

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 24th September 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 21 fieldwork projects (Events) that have been undertaken in the Milton Keynes area between July and December 2003. Those events marked with an asterisk have reports filed in the Sites & Monuments Record.
3. The evaluation of land at the rear of 8 St John's Street prior to the construction of a new restaurant found that the area had been extensively used for cess pits and rubbish pits during the medieval and later periods. Although there was evidence for a significant 13th century building in the vicinity of the site there were no significant stratified deposits surviving which would have assisted in understanding the development of the centre of the town.
4. At the request of the Archaeological Officer, English Heritage undertook a geophysical survey of Sherwood Drive playing field that was being considered as the possible location for a cemetery. A parch mark had suggested that there may have been a Roman villa at the southern end but the geophysics survey failed to confirm this. The survey has, however, indicated an area of the field that may have limited archaeological features. An evaluation of this area will take place if the Council decides to proceed with the cemetery proposal.
5. The excavation of the Tannery Site at Olney has produced significant features of the middle and late Saxon / Norman periods which are aligned on a footpath crossing the site which must have been a former roadway leading towards Weston Underwood. A small rectangular building with earth-fast posts was excavated together with a series of enclosures. The work is indicating that the Saxon settlement was situated adjacent to the river crossing and not at the north end of the town, which has long been the traditional view. The archaeological Contractor will be providing an additional report on the site for the general public which will be forwarded to local schools, amenity societies etc.
6. An evaluation of Kingsmead South on behalf of English Partnerships has revealed a previously unknown small Iron-Age settlement.
7. At Wolverton there has been a community excavation of two of the early semi-detached railway houses organised through Phoenix Construction and Wolverton Town Council. This has allowed local school children to obtain hands-on experience of excavation and handling finds without affecting a sensitive site. The ongoing work is adding new information on Wolverton housing in the early 19th century.

C. PLANNING

8. Between 1st January and 30th June 2003 there were 207 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 DEFRA. This is a 60% increase on the number of consultations for the same period in 2002.

D. SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

9. The Sites & Monuments Record was visited by researchers 4 times between January & June.
10. 10 Licences have been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Sites & Monuments Record.
11. The Milton Keynes Archaeology website is now available on www.mkweb.co.uk/archaeology . Further development of the website has been difficult because of the increase in consultations. It is hoped that the website will be extended with the help of Milton Keynes Heritage Association.

E. PROPOSED ACTION

12. The Committee is asked to note this report.

SITE:	LOCATION:	EVENT:	ORGANISATION:	START:	PUBLICATION:	DESCRIPTION:
7 Crow Lane, Wavendon	Wavendon	Watching Brief *	Albion Archaeology	2003/01/20	note	The construction of a 20th century bungalow, driveway and garage on the site had removed any archaeological levels
47 High Street, Sherington	Sherington	Watching Brief *	Albion Archaeology	2003/07/	note	A new extension to the stone 17th century cottage revealed an earlier bay that was replaced by a brick built 19th century extension. The work also revealed an early timber-framed partition and a stone lined well.
Newport Pagnell Street improvements Phase B	Newport Pagnell	Watching brief	Archaeologica	2003/03		
8 St John's Street & 1 Silver Street, Newport Pagnell	Newport Pagnell	Evaluation *	Archaeologica	2003/05/19	note	Evaluation of the rear yard revealed cess pits and rubbish pits of the 13th-15th centuries together with post medieval stone-lined drains and a wall of an 18th century barn or outbuilding. Brill roof-tiles and Surrey pottery fragments were found suggesting that a high status 13th century house stood in the near vicinity.
17 Folly Lane, North Crawley	North Crawley	Watching brief*	Archaeologica	2003/04/11	note	Watching brief of a house extension revealed two large pits of the late 19th century or early 20th century
25 Northampton Road, Lavendon	Lavendon	Watching brief*	Archaeological Services & Consultancy	2003/04/14	note	No archaeological remains found when foundations of the new house were dug.
Manor Farm Barns, Newton Blossomville	Newton Blossomville	Evaluation*	Archaeological Services &	2003/03/	note	The evaluation of the Rick Yard by trial trenching did not reveal any significant

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			Consultancy			archaeology.
Manor Farm, Wolverton	Wolverton	Watching brief*	Archaeological Services and Consultancy	2003/04/29	note	Watching brief of service trenches through the Schedule Ancient Monument encountered two north-south ditches at the entrance of the farm complex. No dating evidence found.
Bradwell Abbey Gas Meter Cupboard	Bradwell Abbey	Watching brief*	Archaeological Services and Consultancy	2003/02/10	note	Installation of a new gas meter within the Scheduled Ancient Monument required a watching brief. No archaeological features encountered.
Sherwood Drive Playing Field, Bletchley	Bletchley	Geophysics survey *	Bartlett-Clark Consultancy	2003/03/25	note	Groups of magnetic and resistivity anomalies found together with several NW-SE linear features. Nothing to indicate presence of a Roman Villa.
Gordon's Lodge Telecommunications Tower, Hanslope	Hanslope	Watching Brief	County Archaeological services	2003/04/23		
The Bury, Turvey Road, Astwood	Astwood	Building Recording *	Northamptonshire Archaeology	2003/04	note	Much altered range of part timber-framed, part stone, cottages that originated as a seventeenth century timber-framed two storey lobby-entry building.
Cowper Tannery Site, Olney	Olney	Excavation	Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit	2003/05/06	article	Boundary ditches, well and small earth-fast post building of the late Saxon period together with some early Saxon features. Post medieval industrial activity and a crushed Morris Minor car buried in a pit.
95 High Street, Stony	Stony	Building	Phoenix Consulting	2003/01		Survey of part of a 15th century and later

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Stratford	Stratford	recording *				timber-framed Inn with carriage entrance.
Tyringham Hall Swimming Pool	Tyringham	Watching brief*	Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd	2003/02/10	note	Archaeologist not requested to visit site until pool excavation works completed. Sides of pool excavation revealed no archaeological features apart from past levelling and landscaping
Bunding, Broughton Barn	Broughton	Watching brief	Richard Ivens	2003/05/06		
The Wheatsheaf	Ravenstone	Watching brief*	Richard Ivens	2003/02/18	note	Extension on the site of a car park. Levelling for the car-park had removed any archaeological deposits
12 High Street	Hanslope	Watching brief	Richard Ivens	2003		
Kingsmead South, Tattenhoe	Tattenhoe	Evaluation*	Thames Valley Archaeological Services	2003/04/16	article after excavation	Pits, gullies and ditches found of two small Iron-age occupation sites. Two heavily abraded sherds of early Roman pottery found, including one piece of lead glazed sandy ware.
4 Vicarage Road, Old Bradwell	Old Bradwell	Watching brief*	Archaeological Services and Consultancy	2003/04/11	note	A watching brief during the extension of this 18th century building did not encounter archaeological features or finds. The excavator suggests that this might give weight to the theory that the central part of Bradwell was originally a green that was later infilled.
The Secret Garden, Wolverton	Wolverton	Training excavation	Wolverton Town Council / Phoenix Consulting	2003/06	note	Basement and foundations of an early 19th century pair of semi-detached houses.

