

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 26 March 2003

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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 July and December 2003.
3. Conversion and building works to the farm buildings at Hill Farm Haversham has revealed two small wings of a known Roman building and yard surface. The walls retained several courses of stonework. Further building works may recover more of the building's plan.
4. Roman features and finds were noted by a metal detectorist during site stripping in Tattenhoe and reported to the Archaeological Officer. This was an area that had received 7(1) from MK Development Corporation some years ago. The site was being developed by Midsummer Housing Association who agreed to, and paid for, a two day emergency excavation by Archaeological Services & Consultancy. Ditches and other features were recorded.
5. The large excavation at Monkston Park funded by English Partnerships has revealed a phased development of enclosures from the 1st to the 4th centuries. Included within the area was industrial activity and cremations. Amongst the grave goods was a very unusual pottery flagon that had been cut into two around the girth and had applied bronze decoration. Work has been seriously delayed by the weather and English Partnerships have agreed to time extensions. Work should finish at the end of March.

C. PLANNING

6. Between 1st July and 31st December 2002 there were 146 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

7. The Sites & Monuments Record was visited by researchers 23 times between July and December
8. 3 Licences have been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Sites & Monuments Record .
9. An archaeological section is due to be included in the Milton Keynes Council website during April. It comprises a general overview of development from the prehistoric period through to the nineteenth century, a time line (chronology) and a searchable database of some of the excavations, evaluations, watching briefs and building recording undertaken in Milton Keynes from 1880 onwards. About a quarter of the 600+ known archaeological events have so far been included and others will be added when time allows. It is not intended that archaeologically sensitive events will be included. Events will be included in the database a minimum of 1 to 2 years after the work has been completed. It is anticipated that this will be of use to local schools, local history researchers, archaeological researchers and developers wanting to know the work archaeological contractors have undertaken in the area.

E. PROPOSED ACTION

10. The Committee is asked to note this report.