



52 ABBEY ROAD
Barking
London IG11

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Evaluation report

October 2016



**52 ABBEY ROAD
Barking
London
IG11 7BT**

Site Code ARB16
NGR 544063 183533
OASIS reference molas1-264534

Planning reference 15/01526/FUL
Condition Number 7

Report on archaeological evaluation

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief and evaluation carried out by MOLA at 52 Abbey Road, Barking. The report was commissioned from MOLA by CgMs Consulting on behalf of the client Weston Homes Plc.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs, July 2016) two evaluation trenches were excavated on the site on 30/09/16.

No archaeological deposits or features were found, the trenches came down onto water lain clays at c 2.60m OD, which is probably a truncated (artificial) level due to earlier ground reduction on the site.

The report concludes that no archaeological remains will be impacted by the redevelopment.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was held on geotechnical test pits in August 2016. The bulk excavation of the site started on 5th September 2016 to a nominal depth of 1.5m below the pre-development ground level. GLAAS did not require any archaeological work on the bulk reduction in the western half of the site, but required a watching brief on the lower 0.5m of the bulk excavation at the east end of the site. An archaeological evaluation was carried out by MOLA at 52 Abbey Road, Barking ('the site') on 30/09/16 (see *Fig 1*). This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 A written Archaeological *desk based assessment* was previously prepared, which covered the whole area of the site (CgMs 2015). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the evaluation took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 2, CgMs 2015).
- 1.2.2 The evaluation was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by the Local Authority (Planning reference 15/01526/FUL, Condition Number 7).

1.3 Scope of the evaluation

- 1.3.1 Evaluation is defined by Historic England as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
 - formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research
- 1.3.2 An archaeological evaluation is a limited fieldwork exercise designed to test the conclusions of preliminary desk based work. It is not the same as full excavation.
- 1.3.3 The evaluation was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for evaluation specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA, 2014).
- 1.3.4 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002.
- 1.3.5 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation (see Section 7, CgMs 2016)

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

- 2.1.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology within the vicinity of the site consists of London Clay Formation comprised of clay, silt and sand forming the London Basin. This may be overlain by superficial deposits of Tidal or Creek Deposits (clay and silt) in the east of the site, or alluvium (comprising clay, silt, peat and sand) in the west.
- 2.1.2 The study site is located on generally level ground at around 4m OD. However, the whole site has been artificially raised with the western edge (adjacent to the River Roding) at 4.5m OD and the eastern edge (Abbey Road) at 3.5m OD. Boreholes have identified natural deposits 2.5m below surface at the eastern edge of the site and 5m below surface at the western edge (CgMs, 2016).

2.2 Archaeology

The following information is derived from the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment undertaken by CgMs (2015).

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Within the study area at this time it is considered that the majority of the area, the site in particular, was marshy marginal land liable to frequent flooding.
- 2.2.2 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for the prehistoric period can reasonably be defined as low. However, it is possible that evidence for intermittent exploitation (fishing and hunting) of the riverside environment may be recorded for the later prehistoric periods.

Roman

- 2.2.3 Excavations on the site of Barking Abbey, a Benedictine Nunnery originally founded in 666 AD, has recorded evidence of Roman building materials being used to construct the original Saxon buildings. Whereas no evidence is recorded for the presence of Roman structures on the site the discovery implies a Roman building or buildings may be located nearby.
- 2.2.4 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for this period can reasonably be defined as low.

Medieval

- 2.2.5 Barking Abbey, a Scheduled Monument (1003581 SM), is centred 280m north-east of the site at TQ 4406 8391. Originally founded by Earconwald, Bishop of the East Saxons, for his sister Ethelburga in 666 AD the abbey became the most important Benedictine establishment until the Dissolution in 1535.
- 2.2.6 The GLHER records correctly note and identify the focus of settlement to have been adjacent to Barking Abbey (on higher ground). During this period it is possible that the riverbanks may have been exploited, however the principle town wharves were probably located at TQ 4399 8372 (200m to the north) and the study site most probably lay within marginal agricultural land.

Post-medieval to modern

- 2.2.7 Throughout this period until the twentieth century the study site lay on the southern edge of Barking in marginal land. The earliest map presented in the desk-based

assessment (Chapman and Andre's map of 1777) indicates a road linking the precursor to today's Abbey Road to the River Rodin, passing through the southern part of the site and buildings, of unknown use, built in the northern part. The map indicates large marshy areas to the west, south and south-east of the site and the centre of Barking to the north.

- 2.2.8 The Ordnance Survey of 1799 is at a larger scale but shows little change. The map indicates large areas of former marsh have been drained and are in arable use.
- 2.2.9 The Barking Tithe map, dated 1846, shows a variety of buildings on the site. The Tithe Apportionment accompanying the Tithe Map does not survive, therefore the nature and owners of the buildings on site are unknown. The map was produced shortly before the railway linking Barking to London was constructed in 1854.
- 2.2.10 The Ordnance Survey of 1864 shows the site completely developed, the footprints of some of the buildings slightly altered to those shown on the site in 1846. Abbey Road at this time is named Fisher Street. The main industry in Barking throughout the early 19th century was the fishing industry with 220 fishing smacks registered. The GLHER records the site of The Fishing Smack Public House c.100m south-east of the site (MLO93057 at TQ 44109 83418) and a 19th century Ice House (MLO89447 at TQ 44127 83375) both of which were related to the fishing industry.
- 2.2.11 The site is extensively redeveloped by the Ordnance Survey map of 1897 (see front cover). The large industrial buildings at the northern and southern ends of the site remain. However, all other buildings have been demolished and replaced by two streets of terraced houses (Emily Cottages and Factory Road) with a further terrace along the west side of Fisher Street. The riverside area is identified as wharf and it is probable that the 19th century riverside wall identified 100m south of the site was constructed at this time (MLO99290).
- 2.2.12 Consultation with GLAAS suggested that at this time the study site was occupied by Hewett Robert & Co Ltd, fishermen and steam ship owners. However, both Goad (Insurers) and Kelly's list the study site as occupied by The New Sharleston Collieries Co. Lim., who are listed as colliery owners, coal merchants, wharfingers and carmen. The premises belonging to Hewett Robert & Co Ltd are clearly identified to the south of the study site in both of the above sources.
- 2.2.13 The Ordnance Survey dated 1920 indicates little change on the site although the industrial building at the northern end has been demolished. The site remains unchanged in 1938.
- 2.2.14 Aerial photographs of the site taken in 1950 show the terraced houses along Emily Cottages intact. The houses along Factory Road have been demolished and replaced by warehouses. Demolition is ongoing and the site has changed significantly by the Ordnance Survey 1961 map. Now the site is shown as having been completely cleared and a large 'works' constructed on the western (river front) half of the site, hachures on the map indicate ground reduction to create a new site access.
- 2.2.15 Further redevelopment in the 1980s comprised the complete demolition and clearance of all buildings on the site and construction of light industrial units. The river wall was rebuilt and reinforced at this time and the whole site covered in hardstanding (reinforced concrete). The site was completely redeveloped by 2008 and has remained unchanged to the present day.

General

- 2.2.16 The desk-based assessment and the archaeological impact assessment report concluded that archaeologically significant remains were unlikely to survive on the site (CgMs 2015, 17 and CgMs 2016, 20).

3 Evaluation methodology

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 MOLA provided a watching brief on the excavation of 28 geotechnical test pits across the site to a depth of between 1.5m and 2m (*Fig 3*). They were excavated to investigate the level of ground contamination across the site. The results of these investigations were issued in separate reports (MOLA 2016a and b), but a summary will be given in this report.
- 3.1.2 The bulk level dig started on 5th September 2016 at the west end of the site, and continued towards the east. As agreed with GLAAS, there was no archaeological monitoring of most of this reduction, but the excavation of the east end of the site was monitored.
- 3.1.3 Two evaluation trenches were investigated after the completion of the bulk level excavation.
- 3.1.4 Archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2016b)
- 3.1.5 Trench locations were plotted on plans provided by the client using an 'offset methodology' and subsequently tied to the OS grid by MOLA Geomatics.
- 3.1.6 Where referenced in this report levels relate to OS Ordnance Datum and were calculated by measurements relating to the top of the modern ground surface which was at 3.10m OD.

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2016).

3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	2
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of Context (SU) sheets	none
Number of photographs	16
Number of Plan sheets	none
Number of Sections	none

4 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see fig 2

4.1 Geotechnical test pits

- 4.1.1 A watching brief was held on 28 geotechnical test pits as previously reported on (MOLA 2016a and b). These showed that made ground was present across the site to a depth of between 1.5m and 2m. These showed that modern made ground continued below the level of the test pits across the site. The natural London Clay Formation deposits were not observed in any trench. The pre-development ground surface sloped from 4.5m OD at the west end of the site to 3.5m OD at the east end.
- 4.1.2 Only test pits WAC 22 and 26 in the north-east corner of the site produced any deposits that could be possibly dated to before the late-19th or 20th centuries. The top of very dirty blue grey alluvium was found at c 2.2m OD.
- 4.1.3 The base of the made ground in these two test pits appeared to contain less intrusions than were present in the other test pits. It was therefore postulated that they might be related to an earlier-19th century build-up of the ground level. However, subsequent investigations suggested that this was not the case.

4.2 Bulk level reduction

- 4.2.1 The bulk level reduction was made to c 3.1m OD, and confirmed the results of the geotechnical test pits. Modern made ground was exposed across the site. The bulk dig did not continue below this material to expose the underlying alluvium.



Photo 1. The bulk level reduction in progress, looking east

4.3 Trench 1

Dimensions	10m NE-SW x 3m wide x 1.00m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	3.10m OD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	2.60m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	none seen
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.60m OD
Level of base of trench	2.10m OD

- 4.3.1 No archaeological deposits were encountered. The only deposit exposed in this trench was natural; this was a blue grey clay at 2.60m OD, which is not the actual top of the deposit but a truncated level. Above this was a modern deposit of crushed concrete.
- 4.3.2 A 3.0m wide feature crossed the trench NW to SE (photo 2). This contained disturbed clay and concrete fragments suggesting this was the location of a robbed out concrete footing probably relating to the 1980s. .



Photo 2. Trench 1 looking NE with an area of modern disturbance in the background



Photo 3. Trench 1 water lain blue grey clay in section looking SE

4.4 Trench 2

Dimensions	12m NE-SW x 3m wide x 1.50m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	3.10m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	2.60m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	none seen
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.60m OD
Level of base of trench	1.60m OD

- 4.4.1 No archaeological deposits were encountered. The only deposit exposed in this trench was natural; this was a blue grey clay at c 2.60m OD, which is not the actual top of the deposit but a truncated level. Above this was a modern deposit of crushed concrete.



Photo 4. Trench 2 looking SE



Photo 5. Trench 2 blue grey clay in section looking NW

4.5 The site as a whole

- 4.5.1 Assessing the results from the evaluation trenches, it appears that any archaeological deposits had been truncated down to a blue grey alluvial clay at 2.60m OD. There was no trace of a relatively clean layer of dark brown grey sandy, clayey silt containing occasional chalk, brick and oyster shell fragments that was seen above this during the excavation of trenches WAC22 and WAC26 on 11/09/16 for contamination samples (MOLA 2016b).
- 4.5.2 By comparison with the ground level to the south west at the Malthouse, it is clear ground level on site itself was significantly raised during either the 19th or 20th century by c 1.50m (MOLA 2016a). The site was redeveloped in the 1960s and then again in the 1980s and it would appear unlikely archaeological deposits remained *in situ*. This may explain the c 3m of made ground noted in the earlier watching brief (MOLA 2016a). This corresponds with the conclusions of the desk-based assessment and the archaeological impact assessment.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

- 5.1.1 The following research objectives were established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Section 6, CgMs 2016);
- 1) *To determine the presence of any prehistoric activity on site.*
 - 2) *To determine the presence of any Roman activity on site.*
 - 3) *To determine the presence of any Anglo-Saxon or Medieval activity on site.*
 - 4) *Determine if any remains associated with the nineteenth century industries on the site still survive.*
 - 5) *Establish the likely impact of past land use and development.*
- 5.1.2 As only natural water lain deposits were found and no archaeological remains survived the answers to the research objectives are all negative.

5.2 General discussion of potential

- 5.2.1 The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of horizontal archaeological stratification above natural ground level or any cut features on the site is highly negligible.

5.3 Significance

- 5.3.1 The results of this evaluation are only of local significance.

5.4 Assessment of the evaluation

- 5.4.1 There is a high level of confidence in the results of this evaluation as a basis of the mitigation strategy. In the case of this site, there is no evidence of any archaeological deposits/features surviving on the site, as was indicated in the desk-based assessment and the archaeological impact assessment. This is probably due to previous redevelopments on the site in the 1960s and 1980s having removed any of the buildings seen on the Ordnance Survey maps of the area.

6 Proposed development impact and conclusions

- 6.1.1 The proposed redevelopment at the site involves an 8m wide riverside walk preserving the river frontage with residential blocks on piled foundations constructed behind to the east. This development will have no impact of any archaeological deposits.
- 6.1.2 The negative results from this evaluation is only of local significance and only warrants a brief note in the annual fieldwork round-up in the local archaeological journal, *The London Archaeologist*.
- 6.1.3 The decision on any appropriate archaeological mitigation rests with the Local Planning Authority and their advisors.

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 The author would like to thank Paul Stewart of Weston Homes Plc for his assistance during this evaluation and the earlier watching brief phase which was carried out by Danny Harrison for MOLA, also to Peter Reeves of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the archaeological work and this report. The project was monitored by John Gould for GLAAS (Heritage England).

8 Bibliography

CgMs Consulting, 2015 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, Abbey Road, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham* (Reeves, P Aug 2015)

CgMs, 2016a *Archaeological Impact Assessment, Abbey Road, Barking* (Reeves, P June 2016)

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Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2015 *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*

MOLA (Harrison), 2016a *52 Abbey Road, Barking: Note of site visit on 4 August 2016* (sitecode ARB16) MOLA unpub report

MOLA (Harrison), 2016b *52 Abbey Road, Barking: Note of site visit on 11 August 2016* (sitecode ARB16) MOLA unpub report

Museum of London, 2002 *A research framework for London archaeology 2002*



Fig 1 Site location

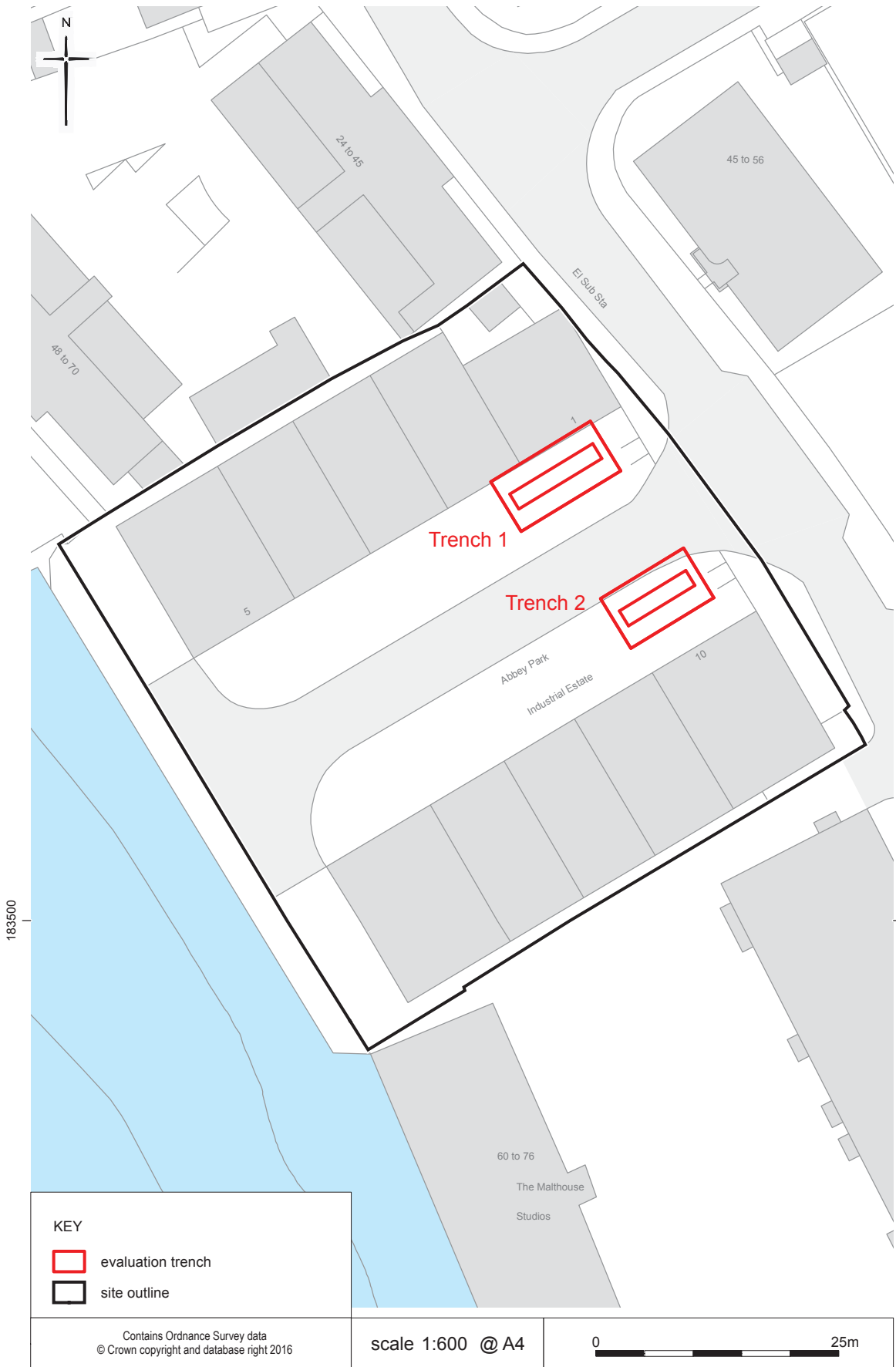


Fig 2 Areas of evaluation

WH172 Abbey Road, Barkisite Waste Categorisation Plan.

River Roding					
Tidal Wall Exclusion Zone					
WAC 1	WAC 10	WAC 11	WAC 20	WAC 25	WAC 30
WAC 2	WAC 9	WAC 12	WAC 19	Area not sampled	WAC 29
WAC 3	WAC 8	WAC 13	WAC 18	WAC 23	WAC 28
WAC 4	WAC 7	WAC 14	Area not sampled	WAC 22	WAC 27
WAC 5	WAC 6	WAC 15	WAC 16	WAC 21	WAC 26

Key:

Stable Non Hazardous	Inert	Hazardous
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Fig 3 Schematic plan showing sample grid (supplied by SES)

9 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-264534

Project details

Project name 52 Abbey Road, Barking

Short description of the project Evaluation of two trenches found no archaeological deposits had survived the previous redevelopments carried out on of the site. Natural was a water lain clay and this was truncated.

Project dates Start: 04-08-2016 End: 30-09-2016

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes ARB16 - Sitecode

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM BARKING 52 Abbey Road, Barking

Postcode IG11 7BT

Study area 3248 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 44063 83533 51.531797297265 0.077203922448 51 31 54 N 000 04 37 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 1.6m Max: 2.6m

Project creators

Name of Organisation MOLA

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Michael Smith

Project supervisor Tony Mackinder

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Weston Homes Plc

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID	ARB16
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	ARB16
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography
1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	52 Abbey Road, Barking Report on archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mackinder, T
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	client report including photographs

Entered by	Tony Mackinder (tmackinder@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	4 October 2016

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