



CLASP

Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project

Please reply to Secretary of the Organising Committee:

D.F. Hayward MBE, 29, Winston Close, Nether Heyford, Northampton, NN7 3JX

Email: davensal@hywd1.fsnet.co.uk

14th May 2008

Your Ref: APP/Y2810/A/08/2071504

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Appeal - Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Appeal by the Danetre Consortium

1. Introduction to CLASP

This paper constitutes a formal submission by this organisation to the subject Appeal. The attached paper from CLASP to WNDC dated 17th December 2007 is submitted as the basis of CLASP's concerns to this Application, this is attached to this paper as an Appendix.

CLASP is a community based registered charity that involves itself in the archaeological heritage of West Northamptonshire, especially the area bounded in the east by the boundary of Northampton, Towcester and its environs to the south and Daventry and its environs to the north.

It is perhaps appropriate to inform you of the stance that CLASP takes with this or any other development proposals in its areas of interest. It is not our role to either object or enter into any discussion regarding the merits of any development other than the archaeological aspects. We will provide our views on the adequacy of the archaeological assessment made by the developer and any proposals to protect the archaeological heritage both during and subsequent to development.

2. The Current Application

When the attached paper was submitted to WNDC it was with the knowledge that we had also submitted papers to them regarding two other major applications elsewhere in the Daventry area, including what is known as the Churchfields Development that is partially co-terminus with the subject application. It was and remains our view that to an extent these applications

CLASP, The Secretary, 21 Stacey Avenue, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5DN

Executive Committee: Alan Watson (Chair), Ruth Downie (Secretary), Angela Evans (Treasurer), Stephen Young (Archaeology Director), Nick Adams, David Banner, Jeremy Calderwood, Alan Priestley

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

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tended to inform each other and archaeologically could not be looked at in isolation. We would therefore wish to ensure that the current Appeal is judged with the knowledge of these other applications. We will therefore enter into discussion regarding some of these aspects.

3. The Churchfields Development - Messrs Croudace

Archaeological investigations to inform this application have included extensive geophysical surveys in relevant parts of the proposed development. Firstly we would wish to draw your attention to one specific area highlighted in that proposal that to our mind has a significant unknown effect on the area subject to Appeal. This relates to their areas of investigation numbered 23 - 26 centred on GR 586635 on the Daventry area OS map. The relevant illustration from the Environmental Statement that supports the Churchfields Development is shown on the following page. This page portrays the interpretation of geophysical work undertaken for this work, it clearly shows an extensive area of archaeological activity including buildings and field systems, the full extent, even within the Churchfields development area, is unknown.

It would be our submission that there is a reasonable chance that this area of archaeological activity could well cross the modern Norton Road, continuing into the northern area of the Danetre Village proposals. This requires further detailed investigation.

In the north-eastern extremities of the Churchfields proposals there is extensive evidence of an extension, northwards of the broader area of the Roman town of Bannaventa that lies to the east of Norton village. This extension also leads to another Romano-British site at Thrupp Grounds. Coupled with this there is evidence of Anglo Saxon activity in the area. Whilst these findings currently have no proven link to the Danetre site we would suggest that they cannot be ignored as they are possibly indicative of early settlement elsewhere in the area.

4. Monksmoor Development

Although this development is probably about a mile from the Danetre Village proposal at their relative closest points, CLASP takes the view that there are areas of common archaeological interest between the two proposals. This primarily relates to the ring ditch crop marks located in both areas. To inform the Environmental Statement for the Monksmoor proposals these have been subjected to geophysical examination with a recommendation that they be subject to total area excavation before any development takes place.

Within the Monksmoor development area there is also a possible early Romano-British agriculture settlement. A similar site was found further to the west on a location known as Middlemore; this has been subject to investigation prior to

development. It is currently not known if these may occur elsewhere in the area.

5. Archaeological Significance of the Area

When taken as a whole Daventry and its surrounding area is of considerable archaeological significance. The two major sites, Borough Hill and Bannaventa, lay to the immediate west and north-east of the Danetre Village proposals. Across the area there are a multiplicity of other sites that stretch at least from the Bronze Age to the times of the Anglo-Saxons. As previously mentioned Bannaventa is a Romano-British town, with at least Iron Age origins, straddling the main Roman Road of Watling Street. Borough Hill is topped by a major prehistoric hillfort, its earliest date at least Bronze Age.

On the northern end of the hill is a substantial Romano-British Villa that overlooks both the northern elements of the Danetre Village proposal and the previously discussed area in the Churchfields proposal.

The spread of ring ditches found by aerial photograph and geophysical survey across the area warrant detailed investigation to understand their relationship to the major sites and also perhaps provide some evidence of the early economic activity across the area. We would therefore request a condition that a full geophysical of the areas surrounding the ring ditch cropmarks in the development area be required together with full strip excavation if appropriate.

To the south of the Danetre Village proposals, albeit outwith its boundaries, there is the scheduled monument known as Burnt Walls. As this immediately borders the development area CLASP would submit that the full extent and purpose of this monument has never been established. There is therefore justification to require a full geophysical survey of the area adjacent to Burnt Walls. Any further work here should be undertaken in conjunction with the Northamptonshire County Council archaeologist and possibly English Heritage.

Because of the significance of the area there may be a justification to extend geophysical survey to other areas adjacent to Borough Hill as it appears no work on the eastern side has ever been undertaken.

6. Archaeological Mitigation and Conservation.

In addition to the need for extensive geophysical survey to be undertaken on various locations across the site we would also submit that there would need to be excavation of sites that are either previously known across the site or that may come to light during further preliminary work. We would also consider that there would be a need for a strong archaeological watching brief during the development process.

To help engender an interest in the heritage of the Daventry area CLASP would urge that if possible one or more of the archaeological features that may be exposed during the work be subjected to appropriate conservation to leave them exposed for study and general interest purposes. They could well be encompassed in areas designated for other recreational use. We would also seek a condition that any artefacts or other finds made during the development are subject to full investigation, conservation and long term archiving. We would hope that here would be a role for the community in some of this archaeological work, again to help engender community interest and ownership of its past.

7. Attendance at the Inquiry

Whilst we have submitted written evidence, CLASP would like the opportunity to give oral evidence to the Inquiry if possible. We will seek guidance from you on this at the appropriate time. If you require any clarification or elaboration at this stage please contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely

D.F. Hayward
Secretary
Organising Committee

Planning Inspectorate
Room 4/04
Temple Quay House,
2, The Square,
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

17th December 2007

Danetre Village Proposed Development Archaeological Implications

1. Introduction

CLASP has been invited by WNDC to make comment from the Community based perspective on the archaeological implications of the subject Development. We have been provided with a copy of the Planning Application, including the Environmental Statement, by WNDC. Our comments will be passed to and discussed with Messrs EntecUK, the independent archaeological consultants employed by WNDC.

2. The Proposal

This Proposal relates to a significant development to the east of Borough Hill Daventry. To the north the proposal is bounded by the Daventry to Norton road and to the south by the A45 Daventry to Northampton road. To the west the boundary constitutes the boundaries of the Borough Hill and Burnt Walls scheduled monuments. To the east there appears to be no easily defined pre-existing boundary. The proposal is to build several thousand houses together with associated services in a phased development over a number of years, commencing at the southern end.

The Archaeological Report that accompanies the application appears to consist only of a desk based assessment carried out in 2005. This report is reflected into Chapter C of the Environmental Statement which makes observations as to the effect of the development but seems to make no specific recommendations regarding archaeological investigations during the development process.

It is further noted that neither does any fieldwork appear to have been done to support the archaeological report, nor by its date does it allow for any archaeological developments made in the area since 2005. No reference is made to a full aerial photography survey of the site. There is a mention of fieldwalking but it is not clear if this was undertaken in relationship to the current report or from the work of others.

The Environmental Statement does layout the different levels of importance for monuments etc., the levels of the individual known sites in the development area and the effect the development will have on them. There does however not appear to be any recommendations as to what course of action should be taken to mitigate the effects of the development work.

3. A Broader Synopsis

Since the desktop assessment was carried out in 2005 there has been a considerable amount of archaeological investigation work, principally none intrusive, carried out in the immediate area adjacent to the Danetre Village Proposals, especially at the northern end. This organisation, CLASP, has itself carried out several, geophysical surveys, fieldwalking and structured metal detecting exercises in the area, especially on the Bannaventa Roman British township and other sites to the west of Norton Village. Additionally fieldwork has been carried by archaeologists commissioned by the neighbouring Churchfields development. The relevant work here has been geophysical survey on land virtually co-terminus with the Danetre site at its northern end. Other work has been carried out in connection with other development areas to the northwest of Danetre, namely at Middlemoor and Monksmoor. These latter two have revealed Bronze/Iron age settlement and Iron Age/Romano-British agricultural activity and settlement.

CLASP takes the view that all of this work, combined with the existing knowledge of significant activity immediately adjacent to the site at Borough Hill and Bannaventa enhances the significance of the archaeology in the Danetre area. With an in depth archaeological investigation of all sites there is currently a one off opportunity to establish a comprehensive picture of the archaeology across the hinterland to the east, north east and north of Daventry town. There is a need to establish the relationships between the activity on each of the development areas and that elsewhere in the area. This will hopefully enable a credible picture being obtained of the inhabitants and the economic activity of the wider area together with a definition of the relationship of the hinterland with Borough Hill and Bannaventa.

4. Further Work Prior to Decision.

Considering the points discussed in Section 3 above it might be appropriate before any decision is made on these proposals for the developers to be

required to undertake further work to update and substantiate the Desk Top Assessment.

Owing to the identification by geophysical survey of activity in fields immediately to the north of the Danetre application, the developers should be required to carry out a similar survey in the fields included in the application to the south of the Daventry - Norton road. This would hopefully establish whether that activity was more extensive than what is currently known and possibly it's relationship to the nearby Romano-British activity on the northern end of Borough Hill. If this initial survey reveals activity then there may be a need to enlarge the survey area to establish the full extent of the archaeology. Consideration needs to be also given to having geophysical surveys carried out in the immediate areas of archaeological activity within the developmental area and possibly on that land immediately adjacent to the important scheduled monument sites adjoining the proposed development.

It would also be beneficial if a full aerial photographic analysis of the whole developmental area was undertaken to establish the presence of any sites that may have not been previously identified.

We feel that the report as it is underestimates the landscape archaeological potential of the area as a whole. To our view this is important as, in conjunction with the report on the other neighbouring developments at Churchfields and Monksmoor and our own work at Bannaventa the whole landscape of the area is of significance at least regionally, if not nationally. It is also questioned whether the report reflects the brief given to them by the County Archaeologist when it is compared with those prepared for the Churchfields and Monksmoor developments.

5. Archaeological Mitigation

If it is agreed that further archaeological assessment work is required prior to any decision regarding the application being made, it is difficult at this stage to make full suggestions as to mitigating work. As previously discussed in Section 3 above we consider there is need to exploit any archaeological feature to it's full to glean as much information as possible about its purpose, date and reason for final demise. We would suggest therefore that a full excavation be made of any feature that is not an obvious field boundary. Any early field boundaries that may be located should be subjected to limited trial trenching to establish date and style.

We would suggest that a proactive watching brief be maintained on the site at all stages of development. Any archaeological feature located during construction should be subjected to appropriate investigation.

All finds located during the work must, where appropriate, be subjected to proper conservation and identification. Arrangements must be made for subsequent archiving.

If an appropriate site is found during the development work it will hopefully be left exposed and conserved as an attraction for local people. This can only be good for achieving a sense of identity and heritage in a previously undeveloped area.