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1. ABSTRACT

The excavation revealed agricultural soil of Post-Medieval date overlying natural Taplow gravel beds. The Victorian Period is represented by several inter-cutting rubbish pits and brick lined soakaways. This is sealed by early 20th century garden soil and the concrete base of a World War II air raid shelter. All these features are associated with the back gardens of Victorian terrace houses constructed in the 19th century which stood on the site until the 1960's when the present estate was constructed.

2. SITE INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology and Local History Centre of the Newham Museum Service, formerly Passmore Edwards Museum, was commissioned by Bovis Construction Limited on behalf of the Waltham Forest Housing Action Trust to conduct an archaeological evaluation at the Cathall Road Estate, Leytonstone. The site was bounded by Cathall Road and West Street to the north, Leytonstone High Road to the east and Hollydown Road to the west and south (Fig.1). The work was conducted between the 25th of October and the 8th of November 1993. The project was designed to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site prior to redevelopment.

Previous work on the site consisted of a watching brief (Chew 1992) on geotechnical soil investigation pits, the results of which dictated the location of the trenches to be archaeologically evaluated. Much of the tested area was proven by the watching brief to have been archaeologically sterile, consisting of 1960's ground make-up. In the south-western corner of the estate the watching brief recorded features of unknown function and to the south a rich assemblage of Victorian domestic ware was found. Consequently two trenches were planned to highlight and understand these two areas of activity.

3. METHOD

Trench 1 (grid reference TQ 3897 8625), ran northwest-southeast and was located in the south-western corner of the estate near Hollydown Way (Fig.2). Its location was restricted to an area undisturbed by the existing estate and the earlier Victorian terrace foundations and was therefore located in what was the garden plots of the Victorian houses. The trench measured 15m x 2m and was excavated by machine to a depth of approximately 0.7m. to the top of the natural gravel.

Trench 2 (grid reference TQ 3918 8610), was aligned northeast-southwest and was located to the very south of the estate. It measured 15m x 2m and was machine excavated to the top of the 19th century agricultural soil at a depth of approximately 0.6m.

The trenches were cleaned, the archaeological deposits excavated and recorded, the relevant sections drawn, photographs taken and the trenches planned and located.

4. PHASE DISCUSSION

PHASE 1

This phase represents the natural geology of the site. The site lies on the natural Taplow gravel bed laid down in the Pleistocene period. Groups 2.30 and 2.31 represent possible glacial or periglacial activity. Group 1.27 is a feature created by root action and groups 1.28 and 2.32 describe naturally deposited gravel beds.

PHASE 2

This phase represents agricultural soil deposits and associated activity and represent the earliest human activity in the investigated areas. Group 1.26 in Trench 2 is equated to 2.27 in Trench 1 and similarly 1.24 and 2.23. These represent agricultural deposits which may be associated with the agricultural working of the area prior to the acquisition and development of the land in the 19th century. Finds from these soils mostly date from the 18th-19th centuries with building material dating from the 1400-1900's, indicating the long use of this land for agricultural purposes.

Cutting and sealing these two horizons are features associated with this rural activity. Groups 1.25, 2.25, 2.28 and 2.29 are indeterminate features filled by redeposited agricultural soil, Group 2.24 is a possible post-hole and group 2.26 is a possible rubbish pit.

PHASE 3

This phase represents activity in the Victorian period and is comprised of soakaways, inter-cutting rubbish pits and gardening activity. All activity is related to activities in the back garden of the terrace housing. Of particular interest is the use of brick lined soakaways for drainage showing the lack of planned or municipal drainage. The number of rubbish pits and the

large quantity of domestic rubbish they contained again show the lack of planned refuse disposal. Most of the artefactual remains consisted of pottery, glass and household objects. There were far fewer glass or ceramic bottles than could be expected from Victorian rubbish dumps. The relatively small quantities of evidence of food, such as bones and sea shells probably indicate alternative disposal of organic remains rather than poor preservation of such material in the soil.

PHASE 4

This phase represents the period between the Victorian activity and the construction of the 1960's housing estate. The earliest activity is represented by the Anderson air raid shelter (Group 2.4), of which the superstructure was presumably dismantled leaving the base in-situ and later sealed by the garden soil (Groups 1.11 and 2.3). The later activity is represented by

rubbish pits and features of uncertain function and service pipe trenches indicating the changing nature of sanitation, refuse collection and service provision for the population

PHASE 5

This phase records the latest deposits on the site which make up part of the open area associated with the development of the 1960's-1990's housing estate. These comprise of levelling deposits, resulting from the demolition of the terrace housing and turfed topsoil. The ground make-up deposits contain less rubble than observed elsewhere on the estate (Chew 1992), which is reflected in the contoured nature of the estate landscape.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The site consists of natural Taplow gravels over which lies a 0.35m build up of agricultural plough-soil. This activity can be shown to have continued right up until the mid-19th Century as documentary records show it to have been a rural area at that time (Ordnance Survey 1870).

It is probable that the same was true prior to this date but there is no evidence to show this. The artefacts from the associated features of this phase consist of a wide date range of at least the 18th-20th centuries but also possibly from the 15th century.

The twenty-five years between 1870 and 1894 saw a complete redevelopment of the site from rural to urban housing which is represented by Phase 3. This is in the form of out door activities represented by rubbish pits and gardening features as opposed to structural remains. This is due to the investigated areas positioned in the back garden areas of the terraced housing. As well as rubbish pits, two brick-lined soakaways were recorded. Presumably both were originally domed although only Group 1.18 was still intact with a partially intact pipe inlet in-situ and collapsed capping stone within the backfill. The soakaway represented by Group 1.17, was partially dismantled and backfilled with the brick debris.

The rich assemblage of Victorian domestic ware recovered from the refuse pits has highlighted a hitherto sparse archive of material which is unfortunately largely ignored (Fig. 8). However the pit groups of 19th century domestic rubbish, both in the watching brief (Chew 1992), and this evaluation are of great interest. Groups 1.13, 1.14, 1.19, 1.20, 1.21, 2.14, 2.15 and 2.17 represented in phase 3 are of particular interest and may warrant further work especially in relation to earlier groups of artefacts from excavations in the vicinity. The changing nature of the area from rural to urban, and the changing importance to this area of London and Essex may be indicated in the artefactual record.

A number of clay-pipe fragments were also recovered from the rubbish pits. Of notable interest is one complete pipe and one partial pipe of The Royal Order of Ancient Buffaloes (Fig.8), and one fragment of a partially decorated pipe manufactured by William James Rothenburg of Francis Street, Maryland Point, Stratford, between 1871 (1871 census) and 1898 (St.John the Evangelist, No. 68). This is the first time that this tobacco pipe maker has been identified together with his pipe types. The wide range of pipe types may represent the importance of Leytonstone High Road as main route between Essex and London.

Of local interest in the glass artefacts is an embossed bottle (Fig.8) manufactured for the local Public House, The Plough and Harrow, possibly a whisky flask.

During the years between 1894 and 1966 there were only minor alterations in the area and the site escaped the bombing of World War II virtually unscathed. However the war period is represented in Phase 4 by Group 2.4, which is the basal remains of an Anderson shelter.

Post World War II activity is indicated mostly by service trenches showing the improvements available for domestic arrangements during this period.

The site was demolished and redeveloped in the mid 60's when the present housing estate was constructed and open areas were levelled and turfed. This is represented by Phase 5.

Although the site lies in the vicinity of known Medieval, Roman and Prehistoric areas none were represented in the investigated areas on the Cathall Road Estate. It is therefore recommended that there is no requirement for further archaeological involvement on the site.

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APPENDIX I

LEVEL III INDEX

CONTEXT	TRENCH NO.	PLAN	SECTION	GROUP	PHASE
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101	2	-	1,2	2.1	5
102	2	-	1,2	2.1	5
103	2	-	1,2	2.3	4
104	2	104	1,2	2.23	2
105	2	-	-	2.11	3
106	2	106	-	2.11	3
107	2	-	-	2.9	3
108	2	108	-	2.9	3
109	2	-	-	2.6	3
110	2	110	-	2.6	3
111	2	-	-	2.7	3
112	2	-	-	2.7	3
113	2	113	-	2.7	3
114	2	-	-	2.16	3
115	2	115	-	2.16	3
116	2	-	-	2.8	3
117	2	117	-	2.8	3
118	2	-	-	2.13	3
119	2	-	-	2.13	3
120	2	120	-	2.13	3
121	2	-	-	2.10	3
122	2	122	-	2.10	3
123	2	-	-	2.19	3
124	2	-	-	2.4	4
125	2	125	2	2.4	4
126	2	126	2	2.4	4
127	2	127	-	2.19	3
128	2	-	2	2.5	3
129	2	129	2	2.5	3
130	2	-	-	2.4	4
131	2	131	-	2.4	4
132	2	-	-	2.4	4
133	2	-	-	2.4	4
134	2	-	-	2.4	4
135	2	-	-	2.4	4
136	2	136	-	2.4	4
137	2	137	1,2	2.7	2
138	2	-	2	2.31	1
CONTEXT	TRENCH	PLAN	SECTION	GROUP	PHASE
	NO.				
139	2	139	2	2.31	1
140	2	-	-	2.28	2
141	2	141	-	2.28	2
142	2-	-	-	2.18	3
143	21	43	-	2.18	3
144	2	-	-	2.24	2

145	2	145	-	-	2.24	2
146	2	-	-	-	2.28	2
147	2	147	-	-	2.26	2
148	2	148	-	-	2.26	2
149	2	-	-	2	2.22	3
150	2	-	-	2	2.22	3
151	2	151	-	2	2.22	3
152	2	-	-	-	2.29	2
153	2	153	-	-	2.29	2
154	2	-	-	2	2.20	3
155	2	155	-	2	2.20	3
156	2	-	-	2	2.12	3
157	2	-	-	-	2.30	1
158	2	-	-	-	2.30	1
159	2	159	-	-	2.30	1
160	2	-	-	2	2.15	3
161	2	161	-	2	2.15	3
162	2	-	-	2	2.14	3
163	2	163	-	2	2.14	3
164	2	-	-	2	2.2	4
165	2	-	-	2	2.2	4
166	2	-	-	2	2.21	3
167	2	167	-	2	2.21	3
168	2	-	-	2	2.17	3
169	2	169	-	2	2.17	3
170	2	170	-	2	2.12	3
171	2	-	-	2	2.25	2
172	2	-	-	2	2.25	2
173	2	-	-	2	2.25	2
174	2	-	-	1,2	2.32	1
201	1	-	-	-	1.8	4
202	1	202	-	-	1.8	4
203	1	-	-	-	1.9	4
204	1	204	-	-	1.9	4
205	1	-	-	4	1.17	3
206	1	-	-	4	1.17	3
207	1	-	-	4	1.17	3
CONTEXT	TRENCH	PLAN	SECTION	GROUP	PHASE	
	NO.					
208	1	208	-	4	1.17	3
209	1	209	-	4	1.17	3
210	1	-	-	-	1.9	4
211	1	-	-	4	1.13	3
212	1	212	-	-	1.13	3
213	3	-	-	-	1.18	3
214	1	214	-	3	1.18	3

215	1	215	3	1.18	3
216	1	216	3	1.18	3
217	1	-	-	1.4	4
218	1	218	-	1.4	4
219	1	-	4	1.20	3
220	1	-	4	1.20	3
221	1	-	4	1.13	3
222	1	-	4	1.19	3
223	1	223	4	1.19	3
224	1	-	4	1.14	3
225	1	225	4	1.14	3
226	1	-	4	1.27	1
227	1	227	4	1.27	1
228	1	-	-	1.21	3
229	1	229	-	1.21	3
230	1	-	3,4	1.1	5
231	1	-	3	1.10	4
232	1	-	3	1.10	4
233	1	-	3	1.10	4
234	1	-	3	1.10	4
235	1	-	3,4	1.11	4
236	1	-	3	1.15	3
237	1	-	3	1.15	3
238	1	-	3,4	1.14	2
239	1	-	3,4	1.25	2
240	1	-	3,4	1.25	2
241	1	-	3,4	1.26	2
242	1	-	3,4	1.28	1
243	1	-	4	1.2	5
244	1	-	4	1.2	5
245	1	-	4	1.23	3
246	1	-	4	1.3	4
247	1	-	4	1.3	4
248	1	-	4	1.3	4
249	1	-	4	1.12	3
250	1	-	4	1.12	3
CONTEXT	TRENCH	PLAN	SECTION	GROUP	PHASE
	NO.				
251	1	-	4	1.16	3
252	1	-	4	1.7	4
253	1	-	4	1.7	4
254	1	-	4	1.22	3
255	1	-	4	1.5	4
256	1	-	4	1.5	4
257	1	-	4	1.1	5
258	1	-	4	1.1	5

259	1	-	4	1.6	4
260	1	-	4	1.6	4
261	1	-	4	1.22	3
262	1	-	4	1.22	3