

Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum – September 2008

County Museum Report

Since the last meeting of the forum, the intention to deposit 35 site archives has been notified to the museum, 7 of which are from the Milton Keynes Council area.

The *Lost and Found: detecting the past* exhibition, focusing on the work of the Portable Antiquities scheme and metal detecting in Bucks has now finished a very popular run in the museum, but it is planned to move it to Wycombe Museum in the new year, running from January to April.

The recent Treasure acquisition of the Little Horwood hoard of 75 Iron Age gold coins was a big success for the museum, and the coins are now on display in the Touch of Bucks gallery. The acquisition of £25,000 was entirely grant funded, with grants coming from the MLA/V&A purchase fund, the Art Fund, the Headley Trust, and the Friends of the Museum.

Other Treasure acquisitions have included two post medieval gold rings, one a mourning ring from Soulbury, the other a posey ring from Buckingham, a bronze age triple penannular ring from Stone, and a medieval silver aestel from Fingest.

The museum has also been assisting a newly formed local archaeological society, the “Romans in the Hambleden Valley” project. This is a lottery funded community archaeology scheme, lead by Chiltern Archaeology, looking at Yewden and Mill End Roman villas. Initial geophysical results from Mill End indicate that the site is larger than was previously known, and the group is also re-assessing the pottery from the 1912 excavation at Yewden, which forms part of the original site archive, at the museum. The group volunteers will be sorting the pottery, and the overall assemblage will be assessed by Paul Booth of Oxford Archaeology. The museum is aiming to provide some training for volunteers from the group, prior to proposed field-walking, in recognising Roman brick, tile, and coins.