

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES

**To:** Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

**Date:** September 2007

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### A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Committee of recent 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 2007
3. Highlights include 2 excavations:
  - i A 0.69 hectare open area excavation at Newton Leys (Bletchley) revealed a mid to late Iron Age settlement site. The site occupied the lower ground adjacent to a stream valley. Excavated features included 6 round house gullies, a pottery kiln, and probable stock enclosures.
  - ii A 0.75 hectare open area excavation to the north of Broughton village contained rectilinear Roman and medieval (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>C) enclosures in addition to a single undated inhumation and a stone-built post-medieval oven or kiln.

### C. PLANNING

4. Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 there were 134 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.

### D. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

5. The Historic Environment Record was visited by researchers 7 times between January and June
6. 3 Licences have been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Historic Environment Record

7. The Senior Archaeological Officer has completed the HER audit and received back recommendations from English Heritage. There will be a meeting in November with English Heritage to discuss implementation of the recommendations.
8. The Senior Archaeological officer has nearly completed an intensive urban survey of Milton Keynes New Town, partly to enhance the 20<sup>th</sup> century data within the HER. This GIS-based project has utilised documentary sources to identify and characterise the majority of housing and commercial developments within the city area. Details including: Developer, architect, decade, density, planning reference and building regulation reference; have been recorded. In addition to charting the development of the city, the data will prove invaluable to forward planning and other sections when considering growth and management issues. A copy of the survey will be provided to assist with the Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project. Once complete this resource will be made publicly available through the MKi website.

#### E OUTREACH

9. The Archaeological Officer is organising Milton Keynes Archaeology Day (MKAD). A free event held in MK central library on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2007. MKAD will comprise a series of presentations focussing on recent development-related archaeological work in the authority. Further details will be released once all participants are confirmed.

#### F PROPOSED ACTION

10. The Forum is asked to note this report.