

An Evaluation at 1-3 Sedgewick Road, Leyton, E10.
London Borough of Waltham Forest.

LE - SW 96.

TQ 3802 8674.

Project Manager: N. Truckle.

Supervisor: M. Beasley.

04.11.1996.

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1. Abstract.

- 1.1. The evaluation showed natural gravels cut by a pit and a post hole of uncertain date. This was overlain by a ploughsoil horizon of probable post-Medieval date, cut by a Post-medieval pit. This was overlain by layers of 20th century brick and concrete rubble, and concrete hard-standing.

2. Introduction.

- 2.1. A archaeological evaluation was conducted on 1st November 1996, on land at 1-3 Sedgwick Road, Leyton, E10 (*Fig 1a*), by members of the Archaeology Section of Newham Museum Service. The work was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological clause imposed on planning application no: 95/0957.
- 2.2. The site lies on Sedgwick road, close to the junction of Leyton High Road. It is bounded to the north and west by the backs of adjoining properties, to the east by Buckland Road, and to the south by Sedgwick Road. The site currently consists of concrete hard-standing with two brick buildings to the west (*Fig 1b*).
- 2.3. The evaluation was designed to assess the surviving sub-surface deposits on the site, which was due for development by Dalestone Homes Ltd. as housing. The site was funded by Dalestone Homes, directed by Nick Truckle for the Museum, and supervised by the author.
- 2.4. The Museum and the author would like to thank Jeff Wyman of Dalestone Homes Ltd. for funding the evaluation and allowing access to the site, Paul Thrall for his work, Nick Truckle, Chris Jarrett for the pottery analysis, and Graham Reed for the illustrations.

3. Archaeological Background.

3.1. The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone defined by the Waltham Forest Unitary Development Plan (U.D.P.). It lies close to the edge of the Filebrook Valley, an ancient tributary of the River Lea, and is an area of known provenance for numerous Prehistoric artefacts recovered during the 19th century. In 1718 masonry foundations of a large Roman building were uncovered in Grange Park Road to the north. Leyton High Road dates to the early Medieval, and the site is close to the Medieval centre of Low Leyton. The site lies within 500m. of excavations in 1992 on the Oliver Close housing estate (LE - OC 92), where stratified archaeological remains of Bronze Age and Iron Age date, including at least one house plot.

4. Archaeological Methodology.

- 4.1. The evaluation was designed to meet the criteria laid out in the English Heritage Brief for the site (Pontin, 1996). The methodology was based on the archaeological brief and conformed to standards set out in English Heritage Guidance Paper No. 3 (Standard Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, No. 5 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports), and relevant Health and Safety Regulations.
- 4.2. Two trenches were machine excavated to the level of the natural deposits and were hand cleaned (*Fig. 2a*). Features were excavated by hand, and any finds collected using standard retrieval methods. No samples were taken. The trenches were recorded on Museum pro-forma sheets. A main section was drawn at 1:10, and photographed according to Museum procedure. The trenches were located to a 1:50 site plan.

5. Description of Results.

5.1. Two trenches were located in agreement with the developer, on the building lines of the buildings. These measured 2m. x 5m. They were machine excavated through hard-standing and rubble down to natural gravel. The sequence was cut in Trench 2 by a 20th century service run. Beneath the hard-standing and rubble make-up, a horizon of mid orange brown silt clay ploughsoil was revealed in both trenches. This was cut in Trench 1 by a small rectangular cut of post-Medieval date. This ploughsoil overlay orange brown sandy gravel in both trenches. In Trench 2 the gravel was cut by a sizeable pit and a post hole. These are undated (*Fig. 2b*).

6. Interpretations and Conclusions.

- 6.1. There appears to be only limited truncation by later activity of archaeological deposits on the site. The ploughsoils recorded in both trenches appear to be largely undisturbed, and their stratigraphic relationship with the underlying gravels preserved. Due to the limited nature of the evaluation, and the size of the site, it is impossible to determine whether these stratified deposits continue for any distance.
- 6.2. The presence of cut features beneath the plough soils is significant, implying surviving archaeological remains in the area. These features did not contain pottery, and there is no other indication of the date. Due to their stratigraphic relationship it is assumed that these features are pre-Medieval. This is significant in light of the Oliver Close excavations nearby. There is not, however, sufficient evidence to posit any firm interpretation of these features. The fact that one is a post hole suggests that there is structural activity in the area, but does not help with any wider interpretation.
- 6.3. The survival of ploughsoil at a relatively shallow depth would suggest that cartographic evidence is correct, and that the site has been undeveloped for some time. The post-Medieval pit in Trench 1 could relate to activity from adjoining properties.
- 6.4. It is recommended that, from the evaluation results, no further archaeological work is required on the site.

Bibliography.

Pontin, L, 1996 “Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation of Proposed Development at 1-3 Sedgwick Road, E10.” English Heritage Guidance Brief.

APPENDIX A

GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING.

Evaluation ~~Excavation~~ ~~Watching brief~~

~~Other (please specify)~~

2. LOCATION.

Borough: LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Site address: 1-3, SEDGWICK ROAD, LEYTON, E10.

Site name: SEDGWICK ROAD Site code: LE - SW 96

Nat. Grid Refs: **Centre of site:** TQ 3802 8674

Limits of site: a) N/A b)

c) d)

3. ORGANISATION.

Name of archaeological unit/ company/ society: NEWHAM MUSEUM SERVICE

Address: NEWHAM MUSEUM SERVICE
31, STOCK STREET
PLAISTOW
LONDON
E13 OBX

Site director/ supervisor: M. BEASLEY

Project manager: N. TRUCKLE

Funded by: DALESTONE HOMES LTD.

4. DURATION.

Date fieldwork started: 01.11.1996 Date finished: 01.11.1996

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.

Unknown.

A large pit and a post hole of uncertain date were recorded cut into natural.

Post-Medieval.

A single cut was recorded. Pottery dates this pit to the 17th -19th centuries. A layer of ploughsoil was also recorded.

Twentieth Century.

Rubble make-up and concrete hard-standing, cut by service runs.

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

Type: Gravel.

Height above Ordnance Datum: A.O.D. 12.17m.

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. :

VESTRY HOUSE MUSEUM,
WALTHAMSTOW, E17.

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1996

d) Location of any copies:

NEWHAM MUSEUM SERVICE,
31, STOCK STREET,
PLAISTOW,
LONDON E13 OBX.

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:
VESTRY HOUSE MUSEUM, WALTHAMSTOW, E17.

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1996

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

SIGNED:



DATE: 04.11.1996.

NAME (Block capitals) M. BEASLEY

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).