

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT PROPOSED NEW EXTENSION
OF
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL,
NORTH STREET,
BARKING

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ABSTRACT

The evaluation of the western extension of the Church of England Primary School, North Street, Barking, revealed extensive archaeological structures and deposits in all of the nine test-pits excavated. The archaeological deposits consisted of deeply stratified structural remains, dating from the medieval period to the 20th century.

CONTENTS

Abstract.....	P1
Report Introduction.....	P3
Site Introduction and Method.....	P5
Group Discussion, Trenches 1-9.....	P6
Phasing Discussion.....	P28
Summary and Conclusion.....	P30
Acknowledgements.....	P32
Bibliography.....	P33
Illustrations.....	P34
Appendix I.....	P35

REPORT INTRODUCTION

This report sets out the details of an archaeological evaluation which took place at the Church of England Primary School, North Street, Barking, between the 26th August and the 2nd September, 1993. The results of the work are set out here in an ordered and structured form to facilitate the checking of the

results and use of the site archive.

The results of the work can be summarised as follows:

Extensive archaeological structures and deposits were revealed in all of the excavated trenches. These consisted of deeply stratified structural remains, dating from the medieval period to the present century.

The report is divided into the following sections:

SITE INTRODUCTION AND METHOD
GROUP DISCUSSION
PHASE DISCUSSION
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
BIBLIOGRAPHY
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
ILLUSTRATIONS
APPENDICES

The purpose of the work, work method, contract details, dates and project management details are set out in the "SITE INTRODUCTION AND METHOD".

In the "GROUP DISCUSSION" the contexts recorded on site are discussed in discrete groups. A context is any event in time represented by physical remains, eg a ditch, the material filling a ditch, a wall, a rebuild of a wall or a layer of soil. When several contexts are related, eg a pit and the material filling it, a line of postholes, a wall and its foundation trench, they are discussed together so as to see fully their archaeological implications.

Firstly, the stratigraphic relationships between the contexts under discussion is illustrated in a matrix form:

eg	27
	I
	28
	I
	30

In this diagram the stratigraphic relationships are shown as follows: context (27) happens after both contexts (28) and (30), context (28) happens after context (30) but before context (27) while context (30) happens before both contexts (27) and (28).

The contexts are then listed with short descriptions. The nature of the group is then described in text. Finally, a list of colour slides and black and white photographs relevant to that group are given for accessing the site archive. The site archive is stored in the Passmore Edwards Museum.

In the "PHASE DISCUSSION" the groups of contexts are drawn together into phases. Phases are significant blocks of archaeology representing single or related activities within a band of time on the site under discussion, eg the occupation of a house or settlement, the complete renovation of a house, the

change of settlement pattern or the abandonment of a house or settlement. When a significant change in activity is found in the archaeological record of a site then a change of phase can be said to have happened. By discussing phases and comparing them we can see the overall sequence of events at the site.

In the "SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS" the archaeological and specialist reports are drawn together to give dates for the various phases found in the excavation.

The "BIBLIOGRAPHY" lists publications used in this report while the "ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS" thanks all the individuals and organisations involved in the archaeological fieldwork and in the production of the report.

The "ILLUSTRATIONS" include figures showing plans and a sections of the structures under discussion. A site matrix illustration is also included so that the exact relationship between any contexts on the site can be checked.

The "APPENDICES" include any specialist reports, other than the archaeological one, resulting from the field work. In this case, there is a pottery report, representative of one of the post-medieval dump layers. It gives the name and date of each classification of pottery. Neither the animal bones nor the shell from the archaeological deposits have been listed.

INTRODUCTION

The Passmore Edwards Museum undertook a four day evaluation between the 26th August and the 2nd September 1993 in the western playing area of the Church of England Primary School, Barking. This took place in advance of a proposed extension to the west of the school (MacGowan, K. 1993). This area of the school grounds lies partially within the scheduled monument area of the medieval Barking Abbey, which was dissolved in the mid 16th century.

To preserve and limit damage to the underlying archaeology, it was decided that the extension should be positioned upon a raft, which would penetrate into the soil for a maximum depth of 600mm. To determine what archaeology might be affected at this depth by the raft, a number of archaeological evaluation trenches

were opened.

In the Research Design for the evaluation, three test-pits were to be excavated, but after on-site consultations with Ellen Barnes of English Heritage and Jim Hunter, the archaeological planning officer, the site director decided to increase the number of evaluation trenches to nine and to position them outside the ancient monument area. Each of the test-pits were between 3.00m and 2.50m in length and all were 1.00m in width. Trench 1 was hand dug to a depth of 0.60m from the present surface, trenches 2 to 9 machine excavated down to the same depth, except where archaeological features were present at a shallower depth. Trenches 1 and 4 were later excavated by machine to a total depth of 1.60m in order to assess the structural suitability of the deposits in the event of construction work. Health and Safety regulations prevented a complete record of the lower layers of these trenches, although sufficient descriptions were noted. All of the other archaeological deposits were recorded using the single context planning method, with sections in each trench recorded.

Trenches 1 to 6 were located in the playing area to the south-west of the school grounds, trenches 7 to 9 over a dividing wall to the north, in a grassed area in the north-western corner of the school (Figure 1).

The site was negotiated and directed by Mr Ken MacGowan and supervised by Alison Telfer.

GROUP DISCUSSION:TRENCH 1

Group 1.1	1
	I
	2
	I
	3
.....	I.....
	4
Group 1.2	I
	5
	I
	6
.....	I.....
	79
Group 1.3	I
	80
	I

	81	
.....	I	.....
	82	
Group 1.4	I	
	83	
.....	I	.....
Group 1.5	71	

Group 1.1

- 1
- I
- 2
- I
- 3
- I

Context

(1) - Layer, mid brown sandy silt	8.26	8.09
(2) - Layer, orange-brown silty sand	8.25	8.02
(3) - Layer, black, tarmac/gravel	8.15	8.00

This group represents a modern make-up for the grassed areas of the present surface of the playground of the primary school. Context (1) represents the top soil and grassed surface of this group; context (2) runs consistently across the south-west playing area and context (3) represents a modern make-up, possibly relating to a former playground within the school.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 1.2

- I
- 4
- I
- 5
- I
- 6
- I

Context

(4) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments	8.07	7.86
(5) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt with frequent animal bone, oyster shell, tile fragments	7.98	7.71
(6) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt with occasional animal bone, oyster shell, tile fragments	7.71	--

Layers (4), (5) and (6) represent a succession of post-medieval dumping.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-III

Group 1.3

I
79
I
80
I
81
I

Context

(79) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt	--	--
(80) - Layer, white chalk fragments	--	--
(81) - Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt	--	7.10

Contexts (79), (80) and (81) indicate the presence of re-deposited demolition layers.

CS:-/ Phase:-III
BW:-/

Group 1.4

I
82
I
83
I

Context

(82) - Fill, mid grey-brown sandy silt	7.10	--
(83) - Cut, unexcavated	7.10	--

Contexts (82) and (83) formed a pit containing hundreds of oyster shell fragments.

CS:-/ Phase:-III
BW:-/

Group 1.5

I
71

Context

(71) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt with moderate chalk and tile fragments	--	--
--	----	----

Context (71) represents a dump layer.

CS:-/ Phase:-III
BW:-/

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 2

Group 2.1	1	
	I	
	2	
	I	
	3	
	I	.....
	4	
Group 2.2	I	
	72	
	I	
	73	

Group 2.1	1
	I
	2
	I
	3
	I

Context

(1) - Layer, mid brown sandy silt	8.26	8.09
(2) - Layer, orange-brown silty sand	8.25	8.02
(3) - Layer, black, tarmac/gravel	8.15	8.00

Context (1) represents the top soil and grassed surface which makes up part of the school's playing area; the sand and the tarmac/gravel can be found across a large part of the area under excavation and can be interpreted as modern make-up, most likely linked to the present layout of the school.

CS:-/	Phase:-IV
BW:-/	

Group 2.2	I
	4
	I
	72
	I
	73

Context

(4) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments	8.07	7.86
(72)- Layer, mid grey sandy silt with moderate chalk and tile fragments	7.93	7.69
(73)- Layer, mid grey sandy silt with frequent chalk fragments	7.71	--

Contexts (4), (72) and (73) represent layers of post-medieval dumping.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-III

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 3

Group 3.1		1	
		I	
		2	
		I	
		3	
		I	
.....		I	.....
Group 3.2		7	
		I	
.....		I	.....
		I	
	-----		-----
Group 3.3	14	I	I
	I	I	I
	9	I	I
	I	I	I
	65	I	I
	I	I	I
	21	I	I
	I	I	I
	15	I	I
	I	I	I
	18	I	I
	I	I	I
.....	I	I	.....
	I	20	I
Group 3.4	I	I	I
	I	17	I
	I	I	I
.....	I	I	.....
	I	I	19
Group 3.5	I	I	I
	I	I	16
	-----		-----
Group 3.6		I	
		8	

.....I.....
 12
 Group 3.7 I
 13
 I
 28
I.....
 29
 Group 3.8 I
 30
I.....
 31
 Group 3.9 I
 32
I.....
 33
 Group 3.10 I
 34
 Group 3.1
 1
 I
 2
 I
 3
 I

Context

(1) - Layer, mid brown sandy silt	8.26	8.09
(2) - Layer, orange-brown silty sand	8.25	8.02
(3) - Layer, black, tarmac/gravel	8.15	8.00

Layer (1) represents the topsoil and grass which partially make up the total surface of the playing area within the school. Contexts (2) and (3) emerge as make-up layers below the topsoil.

CS:-/
 BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 3.2

I
 7
 I

Context

(7) - Layer, mid brown-grey sandy silt with frequent gravel	8.15	8.00
---	------	------

Context (7) represents a possible metallised surface (Figure 3).

CS:-/
 BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 3.3

I
 14

I
9
I
65
I
21
I
15
I
18
I

Context

(14)- Drain cap, yellow brick	8.06	--
(9) - Fill, light brown silty sand	8.02	--
(65)- Pipe, ceramic	8.04	--
(21)- Concrete foundation, yellow-brown	--	--
(15)- Pipe, ceramic	7.60	--
(18)- Cut, t-shape, steep sides	8.02	--

These contexts represent the continued use of a Victorian drain into the present day, with the pipe being only partially replaced over that period.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 3.4

I
20
I
17
I

Context

(20)- Fill, mid grey sandy silt	8.00	7.62
(17)- Cut, rectangular, steep sides, shallow curved base	8.00	7.62

Group 3.4 represents the cut and fill of a small pit or post-hole, possibly associated with the drain.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 3.5

I
19
I
16
I

Context

(19)- Fill, light brown silty sand	7.59	--
(16)- Cut, rectangular, steep edges, concave base	7.59	--

Group 3.5 represents a pit, although its purpose is unclear, it may be associated with a repair to the drain.

CS:-/ Phase:-IV
 BW:-/

Group 3.6

I
8
I

Context

(8) - Layer, dark brown grey silty sand with frequent chalk, mortar and tile inclusions	8.06	7.91
---	------	------

Context (8) represents a dump layer, possibly of demolition rubble, which has been cut by context (18) of Group 3.3, context (17) of Group 3.4 and context (16) of Group 3.5.

CS:-/ Phase:-II
 BW:-/

Group 3.7

I
12
I
13
I
28
I

Context

(12)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded stones	7.95	7.85
(13)- Layer, white chalk with occasional small stones	7.96	7.81
(28)- Layer, very light brown mortar with moderate chalk fragments and stones	7.86	7.79

Contexts (12), (13) and (28) represents a floor or outdoor surface which has a metalled topmost surface with two foundation layers of chalk and mortar (Figure 2).

CS:-(12):1.19-22 (13):1.27-30 Phase:-I
 BW:-(12):1.20-23 (13):1.28-31

Group 3.8

I
29
I
30

I

Context

- | | | |
|---|------|------|
| (29)- Layer, red-brown silty sand with frequent broken tile fragments | 7.81 | 7.76 |
| (30)- Layer, very light brown mortar with frequent chalk and charcoal fragments | 7.79 | 7.71 |

Layers (29) and (30) represent a compacted floor surface and floor make-up respectively.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-I

Group 3.9

- I
31
I
32
I

Context

- | | | |
|---|------|------|
| (31)- Layer, orange-brown sandy clay | 7.71 | 7.70 |
| (32)- Layer, orange sand with frequent sub-rounded stones | 7.70 | 7.59 |

Layers (31) and (32) appear to make up the structure of a compacted floor surface and foundation.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-I

Group 3.10

- I
33
I
34

- | | | |
|--|------|------|
| (33)- Layer, brown-red, with frequent crushed tile fragments | 7.59 | 7.55 |
| (34)- Layer, white-brown chalk and mortar fragments | 7.55 | -- |

Contexts (33) and (34) indicate the presence of a floor surface and underlying foundation layer of a similar composition to Group 3.8.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-I

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 4

Group 4.1	24	
	I	
	2	
	I	
	3	
	I	.....
	4	
Group 4.2	I	
	66	
	I	
	67	
	I	.....
	68	
Group 4.3	I	
	69	
	I	
	70	

Group 4.1	24
	I
	2
	I
	3
	I

Context

(24) - Layer, black tarmac	8.20	8.04
(2) - Layer, orange-brown silty sand	8.25	8.02
(3) - Layer, black tarmac/gravel	8.15	8.00

This group represents layers of make-up for the present school playground, context (3) possibly associated with a former playing area related to the current layout.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 4.2	I
	4
	I
	66
	I
	67
	I

Context

(4) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments	8.07	7.86
(66)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent chalk fragments	7.91	7.68
(67)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate chalk fragments	7.73	--

Contexts (4), (66) and (67) represent layers of post-medieval dumping.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-III

Group 4.3

I
68
I
69
I
70

Context

(68)- Layer, white chalk fragments	--	--
(69)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional chalk blocks	--	--
(70)- Layer, mid grey sandy silt	--	--

Layers (68), (69) and (70) appeared to continue the sequential dumping from the post-medieval period, although no finds were retrieved to date this group with accuracy.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-III

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 5

Group 5.1

24
I

	2	
	I	
	3	
	I	.....
	47	
Group 5.2	I	
	48	
	I	
	49	
	I	.....
	4	
Group 5.3	I	
	27	
	I	.....
	26	
Group 5.4	I	
	25	

Group 5.1	24
	I
	2
	I
	3
	I

Context

(24)- Layer, black tarmac	8.20	8.04
(2) - Layer, orange-brown silty sand	8.25	8.02
(3) - Layer, black tarmac/gravel	8.15	8.00

Contexts (24), (2) and (3) represent layers of modern make-up for the present school playing area.

CS:-/
 BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 5.2	I
	47
	I
	48
	I
	49
	I

Context

(47)- Fill, mid grey-brown sandy silt	8.04	7.63
(48)- Ceramic drainpipe	7.80	7.65
(49)- Cut, rounded sides, rounded base	8.04	7.63

These contexts represent the installation of a modern pipe as part of the drainage system of the school.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 5.3

I
4
I
27
I

Context

(4) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments	8.07	7.86
(27)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate chalk and mortar fragments	7.94	7.83

Group 5.3 represents possible post-medieval dumping.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-III

Group 5.4

I
26
I
25

Context

(26)- Layer, very light brown silty sand with frequent chalk and mortar inclusions	7.88	7.58
(25)- Wall, north-south, red brick with light brown creamy mortar	7.87	--

Context (26) abutts Wall (25) up to the same level, both being sealed by context (27) of Group 5.3. Wall (25) has a north-south orientation. It is possible that context (26) may represent a contemporary backfill.

CS:-/
BW:- 2.15-18

Phase:-I

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 6

Group 6.1

24
I
2
I

.....I.....

Group 6.2

50	51
I	I
4	53
I	I
52	I

 I
 54
 Group 6.3 I
 22 = 23
 I
 55
 I

 56 57

Group 6.1
 24
 I
 2
 I

Context

(24)- Layer, black tarmac	8.20	8.04
(2) - Layer, orange-brown silty sand	8.25	8.02

Contexts (24) and (2) represent modern make-up for the present school playing area.

CS:-/
 BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 6.2

I

 50 51
 I I
 4 53
 I I
 52 I

 I

Context

(50)- Layer, yellow-brown silty sand with frequent mortar fragments	8.01	7.94
(4) - Layer, mid grey sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments	8.07	7.86
(52)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate chalk and tile fragments	7.88	7.68
(51)- Layer, black cinders and slag	8.01	7.86
(53)- Layer, black-brown sandy silt with moderate slate fragments	7.99	7.73

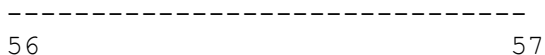
Contexts (50), (4), (52), (51) and (53) represent possible post-Victorian demolition deposits.

CS:-/
 BW:- 2.11-14

Phase:-IV

Group 6.3

I
 54
 I
 22 = 23
 I
 55
 I



Context

(54)- Fill, dark grey-brown silty sand	7.77	7.55
(84)- Foundation, concrete, light grey	7.68	--
(22)- Wall, north-south, yellow brick	8.02	--
(23)- Equals (22), east-west	8.02	--
(55)- Cut, steep sides, concave base	7.77	7.55
(56)- Layer, dark brown silty sand	7.74	--
(57)- Layer, dark brown silty sand	7.79	--

Group 6.3 represents the construction of the Victorian phase of the Barking Primary School. Wall (22) runs north to south along the western limit of Trench 6 and joins Wall (23) in the south-western corner. Wall (22) is situated within construction cut (55), its footings initially obscured by backfill (54). These footings took the form of three steps down to the east and west and were set into a concrete foundation (84). Contexts (56) and (57) are potentially two parts of the same layer, which has been cut by context (55) to allow construction of the wall.

CS:-/

Phase:-IV

BW:- 2.11-14

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 7

Group 7.1	1
.....	I
	39
Group 7.2	I
	40
	I
	45
	I
	46
.....	I
	41
Group 7.3	I
	42
.....	I
Group 7.4	11

Group 7.1

1
I

Context

(1) - Layer, mid brown sandy silt 8.26 8.09

Context (1) represents the topsoil and grassed surface which is currently in use by the school as a playing area.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 7.2

I
39
I
40
I
45
I
46
I

Context

(39)- Fill, purple-grey slate 8.08 7.87
(40)- Fill, dark grey sandy silt 8.07 7.82
(45)- Cut, concave side, flat base 8.08 7.82
(46)- Layer, light grey-brown sandy silt 8.07 7.89

Contexts (39), (40), (45) and (46) represent modern dump layers.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 7.3

I
41
I
42
I

Context

(41)- Layer, white chalk and mortar fragments 7.92 7.82
(42)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt 7.92 7.64

Contexts (41) and (42) could represent a demolition layer, destroyed in part by cut (45) of Group 7.2.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-II

Group 7.4

I
11

Context

(11)- Culvert, white chalk blocks 7.68 --

Context (11) represents a domed Medieval drain, running west-north-west to east-south-east (Figure 2).

CS:- 1.10-13 2.7-10 Phase:-I

BW:- 1.10-13 2.7-10

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 8

Group 8.1	1	
.....	I	.....
	36	
Group 8.2	I	
	43	
	I	
	44	
.....	I	.....
	38	
Group 8.3	I	
	74	
	I	
	75	
.....	I	.....
	76	
Group 8.4	I	
	77	
	I	

	78	I
.....		I
Group 8.5		11

Group 8.1

1
I

Context

(1) - Layer, mid brown sandy silt 8.26 8.09

Context (1) represents both the topsoil and grassed area of the western side of the school.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 8.2

I
36
I
43
I
44
I

Context

(36)- Layer, dark grey coke/slag 8.09 8.01
(43)- Fill, dark grey sandy silt 8.04 7.87
(44)- Cut, concave side, flat base 8.04 7.87

Contexts (36), (43) and (44) represent modern demolition dumps.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 8.3

I
38
I
74
I
75
I

Context

(38)- Layer, mid grey sandy silt with frequent pebbles 8.04 7.90
(74)- Layer, white chalk fragments with cream mortar 7.94 7.85
(75)- Layer, light grey-brown sandy silt 7.89 7.74

Contexts (38), (74) and (75) represent layers of post-medieval dumping.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-III

Group 8.4

I
76
I
77
I
78

Context

(76)- Layer, grey-cream mortar	7.78	7.72
(77)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt	7.77	--
(78)- Layer, creamy-brown mortar	7.67	--

Contexts (76), (77) and (78) represent layers of redeposited demolition dumps.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-II

Group 8.5

I
11

Context

(11)- Culvert, white chalk blocks	7.72	--
-----------------------------------	------	----

The alignment of the domed drain (Group 7.4) can be seen continuing across the south-westernmost tip of Trench 8.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-I

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 9

Group 9.1

1
I
37

.....I.....

58

Group 9.2

I
59
I
60
I
61
I
63
I
62
I
64

.....I.....

10

Group 9.3 I
35

Group 9.1 1
I
37
I

Context

(1) - Layer, mid brown sandy silt	8.26	8.09
(37)- Layer, light brown silty sand with frequent deposits of mortar	8.16	8.07

Contexts (1) and (37) represent the topsoil and grassed surface and underlying modern demolition dumps, which may be equal to context (2) on the southern portion of the site.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-IV

Group 9.2 I
58
I
59
I
60
I
61
I
63
I
62
I
64
I

Context

(58)- Layer, mid grey sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments	8.15	8.00
(59)- Layer, mid brown sandy silt with frequent peagrit gravel inclusions	8.03	7.96
(60)- Layer, white chalk fragments with occasional mortar fragments	7.99	7.92
(61)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt	7.95	7.85
(63)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt frequent gravel	7.88	7.83
(62)- Layer, mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent chalk and tile fragments	7.87	7.68
(64)- Layer, white chalk and light brown	7.78	--

Group 9.2 represents dump layers, possibly of redeposited demolition material.

CS:-/
BW:-/

Phase:-III

Group 9.3

I
10
I
35

Context

(10)- Layer, red tiled surface	7.69	--
(35)- Layer, white mortar	7.66	--

Contexts (10) and (35) represent a tiled floor surface, possibly of re-used material from the abbey (Figure 2).

CS:- 1.35-36 2.1-6
BW:- 1.35-36 2.1-6

Phase:-I

INTER-TRENCH PHASING

Phase I

Consists of Groups 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 5.4, 7.4, 8.5, 9.3

Phase I consists of structures and associated deposits, which can be dated to the medieval phase of Barking Abbey. A wall aligned north-south was revealed in Trench 5. Dimensions of the bricks of the wall: 230mm x 110mm x 55mm, suggest a date from about 1500. Trench 7 revealed a domed culvert, constructed predominantly from chalk blocks and present at a depth of 7.68 OD (0.48m from the top of the topsoil). The orientation of this structure was west-north-west to east-south-east, although due to the limit imposed on the depth of the excavation, only the very top of the drain was exposed. During previous excavations in 1985, on the west of the Abbey Road, a similar drain was discovered.

Phase II

Consists of Groups 3.6, 7.3, 8.4

A number of demolition layers can be seen across the site, particularly in Trenches 3 and 9. It is possible that these layers correspond to the dissolution of the abbey in the mid 16th century. These deposits survive at a depth of 7.96 OD. The tiled surface in Trench 9 was found to be intact, with the broken tiles set into the underlying mortar. In Trench 3, there were a series of layers of compacted building materials, representing three or four separate floor surfaces. By comparing composition and depth, it is possible that the tiled surface in Trench 9 is continued into Trench 3 over a distance of at least 8.00m.

Phase III

Consists of Groups 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 4.2, 4.3, 5.3, 8.3, 9.2

In all of the trenches, this phase was represented by post-medieval dump layers, some of which contained large amounts of animal bone and oyster shell, suggesting a domestic context for the area. A handful of muscle shells were also found, linking a diet of seafood with fishing activity, substantiated further by the location of the site within the vicinity of the River Roding. Pottery from these layers date from 1150 to 1900, and it is

likely that building materials contained in the dumps (such as tile, chalk and mortar fragments), may have originated from the dissolution of the abbey, but have been redeposited in post-medieval times.

Phase IV

Consists of Groups 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1

Phase IV was concerned with 19th and 20th century deposits and related features. The Victorian drain in Trench 3 demonstrates continued use by the presence of a modern pipe within the same structure. Components of the drain cut through earlier post-medieval and demolition layers to reach a depth of 7.54 OD. The Victorian school walls in Trench 6 were of Essex Stock Brick construction.

A thin layer of sandy mortar was present under both topsoil and tarmac playground across a large part of the main playing area. Layers of slate and slag were also found, suggesting recent building work/demolition and the presence of a layer of tarmac/gravel in Trenches 1 to 5 is indicative of a former playing surface, relating to the current layout of the school. The extent of these modern make-up layers reaches a depth of 7.82 OD.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological evaluation at the site of the Church of England Primary School, Barking, was carried out to assess the nature and quantity of surviving archaeological deposits, as indicated by the presence of the medieval abbey. The school has been built within the vicinity of the abbey and archaeological remains were believed to occupy this site.

The excavation of nine test-pits revealed four phases of human activity. The earliest phase of activity, Phase I, was medieval and related directly to the period when the Abbey Church was still in use. Phase II represents the Dissolution, resulting from a decision of Henry VIII to destroy many of the finest churches in the country (1540's to 1550's). This period shows up on site as a series of demolition layers. The third phase in the excavated area relates to the post-medieval period and appears throughout the trenches as a series of dumped layers, containing domestic refuse, such as bone and shell, pottery dating from 1150 to 1800 and re-deposited debris from the demolition of the Abbey Church. In the 19th century, the installation of a drain produced a system which has been used up until recent times. This drainage system, along with former school walls dating to the Victorian period and several layers of modern dumping and make-up for the present playground, constitutes the dating for Phase VI.

The archaeological deposits which have been uncovered in the course of the evaluation, effectively show the spread of activity relating to the abbey in the medieval and post-medieval period in an area in which there has been no previous knowledge of such habitation. These deposits have been preserved up to a depth of 8.15 OD, including surfaces and walls. The dump layers are of value to the historical record, as, more fully excavated, they will demonstrate the demolition processes of the abbey and give economic and environmental information relating to the occupation of the area.

The test-pits were excavated to a depth of 0.60m, following the guidelines set by the proposed raft foundation for the school extension, except where archaeological structures were present at a higher level. Levels taken have shown that the initial surface of the tarmac and grassed area of the school playground was not level (ie 8.16 OD at east, 8.22 OD at west). The raft will therefore have to go deeper in some places than in others, with the possible result that some archaeological deposits still buried may be unnecessarily damaged or destroyed. Dumped deposits were found above the two hard surfaces. It was difficult to interpret the function of these deposits in such narrow trenches and analysis of the finds has failed to add any significant information.

In conclusion, with the present information obtained from the trenches and that known of the building proposals for the school extension, it is likely that significant destruction of

medieval and post-medieval structures and deposits would occur.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Trench Location Plan.....Figure 1
Plans of Trenches 3, 7 and 9.....Figure 2
North-Facing Section from Trench 3.....Figure 3

APPENDIX I

Concise Pottery Report

Trench 1 produced a wide range of pottery types, especially from the lower dump layers, which also contained a large quantity of domestic refuse. The fact that this trench was hand excavated enabled a more complete retrieval of artefacts. The following typology examines the pottery from context (5) (7.98 -7.71 OD).

Type	Date
London Ware	1150 - 1250
Surrey White Ware (Kingston), handle	1200 - 1400
Surrey White Ware	1200 - 1550
Mill Green, handle	1240 - 1350
German Stone Ware	1500 - 1600
Tin Glazed Ware	1600 - 1800
Essex Red Ware	1500 - 1600

Guy's Ware	1500 - 1600
English Stone Ware	1660 - 1900
Tobacco Pipe pieces	1700 - 1900