

EXCAVATIONS AT CAMPION SCHOOL, WINGLETYE LANE, HORNBURCH

HO-CS-92

27/7/92 To 29/7/92

LD PEM/AC: HO/182

TQ: 58NW 5460 8939

LEVEL III REPORT By K.R. Sabel

Passmore Edwards Museum  
Archaeology & Local History Centre  
31 Stock Street  
Plaistow  
London  
E.13 OBX

CONTENTS

Title page .....	page 1
------------------	--------

Contents .....	page 2
Introduction and Method .....	page 3
Context Grouping Discussion .....	pages 3-6
Interpretation .....	page 7
Acknowledgements .....	page 7
Matrix .....	page 8
Context Index .....	page 9

## INTRODUCTION AND METHOD

The watching brief at the Campion School was conducted by the Passmore Edwards Museum during the excavation of the foundation trenches for a new sports hall in the playing fields to the west of the school buildings. It was undertaken between 27th and 29th July 1992 and was funded by Mansell Ltd., who were contracted to erect the building.

The area to be developed (approximately 36m by 25m) was first stripped down to a uniform level by hymax. More material was removed in the north east of the site and very little to the

south west as the site was on a slope. The foundation trenches were subsequently excavated.

The initial stripping revealed a large clay filled feature and six gravel filled features cut into clay in the east of the site. These were planned at 1:50 and three were photographed. Part of the southern section in the foundation trench for the southern wall of the new building was drawn at 1:10 and photographed. A feature was found in the foundation trench of the western wall of the building. This was also photographed and drawn in section.

At the time of writing no levels that were taken on the deposits are measurable to their level above Ordnance Datum, their being measured relative to a site specific datum. These will be converted to metres above Ordnance Datum at a later date and are not mentioned in this report.

#### CONTEXT GROUPING DISCUSSION

##### Group 1:

1  
I

1-Layer, greyish brown silty clay with 0.3 metres deep  
grass growing on top.

This group represents the topsoil extending across the site.

Colour Slide (hereafter C/S) 1: 20, 21, 30-35.

C/S 2: 2-15.

Black and White (hereafter B/W) 1: 15, 16, 23-35.

B/W 2: 1-7.

Plan: -

Section: 1 and 2.

Phase: V.

##### Group 2:

I  
2  
I  
3  
I

2-Fill, greyish brown silty clay. 0.67m deep.

3-Cut, semi ovoid, sides: steep-near vertical, 0.67m deep  
bottom undulating.

This group represents the cut of a large pit with its fill beneath the topsoil in the east of the trench. Its purpose is uncertain and no finds were present to enable dating.

No photographs were taken.

Plan: -

Section: -

Phase: V.

Group 3:

I	I	I	I	I	I
4	7	9	11	13	15
I	I	I	I	I	I
6	8	10	12	14	16
I	I	I	I	I	I

- 4-Fill, orange sandy gravel with small amounts of clay interlensed with sand. excavated to 0.5m
- 6-Cut, irregular, change to sides: abrupt, sides: steep, bottom: unexcavated. excavated to 0.5m
- 7-Fill, orange sandy gravel with some clay. excavated to 0.78m
- 8-Cut, ovoid, change to sides: abrupt, sides: steep in south, gradually sloping in west, bottom: concave (not fully excavated). excavated to 0.78m
- 9-Fill, orange sandy gravel. excavated to 0.5m
- 10-Cut, sub-rectangular, change to sides: abrupt, sides: near vertical, bottom: unexcavated. excavated to 0.5m
- 11-Fill, orange sandy gravel. excavated to 0.48m
- 12-Cut, ovoid, change to sides: abrupt, sides: steep, bottom: unexcavated. excavated to 0.48m
- 13-Fill, orange sandy gravel. excavated to 0.56m
- 14-Cut, ovoid, change to sides: gradual, sides: gradually sloping then steep, bottom: unexcavated. excavated to 0.56m
- 15-Fill, orange sandy gravel with sand lensing. excavated to 0.37m
- 16-Cut, irregular, change to sides: abrupt, sides: near vertical in south, steep in north, bottom: unexcavated. excavated to 0.37m

This group represents six large pit cuts cut into a clay layer (context 5) with their fills towards the east of the site. Their fills are almost identical, suggesting that they were probably contemporary with one another. Their purpose is uncertain. It can tentatively be suggested that they represent depressions in the top of the clay which were filled with gravel to level the ground. Whether these depressions were deliberately cut into the clay (for example to create ponds or for clay extraction) is uncertain. Their dating cannot be established as they contained no dateable material.

C/S 1: 20, 21 and 24-27.

B/W 1: 15, 16 and 19-22.

Plan: 1.

Section: -

Phase: IV.

Group 4:

I

5-Layer, orangy brown silty clay.

deep

This group constitutes a layer of dumped clay extending across the site. The lack of inclusions in the layer indicates that this is probably redeposited natural subsoil.

C/S 1: 20-35

C/S 2: 2-15.

B/W 1: 15-35.

B/W 2: 1-7.

Plan: 1.

Section: 1 and 2.

Phase: III

Group 5:

I

18

I

19

I

18-Fill, yellowish cream mortar and mid brown silty clay. excavated to 0.17m

19-Cut, sub-circular, change to sides: excavated to 0.17m  
abrupt, sides: steep in south,  
gradually sloping then steep in north,  
bottom: not fully excavated.

This group represents a cut with its fill in the west of the site. It may be a post hole or the western end of a linear feature. Its dating is uncertain as it contained no finds.

C/S 2: 12-15.

B/W 2: 4-7.

Plan: 2.

Section: 2.

Phase: II.

Group 6:

I

17

17-Layer, yellowish brown silty clay. excavated to 0.17m

This group constitutes a clay layer extending across the site which probably represents the natural subsoil as it is sterile, having no inclusions. It is possible that this layer is redeposited natural. If this is so the foundation trenches of the building would not be of a sufficient depth to locate any earlier archaeology.

C/S 1: 30-35.

C/S 2: 12-15.

B/W 1: 23-35.

B/W 2: 1-7.  
Plan: 2.  
Section: 1 and 2.  
Phase: I.

#### INTERPRETATION

Five phases are detectable on the site.

Phase I consists of group 6 and probably represents the alluvial clay which formed the uppermost natural subsoil layer on the site. There is a possibility that this clay is redeposited, though there is no evidence to support this.

Phase II consists of group 5, which represents a mortar filled post hole or linear feature cut into the clay.

Phase III, consisting of group 4, represents the dumping of natural clay across the site to raise and/or level the ground surface. The origin of this layer is not certain. However, it may have come from an area to the north east of the site, which is further uphill, and was dumped to level the ground, possibly to facilitate the construction of the school or the A 127 Southend Arterial Road, to the north.

Phase IV consists of group 3 which represents either the cutting of six large pits into the clay for an unknown purpose and their subsequent backfilling with gravel, or the dumping of gravel to fill natural depressions in the top of the clay.

Phase V consists of groups 1 and 2 and represents the excavation and backfilling of a large pit cut through the uppermost clay layer and two of the gravel filled features, and the subsequent accumulation of topsoil and turf across the site.

The lack of finds throughout the excavations renders the dating of this activity impossible. It is possible that the clay described in phase I is (like that described in phase III) redeposited natural clay dumped to raise and level the ground. If this is the case any previously deposited archaeological layers would not be revealed by the digging of the foundation trenches of the new building.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author and Passmore Edwards Museum would like to thank Mansell Ltd. for funding the watching brief and specifically Vic Wood for his co-operation and assistance with the field work. I would also like to thank Dr. Pamela Greenwood for negotiating for and directing the work.

# MATRIX

				1	
				I	
				I	
				I	
I	I	I	I	I	I
I	I	I	I		2
I	I	I	I		I
I	I	I	I		3
I	I	I	I		I
I	I	I	I	I	I
I	I	I	I	I	I
7	11	13	15	4	9
I	I	I	I	I	I
8	12	14	16	6	10
I	I	I	I	I	I
I	I	I	I	I	I
				I	
				I	
				I	
				5	
				I	
				I	
				I	
				18	
				I	
				19	
				I	
				I	
				I	
				17	

## CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Description	Plan	Section	Group	Phase	Date
-----	-----	----	-----	-----	-----	----
1	Layer	--	1,2	1	V	27/7/92
2	Fill	--	---	2	V	28/7/92
3	Cut	--	---	2	V	28/7/92
4	Fill	1	---	3	IV	27/7/92
5	Layer	1	1,2	4	III	28/7/92
6	Cut	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
7	Fill	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
8	Cut	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
9	Fill	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
10	Cut	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
11	Fill	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
12	Cut	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
13	Fill	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
14	Cut	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
15	Fill	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
16	Cut	1	---	3	IV	28/7/92
17	Layer	2	1,2	6	I	29/7/92
18	Fill	2	2	5	II	29/7/92
19	Cut	2	2	5	II	29/7/92