

# MILTON KEYNES RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MAJOR problems concerning archæology and natural history arise from the building of the New City. These include the preservation of sites of importance, the collection of records, and the collection of specimens. The North Bucks Historical Committee, set up in 1966 by the Bletchley Archæological and Historical Society and the Wolverton and District Archæological Society, had done some work, and a photographic survey of the area and an industrial archæology survey had been started, and some work done in the archæological field. In addition, the Museum had produced lists of archæological sites. At the beginning of the year, the only work done in the natural history field was in connection with the botanical survey of Bucks, apart from some limited work done by a few individuals. It was evident, therefore, that there was a great deal of work to be done, including detailed surveys of sites of archæological and natural history interest, and of historic buildings. The photographic survey of villages and landscape required completing and also industrial archæology monuments recorded. It was also evident that a number of archæological sites would eventually require excavating and there would be the major problem of sites found in the course of construction work.

When the matter was considered by the Museums Sub-Committee of the County Education Committee, it was considered that the best solution to these problems would be to establish a Milton Keynes Research Committee, consisting of both official and voluntary bodies. The Council of the Archæological Society also considered the matter and came to the same conclusions. A meeting called jointly by the two bodies was, therefore, held in the County Hall, Aylesbury, on 17th November, 1967, to consider setting up a Milton Keynes Research Committee. It was agreed to establish the Committee, with the following objects: To make recommendations for the preservation of sites of scientific interest, to collect records and specimens, to make surveys of sites of archæological and natural history interest and of historic buildings, to excavate archæological sites and to make a general photographic survey; in the designated area of the city of Milton Keynes.

It was agreed that membership should be open to local authorities in the area, societies and institutions with similar objects, the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, and Government Departments and official bodies. Observers were invited from Departments of the County Council interested, certain University Departments undertaking projects in the area, and the Consultant Planners of the Corporation. Two Advisory Sub-Committees for Natural History and Archæology respectively were appointed to draw up detailed plans of the work that was required and the methods to be adopted in carrying it out. Professor W. F. Grimes was elected Chairman of the Committee.

C.N.G.