



CLASP

Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project

Please reply to D.F. Hayward MBE, The Secretary, Organising Committee, CLASP.
29, Winston Close, Nether Heyford, Northampton NN7 3JX

Organising Committee

Minutes of Meeting

21st April 2008

- 1. Attendance.** Georgina Boreham (Towcester District History Society), Jeremy Cooper (Co-opted), Alan Dent (Individual Members Representative), Brian Culling (Flore Heritage Society and Whitehall Villa Project) Angela Evans (Treasurer - Trustee), David Hayward (Co-opted)-Secretary Organising Committee), Brian Ives (Norton Northampton Portable Antiquities Search Team), Alan Kent (Bugbrooke History Society), Andrew Shaw (Brington History Society), Jennifer Smith (Harpole Heritage Group),
- 2. Apologies** Julia Johns (Weedon Bec History Society), Stephen Young (Archaeological Director - Trustee)
- 2. Minutes of Last Meeting - 11th February 2008**
These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
- 3. Matters Arising**
 - 3.1 Channel 4 TV Awards**
It was noted that details of these had now been publicised but it was **agreed** that currently CLASP did not have an appropriate submission to enter.
 - 3.2 Marsh Archaeology Awards**
Nothing further has been heard from the CBA regarding any certificate or similar presentation to mark the Highly Commended category that CLASP received in this event.
 - 3.3 Milton Keynes Heritage Group**
The Chair stated that the Secretary of the Trustees had represented CLASP at a recent meeting of this group. He mentioned a proposed 'shop' that the Group was currently planning to open in the MK Centre. It was intended to have a twelve-month programme of displays, hopefully CLASP will have a contribution to

this. He also mentioned that there was a possibility of funding for display material.

5. WNDC

5.1 Daventry Working Men's Club Site

The Secretary reported that he had pursued the question of archaeological involvement at this location. Additionally a CLASP individual member had expressed his concerns regarding the potential destruction of archaeological remains at the site. Consequent to discussions between WNDC, the Developers and their Agents regarding Health & Safety and Insurance issues the Secretary visited the site with the member to carry out an investigation of one target area that could have been the site of early medieval cottages linked to the adjacent Abbey. Following a careful removal of the debris of some later cottages to 'natural' at the site no evidence of earlier structures was located. It would appear that any trace of the early cottages had probably been lost during earlier road realignment.

The remainder of the site had according to other archaeological surveys carried out both for early developments and the current works, consisted mainly of 'made up' soil levels.

5.2 Danetre Village

The Secretary reported that the developers for this project had appealed to the Secretary of State against the delay by WNDC to reach a conclusion on this site. This meant that a government inspector would now make all decisions regarding this application. CLASP had been invited to make a submission to this Appeal hearing; it was agreed that this should be done.

Secretary

5.3 Towcester Vale

The Secretary reported that is currently preparing a paper on this for WNDC and which would be submitted shortly. He had liased with both Messrs R. Whyte & B. Giggins regarding this issue.

5.4 Moat Lane Towcester

It was noted that there would be a consultation exercise and public display on the 9th/ 10th May at SNC regarding the proposed development at this location. TDLH have this matter in hand and no further action is required by CLASP.

5.5 Sandy Lane Harpole

The Secretary raised the question of the recently publicised planning proposals for the land to the east of Sandy Lane Harpole. Whilst it appeared that some preliminary work had been done prior

to the applications being submitted there were few archaeological finds. It was **agreed** that if the Secretary did identify further details regarding these applications he would forward them to Mrs Smith. Mrs Smith then drew the attention of the Committee to a potential site to the north west of Sandy Lane at Heath Farm. It was **agreed** that consideration needed to be given to this location in due course and how it interacts with the other known sites in the area. *(Secretaries Note: A closer examination of these latest proposals indicate that they primarily refer to a an extension of the Sandy Lane Relief Road northwards from Berrywood Road to Harlestone Road. Some of the extension follows the course of the existing road, however a considerable amount in fact follows a new course. A new overbridge is to be constructed to carry Port Road over the new road and a roundabout on the A428. It does appear that some investigatory work was carried out in 2006 into these proposals. Contact has now been made with Dan Windward, the new archaeologist employed by NCC, who is currently working to ensure that the conditions regarding archaeological investigation on this site are complied with. He has been made aware of the interest of Harpole Heritage Group with this work. Contact will be maintained.)*

5.6 Provision of Digitised Maps

The Secretary stated that he had been having some technical problems with these maps. However he thought he had now managed to identify the problem and was hoping to commence work with them shortly. Mr A Dent volunteered to assist with this work in the future.

Secretary

5.7 Future Policies

In the absence of the Archaeological Director it was **agreed** that development of these policies would be put on hold at this stage.

6. AGM 2008

There were no issues to be resolved regarding the AGM except the identification of a Chair for the panel. The Secretary stated that he was trying to contact Dr F. Pryor. *(Secretaries Note: I have now managed to contact Dr. Pryor and unfortunately he is filming with Time Team in Northern Ireland that week. Further enquiries as to an appropriate Chair will be made and reported on.)*

7. Technical Work in Progress

7.1 Chapel Field Coins

Mr Ives asked if the current situation with these coins was known as the landowner had queried the situation. The Chair undertook to

make enquiries with the Archaeological Director and contact Mr Ives directly.

Chair

7.2 Old Rectory, Weedon

No update was available on this location.

8. Financial Matters

The Treasurer reported that there was currently £7579.41 in the bank of which £972 is uncommitted. Harpole Parish council has donated a further £1000 for the 2008/9 financial year. The Committee expressed their thanks for this. It was also noted that no invoices had as yet been received for geophysical work carried out at Barn Close and The Mere in 2007.

9. Metal Detecting Standards

NFA at this stage.

10. Repository

The Secretary reported that following discussions with WNDK they had requested that we submit a basic outline proposal for a repository at Daventry. As a result the Secretary reported that in conjunction with the Chair, Archaeological Director and Mr Banner he had now submitted a proposal to them. It was **agreed** that consideration would have to be given to the ongoing management and funding of a repository if these proposals are successful. It was further **agreed** that this would be an issue the Trustees would have to consider.

Trustees

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Display Boards

The Chair reported that these had now been completed and were stored at the office at Whitehall Farm. The Committee expressed its appreciation of this work to the Chair.

11.2 Northamptonshire Archaeology Day

Mr. A. Dent reported that Mr F. Kay and himself had attended this day on behalf of CLASP. This had been a worthwhile exercise as it made a good interaction with other groups in the county although public attendance was poor. The Committee expressed its thanks to Messrs Dent and Kay for attending.

11.3 Watching Briefs

As there was a possibility that CLASP could become involved with carrying out watching briefs in the future Ms. B. Evans Rees had kindly prepared a guide to arranging and carrying out work of this nature. The Committee thanked her for the

preparation of this comprehensive document and that consequent to agreement by the Archaeological Director the Chair would place it on the CLASP web site for future reference.

Chair

Date of next meeting: - 15.30hrs Monday 9th June 2008

J. Cooper - Chair
May 2008

D. Hayward - Secretary