

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: March 2010

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A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Committee of recent archaeological matters in Milton Keynes.

B. FIELDWORK PROJECTS

1. Attached is a list of fieldwork projects (Events) undertaken in the Milton Keynes area between July and December 2009.

C. PLANNING

1. Between 1st July and 31st December 2009 there were 84 consultations in respect of archaeological matters as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, and schemes by: The Homes and Communities Agency; Natural England; Anglian Water; and Eastern Electricity.

D. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

1. The Historic Environment Record was consulted by external researchers 13 times between July and December.
2. Over 8000 Milton Keynes HER records were published alongside more than 1.5 million national and local entries on the Heritage Gateway in February this year: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>
3. In November a Heritage Theme was launched on the MKi Observatory website. This digital mapping resource complements the data on the Heritage Gateway and includes Historic Landscape Characterisation, Viatores routes, historic fields and woodlands alongside building, monument and event data: <http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk>

E. STAFF

1. Nick Crank has accepted the post of Senior Archaeological Officer (start date TBC). It is expected that the vacant post of Archaeological Officer will be filled in the next few months.

F. OUTREACH

1. On November 14th the Archaeological Officer organised the third MK Council Archaeology Day. This event, held across the Central Library was well attended as usual and attracted press and radio coverage. The day centred around a series of presentations by professional archaeologists on recent work in the borough in addition to lively talks by Brian Giggins on historic buildings and Paul Blinkhorn of Time Team fame on Saxon Pottery. Ros Tyrrell and the metal detectorists and stands from Milton Keynes Museum and the Tickford Bridge Bi-centenary Committee also proved popular. Also new to the event was involvement from the Children's Library who organised an archaeological themed story time for the under fives.
2. Planning for Archaeology Day 2010 is underway. This year's event will include Louise Loe from Oxford Archaeology speaking on the Fromelles Project. Other projects likely to feature on the day include the Historic Towns Project and the Wolverton cursus.
3. On Saturday the 12th September the Archaeological Officer gave a free guided walk around the archaeology of the Ouzel valley to a group of 20 as part of Heritage Open Days.
4. An article detailing recent archaeological projects and the MKi Heritage Theme was published in the Council's Parish Newsletter in November.

G. PROPOSED ACTION

1. The Committee is asked to note this report.