

Abbey Green Update

Working in partnership

BeFirst

Barking &
Dagenham

Issue 1: January 2024



A Steering Group for Abbey Green – WHY?

Abbey Green is an important public amenity and site of historic interest. It is largely comprised of *Barking Abbey Scheduled Monument*, but also incorporates two nationally listed buildings: Barking Parish Church (St Margaret's) and the Curfew Tower and two schools: St Joseph's RC Primary School and St Margaret's C of E Primary School. It is an Archaeological Priority Area and its historic importance within Barking is recognised through its designation as part of the *Abbey and Barking Town Centre Conservation Area*.

The steering group aims to:

- establish a multi-agency approach to managing, maintaining, protecting, and improving Abbey Green
- facilitate cross-department/organisation, collaborating with other stakeholders e.g., schools and church also partners e.g., Historic England
- develop a framework that provides operational clarity and places greater emphasis on preventative actions to better protect Abbey Green as a whole and *Barking Abbey Scheduled Monument* in particular
- adopt a more intelligence-led approach to managing, maintaining, protecting, and improving Abbey Green with clearly defined policies, procedures, roles and responsibilities
- Promote and adhere to the Management Agreement with Historic England, as we seek to preserve the Scheduled Monument on behalf of the nation, for future generations
- ensure that routine management and maintenance of the site has a positive impact upon it
- retention of any archaeology found on the site for borough residents.

WHAT are we doing?

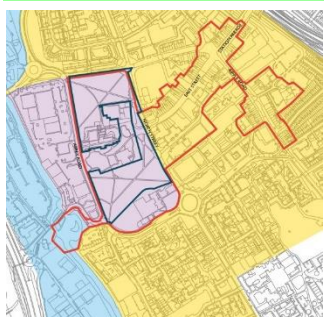
- **Commissioning new heritage signage for Abbey Green** – representing the site's history and expectations for visitors, so that local people and park users can be informed of the value and role of Abbey Green. These mosaic and tile signs, by Tamara Froud, will be consistent with the one photographed above and will include a map showing the boundaries of the Conservation Area, Scheduled Monument and Archaeological Priority Areas (see below).
- **Updating the Management Agreement with Historic England** – *Barking Abbey Scheduled Monument* is a nationally valued site with legal protection, which the borough manages on behalf of the nation. We are in the process of updating our management agreement with HE.
- **Obtaining Scheduled Monument Consent** to move three stone seats, engraved with words relating to Barking's fishing heritage, from the quayside to Abbey Green play area, to provide welcome seating for park users.
- **Addressing how to manage the site in a sustainable way.**
- **Preventing detrimental impact from surrounding developments upon Abbey Green.**

WHO?

- The steering group will be attended by representatives of LBBDD: Parks Commissioning, Parks & Environment, Heritage, Cultural Events, and Specialist Services, and Be First Regeneration

WHEN?

- The first meeting was in December 2023. There will be quarterly meeting and updates, the next meeting will be in March 2024. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** simone.panayi@befirst.london



ARCHAEOLOGY AND SCHEDULED MONUMENT

- ▭ Conservation Area Boundary
- ▭ Scheduled Monument
- ▭ Tier 1 APA Barking Abbey
- ▭ Tier 2 APA River Roding
- ▭ Tier 2 APA Barking Town

This plan is not to scale

PURCELL

