

## **AGENDA ITEM 7**

### **Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum – 26.3.2003**

#### **County Museum Report**

Both of the projects that were mentioned as upcoming in the museum report at the last meeting of the forum are now underway.

The “Virtual Egyptologist” project, to catalogue and interpret the museum’s collection of Egyptian artefacts is now nearing the end of its phase in Bucks. Dr Margaret Serpico, from the Petrie Museum in London will be finishing her work with us during March and moving on to the next of the four partner museums at Bexhill. All of the museum’s Egyptian objects now have digital images and detailed descriptions, and once the project has been completed at all four museums, the information will be available on the internet as a searchable database, usable both for academic research, and by school children, as the Egyptians are a popular school history topic.

The other project mentioned in the last report was the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which is intended to increase the level of reporting of archaeological finds. In the areas of the country where it has been piloted, there has been a significant increase in reporting, especially from metal detectorists, who form one of the primary target groups for the scheme. A Finds Liaison Officer has been appointed to cover Bucks and Milton Keynes. She will be based in the museum, but working closely with both of the SMR’s, and she will be starting work the first week in April.

There have been 28 notifications of intention to deposit site archives at the museum since the last meeting of the forum in October 2002. This is considerably less than over the previous six months, but is comparable to the same period last year, when there were 34 notifications.