

Received 8/8/18

Involve Heritage CIC

12 Woodruff Lane

Bilsthorpe

Nottinghamshire

NG22 8UF

Dear Sir,

I am writing in relation to our funding award from the Nineveh Trust for the Roman Southwell Community Project, awarded in July 2015.

As the end of our funding is now upon us, I am including in this correspondence the final progress report.

Over the past year, we have used the funding award to undergo further landscape work and have provided training and support for local people in undertaking geophysical surveys and finds analysis sessions, to complement the training they received the previous year. We have had the Roman pottery recovered from around the fort at Osmanthorpe analysed by a Roman Pot Specialist, and this has provided conclusive dating to reflect occupation there between the 1st and 4th centuries, thus post-dating the fort by at least 200 years. This has helped to shed new light on the site and will give a foundation for future research here. We are currently writing this element up now for submission to the Thoroton Journal for 2019.

Geophysical surveys (for which a professional geophysicist was contracted to provide training and support for local people) were undertaken on a site known locally as the Potwell Grasslands. This is managed by the Southwell Minster stewardship, and the Dean kindly gave us permissions to explore the region. Unfortunately, on this occasion, no buried archaeological features were detected, and this was reported back to the Dean. This helps us understand the limits of our Roman site in the town of Southwell, explored between 2015-17 and published in the Thoroton Journal for 2018.

Over the course of the last year, we have also designed and delivered schools sessions in partnership with the Southwell Minster Education Team. We designed and created a Roman handling collection, and a series of activities with lesson plans, and delivered these sessions in Southwell, with an inner-city school from Nottingham travelling out to us.

Finally, we presented our work to around 250 people in October 2017 at a Heritage Open Day conference at the Minster School. This included members of the local community, archaeologists, County and Town Council members, academics from University of Nottingham and local archaeology groups.

Our three-year Nineveh Trust grant has allowed us to work with the local community and provide opportunities and training sessions for local people that they would not have otherwise had, helping them to explore the rich heritage landscape of Southwell, Notts and the surrounding region. The research has been hugely successful, with new sites identified and a much better understanding of known sites achieved. This helps inform future research, planning & development, and the town's Heritage Plan.

We are now in a position to publish some of our work, and to start providing educational sessions for both adults and school children. However, we have much more work planned, and this will provide further opportunities for local people. We currently have a small funding bid application in with the Big Lottery, and continue to fundraise ourselves through events, public donations and small grant awards.

We would very much like the opportunity to be considered for further funding from the Nineveh Trust in order to help us continue in our work, although we are not sure if you re-fund previous applicants.

If you feel this may be possible and would like us to submit a fresh application please do let us know and we will be happy to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a series of overlapping, sweeping lines that form the rest of the name.

Matt Beresford BA (hons), MA, ACIfA

Director

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