CONTENTS

1. ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation at Kingsford Way, Beckton, revealed a four metre sequence of deposits dating from the Pleistocene period to the 20th Century. A single trench was excavated, which revealed Thames River Terrace Gravel at its base, with natural drainage hollows truncating the gravel. The hollows were filled with, and overlain by, layers of peat which dated from the Neolithic period to the beginning of the 1st Century A.D. Overlying the peat was a clay alluvial deposit which prevented the peat from forming further. Clay deposition ended in this century when improved drainage led to soil formation and more recently the site was used for dumping demolition material from building sites.

2. SITE INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by the London Borough of Newham, in advance of the building of a community centre at Kingsford Way, Beckton (Figures 1 and 2a). The work was undertaken to fulfil Planning Condition 15 imposed on planning application No. N/94/628. The work was conducted by Newham Museum Service field staff between the 20th September and the 4th October, 1995. The evaluation was based upon a project design (Meddens, 1995), drawn up in response to a brief provided by Lawrence Pontin, English Heritage Planning Advisor for North East London.

The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone (A.P.Z) as defined by the London Borough of Newham's Unitary Development Plan, which covers a deeply stratified alluvial landscape lying along the northern foreshore of the river Thames. These deposits consist of peat and clay horizons which overlie Thames Flood Plain Gravels. The deposits date from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods and represent fluctuations in the level of the river. Transgression periods have resulted in flooding and the deposition of clays and silts, while regression periods, where lower water levels allowed the growth of plant communities, resulted in the formation of peat (Devoy, p136). These peat deposits have excellent preservation conditions for both floral and faunal remains (for example, pollen, trees and insects), which reflect environmental changes, as well as archaeological remains, such as timbers and leatherwork, which are protected by the water logged nature of the peat.

Until 1989, when an excavation at Bridge Road, Rainham, uncovered a Middle Bronze Age wooden trackway, very little was known about the prehistoric landscape of the north shore of the River Thames. Since then, Newham Museum Service has excavated numerous sites that have revealed significant archaeological features within the alluvial deposits.

The excavations at Bridge Road on the Rainham Marshes revealed a brushwood trackway and a staked fence line within the peat (Meddens and Beasley, 1990), an excavation at Evelyn Dennington Road, Beckton, revealed a peat sequence with a Bronze Age trackway (Beasley, 1993) and three Bronze Age trackways were found at Beckton Nursery, along with a possible fence line and several brushwood features (Divers, 1995i). An excavation at Hays Storage Services Ltd, Dagenham, revealed a causeway constructed from gravel and burnt flint (Divers, 1994), further brushwood features and working platforms were found at Highbridge Road, Barking (Chew, 1994) and an excavation at Silvertown by the Trust for Wessex Archaeology uncovered a trackway constructed from timbers (TWA, 1994).

Additionally, a Roman dug out canoe and pottery was found at Ham Creek, a natural harbour used as a 17th century naval base which is located approximately 350m south of the site.

3. METHOD

The evaluation consisted of the archaeological excavation of one trench (Figure 2b). Information from the bore-holes from the ground investigation report (Norwest Holst, 1995) was inputted into a Surfer computer programme, which gave a sub-surface contour plot of the gravel and peat. This showed that the gravel formed a raised platform, or eyot, on the western side of the site (Figure 3). This eyot may have been a site for a possible settlement, due to the dryness of its location within the surrounding marsh. The evaluation trench was therefore positioned as close to it as possible within the footprint of the new building.

Approximately the top 1.00m of ground was removed by the developer. The trench was then machine excavated with a tracked 360° machine (Hymac) and the spoil removed using a dumper truck; this was done under archaeological supervision. The trench was designed to have a maximum depth of 5.00m with a working area of 3.00m x 3.00m at that depth. The trench had four stepped sides and the top step was battered to prevent the section collapsing. The other steps were a metre wide with a 1.20m vertical drop, and this negated the need for shoring. On the eastern side of the trench a ramp was excavated by the machine to facilitate the excavation of the trench.

The upper most deposits were removed in 0.50m spits; when the peat was encountered, the machine removed 0.10m spits of the deposit, which was then cleaned using hoes to investigate the potential of archaeological remains. Excavation ceased when natural gravel was uncovered.

The excavation revealed alluvial deposits (see Figure 4) which were sampled by Jane Sidell of the Museum of London Environmental Service. Two monolith tins were hammered into the exposed section to provide a sample of the excavated peat sequence from the Neolithic to Late Iron Age. Additionally, a column of bulk samples were taken through the peat as well as from the natural drainage hollows. The remains of fallen trees were also recorded and samples were taken for species and dating assessment (Appendix IV).

Archaeological deposits and features were exposed and cleaned, recorded as contexts on proforma sheets, planned at 1:20 on proforma planning sheets and photographed with black and white print and colour slide film. Where appropriate, contexts were sampled for palaeoenvironmental analysis. Trench sections were drawn at 1:10 and the trench was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid.

All the finds, context records, plans section and photographs that make up the site archive are archived with the Newham Museum Service at the Archaeology Centre, 31 Stock Street, Plaistow, London E13 OBX.

4. PHASE DISCUSSION

Phase I

This phase represented the earliest activity on the site and consisted of Group 14. This was a Pleistocene, off white, Thames River Gravel (43). It was unclear whether this was a deposit resulting from river sediment deposition in the late Devensian or early Holocene Thames, or if it was a later redeposited fluvial sediment. This Thames River Gravel was dated to the Recent-Pleistocene period (Quaternary Era) (British Geological Survey, 1976).

Phase II

Phases II to VIII represented a long period of general fluvial regression where this area of the Thames Estuary had a low enough water level for peat formation to begin, as plant communities became established. Phase II consisted of Group 14, which represented a layer of peat (29). This peat contained clay inclusions, which may represent flooding activity. Some tree root activity was also noted. The peat began to form during the Neolithic period, and was radiocarbon dated to between 3940 and 3525 (2 sigma) BC (see Appendix V). Such a wide date range results from the sinuosity of the curve used to calculate radio carbon dates. Environmental analysis suggested that the peat formed in a period where fluvial action mixed the forming peat and the underlying gravel deposits.

Phase III

Phase III consisted of Group 13, which represented four natural hollows, (35), (37), (39), and (41) (Figure 5). Each hollow had two fills, a primary thin grey sandy deposit and a secondary peat fill. Hollow (35) was linear with a generally undulating base with frequent tree roots. Beetle wing cases were noted in the peat fill (34). Hollow (37) was semi-circular in plan and appeared to truncate (39), a larger semi-circular feature. An irregular feature, (041) was also recorded. These hollows had asymmetrical profiles which would suggest that a fluvial mechanism for their formation was involved. Stratigraphically, the hollows were dated to the Neolithic period.

Phase IV

Phase IV was represented by Group 12, which was an entirely organic peat layer (28). This would suggest that the deposit formed in a very stable environment where the plant communities were not threatened with flooding, and therefore the damp conditions allowed the peat to accumulate.

Phase V

This phase, Group 11, consisted of another layer of peat (27). Its clay content, however, indicated that during its formation there were periods of flooding or fluctuations in sea level, which would have disturbed the plant communities and

therefore affected the deposition of the peat. The teeth from a large herbivore, probably domestic cattle (*bos*), were found in this layer within a column sample. The peat around the teeth was radiocarbon dated and a date of 3350 to 2905 BC (2 sigma) obtained, therefore giving a late Neolithic date to the teeth.

Phase VI

Phase VI represented a further period of peat formation, layer (26), Group 10. The peat was very organic and showed no indication that the environment in which it formed was affected by flooding. It therefore seems likely that a stable ecosystem existed in which the vegetation flourished.

Phase VII

This phase was associated with the presence of yew trees (taxus). Four trees were recorded, (30), (31), (32), (33) and several others were noted during the machine excavation of the trench (unfortunately, time constraints did not allow them to be planned and recorded). The yew trees had fallen in situ and their orientation was random (Figure 6). The phase was therefore probably associated with a yew tree woodland, where the micro-environmental conditions were dry enough for this to have become established. Leaves from the trees and vegetation from other plants growing in this woodland habitat were probably contributing material to the peat layer in Phase VI. Yew trees are associated with a dry, alkaline soil habitat (Devoy, 1980), and their aversion to wet, acid, saline conditions suggests that at this time the immediate landscape was dry and the tidal level of the Thames was low. Prehistoric yew woodland is known from several sites along the Thames Valley, Wennington, Beckton Nursery and Hayes Storage; however at present it is not known if any of them are contemporary.

Phase VIII

Phase VIII, Group 8, represented the latest layer of peat, (24). It contained clay and could represent an environment subjected to flooding, which resulted in the end of the yew tree woodland of phase VIII. This final deposition of peat has been radio carbon dated to between 485 and 200 BC, giving it a middle Iron Age date.

Phase IX

This phase (Group 7) demonstrated a total change in the local environment. A period of Transgression (Phases IX to XI) occurred when flooding, resulting from a change in sea level, deposited a clay silt layer (023) over the peat, causing the vegetation growth to cease. This change in sea level and the resulting alluvial formation has generally been dated to around 0 A.D (Devoy, 1979).

Phase X

Group (6) of this phase of activity was represented by another alluvial deposit (022) associated with the inundation of the Thames flood plain. It differs from the layer in Phase IX in that layer (022) is of a bluish colour, although this distinction may have

resulted either from gleying, or from differential drying, giving the appearance of a separate deposit.

Phase XI

In Phase XI, (Group 5) a final alluvial layer, (003) was recorded. Its appearance was similar to that of layer (023), although (003) was sandier. Its deposition is thought to have finished in the post-medieval period (pers.comm. Jane Sidell, 1995).

Phase XII A

Overlying the latest alluvial layer was a dark soil (002), (Group 4), which covered most of the trench. Although it contained cellophane that would date the layer to the late 20th Century, the pottery retrieved from the layer suggests that its origins are probably late 19th Century and therefore contemporary with a factory fronting Tollgate Road.

Phase XII B

In the northern area of the trench a large modern pit, (Group 3) was recorded, lined with corrugated asbestos sheets, which contained refuse, notably rubber tyres. The pit was probably associated with the aforementioned factory.

Phase XIII

Seven machine excavated cuts, (009), (011), (013), (015), (017) and (019) formed this phase, (Group 2). The cuts were aligned roughly north west-south east, spaced roughly 0.5m apart and were filled with hard-core. Their function is uncertain but they were probably not structural.

Phase XIV

Overlying the site was a layer of rubble, (001), (Group 1). The rubble contained medieval, post-medieval and Victorian pottery and other finds (see Appendix IV) as well as part of a brick barrel vaulted drain and wall. The area was well known for fly tipping and it can be concluded that this rubble layer must have come from recent building sites, possibly from London. A French jetton dating to the late medieval period and a 1966 penny were recovered from this layer (Appendix IV).

6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation conducted on the site of the proposed East Beckton District Centre produced a significant sequence of prehistoric environmental deposits. Excavations in the immediate area have recorded Bronze Age brushwood trackways, and, in particular, the trackways found at the former Beckton Nursery have a projected course towards the site at Kingsford Way.

The environmental sequence of the trench began with the Thames River terrace gravel, dated to the Recent-Pleistocene period (Quaternary Era). With a stable, but wetter environment, peat began to form in the early Neolithic, although clay within the peat matrix may represent periodic flooding activity. The formation of this peat sequence was radio carbon dated to between 3940 and 3525 BC.

Four natural hollows, most likely resulting from fluvial activity, had made depressions in this peat. The hollows had two fills, the primary fill was of a silty nature sealed by peat. The drainage hollows were sealed by a layer of completely organic peat, which suggested an ecosystem where no periods of flooding threatened the survival of the plant communities. Overlying this layer of peat, was another which had a clay content, suggesting that a different plant community existed, which could cope with periodic flooding. The teeth from a domestic cow were found in a column sample of peat from this layer, which was radio carbon dated to between 3350 and 2905 BC and therefore datable to the late Neolithic period.

There then followed a flood free, dryer environment, when an organic peat layer formed, again indicating a change in the plant ecosystem. At the top of this peat layer, numerous yew trees were found *in situ*, indicating a woodland plant community. A number of excavations in north-east London have identified yew trees within the alluvium of the Thames floodplains, suggesting evidence for the remains of a forest across this area (Divers, 1995ii). The circumstances needed for yew tree habitats to form suggests that in this period the tidal level of the Thames was lower, creating a salt free, dry land surface for the yew woodland. The latter ecosystem declined when a return to periodic flooding of the Thames estuary caused wetter conditions, killing the yew trees and resulting in the formation of a peat layer with a clay content. This final stratum of peat was radio carbon dated to between 485 and 200 BC (Middle Iron Age).

The sea level then rose and the conditions for peat formation no longer existed, as frequent flooding resulted in the deposition of a layer of alluvial clay. A second layer of clay was deposited, which was bluish in colour and represented a change either in the material from the Thames, gleying of the layer, or a period of no flooding where the clay layer shows signs of differential drying. A final layer of clay was deposited, which finished forming in the post-medieval period. In the 19th century, a layer of dark soil accumulated, which was contemporary with a factory on the site; associated with the factory was an a large pit lined with sheets of asbestos. Truncating the latter pit and earlier dark soil were seven machine excavated cuts with no obvious function. The latest activity on the site was a layer resulting from the fly tipping of material from building sites, probably not from the locality.

In conclusion, although the course of the Bronze Age trackway from the Beckton Nursery excavation appeared to be in the direction of the site at Kingsford Way, and the trench was located as close as possible to a rise in the gravel (a possible location for prehistoric settlement), no evidence of human activity was found within the alluvial deposits. However, the environmental sequence is of interest as it reflects the effects of the rise and fall of the water level of the Thames, highlighted by the evidence of tree growth, which illustrates a period of upper marsh (Doody, 1984). The rare find of animal bone within the peat provides evidence of animal husbandry in the late Neolithic, adding valuable knowledge to the history of the Thames flood plain. Due to the absence of anthropogenic activity, however, no further excavation work is required on the site.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX I

ARCHIVE INDEX

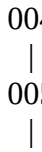
Context No.	Plan	Section	Group	Phase
1	-	1	3	12
2	-	1	4	12
3	-	1	5	11
4	-	-	1	12
5	-	-	1	12
6	Void	-	-	-
7	Void	-	-	-
8	-	-	2	12
9	-	-	2	12
10	-	-	2	12
11	-	-	2	12
12	-	-	2	12
13	-	-	2	12
14	-	-	2	12
15	-	-	2	12
16	-	-	2	12
17	-	-	2	12
18	-	-	2	12
19	-	-	2	12
20	-	-	2	12
21	-	-	2	12
22	-	1	6	10
23	-	1	7	9
24	-	1	8	8
25	-	1	9	7
26	-	1	10	6
27	-	1	11	5
28	-	1	12	4
29	1	1	14	2
30	1	1	9	7
31	1	-	9	7
32	2	-	9	7
33	-	-	9	7
34	1	1	13	3
35	1	1	13	3
36	1	-	13	3
37	1	-	13	3

Context No.	Plan	Section	Group	Phase
38	1	-	13	3
39	1	-	13	3
40	1	-	13	3
41	1	-	13	3
42	1	-	13	3
43	1	1	15	1

APPENDIX III

GROUP DISCUSSION

Group 1

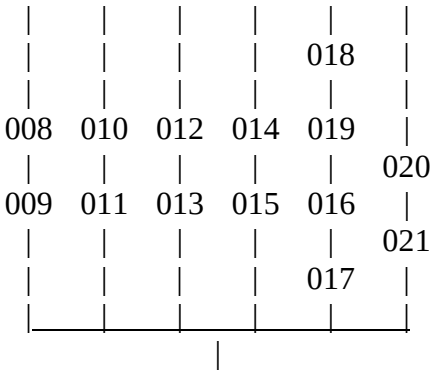


			Height above Ordnance Datum in metres	
			maximum	minimum
004	Fill,	loose dark grey clayey silt	---	---
005	Cut,	linear, steep sided	---	---

Group 1 represents a modern machine excavated pit backfilled with industrial refuse.

Photographs:
CS: ---
BW: ---

Group 2



018	Fill,	loose mid grey brown sub- angular stone fragments, medium to coarse gravel and sandy silt.	---	---
019	Cut,	sub- rectangular, concave steep sides, concave base, 1.40m long x 0.85m wide x 0.45m deep	---	---
016	Fill,	loose mid grey brown sub- angular stone fragments, medium to coarse gravel and sandy clayey silt	---	---

017	Cut,	sub- rectangular, steep concave sides, concave base, 1.40m long x 0.45m wide x 0.55m deep	---	---
020	Fill,	loose mid yellow brown, sub- angular stone, medium to coarse gravel and sandy silt	---	---
021	Cut,	sub- rectangular, gentle concave sides, concave base, 1.40m long x 0.90m wide x 0.25m deep	---	---
008	Fill,	loose dark grey silty clay sand and coke slag	---	---
009	Cut,	sub- rectangular, steep straight sided, concave base, 1.75m long x 1.10m wide x 0.60m deep	---	---
010	Fill,	loose mid grey brown sub- angular stone fragments, sandy clayey silt and fragments of tarmacadam	---	---
011	Cut,	sub- rectangular, vertical sides, concave base 1.40m long x 0.90m wide x 0.55m deep	---	---
012	Fill,	loose mid grey brown sub- angular stone fragments, sandy clayey silt and fragments of tarmacadam	---	---
013	Cut,	sub- rectangular, almost vertical sides, concave base, 1.40m long x 0.45m wide x 0.35m deep	---	---
014	Fill,	loose mid grey brown sub- angular stone fragments, sandy clay silt	---	---
015	Cut,	sub- rectangular, steep concave sides concave base, 1.40m long x 0.70m wide x 0.52m deep	---	---

Group 2 represents a series of machine excavated pits oriented SSE to NNW across the site area and backfilled with hard-core and modern building rubble.

Photographs:
CS:---
BW:---

Group 3

|
001
|

001	Layer,	loose mid brown sandy silt, with frequent building rubble	2.05	0.99

Group 3 represents a deposit of 20th century made ground

Photographs:
CS: 1.20- 1.23
BW: 1.20- 1.23

Group 4

|
002
|

002	Layer,	moderately compact mid grey sandy clayey silt	1.29 0.49

Group 4 represents a layer of modern subsoil.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 5

|
003
|

003	Layer,	moderately compact light grey sandy clay	0.91 -0.45

Group 5 represents a deposit of naturally accumulated alluvium.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 6

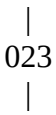
|
022
|

022	Layer,	stiff mid blue grey silty clay, with frequent iron staining	0.03-0.56

Group 6 represents a deposit of naturally accumulated alluvium.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 7

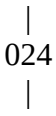


023	Layer,	moderately compact mid yellow grey silty clay, with frequent iron staining	-0.41	-0.93

Group 7 represents a deposit of naturally accumulated alluvium.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW 1:20- 1:23

Group 8

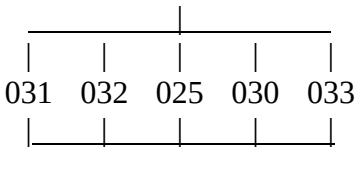


024	Layer,	plastic dark reddish brown clayey peat	-0.89	-1.21

Group 8 represents a natural deposit of peat.

Photographs;
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 9



025	Layer,	spongy dark red brown woody peat	-1.02	-1.41
030	Wood,	tree remains fallen in situ(in 025), visible dimensions 2.50m long x 0.30m diameter	-1.34	-1.70
031	Wood,	tree remains fallen in situ (in 025),visible dimensions 0.74m long x 0.26m diameter	-1.34	-1.53
032	Wood,	tree remains fallen in situ (in 025), 3.50m long x 0.20- 0.50m diameter	---	---
033	Wood,	tree remains fallen in situ (in 025), 1.50m long x 0.20m diameter	---	---

Group 9 represents a natural deposit of peat with a high content of organic material.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 10

|
026
|

026 Layer, plastic dark grey brown clayey peat, with frequent wood and plant macrofossils -1.32 -1.61

Group 10 represents a natural peat deposit, with a high content of organic material.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 11

|
027
|

027 Layer, plastic dark red brown clay peat, with frequent wood and plant macrofossils -1.51 -2.15

Group 11 represents a natural peat deposit, with a high content of organic material.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 12

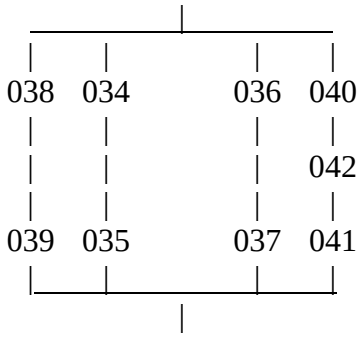
|
028
|

028 Layer, plastic dark red brown peat, with frequent wood and plant macrofossils -1.95 -2.36

Group 12 represents a natural peat deposit, with a high content of organic material.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 13

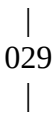


034	Fill,	plastic dark red brown clayey peat, with frequent plant remains and intrusive tree roots	-2.14	-2.65
035	Cut,	linear, straight sides, irregular base 7.00m long x 1.60- 2.00m wide	-2.14	-2.65
036	Fill,	plastic dark red brown clayey peat, with frequent plant remains and intrusive tree roots	-2.34	-2.53
037	Cut,	linear, concave sides and base, 4.00m long x 0.25- 0.50m wide	-2.34	-2.53
038	Fill,	plastic dark red brown clayey peat, with frequent plant remains and intrusive tree roots	-2.38	-2.73
039	Cut;	linear, concave sides, irregular base 4.60m long x 0.80- 1.40m wide	-2.38	-2.73
040	Fill,	plastic dark red brown clayey peat, with frequent plant remains and tree roots	-2.36	---
042	Fill,	plastic dark red brown sandy peat, with frequent plant remains and intrusive tree roots	---	---
041	Cut,	irregular, concave sides and irregular base	-2.36	-2.50

Group 13 represents a series of natural gullies formed by fluvial processes, filled with a subsequent natural peat deposit.

Photographs:
CS: 1:07- 1:14, 1:24- 1:31
BW: 1:07- 1:14, 1:24- 1:31

Group 14



029	Layer,	plastic dark red brown clayey peat, with frequent plant remains	-2.27	---

Group 14 represents a natural deposit of peat, with a high content of organic material.

Photographs:
CS: 1:20- 1:23
BW: 1:20- 1:23

Group 15

|
043

043	Layer, moderately compact mid brown grey sandy gravel with patches of sandy peat	-2.22	---

Group 15 represents a naturally formed deposit of alluvial material.

Photographs:
CS: 1:07- 1:14, 1:24- 1:31
BW: 1:07- 1:14, 1:24- 1:31

APPENDIX IV.

THE FINDS

Context (1) - from around Trench 1

1 sherd of Surrey White Ware (SWW)	1300 - 1500
1 sherd of Surrey White Ware (SWW), type	1300 - 1500
1 sherd of Tudor Green Ware (TUDG)	1350 -1550
1 sherds of Late Local Medieval Sandy (LLMS)	15th/16thC
6 sherds of Post-Medieval Redware (PMR)	1600 - 1800
1 sherd of Post-Medieval Light Orange (POLG)	17thC/18thC
1 sherd of Westerwald Stoneware (WEST)	1600 - 1800
2 sherds of Tin Glazed Earthenware, Blue, (TGEB)	1600 - 1800
2 sherds of Chinese Porcelain (CHIN)	1650 - 1900
1 sherd of Mocha Ware (MOCH)	1750 - 1900
1 sherd of Nineteenth Century White Ware (NWW)	1800 - 1900
1 sherd of English Stoneware (ENGS), with Bristol glaze	19thC/20thC
1 sherd of Porcelain (PORC), with transfer printed design	19thC
1 sherd of white earthenware, with black glaze	20thC

Context (27)

5 ungulate teeth
Small Finds

Context (1)

Small Find 1 - Cu alloy, coin, Queen Elizabeth II penny, 1966
Small Find 2 - Cu alloy, jetton, either Louis IX 1226 - 70 or
Philip VI, 1328 - 50

APPENDIX VI:

GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING.

Evaluation ✓ Excavation Watching brief

Other (please specify)

2. LOCATION.

Borough: Newham

Site address: Kingsford Way
Beckton
London E16

Site name: East Beckton District Centre Site code: HE-KW 95

Nat. Grid Refs: **Centre** of site: TQ 4269 8156

Limits of site: a) b)

c) d)

3. ORGANISATION.

Name of archaeological unit/ ~~company/ society~~: Newham Museum Service

Address: 31 Stock Street, Plaistow, London, E13 OBX

Site director/ supervisor: C. D. Jarrett Project manager: Dr F. Meddens

Funded by: London Borough of Newham

4. DURATION.

Date fieldwork started: 20/9/95 Date finished: 4/10/95

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.

Modern - A layer of fly tipped building material overlay, machine excavated pits of an uncertain function which in turn truncated a 19th and 20th century soil, which was contemporary with a factory which was located to the north of the trench.

Roman - Post-Medieval - Three alluvial clay layers resulting from a rise in sea level which affected the tidal level of the River Thames which caused these layers to be deposited. The second oldest layer had been subject to either gleying, differential drying or a change in the source of the sediment being deposited.

Bronze Age - Iron Age - A succession of six layers of peat were recorded, and alternately the layers showed signs of flooding with the inclusion of clay within the peat matrix. Evidence of a yew woodland was represented by trees which were fallen in situ in the second layer of peat from the top.

Pleistocene - A layer of Thames River Terrace Gravel was recorded at the base of the trench.

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

Type: Thames River Terrace Gravel
Height above Ordnance Survey: -2.22 OAD

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. :

Newham Museum Service, 31 Stock Street, Plaistow, London E13 0BX

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1996

d) Location of any copies: as above

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:~~

Newham Museum Service
31, Stock Street
Plaistow
London
E13 OBX

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1996

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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SIGNED: **DATE:** 10th July 1996

NAME (Block capitals): CHRIS JARRETT

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).