

# Geophysics Special Interest Group



## Meeting summary - 31 March 2016

A committee meeting of the ClfA Geophysics Special Interest Group was held using Skype on Thursday 31 March.

### ***ADS archiving update***

The joint GeoSIG and ADS archiving workshop held last November highlighted numerous issues with regard to the use of 'ADS Easy', archiving costs, data formats, etc. A follow up questionnaire mailed from ClfA after the event had produced little response and as a result it has not been possible to provide the ADS with information on the size of survey areas so that a more sensible range of costs could be calculated. Jimmy Adcock informed the committee that there had been mailing issues, and it is possible that a second attempt may be more fruitful. Recent attempts to use 'ADS Easy' had proved problematic due to bugs in the template, and it is hoped that these have now been remedied. Members of the committee continue to investigate alternative archiving providers.

### ***Health and safety issues***

With the onset of Spring, the potential risks of exposure to pesticides was discussed. Although this is a year round problem, emerging crops can be subject to more frequent spraying, and as crop height increases there is an additional risk of direct skin contact through saturated clothing etc. Geophysical surveyors may well be exposed to a unique range of risks relating to rapid coverage of large areas of land on foot. It is hoped that the SIG can provide a resource for the membership or at least continually highlight issues. It is unfortunate that surveyors often attend H&S inductions and training that are completely inappropriate for the risks encountered.

### ***GPR licensing***

At the February committee meeting Martin Roseveare informed members about the problem of unlicensed GPR operators carrying out archaeological works. Misinformation regarding the hire and use of GPR equipment may have led to this situation. Section 1(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 makes it an offence for any person to establish or use any station for wireless telegraphy or to install or use any apparatus for wireless telegraphy except under and in accordance with a license granted by Ofcom. The ClfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey have been recently corrected and updated, clarifying the need for surveyors to be licensed even if hiring equipment from a licensed provider. See section 3.3.8 of the S&G.

### ***Future meetings***

The committee would be happy to include items from the GeoSIG membership into the agenda of future meetings. The committee is comprised of individuals working and running businesses in geophysics and this limits what we can achieve. If any member is able to offer support to the group then please contact the Secretary by email at [david.sabin@archaeological-surveys.co.uk](mailto:david.sabin@archaeological-surveys.co.uk)