

**WAKERING ROAD, BARKING,
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND
DAGENHAM**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Planning Application: **06/00164/FUL**

National Grid Reference **TQ 4421 8458**

MARCH 2007

On behalf of:	Galliford Try Hodgson House 50 Rainsford Road Chelmsford Essex CM1 2XB
National Grid Reference (NGR):	SU 6102 5490
AOC Archaeology project no:	7240
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1 ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 13th and 15th March 2007 at Wakering Road Barking. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development of the site on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation consisted of 3 machine excavated trenches measuring 1.5m wide and 15.00m long. Natural gravel was recorded in Trenches 1 and 2, sealed by post-medieval made ground and modern tarmac. Trench 3 was not excavated due to asbestos contamination in this area of the site. No archaeological features were identified on the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This document is a report on archaeological *evaluation* at Wakering Road, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Fig 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Galliford Try.

2.2 The development of the site involves the construction of 90 residential units to a height of 10 storeys and an adjoining commercial unit. The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the planning condition placed on the site.

Site Location

2.3 The site is roughly triangular in shape and covers a total area of approximately 1,731m². The national grid reference (NGR) for the centre of the site is TQ 4421 8458 (Figure 1).

2.4 The site is bounded to the north and west by Northern Relief Road, to the east by Wakering Road, and to the south by an access road to the site. The site is currently being used as a car park.

Planning Background

2.5 The local planning authority is London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Archaeological advice for the Council is provided by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of English Heritage.

2.6 The development of the site involves the construction of 90 residential units to a height of 10 storeys and an adjoining commercial unit. A planning application has been submitted to develop the site (Application 06/00164/FUL).

2.7 In accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990) and the recommendations of the LPA archaeological advisor, an archaeological evaluation was carried out, as a requirement before planning consent would be granted.

2.5 The evaluation will consisted of three trenches, with the overall aim of allowing the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA to make an informed decision on the requirement for any further mitigation works. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by AOC Archaeology and approved by GLAAS.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 257), indicates that the site is situated upon Flood Plain Gravels which seal the London Clay. The evaluation trenches identified natural gravel at between 7.41mOD and 7.59 mOD
- 3.2 No geotechnical investigations have been conducted within the proposed development area.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The following information is derived from a Desk-Based Assessment carried out in 2005 (AOC 2006):
- 4.2 Barking derives its name from Berecingum – ‘Berica’s people’. It lies east of the Roding River, between the Thames to the south and Ilford to the north. It was one of the earliest Saxon settlements in Essex and became a beacon of Christian culture when its Abbey was founded by St. Erkenwald in A.D. 666.
- 4.3 There appears to have been a high level of Saxon culture in this part of Essex. Just to the east beyond Dagenham (originally *Daeccanham*), is Rainham (once Roegingaham), ‘settlement of the ruling people.’ Here a hoard of swords, spearheads, brooches, rings, shield bosses, small wooden buckets and olive green drinking horns were found. Erkenwald’s original abbey is thought to have been located between the Roding and the Back River, ‘a narrow place liable to floods’, but affording some protection from marauders. Despite this protective location evidence suggests that the abbey was destroyed by Viking invaders in 870.
- 4.4 Human habitation can be traced to before the Romans, when the original users of the stone-age hand axes and flint implements (found at Barking Creek, Ripple road and Gale Street), roamed the landscape. Uphall camp (located to the north of Barking in Redbridge) is believed to be a univallate fort of the Middle Iron Age, originally an enclosure of 48 acres within the angle of the river Roding and the Loxford Water Stream. The remains of a palisade, drainage gullies, small pits, boundary ditches, marks of several round houses or storage buildings, granaries and traces of smithying have all been discovered in the area.
- 4.5 After his coronation at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066, William the Conqueror moved his headquarters to Barking while the Tower of London was built on the remains of Roman and Saxon fortifications. The location was conveniently situated within easy distance of the highway into London and the Thames routes to London and the sea.

- 4.6 The first railway through the parish was the Eastern Counties main line from London to Romford, opening in 1839 (Powell 1987). However, it was not until 1854 with the establishment of a large railway station that an era of increased urbanisation was hastened expanding over much of the surrounding farms and market gardens, a process which continued throughout much of the earlier half of the 20th century.
- 4.7 There are numerous entries within the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for archaeological features or chance finds within the 250m radius of the site.

Prehistoric

- 4.8 No prehistoric material has been documented within a 250m radius of the site.

Roman

- 4.9 No Roman material has been documented within a 250m radius of the site.

Saxon

- 4.10 No Saxon material has been documented within the 250m radius of the site.

Medieval

- 4.11 A number of medieval sites and finds have been located within a 250m radius of the site. A hamlet associated with a chapel in the location of the original Barking Abbey is recorded in the SMR entries for the area. It is suggested that the settlement may have been destroyed by the flood of 1236, but the decline may have been more gradual possibly culminating in the floods of the 14th and 15th centuries. Three field names associated with the site survive: Paradise field, Chapel field and Brickfield. Chapel field may refer to a field used to endow a chantry chapel in Barking Abbey dateable to the 1390s. To the west of the site, near Cowbridge Lane, are gardens dating to c. mid 15th century. The 'Little Vineyard' is believed to be the garden of the Abbess and covered an area of approximately 5 acres.

Post Medieval

- 4.12 Roding Lodge, situated on North Street, was a square brick building built c. 1809 and destroyed by fire c. 1868. The entrance hall survived the fire and the house was rebuilt by R. Hewett. A church and Sunday School, situated to the east of the site near the Northern Relief Road, opened in July 1851 and seated 200. In 1874 a school room was added, enlarging the seating space to 400. The property was sold in 1898. A lease of 1555 mentions a 'Brykfeld' situated near North Street to the west of the site. A manorial map of 1653 makes an additional reference to the site.

The minister's account of 1540 of the possessions of Barking Abbey also makes reference to Brickfield. Tanner Street may have been the site of a tannery. The will of William Sebroke who died in 1490 mentions the street describing a series of 'empty vats' along its course.

Multi-Period sites and sites of uncertain date:

- 4.13 There are two discoveries of multi-period sites of uncertain date in the area listed in the SMR. These include:
- Loxforde Streete, a road situated along Tanner Street dating from at least 1456. Loxford Streete is again mentioned in 1609.
 - Field name evidence suggests the existence of a dove cote in the area around Queens Road possibly belonging to Tates or Malmaynes. A map of 1653 shows no buildings in this area.

5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- 5.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation were to:
- Determine the presence of any remains of prehistoric date on the site.
 - Determine the presence of any remains of Roman date on the site.
 - Determine the presence of any remains of Saxon date on the site.
 - Determine the presence of any remains of medieval date on the site.
 - Determine the presence of any remains of post-medieval date on the site.
 - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the modern development of the site.
- 5.3 The evaluation will enable the LPA archaeological advisor to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- 5.4 The final aim is to make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 STRATEGY

- 6.1 The fieldwork procedures followed AOC Archaeology Group Ltd *Fieldwork Sector On-Site Handbook*, dated May 2003 (AOC 2003). The excavation,

recording and reporting conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – *Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines)* (EH 1992).
- English Heritage – *Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* (EH 1998a).
- English Heritage – *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (EH 2002).
- Institute of Field Archaeology – *Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work* (IFA 1992).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IFA 1994).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – *Code of Conduct* (IFA 1997).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – *Conservation Guidelines No.2* (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice* (UKIC 1990).

6.2 All works were also informed by:

- Council for British Archaeology – *First Aid For Finds* (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).
- Museum of London – *Archaeological Site Manual* (Third Edition) (MoL 1994).

6.3 The Evaluation was be monitored by GLAAS, the archaeology advisor for the LPA, and Ron Humphrey for AOC Archaeology.

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 The field Evaluation comprised of the machine excavation of three trenches measuring 15m x 2m at base. The evaluation trenches were situated as shown in Figure 2.

7.2 All machining was be carried out using a JCB type excavator, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor. A toothless ditching bucket was be used. Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

7.3 The site code **WKG 06** was obtained for the project, and used for all fieldwork.

7.4 All trenches were accurately located to the National Grid. A temporary benchmark with a value of 8.57mOD was established on the site (Figure 2).

- 7.5 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the *Archaeological Field Manual* (Museum of London Archaeology Service 3rd edition 1994).
- 7.6 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated. The following registers will be kept on standardised forms: contexts; sections; plans; and photographs.
- 7.7 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

7 RESULTS

7.1 Trench 1

Height of deposit (mOD)	Context No. and Description
-------------------------	-----------------------------

8.61 – 8.21	(1/001). Tarmac and rubble make up for car park
8.21 – 7.41	(1/002). Firm mid brown sandy silt made ground
7.41 –	(1/003). Yellow brown sandy gravel natural

- 7.1.1 The natural gravel (1/003) was sealed by a layer of post-medieval mid brown sandy silt made ground (1/002). This was cut by construction cut [1/005], for the foundation of a modern wall (1/004). This was sealed by modern tarmac and rubble make up for the current car park (1/001).
- 7.1.2 No significant archaeological features were identified in Trench 1.

7.2 Trench 1

Height of deposit (mOD)	Context No. and Description
-------------------------	-----------------------------

8.41 – 8.08	(2/001). Tarmac and rubble make up for car park
0.80 – 7.59	(2/002). Firm mid brown sandy silt made ground
7.59 –	(2/003). Yellow brown sandy gravel natural

- 7.2.1 The natural gravel (2/003) was sealed by a layer of post-medieval mid brown sandy silt made ground (2/002). This was cut by cut [1/006], a vertically sided modern construction cut for wall foundation (2/005). To the north of the wall foundation modern rubble (2/004) was recorded to a depth of 7.45mOD. This was sealed by modern tarmac and rubble make up for the current car park (2/001).
- 7.2.2 No significant archaeological features were identified in Trench 2.

7.3 Trench 3

- 7.3.1 Directly below the tarmac in Trench 3 a layer of modern brick rubble was found to contain asbestos tile. Excavation of the trench therefore had to be abandoned due to health and safety considerations.

8 FINDS

- 8.1 No finds were recovered from the site.

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 No significant archaeological features were identified during the evaluation and no finds were recovered from the site. The desktop assessment suggests that the site was open fields until the late 19th century.
- 9.3 The evaluation met its primary objective: to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. No archaeological remains were encountered and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is required to satisfy the archaeological planning condition on this site. This is subject to the agreement of the archaeological advisor to the LPA.
- 9.4 Publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix B) with a short summary submitted to the *London Archaeologist* archaeological roundup 2007.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AOC Archaeology Group Ltd (2003). *Fieldwork Sector On-Site Handbook*.
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APPENDIX A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Tarmac and rubble make up for car park	Trench	Trench	0.40m
1/002	Firm mid brown sandy silt made ground	Trench	Trench	0.80m
1/003	Yellow brown sandy gravel natural	Trench	Trench	NFE
1/004	Mid yellow gravel concrete wall foundation	Trench	0.40m	0.30m
1/005	Vertically sided, flat base construction cut	Trench	0.40m	0.30m
2/001	Tarmac and rubble make up for car park	Trench	Trench	0.38m
2/002	Firm mid brown sandy silt made ground	Trench	Trench	0.52`m
2/003	Yellow brown sandy gravel natural	Trench	Trench	NFE
2/004	Loose modern concrete rubble	3.50m	1.00m	0.73m
2/005	Mid yellow gravel concrete wall foundation	1.00m	0.95m	0.27m
2/006	Vertically sided, flat base construction cut	1.00m	0.95m	0.73m

APPENDIX B – Oasis Form

7.1 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-25266

Project details

Project name	Wakering Road
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 13th and 15th March 2007 at Wakering Road Barking. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development of the site on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation consisted of 3 machine excavated trenches measuring 1.5m wide and 15.00m long. Natural gravel was recorded in Trenches 1 and 2, sealed by post-medieval made ground and modern tarmac. Trench 3 was not excavated due to asbestos contamination in this area of the site. No archaeological features were identified on the site.
Project dates	Start: 13-03-2007 End: 15-03-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	WKG06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

*WAKERING ROAD, BARKING, LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM:
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Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM BARKING Wakering Road
Postcode	IG11 8XX
Study area	1731.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4421 8458 51.5411685402 0.079750927384 51 32 28 N 000 04 47 E Point
Height OD	Min: 7.41m Max: 7.59m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor	Dan Eddisford
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Galiford Try

Project archives

Physical Archive	No
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Exists?

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Plan', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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