

SHARED SERVICE YARD AND ACCESS RAMP
King's Cross
London NW1

London Borough of Camden

Written Scheme of Investigation for
Building Recording and Analysis

June 2007

**Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording of the Shared
Service Yard and Access Ramp, King's Cross, London NW1**

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3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Access and Safety

- 3.1.1 During site work PCA will give reasonable access to the site to the client and their representatives, subject to the health and safety requirements at the site. Such access may be deemed necessary in order that the client is satisfied, through site inspections, that the archaeological works are being conducted to proper professional standards and in accordance with the agreements made.
- 3.1.2 All relevant health and safety legislation, CDM, COSHH regulations and codes of practice will be respected.
- 3.1.3 There is a duty of care for the client to provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before site works commence.
- 3.1.4 Any site perimeter hoarding, maintenance of gate access and general site security is the responsibility of the client or their agent, unless Pre-Construct Archaeology is instructed to the contrary. The costs of this will be additional to that quoted.

3.2 Recording Systems

- 3.2.1 A unique-number site code will be agreed with the Museum of London.
- 3.2.2 The recording systems adopted during the investigations will be fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London and by English Heritage.
- 3.2.3 The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area. This requirement for archival compatibility extends to the use of computerised databases.
- 3.2.4 A 'site location plan' indicating the site north and based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared.
- 3.2.5 A full photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include medium format black and white and colour negative film, illustrating the area setting, elevations of the fabric of the Hotel Curve Tunnel and the Milk Dock walls, and architectural features and fittings. The photographic record will also include shots to illustrate the site work in progress, and any relevant photographs found at the archives. The transparencies will be mounted in suitable frames for long-term curation in preparation for deposition with the archive.

3.3 The Recording Work: Scope

- 3.3.1 What historic fabric survives in the area of the Enabling Works is limited to the flank walls and portal of the Hotel Curve Tunnel and vestiges of the Milk Dock walls abutting the Suburban Trainshed of King's Cross Station. The recording will focus on above-ground features pre-dating recent clearances, and is therefore limited essentially to the tunnel entrance, which is sited approximately in the centre of the Shared Service Yard and is currently used to house services, and the vestigial remains of the Milk Dock walls. The recording will take the form of documentary research, full photographic survey (medium format), measured survey (both manual and electronic), and written description and analysis.
- 3.3.2 The elevations of the east and west flank walls and portal of the Hotel Curve Tunnel, and those of the Milk Dock walls, will be recorded by electronic survey and photography.
- 3.3.3 Any features or fittings of historic interest will be drawn manually.
- 3.3.4 The setting and major views of the historic structures will be recorded photographically.
- 3.3.5 Fabric analysis will be undertaken of materials used in the construction of the structures, and samples taken where required. Fabric analysis of the ceramic and stone materials used in construction will be undertaken using the London System of fabric classification.
- 3.3.6 Samples of materials will be taken to form part of the archive.

3.4 Recording: Methods

- 3.4.1 The purpose of the work will be to create an accurate record of the historic fabric which remains on the site, enhancing the existing understanding of the structures.
- 3.4.2 The recording will take the form of manual and electronic measured survey, producing elevations and detail drawings (where necessary), a photographic survey, and fabric analysis of the historic and recent building sequence, materials and technology and techniques used. A written description will be produced.

Measured Survey

- 3.4.3 The measured survey will be undertaken by hand and electronically. The survey will be undertaken to produce conventional architectural drawing, executed according to the English Heritage (2006) specifications.
- 3.4.4 The survey will include:
- A site plan, drawn at 1:200
 - External elevations, drawn at 1:100
 - Detail drawings, drawn at 1:20 and 1:10, recording features related specifically to railway, goods yard or domestic function (as scheduled in Appendix A of the IHCM Specification).

3.4.5 All drawings will be produced digitally using AutoCAD (2004/2006) following English Heritage guidelines and using an appropriate layering system. All drawings will, wherever possible, be tied into the overall site grid and the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Elevations will be printed at a scale of 1:50, 1:100 or 1:200, depending on the level of detail to be shown. Details will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:10.

3.4.6 The AutoCAD drawings will be constructed in a way which will be compatible with the GIS being developed for the whole King's Cross Central scheme, and the data will be provided in appropriate formats for incorporation into the GIS.

3.4.7 The survey work on the area of the Enabling Works will be keyed into the two-dimensional topographical survey of the King's Cross site undertaken by Plowman Craven and Associates.

Photography

3.4.8 Medium format black and white photography will be used to record evidence of the sequence of construction, elevations, important architectural details and important fixtures and fittings. This will be supplemented by colour photography, which will be used to illustrate elevations and significant details. Photographs will also be made of the general context of the structures.

Fabric Analysis

3.4.9 Descriptive and interpretative notes will be made of the structures and their construction, recording and analysing function, materials, phases, sequences, historical techniques used, missing fabric, and fixtures and fittings (both former and current). Materials (brick, stone, timber, metal, render and mortar) will be identified and dated during the works. Where the building fabrics are deemed to be of national or regional importance materials will be sampled analysed and dated by a specialist, where appropriate or practical. Where the sensitivity of the fabric precludes sampling the material will, where possible, be identified in-situ.

3.4.10 Following the main phase of recording, fabric samples may be taken during the demolition of the structures (as scheduled in Appendix D of the IHCM Specification). This work will be undertaken by a buildings archaeologist and will be charged at a standard day rate.

Written Description

3.4.11 A report will be prepared based on the above record, describing the form and function of the structures. It will present the results of the building recording and indicate the direction of any further work arising from it, before it is taken forward to publication.

3.5 Post-Recording Report

3.5.1 The report will be fully illustrated with elevations, detail drawings and photographs, and will outline the results of the work. The direction of photographs taken will be indicated within the report. There will be an analysis of the structures' architecture, development and changing historic functions and form. The report will cover all

of the topics listed in Appendix C of the IHCM Specification, and will take the form laid out in paragraph 3.5.3 (below).

3.5.2 The structures' significance in terms of their architecture and operation will also be analysed within a local, regional or national context. The report will identify the significance of the findings and the level to which they require publication, which will meet the 'minimum requirements' set out in Appendix 7 of the English Heritage *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991).

3.5.3 The report will have the following contents:

Introduction
Historic background
Building descriptions
The development of the buildings and structures (including their fixtures/operations and the historic sequence)
Architectural context
Discussion and conclusions
Fabric description appendix
Survey drawings (plans, sections & elevations; details of important architectural features)
List of photographs

3.6 Treatment of Finds and Samples

3.6.1 Although no artefact finds are envisaged, if located they will be retained as part of the site archive.

3.6.2 In the unlikely event of finds of national or regional importance being encountered they will be treated in a proper manner and to standards agreed in advance with the recipient museum. They will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No.2*. Metal objects of importance will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation (except in those cases where the nominated representative of the LPA agrees that this will not be necessary).

3.6.3 Ceramic (pottery, clay tobacco, building material fabric and brick form) reference collections may be referred to for descriptive and analytical purposes in order to ensure that terminology is consistent.

3.6.4 Samples of building material considered to be of specific importance to the Listed status and history of the buildings or are of other regional or national importance will be taken where appropriate and practical, unless precluded by the sensitivity of the material. Any samples thus taken will receive the appropriate level of cleaning, conservation and archiving according to the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No.2*.

3.7 Reports and Archives

3.7.1 The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. Any finds and records will be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the Museum and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the*

museum care of archaeological collections (1992) and *Towards an accessible archaeological archive: the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales* (SMA, 1995).

- 3.7.2 If finds are not to be donated to the appropriate Museum, arrangements will be made for a comprehensive record of all relevant materials (including detailed drawings, photographs and descriptions of individual finds), which can instead constitute the archaeological archive.
- 3.7.3 The minimum acceptable standard for the site archive is defined in *Management of archaeological projects*, 5.4 and Appendix 3. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive records of such materials as referred to above), and all written, drawn, and photographic records, including a copy of all reports relating to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent before transfer to the appropriate museum. It will also contain a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 3.7.4 United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed.
- 3.7.5 An assessment of the results of the work, even if negative, will be bound into the client report for submission to the LPA and the GLSMR as soon as possible after the completion of archaeological works.
- 3.7.6 Minimum requirements for public dissemination is for SMR report forms to be lodged with the LPA as soon as possible or within 6 months of completion of fieldwork, and the provision of a short paragraph summary of the results for publication in a local journal. Such publications will meet the minimum requirements set out in Appendix 7 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991), and derive from a 'phase 2 review' as defined in the same document.

4 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

- 4.1 The amount of recording will be dependent on the level of safe access available to the structures. The fieldwork envisaged is likely to take four working days, although these may not be continuous, depending on achieving safe access.
- 4.2 Documentation of the demolition of the structures, and associated materials sampling (as scheduled in Appendix D of the IHCM Specification), may be undertaken and will be charged separately at a standard day rate. The timetable and duration of this recording stage will be dictated by the timetable and duration of demolition works.
- 4.3 Accommodation, toilet facilities and full washing facilities for the attendant archaeological team will be arranged with the client.
- 4.4 The Health and Safety policies of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited will be followed and in accordance with all statutory regulations. The work will conform to existing site policies and procedures.
- 4.5 The site team will consist of a historic buildings analyst, a survey team and a photographer. Additional assistants may be required to assist with recording.
- 4.6 The report will be prepared as soon as possible after completion of the fieldwork and will be submitted to the client and to IHCM in draft for comment and appropriate amendment. Eight copies of the final report shall be issued to the client two weeks following receipt of comment, for onward distribution to IHCM, English Heritage and the London Borough of Camden. At an agreed date, copies of the report will be lodged in the LAARC, the Camden Local Studies Library and the English Heritage National Monuments Record at Swindon.