

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES**

**To: Buckinghamshire County Wide Archaeological Advisory Committee**

**Date: March 2002**

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**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To inform the Committee of current archaeological matters in Milton Keynes.

**B. FIELDWORK PROJECTS**

2. Attached is a list of fieldwork projects (Events) that have been undertaken in the Milton Keynes area between July and December 2001.
3. Fieldwork by the Design & Conservation section of the Council has identified a previously unrecorded C17th building in Oakhill Road, Shenley Church End. The building was within a plot designated for new housing which was outside the conservation area. As the building was not of listable quality the developer was persuaded to reconstruct two timber ceilings within the design of the new building. The planning consent required that the building was recorded and the development will be subject to an evaluation as the building may be the surviving wing of a larger building.
4. Milton Keynes Council's Landscape Section has commenced a programme of consolidation works to the church and churchyard at Stanton Low. The church building was standing until the 1950's but rapidly decayed when the roof collapsed. The nave and chancel survived as ruined walls with the interiors partially filled with collapsed walls and roof tiles. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken when the collapsed material was removed to reveal the floors and base of the walls. A large amount of moulded stone was salvaged and the finds included portions of wall monuments and a C17th wrought-iron support for the helm of an achievement that formerly hung in the chancel. Monuments in the brick floors were recorded before being covered by a protective layer of sand and geo-textile and a finishing layer of gravel. Unmoulded stone found whilst removing the collapsed material will be used in repairing the church and churchyard walls.

5. There was a reported metal detector find of several sherds and Saxon pottery and a spindle whorl during road construction at Knowlhill. No Saxon material had been previously found at the location which was on an area of former common land. The adjacent commercial development will now be the subject of an evaluation.

C. PLANNING

6. Between 1 January and 31 December 2001 there have been 128 consultations in respect of archaeology as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, schemes by English Partnerships, the Forestry Commission, Anglian Water, Eastern Electricity and FRCA.
7. A substantial Conservation Area for Wolverton was designated on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

D. SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

8. 5 Researchers used the Sites & Monuments Record between July and December
9. 3 Licences have been issued to archaeological Contractors to use digital material from the Sites & Monuments Record
10. 84 Records have been added to the Sites & Monuments Database
11. A digitised aerial photograph layer for 1999 has been incorporated within the GIS element of the SMR. The point and polygon SMR data can now be viewed in conjunction with this layer.

E. PROPOSED ACTION

12. The Committee is asked to note this report.