

Minutes of a Committee Meeting of The KAS Fieldwork Committee (FWC) held on 29th October at 10.30am in the KAS Library

Present: Keith Parfitt (KP), Chris Blair-Myers (CBM), Clive Drew (CD), Elizabeth Blanning (EB), Kevin Fromings (KF), Sue Oldham (SO), Anne Sassin (AS)

Apologies/Not Present: None

The meeting opened at 10.39am

1. Welcome

KP opened the meeting.

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the meeting on June 11th 2022

The minutes of June 11th were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Conferences

CBA South-East Conference

The bookings currently stand at 24 members and 4 non-members and 1 student. The event was late to be publicised, and only went out 2 weeks ago. This needs to be more prominent on social media. 50 tickets need to be sold to break even, so this may need to be subsidised rather than making the usual profit. The ticketing through Eventbrite means that we don't get the full amount of ticket sales, although it is useful for sending out a mailshot to all attendees with details for the day itself. The program and speakers are all arranged. KAS banners need to be fetched from East Malling. The seminar room may be used for display stands but is not lockable and therefore not secure. EB and AS will send details to CD so he can send out an e-mail over this weekend and next to try and increase the numbers.

January Fieldwork Conference

It was confirmed that this will be held on January 21st 2023 with the theme of Anglo Saxon and Early Medieval Monasticism, with tickets priced at £20-25.

CD will follow up on booking either Rutherford or Grimond.

The status of the speaker engagement discussed at the last meeting is as follows:

- Gabor Thomas (Keynote speaker- Lyminge) – KP to engage him
- Andrew Richardson (Chair and Lossenham) – KP - Confirmed
- Jacob Scott (Rochester Cathedral) – CD – Confirmed
- Warwick Rodwell (Canterbury cathedral Cosmati pavement) – CD to engage via Kate Kersley
- Martin Crowther (Maison Dieu Dover) – KP - Confirmed
- Tim Allen (Deal Saxon Cemetery) – KP - Confirmed
- Anglo Saxon DNA Studies – KP to talk to Andrew Richardson about whether this could be included
- Canterbury Cathedral stained glass – CD will engage via Liz Robertson
- Jonny Garlick – Boxley – to be kept as a back-up

Peter Joyce will need details of required background organisation and admin such as accommodation and speaker communications. There is other practical prep that needs to be sorted out, such as opening the venue, doorkeeper, refreshments etc. CD and CBM will be at the venue early to open the venue and other Saturday morning practicalities. All responsibilities need to be documented with an owner.

It was suggested that we hold another conference in November 2023. CBM will contact the Defence Committee again to see if they would be interested.

4. Fieldwork Forum

CD has booked Badlesmere for March 18th. The building is free, and 60 people can be accommodated for refreshments.

Fieldwork Committee Meeting Saturday October 29th 2022

Suggested items for the day are:

- Call for volunteers for research groups – Lithics, Ceramics and Pottery – as budgets are available for these and it is important that these get up and running (invite Paul Hart (flints) and Frank Beresford)
- Information on Maritime archaeology unit which is in the process of being formed; also on the Marshes group (invite Peter Slaughter)
- News on excavations in April and May – Lees Court

Information on speakers will be sent to Peter for invitations to be issued, and a Save the Date notice should also be sent out.

Separately the curtailed pottery identification sessions with Ed Biddle were discussed. CBM will contact him to see if these could be resumed. AS will check with Lullingstone to see if it is still OK to use the education room, but a projector and laptop are also needed. AS also has interest in medieval pottery following the recent Lullingstone dig.

It was noted that education and training need to be spread across the country to appeal to everyone. It was also noted that Ian Jackson has a lot of pottery records that should be digitised. CD will find out if he is a member and contact him.

5. Budgets

There is a budget meeting on December 4th. CD suggested that the Fieldwork Committee budget should be as follows:

- Curator (£10,000) plus the normal budget for exhibiting (£3,000)
- GNSS equipment (£2,500)
- Grants (£3,500)
- 2 conferences in January and November (£2,000) each, to pay speakers upfront, but would hopefully recoup this from attendance fees

Lees Court will have a separate budget. This will cover manpower, toilets and possibly fencing. Trosley facilities will also be included. Post-ex reports will be considered at a later date.

YACs will not be included as they have not responded to offers this year.

Bank Accounts – an account has been opened with Metro Bank, but the problems with NatWest online banking continue. Ed and Chris are the dual authorisation signatories for the new account, which is limited to £25,000 as a single payment. The new account should be operational shortly.

6. Grant Applications and Payments

Grant to DROP

The committee considered the DROP application for terram lining for Church Field, to be put down before backfilling. It is intended that the site is scheduled once excavations are complete, so Kevin is following standard procedures to comply with this. KP and AS are the only members of the committee who do not have an interest in this application; they support the grant payment, but this needs to be put to council for confirmation.

Payment of Grant to SPAB for Boxley Abbey funding

This has not yet been paid due to the bank account issues. CD noted that a condition was that the report is to appear in the 2024 edition of Archaeologica Cantiana; however it was not said that this condition should be fulfilled before payment was made. Hopefully the grant can then be paid over when the Metro account is operational.

Due to the change in the Trustee organisation, CD said that this needs to be re-confirmed by the Trustees before payment is made. He will do this in conjunction with the referral for the DROP Grant.

7. Research Groups Update

No update on Flints or Ceramics – these groups will be raised at the Fieldwork Forum.

Pottery – CBM said that the table concordance for Roman fabric matching is about 80% complete. These definitions will then be used for the fabric we have, which can be photographed. He is collecting attributable examples, but needs somewhere to store this.

It was noted that there is a risk of Eccles not being validated and written up. The pottery finds are stored by Canterbury Trust in Dover, and the paperwork needs to be scanned.

KP will contact Andre Richardson to find out what the status is.

8. Fieldwork Projects

Lees Court

Work will resume after Easter. KP will send CD an estimate of how long the work will take, which will be to finish the work on the round and long barrows and to ground truth the res survey of the outer ditch of the standing barrow.

CD will then discuss with Liz; there is no crop dependency.

Trottscliffe

In the recent excavation, 3 trenches were opened, one over the West range and two over the other structure which is thought to be a bathhouse. Significant finds included a stack of 9 pilae, and good quality painted plaster and op sig. There is significant plough damage, and detectorists only picked up 5 coins.

Excavations are dependent on crop cycles. This year the crop matured 6 weeks early due to the hot weather. The field is now set down to wheat again.

Next summer the whole structure will be reviewed.

The owner decided that she wanted the excavations to be conducted through KAS, and Richard was the site director on behalf of KAS.

9. Any Other Business

Website Queries

SO raised the question of enquiries directed through the KAS website. There has been a recent increase in the number of enquiries, which are largely from non-members. The Trosley reporting on social media was a spur to enquiries on how to get involved in its excavation.

SO requested that there should be a list of affiliated societies so that she can more easily answer queries from people who want to get involved. In the meantime she is keeping a list of people who want to volunteer so that she can pass this to the new Volunteer Co-ordinator when she is up to speed.

She also made the committee aware that she will not be around through November and into December.

CD will request that queries are directed elsewhere for that time.

KAS-Accredited Museum

CD will attend a Maidstone gallery meeting on Wednesday 2nd November. The café will become a permanent archaeology gallery to be opened in 2024. Brighton Museum is being used as a model to create meeting and gallery space, with a £600,000 budget. KAS material would be on permanent display. A memo of understanding needs to be drafted to set out the relationship on a formalised basis, which would include KAS being accredited as a museum.

Negotiations are also still ongoing with Chatham Dockyard.

The upcoming KAS lectures are being held at Maidstone Museum, with a maximum of 70 attendees, which

was considered to be an optimum number.

Digitisation

The scanning and photographic equipment is at Marsham St. Once the process has been tested out, it would be ready to go, e.g. in digitising the Ian Jackson material

10. Next Fieldwork Committee Meeting Date

Saturday February 18th 2023 to be held in the KAS Library at Maidstone Museum at 10.30am.

The meeting closed at 13.30.