

Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Advisory Group Meeting

Minutes

Date: Tuesday 27th September 2016

Time: 7pm

Location: OAE, 15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill

Present: Stephen Macaulay (SPM) (Jigsaw Project Manager), Clemency Cooper (CAFC) (Community Archaeology Manager); Jane Dean (JD) (Histon & Impington Archaeology Project); Mary-Ann Parsons (M-AP) (Covington History Group); Cathy Cantrell (CC) (ACE); Terry Dymott (TD) (CAFG); Janet Morris (JM), Andrew Morris (AM) (West Wickham & District Local History Club); Anne Brown (AB), Sharon Trueman (ST) (CamDig); Roger Mould (RM) (Warboys Archaeology Project); Mike Fortune (MF) (Huntingdon U3A); Manuela Baverstock (MB), Phil Stimson (PS) (STAG).

Chair: Stephen Macaulay (Jigsaw Project Manager)

Minutes: Clemency Cooper (Community Archaeology Manager)

Apologies: Ron Fish, Vicki Harley (FEAG); Alex Fisher (FenArch); Sue Wallis (Great Fen Heritage Group); David Oates (Histon & Impington Archaeology Project); Richard Halliday (Huntingdon U3A); Sue Miller (Orwell Local History Society);

- Introduction to Clemency Cooper, the new Community Archaeology Manager for Oxford Archaeology based at the East office in Bar Hill.
- Introduction to meeting attendees around the table.
- (SPM) The HLF term of Jigsaw finishes at the end of October but the Advisory Group meetings, the network of community groups, support from OAE and CCC staff and equipment loans will all continue.

1. **Matters Arising**

- Groups were reminded to update their presence on the website and to send updates on project activity to SPM for the end of project evaluation report.
ACTION - Groups
- (CC) ACE requested a visit to the Saxon cemetery site but were denied a visit.
- (JM) Contacted Quinton Carroll about archive costs. Where a project has received external funding (e.g. HLF) the archive costs are expected to be included in the funding grant. If a project is not funded, Quinton will discuss alternative arrangements with community groups. CCC may recruit someone to oversee archive management who can offer training to groups on archive procedures. Alternatively, OAE has an archives supervisor who could offer training.
ACTION – Project Board to investigate the offer of archive training.

2. **Jigsaw Project's Progress**

- All of the Jigsaw training courses have been completed, including courses on OASIS, hedgerow survey and geophysical survey earlier in 2016.
- All of the HLF requirements for the project have been completed. SPM is working on the final project evaluation report.
- The Advisory Group meetings will continue, and advice and support are still available from OAE staff. CAFC will provide a point of contact for Jigsaw affiliated groups. Although funding for training courses has ceased, the best practice guides produced after previous courses will remain available on the website to download.
- SPM thanked everyone involved in making the Jigsaw project a success. The project has been very well received and highly praised by all internally and externally.

3. **Publicity**

- Oxford Archaeology is currently redeveloping its website, and CAFC will look into redevelopment of the Jigsaw website to keep it relevant and updated as part of the project legacy.

ACTION: CAFC to devise and circulate feedback form to gather opinions about the Jigsaw website.

- CAFC is monitoring social media accounts and the wider Jigsaw mailing list. Groups to contact CAFC with news and events to publicise.

ACTION: Groups

4. **Group Updates**

Histon & Impington Archaeology Project (JD)

In a successful first season the group dug 28 test pits in the villages, involving over 200 helpers.

The project began with four public meetings in February to enlist support. The first test pit was dug by the committee in April to get experience. Subsequently between five and eight were done at monthly intervals. The project leader had the advantage of having attended a number of Jigsaw courses, including that on Test-Pitting and the Covington excavation, as well as experience with CAFC.

It was not found possible in such a large and scattered community to get people together for instruction before or on the excavation days. Most of those offering test pit sites had obtained basic knowledge by working on another test pit in a previous month. Thanks to contacts made through Jigsaw, experienced people from other groups kindly came along at the early stages of the project and on the day, to participate, offer advice and supervise. Support came from CAFC, FEAG, CAMDIG, Meldreth LHG, Orwell LHG, STAG and ACE and is gratefully acknowledged. Jigsaw and Meldreth LHG kindly lent equipment. The cascading of knowledge and experience as intended in the Jigsaw project was very evident.

For Jigsaw, Jo Richards kindly offered advice in the early stages. Subsequently there were helpful and encouraging site visits from several OAE staff, including Richard Mortimore, Clemency Cooper, Nick Gilmour, Helen Stocks-Morgan and Paddy Lambert. Specialist reports will include those of Paul Blinkhorn on the pottery and Angelos Hadjikoumis of OAE on the faunal remains. The results are giving a remarkable insight into the formation and movement of settlement in these

very complicated interlocking villages. Regular reports continue to be put on the Village Society's website and can be seen by googling "Histon Archaeology" and at <https://histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com/events/archaeology/>

The test pit hosts were all very enthusiastic and went to considerable trouble to make helpers welcome and to get friends to help. Gazebos provided cover and shelter, mainly from the sun, on five weekends of fine weather. Each weekend finished with a tea party where participants and visitors could inspect the finds and return the equipment.

Key factors in the success have been the general enthusiasm, active organisational support by committee members and others, support from other groups and from OAE. Equipment was distributed on the Thursdays. Tight organisation of volunteers was obtained by insisting on having everyone's email address and phone number. Full arrangements were sent out by email. Members of the committee followed this up by phoning people individually to make personal contact and arrange the manning schedule.

The next meeting of the committee is on Monday 3rd October to discuss what they would like to do next.

Covington History Group (M-AP)

Have been trying to locate medieval furlongs from aerial photographs although Lidar has not proven useful. The group know of 6 or 7 Iron Age sites near the village and have been trying to locate them more accurately through geophysical survey, and have so far covered 3 of the sites. There is one field with an Iron-Age D-shaped enclosure with two roundhouses and this summer, they raised money to pay for a machine to dig trenches across this site. They have identified the ditches and found pottery, bone and quern fragments. The geophysical survey showed a magnetic anomaly which has also been investigated, there are no finds but it is possibly drainage-related. The excavation also allowed them to investigate a nearby Saxon site which has not shown up with geophysical survey but there is pottery from fieldwalking. A fireplace was found in one of the trenches with slag bloomers in the spoil but there have been no postholes or small finds.

- **Archaeology Cambridgeshire East (CC)**

They dug several test pits at the boundary of the medieval market but another time, will need more people, more days or fewer pits to keep it manageable. The group also did a survey and walking tour of Burwell Castle this summer, and have identified a possible excavation site near the windmill off the High Street. (SPM) OAE have dug windmills in Burwell. The group are hoping to do some fieldwalking at Triangle Farm and at another site in Burwell. ACE are running their first Archaeology Day of talks and activities on Saturday 22nd October 2016. (SPM) OAE can lend ACE some of the outreach hands-on activity boxes.

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

CAFG have helped to support test-pit excavations in Orwell and in Histon & Impington this summer. They were approached by Hardwick parish council to investigate the site of their new village hall but found nothing after excavating. The group have been offered a new storage area and exhibition for their finds from Wimpole (through Ian Stewart and Angus Wainwright). The exhibition is due to take

plae in January 2017. Following a meeting with Jonathan Last of Historic England, CAFG offered to fieldwalk some sites in the areas he's researching using LiDAR. They have fieldwalked a suspected Iron Age site but found mostly Roman finds including some early 4th Century coins.

- **West Wickham & District Local History Club (JM)**
Five test pits were dug this summer over a weekend, trying to find the origins of the medieval settlement. The test pits were located in the hamlet of Streetly End and were dug by approximately 30 people. Rheesearch conducted a geophysical survey and identified farm buildings that predate the earliest documentary evidence but did not locate the tanning pits known to have been there. The test pits have found medieval shelly ware identified by Paul Blinkhorn but JM asked SPM about the location of the former Haverhill group archive which included shelly ware which was identified as Roman.
- **CamDig (ST)**
They hope to be involved imminently in an excavation on the Isle of Ely, but OAE's excavation at North Cambridge Academy found nothing and was unsuitable for volunteer involvement. CamDig members took part in Histon & Impington excavations this summer and visited OAE's Iron Age/Roman site at Kettering, which was an enjoyable experience to be involved in open area excavation. The group have visited the records office to research the river area near Chesterton. They have also identified the remaining Kings Hedge in King's Hedges, near the guided busway, as medieval. CamDig recently went on a tour of the Castle Hill area with Neil Snead, which they can highly recommend to other groups, and are continuing to research projects for next year.
- **Warboys Archaeology Project (RM)**
They were unable to visit a site with Saxon burials in North Warboys under development, but have been offered the neighbouring fields to investigate. This summer, they had a week-long dig on the moated homestead at Pidley which has been researched by Jason Peters. Their geophysical survey of the site was unsuccessful but several trenches identified deep infilled ditches and a possible Roman road. They have also undertaken a geophysical survey or ridge and furrow at Wistoe, trying to identify whether it extends to the manor road. The resistivity worked well but did not show up the full extent of the ridge and furrow. WAP have also been offered a possible site in Broughton to look at the early village.
- **Huntingdon U3A (MF)**
The group have continued their usual programme of talks and site visits.
- **St Ives Archaeology Group (PS)**
STAG have had a programme of talks, AGM and social events. They have a good membership but there's not currently any interest in excavation.
- **Great Fen Heritage Group (supplied by Sue Wallis, read by CAFG)**
The Great Fen Archaeology group has now combined with the History group to form the Great Fen Heritage Group, which I am chairing. Our most recent archaeology activity was a field-walk at Engine Farm, where we were fortunate to turn up a quantity of pottery. We hope this is an indicator of something possibly a fishing

mound or even the site of a mill. Our friends at Warboys have helped identify some of the artefacts as medieval, early to late, and included a nice fragment of Grimston ware. We also found fishing weights both stone and lead. These items all date from before the drainage of Whittlesea Mere.

- **Fen Edge Archaeology Group (supplied by Vicki Harley, read by CAFC)**
FEAG have continued to work on our Twenty Pence Project this summer, doing geophysics and one test pit. The interim report on the project has been written and submitted to OASIS. We are preparing to produce the final report. We are also looking in to possibilities for a new project. FEAG members have also taken part in excavations with OAE and CAU. Our autumn talks programme began last week and an extra talk on the illegal antiquities trade has been organised for October. Stephen Macaulay has kindly agreed to lead a walk for us in Landbeach (one of the Fen Edge area villages).
Extra FEAG talk: Wednesday 19 October, 7.30 pm, at Cottenham Village College 'The International Illicit Antiquities Network: Dealers, Auction Houses, Private Collectors and Museums' by Christos Tsirogiannis

 - **FenArch (supplied by Alex Fisher, read by SPM)**
We have returned to Wisbech St Mary Roman site, we can now confirm a sloping ditch, full of layers of ash and charcoal. Finds include fine bone hair pins, bone awls, quantities of Roman pot, Samian and Nene Vally plus an almost complete Greyware bowl. Excavation was four trenches, fully recorded and based on our 2013 excavation there. Some soil samples were taken, I hope to have them processed at work soon.
On a personal note, my Fornham site is near completion and Suffolk have given me an additional six month contract.

 - **Oxford Archaeology East (SPM)**
The Wimpole car park evaluation is complete and an open area excavation will follow which volunteers are welcome to take part in. The Waterbeach evaluation is ongoing, and has identified a lot of Roman archaeology so an open area excavation will follow which, again, volunteers are welcome to take part in. The Spitfire memorial event has taken place and a DVD about the project will be available soon. OAE are also developing community projects with the Wellcome Genome Campus in Hinxton and with Cambourne Village College. OAE are involved in discussions for developing a youth heritage project at Stonea Camp. In Cambridge, OAE are currently investigating a mortuary chapel at Mill Road Cemetery and potentially the Leper Chapel as part of the Chilsholm trail.
ACTION: SPM and CAFC to identify OAE projects of interest to Jigsaw-affiliated groups and facilitate involvement.
5. **Project Evaluation**
- The final project evaluation report is underway, written by SPM.
6. **Project Board & Advisory Group**
- The Advisory Group will continue to meet every quarter, and the meetings will continue to be based at Oxford Archaeology East, Bar Hill.

7. **Partners**

- OAE will continue to seek partnerships and opportunities to involve Jigsaw affiliated groups. OAE have just submitted a tender to run a community excavation with the Forestry Commission in Thetford Forest.

8. **Health and Safety (H&S)**

- There was a recent H&S incident at OAE where a member of staff strained their ankle. SPM reminded groups to take care when on excavation sites and to ensure people have suitable footwear and other personal protective equipment. CAFC said that volunteers are advised to have safety boots when taking part in OAE excavations. Safety boots are relatively inexpensive and OAE has a list of recommended suppliers.

9. **Any Other Business**

- (PS) Asked whether the Jigsaw equipment is still available to borrow and if there is the same process to book it out. SPM confirmed that the Jigsaw equipment is available on the same terms as before. It could also be borrowed for projects outside Cambridgeshire, so long as is used by Jigsaw trained people, if it is not required for Cambridgeshire-based projects.
- (RM) Gave a vote of thanks to OAE and CCC for conceiving of the project and getting it off the ground. Without Jigsaw, groups like Warboys Archaeology Project would not be in existence and individuals would not have had the opportunity to pursue their archaeological interests. (M-AP) Jigsaw is responsible for a phenomenal leap in the skills and knowledge of local community groups and a lot has been achieved in just five years. (SPM) Cambridgeshire leads the way in terms of active archaeology projects led by community groups. These are well known and spoken of by national practitioners, thanks to Jigsaw.
- The CAS conference on recent archaeological activity in Cambridgeshire will take place on Saturday 19th November 2016. Jigsaw groups are encouraged to take part, bringing stalls or speaking about recent projects.
- (CAFC) OAE involves volunteers in excavations and finds processing. If groups are looking to involve more people in their projects, they can contact CAFC to circulate details to the OAE volunteer mailing list.
- (RM) Asked whether the geophysical equipment requires will be serviced. CAFC confirmed that she has the details of the servicing company and will arrange for the servicing to take place over the winter when the equipment is not in use.

ACTION: CAFC

10. **Next Meeting – Tuesday 28th February 2017**