

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL, CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM

For Bucks Historic Environment Forum, March 2016

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 1049 planning consultations during 2015, 420 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer. The team were also consulted on a number of draft Neighbourhood Plans including those for Castlethorpe, Newport Pagnell and Sherington in addition to the emerging Local Plan - Plan:MK.

FIELDWORK

Twenty-two development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in Milton Keynes borough in 2015, see attached list.

Highlights included:

- The discovery of a second pitched-limestone circular Romano-British mausoleum by MOLA Northampton during excavations at Passenham Quarry, Calverton.
- Excavation of an early-middle Saxon settlement comprising up to 8 sunken-featured buildings, 10 post-built buildings, and two beam-slot buildings by Albion Archaeology at Kickles Farm, Newport Pagnell.
- The mapping and excavation of a Neolithic cursus monument with associated round barrow at Haversham Road Quarry, Wolverton by Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

BUILDING CONSERVATION

In April, Milton Keynes Central Library was listed at Grade II, joining a growing number of designated early examples of MKDC architecture. Other New Town buildings considered for listing in 2015 included the Mies Van Der Rohe inspired CMK office blocks Norfolk and Ashton House which were not considered sufficiently significant to be added to the national list.

Both Willen and Old Woughton Parish Councils have produced draft Conservation Area reviews for consideration. It is hoped that these documents and any agreed boundary changes may be adopted in 2016.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

A Historic England sponsored revisit of the 2011 HER Audit was begun by the Senior Archaeological Officer in August.

OUTREACH

In September the Senior Archaeological Officer led a third well-attended 'Heritage Hike' in the Ouzel valley as part of the Heritage Open Days season. Talks on recent archaeological discoveries in Milton Keynes were also given to Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council and Castlethorpe Heritage Group.

The 9th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day on Saturday 9th November was another successful and well-attended event attracting 600 people of all ages from Milton Keynes and beyond to enjoy the various talks, displays and activities on offer. Particularly popular was the 'Hands-on Archaeology workshop' for young people organised by locally-based firm Cotswold Archaeology which had upwards of 40 participants. The talks in the Events Space attracted a total of 110 people over the day and gave insights into Marine Archaeology, Medieval Mosaics and the amazingly well-preserved 3000 year old fenland settlement of Must Farm. Many more stopped by at the displays of recent finds by local societies and metal detectorists in the foyer. Next year's 10th anniversary event is already being programmed and will be held on Saturday 12th November.

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FIELDWORK EVENTS IN MILTON KEYNES 2015

Dates	Organisation	Event	Summary
January	Worcestershire Archaeology	Trial trenching	Romano-British ditches.
February	Bancroft Heritage Services	Watching brief	Negative watching brief.
April	KDK Archaeology Ltd	Trial trenching	Negative evaluation.
April	MOLA Northampton	Watching brief	Negative watching brief.
April	Cambridge Archaeological Unit	Strip, map and sample excavation	Neolithic cursus monument associated probable round barrow, early Iron Age pit alignment
May	Cotswold Archaeology	Trial trenching	Negative evaluation.
June	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd	Building recording	19th Century dwelling / shop and outbuildings
Sept 2014 & Jan-Feb 2015	Cotswold Archaeology	Watching brief	Negative watching brief.
September	CFA Archaeology Ltd	Building recording	Late 18th / early 19th C timber-framed barn

Dates	Organisation	Event	Summary
October	MOLA Northampton	Trial trenching	Negative evaluation.
June	Albion Archaeology	Excavation & watching brief	late Iron Age / early Romano-British settlement with evidence for Iron smelting and smithing
December	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd	Building recording	19th century timber-framed domestic sheds.
December	Cotswold Archaeology	Trial trenching	Negative evaluation.
December	Albion Archaeology	Building recording	Late 18th / early 19th C timber-framed barns
June - August	Albion Archaeology	Excavation	Iron Age and early-middle Saxon settlement.
September	Allen Archaeology	Trial trenching	Negative evaluation.
August - September	Allen Archaeology	Trial trenching	Late Iron Age / early Romano-British settlement.
June - August	Archaeophysica	Geophysical Survey	Magnetometry survey revealed 3 possible ditched enclosures.
October	CFA Archaeology Ltd	Building recording	19th C former fire station recorded prior to residential conversion

Dates	Organisation	Event	Summary
Ongoing	Border Archaeology	Excavation	Romano-British settlement
Jan - Oct	Border Archaeology	Excavation	late Iron Age / early Romano-British settlement
Sept 2014 - Feb 2015	MOLA Northampton	Excavation	Later prehistoric barrow ring ditch, Romano-British mausoleum, cremations and satellite inhumations