

Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum – 25 March 2008

County Museum Report

Since the last meeting of the forum, the intention to deposit 59 site archives has been notified to the museum, 22 of which are from the Milton Keynes Council area.

We have been busy with the *Lost and Found: detecting the past* exhibition, focused on the work of the Portable Antiquities scheme and metal detecting in Bucks. It was very well received, both by general visitors, and by the metal detectorists who came specifically to see it – a number of whom were first time visitors to the museum.

The museum has also acquired a number of interesting items under the Treasure Act, including a gold Bronze Age triple penannular ring, the first one found in the county. Another first for the museum was a bronze Roman fly brooch, found by a detectorist, and very kindly donated when the finder discovered we did not have one in the collection.

We are also about to acquire a large (82) hoard of Iron Age gold coins, called staters. This is the largest hoard in the county since the 1860s, when an even larger hoard was found close by. Although the recording of the location of the early hoard is not exact, it seems likely that the new finds are either coins that were not recovered from the original hoard, or possibly a smaller secondary hoard on the same site. If that were the case, then it may imply something significant about the importance of the site. This new hoard will be the most valuable Treasure case from Buckinghamshire since the Treasure Act was passed in 1996, except for the hoard of gold torcs from Milton Keynes, which was deemed to be of national importance and was acquired by the British Museum. As with all Treasure finds, the museum now has to raise the funds to acquire it.

The museum is also in early stages of planning a major archaeological exhibition, the first for many years, currently scheduled for early 2010. It is hoped to borrow a number of significant finds from the county that are currently in other museums, like the very high status Anglo-Saxon material from Taplow in the British Museum.