

Roman Pottery Assessment for Number 1 Poultry and selected other sites

Site code: ONE94, LHY88, BUC87, CID90, DOC87, LOM88,
BRD88, KNG85, BOL94

Undated

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Introduction

The assemblage of Roman pottery recovered from Number 1 Poultry (ONE94) forms the main part of this assessment; the spot-dates from other unpublished sites in the vicinity of Poultry have also been examined and assessed in light of their potential contribution to the research aims. These sites are listed in table. All of the Roman pottery from the main excavations (with the exception of the boxes detailed in table 1) has been spot-dated to standard MoLAS methods and the resulting data entered into the relational database Oracle. However, because of changes to the spot-dating procedure, primarily that quantification by sherd count has only been included since the autumn of 1995, the material recovered from the evaluation has only been recorded on a presence/absence basis.

Table 1: Breakdown of remaining Roman ceramics to be spot-dated

Area	Shoe box	Enviro. sample box	Body box.
Area 1	1	1	
Area 2		2	
Area 3	2		
Area 5	3		
Area 8	5.5	2.5	
Area 9	1.5	3	
Area 10		6.5	1
Area 11	2	2	
Area 12	19	3	3
Section 72	1		
Misc	2	1	

The entire assemblage from the main excavations at Poultry totalled 34,499 sherds and was recovered from 2146 contexts. The condition of the pottery is very good. The sherd size is small to large, with joining sherds and vessel profiles present. Some of the material is burnt and/or sooted and a small proportion abraded, but on the whole this did not hinder fabric identification. A wide range of forms are identifiable, with only 29.7% by sherd count of the assemblage unassigned a form code. The majority of the contexts are small in size (1882 or 87.7% of the total number), with 224 medium size (10.4%), 34 large size (1.6%) and 6 very large size (0.3%). Table 2 shows how the quantities and size of contexts break down between the different areas.

Table 2: Quantities of Roman pottery and contexts size by area.

Area	Number of contexts					No. of stamps	Illustrations
	S	M	L	VL	Total		
Evaluation	40	11	2	1	54	8	1
Area 1(i)	94	2			96		1
Area 2	13				13	1	
Area 3	4				4	2	
Area 4	1				1		
Area 5	4				4	3	
Area 7 &12	95	21	7	3	126*	79	42
Area 8	515	56	4		575	70	75
Area 9	263	35	10	1	309	60	49
Area 10	530	68	8	1	607	61	110
Area 11	323	31	3		357	33	24
Total	1882	224	34	6	2146	317	302

*spot-dating incomplete.

small = <30 sherds; medium = 30-100 sherds; large = 100+ sherds; very large = multiple boxes

Summary of the Roman assemblage

The assemblage dates from the mid 1st to 4th centuries, representing virtually continuous occupation on the site (see Graphs 1-6 and Table 3 on the following pages). Graph 1 represents the date ranges by context from the whole site; graphs 2-6 are for the main areas of excavation. The similarity between all the graphs, graphically demonstrates activity on all areas throughout the Roman period. The main excavation areas have produced particularly good assemblages for the pre- and post-Boudican fire periods and from the Late Roman sequence. The sixty-eight contexts tightly dated to the pre-and post-Boudican fire period can be seen at the top of the graph and the five hundred and eighty-seven contexts dated to the third and fourth centuries are evident at the bottom (Graph 1). The period that appears to be most poorly represented is the mid to late 2nd century. These groups although present are not composed of chronologically coherent material and contain quantities of residual 1st and early 2nd-century pottery.

From the total assemblage, imported wares accounted for 36% (all figures are percentage by sherd count of the total assemblage); from recent excavations at Bishopsgate (STE95) the imported wares totalled only 18 % and from Baltic Exchange (BAX95) 25%. In contrast, current totals from the waterfront excavations at Regis House (KWS94) show 50% of the assemblage is imported. This brief comparison suggests Poultry is substantially above average in contrast to other inland city sites and not surprisingly slightly lower than the waterfront site. If the imports are broken down into amphorae, samian and other fine wares, the Poultry assemblage is composed of 16.9% amphorae, 15.7% samian and 2.5% fine wares. This compares to 9% amphorae, 7.2% samian, and 1.3% fine wares at Bishopsgate (STE95) and 14.5% amphorae, 8.6% samian and 1.1% fine wares at Baltic Exchange (BAX95). The most interesting figure here is the imported fine wares, which are of great interest.

The assemblage contains not only material typical of the City (for examples see Davies *et al* 1994, 166-219), but also include many rare or previously unrecorded fabrics and forms. This is especially true for early imported fine wares and early Romano-British coarse wares; well-dated, Neronian - early Flavian groups, with unusual forms in good condition, are accompanied by 1st-century coin evidence. The late Roman ceramics are very important. The groups appear to be associated with a large number of coins and were recovered from a sequence of late Roman buildings and associated features. These late Roman groups can be closely dated and contain excellent examples of the ceramics in use in the later period, including imported wares and Romano-British colour-coated wares.

As well as chronologically important material, the Poultry assemblage also contains groups of important or unusual vessel types, such as amphorae stamps and inscriptions, crucibles, dolia (9D) and tazze (9C).

Methods of Analysis

Spot-date Records

The majority of the assemblage will be analysed and interrogated using the detailed spot-date records that exist in Oracle. As methodological analysis with material from the Courage Brewery sites (Rauxloh & Symonds in prep) has shown, when working with large quantities of material, the use of presence/absence or sherd count as methods of quantification produces similar results to data from fully quantified weight and EVES. Therefore, the majority of the analysis required in order to refine dating, study group composition and fabric/form proportions and carry out spatial and functional analysis, can be done through the manipulation of the existing spot-date records.

Functional and Spatial analysis

This methodology is to be established as part of the analysis phase of work on material from Roman Southwark (MoLAS 1997). Where possible, a functional category will be assigned to each vessel type in the spot-date record, based on combinations of fabric and form. This

data can then be interrogated and plotted using GIS, at context or sub-group level, to detect chronological and spatial patterns. The ability to query the data and apply different combinations of criteria, in a rapid and systematic manner will greatly enhance the analytical phase of work. This analysis will take a multi-disciplinary approach, constructing queries that incorporate accessioned finds, building material, and environmental data. The distribution of specific functional categories may reveal patterns of zoning or clustering that can be related to activities such as: industrial, commercial, residential, portuary, ritual/religious, and administrative/distributive. These patterns may also relate to the status and function of specified areas, sites, or insulae. The siting of Poultry with five identified insulae and a road junction coupled with the well stratified deposits within insulae, associated with specific structures and rooms within the structures, would provide an excellent case study for intra-site analysis. The use of space for other activities such as rubbish disposal, can also be examined to create a complete picture of the urban townscape. and could be directly compared to results from the Southwark sites and published analysis from the Forum site (Milne & Wardle 1996).

Important groups

Although full integration of the spot-dates with the stratigraphic phasing and landuse has not yet occurred, a number of groups have been identified as being of particular importance. These groups have been selected during the spot-dating process with the research aims for Poultry and the research priorities for Roman ceramics in London borne in mind (Rayner *et al* 1995). The assemblages are mainly medium or large in size and are well dated, with little residual material. Each group, contains either material dating to a period that is poorly understood and poorly represented in past publications from London, or material that is unusual in type or composition. The publication of these groups will form the core ceramic evidence to support analysis and discussion relating to research aims and themes. The groups will be quantified and illustrated in full, in order to allow direct comparison with published material and the groups selected for analysis from Southwark (MoLAS 1997). The selected groups from Poultry are listed by area and context in table 4. At present twenty-eight groups have been selected; this may alter slightly when the remaining pottery from area 12 is spot-dated and the spot-dates are fully integrated with the stratigraphic groupings and sub-groupings. On the whole little change is envisaged due to the intrinsic importance of these groups to the research aims.

Table 4: Individual contexts and subgroups of importance from Poultry (ONE94)

Area	Cxt/Gp	Edate	Ldate	Size	Group	Subgrp.	Vsl. no.	Stmp/accs	Box no.
8	8184	50	70	M	804	22	6	2	1
8	9038	50	60	L	804	68	c. 17	2	1
8	9224	50	70	M	802	28	c. 6	-	1
8	8743	50	160	L	803	10	2	-	0.5
8	7131	350	400	M	831	1	c. 12	-	0.5
8	all* ¹	350	400	L	828	1	c.28	-	c.8
8	all* ²	270	400	L	811	24	c. 32	1	1
8	all* ³	350	400	L	809	1	c. 35	-	2
9	all* ⁴	350	400	M	909	5	c. 8	-	1
9	3500	350	400	M	907	45	c. 8	-	0.5
9	all* ⁵	350	400	M	907	46	c. 11	-	1.5
9	3647	50	100	M	904	5	8	-	0.5
10	11929	350	400	M			32	-	1.5
10	11712	270	400	M			c.13	-	0.5
10	12149	350	400	S			c.12	-	0.5
10	12360	250	400	M			c.15	-	0.5
10	12406	270	400	M			c. 8	1	0.25
10	12657	60	70	M			12	4	0.5
10	12666	300	400	M			16	-	3
10	12716	350	400	M			23	-	1
10	12863	50	70	M			5	-	0.5
10	12888	50	60	S			3	-	0.25
10	11976	350	400	M			c.17	-	0.5
10	13017	50	70	S			5	-	0.25
11	15636	50	80	M	1101	1	c. 7	1	1 b.b.
12	18085	350	400	M	1205	1	15	-	1

12	18189	50	60	M	1202	3	10	-	0.5
12	18225	70	80	L	1202	2	14	2	9
Total	28 groups						380	13	41.25

*¹ Contexts: 7247-49, 7263, 7287, 7311, 7325, 7337, 7339, 7340, 7478, 7738, 7751, 7761, 7780, 7782.

*² Contexts: 7837, 8260, 8273

*³ Contexts: 7742, 7744, 7754, 7757, 7760, 7764, 7767, 7788, 7790

*⁴ Contexts: 3453, 3455, 3464

*⁵ Contexts: 3526, 3567, 3608

Important fabrics and form types

In addition to the selected groups, a number of specific fabric and form types appear in unusual concentrations at Poultry and these warrant further analysis for publication.

Sugar Loaf Court Ware

The fabric Sugar Loaf Court Ware (SLOW) is diagnostic of pre-Boudican occupation and has been recorded across the site at Poultry. Current understanding of this ware is published in Davies *et al* (1994, 29-34), but discussion continues over the place of manufacture, origins and potential association with the military. The ware has strong continental influence, but further comparative work is required to refine parallels and identify the traditions that most strongly influenced the typology. The large group of SLOW vessels found at Poultry includes some new or variation forms and these should be published to extend the typology published in Davies *et al* (*op cit.*). The well stratified groups from pre-and post-Boudican levels should help to refine the end date for SLOW and improve our understanding of the distribution of the ware and the type of contexts in which it occurs. Closer typological parallels for the forms will contribute to the discussions of origins and manufacture and inter-disciplinary spatial studies, particularly with metalwork objects, may elucidate on the relationship between SLOW and the military. A large number of SLOW vessels have also been found at the other sites considered. The study of these vessels in conjunction with the Poultry material would greatly benefit the research and would result in any conclusions drawn about the ware having wider implications for the characterisation of this area of Roman London.

Table 5: Details of Sugar Loaf Court Ware vessels from Poultry and associated sites.

Site	Context	Form type	Comments
ONE94	1958	1B?	fine fabric variant
ONE94	8184	1A	reconstructable; rim & neck intact
ONE94	12863	81J	with collared rim
ONE94	13007	9N?	
ONE94	15582	2K	very thick base
ONE94	15636	2T	
ONE94	17893	4?	bead rim
BUC87	651	2	*reduced
BUC87	651	4A	
BUC87	651	2T	
BUC87	683	4A	
LHY88	128	9A	
LHY88	368	2A	
CID90	654	9A	
CID90	905	4?	waster/burnt?
CID90	927	4?	handled sl=944
CID90	927	2T	
CID90	930	4A	
CID90	944	4/7?	
CID90	948	7	
CID90	948	2T	
CID90	948	7/5?	
KNG85	533	4/7?	
KNG85	586	2/3	
KNG85	2434	2V	*rim

Terra Nigra and associated fabrics

Terra Nigra and associated imitation fabrics are sparse in the City and usually confined to late Neronian - early Flavian deposits. The range of forms recorded from Poultry extends the typology of forms found in London, published in the Early Roman corpus (Davies *et al* 1994, 147). Also present are examples of the micaceous fabric variant (TNMIC; equates to Rigby fabric group 2A (Stead & Rigby 1989, 120)) and imitation Terra Nigra fabrics, probably also products of North Gaul (TNIM). Once again, the other sites under consideration have also produced a reasonable number of vessels and all examples warrant illustration and publication. One stamp has been recorded from KNG85 which should be examined and compared to other stamps already recorded for London. An end date of AD80 is suggested in the Early Roman corpus, based on the evidence from military sites (Rigby 1978, 201), but with sherds continuing to be present in early Antonine groups. The material from Poultry and the other sites may help to refine the dating for the use of these fabrics in the City. The presence of this imported ware in some quantity can also be studied spatially and related to questions such as site status, access to imported goods and levels of Romanisation.

Table 6: Details of Terra Nigra and related fabrics from Poultry and associated sites.

Site	Context	Fabric	Form	Comment
ONE94	1440	TNIM	5A	
ONE94	3499	TN	4	Cam. form 58b
ONE94	3608	TNIM	5	Late German TN
ONE94	8786	TN	6DR24/25	
ONE94	8863	TNOMIC	5	
ONE94	9055	TNOMIC	5	probably 2 vessels
ONE94	9239	TNIM	5J	
ONE94	9436	TNIM	5J3	
ONE94	18081	TNOMIC	5J	
ONE94	18089	TNIM	5	
ONE94	18260	TN	5	Cam. form 16
ONE94	18333	TN	5	Cam. form 16
CID90	0	TN	5	edge of stamp
CID90	2336	TNIM		
CID90	795	TNIM	5	
CID90	920	TNIM	5	
CID90	922	TNIM	5	*PROF
LHY88	215	TN	5B	
LHY88	334	TN?		burnt
KNG85	2192	TNIM	5	*stamp illiterate. *PROF
DOC87	70	TNIM	5	

Central Gaulish Glazed ware

Central Gaulish Glazed ware is a distinctive fabric that is sparse in the City, present in mainly pre-Flavian and early Flavian groups. The Poultry assemblage included an interesting group representing at least five individual vessels. One of the beakers has barbotine decoration similar to an example in Greene (1979, 96 no. 13). Two further types of barbotine decoration are recorded on beakers: dots and hairpin. Also present is a virtually complete but very fragmentary bowl, in a imitation samian form Dragendorff 29; this has moulded decoration for which at present no direct parallel has been found. The other forms present include a flagon and a pedestal base either from a flagon or a cup. Fragments of the bowl were recovered from contexts 9094 and 9171, occupation layers within room A and room B respectively, building 6, area 8. These buildings are sealed by Hadrianic fire debris, which included further sherds from this vessel, the beakers and flagon. These vessels should be reconstructed, if possible and illustrated, to extend the typology published in the Early Roman corpus (Davies *et al* 1994, 128-9, 132). Further comparative work is also required to ascertain whether parallels can be found for the moulded decoration. Further examination of the fabric may also refine the sourcing of these vessels to a production area. Although some of these vessels are from re-deposited contexts their presence is of importance. Spatial and functional analysis of these vessels will contribute to the examination of status and function, both for the site and the specific structures with which the vessels are associated.

Table 7: Details of Central Gaulish Glazed Ware from Poultry

Context	Form	Decoration	Comments
8546	4DR29	DEC	vl=8679, 8741
8679	4DR29	DEC	vl=8546, 8741
8741	4DR29	DEC	vl=8546, 8679
9038	-	-	
9038	-	DEC	
9038	1	-	
9038	3B	BDD	
9038	3B	HPD	
9038	4DR29	DEC	
9094	4DR29	-	
9171	4DR29	DEC	sl=9038
15408	-	-	
15488	3	BAD	Greene 1979
18089	-	-	BAD?
18113	-	-	pedestal base

Spanish colour-coated ware

Spanish colour-coated ware (SPAN) is extremely rare in the City and only one example is published in the Early Roman corpus (*op. cit.*, 126). Two sherds from a Spanish colour-coated ware beaker with sand roughcast decoration have been identified amongst the assemblage from Poultry. The vessel has a high rounded shouldered and an everted rim; a type which seems to have been rarely exported (Greene 1979, 68). The use of roughcast decoration is not mentioned in Greene (*op cit.*), suggesting the vessel is very rare example. Greene dates the ware 40-80AD and the few sherds previously found in London have come from Neronian/Flavian deposits. Unfortunately the fragments of beaker appear to have been recovered from dumping dated to the early to mid 2nd century (contexts 17529 & 18282). Despite this, the vessel is of sufficient intrinsic interest to warrant publication. Further research should determine whether other examples of this beaker and type of decoration have occurred in Britain. The sherds should be illustrated and accompanied with a discursive text of the form and decoration. These sherds would benefit from being published alongside the group from BRD88, context 38 (see below).

Important Forms

A number of unusual form types appear to occur at Poultry and the associated sites, in larger numbers than usually recorded from City sites. In particular dolia (9D), rarely identified amongst City assemblages, have a number of records. The dolia/seriae are probably all the type defined by a flat, broad 'collared' rim. The sherds from CID90 will need to be examined to establish how many vessels are present, but the number from all sites appears to total at least six individual examples. The fabrics and rim forms should be compared to other published examples from Billingsgate Buildings (Green 1980, 62-3) and New Fresh Wharf (Green 1986, 106). The fabrics require further clarification in order to ascertain whether these vessels are imported or Romano-British products. The dolia/seriae are an interesting class of functionally specific vessels and their presence on only a select number of sites raises several questions relating to date, source and use. The spatial distribution of these vessels should be examined on an intra-site and inter-site basis to detect patterns such as, association with particular feature types. After further examination, all diagnostic sherds should be illustrated, assuming at present that a minimum number of six vessels are present.

Table 8: Details of Dolia/Seriae recorded from Poultry and associated sites

Site	Context	Fabric	Comment
ONE94	3413	COAR	*draw
CID90	824	GROG	incised dec; v. large
CID90	831	COAR	*rim
CID90	836	GROG	large
CID90	855	GROG	
CID90	932	GROG	incised dec.

BOL94	68	GROG	*rim
KNG85	193	NKSH	
KNG85	298	COAR	
KNG85	2436	COAR	*rim

Amphorae Inscriptions and Stamps

A total number of ten amphorae stamps have been recorded from the Poultry assemblage. The majority of these have already been identified and paralleled with published examples in Callender (1965). The few stamps not paralleled require some further study. The examples from Poultry should be compared to other examples published from London; any previously unpublished stamps require illustration.

Due to the favourable conditions for preservation, five examples of *tituli picti* or painted inscriptions have been identified, including an almost complete Camulodunum 186 amphora from Cadiz (context 18172 <4743>). One example has also been recorded from BUC87 (context 467 <*>) and a possible further two from CID90 (context 930 <1576> & context 831 <1215>). All examples should be identified by an external specialist. Painted inscriptions are important because they may yield information regarding the point of origin, date and contents of the vessel. The examples require illustration and a specialist report for the publication.

Several examples of the re-use of amphorae have been recorded but the most interesting is an intact rim and neck of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphora. The handles have been deliberately removed and Roman numerals have been incised into the rim. Similar examples from the Netherlands have been examined and discussed by J. H. van der Werff (forthcoming), who concludes that the amphorae were re-used for the storage of dry goods and that the numerals refer to the new volume for these contents. The discovery of a similar example from London is therefore very interesting and requires further comparative research. The vessel should be illustrated for publication.

Samian

All of the samian has been examined during spot-dating and assigned a fabric and form code. The assemblage from the main excavations at Poultry produced material from South Gaul (La Graufesenque 11.4% of the total assemblage by sherd count; Montans 0.1%), Central Gaul (Les Martres-de-Veyre 0.7% & Lezoux 2.5%) and East Gaul (0.9%).

Samian stamps

A total of 262 stamps have been accessioned, although some of these are known to be fragmentary and probably unidentifiable. It is recommended that all samian stamps are examined by the specialist for identification. This will refine the chronological framework for the stratigraphy and coarse ware assemblages. Only stamps in the groups selected for quantification and new stamps to London will be illustrated. Suggested specialist Brenda Dickinson.

Decorated samian

Only selected pieces of decorated samian will be examined by the samian specialist. These will be either sherds from groups selected for quantification or pieces selected for intrinsic value. Only a very limited selection will be illustrated, selected by the samian and MoLAS specialist. The dating of decorated pieces, particularly from East Gaul is very important for the chronology of late sequence. Suggested specialist: Joanna Bird.

Mortaria stamps

A total number of 38 mortaria stamps have been recorded from Poultry. The majority of these are in good condition and should be identified by a specialist to provide further information on the source and date of these vessels. The dating of these stamps is very important, particularly those from the early sequence. It is recommended that only unpublished, new stamps to London are illustrated. Suggested specialist: Kay Hartley.

Other vessel stamps

Poultry has also produced an important group of stamps on coarse wares and Romano-British fine wares. This type of stamp is not common in London, but on a national level do appear to cluster at several centres, London being one. The stamp on the Alice Holt, Surrey vessel is important as several others have been found on this fabric type recently. It should be compared to these and any others that are known from London. The grog-tempered sherds should also be compared to previous examples from London. It is hoped that this work will be carried out in conjunction with an external specialist.

Table 9: Details of stamps from Poultry and associated sites

Site	Cxt	Accs.	Fabric	Form	Comment
ONE94	8763	2889	AHSU	5	
ONE94	8765	2548	MICA	3B	*prof
ONE94	8879	*	GROG	5J	
ONE94	12331	*	FMIC	3?	internal base
ONE94	12830	*	GROG	5	illiterate stamp
CID90	826	*	HWB	4/5	

Other site assemblages of importance in relation to Poultry

Throughout this assessment reference has been made to other assemblages, that have been considered in relation to the Poultry material. The spot-date records and any other material relating to ceramic groups has been examined to assess the contribution these assemblages could make to the research objectives; none of the pottery itself has been re-examined. The spot-dates are recorded to either DUA or MoLAS methods and are known to be reliable records. The spot-date records are stored on the Unix system and would require transference into Oracle to enable total manipulation of the data alongside Poultry. This transference requires relatively small amounts of time and would allow the assemblages to be fully integrated and interrogated during the analysis phase of work. The similarities between the selected assemblages and the Poultry material are very strong and as detailed above many of the rare and unusual fabric identified at Poultry have also been present at the other sites. Although the assemblages are small in comparison to Poultry, the material greatly improves the scope of study and research.

Table 10: Quantities of Roman pottery and contexts size by site

Site	Contexts				No. of Illustrations
	S	M	L	Total	
BUC87	165	7	3	175	
LHY88	99	10	2	111	
CID90	257	22	1	280	
BOL94	14	3		17	c. 12
KNG85	265	11	6	282	
LOM88	15			15	
BRD88	7		1	8	c.13
DOC87	24			24	

Summary of Potential of associated sites

Pottery from Key Sequence Sites

DLR Bucklersbury (BUC87)

This assemblage is very similar to the material from Poultry and has particularly interesting pre- and post-Boudican fire assemblages. The post-fire groups contain only small amounts of Flavian material, with a post 70AD date for occupation based on only one sherd. The composition of these groups is interesting and requires further analysis. One context is of exceptional interest as it appears to include burnt debris from a shop or warehouse. Context 304/344 includes twenty-eight samian cups with stamps, representing only nine potters. The cups are all form Drag. 33. Other samian forms are also present including decorated bowls

(Drag. 37), plates, dishes and an inkwell (Rt. 13). This deposit should be fully quantified, with selected examples illustrated. The potential of the early assemblage to contribute to the research objectives is very good. The material can be used to address questions such as: the composition of pre-and post-fire assemblages, the effects of the Boudican fire and the evidence for warehousing/commercial activity in the area, patterns of trade and distribution of imported goods.

There are also a number of late contexts (Group 9 OA13 ph4) with 4th century material, which could contribute to the study of late Roman ceramics. There are a number of unusual vessels that warrant inclusion in the late Roman typology.

72-5 Cheapside (CID90)

The assemblage is very similar to that recovered from Poultry and warrants concurrent analysis and publication. The site has some very early features associated with the construction of the road, including a pit (1.04) sealed by the first road metalling and a construction ditch (v-shaped and ankle breaker type). The pit contains pre-Boudican pottery and a bone sword grip; the ditch also contained pre-Boudican pottery. The military style laying out ditch is of a similar type to that from Park Street, Southwark (PRK90) and the assemblages would benefit from comparative study. A circular wattle and daub structure was constructed and pits/quarries are dug and backfilled all prior to the construction of the first phase of clay and timber buildings. This intensity of activity prior to the Boudican fire horizon results in an assemblage of great potential. This assemblage is important for the characterisation of the area and development of the early settlement and studying the effect of the revolt on the area. The assemblages from stratigraphic groups 1-4 warrant analysis and six groups have been selected for full quantification and illustration. A number of late contexts may also warrant inclusion in the study of late Roman ceramics but closer analysis of the spot-dates with the stratigraphy is required before these groups can be selected. The initial work with the spot-dates does not suggest any of these later groups warrant illustration in full, although several intrinsic vessels have been added to the late Roman ceramics typology.

Table 11: Individual contexts of importance from CID 90

Context	Edate	Ldate	Size	Group	Subgrp.	Vsl. no.	Stp/Acc	Box no.
948	50	60	L	2	2	c. 15	1	0.5
933	50	60	L	3	1	c. 6		0.5
936	50	60	L	3	1	c. 16	2	0.5
944	50	60	M	3	1	c. 8	1	0.5
930	50	60	L	3	7	c. 10	2	0.5
922	50	70	L	3	9	c. 20	4	0.5

36-7 King Street (KNG85)

The assemblage contains good groups of early and late ceramics that complement the sequence at Poultry. Also present are vessels that will contribute to specific research objectives, particularly ritual and votive; two examples of face jars from context 38 and 298 and examples of triple-cupped vases from context 2339, 2347 and 2364; from context 2388 a sand -tempered burnt miniature vessel was recovered. All of these vessels types have been associated with ritual activity in the Walbrook area by Merrifield (1995, 36-39).

DLR Lothbury (LHY88)

The assemblage includes material that will contribute to research objectives, particularly for early settlement and imported fine wares. There is one group that should be considered for inclusion in study of late Roman ceramics (context 66 and 67: dated 350-400, debris accumulated deposits and possible activity in B1 rm B and demolition debris and accumulated deposits in and over shattered hypocaust B1 rm A & D, respectively).

Pottery from other selected sequences

DLR Lombard Street (BRD88)

Context 38 & 41 - Group 4.1 pit/quarry fill: These contexts form the fill of a quarry/pit from which a very important group of imported pottery was recovered. The sherds are large and in good condition with several profiles and at least one complete vessel. The group is Neronian in date and significant because of the high number of fine wares. Most important is the collection of Spanish colour-coated ware cups. At least five vessels are present, with examples of both rouletted and barbotine decoration (Greene op cit.). As mentioned above Spanish colour-coated ware is rare in Britain and this group is certainly the largest collection from London and probably Britain. The other vessels in the group comprise: two Lyon colour-coated ware roughcast beakers and one tripod cup; six South Gaulish samian cups, in forms Drag. 27, 24/25 and Rt. 9 (4 examples have stamps); a Pompeian red ware platter from the Campanian region of Italy (PRW1); a Highgate Woods fabric B plate with a red slip (HWBR), in an imitation form Drag. 15/17, which is rare in this fabric; a Hofheim type flagon in Verulamium white ware (VRW 1A) and a reduced ware jar/bowl with decoration similar to glass pillar-moulded bowls. This vessel is paralleled by Colchester pottery type GX no. 97 (other grey wares) (Symonds & Wade, forthcoming) and from the kiln material at Aoste (Laroche 1987, Planche 19, no. 7). The fabric indicates that the vessel is probably imported.

This group is of great importance for two main reasons: the collection of Spanish colour-coated ware cups and the combination of fabrics and range of forms of other vessels present. The composition of this group is unique in London and this range of early imports may indicate military association. The study of this group will contribute greatly to research on the dating of these wares, the dating of early occupation, the status and function of the area and the potential for military presence in the early period.

Context 67 - Group 4.5 external dump: This context contains a complete smashed amphora including rim, handle and spike (2 boxes). The form appears to be related to the Haltern 70 (8H70) and the London 555 (8L555). The vessel should be reconstructed and illustrated.

Bolsa House (BOL94)

The assemblage is small and of limited potential. Context 54 may warrant illustration as a group as it includes some unusual pre-Flavian forms, including an imitation flat-bottomed amphora in Eccles white ware.

64-66 Cheapside (CED89)

The assemblage contains good 4th century groups which could be used for analysis if transferred. These do not require illustration. Context 851 includes a almost complete amphora in a variant Dr.20 type with Gauloise type handles and rim. These would warrant reconstruction, illustration and text.

74-82 Queen Victoria Street (QNV86)

This site sequence produced an important assemblage of early and late material. Context 50 is very interesting; dating pre-Boudican with a number of whole Samian vessels (5 in total, 3 with stamps) including a Montans Rt.12. Also present is a whole Sugar Loaf Court Ware amphora, which has already been illustrated and published for the early Roman Corpus. This group is very important and may have military associations. The group should be illustrated and quantified in full, with discussion of the composition and association of the vessel types. Six further vessels would require illustration (excluding the SLOW amph) and three stamps to date and ID.

55-61 Moorgate (MGT87)

This site has some interesting material including a number of the more unusual forms that have already been highlighted at ONE94. Dolia: contexts 115, 280, 343, 433 & 602; Face pots: contexts 587, 1194; triple cup vase: 0. Context 427 is of particular interest, including dolia, amphora with batch marks and a shell-tempered bucket. Also of interest is a Alice Holt butt beaker, context 282 and a Sugar Loaf Court ware disc mouthed flagon.

10-12 Copthall Avenue (COV87)

The assemblage includes some good late groups of comparable size to those at ONE94, and the data could be used from this site without requiring the material to be examined in detail. One group may warrant illustration and quantification and would provide a useful comparison for the Poultry groups. Also present is a further face pot and another example of a shell-tempered bucket.

124 Wood Street (ABS86)

The site produced some interesting material including a number of the more unusual forms that have already been highlighted at ONE94. Dolia: context 985, 920, 305; Face pots: context 750 & 5155.

52-63 London Wall (LOW88)

A scan of the files indicates that only a handful of contexts have been spot-dated, including residual material, and do not correlate well with the contexts with ceramic accessions.

Antiquarian observations and Guildhall Museum excavations

The publication 'Excavations in the Middle Walbrook Valley' (Wilmott 1991) includes the ceramic assemblages recovered from three sites: Bucklersbury House, St. Swithin's House and King's Arm Yard. Two of these sites are identified in the Updated Project Design for Poultry as being of relevance. The Middle Walbrook publication includes:

- 1) Stratified groups from the stream bed from Bucklersbury House (GM157)
- 2) 1st/2nd century groups from Bucklersbury House (non-stream bed contexts) consisting of summary tables and specific stratified assemblages (GM157)
- 3) 1st/2nd century groups from St. Swithin's House consisting of summary tables and specific stratified assemblages (GM158)
- 4) 2nd/4th century pottery from St. Swithin's House consisting of summary table (GM158)
- 5) Summary table of pottery from King's Arm Yard (Bank of England Club) (GM88)

Also published and of relevance is an assemblage from a mid 1st-century pit from feature 55 at St. Swithin's House (Boudican fire deposit) (Hume & Hume 1954).

The published details of the ceramic assemblages will serve to provide some comparison to the material from Poultry and other associated sites. The material from stratified contexts has been quantified on a presence/absence basis and presented in summary tables. These tables could be used to compare the composition of assemblages. A group of particular interest is feature 59 from St. Swithin's House, where a destruction layer includes a large group of complete pots including a large dolia/seria. The building has been interpreted as a shop or kitchen/store room.

Potential for Analysis & Research Objectives

The assemblage from Poultry has great potential in regard to dating the stratigraphic sequence and constructing a chronological framework for the development of the site. Analysis of the material will successfully contribute to a number of research objectives as initially specified in the Project design and modified in the light of post-excavation assessment.

Early Roman settlement

The recovery of ceramic groups from the sequence of roads, drains and structures forming the initial occupation of the area provides an excellent opportunity to examine and improve our understanding of the early Roman ceramic tradition in use in the City. The pre- and post-Boudican material from Poultry has several aspects which differentiate it from a typical City assemblage and the reasons for this must be examined. The presence of well dated groups in good condition, including unusually high numbers of Neronian imported fine wares has great potential for improving date-ranges and most importantly provides good groups for functional and socio-economic analysis. The identification of five separate insulae with associated structures suggests the potential for intra-site analysis is high. The relative proportions of wares within assemblages relating to individual insulae or structures, may give indications of status, function and levels of Romanisation. The use of this type of analysis across the site may provide new information on the character of the early settlement and the effects of the Boudican revolt. The question of military involvement in the laying out of the early settlement is still under debate and the examination of these early groups, should be carried out in conjunction with accessioned objects of military association. The very strong similarities between the early assemblage from Poultry and the other sites examined, enforces the idea that the material should be studied and published together. By including these other sites the research questions can be applied to a wider zone of study and therefore any results will have wider implications for characterising Roman London.

This research will address questions specified in the project design in section 6.2.

Late Roman occupation

Late Roman ceramics are not as well understood or dated as the early period (for the most current discussion see Symonds & Tomber 1991). Poultry provides the best opportunity to examine late Roman ceramics in detail, due to the presence of a good stratigraphic sequence accompanied by a large number of coins and dendrochronological dates. The publication of securely dated 3rd and 4th century groups is required in order to refine the dating of later Roman pottery. This work would continue to establish a late Roman pottery type series, as initiated by Symonds & Tomber (*op cit*) and as continued in Symonds (forthcoming) and the proposed analysis of Southwark material (MoLAS 1997). At present most late Roman pottery in London is attributed a wide date range. The chronology and distribution of fabrics and forms needs refining, especially for the main industries supplying London: Nene Valley, Oxford, and Alice Holt, Farnham. Specific research aims would be to identify chronologically diagnostic forms such as, Oxford white ware mortaria forms M17 and M19 (Young 1977), Black-burnished type everted rim jars and hook rimmed jars. The development of the bead and flanged bowl has also been highlighted as chronologically significant, but more work is required to refine the subtle typological changes and dating implications. The dating of later imports such as Central Gaulish Black colour-coated ware and Moselkeramik is also under contention and groups containing these fabrics require analysis. The identification of late Roman marbled wares at Poultry, possibly from the Rhineland require further research in order to source and date the fabrics. As mentioned above the dating of the east Gaulish samian is also very important for improving the chronology of this period. This continued presence of unusual imported wares at Poultry into the later period is of significance to any research relating to the change and development of the character and status of the area. The distribution of the 4th century fabrics is important for our understanding of the latest Roman settlement. A study of the distribution of fabrics such as Porchester D ware, calcite-gritted wares and colour-coated wares may produce patterns of the latest occupation. This may include contexts that appear to have intrusion/contamination from early medieval wares, such

as dark earth or similar features. Despite this, these may be essentially Roman groups, providing the most accurate picture of the ceramics in circulation during the last phases of Roman occupation. These groups must be treated with care but some analysis is required to assess their potential contribution to this elusive phase of activity.

The proposed study will use the 16 selected groups, illustrated in full and accompanied with catalogues and discursive text. A limited but important typology (21 vessels) of unpublished and unusual late vessels should also be presented to complement the *corpora* already published for the late industries such as Young 1977 and Fulford 1975. The bulk of the data will be presented using tables and graphs. The main research aims will be: the changing proportions of fabric and form types within assemblages, the study of chronologically diagnostic fabrics and forms, the spatial patterning of late Roman ceramics within a site, the functional analysis of vessels and the sources and supply of late material particularly later imports.

This research will address questions specified in the project design section 6.3 and 6.4.

Table 12: Number of contexts dating between 140-400+ from Poultry

Count by ctxt	160	170	200	250	275	300	400
140	11		4	16			
150			3	25		21	17
160			2	16			1
170				1		9	1
180				7		3	13
200				3	12	2	33
240						1	26
250					1	12	184
270						6	149
300							38
350							120

Trade & Imported Goods

This research will include a study of the amphorae types present and their distribution. The location of the site at a road junction may have implications for the use of the area as another re-distribution point for amphorae, as suggested for the Forum site at Leadenhall Court (Davies 1996, 140). The study of the amphorae inscriptions and stamps will contribute to this discussion and provide information on the date of imports, source and possible contents of vessels. The high number of imported fine wares is important, particularly as some of the vessel types are very rare and therefore of national interest. Study of the samian will also contribute to our understanding of trade patterns, both in terms of source and chronology. The question of Poultry's position in the chain of imports is interesting. Is the site simply a consumer of imported goods? Is there a military presence in the early development that is causing a bias in the pattern (due to differential access to imported goods)? Do some of the structures at Poultry function as shops or re-distributive points for imported goods? The spatial and functional analysis of the imported wares will address questions such as these and will examine how the patterns of trade/importation change over time.

Votive/Ritual activity

The spatial analysis of specific vessel types will contribute towards this research, with the study of vessel types possibly linked to ritual or votive activity: *tazza*, triple-cupped vases, and face pots. Two sherds from face pots have been recorded from Poultry (context 8392 and 12616); one from CID90 (context 517) and a further two from KNG85. These pots have been discussed recently by J. Cotton in relation to the head cult (Cotton 1996, 89), and a ritual function for these vessels has long been argued (Braithwaite 1984). The date and nature of deposition of the examples from Poultry and other sites must be examined in light of this

recent discussion. One votive pot has been recorded from the foundation trench of an internal wall of building 8 from CID90 (context 614). The vessel has survived intact and dates to the early 2nd century (HWC 2E). Two partially intact triple cupped vases have been recorded from KNG85 along with a burnt miniature vessel. These miniatures were often used in burial or ritual acts as votive objects. Re-deposited material from the Walbrook banks should be examined to detect any remains of possible votive pots. This should be done in conjunction with the metalwork assemblage, in order to detect any patterns of association (see assessment for registered finds). Comparative work with published antiquarian Walbrook finds should also be carried out as part of this research. The recovery of complete face pots, triple-cupped vases and tazze from Walbrook deposits has led to a ritual or votive interpretation for these vessel types (Wilmott 1991; Merrifield 1995; Cotton 1995); both the vessels and deposit types should be examined in comparison with the material from Poultry and other associated sites.

Appendix 1 Additional text on the potential of the data

The large Roman ceramic assemblage recovered from a well excavated sequence of occupation has great potential to address the questions posed in the revised research aims. A number of medium and large sized contexts are present, providing closely dated material, that can be confidently used in analysis. The importance of the assemblage from Poultry is increased due to the location of the site, and the identification of the road junction and five separate insulae. The functional and spatial study of ceramic vessels, in association with other registered finds and the structural sequence, will provide new information on the organisation of the settlement, the character of early and late occupation, and the status and function of the area. The opportunity to study a ceramic assemblage in relation to a site of this nature and examine how it develops through time will refine existing knowledge and suggest new interpretations on the character of Poultry and the Roman town west of the Walbrook.

The excellent assemblages dating to both the early and late period have huge potential. Substantial groups of pre-and post-Boudican material , associated with the first phases of occupation, have the potential to contribute to questions such as the date and nature of the initial phase of occupation, the date and nature of recovery from the Boudican revolt, and the development of the buildings both chronologically and function. The identification of early imported fine wares, such as Spanish colour-coated wares and central Gaulish glazed wares are of national and European importance, including assemblages unparalleled in Britain. Further study of these types of wares will have wide implications for the study of status and access to imported goods, as well as questions addressing the role of the military in early Roman London. The nature of deposition and favourable preservation has resulted in an assemblage rich in many aspects from complete, intact vessels to painted inscription on amphora . The study of the *tituli picti* will yield new information on the point of origin, date and contents of such vessels and this type of data has the potential to greatly increase our understanding of trade routes and the distribution of imported goods, as well as, diet and status.

The presence of late Roman ceramics, accompanied with coins and absolute dates from dendrochronology, has the potential to vastly improve our understanding of late Roman ceramics in London. The lack of disturbance at Poultry has resulted in tightly dated groups from the 3rd and 4th centuries, associated with the sequence of timber and stone buildings. This large number of groups, from one site, is an unprecedented opportunity in London to examine the dating, distribution and supply of late Roman ceramics and will have wide-reaching effects on the study of late Roman London and the demise of the settlement.

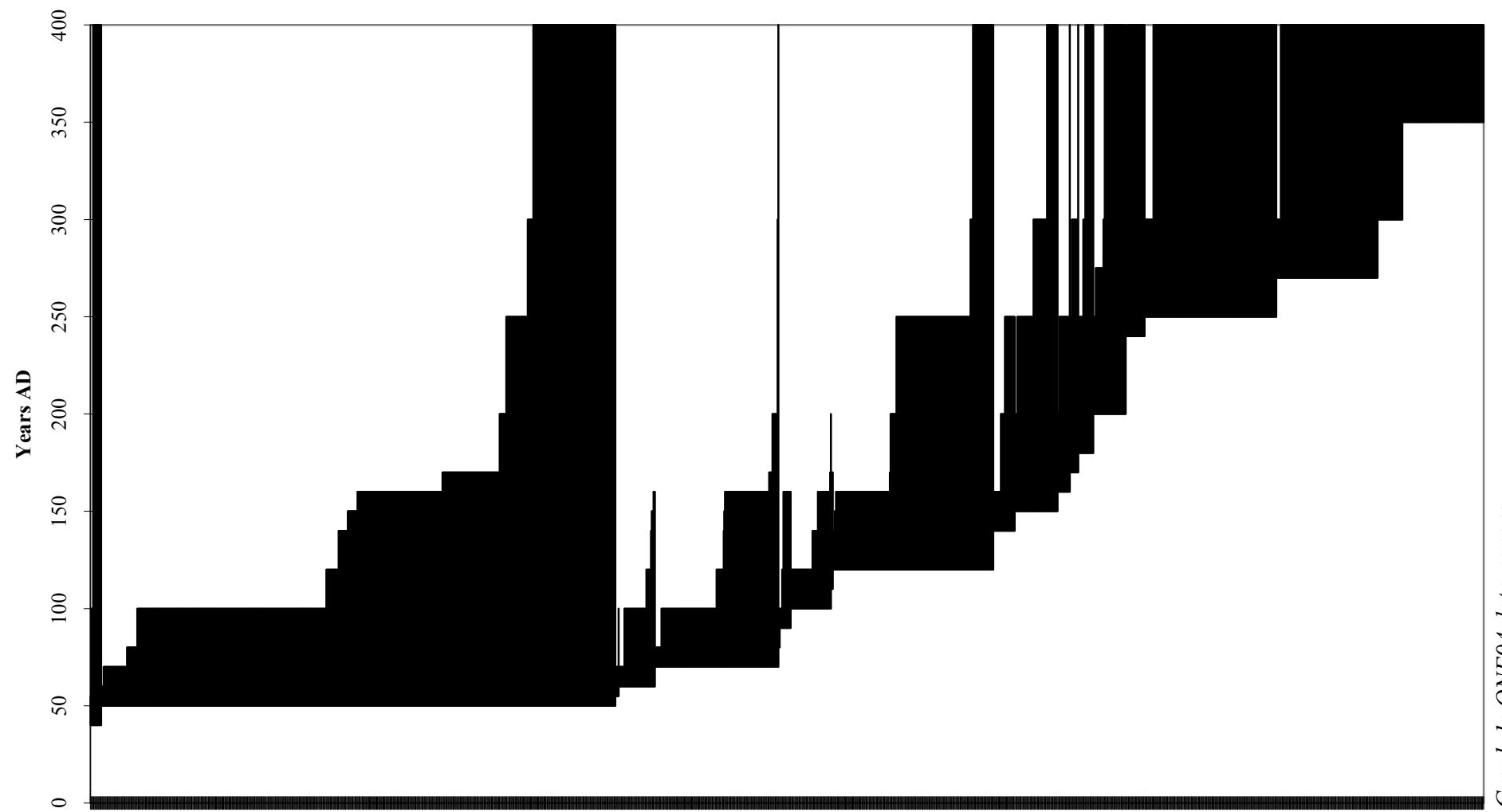
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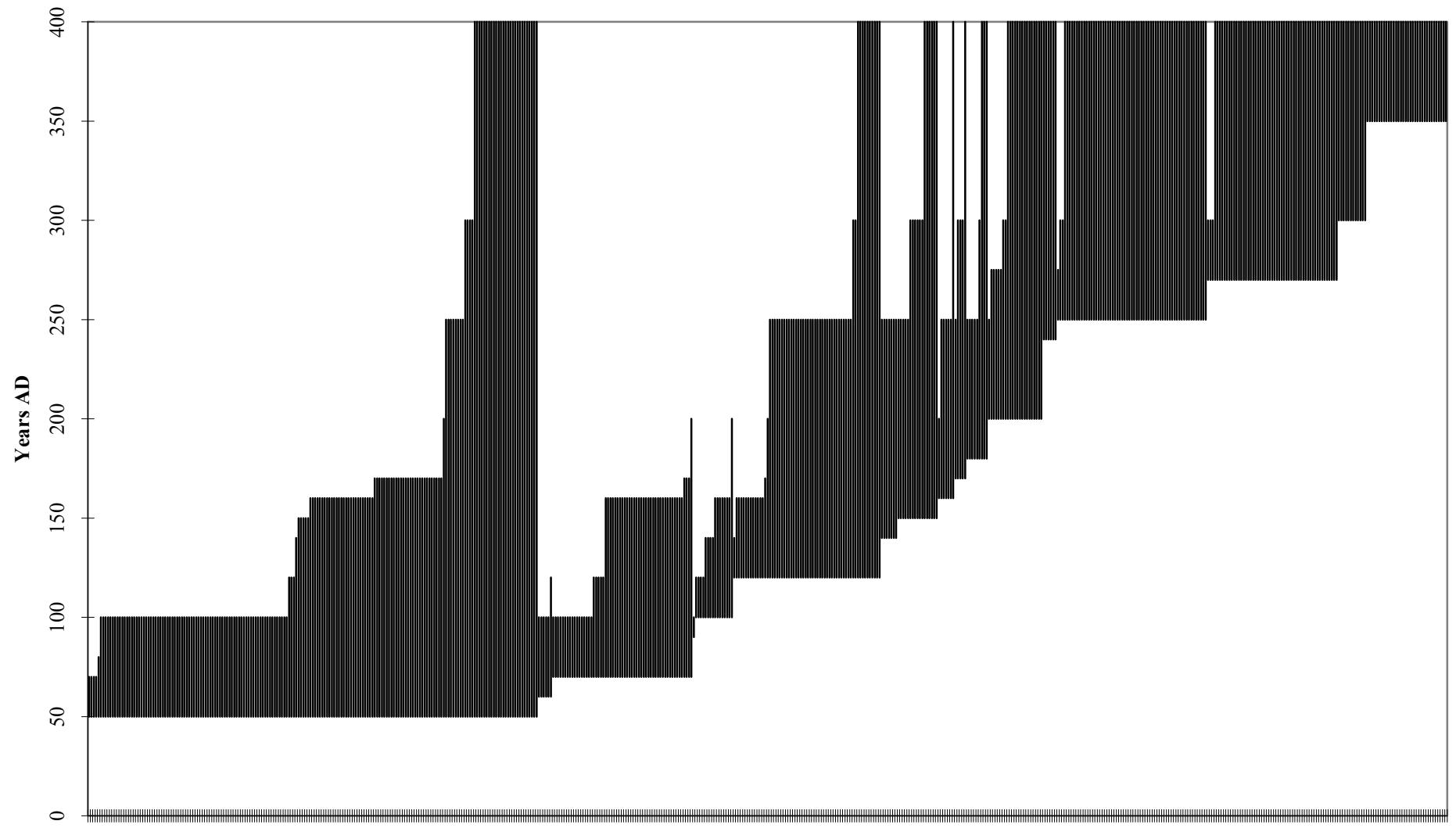
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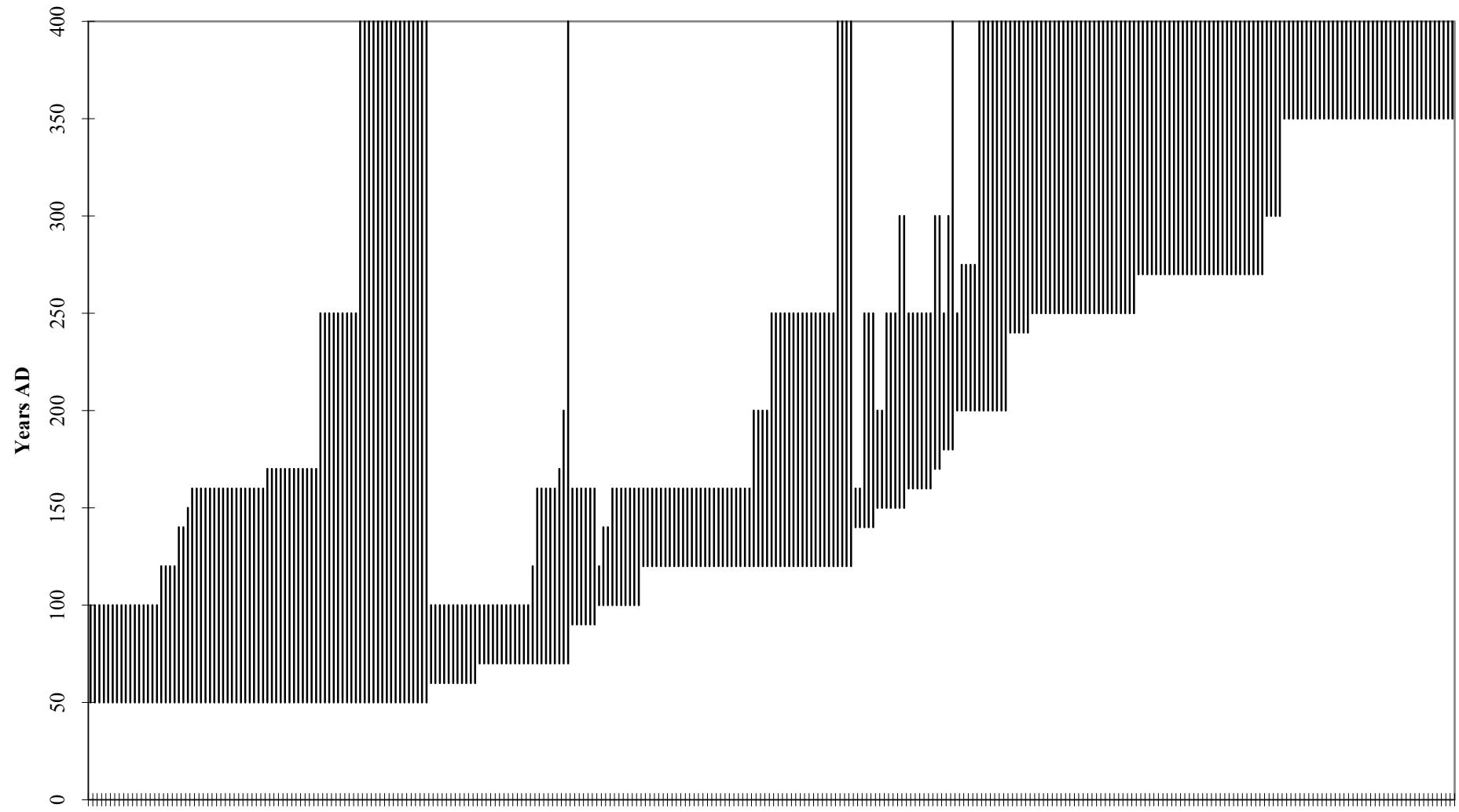
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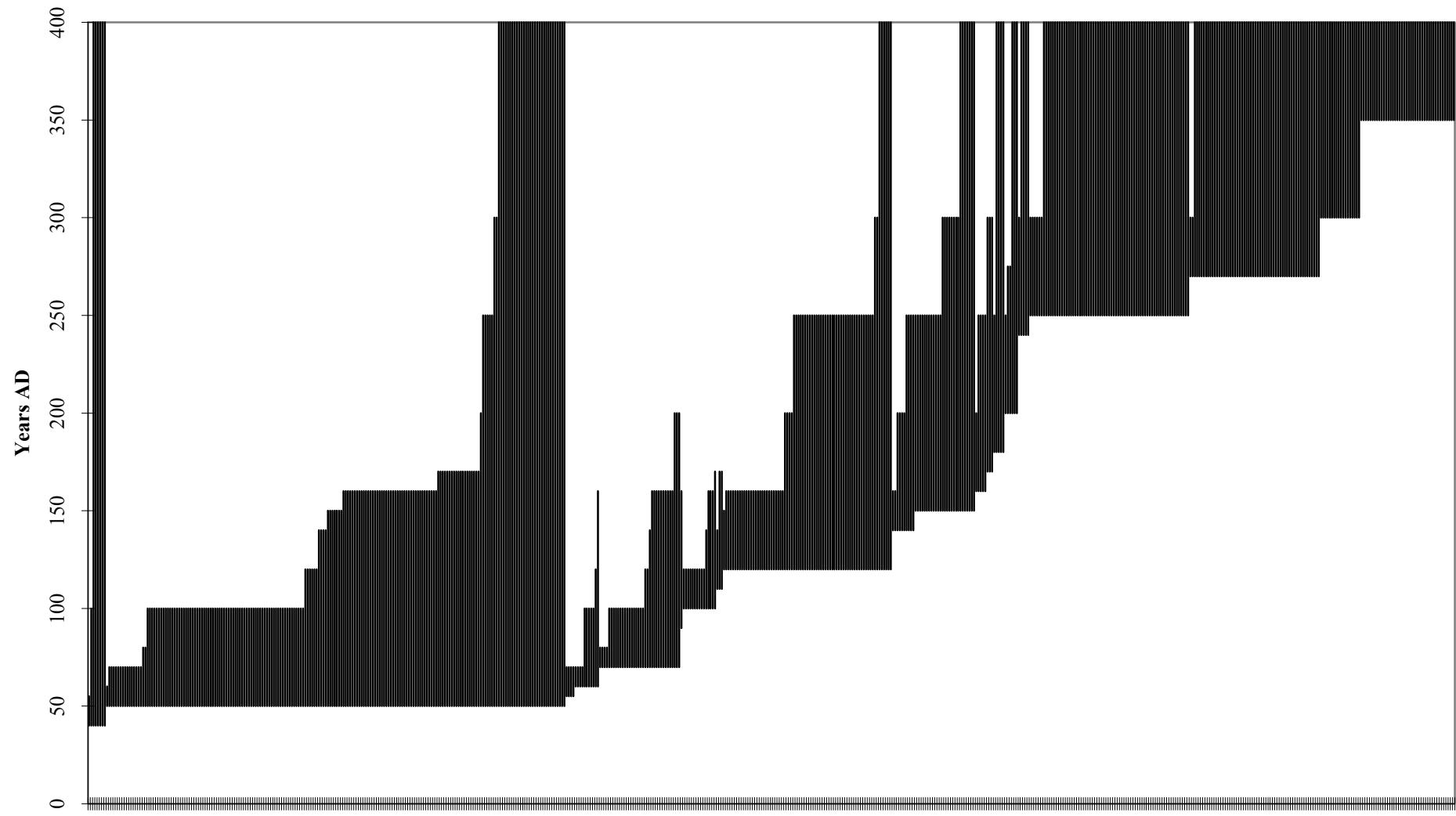




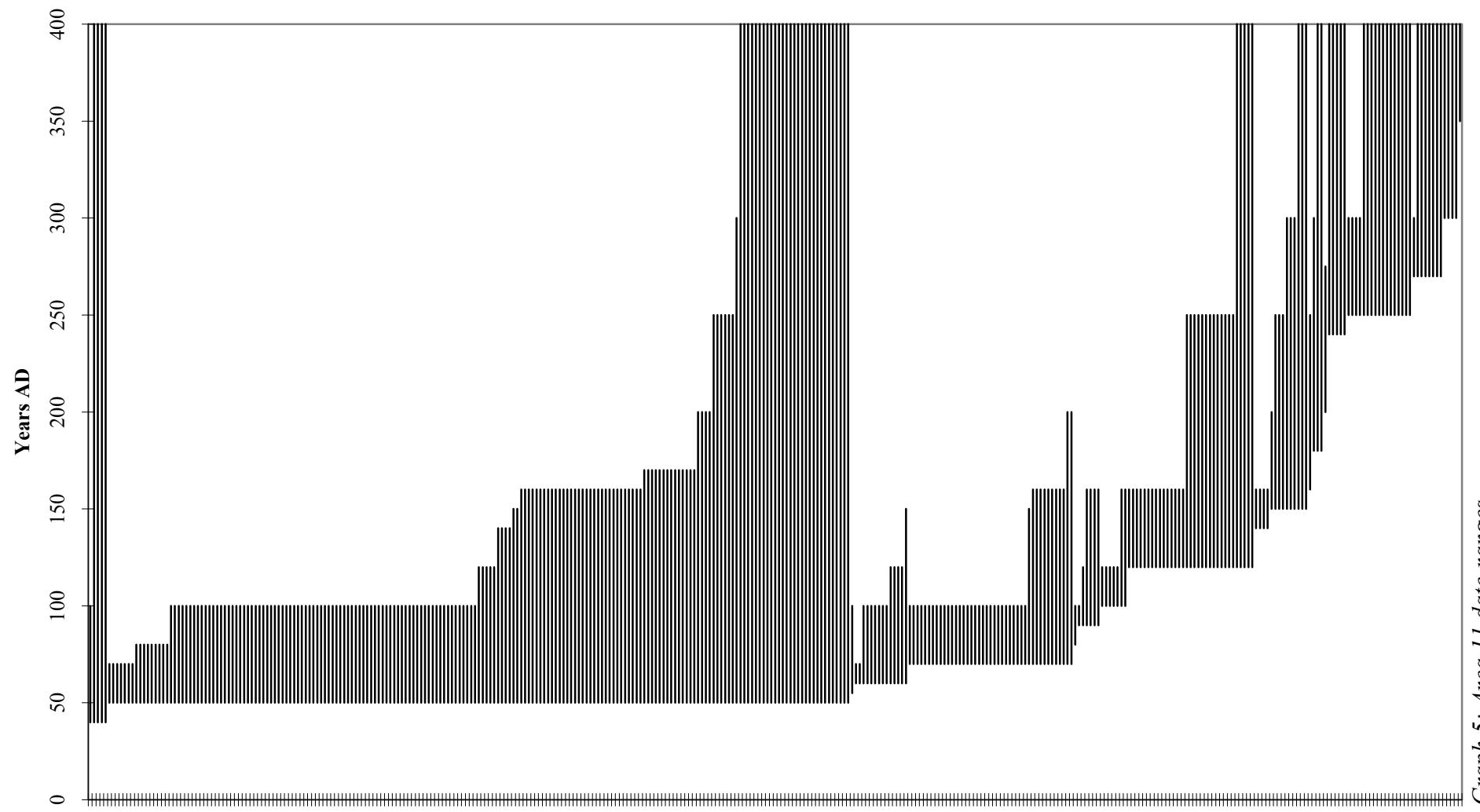
Graph 2: Area 8 date-ranges



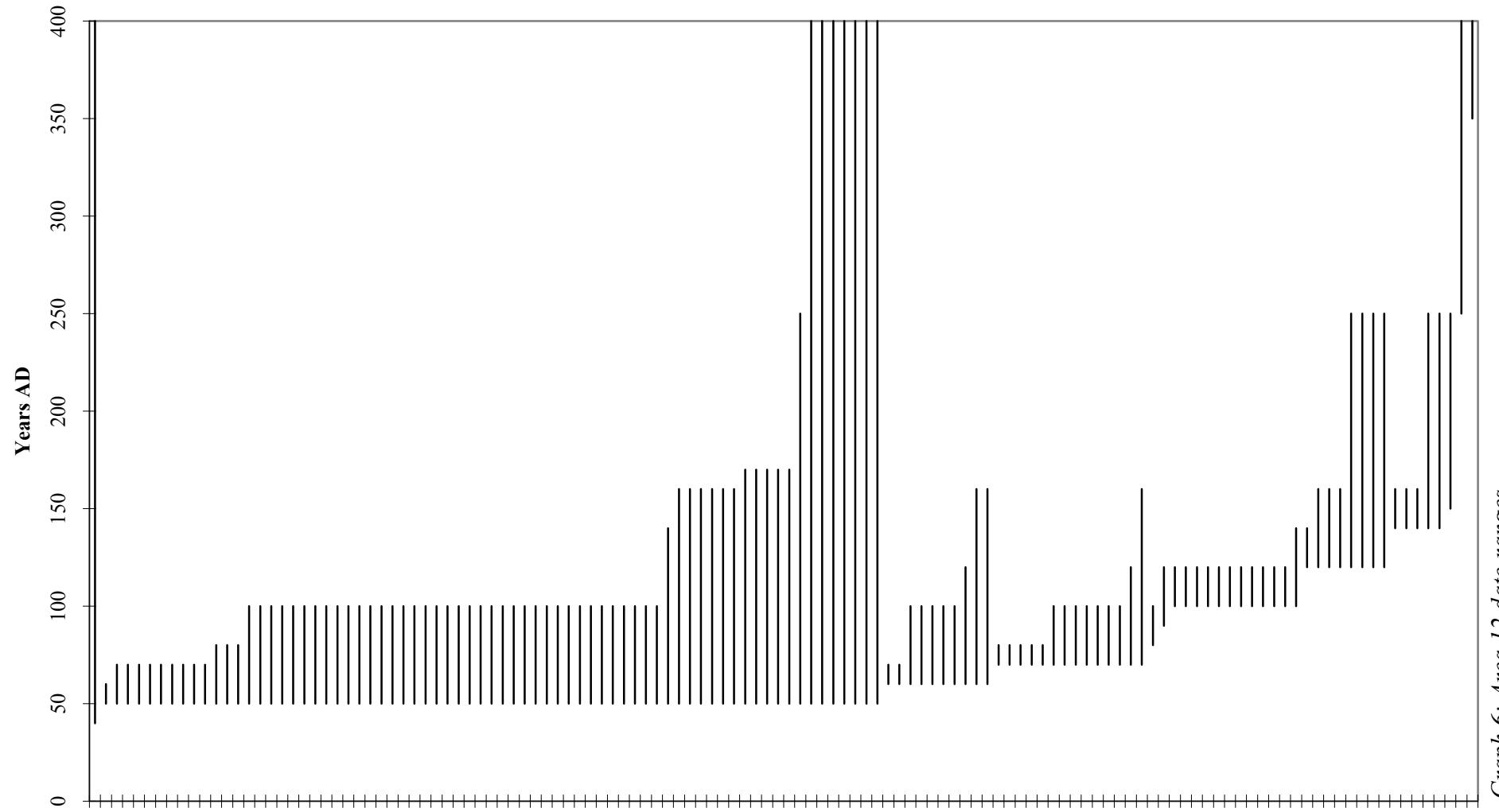
Graph 3: Area 9 date-ranges



Graph 4: Area 10 date-ranges



Graph 5: Area 11 date-ranges



Count of ctxt	Late date															Grand Total		
	55	60	70	80	100	120	140	150	160	170	200	250	275	300	400			
Early date	55	60	70	80	100	120	140	150	160	170	200	250	275	300	400	Grand Total		
40	1				3											13	17	
50		3	36	16	285	18	14	15	126	85	8	31		9	127	773	5	
55			4		1												5	
60			8		34	7		3	3								55	
70				9	83	9	1	1	62	4	8			1	1	179		
80						2											2	
90						3	2			12							17	
100						33	8		19	1	1						62	
110								1			2						3	
120							2	2	82	1	9	112		4	30	242		
140										11		4	16				31	
150											3	25		21	17	66		
160											2	16				1	19	
170												1		9	1	11		
180												7		3	13	23		
200												3	12	2	33	50		
240														1	26	27		
250														1	12	184	197	
270														6	149	155		
300																38	38	
350																120	120	
Grand Total	1	3	48	25	411	69	26	21	315	93	35	211	13	68	753	2092		

Table 3: Count of contexts by date range