

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

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A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Forum 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 2012. Highlights included:
 - Further excavations in Calverton parish including excavation of a 'waterhole' feature close to Kiln Farm from which late Iron Age waterlogged deposits including 2 substantial (>2m long) log ladders were recovered.
 - A collaborative geophysical and contour survey of Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell in May revealed probable Iron Age and Romano-British settlement (see below, E1).
2. An update on progress with key post-excavation / publication projects is appended. The key news to report in this area is that the combined monograph for the Broughton Gate / Brooklands, Eastern expansion Area excavations is nearing publication.

C. PLANNING

1. Between 1st January and 30th June 2012 there were 168 consultations in respect of archaeological matters as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, and schemes by statutory undertakers and other agencies.

D. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

1. The Historic Environment Record was consulted by external researchers or consultants 19 times between January and June 2012.
2. The HER action plan up to 2014 has been approved by English Heritage. A key strand of the action plan is the procurement of

replacement software (Exegesis HBSMR). This project is underway and will be completed within the current financial year.

E. OUTREACH

1. In May 2012 a team of archaeologists including members of CLASP and local archaeological contractors Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd and Cotswold Archaeology carried out a magnetometry and contour survey of an area of Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell. The survey, coordinated by the Council's Senior Archaeological Officer targeted the site of a formerly scheduled barrow destroyed in World War II and also a recent find spot indicating Iron Age and Roman settlement on the common.

The results of the survey demonstrated that previously unknown and extensive archaeological remains are present. Strong magnetic anomalies identified infilled ditches forming a pattern of enclosures and trackways characteristic of Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement activity.

The aim of the initial exploratory survey was to determine whether archaeological remains were present a Bury Field and in this the survey has been successful. It is hoped that further phases of survey will be undertaken in order to better characterise and define the extent of the settlement.

2. Planning for Archaeology Day 2012 is well underway; the popular open day will be held in MK Central Library on Saturday 10th November. This year's event will include Prof. Tim Darvill on Stonehenge and the Preseli Bluestones and Bob Zeepvat on the work of the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit from the 1970s to 1990s. There'll also be activities for all ages throughout the day.
3. In April a well-attended open day was organised with the cooperation of the developer and contracting archaeologists on excavations in Calverton parish in advance of the Western Expansion Area (see above B).

F. PROPOSED ACTION

1. The Forum is asked to note this report.