

## **Appendix E**

**Historic England - Archaeological Framework  
Thamesmead and Abbey Wood OAPF**

**December 2020**

## **Introduction**

### **1. Purpose**

This Archaeological Framework has been prepared by Historic England for the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood Opportunity Area.

The driver for the proposed archaeological approach is to permit appropriate consideration and understanding of its significance and protection. Working within the context of NPPF 2019, the Archaeology Framework will enable site specific applications to build upon the buried landscape assessment to refine their planning approach and possible archaeology condition mitigation.

The proposed approach ensures an economy of scale by permitting the true significance of the recovered geo/archaeological data to be correctly identified at the landscape level while enabling archaeology conditions to be deemed satisfied at the earliest opportunity. The approach draws upon the planning work undertaken within the Battersea, Nine Elms and Vauxhall area and that within the Greenwich Peninsula in addition to examples from across the country.

### **2. Context**

Historically the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood area has been raised to reclaim the marsh for development. The historic and ancient landscape therefore lies buried but has the potential to contain a rich archaeological legacy of societies' inhabitation of this special environment.

Archaeological evidence is a fragile and non-renewable resource and so the Framework is to inform development with an understanding of significance at the landscape level. The Framework will address and interpret the archaeological potential of the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood OAPF area and for this understanding to be updated through a cycle of revision and refinement of potential.

### **3. Historic England's Recommended Framework**

#### **❖ The Board**

To oversee the Archaeology Framework, a Board could consist of the Royal Borough of Greenwich Local Planning Authority, Borough of Bexley Local Planning Authority and Historic England.

The aim of The Board will be the:

- preparation of the *Archaeology Framework Brief* (drafted by Historic England)
- amendment of planning permission *Condition Wording* to include reference to the Archaeology Framework
- appointment of a *Consultant* to undertake an assessment of potential by overseeing the landscape level consideration

#### *Archaeology Framework Brief*

The Brief will provide the detail regarding what is required of the consultant as well as the approach to be followed at the site specific planning application level. The Brief will build upon best practice and national professional guidance as well as planning guidance.

### *Condition Wording*

The model for this is taken from the amended condition wording employed by Lambeth and Wandsworth Borough Council Local Planning Authorities in respect of planning application sites that fell within the Battersea Channel Project area to which the project brief applied.

### *Appointment of a Consultant*

The employment of a consultant will enable the OAPF area wide archaeological considerations to be appropriately addressed. The resourcing for this retained consultant could be recovered through s106 planning agreements, CIL contributions or other mechanism. It is further recommended that the identified resource required could be funded 65:35 between the two planning authorities.

### ❖ **Landscape Wide**

It is recommended that the appointed consultant be charged with the preparation and submission of a Method Statement that details how they fulfil the requirements as detailed within the OAPF *Archaeology Framework Brief*. In summary, the consultant should be charged with the requirement to produce an area-wide archaeological desk-based assessment, including combining existing buried archaeological deposit mapping to provide an up to date and accurate mapping for the area. Upon to this model the consultant should map the graded areas of geo/archaeological potential. This approach echoes the current program to update the borough Archaeological Priority Areas using the Tier model of graded potential.

Having undertaken the preparation of a detailed desk-based assessment, the consultant should be required to follow a five-year cycle of combining the results of that periods' archaeological site work into a single synthesis and publish while also ensuring that the area mapping model is updated plus any changes to potential. It should also be the responsibility of the consultant to provide the Greater London Historic Environment Record with required data.

As part of the remit of the consultation, full consideration should be given to public benefit and engagement.

### ❖ **Site Specific**

NPPF 2019 continues to apply in respect of the process of assessment and understanding archaeological potential at the pre/application stage to inform the nature and scope of any on-going archaeological interest in respect of all planning application sites that fall within the OA. This consideration does not exclude the potential for pre-determination site-work to inform the planning process, nor possible preservation *in situ* of identified specifically significant archaeological assets.

The developer appointed archaeological practice should therefore be expected to undertake an assessment of their client's application site by drawing upon the area wide dataset and defined areas of potential. The archaeological practice should add new evidence to this model by using geotechnical and other data that may have been generated to aid the planning application.

The archaeological practice should consider if there is sufficient data to permit a clear statement regarding whether there is on-going archaeological potential with the site. If the conclusion is that there is not enough data to provide certainty, then the expectation should be that limited site work will be necessary so that a clear statement of potential can be made. As per current approach, any site work, pre-or post-determination should require a specification to be submitted and approved prior to its implementation.

The key departure for the site specific applicant and their appointed archaeological practice will be that in most cases their planning conditioned requirement will conclude sooner than otherwise by the submission and approval of a Summary Statement. This document should include detail of the site work undertaken and its results, assessment derived from any recovered cores and any required full analysis results as part of the conditioned work, plus consideration as to the significance of the results and confirmed data transfer to OA consultant and deposition of the archive to Museum of London or other appropriate repository as defined and agreed in the archaeological practice site work specification.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The proposed approach ensures an economy of scale by permitting the true significance of the recovered geo/archaeological data to be correctly identified at the landscape level while enabling archaeology conditions to be deemed satisfied at the earliest opportunity. The approach draws upon the planning work undertaken within the Battersea, Nine Elms and Vauxhall area and that within the Greenwich Peninsula in addition to examples from across the country.

#### **5. References**

National deposit modelling examples are provided within the volume, *Deposit Modelling and Archaeology*, 2019, Brighton University, <https://www.brighton.ac.uk/research-and-enterprise/groups/past-human-and-environment-dynamics/deposit-modelling-and-archaeology.aspx> and the national guidance *Deposit Modelling and Archaeology: guidance for mapping buried deposits*, January 2020, Historic England, <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/deposit-modelling-and-archaeology/heag272-deposit-modelling-and-archaeology/>