THAMES WATER ENGINEERING WORKS WANSTEAD PARK SOURCE DEVELOPMENT LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF FINAL REPORT

July 2009





THAMES WATER ENGINEERING WORKS WANSTEAD PARK SOURCE DEVELOPMENT LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE E11-12

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during Thames Water engineering works in Wanstead Park, initially during topsoil stripping around the position of a test borehole in November 2005 and thereafter in two phases of pipeline construction between January and April 2008 and March-April 2009. The principal groundworks comprised a number of pits that were dug along the c 1.25km route of the new pipe, running from a borehole near Empress Avenue northwards towards the Wanstead Treatment Works on the east bank of the River Roding. The pipe itself was directionally drilled through natural deposits, and therefore did not involve extensive lengths of open-cut trenching or consequent ground disturbance.

The watching brief was recommended by English Heritage and reflected the archaeological potential of the parts of the Park, specifically for Roman remains. Antiquarian records and more recent investigations indicate the existence of a significant structure in this area, commonly referred to (& marked on current OS maps) as a Roman Villa. Wanstead Park is also classified by English Heritage as a Grade 11* historic park.

Few archaeological remains were observed during the course of the watching brief, and there were no residual finds of Roman material. In general deposits below the present surface consisted either of clean soil profiles, or fairly recent made ground where the pipeline followed the route of an existing path along the western bank of Ornamental Lake. At the southern end of the route the land had been heavily disturbed by the construction/removal of the former Redbridge (Southern) Sewage Works. Natural deposits were exposed in other areas, and included probable undifferentiated Head, River Terrace Deposits and more recent alluvium.

One notable feature was recorded, in the form of several brick courses about 1m below ground level and running east-west across Pit 6 (approximately midway along the pipe route). The brick appears to be of 17^{th} century date, and may represent the southern side of a drain running into the Ornamental Lake. It is possible that this was built during a major redevelopment of the estate in the mid-later 1670s.

However, the estate works – which continued until c 1715 – also included the creation of large water features, avenues and naturalised parkland. The extensive landscaping which accompanied this may well have truncated earlier archaeological features and horizons.

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1. Introduction & Acknowledgements

1.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during Thames Water engineering works in Wanstead Park, London Borough of Redbridge.

The Park is managed by the City of London Corporation as part of the historic Epping Forest, and was first opened to the public in August 1882. In 2001 the area was re-classified by English Heritage as a Grade 11* historic park. Alongside this is a record of Roman activity and building remains that goes back to the early 18th century.

1.2 The initial archaeological observations of this project were made in November 2005, during contractors' topsoil stripping around the position of a test borehole just to the east of the Keeper's Lodge. Regular monitoring of the pipeline construction began in January 2008 and comprised a series of visits during two main phases of work, through to April 2008 and again in March and April 2009.

Figure 1 overleaf shows the location of the monitored groundworks (highlighted in blue) and the route of the new pipe.

- **1.3** The new pipeline ran roughly southeast to northwest, from the site of the former Redbridge (Southern) Sewage Works to the Wanstead Treatment Works on the east bank of the River Roding. The pipe was directionally drilled and therefore only involved occasional intrusive groundworks, mainly during the excavation of a series of ten launch and receiving pits along the pipe route. Two larger trenches were also dug in the final phase of work, at either end of a long directional drill that started at the southern end of the route.
- **1.4** The archaeological monitoring included an on-site photographic and written record. At a minimum a Trench Record Sheet was completed for each individual excavation, recording the nature of exposed deposits and details on any archaeological finds and features. The various interventions were also related to an overall site plan, based on the OS grid.
- **1.5** The archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Nick Clark and Jonathan Taylor, Ecology and Heritage Team, Thames Water Utilities Ltd. Further assistance during the fieldwork was given by Andrew Popple and Philip Merrett-Jones, and by representatives of the main contractor, BarHale Construction Limited.

Information on the history of the Park and previous archaeological investigation was kindly provided by Ralph Potter of the Wanstead Parklands Community Project. John Brown (Gifford) examined the brick sample from Pit 6 and provided ceramic fabric information.

2. Site Location and Geology

2.1 Wanstead Park is located within and on the western side of the Roding Valley. To the west it is bordered by Wanstead Golf Course and residential housing, and to the southwest by undeveloped land known as Reservoir Wood. To the south is further housing and some council-owned woodland, and to the southeast the site of the disused Redbridge (Southern) Sewage Treatment Works, which closed in 1977. The Park and adjacent land of Reservoir Wood covers an area of approximately 74 hectares, and rises from a height of about 6.5m OD in the east up to c 20m in the area alongside the southern part of Warren Road.



Figure 1: The location of monitored excavations in Wanstead Park: the preliminary borehole (BH) and the series of pits/trenches (1-12) on the course of the new pipeline

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2.2 The British Geological Survey (*Romford. England & Wales Sheet 257*, 1996) indicates that the Roding and adjacent Lakes lie within a narrow band of recent alluvium. This is bordered to the west mainly by a north-south strip of undifferentiated Head, described as variable pebbly sandy clay, and to the northwest by much older London Clay. However, the natural ground surface over most of Wanstead Park is shown as River Terrace Deposit – to the south

and around the Perch and Heronry Ponds Hackney Gravel, and to the north (separated by a band of Clay) Boyn Hill Gravel.

2.3 The watching brief was located towards the eastern side of the Park, on the lower level and base of the gentle east-facing slope which marks the Roding valley. Local ground levels ranged from c 7.0m to 12.5m OD, and slightly higher (c 14m OD) in the area of the preliminary borehole. The monitored pipe route ran approximately southeast to northwest between NGR TQ 4207 8713 and TQ 4153 8811, whilst the borehole was located at around TQ 4169 8744 (Figure 1).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 The name Wanstead appears to be of Saxon origin: it is probably derived from *Wen* - a hill or mound - and *Stead* - a place - (*cf.* English Place-Name Society), although other possibilities have been suggested particularly for the first element. In Saxon and medieval times it is likely that the area was densely wooded in, as part of the Forest of Essex. The Domesday survey of 1086 refers to a manor house, large area of woodland and a mill.

By the early 16th century Wanstead Hall served as a royal hunting-lodge, and the Park itself had been inclosed – which probably involved some woodland clearance. Wanstead remained a Royal manor for a number of years, and was held by various individuals. However, it was not until the 1670s that major development of the estate took place, creating features that included the Heronry and Perch Ponds and the Dell.

Around 1715 the old house was replaced by a grand new Palladian mansion and the surrounding grounds further enhanced, both features being clearly illustrated by Rocque's survey of c 1746 (Figure 24). The house – which stood on what is now part of Wanstead Golf Course – was demolished in 1824.

- **3.2** The early 18th century improvements to the Park also revealed Roman remains, notably a mosaic of black, white and red tesserae with a central figure of a man riding some form of beast. This event was recorded some years later by a local landowner, Smart Lethieullier, and was followed by further finds in 1746. The mosaic appears to have been located on a slight south-facing slope just to the north of the Heronry Pond (roughly the position indicated on the modern OS map, Figure 1), with other foundations noted about 300 yards to the south. The associated building is generally described as a villa although its actual nature is unknown, and other possibilities a bathhouse or mausoleum have also been suggested.
- **3.3** Modern archaeological investigation began with the work of J Elsden Tuffs in the early 1960s. Two trenches just north of the western end of the Perch Pond produced a variety of Roman finds, mainly ceramic building material, variously coloured tesserae and pottery. Further material was exposed between the Heronry and Perch Ponds and to the north of the ponds in a series of trenches and observations undertaken between 1966 and 1989, latterly by the West Essex Archaeological Group. As well as artefacts, pottery and frequent redeposited

building debris several apparently Roman ditches were recorded, although there was no sign of *in situ* structural remains.

Stratified and residual Roman finds have been recorded at several other points around the Park, in gravel pits near the former sewage farm to the southeast and also to the north, several hundred yards from the Ponds and more recently near the pumping station.

3.4 Shortly before the start of the present project a geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection on behalf of Thames Water (October 2005). An area of c 3ha was covered, including the possible villa site, mainly by magnetometry plus some use of GPR and earth resistance.

The report concluded that there were few diagnostic archaeological remains. A number of anomalies were noted, although most lacked definition and none appeared to represent structural lines or foundations. However, the survey did identify two potential ring ditches, c 10m and 20m in diameter, as well as several linear ditch-like features. Moreover, it is possible that in some areas historic landscaping may have significantly raised (rather than truncated) ground levels, so potentially masking earlier buried features to the survey.

4. The Archaeological Programme

4.1 Fieldwork *(see Figure 1)*

- **4.1.1** The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (including *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3,* 1998) and those of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.
- **4.1.2** The archaeological watching brief took place during contractors' groundworks, and involved one archaeologist on site as required to monitor works and to investigate and record any archaeological remains. Liaison was maintained with the Client and groundworks agent to ensure a presence on site as and when necessary.
- **4.1.3** Exposed deposits and features were recorded on *pro forma* record sheets and by photography. Individual elements were described but (with the exception of one brick feature) did not produce any significant finds and were therefore not separately contexted. The monitored areas were located onto an overall site plan, and in turn related to the Ordnance Survey grid.

The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual, and by agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum. OD levels for the local ground surface were derived from Thames Water Engineering Pipeline Route and Layout plans (Nos. 7MLC-A1-02103 to 7MLC-AC-02110 inclusive).

4.2 **Post-Excavation**

4.2.1 The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of this report, and will be concluded by the ordering and deposition of the site archive.

The level of reporting was determined by the results of the on-site watching brief, specifically the general absence of significant remains. Apart from a brick sample no finds or environmental material were retained for assessment. A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage, the Park authorities (Corporation of London) and Redbridge local studies library.

4.2.2 The fieldwork records have been allocated the site code TZD08 by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. An ordered and indexed site archive will be compiled in line with the MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archive.

5. The Archaeological Watching Brief

5.1 The Preliminary Borehole (November 2005)

5.1.1 The initial site monitoring took place during preparatory works for a test borehole, located just to the east of the Keeper's Lodge (see Figure 1 'BH' above). This was the highest area of investigation, the ground being at about 14.0m to 14.5m OD and rising slightly to the west.

Machine topsoil stripping and levelling took place within an area approximately 30m sq. around the position of the proposed borehole. A pit measuring c 3m by 1m in plan was then excavated over the site of the borehole.

5.1.2 Machining reduced the ground by up to 400mm on the western side of this area, but by less than 100mm to the east where the level was to be made up. The exposed sequence consisted of recent levelling/made ground, which in areas of deeper excavation was seen to overlie a truncated and apparently sterile subsoil. The made ground included building rubble (yellow stock and red frogged brick) as well as probable redeposited natural sand and gravel, and was apparently of later 19th century date. The underlying subsoil was only superficially exposed: the potential for buried cut features therefore remains, although this is obviously reduced by the lack of any earlier finds.

The subsequent borehole pit was c 1.5m deep and showed a mixture of subsoil and up to 200mm of recent made ground over natural sand and gravel – presumably the River Terrace Deposits recorded by the Geological Survey.

5.2 The Pipeline (January to April 2008 & March-April 2009)

5.2.1 Summary

Pipeline construction began in early 2008 and was monitored over a distance of some 1.25 kms, from its southern end in the former Redbridge Sewage Works to a point close to the crossing of the Roding and just short of its final destination in the Wanstead Treatment Works. The ground surface for these works was generally at about 7.0m to 8.5m OD, although rising in the area of pits 7, 8 and 11 to about 12.0m OD.

As previously described the pipe was directionally drilled, and therefore did not involve extensive lengths of open-cut trenching and consequent ground disturbance. However, a series of pits and occasional longer trenches were dug along the pipe route: the pits typically measured about 3m to 4m by 2.5m in plan and the trenches *c* 10m to 20m in length. Not all the groundworks were observed to the full depth of excavation, but – except where heavily disturbed at the southern end – cut well into undisturbed natural deposits.

Monitoring covered twelve separate areas that were excavated during the pipe installation. Ten pits were dug from near Keeper's Lodge northward to the Roding during the first phase of work, and subsequently two longer trenches at either end of the long directional drill in the southern part of the Park (see Figure 1, 1-12).

Little of archaeological significance was recorded during the pipeline watching brief, with the exception of a short length of *in situ* brickwork that was exposed in section in Pit 6. The results are set out below in four sections – a tabulated summary (5.2.2), general photographic records of the two phases of work (5.2.3 & 4) and a more detailed discussion of the Pit 6 brickwork (5.2.5).

5.2.2 Table of results

The following table summarises the on-site archaeological monitoring, and is supplemented by photographs as shown in Figures 2–20 below.

Pit No.	Dimensions			Approx.	Summary	Figs.
	L	W	D	surface level (m OD)		
1	3.8	2.3	2.1	7.15	Thin layer of rich organic topsoil over crushed brick and concrete path base, overlying truncated natural subsoil and thick clay and gravel natural from 0.4m below the existing ground level.	2
2	4.5	2.7	2.5	6.90	Compact former path material including crushed brick and gravel overlying soil horizon of mid-brown grey silty clay. Natural subsoil exposed to a thickness of 1.5m, overlying clay and silt (?alluvium).	3 & 4
3	4.0	3.0	3.3	7.40	Loose mid-grey brown topsoil overlying orange/brown sand and clay subsoil, with natural gravels and lenses of orange clay exposed c 1m below the present ground surface.	5
4	3.0	2.2	1.3	7.35	Modern crushed-stone path surface over compacted hardcore layer of broken red and yellow stock brick, overlying truncated natural clay and gravels with some service intrusion.	6
5	3.0	2.2	1.9	7.20	Gravel path surface and modern topsoil overlying service backfill to 1m below the existing ground surface. Natural clay and gravels exposed for remaining depth.	7
6	3.7	2.6	2.1	8.50	Mid-grey/brown silty topsoil over- lying lighter subsoil and clay to base of trench. Several courses of <i>in situ</i> brickwork were observed in the south- facing section, with intermediate layer of silty gravel (see below 5.2.5).	19-22

Pit No.	Din	nensio	ns	Approx.	Summary	Figs.
	L	W	D	surface level (m OD)		
7	3.2	2.3	2.0	11.90	Thin layer of dark brown topsoil over firm silty clay subsoil, with coarse natural sand and gravels to base of pit.	8&9
8	4.7	2.2	2.25	12.20	Dark brown organic topsoil overlying light grey-brown clay subsoil and natural clay and gravels from 0.6m below the existing ground surface. Simple woodland soil profile.	10
9	4.0	2.4	1.7	7.05	Deposits relating to an earlier track surface including brick and shingle, overlying made-ground deposit to the level of truncated natural clay some 0.8m below existing ground surface.	11
10	7.5	2.2	2.3	7.10	Woodland topsoil overlying silty-clay subsoil and silty gravel natural deposit	11 & 12
11	21.0	1.0	1.4	12.30	Similar to [7]: soil profile of dark silty topsoil and sandy/silty subsoil with gravel (<500mm), over natural sand and gravels (River Terrace Deposit).	13-15
12	10.0	4.5	2.0	8.25	Made ground – mixed silty gravels, <i>etc.</i> – reflecting ground disturbance associated with former Sewage Works	16 & 17

5.2.3 Photographic record: directional drilling pits 1 to 10



Figure 2: The south-facing section of Pit 1 (*Im scale*)



Figure 3: View of Pit 2 during excavation, looking south



Figure 4: South-facing section of Pit 2 (*1m scale*)



Figure 5: Directional drilling in Pit 3, view to southeast



Figure 6: Southwest-facing section of Pit 4 during excavation (*1m scale*)



Figure 7: North-facing section of Pit 5 (0.5m scale)



Figure 8: General view of pits 7 (in foreground) and 8, looking north



Figure 9: North-facing section of Pit 7 (Im scale)



Figure 10: North-facing section of Pit 8 (*Im scale*)



Figure 11: View of pits 9 (in foreground) and 10, looking northeast (*1m scale*)



Figure 12: View of Pit 10, looking north (*1m scale*)

5.2.4 Photographic record: pits 11 & 12

Within the southern part of the site a long directional drill took place from the area of the former sewage works to just south of the previously excavated Pit 7, the larger pits or trenches 11 and 12 being dug at each end.



Figure 13: General view of area of Pit 11, looking west with Keepers' Lodge in the background to the left



Figure 14: View of Pit 11 during excavation, looking north with the machine close to the location of the previously-dug Pit 7(*Im scale*)



Figure 15: View of the section at the southern end of Pit 11, looking west *(Im scale)*. The directionally drilled pipes are just visible emerging to lower right



Figure 16: General view west across the area of the former sewage works, with the location of the southernmost Pit 12 immediately to the right of the machine



Figure 17: View of pit 12 during machining, looking north and showing the *in situ* directionally drilled pipes, with previous fill deposits to the base of excavation

5.2.5 *In situ* brickwork in Pit 6

The excavation of Pit 6 revealed up to three courses of *in situ* unfrogged red brick. These ran in an east-west line for some 2.6m across the south-facing section of the pit, at a depth of about 1m below present ground surface and approximately located at TQ 41816 87562 (based on a 'best fit' of the site survey). Unfortunately there was little opportunity for further investigation, due to excessive groundwater and the instability of exposed sections. In view of this it was agreed with the on-site contractors that the structure would be left undisturbed by further excavation.

However, a number of points were established. The brickwork clearly did not extend further into the pit, although it did run into both east and west sections. Two to three courses of brick were observed, which appeared to be laid dry or in a sandy matrix/ very weakly mortared. During the excavation it was observed that individual bricks fell away readily into the open pit, whilst brick samples subsequently examined off-site also showed no evidence of mortar bonding.



Figure 18: View looking eastward towards the Lake, the arrow indicating the position of Pit 6. This clearing originally gave a direct vista from the House across the Park and beyond to the Ornamental Canal, as clearly illustrated by Figure 24



Figure 19: General view of Pit 6, again looking east towards the Lake (Im scale)

Immediately above the brickwork there was a layer of densely packed silty gravel (*cf.* Figure 20), presumably either backfill over a partly demolished structure or original construction fill – and perhaps originating as redeposited natural. This was in turn sealed by a developed soil profile c 400mm thick, consisting of orange silty clay subsoil and thence darker silty topsoil under the present grass. Light grey-brown silt was observed below the brickwork to the

limit of excavation at the time of observation (c 2.1m), apparently representing the natural deposit – in this area possibly alluvium.



Figure 20: South-facing section of Pit 6 showing *in situ* brickwork at the lower level (*1m scale*)



Figure 21: View of Pit 6 during sampling of the brickwork

In addition to direct observation a sample of the brickwork was taken, as illustrated above. The sampled bricks have been identified as London fabric-type 3065 - an unfrogged 'Tudor' type, broadly dating to 1450-1700, although in this case probably most likely to be from the earlier 17^{th} century. The fabric was relatively soft and sandy, with some flinty/shelly inclusions. The base (as fired) was characteristically uneven, and the top had slightly sunken margins

where the edges of the green brick had been drawn up slightly and then pressed down after removal of the stock. This fabric is slightly sandier than type 3033 and is more commonly found to the east of London: this is assumed to reflect the predominant nature of the local brickearth resource.



Figure 22: Detailed view of one of the sampled bricks, showing in the foreground what appears to have been an exposed face (10 cm scale)

The following details were recorded for the brick illustrated above: Total weight c 2.15 kg.; dimensions c 223 mm x 104 mm x 63 mm (measurements $\pm 2 \text{ mm}$).

Due to the limited investigation of the remains and also the small area exposed it is difficult to make an assessment on the purpose or nature of this structure. The bricks could represent the remains of a drain or of a more localised structure. It has also been suggested by Ralph Potter, Secretary of the Wanstead Parklands Community Project, that the brickwork may be the base of a garden wall dating to the early 18^{th} century estate of Lord Castlemain. A plan of *c* 1725 does indicate that the bricks lie in the appropriate area and on more or less the right alignment (see Figure 23 overleaf), which is more or less on the present line between the open grass walk and overgrown area to the south.

However, two points do suggest that a drain may be more likely than a partly robbed-out wall foundation – although quite possibly running close to and parallel with the documented wall:

- The exposed stratigraphy above the brickwork looks more consistent with a single event drain construction. Certainly there was no building rubble in the immediately overlying deposit, as might be expected in later robbing backfill.
- Examination of both sampled bricks showed that one side of each was covered by thin black deposit, possibly of organic origin (see Figure 22). In both cases this seems to have formed the hidden (*ie.*, north) face of the brickwork, abutting deposits which were only briefly exposed on section. The structure may therefore represent the south wall of a drain, the roof partially collapsed or removed and the original channel to the north now infilled.



Figure 23: Part of a plan of c 1725, showing the approximate position of Pit 6 close to an E-W garden wall line that may relate to the recorded brickwork. The Ornamental Canal is just to the northeast, as also clearly seen on Figure 24 below

Copy kindly provided by Ralph Potter, Wanstead Parklands Community Project



Figure 24: Extract from Rocque's survey of c 1746, showing the location of Pit 6 and also the approximate northern and southern extents of the survey (pits 10 & 12)

6. Conclusions

Little archaeological material was exposed during the course of the watching brief, despite the past record (antiquarian and more recent) of Roman finds and particularly building remains. In particular, there were no residual finds of early material, although it should be noted that groundworks were located at least 200 to 300m the north or east of the main archaeological focus around the junction of the Perch and Heronry Ponds.

Exposed deposits mainly represented the natural drift geology, which – in line with the Geological Survey – included probable undifferentiated Head, River Terrace Deposits and more recent alluvium. These horizons were overlain by more or less clean soil horizons, and in some areas were truncated by modern intrusions and subsequent ground makeup.

Some of the northern stretch of work along the line of the Ornamental Lakes correlates with an existing sewer route, and is clear that path construction here had also heavily truncated previous soil horizons – and hence potential archaeology. At the southern end of the pipe route the land had been heavily disturbed by the construction and/or removal of the former Redbridge (Southern) Sewage Works.

More pertinent however is the vast landscaping scheme that was undertaken between the 1670s and c 1715, during development of the various water features, parkland and avenues. This was clearly accompanied by significant disturbance and ground reduction, which is likely to have had a severe impact on any previous archaeological remains. A possible example of this was seen in the initial stage of the project, during area soil stripping for the preliminary test borehole.

The watching brief did record one notable feature, in the form of the probable 17^{th} century brick structure crossing the northern section of Pit 6. It seems most likely that this forms the southern side of a drain, running eastward into the Ornamental Lake and possibly also following the line of a garden wall that is recorded on a plan of *c* 1725. The structure itself may date to the programme of estate works that are recorded under new ownership from the mid 1670s.

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Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form

Project details	
Project name	Thames Water Engineering Works, Wanstead Park, LB of Redbridge
Short description of the project	Localised soil stripping was followed by pipeline construction over a distance of c 1.25km, from a borehole near Empress Avenue northwards to the Wanstead Treatment Works. Groundworks mainly comprised a series of pits: the pipe itself was directionally drilled and did not involve extensive open-cut trenching. Both antiquarian and more recent sources indicate the existence of a significant Roman building in the southern part of the Park. However, no remains were observed: deposits generally comprised either clean soil profiles or recent made ground below an existing path. At the southern end the land had been heavily disturbed by the former Redbridge Sewage Works. One pit did reveal an east-west aligned brick feature, c. 1m below ground level. This appeared to be of 17th century date - possibly from the 1670s - and may represent the south side of a drain. Elsewhere the extensive landscaping that continued until c 1715 may have truncated earlier remains. Natural geology was exposed in most areas and included undifferentiated Head, River Terrace Deposits and recent alluvium.
Project dates	Start: 10-11-2005 End: 09-04-2009
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	TZD08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland
Monument type	DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

OASIS ID: compassa1-61912

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON REDBRIDGE WANSTEAD Wanstead Park
Postcode	E11
Study area	65.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 4153 8811 51.5735716477 0.04254853383830 51 34 24 N 000 02 33 E Point
Site coordinates	TQ 4207 8713 51.5646285979 0.04994011977420 51 33 52 N 000 02 59 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.30m Max: 13.80m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology

Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Rosie Cummings
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Water Authority/Company
Name of sponsor/ funding body	Thames Water Utilities

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Physical Archive ID	TZD08
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Digital Archive ID	TZD08
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Archive ID	TZD08
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water Engineering Works: Wanstead Park Source Development, LB of Redbridge
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, B.
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Compass Archaeology
Description	In-house spiral bound report, 29 pages
Entered by	Geoff Potter (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	13 July 2009

Appendix II: London Archaeologist publication summary

Site Address:	Wanstead Park
Project type:	Watching brief
Dates of Fieldwork:	November 2005 January 2008 to April 2009
Site Code:	TZD08
Supervisor:	Mick Miles, Katie Johnson, Rosie Cummings
NGR:	TQ 4153 8811 (N) TQ 4207 8713 (S)
Funding Body:	Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

Localised soil stripping was followed by pipeline construction over a distance of c 1.25 kms. Groundworks mainly comprised a series of pits, from a borehole near Empress Avenue northwards to the Wanstead Treatment Works. The pipe itself was directionally drilled and did not involve extensive open-cut trenching.

Both antiquarian and more recent sources indicate the existence of a significant Roman building in the southern part of the Park. However, no remains were observed: buried deposits generally comprised either clean soil profiles or fairly recent made ground below an existing path. At the southern end the land had been heavily disturbed by the former Redbridge Sewage Works.

One pit did reveal an east-west aligned brick feature, c 1m below ground level. This appeared to be of 17th century date – possibly from the 1670s – and may represent the south side of a drain. However, elsewhere the extensive landscaping that continued until c 1715 may well have truncated earlier remains. Natural geology was exposed in most areas and included Head, River Terrace Deposits and recent alluvium.