

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT THE SITE OF THE
C.R.S. FUNERAL PARLOUR
WHITTA ROAD, MANOR PARK
LEVEL III REPORT

Site Code: HE-WH 95

Accession No.: LDPEM/ACHE/298

TQ: 4179 8578

ALISON ANNE TELFER

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Newham Museum Service at the site of the Co-op Funeral Parlour, Whitta Road, Manor Park. It revealed layers of modern make-up for the existing concrete raft, horticultural features and natural gravel.

SITE INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Newham Museum Service was commissioned by R. Wylde and Associates to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of the C.R.S. Depot between 21st and 27th January 1995. This was in accordance with an archaeological condition applied to the planning permission for the re-development of the site: Planning Application No. P/94/0295/PLAN (outline). The condition was imposed by Mr. Lawrence Pontin, Planning Officer (Archaeology) for North-East London.

Wanstead sits upon a Flood Plain Gravel; previous excavations by the Museum upon this material have produced finds such as stone tools. The location of the site is very close to the Romford Road, which was formerly a Roman Road. A number of manor houses have also been recorded in the area from the eleventh century (Powell, 1973) and include the Manor House situated to the north of the area under excavation, which was built around 1800 (Lund, 1973). There is therefore evidence for prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity in the area.

The site itself is located with Whitta Road to the west and south, Gladding Road to the east and Capel Road to the north (Figure 1).

Five trenches, each measuring approximately 10m by 2m, were positioned across the site in order to maximise the potential of the area under excavation (Figure 2). A breaker was used to remove the concrete raft. Each trench was then dug to a depth of 0.80m or, if the deposits were entirely modern, to a maximum of 1.20m.

It must be noted that for the purposes of the Museum's archive, Figure 2 shows the trench location of both the C.R.S. Funeral Parlour evaluation (Area A) and the later C.R.S. Milk Bottling Depot evaluation (Area B). Both evaluations carry the same site code HE-WH 95.

The site was negotiated and directed by Mr. Ken MacGowan and supervised by the author.

PHASE DISCUSSION

Phase I

Phase I represents the natural geology of the site. Its varying compositions have been reflected in the allocation of different context numbers for each excavated trench.

Phase II

Phase II represents a horticultural period, reflecting the possible previous existence of a garden or a park in this area. These layers can be dated to the early 19th, or possibly late 18th centuries. Trench 1, in particular, contained a row of cuts filled with silty clay and roots. A penny, dating to 1912, was retrieved from a sub-soil recorded in Trench 2.

There is evidence in Trench 5 to suggest some form of alluvial activity, possibly in the form of sporadic flooding.

Phase III

Phase III represents modern layers which levelled the ground surface and provided a foundation make-up for the present day concrete raft.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The structures and deposits revealed by the evaluation at the site of the C.R.S. Funeral Parlour appeared to be largely modern (Figure 3). In several instances, disruption of the underlying layers can be attributed to the laying of services for the Co-op buildings themselves. There may have been truncation of medieval to post-medieval deposits as part of the construction of the Co-op Depot.

The recently renovated Manor House, which stands to the north of the area under excavation, within the Co-op complex, was constructed around 1800. It is likely that the house would have initially been contained within substantial grounds and the horticultural features revealed by the excavation may be related to gardens attached to the house.

The proximity of the natural gravel to the surface, however, would diminish the likelihood of any large-scale previous occupation of or activity on this site prior to the modern construction.

The recommendation of this evaluation is that no further archaeological work is required in the vicinity of the funeral parlour.

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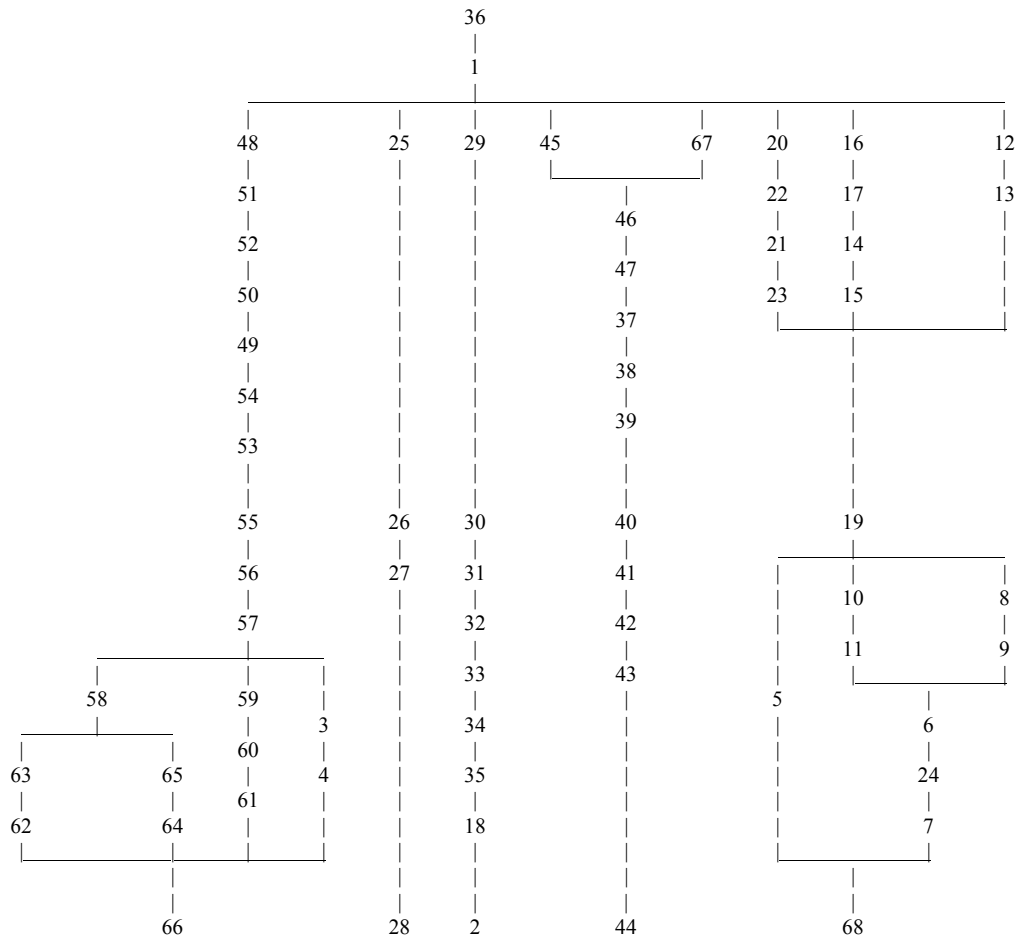
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Museum and the author would like to thank the Co-operative Retail Society for kindly funding the site and to R. Wylde and Associates for their assistance.

Thanks also to the demolition team on site who were very helpful throughout the entire project.

Thanks are also due to Graham Reed for the illustrations, Chris Jarrett for the pottery analysis and to Paul Cox, Mark Dunkley and Alice Hodgins for their excellent work on site.

APPENDIX I: SITE MATRIX AND GROUP DISCUSSION



APPENDIX I: GROUP DISCUSSION

PHASE III

**Level in metres above O.D.
Maximum Minimum**

Group 1

	36		
Context			
(36): Layer, mid brown, wooden tiles		11.69	11.66

Group 1 represents a parquet raft, which overlay the concrete raft in the south-western area of the depot.

Group 2

	1		
(1): Layer, light grey, concrete		12.27	11.44

Group 2 represents a concrete raft which covers the entirety of the area under excavation.

Group 3

	25		29		37	
					48	
				38		
				39		
(25): Layer, orange brown, coarse sand, freq gravel					11.72	11.68
(29): Layer, mid brown grey, sandy silt					11.45	11.21
(37): Layer, light grey, concrete rubble					11.66	11.48
(38): Layer, mid grey brown, silty sand					11.54	11.36
(39): Layer, black, burnt clinker					11.43	11.28
(48): Layer, orange brown coarse sand					12.03	11.91

This group represents the hardcore make-up, which underlies Group 2.

Group 4

|
12
|
13
|

(12): Fill, dark brown, sandy clay	10.72	---
(13): Cut, top sharp, side vertical, base unexcavated	10.72	---

Group 4 represents a construction cut.

Group 5

|
16
|
17
|

(16): Fill, dark grey brown, silty clay	10.83	---
(17): Cut, top sharp, side vertical, base unexcavated	10.83	---

This group represents the construction of a service trench.

Group 6

|
14
|
15
|

(14): Fill, mottled green grey, sandy clay	11.28	---
(15): Cut, top sharp, side vertical, base unexcavated	11.28	---

This group represents a construction cut.

Group 7

|
20
|
22
|
21
|
23
|

(20): Fill, mid orange brown, clay sand	11.28	11.01
(22): Fill, mid grey brown, sandy clay	11.18	---
(21): Wall, concrete block	11.01	---
(23): Cut, top sharp, side vertical, base unexcavated	11.18	---

Group 7 represents the construction of a concrete foundation wall.

Group 8

|
51
|
52
|
50
|

(50): Cut, top sharp, side straight at 45', base rounded	11.93	11.82
(51): Fill, light grey brown, coarse sand	11.93	11.85
(52): Fill, mid grey brown, silty sand	11.90	11.82

This group represents a modern pit with dumped deposits.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 9

|
49
|

(49): Layer, light grey silty sand	11.93	11.81
------------------------------------	-------	-------

This group represents a ground-levelling or make-up layer.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 10

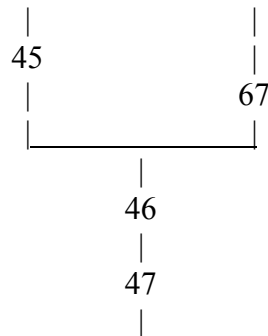
|
54
|
53
|

(53): Cut, top sharp, side irregular, base irregular	11.83	11.00
(54): Fill, mixture of dark grey silt, yellow sand, & dark brown sandy clay	11.83	11.00

This group represents a modern pit with dumped deposits.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 11



(45): Fill, demolition rubble backfill	11.48	10.40
(67): Fill, mid grey brown, silt & rubble	11.48	10.40
(46): Red brick structure, two columns	11.48	10.40
(47): Cut, top sharp, side vertical, base level	11.48	10.40

This group represents the construction of a modern brick foundation.

PHASE II

Group 12



(5): Layer, light brown, clay silt with frequent roots	10.70	---
--	-------	-----

This group represents a horticultural sub-soil.

Group 13



(8): Fill, mid green grey, sandy clay with frequent gravel	10.77	---
(9): Cut, top gradual, side concave, base rounded	10.77	---

Group 13 represents a depression filled with clay, deposited as a result of flooding or the dumping of alluvial material from elsewhere.

Group 14

|
10
|
11
|

(10): Fill, mid green grey, sandy clay	10.72	---
(11): Cut, top sharp, side vertical, base unexcavated	10.72	---

Group 14 represents a depression filled with clay, deposited as a result of alluvial activity or dumped from elsewhere.

Group 15

|
6
|
24
|
7
|

(6): Fill, mid green grey, sandy clay with frequent gravel	10.72	---
(24): Fill, mid orange brown, clay sand	10.68	---
(7): Cut, top gentle, side convex, base unexcavated	10.70	---

This group represents an linear alluvial deposit, possibly as a result of flooding.

Group 16

|
19
|

(19): Layer, dark grey brown, sandy clay	11.26	10.88
--	-------	-------

This group represents a ground-levelling layer.

Group 17

|
30
|

(30): Layer, orange brown, sandy silt 11.38 11.10

This group represents a dumped deposit.

Photographs: c/s: 1: 30-33 b/w: 1: 29-32

Group 18

|
31
|
32
|

(31): Fill, black, crushed coal 11.11 10.95

(32): Cut, top gradual, side concave, base concave 11.11 10.95

This group represents a small pit, possibly relating to a firing activity.

Photographs: c/s: 1: 30-33 b/w: 1: 29-32

Group 19

|
33
|

(33): Layer, mid brown, clay silt 11.11 xyz

Group 19 represents a dumped deposit to level the ground.

Photographs: c/s: 1: 30-33 b/w: 1: 29-32

Group 20

|
34
|
35
|

(34): Fill, black, silty sand 11.00 10.86

(35): Cut, top sharp, side steep, base concave 11.00 10.86

This group represents a small pit, possibly containing re-deposited material.

Photographs: c/s: 1: 30-33 b/w: 1: 29-32

Group 21

|
55
|
56
|

(55): Layer, orange yellow, clay sand	11.86	11.76
(56): Layer, black, crushed coal	11.82	11.67

This group represents a series of dumped deposits.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 22

|
57
|

(57): Layer, mid brown grey, clay silt	11.77	11.32
--	-------	-------

This group represents a ground-levelling layer.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 23

|
58
|

(58): Lens, light yellow brown, clay sand	11.59	11.24
---	-------	-------

Group 23 represents a lens of re-deposited natural.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 24

|
3
|
4
|

(3): Fill, mid grey brown, sandy silt, freq. gravel	11.30	11.10
(4): Cut, top sharp, side steep, base concave	11.30	11.10

This group represents a hollow left by a plant.

Group 25

|
59
|
60
|
61
|

(59): Fill, light yellow brown, sandy clay	11.51	11.32
(60): Fill, mid brown, clay silt	11.38	11.19
(61): Cut, top sharp, side steep, base flattish	11.42	11.19

Group 25 represents a tree bowl containing re-deposited natural as its primary fill.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 26

|
63
|
62
|

(62): Cut, top sharp, side irregular, base irregular	11.42	11.08
(63): Fill, mid brown, clay silt	11.42	11.08

This group represents the hollow left by a plant.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 27

|
65
|
64
|

(64): Cut, top sharp, side concave, base flattish	11.27	11.10
(65): Fill, mid brown, clay silt	11.27	11.10

This group represents the hollow left by a plant.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 29-32 b/w: 2: 28-31

Group 28

|
26
|

(26): Layer, mid brown, silty sand 11.69 11.29

This group represents a sub-soil or levelling deposit and contained a penny dating to 1912.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 34-37 b/w: 2: 33-36

Group 29

|
40
|

(40): Layer, mid brown, sandy silt 11.30 11.17

This group represents a sub-soil, possibly horticultural.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 15-18 b/w: 2: 14-17

Group 30

|
27
|

(27): Layer, light orange brown, sandy silt 11.29 11.23

This group represents the interface between the sub-soil and the natural gravel.

Photographs: c/s: 1: 34-37 b/w: 1: 33-36

Group 31

|
41
|
42
|

(41): Layer, mid grey brown, sandy silt 11.25 11.16

(42): Layer, mid brown, sandy silt 11.17 10.88

Group 31 represents a series of dumped deposits.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 15-18 b/w: 2: 14-17

Group 32

|
18
|

(18): Layer, light brown, clay silt 11.01 10.72

This group represents a sub-soil relating to horticultural activity.

Photographs: c/s: 1: 30-33 b/w: 1: 29-32

Group 33

|
43
|

(43): Layer, orange brown sandy silt, with 10.92 10.60
with occ patches of mid brown sandy silt

This group represents the interface between the sub-soil and the natural geology.

Photographs: c/s: 2: 15-18 b/w: 2: 14-17

PHASE I

Group 34

(2): Layer, light yellow brown, clay sand	10.74	--
(28): Layer, mid orange brown, sandy gravel	11.23	--
(44): Layer, light orange brown, silty sand, occ gravel	10.67	--
(66): Layer, light brown yellow, sandy clay, occ gravel	11.39	--
(68): Layer, light yellow brown, clay sand	10.71	--

The natural geology has been allocated different context numbers to reflect its differing compositions.

APPENDIX II

LEVEL III INDEX

CONTEXT	TRENCH	SECTION	PLAN	GROUP	PHASE
1	1-5	1-5	--	2	III
2	3	3	--	34	I
3	1	5	--	24	II
4	1	5	--	24	II
5	5	--	--	12	II
6	5	1	7	15	II
7	5	--	7	15	II
8	5	--	9	13	II
9	5	--	9	13	II
10	5	--	11	14	II
11	5	--	11	14	II
12	5	--	13	4	III
13	5	--	13	4	III
14	5	--	15	6	III
15	5	--	15	6	III
16	5	--	17	5	III
17	5	--	17	5	III
18	3	3	--	32	II
19	5	1	--	16	II
20	5	1	--	7	III
21	5	1	--	7	III
22	5	1	--	7	III
23	5	1	--	7	III
24	5	1	--	15	II
25	2	2	--	3	III
26	2	2	--	28	II
27	2	2	--	30	II
28	2	2	--	34	I
29	3	3	--	3	III
30	3	3	--	17	II
31	3	3	--	18	II
32	3	3	--	18	II
33	3	3	--	19	II
34	3	3	--	20	II
35	3	3	--	20	II
36	3	3	--	1	III
37	4	4	--	3	III
38	4	4	--	3	III
39	4	4	--	3	III
40	4	4	--	29	II
41	4	4	--	31	II
42	4	4	--	31	II

43	4	4	--	33	II
44	4	4	--	34	I
45	4	--	--	11	III
46	4	--	--	11	III
47	4	--	--	11	III
48	1	5	--	3	III
49	1	5	--	9	III
50	1	5	--	8	III
51	1	5	--	8	III
52	1	5	--	8	III
53	1	5	--	10	III
54	1	5	--	10	III
55	1	5	--	21	II
56	1	5	--	21	II
57	1	5	--	22	II
58	1	5	--	23	II
59	1	5	--	25	II
60	1	5	--	25	II
61	1	5	--	25	II
62	1	5	--	26	II
63	1	5	--	26	II
64	1	5	--	27	II
65	1	5	--	27	II
66	1	5	--	34	I
67	4	--	--	11	III
68	5	--	--	34	I

APPENDIX III

SMALL FINDS INDEX

<u>S.F. NO.</u>	<u>Context/Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Level Above OD</u>
1	(18) TR.3	Fe blade	10.84
2	(26) TR.2	One Penny (1912)	11.56

FINDS INDEX

TRENCH 2 Unstrat

1 sherd of Creamware, blue decoration (CREA B)

TRENCH 3 (18)

1 sherd of Post-Med Red, unglazed (PMR U)

4 fragments of clay pipe stem

2 Fe nails

TRENCH 4 (40)

1 sherd of London Stoneware (LONS)

1670-1900

Unstrat

1 small clear glass bottle

1 Sainsbury's Potted Meat pot

1870 onwards

TRENCH 5 (5)

3 sherds of Post-Med Red, unglazed (PMR U) flowerpot

1 fragment of clay pipe stem (decorated)

1 fragment of tile

Context (14)

1 fragment of red brick

1 base of clear glass bottle

Context (19)

1 sherd of Transfer Printed Ware (TPW)

1780-1900

