

# TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Watching Brief Report on Geotechnical Investigation

Dagenham Studios Rainham Road South London Borough of Dagenham

August 2020

# Touchstone Archaeology Ltd

Watching Brief Report on Geotechnical Investigation
Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road South, London Borough of Dagenham

Author: P Cichy

# May 2020

NGR	OASIS Ref.	Event No.	Planning Ref.
TQ 50739 85314	zoeschof1-389082	N/A	15/00951/OUT
Site Name		Touchstone Archaeology Site Code	
Dagenham Studios		DSI	)20

Local Planning Authority	Present Land Use	
London Borough of Dagenham	Commercial	
Planning Proposal		
New film studios within mixed development		

County	Greater London
Village/Town	Dagenham
Civil Parish	Dagenham
Museum	Museum of London Archaeology (RHA20)

Version	Author	
1	P Cichy	
Commissioned by	On behalf of	
PRP	Be First	

Quality control and sign off:

Version 1	Primary	P Cichy	Date	27 <sup>th</sup> April
	Author			2020
	Edited By	Z Schofield MCIfA	Date	5 <sup>th</sup> August
	Еинеи Бу	(Touchstone Archaeology)	Date	2020
	Checked By	Demi-Laraine Viccary	Date	5 <sup>th</sup> August
	спескей бу	(Touchstone Archaeology)	Date	2020
	Approved by	Adam Single, Historic England	Date	_

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## Touchstone Archaeology Ltd

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Summary

Touchstone Archaeology undertook an Archaeological Watching Brief during Geotechnical Investigations at the proposed site of Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, RM10 (NGR: TQ 50739 85314) in order to satisfy a planning condition (35: 15/00961/OUT). The site lies in an area of archaeological interest due to Palaeolithic artefacts that were recovered to the northeast during aggregate extraction (GLHER 060512).

The Geotechnical Investigation excavated a total of thirty-four trial pits monitored by an archaeologist. Eight of the test pits contained geology that may have Geoarchaeological potential and window samples were collected by Site Remedial Services and delivered to Quest for analysis.

No archaeological features or deposits were found.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Touchstone Archaeology was commissioned by Be First to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Investigations at the Dagenham Studios site (NGR TQ 50739 85314, Fig. 1-3) to satisfy planning condition 35 (15/00961/OUT).
- 1.2. The proposed development area comprises of 7.28 hectares and is located to the south of the SANOFI Aventis Site (formerly known as the May and Baker Factory) and will comprise c.36,543 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space which is made up of stages, workshops and offices.
- 1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation was submitted to and approved by the Archaeology Advisor Louise Davies (TA, 2020) and an OASIS form initiated (Appendix zoeschof1-389082).
- 1.4 The Watching Brief was carried out between 6<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- 1.5 The works were carried out in accordance with the WSI (TA, 2020) and the Standard and guidance: Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA, 2014), the Management of Archaeological projects 2 (EH 1991), the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (HE 2016).
- 1.6 The works were carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with Touchstone Archaeology COVID-19 Risk Assessment.
- 1.7 This report provides an account of the archaeological monitoring and recording.
- 2.0 The Site
- 2.1 The site is located in the southeast Greater London area, to the south west of the town of Dagenham, off Rainham Road South. The proposed development area (PDA) is the southern part of the former manufacturing plant for Aventis (May and Baker). The wider development site is bordered to the south by the London to Colchester railway line and to the north by the May & Baker Social Club, sports fields and allotments.

To the east is a nature reserve called The Chase. The Beam River lays c. 1.2km to the east.

- 2.2 The bedrock geology is recorded as London Clay formation (Clay, Silt and Sand) with superficial deposits of Hackney Gravel Member (Sand and Gravel) throughout and Taplow Gravel Formation to the southwest (*BGS*).
- 2.3 The site is within an area that was previously dominated by rivers and is situated at an average height of 10m above Ordnance Datum.
- 3.0 History of the site
- 3.1 In 1977, to the northeast of the site, Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered in an area of aggregate extraction and were considered to be a flint knapping site (GLHER 060512). Dr. G H Nash carried out a Palaeolithic Assessment on the site by (TA, 2019) in which he concluded that the artefacts showed evidence of rolling and were probably deposited there from riverine action.
- 3.2 Map regression confirms the rural nature of the PDA during the post-medieval period, which was at this time agricultural and associated with the farmstead of Stockdale Farm. The OS Map of 1864, shows Fox Lane immediately to the north of the PDA.
- 3.3 By 1939, Dagenham had expanded to reach the western border of the site.

  Development started at the site in 1934 under the name May and Baker and the 1938 historic OS map shows the starts of some buildings in the southwest area of the site. By 1961 the works covered the site, effectively surrounding the farmstead leaving Stockdale House remaining. This was later removed and the 2016 development was constructed over the position of the farm.

## 4.0 Previous Archaeological Work

The site has been the subject of a Desk Based Assessment (TA, 2019) and a Palaeolithic Assessment (TA, 2019) in 2019. The Watching Brief was preceded by a WSI (TA, 2020) and finalised with a Geoarchaeological Report (QUEST, Green & Batchelor, 2020).

### 5.0 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The purpose of the work was to determine the survival of any archaeological features or deposits and to define their date, character, function, extent, significance and condition within their cultural and environmental setting. Consideration has been given to research themes are highlighted from *A Research Framework for London Archaeology (2002)*.
- 5.2 The principal archaeological interest on the site was the potential for the survival of prehistoric remains due to the prehistoric hand axes found to the north east of the site, Saxon and later medieval remains relating to the farms and twentieth century industrial archaeology relating to the development of the pharmaceutical factory.
- 5.3 Site-specific research objectives were to determine if there is any evidence of:
- Prehistoric settlement or activity.
- Saxon and later Medieval remains
- Post Medieval agricultural activity, possible associated with Stockdale Farm.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Industrial evidence

The monitoring and recording fulfilled the aims and objectives by determining that there were no archaeological features or deposits surviving within the sampled areas.

- 6.0 Methodology
- 6.1 On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 a Touchstone Archaeology archaeologist (Radomir Danilowicz) attended site.
- 6.2 All necessary Health and Safety procedures were carried out regarding the works and the COVID-19 Risk and all archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the WSI (*TA, 2018*) and the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*CIfA, 2014*).
- 6.3 Site Remedial Services excavated thirty-four test-pits for Geotechnical Investigation.
- 6.4 All test-pits were excavated using a 6 Tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a narrow 0.5m wide toothless bucket.
- 6.5 The works were monitored and all deposits were recorded using Touchstone Archaeology standard recording sheets. A full photographic record was made of contexts. Section drawings of the excavated profiles were not drawn (Fig.3, Plates 1-13).
- 6.6 The majority of the Test Pits were excavated to the maximum depth of 3.5 4.0m bgl and borehole samples were taken using the Cable Percussion method.
- 6.7 Under the instruction of the archaeologist additional Window samples were collected from eight test pits that displayed the potential for Geoarchaeological Assessment and delivered to QUEST for Analysis (Appendix I).

Name	Easting	Northing	Elevation
TP101	550509	185246	10.41
TP104	550561	185272	10.56
TP112	550653	185249	10.53
TP119	550720	185317	11.38
TP126	550746	185215	10.44
TP132	550847	185254	10.61
TP136	550459	185125	10.22
TP137	550433	185189	10.09

Table 1. Spatial Co-ordinates for the eight test-pits subjected to Geoarchaeological inspection (QUEST, Green & Batchelor, 2020).

6.8 The works were completed on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

#### 7.0 Constraints (Appendix I)

- Test Pit 102 exposed a water pipe.
- Test Pit 117 exposed broken electricity cable.
- Test Pit 124 exposed a concrete platform and man-hole and was only dug to a depth of 1.2m.
- Test Pits 102, 103, 137 and 138 were only dug to the depth of 2.5metre due to rapidly increasing groundwater levels.

#### 8.0 Results

The investigation exposed a fairly common stratigraphic sequence comprising of modern made ground (context 01) overlaying parent material (natural: context 02) of brown to orange silty-clay/ clay-silt/ clay-sand-silt with infrequent to moderate flint gravel.

The results of the Geoarchaeological Analysis revealed a London Clay surface apparently sloping down from north (ca. 8m OD) to south across the site (ca. 4-5m OD), overlain by Hackney Gravel to between 8 and 10m OD, capped by modern Made Ground. In one sequence, a thin horizon of possible colluvium was recorded. None of the deposits observed,

or geotechnical logs contained any deposits with further Geoarchaeological or Palaeoenvironmental potential.

#### 9.0 Finds

No finds were recovered.

## 10.0 Archive (Appendix IV)

The Archive was subjected to selection (CIfA, 2019) and is currently held at the office of Touchstone Archaeology Ltd in Danbury, Essex. The PDFA report will be deposited to MOLA in due course (RHA20). A summary of information from this project will be entered into the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (zoeschof1-389082). The contents of the archive include:

Туре	No.
WSI	1
HER Summary sheet	1
OASIS form	1
Archive Toolkit	1
Final Report	1

Table 1. Site Archive

#### 11.0 Conclusions

Material from the uppermost 3.5m of the ground surface has been assessed, with no definitively human-struck flakes recorded and no Geoarchaeological or Palaeoenvironmental potential present. Dr CP Green and Dr C R Batchelor concluded that no further work was necessary to this depth and that any further work (e.g. watching brief) need only be considered on any impacts below 3.5m bgl. An Impact Assessment showed that the proposed foundations would reach a depth of c.3m bgl and would therefore not require a watching brief.

# 12.0 Acknowledgements

Touchstone Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Be First and PRP for commissioning the work and Louise Davies (HE AA) for her guidance throughout the project. Radomir Danilowicz carried out the fieldwork alongside Site Remedial Services and QUEST carried out the analysis of the samples. Zoe Schofield MCIfA compiled the archive, prepared it for deposition and authored the report.

13.0 References

Archaeological Archives, 2011: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation transfer and curation

BGS 2015 http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/ British Geological Survey

CIfA: Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation 2014

CIfA: Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials 2014

Greater London Historic Environment Record

HE 2015: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England

HE 2017. Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment Policies

HE 2017. Setting of Heritage Assets.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2018. National Planning Policy Framework.

Museum of London 2002. A Research Framework for London Archaeology 2002.

Museum of London 2011. DANGENHAM STUDIOS, Rainham Road South, London, N1: Historic Environment Assessment

Nash, G. (2020) Palaeolithic Assessment: Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, RM10. Touchstone Archaeology Ltd Unpublished Report, February 2020.

Touchstone Archaeology (2020a) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for the Site of Dagenham Studios at the former site of SANOFI, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, RM10. Touchstone Archaeology Unpublished Report February 2020.

Touchstone Archaeology (2020b) Archaeological Impact Assessment, Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Touchstone Archaeology Unpublished Report February 2020.

Site Remedial Services Limited (2020) Unpublished borehole, window sample and test-pit logs. April, 2020.

Touchstone Archaeology 2020 Health & safety Policies and procedures.

Touchstone Archaeology, 2020, Risk Assessment COVID-19

Touchstone Archaeology, 2020, Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief at Dagenham Studios, Unpublished Report

Green Dr C P & Batchelor Dr C R, QUEST, 2020, Geoarchaeological Report for Dagenham Studios, Unpublished Report

Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) 1996, DCMS Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, TSO

Fig.1 Site Location and Exsting Site Layout

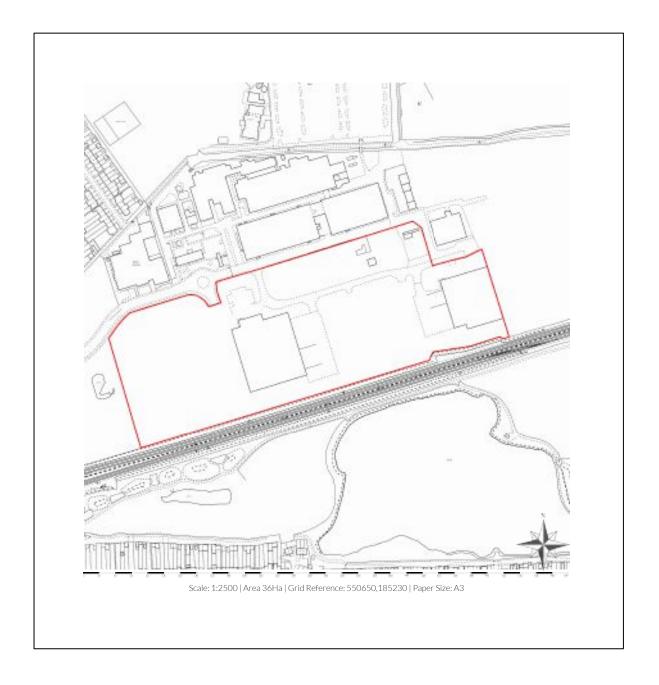


Fig.2 Proposed Development

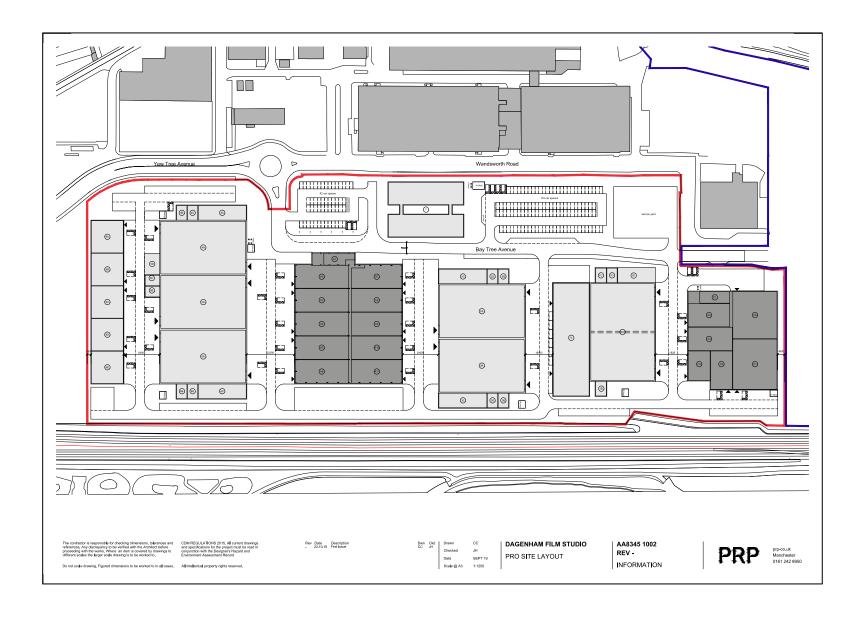


Fig.3 Location of Test Pits

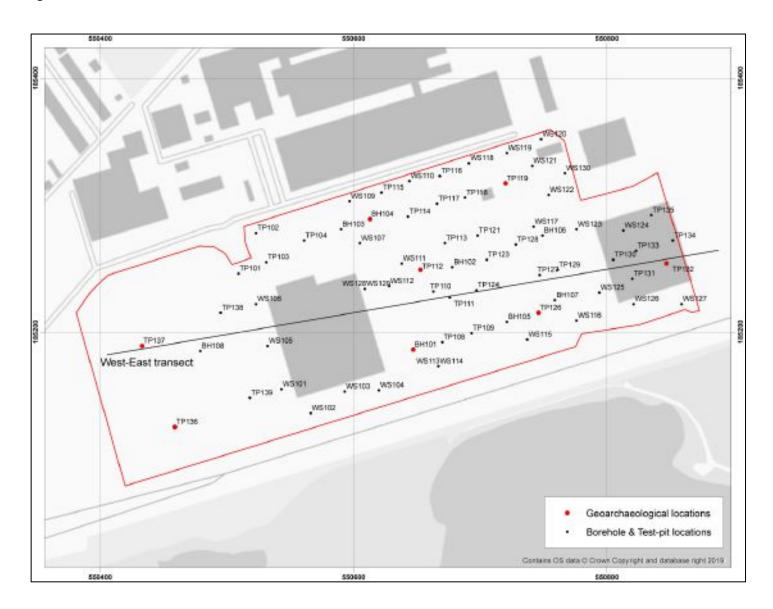




Plate 1: Showing southwestern extent of the site, looking north-west



Plate 2: Showing northeastern part of the site, looking northeast.



Plate 3: Geological Test Pit 101. Lookig south-east. One-metre scale bar.





Plate 4: Geological Test Pit 103. Lookig west. One-metre scale bar, three metre level staff.







Plate 6: Overlook onto TP 117 and sorrounding area. One metre scale bar.

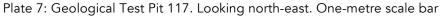






Plate 8: Geological Test Pit 123. Looking south-east. One-metre scale bar

Plate 9: Geological Test Pit 124. Lookig south. Two-metre scale bar. Concrete platform visible at base.





Plate 10: Geological Test Pit 124. Lookig east. One-metre scale bar and 4 metre level staff.







Plate 12: Geological Test Pit 129. Looking south-east. One-metre scale bar.

Plate 13: Geological Test Pit 133. Lookig east. One-metre scale bar, three metre level staff.

Appendix I: Watching brief Table

Test-Pit	Photographs	Notes	Sample	Depth (m)
				of parent
				material
108	1-7	-	-	0.7m+
109	8-12	-	-	0.57m+
126	13-18	-	YES	0.62m+
127	19-26	-	-	0.6m+
128	27-35	-	-	0.61m+
129	35-49	-	-	0.63m+
123	50-59	-	-	0.65m+
120	60-70	*	-	0.47m+
125	LP	-	-	0.55m+
121	71-80	-	-	0.62m+
124	81-95	TP excavated only to the depth 1.2m due to	-	Not
124		concrete platform and man-hole.		revealed
111	96-105	-	-	0.51m+
112	106-116	-	YES	0.8m+
110	117-126	-	YES	0.7m+
113	LP	-	-	0.6m+
115	127-137	-	-	0.64m+
116	138-147	-	-	0.74m+
118	148-157	-	-	0.54m+
117	158-176	Electricity cable	-	0.59m+
114	177-187	-	-	0.57m+
119	188-198	-	YES	0.6m+
102	LP	Water pipe, groundwater	-	0.6m+
101	199-209	-	-	0.52m+
139	210-220	-	-	0.5m+
138	221-235	Groundwater	-	0.82m+
136	236-246	Modern Backfill	YES	0.67m+
137	247-257	Groundwater	YES	0.6m+
103	258-268	Groundwater	-	0.65m+
132	269-278	Modern backfill	YES	Not
152				revealed
134	279-280	Modern backfill	-	Not
				revealed
133	281-302	Modern backfill	-	Not
				revealed
130	303-314	Modern backfill	-	Not
				revealed
131	315-326	Modern backfill	-	Not
				revealed
104	327-333	Modern Backfill	YES	Not
				revealed

Appendix II: GLHER Form

Site Name/Address: Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road South, Dagenham RM10			
District: Greater London			
Site Code: RHA20/DSD20			
Site Director/Group:			
Touchstone Archaeology Ltd, Zoe Schofield			
Size of Area Investigated: 7.28 Ha			
Funding source: Landowner			
Related EHCR No's: GLHER 060512			
OASIS number: Zoeschof1-389082			

# Periods Represented: None

#### **SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:**

Archaeological monitoring and recording on Geotechnical Investigations of thirty-four test pits was carried out in advance of a development at Dagenham Studios. The works revealed no archaeological features or deposits. Window samples from eight test pits were analysed by QUEST (Dr C P Green, Dr C R Batchelor, 2020). Natural geology of Hackney gravel was encountered at 8-10m OD below ground level. The conclusion was that the material from the uppermost 3.5m of the ground surface had been assessed, with no definitively human-struck flakes recorded and no Geoarchaeological or Palaeoenvironmental potential present.

#### Previous Summaries/Reports:

Touchstone Archaeology Ltd, 2020, HEDBA at Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road, South, Dagenham, RM10, Touchstone Archaeology

Touchstone Archaeology Ltd, 2020, Geoarchaeological Assessment at Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road, South, Dagenham, RM10, Touchstone Archaeology

Author of Summary: Zoe Schofield	Date of Summary: 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2020

Appendix III: OASIS Form

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

Archaeological monitoring of Geotechnical works at Dagenham Studios,

#### **Printable version**

#### OASIS ID: zoeschof1-389082

#### **Project details**

Project name Dagenham Studios

Short description of the

project

Rainham Road South, Dagenham RM10. Start: 06-04-2020 End: 17-04-2020

Project dates Start: 06
Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project

reference codes

DSD20 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project

reference codes

RHA20 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type NONE None
Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Augering", "Environmental Sampling", "Sample Trenches", "Test

Pits",""Visual Inspection"

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning Pre-application

process

#### **Project location**

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM DAGENHAM Dagenham

Studios

Postcode RM10 Study area 7.5 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 50739 85314 51.546053747598 0.174153264212 51 32 45 N 000 10 26

E Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 8m Max: 10m

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY

Project brief originator English Heritage/Department of Environment

Project design originator Zoe Schofield
Project director/manager Zoe Schofield
Project supervisor Zoe Schofield
Type of sponsor/funding Landowner

body

Name of sponsor/funding I

body

Be First

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient MOLA
Digital Archive ID RHA20
Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Exists? No

#### **Project bibliography 1**

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Archaeological Watching Brief at Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road South,

Dagenham RM10

Author(s)/Editor(s) Schofield, Z

Date 2020

Issuer or publisher Touchstone Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or www.touchstonearchaeology.com

publication

Description PDF

URL www.TouchstoneArchaeology.com

Entered by Zoe Schofield (zoeschofield1@gmail.com)

Entered on 10 August 2020

# **OASIS:**

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

Appendix IV: Archive Selection Strategy

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT DAGENHAM STUDIOS, RAINHAM ROAD SOUTH, DAGENHAM RM10

Project DSD20, Site Code: RHA20, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020. V.01

#### **SELECTION STRATEGY**

	Project Information			
Project Management				
Project Manager	Zoe Schofield zoeschofield1@gmail.com			
Archaeological Archive Manager	Zoe Schofield zoeschofield1@gmail.com			
Organisation	Touchstone Archaeology Ltd (TA)			
Stakeholders		Date Contacted		
Collecting Institution(s)	Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA)	2.03.2020		
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Adam Single	10.08.2020		
Landowner / Developer	Be First, PRP	10.08.2020		
Other	QUEST	10.08.2020		
Resources				
Resources required	No unusual resources required outside of TA normal operating equipment and personnel.			

#### Context

The full aims and objectives of this project are detailed in the WSI (attached). The aims of this project are to investigate any activity in relation to

- Prehistoric settlement or activity.
- Saxon and later Medieval remains
- Post Medieval agricultural activity, possible associated with Stockdale Farm.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> Century Industrial evidence

Selection of the working project archive will be guided by the aims and objectives of the project outlined in the WSI, the regional research framework and the Museum of London Archaeology Deposition Policy:

Touchstone Archaeology Ltd, 2020, Archaeological Watching Brief at Dagenham Studios, Rainham Road South, Dagenham: Written Scheme of Investigation. Project DSD20

# 1 - Digital Data

#### Stakeholders

Zoe Schofield (TA Project Manager & Archive Manager)

#### Selection

#### Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

All digital data will be collected, stored and selected in line with Touchstone Archaeology Ltd (TA) Data Management Plan located on TA's Main computer (IMAC) and TA Dropbox facility.

- In the digital data will be reviewed following data gathering and analysis to check that data is being properly preserved and version control upheld in-line with the TA DMP.
- 2 Strict version control will be applied throughout the project in line with the TA Data Management Plan (DMP) but it is proposed that only the final version of all born digital documents (reports, databases, images) will be selected for inclusion in the Preserved Archive.
- 3 Digital photographs will be assessed during post ex and selection based on the principles set out in the TA DMP and HE guidelines.
- I All raw and processed survey data will be included in the preserved archive.
- The final decision about selection for inclusion in the Preserved Archive will be made following the reporting stage of the project and enacted during archive completion.
- 5 The following standards/ guidelines will guide the selection of digital data:

Touchstone Archaeology 2020. Data Management Plan. TA

ADS (2) Guides to good practice. http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main

ADS (3) Guidelines for Depositors.http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/guidelinesForDepositors

ADS (4) Guidance for the selection of material for deposit and archive

Historic England (2015a) Digital Image Capture and File Storage

MOLA Archive Deposition Guidelines

# De-Selected Digital Data

The project executive and collecting institution will be consulted on the fate of all de-selected material. It is envisaged that the de-selected material will be retained on the Touchstone Archaeology servers for 2 years following the completion of the project at which point they will be reviewed and deleted as necessary in line with the TA DMP.

## Amendments: No Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

#### 2 - Documents

#### Stakeholders

Zoe Schofield (TA Project Manager & Archive Manager)

#### Selection

- 2.1 All original documentary material created during data gathering will be selected for inclusion in the Preserved Archive. Duplicates, photocopies of originals and research materials will be deselected during archive completion in line with MOLA Deposition Standards.
- 2.2 The documentary archive will be reviewed following analysis and again at archive completion in order to select for the inclusion in the Preserved Archive.
- 2.3 The following standards/ guidelines will guide the selection of digital data:

Touchstone Archaeology Ltd, 2020. Data Management Plan. TA

MOLA: Archive Deposition Guidelines

## **De-Selected Documents**

It is envisaged that the material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive will be duplicates or re-productions created during the analysis phase of the project. De-selected material will therefore either be retained to supplement TA's research files or recycled.

## Amendments: No Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 - Materials						
Material type	No material was recovered		Section 3. 1			
Stakeholders						
Zoe Schofield Archive Manager and Project Manager						
Selection						
No material was selected for the archive.						
Uncollected Material						
No uncollected material evidence was recorded during the evaluation						
De-Selected Material						
No material was recovered from the site. Samples were analysed and the data formed part of the final report. Samples were disposed of in accordance with QUEST analysis policy.						
Amendments						
Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders			