



SPORTS PAVILION
East Marsh
London
E10

London Borough of Hackney

A standing building survey report

February 2008



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National Grid Reference: 537341 185621

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Museum of London Archaeology Service

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SUMMARY (non technical)

The Museum of London Archaeology Service and Pre-Construct Archaeology (MoLAS-PCA) were commissioned by the Olympic Delivery Authority to analyse and record a standing building used as a sports pavilion at the East Marsh on the northern side of Ruckholt Road, London E10. The building was to be demolished in order to redevelop the site, and the archaeological investigation and a subsequent report were required as a condition of planning consent for the redevelopment. The investigation took place in October 2007, and comprised a measured survey and photography of the interior, exterior and setting of the building.

The building comprised a main range with a hipped pantile roof and clock tower, which housed showers and lavatories, and three brick blocks with flat asphalted roofs, containing fifteen changing rooms, which were arranged around a large central yard, at the centre of which was a brick and concrete sink and water tap for washing boots. The building was originally constructed at a cost of approximately £3,000, which came from a £10,000 grant made in July 1936 by the Manor Charitable Trust for the improvement of amenities on Hackney Marsh. The pavilion was first used on the 1st of January 1938, and was completed later that year. The building was severely damaged during the Second World War and was entirely rebuilt in 1953 to the original plans, with the addition of shower and lavatory facilities, an electricity supply, and an additional block of three dressing rooms.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The building surveyed was situated on the southern side of the East Marsh in Hackney, within Planning Delivery Zone 15 of the Olympic Park, in the London Borough of Hackney. See Fig 1 for site location and the limits of Planning Delivery Zone 15 (in red). The structures were within the area designated as Planning Delivery Zone 15 (PDZ15) of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and Legacy Facilities planning applications. See Fig 1 and Fig 2.

The East Marsh is bounded on the south-east by Ruckholt Road, to the south-west and north-west by the River Lea and to the north-east by the New Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market (Fig 1). Within this report the sports pavilion is known as ‘the site’.

The Ordnance Survey national grid reference to the approximate centre of the site is 537341 185621. Modern ground level in Ruckholt Road in front of the building is at 6m OD. The Museum of London site code, by which the records are indexed and archived, is OL-04907. For reference, these structures are known within the project as BH31.

A desk top *Archaeological and Built Heritage impact assessment* was previously prepared by MoLAS-PCA, which covers the whole area of the site, Planning Delivery Zone Fifteen (Olympic Delivery Authority, 2007).

This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.

No previous description or investigation of the building is known, with the exception of information contained within the document noted above.

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

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the desktop *Archaeological and Built Heritage impact assessment* was previously prepared by MoLAS-PCA, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS-PCA, 2007a) *the Method Statement* (MoLAS-PCA 2007b), which formed the project design for the survey.

These documents should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.

The site is not a Scheduled Monument, nor is it listed as a building of special architectural or historic interest. The site is located in an Archaeological Priority Zone.

1.3 Planning background

In accordance with local and national policies, archaeological evaluation and built heritage survey of the areas of PDZ15 to be impacted upon in advance of its redevelopment was required as part of the planning process. Evaluation is intended to define the archaeological potential and significance of any deposits present on the site, so that the local authority can formulate responses appropriate to any identified archaeological resource.

The recording of the subject site in PDZ15 will be undertaken in support of a condition required by English Heritage and attached to the consent granted by the Olympic Delivery Authority Planning Decisions Team with respect to Olympic, Paralympic and Legacy Transformation Planning Application Reference 07/90010/OUMODA and Site Preparation Planning Application Reference 07/90011/FUMODA. Condition OD.15.2 of planning permission 07/90011/FUMODA states:

Demolition of any historic building specified for recording in the submitted Built Heritage Written Schemes of Investigation shall not take place until the recording set out in the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation has been undertaken and written confirmation received from English Heritage that the recording is satisfactory and that the building can be demolished. A report detailing the recording shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within six months of the written confirmation received from English Heritage.

Reason: To ensure that buildings with an identified historic interest are recorded.

1.4 Origin and scope of this report

The archaeological work of analysis and recording, and the production of this report, were commissioned from the Museum of London Archaeology Service and Pre-Construct Archaeology (MoLAS-PCA) by the Olympic Delivery Authority. The work was carried out in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MoLAS-PCA, 2007b).

The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001) and corresponds approximately to the form of record and reporting at 'Level 2', in the specifications, *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*, recommended by English Heritage (2006).

This report presents the results of an analytical survey carried out on the site for an aggregate total of 2 days in October 2007, combined with the available results of documentary research.

1.5 Research aims and method of work

The research aims of this archaeological work were defined in the *Method Statement* (MoLAS-PCA, 2007) in conformity with applicable planning policies and English Heritage guidelines (Archaeological Guidance Paper No. 3, revised June 1998).

The overall aim of the programme of work was to secure 'preservation by record' of those aspects of the standing building and the site that were of architectural, archaeological and historical interest. The scope of the work as defined in the *Method Statement* was as follows:

‘The exterior and interior of the structure will be viewed, described and photographed. Sketch plans of the interior and elevations of the exterior will be undertaken. A brief written description will be undertaken, and a report presenting conclusions regarding the development and use of the structure will be produced’ (MoLAS-PCA 2007b, 3.3).

The investigation satisfied the research aims, and it was determined that it would not be necessary to investigate the building further during demolition.

1.6 Organisation of this report and conventions used

The rooms and spaces contained within the buildings are numbered as follows:

- Main pavilion – G1-G7
- Changing rooms – C1-C15

A plan of the buildings and a sectional elevation are reproduced in this report (Fig 2, Fig 3).

All dimensions are given in metres or millimetres and in feet and inches where appropriate. Heights are given where appropriate in metres above Ordnance Datum (mean sea level), abbreviated ‘m OD’.

BGS	British Geological Survey
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
DoE	Department of the Environment
EH	English Heritage
GLAAS	Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeology Service
OD	Ordnance Datum (mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall)
OS	Ordnance Survey
PDZ	Planning Delivery Zone
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England
RSJ	Rolled steel joist
VCH	Victoria County History

Table 1 Abbreviations used in this report

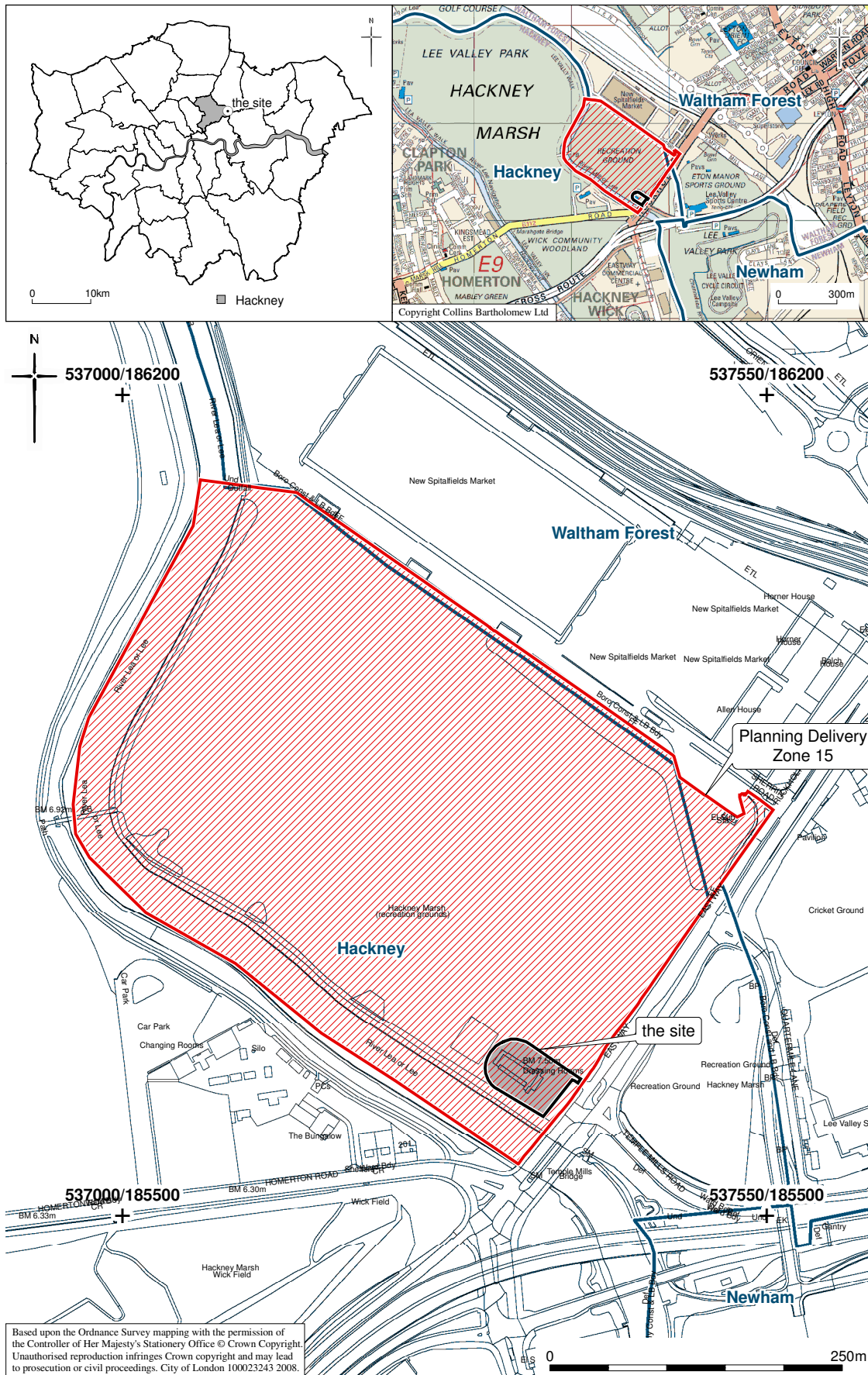


Fig 1 Location map

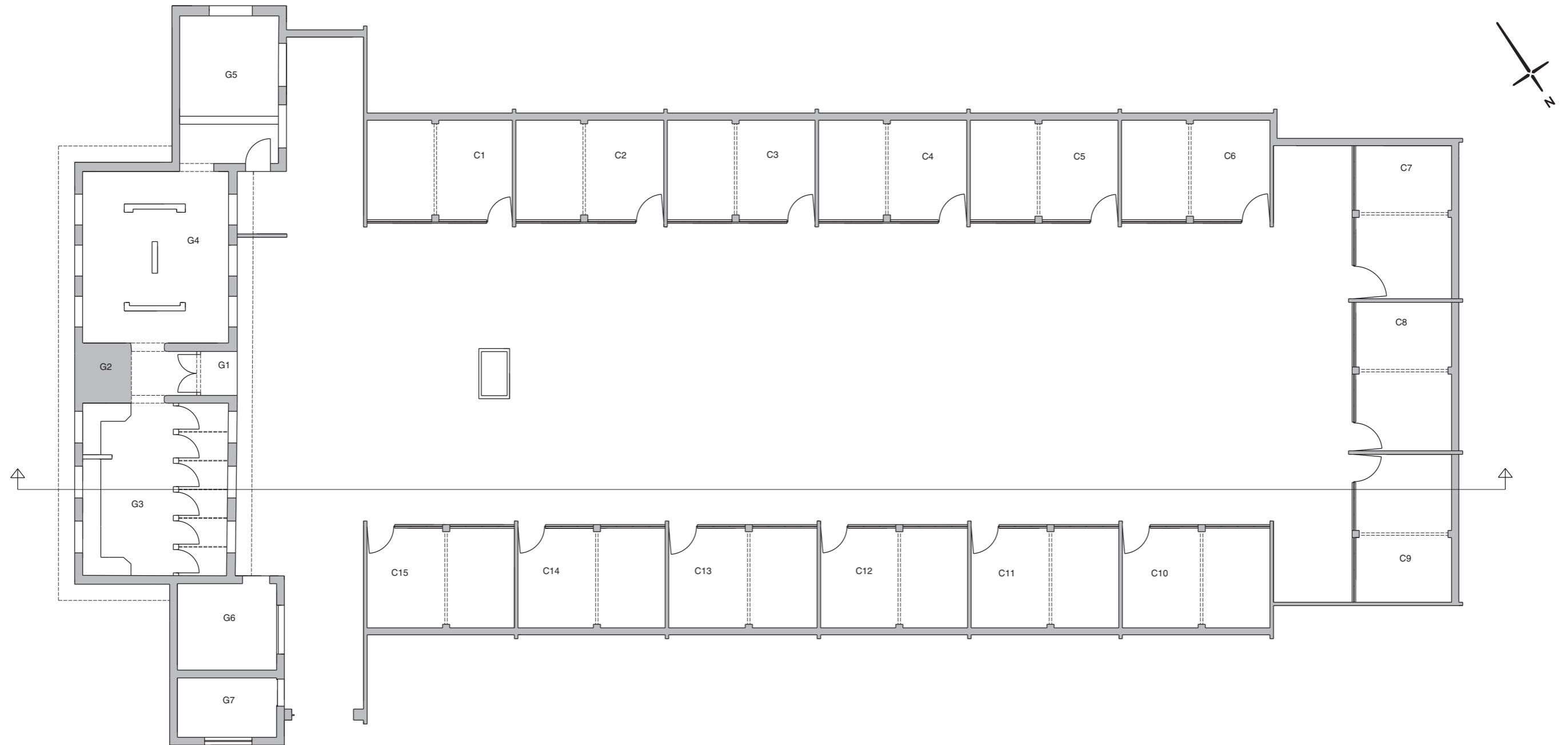


Fig 2 Plan of the site at ground level

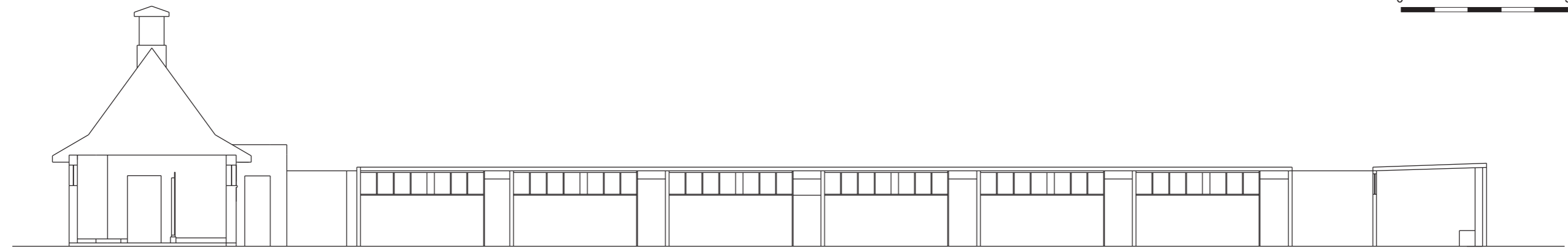


Fig 3 Sectional elevation north-south through the centre of the site

2 Topographical and historical background

A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was outlined in the earlier Archaeological and Built Heritage assessment (Olympic Delivery Authority, 2007). A brief, contextualising, summary is provided below.

2.1 Geology and natural topography

The site area is located in the centre of the River Lea floodplain, west of the confluence of the Lea Valley with the valley of the Leyton River. The BGS Sheet 256, (North London) shows the site lying on alluvium, adjacent to the present course of the River Lea, underlain by Lea Valley Gravels, deposited following the scouring-out of the valley floor during the Pleistocene. The underlying topography will have influenced the environments on the site for much of the prehistoric and early historic period, until it became obscured by the build-up of alluvium. As the river level rose during the historic period, previously dry land would have been more regularly subject to seasonal overbank flooding.

Modern ground level in Ruckholt Road, adjacent to the building is at 6m OD.

2.2 Early history of the site

Rocque's map of 1746 (Fig 4) shows the present site as being situated on marshes to the south-east of a group of possible farm buildings, and Tyler's Ferry, a crossing of the Lea, which is shown taking its original, meandering course. A bridge crossing the Lea is also shown to the south of the site, in approximately the same position as the present Homerton Road. Subsequent mapping from the late 18th and 19th centuries show little change to the use and appearance of the area; commercial and residential development of the land was discouraged by the regular flooding of the marshes. Until the 19th century Hackney Marsh was flooded each year by the River Lea, providing extensive nutritious pasture. Lammas rights enabled landowners to graze their animals on the marshes from 1 August each year, and little development occurred on the marshes. Stanford's map of 1862 (Fig 5) shows that a footpath had been established, which took a north-west – south-east aligned course along the western side of the Lea, connecting Homerton Road with the network of footpaths which crossed the Hackney Marshes (Baker 1995, 108–115).

As London grew, the land on the marshes became more valuable for building than grazing. The possibility that the owners of Lammas rights might unite to convert the marshes into building land led the district board to seek its purchase by the London County Council in 1889. The importance of the retention of the marshes for recreational use was highlighted when boys from the nearby Eton Mission, which was established by Eton College to assist the poor of Hackney, were ejected from the land for playing football. That year the owners of Lammas rights negotiated to sell their privileges to the London County Council for £75,000, of which the district board contributed £15,000 and private subscribers £10,000, and in 1893 the Marsh was opened to the public. Flood prevention works were carried out by the LCC; this included four cuts being made across the bends in the Lea, the old looping channels being retained to form islands; a bathing pool was created by the northernmost cut (Baker 1995, 108-115). The soil excavated from the new river cuts was used to level the ground, and former boundary posts dividing the Lammas pastures were removed (Sexby 1894, 7). Bacon's map of 1900 (Fig 6) shows how the Lea had been straightened and the

original bends in the river retained. The new river course had been excavated along the course of the footpath shown in Stanford's map of 1862 (Fig 5).

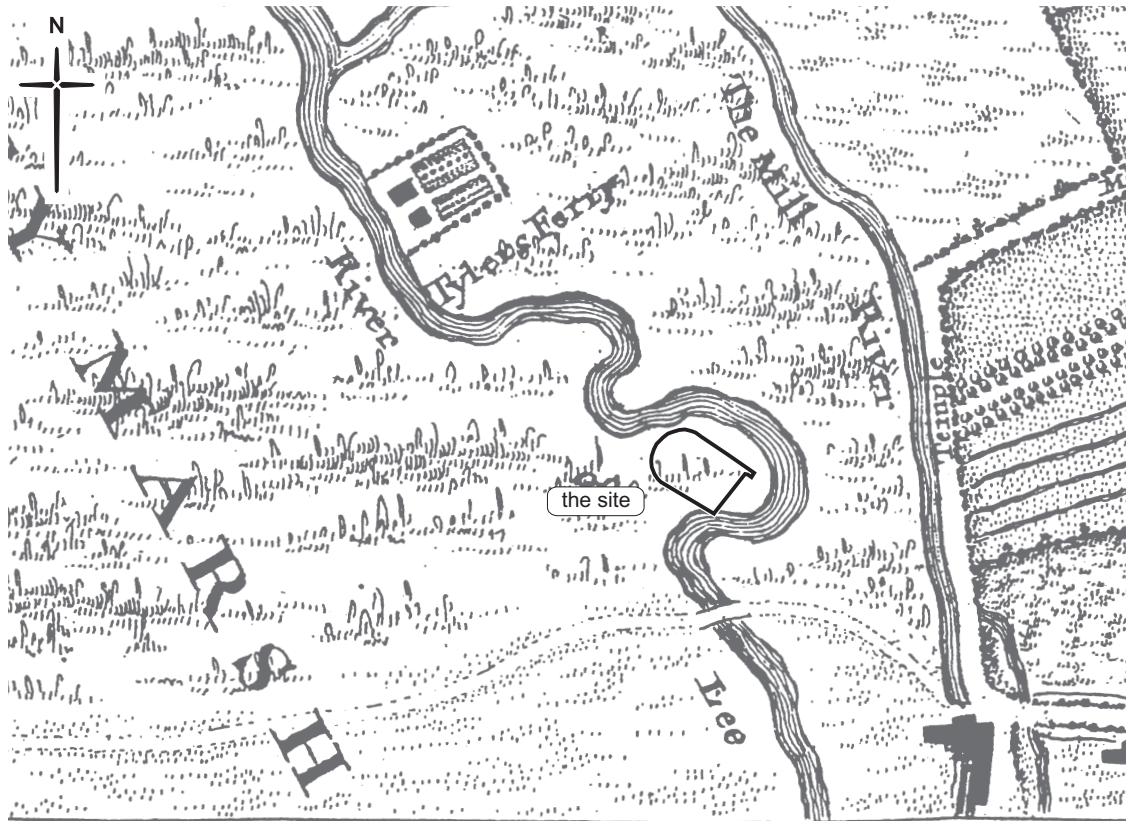


Fig 4 Rocque's map of London, 1746

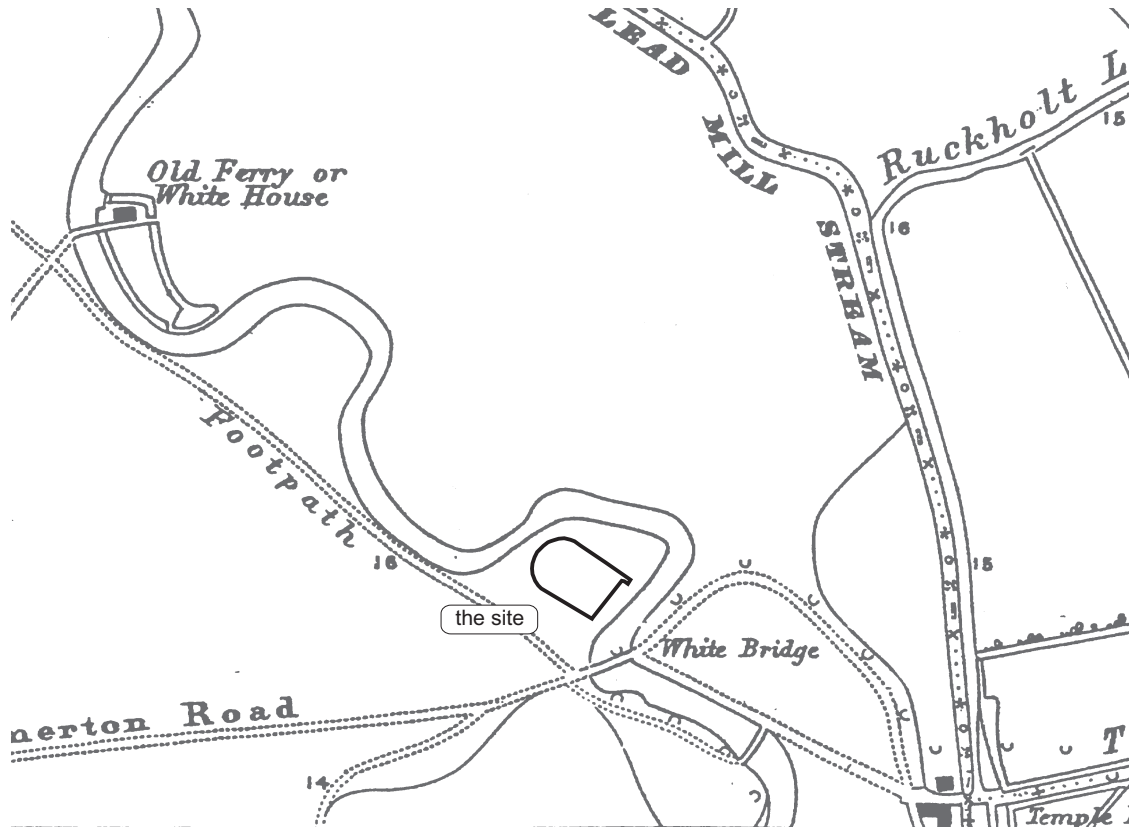


Fig 5 Stanford's Library map of London and its suburbs, 1862



Fig 6 Bacon's map of London, 1900

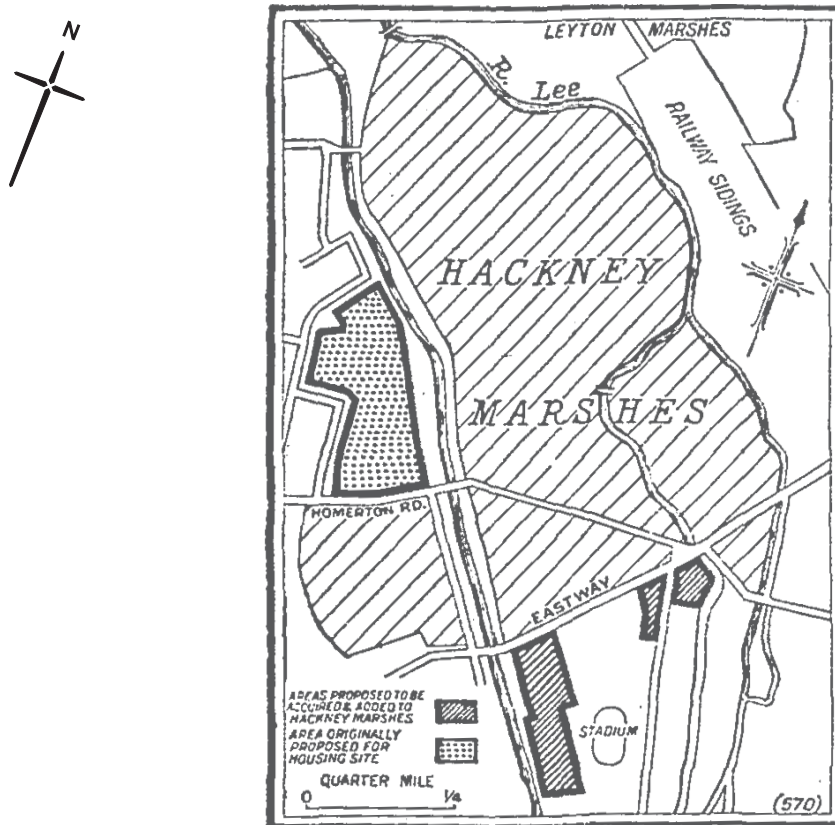


Fig 7 Proposed housing development and recreational areas on Hackney Marshes ('The Times' 23rd May 1936, 11)

2.3 Development and function of the standing building

Despite their designation as publicly owned, recreational space, the Hackney Marshes continued to be considered as valuable building land, especially after the LCC carried out flood prevention works. In 1915, 37.5 acres of land west of Lee Conservancy Road were taken for the National Projectile Factory, and were designated for retention by the government in 1922, although they were later cleared for Mabley Green recreation ground. In 1935 the LCC proposed to use 30 acres of land on the western side of the marshes for the construction of a new housing estate, and exchange it for 50 acres of recreational land in Chigwell in Essex. Arthur Villiers, a merchant banker, Old Etonian and founder of the Manor Charitable Trust, which was established to run and support the nearby Eton Manor Boys Club, brought a case against the LCC to the High Court, in order to prevent the construction of housing on the land. A pamphlet was published (Anon, 1935) which supported the preservation of the marshes as a whole, and of the 30 acres on the western side in particular:

‘...the ground referred to is practically the only part of Hackney Marshes where football or any sort of game can be played without charge by those who are not able to represent a properly organised team, either because they cannot afford it or are not good enough or have not the time. It is known as a ‘non-permit area’... and is on occasions the most crowded part of the Marshes’ (Anon 1935, 3-4).

The LCC lost the case that Villiers had brought against them. In his summing up, the judge said:

‘While we recognise to the full the difficulty that confronts the London County Council in finding space on which to re-house that part of the population of East London, whose present dwellings are unsatisfactory, and it may be deplorable, we are bound to hold that existing statutes do not permit them to make use of Hackney Marshes for this purpose. Accordingly, the rule will be made absolute and a Writ of Prohibition must issue’ (Slaughter & May 1936, Day 4; 7).

Following the outcome of the court case, the LCC proposed promoting a Bill in Parliament, which would allow them to build on the 30 acres on Hackney Marshes (*The Times*, 8th April 1936; 16). By the end of May of that year, however, a compromise with Villiers’ charity, the Manor Charitable Trust, had been reached. The Trust would give the LCC 20 acres of land adjoining the marshes, and the Council could use a corresponding acreage for the construction of what is now the Kingsmead Estate (*The Times*, 23rd May 1936; 11). These areas are now the Arena Field Recreation Ground, next to the River Lea, and two smaller areas at the northern end of Waterden Road, adjacent to (and underneath) the present A12 flyover. In addition, the Manor Charitable Trust gave £10,000 to the LCC to be used at their discretion for the improvement and provision of amenities on the Marshes (*The Times*, 27th May 1936; 13).

The Chief Officer of the LCC Parks Department proposed that the gift from the Manor Charitable Trust should go towards four schemes which would improve recreational facilities on the marshes (LMA: LCC/CL/PK/02/038, 27/11/1936). These were:

- A paddling pool and gymnasium at the new Kingsmead housing estate, at a cost of £3,500
- A dry playground at Mabley Green, covering five acres and containing four all-weather football pitches, costing £6,500
- A dressing room on the East Marsh, costing £2,500

- Public conveniences at Mabley Green, at a cost of £1,500.

The plans for lavatories at Mabley Green were withdrawn early in 1937; in April of that year an anonymous friend of Arthur Villiers gave £100 for the installation of a clock at the proposed East Marsh changing rooms. Two plans of proposals for the new sports pavilion were submitted for approval by the Parks Committee (LMA: LCC/CL/PK/02/038, 23/4/1937). The options were:

- Duplicates of existing changing rooms on the main marshes, constructed of timber framing with corrugated iron sheeting. The building could be marked to commemorate Villiers' generosity.
- A more substantial treatment of the front of the dressing rooms, costing an additional £545.

An inscription was submitted to the Parks Committee for approval in November 1937, and two designs were prepared by Mr C W Lewis, a student at the Central School of Arts and Crafts (which merged with St Martin's School of Art in 1989 to become Central St Martin's). The plaque which is in place on the south-facing wall of the pavilion was produced at a cost of £20 (ibid, 25/2/1938). Construction of the sports pavilion commenced in 1937 and the uncompleted pavilion was first used for the traditional New Years Day football matches in 1938:

'Today 330 amateur footballers will play on the eastern part of Hackney Marsh, and will be the first to use the new dressing accommodation provided on the East marsh by the London County Council out of £10,000 given by the Manor Charitable Trust, through Mr Arthur G C Villiers, to improve the amenities of Hackney Marsh. The new accommodation consists of 15 dressing-rooms, each large enough to accommodate the players of the two teams for each match. A friend of Mr Villiers, who wishes to remain anonymous, presented £100 for the provision of a clock. The estimated cost of the new dressing accommodation is £3,000' (*The Times*, 1st January 1938; 8).

By the time the Ordnance Survey published a map of the area in 1938, the bends in the river had been filled in, although the sports pavilion was not yet shown as having been built. The improvement of amenities on the marshes prompted a resurgence in amateur football; the Hackney and Leyton Sunday Football League was founded in 1946 (www.hackneyandleytonfootballleague.co.uk).

Photographs of the pavilion (LMA: LCC/CL/PK/02/038, 25/2/1938) taken shortly after its completion in 1938 show that it was very similar to the building which stands today. There were some marked differences, however; the south wall of the main pavilion had eight tall windows, evenly spaced in the façade, and the commemorative plaque must have been positioned elsewhere, perhaps on the other side of the pavilion, facing the central yard.

The building is first shown on the London County Council bomb damage map from the Second World War, which was based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 maps of 1916, continuously updated to 1940 (Fig 8). The building, marked 'pavilion' is depicted in a similar form to the present site; there is one main block, with small side wings on the west and east sides, and an enclosed yard with long ranges along the eastern and western sides. No third range at the northern end of the yard is shown, however, suggesting that there were fewer changing rooms than the 15 quoted in *The Times*, or that three of the changing rooms were situated inside the pavilion. The LCC bomb damage map also shows that a V1 flying rocket landed some distance to the south of the pavilion, landing in the River Lea to the south of the Eastway (later renamed Ruckholt Road), and although the map does not

indicate that the building was damaged, the brick pavilion and corrugated iron-clad dressing rooms were rendered unusable by bombing.

A second plaque situated below that commemorating Arthur Villiers' gift states that the pavilion was rebuilt following damage sustained during the Second World War. In 1951 (LCC/CL/PK/02/039, 23/5/1951) the architects Archard, Worrow & Hardy prepared preliminary drawings for the rebuilding of the pavilion with the addition of showers, lavatories, an electricity supply and an extra block of three dressing rooms. Construction was completed in July 1953, at a total cost of £8,918, and the pavilion was opened by Mr Edwin Bayliss, former Chairman of the Council on Saturday 5th September, in the presence of Arthur Villiers.

Subsequent OS mapping from the 1950s does not indicate the presence of the building at all, and from the 1960s the schematic nature of the mapping shows the building as a rectangle, without distinguishing between its component parts. A number of clubs in the amateur football leagues have used the pavilion as their home changing rooms, including Hackney Women's Football Club, which plays in the London and South-East Regional League (Sefryn Penrose, pers comm.).



Fig 8 The London County Council Bomb Damage Map, 1945



Fig 9 Front elevation of the main range of the Sports Pavilion, looking north

3 The standing building survey

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological analysis and recording during the investigation on site was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MoLAS-PCA, 2007), the *Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual* (1994) and MoLAS *health and safety policy* (2008).

The location and exterior of the standing building was determined in outline on the modern Ordnance Survey plan. A plan of the building and a sectional elevation on a south-east – north-west alignment (Fig 2, Fig 3) were drawn from a measured survey. Details of the construction, development and function of the internal and external elements of the building were noted.

The site records comprise a total of 33 digital colour photographic images, 12 site drawings, site notes and notes on the documentary evidence. No objects or samples were collected. The site records will be deposited and indexed in due course in the Museum of London archaeological archive under the site code OL-04907.

3.2 Description of the standing building

This description should be read in conjunction with the plans and sectional elevations ((Fig 2, Fig 3) and selected photographs taken in October 2007 (Fig 9–Fig 19).



Fig 10 The internal yard, east and west changing room blocks and the main pavilion, looking south-east



Fig 11 Entrance door to the main range, looking south-east



Fig 12 Commemorative plaques on the south wall of the main range, looking south-east



Fig 13 Lavatories in the main range, looking south-east



Fig 14 The showers in the main range, looking south-east



Fig 15 Interior of the Ranger's office in the east wing of the main range, looking north-east

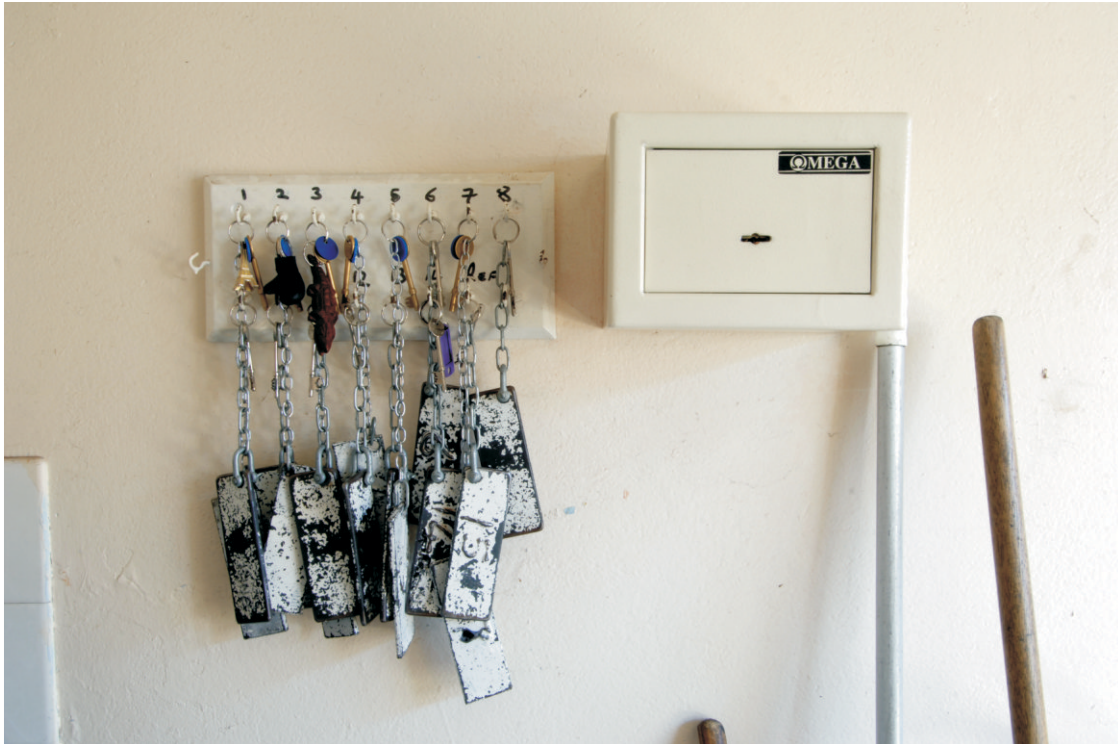


Fig 16 Keys to the changing rooms, in the Ranger's office, looking south-east



Fig 17 Exterior of the north and west changing room blocks, looking east



Fig 18 Entrance of changing room 15, looking north-east



Fig 19 Interior of changing room 15, looking east

3.2.1 Main Pavilion

3.2.1.1 Exterior

The sports pavilion is aligned on a north-west - south-east axis, in the southern corner of the East Marsh in Hackney. For ease of reporting, the main shower and lavatory range will be reported as being situated at the southern end of the site, with the long changing room blocks on the western and eastern sides, and the shorter changing room block at the northern end of the site.

In plan the area covered by the buildings measured approximately 42.7m from north to south and 22.8m from east to west. The buildings comprised a main range, which was a large, symmetrical single-storey building, measuring 22.8m overall from east to west, and 6.47m overall from north to south. The central block was constructed of red brick in Flemish bond with cement mortar, with a pan-tiled, hipped pagoda-style roof, capped by a small clock tower (Fig 9). The clock tower could not be inspected in detail, but was probably constructed with a timber or steel frame and is clad with brown plastic, with four clock faces, one on each side of the tower. The tower is capped with a copper roof. The central block is flanked by two flat-roofed side-wings off-set to the north. Further north, three single-storey brick flat-roofed buildings containing 15 changing rooms were ranged around three sides of an asphalted yard, with an entrance gate in the south-eastern corner, between the main range and the east changing room block (Fig 10). The pavilion, entered only from the yard, houses walk-through showers in two rooms to the west, an electric boiler in a cupboard in the centre, and WCs and urinals in one room to the east. A Ranger's office with electricity meters and storage for goal nets and corner flags were in another two rooms further to the east, entered separately from the yard. The yard contained a concrete and brick constructed sink and water tap for washing boots towards its southern end.

The main range was entered by a double leaf door situated in the centre of the north-facing façade (Fig 11). Six horizontally elongated frosted glass windows were situated in the north-facing façade, three on either side of the main door. These windows were covered with steel grilles to deter vandalism. Two stone plaques were set into the centre of the south-facing façade (Fig 12). The first plaque was set into a concrete frame with a projecting sill, measuring 1.095m wide x 0.83m tall. This frame is almost identical in style to the frames surrounding the six elongated windows in this façade. The inscription reads:

<p>THE COST OF THIS BUILDING WAS MET FROM A GIFT OF £10000 MADE TO THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL IN JULY 1936 BY THE MANOR CHARITABLE TRUST THROUGH THE HON ARTHUR G C VILLIERS TO IMPROVE THE AMENITIES OF HACKNEY MARSH</p>

Below this plaque was a longer, narrow plaque, measuring 1.09m long x 0.075m tall, which commemorates the rebuilding of the pavilion after damage was sustained during the Second World War. The inscription reads:

REBUILT IN 1953 AFTER DAMAGE BY ENEMY
ACTION

Three elongated windows are situated on either side of the commemorative plaques; these have been covered externally with steel sheets to deter vandalism. The two flat roofed side wings, which project to the north, have windows in their east- and west-facing facades respectively; the west-facing window in the west wing, which would light the sports equipment storeroom, G7, has been covered, like all other windows in the main range, with a steel sheet. In addition to the store room, which has an external door in the north-facing façade, the west wing contains the Ranger's office, G6, which is lit by a window in the north-facing façade and has a door from the yard in the east-facing façade.

The elongated east-facing window, which is situated in the east wing, replaces the original larger window. Two other windows in the north-facing façade have been similarly reduced in size, and a brick wall was constructed 0.95m east of the locked door to the west wing, suggesting that it formerly contained an office or storeroom, which was later converted into the present shower room, G5.

3.2.1.2 Interior

The centrally placed double leaf door in the north-facing external façade of the main pavilion gives entry to a small vestibule, G1. A cupboard, G2, houses the boiler which supplies the showers and lavatories with hot water; at the time of the measured survey, this cupboard was locked. Two door openings from G1 give access to the rooms on either side. G3, on the eastern side of the pavilion (Fig 13), contains the WCs and urinals, and G4, on the western side of the pavilion, contains a walk-through shower in the centre of the room, with wooden benches and garment hooks against the southern and northern walls (Fig 14). An opening in the west wall of G4 gives access to a second open shower, G5, which was probably converted from a former office or storeroom. G3 and G4 are lit by horizontally elongated, top pivoting frosted glass windows, situated high up in the wall. The windows in the south wall have been covered on the external side by steel sheets, preventing them from being broken but blocking the light; the windows in the north wall have been covered with steel grills, limiting the movement of the window panes and acting as a deterrent to intruders.

The east wing of the main range contains two rooms; an office for the Ranger, G6 (Fig 15), which is decorated plainly and contains a desk, shelves, the cleaning equipment and the keys to the changing rooms (Fig 16) and a storage room for the goal nets and corner flags, G7.

3.2.2 Changing rooms

Three long ranges, accommodating a total of fifteen changing rooms, are situated on the western, northern and eastern sides of the courtyard respectively. These are constructed of red brick in a stretcher bond, with walls one single brick thick, and flat concrete panel roofs supported by rolled steel joists, manufactured by Dorman Long & Co Ltd of Middlesbrough, on thin load bearing walls and covered with asphalt. The eastern and western ranges each contain six changing rooms, the northern range contains three. The partition walls between each changing room protrude from the front and rear external elevations by approximately the length of half a brick, *c* 110mm (Fig 17). The external faces of the front and rear walls of each changing room have been covered with a cement render. Each changing room has a steel plate door and is lit by four sealed and three top pivoting steel framed windows which look out onto the yard.

Internally, the changing rooms are plain and undecorated (Fig 18). Each has a bare concrete floor, and timber benches with slatted seats are fixed to the walls on three sides of the room. Cast iron garment hooks mounted on wooden boards are fixed to two walls, above the benches. The interiors of the changing rooms appear to have been kept in good condition, and are free of graffiti. As the changing rooms are used by different teams each week, depending on the schedule of match fixtures, there are no facilities for storing kit between matches. The changing room closest to the entrance gate and Ranger's Office, C15, was used by the referees; this was the only room to be personalised in any way, with newspaper cuttings and photographs fixed to the walls and towels and other personal items left there (Fig 19).

3.2.3 Surrounding open area

An expansive area of tarmac, used as a car park, is located to the south of the sports pavilion; a wide gravel path surrounds the building on its eastern, northern and western sides. A further area of tarmac is situated to the north of the pavilion; this is marked out for use as cricket nets, for practicing bowling and batting, although at the time of the survey, which was outside the cricket season, the nets had not been assembled. Low fences constructed of concrete posts and hollow steel rails separate the cricket nets and sports pavilion from each other, and from the football pitches on the East Marsh.

3.3 Discussion

The exterior of the Sports Pavilion has been largely unchanged since its reconstruction in 1953. Internally, the shower rooms and lavatories appear to date to the reconstruction of the pavilion; there have been only intermittent cosmetic changes to the rest of the site, such as repainting the interiors of the changing rooms, and fixing notice boards to the south wall of the east changing room block.

3.4 Conclusions

The Association for Industrial Archaeology's recent research framework *Understanding the Workplace* (Gwyn & Palmer [eds] 2005) highlighted sport as 'an integral part of British culture and an important aspect of modern life, yet it hardly seems to figure in the nation's heritage equation' (Wood 2005, 137). There has been a lack of understanding of the built heritage resource, and few systematic threat-led surveys, such as *Taking the Plunge: the Architecture of Bathing* (SAVE Britain's Heritage, nd), a situation in part rectified by English Heritage's pilot study of sporting heritage in Manchester, *A Sporting Chance: extra time for England's historic sports venues* (English Heritage, 2002). This assessed a variety of sports-related sites in the city, surveyed public views and attitudes to the heritage of sport, and developed a framework and method for assessing the architectural, historical and social significance of sporting heritage.

The Sports Pavilion on the East Marsh in Hackney has little architectural merit, being constructed in an economical way to make best use of public funds in the aftermath of the Second World war, yet its value can be measured in social and historical terms; it has been an element of continuity for generations of amateur sportsmen and women in the changing urban environment.

4 Potential of the archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

The archaeological investigation has fulfilled the original research aims through the creation of a photographic and drawn record and written description of the sports pavilion.

4.2 New research aims

More documentary evidence in the form of photographs and memorabilia may exist for the construction and use of the sports pavilion the National Archives, London Metropolitan Archives and Tower Hamlets Local History Library. Further research may enhance the current understanding of this structure.

4.3 Significance of the data

The standing building is undoubtedly of significance for the history of the immediate locality, and is of significance in the context of the improvement of local authority housing and recreational facilities in London, but nothing was found to suggest that it is of wider national importance.

Given the local significance of the sports pavilion it is recommended that the plaques commemorating the £10,000 donation made to the LCC for the improvement of recreational facilities on Hackney Marsh in 1936, and reconstruction of the pavilion in 1953, be retained and relocated upon the redevelopment of the site. They could be incorporated into the structure of any new facility which might be constructed on the site.

The results of the investigation will be reported in summary form in the annual fieldwork round-ups in *London Archaeologist* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*. Given the local importance of the building within the context of London's recreational and sporting heritage, and that its origins lie with the Manor Charitable Trust, the organisation that ran the Eton Manor Boys Club, a chapter in the monograph about the Built Heritage recording project, or an article in the *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, could be written. Such an article would examine the built heritage of the East Marsh Sports Pavilion and the previously recorded Eton Manor Sports Ground (MoLAS-PCA 2006), and their common history, in the terms of the provision of sports and recreational facilities in early 20th century east London.

4.4 Salvaged fixtures, fittings and materials

There was no archaeological requirement to salvage any of the materials or fittings during the compilation of this report.

5 Publication and archiving

The site archive containing original records will be stored in accordance with the terms of the Method Statement (MoLAS-PCA, 2007).

Information on the results of the survey will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

In view of the local importance of the East Marsh Sports Pavilion for the study of recreational and sporting heritage in London (Section 4.3) it is suggested that in addition to the fieldwork summaries in *London Archaeologist* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, an article in *Transactions of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society* or a chapter in the project Built Heritage monograph be written about the pavilion and the previously recorded Eton Manor Sports Ground (MoLAS-PCA 2006), and their common history, in the terms of the provision of sports and recreational facilities in early 20th century east London.

It is also recommended that the results of this recording and analysis are assimilated into a site-wide assessment of all archaeological interventions to assign contextual significance and further refine the importance of the archaeological survival, and thereafter assimilated into any publication discussing/disseminating the results.

6 Acknowledgements

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Archaeological analysis and recording, and pencil drawings, were by Emma Dwyer, Maria Utrero and Andrew Westman. The archaeological photographs of the standing building were taken by Andy Chopping, assisted by Andrew Westman. CAD drawings were by Monica Cortelletti.

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-37110

Project details

Project name Sports Pavilion, East Marsh, Hackney: A Standing Building Survey

Short description of the project The Museum of London Archaeology Service and Pre-Construct Archaeology (MoLAS-PCA) were commissioned by the Olympic Delivery Authority to analyse and record a standing building used as a sports pavilion at the East Marsh on the northern side of Ruckholt Road, London E10. The building was to be demolished in order to redevelop the site, and the archaeological investigation and a subsequent report were required as a condition of planning consent for the redevelopment. The investigation took place in October 2007, and comprised a measured survey and photography of the interior, exterior and setting of the building. The building comprised a main range with a hipped pantile roof and clock tower, which housed showers and lavatories, and three brick blocks with flat asphalted roofs, containing fifteen changing rooms, which were arranged around a large central yard, at the centre of which was a brick and concrete sink and water tap for washing boots. The building was originally constructed at a cost of approximately £3,000, which came from a £10,000 grant made in July 1936 by the Manor Charitable Trust for the improvement of amenities on Hackney Marsh. The pavilion was first used on the 1st of January 1938, and was completed later that year. The building was severely damaged during the Second World War and was entirely rebuilt in 1953 to the original plans, with the addition of shower and lavatory facilities, an electricity supply, and an additional block of three dressing rooms.

Project dates Start: 19-10-2007 End: 24-10-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project codes OL-04907 - Sitecode reference

Type of project Building Recording

Site status None

Current Land use Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings

Monument type SPORTS PAVILION Modern

Monument type FOOTBALL PITCH Modern

Monument type FOOTBALL PITCH Post Medieval

Project location

Country England
 Site location GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY Sports Pavilion, East Marsh, Hackney
 Postcode E10
 Study area 1000.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TQ 3734 8562 51.5522328478 -0.01885474879310 51 33 08 N 000 01 07 W Point
 Height OD Min: 6.00m Max: 6.00m

Project creators

Name of MoLAS/PCA
 Organisation

Project originator brief ODA

Project originator design MoLAS/PCA

Project director/manager Alex Rose-Deacon

Project supervisor Emma Dwyer

Type of ODA
 sponsor/funding body

Name of Olympic Delivery Authority
 sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
 recipient

Physical Archive ID OL-04907

Digital recipient Archive LAARC

Digital Archive ID OL-04907

Paper recipient Archive LAARC

Paper Archive ID OL-04907

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Sports Pavilion, East Marsh Hackney: a standing building survey

Author(s)/Editor(s) Dwyer, E

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher MoLAS-PCA

Place of issue or publication London

Description Standing building survey report, A4, pdf.

Entered by Emma Dwyer (edwyer@molas.org.uk)

Entered on 4 February 2008

9 Appendix 1: list of archaeological photographs

Image number	Description
02108001	The East Marsh Sports Pavilion from the west bank of the River Lea. Looking NE
02108002	The car park and main range of the sports pavilion. Looking N
02108003	The car park and main range of the sports pavilion. Looking N
02108004	The car park and main range of the sports pavilion. Looking N
02108005	W side wing of the main range, and Ruckholt Road. Looking E
02108006	Exterior of the N and W changing room blocks from the cricket nets. Looking E
02108007	Entrance gate to the internal yard. Looking SW
02108008	Commemorative plaques on the S wall of the main range. Looking NW
02108009	Internal yard, E changing room block and sink for washing boots. Looking N
02108010	Internal yard, E and W changing room blocks and main range. Looking SE
02108011	Main range and entrance gate. Looking NE
02108012	Plastic board showing 'East Marsh football pitch layout' on S wall of E changing room block. Looking N
02108013	Information boards on S wall of E changing room block. Looking NW
02108014	Entrance door to main range. Looking SE
02108015	Entrance vestibule of main range. Looking SE
02108016	Boiler cupboard in main range. Looking SE
02108017	Warning notice on entrance door to main range. Looking NE
02108018	Warning notice in showers in main range. Looking SW
02108019	Lavatories and entrance vestibule in main range. Looking SW
02108020	Showers in main range. Looking SW
02108021	Showers in main range. Looking NE
02108022	Showers in main range. Looking S
02108023	Lavatories in main range. Looking SW
02108024	Lavatories in main range. Looking N
02108025	Urinals in main range. Looking E
02108026	Interior of changing room 15, used by referees. Looking E
02108027	Entrance door and windows of changing room 15. Looking NW
02108028	Exterior of changing room 15. Looking NE
02108029	Exterior of main range. Looking NE
02108030	Detail of window on N side of main range. Looking SE
02108031	Interior of Ranger's room in E wing of main range. Looking NE
02108032	Safe and keys to changing rooms in Ranger's room. Looking SW
02108033	Exterior of main range and internal yard. Looking SE

10 Appendix 2: list of working drawings made on site

Drawing	Description
1	Sketch plan of the main pavilion
2	Measured details of the windows in the main pavilion
3	Measured plan of entrance vestibule and lavatories in the main pavilion
4	Measured plan of the store room and Ranger's office, main pavilion
5	Measured plan of showers in the main pavilion
6	Sketch sectional elevation, main pavilion
7	Measured plan, yard and dressing rooms
8	Measured plan, external measurements of the sports pavilion
9	Measured sectional elevation, changing room 3
10	Measured plan, changing room 3
11	Measured sectional elevation, main pavilion
12	Measured elevation, changing room 1