



Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum agenda

Date: Thursday 14th September 2023

Time: 2:00 pm

Venue: Room 1.25, Civic Offices, Milton Keynes City Council, 1 Saxon Gate East,
Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

Agenda Item	Page No
1 Election of Chairman	
2 Apologies/Changes to membership	
3 Declarations of interest	
4 Minutes of the last meeting	3 - 10
5 Chosen Focus: Climate change measures and the historic environment in Buckinghamshire To be presented by Joanna Horton and Eliza Alqassar.	
6 Update From Members and Partners	11 - 40
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society• Conservation Board for the Chilterns AONB• Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust• Archaeological Officer – Buckinghamshire• Archaeological Officer – Milton Keynes• Heritage Officer- Buckinghamshire• Heritage Officer- Milton Keynes• Historic England• National Trust• Milton Keynes Heritage Association• Museums• Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee	
7 Date of the next meeting 16 th April 2024	

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Harry Thomas via democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum held on Thursday 9 March 2023 in Paralympic Room, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF, commencing at 2.00 pm and concluding at 3.40 pm.

Members present

P Brazier, B Chapple OBE (Chairman), C Harriss, V McPake and R Matthews

Others in attendance

E Alqassar, C De Carle, N Crank, K Farooqi, P Markham, G Marshall and J Wise

Agenda Item

1 Apologies/Changes to membership

Apologies were received from Mike Woods (Conservation Trust), Cllr Charlotte Hall (Milton Keynes City Council), Briony Hudson (Amersham Museum), Joanna Horton (Heritage and Archaeology Team Leader, Buckinghamshire Council), Cllr Bradburn (Milton Keynes City Council) and Wendy Morrison (Chilterns ANOB).

2 Declarations of interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

The following points were raised as changes to the minutes:

- P2 Bucks Archaeology Trust should read Bucks Garden Trust.
- P2 remove the word not in front of national list
- P2 typo young archaeologist club

Subject to the above changes the minutes of the meeting held 29 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

4 Moment of reflection for Roger Evans and Robert Excel

The Chairman gave tribute to Roger Evans (former Historic Building Officer) and Robert Excel (Milton Keynes Heritage Association). A minute's silence was held.

5 Chosen Focus: Historic landscapes in Buckinghamshire

Clare De Carle, Bucks Garden Trust gave a presentation on historic landscapes in

Buckinghamshire.

The following points were highlighted:

- The Bucks Garden Trust was working with Buckinghamshire Council to produce the local heritage list. In February 2021 the government provided funding for the pilot project with twenty-two authorities selected including Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Councils.
- The Trust had worked closely with the Council over the past two years to research and record findings. A team of volunteers and officers met regularly to review local heritage sites and produce a website featuring public nominations.
- The Bucks Garden Trust celebrated its 25th anniversary last year and the presentation highlighted some of the stunning gardens in Bucks including Wormsley walled garden, Langley Park, Turn End Haddenham and Chenies Manor Gardens.
- The 1998 local register review reported there were 400 parks in Buckinghamshire. The data was based on the pre1974 boundary with five areas listed. Due to the elongated shape of the county volunteers were needed in the south and north to assist with their Research and /recording Project. In 2013 over 100 sites were researched which feature on the Trust's website, this project has now been scaled back after ten years.
- The presentation highlighted a map of the north and central planning areas, historic parks and gardens in the county. 'A list' gardens had largely been reviewed as they covered bigger areas of greater interest. Areas which were affected by HS2 were also prioritised as they were most at risk of development. 'B list' areas were reviewed in less detail and were examined for sites of interest.
- An example of a completed research dossier produced for each site assessed was highlighted. Site visits were encouraged alongside online research, checking archives and writing to land owners. In addition, aerial views and OS mapping software was useful to determine the boundaries of historic designed landscapes.
- Buckinghamshire has a wide variety of designed landscapes. The presentation highlighted the different types of gardens with pictures as examples. The arts and crafts gardens included Chalfont Park, Newlands Park, Rignalls, Little Hailings in Denham. Town house gardens which were often smaller with vast history included Princes Risborough Manor House, Amersham Museum herb garden, Orchard House Olney and Discover Bucks Museum Aylesbury. Cemeteries and crematoria gardens were often designed landscapes and included Aylesbury, Wycombe Cemetery and Chilterns Crematorium. Workplace gardens included Chalfont Park, Sefton Park Country House, The Bury in Chesham and Lowndes Park. Trees in arboretums included Priest Field arboretum near Kingshill, Winslow, Buckingham and Haddenham. Public parks included Woollen in Milton Keynes and Lowndes Park Chesham. Artists gardens were often privately owned and site visits were more challenging. Examples included Mary Sargent Florence Lords Wood, Jo Piper's House Fawley, John Nash's Woodlane House in Iver and

Alexander Jameson's Burnside in Weston Turville.

- The Garden Trust were supporting Buckinghamshire Council with planning applications. The Trust is a national body and statutory consultee for national parks and gardens. Key developments the Trust were advising on locally were Grendon prison, Stoke Park, Stowe and Dropmore.
- The Trust were assessing sites for the local heritage list including Gipsy House, Roald Dahl's house in Great Missenden, Hitcham House in Burnham, Vale Park in Aylesbury, Castle House in Buckingham and a number of other properties.
- The 'B List' sites of interest were being assessed by volunteers. The Coppins in Iver was frequented by the royal family and requires further investigation. In addition, the link between the garden designer Percy Cane and the Germains in Chesham was being investigated.

A member queried why garden kitchens were not included as part of the categorisation of gardens. Kitchen gardens were often part of the larger garden and there were very few left as many were sold or developed over. There was no reason why a kitchen garden couldn't be added to the heritage list.

A member asked how many of the gardens listed were open to the public for viewings. It was highlighted not many gardens were open to the public as they were part of private houses however, the National Garden Scheme would show local gardens that could be open for the day. The Garden Trust do advertise gardens available to visit and certain charities host open days too.

It was advised Fenny Stratford Cemetery in Milton Keynes is on the local heritage list.

Members were encouraged to check the local heritage list map which includes gardens, buildings and archaeology sites [Map - Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List \(local-heritage-list.org.uk\)](http://local-heritage-list.org.uk).

6 Progress report on the Aerial Investigation and Mapping (AIM) project in Buckinghamshire

Julia Wise, Historic Environment Records Officer gave a presentation on the aerial investigation and mapping project. The Aerial investigation project is being carried out in the north of Buckinghamshire by Skylarkeology on behalf of Historic England. The project funded by Historic England commenced in December 2021 with the first stage to be completed by August 2023. Approval had been granted for a follow up project looking south at the central area of Buckinghamshire.

- The presentation showed the map with progress to date including areas which had been investigated like the east and south of Bletchley and Winslow. Work had started on the west side by Buckingham and the bulk of the mapping was medieval furrow. The surviving ridge and furrow were standout areas nationally.
- A 1946 RAF vertical aerial photo of Soulbury ridge and furrow corrugated

earthworks was highlighted.

- Pictures of Stoke Hammond showed crop mark site with bronze age ring ditch which had been ploughed out to show the remains of a barrow surrounding ditch. There were mortuary enclosures left with surrounding ditches. A more detailed crop mark photo highlighted the geology coming through with glacial areas and features from the last ice age.
- The photos from Whaddon Chase highlighted a ditched enclosure and private deer park in the medieval period. There were pockets of woodland remaining which largely fell in the 19th century.
- Pictures of Little Horwood highlighted a hillfort on a slight ridge with two double ditches and a single bank enclosure. Iron age enclosures at Briars Bank Farm, Great Horwood had been discovered with a Roman road towards Buckingham.
- A shrunken settlement at Beachampton showed the surviving ridge and furrow from a medieval settlement. The earthworks around the present village settlement were more extensive than previously discovered.
- RAF Stoke Hammond was used as a World War Two telecoms and radio centre site linked to Bletchley Park. The pictures highlighted the surviving buildings and many aerial masts within the perimeter fencing. The telecoms site was constructed in 1942 and closed in 1973. The structure from the compound remained in use by the MOD however, the aerial masts have been removed. Numerous small huts were erected alongside roads prior to D-Day in order to gather ammunition and provide fuel depots.

The next stage of the project would focus on the middle of Aylesbury Vale and one of the aims of the project was to inform advisory and planning services to identify historic sites easily. The project would also inform sites which could be added to the local heritage list. Historic England have provided the project free of charge for the Council to use its research.

It was highlighted there was already good aerial coverage of the county particularly in the southern areas due to the ANOB project. The rest of the county was covered by the Environment Agency LIDAR agency information which was available for free online. There would be no new flights commissioned to capture further aerial data.

A member commented the county could promote its connection with World War training camps by mapping walking trails for residents and visitors. Further information relating to the war camps and sites was being revealed due to the official secrets cycle expiring.

There was a certain element of overlap with Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire aerial projects. Historic England were using the current project to look at similar projects in Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes.

7 Update From Members and Partners

Members and partners provided verbal updates.

Gary Marshall, Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society.

- Volume 63 of the Bucks Archaeology Journal will be issued at the May AGM. The records have been produced for the past 150 years.
- The project to scan and digitalise old editions of records from Bucks was ongoing. A grant was received from the HS2 community fund to assist with the project which would make records accessible online.
- The society had taken part in digging at Great Linford. A Parks Trust project which was in its third year to redisplay landscape at the manor house. The archaeology team were examining the line of the ha-ha and the project was expected to finish soon.
- S106 funds were available for Stanton Low and the Parks Trust country park to the north of the housing development and area of nature reserve. The landscape garden was from the late medieval period.
- The Local History Network Conference would take place later this year with a range of speakers attending. The topic will be the Local Heritage List.
- Membership to the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society remained at a steady level despite a small increase in the membership fee.

Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer, Buckinghamshire Council presented a report appended to these minutes.

- The majority of HS2 fieldwork has been completed with remaining assessments to take place over the next few years.
- Discussions were ongoing with HS2 and EKFB regarding the design and methodology for Grim's Ditch. A meeting would take place soon and Buckinghamshire Council will inform on the archaeological survey of the site. Works to the monument will be undertaken by a Schedule 19 application which will need to be approved by the Secretary of State under Historic England's guidance.
- The team were dealing with Schedule 17 applications and there were twenty-four post excavation assessments which would require comment from the team.
- The team were also working on applications from large developments, South-East Aylesbury link road, the Hampden fields evaluation, new trial trenches to inform excavations and solar farm applications. Discussions were ongoing with the former applicant at West End Farm Buckingham regarding post excavation works and DNA testing on eighty bodies found in the burial site.
- The team were assisting with supplementary planning documents for the Aylesbury Garden Town proposals. The HER (historic environment records) committee had produced a large number of searches. The team were also working on the local heritage list and outreach events.

A member queried if solar farm applicants were advised an archaeology survey was required before development could commence. It was highlighted the Archaeology department was often consulted and any excavation works or archaeological evaluations would be completed before the planning application was submitted.

Nick Crank, Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council:

- The Local Heritage At Risk Register had been updated with the latest version available online [Heritage at risk | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage-at-risk)
- A conservation review was underway of twenty-seven conservation areas; sixteen areas had been assessed.
- The New Town Heritage Register project was underway and will focus on Milton Keynes new city. The consultation period had finished and communications were ongoing with commercial property owners in the city. In May the first 160 nominations would be examined by the selection panel whilst taking into consideration any representations received during the consultation period. The start of the list would be completed by June taking into account the first tranche of nominations.
- A full audit of the historic environment records was completed in 2021 and an enhancement of the national mapping programme was underway to combine records into HER (historic environment records).
- In regards to community and outreach work the Milton Keynes Archaeology day would be held on November 4th at the central library with further details to follow. The department was successfully working with Bucks Archaeology Society on a number of projects.
- Work was underway on Bury Field Common with Newport Pagnell community archaeology project on civil war defences.
- The team were involved in fieldwork on the east urban extension north side of Olney. There were similarities with the Fleet Marston roadside Roman settlement. The site of the proposed Aldi supermarket revealed three rooms and wall foundations of a Roman villa with an intricate mosaic. The area would be preserved in-situ meaning the building area would be outlined with the development built on top. It was noted the mosaic pattern was similar to others around the country.

Eliza Alqassar, Historic and Build Environment Manager, Buckinghamshire Council:

- There were 771 sites adopted to the local heritage list in January. There were over 3000 nominations for consideration with the next tranche of sites adopted to the list by November 2023.
- The team had been working on a number of projects including a public enquiry for the new Grendon Prison site. New staff had been appointed to the team to assist with any outstanding queries. The review of conservation areas would commence shortly with the local plan team assessing urban areas first.

Members highlighted queries had been received from residents regarding the local heritage list and implications for obtaining mortgages or planning permission. It was highlighted properties added to the local heritage list did not impose restrictions on buildings and would not be a defining factor for planning officers when considering further applications. FAQs were available online [Frequently asked questions - Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List \(local-heritage-list.org.uk\)](https://www.local-heritage-list.org.uk) and property owners with any concerns were encouraged to contact the heritage team.

8 Date of the next meeting

TBC September 2023

It was highlighted the next meeting could be held at Milton Keynes Council.

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A: Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officers' Report

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 14th September 2023

Authors:

Senior Archaeology Officer (Phil Markham),

Archaeology Officer (Lucy Lawrence),

Historic Environment Record Officer (Julia Wise),

Historic Environment Record Assistant (Paul Clements)

A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To advise the Forum of the work of the County Archaeological Service (BCAS) since the last BHEF meeting (9th March 2023).

Report Summary

We are now working to a 40/60 split in working from the office and home. Planning consultations have reduced from a very high level, but the major infrastructure schemes and major developments are progressing.

HS2/Fusion – Fieldwork has been completed but there are a number of sites to be monitored during the construction phase. The field work is now undertaken by RSK/Headland as Fusion has been wound up. As the design progresses changes are made so areas which were available for preservation in situ may now be impacted and archaeological investigation will take place.

Outreach & Publicity Update

HER Report

Buckinghamshire Heritage Portal

B. PROPOSED ACTION

The Forum is particularly invited to NOTE:

- resources
- strategic issues and projects
- recent planning-related archaeological work
- HER enhancement projects

C. RESOURCES

The Council's Archaeology Service forms part of the Planning, Growth and Sustainability Directorate. Philip Markham is the Senior Archaeology Officer, Lucy Lawrence is the Archaeology Officer, Julia Wise is the HER Officer (part time), and Paul Clements is the HER Assistant.

Service Review & Restructuring

The Heritage and Archaeology Team is within the Environmental Specialists and combines the Archaeology Team with the Heritage/Conservation Officers. Joanna Horton is the Team Leader. The team is managed by Eliza Alqassar as Historic and Built Environment Manager. Eliza also manages the Ecology team whilst Rebecca Hart manages the other Environmental Specialists teams which includes Arboriculture, BMERC (Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Record Centre) and Urban Design and Landscape.

D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Strategic Issues/Projects

High Speed 2:

It has been a busy period with HS2/EKFB Teams meetings on numerous topics including, updated method statements, landscape design issues. Interim reports, reports, and post excavation assessments (PXAs) have largely been supplied for comment but usually with very tight turnaround times. Schedule 17 pre-application meetings take place most weeks; these are similar to planning applications and involve road, design and planting issues which could impact on the historic environment. For these applications Phil Markham covers archaeology, Fiona Webb covers the Heritage Team issues for the Aylesbury Vale area and Catherine Murray covers the Chiltern and South Bucks area. FUSION, HS2's archaeological contractor was wound up in October 2022 as the field work will largely have been completed. RSK/Headland will be undertaking archaeological works during the construction phase. There are bi-weekly meetings with Headland, HS2 and stakeholders over current field work and reports.

Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument/Hunts Green Farm, Great Missenden

Archaeological investigation has been undertaken including a geophysical survey, a topographic survey, trial trenching and excavation. A couple of trenches have been excavated across the Scheduled Monument and the results of this will inform the full excavation of the monument. It is hoped that some of the monument can be preserved in situ and this depends on the EKFB construction design which has yet to be supplied. The works to the monument will be undertaken by a Schedule 19 application which will need to be approved by the Secretary of State under Historic England's guidance. Discussion is ongoing as construction design is yet to be finalised. Further geotechnical investigations have been undertaken which indicate potential geological hollows within the development area and these will inform the design and construction methodology. To assess these geological

hollows bore holes will be undertaken and the methodology for this is likely to get Scheduled Monument Consent in the near future.

New National Designations:

There have been 3 new additions to the national list – Cockpit Hole Farmhouse and barn at Great Kingshill, a modest pre-1850 vernacular farmhouse and contemporary threshing barn which is unusual in that it retains its threshing floor and was listed at Grade II in February; and a K8 telephone kiosk on Chalfont and Latimer Station which was listed at Grade II in May. The K8 telephone kiosk was manufactured to a design by Bruce Martin, following a competition held by the GPO in 1965 and was the last generation of the red public telephone box designs to be commissioned.

The existing Registered Park and Garden of Ashridge Estate now in Hertfordshire, but historically partly in Buckinghamshire, was upgraded to Grade II* in March, recognising significant research undertaken by members of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust in recent years. The boundary of the Registered parkland was also amended and now extends into Edlesborough, Pitstone and Ivinghoe in Buckinghamshire.

Planning related archaeological work

Volume measures	1st Quarter 2023	2nd Quarter 2023
Total number of consultations handled	174	163
Number of planning applications handled	132 + 16 LBC	99 + 23 LBC
Consultations responded to within 21 days (target 90%)	148/146 98%	122/120 98%
Number of development-related archaeological fieldwork projects requested	31	45
Success rate at appeal (target 50% annual success rate)	N/A	N/A

A full list of development-related fieldwork is provided as Appendix B.

Significant archaeological investigations include:

There has continued to be local interest over a site near Buckingham (reported to BHEF in March 2019). This excavation took place in 2018/19 and since then post-excavation cleaning and conservation of the skeletons has been undertaken. We understand that Network Archaeology have been in discussion with the developer and have provided them with updated costings to cover the rest of the post-excavation works, to include DNA analysis and carbon 14 dating, together with the publication and archiving of this significant site. We contact Network Archaeology on a regular basis to see if we can help expedite these works.

General

The Team has been busy with planning applications; large scale solar farm proposals are a regular issue together with woodland planting schemes at varying scales.

South-East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR)

The archaeological monitoring of the early phases of the South-East Aylesbury link Road (SEALR) are progressing with AECOM and CFA. Ditches relating to a Roman settlement have been excavated together with human burials and a 'well pit' which contained well preserved water-logged planks and timbers. Excavation conditions have been very difficult over the winter. The field work ceased as the weather improved as all works have been paused. The post excavation works are currently being funded and we and the AECOM consultant have requested an interim report is produced if works are not likely to progress in the near future.

Hampden Fields Major Development South of Aylesbury

An initial further phase of evaluation has been completed at the Hampden Fields development between Aylesbury and Weston Turville. This major development is for up to 3,000 dwellings and a 60-bed care home/extra care facility; provision of land for a Park and Ride site; a total of 6.90ha of employment land; provision of two primary schools (one 2 form entry and one 3 form entry); a mixed-use local centre (3.75ha) with provision for a food store of up to 1,200 square metres, further retail (including a pharmacy), restaurant and café units, a doctor's surgery, gym, public house, multi-functional green infrastructure (totalling 108.43ha) including parkland, sports pitches, sports pavilions, children's play areas, informal open space, allotments, community orchards and landscaping. It was decided that to de-risk the development further evaluation in the form of trial trenching would be undertaken. Evaluation was undertaken approximately ten years ago and included geophysical surveys and trial trenching. This phase of evaluation includes a further 460+ trenches which are being undertaken by RSP and PCA. Areas of excavation are being drawn up from these results. Excavation is likely to begin during the autumn together with further phases of evaluation as development requirements are timetabled.

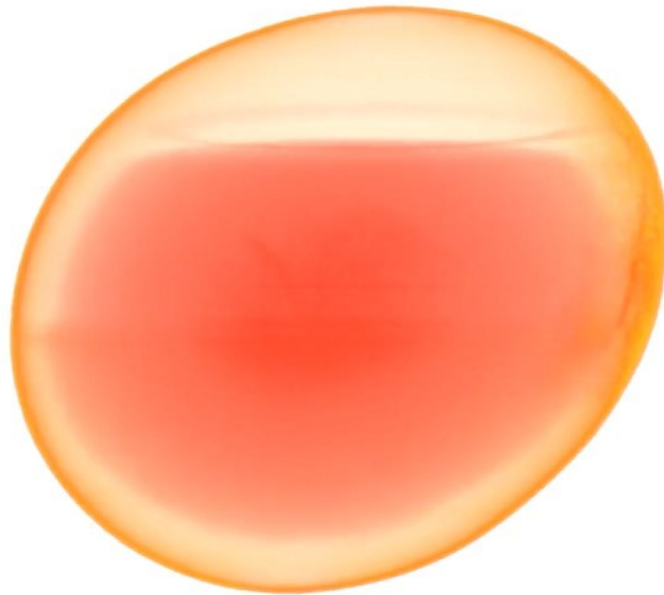
Berryfields Eggs and Basket

Archaeological investigations were conducted by Oxford Archaeology to the north-west of Aylesbury between 2007 and 2016 prior to the construction of housing and related infrastructure. During the excavation of a waterlogged pit a cache of 3 eggs was discovered in association with a basket, pottery vessels, coins, leather shoes and animal bone. These appear to be part of a series of structured depositional events which took place in the later 3rd Century AD. Unfortunately, two of the eggs were broken prior to or during discovery, emitting a sulphurous smell, but one remained intact. Following a hiatus work on the surviving intact egg and the basket have been undertaken.



Copyright Oxford Archaeology

The egg which is likely to be a chicken egg has been investigated by Dana Goodburn-Brown Conservation and has undergone a Micro-CT scan which confirmed that it is full of liquid and an air bubble.



Micro-CT Scan Image

The basket was made of interwoven bands of oak and small willow rods woven into a band around the edge. Unfortunately, during a hiatus, it was found that the basket had deteriorated and is too decayed for conservation, although some fragments are thought to be able to be rescued.

Basket maker, Owen Jones has produced a full-size replica of the basket, and it was apparently a bit of a challenge. This will be going to Discover Bucks Museum in due course.

With climate change and global warming and subsequent changes in weather patterns currently waterlogged sites may dry out effecting the long-term survival of some artefacts such as wood, leather and potentially eggs. The weather-changes may have the opposite effect and with different rainfall patterns some currently dry sites may become waterlogged with potential impacts on artefacts, such as early prehistoric pottery which can be quite crumbly in ideal conditions.



Copyright Oxford Archaeology



Copyright Oxford Archaeology

Solar Farms

These often very large-scale developments can be contentious and are driven by the requirement for the UK to be net zero by 2050. The many solar panels are usually installed using piles which can impact buried archaeological remains. The associated infrastructure such as electrical inverters, buried cabling and access road can also be damaging. We usually ask that a geophysical survey which is 'ground truthed' through trial trenching is undertaken so that the significance and extent of any buried sites can be assessed.

The image below is taken from the MOLA Evaluation Report for Fox Covert Solar Farm. It indicates the interpreted geophysical survey information in red and orange and the trial trenching. This evaluation confirmed an Iron Age settlement with relatively good survival was present and the area was removed from the development, purple boundary.



Copyright MOLA

Traditional piling techniques for the solar panel supports would have severely damaged this site. The image below indicates this process.

Construction Process

Piling Machine tracks along each row, programmed with accurate GPS co-ordinates and drives steel frames into the ground.



Copyright Lighthouse Development Consulting

The use of concrete slabs for supporting the panel supports has been around for many years and can be used to over archaeological features where there is sufficient depth of soil so that compaction or changes in soil structure doesn't take place. Variations on this have been developed to minimise ground impact.



Copyright SLR



Copyright Lighthouse Development Consulting

Cable runs can now be hung under the solar panels rather than buried, further reducing the impact on buried archaeology.



Copyright Lighthouse Development Consulting

As the development of solar farms and associated infrastructure develops more ways of reducing ground impact have been developed and are becoming more viable. Piling is the preferred method for the solar panel supports so evaluation will normally be required and preservation in situ and/or excavation is often required. Many more of these schemes are likely to be proposed as will wind farms which can also have impacts.

Woodland Schemes

These proposals can vary in scale with some being quite extensive and dispersed on larger estates. These schemes have been promoted by government in an attempt to combat climate change. These schemes are usually in rural areas where little development has taken place and the archaeological potential less well known. Tree planting can impact buried archaeological sites and can impact historic landscapes where tree cover has not been present for thousands of years. Large areas of planting have been proposed on areas of nationally significant of ridge and furrow. We have objected to these, but often a balance is required as with normal development proposals.

These schemes should follow the Forestry Commissions publication, 'The UK Forestry Standard' which has a section on 'Forests and Historic Environment'. This includes:

The primary responsibility for land managers in relation to historic features is to ensure they are conserved and not accidentally or unknowingly damaged. This will involve an appropriate evaluation of the site, and an assessment of features of importance – whether scheduled or not – as part of the forest management plan.

Ground preparation works can be quite extensive:



Copyright Taiga Upland

Publication update (Appendix C)

Outreach and Publicity

Members of the Team have undertaken a number of outreach and partnership activities in the period Sept 2022- March 2023.

Activities include:

- Bucks Archaeological Society Council Meetings, Including the Bucks Local History Network conference
- In person 'Meet the Archaeologist' event at Aylesbury library for October half term
- Hosted a stall at the Brill Parish Council 'Brill history Day'
- ALGAO (Association of Government Archaeological Organisations) meetings, including AGM, Planning and Legislation sub-Committee, HER Committee, South-East Area catchup
- Thames Valley Police Rural Crime Partnership meetings

Local Heritage List

We are delighted to announce that the first tranche of sites for inclusion on the Local Heritage List was formally adopted by Cabinet on Thursday 5th January! This is the first county-wide

Local Heritage List that Buckinghamshire has ever had and is the result of a collective effort from the Heritage and Archaeology Team, alongside representatives from the Bucks Garden Trust and the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society. 771 sites were adopted in the first phase, with work ongoing to assess the remaining sites in time for a second phase at the end of 2023.

Historic Environment Record (HER) report

The HER performance indicator statistics are shown in the tables below:

Performance Indicator	1st Quarter 2023	2nd Quarter 2023
Historic Environment Records data inputting backlog (targets: reports < 30 by March 2023)	Reports = 7 Collect = 511 Total = 518	Reports = 7 Collect = 511 Total = 518

	1st Quarter 2023	2nd Quarter 2023
Number of Countryside Stewardship applications handled	8	14
Number of reports received by the HER	30	33
Number of Historic Environment Records enquiries handled: commercial	37	31
non-commercial	1	2

Paul has been dealing with the bulk of HER enquiries and all the Countryside Stewardship applications in 2023 to free Julia up to work on the Local Heritage List project.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 2022

HER consultations to support Countryside Stewardship funding applications are continuing in the same format as 2021 while the transition to the proposed new Environmental Land Management Scheme is still in the pipeline (expected to go live in 2024). The application window for 2023 opened in February and will remain open until August.

Buckinghamshire's Heritage Portal

Statistics on user numbers and page views have been collected monthly from September 2020, when analytical tools were added to the website.

2023	Users	Page views	% new users	% regular users
January	4,059	11,017	89%	11%
February	3,471	9,605	86%	14%
March	4,079	10,446	87%	13%
April	3,782	9,141	88%	12%
May	3,641	8,813	87%	13%
June	2,235	4,964	87%	13%

Initially 85% of Heritage Portal users were based in the UK, but the geographic spread of users has been widening consistently and we now have users in every continent and sub-continent, with 73% of users based in the UK in June 2023 and a growing spread of users in Asia and African states. The surprising number of users based in Andorra (5% of users) and Benin (2% of users) reported at the last meeting continues, with both countries in the top 4 of user countries in May, behind the UK and the USA.

HER enhancement and volunteer projects

The two consultants from Skylarkeology are busy working on the first of the Aerial Investigation and Mapping projects in north Buckinghamshire. This is an Historic England-funded project which records and map evidence from aerial photography and LiDAR directly in the HER database. The data will be a significant new source of information and will be particularly useful for development management, strategic planning and for the Buckinghamshire Local Plan. To date they have recorded 507 new sites and enhanced the records for 138 existing sites.

Historic England have approved a second Aerial Investigation and Mapping project in north Buckinghamshire, which will commence later this year following completion of the current project. This second project will cover the area of the vale centred around Aylesbury.

The HER volunteer working on the milestones project continues to work on enhancing the records for milestones.

Emergency Recording Fund

At the September 2020 BHEF committee meeting it was agreed that following the transition to a Unitary authority, that Buckinghamshire Council would contribute 80% (£800) of the annual contributions to cover the total previously contributed by the legacy district and county councils. As per previous agreements, Milton Keynes Council would contribute 15% (£150) and the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society would contribute 5% (£50).

The current fund stands at £8750.

No funds have been spent since 2013, when the fund was used to excavate a Roman casket burial.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Archaeological Reports submitted to the Buckinghamshire HER

**CONTACT OFFICERS: PHILIP MARKHAM 01296 382705,
LUCY LAWRENCE 01296 674592, JULIA WISE 01296 382072
AND PAUL CLEMENTS 01296 382624**

Appendix C: List of major archaeological excavation projects at the post excavation stage (September 2023)

Site	Archaeological Contractor (Date fieldwork completed)	Local Planning Authority	Principal Archaeological Interest	Situation	Action required
Dorney Rowing Lake & Maidenhead Windsor and Eton Flood Relief Scheme	Oxford Archaeology	Bucks CC	Multi-period sites	Draft publication reports received and agreed November 2012. Second volume (of 3) formally published December 2013. Environment Agency pursued April 2014. Contractor pursued August 2015 – expected final volume publication March 2016. Contractor chased up June, July, September and November 2016 – expected draft finalised Christmas 2016 and copy editing in New Year 2017.	Asked for an update March 2020 – August 2020 Oxford apologised for the delay – hoping to return to it this Autumn – may be ready for copy editing by end of 2020. September 21 Author has been on long term sick but hopes to get to it in a month or two. Asked for an update March 22 – report should be supplied this financial year 22/23. Asked for an update March 23 August 23, OA, Monograph is moving towards completion.

Great Missenden, Bury Farm	Network Archaeology (2002)	Chiltern DC	Medieval moat and pottery production. Post-medieval barns.	Report received by HER and comments sent November 2009	Report Approved & asked for a copy to be supplied to the HER. Recs Bucks article published 2023.
Taplow, Berry Hill Farm	Wessex Archaeology (2017)	Bucks CC	Early Iron Age and Roman ladder settlement	HER reports submitted. Further mineral extraction consented. Fieldwork completed summer 2017. PXA has been supplied and comments made	Wessex Update Sept. 22 – specialist reports: all tasks are programmed in & majority should be in draft form by Jan 23. Asked for update Feb 23 Moving more slowly than hoped but is progressing August 23 Update – slow progress but environmental and C14 reports nearing completion.
Dormer Avenue, Wing	Foundations Archaeology (2016)	AVDC	Saxon and medieval settlement	Fieldwork concluded March 2016. No interim or assessment report received, despite being assured we would receive it in April 2017.	Draft final report received and commented on December 2018. Final report expected Autumn 2019 and publication in Recs of Bucks Spring 2020. Report to be supplied by April 2020

					<p>Asked for update May 2020 – told report imminent August 2020 asked Foundations for an update – delayed by Covid-19 but is the 1st report to be worked on when staff fully back</p> <p>Asked for an update September 21. Asked for an update March 22 – Foundations hoping to finish research Easter 22 . Asked for an update Sept 22 – hopefully next month or so. Asked for an update Feb 23, apologised as been very busy.</p> <p>Asked for update August 23.</p>
Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton	ULAS (2014)	AVDC	Roman road and Iron Age and Roman settlement	Fieldwork concluded Sept 2014. Draft excavation report received April 2017. Final report received April 2018.	Report arrived by BHEF; Recs of Bucks article to be submitted this year Update 30/12 – not included in Recs of Bucks 2021 – email

				Publication work to commence summer 2018.	sent to chase. Asked for an update September 21 – to be submitted for the next journal. Asked for an update March 22 said to hopefully be in next Recs Bucks, asked for an update Sept 22 & Feb 23, Asked for Update August 23
Former BOCM site, Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville	Network Archaeology (2013)	AVDC	Roman camp/settlement	Fieldwork completed 2013. AVDC discharged condition without consulting us.	A developer not associated with this application has a letter saying that Network will be paid to complete the outstanding works Update February 2020 – Network provided a fresh quote October 2019 August 2020 asked for an update from Network Asked for an update September 21. Update March 22 still awaiting

					funding, the developer is reported to have ceased trading
West End Farm, Buckingham	Network Archaeology (2019)	AVDC	Cemetery with mass burials	Fieldwork completed January 2019.	<p>Post excavation analysis and reporting outstanding.</p> <p>August 2020 Network says that skeletons have been processed – DNA testing and C14 have been included in the revised post ex costs Developer not progressing the site and not paying for the post ex. Planning permission has lapsed, enforcement can't take place – have asked Network for costs to complete the work and produce a report. March 22 Network in contact with developer now and may progress works. Feb 23 the developer has paid for the works to date and discussion</p>

					is taking place over the post excavation analysis, reporting and archiving. August 23 Ongoing
Cornwall Meadows, Buckingham	CFA	AVDC	Saxon and med settlement	Fieldwork completed October 2019	The post-excavation report has been approved and supplied to the HER

CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES

September 2023

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

Work continues apace on the eastern flank of Milton Keynes in relation to a large mixed-use development to the east of the M1 between Milton Keynes and Newport Pagnell, known as MK East Strategic Urban Extension (MKESUE). A third phase of excavations is well underway with the focus on an intensive late Iron Age to Roman settlement complex to the east of the A509 Newport Road.

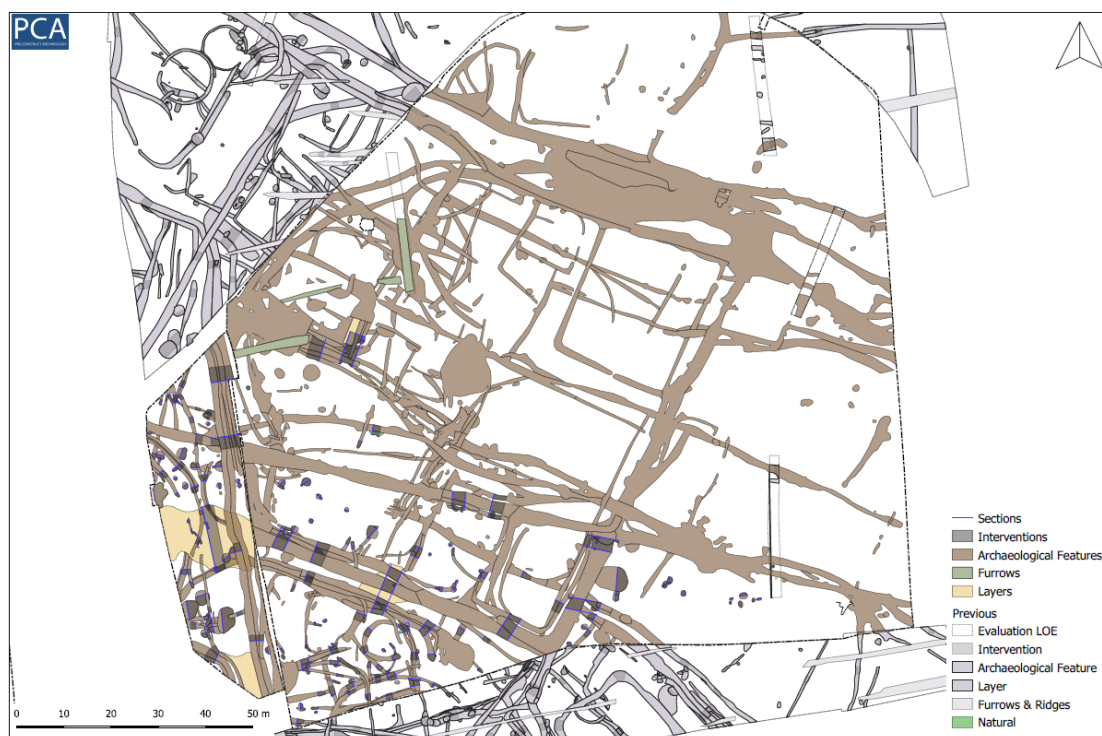


Image – working plan of MKE SUE Area 8

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT CASEWORK

Development consultations have led to at least one unexpected outcome and a useful Planning Inspectorate decision regarding non-designated heritage assets (NDHA):

The Grade II listed Old Bakehouse, High Street, North Crawley, was understood to be a much-altered C17th timber-framed house with later C19th alterations. Proposals to open up an attic space necessitated a specialist report on the roof structure, which appeared to be of an unusual vernacular arrangement (**image below**). The report confirmed the presence of smoke blackened timbers and the possibility of the

property containing the remains of a house of open hall layout with all probability of an appreciably earlier build date than the C17th.

A subsequent interim Historic England dendrochronological dating report describes the roof as 'comprising of three quite lightweight principal rafters with tie beam and collar trusses. The middle truss of the three also has queen posts, with slender curved braces from the queen posts to the collar. The trusses support single purlins to each pitch of the roof, the purlins in turn supporting a series of common rafters. There are slender curved braces from the feet of the principal rafters up to the purlins. All such timbers show some evidence of smoke-blackening'. The dendrochronological dating has so far proved inconclusive, but some further work remains to be completed and a full report into the findings is to be published in due course and will be made available.



Image – Roof structure, Old Bakehouse, N. Crawley

The Forester's Arms PH on Newport Road, New Bradwell was subject to proposals for demolition and redevelopment of the land for residential use. The building is not listed or located in a conservation area. The conservation advice, heeded by development management officers, that the Forester's Arms amounted to a non-designated heritage asset (NDHA) forming part of the historic narrative of the town was challenged by the developers following the refusal of planning permission.

The conflicting conclusions regarding the heritage status of the Forester's Arms were robustly contested at a recent hearing. The inspector agreed that the Forester's is an NDHA and the appeal was dismissed. This decision is a potentially useful benchmark (assuming the existence of a 5-year housing land supply) for future debate on the

identification and fate of non-designated built assets. Appeal Ref: APP/Y0435/W/23/3319810

The proposal to develop an Aldi supermarket alongside Warrington Road to the north of Olney went to Planning Committee in early August and gained planning permission with unanimous support from Committee members. Archaeological excavations by Oxford Archaeology at the site in November 2022 unexpectedly uncovered a late Roman building containing a mosaic (**image below**) close to the road frontage. Though damaged in places by the collapse or demolition of the building, the mosaic was well-preserved and closely resemble one recorded (and also preserved *in situ*) at Great Staughton in Cambridgeshire in the 1950s.

It is proposed to preserve the mosaic and building *in situ* beneath the car park of the supermarket and a scheme has been agreed for their careful reburial. Additional planning conditions will secure on site interpretation of the archaeology with provision for public outreach including 3 open days where the local community may view the remains prior to reburial in September, as well as provision for post-excavation analysis and publication of the findings.



Image - Olney mosaic (Oxford Archaeology)

HERITAGE AT RISK

The Milton Keynes City Council Heritage at Risk Register has been updated and the latest version was published online in February 2023. The scale of risk applied is that suggested by Historic England to provide uniform method of assessing and prioritising the buildings identified as at risk. Also published are the cases where

sites are no longer at-risk following actions by the Conservation Officers and by the Owners.

A new addition to the Heritage at Risk Register has been the barns at Two Mile Ash, a Non-designated Heritage Asset. These are rated as Category C: Slow Decay; No solution agreed. A further addition has been Whitehouse Farm, a Grade II Listed Building, which is also considered as Category C.

The scheduled monument of Magiovinium Roman town is on track for removal from the national Historic England Heritage at Risk register later this year. The area of the site which was at risk from ongoing arable cultivation has been in MKCC ownership since 2022, the land being transferred as a consequence of the adjacent Eaton Leys residential development. A scheme for the reversion of the arable fields making up the bulk of the Roman town to wildflower meadow is now underway with improved public access, site security, and interpretation to follow.

CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW PROGRAMME

The team continue to review our 27 Conservation Areas. Current reviews are Emberton, Ravenstone, Sherington and Weston Underwood, with consultation drafts available in the autumn. The completion of these documents will bring the number of areas reviewed to 16.

MK NEW TOWN HERITAGE REGISTER (LOCAL LIST)

In July the first Selection Panel met to consider a range of nominations to the register. The panel are formed of national and local experts across a range of interests and professions and had included Elaine Harwood, Historic England's post-war expert, until her sad and unexpected death in April. The nominations range from industrial buildings and entire residential grid squares through to local community artworks, the Selection Panel considers them against the adopted selection criteria.

The Panel will meet a further two times before the end of the year to consider the remainder of the first tranche of 160 assets. Work will then commence on the second tranche of around 80 nominations.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

Progress continues with the HER Action Plan stemming from the recent full audit. Idox/Exegesis have recently completed enhancement work including the incorporation of data from the Bedford Borough NMP project into the HER.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

After a 3-year hiatus MK Archaeology Day returns to the Central Library on Saturday 4th November this year. The day will feature talks including one on the Harpole Treasure from Northamptonshire plus excavations on the MKE SUE and Magiovinium / South Caldecotte. There will also be stands, displays and activities from a range of local archaeological groups.

The Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Active Archaeology Group (BAS AAG) continue to excavate the Ha-Ha at Gt Linford but have also commenced a trench in the post-medieval landscape garden and manorial site in Stanton Low Country Park.



Image – Trench 1 at Stanton Low

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NEW TOWN HERITAGE

Due to the age of the New Town, many buildings are reaching an age where important decisions about their future are being made. Within CMK there have been a number of schemes that retain such buildings and repurpose them. These schemes usually involve conversion to residential and major upgrading of their thermal performance. This not only preserves buildings that are part of the unique story and heritage of Milton Keynes new town but also makes use of embodied carbon in these buildings. Some buildings have been adapted to host renewable energy features, such as the former Bus Station (listed GII), which prior to its statutory listing was fitted with solar photovoltaic panels, carried out in consultation with the original architect.

Station House, the principal building in the grouping of mirror glass buildings around Station Square, has undergone such a conversion. In this scheme the architect

persuaded the developer to expose the pocketed concrete ceilings and internal columns to give the scheme architectural emphasis inside and out. Tight planning control over changes to the existing mirror glass façades was exercised with some applications refused or amended. Consent has also been granted for two additional storeys. Given the local importance of the grouping of buildings, great care had to be given to its design. Saxon Court (**image below**) and Westminster House, a pair of early new town buildings on opposite sides of Saxon gate in CMK, have also had consent granted for residential conversions (from office) which include upwards extensions. The designs vary greatly from each other but demonstrate the range of solutions that exist for the re-use of such buildings.



Image – Saxon Court proposed roof extension

Netherfield is a residential grid square typical of the striking, minimal aesthetic of the early years of Milton Keynes. It is characterised by linear terraces that run the length of the grid square over undulating ground whilst maintaining a constant eaves, the result provides a range of one-, two- and three-storey housing. It had to be easy to construct quickly using unskilled and semi-skilled labour whilst responding to shortages in various building materials in the 1970's. Fast forward 40 years and the housing is poorly / not insulated and incredibly inefficient thermally. MKCC received government funding and is now retrofitting and upgrading 300 houses, around a third of the scheme. Current building regulations prohibit using the original materials and construction techniques, however significant endeavour has been made to maintain the scheme's rigour and aesthetic whilst providing considerable improvements in performance.

Compiled by Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer, with contributions from:
Martin Ellison, Senior Conservation Officer;
Chris Hooper, Conservation Officer;
& Simon Peart, Conservation & Archaeology Manager

Conservation & Archaeology Team, Milton Keynes City Council