

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches

Archaeology in the Management of Churches and Churchyards

Policy Statement:

1. The Diocese of Rochester is committed to ensuring that the fullest possible consideration is given to assessing the archaeological implications of any structural alterations, repairs, renovations or extensions to the church buildings and churchyards in its care.
2. The archaeological implications are defined as the complete historical study of the fabric and material remains of a church, above and below ground in relation to its site, contents and historic setting and to its community; and any evidence of earlier land use which may be uncovered during work on a church or churchyard.
3. Required by the CC&EJM 1991, the DAC will ensure that its membership includes a person or persons suitably qualified to advise on or provide access to advice on archaeological matters. This person shall be recognised as the DAC's Archaeological Adviser.
4. Where an archaeological interest is identified, PCCs will be encouraged and advised by the DAC, through the Archaeological Adviser, to make the best possible provision to protect this interest, including budgeting for an adequate amount of professional archaeological assistance.
5. PCCs will be required to show an awareness of any archaeologically sensitive issues relating to their proposals and to demonstrate in their submissions to the DAC a planned approach to dealing with such issues.
6. The DAC accepts that, in some cases, the disturbance of human remains may be unavoidable. In such circumstances, after due examination of all possible alternatives, the PCC will be required to submit proposals for dealing with such disturbance, for comment by the DAC, and determination by the Chancellor.
7. The re-committal of human remains will ultimately be as directed by the Chancellor.

For further information contact the DAC Secretary, Mrs Sarah Anderson.

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