CONTRACT B - STRATFORD FREIGHT TERMINAL

SUMMARY

The site (SFT96) is located at the Stratford Freight Terminal in the London Borough of Newham. It lies within the floodplain of the River Lea at a height of between 4.22m and 6.78m OD, and covers an area centred on TQ 5382 1847.

No previous archaeological or antiquarian explorations or findings have been recorded within the limits of the site, so that the principal indicator of its potential is a series of 30 trial pits excavated for geotechnical purposes by Foundation & Exploration Services Ltd. The Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS) was commissioned by the latter to provide an archaeological assessment of the results, and the pits were accordingly monitored and so far as possible recorded by the present author.

The site lies within the floodplain of the River Lea which flows southwards past the western limit of the site towards the River Thames. Limited evidence of the alluvial deposits of the Lea and of the underlying geology was produced by most of the trial pits.

The eastern edge of the site was dominated by a large deposit of natural, sterile, pale yellow sandy silt sealed by the floodplain deposits. Most of the site was probably reclaimed in connection with railway and other development along the east bank of the Lea in Victorian and Edwardian times.