

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
NEW GRAVEYARD
ALL SAINTS CHURCH
LOUGHTON
MILTON KEYNES**

NGR: SP 8380 3780

on behalf of Loughton Parish Council



Gareth Shane BSc (Hons)

October 2011

ASC: 1458/LAS/2



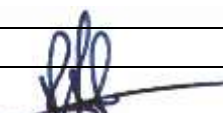
Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LAS	<i>Project no:</i>	1458
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-110567	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	AYBCM: 2011.238
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire (Historic County)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Loughton		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Loughton		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8380 3780		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.0.2 acres		
<i>Present use:</i>	Allotments		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Graveyard extension		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	09/00093/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	11/10/11		
<i>Client:</i>	Loughton Parish Council All Saints Church Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8AS		
<i>Contact name:</i>	David Thom (Churchwarden)		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Gareth Shane	<i>Date:</i>	17/10/11
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	18/10/2011

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary.....	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	6
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	7
4. Results & Conclusions.....	9
5. Acknowledgements	14
6. Archive.....	14
7. References.....	15

Appendices:

1. Trench Summary Tables	16
2. List of Photographs	18
3. Finds Concordance	18
4. ASC OASIS Form.....	19

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan and trench locations.....	5
3. Sections and plan.....	11

Plates:

Cover: Machining trench 2

1. The site	12
2. Posthole 202.....	12
3. Posthole 204.....	13
4. Soil stratigraphy	13

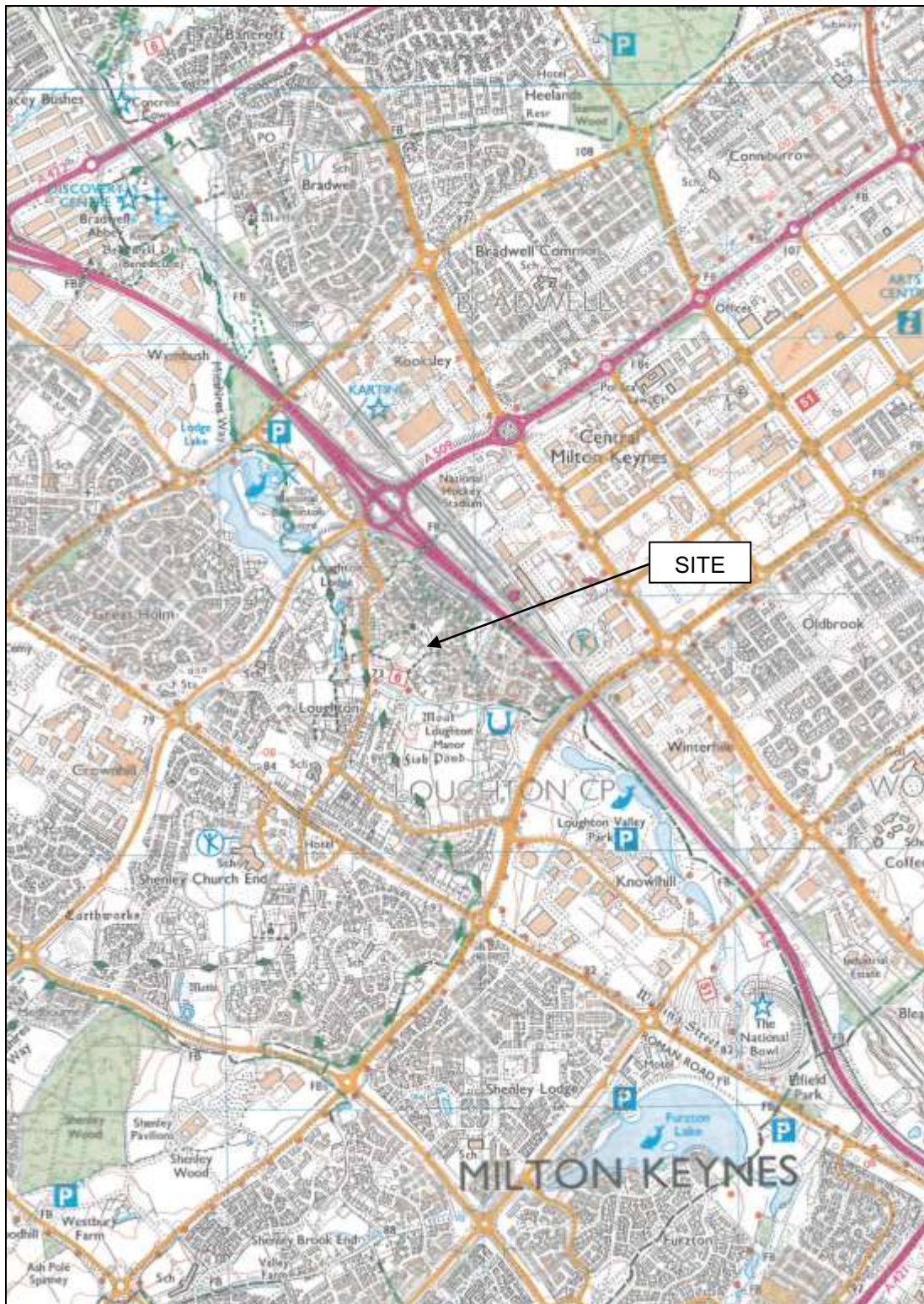


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In October 2011 an evaluation was carried in advance of extension to the graveyard at All Saints Church, Loughton, Milton Keynes. Two trenches were excavated and archaeology was present in one of these. Two postholes were found, one containing a single medieval pot sherd and a lump of fired clay, the other was undated. No other archaeological features or finds were located on the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 In October 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at All Saints Church, Loughton, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by David Thom on behalf of Loughton Parish Council, and was carried out according to a brief (Crank 2011) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Summerfield-Hill 2011). The relevant planning application reference is 09/00093/FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The site is located in the village and parish of Loughton centred on National Grid Reference SP8380/3780 (Fig. 1), and is to the south of All Saints Church.

The development area measures *c.*0.2 acres and is rectangular in plan. Immediately to the north of site is a graveyard, while to the west and south are residential properties. Pitcher Lane, which is to the east, provides access to the site (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area belong to the Wickham 2 Association, which are characterised as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey, fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. Small areas of slowly permeable calcareous soils on steeper slopes over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay or mudstone (Soil Survey 1983, Wickham 2, f).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development consists of the site being converted into a graveyard for All Saints Church (Fig. 2).

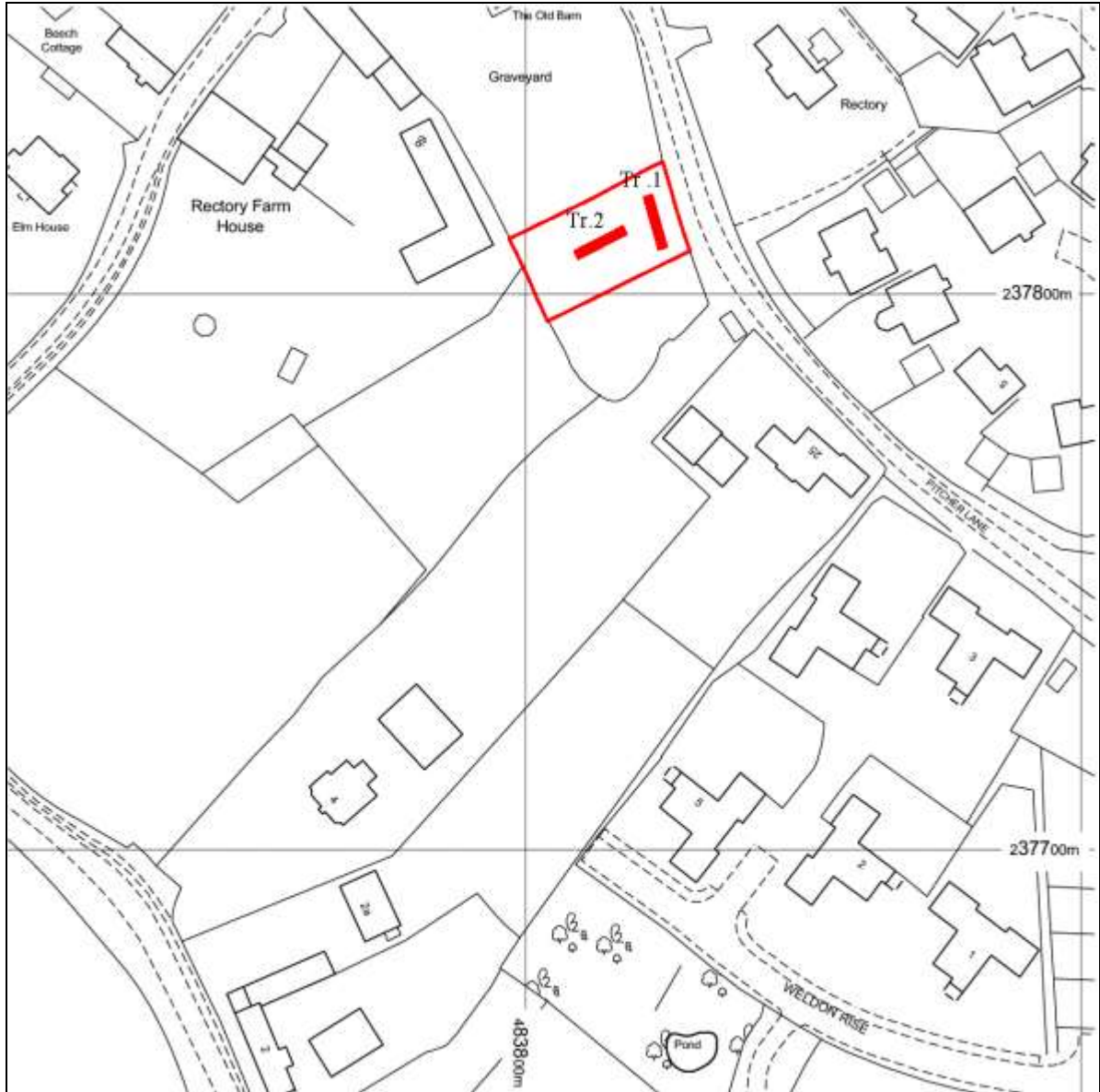


Figure 2: Site plan and trench locations (scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the area of study.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required the mechanical excavation of two 10×1.6m trenches (Fig.2)

2.4 Constraints

During the evaluation there were no departures from the agreed methodology.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from MKHER (Milton Keynes Historical Environment Record), and ASC's library.

3.2 *Prehistoric- Iron Age* (before 600BC-AD43)

Little is recorded in the HER for prehistoric-Iron Age activity in the area surrounding the site. To the north of Pitcher Lane, c.100m north-east of the site a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery containing both urned and pit cremations has been identified, which is suggestive of settlement activity in the vicinity (MKHER 684).

In the Loughton Valley area c.1.2km north-west of the development rescue investigations have uncovered a number of Iron Age pits and gullies (MKHER 2058), also suggestive of settlement.

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period there was significant activity within the surrounding environs. Two Roman roads ran through Loughton; one, now known as *Watling Street*, linked *Londinium* (London) with *Viroconium* (Wroxeter) and passed c.900m southeast of the site (OS 1979). A second, more minor road probably ran from the Shenleys through Loughton and on to Willen (Mynard 1987).

A small Roman stone farmstead dating to the late 2nd to early 3rd century is recorded at Wymbush c.1.5km northwest of the site (MKHER 277) (Mynard 1987, 82-90), beyond which was Bancroft Villa (Williams & Zeepvat 1994).

3.4 *Saxon-Medieval* (c.450-1500)

Loughton is recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086) where it is referred to as *Lochintone*. It was within Secklow Hundred and the land was held by the *Count of Mortain* and *Mainou the Breton* (Morris 1978). Ditched field boundaries, pits and post-holes of late Saxon and early medieval date were discovered north of Pitcher Lane (MKHER 684).

During the medieval period Loughton was made up of two parishes, Great Loughton and Little Loughton. All that remains of the settlement of Little Loughton are earthworks on The Green south of Leys Road, to the south of the site. The earthworks define the location of three closes and five crofts, one containing a moat and fishpond (MKHER 628; Croft and Mynard 1993). Archaeological excavations revealed a stone house and associated artefact dating to the 14th and 15th centuries. Remnants of a ridge and furrow field system were also visible.

Loughton Manor (Manor Farm) is located *c.*400m south of the site and is the only medieval manor house surviving within the city of Milton Keynes. The earliest timber framed sections of the building date from the late 15th century.

All Saints Church is located to the north of the development (MKHER 2985). The earliest documentary evidence for the church dates from 1219. The advowson was initially held by the lords of the Manor of Great Loughton, which suggests that the church may have been founded by John de Loughton or one of his ancestors. A church was also recorded at Little Loughton in 1219, which was also held by a branch of the Loughton family. The advowson of both churches were united in the early 15th century and acquired by Trinity College, Cambridge in the 17th century (Page 1927: 395-401).

The chancel and nave of All Saints Church are early 13th century, albeit with later alterations. The south aisle, south chapel, porch and west tower were added in the 14th and 15th century (Page 1927: 395-401).

Further examples of medieval activity are found to the west of the site near to Bradwell Road whereby a medieval house platform; pond and rectangular stock enclosure are present thought to be associated with SMV earthworks (MKHER 2589). At 2 Leys Road, *c.*300m south of development, a further building platform has been excavated uncovering the footings of a building with a central hearth and late 14th-15th century pottery (MKHER 3071).

3.7 *Post-Medieval-Modern* (1500-present)

Throughout the post-medieval to the present day Loughton has continued to develop. Scattered about the village are a number of 18th/19th century buildings, and modern housing. The village of Loughton still has two foci, the church and The Green, representative of the two medieval parishes (Pevsner 1987: 535-537).

The historical map of 1881 depicts the development area, as it is today, an enclosed field. In more recent years the site has been used as an allotment.

4 Results & Conclusions

4.1 General

Two trial trenches were excavated in the area to be converted to graveyard under constant archaeological supervision. The topsoil was mechanically removed to expose the orange clay natural two features were uncovered in trench 2 and the following observations were made (Fig.2).

Detailed information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

- 0.00-0.50m (100) mid-dark brown, soft silt with moderate sub angular stones and flint. Topsoil
- 0.50m+ (101) mid orange clay, firm with frequent small-med sub- angular stones and flint. Natural

No archaeology was observed or recovered from this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3: Plates 2 & 3)

- 0.00-0.45m (200) Topsoil same as trench 1
- 0.45m+ (201) Natural same as trench 1

202 Posthole: Sub circular discrete feature, steep break of slope and base, steep sides and U shaped profile. This feature was filled by (203) mid grey brown friable silt clay with limestone packing at the base. This featured contained one sherd of medieval pottery and a lump of fired clay.

204 Posthole: Sub-circular discrete feature, steep break of slope and base, steep sides and U shaped profile. This feature was filled by (205) (same as 203) and contained no finds.

The only ground disturbance related to the use of the site for allotments. The overburden consisted of plough soil and the natural ground appeared undisturbed.

4.2 Conclusions

The evaluation uncovered two postholes one datable by a small single sherd of medieval pottery. Posthole **202** contained one fill, which cannot confidently date the feature as it could be derived from use or dis-use of the feature. The small fragment of medieval pot and lump of fired clay could easily be residual. Two postholes is not enough evidence to speculate on any other remains that may exist outside the confines of the trenches, but it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains are present on the site.

4.3 ***Confidence Rating***

The evaluation was carried out in fine weather with good light conditions, and full cooperation was received from the client and machining contractor. Accordingly a high confidence rating is attached to the results of this investigation.

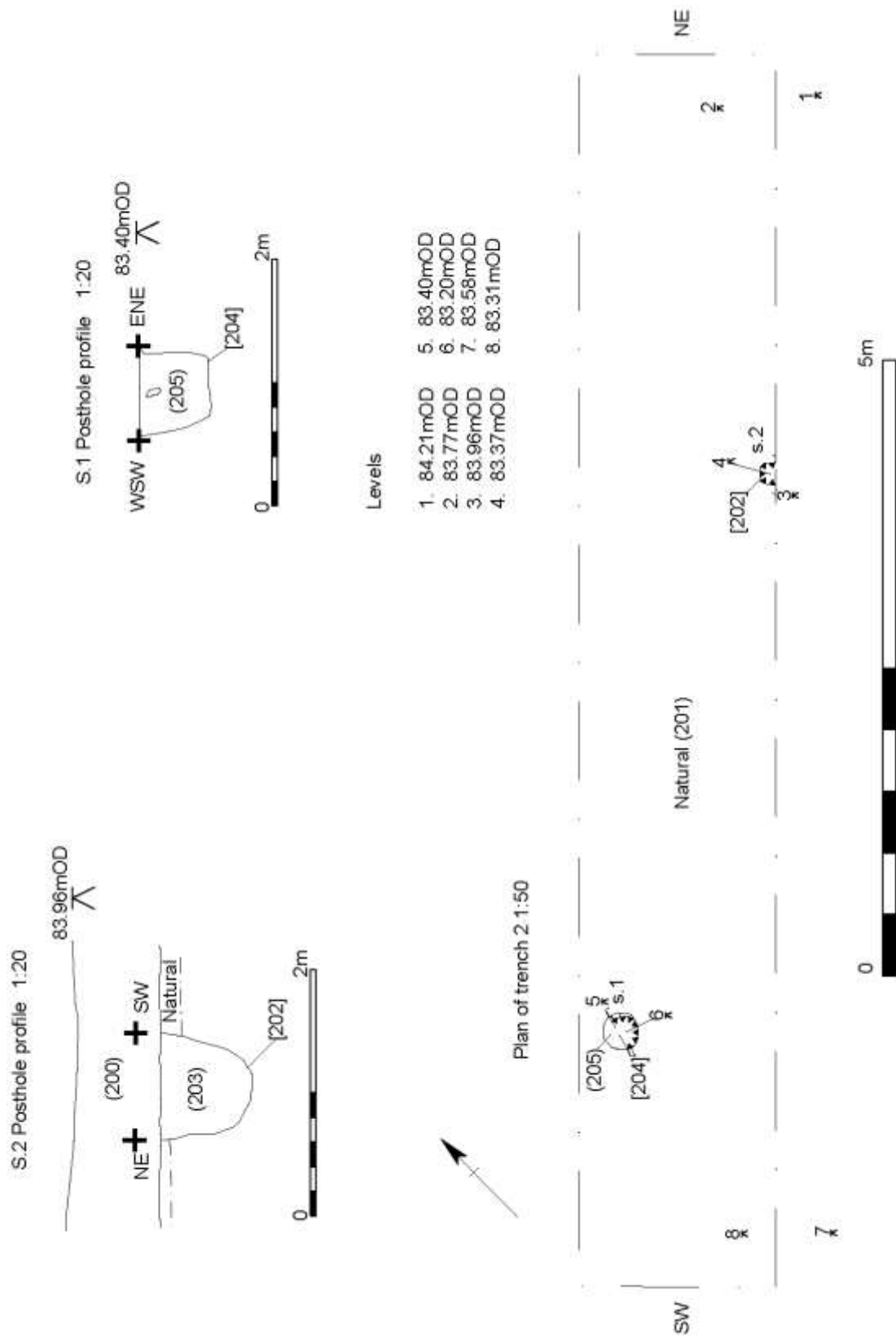


Figure 3: Sections and plan (scale as shown)



Plate 1: The site



Plate 2: Feature [202]



Plate 3: Feature [204]



Plate 4: Soil stratigraphy

5. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by David Thom on behalf of Loughton Parish Council. The writer is grateful to David Thom for his assistance. The project was monitored by *Milton Keynes Council* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Ian Saunders for on site machining.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MifA. Fieldwork was carried out by Gareth Shane Bsc (Hons) and Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc. The report was prepared by Gareth Shane and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MifA.

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum.

7. References

Standards & Specifications

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*. English Heritage (London).

IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Summerfield-Hill, C 2011 *New Graveyard, All Saints Church, Loughton, Milton Keynes. Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation* ASC doc ref 1458/LAS/2

Secondary Sources

Abrams, J 2002 *Watching Brief: 8 Weldon Rise, Loughton, Milton Keynes*. ASC:LWR02/01.

BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.

Croft, R.A. and Mynard, D C, 1993 *The Changing Landscape of Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological. Society. Monograph Series. **1** (Aylesbury).

Fell, D 2011 *Archaeological Evaluation: Land Between Pitcher Lane and School, Loughton, Milton Keynes*. ASC:1325/LPL/2.

Markham F 1973 *History of Milton Keynes and District*. White Crescent Press.

Morris J (ed) 1978 *The Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire*. Phillimore.

Mynard D C 1987 *Roman Milton Keynes. Excavation and Fieldwork 1971-1982*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological. Society. Monograph Series. **5** (Aylesbury).


Page, W (ed) 1927 *Victoria County History: A History of the County Buckingham: Vol 4*.


Richards, J & Cuthbert, M 2008 *Archaeological Evaluation: The Paddock, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes*. ASC: 1020/LBR/2.

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Williams, R J & Zeepvat R J 1994 *Bancroft A Late Bronze Age/Iron Age Settlement Roman Villa & Temple-Mausoleum*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series No 7.

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	10m	Width	1.6m	Depth	0.5m
	Levels					
	Trench top N		84.47m OD			
	Trench base N*		84.14m OD			
	Trench top S		84.12m OD			
	Trench base S		83.67m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	N	SP 83822 37818		S	SP 83825 37808	
	Orientation			N-S		
Reason for Trench			New graveyard			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Mid-dark brown soft silt with moderate small sub angular stones and flint and frequent rooting. Topsoil/ ploughsoil		1600	360	000
101	Layer	Light- mid rusty orange, firm clay, frequent small-med sub-angular stones and flint. Natural		1600	000	360

Trench 2											
						Max Dimensions (m)					
						Length	10m	Width	1.6m	Depth	0.45m
						Levels					
						Trench top Ne			84.21m OD		
						Trench base Ne			83.77m OD		
						Trench top Sw			83.58m OD		
						Trench base Sw			83.51m OD		
						NGR Co-ordinates					
						NE	SP 83818 37811		SW	SP 83808 37807	
						Orientation			N-S		
Reason for Trench			New graveyard								
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)						
200	Layer	Dark grey brown clay silt, soft with occasional small angular and rounded stones. Topsoil plough soil	1600	450	000						
201	Layer	Light- mid orange, firm clay, frequent small-med sub-angular stones and flint. Natural	1600	000	450						
202	Cut	Sub circular discreet feature, steep break of slope and base, steep sides and U shaped profile. Posthole	350	300	450						
203	Fill	Mid grey brown silt clay friable/ firm contains medieval pot sherd. Sole fill of posthole.	350	300	450						
204	Cut	Sub circular discreet feature, steep break of slope and base, steep sides and U shaped profile. Posthole	270	250	450						
205	Fill	Same as (203) sole fill and no finds	270	250	450						

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: All Saints Church, Loughton			SITE NO/CODE: 1458/LAS
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	√	√	Trench 1
2-3	√	√	Trench 1 soil stratigraphy
4-8		√	General shots
9	√	√	Trench 2
10-11	√	√	Trench 2 stratigraphy
12	√	√	Feature [202] posthole
13	√	√	Feature [204] posthole
14-16		√	Backfilling

Finds Concordance

Context No:	Cut No:	Feature	Pottery		Bone		Flint		Fired Clay	
			No:	(g)	No:	(g)	No:	(g)	No:	(g)
203	202	P/hole	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	19

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	All Saints Church, Loughton	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-110567
Short Description:	<i>In October 2011 an evaluation was carried in advance of extension to the graveyard at All Saints Church, Loughton, Milton Keynes. Two trenches were excavated and archaeology was present in one of these. Two postholes were found, one containing a single medieval pot sherd and a lump of fired clay, the other was undated. No other archaeological features or finds were located on the site.</i>		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Allotments	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8380 3780
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	All Saints Church, Loughton, Milton Keynes		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	0.2 acres	Height OD: (metres)	83
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	(Crank 2011)	Project design originator:	Carina Summerfield-Hill MA
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann MA MIfA	Director/Supervisor:	Carina Summerfield-Hill MA
Sponsor / funding body:	Loughton Parish Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	12/10/2011	End date:	12/10/2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bucks County Museum.	Finds	
Paper:		Report, site records and plans	
Digital:		CD rom with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	New Graveyard, All Saints Church, Loughton, Milton Keynes.		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1458/LAS		
Author(s):	Gareth Shane BSc (Hons)		
Page nos	19	Date:	18/10/11