



## **CLASP**

### **Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project**

Please reply to D.F. Hayward MBE, The Secretary, Organising Committee, CLASP,  
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### **Minutes**

### **Organising Committee Meeting**

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

**Baptist Church Rooms**

**The Green, Nether Heyford**

#### **1. Attendance:**

David Adams (Friends of Daventry Museums), Jim Aveling (Blisworth Heritage Society), Georgina Boreham (Towcester District History Society), Angela Evans (Treasurer - Trustee), David Hayward (Co-opted-Chair, Research and Planning - Trustee), Julia Johns (Weedon Bec History Society), Tony Kesten (Independent Members Representative-Trustee), Jennifer Smith (Harpole Heritage Group), Bill Wiggins ( NNPAST), Stephen Young (Archaeological Director - Trustee),

#### **2. Apologies,**

Norman Garnett (Whitehall - Secretary) Alan Kent (Bugbrooke)

#### **3. Secretary**

In the absence of the Mr Garnett, the Chair took the Minutes

#### **4. Minutes of Meeting:**

With the following amendments the Minutes of the meeting for the 190<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were accepted as a true record. The following are the amended paragraphs: -

"4.1 Tony Kesten had been given to understand by a Trustee of the Henry Royce Foundation that there was a possibility that CLASP might be able to store a container at their premises at Paulerspury. He has subsequently been told by another Trustee that this was not a possibility and in fact never had been."

"4.2 It was agreed that the Archaeological Director can advise and, where an issue has factors that sit within his competence, the Committee will want to give full weight to that advice but, ultimately, it has to be for the Committee (or on occasion, the Trustees) to make policy decisions."

"4.3 (second paragraph) Gina Boreham enquired whether there were yet available written procedural instructions for CLASP usage of the magnetometer as they had not yet been received back by this Committee.

Mention was also made that a list of trained operatives for the machine had also not been seen by the Committee"

"5.12 iii Gina Boreham reported on the intention of the Victoria County History Society, when funding becomes available, to prepare a Volume VIII on Towcester Hundred. The Chair undertook to contact the President of the society, Lord Aynho and make him aware of research he was currently carrying out into the local Hundreds. She also mentioned the website [www.protectourplace.org.uk](http://www.protectourplace.org.uk) and provided a copy of the Lactodorum Hinterland Project entry for the information of the Committee, this is included below: -

### **LACTODORUM (TOWCESTER) HINTERLAND PROJECT**

#### **LOCAL PEOPLE LOCAL PAST**

*Members of the Towcester and District History Society (TDLHS) are conducting an archaeological survey of the Towcester Hinterland, i.e. parishes surrounding the Roman town, which involves documentary research, study of maps and aerial photographs, field walking and geophysical survey. The survey is part of the Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP) research strategy.*

*An ancillary project aims at getting a better understanding of one of the key sites, the late Iron Age/Romano-British Settlement at Burcote Wood Farm, recognised as a prime source for characterising the settlement pattern in the area. Members of TDLHS are assisting Roy Turland, who excavated the site in the 1970s, to complete his post-excavation work on small finds, pottery and report writing, and ultimately ensuring that all site records are complete and, together with the artefacts, are in a form suitable for archiving.*

## **5. Matters Arising**

### **5.12.3**

The Chair reported that he had written to Lord Aynho who had replied stating that he would pass the information to Mathew Bristow, The Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU who will be supervising the Towcester Volume.

## **6. Society Technical Matters**

### **6.1 Blisworth**

Jim Aveling reported that he had nothing to report on technical matters. In response to a query by the Archaeological Director he mentioned that the Sun, Moon and Stars still remains on the market.

### **6.2 Brington**

No report

### **6.3 Bugbrooke**

Bill Wiggins reported that he had visited the site of the 'fairy ring' and that he had identified no evidence of fungus spores in the soil. It appears

that some Romano-British pottery had been found on the boundary with an adjacent property previously but no details of this were available. The Chair stated that he would contact Mr. Kent and ask if he could pursue enquiries as to the full story of these reported potter finds. It was considered that having this additional information would assist with making further decisions on how to resolve this issue.

#### **6.4 Friends of Daventry Museums**

David Adams reported that Daventry History Society had been wound up before last Christmas and that he would now act as representative for the Friends of Daventry Museums. He reported that they had a programme of speakers for the forthcoming months, including the CLASP Archaeological Director. He further reported that Daventry Town Museum, situated at 3 New Street, Daventry, was currently closed for refurbishment. It was hoped that it would reopen in June and that it would be open most days.

#### **6.5 Flore**

No report

*(Secretarial Note: The Chair has seen Mr Culling and he hopes to be able to attend the next meeting of the Committee)*

#### **6.6 Friends of Alderton Manor**

No report

#### **6.7 Harpole**

Jenifer Smith reported that they have an active speaker programme over the winter months. She requested that her group be allowed to borrow the CLASP projector in March 2014; the Group offered to make a donation to cover 'wear and tear' on the bulb. This was agreed. She further mentioned that a planning application had been submitted for eleven dwellings at Hill Farm. Concern was expressed about the archaeological potential of this area. *(Secretarial Note: Since the meeting it appears that Harpole Parish Council has submitted comments to SNC requesting an archaeological survey on the site before construction.)* Mrs Smith also requested that dates be finalised for fieldwork at Barn Close later this year; she will liaise with the Archaeological Director.

#### **6.8 NARC**

No report

#### **6.9 NNPAST**

Bill Wiggins reported that owing to the weather the group had been rather inactive over the winter months. He did report however that a survey had been carried out in the area of a proposed wind turbine between Norton and Borough Hill. It appears though that both this and other archaeological investigations had proved negative.

#### **6.10 Tiffield**

No report. The Archaeological Director reported that he hoped to be able to undertake some fieldwork at Tiffield later in the year but he needs to

Speak to the landowner.

#### **6.11 TDLH**

It was reported by Gina Boreham that Towcester Museum was now open, she further reported that the disused Towcester Magistrates Court on Watling Street was up for sale.

#### **6.12 Weedon**

Julia Johns reported that there were new owners for the old Weedon Depot site. The property is now known as Weedon Garrison. It was agreed that this could still be a potential site for an archive and therefore we should seek to make contact with the new owners.

#### **6.13 Whitehall**

The Archaeological Director reported that there would be some small excavations during the period of the last two weeks in June and first two in July. He further mentioned that the Whitehall Open Meeting had still to be arranged.

### **7. Treasurers Matters**

The Treasurer reported that a further £500 had been received from Harpole Parish Council towards the cost of Archaeological investigations by CLASP. She further reported that the Annual Insurance Premium was now £505.98. She also provided a detailed written report of the current financial situation, a copy of which is included at the end of these Minutes.

There were no applications for expenditure although the Chair did mention the need to internally reconcile costs for geophysical survey work undertaken by CLASP for the Local People-Local Past project between the HLF finances and the 'Ordinary Money'

### **8. Project Updates**

#### **8.1 Barby Hill**

The Chair reported that fieldwork at Barby had been delayed by the adverse weather conditions in recent months. The extreme wet had caused serious problems with condition of the land. Concern was currently being expressed that the actions of livestock trampling across the fields could have caused damage to underlying archaeology.

#### **8.2 Tiffield**

See comments in item 6.10 above.

#### **8.3 Towcester Hinterland Survey**

Gina Boreham reported that this project was now assisting Roy Turland with work he undertook between 1972 and 1982 at Burcote Wood Farm as he had asked for help with recording all the finds and preparing a report. There is an extensive pottery assemblage consisting of at least 836 identifiable vessels in addition to a significant collection of the finds including fine glass, animal bones and querns. These are being examined respectively by Denise Hartley, Tony Harrison and Andy Chapman. There are also forty brooches. The villa itself is described as being modest in size

but containing high quality material.

The project is also looking at several significant planning applications including the old Plessey site in Burcote Road where work has been undertaken by Durham University who have interestingly noted the lack of local archive storage. A lot of useful information has also been obtained from an application for five hundred houses at Jackson-Stopps house. Comment was also made about the importance of members, both individual and society, being aware of local planning applications to ensure that these contain appropriate protection for archaeological assets. The Chair undertook to include comment on this subject in the Summer Newsletter and also make a Claspweb circulation.

#### **8.4 Landscapes of Governance**

The Chair mentioned that this was still not complete primarily because he had identified further information as to the origins of the earliest structure and boundaries of Northamptonshire in this area. These had implications for the earliest structures of the Hundreds. He has purchased several books to help with these studies, one of which he is still awaiting delivery. He has contacted John Baker at the Project and there is still time for our contribution to be included.

#### **8.5 Local People-Local Past**

The Archaeological Director reported that there had been a successful metal detecting survey on Great Shawnee field that had produced 358 coins, the majority being 3-4<sup>th</sup> C. There were also twenty-six small finds including brooches, bracelet, ring and key. There were also a significant number of lead and bronze fragments. The magnetometer survey on a wider area continues. Apart from confirming and showing greater detail of previous surveys two previously unknown routes have been identified. He also mentioned that a little field walking had been undertaken but this had been constrained owing to the weather and also pressures he was under from work. As a result of these pressures the third phase HLF funding application will include an element for CLASP to be able to 'buy in' his time.

#### **8.6 Lending of Archive Materials**

The Chair reported that he had met with the Secretary regarding this prior to him going away. Details will be circulated on his return.

#### **8.7 Directory of CLASP Members Expertise**

It was **agreed** by the Committee that this work had been taken as far as possible considering the level of response received from the membership. It was suggested however that whilst it was not the original intention of the Directory it might be appropriate to include in the document a list of all those trained by CLASP in the use of the Magnetometer. This would be pursued by the Chair.

#### **8.8 Hannah Hill, Long Buckby**

Bill Wiggins reported that as a result of a study of Google Earth Images for

2005 he had identified a previously unknown settlement area at Hannah Hill to the east of Long Buckby. This does appear to be an early field system, probably Romano-British. This site is not far from previously identified Romano-British pottery kilns in the locality. It appears that at the time the 2005 Google Earth Images were taken the terrain in this area was fairly dry and therefore conducive to identification of archaeological features. The Committee considered it appropriate to ask the wider membership to examine these images for their own areas to see if any further sites can be identified. The Chair undertook to circulate the membership to request that they do this research in their own areas.

### **8.9 Boudicca**

The Chair reported that he had received an offer from the battlefield historian Martin Marix-Evans to share with CLASP all of his research material into the possible site of Boudicca's final battle being at Paulerspury. The Committee **agreed** that we should accept this offer as it could be of benefit to the Local People-Local Past project. The Chair undertook to make contact with him.

### **9. GPS Equipment**

A discussion took place regarding what surveying equipment CLASP should consider purchasing. Having had a demonstration of GPS equipment and listened to the points in favour or against this type of equipment as opposed to procuring an instrument called a 'total station'. The Committee considered it difficult to reach a decision at this stage and make a recommendation to the Trustees as to a way forward. It was **agreed** that the Chair would prepare a collated list of the 'pros & cons' of the two systems for the next meeting of this Committee.

David Adams stated that the delaying in CLASP taking up the offer of a grant from the Friends of Daventry Museums would not cause a problem.

### **10. Annual General Meeting**

The Treasurer confirmed that the date and venue had been confirmed as the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Bugbrooke Village Hall. The Chair confirmed that the guest speaker would be Mark Holmes from Northamptonshire Archaeology who would be speaking on the triple ditch Neolithic Enclosure at Swan Valley Northampton.

### **11. Trustees**

The Chair reported the following points from the Trustees Meeting of the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013:-

#### **11.1 The Research Proposals Sub Strategy**

This was adopted by the Trustees in the format submitted by the Organising Committee.

#### **11.2 Delegation of Archaeological Directors Responsibilities**

This document previously circulated by Tony Kesten was discussed at length and was **agreed** in principle. The document will be taken to the April

Organising Committee meeting for discussion.

### **11.3 CLASP Strategy Document**

A discussion took place regarding the previously circulated draft Strategy Document. Owing to the number of previously circulated amendments it had been agreed that the best way forward would be to hold a special Trustees meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> March to finalise this document.

## **12. Any Other Business**

### **12.1 Creative IT Course**

Mention was made of a Creative IT Course being held at The Living Archive Wolverton for six weeks from the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

### **12.2 CBA Festival of Archaeology**

This is being held from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Whilst CLASP itself would not participate owing to lack of suitable venues member societies may participate under their own arrangements.

### **12.3 Local History Books**

The Chair mentioned two books that has received information about, "Northamptonshire-County of Spires and Squires" and Landmarks-Parish Churches in Northamptonshire. For further information contact the author Derek BLUNT at 01604 845101 or [derekfblunt@sky.com](mailto:derekfblunt@sky.com) or [www.derekfblunt.com](http://www.derekfblunt.com)

**Date of Next Meeting.** - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013





