

AGENDA ITEM: 9

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 17 March 2004

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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. The most significant fieldwork project has been the evaluation of a proposed housing and school site south of Broughton. Aerial photography had revealed a possible ring-ditch but evaluation trenching did not reveal this. Instead there was a considerable spread of Roman ditches, gulleys and pits which pointed to a Roman building on the site of the proposed new school. An evaluation of this site proved largely negative. The building may lie further to the east.
4. Soil stripping in advance of the construction of a new garden centre car park revealed a previously unknown Roman cemetery to the north of Magiovinium. The area is to be raised in level and Oxford Archaeology has provided the owner with advice on preserving the archaeology in situ. There has been some loss due to the activities of 'nighthawk' unauthorised metal detectorists.

C. PLANNING

5. Between 1st July and 31st December 2003 there were 250 consultations in respect of archaeology [146 in 2002] as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, schemes by English Partnerships, the Forestry Commission, Anglian Water, Eastern Electricity and FRCA.
6. Michael Ryan, the Chief Conservation Officer, will be taking early retirement on the 31st March. The Design & Conservation Section will be transferred into the Specialist Planning Services Section of Development Control under Ian Prosser.

D. SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

7. The Sites & Monuments Record was visited by researchers 6 times between July and December [*28 in 2002*]
8. 6 Licences have been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Sites & Monuments Record [*3 in 2002*].
9. The Milton Keynes Conservation & Archaeology website had 4069 hits between July and December

E. PROPOSED ACTION

10. The Committee is asked to note this report.