

Friends of Naphill Common
HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
MINUTES for MEETING NO. 1

Tuesday 10th May 2011, 7.30 pm at Poland House.

1. Apologies for absence: Peggy Ewart, Philip Hussey, Nancy Hussey, Kate Davis Attendees; Kevin Bennett (Chair), Pam Smith, Evelyn Livett, Stephanie Morgan, John Morgan, David Greenwood, Trevor Hussey, Peter Davis, Lyn Simmonds.
2. Introductions
 - Expertise in the group
With the exception of Lyn, a qualified Archaeologist, who has previously done a lot of work regarding Naphill Common and local area, there is very little practical experience within the rest of the group, but all have a very keen interest in local area history.
 - Equipment available: Ranging poles, tape measures, laser level, trundle wheel
3. Objectives of the group, points of reference
 - Compile history and archaeology of Naphill Common including areas now occupied by the village
 - Part of FONC and to report back to members
 - Findings to be published; website, Gazette, newsletter, etc
 - Record evidence
 - Maintain a responsible approach at all times
4. Discussion of possible projects and limitations
 - Limitations: any excavations will be dependent upon landowners. Naphill Common is SSSI/ Natural England will need to be involved. Strong evidence of the need to excavate may be required.
 - Focus could initially be on the National Trust area of common, already work undertaken by FONC, clearing the Clumps. Area already surveyed, Lyn to investigate further. Permission already granted by NT to investigate Bradenham Manor archives
 - Big picture survey. Walk Common, establish proper priorities before deciding on projects. Look at documents. Gather verbal accounts from villagers. Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, archives? Naphill Gazette, for historic information, as established in the 1930s. National Monuments records at Swindon have records of "finds".
 - Dew pond spoil heap. Already disturbed ground. This may be part of Romano-British farmstead, as Roman pottery found at this location.
 - Romano-British farmstead, need to resurvey, may be difficult due to trees etc.

- Aerial photos, Lidar survey of Common may exist and it may be possible to acquire this data at a relatively small cost (Trevor to investigate). Swindon photos archive to be investigated,
 - Geophys machine survey. Would need expensive equipment and would be very difficult with existing topography
 - BLIS (Buckinghamshire Landscape Information System) Data at Aylesbury Library/ Museum?
 - HLC (historic landscape characterisation), not discussed.
 - Timeline for the Common, charting it's changing area/shape
 - Interview people, recollections and records
 - The Victorian Fair, records should be available
 - Need to look at the Common with a fresh approach, need to start with a "big picture" survey.
 - Copies of Wheelwright tapes need transcribing
5. Selected lead Archaeology Project(s)
- Walk boundary. May need several visits to gather information. Lyn to lead and advise.
6. Selected lead History Project(s)
- Time line, Trevor, Lyn, Nancy, possible sources include Anglo Saxon Charters/ Centre for Bucks Studies @ Aylesbury. Dashwood papers at the Bodleian Library. Pam Smith to be consulted re social history.
7. Agreed actions
- Archaeology walks, Wednesday 1st and 15th June. Meet at end Forge Road at 19:00.
 - Time line, arrange meeting to pool resources
 - Ask villagers whether they've found anything of interest in their gardens (as most properties are on what used to be the Common). Also, does anyone want to be interviewed?
8. AOB
- "Old Downley" residents recollections of Naphill, Lyn to investigate
9. Date of next meeting
- Tuesday 28th June, 19:30, Poland House

Distribution:

FONC Committee members

HAG members

FONC website

Minutes – Stephanie Morgan