



C263 ARCHAEOLOGY LATE EAST
Summary report
Evaluation and Watching Brief
Plumstead Portal – XSW11

Document Number: C263-MLA-X-RGN-CR148_PT005-50003

Document History:

Revision:	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1.0	11-12-12	Portia Askew	Craig Halsey	David Divers	First issue
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Summary for London Archaeologist

NEWHAM

Crossrail Plumstead Portal, White Hart Avenue, London SE28 TQ 45546 78885. MOLA (Portia Askew, Rob Hartle) watching brief Jun-Oct 2012, evaluation, Aug-Oct 2012, and geo-archaeological evaluation Apr 2012. Crossrail XSW11

The two evaluation trenches showed terrace gravels and sands overlain by peats and alluvial clays. The surface of the Pleistocene/Early Holocene deposits indicated a series of braided river channels within a low lying area on the western margins of a main channel. A borehole survey showed this channel to be over 200m wide and c.3m deep. This feature would have formed a major part of the floodplain landscape from the Early Holocene and probably became a major drainage feature when the other Early Holocene channels identified to the west became abandoned. It is possible that the channel forms an abandoned arm of a former course of the Great Breach Dyke, which existed from the Early Holocene into the Bronze Age period.

A Mesolithic land surface was identified with rising sea levels leading to widespread peat formation by the Early Neolithic into the Bronze Age. Within the peat deposits were worked timbers which may have formed parts of a structure, possibly a trackway constructed to access or traverse the wetlands. The overlying alluvial silts and clays are likely to be of Iron Age, medieval and historic date representing an inundation of the floodplain.

The upper 1.20m comprised dumps which represent making up and levelling of the site prior to the construction of the railway and associated buildings in the vicinity. The foundations of a chimney of the adjacent listed power station were also recorded during the archaeological work.

Summary for Britannia

Not required

OASIS ID: molas1-137966