

**Battersea Houseboat
Vicarage Crescent
Battersea
London Borough of Wandsworth
SW11**

An archaeological foreshore survey

June 2012



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Battersea
London Borough of Wandsworth
SW11**

NGR 526962 176601

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Executive summary

Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) and The Thames Discovery Programme (TDP) were commissioned by Richard Meager of CGMS Consulting Ltd., to assess the archaeological potential of the foreshore at Vicarage Crescent, Battersea, London Borough of Wandsworth, SW11. This process comprised a walkover and photographic survey. The site visit took place on the 24th of May 2012.

The work was carried out in advance of the mooring of a vessel. No heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals were identified.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) and The Thames Discovery Programme (TDP) were commissioned by Richard Meager of CGMS Consulting Ltd. to assess the archaeological potential on the foreshore at Vicarage Crescent, Battersea, London Borough of Wandsworth, SW11. This process comprised a walkover and photographic survey and took place on the 24th of May 2012.

The work is being carried out in advance of the proposed mooring of a vessel.

The development site is situated in Wandsworth (see Fig 1). It is bounded to the south and north by the Thames foreshore, to the west by the river itself and to the east by the river wall. The Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is 526962 176601. Within this report, the development area is referred to as 'the site'.

The Museum of London site code, by which the records are indexed and archived, is FWW10.

The foreshore walkover survey took place on the south bank of the River Thames.

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 MOLA and TDP retain the copyright to this document.

Note: within the limitations imposed by dealing with historical material and maps, the information in this document is, to the best knowledge of the author and MOLA/TDP, correct at the time of writing. Further archaeological investigation, or more information about the nature of the present features may require changes to all or parts of the document.

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

This survey has not been undertaken as a result of planning legislation.

1.3 Designated heritage assets

The site does not contain any nationally designated (protected) heritage assets, such as scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings or Registered Parks and Gardens.

1.4 Origin and scope of this report

The archaeological work of a foreshore survey was commissioned from Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) and the Thames Discovery

Programme (TDP) by CGMS Consulting Ltd. in advance of a proposed mooring on the foreshore at Vicarage Crescent, Battersea.

The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001), DCLG (2010), English Heritage (2008), and the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH 1998, 1999, 2009). Under the 'Copyright, Designs and Patents Act' 1988 TDP/MOLA retain the copyright to this document.

All archaeological analysis and recording during the investigation on site was done in accordance with the Museum of London *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994) and MoLA *Health and safety policy operational procedures* (2011) and the evolved foreshore methodology developed by the TDP.

1.5 Aims and objectives

The aim of the assessment is to:

- identify the presence of any heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals;

2 Methodology and sources consulted

For the purposes of this report a walkover and photographic survey was undertaken to determine the potential for previously unrecorded heritage assets of any specific chronological period to be present within the site.

The archaeological foreshore survey was undertaken on the 24th of May 2012 as an 'Alpha Survey' pioneered by the Thames Archaeological Survey (TAS) and utilised by the TDP. A full photographic survey was also carried out. Observations made on the site visit have been incorporated into this report.

2.1 Organisation of this report and conventions used

All dimensions are given in metres, features are identified by an alpha number, thus α325, while individual contexts are numbered sequentially and identified in this report by square brackets, thus [215].

BGS	British Geological Survey
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
DoE	Department of the Environment
EH	English Heritage
GLAAS	Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
GLSMR	Greater London Sites and Monuments Record
MoLA	Museum of London Archaeology
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeology Service
MoLSS	Museum of London Specialist Services
OD	Ordnance Datum (mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall)
OS	Ordnance Survey
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England
TDP	Thames Discovery Programme
VCH	Victoria County History

Table 1: abbreviations used in this report

3 The walkover and photographic survey

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological analysis and recording during the investigation on site was done in accordance with the Museum of London *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994) and MoLA *Health and safety policy* operational procedures (2011).

The walkover and photographic survey was carried out during a low tide window on the 24th of May 2012 with a predicted low water level of 0.45m Chart Datum. Access to the foreshore was provided via a slipway downstream of the site and a modern ladder onto the site.

The site record comprises a TDP zone record sheet and 22 digital photographs. No objects or samples were collected. The site records will be deposited and indexed in due course in the Museum of London archaeological archive, along with the ongoing TDP archive under the site code FWW10. The project was designed to produce an archive that could be integrated with the Thames Archaeological Survey (TAS) records.

3.2 The survey

An archaeological walkover and photographic survey was conducted on the foreshore at Vicarage Crescent. No discrete features of archaeological significance were observed; the foreshore surface comprising a matrix of gravel, sand and 20th century building rubble.

4 Archaeological potential and significance

- 4.1** While deposits and features of archaeological significance may survive below the current foreshores surface, no such deposits and features were observed during the survey.

5 Impact of proposals

5.1 Proposals

The development proposal comprises the mooring of a vessel.

5.2 Implications

The identified impact to any buried heritage assets would be from the vessel settling onto the foreshore at low tide and from some scouring associated with the impact upon tidal patterns of the vessel's presence. Given the size of the proposed vessel mooring and the nature of the current foreshore surface it is considered to be unlikely that these impacts would threaten any buried heritage assets.

6 Conclusions and recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

No heritage assets were observed during the walkover and photographic survey. While features and deposits of archaeological significance may survive beneath the existing foreshore surface, it is considered that the proposed mooring would be unlikely to have any impact upon them.

6.2 Recommendations

In light of this, it is recommended that no further work is necessary.

6.3 Non-archaeological site constraints

It is possible, though unlikely, that live services will be present on the site, the locations of which have not been identified by this archaeological report. Other than this, no other non-archaeological constraints to any archaeological fieldwork have been identified within the site.

Note: the purpose of this section is to highlight to decision makers any relevant non-archaeological constraints identified during the study, that might affect future archaeological field investigation on the site (should this be recommended). The information has been assembled using only those sources as identified in section 2, in order to assist forward planning for the project designs, working schemes of investigation and risk assessments that would be needed prior to any such field work. MOLA has used its best endeavours to ensure that the sources used are appropriate for this task but has not independently verified any details. Under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent regulations, all organisations are required to protect their employees as far as is reasonably practicable by addressing health and safety risks. The contents of this section are intended only to support organisations operating on this site in fulfilling this obligation and do not comprise a comprehensive risk assessment.

7 Publication and archiving

- 7.1 Information on the results of the survey will be made publicly available to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London or warship development.

The site archive containing original records will be amalgamated with the ongoing TDP site archive before being stored with the Museum of London.

It is suggested that a summary of the results of this survey should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

8 Acknowledgements

- 8.1** Museum of London Archaeology and the Thames Discovery Programme would like to thank Richard Meager of CGMS Consulting Ltd. for commissioning the work.

The author would like to thank Tony Baxter for his on site assistance and Stewart Hoad for his project management.

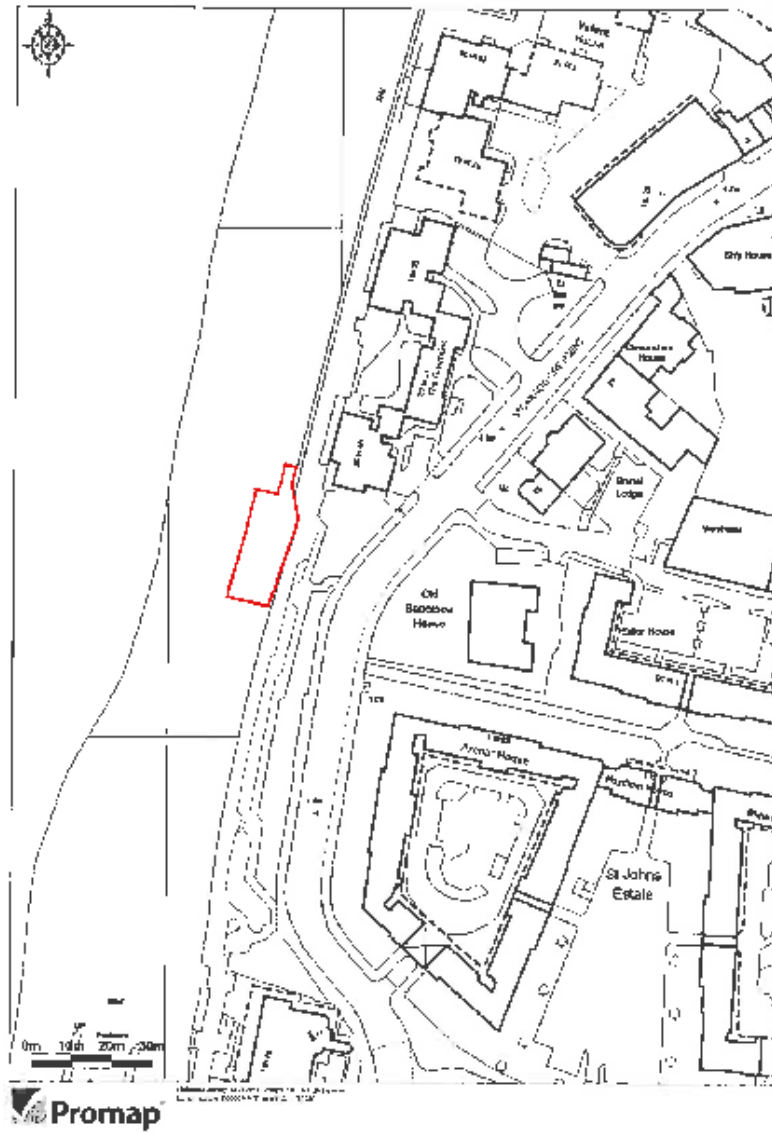


Fig 1: Site location

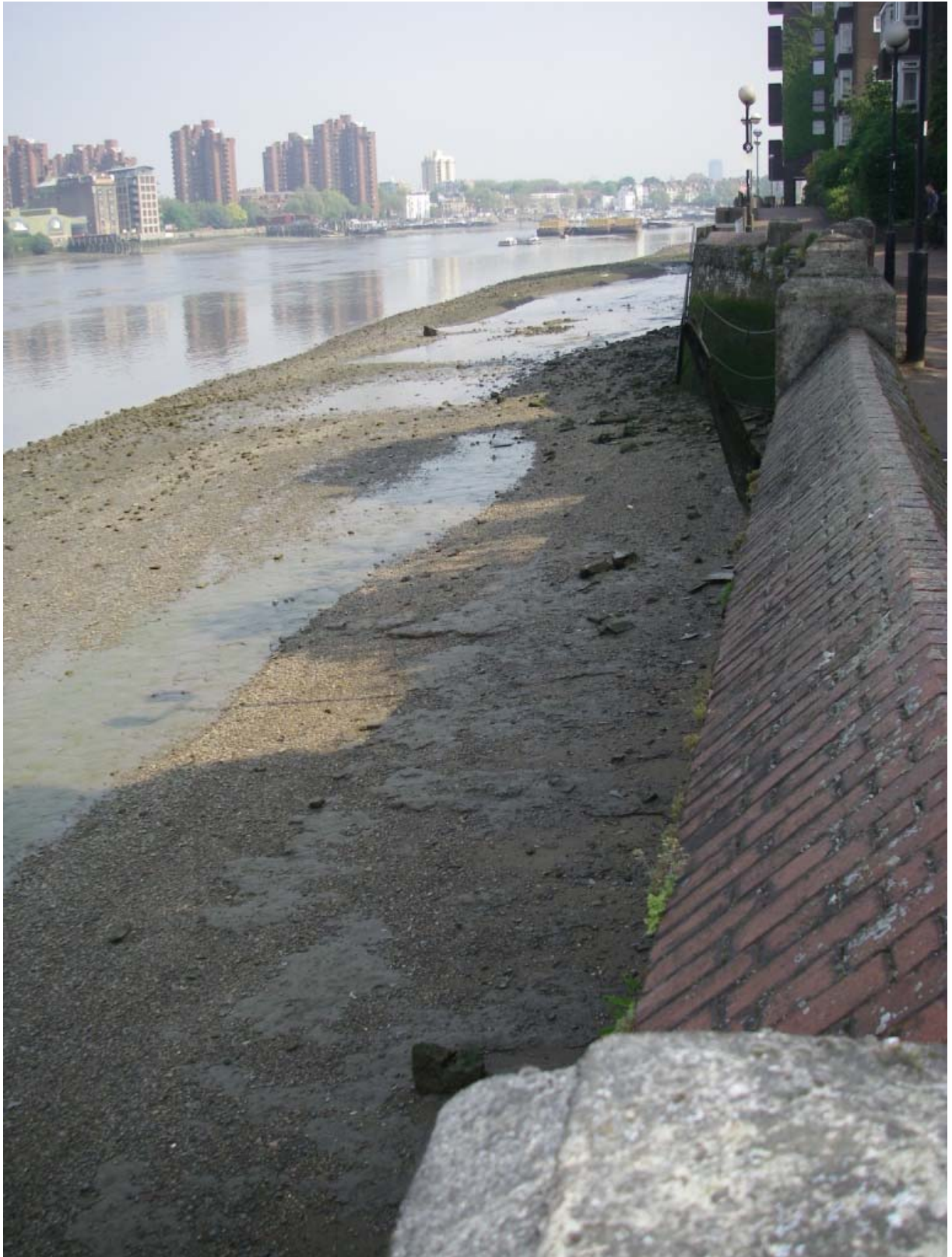


Fig 2: The site looking north.



Fig 3: The site looking north.



Fig 4: The site looking south.

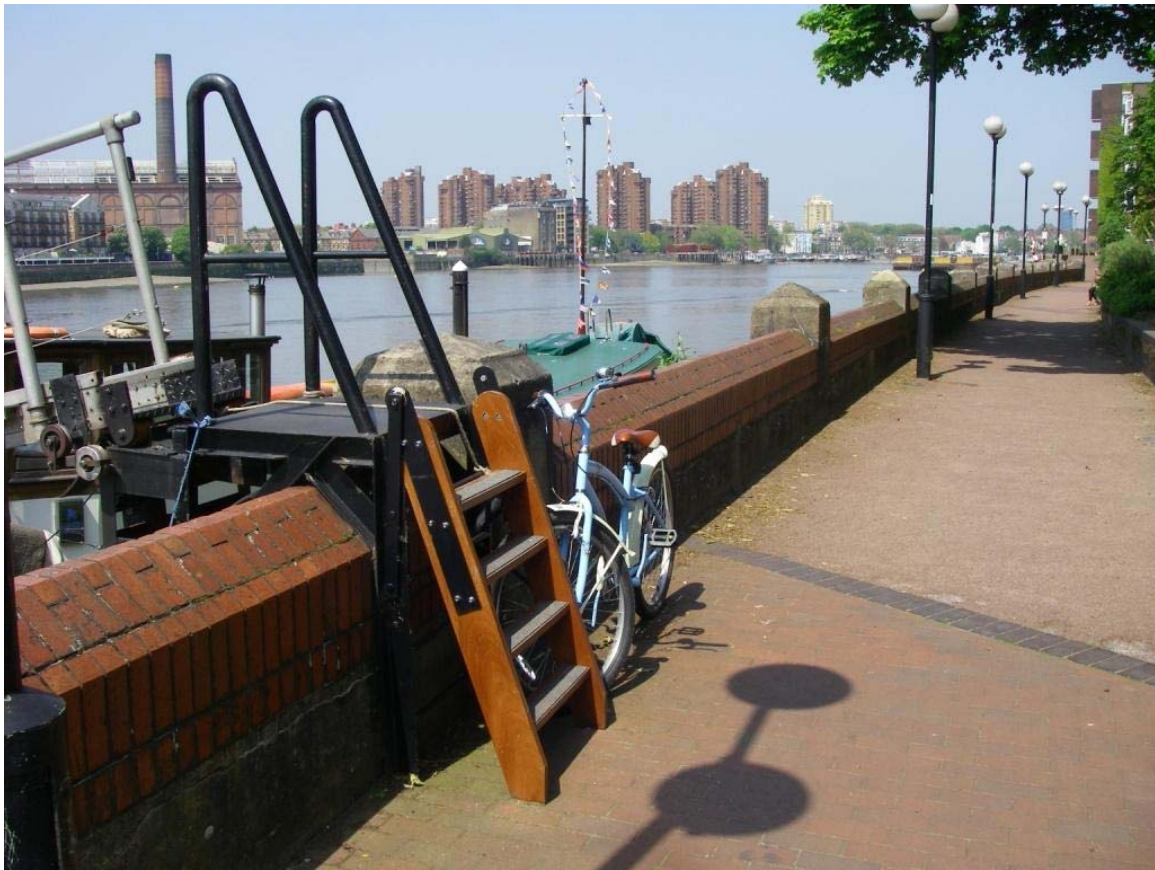


Fig 5: The towpath looking north, with an example of the possible impact of a new mooring upon the river wall to left.

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- .

10 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: thamesdi1-127886

Project details

Project name Battersea Houseboat, Vicarge Crescent, Battersea, London Borough of Wandsworth, SW11.

Short description of the project Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) and The Thames Discovery Programme (TDP) were commissioned by Richard Meager of CGMS Consulting Ltd., to assess the archaeological potential of the foreshore at Vicarage Crescent, Battersea, London Borough of Wandsworth, SW11. This process comprised a walkover and photographic survey. The site visit took place on the 24th of May 2012. The work was carried out in advance of the mooring of a vessel. No heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals were identified.

Project dates Start: 24-05-2012 End: 24-05-2012

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference FWW10 - Sitecode codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Coastland 2 - Inter-tidal

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & "Fieldwalking", "Photographic Survey"

techniques

Development type Shoreline development

Prompt Research

Position in the
planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH BATTERSEA
Battersea Houseboat, Vicarage Crescent

Postcode SW11 3LF

Study area 300.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 26962 76601 51 0 51 28 24 N 000 10 18 W Point

Project creators

Name of Thames Discovery Programme/Museum of London
Organisation Archaeology

Project brief
originator Consultant

Project design
originator Stewart Hoad

Project
director/manager Stewart Hoad

Project supervisor Elliott Wragg

Type of
sponsor/funding Developer
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Archive ID FWW10

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media
available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media
available "Context sheet", "Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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