



# THE UPPER NENE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## The Constitution

1. *The Society* shall be known as the “Upper Nene Archaeological Society”.
2. *The objects of the Society* shall be the discovery, identification, investigation and recording of archaeological sites, and the preservation, where practicable, of items of archaeological or historical interest, and to promote the study of archaeology by any other means.
3. *The Society may acquire land* for the purpose of furthering its objects and such land shall be invested in Trustees not less than two or more than five in number. Such Trustees shall be appointed and, if necessary, discharged by resolution passed as an Annual General meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.
4. *The Society shall maintain the former Wesleyan Chapel, Chapel End, Piddington, as a Museum and study centre* for the display, storage and study of items of archaeological and historical interest in its possession and shall maintain, preserve and enhance the same for the education and enjoyment of the public.
5. *Membership* shall be open to persons making formal application, accompanied by the appropriate initial subscription and subject to approval by the General Purposes Committee and acceptance of the Rules of the Society as appended to this Constitution.
6. *The Office Bearers shall be:*

President	)	
Vice-Presidents	)	Honorary positions and therefore not elected
Chairman	)	
Vice-Chairman	)	
Honorary Secretary	)	Who shall retain office until the Annual General Meeting, when all shall be eligible for re-
Honorary Treasurer	)	election
7. *Classes of Membership and voting rights.*

There shall be four classes of member.

  - a) Junior Member, being a person under 16 years or under, who shall have no right of vote.
  - b) Student member, being a person 17 or over and undergoing full-time education, who shall have one vote to be exercised in person.
  - c) Full member, being a person aged 16 or over and not being a Student Member, who shall have one vote to be exercised in person.
  - d) Family member, being a group of persons within one family. Such a group shall contain no more than two persons over the of 18 years and not undergoing full-time education and each such person shall have one vote to be exercised personally on behalf of the group.
8. *Meetings*

There shall be three categories of meetings.

  - a) Lecture Meetings, which shall be held, without formal notice, at such times as shall from time to time be announced and at which no business shall be discussed.
  - b) General Meeting, which shall be called by seven clear days notice in writing. The Annual General Meeting shall be held as near as possible to the 29th September (Michaelmas Day) in each year.
  - c) Extraordinary General Meeting, which shall be called by fourteen clear days notice in writing, specifying the business to be discussed. At General and Extraordinary General Meetings, thirteen members entitled to vote shall be a quorum.
9. *The Annual General Meeting* shall elect a General Purposes Committee of not more than 15 members, including *ex officio*: the Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. Any 5 members shall form a quorum at meetings of such Committee.
10. *The General Purposes Committee, comprising the Trustees of the Society, shall be empowered to:*
  - a) Conduct day to day affairs and order the general running of the Society.
  - b) Appoint sub-Committees for specific purposes. Sub-Committees shall report back to the Committee on actions taken under delegated powers.

c) Confer, for services to the Society, the honours of:

- 1) Vice-President
- 2) Honorary Member

d) Co-opt any person(s) to assist in its activities, who, if not members of the Society, shall not have voting rights. Committee and Sub-Committee meetings shall be held at the Chairman's discretion.

11. *Voting* at General, Extraordinary General and Committee Meetings shall be by simple majority and the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
12. *Subscriptions* shall be payable annually, of such amounts as may be decided at an Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions shall fall due on the date of the Annual General Meeting, and if not paid within 3 months thereof, communications may be withheld. If subscriptions are not paid within 15 months, any persons in arrears will be assumed to have resigned membership.
13. *The Constitution shall be amended* only at an Extraordinary General Meeting. No amendment or addition shall be made to the objects, this clause or the dissolution clause.
14. *Upon dissolution of the Society* all assets remaining after the payment of outstanding debts and liabilities (if any) shall not be divided amongst the members, but shall be passed to one or more charitable organisations having similar objects to the Society.

Revised September	1977
Amended February	1981
Revised April	1983
Amended April	1993 (addition of clause 3)
Amended February	1997 (addition of clause 4)
Revised and amended November	2004 (changes to clauses 4,8,9,10,14)

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## The Rules

1. Members shall assist the Society to achieve its aims, and shall not exploit their membership for gain or as a cover for other pursuits, such as treasure hunting.
2. A member is expected to report to the Chairman or to the Honorary Secretary on any activities in his/her locality, by which remains of archaeological or historical interest are likely to be disturbed or endangered.
3. Members must gain permission from farmers, landowners or other persons concerned, before entering fields or other properties in the name of the Society.
4. Finds should be reported to the Chairman or the Honorary Secretary.
5. No member shall engage in the name of the Society in any excavation, other than a preliminary or emergency excavation, without the prior sanction of the General Purposes Committee or a sub Committee appointed for the purpose.
6. Any authorised excavation and subsequent publication shall be in charge of a Director, appointed by the General Purposes Committee, or authorised Sub-Committee. Such Director shall select his own assistants and helpers who shall carry out his/her instructions. All finds removed shall be delivered to the Director, who will be responsible for their safe keeping pending final transfer to the appropriate museum.
7. a) *Treasure Trove* - any items of gold or silver and all associated material should be reported to the Chairman or Honorary Secretary, or any General Purposes Committee member, who will then inform the necessary authorities.  
b) *Human remains* - procedure should be followed as for Treasure Trove.

*The reasons for the above procedure are: to avoid valuable archaeological evidence being destroyed by people without archaeological knowledge, and to comply with the law.*

8. Any member who disobeys these rules, or acts in a manner liable to bring the Society into disrepute, may, on being reported to the General Purposes Committee, be reprimanded or, in extreme cases, be expelled from the Society, or prevented from renewing membership.

Correct at July 2001  
Revised November 2004