

**Written Schedule of Investigation (WSI)  
Boxley Abbey, Boxley, Kent (including lands leading to and  
containing St Andrew's Chapel)  
Scheduled Monument No. 1012264  
(centred on NGR TQ 76122 58723).**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG) has been approached by Stephen Clifton, Maidstone Area Archaeological Group (MAAG), Debbie Goacher, Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) and Jonathan Garlick of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and asked to undertake magnetometer and resistivity surveys on land within and partially around the Cistercian Abbey grounds at Boxley, Kent (centred on NGR TQ 76122 58723; Figures 1 & 2).



Figure 1 – Boxley Abbey in relation to Boxley, Maidstone and the surrounding area (Google Earth Image 2020).



Figure 2 – The geophysical survey areas at Boxley Abbey. The Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 1012264) is outlined in red (Google Earth Image 2020).

1.2 At a site meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Stephen (MAAG) and Jonathan (SPAB) outlined the project in more detail and a program of fieldwork was discussed. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) only covers the geophysical surveys to be undertaken by HAARG.

1.3 The survey areas include the Cistercian Abbey at Boxley, Kent plus the adjoining fields within the boundaries of the Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 1012264 (Historic England 2020) (Figure 2 - labelled Field 'A', 'B' and 'C'). The Scheduled area is outlined in red and covers an area of approximately 15 ½ acres. Further geophysical surveys is hoped to be undertaken outside the scheduled area labelled Field 'D' and 'E' in Figure 2. This extension of the area is to allow a full understanding of the possible connection between 15<sup>th</sup> Century Grade II\* St Andrew's Chapel and the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Schedule Ancient Monument site of Boxley Abbey. Field 'D' is owned by the Rochester Bridge Trust and permission for access and for carrying out a geophysical survey is currently being sought. Whereas Field 'E' is owned by the SPAB and permission for access, geophysical surveying and digging of '1', '2', and '3' archaeological trenches has been granted.

1.4 This WSI for these comprehensive geophysical surveys has been drawn up as the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument listing requiring a Historic England (HE) section 42 licence prior to field work commencing.

1.5 All field work will be carried out in accordance with this WSI, as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (December 2014a) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey (December 2014b).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 In the past a programme of architectural surveys and selective excavations have been undertaken by Kent Archaeological Society (Elliston-Erwood 1953 & Tester 1973). The site reports include a comprehensive background history of the Abbey and details have therefore not been reproduced in this WSI.

## **3.0 GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The general aim of this programme of geophysical survey is to obtain a greater understanding of the archaeological potential for the site and its connection with St Andrew's Chapel.

3.2 It is planned to start the survey work on 1 June 2020 and given the size of the project, a six-month licence is requested at this stage. The surveys are expected to take approximately 20 days but additional days have been requested to allow for bad weather, group commitments and any additional detailed surveys considered beneficial to interpretation of archaeological remains. Due to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak the start date may be delayed and the HE licence may need to be extended.

## **4.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY SPECIFIC AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 MAGNETOMETER SURVEY**

4.1.1 With permission in place the geophysical survey will comprise of a detailed magnetometer survey to all accessible areas shown on Figure 2 (labelled Field 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' & 'E'). The surveys aim to detect any anomalies of an archaeological origin that are within the boundaries of the survey area. The features detected will naturally be limited to those features that produce a measurable response to the instrumentation used.

4.1.2 A Bartington Dual Sensor Grad 601-2 Fluxgate Gradiometer will be used to conduct the survey. The site will be surveyed in a zig-zag recording mode using 0.5 metre traverses with samples recorded at 0.125 metre intervals within a 30-metre square grid or partial grid. This is a 'detailed' traverse and sample strategy for fluxgate gradiometer surveys. The fluxgate gradiometer is adept at detecting areas of burning (e.g. kilns and hearths), ditches and other cut features, larger pits, brick walls, dumps of ceramic/tile and other large-scale archaeological activity.

### **4.2 RESISTIVITY SURVEY**

4.2.1 The resistivity surveys will be conducted using a Geoscan RM15 Advanced resistivity equipment with readings recorded at every 0.5 metre on 0.5 metre traverses in a zig-zag recording mode within a 20-metre square grid or partial grid (detailed survey). This equipment is useful in identifying below ground stone foundations. It will be used within the Abbey 'footprint' and for any other suitable features that are identified on the magnetometer surveys.

4.3 The survey grids will be set out using Ordnance Survey co-ordinates derived from the National Grid Reference (NGR) Finder website (NGR Finder 2020) and all geophysical results will be referenced to the Ordnance Survey NGR.

4.4 These types of survey are non-intrusive, therefore will not damage or expose archaeological features. Vehicles will not be taken onto the survey area.

## **5.0 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE**

5.1 A report for the geophysical surveys will be produced by the project managers. Raw data will be processed using Geoplot 4.0 interpretative software. The report will include an introduction with aims and objectives, methodology, the survey results plus interpretation.

5.2 The results and interpretation will relate to previous surveys and work previously undertaken by HAARG. The results can then be used by SPAB for conservation management and for research purposes by interested parties.

5.3 Once the report is completed a copy containing the area inside the Schedule Ancient Monument will be forwarded to Historic England, OASIS database, Kent County Council for inclusion on the Historic Environment Record, SPAB, MAAG and KAS. Further copies will be forwarded to any other interested parties.

5.4 The survey data will be retained by HAARG.

## **6.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

6.1 It is essential that all projects are carried out in accordance with safe working practices and following a Health and Safety Risk Assessment. This will be completed by the project managers prior to commencement of fieldwork.

6.2 During the current outbreak of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) the program of archaeological investigations may need to be adjusted at short notice.

## **7.0 INSURANCE**

7.1 HAARG is insured via China Taiping Insurance (UK) Co. Ltd. (Policy No. EGAGP-1142) against claims for: employer's liability to the value of £10,000,000 each and every loss including costs, any one occurrence; primary public/products liability to the value of £5,000,000 any one occurrence.

7.2 Members from other societies will be covered by their own society's insurance. This will need to be confirmed in writing by an officer of that society in advance and forwarded to the project managers.

7.3 Other volunteers are responsible for provision of their own insurance unless covered by SPAB. This will need to be confirmed in writing by SPAB in advance and forwarded to the project managers.

## **8.0 GEOPHYSICAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

8.1 This geophysical project will be managed by: Kevin & Lynn Cornwell  
Joint Field Officers, HAARG.  
c/o Touchwood  
11 Waites Lane  
Fairlight  
TN35 4AR  
Email: haarg@hotmail.co.uk  
Landline: 01424 812092  
Mobile: 07597 348277

8.2 Kevin and Lynn Cornwell, Joint Field Officers have conducted a large number of archaeological investigations which include geophysics, field walking, excavations and reporting of findings since undertaking the roles of Field Officers for HAARG in 2005. A selection of geophysical projects includes:

Robertsbridge Abbey – SAM No. 1002295 on the request of East Sussex County Council Arch. Dept. and English Heritage.

Smallhythe Place, Nr. Tenterden at the request of the National Trust.

Rookery Field, Winchelsea – SAM No. 1002245 at the request of the National Trust.

St Leonard's Mill, Stable Field & Castle Field, Winchelsea - SAM No. 1002245 at the request of the National Trust.

Old Place Icklesham – SAM No. 1002204.

Bexhill to Hastings Link Road (BHLR) surveys at the request of East Sussex County Council.

Hastings Country Park at the request of Hastings Borough Council. This was an extensive survey covering 115 hectares.

Woodside Farm, Benenden and Earlye Farm, Wadhurst for the High Weald AONB Partnership.

Great Dixter Biodiversity Project (HLF Funded).

8.3 Casper Johnson, Senior Archaeologist Kent County Council serves on HAARG's committee as a full member and is the society's professional advisor.

8.4 The magnetometer and resistivity surveys will be supervised by Kevin and Lynn Cornwell who will manage the support team comprising of members from HAARG, MAAG, KAS and SPAB volunteers.

8.5 No one will be invited on site without the permission of the landowner, MAAG, SPAB or the project managers.

### **References:**

Elliston-Erwood, F. C. 1953. *Plans of, and Brief Architectural notes on, Kent Churches Second Series, Part 3*. In: *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol. 66, 45-51.  
Tester, P. J. 1973, *Excavations at Boxley Abbey*. In: *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. 88 1973, 129-158.

### **Websites:**

CIfA. December 2014a - The Institute of field Archaeologists Code of Conduct <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> [last accessed 20 March 2020].

CIfA. December 2014b. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey.

[https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GGeophysics\\_2.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GGeophysics_2.pdf) [last accessed 20 March 2020].

Google Earth Image 2020. [https://www.google.com/intl/en\\_uk/earth/versions/](https://www.google.com/intl/en_uk/earth/versions/) [last accessed 18 March 2020].

Historic England 2020.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1012264> [last accessed 18 March 2020].

National Grid Reference (NGR) Finder 2020. <http://www.gridreferencefinder.com/> [last accessed 18 March 2020].

**Date of WSI 08/04/2020**