

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**  
**AT SITE OF PROPOSED PETROL STATION**  
**ST. IVEL'S DAIRY, WALTHAMSTOW**  
**LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST**

**PHASE II**

LEVEL III REPORT

Site Code: WS - SH 93

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## ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the site of the proposed petrol station for J. Sainsbury at Walthamstow Avenue, Walthamstow. It revealed layers of modern make-up for the concrete yard in the grounds of the St. Ivel dairy, as well as lower layers of naturally deposited clay.

## SITE INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Newham Museum Service was commissioned by Schal International Limited on behalf of J. Sainsbury to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the site of the former St. Ivel's Dairy at Walthamstow Avenue, Waltham Forest, from June 13th to 17th, 1994. This was in advance of the construction of a petrol station on the site, to complement the recently erected Sainsbury's foodstore and car park. Phase II of the archaeological work consisted of an evaluation and survey of the former playing fields on which the foodstore and car park were built (L. Pontin, 1994). The excavation is part of an archaeological survey which the London Borough of Waltham Forest required before the redevelopment of the site as a retail complex. This is due to the location of the site, which lies within two archaeological priority zones in the council's Unitary Development Plan (U.D.P.) and because of the large scale of the redevelopment. The two archaeological priority zones comprise the River Ching, which has produced evidence of prehistoric activity, and the medieval Salisbury Hall Manor. The results from Phase I of the evaluation show widespread activity in this area in the medieval period, such as ridge and furrow plough marks (Pontin, 1994).

To the north-east of the site lies the River Ching, to the north-west, Sainsbury's superstore, with Walthamstow Avenue skirting the site at the south (figure 1).

The archaeological trench, measuring 12m by 9m, was located in the south-eastern area of the grounds of St. Ivel's Dairy (figures 2 and 3), which was in the process of being demolished. Before excavation began, a coffer dam of sheet piling was inserted around the perimeter of the trench, in accordance with the developers' plans for the petrol tanks. A mechanical breaker was used to remove the topmost layer of concrete and then a Hymac excavator removed the underlying layers of demolition make-up and hardcore which sealed the top of the clay. The northern half of the trench was machined down in spits, and changes in the soil layers were recorded (figure 4). The southern half was recorded by a watching brief, due to problems of access for the machine.

The medieval Salisbury Hall house was demolished in the late 16th Century (Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, P148) and its post-medieval counterpart was demolished in 1952 (SMR, P148). It lay immediately to the south of Phase II of the project and it was hoped that demolition activities relating to the manor would be picked up as well as any prehistoric activities relating to the river.

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

## PHASE DISCUSSION

Two phases were identified as present in Trench 1.

### Phase I

This phase was represented by the three alternate layers of blue-grey and brown-grey clay of Group 1.1, consistent with the Holocene period, in which layers of alluvial clay were deposited by fluvial action and believed to have been laid down between the Early Bronze Age and the early medieval period (3000BC-1200AD) (MOLAS 1993, P5).

### Phase II

This phase represents the modern layers of hardcore and demolition which are consistent with the foundations of the concrete surface of the dairy (Group 1.2). Late 20th century. There may have been truncation of medieval to post-medieval deposits as part of the construction of the dairy.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation primarily identified the extent of the modern foundations of the former concrete roadway of St. Ivel's Dairy. These modern layers reached a depth of approx. 12.36m AOD, truncating the natural clay and possibly destroying any previous archaeological traces, since Phase I of the evaluation revealed evidence of medieval plough marks in natural clay deposited at a higher level of 12.65m AOD (Pontin, 1994).

The clay itself appears to be the direct result of fluvial action, probably associated with the actions of the River Ching and laterally, the River Lea, both of which bear a direct relation to the positioning of Salisbury Hall Manor.

The recommendation of this evaluation is that no further archaeological work is required in the vicinity of the petrol station.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The author would also like to thank Mr. Graham Reed for the illustrations and Mr. Joseph James Partridge for his excellent work on site.

APPENDIX I

**SITE MATRIX**



GROUP DISCUSSION : TRENCH I



Level in metres above O.D.  
Maximum height    Minimum height

Context

- (1) - Layer, light grey brown, rubble and gravel                      13.69              12.88
- (2) - Layer, mid brown, gravel    13.32              12.36

This group represents a modern make-up for the concrete road surface of St. Ivel's Dairy. Context (1) represents the balast and hardcore layer which was immediately below the concrete and context (2) represents an initial make-up foundation of gravel.



Context



(3) - Layer, mid brown silty clay	12.46	10.85
(4) - Layer, yellow brown silty clay	11.11	10.70
(5) - Layer, mid grey brown silty clay	10.92	----

Group 1.2 represents layers of natural clay. Context (3) appears to have been truncated from above by context (2); the maximum height O.D. is therefore arbitrary. The reason for differences in colouration is due to a greater reduction of the soil lower down, as well as greater oxidisation towards the top.

APPENDIX II

LEVEL III INDEX

<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Phase</b>
1	1	---	---	1.1	I
2	1	A	---	1.1	I
3	1	A+B	---	1.2	II
4	1	B	1	1.2	II
5	1	B	---	1.2	II