

REPORT INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of a watching brief conducted by the Archaeology Section of the Newham Museum Service at Dovers Corner, Rainham, London Borough of Havering (see figure 1). The results of the work are set out here in order to facilitate checking the information and the use of the site archive.

The report is divided into the following sections:

Site Introduction and Method

Phase Summary

Conclusion and Summary

Acknowledgements

Illustrations

Appendices: I - IV

The purpose of the work, the methodology of the work, the contract and project management details, and dates are contained in the “Site Introduction and Method”.

In the “Phase Summary” the archaeological deposits are considered together, and an overall temporal sequence of activity on the site is suggested. A phase contains one or more groups (see below) and represents one or a number of not necessarily related events that can be assigned to the same temporal unit.

In the “Conclusion and Summary” the archaeological deposits are considered in the light of documentary evidence to interpret the recorded activities, and to suggest any resulting recommendations. The “Acknowledgements” thank all the individuals and organisations involved in the archaeological fieldwork and the production of this report. The “Illustrations” include figures showing the location of the site, the location of the works within the site and plans and sections of the areas of interest.

In the “Appendix I: Group Summary” the contexts recorded on site are discussed in discrete groups. A context is any event in time resulting in the creation of surviving material remains, e.g. a layer of soil, a pit, the material filling a pit or a wall. Discrete and related series of contexts are discussed together (e.g. a wall, its foundation trench and backfilling, a group of postholes or a ditch and the layers of material filling it), in order to see fully their archaeological implications. The site archive and finds are located at the Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre, 31 Stock Street, Plaistow, E13 OBX.

Firstly the stratigraphic relationships between the contexts in each group are set out in the form of a matrix:

32
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33
|
34

The above is an example of a simple stratigraphic matrix. Context (32) post-dates both contexts (33) and (34), while context (34) pre-dates both contexts (32) and (33). Context (33) thus occurs before context (32) and after context (34).

“Appendix II: Area Matrices” is included to allow the checking of the exact relationships between the contexts. “Appendix III: The Level III Index” summarises each context in tabular form, showing its type, the area in which it occurs, the group to which it belongs, the identifying numbers of black and white and colour slide photographs and any section drawings or plans on which it is shown. “Appendix IV: Finds” contains a description of the material recovered on site, treated context by context.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF,

DOVERS CORNER, RAINHAM,

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING.

HO - DM 94

LDPEM./ACHO/321

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE TQ 5218 8268

LEVEL III REPORT

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20th JANUARY 1995.

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Abstract

The remains of structures were exposed in four areas of the site. During the machine stripping of the topsoil the traces of a late 19th/early 20th century domestic building were uncovered in the north of the site area and a brick lined soakaway of 19th/20th century date on the southern margin of the known medieval moat. Chalk foundations were cut in two locations by drain excavation in the vicinity of the moat. The foundations encountered towards the northern end of the excavations were of medieval date (c. 1100-1500). Due to the nature of the deposits encountered it can be stated that remains of archaeological significance were evident on the site.

Site Introduction and Method

The watching brief took place between the 19th August 1994 and 24th October 1994 at the site of flood defence works under construction the River Ingrebourne at Dovers Corner, Rainham (Dovers Corner 5A), Planning Application number P1138.93 (see figure 1). The work was carried out by agreement between the developers the National Rivers Authority and the archaeological planning officer for north east London, Lawrence Pontin.

On the north side of the A13 adjacent to the Albion public house the works involved the stripping of topsoil to a depth of approximately 0.15m, prior to the construction of an embankment, and the excavation of three associated drain runs.(see figure 1). An archaeologist from Newham Museum Service was present during the works when deemed necessary. In this report the stripped area will be referred to as Area 1, and the drains as Areas 2 to 4 (see figure 2).

The site is located in the vicinity of Dovers medieval moated-manor and its associated structures, which included a chapel and watermill on the nearby River Ingrebourne (Greater London Sites and Monuments Record numbers 060003, 060004 and 060990). The manor is known from documentary sources, to have existed from the 13th century onwards and a substantial residence existed within the moat until its demolition in 1849 (W.R.Powell 1978, 33-34). A small section of the moat (approximately 30 metres long by 10 metres wide, and 2-3 metres deep) is still extant in the grounds of the Albion public house.

Where appropriate long sections and plans of the excavated areas have been drawn, a photographic record compiled and the deposits exposed recorded. The sections drawn are all taken from Drain 1 (Area 2), and refer to limited portions of the cut where archaeological deposits were encountered. Sections 1 and 2 consist of 2.5 metre lengths, facing east and west respectively, 15 metres south of the northern end of Drain 1. Section 3 consists of a west facing length of the first 12 metres of Drain 1, from the southern end. Plan 1 was located relative to the north east corner of the boundary of the adjacent Telephone Directory. Due to safety considerations it was not possible to make direct observations of deposits below a depth of 1.20 metres; therefore, all descriptions and measurements made of deposits below this depth must be considered as approximate.

Phase Summary

Phase 1

Phase 1 is found in all areas and comprises Groups 1g, 2g, 3c and 4c. This phase consists of naturally accumulated alluvial deposits, mainly silty clay with some bands of gravel. Phase 1 was encountered across the site at between 2.60 metres and 1.55 metres A.O.D.

Phase 2

Phase 2 is found across the site and comprises Groups 1f, 2f, 3b and 4b, and consists of a naturally accumulated deposit of sandy silt subsoil. Phase was encountered at between 2.80 metres and 1.60 metres A.O.D.

Phase 3

Phase 3 is found in Area 2 (Drain 1), and consists of Group 2e only. Group 2e, which consisted of foundations constructed of chalk blocks, can be assigned a medieval date (within a range of approximately 1100 to 1500 AD), on the basis of tile samples recovered from its structural fabric (see Appendix III: Finds). Phase 3 was encountered at between 2.70 metres and 2.10 metres A.O.D (see Figures 3: Sections 1 and 2).

Phase 4

Phase 4 consists of a second set of chalk foundations (Group 2d) Medieval peg tile was recovered from the topsoil overlying the foundations (see Appendix III: context 39), however this can not be used as a basis for securely dating them. Phase 4 was encountered at 2.80 metres A.O.D (see Figure 3: Section 3).

Phase 5

Phase 5 consists of the layer of material created by the demolition (Group 2c) of the structure associated with. Phase (Group 2d). Phase 5, can not be securely dated, as in the case of Phase 4, (but is probably post-medieval). Phase 5 was encountered at 2.75 metres A.O.D.

Phase 6

It is suggested that Phase 6 (Group 2b), represents the robbing out of the foundations (Phase 3), post-dating the demolition of any associated structure. The material backfilling this robber trench (context 14) contained post-medieval peg tile and pottery fragments (see Appendix III: Finds). Phase 6 was encountered at 2.70 metres A.O.D.

Phase 7

Phase 7 is made up of the most recent of the structural remains on site, groups 1d and 1e. Group 1d is the remains of the foundations of a brick building with dimensions of 14 metres by 3.6 metres in plan, extending to an unknown depth below the present ground surface (see Figure 4). Brick from Group 1d examined on site was all of 19th or 20th century date. Group 1e represents a brick lined soakaway, which on formal grounds can be assigned a 19th to 20th century date range.

Phase 8

Phase 8 consists of Group 1c, the layer created by the demolition of Structure 7(Group 1d), and Group 1b, which represents a layer of 20th century made up ground.

Phase 9

Phase 9 comprises Groups 1a, 2a, 3a, and 4a, representing a deposit of agricultural topsoil overlying the entire site area, and sealing the archaeological deposits

Conclusion and Summary

Group 1b (context 4) was found in the area formerly occupied by the northern section of the moat, as marked on the Ordnance Survey 1880, 1:2500 map of the area, and may result from its subsequent backfilling in the late 19th century or 20th century (see Figure 1).

Structure 7 (Group 1d,) is not recorded on either the 1880, 1870-75, or recent (i.e. post-war), Ordnance Survey maps covering the area; therefore it may be assigned a date range (inclusive of its demolition phase, Group 1c), encompassing the close of the 19th and earlier part of the 20th century. The soakaway (Structure 27) is of a type very common before the introduction of mains sewerage systems (from the second half of the 19th century onwards).

Group 2e may be the remains of the foundations of Great Dovers house, which existed within the moat until its demolition in 1849 (W.R. Powell 1978, 33-34). A substantial

house is mentioned as standing on the site in the 17th and 18th centuries, which may have been built reusing existing medieval foundations. The size and nature of the chalk foundations (Group 2e) are supportive of such a suggestion. Thus the robbing of the foundations (Group 2b), could be dateable to between 1849 and circa 1900, as the form of roof tile recovered from its backfilling ceases to be in use after this date. The second set of chalk foundations found in the vicinity of the moat (Group 2d) are undated and can therefore not be related to Group 2e.

It can be stated that remains of archaeological significance were encountered to the north of the known medieval moat during the watching brief conducted at Dovers Corner, Rainham. It is envisaged that the necessity for any further archaeological investigation does not arise from the present development of the site as part of the River Ingrebourne-Flood Alleviation Works. This development did, however, result in limited damage to the archaeological deposits, and the recommendation of this report is that in event of subsequent development at Dovers Corner an archaeological field evaluation would be required to establish the nature of any potential further threat.

Bibliography

Elrington, C.R.(ed) 1978, Victoria County History of Essex, Volume VII, London.

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Ordnance Survey, 1870 -1875, Sheet LXXXIII Essex, scale 1:10560.

Ordnance Survey, 1880 (surveyed 1864), Sheet LXXIV.16 Essex, scale 1:2500.

Powell, W.R., 1978 "Havering" in Elrington, C.R.(ed), Victoria County History VII, 25-55, 1978, London.

Acknowledgements

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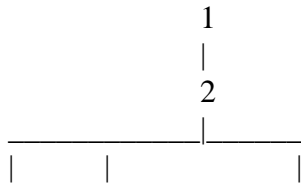
further like to thank the archaeological planning officer for north east London, Lawrence Pontin for negotiation work, Ken Macgowan for his project management, Grahame Reed for preparing the report illustrations, and Ken Sabel and Chris Jarrett for dating the finds. Finally the author would like to thank Alistair Douglas for his assistance.

Appendix I: Group Summary

In The following each group is differentiated by being assigned a separate number, and a small case letter. The number denotes the area within which the group is found, and the small case letter the particular group within that area.

Area 1: Stripped area

Group 1a

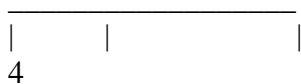


(1)- Layer: loose dark grey sandy silt, frequent inclusions of small stones, gravel and modern glass, ceramic building material, pottery and general refuse; to a depth of 0.15 metres below the present ground surface.

(2)- Layer: loose mid grey brown sandy silt, frequent inclusions of small stones and gravel, and occasional chalk and brick fragments, to a depth of 0.30 metres below the present ground surface.

Group 1a represents a naturally accumulated layer of topsoil, covering the entire area of stripped land. Contexts (1) and (2) have been incorporated into the matrices for Areas 2, 3 and 4, as they stratigraphically overlie all the other deposits (Areas 2, 3 and 4 all being within the original stripped area.

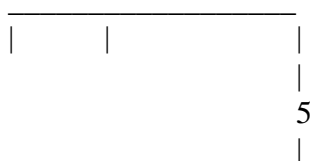
Group 1b



(4)- Layer: moderately compact deposit of mixed sandy silt and sandy clay, varying in colour from dark grey brown to mid orange yellow, containing frequent inclusions of modern refuse and building material; depth extends to below limit of excavation.

Group 1b represents 20th century made up ground.

Group 1c



(5)- Layer: loose compaction, composed of 50% mid grey brown sandy silt and 50% fragments of ceramic building material, with frequent inclusions of chalk and wood

Group 1c represents a layer of material resulting from the demolition of the structure represented by group 1d (see below).

Group 1d



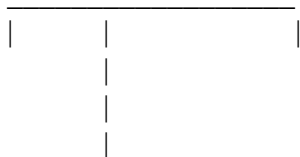
(6)- Layer: moderate to firm compaction, composed of 50% crushed chalk and 50% dark grey brown sandy silt. Thickness not apparent, as extends below limit of excavation.

(7)- Structure: foundation of small rectangular structure partially uncovered by stripping, dimensions in plan 14.00 metres by 3.60 metres, width of walls 0.36 - 0.48 metres, aligned NNE - SSW. Constructed of frogged red and yellow brick, bonded in English cross pattern, with light yellow brown coarse sandy mortar. Foundations survive to at least 3 courses depth.

(8)- Cut: foundation cut for structure (7), only visible on external faces of structure, where (7) appears to have been built directly abutting it.

Group 1d represents a small domestic or agricultural construction of late 19th to early 20th century date.

Group 1e



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(29)- Fill: loosely compact, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent coarse gravel, frequent fragments of ceramic building material and moderate fragments of chalk. The depth of this deposit is not known.

(27)- Structure: circular brick built construction extending to at least 3.10 metres below the present ground surface (with standing water to a depth of 2.60 metres below the present ground surface). The structure was domed to a depth of 0.80 metres and thereafter was straight-sided. Its diameter on the surface was 1.20 metres and below this reached a maximum of 1.80 metres. The domed portion was bonded with greyish mortar; however no bonding material was evident below this point. At approximately 2.00 metres below the ground surface a ceramic pipe was observed running into the structure. Context (27) was capped by a rectangular concrete slab, with a width of 1.50 metres.

(28)- Cut: cut for structure (27), 1.40 metre in diameter, and only visible in plan on the surface.

Group 1e represents a brick-lined drainage soakaway, dateable to the 19th/20th century.

Group 1f

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(3)- Layer: moderately compact mid orange brown sandy silt/sandy clay, with occasional fragments of ceramic building material and burnt organic material. Found at a depth of 0.30 metres extending below the level of machine stripping.

Group 1f represents a naturally accumulated alluvial deposit.

Group 1g

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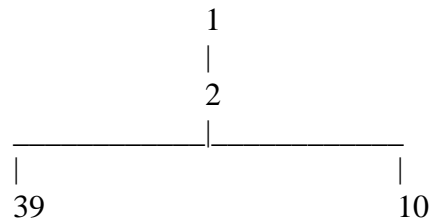
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(9)- Layer: moderately compact blue grey silty clay, with less than 10 % small sub-rounded stones and coarse gravel. This layer was exposed by stripping in area of the site immediately adjacent to the A13 London-Southend road.

Group 1g represents a naturally accumulated alluvial deposit.

Area 2 :Drain 1

Group 2a



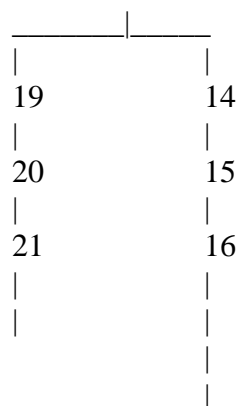
See Group 1a for descriptions of contexts (1) and (2).

(10)- Layer: loose to moderate compaction, mid grey brown sandy silt, with less than 10% coarse gravel extending to 0.15 metres below the present ground surface, approximately 2.25 metres O.D at the north end and 2.95 metres A.O.D. at the south end of the drain cut (see Figures 3: Sections 1 and 2).

(39)- Layer: loosely compacted dark grey brown sandy silt, with frequent coarse gravel and small sub-rounded stones in inclusion, varying in thickness between 0.20 and 0.60 metres, extending beyond the lower limit of excavation for 2 metres at the southerly end (see Figure 3: Section 3). This deposit lies at approximately 3.15 metres A.O.D..

Group 2a represents a natural accumulation of topsoil.

Group 2b



(14)- Fill: mid grey brown sandy silt, with less than 10% patches of orange clay, very frequent coarse gravel and small stones, frequent tile, chalk and charcoal fragments

and occasional animal fragments of animal bone. Context (14) is visible in the east facing section (see Figure 3: Section 1) and was encountered at a depth of 0.20 metres below the present ground surface (approximately 2.70 metres O.D.).

(15)- Fill: mid orange brown sandy silt, with frequent chalk flecks and occasional fragments of charcoal and tile. Context (15) is visible in the east facing section (see Figure 3: Section 1) and was encountered at a depth of 0.50 to 0.55 metres below the present ground surface (approximately 2.45 to 2.40 metres A.O.D.).

(16)- Cut: only visible in east facing section (see Figure 3: Section 1). Cut containing fills (14) and (15), approximately 1.20 metres in width by 0.80 metres in depth.

(19)- Fill: mid grey brown sandy silt, with frequent sub-rounded pebbles and coarse gravel, frequent flecks of chalk and charcoal and moderate fragments of tile. Context (19) is visible in the west facing section (see Figure 3: Section 2), and was encountered at a depth of 0.20 metres below the present ground surface (approximately 2.70 metres A.O.D.).

(20)- Fill: mid yellow brown sandy silt, with frequent chalk flecks and fragments, tile fragments and charcoal flecks, moderate fine gravel and occasional sub-rounded pebbles. Context (20) is visible in the west facing section (see Figure 3: Section 2) and was encountered at a depth of 0.35 to 0.40 metres below the present ground surface (approximately 2.55 to 2.50 metres A.O.D.).

(21)- Cut: only visible in west facing section (see Figure 3: Section 2). Cut contains fills (19) and (20), approximately 1.70 metres in width by 0.80 metres in depth.

Group 2b may represent the robbing of the foundations represented in Group 2c (see below), to provide chalk for re-use as a building material or for other constructional applications.

Group 2c

