

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES**

**To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum**

**Date: September 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 fieldwork projects (Events) that have been undertaken in the Milton Keynes area between January and June 2005
3. Access to the Iron Age site at Oxley Park West being exceedingly difficult and necessitated the closure of the excavation during the winter period.

**C. PLANNING**

4. Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 there were 184 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 FRCA.
5. The archaeological Officer required 4 weeks sick leave in March –April. In order to maintain adequate planning advice cover the Council employed a local archaeologist during the 4<sup>th</sup> week.
6. Martin Ellison has joined the Design & Conservation team to bring the total number of Conservation Officers up to 3 full time officers. Martin will be undertaking some of the revision of Conservation Area character statements. The regeneration projects at Bletchley Park and Wolverton continue to require a large amount of Conservation input.

7.

**D. SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD**

8. The Sites & Monuments Record was visited by researchers 3 times between January and June
9. 4 Licences have been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Sites & Monuments Record
10. English Heritage has agreed to fund a new archaeological post for three years in order that the Sites & Monuments Record can be updated to meet the requirements of an Historic Environment Record.

E. PROPOSED ACTION

11. The Committee is asked to note this report.