

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: September 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 January and June 2010.

C. PLANNING

1. Between 1st January and 30th June 2010 there were 87 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 11 times between January and June 2010.
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> The Milton Keynes HER data has featured in 58343 search requests between February and 31st July. Of these 5330 returned results from the Milton Keynes HER. Searches have led to 827 results page views (i.e. the number of summary results viewed – clicked to see first 5 results) and 881 individual records viewed.
3. The MKi Observatory Heritage Theme main page had 288 unique views between 1st January and 30th June 2010: <http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk>

4. The Senior Archaeological Officer trained library staff in the use of both the Heritage Gateway and MKi Heritage Theme during March.

E. STAFF

1. It is presently uncertain whether the vacant post of Archaeological Officer will be filled in the short term due to broader budgetary concerns.
2. An additional Conservation Officer (Charlotte Reynolds) has been recruited to the team as a replacement for external consultants and to undertake work on Buildings and Heritage at Risk within the borough.

F. OUTREACH

1. The Senior Archaeological Officer advised and contributed to the MK Arts for Health community project and film: MK Underground <http://www.mkartsforhealth.org.uk/>
2. Planning for Archaeology Day 2010 is underway; the popular open day will be held in MK Central Library on Saturday 13th November. This year's event will include Louise Loe from Oxford Archaeology speaking on the Fromelles Project and Mike Luke, Albion Archaeology on a career in field archaeology. A range of poster displays and artefacts from both professional and amateur archaeologists will feature on the day and also in the run up to the event.
3. In February and April the Conservation and Archaeology Team hosted two Year 11 work placement students, the second of which was shared with local contractor Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.
4. A successful Milton Keynes launch of 'An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire' was organised by the team in March. The event included an address by the then Deputy Mayor Debbie Brock.

G. PROPOSED ACTION

1. The Committee is asked to note this report.