

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire County Wide Archaeological Advisory Committee

Date: 16th October 2002

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A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Committee of current archaeological matters in Milton Keynes.

B. FIELDWORK PROJECTS

2. Attached is a list of fieldwork projects (Events) that have been undertaken in the Milton Keynes area between January and June 2002.
3. The site of the demolished 17th century house in Oakhill Road was evaluated but revealed only fragmentary details of the former building on the site due to ground disturbance. It confirmed that the building was originally larger and suggests a late medieval date for the first phase.
4. Some consolidation works to Stanton Low Church have been undertaken by Milton Keynes Council's Landscape Section and it is proposed to undertake more works within this financial year. Works to the enclosing churchyard wall will be the next phase of consolidation works and the timing of this will be subject to the necessary budget being available. Any significant moulded stonework will be deposited in the archaeological store.
5. The Knowlhill Saxon finds have resulted in English Partnerships arranging for the adjacent development sites to be evaluated at their cost. No features were found.
6. Proposals to develop the Post Office Training and Conference Centre at Wolverton Mill for housing will affect the known Saxon/ Early Medieval site. The site was evaluated using both a geophysical survey and trial trenching and resulted in identifying another section of the enclosure ditch, a second sunken featured building, a section of trackway, gullies and pieces of quern from the early medieval period. Also discovered was a significant area of deep quarrying, probably from the Roman period. The Post Office has now sold the site and the prospective developer is being encouraged to use the evaluation results to develop a mitigation strategy.

7. English Partnerships are continuing to fund and organise evaluation works at Monkston Park using Northamptonshire Archaeology. No Bronze Age activity has been discovered but there is some Iron Age activity pre-dating the four main areas of Roman archaeology. The Roman activity comprises a complex of small ditches, a northern enclosure of 1st-4th centuries AD, a sub-square enclosure of the 2nd – 4th centuries and a trackway. No major buildings have been discovered. In the next phase the two enclosures are due to be excavated. English Partnerships has offered to fund the major part of the cost of making replicas of the torcs found at Monkston Park. The organisation is also undertaking large scale evaluation works at Oxley Park.
8. The evaluation of the co-operative store site at 77 High Street, Newport Pagnell showed the site had a very shallow stratigraphy but did reveal evidence for a least two burgage plots within the site plus evidence for medieval pits, stone footings and post holes. The pile construction of the new building did not significantly affect the archaeology of the site and no further archaeological works were required. No dateable Saxon features were encountered.

C. PLANNING

9. Between 1st January and 30th June 2002 there have been 128 consultations in respect of archaeology as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, schemes by English Partnerships, the Forestry Commission, Anglian Water, Eastern Electricity and FRCA.

D. SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

10. The Sites & Monuments Record was visited by researchers 13 times between January and June
11. 4 Licences have been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Sites & Monuments Record
12. 74 Records have been added to the Sites & Monuments Database

E. PROPOSED ACTION

13. The Committee is asked to note this report.