



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

20th September 2008

Your Ref: APP/M9570/A/08/2082894

Dear Sir/ Madam

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Appeal by Capel House Property Trust Ltd

Land at Monksmoor Farm, Welton Lane, Daventry,

CLASP did make an initial submission to WNDC regarding this application that should have been forwarded to you by them on receipt of the Appeal. We have also made a response to the Regulation 19 Response by the developers. A copy of that response is attached to this letter and would form the basis of our additional submissions to the Appeal over and above our original submission.

We would urge that the Appeal consider the archaeological implications holistically with the other proposed developments in the Daventry area. 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.

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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There was also evidence relevant to these circumstances from the earlier Middlemoor development to the west of the Monksmoor development. This is alluded to in our original submission to WNDL.

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.

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.

We would stress however that this overview approach is not just limited to the Romano-British era but to other periods particularly the Bronze and Iron Ages, considering the influence of the Borough Hill settlement on the locality.

At this stage it would be our intention to give oral evidence to the Appeal in addition to this written submission.

Yours sincerely,

D. F. Hayward MBE
Secretary to the Organising Committee

Dear Ms Owens

Proposed Development at Monksmoor Farm, Daventry.

Response to Regulation 19 Additional Information

Archaeological Implications

We have now had opportunity to consider the subject response and respond accordingly. It is noted that whilst discussions, both written and apparently oral, between the developers agents and Messrs Entec, your consultants, are referred to, no mention is made to the paper submitted by this organisation, CLASP, in the Regulation 19 response. This paper was dated the 12th December 2007 and submitted to you, we did have subsequent discussions with Messrs Entec on the issues.

CLASP takes the view that the effects of this and other developments in the area must be looked at holistically. This is important, as relevant work has recently been undertaken by CLASP at the nearby Romano-British town of Bannaventa and elsewhere in the area. This, together with data obtained by archaeological surveys undertaken by various developers in the locality is enhancing the view that there was significant change to the local economy and possibly social structure across this area in the late 3rd Century. This change led to an apparent total reconfiguration and nature of Bannaventa town.

We therefore take the view that any means possible to inform the research into this apparent social upheaval should be undertaken, including attempting to locate settlements and detailed studies of field systems.

Additionally in our original paper we made the suggestion that an attempt should be made to conserve at least one of the possible Bronze Age hut circles by way of excavation and careful preservation. This could be left as an open feature to enable the local community to relate to its past and also for educational purposes for local schools etc. This is not envisaged as being high cost but could be of considerable community benefit.

We note the developer's proposals that a condition regarding negotiated mitigation be included on Outline Planning Permission if granted. We would welcome this as a sensible way forward but would urge that CLASP, a responsible body, in addition to the County Archaeologist, is included in these negotiations. This would therefore ensure that the view of the community in archaeological issues was heard. CLASP is a registered charity and full details of some of our activities can be seen on our website www.claspweb.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

D.F. Hayward MBE -Secretary to the Organising Committee

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