



Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers
40 Queens Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 3EP
T: 01284 767681
M: 07715 050318

E: info@famearchaeology.co.uk
W: www.famearchaeology.co.uk

Budget Consultation
Middlesbrough Council
Civic Centre
PO Box 506
Middlesbrough TS1 9GA

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Dear Sirs

Tees Archaeology

The Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME) was concerned to read that Middlesbrough Council is considering withdrawing its financial support for Tees Archaeology.

FAME represents around 50 archaeological businesses providing advice and specialist services to commercial clients and developers throughout the UK, and its members have been actively engaged in archaeological excavation, recording and publication in Teesside for many years.

This work has almost entirely been facilitated through the advice and expertise of Tees Archaeology, which both informs decision-making and promotes sustainable growth that respects and reflects the heritage of the area.

Tees Archaeology enables the four Teesside authorities to discharge their obligations, under Planning Policy Statement 5: *Planning for the Historic Environment* and the draft National Planning Policy Framework, to promote sustainable development and to maintain or have access to a Historic Environment Record. It also enables them to implement the policies set out in their own local development frameworks and emerging neighbourhood development plans.

Any reduction in the service would have serious consequences for the archaeology of Teesside, those businesses who record and interpret it and those local residents and communities who benefit from it. It would also have consequences for our clients in both the public and private sector, who depend upon timely and expert advice to provide greater certainty before planning applications are determined, and to reduce the risk to them of costly delays and disruption once planning consent has been granted and development is underway.

Whilst we fully understand the budgetary pressures facing local government today, the shared service is the most cost-effective and efficient way of providing strategic

archaeological advice to the four Teesside authorities – more so than other mechanisms, such as recharging or service level agreements, which are less resilient and more costly to administer. Following recent budgetary reductions Tees Archaeology service is reaching a critical level, and experience shows that it is more costly and difficult to reinstate such a service once it has fallen below this level than it is to maintain it.

We therefore urge you to continue your valued support for this highly-respected service.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Tindall MA FSA MI^fA
Chief Executive, Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers