

Fieldwork Committee Minutes (Extract)

These are an abbreviated extract from the minutes of the Fieldwork Committee held on Saturday 24th January 2015.

Fieldwork Conferences

Prehistory Conference 2014

A conference entitled "Recent work on prehistoric Kent" was held on Saturday 13th December 2014, 62 people attended the conference with 5 attendees signing up as new members of the Society. A small surplus was generated from ticket sales and after taking into account costs.

The committee agreed that part of the surplus generated from these conferences would be made available to archaeological students at the University by way of a Bursary.

It was decided that a bursary of £250.00 would be made this year.

It was also agreed that subject to future conference surpluses this would be an annual bursary.

Anglo Saxon Conference 2015:

A conference entitled "Anglo-Saxon Kent: old and new discoveries" will take place on Saturday 31st October 2015 at the Lecture Theatres, Rutherford College, at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

It was agreed that pricing for the Conference would be set at £20.00 for non-members and £15.00 for Society members.

Conference 2016:

Provisionally the conference for 2016 would be on Roman Villas in Kent.

Fieldwork Projects:

Lyminge: Albeit that the main grant has been exhausted Gabor Thomas is likely to return to the site later this year. A bid is being submitted to the Landscape Partnership Scheme for funding to continue some work this year. Gabor Thomas will be a speaker at the October Anglo Saxon Conference.

East Wear Bay Folkestone: A license from Shepway Council is now in place so that work can commence. A magnetometry survey has been carried out on the site, to the north of the villa, the indications are that this site has a lot of material that only excavating will shed further light on. Within the next couple of weeks a section of the CAT website will go live and it will be devoted to this project. Of particular note to Society members will be the volunteer section. KAS members will be welcome as volunteers and treated accordingly. Copy of the training schedules and costs for this project will be made available to the newsletter. The site will be open 18th July to 16th August 2015.

Fieldwork Committee Minutes (Extract)

The Alkham Valley and Guston Historical Research Groups: Reports are being prepared for publication in *Archæologia Cantiana*. Field-walking project is currently ongoing bringing in lithics from within the area.

Kent Underground Research Group: Were called to the Westwood Cross site to investigate a tunnel that had opened up underneath a car park. This tunnel would appear to be a WW1 practice tunnel.

Offord and District Archaeological Group: Reported that after some 40 years of effort Sevenoaks District Council have finally accepted responsibility for The Bishops Palace and remedial repair work is currently in progress.

KCC Randall Manor: Content will be provided for the KAS Newsletter once final arrangements have been put in place about the training opportunities for KAS members as a result of the grant from the Society. One specific date is March 2015 when there will be some pottery training.

Canterbury Hinterland Project: A document about Bourne Villa has been submitted for *Archæologia Cantiana* publication.

Another site is yet to have its edges defined but the site looks very substantive, a possible temple complex has been identified and further examination of this site will form part of this season's on site work. As the site is fairly intensively ploughed field-walking will also be carried out.

Further Geophysical survey work will take place at Wingham looking at the relationship between the bath house and the Aisled barn.

Crop Mark Mapping: Canterbury is done. Walmer to Thanet is nearing its finish. Wantsum Channel is current work in progress. When this project is finished it will contain more than just crop marks but will identify WW1 and WW2 objects.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust: Work has been ongoing looking into the 20th century defences in the Downs over 730 sites have been identified, these sites will be narrowed down to about a dozen sites upon which onsite work will take place. In particular work will be done a pillbox at Cherry Garden Hill, Folkestone which has been cut into a Bronze Age barrow.

Scrub clearance on Whinless Downs has exposed the Bronze Age barrows. A map showing the landward WW1 defences also shows a defence position on top of Whinless Down and the scrub clearance has shown this to be a formidable site.

Capel Bronze Age barrow, subject to land owner approval work to re-excavate a 1950's site may well take place.

Fieldwork Committee Minutes (Extract)

Resistivity work was carried out at South Foreland Lighthouse, this showed a very busy site. These features will be investigated late July with a dig in conjunction with the National Trust.

West Kent Archaeological Society: A report for publication about Farningham Manor has been finalised. Test pitting had been carried out on the Farningham Cricket Pitch; this site was messy and not a lot found. An application has been made to English Heritage for a license for work to be carried out at the Progress Roman Villa site.

Fawkham and Ash Archaeological Group: Has been working on a site that has never been ploughed and is wooded. The site has been of antiquarian interest going back to the 18th century, a number of buildings have been found 3 masonry buildings, 3 buildings of flint and tile and 3 timber framed buildings. It was noted that this site is a "One Period" (1200 – 1350) site which is unusual. One of the surprising aspects of the site is one of the buildings has nibbed tiles, examples were shared with the meeting. An analysis of the site will become a newsletter item this autumn.

The meeting was told that other work was being undertaken regarding medieval pottery and in particular trying to understand the pottery found in North West Kent including Randall Manor. Pottery sequences in Canterbury and London are well understood but it would appear that north west Kent may well have its own unique sequencing. A comparison of pottery from Randall Manor, Scott Grove and Fawkham will be run against other sites.

Dover Archaeological Group: Nonington the main manorial complex has been finished, the group are investigate a crude metalled roadway leading onto the site. Work has been done on Whinless Down at Dover looking for prehistoric flints; they found a significant number in Area 9. A team is still working on uncovering the sound mirrors at Fan Bay. This has been covered by local TV and public access will start in May this year.

Any Other Business

Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP): This issue concerned the granting of planning permission by Sevenoaks District Council without proper consideration of matters archaeological. KCC should have been informed as early as possible during the planning process and they would have involved themselves with Sevenoaks District Council to have brought about a different outcome. This case has also identified a gap in the mapping of AAP whereby not all medieval buildings and their surrounding areas are on the AAP map. Currently there are 4074 medieval buildings on the HER and 62% of these buildings are mapped within the AAP. KCC will now work to ensure that all these buildings are included within the AAP maps.

Fieldwork Committee Minutes (Extract)

The meeting was told that the term AAP is somewhat misleading the correct term should be Archaeological Notification Areas and when a local council receives a planning application that falls within these notification areas they should be informing her team, additionally councils should notify her team when a planning application is received that is over a certain size. The early stages of developing the AAP system were basic in their initial construction and currently KCC are addressing issues within the AAP to make it more thorough and detailed.

KCC/HER asked that as people are researching areas and they come across new material please inform the HER and if appropriate they will give those areas an AAP listing.

Church Archaeology: Work had been carried out at Eynsford Church, which had included the stripping out of the floor with very little archaeological intervention at such an important site. It was mentioned that the Diocesan Archaeologist for the Diocese of Rochester should be informed and in any case they should be conducting a watching brief as part of the Faculty granted to undertake such work. It was noted that similar work was also being undertaken in Otford.

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