

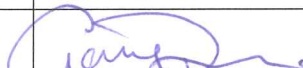
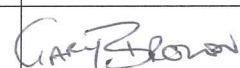
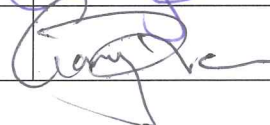


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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT BOW NORTH YOUTH CENTRE,
PARNELL ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS,
LONDON E3 2RU**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3702 3445
Site Code: YCP 05**

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1 ABSTRACT

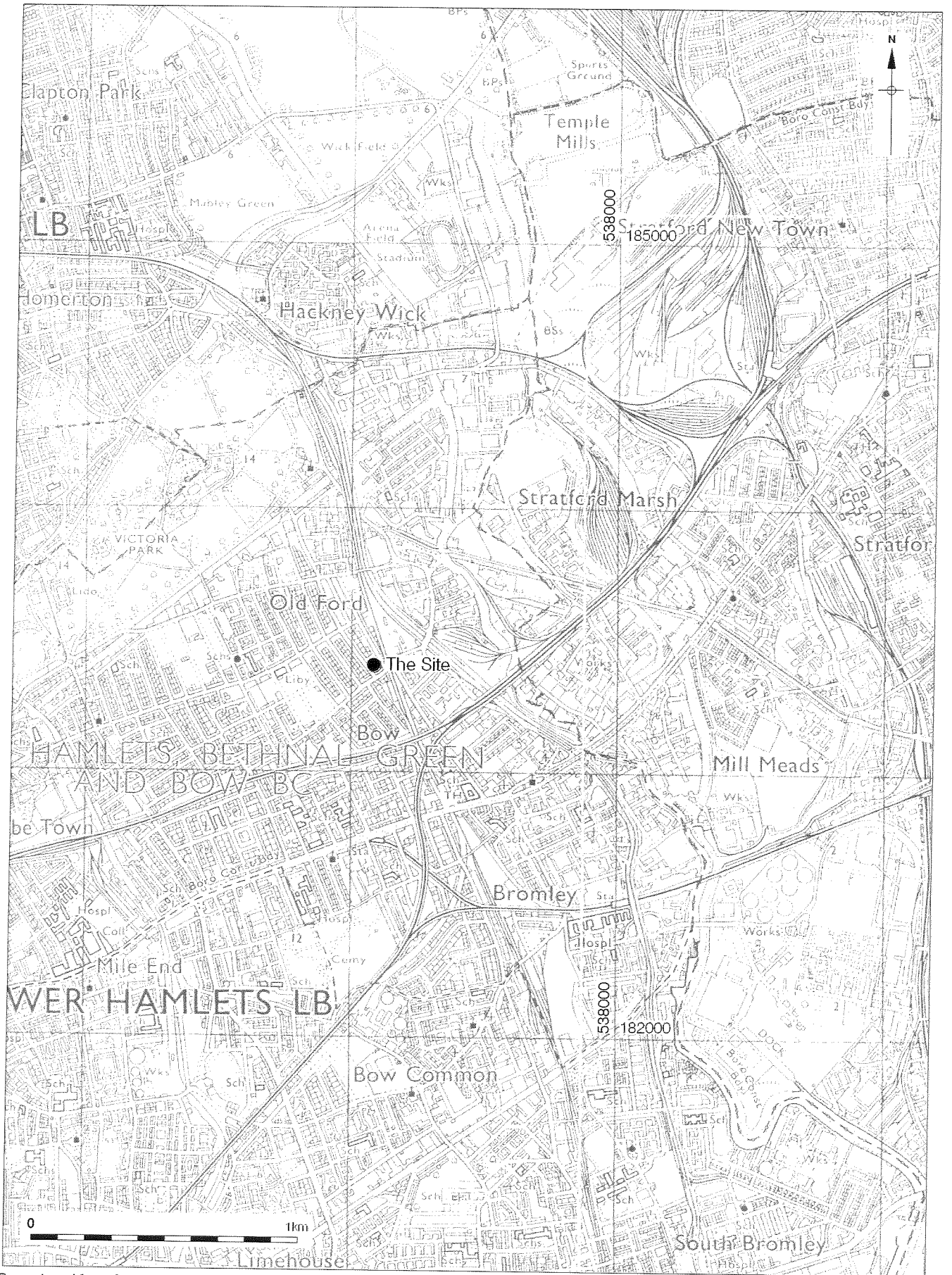
- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological excavation at Bow North Youth Centre, Parnell Road, Tower Hamlets. The excavation was conducted between 4th and 19th August 2005, in advance of the plot being developed as a Youth Centre. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited had previously undertaken three phases of excavation on behalf of the Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust in advance of estate redevelopment and a further phase on the west side of Parnell Road, all immediately to the north of the Lovell's site. Phase 1 was conducted at F-block and adjacent land, Lefevre Walk (LEK 95), and immediately opposite was 91-93 Parnell Road (PRB 95). Phase 2 (PNL 98) was contiguous with Phase 1; whilst Phase 3 was located east of the Phase 2 site on the south side of Old Ford Road (LFW 01).
- 1.2 The subject site (site code YCP 05) is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3702 3445 (Fig.1). The site boundaries are formed by the Overland Children's Centre, 60 Parnell Road to the north, Parnell Road to the west and it is otherwise within the curtilage of the Lovell Partnerships housing redevelopment.
- 1.3 The evaluation consisted of a single trench measuring c. 2m by 11m, orientated roughly northeast-southwest and located in the centre of the proposed redevelopment¹.
- 1.4 The excavation comprised an area measuring 7m x 17m, and it revealed evidence for possible Bronze Age, Late Iron Age and 19th century activity.
- 1.5 Natural deposits were evident as bands of sand and gravel capped in some areas by a sandy brickearth type deposit. Two parallel gullies, running north – south were recorded, dating from the Late Iron Age (50 BC-AD 25). Both were backfilled; although the western one remained a boundary as it was re-cut by a causewayed ditch, possibly representing part of an enclosure with an entrance. The termini of these ditches contained a considerable quantity of Late Iron Age pottery (AD 25-50/60) as well as some slag and hearth lining.
- 1.6 It is probable that the area investigated was open ground in the medieval and post-medieval periods, possibly used for horticultural purposes such as market gardening to

¹ Killock, D., 2005

supply fresh goods to the city. No evidence was uncovered to suggest the presence of medieval or post-medieval structures earlier than the 19th century.

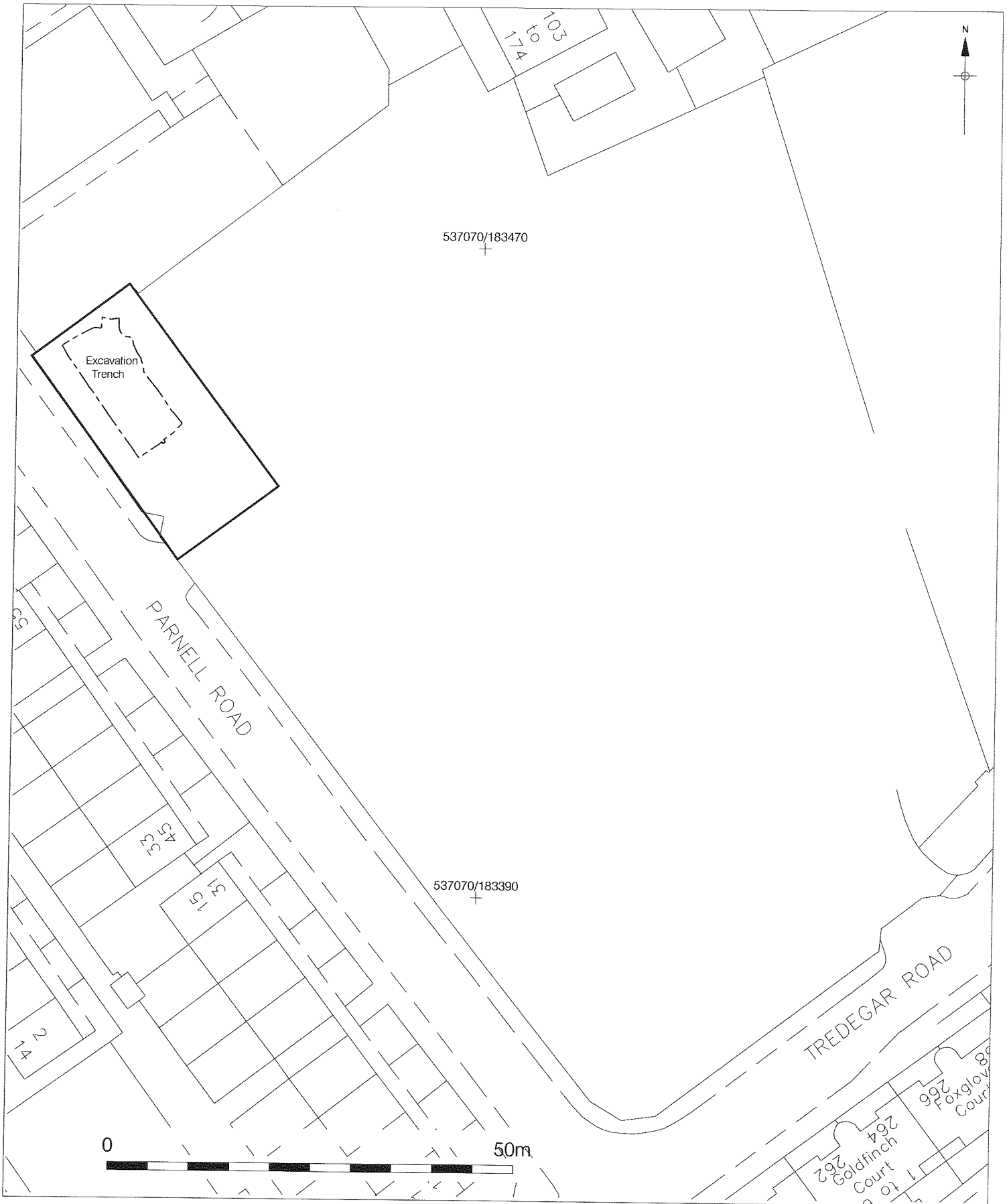
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Bow North Youth Centre, Parnell Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, E3 2RU, in advance of the plot being used as a Youth Centre. The evaluation was conducted between the 11th and 12th of July 2005 and the ensuing excavation took place between the 4th and 19th August 2005. The work was commissioned by Lovell Partnerships Limited.
- 2.2 The evaluation demonstrated that although the archaeological resource had been impacted to the east, significant remains were extant. The area of modern disturbance appeared to be limited to the eastern half of the trench, representing previous building activity. In the western half of the trench the archaeological deposits survived undamaged and *in situ*.
- 2.3 The work was commissioned by Lovell Partnerships Ltd and Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook the excavation, under the supervision of Jim Leary and the project management of Gary Brown. David Divers of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) monitored the site on behalf of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- 2.4 The site lies within an 'Area of Particular Archaeological Importance', as defined by the Borough's Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Due to the archaeological potential of the site an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation was a condition attached to the granting of planning permission.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material from the evaluation and excavation will be deposited with the London Archaeology and Archives Resource Centre –LAARC- at the Museum of London, under the site code YCP 05.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1987.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000



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Figure 2
Excavation Trench Location
1:625

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The site is in an area classified as an 'Area of Particular Archaeological Importance' in the Tower Hamlets Unitary Development Plan.

3.2 Tower Hamlets has made strong commitments to its archaeological heritage and its policy statements are reproduced below.

DEV. 40 Developments that adversely affects a scheduled monument will normally be refused.

DEV 41 Planning powers will be used to protect and preserve the archaeological heritage including the industrial heritage of the borough. Interpretation and presentation to the public will also be sought.

DEV 42 The permanent preservation of remains in the original location will normally be required. Suitable design, land use and site management to achieve this will be encouraged.

DEV 43 Proposals involving ground works in Areas of Archaeological Importance or Potential, shown on the proposals map, or on individual sites notified to the Council by English Heritage or the Museum of London will be subject to the following requirements:

- 1. Applicants will need, as part of their submission, to demonstrate that the archaeological implications of the development have been assessed, using the professional advice of an approved archaeological consultant.**
- 2. Appropriate planning conditions will be attached to planning permissions to ensure that investigation, excavation and recording takes place by an approved archaeological organisation before excavation commences; and**
- 3. In appropriate cases, planning agreements will be sought to ensure that adequate opportunities are afforded for the archaeological investigation of sites, before or during demolition and suitable provision is made for preserving remains and finds in the original location or for removing them to a place of safe keeping.**

3.3 One of the principal sources of archaeological evidence is the development of sites, which hold information on their prehistory and history from Roman times to the recent industrial past, but this evidence is easily destroyed in the development process. The

Council of Tower Hamlets has a long and rich history. Archaeological remains are an important resource and the council therefore wishes to ensure that developments involving groundworks in areas that may contain archaeological remains make early and specified allowance for the investigation of the archaeological potential of the site before development is allowed to proceed. The first priority will be to seek and maintain any finds and remains *in situ*.

- 3.4 Tower Hamlets Council is concerned to see that sites that may be of interest are properly investigated and records made of any finds before development takes place. It is important that the borough's archaeological heritage is made accessible to the public as an educational, recreational and tourist resource. It will therefore support and promote measures which protect and conserve sites and which will allow the public access to the sites with archaeological remains to the extent that this is compatible with the protection of the remains.
- 3.5 The council will seek professional archaeological advice as appropriate and expect applicants to do the same when proposing development that could affect archaeological remains. It is important that developers have properly assessed and planned for the implications of their proposals in terms of scheduling time for the investigations to be carried out on the site. Proposals for investigations should be built into the development programme at an early stage in the process.
- 3.6 Archaeologically important areas are found throughout the borough. There are also records of numerous finds that may indicate areas of potential. The council will consult with English Heritage and the Museum of London in the designation of areas of archaeological importance and will consult them about any areas of potential. Proposals that fall within these areas will be subject to policy DEV 40-43.

Areas of a particular archaeological importance include:

A Roman settlement and road at Old Ford.

Areas of potential include:

The Lea Valley, which may include well-preserved sites and objects.

- 3.7 The Tower Hamlets UDP mirrors advice contained in a Department of the Environment document, "Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology an Planning (PPG 16)." This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of construction schemes upon buried archaeological deposits.

- 3.8 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has worked extensively in the immediate area, including a long-term project of housing regeneration on behalf of Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust, formed of three phases. Phase 1 of the investigations was carried out at Lefevre Walk (site code LEK95)³, between the 20th November 1995 and the 12th July 1996 (not a continuous period).
- 3.9 Phase 2 of the archaeological investigations was undertaken between 16th September 1998 and 18th December 1998 (not a continuous period) at Lefevre Walk Estate, Parnell Road, E3 (site code PNL 98)⁴.
- 3.10 Phase 3 of the archaeological investigations was undertaken between 1st October and 7th November 2001 at Lefevre Walk (site code LFW 01)⁵.
- 3.11 As a consequence of the site being in an area of archaeological importance, and due to the significant archaeological remains found during the nearby Phase 1, 2 and 3 investigations on behalf of Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust, an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation was required to be carried out in advance of redevelopment. This was undertaken in accordance with PPG 16 and guidelines issued by GLAAS.

³ Taylor-Wilson, R, 1996

⁴ Douglas, A, 1999

⁵ Leary, J., 2002

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The solid geology of the area is London Clay; a stratum of the Lambeth Group not encountered on this particular site. The drift geology is composed of deposits of Kempton Park and Taplow gravels, both of which are part of the River Thames Terrace sequence. These gravels are capped with natural brickearth recorded on site as firm light yellowish or orange brown sandy clay.
- 4.2 At PRB95 the brickearth was encountered at between 11.20m OD and 11.30m OD and was approximately 1.5m thick. In the northern part of LEK95 it was located at between 10.95m OD and 11.30m OD, while in the southern part it attained a maximum level of 11.65m OD, where it was only 0.25m thick. At PNL98, the brickearth was observed between levels of 9.54m OD and 8.42m OD, with a maximum thickness of 0.62m. At LFW 01 natural sand was recorded at a height of between 9.35m OD and 9.26m OD. This was capped to the western half with brickearth, which varied in level from 9.46m OD to 9.26m OD.
- 4.3 The River Lea has its source in Bedfordshire, flows through Hertfordshire and joins the Thames approximately 3 miles south of Old Ford. The river has long been used for water-borne transport and in Roman times (and earlier) may have been navigable as far as Ware, and then up its tributary the Rib, to Braughing

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has previously undertaken three major phases of work on the nearby Lefevre Walk Estate. Phase 1 was conducted at F-Block and adjacent land, Lefevre Walk. Phase 2 was an excavation at Lefevre Walk Estate, Parnell Road, E3 (PNL 98). The third excavation took place on the eastern part of the redevelopment adjacent to the A102 (M) (LFW 01). The results of these projects have been reported in detail elsewhere⁶. Earlier archaeological investigations had been carried out on the Parnell Road site in 1990 and 1995⁷, and within the boundaries of Lefevre Walk Phase I during 1970 – 71⁸, 1980⁹, and 1995¹⁰. Excavations had also taken place at Lefevre Road in 1969¹¹.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 The site, located on higher ground overlooking the River Lea and the Hackney Marshes, was a prime location for habitation. The local geology was well suited to the type of agriculture practised by Prehistoric communities.

5.2.2 Evidence for prehistoric landuse in Bow was uncovered at LEK95 and PRB95. Lithics, mainly recorded from residual locations indicated Palaeolithic, possible Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Middle to Late Bronze Age activity in the vicinity.

5.2.3 Work at PNL98 revealed evidence of Neolithic and Middle to Late Bronze Age pits and possible field boundaries, and possible Middle to Late Bronze Age votive offerings. At PRB95 conclusive evidence was unearthed for occupation of the site during the Late Bronze Age.

5.2.4 Ceramics recovered from PRB95 indicated occupation during the Late Iron Age c. 50BC – AD50. At LEK95 'Belgic' style pottery was recovered and excavated archaeological features were suggestive of a post-built roundhouse that may have been placed centrally within an enclosure. PNL99 revealed evidence for ritual activity and features suggesting settlement nearby. Field boundaries from the Late Iron Age were also seen.

⁶ Taylor-Wilson, R, 1995, 1996; Douglas, A., 1999; Leary, J., 2002

⁷ Pitt, K, 1990, 1995a

⁸ Sheldon, H, 1972

⁹ Mills, P S, 1984

¹⁰ Pitt, K, 1995b

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 The site is positioned just to the north of the Roman London (*Londinium*) to Colchester (*Camulodunum*) road as it approached the strategically important crossing of the River Lea. A 65m stretch of this main Roman road incorporating the southern and northern margins of the road zone was revealed at LEK95. Pottery dating evidence broadly confirmed a construction date in the mid 1st century. At PRB95 a further stretch of the northern road zone was investigated. The roadside areas had been utilised, for a variety of purposes, throughout the Roman period. Numerous boundary ditches, predominantly at right angles to the line of the road were recorded, the majority dating to the last century of Roman occupation. Evidence of iron smithing activity, apparently dating to between the 2nd and 3rd century, was found at both sites. Fragmentary remains of roadside clay and timber buildings of mid – late 3rd century date and a small inhumation cemetery of 4th century date were recorded at LEK95.
- 5.3.2 The site at PNL98 showed evidence for clay and timber buildings, bounded by property ditches. Field boundary ditches and fence lines were also seen. Evidence for deep pitting and a sump was recorded, as were pits and deposits that may have been connected to the roadside settlement seen at LEK95 and PRB95.

5.4 Medieval

- 5.4.1 Until recently there was limited evidence for occupation in the vicinity of the site during this period, and it is known that in Medieval times the crossing point for the River Lea was moved south towards Bow, as the Old Ford crossing had become too treacherous.
- 5.4.2 A handful of Medieval pot sherds was recovered from both LEK95 and PRB95, and these are thought to have been introduced by manuring.
- 5.4.3 At PNL98, the evidence for the medieval period was increased with the excavation of what may have been the rear of properties that fronted onto Old Ford Road. Possible brickearth quarrying and field drainage was observed, as was a hearth. A layer of plough soil covered an area of PNL98.
- 5.4.4 A medieval ditch was recorded at Ruston Street to the north of Old Ford Road.

¹¹ Sheldon, H, 1971

5.4.5 Extensive evidence of medieval occupation was recovered from the LFW 01 site. This was principally in the form of rubbish pits but some structural remains were preserved. The 11th to 12th century features were indicative of small-scale industrial activity, possibly on a household level, suggesting that a building representing a self-sufficient family unit within a largely rural setting stood on the site. Later pits showed that a settlement remained in the immediate vicinity of the site throughout the 13th and 14th centuries¹².

5.4.6 Despite the decline in use of the Old Ford crossing across the River Lea, a fulling mill was built in the area by the 13th century, as was a large dye house in circa 1500.

5.5 Post-Medieval

5.5.1 At the start of the 18th century, farming and market gardening is thought to have predominated in the surrounding area. This is corroborated by excavations at PNL98, which revealed evidence for field boundaries (deep ditches, fences and possibly hedgerows) and probable agricultural soils.

5.5.2 By the end of the 19th century the area had been transformed into a suburb of London. Work at PNL98 revealed a Victorian sewer associated with this housing, as were rubbish pits and garden features.

5.5.3 The 20th century was represented at PNL98 by the discovery of an Anderson shelter dated 1939-1945.

¹² Leary, J., 2002

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In evaluation archaeological features and deposits dating to the Late Iron Age were identified. It was clear, therefore, that the site would contain archaeological remains that would be severely impacted upon by the development. As a result an area measuring approximately 7m x 17m was excavated.
- 6.2 A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket removed all undifferentiated topsoil and modern overburden under archaeological supervision in successive spits until significant archaeological deposits were reached.
- 6.3 Following the machining, the area was cleaned by hand. All features were fully excavated.
- 6.4 All features and deposits observed were planned and recorded onto *pro-forma* context record sheets. Contexts were numbered sequentially and are shown in this report within square brackets. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A general photographic survey of the site and working conditions was undertaken.
- 6.5 A temporary benchmark was established (value 11.60m OD). An engineer from Lovell's, the principal contractor on the adjacent development who provided access and logistic support for the evaluation, supplied the value of the mark located on a recently built concrete foundation.
- 6.6 Bulk environmental samples were taken from the fills of the Iron Age ditches and gullies.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE AND INTERPRETATIONS

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

The natural geology encountered was mid-yellow sand with fine gravel bands that varied in height between 10.46m OD and 9.43m OD, the slope falling off to the south. Three natural hollows, which had become filled with brickearth, were recorded. These were identified as contexts [3], [12] and [17].

7.2 Phase 2: Prehistoric

Two sherds of handmade pottery with a lumpy black fabric and dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron age, as well as three fragments of burnt flint, were recorded from the surface of one of the patches of brickearth (context [3]) during the evaluation phase of work. Despite extensive work during the excavation phase, no further finds were found and it is likely that those few prehistoric finds were pressed into the brickearth surface during occasional prehistoric activity.

Two undated features, both of which were truncated by Late Iron Age activity, represent the earliest clear human activity on the site. Linear feature [45], which was only 0.2m deep, may represent the highly truncated remains of an elongated pit. No finds were recovered from the silty sand fill, [44]. Pit [43] was also highly truncated by later activity and by recent animal burrows and root holes; the disturbance of which precluded the taking of environmental samples. The pit measured 1m by 0.64m (as seen) and was 0.36m deep. The only find from its silty sand fill [42] was a large (4.4kg) flint nodule that had clearly been imported onto the site. Two flakes had been removed from the object, although this may have happened unintentionally (see Bishop this report). Although there were no indications of when it was imported or deposited, the pit was cut by a Late Iron Age gully and must therefore be earlier. The placing of flint nodules within the ground is often seen as a feature of the Bronze Age.

A small quantity of residual prehistoric flintwork and burnt flint was recovered from the Late Iron Age ditches. The struck flint varied quite considerably in form suggesting that it was produced over a long period of time, perhaps from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. Also recovered from later features were three sherds of abraded Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery in calcined-flint tempered fabrics, and again these attest to occasional prehistoric activity in the area.

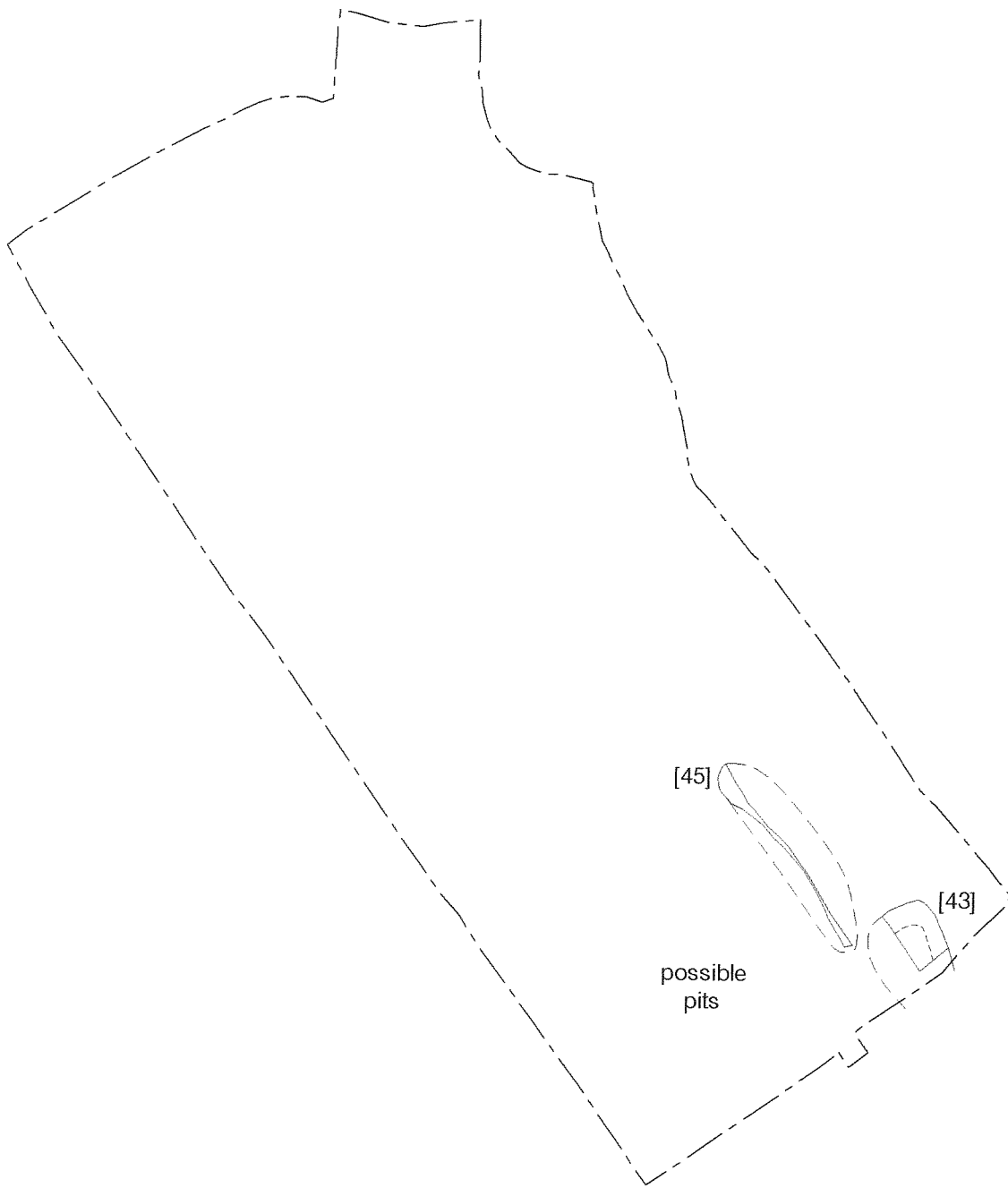


Figure 3
Phase 2 features
1:100

7.3 Phase 3: Late Iron Age, 50 BC-AD 25

The next phase of activity was represented by two parallel gullies, running north-west to south-east across the site. Gully [32] was the wider of the two at 1.35m and 0.42m deep, although both ends had been truncated by later ditches. It was filled with light greyish brown sandy silt, [31], from which no finds were recovered. Gully [36]/[38], to the east, was 0.7m wide and 0.57m deep, although this began to peter out to the north where it eventually terminated. The fill, [35]/[37] comprised silty sand and a small quantity of both pottery and daub were recovered from fill [35]. The four sherds of pottery comprise three joining fragments of handmade grey-brown fabric and a sherd in silt-tempered grey fabric, all of a Late Iron Age (50 BC-AD 25) date. The three joining sherds have internal dull maroon-brown discolouration, suggesting use as a salt briquetage container. Both gullies [32] and [36]/[38] were shallow and gave the appearance that they were ephemeral features in the landscape, possibly serving for drainage.

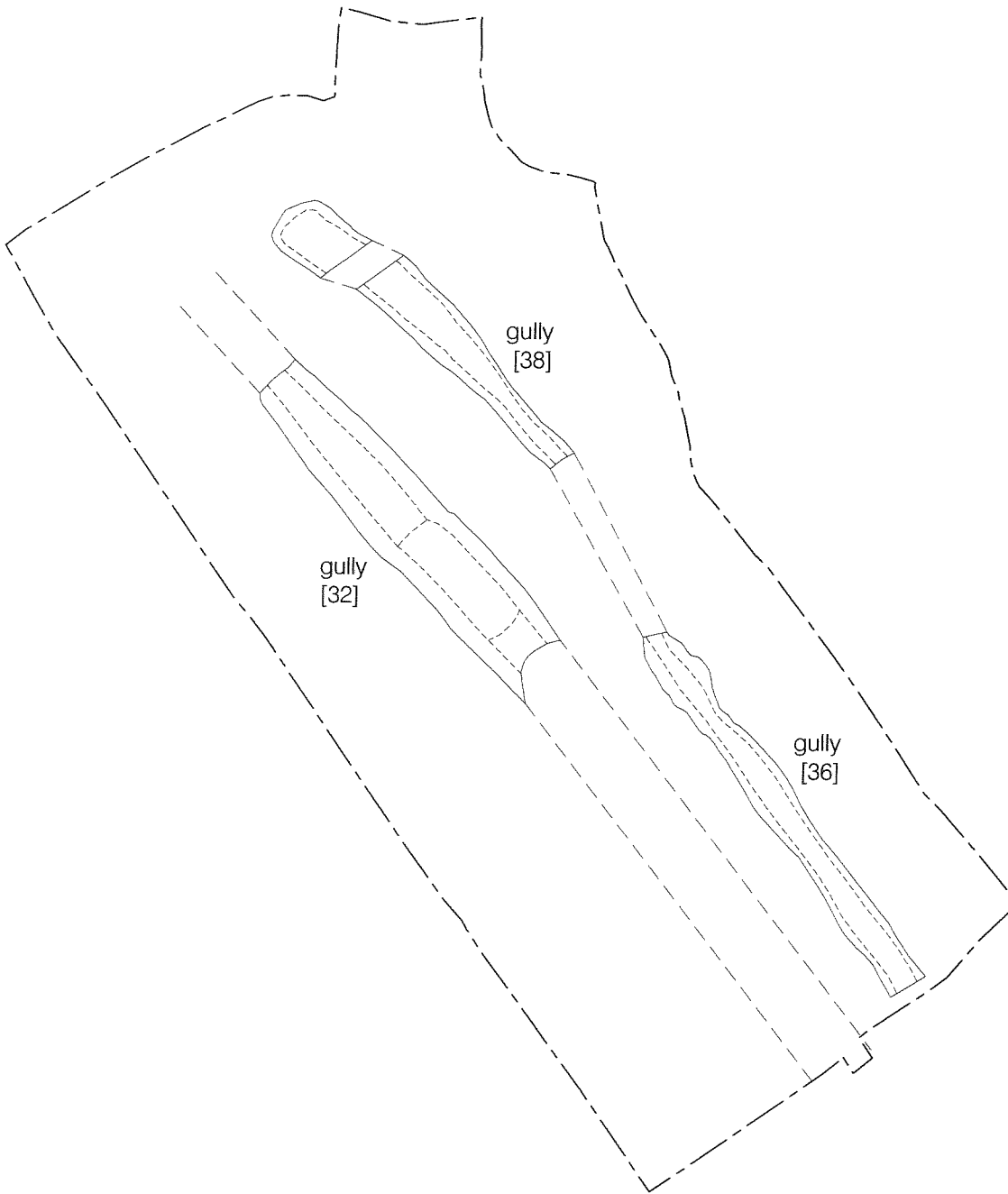


Figure 4
Phase 3 features
1:100

7.4 Phase 4: Late Iron Age-Pre-Flavian, c. AD 25-50/60

The Phase 3 gullies were backfilled; although the western one must have continued to be used as a boundary as it was re-cut by two substantial ditches, representing the most imposing features on the site. The northern one, context [29], was 1.73m wide and 0.84m deep and was filled with [28], mid greyish brown sandy silt, which yielded 12 sherds of pottery dated from 25 BC to AD 50, as well as slag and fragments of hearth lining, clearly indicating that metal working took place in the immediate vicinity. From the northern limit of excavation, ditch [29] continued southeast 3.65m before terminating. The southern ditch, [34], which had a terminus 5.5m south of the ditch [29] terminus, was 0.96m deep and of a similar width to [29], although in areas the sides had clearly collapsed making the ditch appear much wider (up to 3m). The fill, [33], was a similar mid-greyish brown silty sand, however it produced a much larger 205-sherd pottery assemblage with two well-defined concentrations of sherds (Assemblage 1 and Assemblage 2). The first such sherd concentration included 72 fragments from two necked bowls (c. 0-AD 50); one of which is nearly complete. A fragment from a platter was also present (c. 10 BC-AD 50), as were pieces of a bead-rim jar (0-AD 50), a handmade jar and handmade platter (c. AD 50-70), a mortarium (c. AD 43-80) and an amphora (c. AD 43-150). The second concentration is made up entirely of 42 fragments from an oxidised necked-bowl (c. AD 25-50), converted into a strainer. As with ditch [29], fragments of slag and hearth lining were recovered from the fill, indicative of metalworking in the immediate vicinity. There were some fragments of quern stone (SF 2) and a corroded iron object (SF 1). The presence of a few poorly preserved animal teeth (which tend to withstand the destructive taphonomic processes that can affect bone more adversely) suggests that if there had been any faunal remains, they would have decayed. This is also true of the environmental samples, which revealed very little.

Together, these ditches would have formed an obvious boundary within the landscape, and the 5.5m-gap between the two ditches may indicate an entrance. It is possible that these ditches demarcated the boundaries of an enclosure. Both appeared to have been backfilled in a single episode as indicated by the single homogenous fill, suggesting that the settlement/activity within the enclosure ended abruptly, possibly associated with the arrival of the Romans.

Ditch [34] was recorded in the evaluation phase as contexts [2] and [9], and although clearly the same ditch as [34], the fill [1] produced a few, slightly later pottery fragments (c. AD 70-150), suggesting that either the ditch had been intruded into some years after it had been backfilled or it had remained open longer.



Figure 5
Phase 4 features
1:100

7.5 Phase 5: Medieval/post-medieval horticultural activity

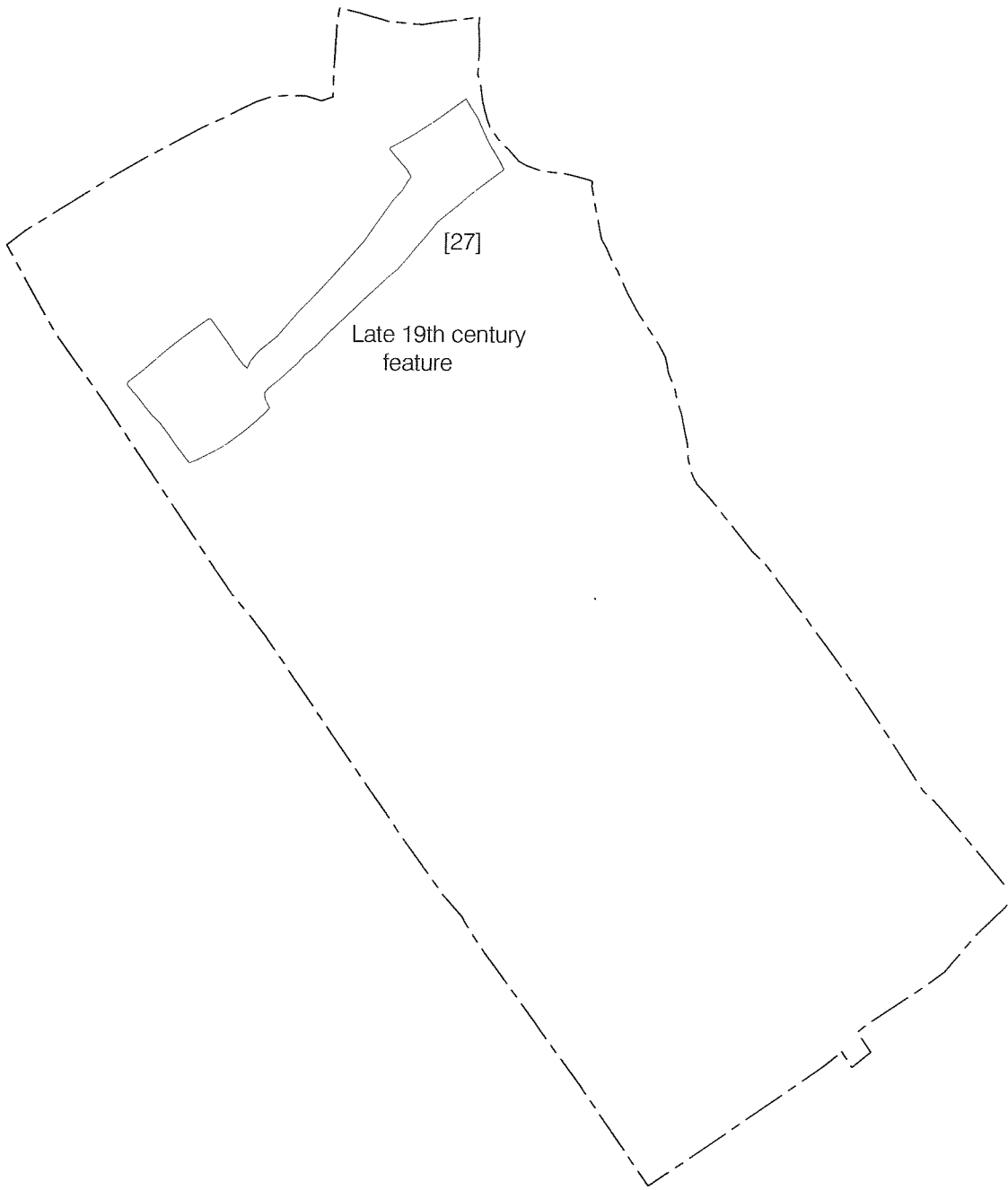
A horizon, which may have begun to form from the medieval or early post-medieval times on, was recorded overlying the earlier features and was excavated by a machine. This homogenous layer of mid brown silty sand (identified in the evaluation as [23] and in the excavation as [41]) was c. 0.50m thick and was interpreted as a horticultural soil typical of areas used for market gardening. The uniform appearance of the deposit was typical of horizons where the ground has been constantly turned for new planting and the thickness was probably the result of the constant and long-term introduction of organic matter to improve soil quality. The only datable artefact recovered from this layer came from the evaluation and comprised a piece of abraded late medieval roof tile. Overlying this was a layer of dark grey silty sand [22], which yielded a ribbed sherd of Derbyshire stoneware, possibly from a tankard, which gives an 18th-19th-century date to the context.

7.6 Phase 6: Late 19th century activity

A somewhat enigmatic feature, [27], which was formed of two square pits linked by a 5m long trench, cut this layer. This feature may well be a service trench or indicative of industrial activity. The fill, [26], was dark blackish grey silty sand and contained brick rubble and broken slate tiles. Late 19th century pottery and glass fragments were also recovered from this. A well-polished pebble from this context may represent a residual prehistoric or Roman rubbing stone.

7.7 Phase 7: 20th century activity

The entire area was made up to the current ground level of brick rubble.



Late 19th century
feature

[27]



Figure 6
Phase 6 features
1:100

8 ORIGINAL AND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.

8.1 Original research objectives

The original research objectives of the excavation are listed below with a summary of the potential for the archaeological evidence recovered from the site to answer these questions.

8.1.1 What is the potential for Palaeolithic activities being recorded in the Terrace Gravels?

A Middle Palaeolithic discoidal knife was recovered from a residual context during the THHAT Phase 1 excavations, however no artefacts dating to this period were recovered from the present excavations.

8.1.2 What is the nature of the prehistoric activity at the site and how does it relate to other contemporary activity on sites in the Lea Valley?

The small quantity of residual Mesolithic to the Bronze Age flintwork recovered from the site suggests that the immediate vicinity was occasionally visited over a long period of time. The few fragments of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery also attests to occasional prehistoric activity in the area. Slightly more substantial evidence comes from two undated, but presumed pre-Late Iron Age features, from one of which a large flint nodule was recovered and may be evidence of a Bronze Age placed deposit, although this is far from certain.

Middle – Late Bronze Age ditches, one of which contained a deliberately placed complete pot, have been identified at the PNL98 and PRB95 sites.

Iron Age activity was also recorded at the YCP 05 site (see below).

8.1.3 Is there any evidence of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age activity at the site such as recorded at THHAT Phase 1, Phase 2 or Victoria Park. If so what level of intensity of occupation does it represent?

Two parallel Late Iron Age (50 BC-AD 25) drainage gullies were recorded. These contained pottery sherds, which may have come from a salt briquetage container.

These gullies were backfilled and a substantial causewayed boundary or enclosure ditch was cut. Considerable pottery dating from 25 BC to AD 50, including a nearly complete necked bowl, as well as slag and fragments of hearth lining were recovered from the fill. There were also some fragments of quern stone and a corroded iron object.

8.1.4 Is there any evidence for Roman occupation at the site? If so what is the status of the occupation and how does it relate to the agricultural landscape recorded at the THHAT, Phase 1, Phase 2 & Phase 3 sites and elsewhere?

Roman activity was almost non-existent on the subject site, represented by eight small pottery sherds that had intruded into the Late Iron Age ditches fills, but extensive remains have been recorded to the north, south and east of the site during earlier excavations.

8.1.5 Is there evidence for Roman cemetery remains (inhumation or cremation) and if so what is the nature and extent of the cemetery? Is it possible to date both its establishment and decline?

No cemetery remains were recovered although the placing of almost complete vessels in the Iron Age ditch does seem to suggest that the area had ritual overtones prior to the Roman period.

8.1.6 Is there evidence for the Medieval, particularly agricultural, landscape? Were buildings located between the fields and Tredegar Road (formerly Bearbinder Lane)?

No buildings or features of medieval date were found on the site, however a layer of mid brown silty sand was interpreted as a horticultural soil. A piece of abraded late medieval roof tile was recovered from this context.

8.2 Revised research objectives

Initial analysis of the archaeological evidence from the site and assessment of the artefactual remains has generated additional research objectives, detailed below.

8.2.1 How do the ditches at YCP 05 relate to the Iron Age activity found at other sites in the vicinity?

A Late Iron Age rectilinear enclosure and contemporary features, such as ditches, pits and postholes, were recorded during excavations at LEK 95, PRB 95 and PNL 98. The alignment and position of the ditches from YCP 05 will be compared to these features.

8.2.2 What can the Iron Age finds tell us about industry in the area?

Iron slag and fragments of hearth lining were recovered from the Late Iron Age ditches, suggesting that metal working occurred in the immediate vicinity. Analysis of this material will help define this activity.

8.2.3 Does ritual activities change in the area during prehistory?

The Late Iron Age/pre-Flavian placed deposits will be analysed in the light of what is known about the earlier Bronze Age and Iron Age offering tradition

8.2.4 What was the later prehistoric landscape of the area like?

The Late Iron Age/ pre-Flavian features will be reviewed in the light of what is understood about the Iron Age landscape and topography of the area

8.2.5 How does the Late Iron Age ritual land use inform us about the later Roman ritual aspects of the local landscape setting?

The late Iron Age and Roman ritual activities of the local area will be analysed.

9 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 PAPER RECORDS

Contexts	1-45
Plans	9 (23 sheets)
Sections	3 (4 sheets)
Photographs:	
Black and white prints (35mm)	48
Colour slide (35mm)	48

9.2 THE FINDS

Pottery	1 box
Mixed (Iron, hearth lining + slag)	1 box
Mixed (Flint, stone, bone, cbm, glass, clay tobacco pipe)	1 box

10 IMPORTANCE OF RESULTS AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE

Evidence for Late Iron Age activity in this area is of importance in understanding the immediately pre-Roman landscape and comparing it to the subsequent changes and developments of the area (e.g. construction of the London to Colchester Road; use of the area as a cemetery). This has the potential to further our understanding of the impact of the arrival of the Romans in this locality. The evidence can be compared with previous excavations and will add to the overall picture.

It is proposed that the results of the excavation be published alongside in Pre-Construct archaeology's forthcoming monograph outlining the results of all the recent work at the THHAT sites on the Lefevre Walk Estate and adjacent sites.

11 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

CONTEXT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	DATE	PLAN	SECTION	SAME AS	SAMPLES
1	FILL	Fill of [2]	4	AD 25 – 50/60	Tr.1	S.1	8, 33	*
2	CUT	Large north-south orientated ditch	4	AD 25 – 50/60	Tr.1	S.1	9, 34	*
3	NATURAL	Yellowish brown brickearth	1	Natural	Tr.1	*	12, 17	*
4	FILL	Fill of [5]	4	AD 25 – 50/60	Tr.1	*	*	*
5	CUT	Pit	4	AD 25 – 50/60	Tr.1	*	*	*
6	FILL	Fill of [7]	4	AD 25 – 50/60	Tr.1	*	*	*
7	CUT	Pit	4	AD 25 – 50/60	Tr.1	*	*	*
8	FILL	Fill of [9]	4	AD 25 – 50/60	Tr.1	*	1, 33	*
9	CUT	Probable continuation of ditch [2]	4	AD 25 – 50/60	Tr.1	*	2, 34	*
10	FILL	Fill of [11]	3	50 BC – AD 25	Tr.1	*	13, 15, 35, 37	*
11	CUT	Shallow linear cut	3	50 BC – AD 25	Tr.1	*	14, 16, 36, 38	*
12	NATURAL	Yellowish brown brickearth	1	Natural	Tr.1	*	3, 17	*
13	FILL	Fill of [14]	3	50 BC – AD 25	Tr.1	*	10, 15, 35, 37	*
14	CUT	Gully	3	50 BC – AD 25	Tr.1	*	11, 16, 36, 38	*
15	FILL	Fill of [16]	3	50 BC – AD 25	Tr.1	*	10, 13, 35, 37	*
16	CUT	Shallow linear cut	3	50 BC – AD 25	Tr.1	*	11, 14, 36, 38	*
17	NATURAL	Natural yellow brown sandy silt	1	Natural	Tr.1	*	3, 12	*
18	NATURAL	Natural yellowish orange sand	1	Natural	Tr.1	*	19, 30	*
19	NATURAL	Natural yellowish orange sand	1	Natural	Tr.1	*	18, 30	*
20	LAYER	Modern building site levelling/piling mat	7	20th century	*	S.1	*	*
21	LAYER	18th-19th century yard surface	7	20th century	*	S.1	*	*
22	LAYER	Post-medieval dump/levelling layers	7	20th century	*	S.1	*	*
23	LAYER	Poss horticultural soil horizon	5	Med/post-med	*	S.1	41	*
24	LAYER	Gravel	5	Med/post-med	*	S.1	*	*
25	LAYER	Brickearth horizon sealing ditch fill [1]	5	Med/post-med	*	S.1	*	*
26	FILL	Fill of [27]	6	19th century	*	*	*	*
27	CUT	Post-medieval feature (industrial?)	6	19th century	27	*	*	*
28	FILL	Fill of [29]	4	AD 25 – 50/60	*	S.3	*	1 (BULK)
29	CUT	Ditch terminus	4	AD 25 – 50/60	29	S.3	*	*
30	NATURAL	Natural sands	1	Natural	*	S.2, S.3	18, 19	*
31	FILL	Fill of [32]	3	50 BC – AD 25	*	*	*	3 (BULK)
32	CUT	Gully	3	50 BC – AD 25	32	*	*	*
33	FILL	Fill of [34]	4	AD 25 – 50/60	*	S.2	1, 8	2 (BULK)
34	CUT	Ditch terminus	4	AD 25 – 50/60	34	S.2	2, 9	*
35	FILL	Fill of [36]	3	50 BC – AD 25	*	S.2	10, 13, 15, 37	4 (BULK)
36	CUT	Gully	3	50 BC – AD 25	36	S.2	11, 14, 16, 38	*
37	FILL	Fill of [38]	3	50 BC – AD 25	*	*	10, 13, 15, 35	*
38	CUT	Gully	3	50 BC – AD 25	38	*	11, 14, 16, 36	*
39		VOID						
40		VOID						
41	LAYER	Poss horticultural soil horizon	5	Med/post-med	*	S.3	23, 24, 25	*
42	FILL	Fill of [43]	2	Poss Bronze Age	*	S.2	*	*
43	CUT	Pit	2	Poss Bronze Age	43	S.2	*	*
44	FILL	Fill of [45]	2	Poss Bronze Age	*	*	*	*
45	CUT	Gully	2	Poss Bronze Age	45	*	*	*

APPENDIX 2: ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Malcolm Lyne

Introduction

The site yielded 234 sherds (3059 gm) of mainly Late Iron Age to c. AD 50/60 date from seven contexts. Three later Roman sherds are, however, also present.

Methodology

All of the assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. Fabrics were classified using a x8 magnification lens with inbuilt metric graticule in order to determine the natures, forms, sizes and frequencies of added inclusions and three numbered fabric series drawn up with the prefixes P, LIA and R for Prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Roman respectively. None of the assemblages are large enough for quantification by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) based on rim sherds.

Fabrics

MOLAS fabric codings are placed in brackets after fabric descriptions where applicable.

Prehistoric

- P.1. Handmade lumpy black fabric fired brown externally with profuse protruding up-to 2.00 mm crushed calcined-flint filler
- P.2. Coarser version with up-to 3.00mm crushed flint

Late Iron Age

- L.I.A.1. Handmade grey-brown fabric with profuse grog, occasional 1.00mm quartz and mica, fired dull maroon-brown internally and orange brown externally.
- LIA.2A. Wheel-turned 'Belgic' fine grog-tempered ware
- LIA.2B. Handmade 'Belgic' coarse grog tempered patchy black/brown
- LIA.3. Handmade shell-tempered ware
- LIA.4. Handmade silt-tempered greyware with smooth blackened surfaces

Roman

- R.1. Handmade sandy greyware with profuse up-to 0.50mm multi-coloured quartz filler
- R.2A. Wheel-turned very-fine-sand tempered orange fired rough grey with profuse up-to 0.30mm iron-stained quartz
- R.2B. Finer version with surface smoothing
- R.3. Wheel-turned very-fine-sanded rough grey Essex greyware
- R.4. South Gaulish La Graufesenque Samian (SAMLG)
- R.5. Sandfree pink with occasional soft red inclusions fired cream externally
- R.6. Buff-orange G238 mortaria fabric (G238)
- R.7. Silt tempered pink Rhodian amphora fabric fired cream externally (RHOD 1)

The Assemblages

Prehistoric

The site yielded five abraded and residual sherds in calcined-flint tempered fabrics. They are probably of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date.

Late Iron Age, 50 BC-AD 25

The only feature of this phase to yield any pottery was Gully [36]. The four sherds from this feature comprise three joining fragments from a very thick-walled ?open form in handmade grey-brown Fabric LIA.1 with profuse grog and occasional 1.00mm quartz and mica filler and a sherd in silt-tempered grey Fabric LIA.4. The sherds in Fabric LIA.1 have internal dull maroon-brown discolouration, suggesting use as a salt briquetage container

Late Iron Age-Pre-Flavian. c. AD 25-50/60

The two pottery-producing features of this phase (Ditches [29] and [34]) yielded the bulk of the pottery from the site. The fill of Ditch [29] (Context [28]) yielded 12 sherds, including fragments from a globular bead-rim jar of Thompson Type B5-4 (1982. c.25BC-AD.50) in fine 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware.

The fill of Ditch [34] (Context [33]) produced a much larger (205-sherd) assemblage with two well-defined concentrations of sherds. The first such sherd concentration includes 72 fragments from two necked bowls of Thompson Type D2-5 (c.0-AD.50) in fine, wheel-turned grog-tempered ware; one of which is nearly all there. A fragment from a platter of uncertain type with foot-ring in similar fabric is also present (c. 10BC-AD 50). Forms in other fabrics include fragments from a Class C3 bead-rim jar in shell-tempered ware (0-AD 50), a handmade jar and handmade, oxidised Gallo-

Belgic platter copy in coarse-sanded Fabric C.2A (c. AD 50-70), a G238 mortarium (c. AD 43-80) and a CAM 184 amphora (c. AD 43-150). The second concentration is made up entirely of 42 fragments from an oxidised necked-bowl of Thompson Type D2-1 (c. AD 25-50), converted into a strainer.

Ditch [34] was recorded as Ditch [2] (Context [1]) during the evaluation phase. This fill recorded eight fragments from a grog-tempered bead-rim jar and one from a barrel-shaped beaker in Fabric R2B with burnished latticing (c.AD.70-150).

Recommendations

The assemblages from Ditches [29] and [34] are important in that their deposition may well have ceased at the time of the foundation of *Londinium* in c. AD 50-55: it is therefore recommended that they and the earlier assemblage from Gully [36] be written up in detail with an estimated 11 pot illustrations.

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Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm	Comments
+	R.5	?Flagon	AD.43-100	1	5gm	
1	LIA2B	Bead-rim jar	L.I.A.-AD.100	8	150	Fresh
	R2B	Beaker	AD.70-150	1	12	Fresh
			AD.70-150	9	162gm	
3	P.1	?	Prehistoric	2	3gm	
28	P.1		Prehistoric	1	3	Fresh
	LIA2A	B5-4 jar	25BC-AD.50	8	80	
	LIA2B	Closed	L.I.A.-AD.100	3	15	
			L.I.A.-AD.50	12	98gm	
33	P.2		Prehistoric	1	1	Abraded
	LIA2B	Closed	L.I.A.-100	19	200	
	LIA3	Bead-rim jar	L.I.A.-100			
	LIA4	Bead-rim store-jar	L.I.A.-100	7	186	
	R2A	Foot-ring jar base	L.I.A.-AD.50	2	16	
		Closed	AD.50-70	1	8	
			L.I.A.-AD.50/70	30	411gm	
33 ASS1	P.2		Prehistoric	1	9	Oxidised
	LIA2A	D2-5 Bowl x2	0-AD.50			
		Platter foot-ring	10BC-AD.50	73	933	
	LIA2B	Bead-rim store-jar	L.I.A.-AD.100			
		C3 jar	L.I.A.-AD.50	32	352	
	LIA3	C3 jar	L.I.A.-AD.50	13	129	
	R2A	Jar	AD.50-70	1	8	
		GB platter copy	AD.50-70	1	21	
R6	Mortarium	AD.43-80	1	218		
R7	C184 amphora?	AD.43-150	3	102		
MISC				8	7	

			L.I.A.-AD.50/60	133	1779gm	
33 ASS2	LIA2A	D2-1 bowl	AD.25-50	42	462gm	One pot converted into strainer
35	LIA 1	Thick-walled pot Closed	Late Iron Age	3	119	Joining ?briquetage
	LIA 4		L.I.A.-AD.50	1	12	
			Late Iron Age	4	131gm	

APPENDIX 3: POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (1 box). Most sherds show no or little evidence for abrasion indicating mostly rapid deposition after breakage. The pottery is fragmentary, but some vessels do have complete profiles, while rims and decoration allude to the forms of other vessels. Pottery was recovered from two contexts and individual deposits produced only small groups of pottery (under 30 sherds).

All the pottery (28 sherds and one is unstratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an ACCESS 2000 database, by fabric, form, decoration, sherd count and estimated number of vessels. The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London type series. The pottery is discussed by types and its distribution.

The pottery types

All the pottery is of a post-medieval date and almost exclusively 19th-century in date.

Local coarse red earthenware

Post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580-1900, three sherds, forms: flowerpot, jar, tall rounded.

Non-local earthenwares

Uncoded fine red earthenware, one sherd, form: 19th-century flower pot.

Staffordshire-type, combed slipware (STSL), 1660-1870, one sherd, form: dish.

Sunderland coarse ware (SUND), 1800-1900, two sherds, form: dish, flared bowl.

Industrial finewares

Pearl ware (PEAR), 1770-1860, three sherds, form: tea cup

Refined whiteware (REFW), 1800-1900, one sherd, form: unidentified.

Refined whiteware (REFW) with chrome colour decoration, 1830-1900, one sherd, form: plate.

Transfer-printed ware (TPW), 1780-1900, six sherds, forms: jug, plate.

Flow blue transfer-printed ware (TPW Flow), 1840-1900, one sherd, form: teacup.

Stonewares

Blue stoneware (BLUE), 1800-1900, one sherd, form: unidentified.

Derby stoneware (DERBS), 1700-1900, two sherds, forms: small flared bowl, possible tankard.

English stoneware (ENGS), 1700-1900, one sherd, form: blacking bottle.

Porcelain

Hard-paste English porcelain (ENPO HP), 1780-1900, five sherds, forms: saucer, teacup.

Distribution

Table 1 shows the contexts containing pottery, the number of sherds, the date range of the pottery types in the deposit and a spot date for the group.

Context	No. of sherds	Date range of pottery types	Spot date of context
[22]	1	1700-1900	1700-1900
[26]	26	1580-1900	1840-1900

Table 1. YCP 05, distribution of pottery showing the number of sherds, date range of the pottery types and the suggested deposition spot date for the context.

Unstratified: A single sherd of a Post-medieval redware flowerpot is recorded of probable 19th-century date.

Deposit [22] produced a ribbed sherd of Derbyshire stoneware, possibly from a tankard and gives a 18th-19th-century date to the context.

The remainder of the pottery (26 sherds) from the site was recovered from deposit [26]. The latest pottery types are a Refined white earthenware plate with chrome-coloured sponge decoration, dated 1830-1900 and a sherd of Flow blue transfer-printed ware, dated 1840-1900. Other transfer printed wares include the Asiatic Pheasant design dating to the mid 19th and start of the early 20th-century and a teacup with 'Trade Mark Foulger' marked on it. The term 'trademark was adopted after 1862 when a law was passed and so gives a *terminus post-quem* for the deposit.

Significance, potential, research aims and recommendations of the Collection

The pottery is of little significance and follows the local 19th-century ceramic trends. The pottery is almost certainly related to the late 19th-century suburban development of the area. The main potential of the pottery is as a dating tool to the contexts it was found in. No vessels merit illustration. There is no research aims generated from the small number of sherds recovered from the excavation. No recommendations for further work are made for the post-medieval pottery assemblage and if required, information should be taken from this report for the publication.

APPENDIX 4: GLASS ASSESSMENT

P. Moore and C. Jarrett

Catalogue

Context [26]:

The lower part of a clear stemmed drinking glass; bucket-shaped bowl; late 19th century.
Small bowl of orange pressed so-called Carnival Glass; two lugs; complete but in eight pieces;
produced in the United States c.1895-1924.

Discussion

The drinking vessel is of a common type.

The pressed Carnival glass products such as the one found here, were manufactured in the US. They resembled the high lustre finish achieved by high-class glass manufacturers such as 'Tiffany' on their exquisite hand-blown pieces. It is said that when pressed glass companies began producing iridescent glass, Tiffany sales slumped because customers didn't like to think that poor folk could now afford to have similar products in their homes! Even though Carnival glass was initially pressed into moulds it still needed plenty of hand- finishing, because the makers wanted to create an air of individuality. The item represented here was meant for every day use and has a relatively common colour. It wasn't till long after its production had ceased that it acquired the name, 'Carnival glass', as it was thought that when it fell from favour, it was sold off cheaply to fairgrounds and offered as prizes. Whether this actually happened or not is uncertain..

Recommendations

This very small assemblage represents the *in situ* remains of material that was probably broken in close proximity to where it ended up being deposited. In itself it does not require publication or further analysis. If it forms part of a larger group of late 19th century material, which for other reasons requires publication than the information contained in this assessment report can be summarised and the text used as needed.

APPENDIX 5: LITHIC ASSESSMENT

Barry John Bishop

Introduction

Excavations and a preceding archaeological evaluation at the above site recovered 18 struck flints and just over 1.6kg of burnt flint fragments. This report quantifies the material by context according to a basic technological/typological scheme (see Table 1), assesses its ability to contribute to further understanding of the nature and chronology of the activities identified during the project, and recommends any further work required.

Quantification

Context	Flake	Squat Flake	Flake fragment	Blade-like flake	Core	Concoidal Chunk	Scraper	'Unworked' Nodule	Burnt Flint (No.)	Burnt Flint (Wt.:g)
03									3	20
28					2		1		10	385
33	1	3	2	1	3	1			57	1075
35	1			1	1	1			6	155
42								1		

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material by Context

Burnt Flint

Where identifiable the burnt flint comprised gravel pebbles. It had been burnt to the extent that it had changed colour and become 'fire crazed', a result of being heated to a high temperature and consistent with being incorporated into, or very close to a hearth. Most of it was recovered from three features, all of Roman date, in quantities suggestive of the casual disposal of hearth waste, although residual deposition cannot be excluded as these contexts also contained quantities of residual prehistoric flintwork. The burnt flint from context [03] was recovered alongside fragments of prehistoric pottery, which if associated may indicate an area of prehistoric activity that included hearth use.

Struck Flint

Eighteen struck flints were recovered, all from contexts dated to the Iron Age or later periods and therefore residually deposited. They were manufactured from varying quality flint of a variety of colours and considerations of the remnant cortex present on many pieces would suggest that the raw materials were likely to have been obtained from alluvial gravel deposits, such as would have been present at the site. Their condition was variable but most pieces exhibited some degree of edge chipping and abrasion consistent with their residuality.

Six cores were present; these were all small, none weighing more than 30g, probably a factor of the small size of the raw materials available. They had all been irregularly reduced, producing small, squat flakes and had randomly aligned multiple striking platforms. Little evidence was noted for any attempts to maintain the core, although some striking platforms had been edge-trimmed.

The only retouched piece present consisted of a thermally fractured chunk (most likely an attempt to produce a large flake but it had unintentionally fractured along a thermal flaw) that had a thick and obtuse edge lightly retouched, forming a slightly convex scraping edge.

The flakes varied in form quite considerably although all were small. They included systematically produced pieces, such as the blade-like flakes, as well as more-crudely produced thicker and squatter flakes. No typologically diagnostic pieces were present but considerations of their technological attributes would suggest that they were most likely produced over a long period of time, perhaps from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

The flint cobble recovered from context [42] (pit [43]) is of some interest as it appears to have been imported to the site. It weighed 4.4kg and was nodular shaped with a rough weathered cortex and also exhibited several heavily recorticated thermal scars and had many deep thermal faultlines. Also present were one or two concoidal flake scars, although these could easily have been created accidentally, such as through transporting the nodule, and no convincing evidence for intentional knapping was identified. Although it had been subjected to some mechanical weathering, such as through alluvial processes, the nodule was most likely obtained from close to the parent chalk. There were no indications of when it was imported or deposited although it was cut by a Late Iron Age gully and must therefore be earlier. The placing of flint nodules within the ground may have been a common feature of the Bronze Age and may well have had ritual connotations. Similar activity was noted during excavations of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age placed deposits at Westcroft Road, Carshalton (Proctor, J, 2002). A similar large flint cobble was also recovered from nearby at the Lefevre Walk Estate (Phase 3) excavations, although this was from a pit dated to the medieval period (Bishop 2001). The latter may have been a residual prehistoric cobble or imported later as building material, for road repair or even as ballast from boats navigating the river Lea.

Discussion

Due to the size of the assemblage, little can be concluded concerning the nature of the activities represented, although the high proportion of cores suggests flake and perhaps tool production was occurring. The struck flint assemblage from this site share many of the characteristics noted from those recovered during other excavations in the vicinity, including the types of raw material used, the size of the assemblages and the broad date range over which they were manufactured

(e.g. Taylor-Wilson 2001). Taken as a whole, the lithic material from Old Ford indicates relatively low-density but nevertheless extensive and persistent activity in the area from the Mesolithic to at least the latter parts of the Bronze Age.

Recommendations

Due to its size and paucity of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, this report is all that is required of the assemblage for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed.

The material does contribute to the body of evidence for prehistoric activity in the area and a description and discussion of the assemblage should be included in the published account of the fieldwork, as part of a synthesis of the extensive recent archaeological work that has occurred in the area.

Bibliography

- Bishop, B.J. 2001 Excavations at Lefevre Walk Estate Phase 3, London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Lithic Assessment. Pre-Construct Archaeology Unpublished Manuscript.
- Taylor-Wilson, R.H. 2001 Pre-Roman Features and Cultural Material from Two Sites in Old Ford, Bow, Tower Hamlets. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* 51, 1-19

APPENDIX 6: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

Lisa Yeomans

Introduction and results

Animal bone was only recovered from two contexts. In both of these just tooth fragments had survived with the rest of the faunal remains destroyed by taphonomic processes. A fragmented single sheep/goat lower M3 was recovered from the fill [1] of north-south ditch. Numerous small fragments of sheep/goat adult teeth were found in the fill [33] of a ditch terminus. These could derive from as few as four maxillary teeth. The two contexts represent later Roman activity (Phase 4) but are a highly biased assemblage from which bone and probably other teeth had not survived.

Summary and recommendations

The animal bone from YCP 05 is in very bad condition, severely biased and very limited. No further work is recommended for this material. Its presence can be mentioned in the publication text on the site with the report information being taken from the current report.

APPENDIX 7: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

G.E. Swindle and N.P. Branch

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental archaeological assessment undertaken by *ArchaeoScape* at Bow North Youth Centre, Parnell Road, Tower Hamlets (National Grid Reference: TQ 390 835; Site Code: YCP05). Recent excavations by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA Ltd) revealed a number of linear features (ditches and gullies) dated to Late Iron Age, 50 BC-AD 25, (Phase 3) and Late Iron Age-Pre-Flavian, c. AD 25-50/60, (Phase 4) (Leary 2005). Four bulk samples were obtained for assessment from these features. The aim of the environmental archaeological assessment was to ascertain the concentration and preservation of sub-fossil plant remains, and to evaluate the potential for reconstructing: (1) the economy and diet of the local inhabitants and (2) the local environment.

METHODS

Ten litre sub-samples were taken from the bulk samples, and processed by flotation using a 300-micron mesh sieve (by PCA Ltd). The dried residues were sorted 'by eye'. The flots were scanned using a low power zoom-stereo microscope. Recommendations for further analysis were based on the diversity, concentration and standard of preservation of charred and waterlogged plant remains. The results are summarised in Table 1.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE ASSESSMENT

Phase 3 – Late Iron Age, 50 BC-AD 25

Gully [36]

The fill, sample <4>, context (35), of gully [36] was sampled and provided very occasional charcoal and a very small assemblage of waterlogged seeds.

Gully [32]

The fill, sample <3>, context (31), of gully [32] was sampled and provided very occasional charcoal and one charred seed.

Phase 4 – Late Iron Age-Pre-Flavian, c. AD 25-50/60

Ditch [34]

The fill, sample <2>, context (33), of gully [34] was sampled and provided occasional charcoal and a small assemblage of unidentifiable bone fragments.

Ditch [29]

The fill, sample <1>, context (28), of gully [29] was sampled and provided very occasional charcoal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The poor preservation and low concentration of archaeobotanical material indicates that the samples will not provide information on the economy and diet, or local environment. Therefore, further analysis is not recommended. The publication report on the site work should include a reference to the poor preservation of environmental remains in the bulk samples explaining the lack of a detailed environmental text.

REFERENCES

- Anderberg, A-L. 1994 *Atlas of Seeds: Part 4*, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Risbergs Tryckeri AB, Uddevalla, Sweden
- Berggren, G. 1981 *Atlas of Seeds: Part 3*, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Berlings, Arlöv, Sweden
- Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. 2005 'YCP05 – Bow North Youth Centre, Tower Hamlets: an interim summary report by Jim Leary, *PCA unpublished report*
- Stace, C. 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd ed.), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Table 1: Environmental Archaeological Assessment, Bow North Youth Centre, Parnell Road, Tower Hamlets (YCP05)

Sample	Context	Phase	Feature	Sample vol. (l)	Charcoal	Charred seeds	Waterlogged seeds	Bone
4	35	3	Fill of gully [36]	10	VO2	-	VO3	-
3	31	3	Fill of gully [32]	10	VO2	VO3	-	-
2	33	4	Fill of ditch [34]	10	O3	-	-	O1
1	28	4	Fill of ditch [29]	10	VO2	-	-	-

Key:

Concentration		Preservation	
-	Absent	1	Unidentifiable
VO	Very Occasional	2	Some Identifiable
O	Occasional	3	Identifiable

APPENDIX 8: OASIS Report Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-10746

Project details

Project name	Bow North Youth Centre, Parnell Road
Short description of the project	The excavation comprised an area measuring 7m x 17m. Natural deposits were evident as bands of sand and gravel capped in some areas by a sandy brickearth type deposit. Two parallel gullies, running north-south were recorded across the site, dating from the Late Iron Age (50 BC-AD 25). The western gully continued as a boundary and was re-cut by two components of a much larger ditch. The termini of these ditches contained a considerable quantity of Iron Age pottery (AD 25-50/60) as well as some slag and hearth lining. It is probable that the area investigated was open ground in the medieval and post-medieval periods, possibly used for horticultural purposes such as market gardening to supply fresh goods to the city. No evidence was uncovered to suggest the presence of medieval or post-medieval structures earlier than the 19th century.
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2005 End: 19-08-2005
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	YCP 05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE Late Iron Age
Investigation type	'Full excavation'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS Bow North Youth Centre, 60 Parnell Road
Postcode	E3 2RU
Study area	119.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3702 3445 Point
Height OD	Min: 10.46m Max: 9.43m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Gary Brown
Project director/manager	Gary Brown
Project supervisor	Jim Leary
Sponsor or funding body	Lovell Partnerships Limited
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Industrial','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Animal

Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Environmental', 'Glass', 'Industrial', 'Metal', 'Stratigraphic', 'Survey', 'Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Media available 'Database', 'Spreadsheets', 'Survey', 'Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An archaeological excavation at Bow North Youth Centre, Parnell Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London E3 2RU

Author(s)/Editor(s) Leary, J

Date 2005

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