

Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum – 29 March 2006

County Museum Report

Since the last meeting of the forum, the intention to deposit 35 site archives has been notified to the museum, by archaeological contracting units.

The archive of the extensive excavations at Eton Rowing Lake is still being deposited in phases at the museum.

We can also report that the Finds Liaison Officer, Ros Tyrrell, is continuing her work recording and identifying finds from Bucks and Milton Keynes. The records, along with their images, are viewable online at www.finds.org.uk. 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 also facilitates the reporting of treasure items, and the number of these coming into the museum is on the increase.

We have acquired several treasure items that were reported, via Ros, including a medieval gold ring from Wendover, a medieval silver brooch from Slapton, a fragment of a silver Saxon keystone brooch from Edlesborough, and a Bronze Age founders hoard from north Bucks, which was sold on Ebay, and then donated, by the purchaser (in the Netherlands), back to the British Museum, who passed it on to us. Whilst this was undoubtedly an illegal sale, the finders have left the country, and are now untraceable, and we can at least be grateful that the purchaser acted so responsibly, and donated the find back to a museum.

Also purchased from a detectorist, and reported via PAS, although not treasure, is a beautiful bronze Roman folding knife handle, in the form of a panther.

The museum also wishes to report some very exciting news, regarding the publication of a major backlog site. The important excavations carried out in the 1980s at Prebendal, in Aylesbury have moved closer to getting published. Mike Farley, who originally directed the excavation, has generously agreed to donate his time to finish the report, and the museum is providing the funds to carry out the specialist osteology reports that are needed for him to complete the write up of the excavation. Once the work is finished, it is hoped that the site will be published in Records of Buckinghamshire.