

Evaluation at 163-169 Prince Regents Lane, Plaistow.

London Borough of Newham.

HW - PR 92.

LDPEM/ACHW/179.

Level III Report.

M. Beasley.

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Introduction.

An evaluation was carried out by field staff of the Passmore Edwards Museum on the site at 163-169 Prince Regents Lane (N.G.R. TQ 4113 8213) between the 9th. and the 13th. of November 1992, in advance of the development of the site for housing by the Family Housing Trust. The site is in an area of known Roman activity, with several large ditches having been recorded in the immediate vicinity, and the evaluation was designed to assess the nature and depth of any surviving archaeological deposits. The site was funded by the Family Housing Trust, negotiated for and directed by Peter Moore for the Museum, and supervised by the author.

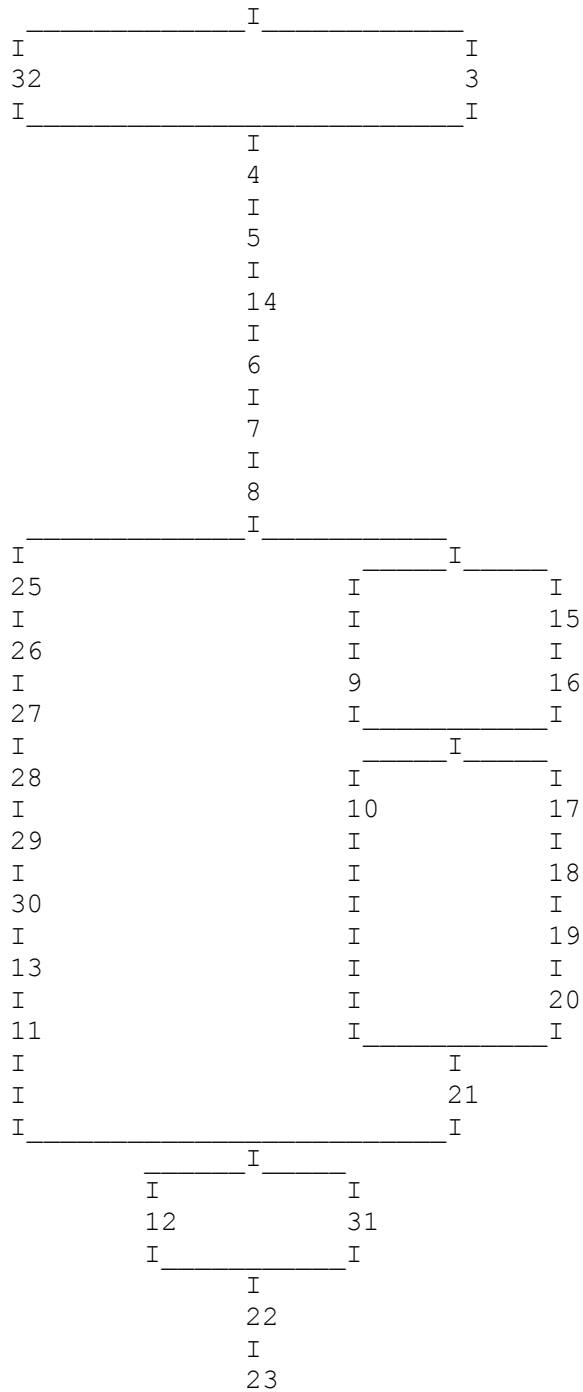
Abstract.

The evaluation revealed substantial 20th. century deposits, overlying natural clay sand and gravel.

Excavation Summary.

A borehole report prepared for the developers (Report on Soil Investigation. London Analytical Surveys Ltd. 92/679) showed chemical contamination to the east of the site. Accordingly, the evaluation was concentrated to the west of the site, located over the building lines of the new development. A single trench 15m. x 5m. was excavated by machine through the 20th. century deposits, down to the top of the natural deposits; orange brown clay sand. The trench was then stepped 1m. in, and the deposits removed in a 3m. central strip down to natural sand and gravel. These contexts were sterile. The excavation was terminated at this point and the trench cleaned and recorded.

Matrix.



Group Discussion.

Group 1.

The levels will appear here when I work them out.

- 1 fill;dark grey clay silt with sand
- 2 fill;yellow sand
- 3 fill;ceramic pipe
- 4 cut;linear, abrupt top to straight sides, abrupt to flat bottom
- 32 fill;small sub-round gravel

		1	fill		
		I			
		2	fill		
		I			
I					I
32	fill				3 fill
I					I
		I			
		4	cut		
		I			
		5	layer		

Linear pipe cut with ceramic sewer pipe and associated fills cutting tarmac layer. 20th. century.

Plan: -- Section: 1,2
C/S: 1.2-25
B/W: 1.2-25
Phase: 5

Group 2.

14 layer;broken tarmac with dark grey
sand clay

14 layer

Make-up layer for tarmac surfacing. 20th. century.

Plan: -- Section: 1,2
C/S: 1.2-25
B/W: 1.2-25
Phase: 5

Group 3.

6 fill;concrete slab
7 cut;abrupt top to vertical sides, abrupt
to flat bottom 8 layer;yellow brown sand and gravel

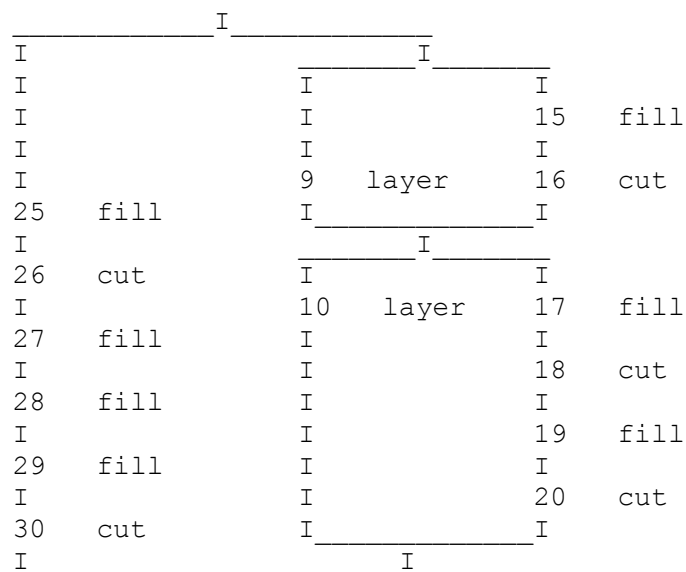
6 fill
I
7 cut
I
8 layer

Possible foundation trench, with concrete footing, cutting make-up layer. 20th. century.

Plan: -- Section: 1,2
C/S: 1.2-25
B/W: 1.2-25
Phase: 4

Group 4.

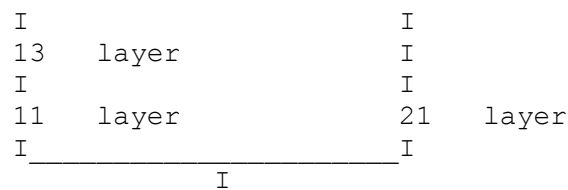
9 layer;
 10 layer
 15 fill;
 16 cut;
 17 fill
 18 cut;
 19 fill;
 20 cut;
 25 fill
 26 cut;
 27 fill;
 28 fill;
 29 fill;
 30 cut;



Inter-cutting cuts with associated fills and dump layers.
 20th. century. Plan: -- Section: 1,2
 C/S: 1.2-25
 B/W: 1.2-25
 Phase: 3

Group 5.

11 layer;
 12 layer;
 21 layer;

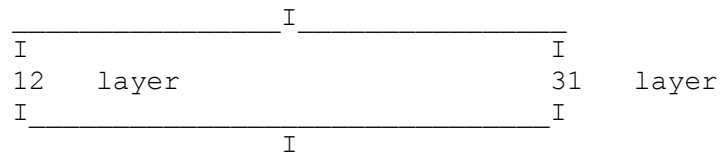


Three dump layers. 20th. century.

Plan: -- Section: 1,2
C/S: 1.2-25
B/W: 1.2-25
Phase: 3

Group 6.

12 layer;
31 layer;



Two probable garden soil layers. 20th. century date

Plan: -- Section: 1,2
C/S: 1.2-25
B/W: 1.2-25
Phase: 2

Group 7.

22 layer;

Natural brickearth. Undated.

Plan: -- Section: 1,2
C/S: 1.2-25
B/W: 1.2-25
Phase: 1

Group 8

23 layer; orange brown sand and gravel

Natural gravel. Undated.

Plan: -- Section: --
C/S: 1.2-25
B/W: 1.2-25
Phase: 1

Phasing Discussion.

Phase 1: consists of groups 7 and 8.

Phase 1 is the earliest phase on the site. It consists of brickearth overlying gravel, and represents the natural strata of the site. The phase is undated.

Phase 2: consists of group 6.

This is the earliest phase of human activity on the site. The group represents two deposits of probable garden soil. The phase dates to the 20th. century, and overlies the natural deposits of Phase 1.

Phase 3: consists of groups 3, 4, and 5.

Phase 3 is the largest phase on the site, representing the majority of activity. The groups in the phase represent successive dumping on the site, possibly the result of land-filling. The material in the groups represented is full of construction waste, and that, along with the depth of the deposits suggests that this dumping happened over a short period of time. The phase overlies garden the deposits of Phase 2. The phase dates to the 20th. century.

Phase 4:consists of group 3.

Phase 4 appears to be a construction phase on the site. The deposits represent a possible concrete stanchion, cutting a dump layer. The phase overlies the dump deposits of Phase 3, and dates to the 20th. century.

Phase 5: consists of group 1.

This is the final phase of the site and represents the tarmac surface over the site. This is cut by a sewer. The Phase overlies the deposits of Phase 4, and dates to the 20th. century.

Interpretation and Conclusions.

The excavation revealed nothing of archaeological value in the trench excavated. The majority of the deposits are related to dumping of probable construction / demolition debris during the late 20th. century. The only evidence of structures on the site is a single concrete stanchion. This is, however, of a later phase than the dump deposits, and consequently the construction / demolition material can not be related to this stanchion. It follows, therefore, that this material has been imported. This fact is of relevance when considering the only find from the site; an unstratified body sherd of Roman date.

The presence of garden soils, also of a 20th. century date, beneath the dump layers, would suggest that no major ground-works, in the form of grading or extraction, has occurred, at least to the west of the site. This means potentially that any existing archaeological deposits remain undisturbed, cut into the natural gravel and brickearth. However, no such archaeological deposits were discovered.

The depth of the dumped deposits makes it unlikely that, if any archaeology exists on the site, development will have any effect.

Acknowledgements.

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