

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

SHARED SERVICE YARD AND ACCESS RAMP

KING'S CROSS CENTRAL

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

FOR

Argent (King's Cross) Limited

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Enabling Works to form a Shared Service Yard (SSY) and Access Ramp (AR) located immediately to the west of the King's Cross Suburban Station are to be commenced. Condition 56 of the outline planning permission 2004/2307/P requires a programme of 'Archaeological Investigation and Mitigation' to be prepared. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd is nominated as the archaeological contractor to undertake these works.
- 1.2 In preparing this document, reference has been made to 'Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation – Specification: Shared Service Yard and Access Ramp' (International Heritage Conservation and Management [IHCM], June 2007).
- 1.3 The archaeological watching brief will be applied to the following engineering works within the area shown in Figure 2 within the IHCM specification. The works comprise:
1. Trial pitting to establish the precise location of services and obstructions buried in the ground.
 2. Sinking of one or more bore holes to provide design data in respect of ground conditions and foundation designs.
 3. Site preparation including the removal of any surviving upstanding features and removal of obstructions in the way of proposed ground works.
 4. Construction and forming of temporary works.
 5. Cut and fill earthworks to new formation level including the removal and treatment of any contaminated soils encountered.
 6. Repositioning of shallow services.
 7. Laying of infrastructure, piling and foundation materials.
- 1.4 A historical overview of the SSY and AR site is given in the IHCM Specification document.
- 1.5 The strategy outlined by IHCM (2007) references a series of archaeological objectives defined in the King's Cross Central Environmental Statement and these will be addressed during the course of the watching brief/s.
- 1.6 The watching brief/s will follow both Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines and the methodologies set out in English Heritage (GLAAS) Guidance Papers¹.

¹ English Heritage, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, "Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; 4 Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations", revised June 1998.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.1 All necessary site investigations and earthworks will be monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist. The archaeologist will ensure that any archaeologically sensitive remains are recorded, and the relevant parties notified.
- 2.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (#23).
- 2.3 The attending archaeologist will be provided with additional staff should the workload require it. The implementation of all groundworks will show due consideration for potential archaeological remains and the need to monitor them.
- 2.4 On completion of the fieldwork proper provision will be made for a full report on the results of the watching brief.

3 GROUNDWORKS

3.1 Method Statement

- 3.1.1 Areas of groundworks will be broken out by the engineering contractor, whereupon the attending archaeologist will monitor, identify, record and retrieve (as far as possible) archaeological remains that may be uncovered during the course of the invasive works. Notification of progress will be made to all relevant parties (IHCM, Argent, English Heritage, the London Borough of Camden).
- 3.1.2 All methodologies set out here are understood as being possible where minimal contamination is present in areas of the site. Staff will wear standard PPE but will be provided with additional PPE for use if appropriate.
- 3.1.3 No human remains are expected but in the event of burials being uncovered a Home Office license will be obtained to enable their removal.
- 3.1.4 All gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.1.5 If significant archaeological remains are encountered during the course of the investigations, or other groundworks, with the agreement of relevant parties, digging will locally stop to allow the archaeological remains to be investigated and recorded by the archaeologist, if not to be preserved *in situ*. Further engineering excavation will then proceed until the desired formation level is achieved. Necessary horizontal and vertical trench faces will be cleaned before recording.

3.2 Access and Safety

- 3.2.1 Reasonable access to archaeological areas will be arranged for representatives of the London Borough of Camden and other representatives of English Heritage who wish to be satisfied, through site inspections, that the archaeological works are being conducted to proper professional standards and in accordance with the agreements made.
- 3.2.2 All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be respected. The groundworks contractor will be responsible for overall health and safety on the site.

3.3 Recording Systems

- 3.3.1 A unique-number site code system will be agreed with the Museum of London.
- 3.3.2 The recording systems adopted during the investigations will be broadly compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in the Borough. Where there is any doubt as to the appropriate recording technique the Museum of London recording manual will be used.
- 3.3.3 The site archive will be organised so as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Borough. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed will be entered onto prepared *pro-forma*, for example, Test Pit Recording Sheets. If complex stratigraphy or structures are encountered *pro-forma* Single Context Recording Sheets will be used. Sample recording sheets, sample registers, findings recording sheets, accession catalogues, and the photography record cards will follow the Museum of London equivalents. This requirement for archival compatibility extends to the use of computerised databases.
- 3.3.4 A 'site location plan' indicating the site north and based on current Ordnance Survey data (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. The location of the OS bench marks used and the site TBM will also be indicated.
- 3.3.5 Some record of the full extent in plan of any archaeological deposits encountered will be made; these plans will be on polyester based drawing film, will be related to the site grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. 'Single context planning' will be used on deeply stratified sites. The results will be digitised.
- 3.3.6 Sections will be drawn to scale or measured sketches will be made according to the relative safety of individual test pits.
- 3.3.7 The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections, following transfer of information from the engineering contractor.
- 3.3.8 If the site complexity is such as to justify its use the 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagram will be used to record stratigraphic relationships. This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavations.
- 3.3.9 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

3.4 Treatment of Finds

- 3.4.1 Different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the deposit or feature under investigation. Close attention will be given to sampling for date and structure. Sample size should take into account the frequency with which material is likely to occur.
- 3.4.2 All finds retrieval policies of the Museum of London will be adopted and all identified finds and artefacts will be retained unless the Museum of London policy states otherwise.
- 3.4.3 All finds will be treated in a proper manner and 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*' and the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be Permanently Retained by the Museum of London*'. All metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation.
- 3.4.4 Lodging of the site paper archive with the Museum of London. Artefacts are to be retained by the landowners or their nominated agency pending consideration of the potential for museum displays.

3.5 Reports and Archives

- 3.5.1 A report will be written up summarising the results of the archaeological watching brief on the investigation and earthworks, incorporating the data from the one or more phases of watching brief. The site and area historical, archaeological and geological background, site methodologies, results and any recommendations for further work will be set out and illustrated as appropriate. Copies of the report will be passed via IHCM and Argent to English Heritage, the Borough's Planning Department, the Camden Local Studies Library and Argent.
- 3.5.2 The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. The 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 the Society of Museum archaeologist's draft '**Selection and Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections**' (1992), will be followed in all circumstances.
- 3.5.3 If the 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, but see 3.4.4 above.

- 3.5.4 The minimum acceptable standard for the site archive is defined in the '**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 relating directly to the investigations. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent before transfer to the Museum of London. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 3.5.5 United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (1990) will be followed.
- 3.5.6 A short summary of the results of the work, even if negative, will be submitted to the Greater London SMR and NAR (using the appropriate archaeological report forms), and for publication in the appropriate academic journals including the 'Excavation Round-Up' of the **London Archaeologist**. Such publications will meet the minimum requirements set out in Appendix 7, '**Management of Archaeological Projects**' 1991, and derive from a 'phase 2 review' as defined in the same document.

4 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

- 4.1 It is imperative that all soil excavation be undertaken under the supervision of an archaeologist in order not to cause unnecessary damage to identified archaeological deposits.
- 4.2 Accommodation, as well as welfare facilities and tool storage, will be required for the watching brief archaeologist, as per Items 6.1 & 6.2 of the IHCM Specification. It is assumed that these will be provided by the groundworks contractor at or near the site.
- 4.3 The site works will be inspected and monitored by Richard Hughes, IHCM, on behalf of Argent and Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS), on behalf of English Heritage and the London Borough of Camden.
- 4.4 The Health and Safety policies of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited will be followed and in accordance with all statutory regulations. Full acknowledgement will be made to existing site policies and procedures.
- 4.5 The archaeological works will be supervised by a member of staff who has undertaken similar exercises.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1 At this stage the precise duration and proposed start date for the work are unknown, but IHCM will advise Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and other relevant parties prior to commencement.

5 Environmental Sustainability Plan

- 5.1 An Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP) is enclosed.
- 5.2 The purpose of an ESP, as set out in Condition 17 of the Planning Permission, is to explain:
- i) How the proposed building design(s) realise(s) opportunities to include design and technology energy efficiency measures;
 - ii) The reduction in carbon emissions achieved through these building design and technology energy efficiency measures, compared with the emissions permitted under the national Building Regulations prevailing at the time the application(s) for approval of reserved matters are submitted;
 - iii) The specification for any green/brown roofs;
 - iv) How energy shall be supplied to the building;
 - v) How the proposed building(s) have been designed to achieve a BREEAM and/or Ecohomes rating of “very good” (or an equivalent assessment method and rating) or better; and
 - vi) The incorporation of bird boxes, bat roosts and other wildlife features on buildings.
- 5.3 In this case, an ESP is not formally required, as the submission relates to Enabling Works as defined in relation to Condition 25 of the Planning Permission. Furthermore, a number of the items which the ESP is required to address, under Condition 17, are not directly relevant or applicable to the Shared Service Yard and Access Ramp Enabling Works.