



St Peter and St Paul's Church, East Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2JL

Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation

Project Code: WB SPG 22
Planning Ref: 20220659
NGR: 565900 173837 (centred)

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Document Record

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A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, EAST MILTON ROAD, GRAVESEND

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This specification is concerned with an archaeological watching brief to be maintained at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2JL (NGR 565900 173837 centred; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site is awaiting planning consent for proposed '*repairs to the flint-faced boundary wall along East Milton Road, with a new section of retaining wall and installation of 1220mm high railings*'. The Local Planning Authority's (Gravesend Borough Council) planning reference for this proposal is 20220659. The status of the planning application (as of 23 September 2022) is 'pending consideration'.
- 1.3 The client, Clay Architecture, has faculty approval from the Diocese of Rochester for the wall repairs. However, as part of any planning consent, the Kent County Council (KCC) Senior Archaeological Officer for the area has requested a draft WSI be produced to accompany formal planning proposals.
- 1.4 In view of the groundworks involved in the proposed development, the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer has determined that a watching brief is the appropriate form of mitigation. If significant remains are revealed during the watching brief, further archaeological measures may be required to secure mitigation on the site.
- 1.5 The watching brief should be maintained throughout the programme of wall repair works and any associated ground excavation works. The **archaeological contractor** will confirm the extent of wall repairs and proposed ground excavations in advance with the site developer and inform the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer that arrangements are in place for appropriate monitoring.

2. Archaeological Potential

- 2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains and historical sites and buildings presently recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER). The archaeological contractor will consult fully the KHER for further background information in relation to the proposed development.
- 2.2 The application area lies in an area of archaeological potential relating to past landscapes, as evidenced by known archaeological sites, landscape features, standing and demolished historic buildings of medieval and post-medieval origin incorporated into, and overlain by the present surrounding historic landscape. Listed below are the principal discoveries within the surrounding landscape as included on the KHER.

- 2.3 The earliest evidence of archaeological activity in the nearby area comprises a Mesolithic/Neolithic transect axe that was found during an evaluation at Gravesend gas works in 1999 (KHER TQ67 SE41), located 620m east-north-east of the proposed works.
- 2.4 Further prehistoric evidence in the form of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pottery sherds, worked flints, and waterlogged plant remains were found during archaeological works at the Lion Business Park (KHER TQ67 SE286), located 760m east of the PDA. In the same area, four broadly circular cropmarks of possible Bronze Age date have been identified on Westcourt Marshes (KHER TQ67 SE277).
- 2.5 Prehistoric and Roman remains, including a small possible Roman feature, were identified during an archaeological evaluation ahead of the construction of the Denton relief road in 1999 (KHER TQ67 SE1003), located 620m east of the PDA. Roman finds, including pottery, bone, shell and fragments of building material, were dumped as domestic refuse deposits on surrounding marshy ground (KHER TQ67 SE1001); the presence of such material strongly suggests nearby settlement.
- 2.6 The alleged site of a deserted medieval village at Denton lies approximately 200m to the north-west of St Peter and St Paul's Church (KHER TQ67 SE55), however the basis for suggesting a medieval village was once located here is tenuous and lacks evidence.
- 2.7 St Mary's Roman Catholic Church (KHER TQ67 SE1100) is a twelfth-century church located 370m south-east of the PDA. The church fell into ruins at the Reformation and was restored in 1901. Inhumation burials are recorded nearby to the church (KHER TQ67 SE100), but unfortunately no further details were available on the KHER.
- 2.8 Situated directly east of St Mary's Church, the site of Denton manor house (KHER TQ67 SE223) is located 340m to the south-west of the PDA and the KHER records that buildings existed on the manor house site until 1895 (also recorded as Denton Court on early Ordnance Survey maps of the area). A map of 1769 refers to '*Lower Denton in Ruins*' implying upstanding remains were present in the landscape. However, it remains unclear as to whether any part of the old manor has survived recent development, including below ground remains. The site of an associated former post-medieval courtyard farmstead (Denton Farm; HER MKE84323) is located nearby, since demolished.
- 2.9 The Church of St Peter and St Paul is a Grade II* Listed building (KHER TQ67 SE1132, List Entry no. 1341484) of fourteenth-century origin with a church tower of late fourteenth- or early-fifteenth-century date. Later alterations and repairs to the church include a slate roof that dates to 1790 and restoration works in 1852 and 1863. However, an earlier church at Milton is recorded in Domesday (1086) and therefore implies the church has a predecessor within the same site. The KHER entry states there is no surviving fabric within the present church that can definitively be identified as eleventh-century in date.
- 2.10 Whilst the boundary wall is not listed, the churchyard contains burials of likely late medieval and post-medieval date, and it is possible that proposed development works may disturb unmarked graves.

- 2.11 The First Edition OS map of the area, published 1869, shows the Church of St Peter and St Paul as located within East Milton; a small, peripheral settlement located to the east of Gravesend and adjacent to marshland. A likely associated rectory is located across the road, to the south-west and a former National School (KHER TQ67 SE16) to the west of the church which was demolished around 1960. The site of the church, the churchyard and its associated boundary wall appear to have largely remained unchanged since the publication of this map.
- 2.12 The church is located close by to marshland, since reclaimed and heavily developed with industrial and residential expansion. A compacted late nineteenth-century rubbish layer, 1.1m in depth, was identified during a watching brief on groundworks on land at Waterton Avenue (KHER TQ67 SE1002), located 330m north-east of the proposed works. The site is situated adjacent to Westcourt and Denton Marshes and deposits of peat were identified below the rubbish layer suggesting it once formed part of neighbouring marshland.
- 2.13 A First World War memorial was unveiled within the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul's Church on 8 April 1923 (KHER TQ67 SE383). The memorial commemorates 116 local servicemen who died in the conflict.
- 2.14 A number of Second World War former features are located in the wider area and include air raid warden's post on the south side of Rochester Road, next to the entrance to St John's School (KHER TQ67 SE1232); it was demolished in 2003.
- 2.15 Further detailed information on the above is provided in the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) held and maintained at the County Historic Environment Record held in Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

3. Objective

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of development works and excavations in connection with the groundworks.
- 3.2 Specific objectives include:
- ☐ Identification and clarification of nature and extent of historic activity of both the immediate and adjacent areas.
 - ☐ Identification of features relating to the use of the site during all historic periods, though specifically the medieval period, when the formation of the present church occurred.
 - ☐ Identification of potential *in situ* burials which might be disturbed/exposed as a result of the proposed works.

4. Proposed Groundworks

- 4.1 Proposed groundworks will involve a repair to the boundary wall that has collapsed (along East Milton Road), the construction of a new section of churchyard retaining wall and the installation of 1220mm high security railings. Other potential groundworks include the laying of a land drain. Graves are located close by to the boundary wall and proposed

groundworks, and as such sensitive remains (human bone) might be disturbed as part of the proposed scheme.

- 4.2 Generally, due to the size and nature of this type of development, groundworks are regarded as being limited in nature. Despite this, the archaeological/historical sensitive nature of the area would mean that any groundworks associated with the repair works and the cutting of foundations for the new security railings will be covered under this scheme of archaeological monitoring.
- 4.3 Details of the proposed scheme and its associated groundworks have been submitted for local planning approval under 20220659. Copies of all pertinent plans have been supplied to the appointed archaeological contractor who will clarify the full extent of the groundworks with the developer/onsite contractor prior to groundworks commencing.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological contractor will monitor all hand- and machine-excavations for all groundworks. **If archaeological remains are encountered, hand and machine excavation will cease to allow the remains to be investigated further. As works are being undertaken within a churchyard, both articulated and disarticulated human remains/bones may be encountered. Disarticulated human remains/bones will be recorded, bagged and kept for immediate transference to the vicar (Reverend Herbert) for reburial. If *in situ* graves and/or articulated human remains/bones are encountered then a decision will be made between Kent County Council's Archaeology Officer, the client and the archaeological contractor as to whether they can be preserved *in situ*. Where this cannot be meaningfully achieved to ensure no damage to the burial from the development works, then the entire burial will be archaeologically excavated and recorded (in accordance with *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*, Second Edition, APABE 2017), lifted and assessed before a decision on any further essential analysis or recording is made and before transference back to the vicar for reburial.**
- 5.2 All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the procedures laid down in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) PPN3: *Archaeological Excavation* 2008. The monitoring archaeologist should confirm, before site work begins, that an agreement that provides for the full implementation of the approved programme of archaeological work, including provision for post-excavation analysis, publication and archiving of the site, has been signed by the relevant parties. The archaeological contractor will monitor the excavations for all groundworks. If machinery is to be utilised for groundworks, all excavations should be undertaken using a flat bladed bucket and preferably in a single direction to enable archaeological remains to be recorded prior to disturbance from being driven over. If possible, archaeological remains are encountered, excavation will cease to allow the remains to be investigated further.
- 5.3 The archaeologist will inspect the surfaces revealed. Any archaeological structures or features revealed will be recorded in plan and section as appropriate according to Section 6 below. **The main contractor will allow the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.**

- 5.4 Further limited excavation may be necessary to clarify the extent and nature of some archaeological deposits. In this case, the archaeological contractor will undertake the excavation by hand.
- 5.5 If significant remains are unexpectedly encountered, the archaeological contractor will inform the Kent County Council's Archaeology Officer and the developer immediately and further mitigation measures to safeguard the archaeological resource will be agreed.

6. Recording

- 6.1 All structures, deposits and finds are to be recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 6.2 All recording points used should be accurately tied into the National Grid, preferably by theodolite, and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area.
- 6.3 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features encountered are to be drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan and levelled with respect to Ordnance Datum. An overall site plan is to be maintained at a scale of 1:100.
- 6.4 All plans are to be accurately tied into the site grid. All plans and sections are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.
- 6.5 All archaeological contexts are to be recorded individually on context record sheets. Furthermore, a general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology is to be maintained as appropriate.
- 6.6 A full photographic record of the work is to be kept. The photographic record is to be regarded as part of the site archive. The archaeological contractor is to provide the Kent County Council's Archaeology Officer with a selection of photographic images which reflect the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on this site.
- 6.7 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 nos. 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 Kent County Council's Archaeology Officer.
- 6.8 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 Developer will arrange for the archive to be deposited in a suitable museum or similar repository to be agreed with the Kent County Council's Archaeology Officer.

7. Reporting

- 7.1 On completion of the archaeological watching brief the archaeological contractor will agree with the Kent County Council's Archaeology Officer, a programme for the reporting of the results of the work.
- 7.2 The reporting of the watching brief will be commensurate with the results but as a minimum must stand as a sufficiently detailed report on the archaeological monitoring to serve both future research and inform future planning decisions taken on the site.

Report circulation

- 7.3 Copies of all reports are to be provided to:

- ☐ the Client
- ☐ the Kent Historic Environment Record
- ☐ the project archives

- 7.4 When submitting the report to the Kent County Council's Archaeology Officer, the archaeological contractor should provide written confirmation that the report has been submitted to the above parties.
- 7.5 If the archaeological contractor is required, contractually, to only submit reports directly to the developer or their agent, the archaeological contractor must inform the Kent County Council's Archaeology Officer in writing that they have completed the report and to 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 7.3 above.

Reporting of watching briefs with limited remains

- 7.6 If the watching brief has resulted in limited archaeological remains being recorded then the archaeological contractor will complete the necessary post excavation works and produce a **'Watching Brief Report'** within 4 weeks of the completion of the watching brief (see sections 7.8 to 7.12 below).

Reporting of watching briefs with significant archaeological remains

- 7.7 If significant archaeological remains are recorded then within 3 months of completion of the watching brief the archaeological contractor will undertake an assessment of the results and produce a MAP2 **'Post-excavation Assessment Report'**. This report will set out a programme of post excavation works through to completion of a **'Full Report'** and **'Publication'** of the findings (see sections 7.13 to 7.17 below).

Contents of a 'Watching Brief Summary Report'

- 7.8 The archaeological contractor may determine the general style and format of the Watching Brief Summary Report but it must be completed in accordance with this specification. The report must provide sufficient information and assessment to enable the Local Planning Authority to stand as a detailed report on the archaeological fieldwork for future research and to inform on any future planning decisions for the site.

7.9 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.

7.10 The report is to include as a minimum:

An **Abstract** summarising the scope and results of the archaeological watching brief.

An **Introduction** including:

- ☐ the location of the site including National Grid Reference;
- ☐ an account of the background and circumstances of the work;
- ☐ a description of the development proposals, planning history and planning reference together with the planning condition (where appropriate);
- ☐ the scope and date of the fieldwork, the personnel involved and who commissioned it;
- ☐ the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals;

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 should include a summary of the known Historic Environment Record entries generally within a 500m radius of the boundaries of the site.
- ☐ summary of any previous phases of archaeological investigation at the development site;
- ☐ any constraints on the archaeological monitoring.

The **Methodology** employed during the watching brief must be detailed in the report. Simply referring to the methodology outlined in the specification is not acceptable. Any aims and objectives specified in the specification should be included as should any further objectives identified during the course of the watching brief. The frequency of monitoring visits, ground works observed, and any constraints experienced while carrying out the monitoring should be detailed.

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

A description of the **Results** of the archaeological monitoring. This description must include for each area observed:

- ☐ the dimensions of the area observed;
- ☐ the nature and depth of overburden soils encountered;
- ☐ description of all archaeological features and finds encountered in each area observed, their dimensions, states of preservation and interpretation;
- ☐ a description of the geological subsoil encountered across the site;
- ☐ heights related to Ordnance Datum should be provided for each feature and deposit.
- ☐ for complex remains a Harris Matrix diagram should be provided.

The **Finds** recovered during the course of the watching brief should be described, quantified and assessed by artefact type within the report. The report should also provide

an indication of the potential of each category of artefact for further analysis and research. For each category of artefact, the report should 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 should also be detailed.

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

The report must include an assessment of the **Environmental** potential of the site. Details should 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 should 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 should be described. Implications for future archive, conservation or discard of environmental samples or remains should be detailed.

The report should include, as appropriate, tables summarising environmental samples taken, together with the results of processing and assessment.

Any results from the watching brief involving the application of archaeological scientific techniques e.g. specialist dating should be included in the watching brief report.

An **Interpretation** of the archaeology of the site, including its location, extent, date, condition, significance and importance. This should 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.

A **Conclusion** with a summary of the archaeological results and how any archaeology observed relates to the development site. The effects of the development work on the archaeological remains should also be described. The report should highlight any areas of significant archaeological deposits that remain preserved within the development site. Particular note should be made of any variations in the depth of overburden covering any archaeological deposits revealed.

The report should include comments on the effectiveness of the methodology employed and the confidence of the results and interpretation.

Figures/illustrations – The report should 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 report should include the following figures:

- ☐ a site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at 1:1250 or in the case of larger sites at 1:2500. The plan should also include at least two National Grid points and show the site boundary;
- ☐ a plan at 1:100 or 1:200 showing the layout of the development groundworks clearly indicating the areas observed. The plan should show significant archaeological features, coloured by phases or period as related to the development site. Where possible, projection of archaeological features outside of the areas observed should be included on the plan. This plan should also include two National grid points;

- ☐ plans of the features revealed in each of the excavation areas 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 should also be indicated;
- ☐ relevant section drawings and soil trench profiles as appropriate;
- ☐ illustrations and/or photographs of significant finds should be included where appropriate.

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

7.11 Contents of a 'Watching Brief Assessment Report'

The 'Archaeological Watching Brief Assessment Report' will follow the format and requirements detailed in 7.8 to 7.12 above.

In addition, the report will include an assessment of the results of the archaeological monitoring and their potential to address both the original research aims and objectives of the project and any further research objectives identified during the course of the on-site and post excavation works.

The report will detail any further analysis necessary on the project records, artefact and environmental assemblages to achieve the research potential identified in the assessment. A justification should be included for each analysis proposed.

The report will set out a timetable for completion of analysis and reporting, detailing all individual tasks to be completed, resources required, and the key personnel involved. The proposal should set out arrangements for monitoring of the post excavation process.

The report should include a synopsis of the proposed '**Full report**' and '**Publication**' and identify the likely destination of the publication.

8. General

8.1 The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the watching brief, by the developer, or any designated representative of the Local Planning Authority.

8.2 In undertaking the work the archaeological contractor is to abide by:

- ☐ all statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the Health and Safety at Work *etc.* Act 1974;
- ☐ the Chartered Institute of Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct*;
- ☐ the Chartered Institute of Archaeologist's *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

8.3 On completion of the watching brief the archaeological contractor will prepare a consideration of the methodology used, including a confidence rating.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust
September 2022

References

Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) 2017 *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*, Second Edition
(https://apabe.archaeologyuk.org/pdf/APABE_ToHREfCBG_FINAL_WEB.pdf)

British Geological Survey on-line: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (updated 2020) *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

Kent County Council Historic Environment Record:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/advancedsearch.aspx>

NPPF 2021. *National Planning Policy Framework*. HMSO
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF2021_revised.pdf

Figure 1 Site location and area of proposed groundworks (reproduced drawing courtesy of Clay Architecture)

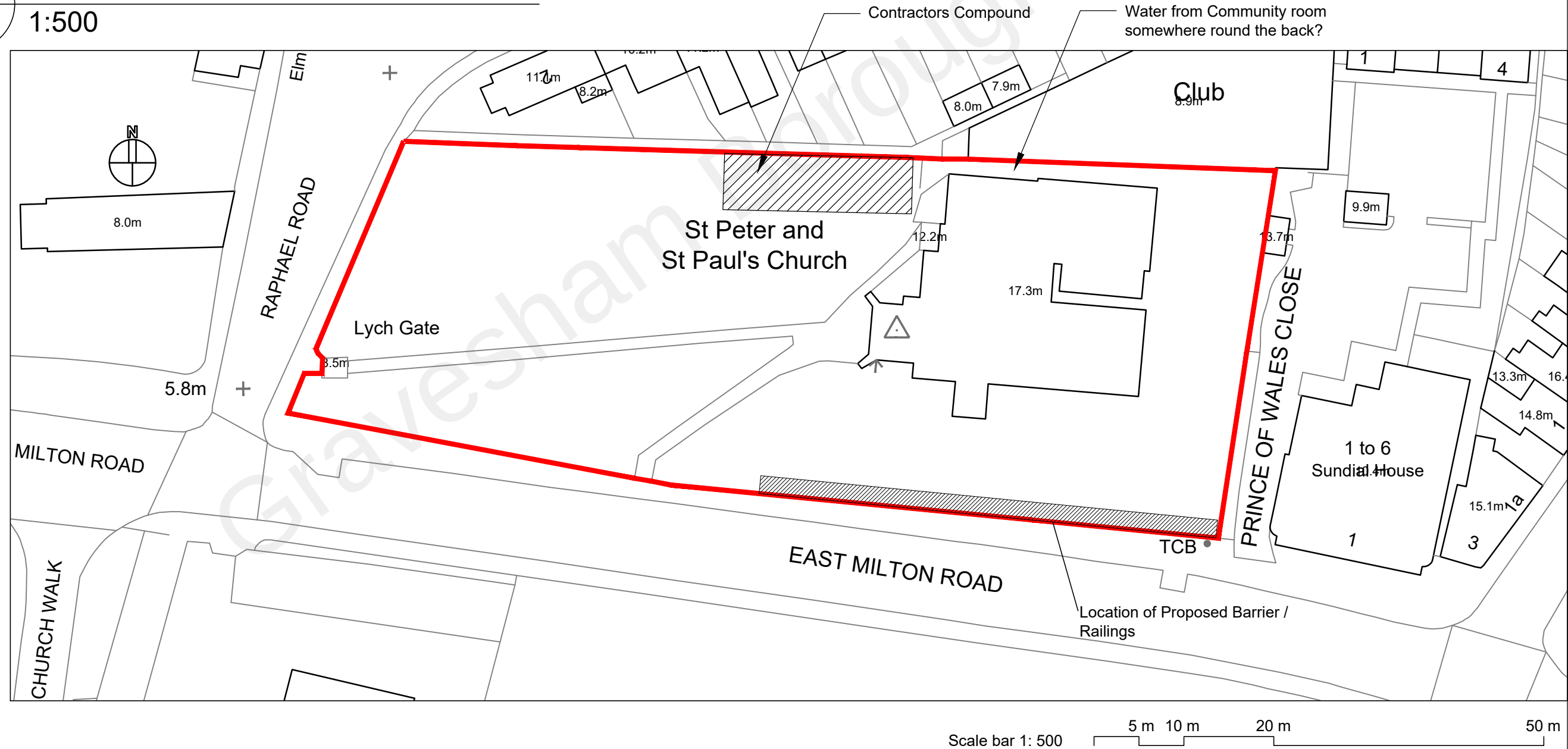
clay architecture

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Proposed Block Plan

1:500



Rev.	Date	By	Notes
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Client
Gravesham Borough Council

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Title	Scale	1:1250, 1:500 @ A3 size
Proposed	Date	12/08/21
Block Plan	Drawn	GEN
Drawing No.	Authorised	Revision /
5256/GA/210		