

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
8 July 2022
Our ref: 8307998

Thank you for your request received on 15 June 2022, for the following information:

I am part of Coppetts Wood Conservationists, and we want to find out the former use of the tank traps left there. Are they from the Sewage Works that closed in the 1960s ?

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested. However, we believe that the exceptions detailed below apply to some/all of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

I am part of Coppetts Wood Conservationists, and we want to find out the former use of the tank traps left there. Are they from the Sewage Works that closed in the 1960s ?

Refusal Notice

R6(1)(b) - Material already published

Under Regulation 6(1)(b) of EIR, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

In order to get copies of the documents referred, you will need to contact the respective Archives direct:-

- Barnet Local Studies and Archives - <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries/local-studies-and-archives>
- London Metropolitan Archives <https://search.lma.gov.uk/>

The 'tank traps', a number of round and square concrete castings which litter the woods, look like sewage pipes, but may well be WW2 traps, (see the bottom illustration: [Anti-Tank Obstacles | The Pillbox Study Group Website. \(pillbox-study-group.org.uk\)](http://pillbox-study-group.org.uk)) They were brought into position but never filled. This would have formed part of the 'Inner Defence Line' and was probably intended to stop the Germans from shelling Alexandra Palace mast from that clear and level advantage

point. (Something to do with the inclination of tank guns apparently meant that they couldn't move in front and fire up the hill.) But they could just be sewage pipes.

The lists:

Barnet Local Studies and Archives have some material, and we also have a set of plans which our Archivist is not able to find since they went into Crown in 2011, but may turn up with a bit of searching. There are also some plans which exist at the London Metropolitan Archives (see bottom of list.)

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET LOCAL STUDIES

- ACC6717 Sewage works, Summers Lane 1963 Photograph Photo Blue Box 36
- ACC8711 Photograph - Finchley Sewage Farm Photograph Photo Blue Box 46
- ACC9444 Finchley Parish Sewage Minute Book 1869 - 1872 Document (may easily be the plan to use Sheephouse Farm, now College Farm, as a sewage works, or even the Rough Lots, now the southern section of the Glebe Land and not relate to Coppetts at all.)
- ACC12398 Finchley sewage works - photos during construction 1937 Photograph Photo Blue Box 74 and Photo Small
- ACC13315 Summers Lane - Finchley Sewage Works 1955 Photograph Photo Large - Grey Box
- ACC23520/2/1800 Copy of History of Finchley Sewage Schemes by Francis Smythe, surveyor, revised edition presented to investigation committee –1890
- ACC23520/2/7478 Meeting of The International Union of Local Authorities Borough of Finchley 1938 Booklet on the Sewage Disposal Works

LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

LMA/4070/03/A06289 Phredella House, Hyver Hill, Mill Hill, Barnet LB: Planning application for houses and garages. For Mrs B Smith, 27 Stockleigh Hall, Albert Road, NW8, owner. Submitted by PJ Preston, Chessington Avenue, Finchley, builder. File includes plan of sewage disposal works, by The Septic Tank Company Limited, 5 Victoria Street, Westminster. 1 file of 3 plans and 4 documents.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to

prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.