

Evaluation on Land Behind The Spotted Dog Public House,

Upton Lane, Upton Park. London.

London Borough of Newham.

HW - SD 92.

LDPEM/ACHW/174.

Level III Report.

M. Beasley.

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#### Introduction.

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by members of the Passmore Edwards Museum between the 29th. of May 1992 and the 4th. of June 1992, on land adjacent the the Spotted Dog public house, Upton Lane, Upton Park. The evaluation on which this report is based was carried out in advance of development by Philip Challinor Associates Limited. The evaluation was designed to determine the extent of surviving archaeological deposits on the site, in the light of the known potential for medieval and Post-medieval remains.

The site consists of an area of land at the back of the Spotted Dog, and is composed half of rough grass, and half of car parking space. Four trenches were planned to cover the areas affected by the development.

The evaluation was funded by Philip Challinor Associates Limited, negotiated for, and directed by, Ken MacGowan for the Passmore Edwards Museum, and supervised by the author.

#### Abstract.

The evaluation revealed evidence for post-medieval farming activity, as well as extensive 20th. century deposits.

#### Excavation Summary.

Four trenches were excavated to examine the archaeological deposits, and sited to coincide with the building lines of the proposed development. Trenches 1 and 3 were

sited on the car-park area to the east of the site, and measured 4m. x 3m., aligned roughly north to south. Trenches 2 and 4 were located to the west of the site on the derelict grassed area. These trenches also measured 4m. x 3m., and aligned on the same axis. All four trenches were initially machine stripped to remove modern deposits and thereafter taken down by a combination of hand excavation and machine. The deposits revealed were recorded using the single context planning method according to Museum practice.

Trench 1 revealed extensive brick rubble and concrete hard-core, layer (2), beneath the tarmac surfacing of the car park, layer (1). This was broken out and removed by machine. Underlying this, an horizon of orange brown sandy silt was revealed, layer (3). This was removed by hand in a 1m. wide sondage in the middle of the trench, and was found to overlie a natural sandy gravel, layer (4). The excavation of the trench finished at this point.

Trench 2 was to the west of trench 1, in the south-west corner of the site. The first 0.6m. was removed by machine. These deposits consisted of a layer of topsoil, layer (5), overlying a layer of dark brown silty clay, layer (6). These two layers overlay orange brown sandy silt, layer (9). This layer was cut by a linear feature running north-west to south-east, cut (8). This was excavated and recorded. Layer (9) was then partially excavated by hand to test the depth of the deposit, and then removed by machine down to natural sandy gravel, layer (16). Excavation of Trench 2 ceased at this point.

Trench 3 was to the north of Trench 1 in the north-east of the car park. The trench was excavated down to natural by machine. After removal of tarmac and brick rubble hard-core, layers (10) and (11), an orange brown sandy silt was revealed, layer (12). This overlay natural sandy gravel, layer (17). A sondage was excavated to a depth of c. 2m. by the consulting engineer to test the natural deposits.

Trench 4 was located on the grassed area in the north-west of the site, to the north of Trench 2. After removal of two layers of topsoil, layers (13) and (14), orange brown sandy silt, layer (15), was again revealed. This was excavated by machine to the natural gravel, layer (18). A sondage in the north of the trench was excavated to c. 2m. by the consulting engineer.

In addition to the excavation trenches, four machine trenches were excavated by the consulting engineers, Wembley Consulting. These were examined but not recorded. The pattern of stratigraphy was found to be repeated in these machine slots, indicating a similarity of stratigraphy across the whole site.

Matrices.

Trench 1.

1  
I  
2  
I  
3  
I  
4

Trench 2.

5  
I  
6  
I  
7  
I  
8  
I  
9  
I  
16

Trench 3.

10  
I  
11  
I  
12  
I

17

Trench 4.

13

I

14

I

15

I

18

+++++v+++++ +++++w+++++ +++++x+++++ +++++s+++++ +++++h+++++ +++++  
[] 膊渼档兹+++++么+++++ +++++v+++++ +++++x+++++ +++++[] 膊渼档 ++++  
++x+++++ +++++[] +++++x+++++ +++++[] []

Group Discussion.

Group 1a.

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 layer;tarmac       | 10.150m.-10.130m. |
| 2 layer;brick rubble | 10.130m.- 9.510m. |

- 1 layer  
I  
2 layer

Tarmac surfacing and brick rubble hard-core make-up for car park. 20th. century.

Plan: --                      Section: 1  
C/S: 1.12-16  
B/W: --  
Phase: 4

Group 1b.

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 3 layer;orange brown sandy silt | 9.510m.- 9.320m. |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
- 3 layer

Probable plough soil. Medieval or Post-medieval.

Plan: --                      Section: 1  
C/S: 1.12-16  
B/W: --  
Phase: 2

Group 1c.

4 layer;mid grey orange gravel                      9.320m.-----

4 layer

Natural gravel. Undated.

Plan: --                      Section: 1  
C/S: 1.12-16  
B/W:  
Phase: 1

Group 2a.

5 layer;dark brown/black sandy silt                      10.390m.-10.030m.  
6 layer;dark brown silty clay                      10.030m.- 9.770m.

5 layer

I

6 layer

Topsoil, and probable buried garden soil. 20th. century.

Plan: --                      Section: 2  
C/S:  
B/W: --  
Phase: 3

Group 2b.

7 fill;mixed orange grey silty sand                      9.770m.- 9.650m.  
8 cut;linear, abrupt to sloping sides,  
    gradual to uneven bottom                      9.770m.- 9.650m.  
9 layer;orange brown sandy silt                      9.770m.- 9.290m.

7 fill  
I  
8 cut  
I  
9 layer

Linear cut of uncertain function, and associated fill, cutting probable plough-soil layer. Medieval or Post- medieval.

Plan: 8                      Section: 2  
C/S: 1.19,20,25,26  
B/W: --  
Phase: 2

Group 2c.

16 layer;orange brown sandy gravel              9.290m.-----

16 layer

Natural gravel. Undated.

Plan: --                      Section:2  
C/S: 25,26  
B/W: --  
Phase: 1

Group 3a.

10 layer;tarmac                      9.980m.- 9.850m.  
11 layer;brick rubble              9.850m.- 9.530m.

10 layer  
I  
11 layer

Tarmac surfacing and brick rubble hard-core make-up for car park.  
20th. century.

Plan: --                      Section: 3  
C/S: 1.21,22  
B/W: --  
Phase: 3



Group 3b.

12 layer;orange brown sandy silt 9.530m.- 9.050m.

12 layer

Probable plough soil. Medieval or Post medieval.

Plan: -- Section: 3

C/S: 1.21,22

B/W: --

Phase: 2

Group 3c.

17 layer;orange brown sandy gravel 9.050m.-----

17 layer

Natural gravel. Undated.

Plan: -- Section: 3

C/S: 1.21,22

B/W: --

Phase: 1

Group 4a.

13 layer;dark brown gravely silt sand 10.200m.- 9.750m.

14 layer;dark brown silty clay sand 9.750m.- 9.530m.

13 layer

I

14 layer

Topsoil and probable buried garden layer. 20th. century.

Plan: -- Section: 4

C/S: 1.23,24

B/W: --

Phase: 4

Group 4b.

15 layer;orange brown sandy silt 9.530m.- 9.150m.

15 layer

Probable plough soil. Medieval or Post-medieval.

Plan: -- Section: 4

C/S: 23,24

B/W: --

Phase: 2

Group 4c.

18 layer;orange brown sandy gravel 9.150m.-----

18 layer

Natural gravel. Undated.

Plan: -- Section: 4

C/S: 23,24

B/W: --

Phase: 1

Phasing discussion.

Phase 1; consists of groups 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c.

This is the first phase of the site and constitutes the natural gravel of the base geology, underlying the site. It appears in all four trenches, and forms the lowest of the deposits. The phase is undated.

Phase 2; consists of groups 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b.

These four groups represent the next phase of the site. This is the material interpreted as plough soil in all four trenches. The phase overlies the natural gravel of Phase 1, and is provisionally dated as being of Medieval or Post-medieval date, based on the associated finds.

Phase 3; consists of groups 2a, 4a.

This is the next phase of the site, and overlies the deposits of Phase 2 in trenches 2 and 4. The deposits consist of two layers of garden soils, the top layer of which in both cases appear to have been dumped over the underlying contexts. The phase dates to the 20th. century.

Phase 4; consists of groups 1a, 3a.

This is the latest phase on the site, and consists of the tarmac and rubble hard-core of the present car parking space. It is thought that this was graded into the garden deposits of Phase 3, and as such forms a later phase. The phase dates to the 20th. century.

## Interpretation and Conclusions.

The first phase of the site, Phase 1, represents the underlying Taplow Gravels. These do not appear to have been cut in any of the trenches, and bear no signs of plough-marks.

Overlying this the area seems to be composed of plough soils of a consistent type, Phase 2. Although there are few finds from this phase, it seems likely from the few stratified finds recovered from the plough soils, that the phase dates to the late Medieval or early Post-medieval periods. It should be borne in mind, however, that, as with all plough soils, there exists a possibility that finds from these contexts may be residual.

Phase 3 is less problematical. It consists of topsoils including abundant modern plastic and metal detritus. This is entirely in keeping with the area being maintained in the same derelict state as at present. There is a possibility of the area having been used as gardens before becoming completely derelict, as the deposits are consistent with garden soils. This would explain the absence of any stratified Victorian finds, which though present in the deposits are mixed with modern material. It is conceivable, though not proven that this may be the result of horticulture during the period 1939 - 1945. There is no documentary evidence for the area being a bomb-site.

The final phase, Phase 4, represents the latest development of the site. It consists of the development of car parking space to the east of the site. It is thought that, given the relative levels of the deposits in Phases 3 and 4, that the garden deposits were graded away to build the car park, rather than the topsoils accumulating around the car park.

There were no deposits revealed on the site other than those compatible with the land being used as farmland, and later open ground. No structural deposits were recorded either in the excavation trenches, or in the soil mechanics test pits. This includes structural deposits of a Victorian date, which is unusual for the area.

## Acknowledgements.

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# Level II Index.

context	plan	Section	C/S	B/W
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6	--	2	1.25,26	
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15	--	4	1.23,24	
16	--	2	1.25,26	
17	--	3	1.21,22	
18	--	4	1.23,24	