter and seconded by Jude Plouviez.  
Diana Friendship-Taylor was nominated as a Member of Council by Valerie Carpenter and seconded by Jo Caruth. Suzanne Keene was nominated as a Member of Council by Valerie Carpenter and seconded by Jude Plouviez.  
All nominations were approved *nem con*.
7. *Any Other Business:* The new Chair Dan Phillips commented that the risks to archaeology were many and diverse, and Rescue still had an important role to play in combatting them.

The meeting closed at 12.15

### **CHAIR'S REPORT for 2024**

So as I stand here today to deliver my last report as Rescue Chair, it is a time for reflection. I was elected during Covid and through all my time as chair we have only met in person at the AGMs, all other meetings have remained on-line. This is significant change from pre-Covid when we used to travel to meet in London, so I'm really enjoying seeing people in person today, but there is no doubt that online saves money, time and releases less carbon dioxide!

Whilst the threats to archaeology bear no resemblance to those that Rescue was formed to resist, we cannot be complacent, and we cannot assume that Rescue is no longer needed. We can't predict when changes in government policy might deliberately or inadvertently be detrimental to the current system of heritage protection. And less systemic threats to individual sites constantly crop up and provide focus for Rescue's efforts. The continuing need for Rescue is recognised by our members and I know you recognise how hard

the volunteers on Council work. This was particularly noted by a stalwart supporter, Dr John Wells, a particle physicist at Oxford university and dedicated Rescue member. Sadly John passed away in 2021 but he left Rescue a substantial legacy and we have been spending some time considering how to best honour John's memory by doing something he would approve of. We are therefore today launching the Rescue John Wells Award for services to heritage protection. This will provide a small sum (up to £500) and a certificate to local groups or individuals who have made/are making a significant contribution to a local or national campaign. There will be no application process and no fixed schedules but the award will be made on the decision of Rescue Council. We hope that this will provide some additional funds and boost the morale of those 'on the front line' of local heritage protection. We will be putting all the details as well as a short piece about John on the website; if you know of local campaigners who should be considered for this award please do let us know.

Finally, no Chair can relinquish the position without thanking all the members of Council who have supported me and served Rescue so diligently, in particular Valerie, our Secretary who is so efficient and keeps everything moving (I will miss my 'action list'). Standing down with me is Diana as Treasurer. We are very lucky in that we have three excellent and hardworking people putting themselves forward to fill the vacancies, and I know that Rescue is in safe hands.

It is also a time of change in the Rescue Office, where our only employee, the membership secretary and office manager, Sue Mulligan, is retiring after many years service. It is impossible to overestimate how important and valued Sue has been, maintaining all the vital records, ensuring we are compliant with charity law, dealing with postal enquiries, sending out items purchased from the website and of course, administering the membership renewals. Thank you Sue for everything you have done. She will leave a void, but at the same time I am delighted to welcome Peri to the team. Rescue has a bright future and we can be confident that we will continue to campaign and respond to consultations where needed.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2024**

Following our 2024 AGM of course we had the general election. Rescue wrote to all parties setting out our key archaeological asks and prepared a briefing paper for members on archaeological issues. Following the election, we wrote to Lisa Nandy, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, setting out our view that archaeology should be able to sit alongside and compliment development, not be seen as a blocker to it. We received a response from Lisa Nandy rather than a junior Minister, which we felt was a positive sign.

While the new Government has been finding its feet, there have been many high level policy announcements, but relatively few consultations for us to engage with.

Last summer, we did respond to a Government consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy framework, which was a mix of very high level aims and policy objectives (eg targets for housebuilding) and some quite specific changes (often reversing changes recently made). Many of the questions were outside our remit, but we did flag the importance of local character and the fact that brownfield sites can have an archaeological heritage.

In early 2025, Rescue responded to another consultation on reforming Burial Law. This covered a number of topics, including how to make more intensive use of existing cemeteries, development in existing cemeteries and the reopening of closed cemeteries. Much of this did not warrant input from Rescue, but we did comment on the importance of distinguishing between the archaeological record and more recent burials.

Then in early 2025, we made a submission to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee enquiry into Protecting Built Heritage. The enquiry looked at funding models, practical and regulatory challenges and the importance of built heritage to economic regeneration and community identities. Our response highlighted the importance of built heritage to local character, a sense of place and regeneration; the fact that heritage buildings can be energy efficient; and the importance of VAT equalisation for historic building works.

We will continue to engage with as many consultations as we can. This is important not just for the points we make, but so that Rescue is seen as a regular and active stakeholder.

## RESCUE - the British Archaeological Trust

### Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ending 31 December 2025

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions	4024.63	4,228.38
Donations	268.60	214.00
Legacies	0.00	18,392.68
Gift Aid	650.00	676.50
Foundations for the Future sales	59.00	22.00
Manual of Archaeological Field Drawing sales	82.48	73.00
Other publications sales	26.00	6.00
Post & Packing	44.22	32.30
Publishers Licensing Society	170.76	161.34
Merchandise	10.00	0.00
C.O.I.F. interest	953.64	1,087.51
	<i>Sub total</i> 6,289.33	<i>Sub total</i> 24,893.71
Excess of Expenditure over Income	1,825.88	
	<b>Totals</b> 8,115.21	<b>Totals</b> 24,893.71
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Rescue News, eNews and Newsletters	89.25	91.80
Office & Council expenses	171.97	151.80
Postage	40.26	43.14
Telephone	979.86	787.32
Rent & Rates	2,000.00	1,858.50
Salary	3,076.02	1,332.45
Office service charges (electricity, water, cleaning)	480.17	199.57
Insurance	382.04	337.03
Subscriptions & Donations	357.00	342.00
Scanning of RN	0.00	2,160.00
Meetings incl AGM	538.64	255.00
	<i>Sub total</i> 8,115.21	<i>Sub total</i> 7558.61
Excess of Income over Expenditure		17,335.10
	<b>Totals</b> 8,115.21	<b>Totals</b> 24,893.71

## RESCUE - the British Archaeological Trust

Charity Commission No. 1064836

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>General Fund</b>		
As at 1.1.2025	46,118.60	28,783.50
Profit (Loss) for the year	-1,825.88	17,335.10
	<u>44,292.72</u>	<u>46,118.60</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Pre paid Insurance	0.00	351.28
FAFF Grant	-3,000.00	-3,000.00
Other Pre payments		
<b>Sundry Debtors</b>		
Payments outstanding	-80.76	-50.00
Taxation recoverable	1,300.00	650.00
<b>C.O.I.F Charities</b>	23,267.04	22,313.40
<b>Investment Fund</b>		
Cash at Bank	22,806.44	25,853.92
	<u>44,292.72</u>	<u>46,118.60</u>

Rebecca Reynolds  
Hon. Treasurer

#### *Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Rescue*

I have examined the accounts of RESCUE The British Archaeological Trust and can confirm that in my opinion they have been prepared in accordance with the Books and other supporting documentation supplied. They provide a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at 31 December 2025

Timothy Codd  
April 2026



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## Archaeology Archives: Crises and Creativity

The generation of physical archives and what to do with them has been the focus of much debate ever since, and indeed before, the advent of commercial archaeology. Local museums have generally felt obliged to store this material; however, for some time now the sector has been warning that museums are running out space, with seemingly little action apart from some local solutions such as the LAARC in London in the 1990s. Various solutions have been proposed: finding bigger spaces such as Deep Store in the Cheshire salt mines, or triaging what is stored, or creating regional or national repositories. All of these come with their own challenges. We hope to explore some of the issues in depth and assess whether our current policy needs modification.

Speakers include Claire Tsang (Historic England), Ben Donnelly-Symes (Northants ARC), Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews (North Hertfordshire Museum Service), Theodora Anastasiadou (ClfA Archaeological Archives Group).

**Saturday 9th May from 12 noon until 4:00pm**

**Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre, Wellingborough, NN29 7EZ**

12.00 Rescue AGM

12.30 Sandwich lunch

13.00 Archaeology Archives: Crises and Creativity: Talks and discussion, followed by a tour of the ARC

16.00 Close

**All Welcome!**

Please book for this free day on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rescue-agm-archaeology-archives-crises-and-creativity-tickets-1986416995707?aff=oddtcreator> to help us manage lunch numbers.

Contact: [secretary@rescue-archaeology.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rescue-archaeology.org.uk)