THE WHITE HOUSE, HIGHGATE
HIGH STREET, LONDON, N6 5JL
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF

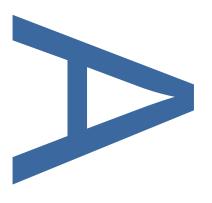


SITE CODE: TWH18

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY



NOVEMBER 2018



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

THE WHITE HOUSE, HIGHGATE HIGH STREET, LONDON, N6 5JL

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CENTRAL NGR: TQ 286 873

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CODE: TWH18

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: AB Heritage

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Rev 1: Client Comments

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1 ABSTRACT

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- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at The White House, Highgate High Street, London, N6 5JL. The site was located within a basement of the building and was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 286 873.
- 1.2 The work was undertaken intermittently between 28th August and 26th October 2018. A series of thirteen underpinning pits along the basement perimeter were monitored as part of the investigation. The pits were dug by hand by the client's contractor under the constant supervision of an archaeologist.
- 1.3 In all pits a sequence of sandy silt overlying natural sands was observed. Some pits and layers of 18th and 19th century date were also observed. All finds recovered dated from the 18th century onwards.

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2 INTRODUCTION

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- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at The White House, Highgate High Street, N6 5JL, London Borough of Haringey. The watching brief area was located within the front and back basement of the building, centred at National Grid Reference TQ 286 873 (Figures 1-2).
- 2.2 The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AB Heritage 2018). The WSI was required as part of Condition 9 for the granting of Listed Building Consent (LB Haringey Council Planning App. Ref. No. HGY/2017/3415) and planning permission (HGY/2017/3414). The house is Listed Grade II.
- 2.3 The fieldwork was undertaken intermittently between 28th August and 26th October 2018. Thirteen underpinning pits were excavated by hand within basements of the building by the client's contractor, under constant archaeological supervision by PCA.
- 2.4 The project was managed for PCA by Helen Hawkins MClfA (PCA) and was commissioned by AB Heritage on behalf of Mr and Mrs Shaw. The archaeological work was supervised by Ellen Green and Chloe Sinclair of PCA.
- 2.5 The site archive was identified using the unique site code TWH18, issued by the Museum of London. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with LAARC under that code.
- 2.6 The Archaeological Watching Brief was designed to identify, investigate and record any archaeological features or deposits disturbed during the development groundworks. The watching brief aimed to:
 - Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains that might be impacted by the redevelopment of the site;
 - · To record any remains before they were damaged or destroyed during the development; and
 - To prepare a report of the findings complete with any associated analysis of finds or samples retrieved during the project.
- 2.7 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
 - The Written Scheme of Investigation for this project (AB Heritage 2018)
 - Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work (HE GLAAS 2015)
 - Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists CIfA 2014).
 - Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Historic England
 2015)

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The solid underlying geology comprises sedimentary sand of the Bagshot Formation. No superficial geological deposits are recorded in the location of the site (British Geological Survey (BGS), 2017).
- 3.2 The topography of the site is generally level at c. 120m 121m above ordnance datum (OD) (Elevation Finder 2017), while the surrounding area slopes steeply to the south east.

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4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The following background was provided in the written scheme of investigation by AB Heritage (2818).
- 4.2 Evidence in the immediate vicinity of the site for activity prior to the medieval period appears to be sparse, with no heritage assets of prehistoric or Roman date within 250m of the site.
- 4.3 The site is located within the Highgate Village Archaeological Priority Area (APA), which has been designated for the potential for archaeological deposits to be encountered relating to the medieval hamlet and road established along the route to the toll gate erected by the Bishop of London.
- 4.4 Following the Norman Conquest of 1066, the Bishops of London established a park in the region of the site which had several gatehouses, around which an early settlement developed. The Bishops established new roads, such as Highgate Hill and upgraded the existing ones, extracting tolls at their gatehouses for those herding animals to market in London, along the route of the High Street.
- 4.5 A settlement, possibly planned by the Bishops, was established around several ponds at the top of the hill by 1381 and the place name 'Highgate' was used from the 14th century.
- 4.6 By the late medieval period, the area had begun to attract the wealthy and the hilltop settlement was being cleared to make way for large houses which began to define the area from the 16th century, with houses also lining the High Street by this date.
- 4.7 The building of prestigious houses by city merchants continued through the 17th and 18th centuries.

 The high point of the village was during the 18th century when the main roads were improved.
- 4.8 The documentary evidence suggests that The White House was built during this period of prosperity in 1703 or 1705. The building was possibly the location of the Nag's Head public house between 1719 and 1765. The White House is recorded as being 'substantially rebuilt' during the late 18th century.
- 4.9 A linear rear extension was located at the north-west corner of the property on the 1st edition of the 1870 OS map. This was moved to the west upon the extension of the building in that direction between c. 1870 and 1895. In 1895 several buildings attached to the west side of the adjacent tram depot and likely associated with it, encroaching on the western side of the rear yard. These had been removed by c. 1936 and the footprint of the building subsequently altered little, if all from this point onwards.
- 4.10 A series of alterations took place during the late 1970s, including the fitting out of existing joinery.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The methodology applied for the project conformed to relevant guidelines and practices. All recording systems conformed to those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now presented in PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Brown & Taylor 2009, updated 2018).
- 5.2 The thirteen underpinning pits were allocated numbers corresponding to the order in which they were excavated.
- 5.3 All underpinning pits were excavated by hand under supervision of the attendant archaeologist intermittently over the course of three months. Works were temporarily paused throughout

September due to the unplanned collapse of one of the eastern basement walls, and not resumed until a report was provided by an engineer guaranteeing the structural integrity of the remaining building elements.

- 5.4 Location plans of each pit were drawn at 1:20 and a section of each test pit was drawn at 1:10 showing the location of archaeological features and natural deposits. In this report the term 'ground level' refers to the height of the basement floor, which likely varied slightly between basement rooms and individual pits.
- 5.5 The underpinning pits monitored had the following dimensions and are shown on Figure 3:

Underpinning	Dimensions	Dimensions	Max. depth
Pit	north-south	east-west	(Below ground level)
UP PIT 1	0.70m	0.86m	1.20m
UP PIT 2	0.80m	0.70m	1.20m
UP PIT 3	0.80m	0.80m	1.00m
UP PIT 4	0.65m	1.00m	0.90m
UP PIT 5	1.00m	1.00m	1.00m
UP PIT 6	1.40m	0.45m	1.10m
UP PIT 7	0.80m	1.00m	1.20m
UP PIT 8	1.10m	1.10m	1.10m
UP PIT 9	1.00m	0.90m	1.20m
UP PIT 10	0.88m	0.62m	1.00m
UP PIT 11	1.00m	0.90m	1.10m
UP PIT 12	0.40m	0.50m	0.75m
UP PIT 13	0.60m	0.60m	1.00m

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6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Underpinning Pit 1

- 6.1.1 Pit 1 was located roughly in the centre of the front basement room. At the base of the pit a dark red natural sand [69] was recorded at a maximum height of 0.70m BGL and continued below the lower limit of excavation (1.20m BGL).
- 6.1.2 Overlying the red sand was a 0.35m thick layer of natural mottled orange sand [7] seen at a maximum height of 0.35m BGL.
- 6.1.3 Capping the natural sequence was a 0.25m thick layer of natural reddish brown sand [8] at a maximum height of 0.10m BGL.
- 6.1.4 Truncating the latest natural layer of natural sand [8] was post hole [6] which was 0.20m deep and filled with fill [5]. Post hole [6] was cut by pit [4] which was 0.20m deep and filled by fill [3]. Pit 4 was cut by post hole [2] which was 0.35m deep and was filled by fill [1].
- 6.1.5 No finds were recovered from any of the deposits recorded.

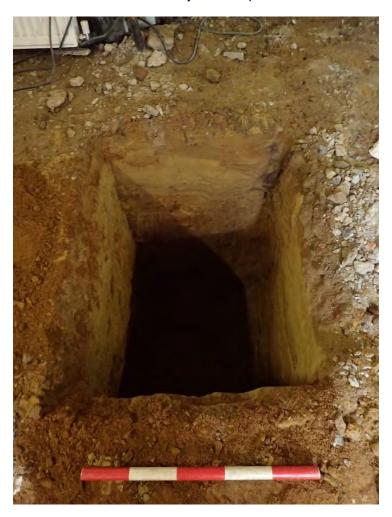


Plate 1: Pit 1 facing west

6.2 Underpinning Pit 2

- 6.2.1 Pit 2 was located in the south east corner of the front room basement.
- 6.2.2 Greenish-grey natural sand [10] was seen at a depth of 0.60m below ground level and continued below the lower level of excavation at 1.20m (BGL).
- 6.2.3 Overlying the natural sand [10] was a 0.54m thick layer of natural brownish grey sand [9] with a maximum height of approximately 0.6m below ground level.
- 6.2.4 The natural sequence was capped by a 0.07m thick brick floor.
- 6.2.5 No finds were recovered from Pit 2.



Plate 2: Pit 2 facing west.

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6.3 Underpinning Pit 3

- 6.3.1 Pit 3 was located along the southern wall of the front room of the basement.
- 6.3.2 The earliest deposit observed was a dark reddish brown layer of fine sand [15], seen at a maximum height of 0.60m BGL continuing below the lower limit of excavation.
- 6.3.3 Layer [15] was overlain by a 0.30m thick layer of light greyish brown sand [14], at a maximum height of 0.35m BGL.
- 6.3.4 The latest natural layer of the sequence was 0.35m thick light reddish brown fine sand [13] recorded at ground level.
- 6.3.5 A 19th century rubbish pit [12] 0.30m deep was cut into layer [13] the sandy silt fill of which [11] yielded a piece of ceramic building material dating from 1700-1900 (Appendix 3). This piece is likely from the later end of the date range as the majority of materials recovered from the investigation were 19th century in origin.



Plate 3: Pit 3 north facing.

6.4 Underpinning Pit 4

- 6.4.1 Pit 4 was located in the northwest corner of the front room basement.
- 6.4.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Pit 4 was a layer of dark reddish brown sand [18] seen at a maximum height of 0.60m BGL and continuing below the lower limit of excavation (0.80m BGL).
- 6.4.3 Layer [18] was overlain by a 0.25m thick layer of natural dark reddish brown sand [17] observed at a maximum height of 0.35m BGL.
- 6.4.4 Capping the natural sequence was a layer of reddish brown silty sand [16] 0.35m thick.
- 6.4.5 The latest natural layer [16] was truncated by construction cut [43] for a brick foundation wall [41] and its backfill [42]. The foundation wall was 0.45m deep.
- 6.4.6 No finds were recovered from Pit 4. Masonry samples were not taken due to safety concerns.



Plate 4: Pit 4.

Adjacent to Pit 4 was Cut [47], which was seen only in plan and was not excavated as it was located at the site formation level. The cut measured 0.70m north-south and 0.82m east-west and as it was not excavated, no finds were retrieved from it. it appeared in nature to be a 19th century rubbish pit.



Plate 5: Pit [47]

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6.5 Underpinning Pit 5

- 6.5.1 Pit 5 was located in the eastern portion of the front room basement.
- 6.5.2 The earliest deposit observed was a dark reddish sand [26] at a maximum height of 0.80m BGL and continuing below the lower limit of excavation (1.00m BGL). This was overlain by a reddish grey brown natural sand [29]/[25] 0.35m thick at a maximum height of 0.45m BGL.
- 6.5.3 Capping the natural sequence was a 0.35m thick layer of natural yellow sand [70], truncated by a 19th century rubbish pit [28].
- 6.5.4 The pit [28] was 0.55m deep, filled with a blackish brown silty sand [27] from which fragments of a mid to late 19th century green tinted soda glass bottle, and a fragment of a Sunderland-type coarseware/slip ware bowl, dated from *c*. 1800 (Appendices 4 and 6) were collected.
- 6.5.5 Three other 19th century pits were seen in the east facing section. Pit [24] was filled by [23], a dark grey brown silty sand and was 0.65m deep. Pit [24] was cut by pits [20] and [22], both with similar fills. All three pits contained material of 19th century date.



Plate 6: pit 5 west facing.

6.6 Underpinning Pit 6

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- 6.6.1 Pit 6 was located along the western wall of the corridor connecting the front and back basements.
- 6.6.2 A layer of dark brown sand [35] was present at a maximum height of approximately 0.63m BGL and extended below the lower limit of excavation (1.10m BGL).
- 6.6.3 Overlying [35] was a layer of natural greenish brown sand [34] 0.27m thick, at a maximum height of 0.33m BGL.
- 6.6.4 Capping the natural sequence was light reddish brown sand [33] 0.35m, which was truncated by a Victorian rubbish pit [32] 0.36m deep.
- 6.6.5 The pit was filled with a black sandy silt [31] which produced a variety of 19th century material including three dinner plates with the Albion design and two baroque plaster fragments. with gold leaf paint (Appendix 8). The plaster fragments were probably of early 18th century date and were presumably placed in the pit during the extension of the house in the late 19th century



Plate 7: Pit 6 facing south

6.7 Underpinning Pit 7

- 6.7.1 Pit 7 was located along the eastern wall in the northern portion of the back basement room. The earliest deposit recorded was a light greyish brown sand [40] at a maximum height of 0.65m BGL and continuing below the lower limit of excavation (1.20m BGL).
- 6.7.2 Overlying layer [40] was a light greenish grey sand [39] 0.30m thick, seen at a maximum height of 0.35m BGL.
- 6.7.3 Both layers [40] and [39] were truncated by a posthole [37] 0.65m deep and filled in with a compact light grey sand [37].
- 6.7.4 The entire sequence was capped by a possibly redeposited reddish brown sand [36] 0.35m thick.
- 6.7.5 No finds were recovered from any of the deposits.



Plate 8: Pit 7 west facing.

6.8 Underpinning Pit 8

- 6.8.1 Pit 8 was located along the northern wall of the front basement room.
- 6.8.2 The earliest deposit observed was a dark red sand [53] at a maximum height of 1.05m BGL and continued below the lower limit of excavation.
- 6.8.3 Overlying the red sand was a sequence of natural sand layers: a yellowish brown sand with reddish lenses [52] 0.35m thick at a maximum height of 0.70m, overlain by a dark red sand [51] 0.12m thick at a maximum height of 0.65m, and a greyish yellow sand [50] 0.60m thick at a maximum height of 0.13m.
- 6.8.4 The natural sequence was overlain by a 0.16m thick bedding layer of sandy silt [49] from which 19th century materials including animal bone and ceramic building material dating to the 18th/19th century were collected (Appendices 2 and 3).
- 6.8.5 A 0.04m thick concrete slab capped the underlying deposits.



Plate 9: Underpinning pit 8, looking east.

6.9 Underpinning Pit 9

- 6.9.1 Pit 9 was located along the western wall of the front basement room. A layer of dark red sand [57] was observed at the base of the pit and at a maximum height of 1.10m and continued below the lower limit of excavation (1.20m BGL).
- 6.9.2 Layer [57] was overlain by two subsequent natural sand layers: [55] a 0.30m thick yellow sand at a maximum height of 0.80m, and [56] a greyish yellow sand 0.60m thick at a maximum height of 0.20m BGL.
- 6.9.3 The natural sequence was capped by a 0.10m thick dump layer of sandy silt [54] and a 0.10m thick concrete slab.



Plate 10: Pit 9, looking east.

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6.10 Underpinning Pit 10

- 6.10.1 Pit 10 was located against the southern wall of the front basement. A layer of reddish yellow sand [61] was observed at the base of the pit at a maximum height of 0.75m BGL and continued below the lower limit of excavation (1.00m BGL).
- 6.10.2 Overlying layer [61] was a layer of dark red sand [60] 0.10m thick, at a maximum height of approximately 0.65m OD.
- 6.10.3 The latest natural layer seen was a greyish yellow sand [59] 0.45m thick at a maximum height of 0.20m BGL.
 - 6.10.4 Capping the sequence was a sandy silt layer of 19th century dump material [58] 0.15m thick underlying a 0.05m concrete slab.



Plate 11: Pit 10, looking east.

6.11 Underpinning Pit 11

- 6.11.1 The pit was located along the southern wall of the back basement room. A natural layer of dark red sand [64] was present at the base of the pit to a maximum height of 0.70m BGL and continued below the lower limit of excavation (1.10m BGL).
- 6.11.2 Overlying red sand [64] was a natural layer [63] of yellow sand 0.60m thick, at a maximum height of 0.10m BGL.
- 6.11.3 The natural sequence was capped by a 0.10m thick dump layer of dark brown sandy silt [62] from which pottery fragments dating 1830-1900 (Appendix 4) and a post-medieval peg tile (Appendix 3) were recovered.



Plate 12: Pit 11 facing west.

6.12 Underpinning Pit 12

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- 6.12.1 Pit 12 was located in the north west corner of the back basement room. A natural layer of dark red sand [66] was present at the base of the pit to a maximum height of 0.45m BGL and continued beyond the lower limit of excavation (0.75m BGL).
- 6.12.2 Overlying [66] was a 0.45m thick layer of natural yellow sand [65] observed at a maximum height of 0.05m BGL.
- 6.12.3 The natural sequence was capped by a 0.05m thick concrete slab.
- 6.12.4 No finds were recovered from any of the deposits observed.



Plate 13: Pit 12, looking north.

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6.13 Underpinning Pit 13

- 6.13.1 Pit 13 was located in the north east corner of the back basement room. A natural layer of dark red sand [68] was present at the base of the pit to a maximum height of 0.70m BGL and continued beyond the lower limit of excavation (1.00m BGL).
- 6.13.2 Overlying [68] was a 0.50m thick layer of natural yellow sand [67] observed at a maximum height of 0.20m BGL.
- 6.13.3 The natural sequence was capped by a 0.20mm thick brick foundation.
- 6.13.4 No finds were recovered from any of the deposits observed.



Plate 14: Pit 13, looking west.

7 CONCLUSIONS

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- 7.1 The natural geology was reached at its highest point directly below the concrete basement floor slab.
- 7.2 In all cases, the underpinning pits revealed layers of natural sand, either directly beneath the floor slab, or underlying 18th/19th century deposits and features.
- 7.3 No archaeological features or deposits predating the 18th century were observed during this investigation. The pits and layers identified were probably related to the house being substantially rebuilt during the late 18th century and late 19th century with material dumped beneath the new basement floor, or to subsequent material building up in the basement prior to the concrete slab being constructed.
- 7.4 The results of the site investigation will be published as a minimum by PCA as a summary in the annual 'Round-Up' of *London Archaeologist*.
- 7.5 The physical and digital archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under site code \twh18.

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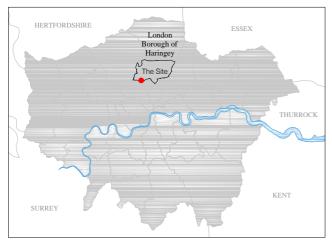
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- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Mark Roughley and for preparing the illustrations, Chris Jarrett, Amparo Valcarcel, Kevin Reilly, and Marit Gaimster, for assessing the artefacts and Helen Hawkins for project management and editing.

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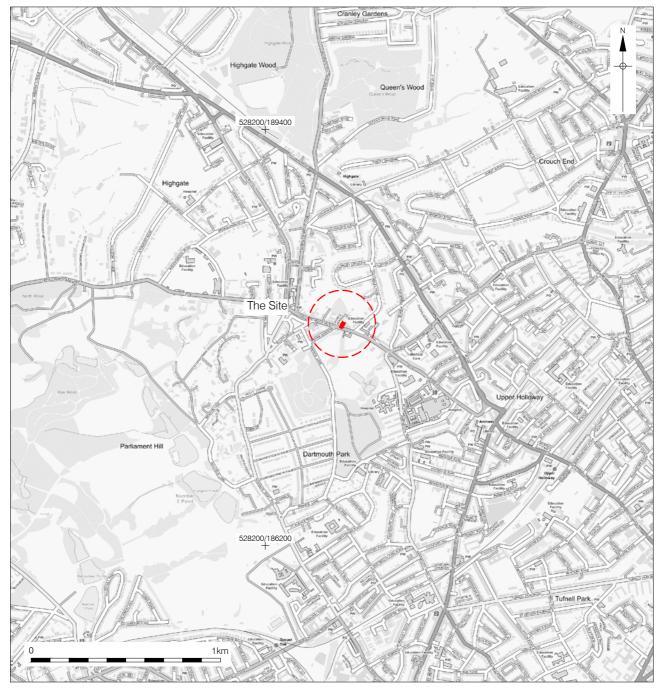


FIGURE 2: DETAILED SITE LOCATION

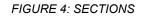
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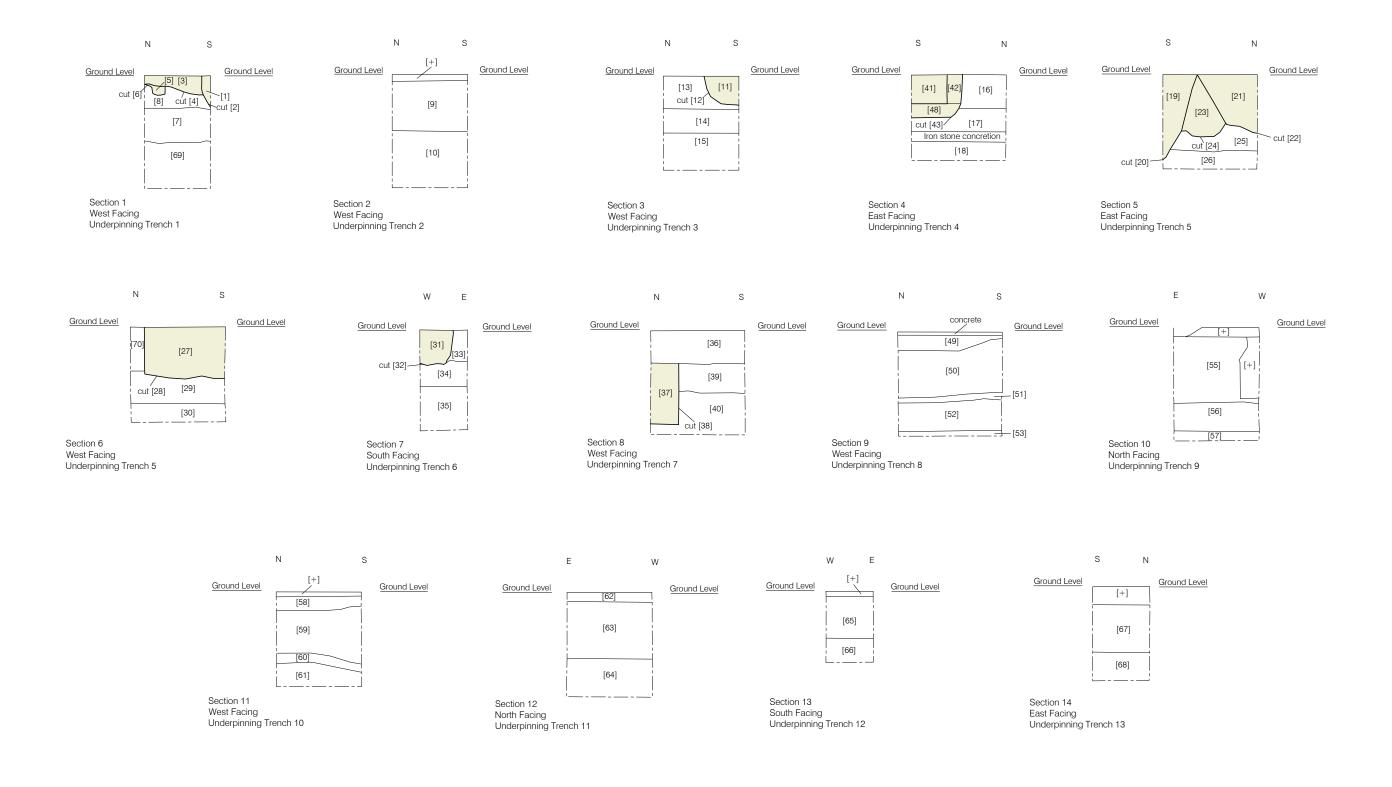
FIGURE 3: UNDERPINNING PIT LOCATIONS

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Archaeological Feature

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

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Context	Context Type	Pit Number	Interpretation	Туре	Thickness (m)	Highest Level (m Below Ground Level)	Lowest Level (m Below Ground Level)
1	Fill	1	Fill of post-hole	Fill	0.35	0	0.35
2	Cut	1	Cut of post-hole	Post-hole		0	0.35
3	Fill	1	Fill of pit [4]	Fill	0.2	0	0.2
4	Cut	1	Cut of pit	Pit		0	0.2
5	Fill	1	Fill of post-hole [6]	Fill	0.2	0.1	0.21
6	Cut	1	Cut of post-hole	Post-hole		0.1	0.21
7	Layer	1	Natural	Natural	0.35	0.35	0.7
8	Layer	1	Red sand layer	Natural	0.25	0.1	0.35
9	Layer	2	Layer	Natural	0.54	0.1	0.6
			· •				0.0
10	Layer	2	Natural	Natural	>0.60	0.6	
11	Fill	3	Fill of [12]	Fill	0.3	0	0.3
12	Cut	3	Cut of pit	Pit	0.3	0	0.3
13	Layer	3	Natural red sand	Natural	0.35	0	0.35
14	Natural	3	Natural sand	Natural	0.3	0.35	0.65
15	Layer	3	Natural sand	Natural	>0.40	0.65	
16	Natural	4	Natural sand	Natural	0.35	0	0.35
17	Layer	4	Natural sand	Natural	0.25	0.35	0.6
18	Layer	4	Natural sand	Natural	>0.20	0.6	0.0
	-						0.0
19	Fill	5	Fill of pit [20]	Fill	0.9	0	0.9
20	Cut	5	Cut of rubbish pit	Pit	0.05	0	0.9
21	Fill	5	Fill of pit [22]	Fill	0.63	0	0.63
22	Cut	5	Cut of rubbish pit	Pit		0	0.63
23	Fill	5	Fill of pit [24]	Fill	0.65	0	0.65
24	Cut	5	Cut of rubbish pit	Pit		0	0.65
25	Layer	5	Natural red sand	Natural	0.3	0.5	0.8
26	Natural	5	Natural sand	Natural	>0.2	0.8	0.8
27	Fill	5	Same as 31	Fill	0.55	0	0.55
28	Cut	5	Same as [32]	Pit	0.00	0	0.55
29	Layer	5	Natural sand	Natural	0.35	0	0.45
		5				0.0	0.45
30	Layer		Same as 26	Natural	>0.2	0.8	0.05
31	Fill	6	Fill of [32]	Fill	0.35	0	0.35
32	Cut	6	Pit, same as [28]	Pit		0	0.36
33	Layer	6	Silty sand	natural	0.35	0	0.35
34	Natural	6	Natural sand	Natural	0.27	0.33	0.63
35	Layer	6	Natural sand	Natural	>0.45	0.63	
36	Layer	7	Re-deposited natural	Levelling	0.35	0	0.35
37	Fill	7	Fill of post-hole [38]	Fill	0.65	0.35	0.65
38	Cut	7	Cut of post-hole	Post-hole		0.35	0.95
39	Natural	7	Natural	Natural	0.3	0.35	0.65
40		7	Natural sand	Natural	>0.45	0.65	0.00
	Layer						0.0
41	Masonry	4	Wall	Wall	0.3	0	0.3
42	Fill	4	Backfill of [43]	Backfill	0.3	0	0.45
43	Cut	4	Construction cut	Construction cut	0.45	0	0.45
44	Void	4	Void				
45	Void	4	Void				
46	Fill	4	Fill of [47]	Fill	0.2	0	
47	Cut	4	Cut of rubbish pit	Pit		0	
48	Layer	4	Bedding layer for wall 41	Bedding	0.15	0.3	0.45
49	Layer	8	Bedding layer	Bedding	0.16	0.4	0.2
50	Layer	8	Natural sand	Natural	0.6	0.13	0.65
51	-	8	Natural sand	Natural	0.12	0.13	0.03
	Layer						
52	Layer	8	Natural sand	Natural	0.35	0.7	1.05
53	Layer	8	Natural sand	Natural	>0.34	1.05	
54	Layer	9	Dumped material	Dump	0.1	0	0.2
55	Layer	9	Greyish yellow sand	Natural	0.6	0.2	0.8
56	Layer	9	Reddish yellow sand	Natural	0.3	0.8	1.2
57	Layer	9	Dark red sand	Natural	>0.1	1.2	
58	Layer	10	Dumped material	Dump	0.15	0.05	0.2
59	Layer	10	Greyish yellow sand	Natural	0.6	0.2	0.8
60	Layer	10	Dark red sand	Natural	0.1	0.65	0.75
61	Layer	10	Reddish sand	Natural	>0.1	0.75	5.10
							0.4
62	Layer	11	Dumped material	Dump	0.1	0	0.1
63	Layer	11	Yellow sand	Natural	0.6	0.1	0.7
64	Layer	11	Dark red sand	Natural	>0.40	0.7	
65	Layer	12	Yellow sand	Natural	0.45	0	0.45
66	Layer	12	Dark red sand	Natural	>0.25	0.45	
67	Layer	13	Yellow sand	Natural	0.5	0.2	0.7
68	Layer	13	Reddish yellow sand	Natural	>0.3	0.7	

APPENDIX 2: ANIMAL BONE

Assessment of animal bone recovered from a Watching Brief at The White House, 10 Highgate High Street, London Borough of Haringey, London N6 5JL (TWH18)

Kevin Rielly, October 2018

Introduction

The site lies close to the central part of Highgate, within the Highgate Village Archaeological Priority Area, situated on the north side of Highgate High Street opposite the north-western extremity of Waterlow Park. The Watching Brief involved monitoring the groundworks in preparation for a basement extension. These revealed evidence for 19th century activity. Animal bones were limited to just two deposits, both dated to the second half of the 19th century.

Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

Description of faunal assemblage

The site provided a total of five hand collected animal bones, four from bedding layer (49) and one from the fill (31) of rubbish pit [32], both deposits well dated to the latter half of the 19th century. While four out of the five bones are well preserved, the sheep metacarpus from (49) shows extensive surface weathering, which would suggest a degree of redeposition. This small assemblage consisted, from (49) of a sheep/goat femur and metacarpal, plus a cattle-size rib and lumbar vertebra (almost certainly cattle); and a sheep humerus from (31). The cattle-size fragments as well as the sheep humerus are clearly from large individuals, undoubtedly belonging to one or more of the large 'breeds' of cattle and sheep which began entering the London meat markets from the late 18th into the early 19th centuries. These are amongst the 'improved' domestic stock bred in particular for their early maturing beef and mutton (see Hall and Clutton-Brock 1995, 14 and Rixson 2000, 215 and archaeological evidence referring to greater sizes in Rielly in prep). Notably both cattle-size pieces as well as the sheep/goat femur and humerus show saw marks, clearly indicative of 19th century or later meat cuts. This instrument (the saw) tended to be limited to craft workshops rather than butchers' establishments prior to the later 18th century (see Albarella 2003, 74). The sheep femur and humerus are clearly from mature/adult

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individuals, more than three years of age, while the metacarpus is taken from an animal in its second year. Both cattle-size pieces are probably from adult animals, at least 3rd year, with an upper limit of 7 to 9 years as shown by the unfused state of the vertebra.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

This assemblage is generally in good condition and certainly well dated. Aspects of this collection, including the large size of the 'cattle' bones and the presence of saw marks, place these bones in at least the 19th century, thus conforming to the pottery dating evidence. Four out of the five bones clearly represent food waste, as shown by the butchery marks, the cattle-size rib and vertebra, and the sheep/goat humerus and femur taken from relatively good quality cuts. The sheep/goat metacarpus can be regarded as butchers' waste, perhaps suggestive therefore of two separate sources. This is also suggested by the weathering of the metacarpus contrasting with the good condition of the other bones.

No other work can be recommended for this collection.

References

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Hall, J.G. and Clutton-Brock, J. 1995. *Two hundred years of British farm livestock*. The Natural History Museum. London:HMSO.

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APPENDIX 3: BUILDING MATERIAL

Compiled by Amparo Valcarcel, October 2018

DISTRIBUTION

Context	Fabric	Form	Size		e range of naterial	Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
11	3102;3101PM	Abraded	3	1500	1666	1500	1666	1450-1666	1700-1900
27	2276	Post-medieval peg tiles	4	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1900	No mortar
31	2279	Post-medieval pan tile	1	1630	1850	1630	1850	1630-1850	No mortar
49	2279	Post-medieval pan tile	1	1630	1850	1630	1850	1630-1850	No mortar
62	2276;3034; 3135	Post-medieval peg tile; post-great fire brick; Granite cobble	3	1480	1900	1666	1900	1750-1900	No mortar

Review

The small assemblage (12 fragments, 1.85 kg.) consists mainly of pieces of fragmentary post-medieval building material. Two small examples of abraded daub were collected from [11] with a white hard lime mortar fragment, indicating a 1700-1900 date.

Peg tiles belonging to the very common sandy red fabric 2276, dominate the post-medieval roofing tile assemblage. All the fragments are unglazed. Two examples of curved, nibbed roofing tile were present which came into force only during the mid 17th century were recorded from [31] and [49].

A local post-Fire brick fragment (3034 fabric) was collected from [62]. A cobble made of granite [65] suggests a late post-medieval or modern occupation.

Recommendations

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APPENDIX 4: THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY

Chris Jarrett

A small assemblage of post-Roman pottery was recovered from the excavation (two boxes). In total, there are 81 sherds, weighing 5,073g, of which ten sherds (1.376kg) are unstratified. The post-Roman pottery dates solely to the 19th and possibly the 20th century. The assemblage is in a good condition, with no evidence for abrasion, with many vessels having a complete profile and two items are intact. Therefore, the assemblage was probably deposited fairly rapidly after breakage. However, family sherds from a small number of vessels were found in different contexts and may have resulted from the truncation of deposits by later features. The pottery was recovered by hand.

The assemblage was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in a database format, by fabric, form and decoration. The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeology typology (LAARC 2017). The pottery was quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENVs) and weight. Pottery was recovered from six contexts, all of which are small (1-30 sherds) sized groups. A summary of the pottery types and forms appears below in Table 1, while the distribution of the pottery is shown in Table 2.

Pottery types and their forms

There are two vessels recorded in red earthenwares. A chamber pot-shaped paint pot rim is noted (context [31]) and it is made in a miscellaneous (MISC) fine redware, possibly originating from Hertfordshire or Essex. The vessel has a rounded rim with an internal lid-seating and an external black surface and internal clear glaze and shows evidence of a white paint deposit. A variant local London area post-medieval redware (PMR) fabric survives as the base of a deep flared bowl with an external thin white wash (context [29]). Other earthenwares consist of the base of a Sunderland-type coarseware/slip ware bowl, dated from c. 1800 (contexts [27] and [31]) and a flared bowl made in plain yellow ware (YELL), dated from c. 1820 and recovered from contexts [27] and [31].

The most frequent class of pottery in the assemblage are factory made twice-fired earthenwares. These are most common as Refined white earthenware (REFW), dated 1805 onwards and can be plain or decorated using different methods. The plain whiteware occurs as the bases of an oval dish (context [21]) and a medium cylindrical jar (context [31]), while a sherd from a jug has moulded in relief a possible tulip and a stalk of seeds or berries (context [27]). Part of the bowl and outflow pipe of a water closet was recovered from context [62]. A blue dyed-bodied refined earthenware (DYE) medium rounded bowl base was noted in context [21].

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Pottery type	Code	Date range	s C	ENV	Wt (g)	Forms
Bone china with lustre decoration	BONE LUST	1794–1900	2	1	49	Plate: dessert, saucer
Bone china with under-glaze blue transfer-printed decoration	BONE TR	1807–1900	1	1	10	saucer
Chinese blue and white porcelain	CHPO BW	1590–1900	1	1	7	dinner plate
Dyed-bodied refined earthenware	DYE	1820–1900	1	1	21	Bowl: medium rounded
English brown salt-glazed stoneware	ENGS	1700–1900	6	5	1018	Bottles: black- leading, cylindrical section
English stoneware with Bristol glaze	ENGS BRST	1830–1900	3	2	286	Bottles: cylindrical section spouted ink
London stoneware	LONS	1670–1926	3	3	350	Bottles: cylindrical section, upright
Miscellaneous unsourced medieval/post-medieval pottery	MISC	900–1500	1	1	31	paint pot
London-area post-medieval redware	PMR	1580–1900	1	1	228	Bowl: deep flared
Refined white earthenware	REFW	1805–1900	12	6	789	Bowl: medium rounded, dish: oval jar: medium cylindrical, jug, unidentified, water closet
Refined white earthenware with slip decoration	REFW SLIP	1805–1900	1	1	2	bowl
Refined white earthenware with sponged or spattered decoration	REFW SPON	1805–1900	1	1	15	rounded jug
Refined whiteware with under-glaze colour transfer-printed decoration (green, mulberry, grey etc)	TPW4	1825–1900	3	1	355	chamber pot
Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer- printed 'flow blue' decoration	TPW FLOW	1830–1900	3	2	103	saucer
Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer- printed decoration	TPW	1780–1900	35	15	1036	bowl: deep rounded, plates: dinner, dessert, large, soup, dish: oval, tea cup: French shape, water closet
Sunderland-type coarseware	SUND	1800–1900	5	2	695	Bowl: deep flared
Yellow ware	YELL	1820–1900	2	2	78	Bowl: deep flared

Table 1. THW18. Quantification of the pottery types by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight in grams (Wt (g)) and the vessel types that occur in those pottery types.

Decorated refine whiteware occurs as the rim of a slip-decorated (|REFW SLIP) bowl with a design of two blue lines above a sage green band (context [27]), while a probable jug sherd has blue spattered decoration (REFW SPON: context [23]). The majority of the refined whitewares have transfer-printed decoration and several of the forms present are concerned with food serving. There are four oval dishes

with different designs: context [21] produced single examples decorated with the Albion and the Asiatic Pheasant design, both dating from *c*. 1830, while deposit [31] contained one largely complete example with the Willow pattern, dated from *c*. 1789, besides a base sherd with a mid-19th century Middle Eastern design. There are two large plates recorded with the Asiatic Pheasant design (family sherds of the same vessel were found in contexts [19] and [27]) and the Albion design (context [27]). Food consumption items occur as plates and dessert size items occur with the Willow pattern (context [27]) and with a central design featuring a Gothic church (family sherds of this plate were found in contexts [19] and [27]). Three dinner plates have the Albion design (context [31]) and a soup plate has the Willow pattern (unstratified). Tea wares are recorded as three items. A late 19th-century breakfast sized, French-shape teacup has a geometrical design featuring stars interspersed with dots (context [27]), while two flow-blue saucers (TPW FLOW), dated 1830–1900 were recovered from deposit [31]. One example has a cable border design and the other has a pattern featuring a central ruined tower and a border of acorn and oak leaves.

There are two sanitary wares made in TPW, one of which consists of fragments of a water closet with a European landscape design (unstratified and context [29]). The base and handle of a chamber pot with a green-transfer printed design (TPW4), dated from 1825, was found in context [31]. The underside of the base has the makers mark of 'J.M. & S' and the design name of 'LACONIA', which features a landscape with Italianate towered buildings in the background and a man and woman admiring an urn supported by cupids in the foreground. The initials refer to John Meir & Son, whose factory, located at Tunstall, operated during the period *c*.1837–97.

There are two vessels recorded in bone china, dated from *c*. 1894. Sherds from a dessert plate with a fluted body and a scalloped rim, which is decorated on the edge with a gilded band and line, were found in contexts [19] and [27]. A saucer rim has a transfer-printed border featuring flowers incorporated into a blue band above a scroll (context [31]).

Stonewares are well represented in the assemblage and generic English stonewares include sherds of cylindrical bottles (contexts [27] and [31]), while two intact different sized blacking bottles and probably from a Derbyshire source, are unstratified. A Bristol-glazed cylindrical section spouted ink bottle, missing only its rim and dating to the late 19th century, was found in context [31]. There are three London stoneware bottles recorded and these are of a 19th-century date. Cylindrical bottle bases include an example stamped "BLACKING/BOTTLE" (unstratified) and another example has an internal green deposit surviving as the vessels contents (context [27]), while the shoulder of a probable upright bottle was unstratified.

The only obvious imported ware was a Chinese porcelain blue and white (CHPO BW) plate fragment with a *cafe au lait* rim and a border featuring mimosa, acer leaves and scrolls: this is probably of an 18th-century date or a little later (context [62]).

Distribution

	Fill					_			
Context	of	Size	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Context ED	Context LD	Pottery code	Spot date
0	0		10	6	1376	-	-	ENGS, LONS, TPW	-
19	20	S	5	3	62	1794	1900	BONE LUST, TPW	Mid-late 19th century
21	22	S	7	5	162	1820	1900	DYE, REFW, TPW, YELL	Mid-late 19th century
27	0	S	26	13	475	1820	1900	BONE LUST, ENGS, LONS, REFW, REFW SLIP, SUND, TPW, YELL	Mid-late 19th century
29	0	S	2	2	283	1780	1900	PMR, TPW	Mid-late 19th century
31	32	S	22	14	2111	1830	1900	BONE TR, ENGS, ENGS BRST MISC, REFW, REFW SPON, SUND, TPW, TPW4, TPW FLOW	Late 19th century
62	0	S	9	3	604	1830	1900	CHPO BW, ENGS BRST, REFW	1830–1900

Table 2. THW18: distribution of pottery types showing the size/number of sherds (SC), ENV, weight in grams, the date range of the latest pottery type, the wares present and a spot date for each context pottery occurred in.

SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL OF THE COLLECTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The assemblage is interesting for containing vessels associated with formal dining, such as serving vessels (the oval dishes and the large plates), besides for the consumption of food (plates of dessert and dinner sizes), while services are probably represented by multiple vessels with either the Albion, Asiatic Pheasant and Willow pattern designs. Other items are concerned with food preparation in the kitchen, such as the Sunderland-type coarse ware and yellow ware bowls, while stoneware bottles contained several household cleaning substances, of which blacking for shoes and perhaps the kitchen range, is the most obvious. The variety of table wares infers that the pottery was derived from a household of at least a middling socio-economic group. The pottery has the potential to date the contexts it was recovered from and indicates what activities were occurring in the property the ceramics were associated with. However, there are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage, despite it containing a range of different functions and alluding to a probable 'middle class' household. The small size of the assemblage and the difficulty of finding a publication venue for the pottery negates the need for further work on the material. As the pottery has been fully catalogued then it can be discarded at the archive stage of the project.

Reference

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October 2018.

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APPENDIX 5: THE METAL FINDS

Märit Gaimster

Two metal finds were recovered from the excavations; they are listed in the table below. Both objects are identifiable as heavily corroded iron nails. One, from Pit [28], is complete and curved in shape, a result of having been extracted in antiquity from its original context. The other nail is incomplete and was collected from dump layer [62]. Both nails were associated with mid- to late 19th-century pottery.

The nails have little value for any further understanding of the site. They may be discarded.

context	description	pot date	recommendations
27	Iron nail; curved from extraction; heavily corroded; L 90mm	mid- to late 19th century	discard
62	Iron nail; heavily corroded and degraded shank only; L 65mm+	1830-1900	discard

TWH18: metal finds

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APPENDIX 6: ASSESSMENT OF THE GLASS

Chris Jarrett

INTRODUCTION

A small sized assemblage of glass was recovered from the site (one standard finds box). The glass solely dates to the post-medieval period and particularly the 19th century. Most of the fragments show no or little evidence for abrasion and were probably deposited fairly rapidly after breakage. A notable quantity of the glass fragments do have natural weathering deposits resulting from the burial conditions. The glass was generally in a fragmentary state, although two vessels are intact or nearly so. Most fragments could be assigned to a vessel shape. The glass was quantified by the number of fragments and where possible the estimated number of vessels (ENV) and this was recovered from four contexts and individual deposits produced only small sized groups (fewer than 30 shards). The glass was

collected by hand.

All of the glass (12 fragments, 11 ENV, 1,835kg, of which two fragments, 1,061kg, was unstratified) was recorded in a database format, by type colour and form. The assemblage is discussed by the vessel

shapes, etc. and its distribution.

Vessel shapes

Bottle, oval section

Two fragments (64g) of a moulded oval-section bottle made in green-tinted soda glass survives only as wall sherds with a ridge on each edge of a wide vertical concave groove. This bottle represents a branded item for a specific manufactured unknown product and dates to the mid-late 19th century. The fragments of this single vessel were found in contexts [21] and [27].

Wine bottles

Benedictine-type

An intact, 250mm tall, moulded, dark olive green high-lime low-alkali glass bottle of this type is recorded as unstratified and weighs 718g. The vessel has an applied packer-type rim attached to a cylindrical neck, which is waisted at the top and has a rounded, but angled shoulder with an embossed horse-shoe shaped line, which would have originally held a paper label. The lower wall of the vessel is flaring and the underside of the concave base is embossed with the letters of the glass maker 'W P 8'. The vessel dates to the late 19th-20th century.

English wine bottles, cylindrical-type, c. 1740 onwards

Two very similar wine bottle rims are made in dark olive-green HLLA glass and the applied, rounded string finishes with a short, bevelled cordon below are dated to the early 19th century, while the necks of the vessels are cigar-shaped. The rims were found in contexts [27] and [31].

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English wine bottles, cylindrical, early-type, c. 1740–1850

The splayed base, with a conical kick, of a free-blown wine bottle of this type is made in dark olivegreen soda glass. The vessel is unstratified.

Ink bottle

A two-part moulded squat ink bottle is almost intact (54mm tall), except for having a chip missing from the rim, which has a cracked-off finish and an internal bevel. The rest of the vessel consists of a short conical neck, a rounded shoulder, a cylindrical wall with two vertical seam marks and a flat base. The item dates to the 19th-early 20th century and was recovered from context [27].

Door knob

A moulded door knob made in clear lead glass, weighing 303g, is almost complete, except for the missing area of the spindle attachment. The top hemisphere has eight diamond shaped facets arranged in a 'star-like' formation and the rest of the knob is covered in tessellated triangular facets. The item dates to the 19th-20th century and was found in context [49].

Window glass

The three fragments of window glass are all made of clear soda glass. Two fragments were recorded from deposit [27] and includes a fragment of plate glass, dated probably to the 19th century, while the other example consists of part of a ready-made pane of glass with a moulded curved plain edge and one surface has fine ribbing. The item dates to the late 19th-20th century. The third fragment of window glass has broken into a polygonal shape and it is noticeably thick walled (6.5mm). The item is dated to the 19th-20th century and was found in context [31].

Distribution

The distribution of the glass is shown in Table 1.

No. of

Context	Fill of/layer	fragments	ENV	Weight (g)	Forms	Spot date
0		2	2	1061	Wine bottles: Benedictine-type, cylindrical, early-type	
21	22	1	1	20	Bottle: oval-section	Mid-late 19th century
27	28	5	5	208	Bottle, oval-section, ink bottle, wine bottle, window glass	19th-early 20th century
31	32	3	2	243	Wine bottle: cylindrical-type, window glass	Early 19th century
49	Layer	1	1	303	Door knob	19th-20th century

Table 1. THM18: Distribution of the glass.

Significance and potential of the collection and recommendations for further work

The glass is generally of little significance and consists of typical 19th-century or later forms recorded in the greater London area. However, the Benedictine-type wine bottle shape is an uncommon find, while the lead glass, faceted door knob would have been an expensive item, indicating that the owners

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of the building it came from were affluent. The glass has the potential to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the glass assemblage, which as it has been fully recorded, can be discarded at the archiving stage of the project.

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APPENDIX 7: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

A total of three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from a single deposit: context [31]. The material consists of a single stem and two damaged bowls, all of which are of a 19th century date. The first bowl is of the heeled Atkinson and Oswald (1969) AO29 type with a characteristic sloping rim, which is dated 1840–1880. The bowl is missing its spur, which may have shown the maker's initials. The item has moulded decoration consisting of an acorn and oak leaf border on the front of the bowl and a oak leaf border on the back of the bowl. The second bowl consists of the AO30 type, dated 1840–1910 and the shape is characterised as not having a heel or spur. The decoration consists of two ribs with fine leaf mouldings and a surround and these ribs occur on the front and back of the bowl. Together, the bowls indicate a deposition date of *c*. 1840–1880 for the context.

The clay tobacco pipes have no significance as they occur a small, damaged quantity and are recorded as common types with frequently recorded decoration styles, while any evidence for who made the pipes is missing. The clay tobacco pipes do have the potential to date the context they were recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the clay tobacco pipes, which as they are fully recorded, can be discarded at the archive stage of the project.

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APPENDIX 8: THE DECORATIVE PLASTERWORK

B. Sudds

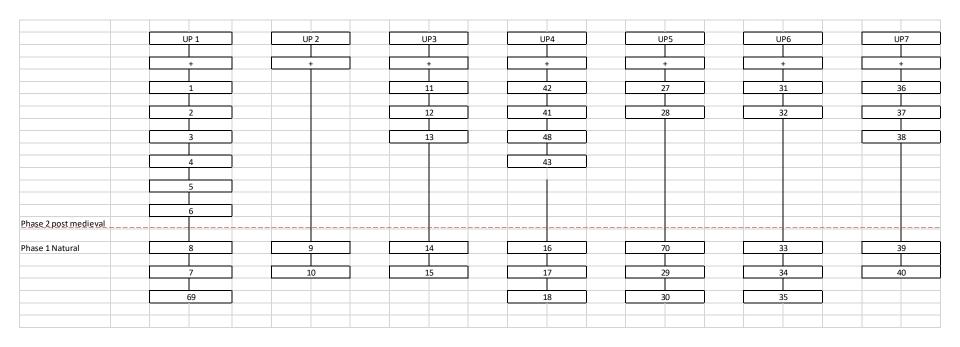
A total of nine fragments of decorative plasterwork were recovered during the evaluation, all from the same rubbish pit ([32]) backfilled in the late 19th century, and all from the same scheme. The three largest pieces derive from at least two large scrolled corbels. Both have the same ogee profile with ribbed, scrolled foliate and palmette detailing. The high relief elements have traces of gilding surviving. The remaining small fragments are non-diagnostic, with the exception of a further palmette with scrolling tendrils above, an exact but larger version of the palmettes on the corbels but forming part of a different element. The fragments recovered were all cast moulded. The size of the corbels, and fact that one has a flat top and the other is stepped suggest they probably supported an overmantle, as opposed to a cornice or arch. The decorative elements are more typically early-, rather than late-18th century in date (C. Gapper pers comm.).





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APPENDIX 10: MATRIX



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UP8	UP9	UP10	UP11	UP12	UP13	
+	+	+	+	+	+	
49	54	58	62			
						Phase 2: Post-Medieval
50	55	59	63	65	67	
						Phase 1: Natural
51	56	60	64	66	68	
52	57	61				
53						

APPENDIX 11: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-332452

Project details

Project name The White House

Short description of An archaeological watching brief was conducted at 'The White House, the project Highgate High Street, London, N6 5JL. Thirteen underpinning pits were

Highgate High Street, London, N6 5JL. Thirteen underpinning pits were dug by hand under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. In all pits a sequence of sandy silt overlying natural sands was observed. Layers and pits of late 18th - 19th century date were identified below the current basement floor. The remains probably related to remodelling of the house in the late 18th and late 19th century. A large finds sequence was present,

and the find types indicated a high status household.

Project dates Start: 28-08-2018 End: 26-10-2018

Previous/future

No / Not known

work

Any associated TWH18 - Sitecode

project reference

codes

Type of project Recording project

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type LAYER Uncertain

Monument type LAYER Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY PIPE Post Medieval

Significant Finds CERAMIC Post Medieval

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Significant Finds BRICK Post Medieval

Significant Finds BONE Post Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS Modern

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HARINGEY HARINGEY The White House

Postcode N6 5JL

Study area 50 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 286 873 51.569396705786 -0.144242080039 51 34 09 N 000 08 39 W

Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Organisation

Project brief Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service

originator

Project design AB Heritage

originator

Project Helen Hawkins

director/manager

Project supervisor Ellen Green

Project supervisor Chloe Sinclair

Type of Private Client

sponsor/funding

body

Name of Mr and Mrs Shaw

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC

recipient

Physical Archive ID TWH18

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "other", "Metal"

Digital Archive LAARC

recipient

Digital Archive ID TWH18

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "other"

Digital Media "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

available

Paper Archive LAARC

recipient

Paper Archive ID TWH18

Paper Contents "none"

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Paper Media "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Section"

available

Project bibliography

1

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