

**REPORT ON THE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
OF PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT  
AT 4-8 WESTBURY ROAD  
WALTHAMSTOW  
LONDON E17  
Site Code: HE-WH 95  
Accession No.: LDVHM/1995/46  
Grid Reference: TQ 3710/8935**

**Alison Anne Telfer**

**14th July 1995**

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## **2 ABSTRACT**

The archaeological evaluation revealed modern demolition deposits and underlying layers and features, dating to the 19th century. These earlier deposits were cut into the natural geology.

### **3 SITE INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

Newham Museum Service was commissioned by Unicoin Homes PLC to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of the proposed residential development at 4-8 Westbury Road between 4th and 8th July 1995. The work was to fulfil an archaeological condition applied to the planning permission for the re-development of the site (Planning Application No.94/0392). The condition was imposed by Mr. Lawrence Pontin, Planning Officer (Archaeology) for North-East London.

The site is located within a residential area, with Westbury Road to the east (Figure 1a). It is known that the Walthamstow High Street was a major road in the medieval period, which may have followed an earlier Roman alignment. The area lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined in the London Borough of Waltham Forest's Unitary Development Plan for High Street, Walthamstow. The project design for the evaluation (Chew & Truckle, 1995) was drawn up to fulfill the specification for the works (Pontin, 1995).

Three trenches, each measuring approximately 10m by 2m, were positioned across the site in order to maximise the potential of the area under excavation and where the proposed housing units are to be located (Figure 1b). The trench location also took into consideration areas where demolition had obviously truncated all earlier deposits down to natural. The trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, cleaned up and the deposits investigated and recorded. The excavation in each trench reached a maximum depth of 1.20m, to below the level of natural deposits, down to the expected formation level, so as to evaluate the potential for Palaeolithic deposits.

The archive will be deposited at Vestry House Museum, Walthamstow.

The site was negotiated and directed by Mr. Peter Moore and supervised by the author.

## **4 PHASE DISCUSSION**

### **Phase 1**

Phase 1 represents the natural geology of the site, which consisted of sandy clay. This was consistent in each trench and would have been alluvially deposited.

### **Phase 2**

Phase 2 represents an industrial period, dating to the 19th century. Evidence of a bottling process was found in Trenches 2 and 3. The remains consisted of pale green and brown glass bottle stoppers. A small unstratified sauce bottle was also retrieved. All of this glass can be dated to the 1890's. There also appears to be evidence of dumping or landscaping, which may have pre-dated the industrial phase, although there is no dating evidence from these layers.

### **Phase 3**

Phase 3 represents modern demolition deposits.

## **5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The archaeology revealed by the evaluation at Westbury Road appeared to consist largely of modern demolition debris, which may partially be attributed to the disruption of underlying layers (Figure 2). Features cut into the natural clay formed evidence of late 19th century occupation, which may have truncated any earlier signs of settlement, in relation to the High Street or otherwise.

Several pieces of the 19th century glass bear the stamp of ‘Gillard’s, a sauce and pickles manufacturers. Gillard & Co. Ltd was founded in 1892 and the company moved from its initial premises in the High Street to Westbury Road in 1931 (Powell, 1973, P270). It is likely that the drain served the factory building.

It is the recommendation of this evaluation that no further archaeological work is required on this site.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Museum and the author would like to thank Unicoin Homes PLC for kindly funding the site and, in particular, Mr. John Campbell for all his assistance.

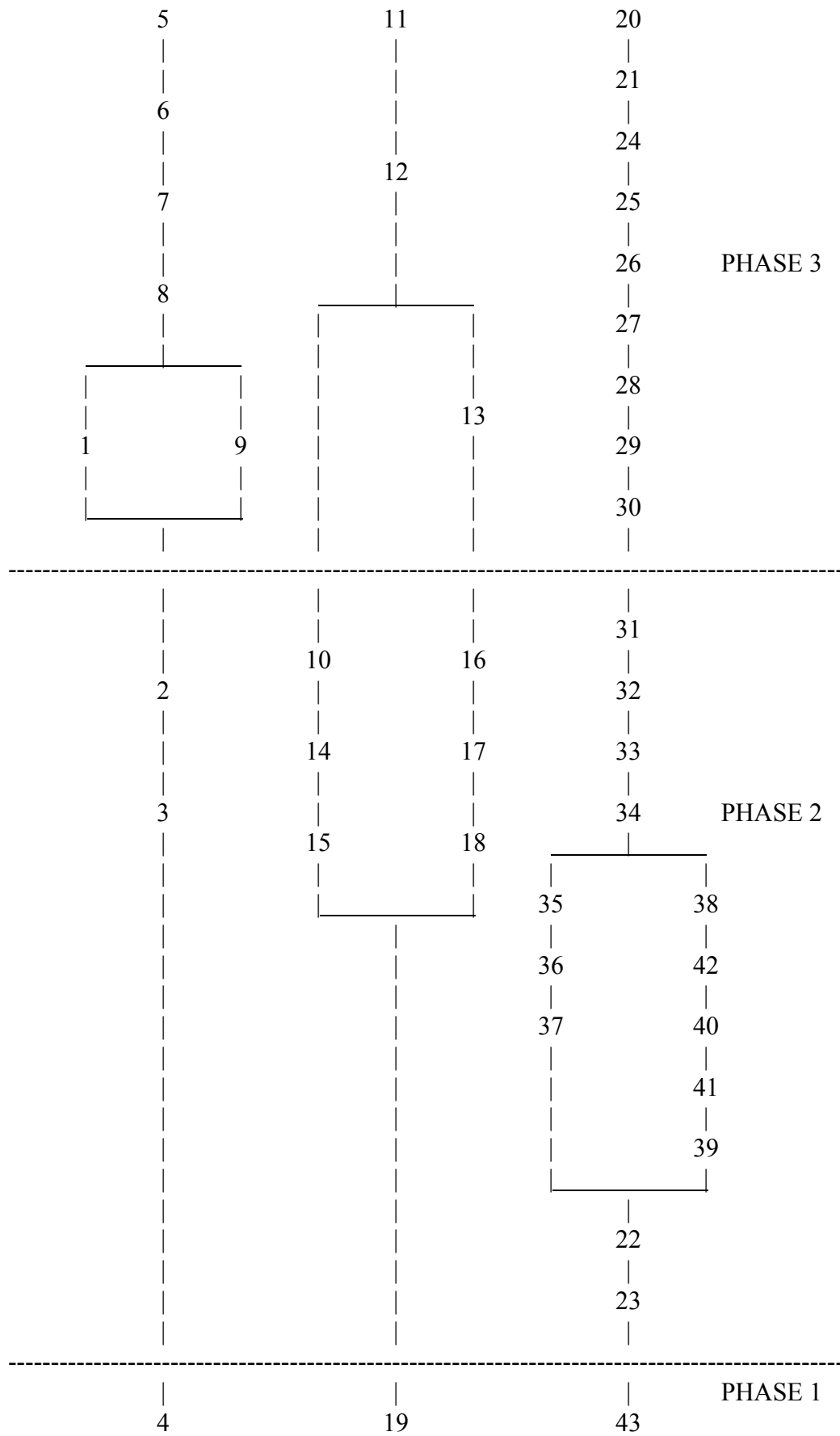
Thanks are also due to Peter Moore for negotiating and directing the site, Graham Reed for the illustrations, Chris Jarrett for the pottery analysis, Nick Truckle for the glass analysis and Sam Potter and Shaun Tamblyn for their sterling work on site.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Chew, S., & Truckle, N. 1995 "Tender for an Archaeological Evaluation of Proposed Residential Development at 4-8 Westbury Road, Walthamstow, E17" Newham Museum Service
- Pontin, L. 1995 "Brief for Archaeological Evaluation of Proposed Residential Development at 4-8 Westbury Road, Walthamstow E17, Phase 1" English Heritage
- Powell, W.R. (Ed) 1973 "The Victoria History of the County of Essex" Vol. VI Oxford University Press



**APPENDIX I: SITE MATRIX**



## **APPENDIX II: GROUP DISCUSSION**

	<b>Level in metres above OD</b>	
	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Minimum</b>
<b><u>Group 1</u></b>		
	5	
	6	
<b>Context</b>		
(5) Fill, mid grey, sandy silt	25.37	24.40
(6) Cut, top sharp, side irregular, base level	25.37	24.40

This is a modern demolition pit.

### **Group 2**

	7		
	8		
(7) Fill, light brown, sandy silt	25.37	24.99	
(8) Cut, top angled, side angled, base concave	25.37	24.99	

This is a modern pit containing industrial waste.

### **Group 3**

	1		
(1) Layer, light grey, sandy silt	25.30	25.03	

This is a modern demolition dump.

### **Group 4**

	9		
(9) Layer, light brown, sandy silt	25.37	24.89	

This is a modern demolition dump.

**Group 5**

|  
2  
|  
3  
|

(2) Layer, mid brown grey, sandy silt	25.18	24.75
(3) Layer, light brown, clay silt	25.00	24.45

These layers are probably ground-levelling, prior to construction.

**Group 6**

|  
4

(4) Layer, mid orange, sandy clay	24.65	---
-----------------------------------	-------	-----

This is the natural geology.

**Group 7**

11  
|  
12  
|

(11) Fill, mid grey, clay silt	25.23	24.18
(12) Cut, top angled, side irregular, base sloping	25.23	24.18

This is a modern demolition dump.

**Group 8**

|  
10  
|

(10) Layer, mid grey, clay silt	25.14	24.44
---------------------------------	-------	-------

This is a 19th century dump.

**Group 9**

|  
13  
|

(13) Layer, dark grey, silt	25.40	24.74
-----------------------------	-------	-------

This is a modern dump layer.

**Group 10**

|  
14  
|  
15  
|

(14) Fill, mid brown orange, sandy clay	24.70	---
(15) Cut, top sharp, side vertical, base unex.	24.70	---

This is a 19th century pit.

**Group 11**

|  
16  
|  
17  
|

(16) Fill, mid brown orange, sandy clay	24.78	24.39
(17) Cut, top sharp, side curved, base unex.	24.78	24.39

This is a 19th century pit.

**Group 12**

|  
18  
|

(18) Layer, light yellow grey, sandy silt	25.75	25.66
-------------------------------------------	-------	-------

This is probably the remains of a ground-levelling layer.

**Group 13**

|  
19

(19) Layer, mid orange, sandy clay	24.71	---
------------------------------------	-------	-----

This is the natural geology.

**Group 14**

20  
|  
21  
|

(20) Fill, mid brown grey, clay silt	25.17	24.19
--------------------------------------	-------	-------

(21) Cut, top angled, side irregular, base level	25.17	24.19
--------------------------------------------------	-------	-------

This is a modern demolition dump.

**Group 15**

|  
22  
|  
23  
|

(22) Layer, mid grey brown, sandy silt	24.70	24.37
(23) Layer, mid orange, clay	25.14	24.36

These layers are probably for ground-levelling.

**Group 16**

|  
24  
|  
25  
|

(24) Fill, mid grey, silt and rubble	25.14	24.52
(25) Cut, top sharp, side curved, base convex	25.14	24.52

This is a modern dump.

**Group 17**

|  
26  
|  
27  
|

(26) Fill, mid brown grey, silt and rubble	25.16	24.34
(27) Cut, top angled, side straight, base concave	25.16	24.34

This is a modern dump.

**Group 18**

|  
28  
|

(28) Layer, light grey, steel reinforced concrete	25.50	25.17
---------------------------------------------------	-------	-------

This is modern demolition layer.

**Group 19**

|  
29  
|  
30  
|

(29) Fill, light brown grey, clay silt with rubble	25.26	24.79
(30) Cut, top sharp, side straight, base convex	25.26	24.79

This is a modern pit.

**Group 20**

|  
31  
|  
32  
|

(31) Fill, light yellow brown, sandy clay	25.29	24.73
(32) Cut, top sharp, side angled, base sloping	25.29	24.73

This is a 19th century pit.

**Group 21**

|  
33  
|  
34  
|

(33) Fill, light grey, slit and ash	25.34	24.93
(34) Cut, top and side trunc., base irregular	25.34	24.93

This is a pit containing glass bottle stoppers, dating to the late 19th century.

**Group 22**

|  
35  
|

(35) Lens, light grey brown, sandy silt and ash	24.87	24.74
-------------------------------------------------	-------	-------

This is a dumped deposit, possibly as part of ground levelling.

**Group 23**

|  
36  
|  
37  
|

(36) Fill, light yellow grey, sandy silt	24.77	24.58
(37) Cut, top sharp, side curved, base concave	24.77	24.58

This is a small pit containing residue from firing.

**Group 24**

|  
38  
|  
42  
|  
40  
|  
41  
|  
39  
|

(38) Fill, mid yellow brown, sandy clay	25.06	---
(39) Cut, top angled, side irregular, base unex.	24.73	---
(40) Fill, mid brown, clay silt	24.59	24.11
(41) Fill, light grey, concrete	24.27	---
(42) Drainpipe, orientation N-S	24.41	24.16

This is the construction of a 19th century drain.

**Group 25**

|  
43

(43) Layer, mid brown orange, sandy clay	24.43	---
------------------------------------------	-------	-----

This is the natural geology.

### APPENDIX III: ARCHIVE INDEX

CONTEXT	TRENCH	SECTION	GROUP	PHASE
1	1	1	3	3
2	1	1	5	2
3	1	1	5	2
4	1	1	6	1
5	1	1	1	3
6	1	1	1	3
7	1	1	2	3
8	1	1	2	3
9	1	1	4	3
10	2	2	8	2
11	2	2	7	3
12	2	2	7	3
13	2	2	9	3
14	2	2	10	2
15	2	2	10	2
16	2	2	11	2
17	2	2	11	2
18	2	2	12	2
19	2	2	13	1
20	3	3	14	3
21	3	3	14	3
22	3	3	15	2
23	3	3	15	2
24	3	3	16	3
25	3	3	16	3
26	3	3	17	3
27	3	3	17	3
28	3	3	18	3
29	3	3	19	3
30	3	3	19	3
31	3	3	20	2
32	3	3	20	2
33	3	3	21	2
34	3	3	21	2
35	3	3	22	2
36	3	3	23	2
37	3	3	23	2
38	3	3	24	2
39	3	3	24	2
40	3	3	24	2
41	3	3	24	2
42	3	3	24	2
43	3	3	25	1



**APPENDIX IV: FINDS INDEX**

<u>CONTEXT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
10	1 sherd of Creamware (CREA)	1760-1900
14	2 sherds of English Stoneware (ENGS)	19thC
	1 brown glass bottle stopper	1890's
	2 fragments of green bottle glass	1890's
	1 fragment of glass slag	
	1 fragment of metal	
16	1 pale green glass jar stopper	1890's
33	7 pale green bottle stoppers	1890's
	3 fragments of above	
	2 pale green glass jar stoppers	1890's
	9 pale green glass bottle caps	1890's
	1 fragment of above	
	1 fragment of pale green bottle glass	1890's
38	1 fragment of clay pipe	
	2 fragments of animal bone	
Unstratified	1 complete small brown glass sauce bottle	1890's
	1 small iron key	



#### **4. DURATION.**

Date fieldwork started: 4th JULY 1995

Date finished: 8th JULY 1995

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**

The evaluation revealed evidence of an industrial period, dating to the establishment of Gillard & Co. Ltd, a sauces and pickles manufacturers, in 1892. Features and deposits from this occupation of the site may have truncated any earlier signs of settlement, since they were cut into the natural clay.

The remainder of the deposits were the result of modern demolition.

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

Type: NATURAL CLAY

Height above Ordnance Datum: 24.71

**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  
31 STOCK STREET  
PLAISTOW  
LONDON E13 OBX

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1995

d) Location of any copies: AS ABOVE

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

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1995

## **10. BIBLIOGRAPHY.**

- Chew, S.& Truckle, N. 1995 “Tender for an Archaeological Evaluation of Proposed Residential Development at 4-8 Westbury Road, Walthamstow, E17”  
Newham Museum Service
- Pontin, L. 1995 “Brief for Archaeological Evaluation of Proposed Residential Development at 4-8 Westbury Road, Walthamstow E17, Phase 1”  
English Heritage
- Powell, W.R.(Ed) 1973 “The Victoria History of the County of Essex” Vol.VI.  
Oxford University Press

**SIGNED:**

**DATE:** 14th JULY 1995

**NAME** (Block capitals): ALISON A. TELFER

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).