Submission to Planning Enquiry
Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal
Phase Three

Summary of Submission
This submission is in principal supportive of the submissions made by the developer relating to archaeological issues.
We consider the need to consider the overall archaeological status of a far wider area than just that directly affected by the Proposal. This applies to the density of undefended Iron Age settlement that has and is still being located across the area making it more than of just local importance. Secondly the preponderance of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon burials on or immediately adjacent to the Roman Watling Street and early administrative boundaries generally warrants a detailed survey of the development land immediately adjacent to Watling Street for early burials.
We also suggest that a community based, structured, metal-detecting survey across the site would be justified.
We support the creation of a public heritage exhibition centre and archive.

Introduction
The Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project, CLASP, is a community base umbrella organisation with thirteen member societies all based in west and south Northamptonshire. In addition to our society members we have approximately eighty individual members. CLASP is a registered charity with the objective of investigating the archaeological heritage across the area by involving the local community in the work.
When making a submission of this nature CLASP has no intention to give any views on the overall merits of the project subject to the application nor would we wish to pass comments on other aspects, environmental or other, of the application. Our submission is to ensure that the archaeological heritage of the area is properly identified, investigated and interpreted and all relevant features and finds are, recorded, conserved and archived appropriately.
CLASP is aware that one of it’s member societies, the Barby Hill Archaeological Project, is making a submission to this enquiry and we support that submission. We would ask that this submission is read in conjunction with the BHAP submission to prevent duplication of effort. We also note that a submissions has been made by
Crick Historical Society and we support, subject to one caveat below.

**Archaeological Submission by the Applicants**

CLASP supports the Archaeological submission made by the Applicant to the Enquiry but would wish to bolster it’s content in certain areas.

**Archaeological and Historical Overview**

For some thirteen years CLASP has been investigating the Romano-British landscape across it’s area of interest. In addition there has been a more limited research into other eras, primarily but not exclusively those that abut the Romano-British era. One feature that has clearly emerged from this work is that on several of the locations under study there is a continuity of occupation through several eras. The Romano-British influence on the location subject to this Enquiry is of course led by the Romano-British Watling Street. Two small Romano-British towns situated in the CLASP area of interest, at Towcester (Lactodorum) and at Whilton near Daventry (Bannaventa) straddle Watling Street. Also to the north of the proposed DIRFT extension just outside of Northamptonshire and our area is Tripontium, another Romano-British town on Watling Street. In the immediate area of the Proposal the view is taken that the original structure of Watling Street has been destroyed by later enhancements of the road.\(^1\) However this does not mean that effects of the road could not still be in-situ in the land on either side of the road. These effects could be lost artefacts, burials or even small wayside settlements.

The only previously identified site for a Romano-British structure in the immediate area is just north of J18 on the M1 at SP577733. This consisted of pottery and building stone. Additional indications of Romano British activity have been located in Crick village and also in Kilsby parish.\(^2\) Other sites were noted during the construction of the earlier phases of DIRFT.

In addition to activity originating in the Romano-British area there is also considerable evidence of widespread Iron-Age activity across the area, including within the environs of the earlier two phases of DIRFT. Various archaeological investigations across the area, including the previously mentioned investigations at DIRFT I & II, others by the Barby Hill Archaeological Project, and various investigations at Bannaventa, including a current major project being undertaken by CLASP have all revealed significant undefended Iron Age activity close to or adjacent to Watling Street. Just outside the county there has recently been archaeological investigations on the Hillmorton road in Rugby that has revealed similar Iron Age activity. In addition to these undefended/ unenclosed features there is at Daventry some three miles from the Watling Street to the west of Bannaventa, the second largest prehistoric hill-fort in the country at Borough Hill Daventry. This site has proven evidence of extensive prehistoric activity dating back at least to the Bronze Age. Owing to the stature of this site it must have had considerable influence over a wide area.

Work currently being undertaken by the writer into early communication routes that

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1 RCHME pp 206
2 RCHME pp 60
transect this area, name place evidence and other evidence, including that of supposed later Iron Age Tribal areas, are pointing to the fact that the Crick/ Kilsby/ Lilbourne area may have been a significant trading area from a very early stage. Regarding the tribal areas it does appear that the Catuvellauni, Coritani/ Corieltauvi and Dobunni tribes had a border confluence very close to the area subject to this Enquiry.

Name place evidence that the Crick area was an early trading area, albeit later than the Iron Age, is the name Portlow Hills, the Port element in the name is recognised as being a town, especially a market town. There is also mention that at Lilbourne the earlier of the two 'castles' was situated near the river crossing, ostensibly to protect trade. There was apparently a Saxon market at Lilbourne together with a Saxon Boundary Cross; the arrival of the Normans saw the establishment of a portmanmoot or trading council that improved the market there. It would be argued that all of this evidence does indicate the likelihood that the area may well have been an entrepôt from a very early age. Perhaps the establishment of DIRFT is only another phase in trading at this location!

An effect of Watling Street has been to act as a virtual fixed boundary for several local administrative functions from an early time. In the immediate area of the current site under discussion it will be noted that the parishes of Lilbourne, Yelvertoft, Crick and Kilsby in Northamptonshire and Clifton and Hillmorton in Warwickshire all utilize Watling Street in this way as did the hundred and county boundaries. There is however a debate as to whether Yelvertoft has always stretched as far as Watling Street. There is a view that a separate estate may have existed in the western part of the modern parish centred on what is now known as Shenley Farm. A landscape archaeological survey has indicated two possible sites where this could have been, one of these is in the area of the current proposal. These are of course in edition to the site of the current farm. The name Shenley itself, which means bright or beautiful clearing, would tend to indicate some form of settlement in an otherwise wooded landscape. The phrase ley meaning clearing, probably near a Roman Road.

**Burials**

The association of burials either physically on or adjacent to Watling Street and it’s co-terminus boundaries is not an uncommon feature in this area. Between Bannaventa and Towcester to the south of Stowe Hill there is an antiquarian’s report of 'many skeletons' being found. Just to the north of this site an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been located in fields bearing the name streat leys at GR: SP643587, again immediately adjacent to Watling Street.

Elsewhere there is a report of a Romano-British burial at Grid Reference: SP608652

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3 Ekwall pp371  
4 Timmins  
5 RCHME 204  
6 Watts pp  
7 Wetton pp 176
in a ditch adjacent to the Watling Street, complete with amphorae. 8 There is also record of several Anglo-Saxon burials on the line of Watling Street at Grid References: SP569732 and SP568734. 9 The sites of these latter burials would have been destroyed during the construction of DIRFT I. The Applicants submission on heritage matters refers to early burials located during the construction of earlier phases of DIRFT.

The apparently prolific instances of burial adjacent to or physically on the early Watling Street, an early hundredal and parish boundary, would tend to be in line with views put forward elsewhere that indicates their significance on early boundaries in the early Anglo-Saxon era. 10

On this basis of burial distribution elsewhere it would not be surprising that further burials, either Romano-British and/ or Anglo-Saxon could be found in the area subject to the current application.

Communication Routes
The only significant early route crossing the area on a roughly east - west axis may have been a very early form of the route from Northampton and the east towards Coventry and possibly beyond. This route may have followed the line of the track from Watling Street to Shenley Farm and Yelvertoft. In addition to the widely known Watling Street another significant route runs on a north to south alignment through the area. This route, ran from Dorchester on Thames to Leicester, commonly known as the Oxford Way. It is called a port-way in places, especially to the south of Daventry. 11 It would appear that this route is the trading route that passes through the market at Lilbourne, crossing the Avon at that point. From the south the route enters the area subject to the Application at the accommodation route bridge under the M1 at GR: SP572747 then heads towards Lilbourne to the west of the M1, leaving the northerly limit of the development area at GR: SP566755 following the course of the public footpath. It is anticipated that the construction of the M1 may well have slightly changed the course of this route and that the construction process may have adversely affected it. From experience elsewhere however there is a possibility that stray artefacts deposited during the use of this route may remain.

Iron Age Activity
CLASP concurs with the submission made by the Barby Hill Archaeological Project (BHAP) regarding all phases of the Iron Age and will therefore rely upon that evidence to prevent duplication.

Shenley Farm
In principal CLASP agrees with the detailed comments regarding Shenley Farm as made by BHAP and apart from the comments in the overview above will not reiterate those points. We do however consider that note must be taken of the comments in the preceding paragraphs regarding potential burials and also the potential effects of

8 RCHME pp 131
9 RCHME pp 60
10 Blair pp 465
11 Beesley pp 25
the north to south route across Shenley.

**Additional Mitigation**

CLASP notes the proposals in the developer’s submission regarding mitigation and supports them. We have however identified three additional factors that need consideration. Additionally we would suggest that having considered the total effect of the apparently undefended Iron Age activity across the wider area then consideration should be given to identifying the area to being of at least regional significance. Further debate may well be needed on this with other interested parties but we consider that some form of recognition of the apparent strategic and trading importance of the area should be forthcoming.

**Burials**

It does appear from the evidence discussed above that there is a reasonable chance that burials from both the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon eras could be present on the site, especially close to the original course of Watling Street. It is known that these sites can be very close to the surface and the burials become disarticulated over time through plough and other activity.

CLASP would urge that the Enquiry specifies that detailed archaeological examination of the entire development area within at least 100 metres of Watling Street looking for burial sites is carried out prior to construction commencing.

**Metal Detecting Survey**

Being close to two communication routes there might be a significant distribution of stray artefacts across the area that if located and identified could provide useful interpretation for the history of the area. Currently CLASP can see nothing in the submission that would cause at least the metallic examples to be recovered.

CLASP would urge that the Enquiry requires the Developer to ensure that a full and structured metal detecting survey is carried out across the area prior to any work commencing. If the Enquiry does make this stipulation then CLASP would be prepared to facilitate two metal detecting societies it has as members to carry out this work as volunteers. These groups, Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club (NARC) and Norton Northamptonshire Portable Antiquities Scheme (NNPAST), work very much to both national and CLASP metal detecting standards. All finds are properly located and reported to Northamptonshire HER and/or the Portable Antiquities Scheme. CLASP has worked very closely with these groups for many years. The work that they have undertaken has in some instances been fundamental to our research as previously unknown archaeological sites have been located thanks to this form of non-intrusive archaeology. Additionally this would be a constructive way of permitting the local community to take part in the archaeological investigation.
Public Heritage Exhibition and Archive

CLASP supports the concept of having a public heritage centre in the at Shenley Farm. This could display the story of the site from the earliest times until the demise of the Radio Station and the coming of DIRFT. Hopefully it could be inclusive with the earlier phases of DIRFT. The building could also be used to display significant finds from the site and used as an archive to store others as a potential research resource.

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CLASP

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Organising Committee: Dave Hayward (Chair & Research and Project Co-ordination), Roger Penny (Secretary), Julia Johns (Membership Secretary)
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