

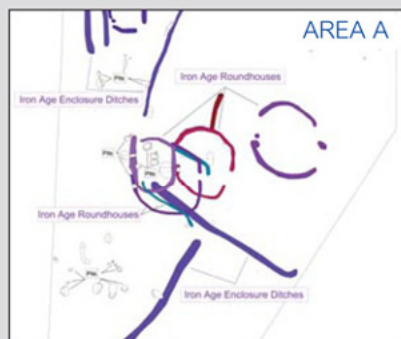
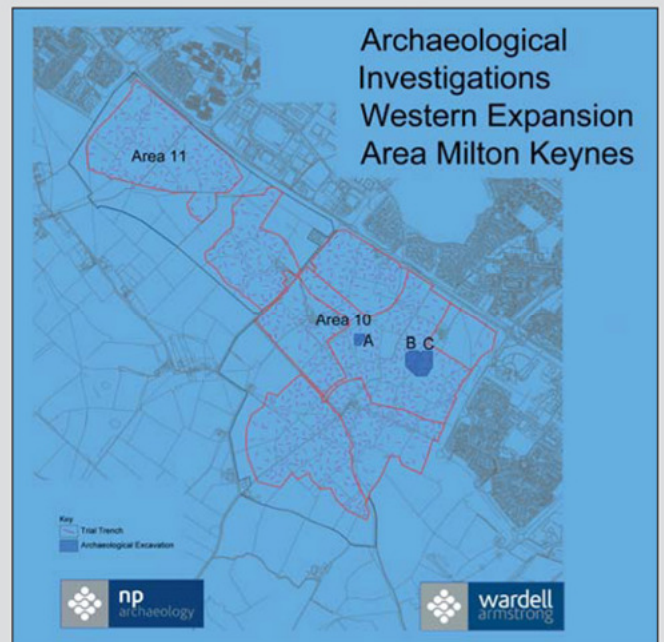
Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area Archaeology

The Western Expansion Area (WEA) is a sustainable urban extension to Milton Keynes and will provide a range of housing, schools, retail, commercial and employment areas and open spaces.

The development of the Western Expansion Area is being undertaken by Redlaw Land Ltd and as part of the ongoing development process Redlaw Land are funding a large-scale and detailed archaeological investigation of the area so that a permanent record is made of any archaeological remains prior to development commencing.

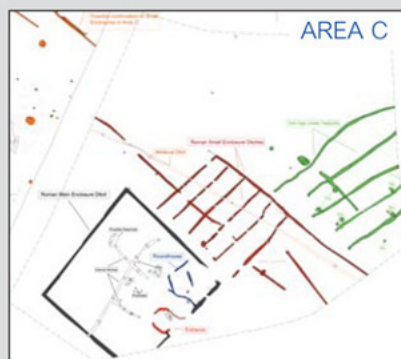
The WEA is divided into two areas, Area 10 which forms the Eastern area of the development and Area 11 which forms the Western area. Both areas are delineated on their Northern boundaries by the line of the old Roman road known as Watling Street, or the V4.

The archaeological investigations for the whole of the development are being undertaken on behalf of Redlaw Land by Wardell Armstrong LLP and their in-house team of field archaeologists from NP Archaeology, with input and assistance from the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer.



AREA 10

Three areas within the proposed first phase of development within Area 10 were identified as having the potential to contain significant amounts of archaeological remains. At the beginning of March 2011, Area A was opened and revealed a series of Iron Age (800BC – 43AD) roundhouses along with enclosure ditches and pits. A large amount of Iron Age pottery was found within these features. Area B contained a small number of pits, many of which contained Iron Age pottery. At the north end of the site, a series of ditches were excavated, along with a possible well/watering hole. As well as Iron Age pottery, some Roman pottery was also found.



Area C was the largest of the three areas opened. On the eastern side of the site several Iron Age ditches and pits were excavated. Iron Age pottery, including decorated sherds were found. Nearby a series of ditches forming a row of small rectangular enclosures were uncovered. The pottery found during excavation indicated that these ditches were Roman (43 – 410AD). Some medieval pottery was found in a separate ditch that cut across this Roman ditch.

These small enclosures lay next to a large square Roman enclosure (boundary) ditch. Inside the enclosure ditch was a roundhouse along with several ditches, pits and a possible well. A lot of decorated pottery and animal bone was discovered here. Two copper coins were also recovered one from the enclosure ditch and one from near the entrance to the enclosure. An iron spearhead and the tang and blade fragments of a sword or knife were also found near the entrance.