



## **Fieldwork Committee Meeting Minutes**

Meeting held                      Saturday 3rd February 2018

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 3rd February 2018 these minutes are a true and complete record of the meeting held on Saturday 14th October 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 3rd February 2018.

**KP** opened the meeting at 10:30hrs.

## **1: Attendance and Apologies**

### **Attendances**

#### **Present**

Keith Parfitt	<b>KP</b>	Chair
Annie Partridge	<b>AP</b>	Secretary
Chris Blair-Myers	<b>CBM</b>	
Elizabeth Blanning	<b>EB</b>	
Shiela Broomfield	<b>SB</b>	
Geoff Burr	<b>GB</b>	
Ted Connell	<b>TC</b>	
Gerald Cramp	<b>GC</b>	
Clive Drew	<b>CD</b>	
Liz Dyson	<b>LD</b>	
Rod Le Gear	<b>RLG</b>	
Andrew Richardson	<b>AR</b>	
Richard Taylor	<b>RT</b>	
Cliff Ward	<b>CW</b>	
Steve Willis	<b>SW</b>	
Simon Elliott	<b>SE</b>	

#### **Absences & Apologies**

Mike Eddy  
Jo Ahmet  
Richard Emmett  
Pat Reid  
Kevin Fromings  
Vince Burrows  
Albert Daniels  
Emma Boast

## **2: Conflicts of Interest**

**CD** and **GC** declared conflicts of interest with the grant application from The Dean and Chapter of Rochester as they are both part of the Rochester Cathedral Research Guild.

## **3: Minutes 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 Committee Meeting**

The minutes were agreed by the committee and signed by **KP**. Minor errors were noted including a typo under item 6 where the grants section was incorrectly referred to as section 6 when it should have read section 5, and in section 10c where there was a typo in the word 'good'. **GB** noted that in section 3 another error had occurred with his comments of 21<sup>st</sup> January. To clarify, **GB** had stated in the January meeting that he felt the field walking survey, undertaken at Lees Court estate in December 2016, would have benefited from a simultaneous metal detecting survey. **GB** felt it was a missed opportunity to involve KAMSU, and his view was supported by other members of the committee.

## **4: Matters Arising**

### **a) CBA South-East Committee**

**SB** confirmed that **EB** had joined the Council for British Archaeology South-East Committee. The FWC members were again invited to consider joining the CBA SE committee.

## b) Eccles Roman Villa

- **AR** updated the committee on the progress made with the Eccles archive. A meeting was held with Andrew Richardson, Paul Bennett, Keith Parfitt, Liz Dyson, John Williams, and Peter Kendall to discuss the archive. Two concerns were raised in this meeting. The first was that 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. The second concern was that Rachel Shaw still has the archive, of which there is only one copy, and has been difficult to contact.
- A steering committee has been set up and has invited **SW** and Racheal Shaw to be members. The committee is a standalone group with no affiliations, although the committee members represent the groups with an interest in the archive, such as CAT, KCC, the KAS, and UKC. The steering committee don't claim ownership of the archive or the finds.
- Concerns were raised by Peter Kendall of the security of the archive given that there is only one copy. It was decided that members of the steering committee will visit Racheal in the West Country to analyse the size and condition of the archive. Preliminary conversations with Historic England have produced positive comments about funding, but nothing has been set in stone to date.
- The issues around the Oldham Trust project accessing the archive stem from the concern that access may compromise future funding applications.
- Further issues on ownership, discussed by the committee in May 2017, have been identified, namely that the will is not public and the committee who undertook the excavation no longer exists. It is believed that the wish of the archaeologist, Alec Detsicas, would be to have the results of the excavation in the public domain. The question of the owner of the finds is still unanswered, although there is some hope that there may be correspondence in the archive which might clarify this. The landowner at the time is believed to have changed company names since then, or possibly sold the land, again this is not clear at this time.

## 5: Grant Applications

It was noted that the FWC approved the grant application to The Dean and Chapter of Rochester Cathedral, although the total sum offered to them would not be the full amount requested.

After much discussion **TC** proposed that the remaining £3000 in the fieldwork budget should be made available, **CW** seconded, and all agreed.

## 6: Budgets:

The 5 year budget was discussed. Questions were asked about the £15,000 HLF equipment bid for 2018. **CD** proposed that the FWC submit an application to the HLF to obtain new above and below ground survey equipment, which could be accessed by local groups. Whilst it was agreed by the committee that purchasing the equipment will benefit local societies, and the KAS, more information needed to be sought before making any commitments. **GC** asked **RT** to prepare a paper on the different types of above and below ground survey equipment available. Although discussions were made about deferring the budget until 2019, in light of the short timescale to get a HLF bid together before the close of 2018, it was decided to keep the budget in 2018.

**TC** asked for clarification on the headings in the budget, specifically the difference between the grants and fieldwork budget. **AR** suggested that the fieldwork project budget would be used if the KAS undertook a project,

whereas the grants was to be purely used for applications. It was agreed that grant applications could, and do, come out of the fieldwork budget at the FWC discretion. **AR** proposed to leave the budget with the current headings, **CB-M** seconded, and all approved.

**7: Conferences:**

- **The Archaeology of Medieval Kent 2017.** **SW** requires numbers for teas and coffees as soon as possible. **SB** has been selling tickets and has so far sold 90, with 71 definite attendees. **SB** will send another e-mail around the KAS membership advertising the conference.
- **Conference 2018:** On further investigation it was noted that SERIAC, who the FWC were initially looking to do a conference with, have moved their conference date to April 2018 and have already started advertising. **CB-M** has kindly offered to take over the organisation of the FWC conference and the theme will be on archaeological finds from Kent (title TBC). The venue will be at UKC, as usual, and **AP** will contact **SW** about booking the room. **KP** will contact David Holman about giving a talk on coins. It was generally agreed that this could be an interesting day and an opportunity to talk about finds conservation with local groups.
- **Conference 2019:** **SB** suggested the 2019 conference could be done in partnership with the CBA SE, although the focus would need to be on the whole of the south-east, not just Kent. **SB** and **EB** suggested intercontinental trade as atopic, something **GC** had brought up in the previous meeting. **SB** is to contact the CBA to progress this.

**8: Fieldwork Projects:**

Reports were submitted by:-

Maidstone Area Archaeological Group (MAAG).  
Kent County Council (County Archaeologist)  
Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT)  
Kent Underground Research Group  
Kent Archaeological Metal Detecting Support Unit (KAMSU)  
West Kent Archaeological Society (WKAS)  
Fawkham and Ash Archaeological Group (FAAG)  
The Footsteps of Caesar Project

**9: Any Other Business:**

**a: Saxon Symposium 2017**

**AR** reported that the symposium went well. It was successful in highlighting the importance of Anglo-Saxon archaeology in Kent to a wider, international audience.

**b: Acquisition of finds through Emergency Grants Budget**

**AR** presented a treasure case from Stowting on behalf of **JA**. The finds (including two brooches, a gold pendant, and an armlet) were found by a metal detectorist, are Anglo-Saxon in date, and are unique to Kent. The collection has been valued at £2600. The landowner and detectorist are likely to sell the objects, although this has not been confirmed. It was agreed that the items are of enough importance to warrant a concerted effort to keep them in the public domain. A discussion was held on the possibility of crowdfunding the acquisition, but in this particular case it was felt there wasn't enough time, although it has been noted as a possible source of funding for future acquisitions. The KAS FWC would not be able to directly purchase the items, but would instead assist either Maidstone or Folkestone Museum in the acquisition, on the proviso that some mention of the KAS is made in the display. **AR** will create a pack of information to **CD** to be presented to the council at the December meeting. **AR** will contact **JA** expressing the FWC interest in the collection.

**11: Next Committee Meeting:**

It was agreed that the 2018 committee meetings will take place as follows:  
Saturday 3rd February 2018 at 10:30hrs in KAS Library, Maidstone Museum

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 10:30hrs in KAS Library, Maidstone Museum

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 10:30hrs in KAS Library, Maidstone Museum

There being no further business **KP** closed the meeting at 14:00hrs.