WATERWORKS RIVER

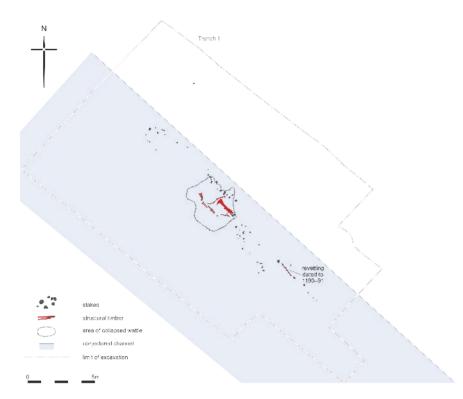


Fig. 5: evidence from Trench I for the management of the east bank of the Waterworks River

1190/1. This style of weatherboarding is familiar from Saxon and Saxo-Norman contexts in the City of London.

Once again, the environmental samples from this period indicated a marshy environment and the presence of Characeae oogonia indicates that the water was fresh and unpolluted. One sample contained such a concentration of willow (Salix sp.) buds and capsules that it is likely that there was a willow tree overhanging the stream very near here.15 Willow trees tolerate wet and waterlogged conditions well.

Conclusions

Evidence for activity earlier than the late 15th century was concentrated in the part of the site to the north of the known position of the medieval and later mill. Here, there was evidence for a wattle building or structure having

- 1. Victoria County History A History of the County of Essex, Vol 4 (1973) 89-93.
- 2. B. Weinreb and C. Hibbert (eds) The London Encyclopaedia (revised 1995) 854-5.
- 3. Ob cit fn 1.
- 4. A.W. Skempton John Smeaton FRS (1981) 68-9.
- 5. WHU08 [18] Beta Analytic ref. #s -253586 and -253857: report date 17/2/2010.
- 6. Geoarchaeology sample WHU/55/0.45 Beta Analytic ref. # -253590: report date 14/1/2009.
- 7. Geoarchaeology sample WHU/55/1.05 Beta Analytic ref. # -253591: report date 14/1/2009.
- 8. WHU08 [107] Beta Analytic ref. # -274308: report date 17/2/2010.

been built beside the Waterworks River in the sub-Roman or early Saxon period (AD 410-650). Activity that can be so clearly attributed to this period is not common in London and its hinterland and this structure is of some significance. Consistent attempts to manage the river bank in the 10th-12th centuries can also be identified, though whether this is in any way associated with the construction of a late Saxon or Norman mill on the site can only be conjectured.

Elsewhere on the site this period was only represented by truncated alluvial silts in the river channel and no direct archaeological evidence for an early mill survived beneath the extensive post-medieval landscaping and construction work for the 18thcentury buildings. Notwithstanding this, the evidence confirms that the Bow

9. N. Cohen of the Thames Discovery Programme pers. comm. and, for example, R. Cowie and L. Blackmore, Early and Middle Saxon rural settlement in the London region MoLAS Monograph 41 (2008) 115.

- 10. Recent unpublished work by D. Goodburn (and pers comm) and others suggests spring high tide levels in the inner Thames estuary of c. 1.5–2.0m OD in the early Roman period falling to c. 0.0m OD by AD 300 and followed by a rise back up to c. I.6m OD by the early 10th century.
- 11. M. Bell, A. Caseldine and H. Neumann, Prehistoric Intertidal Archaeology in the Welsh Severn Estuary (2000) CBA Research Report 120.
- 12. D. Bowsher, T. Dyson, N. Holder and I. Howell The London Guildhall; an Archaeological History of a

Back Rivers were being managed in the centuries immediately before and after the Domesday survey.

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Neighbourhood from Early Medieval to Modern Times, Part 1, MoLAS Monograph 36 (2007) 86-91.

- 13. D. Goodburn 'Treewrighting and woodland management in the 11th and 12th centuries' in op cit fn 12. 302-313.
- 14. WHU08 [198] Beta Analytic ref. # -274310; WHU08 [41] Beta Analytic ref. # -274307; WHU08 [194] Beta Analytic ref. # 274309 respectively: reports date 17/2/2010.
- 15. WHU08 sample {29}; context [145].
- 16. I. Tyers Tree-ring spot-dates of archaeological samples: 150 High Street, Stratford, London E15 (2010) Unpublished report by Dendrochronological Consultancy Ltd for MOLA.