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T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**An early Roman occupation site and prehistoric
finds at Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs
London Borough of Tower Hamlets**

An Archaeological Excavation

by Sian Anthony and Steve Ford

Site Code WYO01

(TQ 3705 7970)

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at Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs, Tower Hamlets**

An Archaeological Excavation

for St James Homes Ltd

by Sian Anthony and Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WYO-01

December 2002

Summary

Site name: Express Wharf, 38 Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Grid reference: TQ3705 7970

Site activity: Excavation

Date and duration of project: 18th September – 1st October 2002

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sian Anthony

Site code: WYO 01

Area of site: 325sq m

Summary of results: Two phases of activity, prehistoric and Roman, were discovered on the margins of a gravel island or levee, beneath alluvium. Prehistoric activity was represented by struck flints and pottery which included earlier Neolithic and later Bronze Age sherds. Some of the cut features may be of prehistoric date. The majority of the deposits comprised gullies and pits of early Roman date. Some later Roman pottery was also found.

Monuments identified: Two gullies and a series of pits and stakeholes.

Location and reference of archive: The site archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR. It is anticipated that the archive will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

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An early Roman occupation site and prehistoric finds at Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs, Tower Hamlets

by Sian Anthony and Steve Ford

with contributions by Charlotte Thompson and Angela Wardle

Report 01/75b

Introduction

This report documents the results of a second phase of an archaeological fieldwork carried out at Express Wharf, 38 Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs, London Borough of Tower Hamlets (TQ 3705 7970) (Fig. 1). The development site is located on the east side of the River Thames and abuts the contemporary river wall. The site lies on the floodplain of the river with an underlying geology of gravel capped by alluvium (BGS 1980). The work was commissioned by St James Homes Ltd to satisfy the archaeological condition on their planning consent. The first phase of fieldwork comprised an evaluation (Ford 2001) following an earlier desktop study (Parry 2000). The evaluation revealed the presence of a small portion of sand-capped terrace edge buried by alluvium. From the alluvium, three sherds of Roman or probable Roman pottery were recovered, suggesting the likelihood of more substantial archaeological remains on the higher ground to the east. As the archaeological potential of this part of the development site was unclear, a second stage of fieldwork was carried out.

Archaeological background

Few sites of any period have been recorded for the Isle of Dogs, as recently summarized in *'The Archaeology of Greater London'* (MoLAS 2000). This absence is thought to be largely a result of the propensity for the area to be inundated. From late Saxon and early medieval times there are documentary references to the need for land reclamation with the construction of flood defences ('Marsh walls'). That these areas were still prone to flooding in later periods is graphically demonstrated on John Rocque's map of 1761 which shows a large area of inundation known as 'The Breach' just to the north of the site. The geological map for the area shows alluvium across the whole of the Isle of Dogs and this deposit has achieved thicknesses of 2m or more.

Occupation of the Isle of Dogs and other riparian areas along the lower Thames had to reflect fluctuation in sea levels, with flooding and the burial of sites by alluvium and peat formation. Earlier prehistoric occupation exploited smaller areas of higher ground, 'gravel islands', that were less likely to flood, and there is even evidence for the linking of such areas with wooden trackways (Meddens 1996). Prehistoric occupation has previously been identified on the Isle of Dogs at Atlas Wharf to the south. Neolithic features and a preserved

wooden platform or trackway of Bronze Age date were found (MoLAS 2000, 23). In contrast, there are no references to Iron Age or Roman deposits.

The excavation

The excavation trench comprised a single area of 325 sq m corresponding to those parts of the footprint of the proposed new structure which coincided with the terrace and terrace edge. The area was machine stripped of overburden and alluvium to expose the top of the sand representing the terrace.

The stratigraphic sequence

The stratigraphy comprised up to 0.5m of made ground overlying 1.3m of brown silty clay alluvium. Over most of the trench, the natural sand capping the gravel terrace was revealed beneath this at a surprisingly shallow depth of between 1m and 0.8m AOD. (Fig. 4) The sinuous edge of the terrace was revealed aligned more or less south-north, but curved towards the north-east before its extent was confused by modern foundations. The terrace edge was complex with at least two steps present, reflecting episodes of erosion. To the west, a much greater thickness of alluvium was present.

The lower terrace step as observed in the initial evaluation trench (just to the west of the excavation area) revealed a channel cut into the natural gravel, infilled with peat, overlain by blue-grey alluvium. A sample column through these deposits was taken for pollen analysis but revealed low levels of pollen preservation which suggested open country species throughout (Keith-Lucas in Ford 2001).

The upper terrace edge was overlain by a slump of sand from which Roman pottery and metal objects were recovered and which either represents colluvium or a deposit reworked by the ebb and flow of water. This sand was overlain by brown alluvium which also covered the terrace itself. There was no trace of gullies 21 and 22 after the edge of the second terrace but it could not be determined if this was because of erosion by the river or that they merely terminated at this point. It was considered that the deeper alluvium in the site may be much older in sequence and the gullies were cut into this and were later eroded away.

The excavation (Pl. 1)

During the final stages of the machine stripping, many finds were encountered in the alluvium lying just above the natural sand (Fig. 2). This level was hand-cleaned and the artefacts recorded individually (1-90). However, no cut features were observed at this level and the remaining alluvium was further stripped back to reveal the

sand-capped terrace, cut by several clearly visible archaeological features. A few stray finds were also recorded at this lower level.

Gully 21

This feature consisted of a shallow gully aligned NE-SW, visible from the edge of the excavation area and disappearing beyond the terrace edge. Three slots (101, 102 and 103) were excavated and revealed similar profiles but with dimensions ranging from 0.8m wide and 0.18m deep to 1.38m wide and 0.35m deep. All were filled with a grey-brown sandy clay. Finds from the fills include 2nd century pottery and residual prehistoric sherds. Slot (103) was truncated by a later pit (108). Slot (102) was also cut by two stakeholes (106 and 107).

Gully 22

This feature was cut parallel to gully 21 and again was consistent in shape and fill (grey sandy clay). Three slots (105, 111 and 122) were excavated. The width of the gully ranged from 0.9m to 1.2m and the depth from 0.18m to 0.3m with a curved side and a flat base. The relationship between the two gullies is unclear, although it is possible that gully 22 is slightly earlier, perhaps originating in the late 1st century. Three sherds of 3rd/4th century date were recovered from slot 122 but are thought to be intrusive, or their provenance confused with the reworked terrace edge. It is more likely that the two gullies were open and in use much at the same time. Gully 22 gully cut through a tree bole (112) on the south side.

Pits and scoops

Ten pits and two 'scoops' were identified, with the majority clustered around and to the north of gully 21. One additional feature (112) had a very irregular shape with a mixed sandy fill with frequent charcoal inclusions. No pottery was obtained from the fill to date this feature and it is interpreted as a tree bole.

Possible Prehistoric pits

With the presence of so much prehistoric pottery and struck flint on the site, it is clear that most are present only as residual finds in features unambiguously of Roman date. However, there are five pits and one 'scoop' which only (or mostly) produced prehistoric material and which may therefore be of prehistoric date. The numbers of sherds from each feature though, are not large, nor is the condition of the sherds in these features markedly different from those which are clearly residual. Three features (108, 121 and 109) contained just single sherds

with the first two also containing a single stuck flint each. Pits 100 and 106 contained six sherds each but also contained 1 sherd each of Roman date, which may or may not be intrusive. 'Scoop' 120 contained five prehistoric sherds only and is the most persuasively dated, even though its interpretation is uncertain.

Pit 116 was heavily truncated on both its north-west and south-east sides. Its depth was 0.35m and it seems to have sloped up gently from a curved base. The fill was a light grey clayey sand and occasional charcoal flecks and it seems likely that this is of prehistoric origin. Pit 120 was a small circular pit with an irregular, shallow base, it was truncated by modern disturbance and extended beyond the site limits, so its original shape cannot be ascertained. With a fill of brown grey clayey silty sand and occasional charcoal, it is dated by several sherds of prehistoric pot, assuming that the one abraded piece of Roman pottery is contamination. The fragmented remains of a rear left leg from a horse were found on the surface of this pit. Pit 121 was also truncated by modern disturbance, leaving only a small circle in plan; it had an assumed diameter of c.0.68m and went to a depth of only 0.16m. The fill was a brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal. One piece of prehistoric pottery and a single flint flake indicate its potential prehistoric date.

Roman pits

Pit 108/117 was examined by two slots to confirm relationships with other features. It was an irregular oval, 3.1m in length, cutting gully 21 to the south and another pit (116) to the north-west. It was 0.47m deep with two fills, a primary deposit (175, 176) of yellow-brown clayey sand and a secondary fill (158, 169) of grey-brown sandy clay. Only a residual sherd of prehistoric pot was found from the secondary fill (158).

Pit 115 cut the possible prehistoric pit (116) on its south-eastern side and was 0.24 m deep with a flat base. It contained a grey sandy clay fill. Seven sherds from the same pot were retrieved, all in good condition, and suggest a late 1st century date. Pit 100 was an irregular oval in plan, 1.95m long and only 0.18m deep. It contained two fills, the primary a yellow-brown sand (165) and a secondary fill of brown sandy clay (150). Although there were fragmentary residual pieces of prehistoric pottery, a large piece of base dated to AD50-160 was found in the secondary fill, providing a date of 1st/2nd century.

Pit (113) was a large circular pit 2.2m in diameter and 0.44m deep, with two fills. The primary fill (164) was a greyish sandy clay with burnt flint and pottery present, the secondary fill (163) was a layer of depth 0.17m and a fill of brown grey clayey sand. Moderate amounts of pot came from both layers, with a date range of AD120-160.

Undated pits

Three pits (110, 117, 119) and a scoop (118) were undated. The pits comprised oval and circular forms and ranged from 0.7m to 2m across. They were relatively shallow, between 0.13m and 0.4m. Several of these pits intercut each other. Scoop 118 was 0.85m in diameter and 0.12m deep. All of the fills of these features were a similar grey brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks.

Stakeholes

Three stakeholes were clearly represented by their pointed profiles. Stakeholes 106 and 107, both with a diameter of 0.13m and depths of 0.21 and 0.19m, cut the fill of gully 21 and must therefore be of Roman or later date. Stakehole 114 was 0.13m in diameter and 0.09m deep and cut the upper fill of pit (113).

Finds

Pottery by Charlotte Thompson

A total of 407 sherds weighing 1.6kg were recovered from 63 contexts. All of the individual context assemblages are small (up to 29 sherds) except for slots 101 (152) and 113 (163 and 164) which are medium in size (30 to 99 sherds). Generally, the sherds are in a poor condition as they are abraded and 20% of the sherds weigh 1g or less. All of the pottery was recorded to MoLSS standards and the prehistoric pottery was categorized using guidelines established in accordance with the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995). The pottery was examined with a x20 binocular microscope and recorded by fabric, form, decoration and condition. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight.

Prehistoric

An assemblage of 120 prehistoric sherds weighing 0.3kg was recovered from 47 contexts (Appendix 1). Of the 47 contexts, 13 also contained Roman pottery and these will be discussed below. The assemblage is primarily flint-tempered fabric, made using crushed calcined flint. Detailed examination of the fabrics distinguished 12 sub-categories, seven flint-tempered and five with organic or shell temper. These are presented as five main groupings:

- FLIN1: Hard fabric with a dense matrix; sparse very coarse (up to 7mm) crushed calcined flint; occasional very coarse pink flint. This fabric is characteristic of the Neolithic because of the block-like form and poor sorting of the flint and also the occasional pink flint inclusions.
- FLIN2: Hard fabric with a silty matrix; rare medium to very coarse crushed calcined flint; coarse to very coarse iron rich inclusions.
- FLIN3: Hard fabric with a dense matrix, sometimes with fine quartz/mica; sparse medium to very coarse crushed calcined flint.

FLIN4: Hard fabric with a dense matrix, sometimes with fine quartz/mica; moderate to common fine to very coarse crushed calcined flint.

VES: Hard vesicular fabric with a dense to silty matrix; rare to sparse coarse to very coarse voids caused by leached shell or burnt organics.

Table 1 Prehistoric pottery by fabric type

	<i>Number of sherds</i>	<i>Total weight</i>	<i>% of prehistoric assemblage (sherds)</i>
FLINT	82	0.18kg	68
VESICULAR	38	0.12kg	32%

The pottery is almost entirely plain body sherds. As flint-tempered wares, and indeed the shell-tempered wares, in the London region can occur from the Neolithic through to the mid Iron Age, with the exception of FLIN1, the fabrics themselves should not be used as a dating tool.

There are three FLIN1 sherds in pit 100 (150), and one stray find [90]. One of the pieces from pit 100 (150) is curved and the diameter is too narrow for an open form. It is probably not a handle as no published parallel of this shape has been found. Due to the fabric and the thickness of the walls (9-11mm), the sherds can be categorised as Neolithic plain wares. Although there is a sherd (intrusive?) of Verulamium region white ware, the other pottery suggests that the pit is likely to be prehistoric, probably Neolithic in date.

Very little decoration has been found in the assemblage. Roman pit 113 (164) contains a FLIN2 sherd with a clear fingernail impression on its exterior. It is possibly a rim sherd, but this is by no means certain. Stray find [15] is a sherd of FLIN3 that appears to be a flat-topped plain rim. There are the edges of two deep impressions just underneath the rim that may be deliberate decoration, perhaps fingertip impressions. The sherd is well finished on both sides, and so it is likely to be an open form, probably a bowl. As plain rim forms appear from the Neolithic onwards, it could date from the Neolithic or the Late Bronze Age.

A badly abraded rim in a VES fabric has also been recovered [40]. Due to the abrasion, it is not possible to know the form, although it appears to be a beaded-rim. Bead-rimmed vessels occur throughout the prehistoric period, and the VES fabric it is made from could date from the Neolithic or be as late as middle Iron Age. Sherd [60] was an abraded FLIN3 beaded-rim, and the nature of the crushed calcined flint inclusions in this sherd indicate that it could date from the Neolithic, but could also be Late Bronze Age in origin. Two FLIN3 joining from scoop 120 (172) fit to make a plain flat rim. They are from a thin-walled vessel that suggests that they are part of a fineware bowl. It is not possible to narrow the dating of this fineware bowl as such forms appear in the Neolithic and the Late Bronze Age.

Considering that excavations at Atlas Wharf, further south of the site yielded just one prehistoric sherd, tentatively dated to the Late Bronze Age, it is noteworthy that this site contained so many prehistoric sherds.

There is some carbonated residue on one sherd from Pit 116 (168) that indicates the vessel has almost certainly been used for food preparation.

Roman pottery

There are 285 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 1.16kg, recovered from 28 contexts (Appendix 2). As mentioned above, 13 of these contexts contain prehistoric pottery. With very few exceptions, the Roman pottery is very abraded, generally in far worse condition than the prehistoric pottery. The six sherds of east Gaulish samian from context gully slot 102 (152) are so abraded that no trace of the slip is visible, and the moulding only became apparent through touching the sherds. The nature of the abrasion has meant that some of the sherds are rounded on all surfaces, which suggests water erosion. The site lay directly on the banks of the contemporary Thames and so it is possible that the rising and falling of the water table at this site has caused the heavy abrasion of the sherds.

The assemblage indicates Roman activity from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD, and one third of the contexts have a latest date of AD160. The majority of fabrics date to the first half of the 2nd century. However, there is some evidence for 3rd and 4th century activity; an Oxfordshire white ware *mortarium* sherd from slot 122 (174) (but see above) and a stray find [28] of Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware, dated AD 270–400. Half of the sherds are reduced wares, and the next largest group is oxidized wares (18%). The small percentage of grog-tempered wares (12%) is to be expected, as these fabrics are most common in the 1st century in the London area.

It is interesting that just 6% are imported fabrics, but these include samian from east and central Gaul, les Martres-de-Veyre and la Graufesenque. The samian fabrics date from the second half of the 1st century to the end of the 2nd century.

Table 2: Roman pottery by fabric type

<i>Ware</i>	<i>No. of sherds</i>	<i>% of Roman assemblage</i>
Amphora	4	1
Black-burnished ware type	3	1
Fine ware, imported	0	0
Fine ware, Roman	1	1
Fine ware, reduced	34	12
Oxidised wares	50	18
Reduced wares	143	50
Samian	15	5
Tempered	35	12

As would be expected when the majority of sherds are reduced wares, 57% of all of the sherds belong to either jars or beakers. The assemblage is so badly abraded that there are few diagnostic sherds. Those that can be

identified span the 1st and 2nd centuries. Gully slots 102 (152) and 105 (155) and tree-bole 112 (162) contained bead-rimmed jars, which are typically a 1st century form. However, there is a badly burnt black-burnished version of a bead-rimmed jar in gully 102 (152). Although bead-rimmed jars in black-burnished fabrics are associated with the 1st century (Holbrook and Bidwell, 100, fig 27, types 2-3), in London this form is more usually indicative of the 2nd century (Marsh and Tyers 1978, 557-8, fig. 235, no. IIA17). Black-burnished-type everted-rimmed jars (Marsh and Tyers 1978, 560, fig. 236, nos IIF1-12) occur as a stray find [6], and in gully slots 102 (152 top), 103, (153), 104 (154) and pit 113 (163) and are also indicative of activity on the site post-dating AD120.

Table 3 Roman pottery by form

<i>Form</i>	<i>No. of sherds</i>	<i>% of Roman assemblage</i>
Amphora	4	1
Flagon	3	1
Flagon/Jar	27	9
Jar	106	37
Jar/Beaker	34	12
Beaker	24	8
Bowl	7	2
Bowl/Dish	4	1
Dish	5	2
Cup	0	0
Mortarium	3	1
Miscellaneous	75	26

That the site yielded 285 Roman sherds is in itself very important, as no Roman sites and few find spots are known on the Isle of Dogs. There is evidence for activity from the 1st to the 3rd century which is an important addition to our understanding of the Roman occupation in the hinterland of *Londinium*.

Fired clay by Charlotte Thompson

Eighteen pieces of fired clay weighing 0.1kg were recovered from nine contexts (Appendix 3). All are made from a silty/sandy fabric and appear to have been fired at a low temperature, which contributes to the crumbly nature of the fabric. All of the sherds are very abraded, and it is therefore not possible to tell the form. It is interesting that there is evidence of a piercing on one stray find [68]. This indicates that it was originally perhaps a loomweight or a pierced clay slab, but it is not possible to be certain as the piece is too fragmentary and abraded.

It is worth noting that the pieces are either found alone in contexts, or in prehistoric or mixed contexts: they are not found in purely Roman contexts (Table 4). This does suggest that the pieces are more likely to be prehistoric than Roman in origin.

Table 4 Fired clay: associations with pottery

<i>Context</i>	<i>No. pieces</i>	<i>Number of pottery sherds in context</i>	<i>Make-up of pottery in context</i>
14	1	1	
17	1	1	
24	1	1	
36	1	1	
39	1	4	Mixed
68	2	7	Prehistoric
105 (155)	3	27	Mixed
111 (161)	6	16	Mixed
113 (164)	2	35	Mixed

Metal and glass by Angela Wardle

Three copper alloy and two glass objects were recovered (Appendix 4). The copper alloy is in poor condition and has been radiographed to assist identification. This is a very small assemblage but it is of interest as it comes from an area not noted for Roman occupation. Three objects (1, 3 and 5) were found in, or close to gully 21 (slot 102) which produced a medium sized assemblage of pottery. The fragment of glass bottle (1) dates between the mid 1st and the late 2nd century, consistent with the 2nd century date of the pottery. Glass bottles were employed from the Flavian period (later 1st century AD) onwards for bulk transport of foodstuffs, which obviously included liquids, but depending upon the size of the neck, also solids. This is only a small fragment, but it is identifiable as a container. The other two objects, one from the gully fill itself, the other adjacent to the gully, are both personal items. No. 3 is a simple earring of Allason-Jones type 1 and No. 4, which is very fragmentary, appears to be a very simple penannular brooch of a type in use from the late Iron Age well into the Roman period. A 2nd-century date would be consistent for both items.

The second fragment of glass (2), is also likely to be from a bottle, although it is too small for positive identification. It is also made of the naturally coloured glass used for utilitarian containers and mass produced vessels.

These finds could all be classed as domestic and personal items, suggesting that there was occupation in the area. The close date of gully 21 suggests that rubbish was deposited over a short period of time, perhaps representing short-lived occupation. The personal items indicate some degree of sophistication, especially the earring. The absence of window glass is unsurprising in a rural area but presence of the bottle fragments indicate contacts with London or other trading centre and it should be noted that the significance of these fragments lies not only in the presence of the glass itself, but in its implications for diet and lifestyle.

Flint by Steve Ford

The excavations resulted in the recovery of a modest collection of 37 struck flints as detailed in Table 5 and Appendix 5. None of the pieces are especially chronologically distinctive. The two narrow flakes are possibly of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date but are more likely to be fortuitous by-products of knapping in later times. The remaining material, made from local gravel flint of indifferent quality using a hard hammer, is probably of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date but the collection is too small to suggest one or other of these periods is better represented (Ford *et al* 1984). One flake was possibly serrated along one edge but lacked any gloss. If this piece was serrated as opposed to accidentally edge damaged, it is likely to be of Neolithic date. The single definite retouched piece, a small end scraper, is the only patinated piece which suggests that it belongs to a different period from the other material. The form of this scraper suggests that it might be of Mesolithic date. Three of the pieces had been burnt.

Of the flints recovered from cut features, all, with the exception of those in pit 121, are residual finds in Roman deposits. Pit 121 produced a single flake and a sherd of prehistoric pottery only and may be of prehistoric date, though both finds could easily be residual finds in a Roman feature.

Table 5: Summary composition of the flint collection

Type	Features	Stray finds	Total
Flakes	6	11	17
Narrow flakes	-	2	2
Spalls	2	7	9
Cores	2	2	4
Core fragments	1	3	4
Scraper	-	1	1

Animal bone by Sian Anthony

A small collection of very fragmented and poorly preserved animal bone was found (Appendix 6), only 142 pieces in total, all of which were abraded. Percentage calculations are skewed by many pieces of a single horse rear left leg found in pit 120. Other species represented were cattle, sheep/goats and one pig fragment, all expected domesticated species from a settlement site. Only two pieces were burnt to a white/grey colour and no signs of butchery were present although the state of preservation of the bone precludes seeing any remaining marks on the bone.

Charred plant remains by Mark Robinson

Ten samples from Roman contexts were floated for charred plant remains. Identifiable material was largely absent with only a small fragment of *Alnus* or *Corylus* (alder or hazel), noted in sample 1 from Roman pit 113 (163).

Conclusion

The second phase of fieldwork on this site has proved very successful in locating a small area of archaeological features of Roman date, with evidence also of prehistoric activity. The Roman material is an unusual and unexpected find in this area as it is the first Roman site found in the Isle of Dogs, the nearest being a site to the north at Shadwell (MoLAS, 2000) where a roadside cemetery and a possible funerary structure dating to the mid or late 3rd century are present. Conventional thought has previously considered that this low-lying area was predominantly marshland during Roman times and that no enduring occupation was possible until the extensive reclamation activities of the later medieval period onwards.

Prehistoric

Earlier prehistoric, (that is Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age) occupation and use of the sand and gravel fringes of the lower Thames is a recurrent pattern in this region (Merriman 1992), as for other river systems in southern England (Froom 1971). The use of riparian locations for Mesolithic occupation and exploitation has been long known (Clark 1952; Clarke 1976) and these locations are likely to have been of considerable economic significance in the Neolithic and earlier parts of the Bronze Age despite the adoption of, or knowledge of agriculture (Thomas 1991, 20–1). The presence of a quantity of pottery and possibly, cut features, suggests that the prehistoric activity was more intensive than mere casual use and can be taken to indicate occupation here or close by. The evidence for prehistoric occupation, which, in effect comprises no more than an artefact scatter is nevertheless, typical of many earlier prehistoric sites and is thought to reflect a highly mobile pattern of settlement.

The varied dating of the pottery and the condition of some of the flint suggests that more than one phase of prehistoric activity is represented and appears to indicate the repeated use of a favoured topographic location over many years with some specific areas being occupied more intensively than others at different times. This would not be a surprising outcome for a population with a mobile settlement pattern.

It was noted that most of the prehistoric pottery was abraded and it has to be considered that this abrasion occurred during deposition as a by-product of the manuring of arable land. However, whilst this might be an

interesting proposition it has also to be noted that much of the prehistoric pottery was recovered from Roman contexts and the abrasion noted is more likely to be a product of later events.

Roman

Much research has taken place into the variations of the height of sea level, relative to the Thames waterfront particularly during the Roman period. This has established a pattern of slowly rising water levels up to the 1st century AD (Milne *et al.* 1983). At this time the general level of high tide is estimated at 1m–1.25m above OD or even up to 1.3m AOD (Yule 1988, 15). These estimates can be compared to the occupied levels on this site which are present at 0.7m–1.0m AOD. Subsequently, the evidence points to a general lowering of water levels that continued until the 4th century (Brigham 1990). The evidence for the Roman feature-digging on the Westferry Road site, taking place from the late 1st century AD onwards, appears to be in agreement with this chronology. It is possible that the site was occasionally flooded in the earliest years of the Roman period, but that a subsequent lowering of the high tide level would make the site dry land and viable for normal use.

The main Roman use of the site appears to have an emphasis in the 2nd century, perhaps up to the 3rd century. The evidence comprises the digging of pits and gullies suggesting the proximity of an occupied area, though no structural remains were found. The features continue out of the excavation area to the east suggesting further deposits. The western and northern limits of the site are defined by the edge of a river channel and it is probable that some truncation of deposits by the river has occurred in these areas. Finds from the site are not exceptional but the presence of some glass and metal objects suggest a personal/ domestic setting with a degree of sophistication. The deposits presumably reflect the presence of a farm and the small collection of faunal remains reflected the usual domesticated species. Unfortunately no charred plant remains other than charcoal were recovered to examine economic and consumption patterns further.

The presence of a few sherds of later Roman pottery indicates continued use of the location but none of the cut features belong to this period. The fills of the cut features comprised a silty clay which contrasts markedly with the parent bedrock of sand. This could be taken to imply that these features were abandoned due to persistent flooding and alluvium deposition and that the latest sherds from the site mark the point at which the viability of the continued use of the site became increasingly compromised. The subsequent history of the site is that of inundation to the deposition of a great thickness of alluvium. It was not until late post-medieval times that further intensive activity took place, with disturbance of the ground and the building of industrial works (Parry 2001).

The discovery of this site has important implications for future fieldwork and research in this area, as it has considerably expanded knowledge of activity in this area of both prehistoric and Roman archaeology. Although the site reported here is small, it implies more of a settlement waiting to be discovered and investigated in the immediate vicinity. It is possible that this site was exploiting a niche in the environment and occupying a very small area of higher ground such as a gravel 'island' or perhaps a levee along the banks of the river in an area which is otherwise frequently inundated. However, it is also possible that lower river levels overall could have allowed for widespread Roman activity on the Isle of Dogs at this time, of which this site is but a small part. If so, the dislocation of settlement in later Roman times due to the new rise in water levels would have been very much greater. The nature of both periods of activity is unclear from this excavation but this evidence does enhance the knowledge of both prehistoric archaeology and study of the hinterland of Roman London.

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GLSMR/RCHME NAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Excavation

2. LOCATION

Borough: Tower Hamlets

Site Address: Express Wharf, 38 Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Site Name: Express Wharf, Isle of Dogs

Site Code: WYO 01

Nat. Grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 3705 7970

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Address: 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Site director/supervisor: Sian Anthony

Project manager: Steve Ford

Funded by: St James Homes Ltd, Marlborough House, 298 Regents Park Road, Finchley, London

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 18/09/02

Date finished: 01/10/02

Fieldwork previously notified? YES

Fieldwork will continue? NO

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic

Roman Yes

Mesolithic Possibly

Saxon (pre-AD 1066)

Neolithic Yes

Medieval (AD1066-1485)

Bronze Age Yes

Post-Medieval

Iron Age No

Unknown

6. PERIOD SUMMARIES Use headings for each period (ROMAN, MEDIEVAL ETC.) and additional sheets if necessary.

MESOLITHIC

Possibly one scraper is of Mesolithic date.

NEOLITHIC

Some of the prehistoric pottery is of Neolithic date

BRONZE AGE

Some of the pottery and possibly some of the pits are of Bronze Age date

ROMAN

Two gullies and a series of pits and stakeholes of 2nd century date underneath alluvium and lying on the edge of the terrace edge. Some later Roman pottery was also found.

7. NATURAL

Type: Floodplain Gravel

Height above Ordnance Datum: 1.02m - 0.67m

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVE

a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

Notes Yes

Plans Yes

Photos Yes

Negatives Yes

Slides Yes

Correspondence Yes

MScripts (unpub reports, etc.) All

Small finds Yes

b) The complete archive will be deposited in the following location: Museum of London

c) Approximate year of transfer: Unknown

d) Location of any copies: Microfiche copy to be deposited with NMR, and one copy kept by TVAS

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? No, but will be microfiched in due course.

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? No

9. LOCATION OF FINDS

a: In your possessions (delete as appropriate): ALL

b: All finds will be deposited with the following museum: Museum of London

Approximate year of transfer: Unknown

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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NAME: SIAN ANTHONY

DATE: December 2002

APPENDIX 1. Prehistoric pottery

Feature	Fill/find	Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No	Weight (g)	Comments	Date of sherd	Date of context
	1	S	FLIN2	4?		1		6 Nice big body sherd - hint of thickening to a base at bottom of sherd. Nicely finished.	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	15	S	FLIN4	4?	Deep finger tip impressions?	1		3 Flat topped, plain rim sherd	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 50-120AD
	26	S	PELLET			1		2 Small body sherd. Iron rich inclusions	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	27	S	FLIN			1	0.5	Small, abraded body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	29	S	FLIN5			2		3 Probably one vessel. Body sherds. Abraded exterior so flint more prominent	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	30	S	FLIN			1		1 Very small body sherds	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-400AD
	33	S	FLIN3			1		3 Body sherd. Slightly abraded surface so flint more prominent	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	39	S	FLIN4			1	0.5	Small body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	39	S	SHEL2			2		6 Fresh break. May be Roman?	4000BC-400AD	4000BC-43AD
	40	S	ORG			1		3 Rim sherd. Very abraded so hard to tell shape - beaded rim	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	41	S	FLIN2	4?		1		3 Nice body sherd. Some large flint incl. (6mm). Thin walled and nicely finished off.	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	42	S	FLIN4			1		2 Odd sherd. Has flat rim or flat through post depositional wear?	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	45	S	SHEL2			1		1 Abraded small body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	46	S	FLIN4			1		4 Nice body sherd. Damage from iron rich liquid. Nice surfaces	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	47	S	FLIN4	4		2		4 Fresh break. Body sherds, interior nicely finished, exterior abraded.	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	48	S	FLIN3			1		2 Body sherd. Abraded exterior surface and so flint more prominent.	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	49	S	QUFL			1		3 Small body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	50	S	PELLET			1		2 Body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	53	S	FLIN4			4		6 Body sherds. 3 sherds very small. Probably one vessel	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	54	S	FLIN4			1	0.5	Small body sherd. Possibly part of a plain rim, but not sure.	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	58	S	FLIN2	4		1		3 Body sherd. Abraded exterior surface and so flint more prominent. Nicely finished interior	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	60	S	FLIN2			1		2 Small body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	60	S	FLIN4			1		3 Rim sherd. Bead-rimmed	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	60	S	FLIN			1	0.5	Small body sherd. Too small to tell fabric	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	61	S	FLIN4	4?		1		2 Body sherd. Small. Good surfaces	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	61	S	FLIN2			1		1 Body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Fill/find</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Decoration</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Date of sherd</i>	<i>Date of context</i>
		<i>Size</i>					<i>(g)</i>			
	61	S	QUFL			1		2 Body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	61	S	SHEL1			1		2 Body sherd. Fine layers of leached shell voids	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	63	S	FLIN3			1		1 Small body sherd. Damage from iron rich liquid	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	63	S	FLIN4			1		2 Small body sherd. Oxidized from burning on one side	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	64	S	FLIN4			1		1 Very small body sherd. Damage from iron rich liquid	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	64	S	SHEL2			1		2 Body sherd - base with part of wall attached	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	64	S	FLIN3			1		2 Body sherd. Traces of C14 on interior	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	65	S	FLIN2			1		1 Small body sherd	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	66	S	FLIN4	4?		7		14 Probably one vessel. Body sherds. Damage from iron rich liquid. Thin-walled	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	67	S	FLIN2	4		2		2 Sherd link. Thin-walled body sherds. Nicely finished interior and exterior. Occasional blocky flint.	4000BC-2000BC	4000BC-2000BC
	68	S	FLIN5			2		Body sherds. Abraded exterior surface so flint looks more prominent. 1 sherd burnt and has iron rich liquid damage	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	68	S	ORG			1		Body sherd. Abraded/laminar fracture. Iron rich liquid damage	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	68	S	FLIN			2		Too small to analyse	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
	90	S	FLIN1			1		3 Body sherd. Some iron rich liquid damage. Accretion on surface.	4000BC-2000BC	4000BC-2000BC
	102	S	QUIO			2		9 Fresh break. Badly abraded rim sherds	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-150AD
	102	S	SHEL2			2		2 Very abraded. 1 body sherd and one possible bead rim	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-150AD
	BY 102	S	FLIN4			1		4 Body sherd. At dense end of FLIN4 category. Some 6mm flint incls.	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 100-120AD
	BY 102	S	FLIN2			1		2 Thin-walled body sherd. Abraded so flint more prominent	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 100-120AD
	BY 102	S	SHEL1			3		11 Body sherds. 2 x thin-walled with fresh break. 1 x 15mm thick walls. Leached shell voids (can see shell spiral)	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 100-120AD
	BY 102	S	SHEL2			1		2 Nice fine incls. Body sherd	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 100-120AD
	BY 102	S	ORG			1		1 Very small body sherd. Thick walled	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 100-120AD
100	150	S	FLIN1			2		12 Thick-walled, but small diameter. Rim sherd? Illustrate.	4000BC-2000BC	4000BC-2000BC
100	150	S	FLIN1			2		29 Surface slightly abraded so flint more prominent	4000BC-2000BC	4000BC-2000BC
100	150	S	FLIN2			2		2.5 Body sherds. Accretion on surface. 1x quite thin, but could be laminated	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-2000BC
101	151	S	SHEL1	4?		1		1 Body sherd. Slightly abraded. Sherd angled 45, a carination? Thin-walled	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD

Feature	Fill/find	Context Size	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No	Weight (g)	Comments	Date of sherd	Date of context
101	151	S	ORG			1		4 Oxidized body sherd. Quite abraded but also vigorously scrubbed. Iron rich incls.	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
101	151	S	FLIN3			1		3 Abraded exterior surface of sherd which has layer of buff accretion which gives appearance of oxidization	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
102	152	M	QUFL	2?		1		6 Body sherd	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 150-160AD
102	152	M	PELLET			2		6 Body sherds. Damaged by iron rich liquid. Sherd link	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 150-160AD
102	152	M	FLIN			1	0.5	Very small sherd	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 150-160AD
102	152	M	ORG			1		2 Body sherd. Thin-walled.	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 150-160AD
102 top		S	SHEL2			2		2 Probably one vessel. Very abraded. Top layer burnt so looks oxidized. Possibly rim sherds but hard to tell shape	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-250AD
103	153	S	SHEL1			1		2 Body sherd. Oxidized (burnt?) on exterior surface	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-160AD
104	154	S	QUFL			1		5 Body sherd. Abraded exterior, and breaks are smooth	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-250AD
105	155	S	FLIN1			1		5 Body sherd. Abraded so flint looks more prominent	4000BC-2000BC	(Residual) 70-100AD
105	155	S	FLIN2			3		6 Probably one vessel. Abraded exterior makes flint look more prominent. Iron rich liquid damage	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 70-100AD
105	155	S	FLIN3?			1		1 Small sherd. Damaged by iron rich liquid?	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 70-100AD
105	155	S	FLIN6	4?		1		1 Body sherd. Chipped & abraded. Fineware bowl?	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 70-100AD
105	155	S	FLIN			1		1 Very small body sherd with 11mm thick walls	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 70-100AD
105	155	S	QUFL			2		5 Probably one vessel. Very badly abraded body sherds. 1 x very large (22mm) flint incl.	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 70-100AD
105	155	S	SHEL1			1		7 Large body sherd	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 70-100AD
108	158	S	FLIN4			1		2 Body sherd. Nice condition	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 50-120AD
109	159	S	FLIN3			1		2 Possibly a rim sherd. Thin-walled. Abraded so flint looks more prominent?	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 50-120AD
111	161	S	SHEL2			2		6 Body sherds. Not too badly abraded. Fresh break. 10mm thick walls	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 50-120AD
113	163	M	SHEL1			4		35 Body sherds. 3 x same vessel, fresh break & nice large pieces & not abraded. 1 x abraded and soft fabric (1 g)	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-160AD
113	163	M	QUFL			1		2 Body sherd. 10mm thick walls	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-160AD
113	164	M	FLIN6		Finger nail decoration	1		2 Slightly abraded. Possibly a rim sherd. FND at top of sherd, but hard to tell shape	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-160AD
113	164	M	QUFL			1		1 Small body sherd	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-160AD
113	164	M	ORG			1		3 Body sherd	4000BC-43AD	(Residual) 120-160AD
116	168	S	FLIN3			4		8 Probably one vessel. Very crumbly - damaged by iron rich liquid? Abraded exterior as flint looks	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Fill/find</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Decoration</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Weight</i> (g)	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Date of sherd</i>	<i>Date of context</i>
								more prominent. C14 residue on largest sherd		
116	168	S	FLIN2?			2		2 Small body sherds	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
120	172	S	FLIN2	4		2		2 Sherd links. Makes a thin-walled vessel. Plain rim with slight carination	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
120	172	S	FLIN			1		1 Body sherd. Quite thin-walled	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
120	172	S	FLIN4			2		1 Body sherds. Thin-walled. Very dense matrix with sparse but coarse flint	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD
121	173	S	SHEL2			1		2 Mudstained. Body sherd, quite thin-walled. Very silty matrix	4000BC-43AD	4000BC-43AD

APPENDIX 2. Roman Pottery

Feature	Fill/find	Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No.	Weight (g)	ENV	State	Comments	Date of sherd	Date of context
2	S		HWC	2T		1	4	1	Abraded		70-160AD	70-160AD
2	S		GROG	2		8	12	1		Crumbly. Probably one vessel	50-400AD	70-160AD
5	S		HWC	3		1	1	1	Burnt		70-160AD	70-160AD
6	S		VRW	4A		1	6	1			50-160AD	120-160AD
6	S		BB1	2F		1	13	1	Abraded & Burnt	Oxidized. Too abraded for burnished surfaces	120-250AD	120-160AD
7 EX	S		FINE			2	6	1	Abraded & Residue	Very abraded context. Probably one vessel.	50-400AD	50-120AD
7 EX	S		OXID	1/2		1	7	1	Abraded	White residue		
7 EX	S		FMIC			1	3	1	Abraded	Very abraded context	50-400AD	50-120AD
8	S		FMIC	2/3		1	2	1	Abraded	Very abraded context	50-120AD	50-120AD
15	S		FMIC		Incised decoration	1	1	1	Abraded	Very abraded. No surfaces left. Probably compass-inscribed decoration. 2R or 4E.	50-120AD	50-120AD
20	S		SAND	2?		1	2	1			50-400AD	50-400AD
28	S		OXRC			1	7	1	Abraded	Thick sherd	270-400AD	270-400AD
28	S		VRW	81J		1	20	1	Abraded & Burnt	Thick rim sherd	50-160AD	270-400AD
30	S		GROG			1	1	1	Abraded	Small sherd.	50-400AD	4000BC-400AD
69	S		HWC	2/3		5	18	1	Abraded	Probably one vessel. Pronounced ridges on interior from wheel turning	70-160AD	70-160AD
70	S		HWC			1	2	1	Abraded & Burnt	Oxidized from burning. Large rock inclusion	70-160AD	70-160AD
70	S		VCWS	1		1	11	1	Abraded	Handle. White slip abraded.	70-200AD	70-160AD
73	S		SAML			1	1	1	Abraded & Laminated	Some slip missing through abrasion	50-100AD	70-100AD
73	S		HWC	2?		2	3	1	Abraded	Probably one vessel. Chipped surfaces	70-160AD	70-100AD
74	S		HWC	2		3	7	1	Abraded	Crumbly	70-160AD	70-120AD
74	S		ERSB	2T?		1	2	1	Abraded	Very abraded	50-120AD	70-120AD
102	S		SAML	4/5		1	4	1	Abraded	Quite good condition, a bit abraded	50-100AD	120-150AD
102	S		SAM	5DR18/MV		2	5	1		Quite good condition	100-120AD	120-150AD
102	S		SAMC	31?		1	2	1	Abraded	Base with footring	120-250AD	120-150AD
102	S		NKG	3?		1	1	1	Abraded	Thin-walled	100-150AD	120-150AD
102	S		HWB	2		1	10	1	Abraded & Burnt		50-100AD	120-150AD
102	S		AHSU			2	7	2	Abraded & Burnt	1 x burnt so oxidized	50-160AD	120-150AD
102	S		FINE	2/3		2	9	2	Abraded		50-400AD	120-150AD
102	S		SAND			3	5	3	Abraded		50-400AD	120-150AD
102	S		HWC	2F		1	6	1	Abraded & Burnt	Oxidized through burning	120-160AD	120-150AD
102	S		OXID			2	1	1	Abraded	Very powdery fabric. Thin - laminated?	50-400AD	120-150AD
102	S		OXID	1/2		1	2	1	Abraded & Burnt	Burnt inside edge	50-400AD	120-150AD
102	S		OXID			3	5	1	Abraded	Very, very abraded	50-400AD	120-150AD
BY 102	S		SAM	4/5		2	0.5	1	Laminated	Very thin sherds	100-120AD	100-120AD
			MV									

Feature	Fill/find	Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No.	Weight (g)	ENV	State	Comments	Date of sherd	Date of context
	BY 102	S	SAND	2		5	17 4		Abraded	Some mudstained	50-400AD	100-120AD
	BY 102	S	CCG	2		1	10 1		Abraded	Exterior abraded	70-150AD	100-120AD
			W									
	BY 102	S	GROG	2		1	2 1		Abraded & Burnt	Oxidized through burning	50-400AD	100-120AD
	BY 102	S	OXID			1	1 1		Abraded	Very, very abraded	50-400AD	100-120AD
100	150	S	VRW	1/2		1	91 1		Abraded & Residue	Base. Very abraded. Densely packed quartz	50-160AD	(Intrusive) 4000BC-2000AD
101	151		SAML			1	0.5 1		Laminated	V. thin slice	50-100AD	50-100AD
			G									
101	151	S	FMIC	3		1	1 1		Abraded	Very abraded	50-120AD	50-100AD
101	151	S	SAND	2		2	8 2		Abraded & Burnt	1 x burnt	50-400AD	50-100AD
101	151	S	OXID			1	5 1		Abraded	Thick-walled	50-400AD	50-100AD
102	152	M	BAET	8DR20		1	54 1		Abraded & Burnt	Mudstained & burnt	50-170AD	150-160AD
			E									
102	152	M	AMPH	8		2	16 1		Abraded & Burnt	Mudstained & burnt. Fabric contains small rounded rock incls.	50-400AD	150-160AD
			1									
102	152	M	SAMC			1	1 1		Abraded	Very abraded & slip discoloured	120-250AD	150-160AD
			G									
102	152	M	SAME	4DR29/	MOULDED	6	76 1		Abraded	Very, very abraded so no slip left & just traces of moulding	150-250AD	150-160AD
			G	30	DECORATION							
102	152	M	FMIC			1	4 1		Abraded		50-120AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	FINE			3	9 2		Abraded	2 x very abraded	50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	FINE	3		4	4 3		Abraded	Very abraded	50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	ERMS	2A		2	9 1		Abraded	1 x very abraded	50-100AD	150-160AD
			?									
102	152	M	ERMS	2		2	14 1		Abraded	Probably one vessel	50-100AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	HWC	2		1	3 1		Abraded		70-160AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	HWC	3B		4	9 1		Abraded & Burnt	Probably one vessel. Burnt so white slip shows	70-100AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	HWC			2	3 2		Abraded	1 x very abraded	70-160AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	AHSU	2		3	4 2		Abraded	Very badly abraded	50-160AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	AHSU	2A		1	27 1			Mudstained, but not too abraded	50-100AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	BB1	2A17		1	1 1			Good condition	120-200AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	SAND	2/3		3	6 3		Abraded		50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	SAND	2T	Burnished line decoration	1	3 1		Abraded	Fine matrix. Diagonal burnished line decoration on shoulder	50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	SAND	2F		1	4 1			Mudstained	120-250AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	SAND	2		1	9 1		Abraded	Very abraded & scrubbed	50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	SAND	3		3	2 3		Abraded		50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	SAND			14	44 13		Abraded	Body sherds. 3 x mudstained	50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	GROG			3	15 1		Abraded	Probably one vessel. Very abraded. Some voids on surface	50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	GROG	2		3	9 2		Abraded		50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	HWB	2		1	3 1		Abraded		50-100AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	VRW	1/2		1	3 1		Abraded		50-160AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	VRW	1B		1	8 1		Abraded	Very abraded	50-160AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	VRW			2	6 2		Abraded & Burnt	Both badly abraded. 1 x burnt	50-160AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	CCG	2?		1	5 1		Abraded		70-150AD	150-160AD

Feature	Fill/find	Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No.	Weight (g)	ENV	State	Comments	Date of sherd	Date of context
		Size	W									
102	152	M	OXID	1/2		10	25	8	Abraded & Sooted	1 x sooted 2 x badly abraded	50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	OXID	1/2		1	2	1	Abraded	Very fine matrix with occasional large quartz incls.	50-400AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	OXID			1	6	1	Abraded	Thick-walled. Badly abraded	50-400AD	150-160AD
			F									
102	152	M	RWS	1/2		2	11	2	Abraded	1 x HOO?	50-300AD	150-160AD
102	152	M	BHWS	1/2		2	9	2	Abraded	Slip abraded off. 1 x fine variant	50-160AD	150-160AD
			?									
102 top		S	FINE	2/3		6	3	1	Abraded		50-120AD	120-250AD
102 top		S	ERMS	2A		1	4	1			50-100AD	120-250AD
102 top		S	SAND	2F?		1	3	1	Abraded	Crumbly fabric. Possibly AHSU, but too damaged to tell	120-250AD	120-250AD
102 top		S	SAND			2	5	1	Abraded		50-400AD	120-250AD
102 top		S	GROG	2?		2	4	1	Abraded	Very, very abraded. Cordon on exterior	50-400AD	120-250AD
103	153	S	FINE	3		1	0.5	1	Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	HWC	3		2	1.5	2	Abraded		70-160AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	HWC	2F		1	3	1	Abraded & Burnt		120-160AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	HWC			1	2	1	Abraded		70-160AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	SAND	2		5	16	3	Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	SAND	2/3?		1	1	1	Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	SAND	4/5		1	5	1	Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	OXID	1/2?		1	2.5	1	Abraded & Burnt		50-400AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	OXID			1	0.5	1	Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
103	153	S	OXID	1		1	2	1		Handle	50-400AD	120-160AD
			F									
104	154	S	SAML			1	3	1	Abraded	Base	50-100AD	120-250AD
			G									
104	154	S	BBS	2F		1	5	1	Abraded		120-250AD	120-250AD
104	154	S	SAND	2T		3	4	1	Abraded	Very abraded	40-400AD	120-250AD
104	154	S	ERSB	2		1	6	1			50-120AD	120-250AD
105	155	S	HWC	3	Barbotine dot decoration	1	2	1	Abraded		70-160AD	70-100AD
105	155	S	ERMS	2A		1	6	1			50-400AD	70-100AD
105	155	S	ERSB	2		1	4	1	Abraded		50-100AD	70-100AD
105	155	S	GROG			2	5	1	Abraded	Probably one vessel	50-400AD	70-100AD
105	155	S	SAND	2		1	13	1	Abraded & Burnt		50-400AD	70-100AD
105	155	S	AHSU	2		2	1	1	Abraded & Laminated	Very thin sherds	50-160AD	70-100AD
			?									
105	155	S	SAND			1	2	1	Abraded		50-400AD	70-100AD
105	155	S	ERMS			1	1	1	Abraded & Laminated	Very thin sherds	50-100AD	70-100AD
			?									
105	155	S	VRW	1/2		4	6	2	Abraded & Burnt	3 x burnt	50-160AD	70-100AD
111	161	S	AHSU	2		1	2	1	Abraded		50-160AD	50-120AD
111	161	S	SAND			3	2	1	Abraded		50-400AD	50-120AD
111	161	S	FMIC	3		1	0.5	1	Abraded		50-120AD	50-120AD
111	161	S	FINE	3		1	1	1	Abraded		50-400AD	50-120AD

Feature	Fill/find	Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No.	Weight (g)	ENV	State	Comments	Date of sherd	Date of context
111	161	S	OXID			1	2 1		Abraded	Possibly OXRC. Too abraded	50-400AD	50-120AD
111	161	S	SAML G			1	1 1		Abraded	Very abraded	50-100AD	50-120AD
113	163	M	FINE	2/3		3	5 1				50-400AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	FINE	3?		2	3 2		Abraded & Burnt	Burnt so white slip shows	50-400AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	HWC	2		2	12 2		Abraded & Burnt	1 x burnt so oxidized	70-160AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	AHSU	2F		1	2 1		Abraded		120-160AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	AHSU	2		1	2 1		Abraded		50-160AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	SAND	2F		1	6 1		Abraded		120-250AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	SAND	2/3		3	1 3		Abraded	Small sherds	50-400AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	SAND	2		7	40 4		Abraded, Sooted & Burnt	4xsooted 6xburnt 1 x badly abraded	50-400AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	SAND	2T		1	3 1		Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	GROG	2		3	9 2		Abraded & Burnt	1 x oxidized from burning	50-400AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	VRW	1/2		1	31 1		Abraded	Base of flagon? Mudstained	50-160AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	OXID	9A		1	7 1		Burnt & Sooted	LOXI?	50-400AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	OXID	1/2?		1	1 1		Abraded	Very very abraded & thin-walled	50-400AD	120-160AD
113	163	M	RWS	1/2		1	3 1		Abraded	White slip abraded	50-300AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	HWC	2		3	10 2		Abraded		70-160AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	NGG	2		1	8 1		Abraded		50-300AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	FINE	3		2	1 1		Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	BB1?	2T		1	2 1		Burnt		120-250AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	SAND	2/3		9	18 6		Abraded & Burnt		50-400AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	SAND	2F		1	4 1			Slightly abraded	120-250AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	SAND			2	4 2		Abraded	1 x very abraded	50-400AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	HWB	2		2	9 1		Abraded	Probably one vessel	50-100AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	GROG			8	31 7		Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
113	164	M	OXID			1	1 1		Abraded		50-400AD	120-160AD
115	167	S	AHSU	2A		7	61 1			Mudstained. Probably one vessel. Quite good condition	50-100AD	50-100AD
120	172	S	OXID	1/2		1	6 1		Abraded		50-400AD	(Intrusive) 4000BC-43AD
122	174	S	OXW	7		3	11 1		Abraded, Sooted & Burnt	Very abraded	180-400AD	180-300AD
122	174	S	RWS	1		1	15 1		Abraded	White slip abraded off	50-300AD	180-300AD
122	174	S	AHSU	2		1	2 1		Abraded	Mudstained. Very abraded	50-160AD	180-300AD
122	174	S	FMIC	2/3		1	1 1		Abraded	Very abraded	50-120AD	180-300AD
122	174	S	SAND			1	2 1		Abraded	Very abraded. Fine matrix with large rock/quartz incls.	50-400AD	180-300AD

APPENDIX 3. Fired Clay

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Fill/find</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>ENV</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
	14	1	1	Abraded	Very abraded. Looks pyramidal but could just be from abrasion. Silty/sandy fabric	6
	17	1	1	Abraded & Burnt	Very abraded. Silty/sandy fabric	4
	24	1	1	Abraded	Very small sherd. Silty/sandy fabric	0.5
	36	1	1	Abraded	Very abraded. Silty/sandy fabric	3
	39	1	1	Abraded	Abraded enigmatic clay piece. Sandy fabric	25
	68	2		Abraded	Enigmatic fired clay pieces. Evidence of hole in one piece - loomweight? Perforated clay slab? Sandy fabric	29
105	155	3	1	Abraded	Very abraded. Enigmatic pieces. Sandy fabric. 2 sherd links.	12
111	161	6	1	Abraded & Burnt	Very abraded. Sandy fabric. 1 sherd 20mm thick. Possibly one vessel	19
113	164	2	2	Abraded	Very abraded. Silty/sandy fabric	4

APPENDIX 4. Metal and glass objects

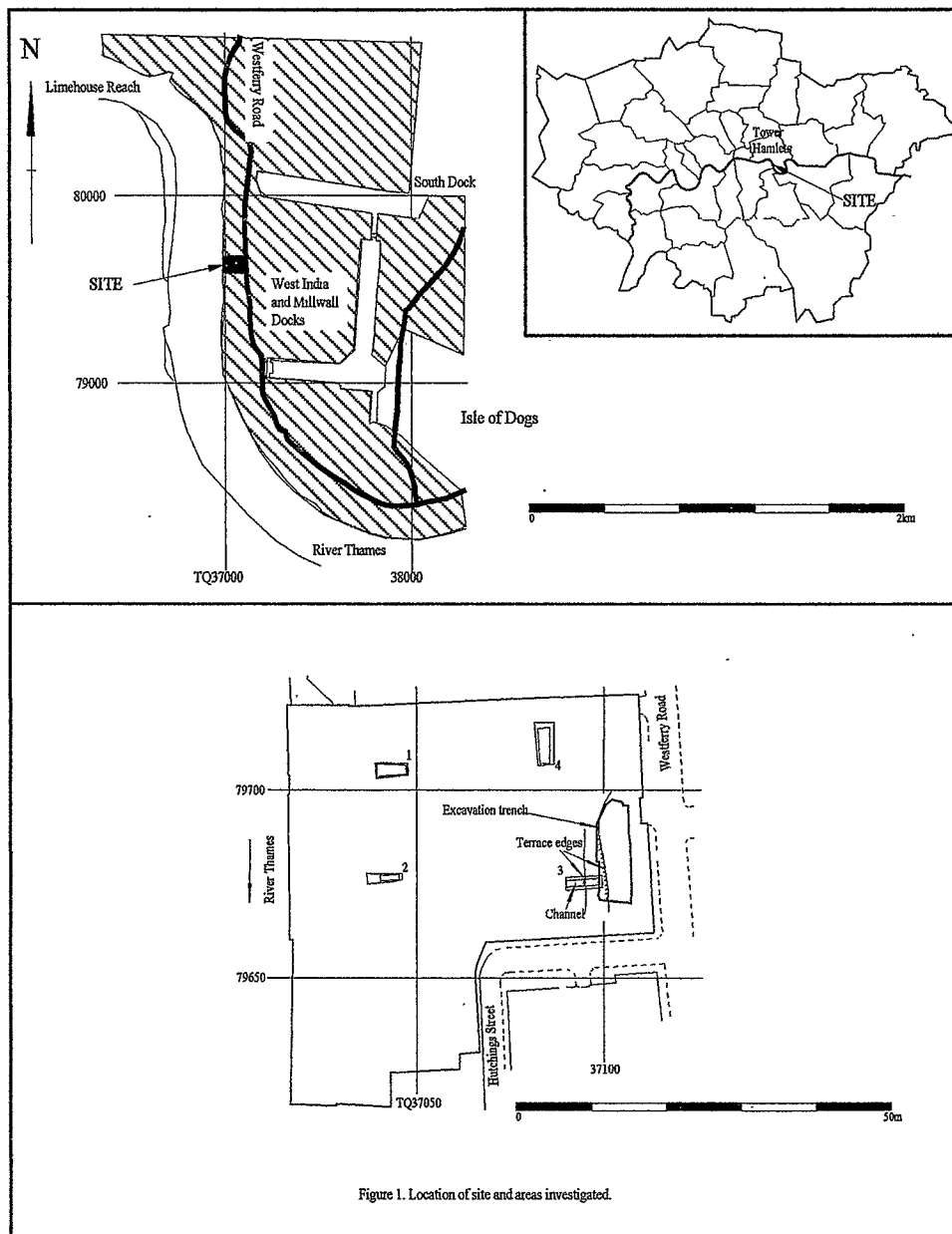
- 1 Glass vessel, 102, (152) Natural blue/green glass. Fragment from the body of a vessel, the scratches on the exterior suggesting that this is from the shoulder of a bottle, Isings form 50 or 51. such scratches were caused by repeatedly removing and replacing the vessel in its wicker container. Dimensions 38 x 21.5 mm; thickness 3mm. Mid 1st to early 3rd century.
- 2 Glass vessel, 111, (161) Natural blue/green glass. Fragment from the body of a vessel, possibly from a square or prismatic bottle, Isings 50, as above, but the fragment is too small for positive identification. Dimensions 13 x 9.5mm; thickness 4.5mm.
- 3 Copper-alloy earring, 102, (152) Almost complete?; Width 24mm; height 24mm; max thickness 5.5mm. Open ring with diamond-shaped section. Both terminals are broken and taper, but one appears to be thicker than the other and this is confirmed on the x-ray. This is likely to be an earring of Allason-Jones type 1, a simple penannular ring with tapering terminals, the most common form seen in Roman Britain (Allason-Jones 1989, 2). As in this example the taper is often more marked on one end. The form, which often appears on sites with Iron Age contexts, clearly continues an earlier tradition but is found throughout the Roman period on a very wide variety of sites with no distinctive geographical distribution.
- 4 Copper-alloy brooch unstratified, adjacent to slot 102 Incomplete; width approx 19mm; thickness 2.5mm. Penannular brooch. Four fragments of curved wire, two of which join to form part of the ring. Part of one terminal remains, simply turned back. The upper end of the pin survives where it is wrapped around the ring. This is a simple form of penannular brooch found in contexts dating from the late Iron Age and throughout the Roman period.
- 5 Copper-alloy disc [71] unstratified Almost complete?; diameter 3.5mm. Small disc, very corroded. The radiograph shows no sign of any shank or any further detail and although this may be part of a stud, its function and date remains uncertain.

APPENDIX 5. Catalogue of struck flint

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Intact Blade</i>	<i>Broken Flake</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>P Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Other</i>
			2	1					1		
			3	1							
			6	3		1			1	1	
			10	1				1(burnt)			
			11	1	1						
			13	1					1		
			16	1	1						
			17								core fragment
			19	1		1(burnt)					
			22	1	1						
			23	1					1		
			25	1	1						
			32	1							core fragment
			34	1		1					
			37	1	1						
			53	1					1		
			55	1	1						
			56	1					1		
			64	1					1(burnt)		
			72	1							core fragment
			73	1							scraper (patinated)
			74	1	1(serrated ?)						
		by 102	2			1				1	
102	152		1							1	
102	152		5	1		3				1	
104	154		1	1							
105	155		1						1		
108	158		2						1		core fragment
121	173		1	1							

APPENDIX 6. Animal bone

	Cow	Csz	S/G	Ssz	Horse	Pig	Unid	Total
By 102		12		2			2	16
100/150							1	1
120/172/4							3	3
105/155		1						1
102top			2					2
Find 44	1							1
108/158	2							2
113/164		1	2			1	3	7
103/153		1					1	2
102/152	2	6	1	1			4	14
104/154			3					3
102/154/8	1							1
113/163/1		1						1
113/163			1				9	10
120/172					66			66
Find 17	12							12
Total	18	22	9	3	66	1	23	142



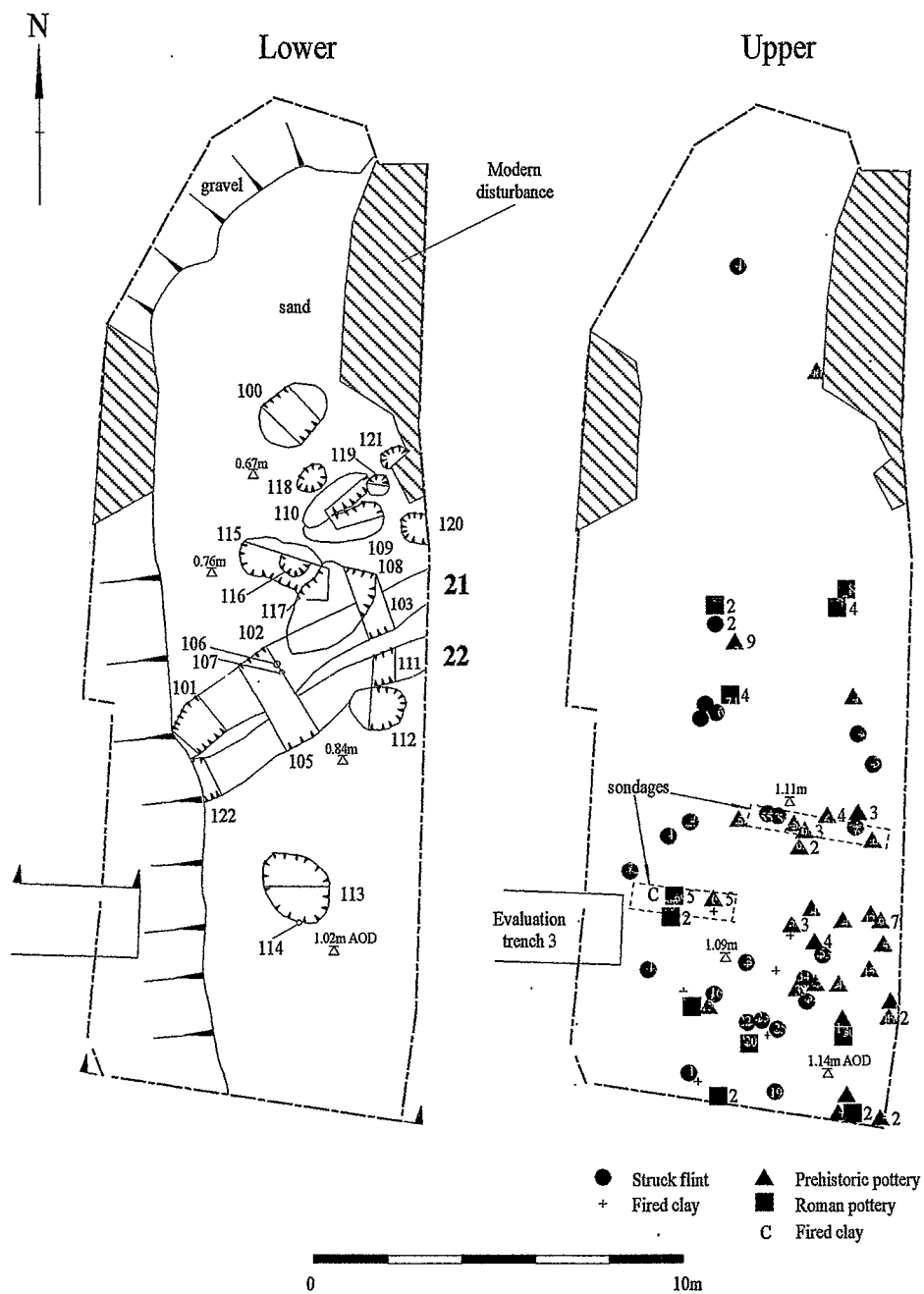


Figure 2. Detailed location of features and residual finds.

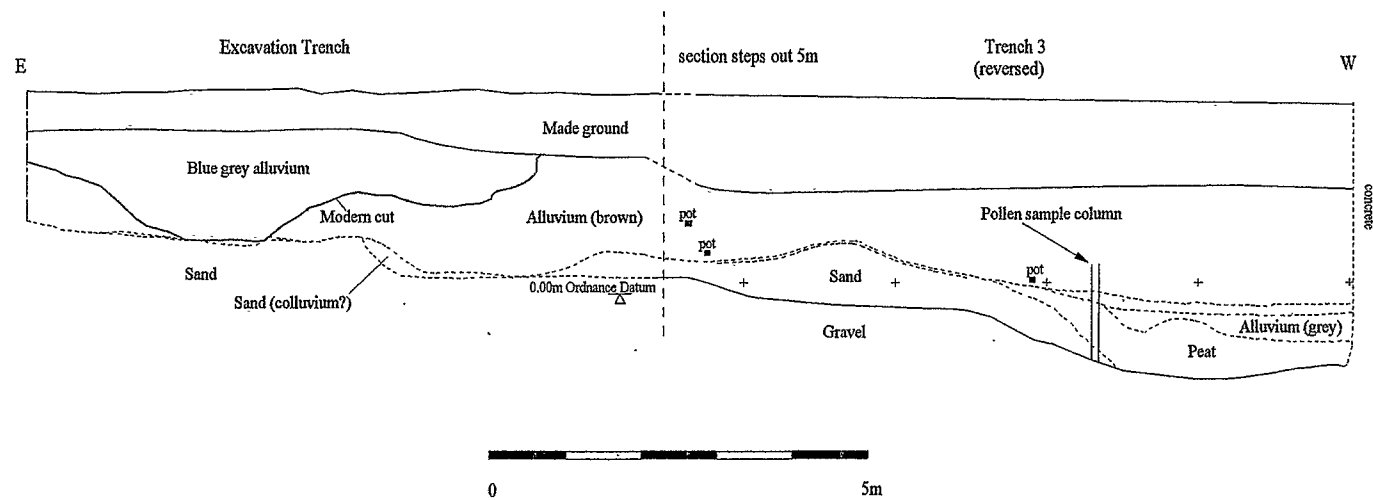


Figure 3. Composite section of south end of excavation trench and reversed section of evaluation trench 3.

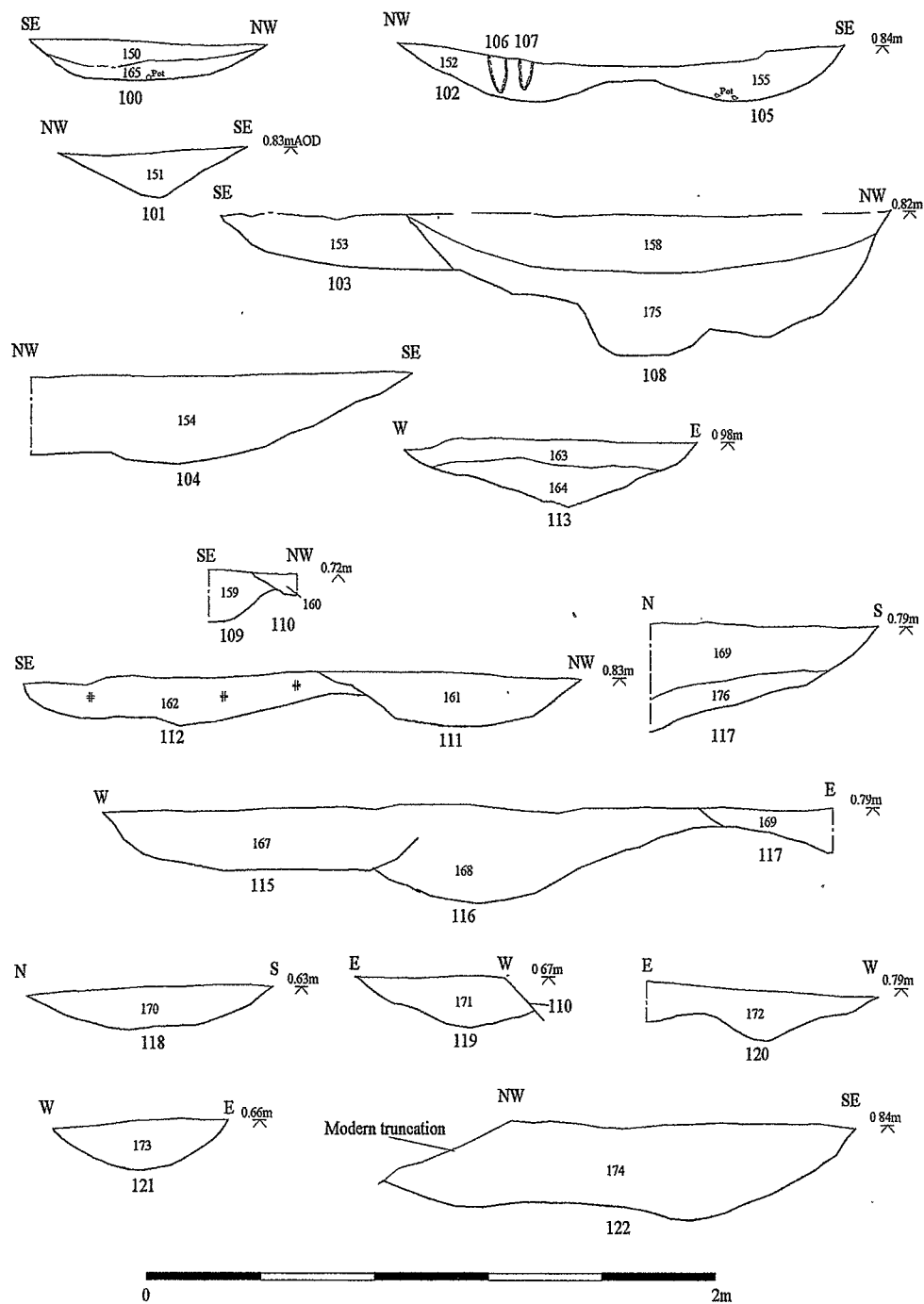


Figure 4. Sections of features.

WYO01

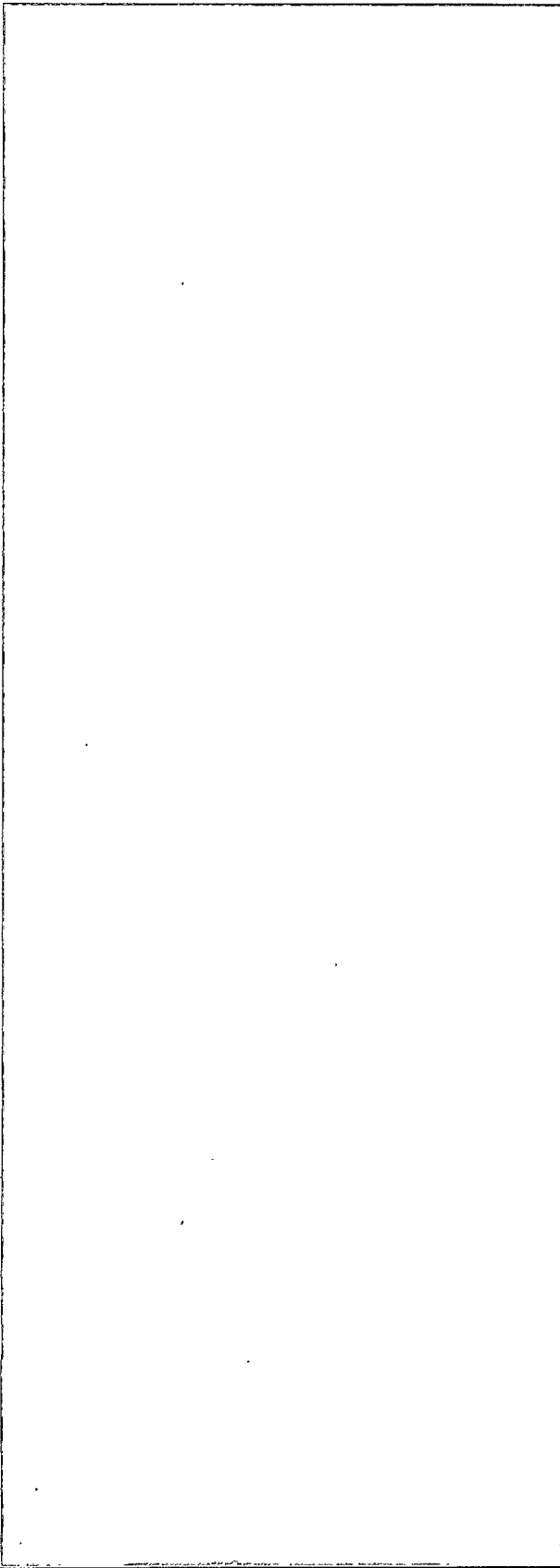
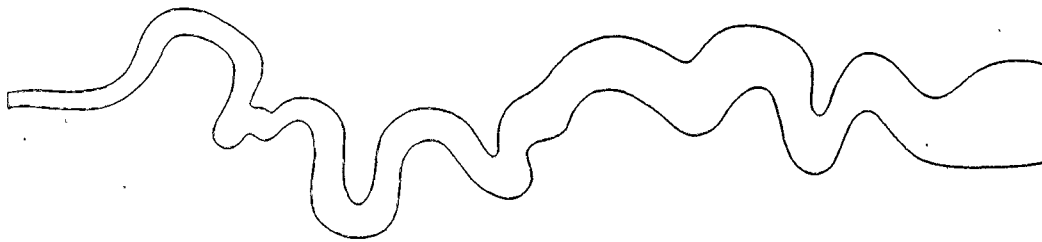


Plate 1. Working shot of excavation, looking south west.

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
 Bronze Age: Late	 1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age Early	2100 BC
 Neolithic: Late	 3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
 Mesolithic: Late	 6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10,000 BC
 Palaeolithic: Upper	 50,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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