An Archaeological Watching Brief on a Phase 2 Geotechnical Site Investigation at Abbey Green Park, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Site Code: ABG 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4405 8390

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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief conducted on a geotechnical site investigation at Abbey Green Park, Barking, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 4405 8390.

1.2 The watching brief found evidence for crushed ceramic building material (CBM) and shell-rich "dump" deposits in a number of the hand auger samples, all at around 0.30m below current ground level. Their date of deposition remains unknown, but the presence of masonry elements within these may relate to the post-medieval buildings which once covered this area, and the shell deposits may reflect the important commercial fishing activity at the contemporary port.

2 INTRODUCTION

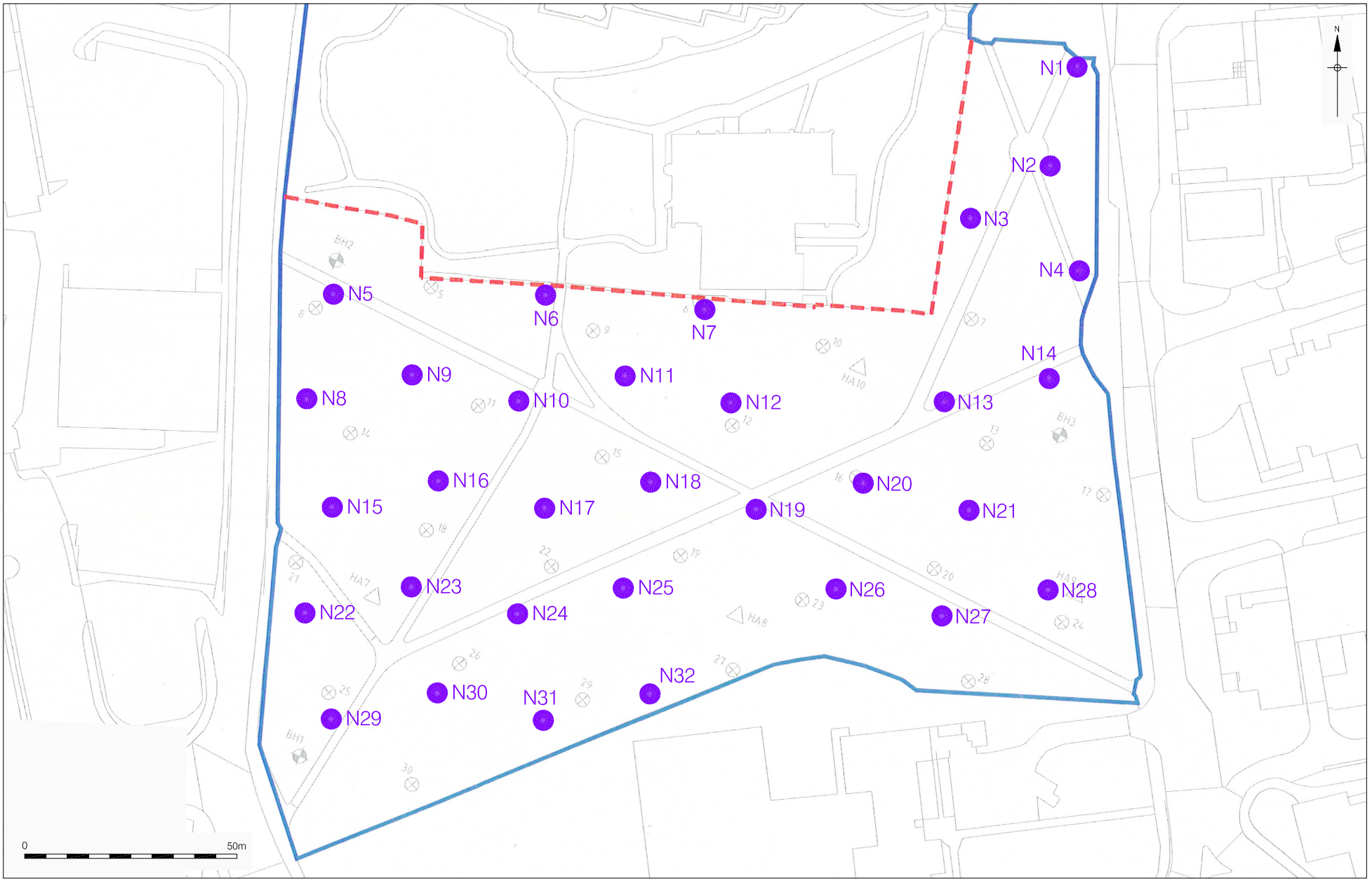
2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Abbey Green Park, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham between 12th and 14th January 2009 (fig.1). The Watching Brief monitored the removal of 30 hand auger samples (maximum depth 0.30m) and 8 hand auger samples (maximum depth 0.50m) taken to investigate ground conditions and the potential for contaminants within the soil, in advance of landscaping works in the park.

2.2 The work was commissioned by Dominic Fitzgerald of Hyder Consulting on behalf of London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and the watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The watching brief was undertaken by the author and project managed by Peter Moore.

2.3 The site lies on an island of land bound by London Road to the north, North Street and Broadway to the east, St Paul's Road to the south and Abbey Road to the west. It consists of two areas of grassland to the north and south of the site, with the remains of Barking Abbey, St Margaret's Churchyard, and a Church of England primary school located in the central area and St Joseph's School at the southern end. The site is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

2.4 An archaeological watching brief was previously carried out on the site on a phase 1 geotechnical site investigation on the two grassed areas (Taylor 2007). This second phase of investigation was to further refine the earlier results and was conducted only on the southern grassed area (fig. 1).

2.5 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code ABG07.



Base map copied from plan provided by Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd., 2008

Figure 1
Auger Locations Plan
Approx. 1:1250 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

3.1.1 Barking Abbey and its surrounding parkland is defined as Scheduled Ancient Monument 107. As a consequence under the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) – Section 2 consent is required prior to the commencement of any intrusive groundworks within the Scheduled boundary.

3.1.2 Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent was initially sought by Hyder Consulting in January 2007 in advance of a borehole survey around the site of Barking Abbey. Consent for the groundworks was granted in April 2007 and again in November 2008 (Ref: 0075-GD00928-GDL-AO) and stated that:

> "Archaeological analysis of the borehole samples, to embrace analysis of the strata, and of any archaeologically significant finds and deposits encountered, should be undertaken by an archaeological contractor affiliated to the institute of Field Archaeologists; a method statement for this should be submitted to English Heritage prior to the commencement of works on site."

3.1.3 For a full background to the Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent Application see Moore 2009.

3.2 PPG16

3.2.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning" providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

3.2.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.

3.2.3 The condition for this application is:

> *No development or site preparation prior to operations which has any effect on disturbing or altering the level of composition of the land, shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in*

accordance with a written scheme of investigations to be submitted by applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

3.2.4 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted in October 1995. The plan contains the following policy, which provides a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features.

POLICY DE36

When any development is proposed on sites of archaeological significance or for any sites identified by English Heritage the council will seek to ensure that an early evaluation is carried out, and that the preservation *in situ* is given first consideration. However, if preservation *in situ* is not possible and the nature of the remains does not warrant a planning refusal, the council will require that adequate time, funding and resources are provided to enable archaeological investigation by an acceptable agent to take place during the process of development.

POLICY DE37

The council will seek to ensure that the most important archaeological remains and their setting are preserved *in situ* (if possible for public access and display) and that where appropriate they are given statutory protection.

POLICY DE38

The council will promote cooperation between landowners, developers and archaeological organisations in accordance with the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice and the Confederation of British Industry Code of Practice on archaeological investigations.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 The site lies on flood plain gravel, which forms a terrace of higher ground overlooking the River Thames, and the River Roding. The gravel terrace is cut by the River Roding, which forms a shallow alluvial filled valley draining south into the Thames at Barking Reach. The geological survey indicates that the terrace gravel is capped by naturally deposited brickearth (Hutchinson, 2004).

4.2 Whilst the distribution of the natural brickearth horizon across Barking is largely unknown it has, for example, been recorded during excavations to the east of Barking Abbey at heights ranging between 6.91m OD to 6.70m OD (Mulligan, 2007). Furthermore, the first phase of geotechnical hand auger sampling within the localized vicinity, recorded considerable deviations in the levels of the underlying geology. Natural brickearth horizons were recorded at between 3.09m OD and 7.10m OD, and sandy gravels at between 2.54m OD and 6.28m OD, with indications of alluvium at the southernmost extent of the site at 2.81m OD (Taylor, 2007).

4.3 This section of the Roding Valley is considered important as the gravel outcrops are close to the main river channel, providing firm ground and thus a possible landing site, upstream from the River Thames (Hutchinson, 2004).

4.4 The site is currently in use as grassed parkland.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The site represents the medieval core of St Mary's Abbey, Barking, and the remains of the abbey church and cloistral buildings remain visible today. St Margaret's Church, immediately to the south of the abbey is also medieval in date.

5.2 Several archaeological excavations have taken place within the Scheduled area and in the immediate vicinity. While the focus of the medieval abbey and church has been shown to lie in the centre and northern parts of the Scheduled area, excavations have also shown that the Saxon abbey extends into the western parts of the site. The excavations have also demonstrated the presence of prehistoric activity on site.

5.3 The medieval townscape developed in two principal areas with the first focused to the east of the church around the market place and Town Hall and the second along Heath Street which led down to the mill and harbour. The medieval to post-medieval house plots survived until the 20th century, whereon they were demolished and large industrial units were constructed. During the late 20th century the site was again redeveloped as the current parkland and schools.

6 METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH AIMS

6.1 Methodology

6.1.1 The watching brief monitored the removal of 30 hand auger samples (maximum depth 0.30m) and 8 hand auger samples (maximum depth 0.50m) in parkland surrounding Barking Abbey, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The hand auger samples were required to assess levels of ground contamination in those areas of parkland currently in public use (fig.1).

6.1.2 All of the hand auger samples were obtained by hand augering through the current ground surface. The hand auger samples measured a maximum 0.20m in width and were extracted to a maximum depth of 0.50m.

6.1.3 The cores extracted from the ground were cleaned and the results obtained were recorded on pro-forma borehole record sheets detailing the main characteristics of each deposit.

6.1.4 An archaeologist was in attendance throughout the removal of all below ground deposits.

6.1.5 The site was given the code ABG07.

6.2 Research Aims

6.2.1 The fieldwork was undertaken with the following research aims:

- To establish the presence or absence of any prehistoric or Roman archaeological activity on the site, and if present to establish its nature.
- To establish whether the Saxon abbey or contemporary settlement or other activities can be identified by the survey.
- To establish whether medieval activities associated with the abbey can be identified.
- To establish whether medieval activities associated with the settlement outside the abbey can be identified.
- To establish whether archaeological structures and deposits associated with the post-medieval settlement have survived any later truncation associated with the 20th century industrial buildings on the site.
- To establish the levels of truncation across the site.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Hand Auger Sample N1

7.1.1 Hand Auger Sample N1 was excavated to a depth of 7.49m OD and encountered a compacted layer of dark red, crushed ceramic building material (CBM) at 7.56m OD.

7.1.2 The crushed CBM was sealed by a 0.15m thick soft, dark greyish-brown, sandy clay silt deposit, containing frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and flint nodules.

7.1.3 The remainder of the hand auger sample was comprised of 0.08m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.79m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.2 Hand Auger Sample N2

7.2.1 Hand Auger Sample N2 was excavated to a depth of 7.27m OD and encountered sub-soil at 7.45m OD. This comprised a loose, mid greyish brown sandy clay silt deposit containing frequent medium sub-rounded pebbles and moderate flecks of CBM.

7.2.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample was comprised of 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.57m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.3 Hand Auger Sample N3

7.3.1 Hand Auger Sample N3 was excavated to a depth of 7.08m OD and encountered sub-soil at 7.28m OD. This comprised loose, mid greyish-brown, sandy clay silt deposit containing frequent sub-angular gravels and flint nodules and occasional flecks of CBM.

7.3.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.38m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.4 Hand Auger Sample N4

7.4.1 Hand Auger Sample N4 was excavated to a depth of 7.58m OD and encountered sub-soil at 7.78m OD. This comprised a loose, mid greyish-brown, sandy clay silt, containing frequent small sub-angular gravels and very occasional small fragments of CBM.

7.4.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.88m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.5 Hand Auger Sample N5

7.5.1 Hand Auger Sample N5 was excavated to a depth of 5.22m OD and encountered sub-soil at 5.42m OD. This deposit comprised a firm, dark brown, fine sandy silt with frequent inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded pebbles, moderate chalk flecks and occasional fragments of CBM.

7.5.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.52m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.6 Hand Auger Sample N6

7.6.1 Hand Auger Sample N6 was excavated to a depth of 6.33m OD and encountered sub-soil at 6.51m OD. The sub-soil consisted of a loose, dark brownish-black, sandy silt deposit with moderate inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded gravels, frequent chalk flecks and occasional small to medium fragments of CBM.

7.6.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.63m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.7 Hand Auger Sample N7

7.7.1 Hand Auger Sample N7 was excavated to a depth of 6.42m OD and consisted of four deeper boreholes of 0.5m depth, spaced around a central point. These were given the suffixes *a, b, c* and *d*.

7.7.2 The earliest deposit seen within all hand auger samples was a loose, dark greyish brown, sandy silt containing frequent small fragments of oyster shell, moderate small fragments of CBM, frequent chalk flecks and occasional small fragments of pottery. This extended 0.20m in depth, and was identified from 6.62m OD within hand auger samples *a-d*. The dump layer was overlain by a 0.20m thick sub-soil deposit of loose, dark yellowish-brown, sandy silt, with moderate inclusions of sub-rounded pebbles and occasional flecks of CBM, and was identified in all hand auger samples.

7.7.3 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.92m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.8 Hand Auger Sample N8

7.8.1 Hand Auger Sample N8 was excavated to a depth of 4.96m OD and encountered a 0.20m thick sub-soil at 5.17m OD. This comprised loose, mid greyish-brown, sandy clay silt with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and occasional small fragments of CBM.

7.8.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.26m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.9 Hand Auger Sample N9

7.9.1 Hand Auger Sample N9 was excavated to a depth of 5.54m OD and encountered a 0.16m thick deposit of sub-soil at 5.70m OD. This comprised loose, mid greyish-brown, sandy clay silt, with frequent small to medium sub-rounded gravels and moderate small fragments of CBM.

7.9.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.14m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.84m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.10 Hand Auger Sample N10

7.10.1 Hand Auger Sample 10 was excavated to a depth of 5.78m OD and encountered sub-soil at 5.96m OD. The sub-soil comprised a loose, dark blackish-brown sandy silt,

containing moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules, occasional flecks of CBM and occasional small fragments of pottery.

7.10.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.08m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.11 Hand Auger Sample N11

7.11.1 Hand Auger Sample N11 was excavated to a depth of 6.17m OD and encountered a loose, dark greyish brown, sandy silt sub-soil at 6.38m OD. This contained frequent sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules and occasional fragments of CBM.

7.11.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.09m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.47m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.12 Hand Auger Sample N12

7.12.1 Hand Auger Sample N12 was excavated to a depth of 6.42m OD and encountered sub-soil at 6.64m OD. This comprised a loose, dark yellowish-brown, sandy clay silt deposit, with moderate flecks of CBM, sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules.

7.12.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.08m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.72m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.13 Hand Auger Sample N13

7.13.1 Hand Auger Sample N13 was excavated to a depth of 6.46m OD and encountered loose, dark blackish-brown sandy silt sub-soil at 6.66m OD. This contained moderate small sub-angular gravels and flint nodules and occasional small to medium fragments of CBM.

7.13.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.76m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.14 Hand Auger Sample N14

7.14.1 Hand Auger Sample N14 was excavated to a depth of 6.86m OD and encountered sub-soil at 7.07m OD. This comprised a loose, dark yellowish-brown, sandy clay silt, with moderate small sub-angular gravels and flint nodules, and occasional small to medium fragments of CBM.

7.14.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.09m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.16m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.15 Hand Auger Sample N15

7.15.1 Hand Auger Sample N15 was excavated to a depth of 4.92m OD and encountered loose, dark yellowish-brown, sandy clay silt sub-soil at 5.12m OD. This contained frequent sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules and occasional flecks of CBM.

7.15.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.22m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.16 Hand Auger Sample N16

7.16.1 Hand Auger Sample N16 was excavated to a depth of 5.38m OD and encountered sub-soil at 5.58m OD. This comprised loose, dark greyish-brown, sandy clay silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular gravels and flint nodules and occasional flecks of CBM.

7.16.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.68m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.17 Hand Auger Sample N17

7.17.1 Hand Auger Sample N17 was excavated to a depth of 5.61m OD and encountered a loose, dark greyish-brown sandy silt, sub-soil at 5.81m OD. This contained occasional small fragments of clay tobacco pipe and CBM flecks, and moderate small sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules.

7.17.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.91m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.18 Hand Auger Sample N18

7.18.1 Hand Auger Sample N18 was excavated to a depth of 6.05m OD and encountered sub-soil at 6.25m OD. This comprised a loose, dark blackish brown, clay sandy silt deposit, with frequent sub-angular gravels and flint nodules, and occasional small fragments of pottery and CBM.

7.18.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.35m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.19 Hand Auger Sample N19

7.19.1 Hand Auger Sample N19 was excavated to a depth of 6.28m OD and encountered a loose, mid greyish brown sandy silt with gravels at 6.36m OD.

7.19.2 The sub-soil was sealed by 0.12m thick, loose, dark brownish yellow, coarse sandy gravel. This was interpreted to be modern backfill.

7.19.3 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.58m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.20 Hand Auger Sample N20

7.20.1 Hand Auger Sample N20 comprised four boreholes of 0.50m depth, assigned the suffixes *a, b, c* and *d*. Samples *a* and *c* were abandoned at 6.40m OD and 6.36m OD respectively due to gravel and brick obstructions. Hand Auger samples *b* and *d* were excavated to a maximum depth of 6.32m OD.

7.20.2 The earliest observed deposit comprised loose, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt, containing frequent angular gravels and flint nodules, occasional small fragments of CBM and frequent chalk flecks. This was encountered at 6.56m OD, 6.51m OD,

6.54m OD and 6.54m OD within samples a-d respectively. Sealing this dump deposit was a 0.18-0.21m thick, loose, mid yellowish-brown, sandy clay silt deposit, containing frequent chalk flecks and moderate inclusions of sub-angular gravels. This was identified within all hand auger samples, and encountered at 6.74m OD within N20*a* and 6.72m OD within N20*b*, *c* and *d*.

7.20.3 The remainder of the hand auger sample was comprised of 0.08-0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.82m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.21 Hand Auger Sample N21

7.21.1 Hand Auger Sample N21 was excavated to a depth of 6.82m OD and encountered sub-soil at 7.02m OD. This comprised dark yellowish-brown, loose sandy silt, containing moderate inclusions of small sub-angular gravels.

7.21.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.09m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.12m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.22 Hand Auger Sample N22

7.22.1 Hand Auger Sample N22 was excavated to a depth of 4.75m OD whereupon the sample was abandoned due to flint obstructions. A loose, mid greyish-brown, sandy silt sub-soil was encountered at 4.89m OD. This contained frequent inclusions of sub-angular gravels and flint nodules and occasional flecks of CBM.

7.22.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.08m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 4.97m OD represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.23 Hand Auger Sample N23

7.23.1 Hand Auger sample N23 was excavated to a depth of 5.11m OD and encountered sub-soil at 5.31m OD. This comprised loose, dark yellowish-brown sandy clay silt, containing frequent sub-angular gravel and flint inclusions and occasional very small fragments of pottery.

7.23.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.41m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.24 Hand Auger Sample N24

7.24.1 Hand Auger Sample N24 was excavated to a depth of 5.43m OD and encountered loose, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt sub-soil at 5.61m OD. This deposit contained frequent sub-angular gravels and occasional small fragments of CBM.

7.24.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.73m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.25 Hand Auger Sample N25

7.25.1 Hand Auger Sample N25 was excavated to a depth of 5.79m OD and encountered sub-soil at 5.98m OD. This comprised a loose, dark greyish brown, clay silt deposit, containing moderate small to medium sized sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules and occasional small and medium fragments of CBM.

7.25.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.11m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.09m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.26 Hand Auger Sample N26

7.26.1 Hand Auger Sample N26 was excavated to a depth of 6.39m OD and encountered a loose, dark yellowish-brown, sandy clay silt sub-soil deposit at 6.57m OD. This contained moderate small sub-angular gravel inclusions.

7.26.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.69m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.27 Hand Auger Sample N27

7.27.1 Hand Auger Sample N27 was excavated to a depth of 6.81m OD and encountered sub-soil at 7.01m OD. This comprised a lose, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt containing moderate small to medium sized sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules, and occasional very small fragments of pottery.

7.27.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.11m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.28 Hand Auger Sample N28

7.28.1 Hand Auger Sample N28 was excavated to a depth of 7.03m OD and encountered loose, dark greyish-brown, clay silt sub-soil at 4.85m OD. This deposit contained moderate inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules, occasional small fragments of glass and occasional flecks of CBM.

7.28.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.11m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.33m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.29 Hand Auger Sample N29

7.29.1 Hand Auger Sample N29 was excavated to a depth of 4.65m OD and encountered sub-soil at 4.85m OD. This comprised loose, dark greyish-brown, clay silt, containing small to medium sub-rounded gravels and flint nodules and occasional small fragments of glass and CBM flecks.

7.29.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 4.95m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.30 Hand Auger Sample N30

7.30.1 Hand Auger Sample N30 was excavated to a depth of 5.06m OD and encountered loose, dark yellowish-brown, sandy silt sub-soil at 5.26m OD. This deposit contained frequent sub-angular gravels and flint nodules.

7.30.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.36m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.31 Hand Auger Sample N31

7.31.1 Hand Auger Sample N31 was excavated to a depth of 5.30m OD and encountered sub-soil at 5.50m OD. This comprised loose, dark yellowish-brown, sandy silt, containing moderate small rounded and sub-rounded gravels.

7.31.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.10m of topsoil and turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.60m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

7.32 Hand Auger Sample N32

7.32.1 Hand Auger Sample N32 was excavated to a depth of 5.59m OD and encountered a loose, dark yellowish-brown, sandy clay silt sub-soil deposit at 5.77m OD. This contained frequent small and medium sub-angular gravels and flint nodules.

7.32.2 The remainder of the hand auger sample comprised 0.12m of topsoil and turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.89m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the hand auger sample.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The watching brief found evidence for 19th/20th century dump/levelling deposits at c.0.30m below the current ground surface, sealed by sub-soil. These contained fragments of CBM and glass, which were too small to be identifiable. However the deposits in which they were found would, from their location and depths, be associated with the clearance of the post-medieval settlement and more recent industrial activity and the landscaping of the park. Whether this material is derived from this site or was brought in from elsewhere cannot be established from the current investigation. Natural deposits were not encountered within any of the hand auger samples.

8.2 No archaeological features or deposits predating the 19th/20th century were observed. However there is still a high potential for archaeological deposits to survive below a depth of c.0.30-0.50m. The presence of masonry obstructions in a number of the boreholes suggests the remains of post-medieval buildings may remain in situ. In 4 of the deeper hand auger samples (N7a-d) a post-medieval deposit containing oyster shell fragments was observed. Given the nature of this part of post-medieval Barking, it may be that the presence of shells reflects the importance of the contemporary fishing activities.

8.3 With regard to the original research aims:

- No evidence for the presence or absence of any prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval archaeological activity on the site could be established.
- The presence of a number of masonry obstructions suggests the presence of post-medieval structures.
- The depth limitations of the investigation precluded the identification of any truncation.

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Appendix 1: OASIS FORM

1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

List of Projects | **Search Projects** | **New project** | **Change your details** | **HER coverage** | **Change country** | **Log out**

1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-54117

Project details

Project name	Phase 2 Geotechnical Site Investigation at Abbey Green Park, Barking
Short description of the project	A second phase watching brief was carried out on parkland to the south of Barking Abbey. Hand augered hand auger samples were monitored for ground contaminants; 30 to a maximum depth of 0.30m and 8 to a maximum of 0.50m. Several dump layers of 19th/20th century date were identified, no other archaeologically significant deposits were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 12-01-2009 End: 14-01-2009
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ABG07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland

Monument type	PARK Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Field observation','Watching Brief'
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM BARKING Abbey Green Park, Barking
Postcode	IG11
Study area	22800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4405 8390 51.5350986755 0.077166777392 51 32 06 N 000 04 37 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Hyder Consulting
Project design originator	Peter Moore

Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	Amelia Fairman
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hyder Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Report','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief on a Phase 2 Geotechnical Site Investigation at Abbey Green Park, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fairman, A
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 folio

Entered by	Peter Moore (pmoore@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	2 February 2009

2 OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice
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