

CLASP

Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project
Second Annual Report
2006



Alan Standish

Chair of the Executive Committee

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Second Annual Report for the Year Ending 31st August 2006

The Trustees

Report by Chair of the Trustees

As Chair of the Trustees I am pleased to report that CLASP has continued to pursue the promotion of the value of archaeology and heritage across the local area through both through it's member organisations and individual members. This has resulted in several positive technical achievements that will be referred to elsewhere in this report, primarily the Local People- Local Past Project. It would however be remiss of me not to refer to the work undertaken by Stephen Young our Archaeological Director in relation to Local People- Local Past Project; without his guidance the concept of this exercise would never have been borne. The interactive report for Phase One on the clasp web site www.claspweb.org.uk is now complete and may be accessed by all. I am also pleased to report that our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding for Phase 2 of the project has been successful. This second phase will entail much work during the forthcoming year.

I am pleased to report that our application to the Charity Commissioners for charitable status was successful. We are now a registered charity. I must single out the work undertaken by Jeremy COOPER who, at the request of the Trustees, advised on the format for the application and advised throughout on the correct path to take. Jeremy must also be thanked for the work he has undertaken with the Archaeological Director in the technical preparation of The Local People - Local Past interactive report.

Your Trustees have ensured that their principal roles and duties have been fulfilled during the past year, these are: -

- Overseeing the work of the Organising committee and agreeing strategy.
- Overseeing the operational policy framework.

- Overseeing the raising and distribution of funds to approved projects and other necessary expenditures identified by the Organising committee.

I am pleased that CLASP has actively lobbied both locally and nationally regarding relevant issues. This has ensured that the profile of CLASP has been raised both locally and nationally. We have also responded to consultation exercises being undertaken locally. These matters will again be dealt with in detail elsewhere in this Report. The invitation by the Council for Independent Archaeology to CLASP to host their 2006 annual conference has also given me satisfaction.

I express my appreciation both to my fellow Trustees, their Minute Secretary and to all members of the Organising Committee for their hard work and efforts during the past year. Without their dedication CLASP would not have achieved what it has. It is of course important to thank all those members, both individuals and associates as members of participating groups, for all the work they have undertaken at the 'sharp end'; this invariably means mud, cold and even pleasant sunshine on occasion!

I therefore commend this Report to you as a true record of the work undertaken by CLASP during the past year, any questions that may arise from it may be asked of my fellow Trustees and myself at the Annual General Meeting.

Alan Standish
Chair of the Trustees
August 2006

Report of the Secretary to the Trustees

Who are we?

There are eight Trustees who were appointed at the 2005 AGM: -

Alan Standish - Chair	Angela Evans - Treasurer
Alan Watson - Secretary	Stephen Young - Archaeology Director
Nick Adams	David Banner
Jeremy Calderwood	Alan Priestly

Their period of office expires at the end of the 2006 AGM but they are eligible for re-election. New Trustees will be appointed at the AGM and there is no limit to the number appointed or reappointed. If you are

interested in becoming a Trustee please contact Alan Watson on 01327 340470 or by email at alan@alanwatson.demon.uk

Trustees must be a member of CLASP or the nominated representative of an organisation that is a member of CLASP

Ruth Downie, who is not a Trustee, is the Minutes Secretary and the Trustees wish to express their sincere thanks to Ruth for all her excellent work this year.

What do we do?

The Trustees meet bimonthly

- to advance the education of the public in the subject of Archaeology, in particular but not exclusively, in West Northamptonshire (Extract from CLASP Charity Constitution)
- to manage the business of the Charity and review the work undertaken by the CLASP Organising Committee
- to consider requests for financial aid/or expenditure from the CLASP sub-groups.
- to keep aware of the various sources of funding available and to make applications where possible.

This year we have successfully applied to South Northants Council for a grant to purchase a lap top computer, a digital projector and a public address system.

Alan Watson
Secretary Trustees
August 2006

Treasurer's Report

The Accounts Summary is more or less self explanatory but for the items under 'Other' in both Receipts and Payments columns. Within the Receipts column you will see that Harpole Parish Council has again been very generous with a £1,000 donation for work done in Harpole. A very big 'thank you' to Harpole Parish Council.

'Other' in the Receipts column relates to £3,000 received from the television company for Whitehall participating in the Big Dig', a donation £150 towards cost of the CLASP T Shirts and £156 for sales of T-shirts, £94 profit on the Quiz, and £108.90 takings from the Open Evening.

'Other' in the Payments column refers to forwarding £3,000 to Whitehall Farm Villa, £281.60 cost for CLASP T-shirts, £169.35 for Insurance, £40 for Archaeological Affiliation fees and finally £5.98 for incidentals.

Receipts and Payments Account for Year Ending Mar 31.03.06

Receipts		Payments	
B/F from 31.03.05	1566.01		
Countryside Agency	0.00	Archive Materials	0.00
Harpole Parish Council	1000.00	Field Centre	211.10
History Societies	145.00	Finds Processing	149.00
Other Donations	116.00	LP/LP Geophysical Survey	0.00
Membership Fees	500.00	Website Leaflets	38.64
SNC	0.00	Travel Expenses	0.00
Building Society Interest	0.00	Office Costs	30.36
Bank Interest	11.96	Committee Room Hire	68.50
Bank Refund	0.00	Bank Costs	0.00
Other	3,508.90	Other	3,496.93
	<u>6,847.87</u>		<u>3,994.53</u>
		Petty Cash	24.37
		Cash in Hand	103.90
		Bank Statement	2,924.42
			<u>7,047.22</u>
		Banked not on Statement	10.00
		Paid not on Statement	-169.35
			-10.00
			-30.00
			<u>Final Total 6,847.87</u>

Angela Evans
Treasurer
August 2006

Auditors Statement

" In my opinion having reviewed the information provided, the above is a fair and true view of the Accounts for the period ending 31/03/06."

J.S. Fynan

11th August 2006

Archaeological Director's Report 2006

A great deal has been achieved since last year's report and the continued growth in the number of individual members and affiliated local societies involved with CLASP underlines the interest and possibilities for community archaeology in our area. We have been able to forge stronger links with professional archaeological providers, academic institutions and local government and these contacts will help CLASP in its future development as a heritage resource.

Local People - Local Past

A tremendous achievement has been the completion of the first stage of the Local People: Local Past project. The success of the initiative has allowed CLASP to apply for further funding from the Countryside Agency to undertake more much needed research and fieldwork. The second stage of this particular initiative will begin in the autumn of this year and is planned to run for about 12-18 months. Everybody involved with the project should be congratulated on the work already completed as it is making a huge contribution to our understanding of the Romano-British landscape in the Upper Nene. Both the scale of field survey and the rigorous recording methodology adopted have enabled us to interpret the character and development of the settlement within the area in ways that have not been possible in the past. The importance of this work should not be under estimated and its potential in the future for other period based surveys is extremely promising.

Over the next few months a CD-ROM encapsulating the research featured on the website will be distributed to participating societies and to landowners to keep them informed about our findings. The rising profile of the initiatives that involve CLASP members has also been helpful in applying for other sources of funding. We have been successful in securing grants from the Promotion of Roman Studies Group towards the cost of work on the Roman town site at Bannaventa and from the Mark Fitch Fund towards investigating the glass and coins from the villa at Whitehall Farm.

I will be presenting a paper on our work at a three-day national conference on Community Archaeology in November in Manchester and we hope to host a day conference for the Council for Independent Archaeologists in September. These events are important avenues for us

to decimate our philosophy about local involvement and to raise awareness across the archaeological world of the potential associated with a people centred approach to recording the past.

The nature of the fieldwork carried out by CLASP over the last year can be seen in the society reports of this general report. However there are some points of interest about the work undertaken since the last report that are probably worth elaborating on. Our seventh season of excavation on the Roman Villa estate at Whitehall Farm has continued to confirm the complex phasing of the major structural elements of the building. A new range of rooms immediately to the south east of the bath house complete with a hypocaust system mean we will have to reconsider the earliest development of this part of the site and the layout and relationship of the buildings. A bronze stylus found in the demolition layer overlying the new range of rooms is particularly worthy of note because it indicates that some at least of the occupants of the Whitehall villa were literate and that these people culturally aspired to be Romans. The identification of post Roman pottery is also helping to explain what happened to the site at the end of the Roman period. This evidence when considered with similar material from other neighbouring sites is beginning to illuminate our understanding of the wider area during the period of the dark ages.

Meanwhile the test pitting at the Roman town of Bannaventa has helped demonstrate the true extent of the archaeology associated with the site. Although it is impossible with the approach adopted to state categorically the nature of the features that were uncovered, their very existence is indicative of a wide spread occupation of the site that goes far beyond that previously identified. Indeed the material assemblage being recovered hint at a far larger town than previously thought. A partial geophysical survey of the site has revealed an intense occupation of the walled area of Bannaventa that includes roadside shops, round houses, tenement boundaries, the alignment of Watling Street and the position of the defensive ditches.

The intensive fieldwalking survey carried out on the Roman site in Sharoah Field, Nobottle also helped establish the location of another large courtyard villa. Our additional funding will enable us to commission a geophysical survey of the site which should produce results that are as exciting as those recovered from one of the Harpole villas, where we have been able to recover the ground plan of most of the main villa ranges.

There is a great deal of work still to do and we hope to extend the survey area to investigate sites in the parishes of *Gayton* and *Tiffield*. It will be interesting to see if the findings from these sites are consistent with the diagnostic criteria established from the fieldwork already completed on other Roman settlements in our area.

Stephen Young
Archaeological Director
August 2006

The Organising Committee

Report from Chair of the Organising Committee

A lot has happened since our last AGM - the most significant is our successful application to become a registered Charity. We have introduced membership cards and have also produced our official CLASP 'T' shirt which is a popular fundraiser and also enables members to project a corporate image at events. Another successful fundraiser was our Quiz that your Organising Committee has decided will be an annual event, launched at the AGM.

The Local People - Local Past project continues to dominate our fieldwork: Phase I is complete and funding secured for Phase II.

We had a very successful few days at Mans Head Wood at Bannaventa in December 2006 where members carried out trial trenches, a field walking survey and a metal detecting survey with assistance from NNPAST. The finds have been processed by volunteers at Whitehall and included a large quantity of pottery sherds. We have also carried out a field walking survey at Sharoah with help from Brington History Society who are processing over 4000 sherds of pottery and over 5,000 fragments of tile.

The Whitehall dig was another success and once again I am pleased to report that of the 90+ volunteers whom attended 98% were CLASP members.

We have several field walking and metal detecting surveys planned for the autumn and may also have an opportunity to carry out further investigation at Mans Head in the winter.

Our newsletters are a continuing success story with each new edition containing an increasing amount of news and information from members and their societies.

Kate Weaver
Chair
Organising Committee
August 2006

Secretary to the Organising Committee - Report 2006

The past year has seen the organisation of this Committee evolve into a routine with meetings held on a regular bi-monthly basis as a result of the forward planning of meetings on a yearly basis. Whilst we have utilised the Committee Room at Nether Village Hall for our meetings your Committee considers the room to be too small to allow Committee members to participate effectively in discussions. We have therefore agreed to move our meetings to the adjacent Baptist Chapel hall at no extra cost.

To demonstrate the extent of work undertaken by CLASP the synopsis of work in progress has been maintained on the CLASP website. Equally all our minutes together with other significant items are published on the website to ensure members have easy access. www.claspweb.org.uk . Once again I make another appeal to urge members to get access to the CLASP mailing group - even if you do not have a computer yourself members can join through friends and relatives computers (perhaps your grandchildren's!). Whilst discussing the mailing group I would like to see more activity generated from those who are members of it.

Your Committee has been most concerned over the effects of the Northamptonshire County Councils budgetary cuts on services to heritage and archaeology. Together with other individuals and organisations from across the County we have expressed our concerns to the Council regarding the potential damage. The staffing cuts at the county council have been severe and apart from the human factor on those who have lost their jobs the effect on archaeology in the county, will to our mind, be most severe. These cuts have also effected the staffing levels of the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record. This record is most important to CLASP as it not only provides a database of items and features located in the past therefore guiding us where to carry out our future work but also a central database to record what we find to the benefit of future generations.

Correspondence has also been sent to both Daventry and South Northamptonshire District Councils to establish how they will ensure archaeology and the heritage is protected in future when planning and development applications are made. We have also been in contact with the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation regarding these issues. CLASP will maintain these contacts.

The proposal to establish a permanent repository and headquarters for CLASP has moved only slowly during the past twelve months. Whilst this is a matter primarily for the Trustees the Organising Committee actively supports the concept and is working with the Trustees to ensure a positive outcome in the longer term. We have responded to consultation exercises both from Daventry District Council and the Friends of Daventry Museum regarding the future of Museum services in the area; are contacts with South Northamptonshire Council have also broached this topic.

Your Committee made a submission of written evidence to the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee's Enquiry into Protecting and Preserving our Heritage. This was followed by a supplementary submission expressing our concerns at the effects of the Northamptonshire County Council budgetary cuts on the local Heritage. Whilst we had hoped to be called to give oral evidence to the Committee we were not so called but are pleased to note that in the subsequent Report of the Committee our Evidence was printed in full. We are currently considering what additional evidence to submit to the Culture Media and Sport Committee for its 'follow up' Enquiry into Museum Services.

Hopefully this work together with other contacts made have helped to raise the profile of CLASP not only in the immediate area but also across Northamptonshire and nationally.

Dave Hayward
Secretary Organising Committee
August 2006

Reports from Participating Organisations

Brington History Society

During September and October 2005 under the direction of Archaeology Director Stephen Young, the Society, together with other CLASP members, conducted an extensive field survey of a known Roman villa site near to Nobottle. In all some 4 hectares were investigated with over 2500 potsherds and 6500 roof and floor tile fragments being recovered. These finds are now being processed and cleaned by members. The Society will be involved in further fieldwork on this site during autumn 2006, again under the leadership of Stephen Young.

Andrew Shaw
Brington History Society
August 2006

Bugbrooke History Society

Whilst there has been no direct involvement by CLASP in Bugbrooke Parish during the past twelve months it is interesting to note the results of the earlier work undertaken on the Bugbrooke Romano-British sites as incorporated into the Phase One report of the Local People - Local Past project.

Alan Kent
Bugbrooke History Society
August 2006

Flore Heritage Society

There has no been no further exploratory work at the Flore sites during the past year. However our Society still maintains active connections with CLASP in its processing of finds and involvement with activities elsewhere in the CLASP area. As Phase 1 of the Local People - Local Past project draws to a close it is interesting to note how the sites in our parish fit into the wider Romano-British landscape across the area. Hopefully there will be further exploration of the Flore sites as Phase 2 of the project progresses.

Alan Priestly
Flore Heritage Society
August 2006

Harpole Heritage Group 2005-2006

For the fifth year running Harpole Parish Council has again made a grant of £1,000.00 for archaeology in Harpole, CLASP and Harpole Heritage Group are grateful for their generous support. I went along to the Harpole Parish Meeting to report on where the money was spent, they appeared to have been satisfied with my explanation.

As a result of these grants we have been able to have geo-physical surveys carried out at 'Harpole 1' - (Harpit) and the adjoining field, this revealed banks and ditches. We were also excited to learn that the resistivity survey at 'Harpole 2' - (Barn Close and the Mere) revealed what appears to be a courtyard style building with a possible audience chamber, plus a number of other buildings. CLASP is planning to do additional geo-physics and carry out a detailed metal detecting survey during the autumn. We eagerly await the written results of these surveys.

On a personal level I have attended all but one of the CLASP Organising Committee Meetings. On two occasions I have assisted with CLASP activities Bannaventa, and helped out at the Whitehall Villa excavation. I have also arranged displays for CLASP at the Whitehall annual public meeting, the CLASP AGM and at Harpole for the Village of the Year - 'Best of the Best' competition.

Jennifer Smith
Harpole Heritage Group
August 2006

Norton, Northamptonshire, Portable Antiquities Search Team

The Team's assistance to CLASP over the last year spans metal detecting, field-walking etc both on sites discovered or re-discovered by our members. Assisting the research of the long-ago scheduled site of Bannaventa we were privileged to assist in the finding of 600 metal items - mostly coins, and to make a small contribution towards the 19,000 potsherds found. Following a few finds we made, in and around Manshead wood, we assisted in CLASP's later survey in the wooded area in which 10 Roman coins and some ancient pot-shards were found.

The 2006 Whitehall Roman Villa dig occupied three of our members for some of the scheduled time. Our members now look forward to assisting C.L.A.S.P. in the proposed researches planned on other sites on which initial finds have invited further exploration.

Brian Ives
NNPAST
August 2006

Towcester and District Local History Society

The enthusiastic membership of the TDLHS continues to explore and document research projects relating to its local heritage. The monthly meetings, exhibitions and guided walks provide excellent platforms to raise awareness of key issues, communicate current activities, collate contributions for their wide range of publications and website.

A NALH Study Day has been scheduled for 7.10.06 and will be hosted by TDLHS; Stephen Young (Archaeological Director) of CLASP will give a presentation on the Roman-British landscape from Lactodorum to Bannaventa. Archaeological initiatives are of keen interest to its members and the wealth of local history much of it from the Romano-British era offers an excellent opportunity for future joint initiatives with CLASP.

Georgina Boreham
Towcester District Local History Society
August 2006

Weedon Bec History Society

Whilst the past twelve months has seen little further exploration in the Weedon area directly involving the Romano-British era apart from a geophysical exploration in the Ashyards our Society still remains an active organisation within CLASP. Agreement has been reached with the occupiers of the Old Vicarage to put some trial trenches in when resources become available.

Julia Johns
Weedon Bec History Society
August 2006

Whitehall Roman Villa and Landscape Project Report

During the last 12 months we have been very busy at Whitehall. We have made excellent progress with the finds from the annual digs: All finds up to and including 2005 have been washed, written on, sorted, counted, weighed and the resultant data entered onto a database. We have also processed all the finds from the Mans Head Wood test pits and field walking from December 2005. All this work is only possible thanks to volunteers who give up their Tuesday afternoons and, indeed, many additional hours to help with the processing. Our wall plaster specialist, Gillian Biddle, continues to study our wall plaster and will be sharing her knowledge at the CIA conference in September. We have studied the

intricacies of box flue design and in the run up to this year's dig were immersed in the various profiles of tegula. Our volunteers continue to contribute an average of 50 hours per week to the Whitehall and CLASP projects.

The human remains from the Saxon Cemetery have now been returned after being studied at Cardiff University and we are hopeful that Dr M Weaver will be able to bring to life another face from the past when he reconstructs the skull of a Saxon female.

We have recently completed our 2006 excavation which, as usual has answered a few questions, but raised many more as more tantalising glimpses of a new building emerge.

Once again a very busy but rewarding and enjoyable year!

Kate Weaver
Whitehall Roman Villa and Landscape Project
August 2006