



Joint Press Release
MOLA and Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP)
Borough Hill, Daventry - Guided Walks

“A landscape through time”

MOLA and the local community archaeology group CLASP are jointly investigating the archaeological and historical story of Borough Hill, Daventry. Whilst the investigations are not yet complete, the initial phases of documentary research, aerial and geophysical survey have begun to reveal some outstanding results for this previously poorly understood monument.

Borough Hill is owned by Daventry District Council and is protected as a Scheduled Monument, under the stewardship of Historic England. Stone tools found on Borough Hill suggest that the earliest activity took place at least 12,000 years ago in the Palaeolithic period. Since then the hill has been important as the site of two Iron Age hillforts, a Roman villa, burial mounds and more until the 20th century when it played a significant role in WW2 and the Cold War as the site of a radio station. Today the site is maintained as a country park by Daventry District Council.

To enable the wider community to experience our discoveries we are undertaking a series of guided walks on Borough Hill where its history will be revealed. Walks will be held on Thursday 25th and Sunday 28th July at 12:30, 14:00 and 15:30. No booking is required and the event is free. Participants are asked to meet in Daventry Golf Club car park, entrance from the Norton Road, at least half an hour before the start time. There will also be a small exhibition hosted at the golf course and archaeologists from MOLA and CLASP will be on hand to answer questions.

Dave Hayward, Chair of CLASP Trustees said, “Borough Hill is the cradle of what is now Daventry and since then has remained an important feature for the locality until today. We hope that Daventry's' community will take this opportunity to get an understanding of the history of life on the most iconic feature in the local landscape.”

Chris Chinnock, MOLA's lead on the Borough Hill Project, said, “A number of archaeological excavations in and around Daventry in recent years have brought to light a great deal of evidence about the history of this region. Borough Hill sits at the centre of this activity and is in many ways the missing piece of the puzzle in our understanding of the landscape around Daventry”.

Both MOLA and CLASP are keen to ensure that the understandings achieved from this major project are passed to the local community. These walks will be the first of a number of outcomes from this project.

If you would like to become involved in developing your understanding of the early history of the local community then why not join CLASP by visiting our website at www.claspweb.org.uk.

Note to Editors:

For additional information please call:-

Chris Chinnock on 016040 809800 (cchinnock@mola.org.uk) or Dave Hayward on 07986770855 (clasp_chair@claspweb.org.uk)

MOLA event page

<https://www.mola.org.uk/festival-archaeology-landscape-through-time-guided-tour-borough-hill-prehistoric-hillfort>

ArchGIS StoryMap telling an interactive history of the site

<https://arcg.is/0uuHrO>