

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES**

**To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum**

**Date: March 2005**

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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 30 fieldwork projects (Events) that have been undertaken in the Milton Keynes area between July and December 2004 [22 events in 2004]
3. The increase in the number of archaeological events reflects the proposed growth of Milton Keynes. The evaluation at Tattenhoe Park and excavations at Oxley Park West and Kingsmead South, Tattenhoe. All three sites have produced Iron-Age occupation. Tattenhoe Park and Kingsmead South are within 200m of each other and may indicate a slight shift of occupation. The common link between the sites is the North Bucks Way which may indicate that this is of pre-historic origins.
- 4.

**C. PLANNING**

5. Between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004 there were 162 consultations in respect of archaeology [250 *in 2003*] as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, schemes by English Partnerships, the Forestry Commission, Anglian Water, Eastern Electricity and FRCA.
6. Tracey Coleman is now in post as the Principal Planner, Design & Conservation. Julia Smith, a conservation officer, left the conservation team in January 2005 and will be replaced by Martin Lightfoot on the 11<sup>th</sup> April. The time taken to replace staff has placed the Design & Conservation Section under considerable pressure during a period of increasing workload due in part to ODPM funded regeneration projects at Wolverton and Bletchley Park.
7. An Application has been submitted to English Heritage for the grant aiding of an additional archaeological post.
8. English heritage has made minor adjustments to the boundaries of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments at St Martin's Chapel, Ekeney and the deserted medieval settlement at Filgrave.

D. SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

9. The Sites & Monuments Record was visited by researchers 10 times between July and December [*28 in 2002*]
10. 7 Licences have been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Sites & Monuments Record [*3 in 2002*].

E. PROPOSED ACTION

11. The Committee is asked to note this report.