

Friends of Naphill Common
HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
MINUTES for MEETING NO. 3

Monday 26th Sept 2011, 19.30 pm at Poland House.

Attendees; Kevin Bennett (Chair), Peter Davis, Peggy Ewart, Trevor Hussey, Philip Hussey

1. Apologies for absence: David Greenwood, Kate Davis, Evelyn Livett, Stephanie Morgan, John Morgan, Lyn Simmonds.
2. Minutes accepted from 11th July 2011
3. Matters arising:
 - The last newsletter included details on the formation of HAG and the possible projects.
 - Clumps, previously surveyed 1990/2004. Gay Marshall of the NT has the documentation from these surveys. Need permission to reprint. **Lyn** to follow up.
 - Lidar survey; valleys were surveyed (in connection with flood control) but not hill-tops such as Naphill.
 - Old Downley residents recollections, **Lyn** to investigate further and report back next meeting
 - Steve has provided a list of equipment we can borrow. It includes digital recording equipment, measuring tapes, trundle wheel.
 - Historic Landscapes Characterisation may have already been undertaken for this area, if so use same format. **Lyn** to investigate (this is not the same thing as Lidar)
 - Broomwade archives on Churchill Tanks to be investigated, **Stephanie**.
4. Active Projects- Archaeology
 - Walk the Common. Third walk was done on Thursday 28th July and covered the southern part of Naphill Common including the tank tracks. Nothing unexpected was found. Project now completed.
 - Geophys survey of the Farmstead, to locate the missing fourth side. Two provisional dates had been set aside for the Risborough Group to conduct a geophys survey with assistance from FoNC. These dates are no longer available and **Trevor** is to approach Ian Kelloway of Risborough Group to arrange future dates. **Kevin** to approach John Morris about possible training using the farmstead as a base.
 - Churchill Tank Tracks. The work party on Sunday 13th November has now been dedicated to carrying out an initial investigation/survey of the tank tracks. This can be followed with a more detailed/professional survey later once we have become more proficient. The tracks also extend to Downley Common and it would be interesting to link the two.

5. Active Projects – History

- Time Line project. The time-line is now live on the website and has been populated with lots of data already. Consider this project completed, although it will be periodically updated to suit newly uncovered data.
- Historical Research Group. This group met on 18th July. The next meeting is to be agreed but a list of historical sources has been produced. **Trevor** to set new date.
- Capturing recollections. Phillip's son Steve has offered to provide us with training in interviewing techniques during October half-term. **Philip** to set a date. **Peter** will upload an existing tape onto the website to check the procedure and storage space required. Peggy knows Betty Lever and will enquire about Rex Lever's tapes. **Kevin** to investigate cassette tape to digital recorder equipment. This project is to be a focus up to Christmas. An early topic might be the Churchill tanks, to link with the Archaeological project.

6. New Projects

- Victorian Fair, Jean Lawrence has recollections of the fair on the Common. Pam Smith may have more photos.
- Clumps survey, two larger ones. Maybe John Morris could provide tuition (ref 3 above)
- Old boundary of the Common, especially tracing the bank/ditch on the NE side of Main Road (bank/ditch left of Moseley Farm, funnel-shaped opening to Stocking Lane, old road to the right of The Wheel). **Peter** to check his maps for any references. **Trevor** to mention this in next Gazette article.
- Interviewing villagers: some tapes already available; Steve can supply digital recording equipment.

7. Equipment required

- Trevor has GPS
- Laser level, approx £35 at B&Q. Agreed to purchase, action **Kevin**.

8. AOB

- Claire Underhill did an undergraduate thesis on Naphill Common and a copy is on its way via **Peter**.
- Marian Millar has contacted HAG and is interested in getting involved. Her forte is documentary research so **Trevor** is to contact her with respect to item 5 above, Historical Research Group. She has maps for Naphill and information on the 1910 valuation survey.

Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 16th November, 19:30, Poland House

Minutes approved by:

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Kevin Bennett, Group Chairman

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Dated

Distribution:

FONC Committee members

HAG members

FONC website

Minutes – Kevin Bennett, 2 Oct 2011