LEFEVRE WALK SITE 7

OLD FORD

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER

HAMLETS



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



PNR 06

SEPTEMBER 2006

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Excavation

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Site Code: PNR 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3704 8351

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation and excavation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on behalf of Willmott Dixon, in advance of redevelopment at Lefevre Walk, Site L7, London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- 1.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. had previously undertaken a number of excavations in the area. An excavation was conducted to the northeast of the site, at 91-93 Parnell Road (PRB 95)¹ and three phases of excavation were undertaken to the immediate north of the site, on behalf of the Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust. Phase 1 consisted of an excavation undertaken at F-block and adjacent land west of Lefevre Walk (LEK 95)². Phase 2 consisted of one excavation on land adjacent to Lefevre Walk (PNL 98)³, immediately north of LEK 95, and Phase 3 was located east of the Phase 2 site, on the south side of Old Ford Road (LFW 01)⁴. A further excavation was also undertaken on behalf of Lovell Partnerships Ltd., located on land at Bow North Youth Centre, east of Parnell Road (YCP 05)⁵. This excavation was situated to the immediate south of the current site.
- 1.3 The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3704 8351 (Fig.1). The site boundaries are formed by the Overland Children's Centre at 60 Parnell Road to the south and west, a Fire Station to the north and Legion's Terrace to the east. The site was assigned the code PNR 06.
- 1.4 The evaluation consisted of two trenches, Trench 1 measuring c. 10.5m north-south by c. 3m east-west in the south of the site, and Trench 2 c. 5m north-south by 9.5m east-west in the north of the site (Fig. 2). This investigation revealed that the western part of the site had been terraced in the late post-medieval period, whilst Roman cut features were present to the east of the site. It was therefore decided following consultation with English Heritage GLAAS to open up an excavation area in the east.
- 1.5 The excavation consisted of an open area measuring c. 20m north-south by c. 6m eastwest (Fig. 2). It covered the eastern part of the footprint of the proposed redevelopment, as the evaluation identified that the potential for archaeological survival in the west had been precluded by the digging of a vast terrace type cut which extended north-south throughout the site. The purpose of this apparent terrace was unclear as modern ground level does not fall to the west. The base of a World War II Anderson Shelter was exposed in the western section of the trench during the machine removal of modern

¹ Taylor-Wilson, 1995

² Taylor-Wilson, 1996

³ Douglas, 1999

⁴ Leary, 2001

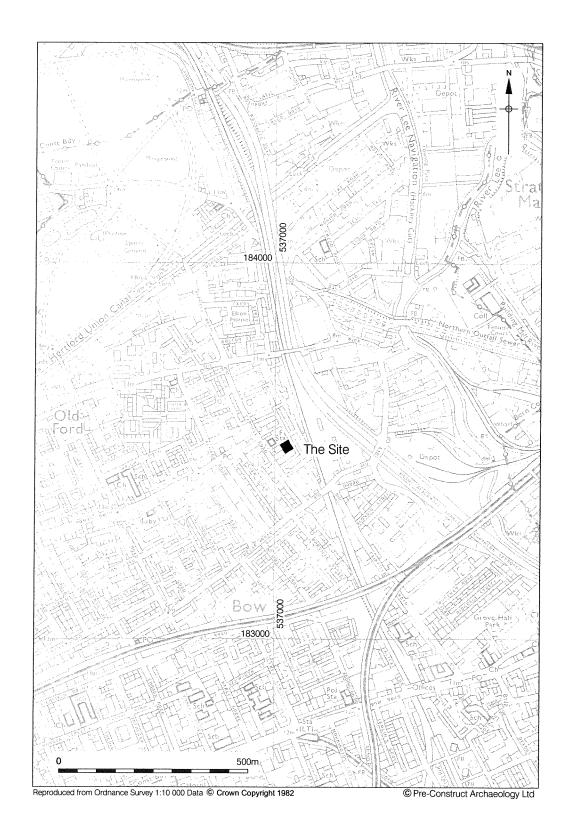
⁵ Leary, 2005

overburden. The shelter had been dug into the backfill of the 'terrace' cut demonstrating that this feature, whatever it's function, had been excavated in the first half of the twentieth century or the later nineteenth century.

- The underlying drift geology consisted of banded sand and gravel, capped in places by a brickearth type deposit. In some areas, the bright yellowish orange brickearth was up to 0.5m thick, whereas in others outcrops of loose yellow sand formed the surface of the natural deposits exposed by the removal of the Roman and medieval ploughsoil horizons.
- 1.7 The investigations revealed limited evidence of prehistoric activity provided by residual pottery and flints and a scatter within the brickearth. Roman ploughsoil activity possibly dating to the second century AD was revealed sealing the brickearth. Evidence of mid to late Roman occupation on the site was provided by several phases of ditching and pitting, which would suggest mainly agricultural activity with limited occupation. No evidence was uncovered to suggest the presence of medieval or post-medieval structures. The presence of medieval / post-medieval ploughsoil on the site would suggest that the area investigated was open ground in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. It may have been used for horticultural purposes, such as market gardening, to supply fresh goods to the burgeoning city.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on the site of the former playground located to the east of the Overland Children's Centre, 60 Parnell Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, E3. The site is to be redeveloped as housing and forms one of the final phases of the redevelopment of the Lefevre Walk Estate. The excavation was conducted between the 2nd and 22nd of May 2006 and followed a field evaluation that took place in February 2006. Willmott Dixon commissioned the work.
- 2.2 The evaluation demonstrated that although a large terrace type cut had impacted on the archaeological resource in the west, significant remains were extant to the east. The results of the evaluation suggested that deep cut features, such as pits or ditches, dating to the Roman period survived in the north and eastern areas of the footprint of the proposed building, although the frequency of these was difficult to judge as the largest evaluation trench was located almost exclusively within the area of the terrace cut.
- 2.3 The evaluation was supervised by Mark Bagwell and the excavation supervised by Dougie Killock. Gary Brown and Chris Mayo project managed the evaluation and excavation respectively. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. liased throughout with David Divers of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), who monitored developments on site.
- 2.4 The site lies within an 'Area of Particular Archaeological Importance', as defined by the Borough's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 1998. Due to the archaeological potential of the site an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation was undertaken.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material from the excavation will be deposited with the Museum of London under the site code PNR 06.



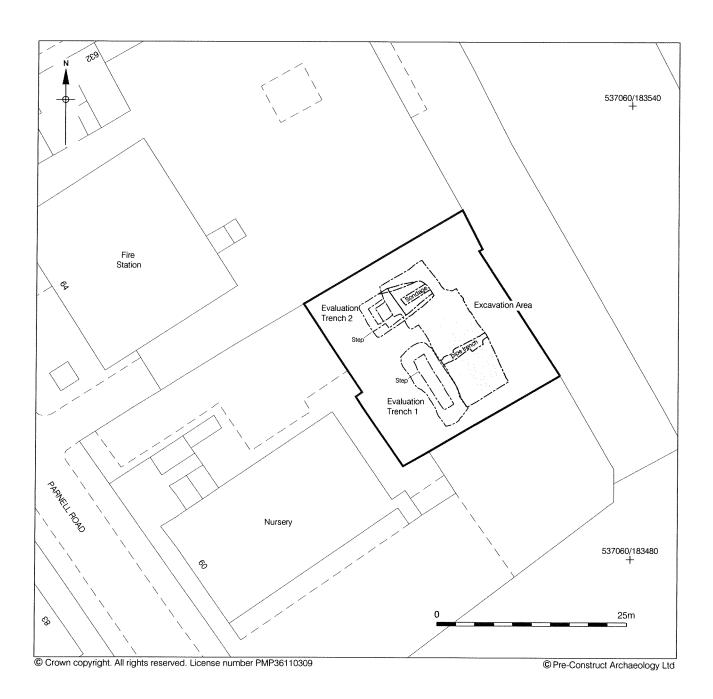


Figure 2 Trench Location 1:500

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- The site is in an area classified as an 'Area of Particular Archaeological Importance' in the Tower Hamlets Unitary Development Plan 1998. Although the UDP is currently being replaced by the Local Development Framework the policies contained in the UDP remain in force.
- 3.2 Tower Hamlets has made strong commitments to its archaeological heritage and its policy statements are reproduced below.
- DEV 42 Developments that adversely affects nationally important archaeological remains, including scheduled ancient monuments, will normally be refused.
- DEV 43 Development which affects any locally important archaeological site or remains, including industrial archaeology, may be permitted depending upon:
 - 1. The importance of the archaeological remains;
 - 2. The need for the development; and
 - 3. Measures proposed for the protection, enhancement and preservation of the site and the interpretation and presentation of the remains to the public.
- DEV 44 The permanent preservation in situ of nationally important remains will normally be required. Preservation of other remains will be a preference, subject to the importance of the remains and the need for development of the site. Where preservation is not appropriate, excavation and recording may be required. Development of archaeological sites should adopt suitable design, land use and site management to achieve these ends.
- DEV 45 Proposals involving ground works in areas of archaeological importance or potential, shown on the proposals map, or concerning individual sites notified to the council by English Heritage or the Museum of London will be subject to the following requirements:
- 1. Within areas of archaeological importance applicants will need to demonstrate that the archaeological implications of the development have been properly assessed. A written assessment (archaeological statement) based on the professional advice of an approved archaeology consultant or organisation should be submitted as part of the documentation required for a complete planning application.

- Within areas of archaeological importance the council may request, where development is likely to affect important archaeological remains, that an archaeological field evaluation of the site is carried out before any decision is made on the planning application;
- 3. Where the preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not appropriate, the council will seek to ensure that no development takes place on the site until archaeological investigation, excavation and recording has taken place by an approved archaeological organisation
- 4. In appropriate cases the Council will seek to ensure that adequate opportunities are afforded for the archaeological investigation of sites, before and during demolition and development. Suitable provision should be made for in situ preservation of remains (DEV44) and finds in the original location, or for removing them to a suitable place of safekeeping.

3.3 The UDP continues by stating-

"Tower Hamlets has a long and rich history. Archaeological remains are an important source of evidence of this history from Roman times to the recent industrial past. One of the principle sources of archaeological evidence is the development of sites, but this evidence is easily destroyed in the development process. The Council therefore wishes to ensure that development involving groundworks in areas which may contain archeological remains makes early and specified allowance for the investigation of the archaeological potential of the site before groundworks for the development is allowed to proceed. The Council's preference will be to seek and maintain any finds and remains in situ. The Council will seek the guidance of English Heritage and the Museum of London in determining the importance of archaeological remains.

The Council is concerned to see that sites which 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. The Council will therefore support and promote measures which protect and conserve sites and which will allow the public access to sites with archaeological remains to the extent that this is compatible with the protection of the remains.

The Council will seek professional archaeological advice from English Heritage or a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or consultant as appropriate and expect applicants to do the same when proposing development which 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 and resources for investigations to be carried out of the site. Proposals for investigation should be built

into the development programme at an early stage in the process. Supplementary Planning Guidance on Archaeology and Development, outlines the preferred procedure for investigation before development takes place. An archaeological assessment is normally a desktop evaluation of existing information on the development site, commissioned from a professional archaeological body or consultant. Sources may include historic maps, written sources, previous finds, archaeological fieldwork and geographical surveys. An archaeological evaluation is in contrast field based, but, as distinct from a full archaeological excavation, is normally a small-scale and rapid operation, entailing ground survey and limited trial trenching. It should, nevertheless, be carried out by a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or individual. An evaluation of this kind helps to define the character and extent of surviving archaeological remains in the area of a proposed development, and thus to indicate the weight that ought to be attached to their preservation.

Archeologically important areas are found throughout the Borough as shown on the Proposals Map. There are also records of numerous finds which 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 which fall within these areas will be subject to policy DEV 42 to 66.

Areas which are of particular archaeological importance are:

- The Tower of London and surrounding area;
- The areas in Wapping shown on the Proposals Map. Parts of Wapping have revealed important finds and it is probably the richest part of the Borough in terms of known archaeological sites, including industrial archaeology sites;
- The site of the medieval hospital of St. Mary's between Bishopsgate and Spitalfields
 Market;
- A Roman road and cemetery in the Mansell Street area;
- A Roman settlement and road at Old Ford;
- A Cistercian Abbey and plague cemetery at the Royal Mint site.

Areas of potential include:

- evidence of prehistoric occupation in the Stepney Green area;
- the Lee Valley may include well preserved objects; and
- the possibility of Roman occupation in the Poplar High Street area.

Archaeological sites acknowledged as of national importance and afforded statutory protection by virtue of their inclusion on the Schedule of Ancient Monuments are as follows;

- The Tower of London
- Tower Hill West
- Section of London Wall running from Tower Hill Underground Station to Tower Hill
- Priory and Hospital of St. Mary Spital, Spitalfields

Standing structures, which are of Industrial Archaeological significance, which are also included on the Schedule are;

- Bonner Hall Bridge, Regent's Canal
- Three Cold Bridge, Gunmaker's Lane
- Parnell Road Bridge"
- 3.4 The Tower Hamlets UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of the Environment document, "Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and 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.
- 3.5 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. has carried out a succession of excavations, evaluations and watching briefs in the Parnell Road and Lefevre Walk area over the last ten years. These have demonstrated the wealth of the archaeological resource of the area and considerably enhanced the archaeological community's understanding of the status of the Roman road and settlement at Old Ford (see section 5).
- Phase 1 of the investigations was carried out to the northwest of the subject site on behalf of Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust at Lefevre Walk (site code LEK95)⁶, between the 20th November 1995 and the 12th July 1996 (not a continuous period). An excavation was also undertaken at 91-93 Parnell Road (PRB 95), also to the northwest of the site.
- 3.7 Phase 2 of the archaeological investigations was undertaken to the north of the subject site between 16th September 1998 and 18th December 1998 (not a continuous period) at Lefevre Walk Estate, Parnell Road, E3 (site code PNL 98)⁷.

⁷ Douglas, 1999

⁶ Taylor-Wilson, 1996

- 3.8 Phase 3 of the investigations was carried out to the north of the subject site at Lefevre Walk Phase 3, (site code LFW 01), between the 1st if October and 7th of November 2001.
- 3.9 A further archaeological excavation was undertaken to the immediate south of the site at Bow North Youth Centre, Parnell Road (YCP 05), between 4th and 19th August 2005.
- 3.10 The results of that excavations demonstrated that a transitional late Iron Age and Roman settlement probably existed in the area on either side of the London-Colchester Road. Significant medieval remains were also uncovered which facilitated an enhanced understanding of the status of the area during a period that had hitherto been underrepresented in the archaeological record.⁸
- 3.11 As a consequence of the site being in an area of archaeological importance, and due to the significant remains found during the adjacent excavations, an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation was required prior to redevelopment of the site.

⁸ Leary, 2002

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- The solid geology in the vicinity of the site is London Clay. This was not reached during the course of the excavation, as the trenches were not excavated to a sufficient depth. The underlying drift geology consists of Thames terrace gravel, specifically the Kempton Park and Taplow sequences, overlain by a layer of natural silty clay, termed "brickearth".
- At PRB 95, the brickearth was observed at a minimum height of 11.20m OD and at a maximum height of 11.30m OD, and was approximately 1.5m thick⁹. In the northern part of LEK95 brickearth was recorded between heights of 10.95m OD and 11.30m OD, while in the southern part it attained a maximum height of 11.65m OD, where it was only 0.25m thick¹⁰. At PNL98, the brickearth was observed between heights of 9.54m OD and 8.42m OD, with a maximum thickness of 0.62m¹¹. At LFW 01, natural sand was capped by brickearth to the west, observed between heights of 9.46m OD to 9.26m OD. The underlying natural sand was recorded at a height of between 9.35m OD and 9.26m OD¹². Natural sand was also recorded at YCP 05, between heights of 10.46m OD and 9.43m OD, sloping towards the south¹³.
- 4.3 The site is less than 1 mile to the west of the River Lea, which rises in Bedfordshire, flows through Hertfordshire and joins the Thames approximately 3 miles to the south of the site. The Lea probably played a vital role in transporting goods and people in the past, having been navigable as far north as Ware in Roman times¹⁴.

⁹ Taylor-Wilson, 1995

¹⁰Taylor-Wilson, 1996

¹¹ Douglas, 1999

¹² Leary, 2002

¹³ Leary, 2005

¹⁴ Leary, 2005

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Recent Archaeological Fieldwork

5.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited has previously undertaken five excavations on the Lefevre Walk Estate, in three phases. Phase 1 was conducted at F-Block and adjacent land, Lefevre Walk (LEK 95), along with another excavation at 91-93 Parnell Road (PRB 95). Phase 2 was an excavation at Lefevre Walk Estate, Parnell Road, (PNL 98). Phase 3 took place on the eastern part of the redevelopment adjacent to the A102 (M) (LFW 01). A fifth excavation was then undertaken at a later date, on land at Bow North Youth Centre, Parnell Road (YCP 05). The results of these excavations have been reported in detail elsewhere 15. Earlier archaeological investigations had been carried out on the Parnell Road site in 1990 and 1995¹⁶, and within the boundaries of Lefevre Walk Phase I during 1970-71¹⁷, 1980¹⁸, and 1995¹⁹. Excavations had also taken place at Lefevre Road in 1969²⁰.

5.2 **Prehistoric**

- The site is located on high ground adjacent to the River Lea and the Hackney Marshes, 5.2.1 with an underlying geology suitable for agrarian exploitation of the type practised by Prehistoric communities in the region²¹. It is therefore possible that the site may be situated in an area of Prehistoric habitation or agricultural land.
- 5.2.2 This is supported by evidence obtained from the excavations at LEK 95, PRB 95 and PNL 98. Artefacts obtained from the excavations suggest Palaeolithic, possible Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Middle to Late Bronze Age activity in the vicinity²².
- 5.2.3 Neolithic and Middle to Late Bronze Age pits and possible field boundaries were uncovered at PNL 98, along with possible Middle to Late Bronze Age votive offerings. Evidence of Late Bronze Age occupation was observed at PRB 95.
- 5.2.4 A roundhouse was unearthed at PRB 95, which was dated to the Late Iron Age. It may have been centrally placed within an enclosure²³. Late Iron Age features with ritual

¹⁵ Taylor-Wilson, 1995, 1996, Douglas, 1999, Leary, 2002, 2005

¹⁶ Pitt, 1990, 1995a

¹⁷ Sheldon, 1972

¹⁸ Mills, 1984 ¹⁹ Pitt, 1995b

²⁰ Sheldon, 1971

²¹ Leary, 2005

²² Taylor-Wilson, 1995, 1996 ²³ Taylor-Wilson, 1996

overtones were recorded at PNL 98, along with probable field boundaries of the same date²⁴. At YCP 05, further evidence of possible Bronze Age to Late Iron Age activity was observed, in the form of two parallel gullies containing Late Iron Age pottery (50BC-AD 25), truncated by a later causewayed ditch, the termini of which contained considerable quantities of Late Iron Age pottery (AD 25-50/60), slag and hearth lining. It is possible that the ditch represents an enclosure with an entrance²⁵.

5.2.5 Further evidence of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British occupation was uncovered at LFW 01. A group of postholes, pits, a shallow ditch and a gully all dated to this period. The larger postholes measured c.0.8m in diameter and 0.3m deep. Smaller postholes may have related to this phase although they lacked pottery. The pottery recovered from the larger postholes suggested that a Late Iron Age/Early Roman structure existed on the site²⁶.

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 The subject site is located just to the south of the main Roman road from London (Londinium) to Colchester (Camulodunum). It is also situated just to the west of the ford where the road crossed the River Lea.
- 5.3.2 The road was partially revealed during investigations at LEK 95, where pottery obtained during its excavation suggested it had been constructed in the mid 1st century²⁷. A further section of the road was exposed at PRB 95, where numerous boundary ditches dating to the late Roman period appeared to lead off it²⁸. Both sites revealed evidence of 2nd to 3rd century iron working²⁹.
- 5.3.3 Heavily truncated remains of mid to late 3rd century roadside clay and timber buildings were unearthed at LEK 95³⁰. Several more clay and timber buildings were also observed at PNL 98, along with field and property boundary ditches, fence lines, pits and a sump³¹. Further evidence of 1st to 3rd century roadside ditches and pits were also observed at LFW 01. A small inhumation cemetery of 4th century date was recorded at LEK 95³².

²⁴ Douglas, 1999

²⁵ Leary, 2005

²⁶ Leary, 2002

Leary, 2005, Taylor-Wilson, 1995

²⁸ Taylor-Wilson, 1995

²⁹ Taylor-Wilson, 1995, 1996

³⁰ Taylor-Wilson, 1996

³¹ Douglas, 1999

³²Taylor-Wilson, 1996

5.3.4 It is likely that these features all represent elements of the same roadside settlement, which grew up around the "strategically important" point at which the London to Colchester Road crosses the River Lea³³.

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 the medieval period the crossing point for the River Lea moved south towards Bow, as the Old Ford crossing had become too treacherous.
- 5.4.2 A handful of medieval potsherds were recovered from both LEK95 and PRB95, and 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 had 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 the site.
- 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 rural setting stood on the site. Late pits showed that a settlement remained in the immediate vicinity of the site throughout the 13th and 14th centuries³⁴.
- 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 circa 1500.

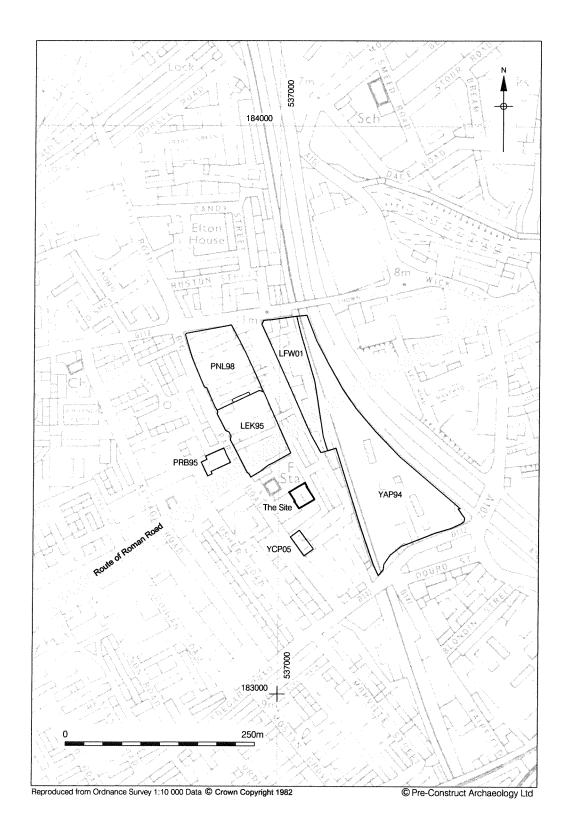
5.5 Post-Medieval

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. A soil horizon dating to the late post-medieval period was also observed at YCP 05, suggesting that the site may have been open agricultural land during this time.

³³ Leary, 2005

³⁴ Leary, 2002

- 5.5.2 By the end of the 19th century the area had been transformed into a suburb of London. Work at PNL 98 revealed a Victorian sewer associated with this housing, as were rubbish pits and garden features.
- 5.5.3 The 20th century was represented at PNL 98 by the discovery of an Anderson shelter



6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- The evaluation followed the methodology outlined in the archaeological method statement³⁵. The evaluation consisted of two trenches (Fig. 2). The dimensions of Trench 1, located in the south of the site, were c. 10.5m north-south by c. 3m east-west and the dimensions of Trench 2, located in the north of the site, were c. 5m north-south by 9.5m east-west
- The evaluation strategy was designed to sample a representative portion of the area threatened by severe impact from redevelopment, and to demonstrate the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or features on the site. The evaluation demonstrated that the western part of the site was severely truncated by terracing whilst features of Roman date survived on the eastern part of the site.
- 6.3 Following consultation with David Divers of English Heritage GLAAS and the Client it was decided to proceed with an open area excavation which was subsequently undertaken targeting the features exposed on the eastern part of the site. An area measuring c. 20m north-south by c. 6m east-west was excavated.
- 6.3 A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision, removed all undifferentiated topsoil and modern overburden in successive spits until significant archaeological deposits were reached.
- 6.4 Following the machining, the area was cleaned by hand. Some smaller features were fully excavated; larger cut features were investigated by excavating sondages through them to recover dating evidence.
- 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.
- 6.6 A temporary benchmark was established on the site (value 10.85m OD).
- 6.7 Archaeological features and deposits were recorded dating from the Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Features or structures representing the later two periods were not apparent in the base of the trench but occurred as ploughsoil horizons removed as overburden using the mechanical excavator. These were recorded in the

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³⁵ Brown, 2006

representative section showing the post-Roman stratigraphy. A probable early Roman ploughsoil, truncated by 3rd to 4th century features was also evident. The features were backfilled with material very similar in colour and consistency to the ploughsoil, and as a result were difficult to observe. The Roman ploughsoil was therefore also removed using the mechanical excavator, in order to expose features truncating natural more clearly. The Roman ploughsoil was also recorded in section.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE AND INTERPRETATIONS

7.1 Phase 1: Natural (Fig. 7)

- 7.1.1 Natural deposits consisted of bands of yellow and orange sand and fine gravel, observed at a maximum height of 11.06m OD in the north, sloping to a minimum height of 10.19m OD in a southerly direction. The natural sand and gravel was assigned the context numbers [12], [13], [20], [21] and [75].
- 7.1.2 Sealing the natural sand in the south of the site was a sandy yellowish brown "brickearth" deposit, observed at a height of 10.84m OD. The absence of the sand and gravel in the far south of the site suggests that the drift geology slopes to the south. With the exception of the large Roman ditch that truncates the deposit, the brickearth covered the entire area. The layer is probably the result of natural depositional processes, although inclusions of fragmented pottery and burnt flint within its matrix suggest human disturbance prior to the Roman occupation of the site. The layer was identified as context [76] during the excavation.

7.2 Phase 2: Prehistoric Activity

- 7.2.1 The only *in situ* evidence of prehistoric activity on the site was limited to an artefact scatter recovered from brickearth deposit [76] described above. The artefactual remains consisted of one small fragment of pottery, dating from the Late Bronze Age to the Middle Iron Age, three fragments of burnt flint and a piece of burnt daub. Two struck flints were also recovered from the fill of a Roman ditch, context [61]. The flints were typologically typical of the Mesolithic to Neolithic, and are therefore presumed to be in a secondary context. A chisel type arrowhead was also recovered from the fill of a Roman ditch, context [48]. The arrowhead is also thought to have been redeposited, as its typology suggests a middle to late Neolithic date.
- 7.2.2 Despite the small size of the assemblage, the finds suggest a pre-Roman presence on the site, although a more precise interpretation of the nature of this presence cannot be deduced from the available evidence.

7.3 Phase 3: Pre-Roman to Early Roman Agricultural Activity (Fig. 8 Section 12)

7.3.1 An organic soil horizon, 0.5m thick, was noted during the investigations, at a height of 10.79m OD. The layer was composed of homogenous, humic-rich, mid brown silty sand, which may be the result of constant disturbance through ploughing. The thick, humic

nature of the layer could have been created by the constant, long-term introduction of organic matter to improve soil quality. A small assemblage of pottery sherds dating from AD 180+ were recovered from the deposit, which was also truncated by mid to late Roman cut features. Consequently, the layer is presumed to be the result of agricultural activity during the early Roman period and possibly earlier. It was identified as contexts [11] and [74] and recorded in section only (see Section 12, Figure 8).

7.4 Phase 4: Early Roman Activity (Fig. 4)

- 7.4.1 The pre-Roman to early Roman agricultural soil was truncated by a number of later features, which appeared to have been backfilled with redeposited material from this layer. As a consequence, the cut features were barely visible in plan, being very similar in colour and consistency to the surrounding soil. The agricultural layer was therefore removed by machine until natural brickearth or sand was reached, in order to expose the features more clearly.
- 7.4.2 Six linear features were then excavated and recorded in plan and identified as contexts [41], [43], [56], [78], [82] and [86], respectively filled by [40], [42], [55], [77], [81] and [85] (see Figure 3). No dating evidence was obtained from the mid brown, sandy silty fills but, with the exception of contexts [43] and [78], mid Roman features partially truncated them all. The features ranged in size from 1.25m by 0.45m to 0.58m by 0.3m and were between 0.36m and 0.15m deep. Their shallow nature may be due to horizontal truncation during the removal of the Roman to pre-Roman agricultural soil. The contexts may represent the remains of elongated pits of unknown function, presumed to date to or pre-date the mid Roman period.
- 7.4.3 One pit or ditch, substantially deeper than the others, was recorded in section only and identified as context [90] (see Figure 8, Section 10). The dimensions of the feature as seen were 0.72m wide and 0.92m deep. It was filled by a mid brown sandy silty deposit, context [89]. The feature must pre-date the mid to late Roman period, as it had been partially truncated by a later mid to late Roman ditch. However, due to the complete lack of artefactual evidence within its fill, a more precise date could not be assigned. As the feature was only recorded in section, its precise form and function remains enigmatic.
- 7.4.4 Two small, circular cuts were also recorded in plan and identified as contexts [35] and [45], respectively filled by contexts [34] and [44] (see Fig. 4). The cuts were c. 0.2m in diameter and c. 0.2m deep. No dating evidence was obtained from their mid brown, sandy silty fills, although context [35] was stratigraphically below a mid Roman feature. The cuts were c. 0.7m apart on a northeast-southwest alignment and were of a uniform size and shape, both having an apparent stakehole driven through their base. Their

similarity suggests that they could be related, perhaps forming part of a lightweight timber structure such as a fence line. Unfortunately, the lack of any further evidence for the presence of a structure limits the potential for further interpretation.

7.4.5 Partially truncating pit [86] was circular cut [84], filled by mid to dark brown sandy silty fill [83]. The cut was 0.8m in diameter and 0.5m deep, with the apparent remains of a postpipe in its base. Again, no dating evidence was obtained from the fill, although it had been partially truncated by a mid Roman ditch. The feature was interpreted as a construction cut for a driven post. No further evidence was found to suggest that the feature may form part of a larger structure and as a result its function remains unclear.

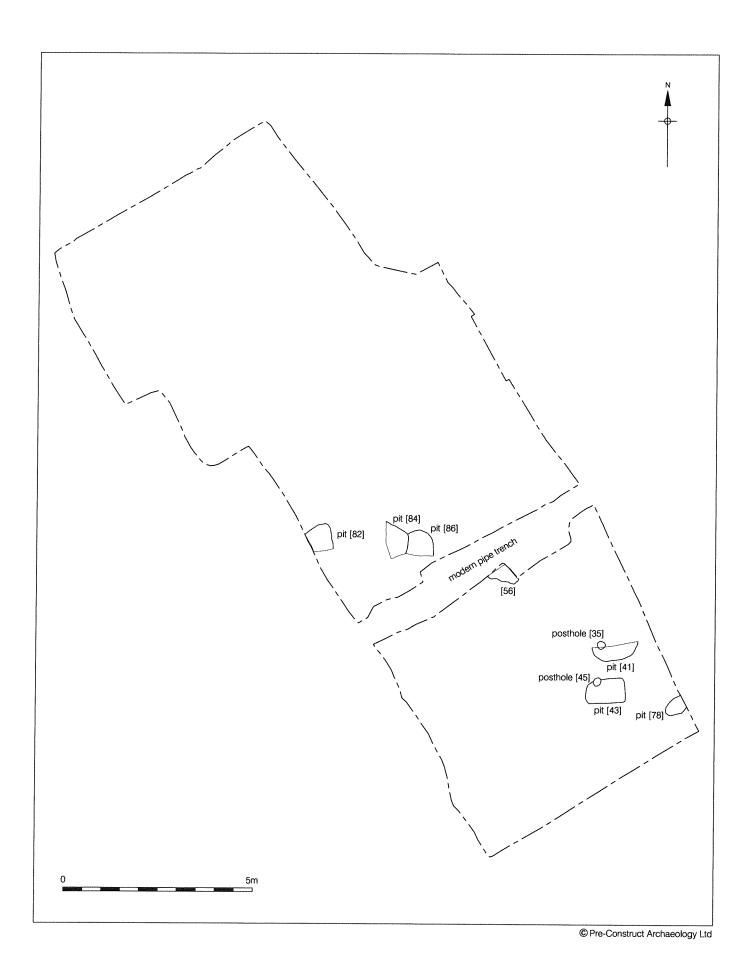
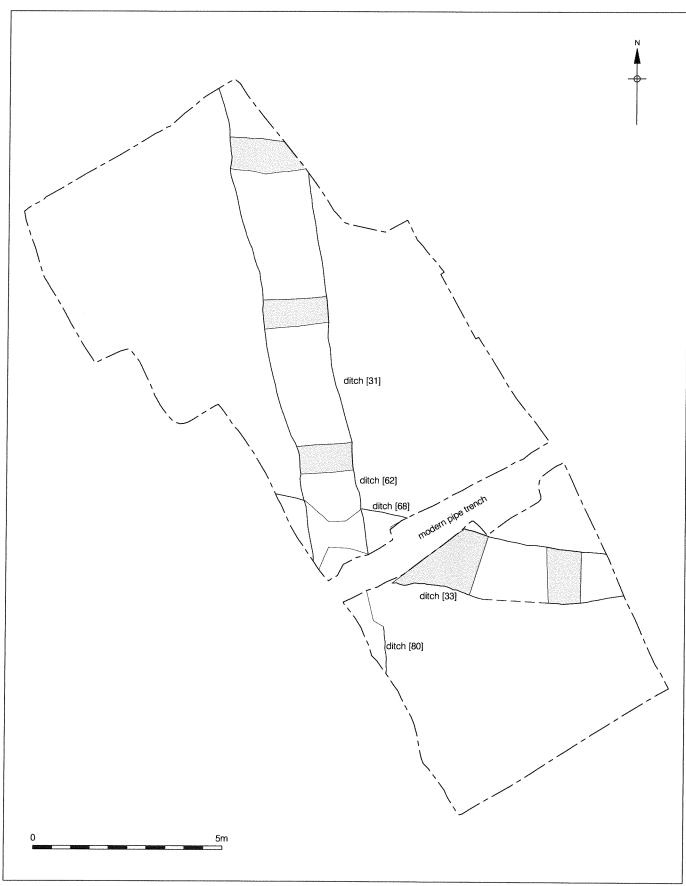


Figure 4 Phase 4: early Roman / mid Roman

7.5 Phase 5: Mid 3rd Century Activity (Fig. 5)

- 7.5.1 Two ditches represent the next phase of activity on the site. Ditch [33] / [68] to the west was 1.78m wide and was orientated northnorthwest-southsoutheast. The fill, contexts [32] / [67], consisted of mid to light brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of pottery dating from AD 230 to 300 and early to mid Roman building material. Ditch [31] / [62] / [80] was backfilled with [30] / [61] / [79]. It was 1.76m wide and was orientated westnorthwest-eastsoutheast. The fill of the feature was very similar in colour and consistency to that of ditch [33] / [68]. It also contained pottery, dating from 270-300 AD and early to mid Roman building material. The fill also contained two pieces of struck flint of probable Mesolithic to Neolithic date, which are presumed to be redeposited. The feature apparently truncated ditch [33] / [68] as excavated. However, the fills of both ditches were virtually identical in colour and consistency and as a consequence this relationship was deemed insecure. It is therefore possible that both ditches remained open simultaneously, and were backfilled in one event. They probably represent drainage features or boundary ditches.
- 7.5.2 Both features contained fragments of bovine and equine skull and teeth. Ditch [33] / [68] contained a cow mandible and a fragment of bone from a large ungulate. Ditch [31] / [62] / [80] contained two equine upper maxillae, possibly from the same animal, and a radius from a large ungulate. The deposition of horse and cow skulls within pits and ditches is a well demonstrated ritual tradition carried through from the Iron Age into the early Roman period, and it has been suggested that the large proportion of head elements (44.7% in total) within the assemblage could be caused by ritual activity on the site³⁶. However, the remains do not appear to have been deliberately placed within the base of the features, having apparently been thrown in as part of the backfill. Associated pottery sherds also suggest a mid 3rd century date, unusually late for this Iron Age / early Roman tradition. It therefore seems more likely that taphonomic processes in the surrounding acidic sediment affected the assemblage, causing the decay of more vulnerable elements, especially from smaller animals, whilst more durable teeth and skull fragments of larger animals survived.

³⁶ Meddens, appendix 7, this report.



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Sondage across ditch feature

Figure 5 Phase 5: early to mid third century activity 1:100

7.6 Phase 6- Mid to Late 3rd Century Activity (Fig. 6)

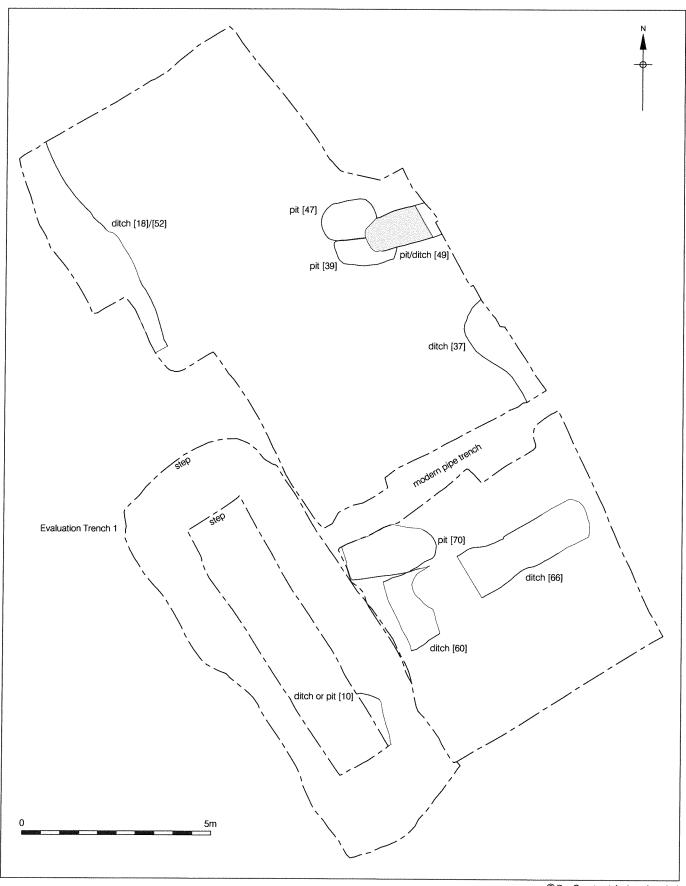
- 7.6.1 The available evidence suggests that features described above ceased to function as boundary or drainage ditches before the next phase of activity commenced on the site. This appears to consist of two large ditches on a different alignment, and several pits and linear features.
- Ditch [60]/[66] was 1.95m wide, orientated northeast-southwest, the eastern terminus 7.6.2 being just within the area of excavation. Two sondages were excavated through the feature. The easternmost sondage was filled with one uniform deposit, context [65], composed of loose, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of pottery fragments dating between 180 and 300 AD, mid Roman building material and one bovine leg bone. The fill is assumed to be the same as secondary fill [58], observed in the eastern sondage, which was identical in colour and consistency. The primary fill [59], observed in the eastern sondage only, consisted of loose, dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded to angular flint gravel. It also contained occasional fragments of pottery, manufactured from 120 AD to the end of the Roman period. Ditch [18] / [52] was 1.5m wide, between c. 0.8m and 1m deep and was orientated northwest-southeast (Fig. 8 Section 10). The fills of the ditch were excavated as one unit, although two distinct fills were observed in section after excavation. As a consequence, the finds from the fills were attributed to one context, termed context [17] during the evaluation and [57] during the excavation. In section, the primary fill of the ditch was termed context [88], which consisted of compact, mid brown sandy silt and was 0.55m thick. This was sealed by a 0.32m thick secondary fill, context [87], identical in consistency although slightly darker in colour. The fill contained rare inclusions of late Roman pottery and mid Roman building material. It is possible that the late Roman pottery may be intrusive and had been retrieved from the fill of a later pit, which truncated ditch [52]. This is discussed more thoroughly in the next section. A well worn Roman coin, probably minted in the 1st or 2nd century, was retrieved from the fill during the evaluation.
- 7.6.3 Ditch or linear pit [37] was 3.02m long, 0.92m wide and 0.25m deep, being orientated northwest-southeast. It had been truncated to the south by a modern pipe trench and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the east, although its terminus was observed to the north. The ditch or pit was backfilled with a firm, mid brown sandy silt, context [36], which contained a complete beaker dating from AD 250-400. The deposition of a complete vessel is unusual. It remains possible that the vessel may simply have no longer been valued as a possession and discarded as rubbish, although the disposal of complete pots in pits and ditches has been interpreted elsewhere as a ritual activity and

it should be remembered that a 4th century burial ground was observed at LEK 95³⁷. Ditch or linear pit [49] was orientated approximately northeast-southwest and was 1.56m wide. It had been truncated away to the west by two later pits and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the east. The fill, context [48], was comprised of light yellowish brown sandy silt with a small quantity of pottery (AD 240-300), building material and a redeposited mid to late Neolithic arrowhead.

- 7.6.4 Pit [70] was located to the immediate north of ditch [60] / [66]. The pit was 2.42m wide, 0.41m deep and had been truncated to the north by a modern pipe trench. The fill, context [69], consisted of light yellowish brown gravelly sandy silt, with occasional inclusions of mid to late Roman pottery (AD 200-400), early to mid Roman building material, fire-cracked flint and a late 3rd century radiate coin.
- 7.6.5 Pit [47] truncated ditch or pit [49] to the west. The pit was ovoid in shape, being 1.42m long, 1.04m wide and 0.32m deep, orientated east-west. The pit was truncated to the south by later pit [39]. It contained backfill [46], a friable, light brown to yellowish brown sandy silt. No finds were present within the fill. Pit [39] truncated pit [47] to the south. The pit was sub-rectangular in shape, being 1.48m long, 0.7m wide and 0.42m deep, orientated east-west. It was backfilled with context [38], a deposit of friable, light brown sandy silt. No finds were present within the fill.
- 7.6.6 Pit [10] was recorded within the evaluation trench, prior to commencement of the open area excavation. The feature was sub-rounded in shape, being 1.45m long, 0.35m wide and 0.3m deep, orientated north-south. It was backfilled with a deposit of soft, mid orange brown silty clayey sand, context [9], which contained occasional fragments of Roman pottery and early to mid Roman CBM.
- 7.6.7 The ditches probably represent later boundary or drainage ditches, re-excavated on a different alignment to their earlier counterparts, the change in orientation suggesting a possible alteration to property boundaries between the early to mid and mid to late Roman periods. The possible functions of the pits are harder to ascertain from the available evidence. Their shallow nature suggests that they may have been peripheral features such as rubbish pits, any organic remains buried within them having decayed in the free-draining, acidic sediment. It is also possible that they may originally have been deeper, having been truncated horizontally during the removal of the Roman ploughsoil. Again, the animal bone assemblage retrieved from the features contained a disproportionate amount of bovine and equine head elements, best explained by taphonomic processes occurring within the surrounding sediment.

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³⁷ Taylor-Wilson, 1996

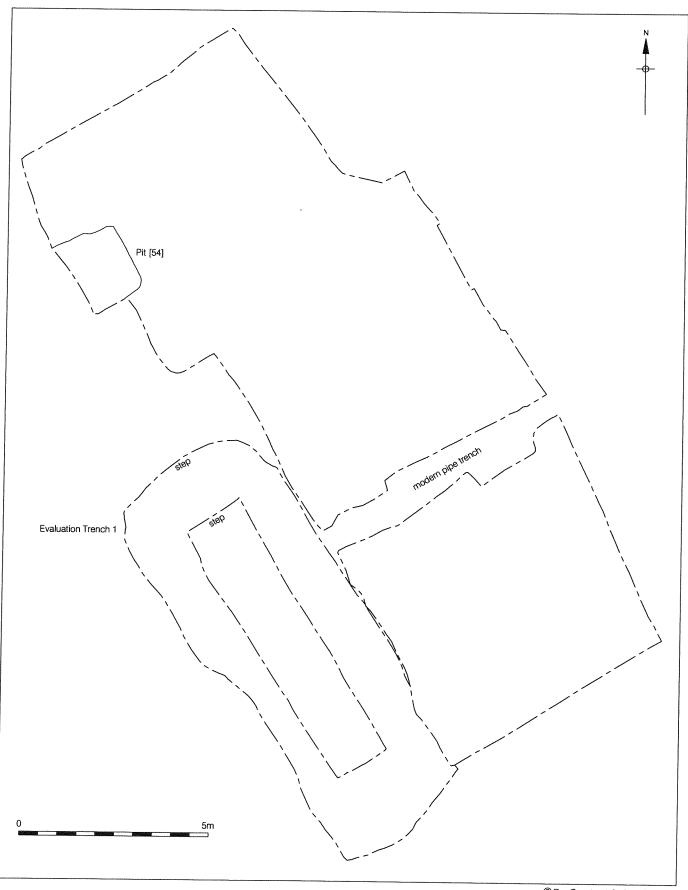


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Figure 6 Phase 6: mid to late third century activity 1:100

7.7 PHASE 7- Late 3rd to 4th Century Activity (Fig. 7)

- 7.7.1 The next phase of activity on the site appears to consist of the excavation of one subrectangular pit, context [54].
- 7.7.2 The feature was sub-rectangular, being 1.88m wide and 0.57m deep, running into the western edge of excavation. It truncated the backfill of ditch [18] / [52], which had fallen out of use prior to the excavation of the pit. The pit itself had been backfilled with primary fill [51] / [53], a soft, mid brown sandy silt, and secondary fill [50], a soft dark brown silty clay, all of which contained mid Roman building material. Due to the similarity between the primary fill of ditch [18] / [52] and the primary fill of pit [54], it is possible that during their excavation some cross-contamination of finds occurred. For example, the pit contained a burnt fragment of Roman pottery dating to AD 350-400, which joined with another burnt fragment from the fill of the ditch. The sherds both have different patterns of burning, suggesting that they were broken prior to burning. It seems most likely, that they were both probably deposited at the same time within the later pit. The feature probably functioned as a rubbish pit.



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Figure 7 Phase 7: late third to fourth century activity 1:100

7.8 PHASE 8- Medieval to Post-Medieval Agricultural Activity

7.8.1 The remains of a medieval to post-medieval layer was observed within the evaluation trench, termed context [19]. The layer consisted of mid brown silty clayey sand, 0.4m thick, truncated away to the west by a large terrace cut, observed at a height of 11.44m OD. The deposit contained occasional fragments of post-medieval building material and was humic rich and homogenous. It was therefore interpreted as a possible agricultural soil, perhaps associated with market-gardening activities known to have taken place in the vicinity of the site during the medieval to post-medieval periods.

7.9 PHASE 8- Late 19th to 20th Century

- 7.9.1 The agricultural layer was truncated by a linear feature, context [8]. The feature was orientated north-south, was 0.4m wide and 0.55m deep. It had been backfilled with soft, dark brown silty clay containing fragments of modern pottery. The feature had been truncated to the east by a large terrace-type cut.
- 7.9.2 The terrace-type cut, context [6] / [16], ran across the entire western side and was orientated north-south. It was backfilled with a deposit of loose, mixed material, context [5] / [15]. The backfill was thought to be late 19th to early 20th century in date, containing pottery sherds, glass fragments and clay tobacco pipe dating from the late 18th century to 1910.
- 7.9.3 The entire excavation area was sealed by modern made ground [71], [72] & [73] and tarmac, the top of the modern ground surface being at a height of 12.10m OD in the north of the site, sloping to a height of 11.92m OD in the south of the site.

Section Location
1:200

| Site | Site

SW NE

10.69m OD

[87]

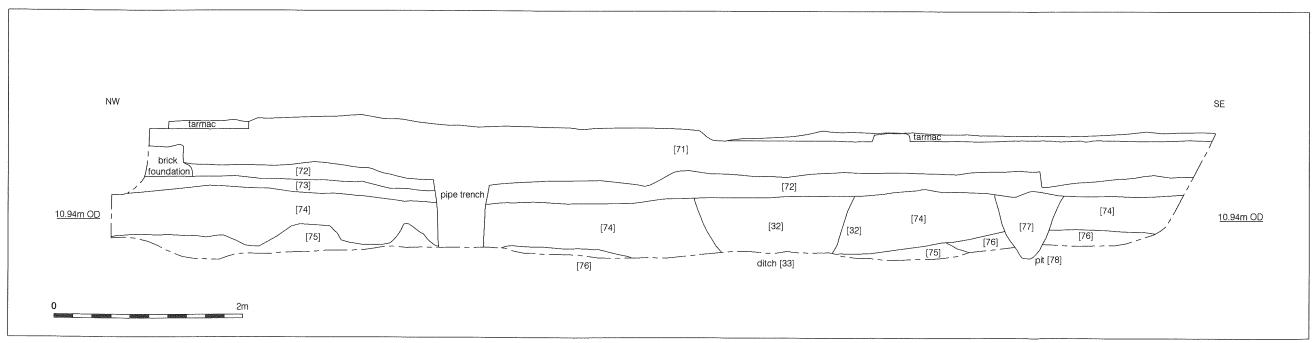
[88]

[89]

cut [90]

natural [75]

Section 10 Facing south-east 1:20



Section 12 Facing south-west 1:40

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8 ORIGINAL AND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

8.1 Original research objectives

The original research objectives of the excavation are listed below, along with an evaluation of the archaeological evidence recovered from the site in order to assess whether it could potentially be used to answer these guestions.

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 HAT Phase 1 excavations.

The excavation did not reveal any additional information regarding the Palaeolithic. No artefacts were recovered dating to the period.

8.1.2 What is the nature of the prehistoric activity at the site and how does it relate to other contemporary activity sites in the Lea Valley? Neolithic and Bronze Age activities have been recorded at both the HAT Phase 1 and Phase 2 sites and may well be represented in the area of this site. Is there an evolving picture of the landscape and land use in the Neolithic and Bronze Age being developed in the light of recent fieldwork?

Evidence for prehistoric activity at the site is limited. There was no evidence to suggest that any of the cut features observed during the excavation were prehistoric. The only evidence of a pre-Roman presence on the site consisted of an artefact scatter composed of one small fragment of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age pottery, three fragments of burnt flint and a piece of burnt daub found within a layer of disturbed natural brickearth. Residual prehistoric remains recovered from later features were also few in number, being limited to two Mesolithic to Neolithic worked flints and one transverse, chisel type arrowhead of Middle to late Neolithic date. The sparse nature of the evidence suggests that the excavation area was not the site of permanent or semi-permanent Prehistoric habitation, but may have been visited sporadically from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. It also does not appear to have been located near the heart of the settlement known to have grown up around Old Ford in the Iron Age. It is therefore probable that occasional, low intensity prehistoric activity of some description occurred on the site, but the nature of this activity cannot be elaborated upon further due to limitations in the available evidence.

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

No artefactual evidence of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age activity was obtained during the excavation. An early Roman ploughsoil was recorded, however, and it remains possible that the layer could have begun to form prior to the Roman period.

8.1.4 What is the evidence for Roman occupation at the site? What is the status of the occupation and how does it relate to the agricultural landscape recorded at the HAT, Phase 1, Phase 2 & Phase 3 sites and elsewhere?

The available evidence suggests that the site was exploited as agricultural land throughout the early to mid Roman period. A thick, humic rich, homogenous layer, indicative of a possible ploughsoil was observed, which contained pottery dating from AD 180+. The bulk of activity on the site seems to date from the mid 3rd to 4th century. Two boundary and / or drainage ditches, thought to date from the mid 3rd century, truncated the ploughsoil. These were truncated by two later boundary and / or drainage ditches on a different alignment, presumed to date to the mid to late 3rd century, indicative of a possible boundary change. Several possible rubbish pits of a similar date were also observed. The last phase of activity appears to have been the construction of a large rubbish pit, thought to be late 3rd to 4th century in date.

The evidence obtained from the excavation suggested that the vast majority of activity occurred in the mid 3rd to 4th century. Activity of a similar date also occurred at LEK 95, where a 4th century cemetery was unearthed. 1st to 3rd century ditches were also recorded at LFW 01, and 3rd century clay and timber buildings were recorded at LEK 95 and PNL 98. Iron working activity dating to the 2nd to 3rd century was observed at LEK 95 and PNL 98.

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 evidence of Roman cemetery remains was found during the excavation, although the complete vessel placed within a Roman pit or ditch may be a votive offering. The abundance of equine and bovine teeth and skull elements in the features may also be an indication of ritual activity, harking back to Iron Age traditions. However, artefactual evidence suggests the site was occupied from the mid 3rd century to the 4th century, atypically late for this form of ritual practice. The bones were distributed fairly evenly between features rather than being concentrated in particular areas and were deposited as part of the backfill rather than being deliberately placed on the bases. This suggests that the animal bone assemblage may represent normal domestic

rubbish rather than ritual deposition, the apparent bias perhaps having been caused by taphonomic processes within the free-draining, acidic ground. More durable elements, such as teeth, are more likely to survive in these conditions, whilst other elements such as long bones are more likely to decay.

8.1.6 Is there evidence for metal working practices in the Roman period having taken place on or near the subject site?

No evidence was obtained during the excavation that suggested metal working had taken place on or near the site.

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

A humic rich layer of possible medieval date was recorded in the southwest corner of the study area, which was interpreted as a medieval ploughsoil. No evidence was found that demonstrated medieval or early post-medieval habitation on the site. The excavation area may not have been located in close proximity to a street frontage, hence the lack of structures and rubbish pits associated with a settlement. The available evidence therefore suggests that the site itself was exploited purely for agricultural purposes.

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 features at PNR 06 relate to the Iron Age activity found at other sites in the vicinity?

Contemporary Roman features, such as ditches, pits and postholes, were recorded during excavations at PNR 06, LEK 95, PRB 95, LFW 01 and PNL 98. The alignment and position of the ditches from PNP 06 will be compared to these features.

8.2.2 What evidence is there for Roman ritual activity in the area and how does this compare to the evidence found at the site?

The possible ritual assemblages obtained from the site will be reviewed in light of what is known about any other possible Roman ritual sites in the area. Is the assemblage best explained as ritual or rubbish?

8.2.3 What was the Roman landscape of the area like?

The 3rd to 4th century Roman features will be reviewed in the light of what is understood about the Roman landscape and topography of the area

9 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 PAPER RECORDS

Contexts 1-90

Plans 27(52 sheets)

Sections 12 (19 sheets)

Photographs:

Black and white prints (35mm) 72 frames

Colour slide (35mm) 36 frames

9.2 THE FINDS

Roman pottery 1 box

Post-Roman pottery 1 box

Glass 1 box

CBM 2 boxes

Animal bone 1 box

Clay tobacco pipe 1 box

Lithics 1 box

Stone 1 box

Mixed (iron, copper) 1 box

10 IMPORTANCE OF RESULTS AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE

- 10.1 Evidence for Prehistoric and Roman activity in this area is of importance in understanding how the landscape evolved throughout these periods. The evidence obtained from the site will further understanding of how the settlement and agricultural activity alongside the Roman road which ran through the area changed, particularly throughout the 3rd to 4th century. The evidence can be compared with previous excavations and will add to the overall picture of how the Iron Age / Roman settlement developed in Old Ford.
- 10.2 It is proposed that the results of the excavation be published as a volume dedicated to the Prehistoric and Roman periods at Old Ford as part of PCA's monograph series.
- 10.3 The Prehistoric material, both pottery and lithics, will be described and illustrated as part of the growing corpus found in the area and compared to the material from the other sites in the area.
- The Roman sequence will be described and illustrated with finds material, pottery, CBM, coins, animal bone, and compared with the archaeological sequence revealed at the sites in the vicinity.

11 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Willmott Dixon Ltd. for funding the project and providing on site accommodation and in particular Stephen Gray who acted as project manager and Ross Taylor, both of Willmott Dixon.
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APPENDIX 1- CONTEXT INDEX

CONTEXT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH / GRID SQUARE	PHASE	DATE	PLAN	SECTION	SAME AS	SAMPLES	
1	LAYER	Modern tarmac	1	9	20 th century	*	1,2	3	*	
2	LAYER	Modern demolition debris	1	9	20 th century	Tr.1	1,2	*	*	
3	LAYER	Modern tarmac	1	9	20 th century	Tr.1	1	1	*	
4	MASONRY	Modern brick wall	1	9	20 th century 19 th to 20 th	Tr.1	2	*	*	
5	FILL	Fill of [6]	1	9	19 th to 20 th century 19 th to 20 th	Tr.1	1	*	*	
6	CUT	Terracing	1	9	19 th to 20 th century	Tr.1	1	16	*	
7	FILL	Fill of [8]	1	9	19 th century	Tr.1	2	*	*	
8	CUT	Linear feature orientated E-W	1	9	19 th century	Tr.1	2	*	*	
9	FILL	Fill of [10]	1	6	Roman	Tr. 1	2	*	*	
10	CUT	Roman ditch or pit	1	6	Roman	Tr.1	2	*	*	
11	LAYER	Ploughsoil	1	3	Roman	Tr.1	2	*	*	
12	NATURAL	Natural sand	1	1	Natural	Tr.1	2	20	*	
13	NATURAL	Natural gravelly sand	1	1	Natural	Tr.1	2	*	*	
14	LAYER	Modern made ground	2	9	20 th century 19 th to 20 th	Tr.2	3	*	*	
15	FILL	Fill of [16]	2	9	century	Tr.2	3	*	*	
16	CUT	Terracing	2	9	19 th to 20 th century	Tr.2	3	6	*	
17	FILL	Fill of [18]	2	6	Roman	Tr.2	3	*	*	
18	CUT	Ditch orientated N-S	2	6	Roman	Tr.2	3	52	*	
19	LAYER	Ploughsoil	2	8	Post-Med.	Tr.2	3	*	*	
20	NATURAL	Natural clayey sand	2	1	Natural	Tr.2	3	12	*	
21	NATURAL	Gravelly sand	2	1	Natural	Tr.2	3	13	*	
22-29	VOID									
30	FILL	Fill of [31]	105/210 105/215	5	Roman	*	4, 11	*	*	
31	CUT	Ditch orientated NE-SW	105/210 105/215	5	Roman	31	4, 11	62, 80	*	
32	FILL	Fill of [33]	105/200		Roman	33	5, 7	*	*	
33	CUT	Ditch orientated NW-SE	105/200 105/205 110/200 110/205	5	Roman	33 5, 7		68	*	
34	FILL	Fill of [35]	110/200	4	Roman	35	*	*	*	
35	CUT	Posthole	110/200	4	Roman	35	*	*	*	
36	FILL	Fill of [37]	110/205 110/210	6	Roman	*	* *		*	
37	CUT	Ditch orientated N-S	110/205 110/210	6	Roman	37	*	*	*	
38	FILL	Fill of [39]	105/210 100/210	6	Roman	*	*	*	*	
39	CUT	Cut of pit	105/210 100/210	6	Roman	*	*	*	*	

CONTEXT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH / GRID SQUARE	PHASE	DATE	PLAN	SECTION	SAME AS	SAMPLES
40	FILL	Fill of [41]	110/200	4	Roman	41	*	*	*
41	CUT	Shallow, ovoid pit	110/200	4	Roman	41	*	*	*
42	FILL	Fill of [43]	105/200 110/200	4	Roman	43	*	*	*
43	CUT	Shallow, sub-rectangular pit	105/200 110/200	4	Roman	43	*	*	*
44	FILL	Fill of [45]	105/200	4	Roman	45	*	*	*
45	CUT	Posthole	105/200	4	Roman	45	*	*	*
46	FILL	Fill of [47]	105/210 110/210	6	Roman	*	*	*	*
47	CUT	Ovoid pit	105/210 110/210	6	Roman	47	*	*	*
48	FILL	Fill of [49]	105/210 110/210	5	Roman	*	*	*	*
49	CUT	Ditch orientated E-W	105/210 110/210	5	Roman	49	*	*	*
50	FILL	Primary fill of [54]	100/215 100/210	7	Roman	*	*	*	*
51	FILL	Secondary fill of [54]	100/215 100/210	7	Roman	*	*	*	*
52	CUT	Ditch orientated N-S	100/210 100/215 100/210	6		52	*	18	*
53	FILL	Fill of Roman pit [54]	100/210	7	Roman	*		*	*
54	CUT				Roman		6	*	*
55		Rectangular pit	100/215	7	Roman	54	6 *	*	*
	FILL	Fill of [56]	105/205	4	Roman	56	*		
56	CUT	Triangular cut feature	105/205 100/210	4	Roman	56		*	*
57	FILL	Filli of [52]	100/215 105/200	6	Roman	*	*	*	*
58	FILL	Secondary fill of [60]	105/205 105/200	6	Roman	*	*	*	*
59	FILL	Primary fill of [60]	105/205 105/200	6	Roman	*	*	*	*
60	CUT	Ditch orientated E-W	105/205 105/210	6	Roman	60	*	66	*
61	FILL	Fill of ditch [62].	105/205 105/210	5	Roman	*	*	*	*
62	CUT	Cut of ditch SW-NE	105/205	5	Roman	*	*	31, 80	*
63	FILL	Fill of [64]	105/205	5	Roman	*	5, 7, 9	*	*
64	CUT	Ditch orientated NW-SE	105/205 105/200	5	Roman	64	5, 7, 9	*	*
65	FILL	Fill of [66]	110/200 105/200	6	Roman	*	8, 9	*	*
66	CUT	Ditch orientated E-W	110/200 105/205	6	Roman	66	8, 9	60	*
67	FILL	Fill of [68]	105/205 105/210 105/205	5	Roman	*	*	*	*
68	CUT	Ditch orientated NW-SE	105/205	5	Roman	68	*	33	*
69	FILL	Fill of [70]	105/205	7	Roman	*	*	*	*
70	CUT	Sub-ovoid partially truncated pit	105/205	7	Roman	70	*	*	*
71	LAYER	Modern made ground	110/210 110/205 9 20 th century * 12 110/200		12	*	*		
72	LAYER	Modern made ground	110/210 110/205 110/200	9	20 th century	*	12	*	*

-			TRENCH / GRID					SAME		
CONTEXT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SQUARE	PHASE	DATE	PLAN	SECTION	AS	SAMPLES	
73	LAYER	Dump or levelling layer	110/210 110/205 110/200	9	18 th / 19 th century	*	12	*	*	
74	LAYER	Plough soil	110/210 110/205 110/200	3	Roman	*	12	*	*	
75	NATURAL	Natural sand	110/210 110/205 110/200	1	Natural	*	12	*	*	
76	LAYER	Natural silty clay	110/210 110/205 110/200	1	Natural	*	12	*	*	
77	FILL	Fill of [78]	110/200	4	Roman	*	12	*	*	
78	CUT	Circular pit	110/200	4	Roman	78	12	*	*	
79	FILL	Fill of [80]	105/200 105/205	5	Roman	*	*	*	*	
80	CUT	Ditch orientated SW-NE	105/200 105/205	5	Roman 80		*	31, 62	*	
81	FILL	Fill of [82]	105/205 105/210	4	Roman *		*	*	*	
82	CUT	Sub-rectangular pit	105/205 105/210	4	Roman	82	*	*	*	
83	FILL	Fill of [84]	105/205	4	Roman	*	*	*	*	
84	CUT	Irregular pit with stakehole / post at base	105/205	4	Roman	Roman 84		*	*	
85	FILL	Fill of [86]	105/205	4	Roman	*	*	*	*	
86	CUT	Irregular, shallow pit	105/205	4	Roman	86	*	*	*	
87	FILL	Secondary fill of [52], recorded in section only	100/215	6	Roman *		10	*	*	
88	FILL	Primary fill of [52], recorded in section only	100/215	6	Roman	*	10	*	*	
89	FILL	Fill of [90], recorded in section only	100/215	4	Roman	*	10	*	*	
90	CUT	Cut of feature, observed and recorded in section only	100/215	4	Roman	*	10	*	*	

APPENDIX 3: ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSMENT (PNR 06)

James Gerrard

INTRODUCTION

Excavations at PNR 06 produced 100 sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 2.840kg.

This material was all derived from discrete cut features such as ditches and pits and includes

no large groups.

ASSESSMENT

The vast bulk of the assemblage is comprised of Thameside grey wares (TSK also Essex),

crude storage jars in an unusual, probably Essex fabric, along with some BB1 and BB2 and

other miscellaneous fabrics. The forms and fabrics suggest little early Roman activity and a

third-century peak in activity continuing into the early- to mid-fourth century. Mid to late fourth-

century wares such as PORD, GROG and so forth are absent, although MHAD, AHFA and a

fragment of German Mayen (MAYN) ware are present in very small quantities. A list of spot

dates can be found in Table 1.

Overall the impression is of a very utilitarian assemblage. Some small groups of pottery may

be of importance for understanding the function of specific features or activities close to them.

Of particular note here is a complete Hadham Black slipped beaker from context 36 and two

joining sherds of a burnt late BB2 bowl from contexts 53 and 57. The two large, fresh sherds

of this late form (250-400) both display different patterns of burning, demonstrating that they

were broken prior to burning. Interestingly, one of these sherds was recovered from the same

deposit as the fragment of German Mayen ware, a common late import dated to after AD350.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This group of pottery has limited importance beyond understanding site chronology and

possibly the function of specific features.

Given the worn state of some of the pottery it is recommended that prior to publication the

material is scanned by M Lyne to confirm the fabric identifications. Publication should take the

form of a short report, which relates this material to the local context. No groups require

illustration or further quantification with the exception of the complete beaker, which should be

illustrated.

Table 1: Spot dates

Context	Spot date
7	150+
9	RB
11	180+
15	240+ ? residual?
17	250-350
19	270-400
30	270-300
32	230-260
36	Complete beaker 250-400
48	240-300
50	180-300
51	200-300
53	350-400 (join with 57)
57	270-370 (join with 53)
58	270+
59	120+
61	120-250
63	270+ looks residual
65	180-300
67	150-300
69	200-400

APPENDIX 4: BUILDING MATERIALS ASSESSMENT (PNR 06)

Berni Sudds

INTRODUCTION

The small assemblage (46 fragments; 8666g) of building material recovered from excavations at Lefevre Walk is primarily Roman in date although a small number of medieval and post-medieval fragments were also recovered. The group is fragmentary and much is considered to be re-deposited.

THE FABRIC TYPES

The Roman assemblage is comprised largely of the local London 2815 fabric group, namely types 2452, 2459a, 3004 and 3006. Fragments of 2459b and 2459c from London or Essex and 3023 and 3060b from Hertfordshire were also recovered, in addition to a single imbrex in a non-local distinctive calcareous clay (2457). A provenance is not forthcoming for the latter fabric, although it is predominantly distributed across southern Britain, from Devon to London. Roof tile and brick are both commonly represented although a single fragment of box-flue was also identified. Two fragments of building stone were recovered, represented by a roughly hewn and degraded block of Kentish rag and a small fragment of ferruginous sandstone.

The local London 2815 group can be dated from AD 50/55 to 160 but a number of the other fabrics are late Roman. Fabrics 2459b and 2459c date respectively from c.AD 120 and 140 to c. AD 250, fabric 3060b from c.AD 170 to 230 and type 2457 from c.AD 140 to 300. The use of ferruginous sandstone in Roman London is also regarded to be late, dated from c.AD 190 to 400. This range of material could be indicative of long-lived occupation in the vicinity but given the frequency with which early Roman building material was re-used in later buildings, it is possible the assemblage derived from a structure dating from the late 2nd or 3rd century. As much is re-deposited within pit and ditch features, however, it is difficult to be certain.

The post-Roman assemblage is small, comprised of a few fragments of late medieval and post-medieval peg tile, a heavily worn post-medieval Flemish floor tile and a late 19th century perforated brick.

POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The assemblage attests to the presence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval settlement activity in the vicinity but as this is already well characterised in the area, and as the material is well paralleled and largely re-deposited, no further analysis or discussion is recommended.

Context	Date range	Latest date
5	55 – 1800	1450 – 1800
9	55 – 160	55 – 160
15	1850 – 1900	1850 – 1900
17	50 – 250	120 – 250
19	50 – 1800	1480 – 1800
30	50 – 160	50 – 160
32	50 - 1666	50 – 1666
48	50 - 1900	1640 – 1900
50	50 – 250	120 - 250
51	50 – 300	140 – 300
53	50 – 160	50 – 160
57	50 - 230	170 – 230
58	50 – 160	50 – 160
61	50 – 250	140 – 250
65	120 – 250	120 – 250
67	50 – 230	170 – 230
69	120 – 250	140 - 250

Table 1: Dating table.

APPENDIX 5: COIN ASSESSMENT REPORT (PNR 06)

James Gerrard

Two copper-alloy Roman coins were recovered during these excavations. The first coin (SF1, Context 17) is an extremely worn first- or second century as. This coin may (on the basis of the worn imperial bust) have been minted under Domitian (r. 81-96) but its condition suggests that it was lost much later, perhaps in the late second or early third century. The second coin (SF5, Context 69) is also extremely worn and virtually illegible. Its size and traces of a standing figure on the reverse would suggest that it is an irregular late third-century radiate.

SF No	Context	Date	Denominati on	Condition OBV	Condition REV	Size (mm)	Comments
1	17	C1-C2	As	EW	EW	31	Domitian?
5	69	c. 260- 290	Radiate copy?	EW	EW	18	

It is recommended that these coins are published in conjunction with those from other local sites (i.e. PRB 95, LEK 95, PNL 98). In this context it is worth noting that the third-century radiate is a typical find, but that the *as* of Domitian would be the earliest coin find (albeit deposited much later). Further work to clarify this identification prior to publication is recommended.

APPENDIX 6: POST-ROMAN FINDS ASSESSMENT: POTTERY, CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

AND GLASS (PNR 06)

Chris Jarrett

POST-ROMAN POTTERY

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 and it was not always possible to assign a vessel shape. Pottery was

recovered from two contexts and individual deposits produced only small groups of pottery

(under 30 sherds).

All the pottery (six sherds and none is unstratified) was examined macroscopically and

microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an ACCESS 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 Archaeological Service. The

pottery is discussed by types and its distribution.

THE POTTERY TYPES

3.1 Delftware

Tin-glazed earthenware (TGW), 1570-1846, one sherd, form: uncertain.

3.1.1 Stoneware

London stoneware (LONS), 1670-1900, one sherd, form: bottle or jar.

3.1.2 Industrial finewares

Refined white earthenware with cut out sponge decoration (REFW SPON1), 1830-1900, one

sherd, form: uncertain.

Transfer-Printed ware (TPW), 1780-1900, three sherds, form: uncertain.

DISTRIBUTION

The Post-Roman pottery occurs in two contexts. Firstly, deposit [5] produced two sherds of pottery: as a very small sherd of residual delftware (TGW) and a sherd of Sponge decorated Refined white earthenware (REFW SPON1). The latter dates the context to between 1830-1900. Secondly, context [15] produced a base sherd of a 19th-century London stoneware (LONS) bottle or jar and three sherds of Transfer-printed ware (TPW), dated 1780-1900 as an unidentified form and two plate sherds, one with a Willow pattern rim, the other as a base sherd depicting an Indian Landscape. The pottery types date the context to between 1780-1900, but the plate with the Indian landscape design is a mid to late 19th century design.

SIGNIFICANCE, POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The post-Roman pottery from the site has no significance at a local, regional and international level. The assemblage is comprised of a small number of sherds and reflects the suburban growth of this part of London during the late 19th-century. The pottery's potential is only to date the contexts it was found in, but the sponge decorated Refined white earthenware gives evidence of a possible low socio-economic group living on or close to the site. No recommendations are made for further work.

THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPES

There are three stems recorded of a medium-thin thickness and all come from context [5]. They can only be dated between 1570-1910, but are more likely to be 19th-century in date. They have no or very little significance, have the potential to date the context they were recovered from, but there are no recommendations for further work on this class of material.

THE POST ROMAN GLASS

Two fragments of glass are recorded from context [5]. The first is an opaque white glass shouldered vessel, probably a lampshade and the second is a greenish-blue elaborately decorated press-moulded vessel with a pedestal base and ribbed stem. Its form is uncertain, but could be an ornamental item. Both items date to the late 19th-century.

The glass is of no or little significance. Its only potential is to date the context it was recovered from and no recommendations are made for further work on this material.

APPENDIX 7: LITHIC ASSESSMENT (PNR 06)

Barry Bishop

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological investigations at the above site recovered three struck flints and a single burnt flint fragment. This report describes the material, comments on its significance and

recommends any further work required.

DESCRIPTION

Lithic material was recovered from three contexts:

Context [69] produced a single fragment of heavily burnt flint weighing 65.8g. It had been burnt to the extent that it had changed to grey/white colour and had become 'fire-crazed', as would be consistent with burning in a hearth.

Context [61] produced two struck pieces, a blade-like flake measuring 35mm X 25mm X 9mm which had also been heavily burnt, and a cortical flake measuring 22mm X 19mm X 6mm that was in good condition. Neither was diagnostic although the general technological attributes of the blade-like flake would suggest a Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

Context [48] contained a transverse arrowhead in a slightly chipped condition. It weighed 8.2g and was made from a fine-grained dark brown flint. It was sub-rectangular in shape and exhibited bifacial semi-invasive scalar flaking obliquely truncating both its bulbar and distal ends, its 'base' being formed into an acute sharp point. Its dorsal exhibited centripetal presecondary working scars suggesting that, like many of its type, it was produced from a Levallois core. It measured 40mm along its 't' length (maximum dimension of unretouched edge) and 43mm along its 'r' length (greatest width at right angles to t), giving an r/t ratio of 1.075 and making it a clear example of Green's (1980) chisel type arrowhead. It was 6mm thick and its dimensions indicate it both larger and heavier than the majority of its class (ibid.). Chisel type transverse arrowheads are frequently associated with Woodlands type Grooved Ware and Peterborough Ware pottery types, both dateable to the Middle to Later Neolithic period. This is confirmed by Green's extensive survey of flint arrowheads, which suggest a date range of c.3500 to 2250 BC for this arrowhead type (Green 1984, 19).

DISCUSSION

The struck pieces from context [61] have little diagnostic value although the blade-like flake at least was unlikely to have been made after the Neolithic. The most notable piece recovered was the transverse arrowhead. These are occasionally but not commonly found in the lower Thames Valley, the largest group probably having been recovered from the low-lying islands of north Southwark. Settlement contexts have perhaps provided the largest numbers of chisel type transverse arrowheads but they are frequently associated with ritual or ceremonial sites,

particularly henges (Green 1980 235-6; Healy 1984, 13). In this context, it is interesting to note the ceremonial deposit of a (nearly?) complete Peterborough Ware pot within a pit at the nearby PNL 98 site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the size of the assemblage no further analytical work is needed for the purposes of the archive. However, this assemblage does add to the substantial corpus of prehistoric flintwork recovered from other investigations in the vicinity, and it recommended that a full lithic report concerning all the material from these investigations is prepared for publication to be included within the overall account of the archaeological investigations in the area.

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APPENDIX 8: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT (PNR 06)

Frank Meddens

A small assemblage of animal bone comprising 47 fragments from 8 contexts was recovered

from the site. Of these 23 fragments or 48.9% were identifiable to species, 14 or 29.8% being

cattle (Bos), 9 or 19.1% horse (equus) and the remainder, 24 or 51.1% being identifiable to

general group, being large artiodactyl.

The bone has a high proportion of chemically weathered and worn material, constituting 25

fragments or 53.2%. The fills from which the animal bone came appears to have had a large

sand component which explains the degraded nature of the material.

A very high proportion of the bone assemblage derives from the skull / head of the animals

found, comprising 22 bone elements representing 44.7% of the material. This will be in part

due to the fact that teeth survive better in adverse soil conditions then other bone.

Nevertheless considering the small size of the assemblage the strong focus on heads of

cattle and horse is noteworthy particularly in view of use of this part of the anatomy in an

apparently ritual context in IA ditch fills (Hill 1995).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The assemblage as such is small and degraded and as such does not require any further

analysis. However in view of the high proportion of skull / head elements, which might

represent evidence for a ritual tradition continuing from the earlier Iron Age, it may still be

considered useful to analyse the material in more detail, comparing and contrasting it with the

strategraphic and artefactual evidence from the contexts the assemblage derives from.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hill, J.D. 1995 Ritual and Rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex, BAR British Series 242.

Table 1 PNR 06 Animal Bone

<u>s</u>	~ ~	7	7	~	4	4 -	/		0	τ- τ	- 07 +	- 4	4	~	~	И 4
Pathology Nr frgs							- 182					mal-formed	mal-formed			
Condition	worn little / chemical	weathering	heavy / chemical	weatnering heavy / chemical	weathering heavy / chemical	weathering little / chemical	weathering moderate / chemical weathering		heavy / chemical weathering		worn little / chemical	-	_	heavy / chemical	weathering little / chemical	weathering
Wear								not worn					flat surface worn	<u>a</u>		
Age		corpus				fused	just fused			Grant		K grant c. >6 < 7.5 y	c. >6 < 7.5 y	fused	just fused	
Butchery							chopped lateral just fused shaft									
fragmentation description	<25 100	100	<25	<25	<25	<25 25 distal	<25 distal	100	<25 ?-	25 25 100	100	100	100	25 distal	25 distal	25 <25
handedness		Right				Right	Right			Left	Left	Right Left	Right	Left	Right	
Anatomy detail	basal occipital	calcaneus	frag	frag	frag	frag humerus	humerus	incisor	lbone L	ibone m1 - m3	m2 - m3 m3	p2 - m2	p4 - m3	radius	tibia	tooth frag tooth frag
Anatomy	pervis skull frag		frag	skull frag	frag	frag frag	frag	tooth	ag	ıray upper (maxilla)	upper (maxilla) mandible	upper (maxilla)	upper (maxilla)			frag frag
Species	ednns	Bos	Lar	Lar	Lar	Lar	Bos	Bos	, ק ב	Bos	Bos Bos	snnbə	snnbə	Lar	Bos	Bos
Ctxt	61	65	61	61	29	51	20	51	n 1	51	65 32	61	61	61	65	51

47

Total frags

APPENDIX 9 OASIS Report Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-17906

Project details

Project name Lefevre Walk Site L7

Short description of the project

An archaeological evaluation followed by an excavation revealed residual prehistoric flints and pottery, a possible early Roman ploughsoil and four phases of Roman 3rd and 4th century pitting and ditches. This activity was sealed by medieval/post-medieval

agriculyural soils.

Project dates Start: 13-02-2006 End: 22-05-2006

Previous/future work

No / No

Any associated project reference codes

PNR 06 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type PITS Roman

Monument type DITCHES Roman

Significant Finds LITHICS Neolithic

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Investigation type 'Full excavation'

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW Lefevre Walk Site

L7, Old Ford

Study area 598.00 Square metres National grid TQ 3704 8351 Point reference Height OD Min: 11.06m Max: 10.19m Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Organisation Project brief Pre-Construct Archaeology originator Project design Gary Brown and Chris Mayo originator Project Chris Mayo director/manager Mark Bagwell and Dougle Killock Project supervisor Sponsor or funding Willmott-Dixon Housing body Project archives Physical Archive LAARC recipient Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal' Paper Archive LAARC recipient Paper Media 'Context available sheet', 'Drawing', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey ','Unpublished Text' bibliography 1 Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title An archaeological excavation at Lefevre Walk Site L7, Old Ford,

London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London E3

Author(s)/Editor(s) Killock, D. & Lythe, R.

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