

**CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES:
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM,
March 5th 2018**

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 1153 planning consultations during 2017, 614 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer.

FIELDWORK

Thirty-three fieldwork projects were reported to the HER in 2017 (list attached). Projects comprised:

5 historic building records; 11 trial trench evaluations, 6 geophysical surveys; 1 excavation and 9 watching briefs.

Highlights included:

Albion Archaeology's excavation close to the Grand Union canal at the east end of the Campbell Park grid square which revealed two 2-3rd century stone-built corn drying kilns with adjacent stone slabbed crop processing floors (malting floors?).



2nd-3rd Century AD Romano-British Corn Drying Kiln

BUILDING CONSERVATION

After a few years of listing related activity involving New Town structures and public art 2017 was a relative disappointment with no new listings of New Town structures, despite assessments being carried out of the modernist Cotton Valley sewage works and County Architects designed Summerfield School in Bradwell Common. Elsewhere in the borough there were additions to the list with the war memorials at Bow Brickhill, Chicheley (Sir Herbert Baker FRIBA RA) and New Bradwell Cemetery listed at Grade II. Finally, the much altered and extended Grade II listed Parkside Hotel (formerly Woughton House) and its former stables and coach house in Woughton –on-the-Green were removed from the list at the request of the sites owners.

Consultants AFW Ltd, now trading as Wood Plc completed the first group of draft conservation area reviews in the autumn (Bradwell, Great Linford, Milton Keynes Village, Shenley Church End) alongside the overarching policy document. Draft reviews have also been received for comment for the group 1b areas: Stony Stratford, Bletchley, Willen, Woughton on the Green. And site visits and preparatory work is underway for the group 2 areas: Castlethorpe, Clifton Reynes, Emberton, Hanslope, Lavendon, Newton Blossomville, North Crawley, Olney, Ravenstone, Sherington, Stoke Goldington, & Weston Underwood.

Nominations to the Milton Keynes New Town Local Heritage Register opened on January 23rd (MK's 51st Anniversary) and will close on Friday March 23rd. More information here: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-and-archaeology/new-town-register>

HERITAGE AT RISK

A borough-wide register of heritage at risk was published on the Council's website on the 6th February 2018, the culmination of a 2 year project. This list seeks to identify heritage assets at risk, monitor them and take necessary safeguarding action. Heritage assets are prioritised so that action is taken on those buildings at the greatest risk of loss. Where a heritage asset is identified as requiring works, the Conservation and Archaeology Team will contact the owners to provide advice and agree the course of action required to safeguard the asset. Should owners refuse to take the necessary steps to secure either the short term or longer term preservation of the asset, the Local Planning Authority will use the powers available to it under the 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act. The register may be viewed here: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-and-archaeology/heritage-at-risk>

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Work has proceeded with the items on the Historic England approved HER Action Plan for 2017 – 2019.

OUTREACH

The Senior Archaeological Officer worked with the Parks Trust and contractor Cotswold Archaeology on Phase 1 of the Great Linford Manor Park project. This involved geophysical survey (high resolution resistivity and magnetometry) to identify and trace former parkland features, in addition to archaeological monitoring and recording during hydrological works aimed at reinstating the Hine Well (a natural spring) and the cascades. A funding application has been submitted to the HLF for Phase 2, which if successful will incorporate community archaeological opportunities informed by the Phase 1 surveys.

The 11th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day was another successful and well-attended event attracting people of all ages from Milton Keynes and beyond to enjoy the talks, displays and activities on offer. With a venue change due to building works at the Central Library the new venue of Christ the Cornerstone forced a slight rethink of the day with the programme focussing on displays and activities in the morning with two guest speakers in the afternoon.



This year's 'hand's on' activity for young people was provided by Albion Archaeology of Bedford who brought along the 'cave' from their successful Saturday Archaeology Workshops at The Higgins Museum for a session of 'Painting the Past' with participants able to use a range of materials to produce their modern take on prehistoric art. This year's 12th MK Archaeology Day will be held at the church on Saturday 3rd November.

Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer
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