

Agenda Item 12

Proposed Further Geophysical Survey – Druitt Gardens

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|---------------------------|--|
| Report Type: | Public Report for Decision |
| Purpose of Report: | To advise members of a second request to conduct a geophysical survey of Druitt Gardens and to consider whether to delegate to the Town Clerk the function of preparing the licence and the funding of the survey |
| Recommendations: | It is RECOMMENDED that: The Town Council: (a) Agrees to grant a licence for the proposed further survey; (b) Delegates to the Town Clerk all necessary actions to complete the licence and funding of the survey; (c) The Town Clerk reports any findings to the Community Committee of the Survey. |
| Wards: | All Wards |
| Contact Officer: | Daniel Lucas – Town Clerk |

1. BACKGROUND

The Request for Further Investigations

- 1.1. Community Committee was asked in July of this year to consider the initial request. Attached at Appendix 1 is the report and minutes of that meeting. Members decided to grant permission and a licence was duly issued. Full Council are referred to that report which highlights the rationale and purpose of these investigations. In sum, the work seeks to find the hypothesised course of the buried defences comprising a stone-faced wall and ditch which is thought to be that of the Saxon burh of Twynham.
- 1.2. This second request was received by the Town Clerk on the 14th of November 2019 and provides a very short 'lead-in' time to allow the community organisation – "The Christchurch Antiquarians" to go onto site and to conduct the second investigation. It comes before Members at this cycle of Full Council as there is no Community Committee meeting scheduled prior to the intended commencement date. Therefore, there is a degree of urgency here which can be accommodated by the Council's calendar.
- 1.3. Attached at Appendix 2 is the redacted request to protect personal information and Members can read here the detail of what is proposed. However, the proposed approach is as follows:
 - To continue investigations during the period of Monday 2nd December to Friday 6th December 2019;
 - Four survey lines shall be interrogated designated 1616,1618,1627 and 1630. These lines have already been subject to ground penetrating radar during the initial

investigations conducted in August of this year. Plan A illustrates the position of these lines;

- The methodology proposed includes ABEM ERT multielectrode ground resistivity survey with the possibility of also using a BARTINGTON fluxgate magnetometer/gradiometer to check for magnetic variation along parts above the survey lines;
- Dr Martin Bates formerly of The University of Wales has been approached and has provided a quotation of £960 (no VAT) which is within the original budget of £5,000 via the legacy of Christchurch Borough Council which has been confirmed by BCP Council as being held and set-aside on behalf of this work;
- Access logistics to Druitt Gardens shall also be arranged with BCP Council;
- The Christchurch Antiquarians have also submitted documentation which illustrates due diligence and the Town Clerk confirms receipt of all but one piece of information. The Town Clerk awaits confirmation of Dr Bates' Public Liability Insurance.

1.4 To conclude there is nothing here which prevents the Town Council from granting a second further licence to conduct further analysis and commends the schedule of works given the short time-scale available here.

1.5 If Members are minded to delegate to the Town Clerk to grant the licence this shall be subject to satisfactory receipt of Dr Bates' insurance documentation.

2. IMPLICATIONS

Legal

2.1. As the Town Council is the freehold owner of the land and that the survey falls within part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument the grant of a licence must ensure that this regulatory regime is satisfied so that the work can go ahead. As such the Christchurch Antiquarians applied for the necessary consents and permissions from Historic England in line with the legislation (Section 42 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979). The section 42 licence was granted by Historic England on the 9 August 2019 and a copy of this licence is attached at Appendix 3. The permission covers the period between the 16th August 2019 and 30 May 2020. It will be for the Christchurch Antiquarians to comply with the necessary limitations and conditions of this licence.

Environmental

2.2. The Christchurch Antiquarians accept the wildlife potential of the gardens and acknowledge that any survey work will be conducted outside of the nesting season and shall preserve the undergrowth. An Environmental Impact Assessment details that there should be minimal intrusion to the flora and fauna of the site.

Financial and Risk

2.3. There is a previous commitment from the now defunct Christchurch Borough Council's Town Centre Strategy that £5,000 (including VAT) shall be set-aside for this survey. The Town Clerk can confirm that he has "earmarked" these funds and has a commitment that these monies shall be honoured by the new Bournemouth, Christchurch Poole Unitary Council ("BCP Council"). The survey shall therefore not impact upon this Town Council's approved annual budget for this year.

2.4. Members should note that the delegation to the Town Clerk shall also deal with "necessary actions" which would also include here the delegation to ensure that all survey work is concluded within the £5,000 budget and before the tax year has ended so as to not jeopardise the funding of this initiative.

Equalities

- 2.5. None directly from this report.

Consultation and Engagement

- 2.6. The Christchurch Antiquarians have engaged with the Town Council and the locality and the works have been publicised via this Council's democratic processes. The Christchurch Antiquarians also place signage on-site to publicise the surveys for health and safety reasons primarily but also for public awareness/interest. If required, the Town Clerk can also update the Town Council's website with details here.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1. Members are asked to consider the report and to approve the recommendations outlined.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Community Committee 2 July 2019 report and minutes.

Appendix 2 – The Christchurch Antiquarians request (redacted).

Appendix 3 – Section 42 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) licence.

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

2 July 2019

Community Committee

Agenda Item 6

Proposed Geophysical Survey – Druitt Gardens

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|---------------------------|--|
| Report Type: | Public Report for Decision |
| Purpose of Report: | To advise members of a request to conduct a geophysical survey of Druitt Gardens and to consider whether to delegate to the Town Clerk the function of preparing the licence and the funding of the survey. |
| Recommendations: | It is RECOMMENDED that: The Town Council: (a) Agrees to grant a licence for the proposed survey; (b) Delegates to the Town Clerk all necessary actions to complete the licence and funding of the survey; (c) The Town Clerk reports to the Community Committee any findings of the survey; |
| Wards: | All Wards |
| Contact Officer: | Daniel Lucas – Town Clerk |

1. BACKGROUND

Summary of Druitt Gardens and Significant Archaeology

- 1.1. The site comprises open space and was transferred to Christchurch Town Council following Local Government Reorganisation on the 1 April 2019. Formerly, Christchurch Borough Council had ownership and management of the land and having commissioned a study in 2008 a Masterplan was formulated and included the installation of additional paths and some tree works to provide a more open outlook.
- 1.2. The land was bequeathed by Charlotte Druitt to Hampshire County Council circa 1948 and has been managed since as an open space in line with the wishes of the benefactor. Following boundary changes of 1974, the land was then passed to Dorset County Council, then Christchurch Borough Council in the early 2000's and more recently Christchurch Town Council.
- 1.3. Part of Druitt Gardens falls within the scheduling of a Scheduled Ancient Monument as being of "national importance" (No: DO 831 and Historic England ref: 1002371) and as such attracts a high level of protection by law (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979). The description attached to the scheduling is "*Site of Town Walls in, and E of, Druitt Gardens*". The part of the site falling within the scheduling is to the rear of Druitt Hall and runs along approximately what can be described as the South East boundary of the gardens.

Purpose of Survey

- 1.4 The Christchurch Antiquarians in association with Terrain Archaeology approached the now defunct Christchurch Borough Council for the right to conduct investigative work at Druitt Gardens. Since taking transfer of Druitt Gardens it now falls to the Town Council to determine this issue accordingly. The purpose of the survey is to investigate the course of the buried defences comprising a stone-faced wall and ditch which is thought to be that of the Saxon burh of Twynham. The evidence for this hypothesis stems from a monograph published by the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society in 1983 by works conducted by Keith Jarvis. The most compelling evidence from this work was the results from a trench approximately 10 metres from the hedge now marking the southern boundary which ran for approximately 60-70 metres (trench X5). The results from the trench were interpreted by Jarvis as amounting to 2 metres of topsoil overlying variable sand and clay-like deposits. Within the deposits was found a range of stones including local ironstone and sandstone and further to the west a ditch feature. Jarvis interpreted the findings as the possible remnants of a Saxon/medieval stone-faced earthen defensive bank with an external ditch.
- 1.5 Following the work of Jarvis in 1983, Christchurch Borough Council commissioned a geophysical survey of Druitt Gardens. This culminated in the report prepared by Harry Manley in 2009. Manley achieved 68% coverage of the gardens, but no anomalies were identified in the data which confirmed a linear feature such as would be expected by a defensive ditch.
- 1.6 Manley commented that further work should be undertaken including more developed geophysical surveys including those with use of greater depth penetration such as Ground Penetrating Radar. The proposed survey picks-up the findings of the work to date and proposes new lines of enquiry including the use of Ground Penetrating Radar and the placement of profiles which would intersect the anticipated burh defences perpendicularly.

2. IMPLICATIONS

Legal

- 2.1. As the Town Council is the freehold owner of the land and that the survey falls within part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument the grant of a licence must ensure that this regulatory regime is satisfied that the work can go ahead. As such the Christchurch Antiquarians are applying for the necessary consents and permissions from Historic England in line with the legislation (Section 42 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979). As a pre-cursor to granting a licence to conduct works on Town Council land, it will be a requirement that a licence under section 42 of the 1979 Act is granted and that the Town Clerk is furnished with a current copy of the licence and associated documentation. The grant of this Council's licence cannot fall outside of the licence granted by Historic England as it would be an offence.

Environmental

- 2.2. The Christchurch Antiquarians accept the wildlife potential of the gardens and acknowledge that any survey work will be conducted outside of the nesting season and shall preserve the undergrowth. The geophysical survey proposed is non-intrusive, however parts of the survey (resistivity imaging) may require the insertion of probes into the soil, but the Antiquarians acknowledge the survey shall avoid laid-paths to not cause any damage.

Financial and Risk

- 2.3. There is a previous commitment from the now defunct Christchurch Borough Council's Town Centre Strategy that £5,000 (including VAT) shall be set-aside for this survey. The Town Clerk can confirm that he has "earmarked" these funds and has a commitment that these monies shall be honoured by the new Bournemouth, Christchurch Poole Unitary Council ("BCP Council"). The survey shall therefore not impact upon this Town Council's approved annual budget for this year.
- 2.4. The Town Clerk, if Members decide, shall liaise with the Christchurch Antiquarians and BCP Council so as to ensure secure payment for the survey is made in a timely fashion.

Equalities

- 2.5. None directly from this report.

Consultation and Engagement

- 2.6. Prior to taking the formal position of Town Clerk, a meeting was held with the Christchurch Antiquarians and the former Officers of Christchurch Borough Council so that all could be appraised of the situation. A commitment was made that the Town Council once established shall entertain a report on this matter to help progress this important work. The report before Members is the culmination of the work the Antiquarians have done to date and the involvement of Local Government Officers/Members thus far.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1. Members are asked to consider the report and to approve the recommendations outlined.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Redacted (to protect personal information) s42 Licence application to Historic England providing technical detail.

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 July 2019 at 6.00pm at the Druitt Hall,
High Street, Christchurch BH23 1AJ

Present:-

- Chairman: Honorary Freeman Cllr C Bungey
- Vice-Chairman: Cllr S J McCormack
- Present: Cllr Mrs S Bungey, Cllr G R Jarvis, Cllr G E E Polson and Cllr Mrs S Spittle.
- Officers Present: D Lucas, Town Clerk
S Roxby, Administrative Support Officer
- Apologies: Cllr A E Coulton, Cllr C A Gardiner and Cllr W Grace.

26. Election of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Cllr S J McCormack be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year.

Voting: Unanimous

27. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

28. Public Participation

Mr Peter Fenning, a member of The Christchurch Antiquarians, provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed Archaeological/Geophysical Survey at Druitt Gardens and were informed that it would be non-intrusive using ground penetrating radar.

The following points were noted:

- Metal detectors were not permitted at an ancient monument site.
- People would be on site to give out information to the public.
- A sign would be erected at the site to advise details of the survey work being carried out to keep the public informed.
- Results of the survey would be provided in The Christchurch Antiquarians newsletters and be forwarded to all Christchurch Town Councillors.

29. Public Questions

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

30. Druitt Gardens Archaeological/Geophysical Survey

The Town Clerk submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were asked to consider the report relating to the proposed survey of Druitt Gardens.

Following an overview of the proposed survey provided by Mr Peter Fenning, a member of The Christchurch Antiquarians, Members agreed to the Town Council granting a licence.

RESOLVED that the Town Council:

- (a) Agrees to grant a licence for the proposed survey;**
- (b) Delegates to the Town Clerk all necessary actions to complete the licence and funding of the survey; and**
- (c) The Town Clerk reports to the Community Committee any findings of the survey.**

Voting: unanimous

31. Defibrillator Installation at Druitt Hall

The Town Clerk submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were provided with details of the proposed installation of a publicly available defibrillator.

Members questioned if training would be provided to the public and were informed that as soon as the defibrillator cabinet was opened that a recorded message explained how to use the equipment.

Members felt that training should be given to staff of the Town Council and the Regent Centre and also Druitt Hall users if volunteers could be arranged to provide training.

Appendix 2

The Town Clerk
Mayors Parlour
High Street
Christchurch
FAO Mr Dan Lucas

TCA

14th November 2019

Dear Mr Lucas

Reference Further Geophysical Survey in Druitt Gardens

Further to our recent email TCA seeks permission /licence to continue the geophysical investigations within Druitt Gardens during the period of Monday 2nd to Friday 6th December 2019. We wish to have access to the Gardens to carry out a 3 day programme and have planned for the following

1 Monday 3rd December. Checking out access to four survey lines which have already been the subject of a Ground Penetrating Radar survey in late August of this year. Ensuring that there are no obstacles along the lines which are designated 1616, 1618, 1627 and 1630 in the appended plan A.

Survey will take place on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December. Additional days are requested due to possibility of adverse weather conditions

2 We plan to carry out a ABEM ERT multielectrode ground resistivity survey with the possibility of also using a Bartington fluxgate magnetometer /gradiometer to check for magnetic variation along parts of these above survey lines.

In seeking a contractor/consultant to carry out this survey TCA has obtained quotes from several contractors, but found that prices were very high for these works. This is mainly due to contractors being engaged in major surveys for projects such as HS2.

We have previously used Dr Martin Bates formerly of the Lampeter college of The University of Wales to carry out specialist coring operations in our Christchurch Town Castle project. He is now an independent consultant and possesses the above equipment and has several years field experience. His quotation for 2 days on site and a survey report is £960 with no VAT involved. This is well within our budget.

3 We have discussed logistics including access to the Gardens using the vehicle access point by the side of the Regent Centre and will contact [redacted] of BCP for permission and an access key. We carried out such access during the previous survey.

4 We append the following documents

A TCA Risk Assessment

B Method Statement, We append the English Heritage (now Historic England) document entitled Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation). This document describes field deployment and interpretation methods..

C TCA Public Liability Insurance, A copy is appended

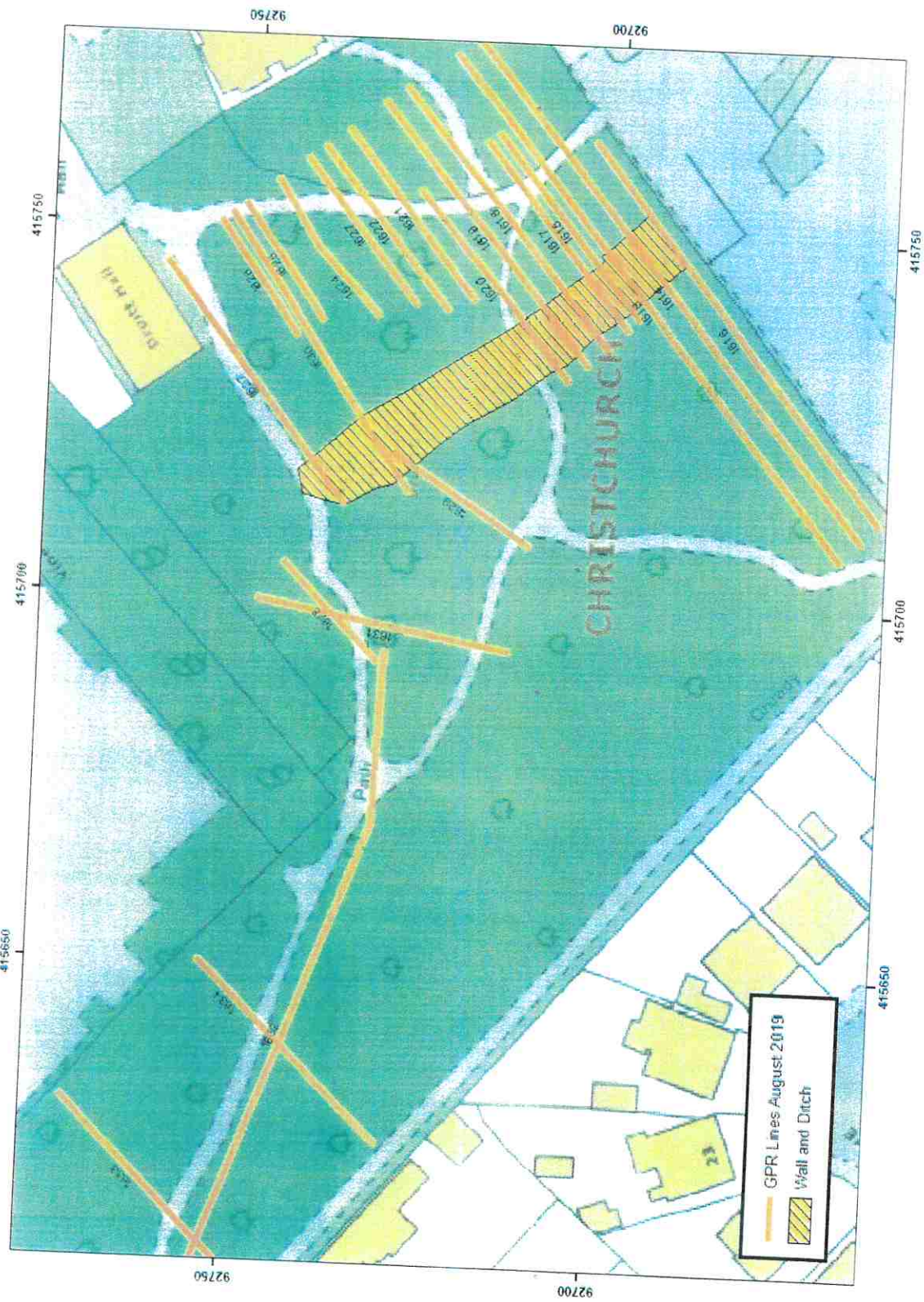
D A copy of Dr Bates Public Indemnity Policy is awaited and receipt has been delayed due to his absence from his office due to field work. TCA undertakes to provide this to the Town Clerk for approval before any survey works take place

E Environmental Impact Assessment and Assessment is appended

We trust that the above documentation is acceptable and welcome your enquiries. [redacted]

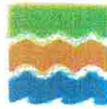
Yours sincerely

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
On behalf of The Christchurch Antiquarians



PLAN A

Appendix
3



Historic England

[REDACTED]
The Christchurch Antiquarians

[REDACTED]
Christchurch
Dorset

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: AA/062854/5

9 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) section 42 - licence to carry out a geophysical survey

SITE OF TOWN WALLS IN, AND E OF, DRUITT GARDENS

Case No: SL00216703

Monument no: 1002371

I refer to your application dated 3 July 2019, to carry out a geophysical survey at the above site.

Historic England is empowered to grant licences for such activity and I can confirm that we are prepared to do so as set out below.

By virtue of powers contained in section 42 of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (as amended by the National Heritage Act 1983) Historic England hereby grants permission for geophysical survey of SITE OF TOWN WALLS IN, for the areas shown on the map that accompanied your application (copy attached). This permission is subject to the following conditions.

1. The permission shall only be exercised by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and by no other person. It is not transferable to another individual.
2. The permission shall commence on 16 August 2019 and shall cease to have effect on 30 May 2020.
3. A full report summarising the results of the geophysical survey and their interpretation shall be sent in hard copy to [REDACTED] at the address below and electronic (pdf) format to [REDACTED]@HistoricEngland.org.uk, copied to [REDACTED]@HistoricEngland.org.uk no later than 6 months after the completion of the survey. Project archive to be lodged in accordance with the project design.
4. The enclosed questionnaire shall be completed and appended to the survey report. For convenience an electronic version of this questionnaire can be



29 QUEEN SQUARE BRISTOL BS1 4ND

Telephone 0117 975 1308
HistoricEngland.org.uk





Historic England

Additional Remarks (Please mention any other technical aspects of the survey that have not been covered by the above questions such as sampling strategy, non standard technique, problems with equipment etc.):

List of terms for Survey Type

Magnetometer (includes gradiometer)

Resistivity

Resistivity Profile

Magnetic Susceptibility

Electro-Magnetic Survey

Ground Penetrating Radar

Other (please specify)



29 QUEEN SQUARE BRISTOL BS1 4ND

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HistoricEngland.org.uk



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