



# Land at School Lane, Newington, Kent ME9 7JU

## Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation

Project Code: EV SLN 23

Planning Ref. 21/504028/FULL and APP/V2255/W/22/3312284 (Swale Borough Council)

Client: Fernham Homes Ltd

NGR: 585806 165363 (centred)

Prepared by: Caroline Russell

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### Document Record

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**PART A: SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND AT SCHOOL LANE, NEWINGTON, KENT ME9 7JU**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This specification sets out the requirements for a programme of archaeological evaluation to be undertaken on land at School Lane, Newington, Kent ME9 7JU (NGR 585806 165363; Fig 1).

1.2 Fernham Homes Ltd (the Client) is proposing the erection of 25 residential dwellings and the provision of a 20 space staff car park and 20 space pupil pick-up/drop-off area for Newington C of E Primary School, together with associated access, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works (Planning Application Refs. 21/504028/FULL and APP/V2255/W/22/3312284).

1.3 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is Swale Borough Council (SBC). The planning application has been granted permission, upon appeal, subject to conditions including the following archaeological condition:

4. No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological field evaluation work has been secured in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The archaeological works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. Should the watching brief indicate remains of interest, no further development shall take place until details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority securing safeguarding measures to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains and recording. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

1.4 As part of pre-commencement works, the Client has commissioned Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) to prepare the current document and undertake the programme of archaeological evaluation defined herein. The archaeological works will be monitored by the Heritage Conservation Group (HCG) of Kent County Council (KCC).

1.5 The archaeological evaluation will involve the excavation of 15 evaluation trenches to the top of geology or archaeology, whichever is the shallower. The location of the evaluation trenches will be targeted across areas of the proposed development footprint.

1.6 The results of the evaluation works will inform on the site's potential for surviving archaeological remains, and where appropriate, enable the LPA and HCG to determine the scope of any archaeological mitigation that may be required.

1.7 The present specification seeks to provide a programme and an outline methodology for undertaking the archaeological work, setting out the objectives, the standards to be attained, the nature of the monitoring and the format for reporting.

## 2 SITE LOCATION, DESIGNATIONS AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is situated at the north-western extent of the village of Newington which is located approximately 5km north-north-west of the town of Sittingbourne.

2.2 The PDA comprises a rectangular area of land, c. 1.90 ha in area, located within the north-east corner of a large arable field. An existing school drop off / pick up parking area occupies the north-east corner of the PDA. The PDA is bounded by 'Bricklands' lane to the north and existing trees to the east, beyond which is Newington C of E Primary School. It is open to the rest of the field to the west and south.

2.3 The PDA does not affect or impact upon any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens.

2.4 The underlying bedrock geology within the PDA is shown as sand, silt and clay of the Thanet Formation, overlain by superficial Head deposits of clay and silt within the north-western corner (BGS on-line).

2.5 The PDA lies at a height of approximately 15–25m above Ordnance Datum (OD), on ground that gently rises to the south and west. Mill Hill peaks c. 380m to the west of the site.

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) report was prepared for the site by RPS (2021). It identified no designated or known non-designated archaeological assets within the site. Based on the available evidence (including the Kent Historic Environment Record), the report summarised that the site has low potential for significant settlement evidence dating to all past periods of activity. It was anticipated, therefore, that the site will produce evidence of past phases of agricultural activity and isolated artefacts within the plough soil.

3.2 The archaeological periodic breakdown, as presented within the DBA, is provided below in full.

### *Prehistoric (500,000 BP – AD 43)*

3.3 The earliest activity recorded on the Kent HER within Newington is a vague account of two Palaeolithic handaxes found in 1862 near Newington Station which lies approximately 300m south of the study site (TQ 86 NW 20, TQ 8535 6500, TQ 86 NE 1185 TQ8565). A poorly provenanced Mesolithic tranchet axe and scraper (TQ 86 NE 46, TQ 86 65) is recorded from the 'area of Newington'.

3.4 Palaeolithic material is not anticipated on the site since deposits of the right age do not occur. Mesolithic evidence occurs at a very low density across the landscape and whilst an isolated lithic may be present, a significant concentration of material is not anticipated.

3.5 Excavations of a watercress bed approximately 300m north of the study site within the floodplain of the tributary revealed a residual Neolithic polished flint axe (TQ86NE19 TQ860656).

3.6 The only other find of prehistoric date recorded within 1km radius of the study site on the Kent HER is an isolated Iron Age coin of unknown provenance (MKE69318 TQ8600065000).

3.7 No evidence of in situ activity dating to the prehistoric periods has been recorded within the vicinity of the site. The site's location away from the river floodplain and also strategically higher ground suggest that it is unlikely that it was settled by prehistoric communities. Based on the available evidence the archaeological potential for prehistoric settlement evidence on the site is therefore considered to be low.

### *Romano-British (AD 43–450)*

3.8 The Roman Road (Watling Street) from London to Canterbury (TQ 86 SW 132), roughly follows the line of the A2 on an approximate northwest-southeast direction c500m south of the study site.

3.9 Excavations of a watercress bed approximately 300m north of the study site within the floodplain of the tributary revealed two horse shoes, two iron keys and an iron instrument all of which have been dated by the Kent HER to the Roman period (TQ86NE19 TQ860656).

3.10 Boxted Roman villa lies approximately 1km north-west of the site, at a similar contour to the study site overlooking the river on the southern edge of the north Kent marshes (TQ86NE18). The villa is preserved as a Scheduled Monument. The villa can be observed from cropmarks on air photographs and was recorded by partial excavation. Approximately 260m south-west of the villa are the remains of a Romano-Celtic temple. These monuments are contemporary and are evidence of the importance the Medway played during the Roman period for trade etc.

Parchmarks are recorded to the east of the Roman temple which may represent walls contemporary with this activity (TQ86NE138 TQ8520566131).

3.11 The site's distance from the Roman road suggests evidence of road side activity on the site is unlikely. Its distance from the villa site further suggests that it more than likely occupied the hinterland during this period and so evidence of agricultural activity is more likely to be present whilst the presence of isolated Roman artefacts cannot be precluded.

#### *Anglo-Saxon (450–1066) and Medieval (1066–1540)*

3.12 The earliest documentary evidence for Newington derives from the Domesday Book of 1086 which describes a large settlement consisting of 96 households, five plough teams, woodland for 30 pig pastures and one fishery (Open Domesday 2014).

3.13 Documentary evidence suggests that a Benedictine Nunnery was founded in the King's manor of Newington in the reign of William the Conqueror (TQ 86 SE 4, TQ 85 64). No evidence has yet been identified indicating the possible location of the Nunnery, and the location of the record provided by the Kent HER is indicative only.

3.14 The potential of the study site for Medieval settlement evidence is identified as low, with the site likely to have been located within the fields associated with Newington. A potential for a low diversity of artefacts, spread by manuring is noted.

#### *Post-medieval (1540–1900) and modern (1900–present)*

3.15 Andrews and Dury's map of 1769 is the earliest map depicting the area around Newington. The map indicates that in the mid-18th century the site lay in open ground on the edge of the historic settlement of Newington.

3.16 The 1797 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows that the site comprised an enclosed field in agricultural use. The 1840 tithe map records the site in more detail as comprising arable land (Fig.4).

3.17 There was no apparent change to the site during the late 19th century and early 20th century although most of the surrounding landscape was laid out to orchard by this date. By the mid-20th century, the site had also been laid out to orchard.

3.18 By the late 20th century the orchard had been cleared from the site and it comprised part of a larger arable field.

3.19 There has been no subsequent change to the study site apart from the construction of an enclosure in the north-east of the site.

3.20 The potential of the study site for Post-Medieval and Modern settlement evidence is identified as low/nil.

#### 4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The purpose of an archaeological field evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020) is 'to determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices'. These will satisfy the stated aims on the project and comply with the *Code of Conduct* and other relevant regulations of CIfA.

4.2 An evaluation is further explained as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts, and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate'.

4.3 The evaluation will thus provide sufficient information for all parties concerned, particularly the Local Planning Authority, to devise appropriate mitigation strategies. An evaluation may therefore result in the need for an agreed mitigation strategy and the implementation of further archaeological works with a further WSI potentially required to fulfil planning conditions.

4.4 The principal objective of the evaluation work is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. The purpose of the evaluation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposits, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

4.5 Other objectives include to:

- understand the nature, character, date and extent of any prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains on site;
- place and assess any archaeological remains revealed within the context of other recent investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

4.6 Assessment of the results will provide guidance on what additional mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include preservation *in situ* and/or further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for evaluation trial-trenching on the site

only. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the LPA and the KCC HCG.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

5.1 The general methodology for the archaeological evaluation is set out in Part B of this specification.

5.2 The archaeological evaluation will comprise the excavation by machine of 15 archaeological trenches located within the footprint of the proposed development. Each trench will be 30m in length and 2m wide. Trench positions are subject to on site constraints. A proposed trench layout is included with this document (Fig 1).

5.3 Canterbury Archaeological Trust will confirm the nature and location of any constraints on-site prior to the commencement of excavation and take account of these limitations when preparing a finalised trench layout plan, which will be submitted to the HCG for approval if it differs from the proposed plan accompanying this document. Particular attention will be paid to avoiding any services that are to be retained. Any subsequent amendments to the trench design must be agreed in advance with the KCC HCG and a revised trench plan must be submitted for approval.

5.4 Canterbury Archaeological Trust will inform the KCC HCG of the start date of the work (at least five days before, or as mutually agreed) and arrange for monitoring visits. Canterbury Archaeological Trust will keep the HCG informed of the progress of work and will notify them immediately if particularly important archaeological remains are encountered.

5.6 Should significant remains be exposed it may be necessary to enlarge or extend the evaluation trenches to allow further investigation of any significant features or deposits that may be encountered.

5.7 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork Canterbury Archaeological Trust shall agree with the developer, or their agent, any fencing, signage and security required during the works and requirements for reinstatement at completion. Canterbury Archaeological Trust shall ensure that arrangements are in place for appropriate reinstatement prior to the commencement of any excavations.

5.8 Following the evaluation, the scope of further works will be agreed with the HCG and LPA. These may include another phase of evaluation and more detailed excavation, an archaeological watching brief during groundworks or, where feasible and appropriate, design measures to accommodate the preservation of archaeology.

## 6 SITE RECORDING

6.1 Site recording should be undertaken in accordance with the methodologies outlined in Part B of this specification.

## 7 SITE REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

7.1 Site reporting and archiving should be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in Part B of this specification.

## 8 MONITORING

8.1 Site monitoring should be arranged in accordance with the methodology outlined in Part B of this specification. As a minimum the KCC HCG should be informed, in writing, at least one week prior to the commencement of work.

## 9 GENERAL

9.1 Prepared by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, October 2023.

## 10 REFERENCES

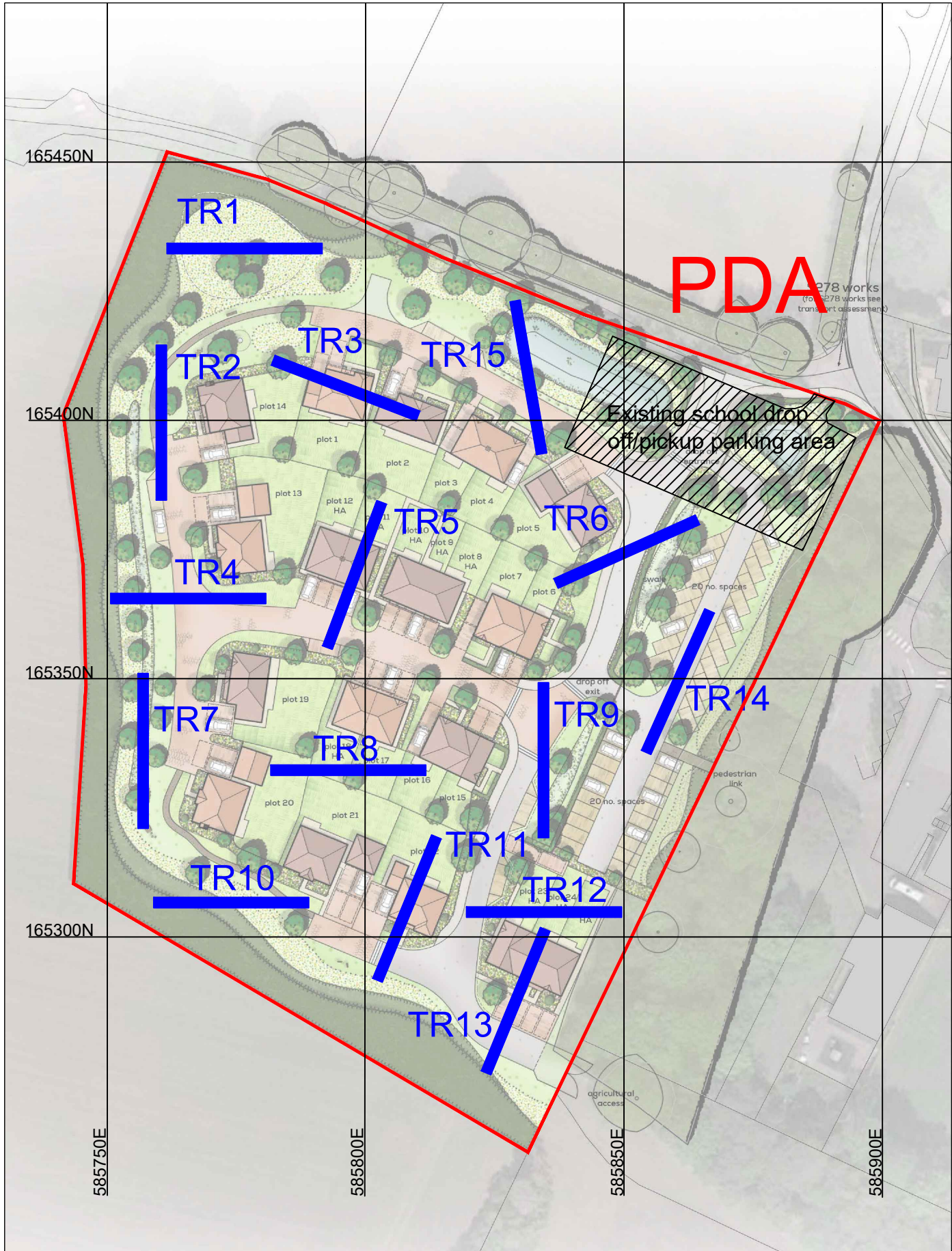
British Geological Survey on-line:


<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>


Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (revised 2020) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

RPS 2021. Heritage Desk Based Assessment. Land off School Lane, Newington, Kent.  
Unpublished RPS report JAC27329





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	<p>COMMENTS Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009</p>	<p>CHECKED ---</p>	
		<p>REF/DRG NO. Fig 1 v3.dwg</p>	



20m

Figure 1. Proposed trench layout

## **EVALUATION – TRIAL TRENCHING REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Archaeological trial trenching involves the sampling of a site to determine whether archaeological remains are present and if so, to assess their character, extent, date, condition and potential importance. Trial trenching will aim to determine, as far as is practicable and without comprising the integrity of important archaeological deposits, the full stratigraphic sequence at the site, including information on the 'natural' substrate and soil conditions.

### **2. General Requirements**

- 2.1 Trial trenching will be carried out by archaeological organisations (from here on referred to as 'the Archaeological Contractor') acceptable to the relevant Local Planning Authority, with recognised experience and expertise in the specified type of work to be undertaken. Registration with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) as a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) will normally be considered as an indicator, but not a prerequisite, of such expertise and experience. A good working knowledge of the archaeology of Kent will also be considered highly desirable.
- 2.2 Prior to any work being undertaken the Archaeological Contractor will inform the County Archaeologist and communicate details of the proposed team, including (if required) CVs for senior staff and specialists. Senior staff and specialists will need to demonstrate an appropriate level of experience and expertise and should preferably be, where appropriate, Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA).
- 2.3 Prior to undertaking the trial trenching the Archaeological Contractor will need to demonstrate that the necessary resources are in place to undertake the work, through to reporting. The Archaeological Contractor will have available appropriate specialists necessary to support the successful completion of the archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation work.
- 2.4 The work will be supervised on site at all times by a member of staff with the required level of experience and who will be responsible for the conduct of on-site work.

### **3. Pre-site Requirements**

- 3.1 Prior to undertaking trial trenching the Archaeological Contractor will have gathered and considered the following information:
- Relevant information on the County Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Kent County Council and maintained by the Heritage Conservation Team;
  - Any earlier reports of fieldwork relevant to the site;

- Solid and drift geology;
  - Geotechnical site investigation data (if available);
  - Any desk-based studies of the site.
- 3.2 In certain circumstances the following will also be considered:
- Relevant published secondary sources
  - Relevant historic maps held at the Centre for Kentish Studies
  - Aerial photographs where cropmarks are considered to indicate archaeology on or close to the site.
- 3.3 The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that all reasonable measures have been taken to identify any constraints to undertaking the evaluation trenching. The Archaeological Contractor will seek information on the presence of services, any ecological constraints, the presence of Public Rights of Way, the presence of contaminated land or any other risks to health and safety.
- 3.4 The Archaeological Contractor will make provisional arrangements for the deposition of the site archive with an appropriate museum or suitable repository agreed with the County Archaeologist. The Archaeological Contractor will obtain a provisional accession number for the site archive from the recipient museum (except where the museum prefers to issue an accession number following completion of fieldwork) and any guidelines from the recipient museum regarding deposition of the site archive.
- 3.5 Full copies of the Specification must be issued to the field officer responsible for on-site work and a copy of the agreed Specification and any additional method statements must be available on site at all times. The team carrying out the trial trenching must be familiar with the Specification and have access on site to any previous evaluation or survey reports.
- 3.6 The Archaeological Contractor will inform the County Archaeologist of the start date of the work (at least five working days before) and arrange for monitoring visits to be undertaken, using the Site Fieldwork Notification Form (see Appendix II). The Archaeological Contractor will continue to keep the County Archaeologist informed of the progress of work and will notify the County Archaeologist immediately if particularly important archaeological remains are encountered.

#### **4. Objectives**

- 4.1 The purpose of the evaluation is to establish whether there are any significant archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development.
- 4.2 The evaluation is thus to
- a) ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site;

- b) establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site; and
- c) establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.

## **5. Scope of trial trenching**

- 5.1 The layout and number of trenches excavated will be in accordance with the Specification, details of which are given in Part A. Any amendment to trench design due to on-site constraints will be agreed with the County Archaeologist in advance of the work being undertaken.
- 5.2 Particular issues that will be addressed by the evaluation are set out in part A of this specification.

## **6. Machine and Hand Excavations**

- 6.1 All machine excavation of trial trenches will be carried out under constant archaeological direction by a suitably experienced archaeologist familiar with the ground conditions anticipated on the investigation site.
- 6.2 Machine excavation of trial trenches will be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a flat-bladed bucket. No mechanical excavators, earthmoving or other vehicles will travel within any excavated trench until it has been signed off by the County Archaeologist or specific agreement has been reached to enable re-stripping.
- 6.3 The Archaeological Contractor will maintain a constant watch and closely inspect on an ongoing basis surfaces exposed during the course of machining. Surfaces will be maintained clear of loose spoil.
- 6.4 Subject to additional requirements of the landowner or client, turf, topsoil and other distinct deposits will be stored separately and at least 1 metre from the edge of the evaluation trench.
- 6.5 Machine-excavated deposits and the exposed surface will be regularly scanned for the presence and collection of artefacts. Exposed surfaces and excavated spoil will be scanned by metal detector.
- 6.6 The excavation by machine is to be taken down to the top of any significant archaeological level or to the top of 'natural' subsoil where no archaeological deposits have been found at a higher level. In the event of significant archaeological deposits being encountered the County Archaeologist is to be informed immediately. Some further limited excavation may be required to clarify the nature, character and date of the archaeological deposits but the primary objective is to establish the presence/absence of archaeological deposits, their depth and extent.

- 6.7 Where complex archaeological stratification is encountered, deposits will be left in situ and measures to assess the depth of this stratification agreed with the County Archaeologist. Where modern features are seen to truncate the archaeological stratification, then these will be carefully removed without damage to surrounding deposits to enable the depth of stratification to be assessed.
- 6.8 If archaeological remains of limited significance are found to be present cutting through or overlying soils (e.g. colluvium) which conceal lower archaeological horizons then these will need to be recorded and investigated prior to removal of the underlying soil with the agreement of the County Archaeologist.
- 6.9 Machine excavation from the surface must be taken down in spits of no more than 100mm thickness to ensure that deposits and features are not over-excavated and that any artefacts/biological evidence in the soil are recorded.
- 6.10 Test sondages may need to be excavated through 'natural' subsoil in trial trenches to confirm that the solid geology has been reached. Such sondages will be positioned to avoid damage to archaeological remains.

## **7. Investigation and Sampling Strategy**

- 7.1 Archaeological features will generally only be sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Full excavation of features will not be undertaken at this stage unless otherwise agreed with the County Archaeologist. Care will be taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.
- 7.2 Where necessary the surface and sections of trenches will be hand cleaned to define archaeological deposits and features clearly.
- 7.3 Measures will be taken to protect particularly significant, valuable or sensitive archaeological remains from exposure, accidental damage and / or theft.
- 7.4 Exposed surfaces will be left for a minimum of 48 hours to allow weathering-out of features to occur. No trenches will be backfilled until agreed with the County Archaeologist.

### ***Burial Remains***

- 7.5 Inhumation and cremation burials will normally be left in-situ for the purposes of evaluation. Subject to agreement with the County Archaeologist, graves may be partially excavated to confirm the presence of human remains and their state of preservation but skeletal remains will be left in situ. Graves will be scanned by metal detector to assess whether any grave objects are likely to be present.
- 7.6 Inhumation and cremation burials which are in a fragile state and are likely to

be damaged by the reinstatement of evaluation trenches will be excavated and lifted subject to agreement with the County Archaeologist.

- 7.7 The Archaeological Contractor will put in place arrangements to ensure the security, protection from deterioration and damage, and the respectful treatment of human remains and burial goods.
- 7.8 On sites where burial remains are expected the Archaeological Contractor will submit to and agree with the County Archaeologist detailed procedures for the assessment, recording and, where necessary, the excavation of inhumation and cremation burials.
- 7.9 The Archaeological Contractor will have available within the team or on call an appropriately qualified and experienced osteoarchaeologist to supervise the excavation and removal of any human remains (where this is necessary) from the site. The Archaeological Contractor will use an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological conservator to assist, where appropriate, the lifting of human remains and grave goods / cremation vessels.
- 7.10 In the event that human burials are discovered, a Ministry of Justice Licence will be required (in accordance with Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857) before the remains can be lifted. The need for a Ministry of Justice Licence applies to both inhumation and cremated remains. Application for a Licence will be made by the Archaeological Contractor. The Archaeological Contractor is to comply with the conditions of the Licence and discuss any requirements of that Licence which conflict with the agreed method of investigation with the County Archaeologist.

## **8. Finds recovery processing and treatment**

- 8.1 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the Landowner. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no.2* and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the landowner will arrange for them to be deposited in a museum or similar repository agreed with the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.
- 8.2 Artefacts will be excavated carefully by hand. The Archaeological Contractor will use an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological conservator to assist in the lifting of fragile finds of significance and / or value.
- 8.3 Artefacts will be collected and bagged by archaeological context. The location of special finds will be recorded in three dimensions. Three-dimensional recording of in-situ flint working deposits will be carried out.
- 8.4 Where appropriate to address the research objectives of the archaeological evaluation, sieving of deposits will be undertaken to maximise recovery of

small artefacts. A strategy for such sieving will be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist.

- 8.5 Records of artefact assemblages will clearly state how they have been recovered, sub-sampled and processed.
- 8.6 Excavated artefacts will be bagged upon recovery or placed in finds trays. They must not be left loose on site.
- 8.7 **Treatment of treasure** - Finds, discovered by the Archaeological Contractor, falling under the statutory definition of Treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2002) will be reported immediately to the relevant Coroner's Office, the Kent Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) who is the designated treasure co-ordinator for Kent, the landowner and the County Archaeologist. A Treasure Receipt (obtainable from either the FLO or the DCMS website) must be completed and a report submitted to the Coroner's Office and the FLO within 14 days of understanding the find is Treasure. Failure to report within 14 days is a criminal offence. The Treasure Receipt and Report must include the date and circumstances of the discovery, the identity of the finder (put as unit/contractor) and (as exactly as possible) the location of the find.
- 8.8 All metal objects, other than late post medieval objects, will be X-rayed unless otherwise agreed with the County Archaeologist.

## **9. Archaeological Science and Environmental Sampling**

- 9.1 A structured programme of environmental sampling appropriate to the aims of the evaluation will be implemented. The strategy and methodology for the sampling, recording, processing, assessment, analysis and reporting of deposits with environmental archaeology potential will be in accordance with English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines "Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation" (March 2002). Any variation to this guidance will be agreed in advance with both the County Archaeologist and the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor. Particular note will be taken of the following requirements.
- 9.2 The Archaeological Contractor will use an appropriately qualified and experienced geo-archaeologist to record any deposits of particular significance such as buried soils or advise on depositional processes.
- 9.3 An appropriately qualified and experienced environmental archaeologist will devise and supervise the implementation of the environmental sampling strategy.
- 9.4 The advice of the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor is to be sought regarding specialist sampling requirements and any scientific applications relevant to the archaeological evaluation of this site.

- 9.5 Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths and floors. Each context will normally be sampled. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40-60 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features.
- 9.6 For large features / spreads appropriate consideration will be given to sampling on a grid system if this fits in with the aims of the evaluation.
- 9.7 Where good conditions for the preservation of bone have been identified, all large bones will be collected by hand and sieving of bulk samples up to 100 litres will be undertaken as appropriate.
- 9.8 Mollusc samples of 2 litres each will be taken vertically from appropriate sections to investigate the changes of vegetation through time.
- 9.9 Where deposits are wet, waterlogged or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods and foraminifera. The numbers to be taken will be agreed with the County Archaeologist.
- 9.10 For wet, waterlogged or peaty deposits, bulk samples of 20 litres will be taken from visible layers or spits for the retrieval of plant macro-remains and insects.
- 9.11 Environmental samples from dry deposits will normally be processed by flotation following the evaluation fieldwork and the residues will be sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds and charcoal that has not floated. Environmental samples from wet deposits will normally be sent to specialists for processing in laboratory conditions. The Archaeological Contractor will agree with the County Archaeologist any necessary delay in completion of the reporting of the evaluation to enable provisional results to be included.
- 9.12 The Archaeological Contractor will make appropriate provision for the application of scientific dating techniques such as radiocarbon, dendrochronology, archaeomagnetic dating, OSL and thermoluminescence dating. The advice of the English heritage regional Scientific Advisor will be sought in advance of the application of these techniques. The Archaeological Contractor will agree with the County Archaeologist any necessary delay in completion of the reporting of the evaluation to enable provisional results to be included.
- 9.13 Where appropriate the guidance in the following English Heritage papers will be followed:
- “Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation, and curation of waterlogged wood” 1996



- “Dendrochronology – guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates” 1997
- “Archaeometallurgy” 2001
- “Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation” 2002
- “Human bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports” 2004
- “Geoarchaeology” 2004
- “Wet Wood and Leather”
- “Archaeomagnetic Dating: Guidelines on producing and interpreting archaeomagnetic dates” 2006
- “Guidelines on the X-radiography of archaeological metalwork” 2006

## **10. Recording**

- 10.1 All trenches, structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards. Sufficient data must be recorded to allow the required level of assessment and reporting (see section 11).
- 10.2 Recording must be carried out to a sufficiently high standard to provide a full record of the deposits evaluated, including in trenches where no archaeology is identified.
- 10.3 All features, deposits and finds are to be recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 10.4 All archaeological contexts are to be recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work, comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology, is to be maintained as appropriate. Context sheets are to be primarily filled in by the archaeologist excavating the feature or deposit.
- 10.5 A plan to indicate the location of the boundaries of the evaluated area and the site grid is to be drawn at a scale of 1:1250 (or a similar appropriate scale). Plans indicating the location of the excavated trenches and the location of all archaeological features encountered are to be drawn at an appropriate scale. An overall site plan is to be maintained at a scale of 1:100 or larger scale where appropriate. Sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10. Significant archaeological features will normally be drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 if appropriate. All detailed plans and sections are to be related to the 1:100 or 1:1250 plans. The 1:1250 and 1:100 plans are to be accurately related to the National Grid.
- 10.6 Long Sections indicating the full stratigraphic sequence will be drawn for all trenches. Where a very simple sequence is revealed representative sections (minimum 1m wide) at each end of the trench will be sufficient, but where more complex stratigraphy is encountered, complete trench sections will be drawn. In the case of complex stratigraphy, all four sections will be drawn.

- 10.7 All plans and sections are to be levelled with respect to OD.
- 10.8 All plans and sections are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.
- 10.9 A full black and white and colour (35mm transparency) photographic record of the work is to be kept. The photographic record is to be regarded as part of the site archive.
- 10.10 The Archaeological Contractor will keep a day to day digital photographic record of the investigation.
- 10.11 The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that the complete site archive including finds and environmental samples are kept in a secure place throughout the period of evaluation and post excavation works.
- 10.12 The site archive is to be consolidated after completion of the evaluation, with all site drawings inked-in, and records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record.

## **11. Reinstatement and completion of fieldwork**

- 11.1 On completion, trenches will be backfilled, reinstated and left in a safe state to the requirements of the landowner / client.
- 11.2 Where vulnerable archaeological deposits remain within trial trenches these will be appropriately protected from damage as part of the reinstatement. Consideration will be given to providing a marker in backfilled trenches to highlight vulnerable archaeological deposits should re-excavation be necessary.
- 11.3 On completion of fieldwork the Archaeological Contractor will complete the relevant section of the Fieldwork Notification Form and submit it to the County Archaeologist.

## **12. Reporting**

- 12.1 Within three weeks of completion of the evaluation fieldwork (or longer in case of complex sites as agreed with the County Archaeologist) the Archaeological Contractor will produce a report, copies of which (as a minimum) are to be provided to:
- the Developer
  - the County Archaeologist
  - the Local Planning Authority
  - the Local Archaeological Society

- 12.2 When submitting the report to the County Archaeologist the Archaeological Contractor will provide written confirmation that the report has been submitted to the above parties.
- 12.3 If the Archaeological Contractor is required, contractually, only to submit reports directly to the developer or their agent, the Archaeological Contractor must inform the County Archaeologist in writing that they have completed the report and whom it has been forwarded to. The Archaeological Contractor must ensure that the developer is made aware of the need to circulate the report as in 12.1 above.
- 12.4 The Archaeological Contractor may determine the general style and format of the evaluation report but it must be completed in accordance with this specification. The report must provide sufficient information and assessment to enable the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority to reach an informed decision regarding any further mitigation measures that may be required and to stand as an appropriately detailed report on the archaeological fieldwork for future research.
- 12.5 Reports that do not provide sufficient information or that have not been compiled in accordance with the relevant sections of this specification will be returned to the Archaeological Contractor for revision and resubmission.
- 12.6 The report will be submitted to the County Archaeologist in a heat-bound hard-copy and in digital format. The digital copy will be supplied in .pdf format and will contain all text, images and plans present in the hard-copy report in a single .pdf file. The medium will be a CD-ROM formatted according to ISO 9660:1999.
- 12.7 **Report Format** - The final evaluation report will include as a minimum:
- 12.7.1 An **Abstract** summarising the scope and results of the archaeological evaluation.
- 12.7.2 An **Introduction** including:
- the location of the site with a National Grid Reference for the centre sufficient to locate the site to 1m accuracy (e.g. TQ 55555 77777 or easting: 555555, northing: 177777);
  - an account of the background and circumstances of the work;
  - a description of the development proposals, planning history and planning reference together with the archaeological condition (where appropriate);
  - the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals;
  - the scope and date of the fieldwork, the personnel involved and who commissioned it;
- 12.7.3 An account of the **Archaeological Background** of the development site including:
- geology, soils and topography;

- any known existing disturbances on the site;
- background archaeological potential of the site. This will include a summary of the known Historic Environment Record entries within 500m of the boundaries of the site (or wider where appropriate). The HER entries will be quoted with their full KHER identifier (e.g. TR 36 NW 12);
- summary of any previous phases of archaeological investigation at the development site;

12.7.4 The **Methodology** employed during the evaluation must be detailed in the report. Any aims and objectives specified in the specification will be included as will any further objectives identified during the course of the evaluation. Constraints on the evaluation will also be described.

12.7.5 The report will include a quantification of the project archive contents, their state and future location.

12.7.6 The **Results** of the evaluation field work will be described trench by trench. This description must include for each trench:

- the dimensions of the trench;
- the nature and depth of overburden soils encountered;
- description of all archaeological features and finds encountered in each trench, their dimensions, states of preservation and interpretation;
- a description of the geological subsoil encountered in each trench;
- heights related to Ordnance Datum for a sufficient number of features and deposits. Where the trench results are complex a table showing the dimensions and heights of features and deposits will be included for each trench.
- for complex stratigraphy a Harris Matrix diagram.

12.7.7 The **Finds** recovered during the course of the evaluation will be described, quantified and assessed by artefact type within the evaluation report. The report will also provide an indication of the potential of each category of artefact for further analysis and research. For each category of artefact the report will describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling, conservation and assessment undertaken. Where appropriate local reference collections will be referred to for descriptive and analytical consistency. Any implications for future archive, conservation or discard of the artefacts will also be set out.

12.7.8 The report will include a table showing, per trench, the contexts, classes and quantity of artefacts recovered, together with their date and interpretation.

12.7.9 The evaluation report will include an assessment of the **Environmental** potential of the site. Details will be provided of any environmental sampling undertaken in connection with the fieldwork and the results of any processing and assessment of the samples. The report will describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling and assessment. Any potential for future analysis of the samples or environmental remains recovered from the evaluation will be described. Implications for future archive, conservation or discard of environmental samples or remains will be detailed.

- 12.7.10 The report will include, as appropriate, tables summarising environmental samples taken, together with the results of processing and assessment.
- 12.7.11 Any results from the application of archaeological scientific techniques e.g. specialist dating will be included in the evaluation report.
- 12.7.12 An **Interpretation** of the archaeology of the site will be provided, including its location, extent, date, condition, significance and importance. This will be a synthesis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental results of the investigation and will include, even if no archaeology is identified as present on the site, description of areas of disturbance, non-archaeological deposits and changes in geological subsoil where appropriate. This section of the report will be supported by a phased interpretative plan of the site, clearly showing the major areas and periods of archaeological activity.
- 12.7.13 An **Impact Assessment** will consider the potential effects of the development on the archaeological remains. This will summarise the archaeological results, describe how any identified archaeological potential identified relates to the site and how the development proposals will affect that archaeology. The report will highlight any areas of sensitivity within the site. Particular note will be made of any variations in the depth of overburden covering any archaeological deposits revealed.
- 12.7.14 The **Conclusion** will summarises the method, results, interpretation and impact assessment.
- 12.7.15 The evaluation report will assess the potential for preservation at the site to inform decisions about mitigation strategies. It will not include any recommendations on preservation measures or further work unless otherwise agreed with the County Archaeologist.
- 12.7.16 The evaluation report will include comments on the effectiveness of the methodology employed and the confidence of the results and interpretation.
- 12.7.17 **Figures / illustrations** – The report will include sufficient illustrations to support descriptions and interpretations within the report text. Figures are to be fully cross-referenced within the document text. As a minimum the evaluation report will include the following figures:
- a site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at 1:1250. The plan will also include at least two National Grid points to 1m accuracy and show the site boundary;
  - trench location plans at an appropriate scale showing the layout of archaeological features, coloured by phases or period. The plan will show the location of all trenches and features. A copy of the plan will be overlain on the proposed development plan where this is known. Where possible, projection of archaeological features outside of the trench areas will be included on the plan. This plan will also include two National Grid points;

- plans of the features revealed in each of the trenches at a larger scale e.g. 1:20 or 1:50; such plans are to also illustrate areas of disturbance, change in subsoil and location of sections; The location of significant finds and samples taken will also be indicated;
- relevant section drawings and trench soil profiles as appropriate;
- illustrations and/or photographs of significant finds.

12.7.18 All report illustrations must be fully captioned and scale drawings must include a bar scale. Standard archaeological drawing conventions must be used. Plan and section illustrations must include the numbers of all contexts illustrated. North must be included on all plans and will be consistent. Sections must indicate the orientation of the section and the Ordnance Datum height of the section datum.

12.7.19 Black & White or Colour photographs will be included to illustrate key archaeological features, trenches and site operations. All photographs will be appropriately captioned.

### **13. Archive Preparation & Deposition**

13.1 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project the Archaeological Contractor will arrange for the archive to be deposited in accordance with the provisional arrangements made with a suitable museum or repository at the onset of fieldwork. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.

### **14 Monitoring and Liaison**

14.1 The Archaeological Contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the evaluation fieldwork, by the client/developer, the County Archaeologist or any designated representative of the Local Planning Authority

14.2 Once the trenches have been evaluated and an initial assessment of the archaeology carried out, there will be an on-site meeting with the County Archaeologist to determine if further evaluation work is appropriate in order to meet the objectives.

14.3 The Archaeological Contractor will liaise closely with the County Archaeologist throughout the course of the evaluation and will arrange for on-site meetings at key decision points.

14.4 The Archaeological Contractor is to make contact with the local archaeological society and keep them informed on the progress of the evaluation. Subject to

health and safety constraints the Archaeological Contractor will afford opportunity to the local archaeological society to visit the evaluation site. Copies of all reports will be provided to the local archaeological society.

- 14.5 The Archaeological Contractor is to circulate a completed Fieldwork Notification Form (Appendix 2) at the start and completion of fieldwork and at the completion of post excavation reporting stages.

## **15. Copyright and data protection**

- 15.1 Information submitted to the County Archaeologist in conjunction with planning applications automatically becomes publicly accessible and can be viewed by anyone at any time. In addition, the Local Planning Authority and Kent County Council are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Information may be subject to Fol or EIR requests and any documentation submitted in connection with the project may be made publicly available unless doing so contravenes the Data Protection Act (1998).
- 15.2 While copyright of reports and other information arising from the fieldwork remains with the originator, the Archaeological Contractor will undertake to make this information available to interested parties. The Archaeological Contractor will agree to allow reports of the fieldwork to be copied and made available to interested parties for archaeological research. The reports may be made available on the Internet no sooner than three months after the submission of the report. Archaeological Contractors who believe that there are special reasons for not publishing the report on the Internet should reach a separate agreement with the County Archaeologist.

## **16. Health and Safety**

- 16.1 The Archaeological Contractor will conduct the work in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The Archaeological Contractor will also follow the guidance set out in "Health and Safety in Field Archaeology" Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers 1997.
- 16.2 The Archaeological Contractor is expected to maintain a Health and Safety Policy and a procedures manual and have available appropriate expertise in Health and Safety advice. Site staff will have an appropriate level of training to enable them to carry out fieldwork safely.
- 16.3 The Archaeological Contractor will maintain the site in a safe condition. All hazards will be appropriately identified and managed. Deep excavations will be appropriately fenced.
- 16.4 The Archaeological Contractor will carry out a risk assessment prior to commencement of fieldwork and where appropriate a COSHH assessment.

Risks and measures to reduce risk will be communicated to all working on and visiting the site.

- 16.5 The Archaeological Contractor will have available suitable site accommodation, welfare and toilet facilities.

## **17. KCC HER**

- 17.1 The Archaeological Contractor is to provide the Kent Historic Environment Record with copies of all reports in both heat-bound hard-copy and digital format (see 12.6 above).
- 17.2 Upon completion of the excavation the Archaeological Contractor will supply the Kent Historic Environment Record with a completed HER form (see Appendix 1)
- 17.3 The Archaeological Contractor will supply the Kent Historic Environment Record with the following digital datasets:
- A .dxf file containing polygon data that describes in detail all excavated/ watched area boundaries, whether trenches, test pits, excavated areas or areas examined by watching brief. This .dxf file must be internally geo-referenced (i.e. the co-ordinate system used in the file must be the Ordnance Survey co-ordinate system).
  - A separate .dxf file that contains a number of Layers. Each Layer should represent a different phase of the archaeological remains on site. The name of each Layer must be the phase number used on the site accompanied by a date range (e.g. “2, from –2000 to –800”, “7A, from 410 to 700” etc). Each layer must contain only the features relevant to that phase digitized as polylines. Where the dating is based on scientific dating methods such as radiocarbon, the dates must be calibrated calendar dates.
- 17.4 A guidance document has been produced for Kent County Council that will inform contractors as to how this information can be produced within AutoCad. This document is available from the County Archaeologist and Kent County Council Historic Environment Record.
- 17.5 The Archaeological Contractor should also provide a representative selection of digital site photographs illustrating the archaeology of the site and the operations of the investigation. These will be in .jpg format at a minimum 300dpi. These will be deposited with the County HER and will be used for presentations on aspects of the archaeology of Kent.
- 17.6 It is to be understood that photographs and notes taken by KCC Archaeological Officers in connection with the work that do not identify individuals or site locations may be used by KCC for outreach and publicity purposes, including on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter etc. The Archaeological



Contractor should, **preferably in advance** of the works, raise with the KCC Archaeological Officer any concerns that they or their client may have over the use and dissemination of images or information for outreach purposes. In such cases the Archaeological Contractor and their client will agree a protocol with the KCC Archaeological Officer for the appropriate dissemination and use of images and information which balances the concerns of the contractor and/or client with the objective of ensuring that the people of Kent are kept informed of the archaeological discoveries in the county.'

## **18 General**

18.1 In carrying out the work the Archaeological Contractor is to abide by:

- all statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question,
- the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct*,
- the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

## APPENDIX 1

## Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name:		
Site Address:		
Summary: (50 words max)		
District/Unitary:		Parish:
Period(s):		
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)		
Type of archaeological work ( <u>underline</u> )		
Evaluation:	Watching Brief	Field Walking
Documentary study survey	Building recording	Earthwork
Excavation:	Geophysical Survey	Field Survey
Geoarchaeological investigation		
Date of Recording:		
Unit undertaking recording:		
Geology:		
Title and author of accompanying report:		
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) (200 words max)		
		(cont on attached sheet)
Location of archive/finds:		

Contact at Unit:	Date:
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**APPENDIX 2 - FIELDWORK NOTIFICATION FORM**

## **Guidance for Completing the Kent Archaeological Fieldwork Notification Form**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the form is to improve the notification, tracking and monitoring of archaeological fieldwork in Kent. Its primary purpose relates to archaeological work being undertaken for the purposes of planning and development but it is hoped that it will be also usable by archaeological societies and other bodies undertaking fieldwork in the county.

### **Approach**

- The archaeological body undertaking the fieldwork should fill in the form. Sections A and B should be filled in before fieldwork starts and submitted to the County Archaeologist. This may be submitted in digital copy to speed things along but a signed copy should follow in the post.
- Section A contains details of the project while Section B refers specifically to the onset of the phase of fieldwork. In signing section B the Archaeological Contractor is confirming that the necessary funds and resources to complete the works to the specification have been made available.
- The form should not be filled in separately for each period of an intermittent watching brief but should be filled in for major stages of fieldwork, for example separate phases of evaluation and excavation.
- Section C should be submitted at the completion of the fieldwork stage and should if known indicate whether further work is anticipated. This section sets out a brief summary of findings and what reports are to be submitted. For excavations these will include interim, assessment and full reports. Again the form may be submitted digitally with a signed copy to follow in the post. (The details of Sections A and B should remain filled in on the same form).
- Section D should be submitted as reports are submitted to the County Archaeologist. For excavations the form need not be submitted with interim reports but should be submitted with assessment and full reports.

## HER & Fieldwork Notification Form



Sections **A** and **B** to be sent digitally to KCC Heritage Conservation Group **in advance of the start of fieldwork.**  
 Section **C** to be completed and sent **at end of fieldwork.**  
 Section **D** to be filled in and sent with completed report.

### SECTION A - PROJECT DETAILS

<b>Site/Project Name:</b>		<b>NGR:</b>	
<b>Site Address:</b>			
<b>Archaeological Contractor (inc name and address of project contact):</b>			
<b>Commissioning Body/Client:</b>			
<b>Development Proposals/Reason for Fieldwork:</b>		<b>Planning Reference:</b>	

### SECTION B - COMMENCEMENT OF FIELDWORK

<b>Type of Archaeological Fieldwork:</b>	<b>Site Supervisor:</b>	
	<b>Site Contact Details:</b>	
<b>Specification for Works?:</b>		
<b>Local Museum Notified:</b>		<b>Site Code:</b>
<b>Date:</b>		
<b>Local Arch Soc Notified:</b>		
<b>Date:</b>		
<b>START DATE:</b>		<b>ANTICIPATED DURATION:</b> days/weeks

I (archaeological contractor) confirm that all necessary provision has been made for the resources to complete the archaeological fieldwork, post-excavation analysis and reporting in accordance with the agreed specification.

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>On behalf of:</b>	
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

APPENDIX 2

SECTION C - COMPLETION OF FIELDWORK			
<b>Date Fieldwork Completed:</b>		<b>Was fieldwork monitored by KCC/EH/Other?</b>	
<b>Further Fieldwork Anticipated:</b>		<b>Who?</b>	
<b>Map attached showing site location and extent of intervention?</b>			
<b>Summary of results (Continue on separate sheet if necessary):</b>			
<b>Agreed Reporting Stages and Program:</b>			
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>On behalf of:</b>			
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

APPENDIX 2

<b>SECTION D - COMPLETION OF POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS &amp; REPORTING</b>							
Reports Submitted (Titles)	Copies to: (Number)						
	KCC	LPA	Arch Soc	Client	EH	Other	Digital Copies
<b>HER Data:</b>							
<b>Digital Mapping Data?</b>			<b>Notes:</b>				
<b>Location and Destination of Archive:</b>							
<b>Name:</b>							
<b>On behalf of:</b>							
<b>Signed:</b>					<b>Date:</b>		