



Fieldwork Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting held Saturday 14th October 2017

Venue: Society's Library, Maidstone Museum, St Faiths Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH

As agreed by those present from the Fieldwork Committee at the Society's Office in Maidstone Museum, Maidstone, Kent, on Saturday 14th October 2017 these minutes are a true and complete record of the meeting held on Saturday 13th May 2017 and it is agreed that the Chair Mr Keith Parfitt is duly authorised to sign this document as such.

Mr Keith Parfitt (Chair) Fieldwork Committee.

Saturday 14th October 2017.

KP opened the meeting at 10:30hrs.

1: Attendance and Apologies

Attendances

Present

Keith Parfitt	KP	Chair
Annie Partridge	AP	Secretary
Andrew Richardson	AR	
Chris Blair-Myers	CBM	
Ted Connell	TC	
Pat Reid	PR	
Geoff Burr	GB	
Clive Drew	CD	
Liz Dyson	LD	
Richard Emmett	RE	
Cliff Ward	CW	
Gerald Cramp	GC	
Shiela Broomfield	SB	
Elizabeth Blanning	EB	
Rod Le Gear	RLG	

Absences & Apologies

Mike Eddy
Jo Ahmet
Steve Willis
Richard Taylor
Kevin Fromings
Vince Burrows
Albert Daniels
Emma Boast

2: Conflicts of Interest

Clarification of rules regarding conflicts of interest was brought forward by **CD** who informed the FWC of a necessary change in the way in which grants were voted on across all committees in the KAS, as per instructions from the solicitors. Although it was generally agreed that such measures were already in place, it was agreed that conflicts of interest must be declared at the start of the meeting and then a view taken on the level of involvement by the committee. If it is decided a committee member has a conflict of interest then they may be questioned by the other committee members on the grant, but must leave the room whilst the discussion and vote take place.

Following on from this discussion **AP**, **AR**, and **KP** all declared a conflict of interest with the East Wear Bay grant application. It was decided by the committee that **AR** and **KP** should vacate the room during discussion but **AP** should remain to minute the discussion, though not participate in the vote.

RLG declared a possible conflict of interest with the YAC Bexley grant application as he is an honorary member of the group. The committee decided that the conflict of interest was minimal and he may remain for the discussion and vote.

3: Minutes 21st January 2017 Committee Meeting

The minutes were agreed by the committee and signed by **KP**. Minor errors were noted including a typo under item 3 where the PAS was incorrectly referred to as the PAF, and Andrew Richardson both marked as attending and absent (he was absent from the meeting dated 21st January 2017). **GB** noted that in section 7 the metal detector group involvement in the Lees Court Estate project was not recorded in the minutes.

4: Matters Arising

a: Resignations

- i) Albert Daniels is to retire from the FWC due to ill health. It was decided by the committee that **KP** should write a letter to him to express gratitude for the tremendous amount of work he has done. He will be offered an open invitation to the FWC meetings, should he wish to attend. He still retains some equipment borrowed from the KAS and wishes it to be returned. **EB** offered to contact **AD** to arrange collection.
- ii) Andrew Mayfield resigned from the committee.

b: Additions

- i) Elizabeth Blanning (Maidstone Archaeological Group) was welcomed as a committee member.
- ii) Miss Annie Partridge (Community Archaeologist with Canterbury Archaeological Trust) as secretary as the replacement for Mr. Clive Drew.

5: Grant Applications

It was noted that Council had approved grant applications to East Wear Bay Archaeological Field School and the YAC group at Bexley Heath.

Conditions were placed upon the East Wear Bay Archaeological Field School grant in that a newsletter article must be submitted and a record should be kept on how many KAS members take part in the excavation.

The Bexley Heath YAC group had initially submitted the grant application to the Allen Grove Fund, but **SB** felt that the FWC was a more appropriate place for the grant to be considered.

A previous application made by the Swale Community and Voluntary Services is to be followed up by **CD**.

6: Budgets:

With the approval of the grant applications detailed in section 6 the budget for the rest of the year is £6000. It was observed by the committee that there are usually more applications for grants by this time of year.

7: Conferences:

- **The Archaeology of Medieval Kent 2017.** Arrangements for the venue will be done via **SW**. Annie Partridge to be agreed to be Conference Organiser with help from all committee members. **SB** to be agreed to manage the ticketing arrangements. **AP** and **KP** to invite the speakers. **SB** mentioned inviting Susan Pittman and it was agreed that she shall be included in the list of invitees.
- **Industrial Archaeology Conference 2018:** To be discussed with South Eastern Regional Industrial Archaeology. **AR** asked if a paper on the quern stone industry at East Wear Bay would be an appropriate for this conference, and the committee discussed other industrial activities within Kent, including the shipbuilding at Chatham, the iron industry in the Weald, plus the cement and gun powder industries. It was decided that a conversation with the South Eastern Regional Industrial Archaeology was required and that will be reviewed in the FWC meeting in 14th October.
- **Regional Aspects of Anglo Saxon and Monastic Sites in Kent 2019:** It was agreed that following on from a suggestion from Gabor Thomas the committee will host a conference in relation to this matter. **GC** suggested a theme of continental trade.

8: Lees Court Estate:

- **CD** met with 19 conservators from Canterbury Cathedral 26th April 2017. Further activities are planned

for 3rd and 4th June. In light of a discovery of a rare Anglo-Saxon coin there will be a metal detectorist rally on the estate in September.

- **PR** has mapped out and written a report on the metal detector rally which happened on the estate recently. The rally will not be detecting on the field next to the barrow. Finds appear to be concentrated near to the road and World War One finds are coming up by the house, due its conversion into a hospital at that time. A database for the finds is being compiled but will have a limited distribution to discourage unwanted attention. **PR** also discussed the possibility of undertaking some environmental archaeology to establish the nature of the prehistoric climate in the area.
- **KP** and **SW** spent two days field walking in the winter. A prehistoric scatter of flint was noted across the walked areas, broadly Neolithic and Bronze Age in date. **PR** mentioned earlier finds had been Mesolithic. The finds were washed but not marked. There was a notable absence of pottery or tile although there is known medieval activity in the area. The large mound, possibly a barrow, produced some pottery.
- **CB-M** there is a 25m wide ring-ditch, a standing barrow, a possible ploughed out barrow, plus the scatters of flint. **PR** raised the possibility of LiDAR and **CB-M** mentioned that it would be expensive to do the entire estate, but perhaps a focus on the monuments might be an option if it was required. **AR** suggested the KAS invest in a drone and associated training, although only to take photographs as LiDAR again is very expensive.
- **GC** suggested a research project centered around the three untouched medieval churches might be of interest to some of the other committees, such as the Churches Committee. **TC** reminded the FWC that the Churches Committee had been disbanded.
- **CD** mentioned the KAS has a 15 year Archaeology and History license granted by the Estate we should plan to involve the local community in the future.

9: Fieldwork Projects:

Reports were submitted by:-

Maidstone Area Archaeological Group (MAAG):
Kent County Council (County Archaeologist)
Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT)
Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne (HRGS)
Kent Archaeological Metal Detecting Support Unit (KAMSU)
West Kent Archaeological Society (WKAS)
St Peters Church Sandwich (AP)
Fawkham and Ash Archaeological Group (FAAG)
Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group (FSARG)
Dover Archaeological Group
Discover Roman Otford Project
Kent Underground Research Group
Canterbury Hinterland Project

10: Any Other Business:

a: Eccles Roman Villa

Rachal Shaw is not responding to **AR** and needs to be approached to retrieve the archive. The Oldham Trust has commissioned Nick Studley to overview the surrounding landscape and context of the Villa, and as such wants access to the archive. **LD** will approach Paul Bennett to discuss the best course of action with regards to retrieving the archive. **GC** suggested looking over the terms of the will to establish who legally owns the

archive, and **SB** will ask **CW** to obtain that information. **LD** mentioned the steering committee should be kept in the loop. **AR** believes that once the archive is retrieved there is scope for a large scale volunteer project around it.

b: CSI: Sittingbourne

RE informed the committee that the lease for both the museum and CSI: Sittingbourne lab is up in October. Whilst the museum is regularly staffed and open, the CSI lab is not. Dana Goodburn-Brown has had no success in setting up a 'Friends' and there is still approximately half of The Meads excavation to conserve. Short term solutions are being explored, including having HRGS volunteers working in the front part lab, but these present their own difficulties in terms of staffing.

c: Sandwich Museum Upgrade

KP brought up the recent museum upgrade at The Guildhall Museum in Sandwich. A recent addition to the collection is the Wingham bowl, now conserved and on display at the museum. Further work needs to be done on the dating of the bowl but the museum acquiring the piece is good news for Kent. The misplaced Magna Carta and a marble head from Richborough dated to the Roman period are also on display. **GC** mentioned the KAS had some photographs of Richborough from 1925 as the KAS owned the site then.

d: Folkestone Museum Opening 27th-28th May

AR told the committee about the opening weekend of the Folkestone Museum, following a move from the Library to the Town Hall.

e: Update on Canterbury Heritage Museum

AR updated the committee on plans to transfer the Heritage Museum to the Marlowe Theatre Trust. Concerns were raised by the committee on the destination of the collection and archive. **AR** was able to say the prehistoric and Roman material will go to the Roma Museum, the Bagpuss/Rupert Bear displays will go to the Beaney, and the Conrad exhibition will remain with the gallery exhibition in the main hall. The rest of the archive has no firm destination as yet but will hopefully be moved to a shared facility with CAT.

f: CBA committee

SB called for FWC members to consider joining the CBA South East committee as Kent is under represented.

11: Next Committee Meeting:

It was agreed that the next committee meetings will take place as follows:
Saturday 14th October 2017 at 10:30hrs in KAS Library, Maidstone Museum

Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 20th May 2017 at Lecture Theatre 2, Eliot College, University of Kent Campus, Canterbury.

There being no further business **KP** closed the meeting at 13:05hrs.