

CLASP

**Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project
Fourth Annual Report
2008**



**Alan Watson
Chair of the Trustees**

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Fourth Annual Report for the Year Ending 31st August 2008

Introduction by Chair of the Trustees - Alan Watson

The Trustees

Another year has passed by and we are still looking for a building that would be suitable to house all our artefacts from our digs, field walking and test pits. Dave Hayward, the secretary to the Organising Committee, has been following up various leads and it is hoped that something may yet come from them. If anyone knows of a building that might suit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Once again I would like to put on record my heartfelt thanks to all the Trustees, the members of the Organising Committee and all other groups and individuals associated with CLASP for their help and advice over the last 12 months. Special thanks for all their hard work go to David Banner and Alan Priestly, two of the current Trustees who are standing down this year and not seeking re-election.

David Hayward, Secretary to the Organising Committee who is also standing down

Jeremy Cooper for all his work on the CLASP web site. This year the CLASP

Site was **Highly Commended** in the Marsh Archaeology Awards for Community Archaeology 2008. Well done Jeremy.

Tony Johns for the excellent CLASP Newsletter

Councillor Joan Kirkbride for awarding the Whitehall Villa £1,700 from her 'Empowering Councillors and Communities' fund for local initiatives.

Natural England for the two interpretation boards at Whitehall Villa

Any volunteers, willing to take on any of the first vacancies, will be welcomed with open arms.

This year we welcome the Daventry Local History group as a member of CLASP. It is pleasing to see that the 9 local groups are still going from strength to strength. I urge you to support their work. A diary of events is to found in the August newsletter

We have now drawn up a "Mission Statement" with a list of "Aims and Objectives". As I said in last year's report we have to go down this management speak road as most requests for funding require them. Our final thoughts are to be found later on in this report.

I commend this report to you as a true record of the work undertaken by CLASP during the past year. If you have any questions about the report, they may be raised at the Annual General Meeting.

Alan Watson

Chair of the Trustees

August 2008

Report of the Secretary to the Trustees

Who are the Trustees?

There are eight Trustees who were appointed at the 2007 AGM: -

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

Their period of office expires at the end of the 2008 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: alan(at)alanwatson.demon.uk

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

What do the Trustees 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.

Ruth Downie

Secretary to the Trustees

August 2008

Finance Reports

CLASP Treasurer's Report

The Accounts Summary I think is more or less self explanatory but for the item under Other in Payments column. £30 was towards Course tuition beneficial to CLASP, £10 for loan of a screen at AGM and £9.99 for AGM gift.

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' Harpole PC.. The other big contributor was the Roman Research Trust giving £3,000. We were also given £50 by the Charties Aid Foundation.

We made at the AGM £85 on the Raffle. £15.90 on Refreshments and £8 from sale of T shirt.

Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project

Receipts and Payments Account for Year Ending Mar 31.03.08

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
Bit from 31.03.07	6624.97	Archive Materials	0.00
Harpole Parish Council	1,000.00	Field Centre	0.00
History Societies	100.00	Find's Processing	80.40
Roman Research Trust	3,000.00	LP/LP Geophys Survey	3,000.00
Other Donations	146.00	Website Leaflets	418.47
Membership Fees	345.00	Travel Expenses	7.00
Bank Interest	90.91	Office Costs	33.43
Other (Re AGM Income)	113.90	Committee Room Hire	115.00
Whitehall Roman Villa	500.00	Whitehall Roman Villa	500.00
		Affiliation Fees	43.00
	11,826.78	Other	49.90
			4,247.37
		Cash in Hand	18.38
		Bank Statement	7,561.03
			11,826.78

At the year end then the Harpole balance was £1,804.25, the Roman Research Trust was £2,500 the Countryside Agency was £2,374.41 and from funds we had raised ourselves and that is not earmarked for specifics there was £900.72, thus a total of funds £7,579.41.

Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project - Accounts up to 2007/08 Chantry No 1111667 Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project - Accounts up to 2007/08

Income		31.03.08		Expenditure		31.03.08		Balance	
To		Total		To		Total			
31.03.08	Harpole Heritage	6,000.00	6,000.00	31.03.08	Harpole Expenditure	4,195.75	H	1,804.25	
31.03.08	Countryside Agency	18,474.00		31.03.08	Countryside Agency Expenditure	16,099.56	CA	2,374.44	
31.03.08	Roman Research Trust	6,000.00	3,000.00	31.03.08	Roman Research Trust Expenditure	3,500.00	RR	2,500.00	
31.03.08	Ordinary	5,961.63	1,301.81	31.03.08	Ordinary Expenditure	5,060.91	Ord	900.72	
		36,435.63	0.00			26,856.22		7,579.41	
								36,435.63	

Adjustments to 31.03.08

Auditor's Statement



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2008	Charity no (if any)	1111667
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Set out on pages

One attached page

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act), as amended by s.28 of the Charities Act 2006) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act, as amended),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, as amended), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent
examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act) and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
- Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

19 Aug

Name/ Laura Sturrock

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCA

Address

39 Church Street
Nether Heyford
Northamptonshire NN7 3LH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2008

Fieldwork has continued on several of our Romano-British settlements since last years' CLASP report. This year has produced a mixed profile of fieldwork for CLASP with both major and minor projects being undertaken. We were able to continue the previously cancelled fieldwalking and metal detecting work at Bannaventa and to initiate a further season of excavation at Whitehall Farm during the summer of 2008. On a smaller scale but arguably just as important further fieldwork was carried out in the early autumn and subsequent late summer on the two villa complexes which have been partially explored in the parish of Harpole. Unfortunately because of ill health and problems of accessibility three fieldwalking surveys in the parishes of Easton Neston and Tiffield were postponed and it is hoped these will be rescheduled for the coming year.

Very importantly we have been successful in initiating a collaborative dialogue with West Northamptonshire Development Corporation. This is a crucial breakthrough in establishing a link between ourselves and those responsible for the future development of the region. Such contacts will shape our involvement in recording the archaeological heritage of our locality and may well have a serious impact on our funding of future initiatives. The WNDC is responsible for setting the strategic framework and timetable for the massive expansion programme planned for the next ten years in the urban centres of Daventry, Towcester and Northampton in our area. The scale of growth on the immediate hinterland of central Northamptonshire will be spectacular and has serious implications for any archaeological features or sites located in these areas and will seriously affect the nature of any future fieldwork undertaken by our organisation. WNDC are very appreciative of our involvement and are keen on a community contribution and have already provided us with relevant archaeological information and practical material assistance to help us continue our cooperation.

In the autumn the postponed large scale field walking and a metal detecting survey of the Manshead Field area of the Roman Small town at Bannaventa was undertaken. Nearly five hectares were explored doubling the area already investigated and 198 coins and nearly 4,000 sherds were retrieved. The field was only accessible for a short period and a significant portion of the area remains to be explored and I intend to do this in the field work programme for the coming year. As outlined in our most recent newsletter two coins of the emperor Claudius have been identified amongst the coin assemblage. These coins are of special interest because they were in circulation for only a very short period of time and their identification is suggestive of a military presence on site during the earliest phase of the Roman conquest of Britain. This is exciting news in relation to the development of the earliest elements of the Roman small town; especially as a military site of this period has never been identified in this part of Northamptonshire before. Current on going geophysical survey and pottery analysis might well produce more exciting evidence of this period of activity.

Additional fieldwalking and geophysical surveys were also carried out on the two villa complexes previously investigated in the parish of Harpole. On the Red Lion site fieldwalking and geophysical survey established that the settlement extended considerable further northward than previously thought. The couple of hundred sherds recovered are indicative of the chronology already constructed for the site. A further resistivity survey on the Barn Close site revealed the plan of the north eastern wing of the villa, confirming the existence of an extensive courtyard villa complex comparable to the extremely large and well known villas at North Leigh, Oxfordshire and Woodchester, Gloucestershire. Trial trenching on the best

surviving earthworks covering the south western wing of the villa range in early September appear to confirm large scale robbing of the building and the destruction of the mosaic and tessellated floors in this area. However this exploratory excavation revealed substantial structural elements surviving in certain parts of the wing with traces of interior walls remaining to at least five courses high. Amongst the building debris recovered from these sunken features were a column base from a colonnade and possibly part of an ornate stone finiale from a gable wall. A further 13 coins of third and fourth century date were also recovered from a concurrent small scale metal detecting survey.

Funding from Natural England has also enabled Whitehall Farm to develop two information boards to explain the archaeological remains of the site to visitors. A reconstruction of the villa in the mid 4th century AD by the professional artist and illustrator John Hodgson gives an accurate portrayal of the site during this highly active phase of its occupation. The Whitehall project was also successful in its application for a grant from the County Council of £1700 towards the costs of specialist reports for archaeomagnetic dating of the second bath house range and for providing some more carbon dates for the Anglo Saxon skeletons.

During this year's excavation at Whitehall Farm of a second Bath house range we were able to investigate and record the internal arrangements of the hypocaust system which appears to be twice as large as that located in Bath house 1. The removal of the encasing 4th century AD debris and demolition layers revealed uncontaminated sealed contexts with good chronological dating which has enabled the initial construction of the building to be dated to somewhere between the mid to late 3rd century AD. This bath house had evidently been robbed during the Roman period, during the early 4th century AD and much of the structural debris reused elsewhere. In a newly identified Room to the south a complete 'rotten limestone' voussoir or lightweight Roman brick from a vaulted roof was recovered. Destroyed elements of a finely made mosaic indicate a building of some quality which apparently was constructed to a higher standard than the later phases of Bath house 1 that ultimately replaced it. A large drain cut through the *opus signinum* base of the hypocaust probably demonstrates the reason for the destruction of the initial bath house building. Flooding from the spring line made the use of the underfloor heating system untenable and promoted the rebuilding of the Bath house into the slope as opposed to along the contour where an adequate degree of drainage could not be achieved.

The retrieval of more imported Southern Gaulish black slipped fine-ware pottery highlighted the continental links and sophisticated consumption regime available to those inhabiting the villa at Whitehall Farm. Nearly a thousand sherds of all types of fabric were recovered during the excavation and it might be possible to reconstruct several pottery vessels from the different wares comprising the sites assemblage. Another twenty coins were located although most of them were extensively worn or badly corroded although a bronze coin of Gordian III (238-244) driving a four horsed chariot is in particularly good condition. However, probably the star find for most people was a bronze 'silvered' ring with a figured intaglio possibly of the god Mercury that was excavated from under the paved area outside the entrance to the later Bath house 1. It is thought to be of 3rd century AD date.

Stephen Young
Archaeological Director
August 2008

Reports from the Organising Committee

Report from Acting Chair of the Organising Committee

This has been in some ways a quiet year, while at the same time we have broken new ground in making our voice heard in local planning enquiries, and in winning an award. All this is reported elsewhere, so I will use this opportunity to draw attention to the opportunities that remain for people to get involved in governing CLASP. As "Acting Chair" of the Organising Committee I am still confining my committee work to chairing meetings and taking the odd, relatively minor, decisions that need to be taken from time to time as Chair's actions. The hope is still that someone will emerge to take on the substantive role of leading and inspiring the Organising Committee.

On another personnel front, we are looking for someone, or several people, to take over the purely Secretarial work from the current Secretary of the Organising Committee. Dave Hayward has given CLASP so much for so long, and it is not surprising that he now wants give priority to his research and consultancy activities in CLASP. In the last edition of the Newsletter there is a list of the roles Dave wishes to relinquish. Volunteers for any or all of these roles will be welcomed with open arms and given the support they may need to get started.

Remember that joining and working on the Organising Committee does not entail the onerous legal responsibilities shouldered by the CLASP Charity Trustees - we are humble folk working at the sharp end of archaeology, concerned with the nitty gritty of digging up the past and recording our findings. Come and join the fun!

*Jeremy Cooper
Acting Chair
Organising Committee
August 2008*

Report from Secretary of Organising Committee

The post of Secretary has seen another busy year as the Organising Committee has sought to build on its earlier successes externally. Our main achievement during the past year has been being awarded 'highly commended' in the CBA Archaeology Awards. This reflected well both on the work undertaken by all members on the various field walking and finds processing exercises, the detailed analysis and reporting undertaken by our archaeological director together with the technical media work done by Jeremy Cooper to ensure our Local People Local Past report was of such a high standard.

To build on our external relations this Committee has sought to develop a strong relationship with WNDP to ensure that our voice is heard in the planning process for major developments in the areas covered by CLASP. To that effect we have submitted a total of four papers to WNDP providing our views in relationship to three large scale planning applications in Daventry and one at Towcester. Additionally we have submitted a paper regarding one of the Daventry sites to a Planning Appeal. Copies of these papers can be viewed on the CLASP website. We have also spoken to the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeologist regarding the Sandy Lane Extension at Harpole; these discussions continue,

We are also pursuing with WNDP the possibility of them supporting us with the development of a purpose built archive at Daventry.

As always I urge both individual members and member organisations to proactively develop and submit to this Committee proposals for minor research projects. To be meaningful CLASP must have work that seeks to answer local questions and needs that enhance work being done by CLASP. Projects of this nature should enable enhanced participation by members in the wider work currently being undertaken by CLASP. If you have a suggestion please contact either your society representative on this committee or, if an individual member, your representative Alan Dent.

*D.F. Hayward MBE
Secretary Organising Committee
July 2008*

CLASP AGM Membership Report

Currently, CLASP has a total of 73 Individual Members and 4 Group Members. During this year, September 2007 to date (July 13th 2008), there have been 15 new members.

Looking back from CLASP's inception, there are 37 of the original members. In 2004-5 there were 116 Individual Members and 3 Group Members; in 2005-6 the figures were 123 and 2 and, in 2006-7, 92 and 4 respectively.

The above figures are based entirely on the membership applications and renewals that have passed through the Membership Secretary and may not include any subscriptions paid directly to the Treasurer.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP				
Original Members	2004-5	2005-6	2006-7	2007-8 to July 13th
37	116	123	92	73

GROUP MEMBERSHIP				
Original Members	2004-5	2005-6	2006-7	2007-8 to July 13th
?	3	2	4	4

Individual
Membership



Julia Johns
Membership Secretary
13/07/2008

Reports from Participating Organisations

Brington History Society

The Brington History Society has some 60 members. The society has monthly speaker meetings. Subjects presented cover both local and national matters. Under the direction of Stephen Young, work continues on analysing the finds from the Roman villa site at Nobottle, field walked by the society in 2005 /6.

Andrew Shaw

Bugbrooke History Group

The Group meets every two months and all meetings are open with no membership charge. A photographic history of Bugbrooke was published this year by the Group and has now been sold out. It is intended to start work on a second volume next year. The programme of meetings is varied and often helps to place local history in a national context. Details of future meetings may be found on www.bugbrookelink.co.uk/history

Daventry Local History Group

During the course of the year, the Group has maintained its aims of promoting an interest in local history and of attempting to bring Daventry's history to a wider audience in a variety of ways.

The monthly meetings have seen a range of activities; talks on the Battle of Naseby, Early Postal History with reference to Northamptonshire and on agricultural implements; visits to the Northamptonshire Record Office and to the Naseby Battlefield, presentations by members on Joseph Priestly, New Street, Daventry and photographs and documents from the Town's Museum.

The Group, though, has always seen its as an active one to promote the Town's history, consequently the major event to engage the public was the October 2007 Exhibition on 'Inns and Coaching in Daventry', which was well attended and attracted a lot of interest from visitors who, in turn, passed on their own knowledge.

Meanwhile the Group has continued to publish its twice yearly newsletter and members have been providing information on 'Daventry in 1950' which, it is hoped, will be produced in booklet form shortly.

The Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Daventry Town Council Offices, North Street, Daventry. Contact the Secretary on 01327 702055.

Colin Davenport

Flore Heritage Society

Although Flore has had no input into CLASP this last year CLASP activities have always been brought up at the Meetings of the Society. The past year's accessions are reviewed with a collection of a paper by Edgar Mobbs on the history of Flore.

Over the year four speakers provided talks on Inn Signs and on the Headmaster of Bugbrooke School, who constructed a radio from various components during WW1. The works of the architect Charles R Mackintosh in fitting out 78 Derngate for the W J Bassett-Lowke and its restoration proved very interesting.

The remaining talk covered Castle Dykes, and with special interest in the Mtte Bailey at Preston Capes.

The Society made two visits, one to David Banner at Upper Heyford to view his collection of farm carts and sowing equipment and farming tools. The visit to Wollaston Museum had a fine collection of local trades and a restored cottage as a reminder of our grandparents' life. Our thanks to all who have contributed to an interesting year for the Flore Heritage Society.

B J Culling

Flore Heritage Society

Harpole Heritage Group

In September of 2007 we carried out field walking in 'Flaxlands. This is the field next to 'Harpit' on 'Site One'. Eleven people took part and found 340 sherds of Roman pottery. A metal detectorist found two small Roman coins in 'Harpit'.

In October three metal detectorists went to 'Barn Close' at 'Site Two' assisted by three members of the heritage group and a planner from CLASP. 24 Roman coins were found and 16 other 'finds' made up of metal and lead. On the same day 'Northants Archaeology' completed a geophysical survey at Barn Close, which was started in 2006.

In November we returned to 'Site Two' for more metal detecting, at 'The Mere'. Three Roman coins were found, but the weather was so awful we had to have an early finish.

We continue to have a good working relationship with the members of NNPASt and the members of CLASP and the landowners and tenants who very kindly allow us onto their land.

I have given talks at Harpole Primary School and Harpole Mothers' Union on 'Archaeology in Harpole'. Both were received very favourably and the children went on to have a 'mini' dig at Paul and Cathy Briscoe's farm, which they all enjoyed.

The Heritage Group also mounted a display at the Methodist Chapel when they celebrated twenty years of the chapel building.

Once again Harpole Parish Council have given CLASP £1000 to be used for 'archaeology projects in Harpole', which we are very grateful for.

Jennifer Smith

Harpole Heritage Group

Norton, Northamptonshire, Portable Antiquities Search Team

N.N.P.A.S.T. Metal Detecting Club is based at Norton, Northants. We are all members of CLASP as well as being an independent detecting club. We work closely with CLASP and detect (when needed) on many of the projects. This autumn we will be searching an area close to the Roman town of Bannaventa. It will be our second visit. The first was in the autumn of 2007. Coins and artefacts were recovered and we are hoping to add to the first search.

Since our club was formed it has gone from strength to strength. We have built up a good relationship with our local museums and the Finds Liaison Officers (FLO's). We also support the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), recording many finds and artefacts and some of our members have experienced searching with the 'TIME TEAM'.

Our reputation has spread to local landowners and we are receiving many enquiries regarding the possibilities of searching on their fields. As land is rapidly disappearing under new housing estates and new roads, etc., we feel there is a need to search some of these sites before it is too late.

N.N.P.A.S.T. will be holding an exhibition on Saturday 27th September 2008 in Norton Village Hall from 11.30 am until 4 pm. Refreshments will be available, coins and artefacts will be on show, plus a stand by CLASP and also one by the Norton Local History Society.

Brian Ives

Norton, Northamptonshire, Portable Antiquities Search Team

Towcester and District Local History Society

Towcester Heritage Month - Celebrating 25 years

To celebrate our 25th birthday, our normal programme of meetings was supplemented with a month of events including an exhibition, an art competition, historic re-enactments and a public lecture.

Painting and Drawing Competition

The aim of the painting and drawing competition was to encourage a closer look at historic Towcester buildings.

Re-enactments

A Saxon and Viking re-enactment on the recreation ground was supported by our new leaflet on the Battle Towcester (917A.D.) between Saxons and Vikings. Weapons and costumes were demonstrated and children participated in "Kiddy Warriors". We also had a smart squad of Roman soldiers.

Anniversary Exhibition

The Exhibits included the history of Towcester, history of the Society, time line of historic events and their relation to Towcester, latest news on the Bury Mount archaeological dig, the

William White project, the Cemetery Project, the Towcester 1921-1924 project, the Towcester 1855 project, building developments recording projects, town planning, and various items such as collection of local newspaper cuttings, continuous slide shows and a computer running our website.

Heritage Open Days

We launched Heritage Open Days for the first time in Towcester by organising guided tours of the Chantry House and St. Lawrence Church and associating Heritage Open Days with the archaeological dig at Bury Mount and St. Mary's Church, Easton Neston.

Public Local History Lecture

100 people paid to attend "Old Towcester High Street - Historic Photographs and Memories" at the Town Hall by the popular speakers Brian Giggins and John Morris.

Themed Guided walks

We organised a set of five guided walks of Towcester with emphasis on different aspects of the town's history. The aspects covered were "Memories of Towcester", "Industrial Archaeology", "Roman Towcester", "Medieval Towcester", and "Inns and Highways".

All the events were successful and well attended. The society membership is now at 110, it's highest ever level, and many members are actively participating. We have noticed an increase in the number of people attending public consultation of the future of Towcester. We are pleased that the primary schools are taking an interest in Towcester heritage.

Georgina Boreham

Towcester & District Local History Society

Weedon Bec History Society

During the early part of 2008, it was hoped that members of CLASP would dig test pits in the grounds of the Old Vicarage, Weedon Bec.

This area is a short distance to the west of the area around the cemetery where Northants Archaeology conducted a geo-physical survey in 2004. It revealed evidence of rectangular and oval enclosures as well as ditches and probable pits/postholes. Field walking in this area has also produced substantial amounts of 'Roman' pottery.

Unfortunately, this has had to be postponed until this coming autumn - winter.

Julia Johns

Weedon Bec History Society

Whitehall Roman Villa and Landscape Project

With no excavations during the Summer of 2007 the group continued to process finds from 2006 dig. This was by way of reboxing finds into types and fabrics and returning them to the storage container. Plans of the excavated areas have all been scanned, but there is slow progress in adjusting these to the National Ordnance Grid system due to computer problems and the Map Info system.

The Group began to assemble and form check lists for this year's dig, due to start on 16th June for 4 weeks. On the 10th and 11th June work started to open up the site, and it was noted that the lower slope area held considerable volumes of water. This despite bailing continued to fill up, which raised the question that the occupants of this building must have faced a similar problem, hence they constructed a stone lined drain across the complex at a higher level, but during the 4 weeks' work, another drain was found to run under or through the building, now called Bath House 2, where the hypocaust and praefurnium are found.

Over the 4 weeks the lower slope was excavated back to a new lower level. The extent of this was surveyed and plotted. The lower slope of BH2 was trowelled down, with areas of ash and burning visible, the line of the building foundation stones where found. This, with the dating of the over site material being 4th century and the BH2 material being 2/3rd century, clearly showed the building was abandoned, and material taken to build Bath House 1, which we know from the praefurnium was last fired around 460 AD.

Other areas also received attention with finds of lead, bronze and a ring below the courtyard near BH 1. This was found to be mostly made up ground. The stone lined drain across the site was excavated.

In terms of finds, some 22 bronze coins have been found along with 5 items of bronze (part of a harness). Eight items of lead, and up to 32 items of glass, some of which is vessel glass, and one item of glass that looks as though it could match the large pane found during 2006.

Items of iron: approx 23 items, mostly nails, but one knife blade and some 'L' shaped items. Eight stone items: some have been worked, one is rectangular of fine grained sedimentary sandstone with a number of 'V' worn grooves across the surface in one direction and another set of grooves at right angles. One item of slag and 3 flints. The find of the dig was the ring with a red stone set in it.

Some 800 pottery sherds by the end of the dig: mainly 3rd & 4th century including South Gaulish coloured ware in the form of two cup handles and part of a bowl.

A quantity of plaster has been removed: approx 106 items, some wall colouring with red line markings.

In volume, some 30 large trays of building material and bones have been excavated along with two boxes of tessera and a group of 21 small tessera which could be part of a small figured roundel.

The site now has two interpretation boards erected. One gives a view of the Roman Villas located in the area, and the other the Whitehall site as it may have looked with its Villa and Bathhouse. These were donated by Natural England.

B J Culling

Whitehall Farm Roman Villa & Landscape Project.

Draft Mission Statement for CLASP

THE COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE & ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT - May 2008

Our Mission is

- to play a major role in furthering, through archaeology, the understanding of the historical past of the Upper Nene Valley and surrounding area
- to increase public awareness of, and interest in, the archaeology of the area
- to promote archaeology through education at all levels
- to help to keep local archaeology “alive”, following the closure of and/or reduction in the local authority archaeological services.

Archaeology

Our principal aims and objectives are

- to promote best practice in the management of our cultural heritage and in the study, care and preservation of archaeological artefacts
- to record and research the archaeology of the area, placing it within its regional, national and international context.
- to monitor, protect and conserve the archaeological sites of the area
- to maintain and enhance the archaeological record of the area
- to protect fragile archaeological materials and landscapes in the ground as precious resources in order that their historical integrity is preserved for the future
- to continue with the recording of the past in this area by
 - Field walking
 - Trial trenches
 - Geophysics survey etc
 - Whitehall Farm Roman Villa excavation
 - Other excavations
 - Restoration and reconstruction of artefacts
 - Coin recognition
- to maintain a repository and archive for artefacts
- to provide a continuous programme of collection and archive management
- to increase the accessibility of the archaeological resources held by various societies/groups within CLASP
- to provide archaeological opportunities of the highest quality to all, regardless of background
- to carry out and support archaeological research and publication on topics of local, regional and national importance.

Community Awareness

Our principal aims and objectives are

- to continue to champion on behalf of our communities, and to work with others, to ensure that there is the provision of an appropriate historical and archaeological services
- to increase public knowledge, at all levels, of the history of the Upper Nene Valley and the surrounding area
- to raise the awareness and accessibility of the archaeology of the area
- to encourage the public to experience archaeology first-hand
- to improve the access to and interpretation of archaeological sites
- to continue with its work to help to conserve, maintain and enhance the quality of the local historical and archaeological environment, ensuring that any development meets the needs of the local community
- to raise the awareness of archaeological issues in our Community
- to be recognised as an excellent organisation that people are proud to be associated with.

Training & Education

Our principal aims and objectives are

- to spark curiosity, exploration, observation, understanding and appreciation of the archaeological process through public programs
- to provide leadership and training in Community Archaeology
- to expand commitment and expertise in the wise use and appreciation of resources
- to disseminate funding, where possible, to local people to allow for their Training/Upskilling.
- to assist in self learning in archaeology from earliest to more modern times.
- to encourage members who have an expertise to teach others.