

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Land at East Hall Farm, Wennington, Rainham,  
London Borough of Havering**

**Archaeological Evaluation (fieldwalking)**

**by Steve Ford**

**Site Code: EHF13/12**

**(TQ 5390 8140)**

**Land at East Hall Farm, Wennington, Rainham,  
London Borough of Havering**

**An Archaeological Evaluation (fieldwalking)**

**for Robert Brett and Sons Limited**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code EHF13/12

**March 2013**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at East Hall Farm, Wennington, Rainham, London Borough of Havering

**Grid reference:** TQ 5390 8140

**Site activity:** Evaluation (fieldwalking)

**Date and duration of project:** 11-12th February 2013

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Steve Ford

**Site code:** EHF13

**Area of site:** c.18 hectares

**Summary of results:** The fieldwalking recovered struck flint and pottery finds representing several periods. The Later Neolithic/Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and post medieval periods were all recorded. For the late Neolithic/Bronze Age, a clustered scatter of struck flint suggests the presence of an occupation site whereas the pottery finds would appear to represent scatters formed by the manuring of farmland. Single sherds of Iron Age and Saxon pottery are of uncertain significance

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course with accession code EHF13.

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# **Land at East Hall Farm, Wennington, Rainham, London Borough of Havering An Archaeological Evaluation (fieldwalking)**

by Steve Ford

**Report 13/12**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological fieldwalking evaluation carried out at land at East Hall Farm, Wennington, near Rainham, Essex, (London Borough of Havering) (TQ 5390 8140) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andy Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Robert Brett and Sons Limited, Robert Brett House, Milton Manor Farm, Ashford Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 7PP. Planning permission is to be sought from the London Borough of Havering to extract minerals from the site.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford, Kyle Beaverstock and Aidan Colyer on 11th and 12th February 2013 and the site code is EHF13. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

A desk-based survey (Josephs 2009), summarized the wide range of archaeological deposits recorded for the environs of the site.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on two plots of land located on to the east and south of East Hall Farm (Fig. 2). Its current use is as arable fields. The underlying geology of the site comprises floodplain gravel but with a brickearth cap at the extreme eastern end (BGS 1976). The land is level and lies at a height of c 5m above Ordnance Datum except for the north western margins where the ground slopes down slightly to the side of a stream valley.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Josephs 2009, table 1). In summary the site lies in an area already noted for its richness of archaeological sites and finds. Various detailed archaeological investigations which have taken place to the north of the site prior to earlier episodes of mineral extraction have revealed earlier prehistoric, Roman and medieval occupation and burial sites which can be considered typical of the archaeologically rich terraces of the lower Thames Valley. For the site itself, a small number of cropmarks may be of archaeological interest, one of which is of curvilinear form and may indicate the

presence of a ring ditch (a presumed levelled Bronze age round barrow). The site lies just to the north of the village of Wennington which has late Saxon origins and whose church retains some 12th century fabric.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The specific research aims of this project are:

to determine if any flint scatters representing pre-Iron age occupation and landuse are present; and

to determine if any ceramic or other artefacts representing prehistoric and later occupation and landuse are present.

The evaluation comprised one component - fieldwalking. The fieldwalking was to take place along north-south lines spaced at 10m intervals based on the National Grid. Material was to be collected from units of 10m intervals along these lines with an average search width of 1m. This approximates to a 10% sample of the surface area of the site. The methodology is comparable with that practised in other regions of central southern England (Richards 1990; Ford 1987a, appendix 1) though the sample fraction here is higher. All pre-19th century artefacts (primarily struck flint and pottery) were to be collected and retained. Dense scatters of brick/tile or burnt flint were to be recorded in the field but only a sample of material was collected from these for dating purposes.

A record was made of conditions which may have influenced recovery rates, such as stoniness of ground, vegetation cover, bright sunlight and which individual walked which line. The topography was also recorded to assist in interpretation of the finds.

## **Results**

### *Collection conditions*

A total area of c. 18ha was fieldwalked by 3 individuals. All of the fieldwalked areas had been ploughed in autumn and left to weather. The whole ground surface was observable. The weather was mostly overcast but with occasional sunny spells. The ground was damp. Low to moderate volumes of gravel were present.

## **Finds**

### *Struck flint* by Steve Ford

In all 141 struck flints were recovered as detailed in Appendix 1 and summarized in Appendix 2, including two pieces of dubious antiquity and one rolled flake which is either of Palaeolithic date or a product of attrition during formation of the gravel. Just two struck flints had been burnt and one was patinated a bluish-white colour. The flint all appears to be of local gravel origin.

The collection comprised 98 flakes, 6 narrow flakes, 17 cores/tested nodules, 9 spalls (pieces less than 20x20mm), 5 scrapers, an awl, a possible core tool and a possible unfinished barbed and tanged arrowhead. Two of the flakes appeared to have been deliberately retouched. The distribution is shown in Figure 2. The flint collection is dominated by broad flakes and whilst narrow flakes (assigned by eye) make up 6% of the collection, these are thought to be no more than a fortuitous by-product of the knapping process (Ford 1987b). None of these pieces are convincing as representing a Mesolithic or early Neolithic component to the collection. It is considered that the collection is largely or wholly of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

There are few items of note. Two of the cores are flakes which have been reflaked to produce further flakes. One 'core' is well flaked in a fashion suggesting that it was intended to become a core tool but does not match any obvious typological description. One thin flake of broadly triangular plan had been invasively retouched so as to form a tang and parts of the barbs of what appears to be a barbed and tanged arrowhead. However, the piece was unfinished and its identification subject to doubt.

### Distribution

Before the recorded distribution of the lithic material can be interpreted in terms of its archaeological significance an assessment of the nature of the use and discard of struck flint and the activity represented by flint scatters is required. In contrast to pottery, which is predominantly used only on occupation sites, struck flint is used, and discarded or lost, on, adjacent to, and away from occupied areas. Procurement of raw materials itself produces further material not necessarily located close to occupied areas, and as for pottery, used flint can end up in middens which are later used to manure arable fields. Durable flint, much of which is not chronologically distinctive, was widely used and discarded during much of prehistory, as settlement patterns and subsistence strategies changed. As such, it should not be surprising that struck flint can be widely distributed across the landscape without marked clustering, or with widespread clusters of higher density material representing repeated use of the same location over many generations (Foley 1981). Coupled to this are taphonomic processes

such as ploughing and colluviation which can lead to the wide dispersal of originally dense and discrete scatters (Yorston *et al.* 1990). There is a further body of evidence to indicate that much early prehistoric occupation is now represented only by scatters of struck flint within the topsoil (Healy 1987). Large quantities of struck flint need not imply the presence of significant numbers of sub-surface features.

For this project, there is a modest presence of struck flint across the whole area fieldwalked but with a marked cluster in the northern field (Fig. 2) in a location overlooking the stream and low-lying areas to the north west. In contrast to the clustered pattern on the terrace(?) edge, few flints are recorded further to the north east and in the second field to the south presumably reflecting off-site or manuring activity in the surrounding landscape. This cluster would appear to represent a focus of occupation activity.

### *Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn*

Some 52 sherds were recovered during the project. The pottery was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of Post-Roman pottery from Essex (Cunningham (1985; Cotter 2000), as follows:

- F97:** Early/Middle Saxon 'Brickearth' fabrics, AD450 – 850.
- F12A:** Medieval Shelly ware, 11th – late 12th C.
- F21:** Orange Sandy ware, 13th – 16th C.
- F21A:** Late Medieval Colchester Ware, 15th – mid 16th C..
- F36:** London ware, mid 12th – 14th C.
- F40:** Red Earthenware, late 15th – 18th C.
- F40A:** Metropolitan Slipware, 17th – 18th C.
- F40C:** Cistercian Ware, late 15th – 17th C
- F45:** English Stoneware, late 17th – 18th C
- F48X:** Miscellaneous 19th/20th C wares.
- R:** All Roman.
- IA:** ?Iron Age.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3 and summarized in Appendix 4

### Distribution by Steve Ford

The 52 pottery sherds recovered were distributed as shown on Figure 3. The collection exhibits a wide date range but the majority (65%) is of Post-medieval date. Twelve sherds were of medieval or early post-medieval date. The single sherds of Iron Age and Early-Middle Saxon date are notable as they are rarely recovered from ploughsoil contexts though it is difficult to interpret the significance of single sherds here. Most Roman pottery is more durable and the relatively few abraded sherds here may indicate that the areas was used as farmland (and manured) rather than being the centre of a settlement complex. The medieval and early post-medieval pottery is also abraded and whilst it forms a modest cluster in the southern field, west of Landthorpe House, is again probably no more significant than representing manuring of farmland around Wennington. It is perhaps

noteworthy that there is no clustering of earlier pottery close to East Hall Farm suggesting that it does not have medieval or earlier origins.

### *Burnt flint and brick/tile*

A very small volume of burnt flint and brick/tile fragments was observed on the site, without any clustering.

## **Conclusion**

The fieldwalking has recovered a moderate volume of artefacts of several periods with struck flint finds representing earlier prehistory and pottery finds representing later prehistory, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and post medieval periods.

For earlier prehistory, a clustered scatter of struck flint suggests the presence of an occupation site of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date in a terrace edge location often favoured for prehistoric settlement. None of the pottery finds seem to be indicative of the presence of occupation complexes, though the source of the sherds of Iron Age and Saxon pottery, which does not survive well in ploughsoil contexts, raises the interest in these finds. The other pottery would appear to represent scatters formed by the manuring of farmland, especially for the medieval and later periods where the land is likely to have been farmed from Wennington.

## **References**

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**APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of Struck Flint**

<i>NGR East (TQ)</i>	<i>NGR North</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Intact Blade</i>	<i>Broken flake</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Other</i>
53480	81160			2				
53480	81140			1				
53600	81200	1						
53510	81180			1(patinated)				
53590	81420			1				
53590	81370			1				
53590	81190	1						
53610	81370			1				
53620	81430						1	
53620	81170			1				
53630	81070			1				
53640	81350			1				
53650	81180							tested nodule
53650	81310					1		
53660	81380	1						
53660	81130						1	
53660	81450							scraper
53670	81380			1				
53670	81390			1				
53670	81430			1				
53670	81460			1				
53670	81470	1		1				
53670	81050			1				
53680	81280			1				
53680	81400	1						
53680	81480	1						
53680	81490			1				
53690	81350						1	
53690	81390	1						
53690	81460			1				
53700	81280			1				
53700	81360			1				
53700	81370							scraper
53700	81420			1				
53700	81380		1					
53700	81480						1	
53710	81460	1						
53710	81480			1				
53710	81490			1				
53710	81500					1		
53720	81290	1						
53720	81500	1						
53720	81510			4				
53720	81530		1					
53720	81490						1	
53730	81240			1				
53730	81330			2				
53730	81370	1						
53730	81440							scraper
53730	81460			1				
53740	81370	1						
53740	81500							core fragment (burnt)

<i>NGR East (TQ)</i>	<i>NGR North</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Intact Blade</i>	<i>Broken flake</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Other</i>
53750	81160	1						
53750	81300			1(ploughstruck?)				
53750	81360			1				
53760	81480			1				
53760	81470			1				
53760	81490	1						
53770	81160	1						
53770	81290							flake core
53770	81490			1				
53770	81500			1				
53770	81520			1				
53770	81530			2				
53770	81540			1				
53770	81550	1						
53780	81500	1						
53780	81540		1		1			
53780	81560							scraper
53790	81250			1				
53790	81410						1	
53790	81520						2	
53790	81530							scraper
53790	81540					1		
53790	81550	1						
53800	81200	1						
53800	81340			1				
53800	81400			1				
53800	81490	1		1				
53800	81510			1				
53800	81520						1	
53800	81540					2		
53810	81270	1						
53820	81250							core tool?
53820	81500			2				
53820	81550			1				
53830	81240			1(burnt)				
53830	81280			1				
53830	81420	1						
53840	81200		1					
53840	81280			1				
53850	81260			1				
53860	81450	1						
53860	81520			1				
53870	81180	1						
53880	81410			1				
53880	81460			1	1			
53880	81490					1		
53880	81500	1						
53890	81530			1				
53890	81540			1(ploughstruck?)				
53890	81580							tested nodule barbed and tanged arrowhead unfinished
53900	81570							
53910	81470			1				
53910	81480			1				
53910	81530					1		tested nodule
53930	81500					1		
53940	81530							flake core

<i>NGR East (TQ)</i>	<i>NGR North</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Intact Blade</i>	<i>Broken flake</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Other</i>
53940	81590							flake (rolled) Palaeolithic?
53940	81610			1				
53940	81690			1				
53950	81500			1				
53970	81480			1				
53970	81640	1						
53970	81660						1	
53980	81500	1		1				
53980	81700						1	
53980	81710							awl
53990	81700			1(retouched)				
54000	81540	1						
54020	81580			1				
54020	81600							flake core
54020	81720	1(ret)						
54030	81610					1		
54040	81560	1						
54040	81720			1				
54120	81520			1				

## APPENDIX 2: Summary of struck flint

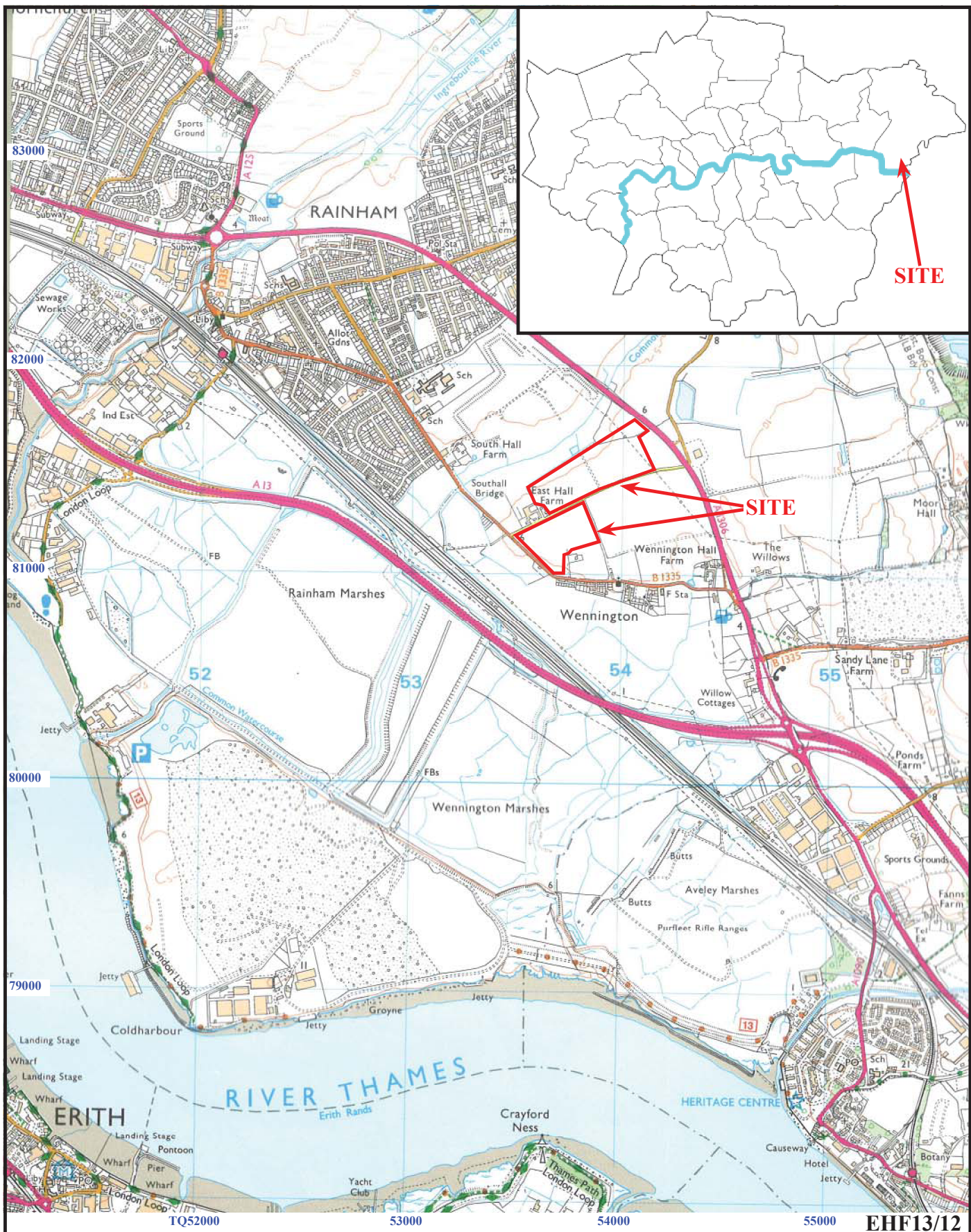
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
Intact flakes	30
Intact narrow flakes	4
Broken flakes	68
Broken narrow flakes	2
Spalls	9
Cores	13
Core fragments	1
Tested Nodules	3
Scrapers	5
Awl	1
Core tool fragment	1
Barbed and tanged arrowhead?	1

### APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Pottery

<i>NGR East (TQ)</i>	<i>NGR North</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>
53580	81160	1	21	48X	Late Post- medieval
53600	81130	1	8	45	Post-medieval
53800	81250	1	6	48X	Late Post- medieval
53610	81100	1	23	40	Post-medieval
53610	81170	1	28	40	Post-medieval
53630	81080	1	7	40	Post-medieval
53630	81240	1	15	40	Post-medieval
53640	81070	1	16	48X	Late Post- medieval
53650	81080	1	2	21	Medieval
53650	81120	1	9	21A	Late/Post Medieval
53650	81120	1	1	40	Post-medieval
53650	81150	1	6	45	Post-medieval
53650	81200	1	6	21A	Late/Post Medieval
53660	81080	1	7	12A	Medieval
53660	81130	1	130	48X	Late Post- medieval
53660	81150	1	20	40	Post-medieval
53660	81210	1	18	48X	Late Post- medieval
53670	81000	1	1	40	Post-medieval
53670	81050	1	9	40C	Late/Post Medieval
53670	81110	1	3	21	Medieval
53670	81180	1	37	40	Post-medieval
53690	81100	1	1	21A	Late/Post Medieval
53690	81100	1	5	45	Post-medieval
53690	81120	1	9	40	Post-medieval
53720	81130	1	2	48X	Late Post- medieval
53730	81180	1	2	R	Roman
53730	81180	1	2	IA	Iron Age
53730	81330	1	17	45	Post-medieval
53760	81190	1	22	48X	Late Post- medieval
53770	81280	1	25	40	Post-medieval
53780	81150	1	7	48X	Late Post- medieval
53780	81210	1	3	21	Medieval
53780	81210	1	5	48X	Late Post- medieval
53810	81310	1	4	R	Roman
53820	81480	1	8	40	Post-medieval
53830	81300	1	2	R	Roman
53840	81170	2	9	48X	Late Post- medieval
53850	81210	1	21	40	Post-medieval
53850	81230	1	27	40	Post-medieval
53860	81440	1	7	48X	Late Post- medieval
53860	81570	1	16	21A	Late/Post Medieval
53880	81440	1	2	12A	Medieval
53880	81440	1	3	R	Roman
53940	81540	1	7	40A	Post-medieval
53950	81510	1	15	21	Medieval
54100	81540	1	4	97	Early/Middle Saxon
53530	81180	2	4	40	Post-medieval
53820	81510	1	1	40	Post-medieval
53850	81430	1	2	36	Medieval
53850	81470	1	20	40	Post-medieval

#### APPENDIX 4: Summary of Pottery by date

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of sherds</i>
Iron Age	1
Roman	4
Saxon	1
Medieval	7
Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval	5
Post Medieval	22
Late Post-medieval (19thC)	12

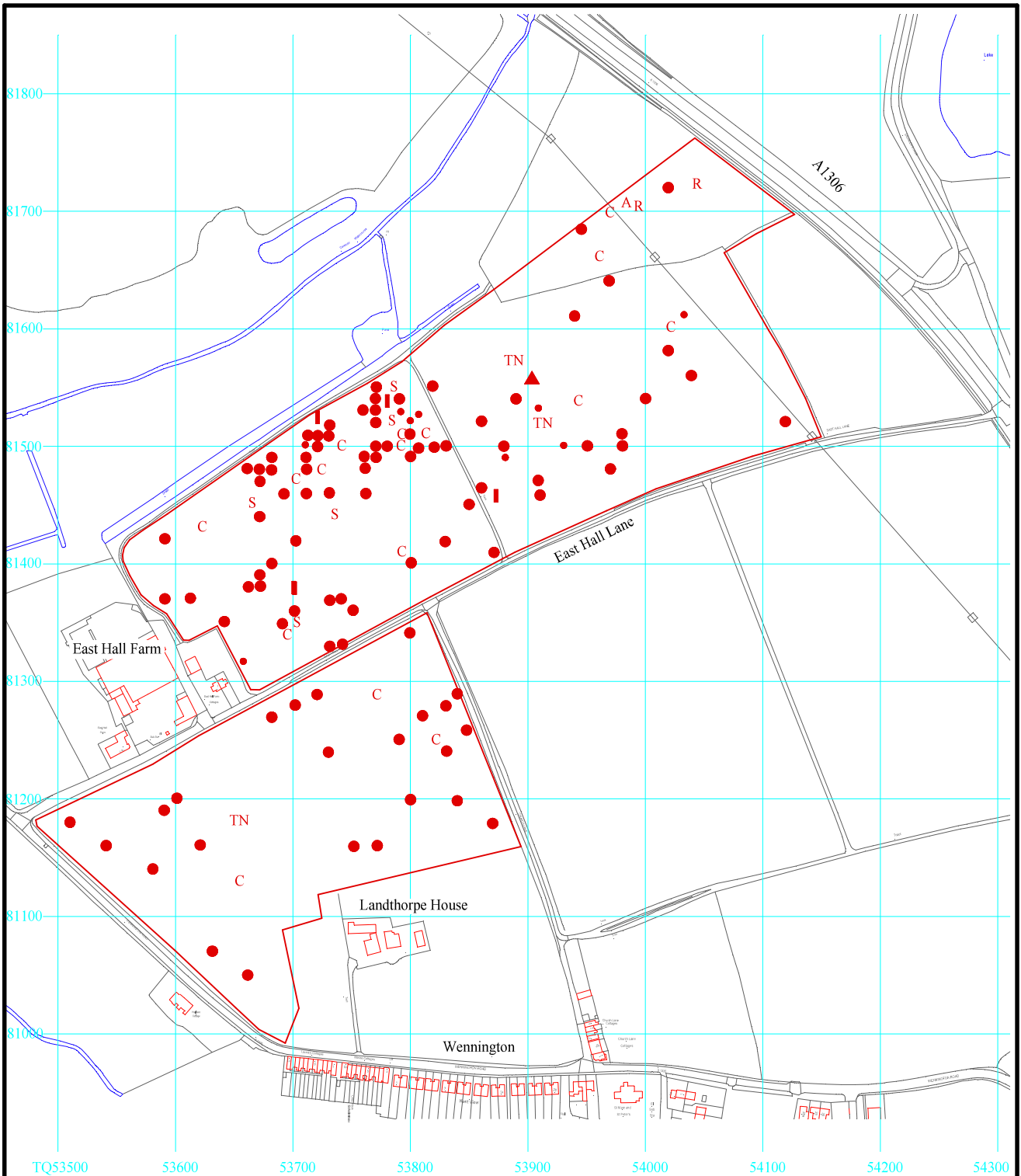


**East Hall Farm, Wennington, Rainham,  
London Borough of Havering, 2013  
Fieldwalking survey**

Figure 1. Location of site within Wennington and London.

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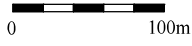
- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| ● Flake          | S Scraper                                  |
| ▭ Narrow flake   | A Awl                                      |
| C Core           | R Retouched flake                          |
| TN Tested nodule | ▲ Barbed and tanged arrowhead (unfinished) |
| ● Spall          |  |

EHF13-12

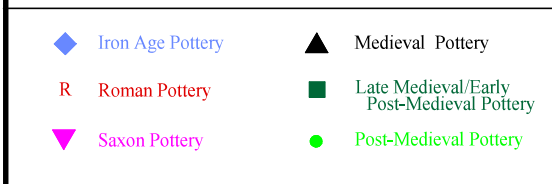
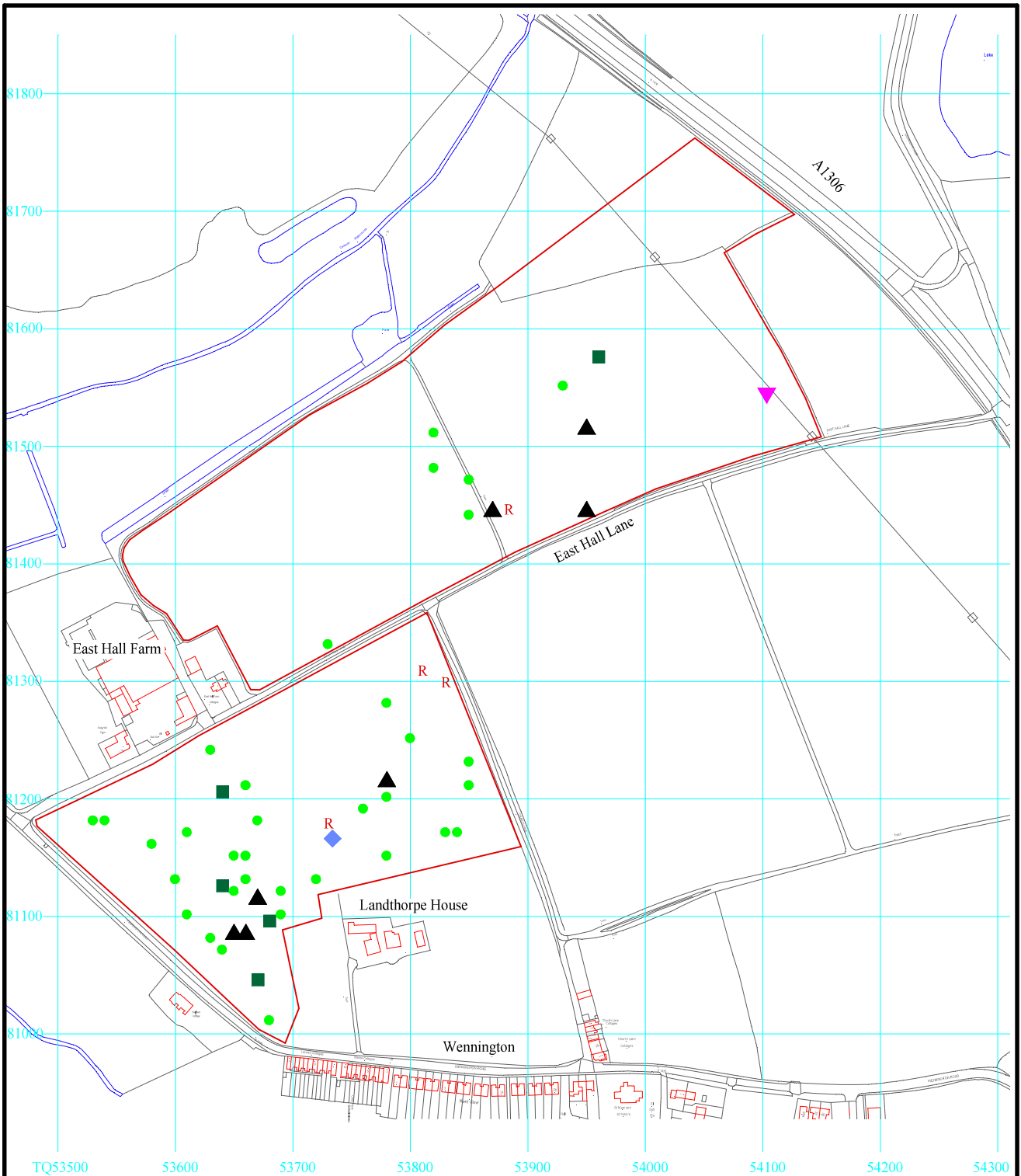


**East Hall Farm, Wennington, Rainham,  
London Borough of Havering  
Archaeological Evaluation**

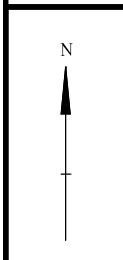
Figure 2. Fieldwalking finds: flint





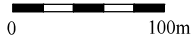


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Archaeological Evaluation**

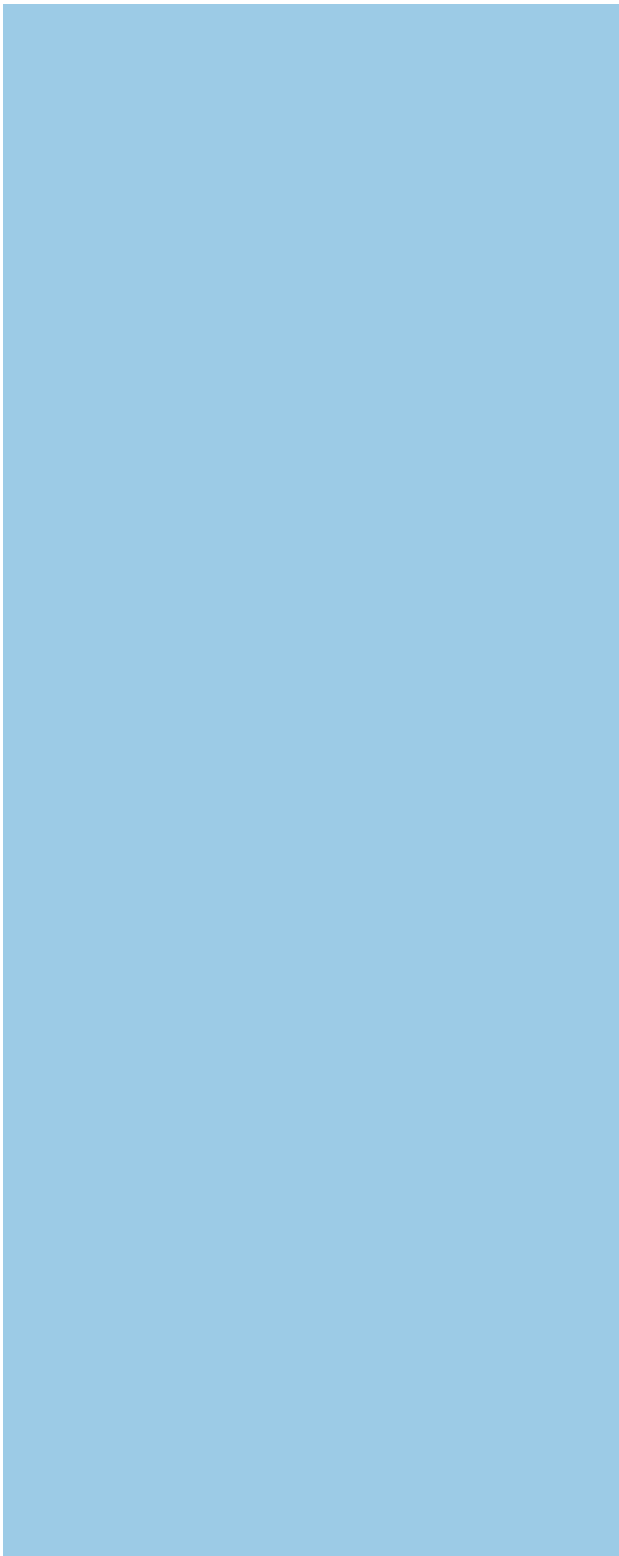
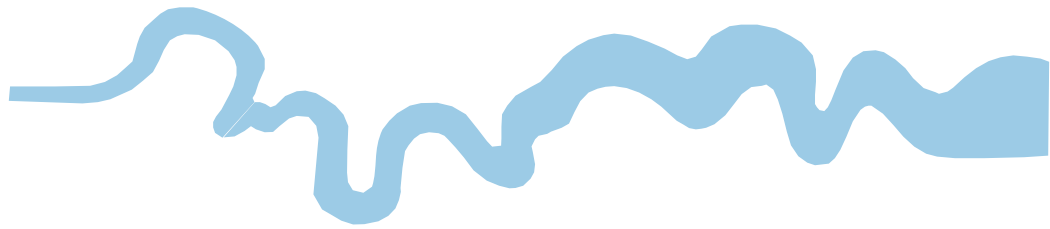
Figure 3. Fieldwalking finds: pottery.



## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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