

Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching at **Former Kashody Clinic, Church Road, Corringham**



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Essex County Council



Title: Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at Former Kashody Clinic Church Road Corringham

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Museum: Thurrock Museum (01375 390000)

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Advisor for Thurrock Council should be contacted to assess whether any changes are required. Any Written Scheme of Investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

*The contractor is advised to visit the site before completing their **Written Scheme of Investigation** as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.*

1. Introduction

The Historic Environment Advisor of Thurrock Council has prepared this brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation at Former Kashody Clinic, Church Road, Corringham. The development site lies within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval settlement.

This document forms the basis for any Written Scheme of Investigation submitted by an archaeological contractor for approval by this office.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development is situated at Former Kashody Clinic, Church Road, Corringham, centred on NGR TQ 70879 83453. Details of the proposed application can be found on the Thurrock planning web site.

3. Planning Background

The development comprises the construction of three four bedroom detached houses. A planning application was submitted to Thurrock Borough Council in November 2022. As the site lies within an area of archaeological significance, a condition was recommended to ensure that appropriate archaeological trial trenching and excavation is undertaken. The advice given is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 205. The recommendation that was made is:

RECOMMENDATION:

(i) No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until a programme of archaeological investigation has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

(ii) No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the completion of the programme of archaeological investigation identified in the WSI defined in 1 above.

(iii) The applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post excavation assessment (to be submitted within six months of the completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance

with the Planning Authority). This will result in the completion of post excavation analysis, preparation of a full site archive and report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publication report.

4. Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective contractors are advised to obtain the EHER data prior to the completion of any Written Scheme of Investigation.

The Historic Environment Record shows the proposed development lies within an area of known and potential archaeological deposits. The proposed development sits within the historic settlement area of Corringham, to the north of the church overlooking the grazing marsh to the south. This settlement was an important settlement in the medieval period located on the edge of the Thames. The settlement initially developed as a church hall complex expanding into the settlement of Corringham. Cartographic evidence indicates earlier buildings exist on the site in the form of the Rectory. There is the potential of earlier occupation with this area of the estuary exploited from the later Prehistoric Period through to the modern day.

5. Requirement for Work

The archaeological work will comprise the excavation of a series of 1.8m wide by 30m long trial trenches across the development site, equivalent to a 4% sample of the development area. An additional 1% of trenching will be held in reserve as a contingency to allow for further trial-trenching of areas where significant archaeological remains have been identified.

Specific research aims include:

- Evidence of settlement related to the development of Corringham
- Identifying evidence of Roman and prehistoric occupation overlooking the Thames

The initial work will comprise the trial trenching which will be followed by a summary report. This may lead to further archaeological work, comprising open area excavations of any significant deposits identified. If no archaeological deposits are identified a report on the trial trenching alone will be required.

6. General Methodology

6.1 A professional team of field archaeologists shall undertake the archaeological work.

6.2 The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation. Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of commencement of work.

6.3 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.

6.5 All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.

6.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>) must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

7. Trial Trenching Methodology

7.1 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

7.2 Machine stripping will only be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon **initially** unless agreement is obtained from the Historic Environment Advisor to deepen the trenches by this method.

7.3 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.

7.4 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

7.5 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

7.6 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are anticipated, or

where analysis of the remains is considered to be a necessary requirement for satisfactory evaluation of the site.

7.7 The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

7.8 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.

7.9 The CiFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the Written Scheme of Investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

7.10 A meeting will be held on site once the trial trenching has been completed. A summary of the results and a plan of the findings with a completed spot-dating report of all finds will be available at the meeting.

8. Post Excavation Assessment

8.1 An updated post excavation assessment shall be submitted within 2 months of the completion of the fieldwork, or at an alternatively agreed time to the Historic Environment Advisor.

8.2 Where archaeological results do not warrant a post excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the Historic Environment Advisor to proceed straight to grey literature /publication.

9. Finds

9.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.

9.2 All pottery and other finds, where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.

9.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

9.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.

10. Results

10.1 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 6 months) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

10.2 This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the trial trenching and follow up work.
- Location plan of excavated areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the excavated area shall be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and result section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011 and the new [Research Agenda – East of England Research Framework \(researchframeworks.org\)](https://researchframeworks.org) 2020).
- All specialist assessments.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

10.3 An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor. This will be completed in digital form. A copy should also be e-mailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects in the Journal (paul.gilman@me.com).

10.4 Publication of the results, at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in *Essex Archaeology and History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

11. Archive Deposition

11.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum.

11.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

11.3 The archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 months of the completion of the final publication report with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor.

12. Monitoring

12.1 The Historic Environment Advisor will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

12.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.

12.3 All trial trenches must be inspected by the Historic Environment Advisor prior to their backfilling.

12.4 Any variations of the Written Scheme of Investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.

13. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

13.1 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by CiFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide *the basis for a measurable standard* and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.

13.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.

13.3 The involvement of the Historic Environment Advisor shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

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| Glazebrook, J. | | Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8 |
| Gurney, D. | 2003 | Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian. |
| | | Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14 |
| Medlycott, M. | 2011 | <i>Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24 |

For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

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