



CLASP

Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project

Please reply to Secretary of the Organising Committee:

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23rd September 2008

Your Reference: APP/M9570/A/08/2083327/NWF

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Appeal

Croudace Homes & others

Land at Churchfields, Long Buckby Road, Daventry

1. Introduction

This organisation has previously submitted a substantive paper to WNDC regarding the archaeological implications of this application. We understand that WNDC should have forwarded you a copy of that paper consequent on Notice of Appeal being received by them. Please take the contents of this letter as our written submission to your Appeal hearing, we would however intend, if permitted, to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry.

We understand that at this time no response has been received from Croudace to our comments or those of others on the archaeological issues that were made to WNDC originally. Having attended the Pre Inquiry Meeting at Daventry on the 23rd September it was evident that their Regulation 19 response has not yet been made and will not for some time. If and when that response is received it may alter our views on some aspects of the archaeological evidence referred to in this submission. However at this stage our views remain as stated in the original submission apart from one aspect that is highlighted in the mention of the Danetre application below.

Again as a result of the Pre-Enquiry meeting we would wish to emphasise the need for at least some of our evidence to the Croudace Appeal needing to be considered jointly with the other Appeals.

Executive Committee: Alan Watson (Chair), Ruth Downie (Secretary), Angela Evans (Treasurer), Stephen Young (Archaeology Director), Nick Adams, Jeremy Calderwood, Sandra Deacon, Tony Kesten

Organising Committee: Jeremy Cooper (Acting Chair), Dave Hayward (Secretary), Julia Johns (Membership Secretary)

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2. Danetre Application

CLASP has studied the initial archaeological report in this report and additionally has commented on a further geophysical report undertaken on behalf of the Danetre Consortium. This latter report has to our view emphasised the comments made in relation to Areas 23 & 24 described in the Archaeological Element of the Croudace Environmental Statement. Whilst there is no strong evidence of a continuing field system immediately to the south of the Daventry to Norton road, opposite these areas, there are other field systems of a similar nature slightly further to the south. There is a need therefore for comparative research to be undertaken to establish whether these do form part of one estate or form part of a series of smaller settlements. The possible wider connotation of these field systems is discussed in more detail later in this submission at paragraph 4.

3. Monksmoor Application

Our comments in our original submission regarding the relationship with the Monksmoor proposals are still pertinent. Again we will cover certain aspects of these implications in paragraph 4 below.

4. Romano-British Landscape

Work that has been undertaken recently in western Northamptonshire both by CLASP and others is beginning to reveal significant changes to the late 3rd C Romano-British landscape in this geographical area. It appears that there were extensive socio-economic changes at about this time that resulted in complete redevelopment of the landscape adjacent to the Roman roadside station and small town of Bannaventa. This evidence has been revealed from geophysical survey recently undertaken on the Bannaventa site by this organisation in conjunction with extensive fieldwalking and metal detecting surveys. These changes reflect an archaeological landscape of first rate importance, almost certainly at a national level and depending on future finds probably of international significance. From the evidence contained within the archaeological elements of the three projects Environmental Statements, Churchfields, Danetre and Monksmoor, it is evident that there are indications of Romano-British field systems remaining across the overall area and it is essential that their relevance to the larger landscape context is fully investigated.

CLASP therefore takes the view that there is a need for a co-ordinated programme of work to look at these field systems to investigate commonalities in dating, both commencing and ending, and hopefully some indication as to the cause of their demise. It may also be possible to identify whether these field

systems formed part of large estates or were a series of separate settlements, either of a villa-based economy or a series of smaller farms.

5. Community Involvement

CLASP would urge that a requirement be placed on any outline planning permission that may be granted to ensure CLASP was included in any future discussions on archaeological mitigation between the developer and the County Archaeologist. CLASP is a credible body that is not only a registered charity but has a wide membership base of local historical societies and individual members from across the area, including societies from Daventry and Norton. We already have an ongoing project called 'Local People - Local Past' that is studying the wider Romano-British Landscape across the area. Primarily the Heritage Lottery and the Roman Research Trust fund this work; it is being done with the authority of English Heritage where it affects the Scheduled Monument of Bannaventa.

It is considered essential that there is capacity for community participation in this work as it will assist in engendering a sense of place, identity and stakeholder status for what in many ways will be a new community if these developments area allowed. Whilst it may not be expected that CLASP should undertake all the excavation work we hope that we could be involved in certain aspects of the archaeological methodological approach adopted and the general research agenda.

We would hope that funding to further this work could be made available from the developers as a positive contribution to enhancing knowledge and community involvement to ensure best practice solutions.

Yours sincerely

D.F. Hayward
Secretary to the Organising Committee