

to the 19th century, resulting in the destruction of any sub-surface features.

Conclusion

The proximity of the site to Uphall Camp and Loxford Water is of obvious significance. It seems probable that there was a crossing of the river at this point, making the area of strategic importance in regard to both trading and military considerations.

While no intensive domestic settlement has been identified, the large number of pits and post-holes recorded does point to activity during both the middle Bronze Age and the Roman period¹⁹. It is likely that the inhabitants of the multi-period settlement at Uphall would have made some use of this adjacent, rather marginal land, despite its vulnerability to flooding. Minimal evidence of activity was found on site relating to the later Bronze Age or Iron Age periods. It is possible too, that the change in alignment of the field systems is due to their being based on different courses of the Loxford²⁰.

The site appears to have been under cultivation for much of its recorded history, a result of the rich river silts deposited by the Loxford. Such cultivation

19. There is a remarkable similarity between this site and recently published work by Lobb and Mills, which describes a series of pits, post-holes, ditches, 'shallow scoops' and a ring ditch, cut into gravels and of similar date, with similar finds densities to those discussed here. S. J. Lobb and J. M. Mills

with its associated ploughing has obviously had a destructive impact on the ephemeral prehistoric archaeology of the area. It does, however appear that agricultural exploitation of the site started during the Bronze Age, beginning a cycle of land use that existed until the urbanisation of the area in the 19th century.

Future work depends on the further acquisition by developers of the land to the east of the site. At present this lies fallow and undisturbed but may bear the potential to test the animal stockade hypothesis through excavation and techniques such as phosphate analysis. Further work on the estate area itself is unlikely.

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'Observations and Excavations in the Pingewood Area - Bronze Age, Romano-British and Medieval Features' *Berkshire Archaeol J* 74 (1993) 85-93.

20. Bradley (*op cit* fn. 12) illustrates such patterns.

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (0171-410 2200).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Jim Davison, 28 Blenheim Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 6BB.

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (0171-410 2200).

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (0181-855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays,

7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (0171-731 4498).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (0181-546 5386).

North-east London, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre, 31 Stock Street, E13 0BX (0181-472 4785).

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Old Library Headquarters, 25 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1DE (01306-886 466).

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