

Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Advisory Group Meeting

Minutes

Date: Tuesday 28th February 2017

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 Group); Manuela Baverstock (MB), Phil Stimson (PS) (St Ives Archaeology Group); Mary-Ann Parsons (M-AP) (Covington History Group); Maggie Stephens (MS), Vicki Harley (VH) (Fen Edge Archaeology Group); Mike Fortune (MF) (Huntingdon U3A); Roger Mould (RM) (Warboys Archaeology Project); Mary Collins (MC) (GamArch); Janet Morris (JM), Andrew Morris (AM) (West Wickham & District Local History Club); Terry Dymott (TD) (Cambridge Archaeology Field Group); Philip Hill (PH) (Sawtry History Society); Josephine Fried (JS) (FenArch); Cathy Cantrell (CC) (Archaeology Cambridgeshire East).

Chair: Stephen Macaulay (Jigsaw Project Manager)

Minutes: Clemency Cooper (Community Archaeology Manager)

Apologies: Donna Martin (ACE); Andy Ketley (FenArch); Sue Miller (Orwell Local History Society); Laura Sparling (CamDig); Rob Noble (HIAG).

- (SPM) This is the first meeting of the Advisory Group since the official completion of the Jigsaw HLF funded term of the project (December 2016). The evaluation report has been completed and submitted. Many thanks to everyone in the Jigsaw community for their contributions to the evaluation report

ACTION – SPM to circulate a PDF of the final evaluation report to community group representatives.

1. Matters Arising

- Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) and Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) have both offered advice and support on archiving to groups on an individual basis, responding to specific project needs e.g. finds marking, OASIS forms, packing and labelling boxes. (Addendum: the current CHER guidelines date from 2014. OAE's Archivist has confirmed that these is due to be updated shortly. If in doubt, contact CHER for clarification).

ACTION – CAFC to circulate the current CHER guidelines for deposition of archaeological archives.

- (JM) The guidelines are very detailed and not written with groups in mind. (CAFC) Sally Croft, Ruth Beckley and Ben Donnelly-Symes at CHER and Kat Hamilton at OAE are happy to meet group representatives to go through what is required for community-led projects to make it as straight-forward as possible.

2. Jigsaw Project's Progress

- As above. The final evaluation report has been submitted marking the official completion of the Jigsaw project. OAE is committed to continuing the legacy of the Jigsaw project for the foreseeable future, and at least the next 5 years. The Advisory Group meetings will continue as an opportunity for community group members to meet and discuss their work. All of the community resources (e.g. best practice guides and equipment) will continue to be available. New groups are still welcome to affiliate, including those outside the Cambridgeshire county border.

3. Publicity

- OAE have been developing a new Jigsaw website (not yet live) following a survey to gather opinions about the existing one. Users said they wanted to see a clearer and less busy interface, removal of outdated content, a better calendar and particularly praised the best practice guide content.

ACTION: CAFC to continue developing the new website and inform the Jigsaw community when it is ready.

ACTION: Groups to update their details on the new website and provide constructive feedback.

- CAFC is adding news and events to social media accounts and the wider Jigsaw mailing list.

ACTION: Groups to contact CAFC with news and events to publicise.

- (VH) Will there be an environmental best practice guide following the training session?

ACTION: CAFC to look into a best practice guide on environmental techniques.

4. Group Updates

- CHER have been checking their entries for fieldwork conducted by Jigsaw groups and will be in touch to clear up any outstanding ECB enquiries and reports. They are happy to accept very basic reports of what was recorded and any finds processing that's occurred since. They do not need discussion pieces or very detailed methodologies.

If you have any work planned for 2017, please could groups inform CHER directly by email archaeology@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call Sally Croft (01223 728569), Ruth Beckley (01223 728592) or Ben Donnelly-Symes (01223 703533).

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

Since the conclusion of the test pits we had a good turn-out for the village report given by David Oates. We have a programme of talks running until July which have been well attended so far and we intend to have a new programme in the Autumn but we will need to change the day for future talks. We have started a club night which is held on the 1st Thursday of the month where we are trying to mark up the finds for storage and so they can be used for display and education. Many thanks for the help we were given when we spent a morning at OAE. Rob and I have also joined CAFG to learn to identify finds. David is organising test pits for ACA's HEFA for 22nd – 24th March. We are hoping to finish a couple of the more interesting of these pits off the following weekend depending on volunteer helpers. We will hopefully be manning a garden during the village open gardens to advertise the group. We will be in a garden

that took part in the big dig. We are hoping to dig a few pits in the village (home farm park, IVC and perhaps the junior school) but these are in the very early stages. We would like to do some field walking round the village next winter.

- **St Ives Archaeology Group (PS)**

Since the last Jigsaw AG meeting, STAG have had three talks and a Christmas party. They are currently looking into the possibility of an excavation in Houghton in May.

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

The group intend to do a geophysical survey of an area of Iron Age activity and, depending on the results, may dig this in the summer. They have also fieldwalked a new multi-period site and are updating their reference collection. They are close to completing a furlong map of the village, identifying where the open fields are.

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

The interim report of the Twenty Pence Project has been completed by Matt Williams and John Stanford. Still working on the post-excavation processing of the finds. Have fieldwalked a site close by and intend to fieldwalk other areas this year. Planning an exhibition at the Cottenham Fen Edge Family Festival on 23rd-25th June 2017. Working closely with the tithe barn trust in Landbeach. Continued usual programme of talks and visits. Coming up is a walk around Comberton with Sue Oosthuizen and a talk on Northstowe phase two by Alison Dickens.

- **Huntingdon University of the Third Age (MF)**

The group have continued their usual programme of talks and site visits.

- **Warboys Archaeology Project (RM)**

This year, WAP are not intending to undertake their own fieldwork. They will be focusing on report writing. If other groups want help with their fieldwork projects this year, get in touch with WAP. (SM) If there are people who want more experience of using the geophysical equipment then they should contact groups who are using it.

ACTION: CAFC to start adding the names of the groups who are borrowing Jigsaw equipment to the online calendar.

They have been working with an Oxford MSc student investigating a field at Audley End with metal-detecting, geophysical survey and fieldwalking.

RM has had some problems in using Snuffler. SPM suggests asking around other groups for assistance from people who are more confident in using the software.

OAE may be asking Karl Taylor from Oxford Archaeology North to lead a training session for staff later in the year. If so, we will look to involve Jigsaw members who have not been trained to use the geophysical equipment yet.

WAP are also investigating the possibility of undertaking geophysical survey of Ramsey Abbey in the grounds of Abbey College with students at the school. They have requested Scheduled Ancient Monument consent from Historic England, and will look to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant in due course. (PH)

Received SAM consent for Sawtry History Society's geophysical survey of Sawtry Abbey and happy to advise.

- **GamArch (MC)**

A previous excavation has found Middle Saxon human remains in the village. GamArch are looking to identify where the skeletons are now kept to find out and find out what analysis has taken place, and potentially reinter them.

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

They have excavated 28 test pits so far and are aiming to dig a further 6 this summer, starting with the weekend of the 15th-16th July coinciding with the Festival of Archaeology. This may be as many test pits sites they can excavate in the village. Horseheath are potentially interested in digging test pits in their village and will be joining the West Wickham digs to find out more.

They have a new website dedicated to their community archaeology project:

<https://westwickhambigdig.wordpress.com>

And there is also a link from their updated and expanded pages on the village website: <http://westwickham.org/clubs/west-wickham-local-history-club>

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

CAFG have been offered storage for their finds at Wimpole but are awaiting electric light! There will be an evening event at Wimpole Hall on Wednesday 21st June (5-8pm) where they will be displaying their finds and results from their archaeological investigations at Wimpole. Intending to publish the results of their research into the landscape at Wimpole in the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. They will have a cabinet at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology from May for 6 months to display the results of their fieldwalking. CAFG members assisted Orwell History Society with their test pit digging in the spring and recently helped with fieldwalking nearby with the Cambridge YACs. They're continuing work on the National Archaeological Identification Survey of South-West Cambridgeshire with Historic England, comparing LiDAR and aerial photographs with evidence from fieldwalking and metal-detecting.

- **Sawtry History Society (PH)**

Sawtry will be hosting their fourth HEFA this summer which will bring the total to 48 test pits. This year they will be expanding to sites in neighbouring villages. They initially undertook two days of geophysical survey at the site of Sawtry Abbey last summer and revisited it in December, with an extended licence from Historic England. They are working on the report of their findings. Sawtry are also investigating the possibility of an excavation at Vinegar Hill, which has produced evidence for a Roman building, and are discussing a HLF bid with OAE. Assisted with excavation at Helpston three times last year, digging 36 test pits. Been involved with test pit digging and fieldwalking with the Fane Road Archaeology Group. A small number of FRAG members have been invited to a follow-up dig at Peterborough Cathedral in spring. This weekend, they will be at Sacrewell Farm. University College Peterborough currently has 20 Archaeology and Landscape History students.

CBA East has offered funding for excavation opportunities involving YAC groups.

ACTION: PH to forward information from CBA East.

- **FenArch (JF)**

Good speaker programme throughout the winter. (Addendum: FenArch has attracted five new members in the last year, the group number is growing.) Anticipating

involvement in the new HLF Wisbech High Street project. They have been working on a medieval chapel site and have been fieldwalking.

Andy Ketley has been in touch with TR Systems (Glinton, Peterborough) who manufacture resistance meters about an offer they had for ClfA members and for more information about the meters they make. The offer prices are no longer current but the information will give Jigsaw groups an idea of what TR Systems offers and how much the equipment costs if they want to factor it into their own HLF bids.

ACTION – CAFC to circulate the information from TR Systems about their resistance meters.

- **Archaeology Cambridgeshire East (Cathy Cantrell)**

Had a successful first Archaeology Day in Soham last October, which was well attended. Intending to run a Soham Museum Day in 2017. The group have done a resistivity survey at Burwell dovecote but found the manor incorporated into a later building. They have been fieldwalking near Burwell Castle during two weekends and found over 1000 multi-period finds, and may look to do an excavation when the field is next available. Paddy Lambert from OAE attended a recent meeting to look at their finds. Intend to do an environmental survey on Soham Moor. They have been approached by Weatheralls Primary School about an archaeology project. (SM) OAE have dug at the school and are due to dig in the area again soon.

- **Orwell Local History Society (supplied by Sue Miller, read by CAFC)**

We have now recorded and sorted all the material from our seventeen test pits, excavated last June in various locations around the village, and will be seeking the advice of Helen Fowler (CCC Finds liaison officer) regarding retention, disposal and storage. A small exhibition will be staged in April to show and explain to local residents what we have found so far.

It is too soon to make any definite statements about the origins and development of Orwell as there are many areas of the village still to be investigated, but three Early/Middle Saxon sherds found in pits close to the parish church and to the main source of fresh water prior to the mid 20th century confirmed our imagined location for the earliest settlement. Late medieval pottery, found in all but two pits, suggests that the village covered much the same area as today by 1500AD. A concentration of medieval ware (not yet dated) in a field where no buildings are known to have existed for at least 350 years, needs further investigation. Could this have been a site that was abandoned after the Black Death or the crop failures of the early 14th century? Romano British pottery was found over a wide area, but was particularly concentrated near the spring in Chapel Orchard which had been the main source of water for centuries. Fifty RB sherds were picked up on the surface of Chapel Orchard allotments. Fragments of Roman tegula were found about 400 yards away on the east side of Orwell, where we will dig further pits this summer.

We have several interesting areas still to dig, including the site of the Town House where we have already found what could be the remains of a pre-Reformation shrine or chapel. We will be starting work there early in April.

We are very grateful to Jigsaw and to OAE for training and advice, and to Cambridge Archaeological Field Group and Meldreth History Group for their help in field walking and excavating in Orwell.

- **Oxford Archaeology East (CAFC & SPM)**

(CAFC) We are working with Cambourne Village College on a Young Roots HLF grant application to excavate an Iron Age/Roman farmstead near the school on land

west of Cambourne shortly due to be developed. This will also involve an exhibition at the school and the development of an online interactive map of the archaeology of the area.

OAE are also working with the Wellcome Genome Campus in Hinxton on a bioarchaeology project with local Primary Schools. Workshops looking at the archaeological discoveries, and particularly the results of DNA analysis of the skeletons, found at the campus will take place this summer. There will be an accompanying public exhibition ('Hidden lives: a story of discovery) which can be booked online: <http://publicengagement.wellcomegenomecampus.org/events/hidden-lives-story-discovery>

OAE have partnered with the newly formed group 'Heritage, Culture & Community – Wimblington & Stonea' on a HLF Our Heritage grant to run a couple of open days to attract more new visitors to Stonea Iron Age Hillfort, and to develop an augmented reality app to enhance the visitor experience. It is hoped that this activity will lead to a community excavation at Stonea Grange and the building of a visitor centre at the site in due course.

(SM) OAE are now involved with MOLA Headland with the excavations ahead of the A14 expansion. Along with East Anglia ONE and HS2, OAE and other commercial units in the region and nationally will be involved in some large infrastructure projects for the foreseeable future and we are recruiting new field staff for these. In particular, there are likely to be a lot of trainee and apprenticeship opportunities related to HS2. We will be excavating at Waterbeach Barracks this summer and there will be opportunities for volunteer involvement.

OAE will be excavating at Chapel End in Sawtry shortly and will contact Sawtry History Society about their involvement.

We will be returning to Wimpole car park either in the autumn this year or spring next year and again, will look to involve volunteers.

OAE are also due to excavate in St Ives and in Huntingdon.

ACTION: SPM to look into whether volunteers can be involved in these sites and to inform STAG and WAP.

5. Project Evaluation

- Already covered above.

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 steer the Jigsaw project legacy, working with affiliated groups, consulting CHER as and when required.

8. Health and Safety (H&S)

- There are new rules on CSCS cards (construction skills certification scheme). Current CSCS cards will be invalid from the autumn. They are not a requirement of

volunteering on OAE's sites. For more information, see the ClfA website:
<http://www.archaeologists.net/cscs>

9. Any Other Business

- (M-AP) Cambridge Archaeological Unit got in touch to offer their assistance now that the HLF Jigsaw project has ended. (SPM) Groups are of course welcome to work in collaboration with any commercial unit they wish and it's good to have support and advice widely offered.
- (VH) If FEAG look to arrange a day's training course, would members of other groups be interested and prepared to pay a token amount towards attendance? (All) General agreement and expressions of interest. (SPM) As and when OAE can offer training opportunities to Jigsaw affiliated groups as part of other funded projects we will do so.
- (JM) West Wickham are looking for sources of small funding grants (up to a couple of thousand pounds). (SPM) The Heritage Lottery Fund's Sharing Heritage grant goes up to £10,000 but can apply for less. (M-AP) Covington History Group successfully applied for a £5000 Sharing Heritage grant.

ACTION: M-AP to share their grant application.

Other suggestions from the group included the CBA's Mick Aston Fund, CBA East, CAS grants and Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. (CAFC) Cambridge City Council lists sources of arts and cultural funders: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/arts-funding-directories-and-resources> And the Heritage Alliance have a directory of funders: (<http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/fundingdirectory/main/search.php>) (Addendum: suggestion by email from M-AP after the meeting – Tesco Community Scheme <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme>)

10. Next Meeting – Tuesday 13th June 2017