

**An Archaeological Evaluation in the United Dairy compound, Morland Road,  
Dagenham, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.**

DA-WN'94

LD/PEM/ACDA/203

N.G.R. 549360/184040

A Level III Report by

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Project Director,

K. MacGowan.

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**1. List of Figures.**

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## **2. Abstract.**

The site was located in the former Dairy Crest Depot at 1-2, Morland Road, Dagenham. Three trenches were excavated through the tarmac and concrete surface of the Depot's yard and taken down a minimum depth of 1.2 metres. The trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed building development.

Evidence in the form of demolition debris, was found for Potter's Farm, which was demolished in the 1930's to make way for the Dairy. This debris was used as a raft to support the modern concrete and tarmac surface. A substantial layer of ploughsoil was present beneath the concrete, and overlay a naturally derived deposit of mixed sands and gravels. No archaeological remains were discovered beneath the layer of demolition material.

### **3. Report Introduction.**

This report of the evaluation undertaken at the Dairy Crest Depot at 1-2, Morland Road, Dagenham, contains three main sections. The first is an introduction to the site with a brief description of the archaeological methodology. This is followed by a brief description of the results obtained, discussed in terms of phases or different periods of activity. A matrix for each trench, to illustrate the archaeological sequences observed on site, is provided in the appendices. A more detailed presentation of the results can also be found in the appendices.

The site was recorded using a single context recording system, to allow the stratigraphic analysis of the site. The basic unit of recording is called a Context; this refers to any event leaving an archaeological trace, such as a ditch being cut. The archaeological trace is given a unique number, a written record is made on a pro-forma sheet, and a plan and/or profile drawn to scale (usually at 1:20 and 1:10 respectively).

The stratigraphical relationship between contexts is shown in the form of a matrix:

|  
1  
|  
2  
|  
3  
|

In this example 1 is a backfill of a cut, 2, which is cut through a layer, 3.

Contexts are assigned to groups which represent features or groups of features which relate to the same event, such as all features which are part of the same structure, for example a building during its construction event. Thus the features in a trench will be divided into several groups and numbered, e. g. gp. 1.05 would refer to group 5 in trench number 1. The contexts are listed with brief descriptions; the group is then briefly described and the numbers of any relevant photographs is added.

A level III Index is appended at the rear of this report. This consists of a numerical listing of all the contexts, against each of which is included its phase number, group number, and the numbers of any drawings. This should enable the Site Archive to be used more easily for cross-referencing and checking. The Site Archive is held by Newham Museum Services in the Archaeology and Local History Centre at 31 Stock Street, Plaistow, London, E13 0BX

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Westminster Health Care Ltd. and their agents The Rosner Partnership for agreeing access to site, and for funding the evaluation. I would also like to thank the excavations staff, Mr. Mark Dunkley and Mr. Ian. Hanson. Thanks also to Graham Reed for the illustrations. Site accommodation was from PACU Ltd., transport by Mr. Peter Fisher and the machining was done by Newham Plant Hire Ltd. Thanks are also due to the Valance

House Library staff, and Mr. Mark Watson, the Deputy Curator of Valance House Museum.

The evaluation was negotiated and directed by K. MacGowan for and on behalf of Newham Museum Services, and supervised on site by the author.

#### **4. Site Introduction.**

The site was located in the yard of the former Dairy Crest Depot at 1-2, Morland Lane, Dagenham in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (see Fig. 1). The site also happened to fall within an Archaeological Priority zone as defined in the Unitary Development Plan for the Borough. The site was located on the Thames Flood Plain Gravels.

Historical records point to the existence of a manor farm on the site in 1412, known as Gallance Manor. At some time this building was replaced and a farm known as Potter's Farm occupied the property until it was in turn demolished in the 1930's to make way for the construction of the Dairy.

The evaluation was commissioned by the developers as part of a predetermining planning condition, in support of a planning application, no. TP/384/94. The evaluation was carried out to the specifications laid out in a "Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation" issued by the English Heritage Archaeological Planning Officer for north-east London.

Three trenches measuring 5m x 5m were laid out (see Fig. 2), with minor variations in the positions agreed with the developer to avoid service pipes as located by CAT scanning. However, such variations still allowed the trenches to be located within the proposed footprint of the development. The Trenches were opened up by machine, using a breaker to get through the concrete in which Trench 1 was located, and a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were machined down to a depth of 1.2m, at which point they were stepped in by 1.2m to allow safe excavation to deeper levels if necessary.

A section from each trench was drawn, and a written and photographic record made of work on site. The trenches were backfilled by machine.

## **5. Archaeological Discussion.**

The evaluation produced evidence for four main phases, of which three were anthropogenic. Phase 1 represents the geological background to the site. Phase 2 represents the accumulation of ploughsoil through time. Phase 3 represents the cutting and silting up of a ditch, the fill of which had spread to some extent over the surrounding soil. Neither of these phases can be dated due to the lack of any datable material recovered during the evaluation. Phase 4 has not been sub-divided; 4a represents a deposit composed of a demolition dump layer containing material of Later Nineteenth century date, but probably relating to the demolition of Potter's Farm in the 1930's prior to the construction of the Dairy. Sub-phase 4b can best be characterised as ground working to prepare the site for the construction of the dairy depot, including drainage provision and modern surfacing.

### Phase 1.

This phase consists of groups 1.01, 2.01 and 3.01. It represents the underlying geological background to the site, and is composed of mixed sands and gravels.

### Phase 2.

This phase consists of groups 1.02, 2.02, and 3.02. It represents the accumulation over time of an agriculturally derived soil a considerable thickness. No finds were recovered to enable this deposit to be dated, or to estimate the amount of time in which it accumulated.

### Phase 3.

This phase consists of a single group, 2.03, and was only observed in Trench 2. It consists of a cut for a ditch running across the north-eastern corner of the trench. The fill spread out across the soil horizon into which the ditch had been cut. This was interpreted as representing a localised flooding event, or else a pond. No evidence was found to enable this feature to be dated or its function to be more closely defined.

### Phase 4a.

This phase consists of groups 1.03, 2.04 and 3.03. It is comprised of a demolition dump layer and is interpreted as being derived from the abandonment and demolition of the Farm that is historically attested as existing on the site until the dairy depot was built in the 1930's. No other evidence for the farm was found.

### Phase 4b.

This phase consists of groups 1.04, 1.05, 2.05, 2.06, 3.04 and 3.05. It represents the provision of drainage and the make-up and modern concrete and tarmac surfaces in the depot. The make-up layer consists of a raft of brick and other material, presumably derived from the demolition of the Farm. This material indicates that the farm existed possibly from the early Nineteenth century, although the exact date of



its construction is uncertain. The current tarmac and concrete surface are of later Twentieth date.

## **6. Summary and Conclusions.**

Three trenches were opened to allow any archaeological deposits to be evaluated prior to development. These trenches revealed the demolished material from Potter's Farm, which once stood on this site, being used as a raft to support the modern concrete and tarmac surface of the depot. Underlying this was a thin demolition dump layer overlying a thick accumulation of what is presumed to be an agriculturally derived soil. This itself overlay a naturally derived deposit of mixed sands and gravels. Although some evidence of erosion and weathering was observed, especially in the mixing of the naturally derived material, no archaeological traces of any activity predating the Victorian period were recovered.

In conclusion, this evaluation produced no evidence for the survival of any archaeological material in the trenches excavated on this site. Therefore, on the evidence obtained, there would seem to be no archaeological constraint to prevent the planned development of this site.

## **7. Bibliography.**

MacGowan, K. 1994 "A Research Design for the Archaeological Evaluation of the proposed Nursing Home at Morland Road, Dagenham."

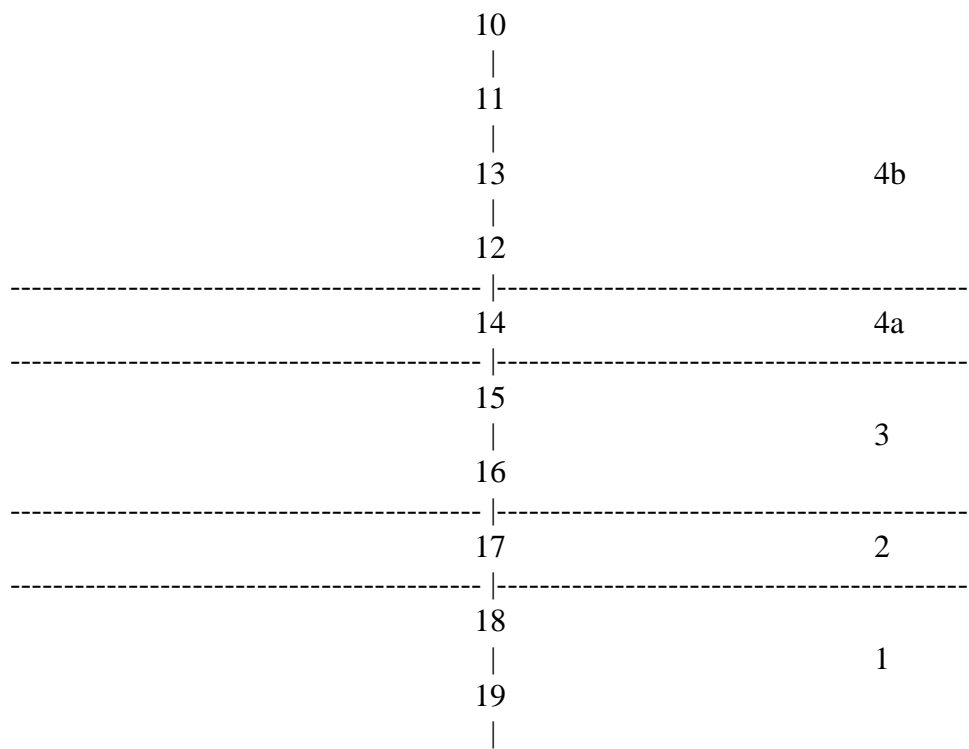
Pontin, L. 1994 "Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Morland Road, Dagenham, for a Proposed Nursing Home."

**Appendix I. Site Matrices.**

**Trench 1.**

	1	
	2	4b
	9	
	8	
-----		-----
	3	4a
-----		-----
	4	2
-----		-----
	5	
	7	
	6	1

**Trench 2. Matrix.**



Trench 3. Matrix.

	20	
	21	
	24	
	25	
		4b
	26	
	32	
	30	
	23	
-----		-----
	22	4a
-----		-----
	27	
		2
	28	
-----		-----
	29	1

**Appendix II. Level III Index.**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Plan No.</b>	<b>Section No.</b>	<b>Group No.</b>	<b>Phase No.</b>
1.	1		1	1.05	4b
2.	1		1	1.05	4b
3.	1		1	1.03	4a
4.	1		1	1.02	2
5.	1		1	1.01	1
6.	1		1	1.01	1
7.	1		1	1.01	1
8.	1		1	1.04	4b
9	1		1	1.04	4b
10.	2		2	2.06	4b
11.	2		2	2.06	4b
12.	2		2	2.05	4b
13.	2		2	2.05	4b
14.	2		2	2.04	4a
15.	2		2	2.03	3
16.	2		2	2.03	3
17.	2		2	2.02	2
18.	2		2	2.01	1
19.	2		2	2.01	1
20.	3		3	3.05	4b
21.	3		3	3.05	4b
22.	3		3	3.03	4a
23.	3		3	3.04	4b
24.	3		3	3.04	4b
25.	3		3	3.04	4b
26.	3		3	3.04	4b
27.	3		3	3.02	2
28.	3		3	3.02	2
29.	3		3	3.01	1
30.	3		3	3.04	4b
31.		Cancelled.			
32.	3			3.04	4b

**Appendix III. Archaeological Discussion by Groups.**

The results of the evaluation are presented here in more detail than was possible in Chapter 5. The groups in numerical order and by phase. For each group a matrix is presented first, followed by a breakdown into that group's constituent contexts which are then individually described in detail. Minimum and maximum heights above Ordinance Datum (abbreviated to O.D.) for the top surfaces of layers and fills and the top and bottom of cuts are given after the descriptions, as are the numbers of any relevant photographs. Finally the group is briefly summarised.

Due to the lack of features and datable evidence recovered such layers and features as were observed have been assigned to their phases purely on the basis of their stratigraphical relationships. Given the limited nature of the evaluation, the grouping and phasing is necessarily arbitrary and open to question.

**Phase 1.**

This phase represents the geological background to the site.

**Group 1.01.**

		5	
		7	
		6	
			Height above O.D.
			Max.-----Min.
5	Layer	Orange-brown (silty) sand, occasional gravel.	4.36m -
6	Layer	Orange-brown (clayey silty) sand, with occasional	4.12m -
7	Layer	Light grey-brown sand with gravel.	4.32m -

This group represents naturally derived sand and gravel forming the geological background to the site. Recorded in section only.

Photographs B/W Film 1, Frames 13 - 18  
C/S 1;13 - 18

**Group 2.01.**

|  
18  
|  
19  
|



- |    |   |               |
|----|---|---------------|
| 18 | Layer Orange-brown sandy-silt, with occasional small sub-round to sub-angular small stones < 0.02m. | 4.34m - 4.07m |
| 19 | Layer Orange-brown mixed sand and gravel, with occasional rounded and sub-angular stones < 0.07m.   | 4.11m - 3.57m |

This group represents the geological background, consisting of mixed sands and gravels (context 19) with a thin layer of a brickearth-like material sitting on top (18). This is the product of weathering or erosion of the deposits during the glacial and post-glacial period.

Photographs	B/W	1; 19 - 22	2; 9 - 12
	C/S	1; 19 - 22	2; 9 - 12

Group 3.01.

|  
29  
|

- |    |  |               |
|----|--|---------------|
| 29 | Layer Mid yellow-brown sand with gravel, and occasional small sub-rounded pebbles < 0.03m, increasing in frequency with depth. | 4.51m - 4.12m |
|----|--|---------------|

This group contains a single context, representing the natural sand and gravel.

Photographs	B/W	2; 15 - 18
	C/S	2; 15 - 18

**Phase 2.**

This phase represents the accumulation of a soil horizon across the site. It is presumably derived from agricultural activity, such as ploughing, on the site. No datable material was recovered, although the thickness of the deposits (up to 0.5m in Trench 3) may indicate a considerable period of agricultural use.

Group 1.02.

|  
4  
|

- |   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| 4 | Layer Mid brown sandy silt, with occasional small sub-rounded small pebbles. | 4.64m - 4.32m |
|---|--|---------------|

An agriculturally derived soil horizon, probably a ploughsoil. No datable material recovered.

Photographs	B/W	1; 13 - 16
	C/S	1; 13 - 16

Group 2.02.

|  
17  
|

- 17 Layer Mid yellow-brown sandy silt, with moderate to occasional charcoal flecks and sub-round to sub-angular pebbles < 0.05m. 4.64m - 4.11m

An agriculturally derived soil horizon, probably a ploughsoil.

Photographs B/W 1; 19 - 22 2; 9 - 12  
C/S 1; 19 - 22 2; 9 - 12

Group 3.02.

|  
27  
|  
28  
|

- 27 Layer Mid brown sandy clayey silt, with occasional rounded to sub-angular pebbles < 0.02m. 4.91m - 4.64m
- 28 Layer Mid orange-brown sandy clayey silt, with occasional small pebbles < 0.03m. 4.69m - 4.37m

This group represents two contexts comprising agriculturally derived soils, both probably ploughsoils. The upper layer (context 27) was darker in colour, possibly due to a higher humic content and may therefore have been more recent. Lack of datable material prevents any definite statement being made.

Photographs B/W 2; 15 - 18  
C/S 2; 15 - 18

**Phase 3.**

This phase represents a cut and fill and was only present in Trench 2. The material comprising the fill was also spread beyond the confines of the cut across most of the Trench. No datable material was found, nor any finds to indicate the function of this feature.

Group 2.03.

|  
15

|  
16  
|

- 15    Fill    Mid greeny grey sandy silt, with occasional flecks of charcoal and sub-round to sub-angular pebbles < 0.02m    4.79m - 4.71m
- 16    Cut    Linear? Gentle “U” shaped profile. Dimensions as observed, 3.1m long x ? wide x 0.7m deep. Aligned north-west to south-east.    4.59m - 4.11m

This group represents the cut and fill of a ditch crossing the north-west corner of the trench. The fill spread out from the cut to form a thin layer covering most of the trench. No material was recovered to enable the feature to be dated or for its function to be determined. It is possible that the fill represents a “flood” deposit, or else that the feature may have been a pond. Since the feature was recorded in section and lay mainly beyond the limits of the trench any interpretation is problematical.

Photographs    B/W    1; 19 - 22        2; 9 - 12  
                  C/S    1; 19 - 22        2; 9 - 12

#### **Phase 4a.**

This phase represents a deposit recorded in all three trenches of the evaluation, and interpreted as a demolition dump layer. It has been separated from Phase 4b since this phase relates specifically to the demolition of the farm, whereas 4b relates more to the construction of and alterations to the dairy.

#### **Group 1.03.**

|  
3  
|

- 3    Layer    Dark grey/black sandy clay silt, with frequent small angular to rounded pebbles, moderate fragments of ceramic building material, frequent charcoal flecks.    5.20m - 5.10m

This group represents a deposit interpreted as a demolition dump layer, interpreted as being associated with the demolition of Potter’s Farm in the 1930’s.

Photographs    B/W    1; 13 - 16  
                  C/S    1; 13 - 16

#### **Group 2.04.**

|  
14  
|

- 14 Layer Dark grey-black (sandy) clay silt, with frequent flecks and fragments charcoal and ceramic building material, and occasional angular and rounded pebbles < 0.1m. 4.89m - 4.72m

This group represents a layer interpreted as a demolition dump layer.

Photographs B/W 1; 19 - 22 2; 9 - 12  
C/S 1; 19 - 22 2; 9 - 12

Group 3.03.

|  
22  
|

- 22 Layer Dark grey-black sandy silt, with small rounded to sub-angular stones < 0.03m. Also moderate quantities of ceramic building materials. 5.04m - 4.99m

This group represents a demolition dump layer.

Photographs B/W 2; 15 - 18 2; 15 - 18

**Phase 4b.**

This phase represents the groundworking, provision of drainage and modern surface of the dairy depot. This phase has been differentiated from the previous phase since all the activities represented here post date the demolition of the farm but cannot be exactly dated. For example, it is possible that the drains were provided after the original construction of the dairy. The tarmac and concrete surfaces certainly are not contemporary with the dairy's construction.

Group 1.04.

|  
9  
|  
8  
|

- 9 Fill Iron pipe encased in coarse concrete matrix. 4.64m -  
8 Cut Linear, "U" shaped profile, aligned north-east/ 4.64m - 4.14m  
south-west; dimensions as observed, 4.2m x 0.45m wide  
x 0.5m deep.

This group represents the cut and fill for a service buried beneath the concrete surface of the depot, possibly a drain. Date unknown.

Photographs B/W 1; 17 - 18  
C/S 1; 17 - 18

Group 1.05.

1  
|  
2  
|

- |   |       |   |         |
|---|-------|---|---------|
| 1 | Layer | Concrete, steel wire reinforced.                                      | 5.30m - |
| 2 | Layer | Brick, stone and demolition debris in a loose sand and gravel matrix. | 5.20m - |

This group represents the concrete surface of the depot, and the brick etc., “raft” which supported that surface. This material is presumed to come from the demolition of the farm which previously occupied the site.

Photographs B/W 1; 13 - 16  
C/S 1; 13 - 16

Group 2.05.

|  
13  
|  
12  
|

- |    |      |  |               |
|----|------|--|---------------|
| 13 | Fill | Ceramic pipe encased in coarse, crumbly concrete.  | 4.89m -       |
| 12 | Cut  | Linear, “U”shaped profile, aligned north-west by south-east. Dimensions as observed, 6.0m x 0.3m x 0.3m. | 4.89m - 4.59m |

This group represents a drain pipe running across the trench, from the south-eastern corner to the middle of the western side, where a metal grill was located.

Photograph B/W 1; 19 - 22 2; 9 - 12  
C/S 1; 19 - 22 2; 9 - 12

Group 2.06.

10  
|  
11  
|

- |    |       |   |         |
|----|-------|---|---------|
| 10 | Layer | Tarmac surface.                                     | 5.26m - |
| 11 | Layer | Brick and demolition material with sand and gravel. | 5.11m - |

This group represents the modern surface of the depot’s yard and the packed demolition material used as a “raft” supporting that surface.

Photographs B/W 1; 19 - 22 2; 9 - 12  
C/S 2; 19 - 22 2; 9 - 12

Group 3.04.

		24	
		25	
		26	
		32	
		30	
		23	
24	Fill	Mid brown clay silt with gravel, occasional charcoal flecks and ceramic building material fragments, and frequent pebbles < 0.03m.	4.99m -
25	Fill	Light grey-yellow (cream) sandy cement, with occasional flecks of chalk.	4.80m - 4.39m
26	Fill	Dark grey ash, with occasional fragments of coke and concrete.	4.73m - 4.21m
32	Fill	Red brown, mass of tangled metal, roofing material (cryolite), concrete and glass in a sandy silt matrix. Observed in southern section only.	4.30m -
30	Fill	Mid grey-brown clay silt, with fragments of roofing material (cryolite) and glass.	4.27m -
23	Cut	Irregular; dimensions as observed, 4.75m long x 0.9m wide. Depth, profile and full width unknown.	4.79m -

This group represents a cut and fill along the southern (north facing) section of Trench 3. It has been interpreted as either a crater or other hole, filled with material to level up the ground (the material may be derived from damaged buildings if this feature does in fact represent a filled in bomb crater). An alternative explanation, that this feature represents a backfilled cellar of Potter's Farm, was discounted on the grounds that there was no evidence for a cellar wall, not even a construction cut. The material is quite loose, especially in context 32, which is a mass of rusty metal and other debris, showing clear voids. The tarmac through which this trench was excavated had dipped showing that the substrate is loose and liable to movement. This feature was not investigated further due to its position on the southern limit of excavation, and the danger of the section collapsing.

Photographs B/W 2; 15 - 20, 34 - 35  
C/S 2; 15 - 20, 34 - 35

Group 3.05.

20  
|  
21

- |
- |    |       |   |         |
|----|-------|---|---------|
| 20 | Layer | Tarmac surface.                                   | 5.29m - |
| 21 | Layer | Brick and demolition rubble with sand and gravel. | 5.05m - |

This group represents the tarmac surface of the depot in this area, with the raft of brick and other demolition derived material supporting that surface.

**APPENDIX IV.**

**GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM**

**1. TYPE OF RECORDING.**

Evaluation                      Excavation                      Watching brief

Other (please specify)

## **2. LOCATION.**

Borough: Barking and Dagenham.

Site address: 1-2 Morland Road, Dagenham.

Site name:

Site code: DA-WN'94

**Nat. Grid Refs:** Centre of site: TQ 49360/ 84050

**Limits of site:** a) b)  
c) d)

## **3. ORGANISATION.**

Name of archaeological unit/ company/ society: Newham Museum Service

Address: Archaeology and Local History Centre, 31, Stock St.,  
Plaistow, London, E13 0BX.

Site director/ supervisor: M. D. Turner

Project manager: K. MacGowan

Funded by: Westminster Health Care Ltd.

## **4. DURATION.**

Date fieldwork started: 28.11.94

Date finished: 2.12.94

Field work previously notified?

YES/ NO

Fieldwork will continue?

YES/ NO/ NOT KNOWN

## **5. PERIODS REPRESENTED.**

Palaeolithic

Roman

Mesolithic

Saxon (pre-AD 1066)

Neolithic

Medieval (AD 1066 -1485)

Bronze Age

Post-Medieval

Iron Age

Unknown



**6. PERIOD SUMMARIES.** Use headings for each period (Roman; Medieval; etc.), and continue on additional sheets as necessary.

Post-Medieval; Concrete and Tarmac surface on brick rubble make-up; C20th.  
Concrete encased drains; C20th.  
Demolition dump layer; C19th but farm demolished c. 1930.

Unknown; Ploughsoil layer.  
Ditch.

**7. NATURAL.** (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: Mixed sand and gravel.

Height above Ordnance Datum: 4.51m max.

**8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVES.**

a) Please indicate those categories still in your possession:

Notes

Plans

Photos

Negatives

Slides                                      Correspondence                                      Manuscripts (unpub. reports etc.)

b) All/ some records have been/ will be deposited in the following museum/ records office etc. :  
Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre.

c) Approximate year of transfer:

d) Location of any copies:

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made?                                      YES/ NO

    If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming?                                      YES/ NO

### **9. LOCATION OF FINDS.**

a) In your possession?    ALL/ SOME/ NONE

b) All/ some finds have been/ will be deposited with the following museum/ other body:

    Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre.

c) Approximate year of transfer;

### **10. BIBLIOGRAPHY.**

“Research design for an Evaluation at Morland Road, Dagenham”. MacGowan, K. (N.M.S.), 1994.  
Unpublished research design.

“An Archaeological Evaluation in the former Dairy Crest compound, Morland Road, Dagenham.”  
Turner, M. D. (N.M.S.), 1994.  
Unpublished client report.

**SIGNED:**

**DATE:** 7.12.1994

**NAME** (Block capitals): M. D. TURNER.

Please return completed form to The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, English Heritage  
London Region, 30 Warwick St., London W1R 5RD. Tel. 0171 973 3731/ 3779 (direct dial).

### **Illustrations.**

#### **1. Site Location.**

## 2. Trench Location.