

**62-90 ABBEY ROAD,
BARKING IG11 7BT: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**



**LONDON BOROUGH OF
BARKING AND DAGENHAM**



SITE CODE: ABY12

REPORT NO: R11404

APRIL 2013



62-96 ABBEY ROAD, BARKING, IG11 7BT

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Site Code: ABY12

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Planning Application Number: 10/01038/FUL

English Heritage Ref.: LAG 01/265

Central NGR: TQ 4407 8346

Written and Researched by: Sarah Barrowman
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project Manager: Helen Hawkins (MifA)

Commissioning Client: Bouygues (UK) Limited

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London, SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: hhawkins@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

April 2013

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION


Site Name

62-90 ABBEY ROAD, BARKING IG11 7BT

Type of project

Archaeological Watching Brief

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K3022
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	S Barrowman		5.4.13
Graphics Prepared by:	M Roughley		5.4.13
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	5.4.13
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		5.4.13

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
Rev 1 GLAAS comments	11.7.13	HH	HH

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

Contents

1	Abstract.....	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Planning Background and Evaluation Objectives	5
4	Watching Brief Objectives.....	7
5	Geology and Topography	8
6	Archaeological and Historical Background	9
7	Methodology	12
8	Discussion of the Watching Brief	13
9	Conclusions	15
10	Bibliography	16
11	Acknowledgements.....	17

Appendix

Appendix 1: Oasis Report Form.....	18
------------------------------------	----

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location	21
Figure 2: Detailed Site Plan Showing Locations of Watching Brief Areas	22

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at 62-96 Abbey Road, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, IG11 7BT.
- 1.2 A watching brief was undertaken in the northern central area of the site during the removal of attenuation tanks.
- 1.3 The investigation noted modern made ground, along with a concrete slab above the attenuation tanks.
- 1.4 No archaeological deposits or features were observed.
- 1.5 No natural deposits were encountered.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at 62-96 Abbey Road, Barking, in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, IG11 7BT. The site is an irregular shaped parcel of land bound to the east by Abbey Road, to the north by commercial units, to the south by vacant land and to the west by The Granary and The Malthouse Buildings. The site covers an area of 6277.47 m² and is centred at NGR TQ 4407 8346 (see Figure 1).
- 2.2 The archaeological works were carried out between 21st of February and 1st of March 2013, and was commissioned by Bouygues (UK) Limited. The work was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2012) and following English Heritage guidelines (GLAAS 2009).
- 2.3 The site is located within a locally designated Archaeology Priority Area, Abbey Road Riverside Conservation Area.
- 2.4 The archaeological watching brief was supervised by Paul McGarrity and was project managed by Helen Hawkins, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The work was monitored by Adam Single, English Heritage, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 2.5 The watching brief follows on from historic building recording, an evaluation, and a limited watching brief previously undertaken upon the site by Pre-Construct Archaeology.
- 2.6 The site was allocated the unique site code ABY12.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

3.2.1 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by “The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London Consolidated with Alterations since 2004” (Feb 2008). It includes the following policy relating to archaeology within central London:

Policy 4b.15 Archaeology

The Mayor, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museum of London and Boroughs, will support the identification, protection, interpretation and presentation of London’s archaeological resources. Boroughs in consultation with English Heritage and other relevant statutory organisations should include appropriate policies in their DPDs for protecting Scheduled Ancient Monuments and archaeological assets within their area.

3.3 Local Policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

3.3.1 The relevant local policy is provided by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2010. It contains the following policy statement with regards to the Historic Environment:

POLICY CP2: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING OUR HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Barking and Dagenham has a rich local history. Signs of our fishing, maritime and industrial heritage can still be seen for example at Barking Town Quay, the Ford works in Dagenham, and the Malthouse and Granary buildings on Abbey Road. The Becontree Estate, the Curfew Tower and remains of Barking and Abbey, Eastbury Manor House, Valence House and Dagenham Village are also important symbols of our past.

However, compared to many other areas the Borough has relatively few protected historic environment assets such as listed buildings and conservations areas. With this in mind the Council will take particular care to:

- Protect and wherever possible enhance our historic environment.
- Promote understanding of and respect for our local context.
- Reinforce local distinctiveness.

- Require development proposals and regeneration initiatives to be of a high quality that respects and reflects our historic context and assets.

3.4 Planning Permission

3.4.1 The archaeological evaluation was in advance of the proposed development of the site for mixed use including retail and residential. The proposed scheme has full planning permission (application number 10/01038/FUL), with conditions requiring archaeological work:

K Archaeology

K1 The development hereby approved shall not commence until a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation that includes the recording and historic analysis of building structure, architectural details and archaeological evidence, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Works to the relevant phase of development shall only take place in accordance with the approved scheme. The archaeological works shall only be carried out by a suitably qualified investigation body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

K2 Should the remains of the icehouse be identified on either the Barford Chemicals or Wigzell Engineering sites during the archaeological investigations required by condition K1, the applicant will notify the Local Planning Authority and make such provision on site including but not limited to the erection of a commemorative plaque as the Local Planning Authority shall reasonably require to commemorate its existence.

4 WATCHING BRIEF OBJECTIVES

4.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2012) highlighted the following primary research objectives:

- To determine the natural topography of the site.
- To determine the geoarchaeological sequence at the site, and to record the alluvial/fluvial deposits associated with the River Roding.
- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, whether settled occupation or artefact scatters.
- To establish the presence or absence of Roman and medieval activity. Does the site support previous findings which suggest medieval activity extends along Abbey Road, away from the focal point of the Abbey and Town Quay?
- To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site. What evidence is there of the industrial history of Barking, particularly activity associated with the fishing industry?
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site.
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The British Geological Survey (Sheet 256 North London) shows the geological sequence on the site as alluvium, which overlies a solid geological sequence of London Clay. Lambeth Group Thanet Sands and Upper Chalk. Taplow Gravels and Ilford Silts are shown in the immediate vicinity of the study site.
- 5.2 The earlier archaeological evaluation upon the site encountered terrace gravels in Test Pit 1 at 0.57m OD and in Test Pit 2 at -0.44m OD. In both test pits the gravels were overlain by brickearth then alluvial deposits. The variation in gravel depths suggests a dip to the west towards the River Roding (Maher 2012).
- 5.3 The site has recently been in use as a car park. The existing ground surface is roughly level, with spot height taken during prior investigations ranging between 2.86m OD in the north and 2.72m OD in the south.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 General

6.1.1 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area (APA) as defined by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

6.1.2 The Archaeological and Built Heritage Assessment (EDP 2008) contains an account of the known archaeological and historical background to the site. The archaeological content of this document is summarised below.

6.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

6.2.1 No archaeological evidence of either period has been identified within the site boundary. A number of residual artefacts dating from the period have been recovered from the gravel terraces of the Thames and its tributaries in the vicinity, including flint flakes and a flint cleaver, found 400m and 600m to the north and north-northeast of the site respectively.

6.2.2 Indications of a former stream channel and an assemblage of late Mesolithic/ early Neolithic struck flint were recovered during investigations 550m to the north-northwest of the site. Further evidence of activity was identified at Town Quay, 425m to the north-northwest where an assemblage of c.40 lithics was recovered during excavations. The majority of these discoveries were found residually in later features.

6.3 Neolithic

6.3.1 Features of broadly late prehistoric date (Neolithic onwards) were identified 450m to the north-east of the site in the Gascoigne Estate. More substantial evidence for activity was identified 500m to the south-east where considerable quantities of burnt flint were recovered from a buried soil horizon together with flint flakes and pottery of Neolithic date.

6.4 Bronze Age

6.4.1 A pit containing Bronze Age pottery was excavated at a site 325m to the north-west of the site. Several further pits were recorded at this location that may have been contemporaneous with one another, although they did not produce dateable finds. Residual finds of struck flint were also recovered. At the nearby site of Barking Abbey (approximately 500m the north of the study site) the discovery of Bronze Age pottery suggests that activity may have taken place at this location during the period.

6.4.2 Excavations 500m to the south-east of the site recorded a pit cut into the natural gravel that contained material radiocarbon dated to the Early Bronze Age. Further environmental analysis and radiocarbon dating indicates that the site had become waterlogged by the late Bronze Age. Similar peat deposits have been recorded during archaeological interventions at sites located 400m to the northwest and to the southwest on the opposite side of Barking Creek.

6.5 Iron Age

- 6.5.1 Little evidence has been discovered of Iron Age occupation or activity in the vicinity. A single pit containing pottery of mid- Iron Age date together with loomweight fragments was recorded 500m to the north-northwest.

6.6 Roman

- 6.6.1 Two gullies of Romano-British date were recorded 400m to the north-northwest of the site, together with five large truncated timbers. It was not possible to date the timbers.

6.7 Saxon

- 6.7.1 In c.AD 666 St. Erkenwald and his sister St. Elthelburga founded the Benedictine Abbey of Barking. Excavations at the abbey site recorded a 12m length of a timber revetted channel orientated northeast-southwest and interpreted as a mill leat. Some of the timbers have been provisionally dated to AD 675-730. Several mills were documented in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086 and a large watermill was listed as belonging to the abbey in a document of AD 1321.
- 6.7.2 An east-west orientated ditch containing 9th century pottery and pits containing industrial waste including iron-working debris such as smithing hearth bottoms, copper waste and lead dross were found approximately 450m to the north-west of the site, opposite the Abbey and adjacent to the River Roding. A kiln base revealed during excavations adjacent to the Abbey was archaeomagnetically dated to AD 920+/-50 years and may have been used in conjunction with a nearby pit that contained glass-working debris. Further evidence of industrial activity was recorded in pits that truncated the remains of two timber buildings. Major construction work took place during the early 10th century at the abbey site.
- 6.7.3 Additional archaeological evidence of activity in the area includes loom weights found 350m to the north of the subject site, pottery from an evaluation 425m to the northeast and a mid -9th century penny of Burgred, found 400m to the east.

6.8 Medieval

- 6.8.1 The area continued to be dominated by Barking Abbey throughout the medieval period. Further phases of major construction work took place in the first half of the 13th century, including additions and alterations to St Margaret's Church, the former parish church of the abbey. Excavations in the vicinity of the abbey site have produced a wealth of features including pits, ditches, metalled roads and yard surfaces.
- 6.8.2 Documentary and cartographic evidence indicates that the focal point of the medieval settlement was located to the north of the abbey, more than 600m to the north of the subject site.
- 6.8.3 Medieval features, including footings of reused carved stone blocks that appeared to have been taken from the abbey, were exposed beneath the foundations of the former Blue Anchor public house at Town Quay 225m to the north-northeast. At the adjacent Hewett's Quay three east-west orientated channels were recorded, at least one of which was

timber-revetted, while two contained medieval pottery. These have been interpreted as either fish traps or sewers. There are documentary references to Fish Row in AD 1456 and this may be a forerunner of the name Fisher Street. Similarly, a rental of Barking Abbey refers to Le Fishambles and may have been the equivalent of a shambles for meat.

6.9 Post-Medieval and Modern

6.9.1 The only significant post-medieval record in the vicinity is for a windmill that was described as being 'recently built' in 1738. Chapman and Andre's map of 1788 indicates that this was situated close to Hewett's Quay.

6.9.2 The two-storey malt house building on the north of the study site was built in 1866 by Randells, Howell (Maltsters) Ltd. This complex was enlarged when the company acquired part of a field known as Donkey Park and built a four-storey warehouse known as the Granary. This structure was the subject of a previous programme of historic building recording by Pre-Construct Archaeology. Further structures in the form of an office block and kiln were added in the 20th century.

6.10 Evaluation ABY12

6.10.1 Two trenches and two test pits were excavated on the site in front of two Victorian brick buildings, the Granary and the Malthouse, on the east bank of the River Roding.

6.10.2 The investigation recorded the natural sedimentary sequence for the site to consist of underlying fluvial sands and gravels which were capped by fluvial silts and then alluvium. The variation in gravel depth in the test pits suggested a drop to the west towards the River Roding.

6.10.3 A V-shaped ditch was observed in both trenches aligned north to south. In Trench 2 a fragment of abraded Roman ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from the feature. A cut feature was observed in the east of Trench 2 with a similar upper fill but no dating material was recovered. These were sealed by later fluvial deposits. The location of the ditch at the boundary between sands and gravels to the east and silty clay deposits to the west (seen in Trench 2) may indicate that the ditch follows the line of the marginal riverside land (west) and higher ground (east). This could also mean that the ditch was for drainage purposes. Furthermore, the shallow appearance of the ditch in Trench 1 may be the result of truncation for ground levelling, perhaps suggesting the land may have originally risen towards the Abbey, to the north of the study site.

6.10.4 In Trench 1 the ditch was truncated by a probable medieval pit. To the south of the pit a small post-medieval posthole was recorded.

6.10.5 A 19th century cess-pit was seen truncating a sequence of post-medieval levelling layers under the concrete in the east of Trench 1.

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The evaluation was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2012) which was approved in advance by Adam Single, the Archaeological Adviser to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The aim of the work was to define and characterise any archaeological deposits and features, in order to allow an assessment to be made of the heritage potential of the site, and the impact upon it from the proposed development.
- 7.2 The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of the attenuation tanks upon the site (Figure 2). An archaeologist was present upon site on 21st and 25th February and on 1st March 2013.
- 7.3 The machining was undertaken by a Bouygues UK groundworks contractor, using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 7.4 The area of the watching brief measured 221m² in the northern area and 135m² in the southern area.
- 7.5 Due to the lack of significant archaeology observed and the high levels of contamination upon the site the trenches were not entered by the attendant archaeologist.

8 DISCUSSION OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 8.1.1 The first site visit of the watching brief, on 21st February, revealed the presence of a concrete slab above the attenuation tanks, which was up to 1.5m in thickness in areas.
- 8.1.2 Aside from the attenuation tanks the predominately observed deposit seen during the watching brief was modern made ground, composed of a dark brownish grey silty clay, with inclusions of timber, tyres, and Fe objects. Due to the nature of the deposit no context number was assigned.
- 8.1.3 However, issues arose when the machine bucket was snapped on the concrete of one of the tanks, causing a cessation of work.
- 8.1.4 The watching brief recommenced upon 25th February. Upon arrival the attendant archaeologist noted that one of the in situ tanks observed during the first visit had since been removed and the location partially backfilled. Further tanks had also been exposed in the interim period. A made ground deposit comparable to that previously seen was the only other feature observed. The removal of the remaining tanks was monitored, and it was noted that the impact of the insertion of the tanks had removed any surviving archaeological deposits to a depth of c.2m.
- 8.1.5 The tanks themselves were observed to average 5.5m in length and 2m in width, though a smaller tank, which was 3.5m in length, was also partially observed.
- 8.1.6 A strong petrochemical smell was noted upon the site during the watching brief, an indication of the presence of contamination upon the site. For this reason access to the excavated areas was avoided, with the lack of archaeological deposits also meaning it was not required.
- 8.1.7 No natural or archaeological deposit or features were observed at any stage of the watching brief.



Plate 1: Westernmost tanks in situ



Plate 2: East facing section

9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The archaeological watching brief focused on ground works to remove a series of below ground attenuation tanks which were present upon the site.
- 9.2 No deposits or features pre-dating the modern era were observed during the watching brief, with modern made ground being the only deposit encountered.
- 9.3 Natural horizons were not exposed.
- 9.4 A strong petrochemical smell indicated the presence of hazardous ground contaminants, which had been noted in prior work upon the site.
- 9.5 The site will be published as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Fieldwork Round-up'.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- The Environmental Design Partnership (EDP). 2008. *Creative Industries Quarter (CIQ) Barking, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Unpublished Report.
- Hawkins, H. 2012. *Land at 62-96 Abbey Road, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, IG11 7BT – Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.
- Maher, S. 2012. *62-96 Abbey Road, Barking, IG11 7BT – An Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.
- Thompson, G., Gould, M. & Holden, S. 2010. *Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief at Barford Chemicals Factory, Abbey Road, Barking London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Site Code BFP09)*; PCA Unpublished Report
- Thompson, G. & Bower, K. 2011 *Building Recording of the Granary, Abbey Road, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Site Code GRX09)*; PCA Unpublished Report
- Thompson, G. & Hayhurst, A. 2012 *Historic Building Recording of the Former R.S. Foods, Smith Bailey Anderson and Wigzell Site, Abbey Road, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Site Code ABB11)*; PCA Unpublished Report

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Bouygues (UK) Limited for commissioning and funding this investigation.
- 11.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Adam Single of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
- 11.3 The author would like to thank Paul McGarrity for undertaking the work on site. Thanks are also given to Mark Roughley for producing the illustrations.
- 11.4 Special thanks are given to Helen Hawkins for her project management and the editing of this report.

APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-146887

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 62-96 Abbey Road, Barking
Short description of the project	A watching brief was undertaken in the northern central area of the site during the removal of attenuation tanks. The investigation noted modern made ground, along with a concrete slab above the attenuation tanks. No archaeological deposits or features were observed. No natural deposits were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 21-02-2013 End: 01-03-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any project codes associated with reference	ABY12 - Sitecode
Any project codes associated with reference	K3022 - Contracting Unit No.
Any project codes associated with reference	10/01038/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any project codes associated with reference	preconst1-136758 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM BARKING 62-96 Abbey Road
Postcode	IG11 7BT
Study area	356.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 4407 8346 51 0 51 31 52 N 000 04 38 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design originator Helen Hawkins

Project director/manager Helen Hawkins

Project supervisor Paul McGarrity

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Bouygues (UK)

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Text"
available

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes"
available

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 62-96 Abbey Road, Barking, IG11 7BT - An Archaeological Watching Brief

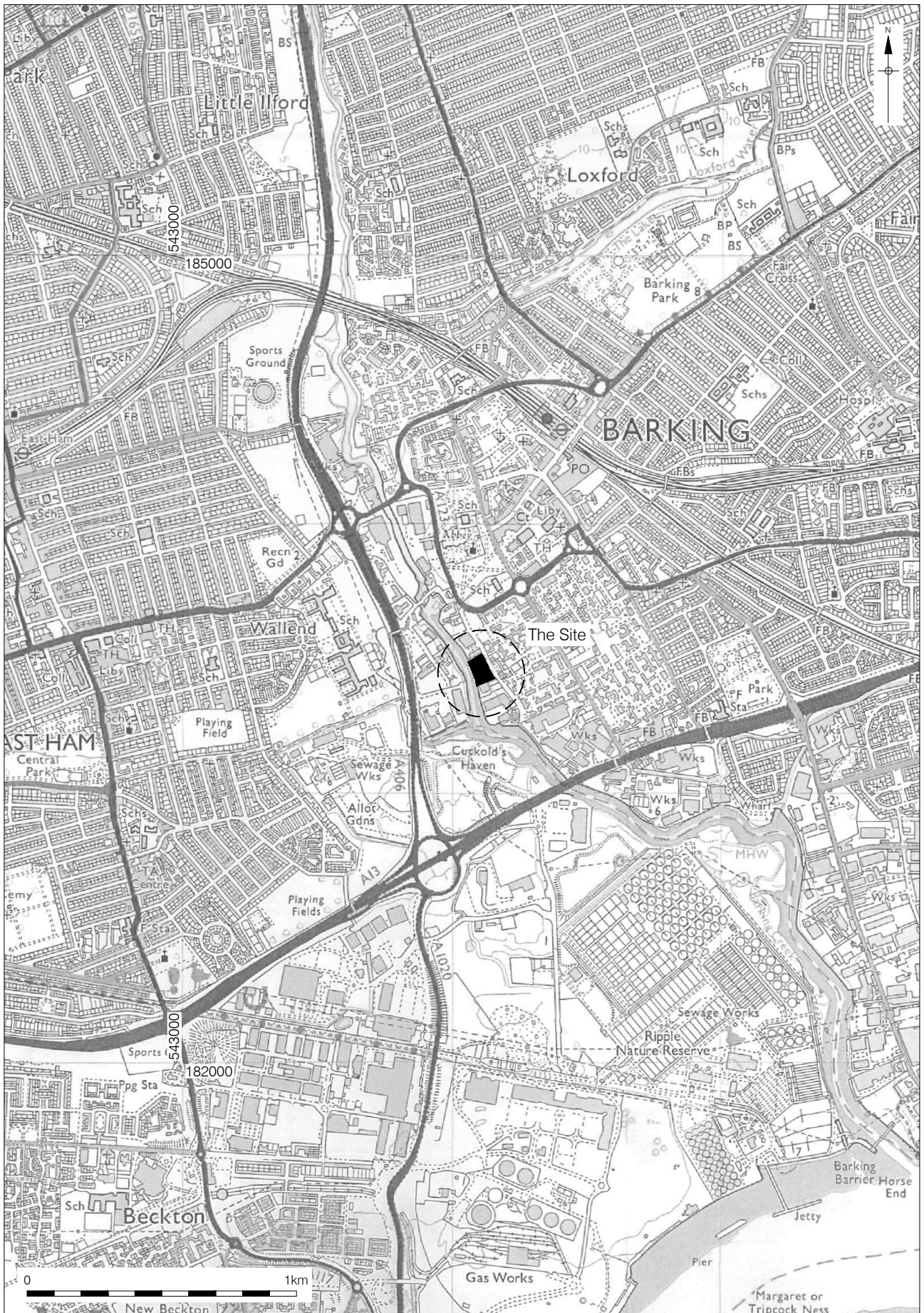
Author(s)/Editor(s) Barrowman, S.

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or publication London

Description	Unpublished client report.
Entered by	Sarah Barrowman (sbarrowman@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	28 March 2013



© Crown copyright 2005. All rights reserved. License number 36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2013
 28/03/13 MR

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



Figure 2
 Detail Site Plan showing location of Watching Brief Areas
 1:625 at A4

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

