

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND  
TRANSPORT**

**25 March 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**REQUESTS FOR GRANT AID FROM ARTEAMUS AND REPTON  
VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to award grants to 1) the ARTEAMUS group to obtain a specialist report on pottery from its current excavation project at Broadgates Farm, Alport and to commission a geophysical survey, and 2) the Repton Village History Group to allow it to undertake an archaeological project in Repton.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The ARTEAMUS group was founded over a decade ago by a number of Derbyshire residents who had completed the Certificate in Archaeology at the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Sheffield. Since then, ARTEAMUS has worked extensively in the County, particularly on projects with staff at the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and has run its own excavation projects. Since 2006, it has been excavating a complex set of structures at Broadgates Farm which seem to have origins in the medieval period. Pottery is an essential dating tool on archaeological sites and to better understand the site and the chronology of the structures an expert analysis of the considerable amount of pottery fragments, which have been found, was needed. Derbyshire County Council awarded ARTEAMUS a grant of £2,000 in 2013 to commission a report on the pottery it had found to date. Since then the excavations have revealed the remains of a further stone building which appears to be medieval in date and has produced further pottery and some glass.

There have not been many medieval rural sites excavated in Derbyshire so any new site will help better understand the period generally and will enhance the Historic Environment Record (HER). Pottery is a vital dating tool in archaeology, as well as providing evidence of trade connections as analysis of pottery can determine whether it was produced locally or imported from elsewhere in the region or indeed the country. There are not many well studied collections of pottery for medieval sites in Derbyshire so the analysis of the pottery from a well excavated site like Broadgates can have a much

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wider significance. If medieval in date, then the finds of glass would also be of considerable significance as glass was very rare in medieval buildings.

The site is also unusual in not being well documented so the archaeological evidence is vital to understand the function of the site.

The group is seeking a further grant of £3,000 to commission further analysis of the pottery and the glass and to undertake a geophysical survey to try to establish the full extent of the site. Reports on the work will continue to be deposited with the County HER.

The Repton Village History Group is a well-established group which has undertaken historical research in the village over a number of years. Despite the importance of Repton in the Anglo-Saxon period, as demonstrated by excavations around the parish church in the 1970s and 1980s, there has been little archaeological survey or excavation in the rest of the village. The Group is seeking a grant of £2,000 to allow them to commission Trent and Peak Archaeology to undertake a geophysical survey on the site of the medieval tithe barn and to provide training to members of the group and help them undertake some archaeological test pits on the site. Any further work in Repton will certainly enhance the HER and lead to a better understanding of the development of the village. Currently, the historic interest is focussed mostly on Repton School, the church and the Viking story, but it was a major Mercian royal site prior to this. A better understanding will help tell the wider story of Repton and enhance the significance of the village and its place in the Trent Valley landscape. This particular grant will help encourage local community interest and provide training in basic research techniques. The aim of the group is to seek Heritage Lottery funding for a more wide ranging community project in the village looking at and documenting all periods of the village's history which should help in promoting the village to visitors.

Any results and reports of the work will be deposited with the County HER.

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are sufficient funds in the Archaeology Budget to cover the cost of the grants.

(4) **Environmental and Health Considerations** As contained in the report.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, property and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

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(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Relevant papers are held on file. Officer contact details - Dave Barrett, extension 39774.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

8.1 A grant of £3,000 be made to ARTEAMUS for specialist analysis and geophysical survey at Broadgates.

8.2 A grant of £2,000 be made to the Repton Village History Group to commission Trent and Peak Archaeology to provide training and undertake a geophysical survey and test pit survey.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**