

**FORMER GAUGING STATION,
BECKENHAM PARK PLACE,
BR1 4JY**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

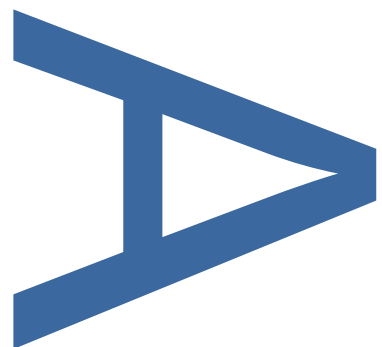
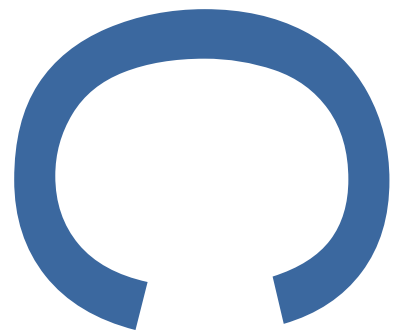
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

PLANNING REFERENCE: DC/16/097594

SITE CODE: BCH17

REPORT NUMBER: R13025

OCTOBER 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

GAUGING STATION, BECKENHAM PARK PLACE, BR1

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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FORMER GAUGING STATION, BECKENHAM PARK PLACE, LONDON, BR1 4JY
A SUMMARY OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: DC/16/097594

CENTRAL NGR: TQ 38740 71080

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CODE: BCH17

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: ACCESS SPORT CIO

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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Access Sport CIO to undertake a watching brief during groundworks required to implement a development which had received full consent from the local planning authority, the London Borough of Lewisham, under application number DC/16/097594. The consented scheme is to construct a BMX cycling facility within the grounds of the former Gauging Station. The consent included an archaeological condition which required the monitoring herein reported.
- 1.1.2 The excavation works as required for the scheme were minimal in nature, and less than were envisaged during the preparation the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2017) which was approved by Historic England's Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Lewisham. The works saw only the stripping of top soil and the excavation of three small drain pits, all of which were undertaken on the 16th August 2017 and monitored by the author.
- 1.1.3 The site is sub-triangular in plan, it covers c.3000m² and comprised part of an existing car park near to the gauging station and green field East of the River Ravensbourne in the Northeast corner of Beckenham Place Park near the entrance from Old Bromley Road.
- 1.1.4 The main contractor (Clark & Kent Contractors) excavated the area and the three drains under constant archaeological supervision following the methodology outlined in the WSI (Mayo 2017).
- 1.1.5 The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was to determine the presence or absence of any surviving archaeology within the subject site which could be impacted by development proposals.
- 1.1.6 The project was managed for PCA by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author. It was monitored by for the local planning authority by Joanna Taylor of Historic England.

Geology and Topography:

- 1.1.7 According to the British Geological Survey the local geology consists of sands and gravels of the Harwich Formation (previously known as the Blackheath Beds), with bands of the Lambeth Group sedimentary clay, silt and sands.
- 1.1.8 The site lies at around 30m OD on a slight eastern valley slope of the River Ravensbourne which flows into the River Thames to the north. The land slopes gently from northeast to southwest.

Historical Background

- 1.1.9 A detailed background to the wider area of Beckenham Place Park and Archaeological Priority Area (APA 20), including the study site and its surroundings, is provided within a desk-based assessment prepared by PCA for the adjacent Park (Reade 2017). The following represents a summary:
- 1.1.10 No evidence for prehistoric, Roman or Saxon / early medieval activity has been recorded within 500m of the study area.
- 1.1.11 At the beginning of the medieval period, the area surrounding the study site was characterised by manorial estates. Bellingham Manor was located to the north of the study site, with the Manor House
-

being largely rebuilt in the 19th century and bombed in 1944. The associated farmhouse and farm was redeveloped into a housing estate in the 1920s. The Manor House of Foxgrove was a moated site located just south of Foxgrove Road.

- 1.1.12 The main archaeological potential of the site is for medieval remains associated with the medieval manors, as well as the late post-medieval and early modern remains potentially linked to the property at the crossroads to the east.

Methodology

- 1.1.13 The aims and objectives of the watching were as follows:

- To 'record' the extent and significance of any surviving archaeological features and deposits within the site
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains of the site and extent of modern truncation, if applicable
- To establish whether any evidence for medieval remains survive on the site, in particular, evidence relating to the medieval manors previously located within the area.

- 1.1.14 The areas of ground reduction were excavated by contractors under archaeological supervision, using a flat bladed ditching bucket.

- 1.1.15 Groundworks monitored included general landscaping works which comprised the stripping of topsoil. Additional works comprised the excavation of three deeper drainage trenches. The drainage trenches measured 2m x 1m x 400mm each (see Figure 2).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 2.1.1 Natural sands and gravels [3] were observed across the investigation areas. This horizon was observed to have a noticeable declination towards the west. The gravels were seen at heights ranging between around 29.90m OD in the east dropping to approximately 29.70m OD to the west.
- 2.1.2 The natural horizons were overlain by a made ground deposit [2] of coarse sandy silts and gravels. These deposits contained inclusions of broken bricks, gravel, plastic and other modern detritus. This was subsequently interpreted as levelling material as part of the construction sequence for the Gauging Station, either immediately pre or post-dating construction. The made ground was of varying thickness, ranging between 0.2m and 0.3m thick.
- 2.1.3 The sequence was sealed by a 0.10m-thick horizon of turf [1] which was observed throughout the entirety of the subject site. Its surface was at an approximate height of 30m OD.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1.1 No evidence of any archaeological material, features or horizons were seen during the site investigations.
- 3.1.2 The observation of modern made ground directly overlying natural horizons implies that extensive landscaping occurred prior to or in association with the construction of the gauging station. It is likely that such works truncated any earlier surviving archaeological horizons, if any existed.

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, CIfA 2014
- Mayo, C, 2017 "Gauging Station, Beckenham Park Place, London BR1 4JY: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief". PCA unpublished report
- Reade, C. 2017 "Beckenham Place Park, London Borough of Lewisham, BR3 5DE: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment". PCA unpublished report
- Taylor, J. with Brown, G. 2009 Operations Manual 1: Fieldwork Induction Manual, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited



Plate 1: General view of site looking north.



Plate 2: Drainage Pit No 1



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000

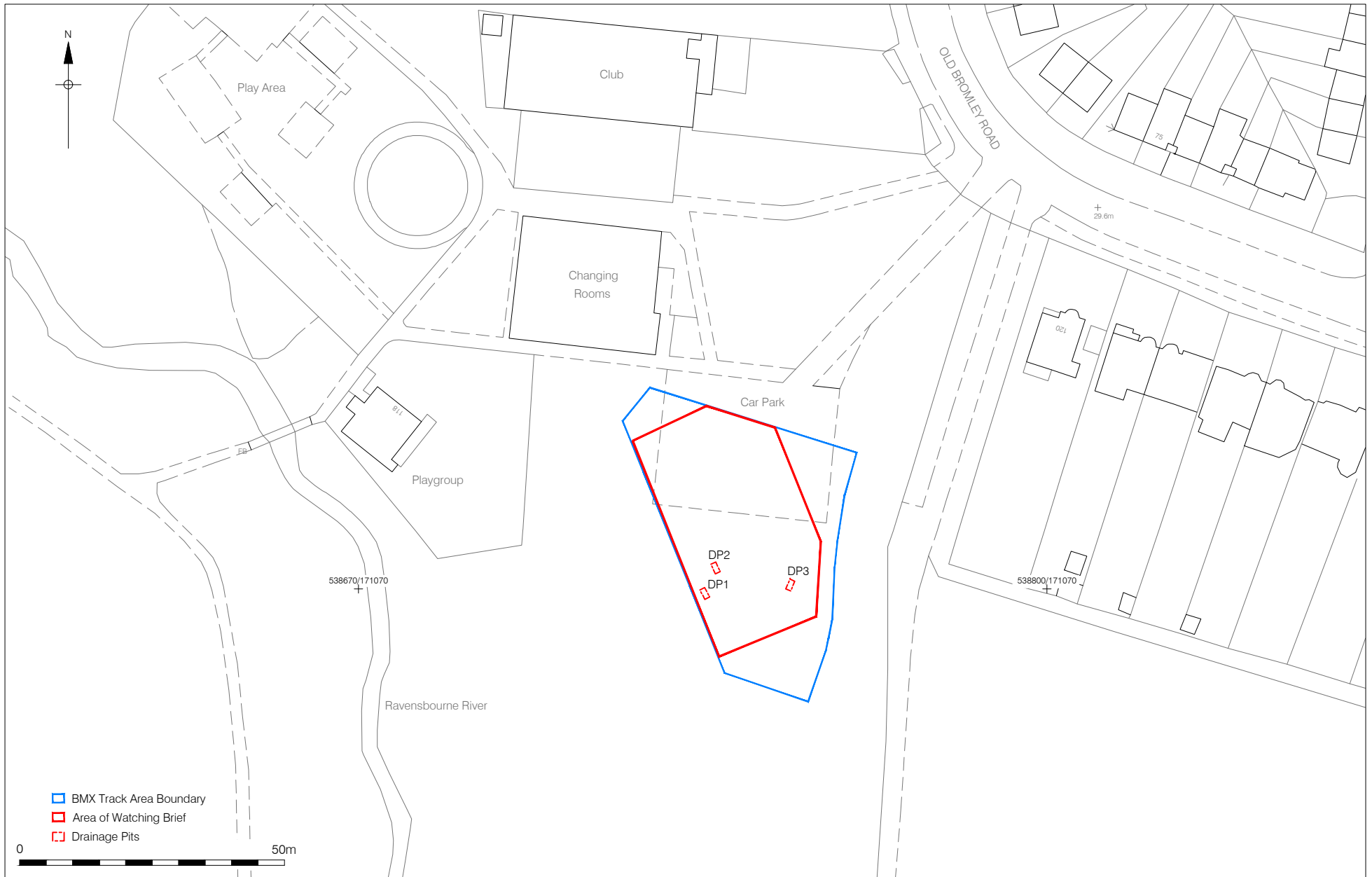


Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location
 1:1,000 at A4

5 APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-297862

Project details

Project name	Gauging Station, Beckenham Park Place: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	A watching brief during groundworks required to implement a development to construct a BMX cycling facility within the grounds of the former Gauging Station. The excavation works as required for the scheme were minimal in nature, comprising only the stripping of top soil and the excavation of three small drain pits. The observation of modern made ground directly overlying natural horizons implies that extensive landscaping occurred prior to or in association with the construction of the gauging station. It is likely that such works truncated any earlier surviving archaeological horizons, if any existed.
Project dates	Start: 16-08-2017 End: 16-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BCH17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DC/16/097594 - Planning Application No.
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 LEWISHAM CATFORD Former Gauging Station, Beckenham Park Place
Postcode	BR1 4JY
Study area	3000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 38740 71080 51.421218017231 - 0.004387424888 51 25 16 N 000 00 15 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 29.7m Max: 29.9m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	James Heathcote
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	ACCESS SPORT CIO

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	BCH17
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	BCH17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

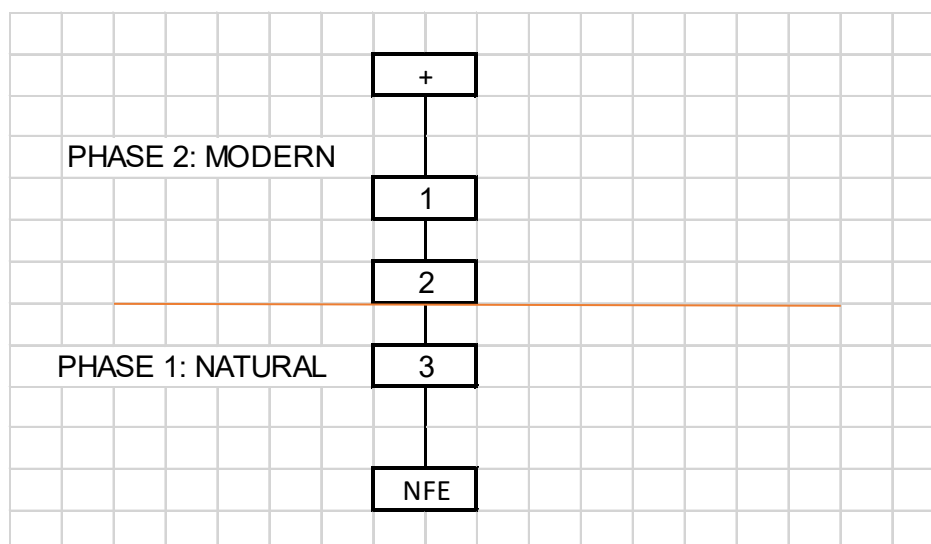
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Entered on	09-Oct-17

6 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Type	Description	Phase
BCH17	1	Layer	Turf	2
BCH17	2	Layer	Made Ground	2
BCH17	3	Layer	Natural gravels	1

7 APPENDIX 3: SITE MATRIX



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