



CLASP

Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project

Please reply to D.F. Hayward MBE, The Secretary, Organising Committee, CLASP,
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23rd March 2011

Your Ref: Ada/CSD Consult

Dear Mr. D'Arcy

Response

Conservation Strategy (Consultation Draft)

Thanks you for the opportunity to respond to the subject consultation.

CLASP, as you are probably aware is a community based charity that acts both as a member society for individuals interested in understanding the archaeological landscape of south and west Northamptonshire and also as an 'umbrella' organisation for fourteen local archaeological and history societies from across both South Northamptonshire and Daventry Districts.

In principle CLASP welcomes the production of a this draft strategy as it help both developers and those with a wider interest to focus on not what is already known about the built heritage of the area but also what is as yet undiscovered.

CLASP does have concerns in some parts of the draft document and these points are specified below. By the nature of our organisation they will focus on archaeological aspects of your paper.

On page eight, second paragraph, we consider it appropriate that the following words are added at the end of the paragraph, ' ,both known and currently unknown'. It is important that developers acknowledge that they have a responsibility not just for known archaeology but also the identification and appropriate investigation of previously unknown archaeology. We are pleased to note that mention is made in Key Theme Two - Preventing Loss to The Government Statement for The Historic Environment 2010 and PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide.

In the second paragraph on page ten whilst CLASP welcomes the concordat between the various councils in Northamptonshire for archaeological advice it is perhaps appropriate for the protocols and methodologies of this service to be publicised. Additionally there is a need for the existence of this service to be made aware to voluntary sector who will, from time to time, wish to inform the archaeological advice service of not just of their concerns but also of information that they may hold that affects archaeological judgements when planning matters are considered. It is important that the advice service does acknowledges that the voluntary archaeological and heritage sector can be worthwhile partners in the planning

process.

CLASP is pleased to note that SNC supports the Portable Antiquities Scheme. To ensure that a comprehensive database of artefacts found is maintained is so important when judgements regarding archaeological significance are made.

It would also perhaps be appropriate for mention to be made here of the Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Record, Sites and Monuments Record. Unfortunately our county's record is not accessible online but is open to personal visits. Details are available at www.heritagegateway.org.uk.

You may also consider it appropriate to draw attention to the fact that both of these previously mentioned services only maintain their effectiveness by the full reporting of all discovered artefacts and archaeological remains.

At paragraph four on the same page mention is made of the need to develop an archive for the storing of archaeological artefacts found from across not just SNC area but on a wider basis as well. It is with some disappointment that we note that no mention is made of involving the voluntary sector in the identifying of a way forward with an archive. Currently CLASP has an increasing amount of archaeological material that needs a permanent home both for its protection and ability to be made available for educational and research purposes. We have a desire to establish a permanent archive ourselves but acknowledge that there are significant funding implications to both obtaining suitable premises and their subsequent ongoing management. Perhaps therefore consideration could be given to include the voluntary sector both in the process of developing and maintaining an archaeological archive for the area but also in the strategic approach adopted as these avenues are explored. As a policy this would need reflecting in your Strategy document.

On page eleven, paragraph four CLASP would very much like to see itself listed as a Third Sector Partner. Our work, which will be referred to in greater detail below, covers a considerable part of your council area. Our member societies include groups from Harpole, Bugbrooke, Nether Heyford, Towcester, Tiffield, Blisworth and Alderton in SNC area together with individual members from across the area. Our co-ordinated work in the definition of the archaeological landscape is not inconsequential.

To follow on from the comments in the preceding paragraph I would like to seek some mention for CLASP in Key Theme Three. Our major work in recent years has been The Local People-Local Past Project. This is a project funded by the HLF to develop a landscape characterisation for the area during the Romano-British period. Details of this can be found on our website www.claspweb.org.uk. We have as of now completed the first two phases of this project and hope shortly to be able to make a further substantial bid to the HLF to fund Phase Three of the project. We seek to empower our members by providing them with the ability to develop their personal skills in a variety of technical archaeological subjects.

A large proportion of our work is done as non-intrusive archaeological investigation. We have two metal detecting groups that undertake controlled investigations to inform our work, we also carry out geophysical surveys and field walking exercises.

We have recently purchased our own magnetometer to enable us to undertake in-house surveys, this purchase was partially funded by a grant from SNC.

To summarise, overall we support the proposed Strategy but would like to see the various points that we make in the body of this response included or at least reflected in the final document.

Yours sincerely,

D.F. Hayward

Secretary of the Organising Committee.

Executive Committee: Alan Watson (Chair), Sandra Deacon (Secretary), Angela Evans (Treasurer), Stephen Young (Archaeology Director), Nick Adams, Jeremy Calderwood, Tony Kesten

Organising Committee: Jeremy Cooper (Acting Chair), Dave Hayward (Secretary), Julia Johns (Membership Secretary)

CLASP is grateful for support from:



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