

Senior Archaeological Officer Background Information

Kent has a rich heritage of archaeological and historical remains which the County Council gives high priority to conserving and making accessible. The historic environment of Kent is amongst the richest in the country and includes the Canterbury World Heritage Site and Area of Archaeological Importance. The geological diversity of the county, together with its proximity to mainland Europe and latterly to London, has left an incomparable archaeological resource of all periods. Exceptionally high development pressure, including several key growth areas, linked to the County's strategic position between London and Europe, combine with this resource to produce one of the most challenging environments for archaeological heritage management.

The Heritage Conservation group maintains the Historic Environment Record for Kent and provides archaeological advice to the County Council, District Planning Authorities, Medway Council, and other agencies and developers. An additional post is needed because the team is recently started to provide archaeological advice to Canterbury City Council. Alongside providing advice on development management matters, the Heritage Conservation group has led on or acted as a partner for various heritage projects including the Dover Heritage Strategy and Dover Urban Archaeological Database. The Heritage Conservation Strategy was recently adopted by the County Council.

Kent County Council is looking for a dynamic, well-motivated individual to join the Heritage Conservation group (about 11 full-time staff) within the Environment and Waste Division of the Directorate of Growth, Environment and Transport. The primary responsibilities will be to provide archaeological planning advice to a selection of the local planning authorities within Kent, to write and review specifications and to monitor fieldwork and post-excavation programmes. The successful candidate will be able to work flexibly with minimal supervision on a large and varied caseload.

We are looking for someone with a good knowledge of British archaeology, preferably with good fieldwork experience, and with the personal skills and ability to learn quickly.