

## **Condition report on large 20<sup>th</sup> century objects from Instone Wharf (XRW10)**

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The following document is a report on the condition of a number of large 20<sup>th</sup> century objects excavated from the Crossrail site, Instone Wharf (XWR10).

### **Pair of workmen's boot – unstrat**

These are currently damp and encrusted with soil. The boots appear to be incomplete, manufactured from many layers of stitched leather, which is failing. The boots are currently unstable and will need to be cleaned, stabilised and packaged for archive.

The stabilisation process consists of pre-treatment in glycerol and then freeze drying. Reconstruction of the boots is possible using conservation approved adhesives, this estimate does not include reshaping.

Cost:

Stabilisation of boots and simple packaging with acid free tissue – 0.5 pd (I have assumed that they will be initially cleaned by processing)

Reconstruction – 1 pd

### **Pierced iron sheet – unstrat**

This appears to be incomplete, it has flash rusted in the past but while stored in the low relative humidity of the drying room it currently appears to be stable. The surface is also obscured by traces of soil. To enable the safe storage of the iron in the long term, the object will need to be packaged in a suitable archive container with desiccated silica gel.

Cost:

Stacking crate with lid – £30 + VAT + carriage

Silica gel – £15 + VAT + carriage

Simple packing with acid free and silica gel – 0.25 pd

### **Iron disc – unstrat**

This appears to be complete, it has flash rusted in the past but while stored in the low relative humidity of the drying room it currently appears to be stable. The surface is also obscured by traces of soil. To enable the safe storage of the iron in the long term, the object will need to be packaged in a suitable archive container with desiccated silica gel.

Cost:

Stacking crate with lid – £30 + VAT + carriage (it might be possible that this could share a crate with pierced iron sheet)

Silica gel – £15 + VAT + carriage

Simple packing with acid free and silica gel – 0.25 pd

### **Iron chain [138]**

It is unclear if this is a section of a larger chain or the complete chain. The surface is covered in an incomplete layer of soil and areas of flash rusting. At least one link appears to be actively corroding and has caused the surface to laminate away. The active corrosion has also embrittled the link. At a minimum, the iron will need to be packaged in a suitable archive container with desiccated silica gel. It is possible that the active corrosion should be treated before archive deposition.

Cost:

Stacking crate with lid – £70 + VAT + carriage

Silica gel – £35 + VAT + carriage

Simple packing with acid free and silica gel – 0.25 pd

Stabilisation of iron – 2 pd

### **Wooden keel [127]**

This appears to be complete and in good condition. The wood is slowly air drying and appears to be stable. Once dry the wood will need to be packaged for archive.

Cost:

Simple packing in bubble wrap – 0.25 pd

The retention of all large general finds needs to be ratified by the LAARC to ensure that they fit with the Museum of London collection policy.