



Fieldwork Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday 16th February 2019.

Kent Archaeological Society's Library, Maidstone Museum,
St. Faith's 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 12th October 2019 these minutes are a true and complete record of the meeting held on Saturday 16th February 2019 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 12th October 2019.

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

2: **Attendance and Apologies**

Attendances Present

Keith Parfitt	KP	<i>Chair</i>
Emma Harker	EH	Secretary
Chris Blair-Myers	CBM	
Elizabeth Blanning	EB	
Shiela Broomfield	SB	
Gerald Cramp	GC	
Clive Drew	CD	

Absences & Apologies

J Ahmet
G Burr
V Burrows
L Dyson
M Eddy
R Emmett
K Fromings
A Richardson
R Taylor

KP had received apologies from Vince Burrows, Lis Dyson, Kevin Fromings and Steve Willis.

3: **Declarations**

GC, **CD** and **CBM** declared an interest in the DROP grant application all being Members of DROP.

4: **Fieldwork Committee Minutes 13th October 2018**

The Minutes were agreed by the Committee and signed by **KP**.

(a) Matters Arising

EB stated she had not heard any further regarding Maidstone Museum's Steering Group from Item 7 and would enquire as to its progress with Victoria Barlow, Museum Director.

5: Fieldwork Committee Forum

Discussion took place concerning the date, location, structure, cost and content of the first Fieldwork Committee Forum. The date of Saturday 11th May was settled on and **CD** agreed to liaise with Jacky Avery regarding hiring a room at Marsham Street, Maidstone as a venue and to draft an invitation flyer and forward to **SB** for circulation. **SB** confirmed she would firstly contact the Affiliated Societies before extending the invitation to the Non-affiliated Societies, once a clearer picture of interest was established. **CD** stated that Steve Willis had previously offered to open the Forum and **KP** consented to Chair the Forum. Conversation also took place around the possibility of a church or cathedral location for future Forums, possibly in the Spring of 2020. The idea of holding Fieldwork Committee Meetings on the same day as Forums was discussed in order to reduce diary overloads but due to the early timing of the start of the Forum it was decided against in this case.

6: 2019 Budget

The 2019 Budget has been cleared by KAS Council.

7: Grant Applications

- a. **DROP (Discover Roman Otford Project) Application** – Previous conflicts of interest noted from **GC**, **CD** and **CBM**. An application has been received for £1000 grant; half of which is to engage Nigel MacPherson-Grant to look at the pottery assemblage, the remaining grant to cover the hire of a mini JCB and dumper and cost of replacement tools. Due to the conflicts of interest the committee was unable to make a decision, however a recommendation of approval has been made to Council to make a final decision.

- b. **Dr. Andrew Bates Application** - £250 grant to cover conservation of new finds from and travel expenses to the Oldbury Hill Fort site and to test pit anomalies found on geophysical survey. Discussion took place between **CD**, **EB** and **GC** over the practical logistics of revisiting this site already known to Historic England and conservation issues arising from the proposed test pitting. **SB** and **KP** stated that grants cannot be given to cover travel expenses as stated in the KAS Policies and perhaps a re-submission of the application to ask for the underwriting of the conservation of finds up to a capped level might be workable. **CD** will advise Andy Bates to resubmit in a slightly different format, asking for funding for tools and equipment instead, as it was agreed support and conservation of this historical site is very much needed.

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- c. **Professor Martin Biddle Dover Castle Application** - £2,000 - £3,000 grant to sort and date Medieval pottery recovered from a 1962 dig. **KP** has 3 boxes of finds from this dig from CAT, roughly 2,000 – 3,000 sherds. A draft report and drawings have already been written and a pottery report will then be produced once sorted and recorded. **KP** will encourage Professor Biddle to proceed with an application as it is of great important to the archaeology of Dover Castle and **CD** will put it forward to Council as a special grant. **GC** to compose a preface for this article linking to St. Mary's Church.

8: Conferences

- a. **2018 - SB** reported there had been a good turn-out of 96 attendees generating £1455 in takings from that. Tea and buns were costed at approximately £400. It was recommended that a bursary of £750 should be given back to the University of Kent via Steve Willis. **EB** had paid one expense to Edward Biddulph. It was concluded that the Conference had gone very well.
- b. **2019 – SB** stated that CBA South East were very happy for the next Conference to be a joint one and for **SB** to do the ticketing. The date of 2nd November was settled on. A subject of “Continental Contact – The Long View; *An archaeological perspective on the links between the South East and the Continent,*” was proposed and possible guest speakers were duly discussed, namely, John Funnell (a Sussex Archaeologist, involved with the newly opened archaeology gallery in Brighton), Judy English (Landscape Archaeologist), Jeremy Hodgkinson, Louise Raynor and Luke Barber (Pottery Experts), Stuart Needham (Precious Cups), Andrew Richardson and Paul Bennett (Bronze Age). Stuart Needham was identified as a possible headliner speaking about the precious cups. **EB** and **SB** agreed to organise the booking of the Guest Speakers. **KP** suggested the Fieldwork Committee would cover the cost of an all-day breakfast for the Guest Speakers if bought on site. **EB** agreed to liaise with Steve Willis at the University of Kent to book Rutherford College as a venue. **SB** stated the SECBA would require something in writing. **CD** suggested Members of KAS and SECBA should be offered discounted ticket prices (i.e. £25 per ticket; £20 members ticket). Any profits from the Conference should be split between KAS and SECBA, after a bursary has been awarded to the University of Kent.
- c. **2020 –** It was proposed that this Conference be a joint venture with Historic Defences, including topics such as Sound Mirrors and The Wanstone Farm Battery, under the heading of “The Invasion and Defence of Kent - *from Roman times to Modern Day*”.
- d. **2021 –** proposed title: “A Kent Landscape – *From Pre-history to Industrialisation*”; with subjects such as Lees Court Estate and Faversham Creek included.

9: Curator Report

EB commented that she knows nothing of the Working Group, as suggested by Victoria Barlow, Museum Director. The Museum's Audit is continuing and has made progress, but due to the expanse of the audit the archaeological finds are not considered a priority. Digitalisation is taking place and the progress made is as follows:

- Digital update of Mesolithic and Neolithic collections is complete
- Bronze Age and Medieval records are on ADLIB (Maidstone Museum's database)
- Palaeolithic artefacts are in the process of being cleaned ready for digital upload
- The Physical Audit is being completed and cleaned ready for digital upload
- 741 Anglo-Saxon KAS records
- 215 Roman KAS records
- 84 Numismatic KAS records on ADLIB
- 38 Iron Age KAS records
- 201 KAS records in total on ADLIB compared to 113 at the time of the last report

EB has received an inscribed silver spoon. **KP** suggested **EB** then writes a feature of the spoon for the March 1st 2020 newsletter. **EB** reported she had received a query from a lady from Oxford/Cambridge regarding researching changes in English scripts from Anglo Saxon period onwards and looking at the Runic inscription on a sword pommel held at the Museum to support her research.

GC spoke of his membership of The Rochester Guild Project and it's exhibition of Anglo- Saxon carved stones at the cathedral. Jacob Scott knows of the existence of four carved stones; two of which Jacob has himself, one Jacob believes is lost and the last one, found by Arthur Harrison in 1960's, he presumes is housed within the KAS Archives. Jacob has furnished Pernille Richards with all the information he has available to find its whereabouts.

CD spoke of the Small Finds from Harrison's excavations at Rochester Cathedral currently being housed in KAS East Malling storage facility and the need to conserve them more appropriately. **EB** was unaware of them and will see to their conservation with the help of **CD**. **GC** posed the question of funding for conservation and **CD** stated it would be coming from Council. **GC** went on to explain how he was trying to persuade Ted Connell to release his collection of pottery finds and pass them onto Rochester Cathedral. **KP** suggested that Harrison's day books should be scanned as supporting evidence.

GC spoke of his recently acquired archive of photographs, paperwork and finds donated to KAS from the excavation of Lullingstone Golf Course. **EB** requested that it be handed over to her for her to curate properly.

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The Week of Archaeology was suggested as a possible tool to reach persons who may have artefacts and documents of significance to KAS. Further discussion around this topic regarding the logistics of managing the results from such an event need to take place.

10: Marshes Sub Committee

CD told of how the Romney Research Trust had folded and been absorbed into the Fieldwork Committee. **CD** stated that KAS should take steps to un-ring fence £10,000 and **KP** spoke of the new Marshland Study Group set up as a new Community Based Group within Romney Marsh and suggested the money from the Romney Research Trust might go there? Further discussion took place as to the reallocation of funds and the possibility of allocating some of the funds to Peter Slaughter's grant application.

11: Lees Court Estate

The programme for the next season's dig is in place including work at Baddlesmere Bottom, Stringman's Field and Wood's Court Field. Discussion took place around the possible construction of a Round House on site, as Lady Sondes is very keen for such a project to go ahead. Examples were given as to whom to seek advice from regarding logistics, Planning Permission etc.

12: Any Other Business

- a. **Roman Pottery Study Weekends (2020)** - **EB** requested that this be postponed until 2021/2022 (due to heavy workloads). Planning for a 2022 implementation needs to start in 2020. **CD** had carried out some preliminary market research as to how much course attendees would be prepared to pay for such a study event and arrived at an approximate fee of £100 per day. **EB** suggested younger potential professionals being awarded a subsidy.
- b. **Treasure Act Consultation** – much criticism was made regarding the proposed Act due to the many ambiguous terms regarding treasure and the restrictions that might come into play in Field Archaeology and the impact that will have. **GC** will liaise with **SB** to ask Affiliated Society Members to give their thoughts on the proposed Act for **GC** to collate and present before the deadline.
- c. **South East Historic Environment Research Framework** – the need for the production of an Archaeological Policy to be held by Kent County Council was discussed. **CBM** will email Lis Dyson to arrange a meeting for further discussion on this subject.

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13: Future Fieldwork Committee Meeting Dates

It was agreed that the next Committee Meetings will take place as follows:

Fieldwork Committee Forum - Saturday 11th May 2019 at 10:30hrs KAS Rooms, Marsham Street, Maidstone.

Society Annual General Meeting Saturday 18th May 2019 Eliot College, University of Kent at Canterbury.

Fieldwork Committee Meeting – Saturday 12th October 2019, KAS Library, Maidstone Museum.

There being no further business **KP** closed the Meeting at 13:12hrs.