



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Michael Ellis MP
Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism
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Duncan Wilson
Chief Executive
Historic England
Cannon Bridge House
25 Dowgate Hill
London EC4R 2YA

3rd · TO2018/06594/DC
May 2018

Dear Duncan,

Thank you for the report and recommendations on the future of archaeological archives, in fulfillment of recommendation 27 of the Mendoza Review. I am grateful for the work and thinking that has gone into this report, and in particular your collaboration with relevant organisations in order to produce a set of recommendations with wide endorsement.

I am pleased to accept all of the recommendations. DCMS will:

- Include Historic England in the development of the Mendoza Review Action Plan, ensuring that the issues and proposed solutions are reflected as appropriate (recommendation 1)
- Welcome the guidance you are working on with Arts Council England on charging for the deposition and curation of archaeological archives, and use our available channels to recommend and encourage museums to charge in accordance with it and re-invest the income into this activity (recommendation 3)
- Welcome and endorse the action plan you have set out for the archaeology sector to tackle what issues it can (recommendation 4)
- Endorse Historic England and Arts Council England signing a Memorandum of Understanding setting out how you will work together to tackle these issues and work together on archives and other areas of mutual interest (recommendation 4)
- Request that the Law Commission project on museum collections, as and when it is begun, consider transfer of title from excavations (recommendation 4)
- Agree and welcome guidance to museums that they should deposit digital archive material in a Trusted Digital Repository (recommendation 6)

I have also written to Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, to formally commission the feasibility study into strategic capacity (recommendation 2), to ask him to engage alongside you with the Memorandum of Understanding, and to advise that DCMS has agreed the recommendations.

I look forward to seeing the next stages of this work and request that Historic England stay in touch with the Museums team officials working on implementing the Mendoza Review (lisa.ollerhead@culture.gov.uk). I am happy to welcome the report publicly and ask that your Comms team work with DCMS colleagues to plan your publication.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ellis', written in a cursive style.

Michael Ellis MP
Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism