

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES**

**To:** Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

**Date:** September 2006

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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 2006
3. Highlights include three excavations:
  - i The first at Calverton/Passenham is in advance of sand and gravel extraction and so far has revealed the intact circuits of two ring ditches and one double ring ditch in addition to an early Iron Age pit alignment.
  - ii Another excavation adjacent to the M1 motorway at Willen Road, Newport Pagnell has also revealed a substantial ring ditch in addition to a Roman cremation cemetery and associated settlement.
  - iii Finally, excavation in advance of the Northern Expansion housing development revealed two substantial Romano-British stock enclosures and associated features including an inhumation, possible well and traces of earlier Iron Age occupation.

**C. PLANNING**

4. Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 there were 129 consultations in respect of archaeology as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, schemes by English Partnerships, DEFRA, Anglian Water, and Eastern Electricity.
5. Tracey Coleman, the lead officer in the Design & Conservation Section left on the 19<sup>th</sup> May to start a post with another authority. Her replacement, Simon Peart is due to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The 6-month delay has put considerable pressure on the conservation staff and has resulted in Conservation Area Reviews planned for 2006 being

postponed. The proposal for a Conservation Area at Little Brickhill has continued. A consultant has been employed to deal with the major schemes at Bletchley Park and the development on part of the Railway works at Wolverton. Part-time assistance has been obtained to assist the two conservation officers with casework.

**D. SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD**

6. The Sites & Monuments Record was visited by researchers 16 times between January and June
7. 1 Licence has been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Sites & Monuments Record
8. The Senior Archaeological Officer is undertaking an SMR audit.
9. SMR material has been provided to those persons undertaking Buckinghamshire Research Strategy assessment documents. The senior archaeologist has prepared assessment documents for the 'built environment', 'ceremony, ritual and religion' plus 'material culture' for the post-medieval and modern periods.

**E. PROPOSED ACTION**

10. **The Committee is asked to note this report.**