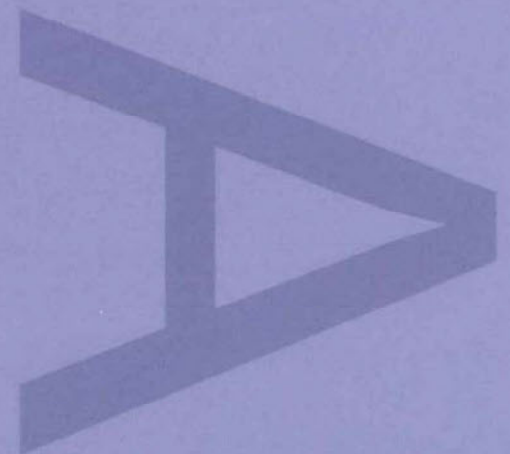
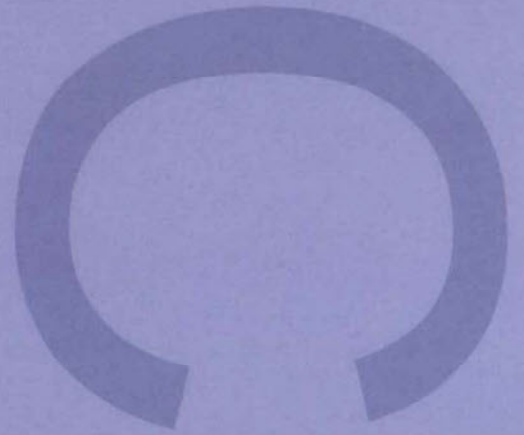
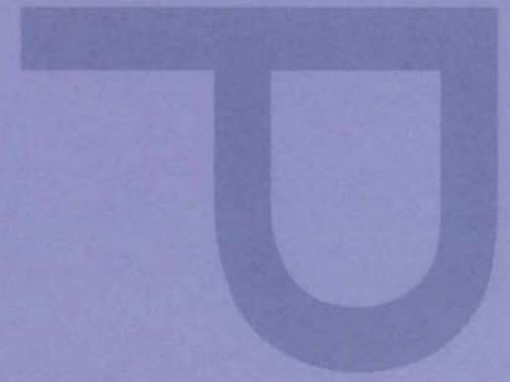


**ASSESSMENT OF AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION AT
GLADSTONE PLACE, ROMAN
ROAD, BOW, LONDON
BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS, E3 5EU**

GDP 08

FEBRUARY 2010



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: Gladstone Place, Roman Road, Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, E3 5EU

Type of project: Excavation

Quality Control

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Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at Gladstone Place, Roman Road, Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, E3 5EU

Site Code: GDP 08

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 368 832

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1 ABSTRACT

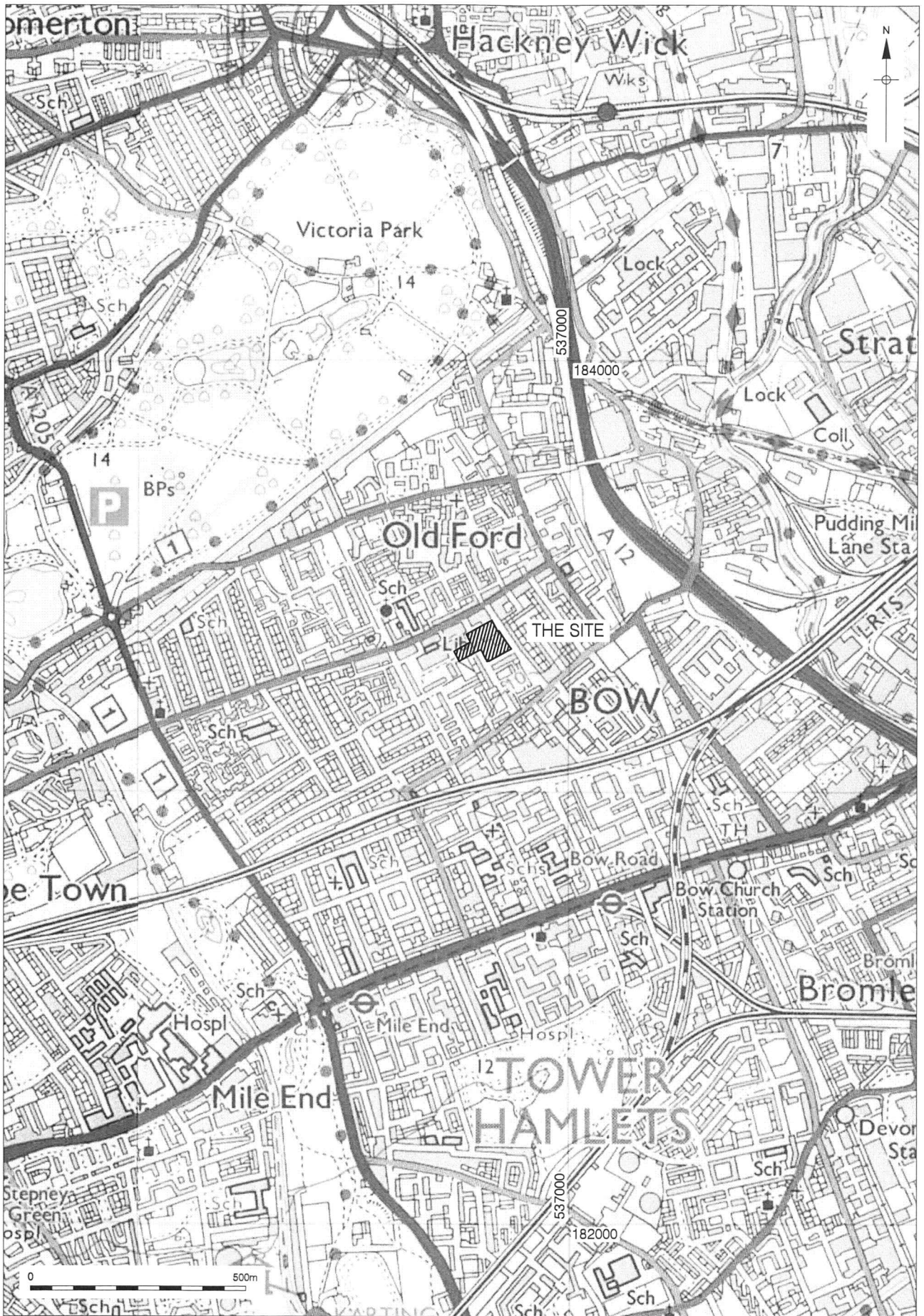
- 1.1 This document details the results and working methods of archaeological investigations conducted at Gladstone Place, Roman Road, Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 368 832.
- 1.2 The investigations at Gladstone Place detailed here consisted of an archaeological excavation (following the second phase of an evaluation) conducted between 9th-20th November 2009.
- 1.3 The archaeological investigations revealed evidence of human activity in the locality from the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval periods. Prehistoric activity is evidenced through the presence of residual finds within the Roman contexts only. One sherd of probable Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery alongside one of possible late Iron Age date together with a retouched blade dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age were recovered from the pits and nearby tree root activity. Roman activity appears to begin with a series of early quarry pit dated to around the 1st-2nd centuries. The pits gradually silted up prior to a secondary phase of quarry activity which was observed in the same localised area, dating to around 2nd-3rd centuries. These later pits were gradually filled by a series of dumps and spreads until the 4th century when the area was utilised for the disposal of rubbish. It was during this period that a boundary ditch was established immediately east of the area of pitting. A 18th-19th century pit, along with a layer of plough soil, attest to activity in the area from at least the post-medieval period onward.
- 1.4 This report outlines the results of the archaeological investigation as a whole and assesses its importance. Recommendations for further analysis are also made, along with proposals for the publication of the results.

2 INTRODUCTION (Figures 1 & 2)

- 2.1 This document details the results and working methods of archaeological investigations conducted at Gladstone Place, Roman Road, Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, E3 5EU. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 368 832. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Higgins Homes and was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology under the supervision of Iain Bright and the project management of Tim Bradley.
- 2.2 The site comprises of approximately 0.7 hectares of land which, prior to demolition, was occupied by a Safeway store with associated car parking facilities. The site is irregular in shape and bounded to the northwest by the rear of properties fronting Roman Road, to the east by Cardigan Road, to the South by Anglo Road and to the west by the rear of properties lining St. Stephens Road. The proposed development involves the construction of a new Tesco store with basement level car parking and residential buildings to be located towards the south and the east of the site (Dicks 2007).
- 2.3 Between the 3rd – 11th November 2008 the first phase of an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on site (Killock 2008), comprising of six trenches within the part of the site proposed for residential development. Although no features or deposits were recorded in Trenches 1 and 4, the eastern end of Trench 2 contained a heavily truncated pit containing a sherd of Roman pottery. A further pit, of probable Roman date, was observed towards the western end of the trench. Additionally an undated ditch was recorded, roughly north-south aligned, in Trench 3. David Divers, the English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to Tower Hamlets, recommended no further archaeological work need be carried out in the areas of the site proposed for residential development, however stipulated that a further two trenches were required in the location of the proposed Food store fronting the Roman Road alignment.
- 2.4 The second phase of the evaluation was conducted between 2nd – 6th November 2009. The eastern most of the two trenches (Trench 7) revealed no significant remains save for an apparent cut feature filled with redeposited brickearth which may have been evidence for quarrying activity, although no evidence to date this could be found. Trench 8, however, recorded a series of at least five intercutting pits of Roman date, localised within an area towards the east of the trench. It was based on this evidence that a request was made by David Divers to subject the area to further investigation and full excavation in advance of the proposed development. Following discussions between CgMs Consulting and English Heritage GLAAS a proposal was

agreed to fully excavate and record the area of the Roman pits in a trench measuring approximately 10m N-S by 15m E-W. The excavation was conducted between 9th-20th November 2009.

- 2.5 The archaeological works revealed natural deposits truncated by a sequence of Roman activity, which comprised of a localised area of quarry and rubbish pits which were sequentially dug and filled between the 1st-4th centuries AD. Immediately to the east of the area of pitting a roughly NNE-SSW aligned ditch was observed, which has been interpreted as a 4th century land boundary. A layer of plough soil sealed the sequence. Intrusive post-medieval and modern activity, in the form of foundation trenches and service runs, were also observed.
- 2.6 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre (LAARC) under the site code GDP08.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:12,500 at A4



Figure 2
 Trench Location Plan
 1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as specified within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Following the production of a Desk Based Assessment (Dicks 2007), which outlined the archaeological potential of the site, David Divers, English Heritage, GLAAS, stipulated that an archaeological evaluation be carried out to determine the extent of the archaeological survival. CgMs Consulting prepared a written scheme of investigation (Dicks 2008) which was approved by Mr Divers prior to the start of the evaluation.

3.2 London Borough of Tower Hamlets UDP

Below are extracts taken from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Unitary Development Plan (Tower Hamlets 1998). The UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of Environment document; "Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)", now replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5. The UDP is currently being replaced by the Local Development Framework, at present under government review, the policies contained PPG 16 remain in force with respect to the present document.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT MONUMENTS

DEV42 DEVELOPMENT WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, INCLUDING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS, WILL NOT NORMALLY BE ERMITTED.

DEV43 DEVELOPMENT WHICH AFFECTS ANY LOCALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OR REMAINS, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY, MAY BE PERMITTED DEPENDING UPON : THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS; THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT; AND MEASURES PROPOSED FOR THE PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE SITE AND THE INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE REMAINS TO THE PUBLIC.

DEV44 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.

DEV45 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:

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;

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;

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 SAFE KEEPING.

Tower Hamlets has a long and rich history. Archeological 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 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.

Archeological 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

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

The British Geological Survey Sheet 256 (North London: 1994) shows that the underlying drift geology of the study site comprises Taplow Gravels, consisting of 'Post-diversionary Thames River Terrace Deposits; gravel, sandy and clayey in part'.

Recent archaeological work by MoLAS on an adjacent site to the north, ROB 05, identified brickearth deposits between 11.37 and 11.52m OD (Vuolteenaho 2005).

During the evaluation and excavation phases undertaken at Gladstone Place, a variety of natural deposits were encountered, consisting of interleaving bands of fine, often loose, sands; coarser sands with fine gravel and light yellowish brown clay (Killock 2008).

4.2 Topography

The site lies on a gradual south facing slope. Levels within the site fall from the northern boundary at c. 12.20m OD to 11.60m OD along the southern boundary.

Watercourses, both manmade and natural, are found on three sides of the site within a radius of 750 metres. To the west the Regents Canal runs roughly northwest to southeast between Mile End and Victoria Parks before continuing to the northwest. To the north the Hertford Union Canal runs southwest to northeast linking the Regents Canal and the River Lea. The main branch of the Lea follows a meandering north-south course less than 500m to the east of the site. The crossing of this river by the Roman road provided a natural focus for a settlement in the area. The later medieval crossing which superseded this was located further to the south in Bow and it is probable that the area around the site was referred to as Old Ford following the adoption of this new route (ibid).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 General

Prior to the archaeological investigations, an archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was compiled for the redevelopment area. As part of the compilation of the DBA the historical and archaeological background and potential of the site was assessed through examination of all archaeological entries in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) within a 250m radius of the site. In addition, other archaeological, documentary, and cartographic sources were consulted. The archaeological and historical background of the site as discussed in the DBA, supplemented by information from the phase one evaluation report, is detailed below (Dicks 2007; Killock 2008).

5.2 Prehistoric

The Taplow gravels have previously revealed substantial amounts of Palaeolithic material, although none have as yet been recovered close to the site at Gladstone Place.

However, an increasing level of evidence is emerging for the existence of later prehistoric settlements in the Old Ford area. Most of this derives from the series of excavations carried out during the building and subsequent regeneration of the Lefevre Walk Estate, immediately to the east of Parnell Road. At 271-321 Lefevre Walk Estate, Parnell Road, LEK 95 (Taylor-Wilson 1996), the recovery of pre-Roman artefacts from the re-deposited natural brickearth that formed part of the Roman road's make-up indicated that prehistoric deposits had probably been destroyed by the construction of the Roman road. A possibly prehistoric ring-shaped enclosure was also recorded and the excavation of a cluster of post-built structures and pits to north of site revealed only prehistoric artefacts, apparently dating to the Bronze Age.

More precise evidence of prehistoric occupation was evident in a subsequent phase of excavation on the same estate, PNL 98 (Douglas 1999). Three Neolithic pits were recorded, one of which contained a Peterborough ware bowl, perhaps a ritual deposit. A curving butt-ended ditch containing a complete pot dating to the Middle or Late Bronze Age was also evident as were a series of rectilinear enclosures and several pits some of which contained near complete Late Iron Age vessels. At 91-93 Parnell Road, PRB 95, the natural brickearth was cut by post-holes and gullies dated to the late Bronze Age. These were tentatively interpreted as evidence of settlement.

Further excavations carried out for Lefevre Walk Phase 3, LFW 01 (Leary 2002), demonstrated that a transitional late Iron Age and Roman settlement probably existed in the

area on either side of the London-Colchester Road. A range of postholes, possibly on a linear alignment, and the remains of a possible clay wall and occupation layer were revealed above the natural brickearth. The pottery recovered from the larger postholes, dated LIA to 55AD, suggested that a Late Iron Age/Early Roman structure existed on the site. A deposit dated to the 1st-2nd century AD sealed these features

5.3 Roman

Roman Road, located immediately north of the site, follows the line of the Roman road running from London to Colchester (Dicks 2007).

Chance finds, particularly burials, have been recorded to both the north and south of the Roman Road over the course of the last century as a result of infrastructure projects such as railway cuttings and water maintenance (Killock 2008).

The full significance of the Roman settlement at Bow began to become apparent once systematic excavations began to be carried out in the area. The first of these was conducted at Lefevre Road in 1969, LFR 69 (Harvey 1971). Evidence of a fourth century settlement south of the road was revealed along with possible evidence of earlier settlement activity. The structure of the road itself was also examined and shown to consist of a three-track highway where the southern side was later raised to the level of the centre, the *agger* consisted of a central core formed of cemented gravel.

Further excavation by the same team off Parnell Road and Appian Road (Harvey 1972) revealed Roman burials and late Roman pits and ditches. A further section of the road itself was examined and shown to be of similar construction to that seen in 1969-70 with the exception of the *agger* which was formed of clay. Some evidence of settlement was evident in the form of gravel surfaces found adjacent to the southern limits of the road. The coins recovered from the layers sealing these surfaces demonstrated that the settlement continued to be occupied into the late 4th and early 5th centuries.

A 65m stretch of the main Roman road incorporating the southern and northern margins of the road zone was revealed at 271-321 Lefevre Walk Estate, LEK 95. Pottery dating evidence broadly confirmed a date of construction to the mid 1st century. At 91-93 Parnell Road, PRB 95 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 were recorded. The majority of these were at right angles to the line of the road and dated to the last century of Roman occupation. Evidence of iron smithing activity dating to between the 2nd and 3rd century was recorded at both sites. Fragmentary remains of roadside clay and timber buildings of mid-late 3rd century date and a small inhumation cemetery dated to the 4th century were also recorded at LEK95.

Further evidence of the roadside settlement was recovered during excavations at the Lefevre Walk Estate Phase II, Parnell Road PNL 98. Roman activity was recorded across the site. Post holes and possible beam slots probably represented the remains of a clay and timber buildings with associated structures dating to the 1st century. A complex series of ditches indicated a field boundary dating from the 1st century which continued in use until the 4th century, with a drainage sump in the northeast corner of the boundary. To the north of the eastern area of the site a number of postholes and post pits probably represented Roman fence lines. Fourth century deposits and late 4th-early 5th century pitting, recorded to the east of the site, may have been associated with the roadside settlement known to have existed to the south.

Excavations undertaken slightly closer to the site in 1990 at 72A Armagh road-91-93 Parnell Road, revealed early Roman gravel extraction pits, presumably for the construction of the London to Colchester road. The quarries were backfilled on the construction of the first structures, represented by a series of post-holes and ditches which may also have been property boundaries. Occupation may have been agricultural, on the evidence of plough soil, and a more substantial building was indicated by ground beams supporting wattle and daub walls. This building might have been an open-ended barn fronting onto the road.

Excavation between Armagh Road and Libra Road in July to November 1991, BOD 91, revealed a Roman cemetery related to the settlement at Old Ford, to the north of the conjectured line of the Roman road from London to Colchester. 67 grave cuts were found, 48 aligned east-west and 19 north-south. Acidic soil limited bone survival, and no grave goods were found. Most inhumations were buried in wooden coffins. These inhumations are almost certainly associated with the settlement found slightly further to the east.

An archaeological evaluation at 568a Roman Road, ROB 05, immediately north of the study site recorded several phases of Roman occupation. The features including a substantial wooden structure with a mortar floor, boundary ditches and rubbish pits. The features were concentrated to the north of the site. The trenches within the southern part of the site nearest to the northern boundary of the study site were devoid of Roman features. However, the absence of features in this area was more likely to be the result of post-medieval and modern disturbance than an indication of the true extent of the Roman occupation.

5.4 Saxon and Medieval

No sites or finds have been recorded of Saxon date within 500m of the study site.

It can be speculated that the study site lay in an area of open land during this period, most likely being utilised for agricultural purposes.

Until recently there was limited evidence for occupation in the vicinity of the site during the medieval period, and indeed it is known that at this time the crossing point for the River Lea moved south towards Bow, as the Old Ford crossing had become too treacherous (Killock & Lythe 2006).

A handful of medieval potsherds were recovered from both LEK95 and PRB95, and are thought to have been introduced by manuring (ibid).

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 (ibid)

A medieval ditch was recorded at Ruston Street to the north of the site (ibid)

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 centuries (Leary 2002).

Archaeological investigations undertaken on Armagh Road identified two medieval ditches; one was on an east-west alignment with the second on a north-south alignment. These ditches attest to the theory that land adjacent to the Roman road was in agricultural use by this time (Dicks 2007).

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 (ibid).

5.5 Post-Medieval

At the start of the 18th century, farming and market gardening is thought to have dominated 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 (Killock & Lythe 2006).

The 1703 Gascoyne map and 1747 Rocque map shows Roman Road as a trackway and the location of the site within agricultural land (Dicks 2007).

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 (Killock & Lythe 2006).

The 1847 Cross's Plan of London shows a footprint on the line of the Roman Road and properties fronting the south side of the road immediately north of the site. The property itself remains undeveloped (Dicks 2007).

By 1862 the site was bound by Cardigan Road to the east, Eglinton Road to the south and Vernon Road to the west. However, it remained undeveloped (ibid).

The 1872 and 1894-96 Ordnance Survey maps show the site dissected by Vernon Road and occupied by terraced housing (ibid).

The relevant World War Two bomb damage map indicates an area of clearance and a number of terraced houses which were 'damaged beyond repair' (ibid).

The 1955 Ordnance Survey shows that all of the terraced houses that were damaged or cleared during the war had by this date been replaced or repaired (ibid).

By 1970 the terraced properties to the east and west of Vernon Road, within the site boundary, had been cleared and replaced by a surface car park (ibid).

By 1990 the current supermarket had been constructed on site (ibid).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The archaeological investigation at the Gladstone Place, Roman Road consisted initially of phase 2 of the evaluation, which was undertaken between 2nd-6th November 2009. The two trenches measured 15m x 2m. This work revealed that although the eastern most of the two trenches (Trench 7) contained no significant archaeological remains, Trench 8 included a series of at least five intercutting pits of Roman date.
- 6.2 Subsequently it was agreed that an area measuring approximately 10m N-S x 15m E-W would be fully excavated and recorded in advance of the proposed development. This was decided following discussions between PCA, Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting and David Divers of English Heritage GLAAS. The details of the current report will concentrate on the findings of the excavation.
- 6.3 The work took place between 9th-20th November 2009 and was undertaken in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Bradley 2009).
- 6.4 Prior to the archaeological fieldwork an amount of site clearance was undertaken including demolition of a structure to the north and the removal of concrete and tarmac hard standing over much of the east of the site. In preparation for the archaeological investigation, the area designated for excavation was stripped down to the archaeological horizon by a 360° mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket.
- 6.5 Following the initial machine strip the area of investigation was cleaned by hand in order to ascertain the full nature and extent of the archaeological features present. Once this was ascertained it was agreed that full excavation, by hand, would be made of the area of pitting. A roughly N-S aligned ditch was also observed within the newly exposed area. It was agreed that at least two sondages would be excavated within this feature for dating purposes and environmental sampling.
- 6.6 A 5m grid was laid out on site by a PCA surveyor using a Total Station Theodolite (TST). A temporary benchmark was also established on site by use of a GPS device operated by our surveyor. The value was 12.64m OD.
- 6.7 All excavated archaeological deposits were recorded on to *pro-forma* context sheets and cut features planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at 1:10 on dedicated polyester-based drawing film. A photographic record was also made as necessary using 35mm colour transparency, black and white negative and digital formats.

6.8 The site was given the code **GDP08**.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

The following description of the stratigraphy details the main characteristics of each context and its position within the phased stratigraphic matrix, as encountered during the main phase of excavation on site.

A more detailed discussion concerning the finds encountered within the individual contexts can be found in the appropriate specialist appendices.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural

The machine strip was conducted down to what is believed to be the earliest site occupation level which comprised of a weathered mixture of interleaving natural sands, gravels and brickearth [136]. This natural deposit was also encountered throughout both phases of the evaluation (Killock 2008).

The layer itself comprised of mixed yellow/brownish red bands of sand, gravel and clay across the whole area of excavation. It was observed between heights of 11.50m OD down to 11.30m OD. Its mixed nature is believed to be as a result of periglacial processes in the area during the Pleistocene period. As a resource the high gravel and brickearth content would have been of great interest, in particular, to the Roman's who would have utilised it during the construction of the road and for any structures associated with the subsequent settlement in the Old Ford area.

The natural deposits contained some evidence of rooting and even possibly insect burrowing. The later activity has been observed across many sites in the Old Ford area and has been attributed to the presence of the cockchafer beetle. There is some dispute whether the presence of this insect suggests the land at some point functioned as pastureland for cattle or whether it is more likely this species of beetle would have thrived in arable or grassland, in close proximity to woodland (Brown, forthcoming).

7.3 Phase 2: Prehistoric

Prehistoric activity on site can only be attested to by the retrieval of residual pottery from later, Roman, features and activity. No features that could be confidently attributed to a pre-Roman period were observed on the site.

The earliest piece of pottery recovered was found within the fill of what is believed to have been tree-root furrows [156]. The pottery has been tentatively dated to sometime between the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age. The fill also contained a small piece of later CBM. The second sherd of prehistoric pottery was located within the fill of one of the earlier Roman pits [154] alongside later Roman pottery. The prehistoric pottery potentially dates back to the Iron Age.

In addition, the fill of one of the pits [71] encountered in phase 2 of the evaluation produced a retouched blade, removed from a core and broken at one end. This struck flint has been attributed to the Bronze Age or Neolithic period at the earliest.

Despite the small size of the assemblage, the finds suggest a pre-Roman presence within close proximity to the site, although a more precise interpretation of the nature of this presence cannot be deduced from the available evidence. This finding does, however, concur with other sites excavated within the vicinity of the Old Ford area, most notably Lefevre Walk Phase 1 (Taylor-Wilson 1996) and 91-93 Parnell Road (Taylor-Wilson 1995) which both contained what was believed to be late Iron Age (or in some instances Bronze Age) features in the form of pits, post-holes and ditches.

7.4 Phase 3: 1st-2nd Century Roman (Figure 3)

This phase includes a number of cut features, in the form of pitting, alongside some which appear to represent natural tree throw/tree root activity.

The first natural feature [113], believed to be a tree throw, was irregular in shape measuring N-S 2.60m by E-W 0.60-1.00m with a depth of 0.23m. This feature was truncated to the north by a modern concrete stanchion base [+] and to the south by a modern service trench [+]. It contained a soft light brownish grey silty sand [112] which included organic remains and evidence for the presence of root/rootlets. It also contained two fragments of CBM that were spot dated to 50- 120 AD. A second feature [156], located further west and closer to the area of pitting, is believed to represent tree root activity; measuring 1.90m by 1.90m with a total depth of no more than 0.14m. It was truncated to the east by the later N-S aligned ditch [116]. It was filled by a soft mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt [155] which contained charcoal flecking, a small undatable fragment of CBM and one sherd of Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pot. These natural features, observed between 11.34-11.43m OD, could reasonably represent tree clearance related to the construction and maintenance of the road during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Brown, forthcoming).

The earliest feature located within the area of pitting consisted of a large sub circular/square pit [154] that measured N-S 1.60m by E-W 2.00m (extending to the north beyond the limit of the LOE). The total depth of the feature was recorded as 0.62m. The highest point from which the cut of this feature was observed was at 10.83m OD. This feature has been truncated by a number of later pits; [127] to the west, [146] to the east and [141] and [145] to the south. The remaining fill of this feature [153] consisted of a moderately compacted dark greyish brown sandy silt containing lenses of redeposited natural sand, moderate to occasional flint pebbles, moderate fragments and flecks of charcoal and one sherd of potential late Iron Age pottery. The size, shape and stratigraphic positioning of this feature suggests that this could represent early quarrying activity for either gravel or brickearth to assist in the formation of the road, the latter material having likely been used for the construction of the *agger* (Brown, forthcoming). The brickearth could also have been utilised for the external floor surface encountered at the site at 568A Roman Road (Vuolteenaho 2006).

A number of smaller pits were observed as cutting the quarry pit. The first of these [145] was severely truncated by later pitting activity. Where observed it measured N-S 0.30m by E-W 1.10m with a depth of 0.15m. It was truncated to the north by [127], to the south by [141] and to the east by [146], The highest level recorded for the cut of this pit was 11.01m OD. The fill [144] comprised of a moderately compact mid brown/mottled grey sandy clayey silt containing moderate to occasional angular flint pebbles with occasional charcoal flecks. It was devoid of any cultural material. Pit [141], seen at 11.43m OD was semi-circular in shape and measured N-S 1.30m by E-W 2.20m with a depth of 0.45m. The primary fill contained a moderately compacted mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt [143] which was once more lacking any dating evidence. The second fill [140] consisted of a soft light to mid greyish brown sandy silt that contained frequent flint pebbles, occasional burnt flint, occasional charcoal flecks and one small curved iron sheet/vessel measuring approximately 30mm. This fill was 0.30m thick and was overlain by a truncated upper fill [114] which comprised of loose dark yellowish grey silty sand that contained moderate sub angular to sub rounded flint pebble inclusions and one piece of early Roman CBM, dated to 50 – 120 AD. These pits may also represent further evidence of a primary phase of quarry activity. Evidence from the pit [141] least truncated by later activity suggests that it filled up over time before the second phase of pitting occurred during the 2nd-3rd centuries AD.

Located within 2.00m due east and north-east were two isolated pits [152] and [148], both of which have been horizontally truncated by activity in subsequent phases. In addition two more pits [132] and [130] were observed approximately 2.00m due south-west of these. Pit [152] was oval in shape measuring N-S 1.00m by E-W 0.80m by 0.35m (depth). It contained a

moderately compacted mid yellowish brown sandy clayey silt [151] including occasional to moderate flint pebbles, frequent charcoal fragments and flecks and 3 sherds of Roman pottery dated to the 2nd century at the earliest. The highest level at which this heavily truncated pit was observed was 10.75m OD. Pit [148] was sub-rounded, measuring N-S 1.30m by E-W 1.10m by 0.30m. Recorded at 10.87m OD, it was filled by a soft mid brown silty sand [147] which contained one incomplete iron nail fragment and one sherd of pot that could be dated to any time within the Roman period from the 1st century AD onwards. Pit [132] was truncated to the north by the evaluation trench but appeared to be circular in shape measuring N-S 0.40m by E-W 1.60m with total depth of 0.50m. It was observed at a height of 11.44m OD and was truncated to the east by pit [130]. Pit [130], also truncated to the north by the evaluation trench, was semi-circular in shape and measured N-S 0.90m by E-W 2.00m by 0.45m, recorded at 11.45m OD. Both pits contained a homogenous loose dark greyish brown silty sand with gravel - [131] and [129] respectively - containing charcoal flecking, moderate flint pebble inclusions with occasional burnt flint.

7.5 Phase 4: 2nd-3rd Century Roman (Figure 4)

A later phase of quarrying appears to occur after some of the initial pits have silted up. This phase is dominated by one large pit [146] that too has subsequently silted up and/or been deliberately backfilled seemingly during the course of the late 2nd to early 3rd century AD. This phase of quarrying could relate to repairs and resurfacing of the road which was believed to have taken place throughout the 2nd century (Brown, forthcoming).

A large part sub-rectangular, part irregular pit [146] appears to represent the second main phase of quarrying activity on the site. This pit truncates five of the seven pits that pre-date it and in itself appears to contain a sequence of fills that suggest, in part, a gradual silting up alongside deliberate dumps of material thereafter. The pit was encountered from a height of 11.53m OD and measured N-S: 3.50m by E-W 3.40m with a total depth of 1.09m. It is truncated by a later rubbish pit [127] to the west. The initial fill [159], recorded at 10.86m OD comprised of a loose dark reddish brown coarse sand with silt and gravel. No cultural material was recovered from this fill and it is believed to represent a slumped build up of redeposited natural material. The secondary fill [142] of this cut appears more likely to have been the result of a deliberate infilling/dumping of material within the pit. Consisting of a loose to moderately compacted mid yellowish brown sandy clayey silt, the average thickness of the deposit is 0.23m. It contained moderate flint pebbles, fragments of early but reused sandy fabric Roman brick and tile, and pottery sherds dated to 120-250 AD (including one intrusive 3rd-4th century sherd). It was recorded between 10.98m OD and 11.08m OD. A series of subsequent dumping episodes are apparent from fills [149], [157] and [158], with the former

two contexts comprising chiefly of a reddish brown silty sandy and mid greyish brown clayey silt respectively. These fills were encountered at 11.31-36m OD and were devoid of any cultural material. However, fill [158], although still lacking in any tangible dating material, consisted of a thin dark greyish black silt, rich in charcoal and containing burnt fragments of clay and CBM. This dump could potentially represent fire debris associated with activity taking place at the structure recorded north of the site at 568A Roman Road (Vuolteenaho 2006). Noted chiefly in section, this deposit measured a width of 1.23m and was observed at 11.09m OD. Overlying all of the above mentioned fills was a 50mm thick layer of dark brownish grey sandy silt [139] containing frequent angular flint pebbles, frequent to moderate charcoal flecks, occasional fragments of the reused sandy fabric Roman CBM, and 6 sherds of pottery which have been dated to 160-300 AD. In turn this deposit was overlain by a loose medium to dark yellowish brown silty coarse sand [138] containing moderate flint pebbles, two fragments of reused early Roman CBM, 2 sherds of 2nd century pottery and one sherd of pale blue Roman vessel glass. This layer was 0.07-0.14m thick and encountered at a height of 11.39m OD, sloping to 11.12m OD. Further episodes of dumping, still considered to be fills within cut [146], are demonstrated by contexts [126], [128] and [137]. Fill [128] consisted of a 60mm thick, loose dark greyish brown sandy silt containing moderate flint pebbles and occasional fragments of burnt flint. Encountered at a height of 11.24m OD this fill is overlain by a loose medium reddish brown sandy silt [126], 0.14m thick and it contained occasional angular flint pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional burnt flint and one sherd of highly degraded Roman pot. The latter of a fabric for which dating was impossible due to its poor condition. The latest fill of the secondary phase quarry pit [146] was recorded as a loose dark greyish brown silty gravel containing moderate flecks and fragments of charcoal, 11 sherds of pottery dated to 160-300 AD and 3 fragments of early Roman CBM, which included a box flue tile with a coarse criss-cross pattern. Measuring a depth of 0.11m, the highest recorded level for this upper most fill is 11.50m OD.

Cutting the fills of the earlier quarry pit, and thus occurring later within the phase, was an oval shaped pit [127] measuring N-S 2.30m by E-W 2.00m with a maximum depth of 0.92m. The highest point from which the cut was observed was 11.41m OD, and it was filled by a loose/soft mid yellowish brown to dark greyish brown silty clay [125]. The fill contained a high amount of cultural material, lending some weight to the notion that the function of this feature was to serve as a rubbish pit. Amongst the inclusions were moderate flint pebbles, occasional fragments and flecks of charcoal, occasional animal bone (including the radius of a young calf which could suggest some local production or perhaps an imported veal calf), and moderate fragments of CBM dated to 120-250 AD. Additionally 8 individual iron fittings/objects were collected from the fill along with 139 sherds of Roman pottery dated 160-300 AD. It is entirely

likely that this refuse relates to the structures identified at 568A Roman Road, immediately north of Gladstone Place, fronting the London-Colchester road (ibid).

7.6 Phase 5: 4th Century Roman (Figure 5)

Overlying the earlier phases of pitting is a sequence of activity comprising dumps and pits that can be confidently dated to the 4th century and thus represent the latest Roman activity observed on site. In addition to this, during the same period a roughly north-south aligned boundary ditch was established immediately east of the area of pitting. This could plausibly be the same ditch that was encountered at 568A Roman Road, as indeed the evidence suggests that they date to the same period (ibid).

Contexts [122] and [124] refer to a 0.21m thick dump or spread that seals the earlier phase pit fills. Measuring N-S 3.30m by E-W 3.60 and encountered at 11.50m OD, this spread comprised of a loose mid to dark greenish grey coarse sandy silt. It contained 74 sherds of predominantly 4th century pottery, later sandy fabric Roman CBM (including one brick which included hob nail impressions), some fragments of pale blue Roman vessel glass, including a base sherd, frequent animal bone, 6 iron nails, and one extremely worn *sestertius* coin of Hadrian that was evidently lost some time after it was struck. This rubbish spread indicates settlement activity close by and likely relates to the aforementioned building located immediately north of the site.

Cutting the dump layer are a sequence of pits, the first of which was an irregular/sub-circular pit [121] measuring N-S 0.44m by E-W 0.72m by 0.23m deep. It was recorded at 11.47m OD and was truncated by a later pit [108] to the east and by the evaluation trench to the south. The fill [120] consisted of a thick loose, dark yellowish brown silty sand which contained no 5 sherds of pottery dated to 250 – 400 AD alongside one incomplete iron nail. This was sealed by a dump layer [109] which was recorded as a soft mid greyish brown medium sandy silt containing 62 fragments of pottery dated to 250 – 400 AD, later sandy fabric Roman CBM, heavily butchered cattle bone, occasional to moderate charcoal flecks and 4 iron nails. The layer measured N-S 3.50m by E-W 3.80 by 0.10m deep and was encountered around a height of 11.54m OD. This spread likely represents 'overspill' from the aforementioned rubbish pit [121].

The dump layer is truncated by two later pits [108] and [111]. One pit [108] which was sub-circular and measured N-S 1.15m by E-W 1.45m by 0.25m in depth, contained loose to moderately compacted mid to dark yellowish brown silty sand [107]. It was encountered at 11.51m OD and inclusions comprised of frequent flint pebbles, moderate charcoal flecks and

fragments, occasional burnt flint, 23 sherds of pottery which were dated to the 2nd century, and 2nd-3rd century sandy Roman fabric CBM fragments. The second pit [111] was a shallow, rounded/oval in shape and measured N-S 0.67m by E-W 0.54m, was 0.10m deep and was observed at 11.49m OD. It was filled with a soft mid greyish brown silty sand [110] containing moderate to frequent flecks of charcoal, occasional small sub-rounded flint nodules, two fragments of early pottery dated to 70 – 160 AD alongside 4 fragments of sandy fabric CBM dated to 140 – 250 AD. Sequentially these two features represent the latest phase of pitting activity observed on site.

Positioned within 2.00m due east of the area of pitting, a 2.40m wide linear feature [116] was observed running NNE-SSW across the site. This feature is undoubtedly the same ditch observed in Trench 3 of the first phase of the evaluation and could also likely be a continuation of the boundary ditch identified in the 568A Roman Road excavation (ibid). The ditch itself had steep to narrow sides, appearing slightly stepped on the eastern side, and a slightly concave base. It measured a total depth of 0.88m and was observed from approximately 11.30m OD. The primary fill [119] and [135] consisted of a soft dark brownish grey silty clayey sand containing frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded flint pebbles, 10 sherds of pottery dated to 300 – 400 AD, four fragments of relatively undiagnostic (albeit Roman) CBM, 2 pieces of thin copper alloy mount/sheet, 1 iron nail, and 1 iron hammerscale. In addition to this, a coin identified as a *Valentiniac nummus* struck between 364 – 378 AD was also retrieved from the lower fill. Aside from a 0.10m thick layer of slumping [134] identified on part of the western edge in, the only other fill identified, [115] and [133], consisted of soft to moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty clayey sand with an average thickness of 0.45m. It contained 12 sherds of pottery dated to 350 – 400 AD, sandy fabric CBM dated to between 120 – 400 AD, a small worked paving slab made from Forest Marble and a fragment of Kentish ragstone. In addition, the animal bone finds produced an elasmobranch which was clearly a tooth most likely derived from a shark.

7.7 Phase 6: 18th-19th Century

Evidence for later post-medieval activity on the site is attested to by the presence of finds within a later pit [118], which can be seen truncating the 4th century Roman ditch, and a layer of homogenous plough soil [123] the seals all the later feature encountered on site.

The post-medieval pit [118] was circular in shape with sharp, concave sides and was heavily truncated by a modern foundation trench [+]. Where observed the pit measured N-S 0.40m by E-W 1.55m with a depth of approximately 0.57m. It was recorded from 11.36m OD, although it was potentially cut from a higher level originally. It was filled with a friable mid greyish brown

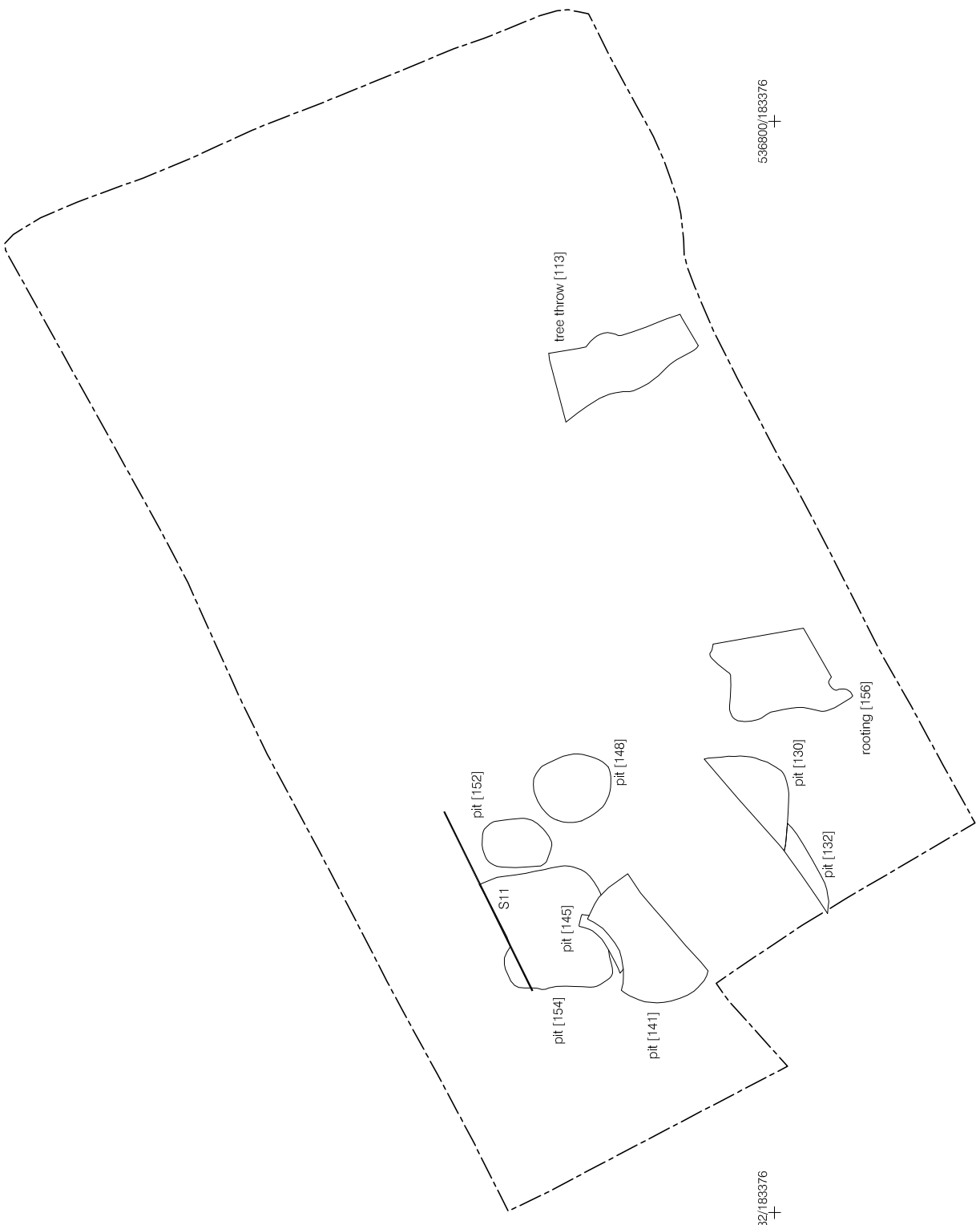
sandy silt [117] which included occasional to moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles, 1 sherd of residual Roman pottery dated to 160 – 400 AD and one small lump of yellow London stock brick manufactured sometime after 1780. The pit also contained evidence of tree root activity, suggesting it could possibly form the edge of a tree bole. It could also attest to post-medieval agricultural activity in the area.

Sealing all earlier features was a soft dark greyish brown sandy silt [123] containing occasional rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles, moderate pottery of post-medieval date (with occasional sherds of Roman pot), CBM, clay tobacco pipe stems, and fragments of charcoal. It was approximately 0.37m thick and observed from a height of 11.84m OD. This layer is regarded as plough soil which has probably been worked from the late Roman period through to the post-medieval period.

7.8 Phase 7: Modern

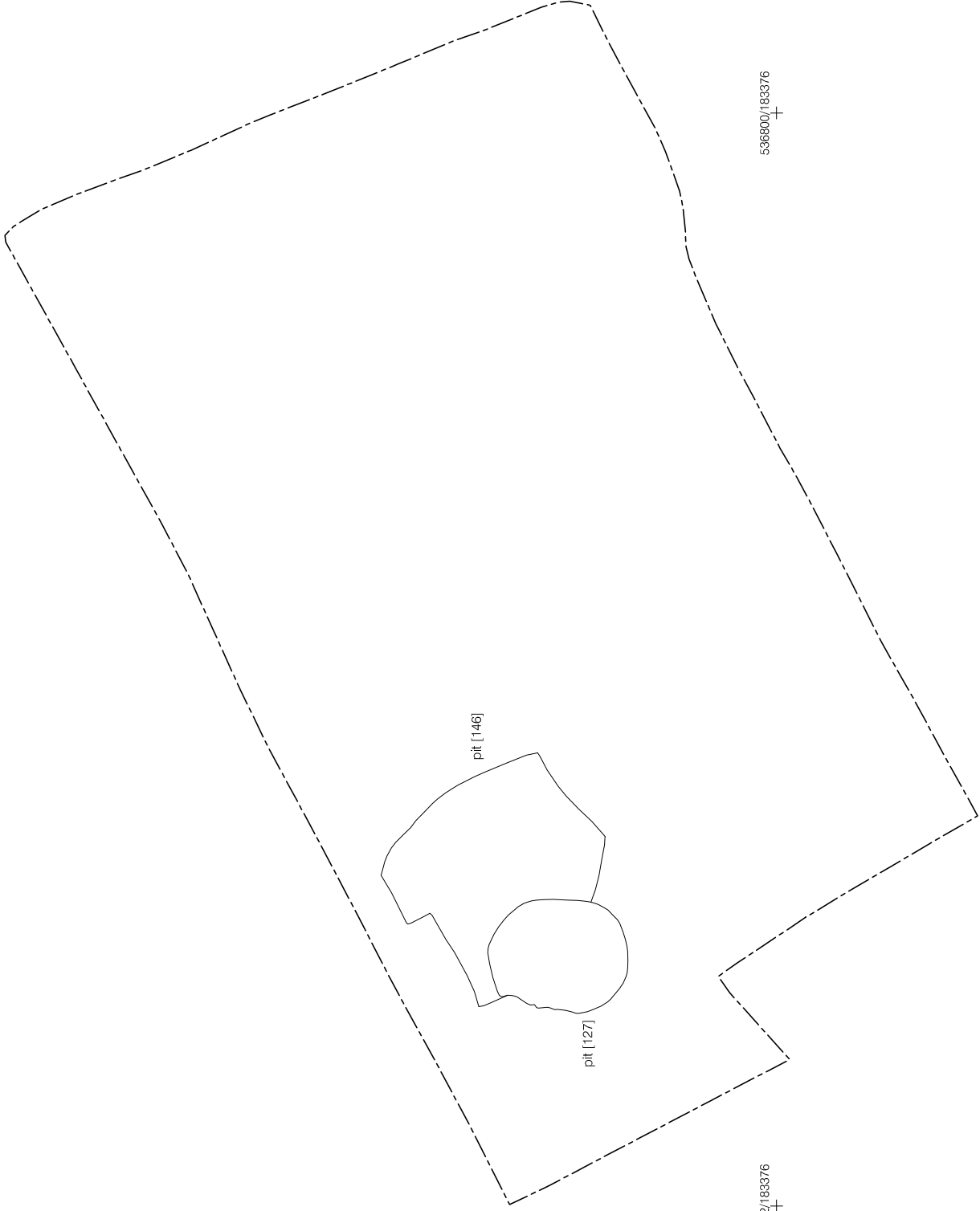
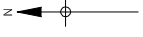
Sealing the post medieval plough soil was a layer of approximately 0.40m thick made ground, comprising of a dark blueish brown sandy silt [+] with frequent fragments of CBM, mortar, and concrete.

This layer was in turn overlain by 0.40m thick concrete [+] forming the base foundation and floor of the recently demolished supermarket building. It was recorded at a level of 12.64m OD.



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Figure 3
Phase 3: 1st - 2nd century Roman
1:100 at A4



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Figure 4
Phase 4: 2nd - 3rd century Roman
1:100 at A4

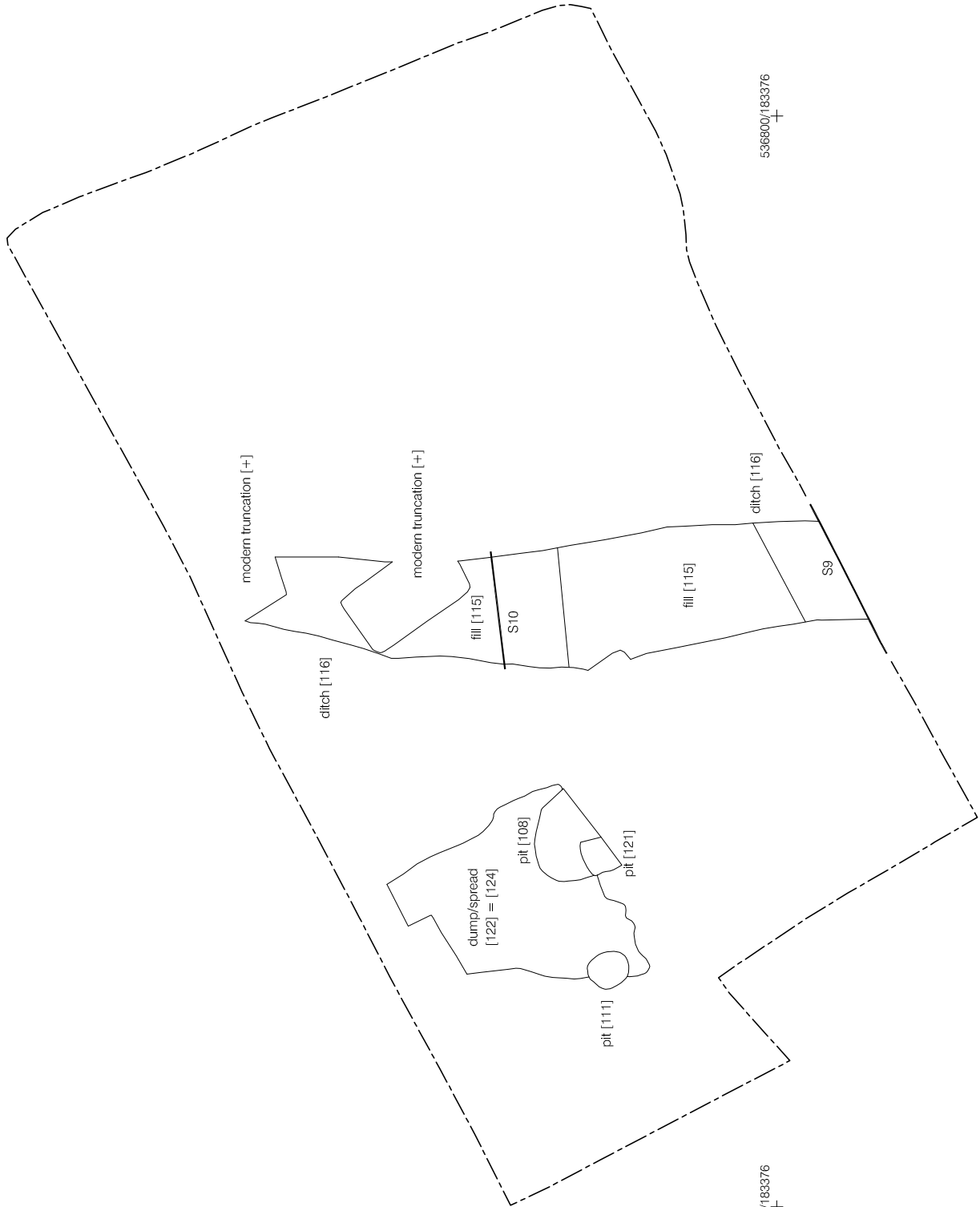
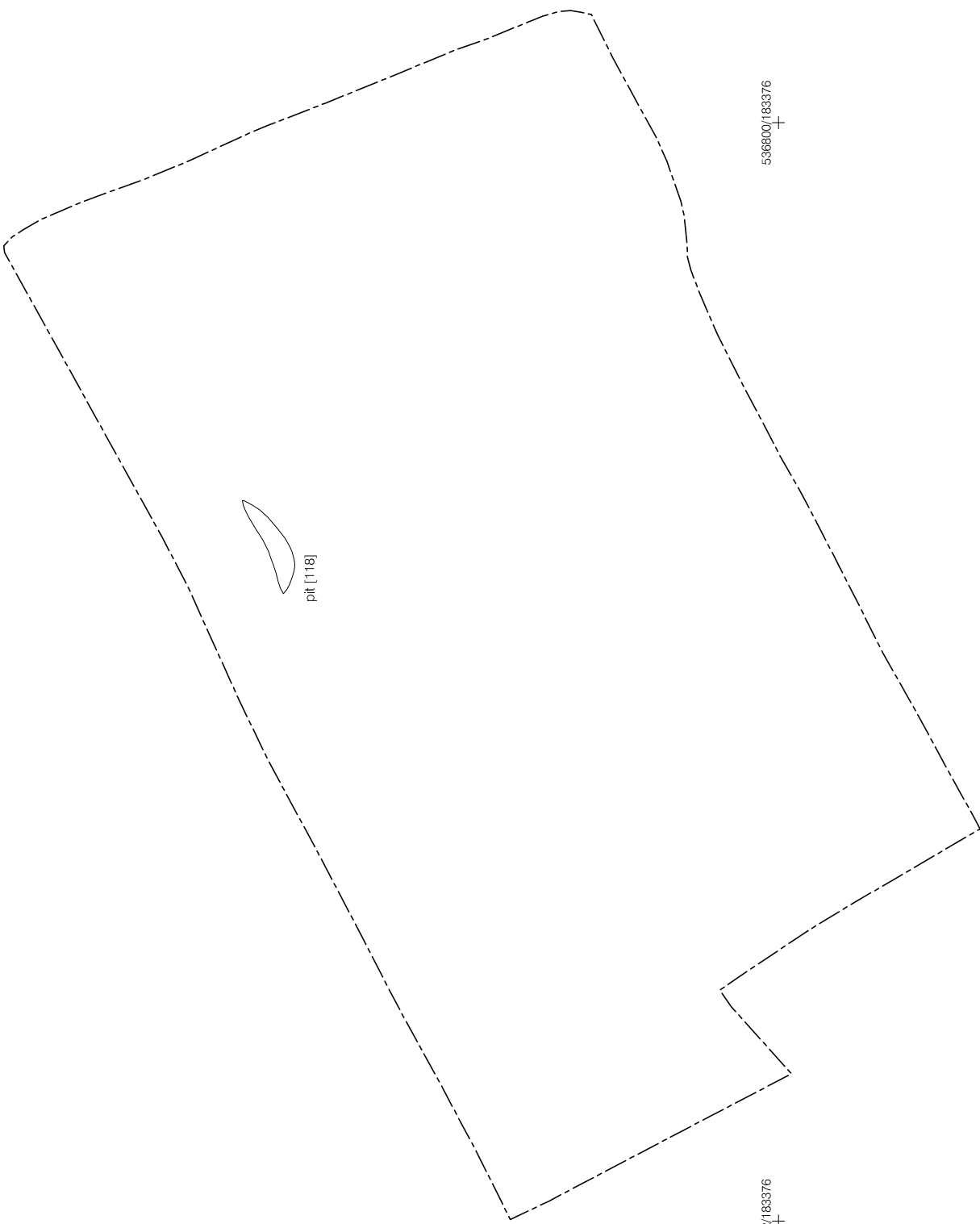
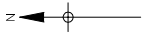


Figure 5
Phase 5: 4th century Roman
1:100 at A4



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Figure 6
Phase 5: Post Roman
1:100 at A4

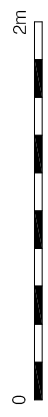
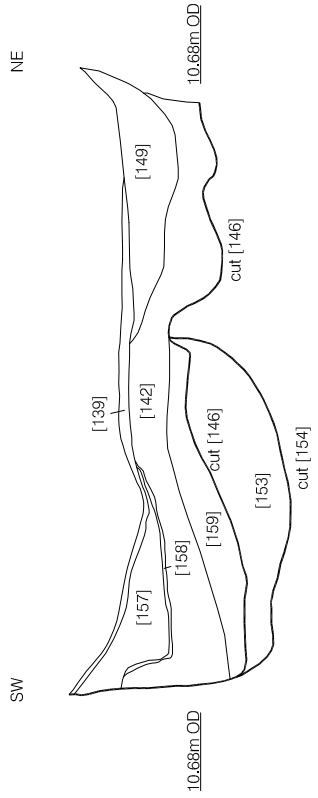
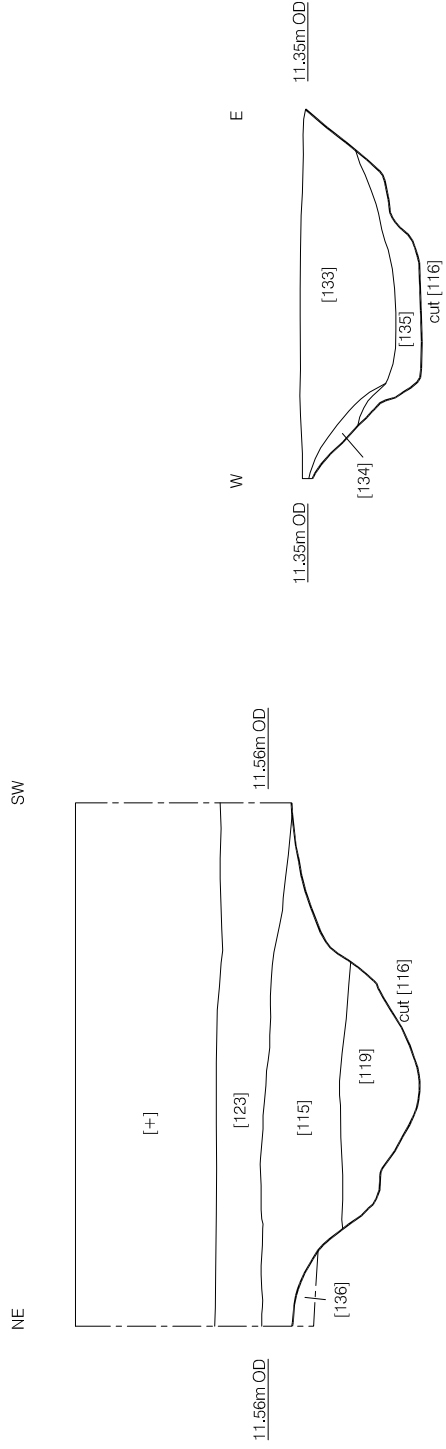


Figure 7
 Sections 9 - 11
 1:40 at A4

8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

8.1 Original research objectives

Specific research objectives for the site were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2009). A discussion of the information obtained from the archaeological investigations in relation to research objectives follows below.

- *What is the nature, extent, character and chronology of the Roman activity on site?*

Roman activity on the site appears to begin with a series of early quarry pits dated to around the 1st-2nd centuries. The pits then gradually silted up prior to a second phase of quarry activity which was observed in the same localised area, dating to around 2nd-3rd centuries. These later pits were gradually filled by a series of dumps and spreads until the 4th century when the area was utilised for the disposal of rubbish. It was during this period that a boundary ditch was established immediately east of the area of pitting. Overall it can be said that a majority of the activity here took place during the early and late Roman periods.

- *Do the pits identified indicate the types of activity being undertaken in the immediate vicinity, particularly at the site to the north (ROB 05)? In particular can specific agricultural, industrial or ritual activities be determined from the observed evidence?*

The material culture obtained from within the pits provides limited information about the nature of the activity being undertaken at the site at 568A Roman Road. It has been noted that the building materials recovered from the fills of the pits were 'fresh' and likely derived from a building close by. However, aside from a piece of worked limestone and a box flue tile, there are no indications that this was a particularly high status structure. Metal finds recovered from the pits, comprising mainly of iron sheet/vessels/fittings, may attest to local smithing within the area and indeed a charcoal rich dump layer dated to 2nd-3rd century could be interpreted as debris related to the kiln observed on the aforementioned site located immediately to the north.

- *Do any of the archaeological remains provide any evidence for the economy of the area?*

Further to the iron fragments recovered from the pits, an iron hammerscale and a thin copper-alloy mount or sheet were both obtained from fills within the 4th century ditch, perhaps attesting to continued localised industrial activity in the area. The insect burrowing observed on site suggests that the land in this area was either arable or utilised as pasture land for cattle. Indeed the animal bone assemblage supports the notion of local production, particularly following the find of a radius from a young calf. Evidence of butchery has also been noted from the sample. The boundary ditch could be interpreted as a later parcelling of the land, perhaps for agricultural purposes.

- *How can we define the nature, extent and character of any pre- or post-Roman deposits in the area of the site?*

Pre-Roman activity on the site is evidenced through the presence of residual finds within the Roman contexts only. One sherd of probable Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery alongside one of possible late Iron Age date together with a retouched blade dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age were recovered from the pits and nearby tree root activity. Although sequenced as early Roman quarry pits, it is entirely possible that a small number of the pits lacking in dating material could precede the 1st Century AD. The 18th-19th century pit, along with the plough soil, attest to activity in the area from at least the post-medieval period onward. Although the pit and the plough soil only contained finds from the Roman and post-medieval periods, it is highly plausible that these fields were utilised throughout the medieval period also.

8.2 Additional Research Questions

- How does the limited evidence for prehistoric activity on this site match that observed on other sites in the area?
- Does the archaeology on this site change our perception of the archaeological resource of the Old Ford area?
- Does the building material discovered on site match that encountered elsewhere in the area, and does it tell us anything of the nature of these structures?

- What information concerning industrial activity in the area can be obtained from analysis of the metal finds recovered from the site?
- Does the find of the shark tooth tell us anything of the activity associated with the pit cut it was found in?

9 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Paper Records

- Contexts 159 sheets
- Plans 87 sheets
- Sections 8 sheets
- Environmental Sheets 2 sheets

9.2 The Finds

- Pottery 4 boxes
- Building Materials 3 boxes
- Bone/Flint 1 box
- Metal Finds 1 box

10 IMPORTANCE OF RESULTS AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE

10.1 Importance Of The Results

10.1 Evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in this area is of importance in understanding the evolution of the landscape throughout these periods. The evidence obtained from the site will further understanding of how the settlement, agricultural and industrial activity alongside the London-Colchester road changed.

10.2 The data obtained from this investigation can be compared with previous excavations and will add to the overall picture of how the Roman settlement developed alongside an understanding of the extent of prehistoric activity in Old Ford area.

10.3 In particular the results of the excavation can provide additional insights into the nature and extent of the activity observed at 568A Roman Road and support discussion centred on the construction and maintenance of the Roman Road between 1st-4th centuries.

10.2 Further work

10.4 It is proposed that the results of the excavation be published as a short article in the London Archaeologist and referenced in the monograph volume dedicated to the Roman periods at Old Ford as part of PCA's monograph series.

Listed below are the recommendations for future work identified in the specialist assessments (see appendices):

- **Romano-British Pottery**

The pottery should form part of any publication. A small section in the final report with perhaps 6-10 illustrations is probably all that is required. Illustration of the graffito is needed and should also be shown to Roger Tomlin for publication in Britannia.

- **Building Material**

No additional work required.

- **Post Roman Pottery**

No additional work required.

- **Animal Bone**

These bones do not warrant any further analysis, apart from the requirement of species identification for the shark tooth. However it is recommended that the information given in this assessment should be used in any forthcoming publication.

- **Glass**

The Roman glass is of significance and has dating potential for the context it was found in. It is recommended that it is looked further at the analysis and publication stage and may require illustrating for the publication report.

- **Metal Finds**

The metal finds form an integral part of the material recovered during excavation and should, where relevant, be included in the further publication of the site archive. For this purpose, x-ray is required for the iron objects, to enhance their identification.

- **Environmental**

No additional work required.

- **Lithics**

No additional work required.

10.3 Publication outline

10.3.1 The archaeological results will be published in London Archaeologist. A proposed outline of the publication is detailed below:

Archaeological Investigations at Gladstone Place, Roman Road, Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

- Introduction to the Project
- Historical and Archaeological Background
- Archaeological Sequence
- Discussion
- Acknowledgements
- Bibliography

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting for commissioning this project on behalf of the client and David Divers of English Heritage (GLAAS) for monitoring works on behalf of English Heritage and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The author would like to thank Phil Frickers, Paul McGarrity, Amelia Fairman, Tommy Mazurvovicz and Malcolm Gould for their hard work and dedication. Thanks are also extended to Kevin Rielly for animal bone assessment, Kevin Hayward for building material assessment, James Gerrard for Romano-British pottery and coin assessment, Chris Jarrett for Post Roman pottery and glass assessment, Märit Gaimster for metal finds assessment and D. Young for environmental sample assessment. Thanks also to Robert Nicholson and his team for their assistance with the processing of finds, Jenny Simonson and Mark Roughley for illustrations, Tim Bradley for project management, Jon Butler and Frank Meddens for post-excavation management and editing of this report.

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Appendix 1: Context Index

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
GDP08	+	+	S9	Layer, Cut, Fill	Modern ground level, concrete, services	Modern	7
GDP08	107			Fill	Fill of [108]	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	108	108		Cut	Cut of Pit	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	109	109		Layer	Dump layer	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	110			Fill	Fill of [111]	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	111	111		Cut	Cut of Shallow Pit	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	112	113		Fill	Fill of [113]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	113	113		Cut	Tree Throw	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	114	114		Fill	Upper Fill? of [141]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	115	116	S9	Fill	Upper Fill of [116]	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	116	116	S9, S10	Cut	Cut of Ditch	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	117			Fill	Fill of [118]	18th-19th Century	6
GDP08	118	118		Cut	Cut of Later Pit	18th-19th Century	6
GDP08	119		S9	Fill	Primary Fill of [116]	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	120			Fill	Fill of [121]	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	121	121		Cut	Cut of Pit	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	122	122		Layer	Dump layer/spread	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	123		S9	Layer	Plough Soil	18th-19th Century	6
GDP08	124	124		Layer	Dump layer/spread	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	125			Fill	Fill of [127]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	126	126		Layer	Layer/spread	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	127	127		Cut	Cut of Pit	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	128			Layer	Layer/spread	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	129			Fill	Fill of [130]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	130	130		Cut	Cut of Pit	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	131			Fill	Fill of [132]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	132	132		Cut	Cut of Pit	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	133		S10	Fill	Upper Fill of [116]	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	134		S10	Fill	Slumping within [116]	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	135		S10	Fill	Primary Fill of [116]	4th Century Roman	5
GDP08	136	136	S9 S11	Layer	Natural Sand, Gravel & Clay	Natural	1
GDP08	137	137		Fill	Fill of [146]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	138	138		Fill	Fill of [146]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	139	139	S11	Fill	Fill of [146]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	140			Fill	Fill of [141]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	141	141		Cut	Cut of Pit	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	142	142	S11	Fill	Fill of [146]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	143			Fill	Lower fill of [141]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	144			Fill	Fill of [145]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	145	145		Cut	Cut of Truncated Pit	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	146	146	S11	Cut	Cut of Large Sub-Rectangular Pit	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	147			Fill	Fill of [148]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	148	148		Cut	Cut of Pit	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	149		S11	Fill	Fill of [146]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	150	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
GDP08	151			Fill	Fill of [152]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	152	152		Cut	Cut of Pit	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	153		S11	Fill	Fill of [154]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	154	154	S11	Cut	Cut of Sub-Circular/Square Pit	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	155	156		Fill	Fill of [156]	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	156	156		Cut	Tree Throw/Tree Root Activity	1st-2nd Century Roman	3
GDP08	157		S11	Fill	Fill of [146]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	158		S11	Fill	Fill of [146]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4
GDP08	159		S11	Fill	Redeposited Sand fill of [146]	2nd-3rd Century Roman	4

* Contexts 1-65 assigned during phase 1 evaluation (Killock 2008) and 66– 106 during phase 2 evaluation.

Appendix 2: Romano-British Pottery Assessment

By James Gerrard

Introduction

The evaluation and excavations produced a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery totalling 382 sherds, which weighed 9.747kgs from 25 contexts. Most of the individual assemblages were small in size (1-30 sherds) but two groups were medium sized and contained 30-100 sherds and one group contained more than a hundred sherds.

Methodology and Recording

The methodology used for recording this ceramic assemblage is based on the scheme proposed by the Museum of London Specialist Services and widely used in London and its immediate hinterland (Symonds 2002). The pottery fabrics have been recorded using Museum of London form and fabric codes. The pottery has been quantified using the standard measures of sherd count and weight. All data has been recorded directly into an *Access 2000* database. The database design is that used by mediaeval and post-mediaeval pottery specialists within Pre-Construct Archaeology (with some variation) and is ultimately based on standards established by the Museum of London's Archaeology and Specialist Services (Symonds 2002). A copy of this database is available for consultation in the archive.

Fabrics present

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
AHFA	7	202
AMPH	1	56
BAET	4	273
BB1	13	248
BB2	48	694
CGBL	1	23
COLCC	1	2
FMIC	6	216
GAUL	2	50
HOO	3	16
HWC	17	1196
IA/SAX	1	9
MAYEN	2	43
MHAD	4	32
MISC	4	8
MORT	1	68
NVCC	22	318
OXID	12	129
OXRC	9	105
PORD	2	14
PREPOT	1	7
SAM	25	548
SAND	189	5227
SESH	1	94
TSK	2	86
TOTAL	382	9747

Discussion

This is a small and reasonably interesting group of pottery. It is very fresh suggesting that it has been deposited close to a focus of Roman period activity. The group shares many similarities with Romano-British assemblages previously recovered from excavations in Old Ford. There is a small but significant late Roman component including PORD and MAYEN. The latter is a late Roman import from the Rhineland. However, much of the assemblage is early Roman (second to early third-century in date). There are single sherds of what is prehistoric and possibly Iron Age or Saxon pottery.

In terms of trade the assemblage represents a typical Thameside group influenced by London. Many of the greywares are from Essex but there are small quantities of imports including Central and East Gaulish samian, Central Gaulish Black Slipped wares and a handful of amphora sherds. None of this material indicates that the site had a particularly high status or unusual trading connections.

A single sherd had a post-firing literate graffito. A jar base had a post-firing cross scratched into it.

Recommendations

The pottery should form part of any publication. A small section in the final report with perhaps 6-10 illustrations is probably all that is required. Illustration of the graffito is needed and it should also be shown to Roger Tomlin for publication in *Britannia*.

References

Symonds, R. 2002 *Recording Roman pottery: a description of the methodology used at Museum of London Specialist Services (MoLSS) and Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS)* (Unpublished document available from MoLSS)

Appendix 1: Spot dates

Context	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Early Date	Late date
66	1	1	50	400
68	10	845	180	250
69	2	21	120	400
70	1	6	300	400
78	1	18	120	300
101	2	11	180	300
107	23	268	120	160
109	62	808	250	400
110	2	34	70	160
115	12	98	350	400
117	1	1	50	400
120	5	103	250	400
122	57	1291	350	400
124	17	387	120	300
125	139	4855	160	300
126	1	13	50	400
135	10	248	300	400
137	11	250	160	300
138	2	24	120	160
139	6	198	160	300
142*	10	223	120*	250*
147	1	15	50	400

151	3	10	120	400
153	2	12	300	400?IA/SAXsherd
155	1	7	LBA	EIA

* context contained two sherds of intrusive third/fourth century ware

Appendix 3: Building Material Assessment

By Kevin Hayward

- Introduction and Aims
- Methodology
- Ceramic Building Material – Fabric and Form
- Stone – Geological character and Description
- Daub
- Summary and Recommendations
- Distribution

Introduction and Aims

A small assemblage¹ 12kg (21 contexts) of (mainly) Roman ceramic building material and daub and two examples of worked stone were retained from an evaluation and an excavation of the Roman site at Gladstone Place, Bow, Tower Hamlets GR TQ 368 832 This material was assessed in order to:

- Identify (under binocular microscope) the main Roman building material fabrics and forms from the Period 4 and 5 (Roman and Late Roman building fabrics).
- Identify the geological character and source of a fragment of limestone paving (under binocular microscope)
- Identify any unusual pieces or fabrics that warrant further analysis.
- Summary - distribution and potential of the site.

Methodology

The building materials were examined using the London system of classification with a fabric number allocated to each object. The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).

Ceramic Building Material Form and Fabric

11.7kg

An overview of the ceramic building material assemblage from Gladstone Place, Bow by fabric and form serves to quantify the common fabrics and highlight the presence of any unusual or interesting fabric types that may provide valuable dating evidence in the phase summary at the end of this review.

Roman Ceramic Building Material

11.3kg

Fabrics

2815 Group (2452; 2459a; 3004; 3006) (AD55-160)

Radlett Group (3023; 3060) (AD50-120) and 3060b (AD170-230)

Silty Group (3018; 3019) (AD71-100)

Late Roman Sandy fabrics (2459b; 2459c) (AD120-250)

The entire assemblage is made of fresh broken and abraded Roman tile and brick mainly from the fill of the large rectangular phase 4 pit [146] and especially in later phase 5 pits [108] [111] [121] [127]. The fill of the large rectangular pit [146] contain earlier but reused sandy fabrics 2815 group [AD50-160] and iron oxide 3023 group [50-120] including a box flue tile [137] with a coarse criss-cross pattern. Flue tiles with this pattern are indicative of late first century and second century.

¹ Three shoe boxes including evaluation (contexts 1-69)

Fills of later pits [108] [111] [121] [127] on the other hand contain an appreciable portion of the later sandy fabric bricks and tiles (120-250AD) either with a fine moulding sand 2459b or chaff-tempered 2459c intermixed with earlier iron-oxide and sandy fabrics..

One 2459b fabric mid 2nd-mid 3rd century brick of note from the fill of one of these later pits [124] had hob nail impressions.

Stone

Worked stone was represented by just one small (250g) paving slab in a Phase 5 late Roman ditch [115]. This was made of Forest Marble 3132 from the Middle Jurassic (Bathonian) beds of Oxfordshire. This hard shelly (oyster rich) oolitic limestone is only suitable for paving but not intricate carving. The use of this stone has been identified elsewhere from Roman London (Hayward 2009). A fragment of Kentish ragstone – Lower Greensand Maidstone area of Kent from the fill of the late Roman ditch [119] was also recovered. This material was in widespread use in Roman London from the end of the first century AD onwards.

Daub

Small quantities (328g) of red/brown daub with quartz fragments and red iron oxide are present from the phase 4 and 5 pits attesting to the presence of Roman buildings in the vicinity

Post Medieval Brick

A small lump of the later Yellow London stock post-medieval brick fabric (manufactured after 1780) was recovered from the fill of the post Roman pit [117]. Its presence suggests that this feature was infilled only after the late 18th century

Summary and Recommendations

The assemblage consists almost entirely of broken Roman ceramic building material and stone. There is grouping of earlier (AD50-160) Roman tile and brick associated with the large sub-rectangular pit [146]. A second grouping of later mid 2nd to mid 3rd century tile and brick is associated with the later phase 4 fills [108] [111] [121] [127]. This fits in with the other dating evidence e.g. pottery which suggests a second-third century date.

Most of the material is fresh indicating that it probably derived from a building nearby. However, other than the solitary example of box flue tile and a degraded fragment of Oxfordshire limestone there is no other evidence to suggest that this was a high status building.

Only a small quantity of building material need to be retained e.g. the hob nail boot impression [124] and combed box flue tile [137].

13 Dating table

Context	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material	
1	1	50	120	50	120
49	5	50	250	120	250
68	3	50	160	50	160
69	1	50	120	50	120
107	2	-1500	1666	-1500	1666
109	9	50	250	120	250
110	4	50	250	140	250
112	2	50	120	50	120
114	1	50	120	50	120
115	6	50	400	² 100	400
117	8	50	1940	1780	1940
119	4	50	1666	50	1666
122	5	-1500	1666	-1500	1666
124	6	50	250	120	250
125	5	50	250	120	250
133	7	50	250	120	250
137	3	50	160	50	160
138	2	50	120	50	120
139	1	50	160	50	160
142	2	50	160	50	160
155	1	-1500	1666	-1500	1666

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² Note I have changed use of Forest Marble from AD300-400 to AD100-400 in London based on findings from the Amphitheatre (Hayward 2009).

Appendix 4: Post Roman Pottery Assessment

By Chris Jarrett

A small assemblage of Post-Roman pottery (eight sherds and none are unstratified) was recorded in two contexts. The pottery is on the whole in a good condition with the forms mostly recognisable. The pottery assemblage was therefore deposited soon after breakage. The material was recorded using standard Museum of London classification codes and the information entered into an ACCESS database.

All the pottery consists of 19th-century types. From context [3] there is a small handle sherd of Bone china (BONE), dated from 1794 and it probably came from a teacup. From the same context is a small sherd of refined white earthenware with cut-out sponged decoration (REFW SPON 1), dated 1830-1900 and it dates the context. Context [33] produced six sherds of pottery from a single Hamilton shaped tea cup in refined white earthenware with a black-transfer depicting a seaside scene and part of an illegible name. It is further decorated with a red border and gilded lines. It can be coded (TPW6) and dates to the mid to late 19th century.

The pottery assemblage has no significance, and fits the ceramic profile for greater London. Its potential is mainly to date the contexts it was found in. No further work is recommended.

Appendix 5: Animal Bone Assessment

by Kevin Rielly

Introduction

The site is located in Bow, adjacent to the rear of properties fronting onto Roman Road. It included a collection of Roman pits sealed by a 'ploughsoil', which was later truncated by a small number of post-medieval and modern linear features. Numerous excavations in this area have provided evidence for a Roman settlement in this general area, located either side of the old Roman road to Colchester (initially described by Sheldon 1972). Animal bone assemblages from a variety of sites have often featured large quantities of cattle bones, with extensive butchery which has led to the conclusion that this settlement may have been a staging post for the supply of beef to the City (ibid). A more recent excavation at the PCA site at Parnell Road (LEK95) provided copious quantities of cattle primary waste, perhaps confirming this conclusion (Izzard and Rackham 1998).

Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered. The sample collections were washed through a modified Siraf tank using a 1mm mesh and the subsequent residues were air dried and sorted.

Description of faunal assemblage

The site provided a grand total of 27 animal bones by hand collection and a further two fragments from sieving, derived from two samples. These have been assigned to their respective phases (table 1), with bones arising from phases 4, 5 and 6. The dating evidence suggests phase 4 is essentially 2nd/3rd century in date, while phase 5 is 4th century. Phase 6 is likely to be c18th century in date. It should however be pointed out that the dating and stratigraphic analyses are at an early stage and that some movement of contexts between phases is to be expected once these analyses are completed. The majority of the bones in these deposits were moderately well preserved but had suffered a moderate to high level of fragmentation.

Phase 4

This phase provided the majority of the bones, these derived from pits (16 bones, with 11 from pit [127]) and dump deposits (7 bones). The combined collection features an abundance of cattle bones with minor quantities of sheep/goat and horse. There is a wide variety of cattle skeletal parts, while sheep/goat and horse are represented by tooth fragments. Of interest were a heavily butchered cattle mandible and tibia from dumps [109] and [124] respectively, which display a similar style of butchery seen at several contemporary City and Southwark sites (Rielly 2006, 114). In addition, the radius of a young calf from pit [127] could suggest some local production or perhaps an imported veal calf.

Phase:	4	5	6
Species			
Cattle	14	3(1)	
Equid	1		
Cattle-size	5		
Sheep/Goat	2		
Sheep-size	1		(1)
Elasmobranch		1	

Grand Total	23	4(1)	(1)
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Table 1. Species abundance by phase with sieved bones in brackets.

Phase 5

All of the phase 5 bones were taken from ditch [116], with a single fragment from the primary fill and the remainder from the upper fills. The assemblage is composed of just two species, cattle and elasmobranch. The cattle bones comprise 3 teeth (including the sieved example) and a tibia shaft fragment, while the elasmobranch is clearly a tooth, most probably derived from a shark (species as yet undetermined).

Phase 6

The single bone from this phase, taken from the sampled fill of pit [118], is an indeterminate sheep-size fragment.

Conclusion and recommendations for further work

The great majority of this small assemblage was dated to the Roman period and there does appear to be two distinct phases within this occupation period. It is interesting that the majority of the bones are cattle, reflecting previous bone collections recovered in the Old Ford settlement. A proportion of these were heavily butchered, again similar to other collections in this area and essentially following the type of butchery denoting the presence of professional butchers (Maltby 1989, 91 and see Rielly 2006, 114). This may link to the arguments given for one of the functions of this settlement, as a supplier of meat to the City, however, unlike other sites, as at the Lefevre Walk Estate, Parnell Road (Izzard and Rackham 1998), there is clearly no obvious concentration of butchers waste i.e. head and foot parts. The presence of a rather young cattle bone is, however, something different where previous site assemblages have featured a wealth of adult cattle (ibid). This may entertain the idea of a production element to the local populace which was previously assumed to be consumer-based. Finally, the potential shark tooth could be of interest, at least from a zoological point of view, perhaps suggesting the presence of a particular species in local waters during this period.

These bones do not warrant any further analysis, apart from the requirement of a species identification for the shark tooth. However, it is recommended that the information given in this assessment should be used in any forthcoming publication.

References

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Appendix 6: Glass Assessment

By Chris Jarrett

Roman vessel glass

Three sherds of pale blue vessel glass are recorded in contexts [122], [124] and [138]. The sherds from contexts [122] and [124] may come from the same vessels and a base sherd is present in the last context. Context [133] produced a single rim sherd of an open bowl or cup shape and is very thin walled. Two very small fragment of probable Roman glass were recovered from context [117]. One sherd is clear and the other pale green in colour.

Post-Medieval glass

Wine bottle

A single complete cylindrical wine bottle is recorded from context [35]. It has a string rim construction dated c.1820-40.

The Roman glass is of significance and has dating potential for the context it was found in. It is recommended that it is further looked at by a Roman glass specialist and may require drawing and a publication report.

Appendix 7: Metal Finds Assessment

By Märit Gaimster

Around twenty-five metal objects were retrieved from the Roman phases 3–5; they are listed in the table below. The majority of objects consist of probable iron nails, with a dozen fragments of further objects or fittings. In addition, there are two well-preserved pieces of thin copper-alloy sheet.

Recommendations

The metal finds from Gladstone Place form an integral part of the material recovered during excavation and should, where relevant, be included in any further publication of the site. For this purpose, x-ray is required for the iron objects, to enable further identification.

PHASE 3: 1 st – 2 nd Century Roman		
context	description	recommendation
140	iron sheet/vessel; one curved piece; L 30mm	x-ray
147	iron ?nail; incomplete	x-ray
PHASE 4: 2 nd – 3 rd Century Roman		
context	description	recommendation
109	iron ?nails; four pieces	x-ray
120	iron nail; incomplete	x-ray
122	iron ?nails; five pieces	x-ray
124	iron nail; incomplete	x-ray
	iron ?vessel/object; incomplete; W 55mm; L 135mm	x-ray
125	iron ?objects/fittings; eight pieces	x-ray
PHASE 5: 4 th Century Roman		
context	description	recommendation
119	thin copper-alloy mount or sheet; two pieces; W 20mm	further id
	iron ?nail; incomplete	x-ray
	iron hammerscale; from sample	

Appendix 8: Coin Assessment

By James Gerrard

The excavations produced two Roman coins. Old Ford has produced many Roman coins and these examples should be discussed as part of the wider picture of coin loss in the settlement.

SF1 [119], Extremely worn Valentinianic *nummus*, struck AD364-378 (rev. *Gloria Romanorum.*). It may have been lost AD364-400/430

SF2 [124], Extremely worn *sestertius* of Hadrian, struck AD117-138. It was probably lost considerably later (early to mid third century?).

Appendix 9 : Lithics Assessment

By Frank Meddens, Robert Nicholson and Dave Hodson

Worked Flint

Context	Description	Date
[69]	Retouched blade, removed from core. Broken at one end.	Neolithic – Bronze Age

Burnt Flint

Context	No frags	Wt (g)	Burning
66	1	30	White-grey core with orange shell, high heat fracturing pattern but no evidence of direct burning.
68	1	9	White-grey, high heat fracturing pattern but no evidence of direct burning.
69	1	8	White, high heat fracturing pattern but no evidence of direct burning.
74	1	35	White-grey, high heat fracturing pattern but no evidence of direct burning.
107	1	10	White-grey core with orange shell, high heat fracturing pattern.
109	1	12	White-grey, high heat fracturing pattern.
128	1	18	White-grey, high heat fracturing pattern.
129	1	27	White-grey, high heat fracturing pattern.
140	3	91	White-grey, high heat fracturing pattern.

Appendix 10: Environmental Archaeological Rapid Assessment

By D. Young (QUEST)

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental archaeological rapid assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) of samples from Gladstone Place, Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets (site code: GDP08; National Grid Reference: TQ 368 832).

METHODS

Rapid assessment

Two samples were processed by flotation by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd using 1mm and 300-micron mesh sizes, producing a flot and picked residue from each sample. These were rapidly assessed for macrofossil remains using a low power zoom-stereo microscope at x7-45 magnification and the quantities and preservation of the charred or waterlogged remains in each sample were recorded (Table 1).

RESULTS OF THE RAPID ASSESSMENT

Phase 5: 4th Century Roman

One sample was assessed from Phase 5. This sample (context (119)) consisted of a flot and picked residue. The flot contained moderate amounts of identifiable charcoal (up to 50 fragments), insects (1 thorax) and a limited number of charred and waterlogged seeds (up to 50 individuals; main taxa: *Chenopodium album* (Fat-hen) and *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch)). The picked residue contained only a limited number of small fragments of charred wood (between 1 and 25 fragments).

Phase 5: 18th-19th Century

One sample was assessed from Phase 6. This sample (context (117)) consisted of a flot and picked residue, both of which contained a limited number of small fragments of charred wood (between 1 and 25 fragments).

Table 1: Results of the rapid assessment of samples from Gladstone Place, Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets (site code: GDP08)

Context number	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Fraction	Charcoal	Charred seeds	Waterlogged seeds	Insects	Main taxa	Common name
117	Fill	Fill of [118]	Post-Roman?	6	Picked	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
117	Fill	Fill of [118]	Post-Roman?	6	Flot	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
119	Fill	Primary Fill of [116]	Late Roman	5	Picked	1/2	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
119	Fill	Primary Fill of [116]	Late Roman	5	Flot	1	1	1/2	1	<i>Chenopodium album</i> ; <i>Betula pendula</i>	Fat-hen; Silver Birch

Key: 0 = Estimated Minimum Number of Specimens (MNS) = 0; 1 = 1 to 25; 2 = 26 to 50; 3 = 51 to 75; 4 = 76 to 100; 5 = 101+

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Very low concentrations of charcoal were recorded in both samples. However, their small size (<2mm) will prevent species identification on the majority of fragments. Waterlogged and charred seed remains were present in moderate to low numbers in both samples from contexts (117) and (119). No further analysis is recommended on the samples from context (117). The presence of moderate numbers of waterlogged and charred seeds (between 25 and 50 individuals) in the samples from context (119) suggests that this context may be valuable for palaeoenvironmental reconstructions for this phase of occupation at Gladstone Place; however, the limited assemblage diversity in the samples from this context indicates that further assessment will not provide additional information on the nature of the environment at this site. Therefore, no further work is recommended on the samples from Gladstone Place.

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Appendix 11: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

13.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-71792

Project details

Project name GLADSTONE PLACE, ROMAN ROAD, BOW, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

Short description of the project The archaeological investigations revealed evidence of human activity in the locality from the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval periods. Prehistoric activity is evidenced through the presence of residual finds within the Roman contexts only. One sherd of probable Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery alongside one of possible late Iron Age date together with a retouched blade dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age were recovered from the pits and nearby tree root activity. Roman activity appears to begin with a series of early quarry pit dated to around the 1st-2nd centuries. The pits gradually silted up prior to a secondary phase of quarry activity which was observed in the same localised area, dating to around 2nd-3rd centuries. These later pits were gradually filled by a series of dumps and spreads until the 4th century when the area was utilised for the disposal of rubbish. It was during this period that a boundary ditch was established immediately east of the area of pitting. A 18th-19th century pit, along with a layer of plough soil, attest to activity in the area from at least the post-medieval period onward.

Project dates Start: 02-11-2009 End: 20-11-2009

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes GDP08 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Monument type EXTRACTIVE PIT Roman

Monument type RUBBISH PIT Roman

Monument type BOUNDARY DITCH Roman

Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT BLADE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	SHARK TOOTH Roman
Significant Finds	METAL WORKING DEBRIS Roman
Methods techniques	& 'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW GLADSTONE PLACE, ROMAN ROAD, BOW, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
Postcode	E3 5EU
Study area	150.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 368 832 51.5305555556 -0.0275 51 31 50 N 000 01 39 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 11.30m Max: 11.50m

Project creators

Name of PCA
Organisation

Project brief CgMs Consultants Ltd
originator

Project design Sally Dicks
originator

Project Tim Bradley
director/manager

Project supervisor Iain Bright

Type of Higgins Homes Ltd.
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
available

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at Gladstone Place, Roman Road, Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, E3 5EU

Author(s)/Editor(s) Bright, I

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