



Addington Street, Waterloo, London

Excavation Assessment Report ADI 04



**LAND AT ADDINGTON STREET
LONDON SE1**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ADI04**

Assessment Report

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**Wessex Archaeology
Reference 55350**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Galliard Homes Limited (The Client), to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of a hotel development on land at Addington St, London SE1 (London Borough of Lambeth). The archaeological excavation was undertaken to comply with planning requirements

1.1.2 The excavation followed evaluation work, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 1995, that had identified a gravel eyot or island on the extreme south of the site with evidence of late Mesolithic or early Neolithic activity.

1.1.3 Following discussion with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, CgMs Consulting prepared a project specification detailing the excavation strategy.

1.1.4 The fieldwork element of the archaeological excavation took place from 19th January to 8th April 2004.

1.2 Scope of Document

1.2.1 The purpose of this document is to set out the methodology and summarise the results of the archaeological works up to assessment and consider whether and by what means post-excavation analysis should be undertaken.

1.3 Geology

1.3.1 The area of excavation is located on Holocene alluvial sands and gravels overlying London Clay.

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 Bulk excavation was undertaken by a mechanical 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision and in accordance with the Method Statement supplied prior to commencement of work. The details of the latter are not reiterated in detail here.

- 1.4.2 All prehistoric archaeological deposits encountered were excavated by hand and recorded in accordance with best practice and company guidelines.

1.5 Site Location and Dimensions

- 1.5.1 The proposed excavation area was located immediately south-west of the prior evaluation work to target the area of activity identified by the evaluation.
- 1.5.2 In compliance with standard Health and Safety requirements, the area of excavation was stepped in three stages, to a total depth of 3.5m. No standing section exceeded 1.2m depth. Step width was maintained at 1m throughout. Access into the trench was undertaken by means of a ramp.
- 1.5.3 The resulting excavation area at the base of the trench measured approximately 18.5m x 9m, with its longitudinal axis aligned north-west-south-east. This was further stepped in by 1m along its sides, both in compliance with Health and Safety considerations and to facilitate movement across the site.
- 1.5.4 The contour of the trench base sloped gently from around 0.7m aOD at the south-eastern side to around 0.4m aOD at its north-western extreme.
- 1.5.5 The site was truncated by four pairs of concrete piles of 0.8m diameter, aligned north-west south-east.

2 EXCAVATION STRATEGY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

2.1 Modern

- 2.1.1 At the time of commencement of the works, the site was utilised as a car park. Up until the 1970's, the site had featured a building owned by the ILEA (Inner London Education Authority) which was demolished following ILEA's abolition. The steel-reinforced concrete slab of the former building was located below 1.2m of debris and removed to facilitate excavations. Associated features, such as a paved footpath and a manhole, were also present in the south-western section.

2.2 Post-medieval

- 2.2.1 The first archaeological horizons encountered during machining were successive layers of organically-rich loam deposits, the desiccated remains of former marshland. Artefacts of a post-medieval date were scattered throughout, with the earliest possibly dating to the 17th century.
- 2.2.2 A brick-built sewer, of a likely Victorian date, was situated at the western extreme of the site, mainly contained in the north-facing longitudinal section. The service appeared to have been incorporated by the later ILEA building.

Two possible robber trenches filled with identical brick rubble, also observed in the western corner of the site, may have been related to the sewer construction.

- 2.2.3 A number of ephemeral, peat-filled indentations and several gullies were noticed throughout the machine-removal of these post-medieval deposits. These are likely to be the results of short-lived activities on the marshland, such as mooring posts, temporary drainage and so on.
- 2.2.4 Photographic records of all features in plan were taken prior to their machine removal, but no hand excavation of features of this date was undertaken. A sample of datable finds was furthermore retained. The full sequence of later deposits is represented in the primary sections recorded.

2.3 Late Prehistoric through to Medieval

- 2.3.1 Beneath the Post-medieval and early modern horizons remains of a date later than the Bronze Age were identified. Earlier prehistoric remains were entirely sealed by a succession of four light greyish-brown alluvial clays of a maximum depth of 0.7m, representing episodes of riverine inundation/alluviation. These clays were found to be sterile and were therefore machine-removed. At the upper interface a mottled deposit indicating the formation of the historic saltmarsh landsurface (group 212) could be discerned in the primary trench sections.

2.4 Earlier Prehistoric

- 2.4.1 The site sealed by the alluvial clays is as a typical ‘palimpsest’ of the early Holocene period. Due to its riverside location, issues of site formation and site usage are moreover intrinsically linked. The early Holocene sequence will therefore be discussed here together.
- 2.4.2 The site was probably part of a gravel island (eyot) on the edge of the Thames whose formation had resulted from deposition by a braided stream during the late Pleistocene or earliest Holocene. This event is represented on site by coarse sand and gravel (group 200), partly overlain by finer yellow sand at the south-eastern extreme (group 201) banking against the eyot.
- 2.4.3 These gravel and sand naturals were overlain by a series of sandy loam palaeosoils (group 202, deposits 89 and 90 and group 208) which contained predominantly flint artefacts of a mainly Mesolithic date. A smaller assemblage component of Neolithic flint artefacts, together with some very degraded pottery remains, a considerable amount of burnt flint, and occasional fragments of animal bone (burnt and unburnt) were also recovered from these deposits. The thickness of these relic soils indicates that they have undergone only a moderate amount of subsequent erosion (McPhail 2004).
- 2.4.4 In order to establish spatial distribution of the artefacts within these soil horizons, 100% excavation of all artefact-bearing deposits was undertaken in

units of 1m x 1m square, to a spit depth of 0.05m. The grid was aligned in accordance with the OS grid. At request of the site's curators, the co-ordinates of those objects recovered by hand excavation within the squares were also recorded. A 8- or 9- digit spit labelling convention adopted consists of the context number, followed by the four-digit co-ordinates of the south-western corner of the square under excavation, in turn followed by the spit number (starting with 01 from the surface).

- 2.4.5 With the exception of deposit (147), part of lower subsoil group 202 to the west, all spits were 100% sieved through a maximum mesh size of 0.005m for the recovery of artefacts and debitage. Due to time constraints, sieving of deposit (147) was limited to 50%.
- 2.4.6 The palaeosoils were truncated by a natural erosion channel (group 203), infilled with fluvial and alluvial deposits, and crossing the site in a NNW/SSE alignment. Deposits to its west (and therefore closer to modern the riverside) generally featured a higher silty clay component.
- 2.4.7 To the east, deposits (90) and (89) are thought to represent a preserved topsoil/subsoil sequence. West of channel (203), these deposits were less well-defined (probably as a result of heavier erosion closer to the river and partly resulting from root disturbances) although no less artefact-rich. Despite this slight variance in the soil, (group 208) is thought to be the equivalent of topsoil horizon (90) to the west. No equivalent to (89) was identified west of the erosion channel.
- 2.4.8 A 'dirty' gravel deposit (group 202), consisted of natural gravels mixed with a soil component and probably a lower subsoil horizon, and includes (147) to the west and (154) to the east of the trench. The latter was less well defined than (147) but is presumed to be the same horizon.
- 2.4.9 All three palaeosoil horizons proved rich in worked flint and show almost identical finds-signatures with regard to the distribution of types: a predominance of flakes (30-50%), followed by, bladelets (10-20%), backed bladelets (6-12%), backed blades (3-5%) and simple blades (3-4%). Palaeo-subsoil (89) produced twice as many flint artefacts as overlying (90) and underlying (147). However, as mentioned above, only 50% of the latter deposits was sieved, and it could therefore have featured an equal amount of worked flint as (89).
- 2.4.10 The occurrence of pottery sherds follows the reverse trend: being predominantly recovered from palaeo-topsoil context (90) and equivalent group (208), and falls off rapidly with depth. Where datable, the pottery dates are predominantly Late Neolithic Peterboroughware but also include some probable Late Bronze Age specimens (two from context (90), one from context (147)).

- 2.4.11 Animal bone fragments, including some (6 No. specimens) of cattle but mostly unidentifiable large mammals, were recovered from a total of 23 spits. They occurred in equal amounts in deposits (90) and (89), with only two recovered from (147). More than half of the assemblage had been burnt at very high temperatures.
- 2.4.12 Two articulating leg joint fragments in one spit suggest (89722901) that this area within the palaeosoils may not have been subject to enough later reworking to cause separation of these bones. Two cattle specimens could be aged to around 12 months, suggesting that cattle was not exclusively used for the supply of milk, but also provided meat. However, other than on bones recovered from post-medieval context (11), no evidence for butchering marks were observed in any of the bones present.
- 2.4.13 A total of twelve potential features were observed, excavated and recorded at various depths during the grid excavation of the blanket deposits. However, definition and interpretation was extremely poor in all cases, and the horizon from which these features were cut was impossible to determine with confidence. One feature, [164], was heavily disturbed by modern piling. The features are presented here in summary at the horizon where they were first observed, and are also illustrated on this basis (Figure 2).
- 2.4.14 The stratigraphic evidence must be regarded as extremely unreliable, and phasing can only be based on the restricted ceramic evidence available. Due to the abundance of worked flint and the loose nature of the sandy blanket deposits, there is a high probability of residuality/intrusiveness. Phasing on the basis of inclusions of lithic objects, again, has therefore to be dismissed as unreliable at this stage.
- 2.4.15 One potential feature was observed at the level of the palaeo-topsoil horizon context (90), an amorphous shallow pit, [102]. Due to its uncertain origin and notable charcoal component this was merely classed as a 'biologically reworked combustion zone'.
- 2.4.16 Two features were observed at the paleo-subsoil level, context (89), to the east of the trench: two possible postholes or small pits, [85] and [139]. Neither contained ceramic dating evidence but, again, featured a charcoal component in their fills.
- 2.4.17 Five potential features cutting into the 'dirty gravel', (group 202), and apparently overlain by palaeo-topsoil (group 208) occurred at the western side of the site: a possible posthole or small pit with Late Bronze Age pottery [159]; two tree disturbances, [100] and [115] with charcoal-rich deposits. [115] produced parts of a Fengate-style Late Neolithic vessel, with adjacent small pit [101] containing two further body sherds of the same date and type in its upper fill. An undated gully or erosion channel, [98] was also recorded close by. Pit [159] was located next to a concrete pile and may have been subject to disturbance.

2.4.18 A total of five potential features were observed at the level of the natural gravel (after removal of all upper horizons), three of which, [140] together with [145], and [164] were classed as tree disturbances. [104] is also assumed to be a root disturbance originating from tree hole [100], but may also represent an earlier posthole into which the tree rooted. A further undated feature, [167], was interpreted as a small pit or posthole. All features remain undated.

2.5 Palaeo-environmental evidence

2.5.1 Due to the early date of the archaeology, its floodplain location and the identification of preserved palaeosoils, a comprehensive programme of palaeo-environmental sampling was undertaken on the basis of advice offered by in-house and external specialists (including English Heritage) to address questions of site-formation and –use.

- Monoliths were collected for examination with regard to pollen, forams, diatoms and sediment description for the investigation of site formation, particularly issues of estuarine/riverine inundation and the characterisation of the palaeo-environment, including that of the prehistoric tidal regime of the Thames.
- Kubiena tins and soil chemistry bulk samples were collected for the investigation of soil micromorphology, with regard to questions of soil formation and characterisation, as well as the identification of human activity.
- Bulk samples were collected for the recovery of macrofaunal remains to address issues of land-use and for dating purposes.
- A magnetic-susceptibility field survey was undertaken to supplement the results of the soil micromorphological and macrofaunal analysis.

2.5.2 Processing of the samples is currently awaiting the results of the stratigraphic and artefactual assessments.

2.6 Summary

2.6.1 The Addington Street site appears to be a palimpsest of Early Holocene activity on a former gravel eyot. This is represented in an artefact assemblage contained in a preserved subsoil/topsoil sequence, dating to the Late Mesolithic, Late Neolithic, and Late Bronze Age. The absence of material later than the Bronze Age, and evidence for a high energy erosion event cutting through all Early Holocene deposits, suggests the rapid inundation and human abandonment of the island around this time or later.

2.6.2 Based on the evidence recovered, no explanation can be offered for the apparent chronological gaps in the occupation of the site, such as in the Early

Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age. However, in view of the small size of the site it is entirely possible that this represents a bias of recovery.

- 2.6.3 A variety of amorphous features of either anthropogenic or natural origin are present but cannot be dated or interpreted with confidence at this stage. Palaeo-environmental and distribution analysis of artefacts in the palaeosols may enable the identification of activity zones (such as hearths, suggested by the presence of burnt animal bone and flint) to which these features may be tied at a later date. A burnt tree hole containing the remains of a Neolithic vessel suggests wood clearance in that period. Further farming activity in the later prehistoric period is also suggested by the presence of cattle bone in the assemblage and of charred cereal grain from evaluation ADD95.

3 POTENTIAL

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The site at Addington Street is in many ways rather typical of its date and locale. This includes the absence of later prehistoric stratigraphy, caused by erosion, and the preservation of Early Holocene land surfaces as charcoal-rich sandy deposits. The latter appear disturbed by human and natural agencies both prehistoric and modern, but contain a multitude of apparently early prehistoric artefacts. Isolated, poorly defined features with doubtful stratigraphic associations are also common, as is the presence of a small Neolithic component in assemblages that are overwhelmingly Mesolithic. All these characteristics have been previously noted at early prehistoric sites in the Boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth (Sidell *et al* 2002).
- 3.1.2 Although situated at a fair distance from any watercourse today, the Early Mesolithic site at the B&Q depot in Bermondsey (another prehistoric eyot), in the London borough of Southwark, is comparable in regard and composition to the assemblage recovered and affords interesting parallels with this site. These are discussed in detail further on. To compare and contrast the Addington Street archive with existing sites in the region must be the main objective of further work, since the archive in isolation only offers limited potential for further analysis.
- 3.1.3 The present archive offers the opportunity to fill in existing gaps in the current knowledge base of the Early Holocene period in the region. Some of these gaps may have resulted from a rather generic approach to site investigation in the past, particularly with regard to palaeo-environmental sampling strategy and dating. During this fieldwork programme a comprehensive synthesis of recent sites in the area was available (Sidell *et al*'s 2002 volume), highlighting specific period issues of interest. With the help of early and extensive specialist consultation these could be addressed in the excavation strategy to ensure a targeted, and hopefully successful, approach.

3.2 Specific

Stratigraphy

- 3.2.1 As stated in section 7, above, further stratigraphic analysis of the twelve presumed ‘cut’ features provides no further potential for elucidation of any research objectives. The potential for spatial interpretation and analysis even of those few features with ceramic dating evidence is severely limited due to the small dimensions of the site.
- 3.2.2 At the B&Q site, combined spatial analysis of the artefacts within buried deposits during post-excavation analysis identified two probable hearth locations not visually identified during excavation (*ibid*: 14). This archive is assumed to be largely *ex situ* as a result of later reworking, but former activity zones may yet be traced this way, and may offer an opportunity to tie the recorded features into a coherent interpretation.

Lithics

- 3.2.3 A key question with regard to the flint assemblage is as to whether it can be regarded as *in situ* or not. During grid excavation, no significant horizontal or vertical concentrations of artefacts were noted. The assemblage is of a mixed date, and contains degraded pottery as well as burnt flint and bone fragments. This suggests an anthropogenic and/or natural reworking of the deposits consistent with an interpretation of the blanket deposits as a preserved topsoil/subsoil sequence. In contrast to the B&Q depot site, the lithics are vertically distributed throughout the soil sequence, with possibly a higher percentage contained in the two lowermost deposits, rather than along the former land-surface, as is the case at the B&Q site. The assemblage is therefore currently assumed to be *ex situ* or at least considerably reworked. The present lithic assemblage is, however, comparable in size to the one recovered from the B&Q site (both around 1900 objects), and contains a higher number of microliths.
- 3.2.4 In view of this potential for the identification of activity zones the data from the Addington Street grid/spit excavation of the palaeosols should be utilised for at least some basic distribution analysis to prove or disprove yet unidentified significant concentrations. In conjunction with a micromorphological analysis of the soils and the data obtained from the magnetic susceptibility field survey, this may also help to determine both the degree and/or nature of the post-depositional redistribution of artefacts through natural and human agency, and help to identify post-Mesolithic land-use.
- 3.2.5 Analysis of the ‘tool-kit’ represented by the typological distribution of lithics should provide evidence for the nature of the site-use during the Mesolithic. An under-representation of micro burins and micro-debitage has been noted. Although this could be due to erosion, it has been suggested that this may be

indicative of a user- rather than a manufacturing site, where maintenance and repair of tools, rather than their manufacture, were undertaken.

- 3.2.6 Micro-wear analysis of the B&Q lithic assemblage yielded some interesting results in the identification of site activities, such as butchering and the working of specific materials for tool and clothes production (*ibid*: 15-17). In conjunction with the environmental data, short-or long term habitation, even seasonal activities may be discerned this way in the present assemblage. A large number of objects with edge-damage have been identified in the assemblage and should be examined to isolate those with diagnostic use-wear. Similar, cores and debitage should be examined with regard to potential refitting.
- 3.2.7 At present, the lithic assemblage has been assigned an overall Late Mesolithic date with an intrusive Neolithic component. The B&Q site, by comparison, is of an Early Mesolithic date. Further work should therefore be undertaken to confirm the dating of the Addington Street assemblage to enable research into continuity and change throughout the Mesolithic period by inter-site comparison between the two.
- 3.2.8 Neolithic as well as Late Mesolithic material is underrepresented in central London, and an attempt should be made to isolate the various period components within the assemblage to enhance the knowledge-base for either period.
- 3.2.9 Burnt flint was frequently recovered during the excavation of the blanket deposits. It is hoped that areas of significant distributions of this material will aid the identification of hitherto invisible activity zones, such as hearths, in the analysis stage.

Pottery

- 3.2.10 The pottery assemblage is comparatively small (a total of 158 sherds) and with its lack of meaningful stratigraphic association offers only limited potential to contribute to the interpretation of the site *per se*.
- 3.2.11 The main diagnostic component consists of the remains of one Neolithic Peterboroughware vessel deposited in the charcoal-rich fill of a treehole. There was no evidence to suggest the depositional mechanism by which the object came to rest in this location, neither could a direct association be made with the burning event. Some burnt pottery fragments were retrieved from the palaeosoils and have been suggested to originate from this vessel also, but all occur at the eastern extent of the site, and therefore at a fair distance to its find spot. Together with the other tree disturbances present, however, the evidence is at least suggestive of wood clearance of a broad Neolithic date. Charred macrofaunal remains from the feature fill may help to elucidate the association.

- 3.2.12 As discussed above, due to the dearth of Neolithic material in this area of London, the occurrence of any material of such a date is of some significance in itself. Despite its small size, by comparison with those produced from other sites in the study area, the Addington Street ceramic assemblage is one of the largest and best preserved.
- 3.2.13 A concentration of Neolithic material, including some features described as pits and (potentially structural) postholes, have been previously recorded in sites around Addington Street (WSC90 and WSB90, see Figure 1, and Site Gazetteer). In summary it suggests the presence of a settlement site in the locale.
- 3.2.14 Peterborough ware, mostly of a Mortlake type, is the common Late Neolithic fabric in the area of Southwark and Lambeth (*ibid*: 20). The diagnostic pieces from this assemblage, although also of the same broader category, are of the slightly later Fengate type. This indicates a rare, if not first, occurrence of this ceramic type in this area of London.
- 3.2.15 The remaining pottery from the site is mostly degraded, undiagnostic and demonstrably redeposited, with the exception of one sherd contained in the fill of a possible posthole, containing Late Bronze Age pottery. The pottery here may, however, be intrusive, since the feature was located close to a concrete pile and may have been subject to disturbance.
- 3.2.16 The dating of all the Late Bronze Age material is tentative, but consistent with a period of activity previously recorded around Waterloo (WSD89), (see Figure 1 and Site Gazetteer). Their presence in the palaeosol sequence suggests a Late Bronze Age *terminus post quem* for the site's inundation. An estuarine flooding of the Thames' intertidal zone in the mid-late 2nd millennium BC, including that of the occupied sand islands within it, has been previously suggested (*ibid*: 50), and the evidence present here is consistent with this interpretation. No close date has, however, so far been obtained for this event.

Animal Bone

- 3.2.17 The animal bone assemblage collected from the palaeosols is small (138 fragments) and in itself fairly undiagnostic. Again, in view of the general lack of such evidence in the study area, however, it gains some significance. Most notable is the identification, and in two cases even ageing, of cattle remains. Spatial analysis of artefact distribution may indicate an association with diagnostic Neolithic material, throwing light on the subsistence economy of the time in marginal riverside locations.
- 3.2.18 65% of the prehistoric bone assemblage was burnt, mostly at very high temperatures. It has been suggested that this may have been due to the use of these remains as fuel. The burnt assemblage includes the articulating remains of cattle found in spit 89722901, and is therefore at least in part of a

Neolithic date. The burning of these remains cannot with any certainty attributed to food preparation, but could equally signify the accidental burning of previously discarded carcasses during wood clearance practices - an interpretation possibly more consistent with the high temperatures suggested by the material.

- 3.2.19 The suggestion that reworking of the soil matrix around the articulating fragments was not severe enough to separate the remains supports a potential for the identification of unrecognised activity zones, such as hearths.
- 3.2.20 The presence of a reasonably high percentage of unburnt bone (35%) in an assemblage of such an early date, albeit of poor condition, is again rare for this area of London. The very fact of preservation and the presence of at least one diagnostic cattle fragment suggests a later prehistoric date for these remains. Should a significant association with Neolithic activity be established during post-excavation analysis, a submission of a broad range of radiocarbon determinations from these fragments should be considered to date the Neolithic activity in the area more closely.

Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.2.21 The palaeo-environmental aspects of the site are complex, and include questions of site formation, changes to the palaeo-environment, and anthropogenic activity and economy and their effect on artefact taphonomy. All of these are key to understanding the site as a whole, and for putting it into its regional and period context. Reliable palaeo-environmental information is still scarce for this area of London, and it is hoped that the Addington Street assemblage will make a significant contribution to this data-set.
- 3.2.22 The exact date of the formation, and earliest occupation of the Early Holocene gravel eyots of Thames remains unclear (*ibid*: 7). The Addington Street assemblage is seemingly later than that of other eyot sites (such as the B&Q depot), so this archive offers little new information to elucidate this point. No deposits suitable for absolute dating (e.g. OSL) of the gravel and sand matrix of the island itself were identified during the excavation programme, and therefore no samples were taken towards this purpose.
- 3.2.23 Good potential exists to investigate the nature of the subsequent pedogenesis on the island through characterisation of the palaeosoils by micromorphology and magnetic susceptibility. Furthermore, in conjunction with the distribution analysis of the artefact assemblage from these soils, anthropogenic land-use both in the Mesolithic and later, as well as taphonomic factors for artefact redistribution may be determined. The recovery of micro- and macrofaunal remains will hopefully enable a reconstruction of the environment during the Mesolithic and Neolithic. This also holds good potential to highlight any economic activity of a potential Neolithic settlement, as represented by

charred cereal grains recovered during evaluation ADD95, and may clarify the issue of woodland clearance suggested here.

- 3.2.24 The nature and date of the high energy event causing the initial inundation of the site, reflected in the substantial erosion channel group 203, and the subsequent alluviation of the area remains a key point of interest in the sequence of site formation. Further work is needed to put this into context with the known prehistoric changes of the Thames and its estuary. Analysis of diatoms and forams in fluvial and alluvial deposits should provide complimentary information about the changes in the river regime represented on site.
- 3.2.25 The absence of material later than the Late Bronze Age suggests this to be the last occupation of the site prior to inundation, and the likely date of the palaeo-topsoil. Charcoal inclusions were noted and sampled from feature fills and the fills of erosion channel group 203, and offer the opportunity to obtain a broad range of C₁₄ dates which may help to date the submersion of the site.
- 3.2.26 Analysis of the monolith samples taken from the primary trench sections may elucidate the nature and date of the assumed substantial later erosion events thought to be responsible for the absence of all later prehistoric and earlier historic horizons. So far these have not been adequately explained.
- 3.2.27 Deposits representing the first preserved saltmarsh landsurface (of a likely post-medieval date) are also evident in these samples, and are, if required, available for further palaeo-environmental analysis.

4 SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Period research objectives

- 4.1.1 The site has considerable potential to contribute to regional research objectives as recently defined by English Heritage (2002) for the periods of the Mesolithic and Neolithic. Particularly through comparison and contrast with other sites in central London, such as the B&Q depot sites in Bermondsey, this archive has considerable potential to contribute to a number of period-specific issues, including:

P3 Framework Objectives (Late Hunters: Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic 38,000-4000BC)

1. Understanding London Palaeotopography: geomorphological mapping of key features (e.g. deep-sealed surface-intact sites in the floodplain), particularly with the aim to enable predictive modelling of sites.
2. Addressing aspects of continuity and change in the nature of subsistence strategies pursued by human groups, how they changed and developed over time, and why.

3. Explaining why the late Mesolithic is so poorly represented in the London region; review the validity of the model wherein communities retreated up the major tributaries and valley sides in the face of rising sea and river levels.

P4 Framework Objectives (Early Farming Communities and early Bronze Age c. 4000-1500 BC)

1. Elucidating the nature of the Mesolithic to Neolithic transition
 2. Reconstructing the environment on a regional basis.
 3. Researching the potential for categorisation of settlement sites, whether the lack of ‘settlement sites’ is more apparent than real.
 4. Gathering data to understand the subsistence economy.
 5. Establishing a dated regional ceramic sequence including fabric analysis.
- 4.1.2 Regional research priorities are based on national research frameworks, as defined by English Heritage (1991). Within these, defining the nature of the Mesolithic to Neolithic transition is one of fundamental importance within the Early Holocene.
- 4.1.3 The presumed Late Bronze Age material from the site may serve as a dating baseline for the investigation of flooding events in the region during the 2nd millennium BC, but presents no other research potential beyond that.
- 4.1.4 Wherever possible, the site chronology should be tied to radiocarbon determinations from suitable contexts to support the regional chronology.

5 ARCHIVE

5.1 Location

- 5.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under project reference 55350.

6 REFERENCES

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SPECIALIST APPENDICES

Worked Flint

Raw Material

The whole assemblage consists of nodular flint. The predominant colour of the visible surfaces is a dark grey-brown to dark brown with some sandier brown pieces. The majority of the assemblage has a cream/white patina (many pieces are entirely patinated); there is a small component of unpatinated mainly dark brown pieces.

The quality of the raw material is relatively poor, often with inclusions and incipient thermal fractures. Together with a thin worn cortex, the quality of the flint suggests utilised river gravel nodules presumably collected from the riverbank. The site sits on coarse fluvial sands and gravels, and during prehistory was probably a part of a gravel island on the edge of the Thames (MacPhail 2004).

Previous excavations in Addington Street (WSB90; WSC90; ADD95) have recovered worked flint of a similar character (WA 1995; Bird, Crocker and McCracken 1992, 161). Given this, the assemblage must be considered a partial sample of more extensive activity.

Table 1: The composition of the assemblage

Flint Types	No.	% of assemblage
<i>Retouched tools:</i>		
Microliths	23	1.1
Scrapers	2	0.1
Burins	2	0.1
Piercers	4	0.2
Projectile Points	1	0.05
Misc. retouched pieces	14	0.7
<i>Retouched tools sub-total</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>2.25</i>
<i>Debitage:</i>		
Flakes (incl. broken)	1122	57.5
Blades (incl. broken)	205	10.6
Bladelets (incl. broken)	483	25
<i>Utilised flakes, blades, bladelets</i>	<i>(161)</i>	<i>(8.3)</i>
Core preparation / rejuvenation pieces	22	1.1
Cores / core fragments	59	3
Microburins	2	0.1
Total	1939	100.0%

Debitage and cores

There were 1,649 pieces of unretouched debitage (flakes, blades and bladelets) together with 43 cores and 16 core fragments. 17.7% of flakes were broken, 66.6% of blades, and 63.7% of bladelets. The flake element was notable for the total lack of chips (flakes with a length of <5mm).

Of the 30 classifiable cores 83% were blade/bladelet cores, ranging from 31mm to 56mm long. 76% of these have prepared striking platforms, and preparation, maintenance and rejuvenation are attested by crested pieces, trimming flakes and core tablets. All blade/bladelet cores retaining portions of the striking platform show abrasion and/or isolation, and in general indicate soft hammer or soft stone hammer percussion. Only 2 cores do not have at least one cortical surface. There are no complete cores of unpatinated flint showing hard hammer percussion, although some unpatinated hard hammer core fragments exist.

The retouched tool assemblage

Table 2 shows the occurrence of tools in the assemblage. Microliths are the most significant component, forming 50% of the retouched tools, and 1.2% of the flint assemblage as a whole.

Table 2: Retouched tools

Tool Type	No.	% of assemblage
Microliths (Clark 1934)		
Type A	10	21.7
Type D	9	19.7
Type F	2	4.3
unclassified	2	4.3
<i>(Microlith total)</i>	<i>(23)</i>	<i>(50)</i>
Scrapers	2	4.3
Projectile Points	1	2.2
Piercers	3	6.5
Burins	3	6.5
Other retouched	14	30.5
Total	46	100%

Obliquely blunted points (Type A) are the largest single class, but do not dominate. Sub-geometric and geometric forms (Type D) are almost as common, suggesting a later Mesolithic date supported by the two Horsham points (Type F). Horsham points and other Later Mesolithic microlith types occurred nearby in Addington Street (WSC90: Lewis 2000). This may indicate more than one phase of Mesolithic activity, although obliquely blunted points are common throughout the period. Reynier analysed the obliquely blunted points from a variety of sites in south-east England and concluded that it is possible to distinguish between an earlier component of the type with an

average length of 40mm, and a later component on average 22mm long (Reynier 1994). On this basis it is possible to suggest that the Addington Street assemblage is of Later Mesolithic date, as the nine complete obliquely blunted points have an average length of 23.22mm (length range: 17 – 31mm).

Manufacture using the microburin technique appears to have been practiced exclusively, although only two were recovered. In addition however, two pieces appear to be microliths in the process of manufacture: item 6 appears to be a Type D (crescentic) microlith (the shape is complete but there is no blunting); item 217 is a probable unfinished oblique (proximal end removed via microburin technique, no blunting). Three broken microliths are present (two probable crescents and an unidentifiable fragment).

The range of other tools is very limited. The scrapers are both end scrapers (one made on a core-trimming flake). Two piercers are tentative identifications, although the third (item 240) is certain, being a tertiary blade-like flake retouched at the distal end to a long tapering point. The same reservations apply to the burins: two may be truncations and one dihedral. There are no burin spalls. The retouched tools are far fewer in number than pieces with edge damage indicative of use (46 retouched pieces: 161 utilised). The latter figure is a minimum count – further utilised pieces undoubtedly occur in the assemblage.

The only other tool is a *petit tranchet* projectile point of Clark's Type A (Clark 1935), and likely to be a Late Neolithic (post-3,000 cal BC) form (Green 1984). The unpatinated condition of the piece is noteworthy: although patina is not a reliable indicator of age in itself, there does appear to be a division between unpatinated pieces of predominantly hard hammer percussion, and patinated pieces mostly made with soft hammers. The division is not exclusive, but does indicate a broad technological difference that may have a chronological significance. The presence of the *petit tranchet* in unpatinated flint supports this contention, although the lack of the platform, bulb and termination make the identification of hammer type impossible.

Recommendations for further work

Further analysis of this material would be worthwhile. The site forms a part of a potential zone of intensive later prehistoric use of the Thames foreshore. Excavations at 29 Addington St (WSC90) found portions of a possible Neolithic timber structure as well as later Mesolithic worked flint. If the Mesolithic material should prove to be *in situ* then it represents a locally rare opportunity to examine both a well-stratified assemblage of that period and potentially to elucidate the changes related to the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition. The former opportunity is of considerable regional importance, the latter (if allied to secure environmental evidence) nationally important in terms of English Heritage's 1991 research themes.

In terms of the worked stone in particular, a more detailed analysis of technological variations within the assemblage has the potential to isolate the later prehistoric component and possibly to reveal repeated use within the Mesolithic period.

No stratigraphic or spatial analysis has yet been undertaken. In particular, the relationship of the different components in the assemblage to the 'combustion zone' in square 68/32 (unworked burnt flint may relate to this also), and to the pits and tree-throws should be investigated. Given the method of recording on site, m² plots of different tool types and worked totals (e.g. by context or period groups of context) should reveal any significant spatial distributions, and possibly the degree of vertical and horizontal redistribution.

The question of alluvial inundation of the site needs to be addressed, particularly with regard to the absence of micro-debitage and possible disturbance of the material.

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Prehistoric Pottery

158 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from 39 contexts. The largest single group consists of 61 sherds derived from a Peterborough Ware jar of Fengate type. This vessel is characterised by a soft irregular fabric with a generally dark core and irregularly oxidised outer and inner surfaces. The predominant temper is a moderate amount of angular calcined flint, up to 6mm across and very often breaking the surface. The base (surviving as three joining sherds) has a diameter of 45mm. The wall is decorated from the base angle upwards with twisted cord impressions arranged in a herringbone pattern which, at an undetermined height above the base are topped by a single horizontal twisted cord line. The herringbone arrangement begins again higher up, as the single neck sherd bears the design which continues over the angle. The collar and rim are decorated with whipped cord maggots, also present inside the rim.

A further 91 featureless sherds and crumbs of flint-tempered fabric (125g) may belong to this vessel, although the assignation is not secure. 24 of these (25g) are laminar and appear burnt.

Two sherds may belong to a second Peterborough Ware vessel of indeterminate form. These sherds have a pale grey core, with a pale inner surface and a pinkish-orange outer. The temper is again a moderate amount of angular calcined flint up to 5mm across, which breaks the surface. Both sherds are decorated with parallel row of heavy impressions formed with a thumb-nail or spatulate ended implement.

Of the remaining four sherds, three are flint tempered and one sandy. One of the flint tempered group is a simple rim, while the others are featureless body sherds, probably of Late Bronze Age date.

Table 3: The pottery assemblage

(Sub-) Context	Ware	Period	No	Wt	Comment
107	Fengate	Late Neolithic	1	2	1 body sherd has twisted cord
114	Fengate	Late Neolithic	26	144	3 base sherds (join to make complete base), 13 body sherds & 1 ?base of collar have twisted cord
147592901	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	1	
147602803	Flint-tempered	Late Bronze Age	1	7	
147613202	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	1	
147622901	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	1	
155	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	2	
160	Flint-tempered	Late Bronze Age	1	1	Simple rim

89672401	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	1	
89672601	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	2	
89693101	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	3	1 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
89712802	Peterborough Ware	Late Neolithic	1	5	3 close rows impressions poss fingernail or bone
89732701	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	5	
90292802	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	1	
90663101	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	1	
90672701	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	3	6	1 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
90672801	Fengate	Late Neolithic	24	56	4 shoulders & 1 body have whipped cord maggots
90672801	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	7	
90672802	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	1	
90672807	Fengate	Late Neolithic	8	1	8 crumbs, 1 has whipped cord maggot
90672901	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	2	
90682601	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	3	1	3 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
90682701	Fengate	Late Neolithic	1	2	shoulder with whipped cord maggots
90682801	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	1	
90683201	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	3	2 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
90692501	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	2	1 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
90692701	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	6	3	1 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
90692702	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	4	3	4 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
90692801	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	1	
90693101	Sandy	Late Bronze Age	1	1	
90702601	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	1	2	1 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
90712701	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	6	7	
90712801	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	2	1 reddened surf & laminar, poss burnt?
90722801	Flint-tempered	Late Bronze Age	1	2	
90722801	Peterborough Ware	Late Neolithic	1	4	2 close rows impression poss fingernail or bone
91	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	4	
91612801	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	3	6	from 91612904 also
91612901	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	3	7	
91613301	Fengate	Late Neolithic	1	1	Rim; whipped cord maggot internal
91622901	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	2	1	
92	Flint-tempered	Prehistoric	33	48	32 probably Fengate (2 have v worn indeterminate impressions, 1 worn whipped cord); 1 different fabric

Animal Bone

Methodology

The potential of the assemblage to provide information about husbandry patterns, population structures and consumption practices was ascertained from the number of bones that could give information on the age and sex of animals, butchery, burning and breakage patterns. The number of bones that could provide metrical information was also counted.

Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category. No attempt was made to identify ribs or vertebrae (except the atlas and axis) to species, although large numbers of these bones were noted where they occurred.

The extent of mechanical or chemical attrition to the bone surface was recorded, with 1 indicating very poor condition, 2=poor, 3=fair, 4=good and 5 =very good. The numbers of gnawed bone were also noted. Marks from chopping, sawing, knife cuts and fractures made when the bone was fresh were recorded as butchery marks.

The animal bone has been treated as a single assemblage; the number of fragments was too small for assessment by area or stratigraphic phase.

Results

138 fragments of bone were recovered, of which 40% were in fair condition, with a slightly smaller proportion in poor condition and a smaller but still significant proportion (28%) in very poor condition. No gnawing by canids or rodents was in evidence.

The assemblage consisted almost entirely of small, unidentified fragments. Only ten could be aged, nine of which are tentatively assigned as cattle and one, from context 11, as sheep or goat. The cattle bones include fragments of ulna and tibia from 89722901, and an unworn lower molar from 90712901. Of note are fragments of fused distal humerus and proximal radius in 90722901, which may be from the same individual as they appear to articulate. Although these pieces are small, they are diagnostic and were checked against deer specimens in the reference collection to confirm their identification as domestic cattle. The long bones are from an animal older than 12 months (using Silver's 1969 figures) and the tooth from an animal just over 8-12 months, or slightly younger if it is a first rather than second molar. There is therefore a minimum number of one individual each for cattle and sheep/goat.

Medium mammal and large mammal bones were noted in the fragments that could not be identified to species, with a predominance of large mammal bones.

No bones were complete enough for measurement, and the small size of the fragments may be due in part to their brittleness, since a large proportion (62%) are burnt. Burning renders bones more brittle and liable to break, although it does protect against chemical attack. The majority of burnt bones had been exposed to very high temperatures, as most were calcined, although a small proportion were carbonised.

Butchery marks were noted on only three bones, all from context 11.

The animal bone assemblage is summarised in Table 4, below.

Recommendations

The assemblage is small, poorly preserved and highly fragmented, which limits its potential to inform on animal husbandry or consumption. The bones may have been deliberately burnt, perhaps as fuel, since most are calcined, and this has contributed to their fragmentation. Most of the assemblage can only be identified as medium or (especially) large mammal, but diagnostic parts of some cattle long bones have been recovered. Two of these may have been deposited in articulation, indicating that some material may have been directly deposited and not extensively reworked. However, further work is unlikely to provide any more information regarding the use of animals and deposition of bones in this period, and is not recommended.

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Silver, I 1969, The ageing of domestic animals, In D. Brothwell & E. Higgs (eds), *Science in Archaeology*, 293-302

Context	Cattle	Sheep /Goat	Unidentified	Total	Gnawed	Butchery	Burnt	Measure	Age	Condition	BoneElements	loose teeth	Comments
11		1	10	11		3			1	2	pelvis of large oc	0	
9072290			5	5			5			2		0	
89682902			1	1						1		0	lm
89712801			2	2			2			2		0	
89712803			1	1			1			2		0	
89712901			1	1			1			2		0	lm
89722801			5	5			5			2	?mm skull?	0	
89722901	6		47	53			53			3	tibia and ulna	0	calcined and carbonised
89722902			3	3			3			2		0	mm
89722903			1	1			1			2		0	
89723001			1	1			1			2		0	
89772901			4	4			4			2		0	
90673001			15	15						1		0	lm
90682802			2	2			2			2		0	lm
90692701			1	1			1			2		0	
90692802			1	1			1			2		0	
90702802			22	22						1		0	lm
90702901			1	1			1			2		0	mm
90712901	1			1					1	2		1	unworn lower molar
90722801			1	1			1			2		0	mm
90722901	2		1	3			3		2	2	d hum and p rad (could articulate)	0	
147593201			1	1			1			2		0	
147593202			2	2						3		0	
	9	1	128	138		3	86		4	45		1	

Table 4: Animal bone assemblage

7 SITE GAZETTEER

7.1.1 This site gazetteer of prehistoric sites in the vicinity of Addington Street is cited from the regional gazetteer included in Sidell *et al* 2002 . All sites are listed under their original GAZ reference numbers. Descriptions are edited to exclude references to later periods. Site locations illustrated in this report are highlighted.

GAZ	Address	Site code	NGR (TQ)	Period	Description	GLSMR No.	Biographical refs.
23	129 Lambeth Rd	LAM12 973	53066 17895	ME/NE	Two flint flakes	090828	
25	Norfolk Hse, 113-127 Lambeth Rd.	NOR88 and 90	53070 18050	PU	Residual flints from later contexts, incl. a single poss scraper	091324	Webber 1999?; Bird et al 1991-2
27	Lambeth Palace Kitch Gdns, Lambeth Rd	L52585	53074 17906	PU/?N E/BA	Two prehistoric pits. The small flint assemblage (69 pieces) included a single multi-platform core and four convex scrapers of end, side, end/side and thumbnail form, respectively. Nine sherds of pottery (probably LBA), abraded non-diagnostic flint-tempered ware.	090692	Richardson 1986; Bird et al 1987
28	Lambeth Palace North Gdns, Lambeth Palace Rd	L58286	53074 17931	NE/BA /IA	Two prehistoric features with flint and pottery. The flint assemblage (237 pieces) was notable for the number of diagnostic NE/EBA pieces. These included two transverse arrowheads, a barbed and tanged arrowhead, two fragments of ground flint axes, a single adze fragment, a blade knife, three scrapers of end and thumb nail type, two single platform cores and a quartzite hammerstone.	090808	Richardson 1986; Bird et al 1987
30	County Hall, Addington St. Annex	ADD95	53088 17974	ME/NE	Flint artefacts and burnt flint debris on a raised sand eyot and a possible cut feature.	091723 091724	
32	Waterloo Station, Upper Marsh St., Lambeth	WSD98	53091 17958	BA	Flint waste and LBA pottery from weathered sand layer. The small flint assemblage (40 pieces) contained no diagnostic tools, although a number of the flakes were of		

					generally later prehistoric type. The pottery could not be located for examination.		
33	Addington St, Waterloo	WSC90	53091 17966	ME/NE	Evidence for ME and/or NE occupation and settlement, incl. pits, postholes and a ditch terminal of prehistoric date. The flint assemblage (439 pieces) included a small but important collection of eight Later ME microliths comprising four rods, one scalene piece, one obliquely backed piece, one crescentic piece and one hollow-based point of possible 'Horsham'-form. Also present were a number of cores and core fragments, a single burin spall, the butt of a triangular arrowhead of probably Later NE type, and a flake knife. The few sherds of pottery were in very poor condition; pinched fingernail decoration possibly NE.		
34	29 Addington St, Waterloo	WSB90	53091 17970	ME/NE /BA	A prehistoric occupation horizon that produced a number of struck flints and prehistoric pottery. This horizon was cut by six pits dating to the NE which were sealed by a sand layer containing further flintwork together with pottery, burnt flint and animal bone. The relatively large amount of struck flint may indicate that knapping was taking place close by; the presence of animal bone and burnt flint suggests cooking activities. A natural channel present on site was filled with a thin layer of undated peat. The flint assemblage (282 pieces) included a single oblique backed microlith of a Late ME type, together with a single micro burin, four cores of single and multi-platform type, three convex scrapers and a flake knife. Sherds of Peterborough NE bowl and a possible Collared Urn.		
35	Upper Marsh, Waterloo, Site F	WSE90	53092 17952	PU	Several flints	091312	Filer 1991; Bird et al 1991-2
36	Carlisle Lane, Waterloo, Site F	WSF90	53095 17936	PU	Several flint flakes and tools	091352	Filer 1991; Bird et al 1991-2

39	Lower Marsh	WBR88	53106 17956	PU	Possible prehistoric ditch with fire-cracked flint and several waste flakes		Jackson et al 1999
43	127 Stamford Street	SMF95	53117 18017	BA	Peat horizons with pollen showing evidence for nearby clearance and cereal cultivation.	091751	
48	4-10 Lower Marsh, 126-156 Westminster Bridge Rd	L10779	53126 17995	NE/BA	A N-S ditch revealed by an accumulation of horizontal timbers with two flint flakes, roots and branches, flood deposits and a peat horizon.	091329	Filer 1991; Bird et al 1991-2
208	Old Kent Rd/Bowles Rd	BAQ90 (and sites OKG91 and OKR90)	53440 17780	ME/NE	Two major <i>in situ</i> scatters. Later features include a hearth, two ditches, a gully and postholes. The larger of the two flint scatters appeared to focus on two hearths defined by concentrations of burnt flint. Diagnostic finds included a series of 18 microliths of Earlier ME form (principally oblique backed points), together with micro burins, cores of one-, two- and multi-platform type, scrapers, adze-sharpening flakes and hammerstones. It has proved possible to refit a number of flakes/blades onto cores. Analysis of use-wear has identified traces of hide-scraping and antler-working. The smaller of the flint scatters included a single intrusive, leaf-shaped arrowhead of earlier NE type.	091321	Rogers 1990; Filer 1991; Bird et al 1991-2

Key:

ME Mesolithic

NE Neolithic

BA Bronze Age

EBA Early Bronze Age

LBA Late Bronze Age

PU Prehistoric undated

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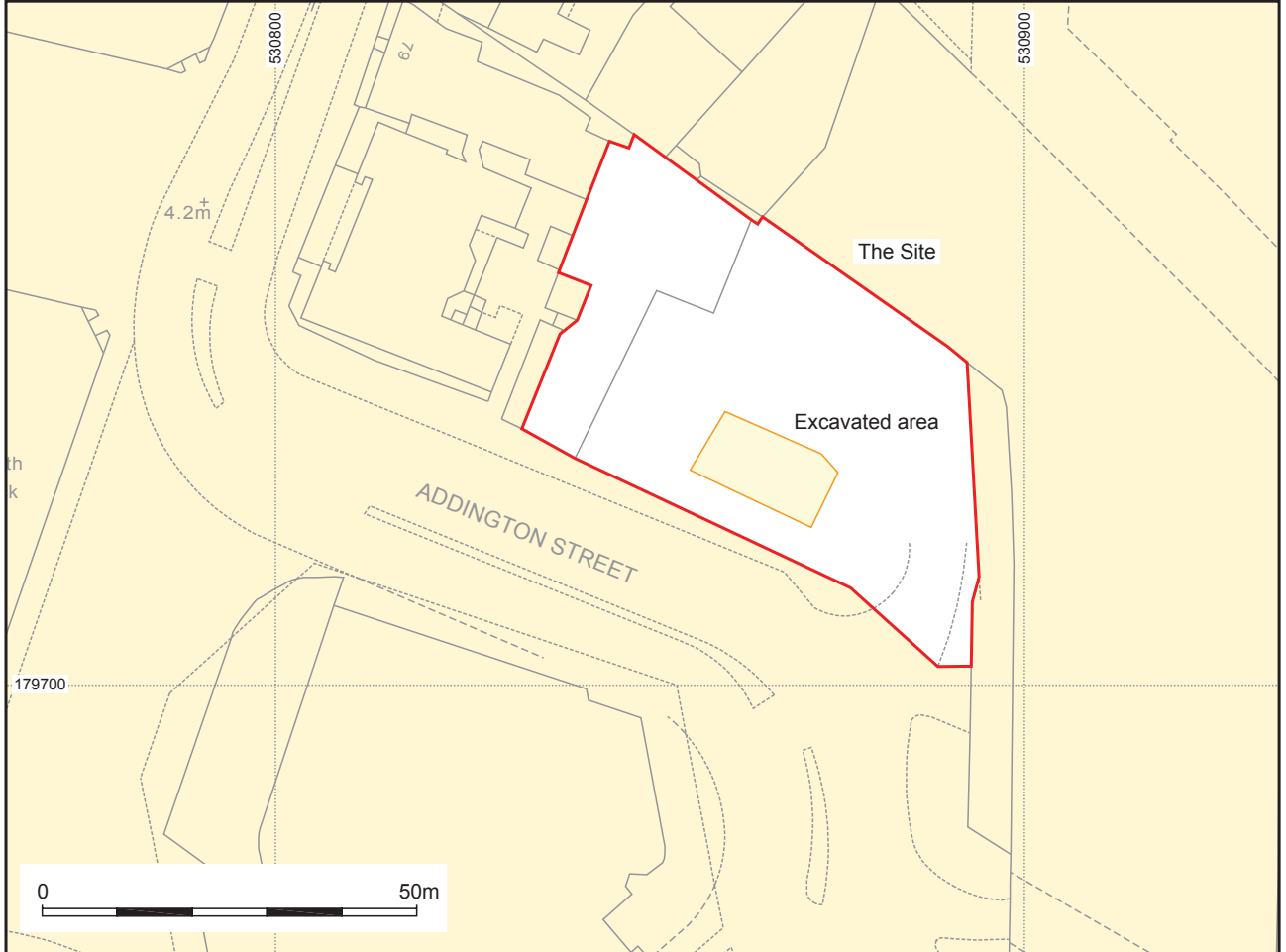
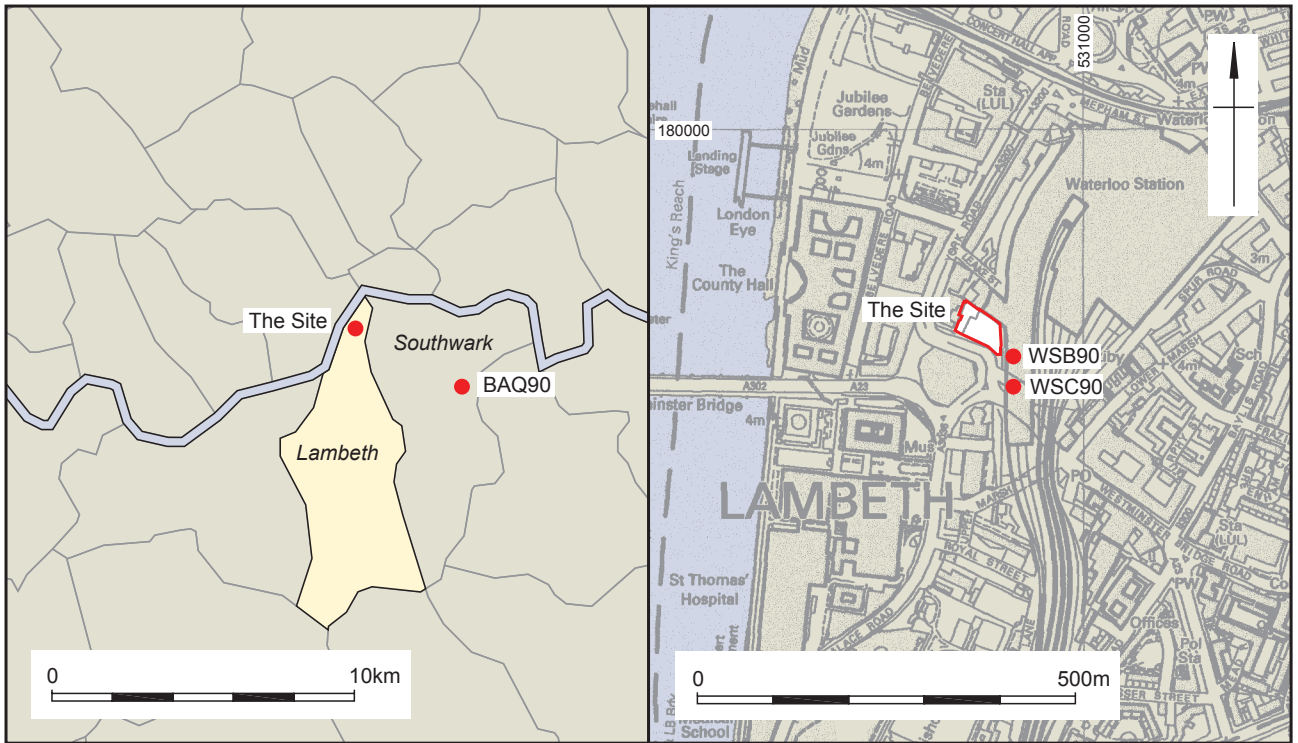
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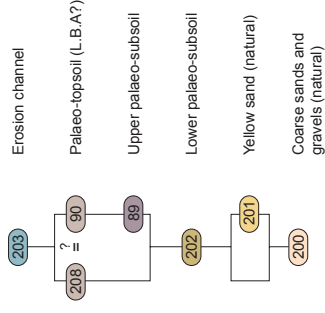
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Caption

Figure 1



Key:

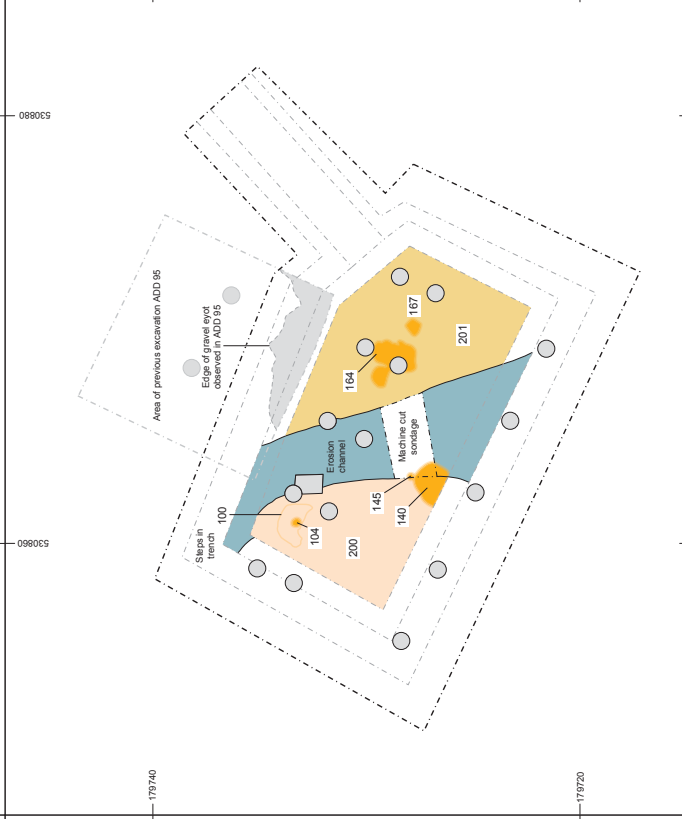
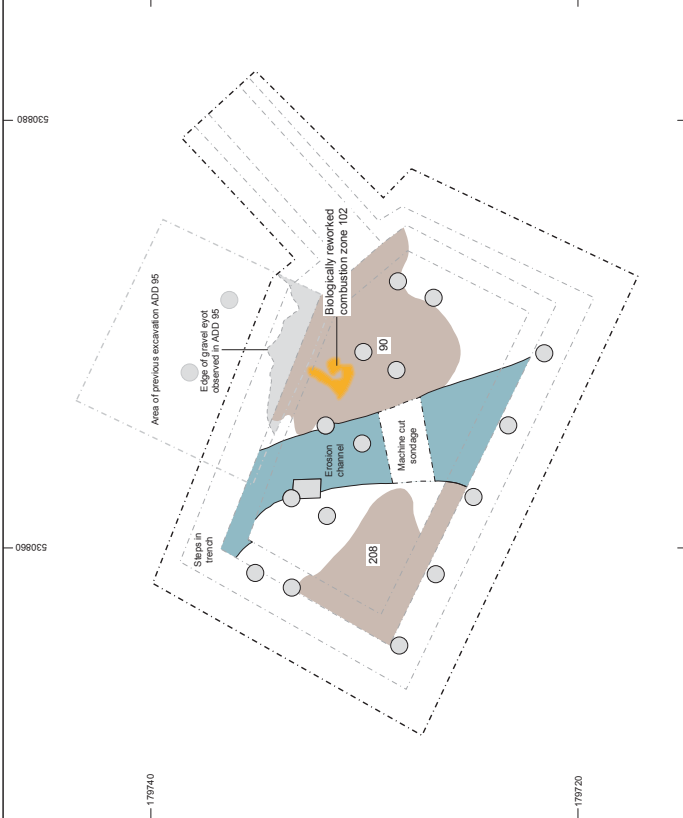
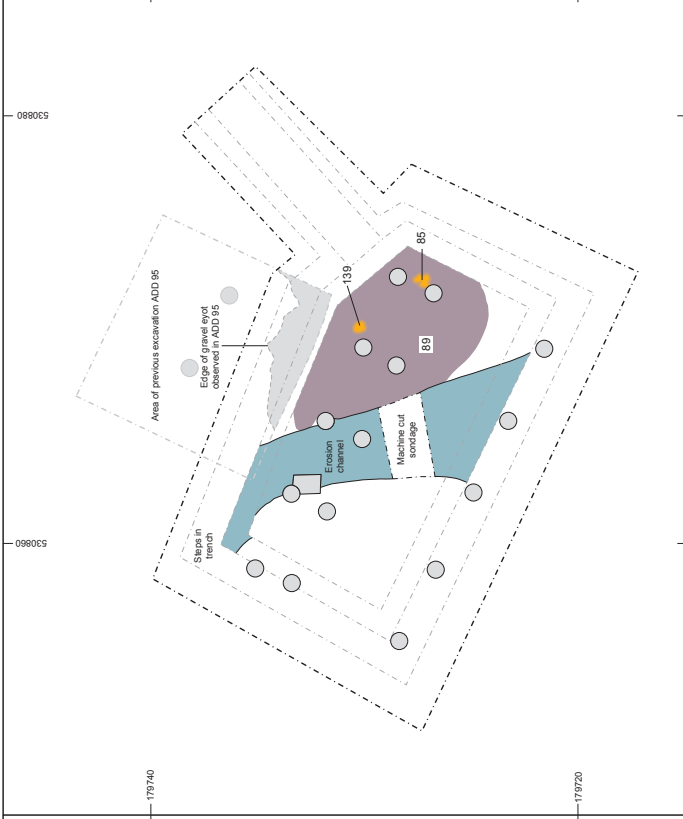
- Late Neolithic feature
- Late Bronze Age feature
- Unphased feature
- Modern disturbance



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Distribution of buried soil horizons and features observed

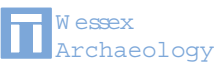
Figure 2



Plate 1



Plate 2

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