

Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum – 30 March 2005

County Museum Report

Since the last meeting of the forum, the intention to deposit 56 site archives has been notified to the museum, by archaeological contracting units.

The archive of the extensive excavations at Eton Rowing Lake is being deposited in phases at the museum. We hope to have all of it within the next 6 months. Eton College is in the process of setting up a small heritage centre, at the rowing lake site, and some of the material will be loaned back to them for the displays there. It is envisaged that the centre will be used by both members of the public, and school parties. They are also considering reconstructing a Bronze Age bridge, and a Roman barn, on the site, based on the evidence for structures that stood there in the past.

We can also report that the Finds Liaison Officer, Ros Tyrrell, has identified and recorded 958 finds onto the national Portable Antiquities Scheme database, since she started in April 2003, 440 of which were recorded in the last 6 months, so the number being reported to her is on the increase. The records, along with their images, are viewable online at www.finds.org.uk

Amongst these recent reports, are four pieces of potential treasure, which the museum is hoping to acquire; a 14th century silver quatrefoil brooch, from Slapton; a 13th century gold finger ring from Wendover, set with a purple stone; 33 copper alloy Roman coins from West Wycombe, and a Saxon gold bracteate pendant. This is the first object of this type found in Bucks, and is in fact the most westerly of these pendants known, from throughout Europe. The design on the pendant is also very unusual, showing two entwined beasts, whereas the more common design shows a beast and a human head.

Ros continues to visit metal detecting clubs, and attend weekend rallies, on a regular basis, where she gets most of her reports of objects. She has also given five talks to local history societies, about the work of the PAS, and has held three public finds ID days.