

CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2018

February 22nd 2019

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 1000 planning consultations during 2018, 599 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer.

FIELDWORK

2018 was a busy year for fieldwork with Twenty-seven projects notified to the Historic Environment Record (HER), list appended. Projects comprised:

2 historic building records; 12 trial trench evaluations, 5 geophysical surveys; 5 excavations and 3 watching briefs.

Highlights included two excavations in Hanslope: The first by Cotswold Archaeology revealed several phases of early medieval occupation dating possibly from the Middle/Late Anglo-Saxon period until the 14th century, including 11th and 13th centuries enclosures relating to the now deserted hamlet of Green End; the second by Albion Archaeology focussed on an area along Long Street Road and revealed a small unenclosed middle to late Iron Age settlement and roadside occupation of the 12th-14th centuries.



Remains of medieval building, Long Street Road, Hanslope

BUILDING CONSERVATION

Listing activity in 2018 was largely confined to war memorials as First World War commemorations draw to a close, with a total of 20 being added to the list.

The first group of draft conservation area reviews (Group 1a: Bradwell, Great Linford, Milton Keynes Village, Shenley Church End) are out for consultation until Friday 1st March alongside the overarching General Information policy document. Written work is underway for the group 1b areas: Stony Stratford, Bletchley, Willen, and Woughton on the Green which should be ready for consultation in April.

HERITAGE AT RISK

The Conservation & Archaeology team have been working with the Historic England South East Heritage at Risk team and the City Discovery Centre to secure repairs to the scheduled monument and Grade I listed former chapel to Bradwell Abbey. It was added to the Heritage at Risk register because the roof is leaking, endangering the medieval walls and their important wall paintings.



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Work has progressed with the items on the Historic England approved HER Action Plan for 2017 – 2019. This year an updated Action Plan will be produced.

OUTREACH

In August a geophysical survey (Ground penetrating radar and magnetometry) was carried out by a team from Magnitude Surveys Ltd, along with members of the public and volunteers from the Bury Field Commoners Association, across an area containing earthwork banks and ditches of the Civil War defences (Scheduled Monument: 1021389), on Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell. The objective was to identify the below-ground extent of the defences and any related surviving structural elements.



The combined survey recorded distinct anomalies around the bank and ditch – or enceinte – which formed the outer defensive enclosure around the town. A distinct linear feature of great depth (up to 1.5m) along the centre of the bank has been interpreted as a foundation cut feature, such as a slot cut to support a wooden wall atop the bank; furthermore, to the east of the previous foundation cut, an unrecorded parallel linear anomaly has been recorded to be associated with the Civil War defences. Deposits of material were detected within the outer ditch, which may represent debris from the demolition of the defences in 1646. The full technical report may be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1050089>

The 12th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day was another successful and well-attended event. After the previous event in the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, the decision was made to once again hold the event there, making full use of the spacious and versatile main worship area. The event was formally opened by the Mayor, Martin Petchey who also launched the newly published 'Wulfhere's People' detailing the 2008 excavation of an extensive late 6th to 7th-century Anglo-Saxon cemetery, the largest found in Buckinghamshire.



This year's 'hand's on' activity for young people was provided by Border Archaeology and proved as popular as ever. Another popular aspect of the event is the displays from active local fieldwork groups and societies. This year participants comprised 3 groups: The Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS), Woughton Heritage Group, and Milton Keynes Heritage Association. Each group provided an activity, the various activities promoting interaction between those viewing the displays and the stall holders.



As in previous years the biggest draws of the day were the talks, with up to 70 in the audience for each. This year featured 3 shorter talks on recent development related fieldwork on the Western and Eastern Expansion Areas (Border Archaeology), Eaton Leys / Magiovinium (Wessex Archaeology), and Kickles Farm, Newport Pagnell (Albion Archaeology). Additionally a longer,

lively talk was given by Elliott Wragg on the Thames Discovery Programme's investigations along the Thames foreshore, finishing off the day. This year's MK Archaeology Day will be held at the church on Saturday 2nd November.

Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer
Conservation & Archaeology Team, Milton Keynes Council

Fieldwork events in 2018

Event No.	Site name	Event type	Organisation	Dates	Results
EMK1372	Land SW of Long Street Road, Hanslope	Excavation	Albion Archaeology	20/11/2018	MIA-LIA settlement, medieval occupation
EMK1368	Land SW of Long Street Road, Hanslope	Trial trenching	Albion Archaeology	15/10/2018	MIA-LIA settlement, medieval occupation
EMK1363	Snelshall East, Sites A & B, Milton Keynes	Trial trenching	Albion Archaeology	10/09/2018 - 17/09/2018	Negative
EMK1360	6 The Wharf, Great Linford	Historic Building Recording	Bancroft Heritage Services	12/07/2018 - 12/07/2018	C19th Lock-keepers cottage
EMK1373	Outbuilding at Church Farm, Hardmead	Historic Building Recording	Bancroft Heritage Services	19/11/2018	Post-med farm building
EMK1371	The Cock PH, High Street, Hanslope	Watching Brief	Bancroft Heritage Services	05/11/2018	Negative
EMK1356	Land off Stockwell Lane, Wavendon	Trial trenching	Border Archaeology	20/06/2018	Negative
EMK1374	Castlethorpe 'Fishponds'	Watching Brief	CFA Archaeology Ltd	26/11/2018 - 27/11/2018	Negative
EMK1358	Tickford Fields, Newport Pagnell	Trial trenching	Cotswold Archaeology	16/07/2018	IA/RB and medieval occupation
EMK1350	Land to NW of Castlethorpe Rd, Hanslope	Excavation	Cotswold Archaeology	03/04/2018	Medieval occupation

Event No.	Site name	Event type	Organisation	Dates	Results
EMK1369	Lavente Gate, Little Brickhill	Geophysical Survey	GSB Prospection	29/10/2018 - 05/11/2018	Not received
EMK1366	Land west of Walton Manor, Walton	Trial trenching	Headland Archaeology	01/10/2018	LIA settlement
EMK1353	The Globe PH, Long Street, Hanslope	Watching Brief	KDK Archaeology Ltd	15/05/2018	Negative
EMK1359	Civil War defences in Bury Field, Newport Pagnell	Geophysical Survey	Magnitude Surveys	14/08/2018 - 16/08/2018, throughout	See report summary
EMK1351	Land SW of Long Street Rd, Hanslope	Geophysical Survey	Magnitude Surveys	16/04/2018	See above
EMK1340	Eagle Farm Primary School, Wavendon	Excavation	MOLA Northampton	19/03/2018	LIA to RB settlement
EMK1338	Land south of Caldecotte	Geophysical Survey	MOLA Northampton	11/12/2017 - 22/03/2018, between	Pre-planning
EMK1365	South Caldecotte, Bow Brickhill	Trial trenching	MOLA Northampton	01/10/2018	Pre-planning
EMK1339	Land east of Castle Rd, Lavendon	Trial trenching	Network Archaeology	27/02/2018	Negative
EMK1349	Land off Warrington Road, Olney, Milton Keynes	Trial trenching	Oxford Archaeology	03/04/2018	RB settlement

Event No.	Site name	Event type	Organisation	Dates	Results
EMK1352	Land to the north of Little Linford Lane, Newport Pagnell (Portfields Rise)	Trial trenching	Oxford Archaeology	30/04/2018	LIA - RB settlement
EMK1364	Broughton, Glebelands	Excavation	Oxford Archaeology	17/09/2018	LIA - RB settlement
EMK1367	South East SUE, Bow Brickhill	Geophysical Survey	Pre-construct Geophysics	08/10/2018	Pre-planning
EMK1354	Land to the rear of 34, Newport Road, Wavendon	Trial trenching	Thames Valley Archaeological Services	29/05/2018	Negative
EMK1362	Wolverton Cemetery Extension	Trial trenching	Thames Valley Archaeological Services	30/07/2018	Negative
EMK1361	Eaton Leys, Little Brickhill	Excavation	Wessex Archaeology	23/07/2018	RB enclosures, cremation cemetery

Notes: MIA – middle Iron Age; LIA – late Iron Age; RB – Romano-British.