

Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Advisory Group Meeting

Minutes

Date: Tuesday 13th June 2017

Time: 7pm

Location: OAE, 15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill

Present: Stephen Macaulay (SPM) (Jigsaw Project Manager), Clemency Cooper (CAFC) (Community Archaeology Manager); Steve Sherlock (SS) (A14 Archaeology Manager); Mike Fortune (MF) (Warboys Archaeology Project); Richard Halliday (RH) (Huntingdon U3A); Arnold Fertig (AFe) (Histon & Impington Archaeology Group); Terry Dymott (AD) (Cambridge Archaeology Field Group); Cathy Cantrell (CC), Lesley Bassenger (LB) (Archaeology Cambridgeshire East); Vicki Harley (VH), David Gordon (DG) (Fen Edge Archaeology Group); Janet Morris (JM), Andrew Morris (AM) (West Wickham & District Local History Club); Charles Turner (CT), Martin Davies (MD) (Gransden Society); Mary-Ann Parsons (M-AP) (Covington History Group); Peter King (PK) (Eltisley History Society); Phil Hill (PH), Kev Redgate (KR) (Sawtry History Society); Alex Fisher (AFi), Josephine Fried (JF) (FenArch); Sue Miller (SM) Orwell Local History Society.

Chair: Stephen Macaulay (Jigsaw Project Manager)

Minutes: Clemency Cooper (Community Archaeology Manager)

Apologies: Laura Sparling (CamDig); Rob Noble (HIAG); Chris Tomsett (GamArch); Phil Stimson (STAG).

- SPM introduced Steve Sherlock (A14 Archaeology Manager). He started his role in February and is an advocate for the archaeology along the new A14 upgrade. He works with Joint Venture and Highways England (who are funding the project) and the archaeology contractor (MOLA Headland) and their subcontractors (who include COPA – a consortium including Oxford Archaeology). Currently there are 200 archaeologists working on 15 sites. An Outreach Officer has just been appointed for the scheme and will be in post by the end of June 2017. The new Outreach Officer will be invited to the next Jigsaw AG meeting. SS is happy to talk to community groups and his email address is steve.sherlock@thea14.com

1. Matters Arising

- SPM reported that the HLF was impressed with the final Jigsaw project evaluation report which had been very honest about what had worked well and what could have been improved. SPM also recently attended a meeting about 'Assessing the value of community generated research' (following the publication of this report: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/research-resources/assessing-community-generated-research/>). Cambridgeshire had been singled out as a county following best archaeological practice.
- CC reported that she had tried to edit the ACE page on the Jigsaw website but it was not saving the edits.

ACTION – CAFC to look into the issue and inform CC when resolved.

2. **Publicity**

- CAFC reported that the new website went live in March. It has a new design and an updated calendar. CAFC continues to email monthly updates to the Jigsaw circulation list, and add upcoming events and relevant news to the social media feeds on Facebook and Twitter.

RH said he preferred Facebook groups rather than pages, and proposed changing the Facebook page to a group.

ACTION – CAFC to research the difference between a Facebook page and a group, and determine which (or both) Jigsaw should use.

3. **Group Updates**

- **Orwell Local History Society (SM)**

OLHS dug 17 test pits in the village last year. So far, they have dug another 3 this year and are planning to dig at least another 2. One of the pits produced a quantity of worked stone (including a trough) near the church. Medieval pottery was found with it. It might have been removed from the church during the reformation or when the chancery was rebuilt in the 14th century AD. SM asked whether anyone had contacts with people with ecclesiastical expertise who might be able to explain what this is? MA-P suggested the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. SPM asked her to send a photograph to circulate around Oxford Archaeology, and would compare to something similar found at Ramsey Abbey.

ACTION – SM to send a photograph of the stone trough to SPM. SPM to circulate and check potential matches.

- **FenArch (AFi)**

FenArch are currently revamping their website, but also make good use of a Facebook page. They have done 3 school outreach visits so far this year. They received a Fenland District Council grant of £500 to purchase additional outreach resources, particularly prehistoric. They have also been finds washing. FenArch are still expecting to be involved in the new Wisbech High Street Townscape project but the start of the archaeological activities has been delayed. They are also involved in planning for the Stonea Camp project. AFi said he was in the preliminary stages of planning a new HLF project..

ACTION – CAFC to send AFi details of the Fisher Parkinson Trust in Wimblington.

- **Sawtry History Society (KR)**

KR is the society's new Field Officer and PH is now the Chair. Both are also involved in the Fane Road Archaeology Group. They are still working on Sawtry Abbey site, finishing a report for Historic England and hoping to apply for another license to continue their geophysical survey. They are in the early stages of researching a new Roman site, undertaking geophysical survey with the Jigsaw kit and fieldwalking, and considering a potential HLF grant application. Hosting ACA's ILFAS later in the year in Gidding. Some volunteers were involved in OAE's recent Chapel End dig.

ACTION – SPM to let Sawtry History Society know about any follow-up excavations in Sawtry and volunteer opportunities.

- **Eltisley History Society (CT)**

CT has been augering at moated sites in Caxton End and Eltisley Woods to try and establish the age of the moats from the plant macrofossils and snails found by augering. Has also managed Caxton Moats and augered the site, which OAE are due to re-survey as part of a new HLF Young Roots project with Cambourne Village College. CT thinks there is some incorrect information in Historic England's listing of the 12th/13th century double moated site which should be updated during the project (i.e. vineyard or garden rather than rabbit warren, no fishponds, no bridge).

- **Gransden Society (MD)**

After a year of work, restoration of the medieval windmill is nearly complete. Responsibility for maintenance is being transferred from the County Council to a new trust who are taking on the leasehold while the Council continues to insure the windmill. MD considering digging a trench into the windmill mound as there is supposed to have been a windmill on the site since the 1300s. MA-P has found early documentary evidence for windmill and watermill in Covington, and suggested compare the dates with the Great Gransden windmill.

- **Warboys Archaeology Project (MF)**

Although Roger Mould planned not to dig any new sites this year and focus on report writing, he has started a geophysical survey of Ramsey Abbey at Ramsey College as part of a new separate community project supported by WAP. They are using the Jigsaw resistivity meter to survey the scheduled monument and plan to apply for HLF funding to do GPR in due course. Also researching the layout of Benedictine Abbeys and relating it to what's known about Ramsey Abbey from historic records. OAE have been excavating at Ferrars Way in Huntingdon. ACTION: SPM to see if WAP can visit the Ferrars Way site.

- **Histon & Impington Archaeology Group (AFe)**

HIAG hosted two evening public talks on local archaeological sites and club nights to review and discuss finds have been well attended. HIAG now have a website www.hiarchaeology.wordpress.com Hosted ACA's ILFAS in March when 13 new test pits were dug, with help from HIAG volunteers, bringing the total to 42. Three more test pit weekends are planned for this summer, as well as research into previous finds from their parishes. A display at the Histon Open Gardens event in June was successful as was a visit to Histon Junior School to present a workshop to a class studying the Romans – using test pit finds and OAE's educational resources. SPM reported that the application to build a new school is moving forward and OAE would contact HIAG if they undertake the archaeological investigation.

- **Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (TD)**

CAFG have a new display at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge and expect it to be there until at least September, but are still resolving issues with incorrect labels. CAFG's work at Childerly with Jonathan Last continues, and Historic England are undertaking geophysical survey of some of the area. At Wimpole Hall, CAFG will be presenting their finds and results from archaeological investigations to staff and volunteers at an evening event later in June. They may go on to investigate the mill site at Wimpole as well as the valve house at Johnson's pond in due course.

- **Archaeology Cambridgeshire East (CC)**

ACE led some in-house geophysical training at Slade Farm, Burwell, as well as dumpy level training on Soham moor. They hope to excavate these sites if they receive the landowners' permissions. ACE worked with Weatherall School in April to dig a test pit in the school grounds. This involved 90 students from Year 3 over 5 days. They held an exhibition for parents afterwards. ACE have since been approached by another school (special educational needs) just outside Soham to run a similar project. Attendance at Shropshire Farms for Open Farm Sunday was well attended.

ACTION – VH to send CC a copy of a recent article in Landscape History journal about Burwell Castle.

ACTION – SPM to send CC a copy of OAE's teachers' pack for Burwell Castle.

- **West Wickham & District Local History Club (JM)**

This is their 4th year of excavations and they plan to dig 5 last test pits in July. South Cambridgeshire District Council have given permission to dig on open access land. They've usually involved about 20-30 people each year, and have been submitting interim reports to CHER. This will take them up to 33 test pits, and they now feel they're running out of sites. WWDLHS hope to do something more ambitious on a single site in the future.

- **Fen Edge Archaeology Group (VH)**

FEAG's interim report on the Twenty Pence project has been submitted. Their OASIS entry has been validated and the report is now available on the Archaeological Data Service to download. They're still working on the post-excavation processing with bone and pot to mark up. FEAG are taking part in the Fen Edge Family Festival in June with a display about their test-pitting of the village pond. They are talking to the Tithe Barn Trust in Landbeach, who are waiting to hear about their HLF bid. FEAG hope to do a geophysical survey near the barn, and are pleased to hear that other Jigsaw groups have been using the equipment recently and could assist. They also plan to fieldwalk some of the fields which weren't covered by the Fen Project. In 2018 FEAG will be celebrating their 10th anniversary, and are taking orders for FEAG branded clothing (including tee-shirts, fleeces and hi-vis vests). VH also investigating the possibility of commissioning an archaeological illustration training session, which would be advertised to other Jigsaw groups.

- **Covington History Group (M-AP)**

CHG did a magnetometry survey of known Iron Age sites earlier in the year but learned nothing new. Alice Lyons and Stephen Upex have helped to update the Covington Roman pottery reference collection, and identified new types. These are available for other Jigsaw groups to borrow. CHG's finds processing is up-to-date, and they recently identified a piece of Spanish amphora. MA-P is making progress on their Roman and Saxon site reports, and all their reports to date are available on the ADS. MA-P reported that she and Simon are moving to Cornwall in the summer. She will hand over contact details for Jigsaw to the group and hopes they will continue. MA-P said she'd had a brilliant time being involved in Jigsaw, learned lots and had a lot of fun – thanks to all the people involved. MA-P reported she had attended every Jigsaw meeting since the project began!

- **Cambridge Antiquarian Society (SPM)**

The new CAS President is Alison Dickens (CAU).

- **Oakington & Westwick History Society (CAFC)**

This is a newly affiliated group, the first to join Jigsaw since the end of the HLF term of the project. The group's representative is Nick Harrison and their events programme is available on their website: <http://oakingtonhistory.co.uk/>

- CAFC reported that a couple of other community archaeology and history groups were interested in affiliating to Jigsaw. Now that the HLF term of the project has come to an end, we can accept non-Cambridgeshire groups and would welcome any other groups who want to find out more.
- CAFC was contacted by the Ely & District Archaeological Society who have a fund to make financial contributions to 13-18 year olds based in Ely, Cambridgeshire (and the surrounding district) towards the cost of studying and undertaking archaeological investigations in the UK. For more information please contact enquiries@elyarchaeology.org.uk CAFC mentioned that there had been no applications to the fund so far. Now that there isn't a GCSE or A-Level in Archaeology, there are no options for school-aged students to formally study archaeology.
TD said that CAFC had had similar problems attracting eligible applicants for the Val Whittaker Memorial Prize.
- CAFC recently supervised a weekend of test pit digging undertaken by Chesterford Local History and Archaeology Society. They successfully applied for a grant from the Mick Aston Archaeology Fund (<http://new.archaeologyuk.org/mick-aston-archaeology-fund>) ahead of applying to the HLF for a larger grant for a village big dig in 2018.
- GamArch sent CAFC details of an upcoming event. 'Gamlingay Saxon Heritage' is an open meeting which will take place in the Kier Suite in the Eco Hub, Gamlingay, from 7:30pm on Thursday 6th July 2017. Quinton Carroll will be talking about an archaeological excavation which took place on Station Road which found a large Saxon burial site. Sarah Inskip of the University of Cambridge will be talking about a new project she is leading which will be reinvestigating the skeletons found during this excavation.
- St Neots Local History Society sent CAFC details of an upcoming event. Simon Thurley (former Chief Executive of English Heritage) will be talking about 'Royal Palaces in Cromwell's England' at Eatons Community Centre in Eaton Ford on Thursday 14th September at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £5 for members (£7.50 for non-members) and advance tickets are available from St Neots Museum.
- SPM mentioned the upcoming Wimpole History Festival (7th – 9th July 2017).
- MD reported that there is a new history group in Longstowe.
ACTION – MD to send CAFC contact details for the new Longstowe History Group.

4. **OAE & CHER Updates**

- SPM reported that OAE intends to run more geophysical training but need to work out what Jigsaw groups would like to revise and when will be convenient. Any practical training sessions will probably take place at Anglesey Abbey, to inform OAE's proposed training excavation there in June 2018.
ACTION – All Jigsaw groups to contact CAFC about what aspects of geophysical training they want to cover by Monday 17th July 2017.

ACTION – SPM and CAFC to book geophysical training with Karl Taylor later in 2017.

- SPM reported that Cambridge Archaeological Unit's excavation at Northstowe is intending to have a community training excavation in 2017.
- SPM reported that OAE will be starting their excavations at Waterbeach Barracks in July, continuing to the end of December. This is a large Roman site with buildings, kilns and ditches. Volunteers will be invited onto site from August, and people can take part in the excavation or pot washing on site.

ACTION – SPM and CAFC to confirm details about how to volunteer at Waterbeach in due course.

- SPM reported that OAE are working in partnership with Cambourne Village College on a new Young Roots Heritage Lottery Funded project.
- SPM reported that OAE are committed to running a two-week training and research dig at Anglesey Abbey in June 2018, as part of the Madingley Hall diploma course in archaeology. This will involve investigation of the sluices and water systems. It is likely that OAE will be undertaking drone surveys and geophysical surveys at the site ahead of the excavation next year.
- SPM reported that OAE are working with a new group, Heritage Culture Community in Wimblington on a HLF project at Stonea Camp. It is hoped that this will be the start of a programme of outreach at the site over the coming years.
- CAFC reported that a new exhibition 'Hidden Lives: a story of discovery' is about to open at the Wellcome Genome Campus. It will feature discoveries made by OAE in Hinxton over the last 20 years, showing how archaeology and genetics can be used together to better understand the past. The exhibition is open from June to December.

5. Health and Safety (H&S)

- There was concern about whether there is going to be a route for volunteers to be able to obtain CSCS cards. SPM said that at the moment there doesn't appear to be.
- ACTION – SPM to consult Dan Poore at OAS regarding CSCS cards for volunteers.**

6. Any Other Business

- SPM was sad to report the death of Terry Mortlock, a longstanding OAE volunteer who had worked closely with a number of Jigsaw groups.
- CAFC reported that Sally Croft (CHER) gave birth to a baby girl and that both were doing well.
- VH brought attention to the publication of a new book 'Molluscs in Archaeology' edited by Michael J. Allen and published by Oxbow Books.
- VH asked other groups for ideas about how to recruit and retain society members. Do people joining an archaeology group want to dig or do they want to attend talks? AFi said that his experience with FenArch is that the society needs new members each year to sustain numbers and bring in new ideas and skills so they are continually recruiting new members. AFe said that HIAG had found a large audience of people with a stand at a recent open gardens event. SPM said to use the publicity for high profile archaeological investigations such as the A14 to attract the attention of the public and find new members. JM said that West Wickham usually have more people to dig than attend their usual history club meetings.

7. Next Meeting - Tuesday 5th September 2017