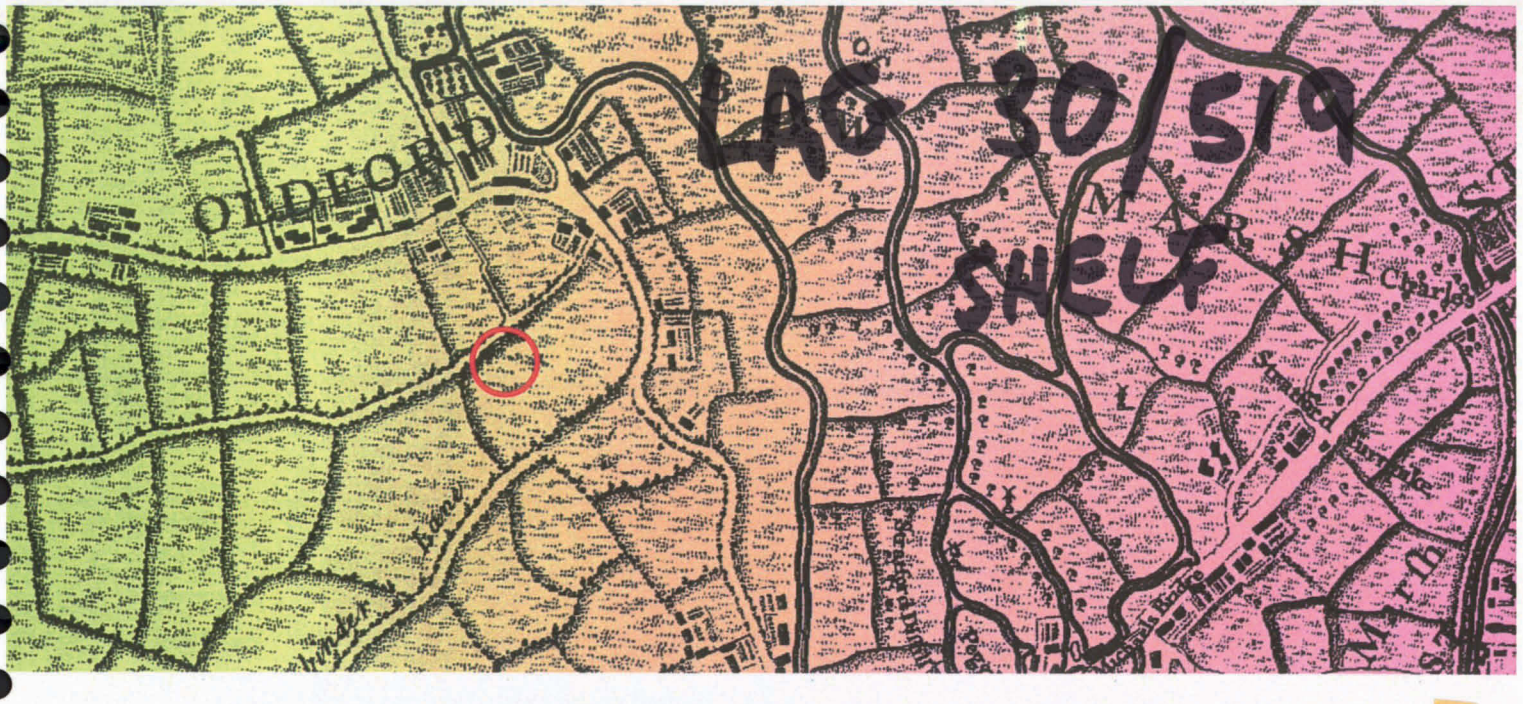

568A ROMAN ROAD
Bow
London
E3

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

An archaeological evaluation report

June 2005

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IFA

MUSEUM OF LONDON
Archaeology Service

568A ROMAN ROAD
Bow
London
E3

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

An archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: ROB05
National Grid Reference: ~~536680 183403~~ 536780 183400

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of 568a Roman Road, London, E3. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Quadrillion Construction on behalf of the client Toynbee Housing Association

Following the recommendations of the brief set by English Heritage (English Heritage, 2003) it was proposed to open two evaluation trenches. One of these was split into two to avoid drains in the area. A total of 3 evaluation trenches were excavated, one inside the existing building (Trench 1), and two in the external area to the south of the current building (Trenches 2 and 3).

Subsequently, following a separate agreement, an additional area (Area A) was excavated to the north of Trench 1, targeting the area of proposed ground beam supports for existing wall and front façade that are to be retained.

The purpose of the trenches was to provide information on the extent of horizontal truncation and the nature and depth of surviving archaeological deposits.

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. Several different phases of Roman land use and occupation within the site can be identified. The earliest is represented by redeposited brickearth and levelling layers, which may relate to gravel quarrying for the construction of the Roman road from London to Colchester. These deposits also contained evidence agricultural land use, presumably as a pasture land for livestock. The second phase relates to construction and subsequent use of a substantial roadside building. The next two phases relate to demolition of the building, changes in land use and boundaries, as well as construction of a gravel alley way or a side road leading to the main Roman Road. The final phases relate to the land being converted back to agricultural use and the establishment of new boundaries, marked by a boundary ditch. The southern end of the site also showed evidence of later land use in the form of post-medieval garden deposits.

In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes that the proposed redevelopment which involves the construction of a 3-storey mixed residential and commercial building with basement, will truncate surviving Roman archaeological structures and deposits.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at the former chapel at 568a Roman Rd, E3, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is bounded to east and west by nos. 568 and 570 Roman Rd and to the rear by an alley leading from Gladstone Place. The OS National Grid Ref. for centre of site is 536780 183403. The level of the concrete slab varied between 12.76 in the interior areas of the existing building and 12.67 OD on land, within the site, to the south of the building. Modern ground level on Roman Road immediately adjacent to the site on is 12.8 OD. The site code is ROB 05.

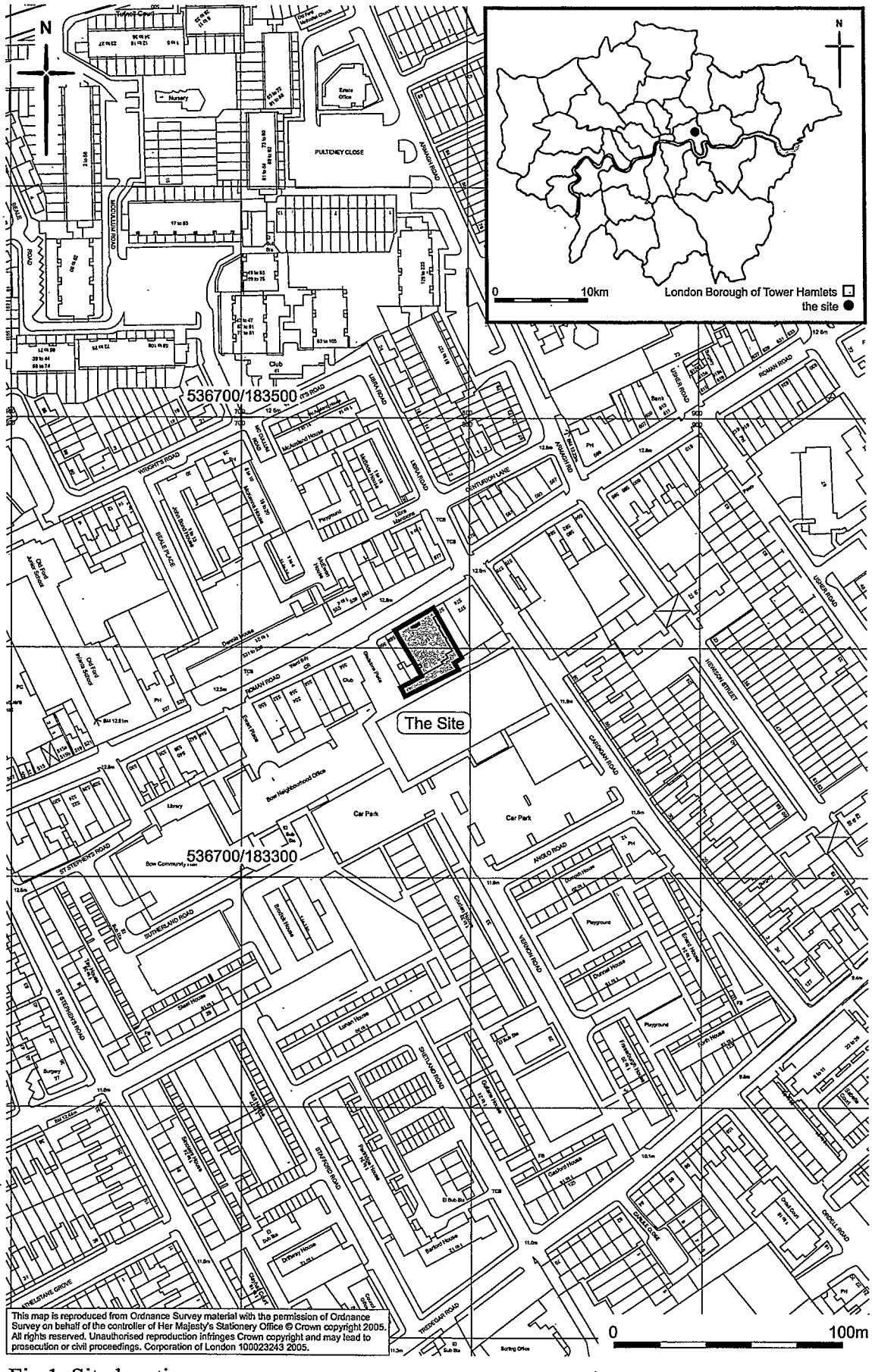

Fig 1 Site location

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement,* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MoLAS, 2005).

1.3 Planning background

This evaluation was carried out in support of a planning application for development on site. Further details on the planning policies relating to archaeology as adopted by The London Borough of Tower Hamlets can be found in the *Method Statement* (Section 1.2).

The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance as defined by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Quadrillion Construction on behalf of the client Toynbee Housing Association and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002

The limited nature of the proposed works and the archaeological evaluation makes it unreasonable to establish many specific archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief was essentially limited to establishing the levels and nature of surviving archaeological deposits. Nevertheless, a few broad site-specific research questions and objectives were outlined in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2). They were compiled with reference to the known history of the area

and with consideration to previous observations. A complete list of research aims and results can be found in Section 4.1 of this report.

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

The local geology consists of brickearth overlying the gravel terraces of the River Thames.

2.2 Prehistoric

There is little evidence for the prehistoric periods in this area of Tower Hamlets. The area was sparsely settled for much of this period, but occasional finds of prehistoric artefacts have been made in the area, notably a Palaeolithic axe, which was found north of the site, in Victoria Park (Fig 2, site 1). A Bronze Age gully and single posthole were identified at Parnell Road (Fig 2, site 6). Single Iron Age coins have also been found at both the Lefevre Walk Estate (Fig 2, site 2, Sheldon 1971), and Victoria Park, and an Iron Age pot was also found in the park.

2.3 Roman

The arrival of the Romans in AD43 brought a significant change in the settlement pattern in the area and a major Roman city, the provincial capital of Londinium (London), was constructed approximately 3km west of the site.

A number of Roman roads led from the east side of the Roman city, towards Camulodunum (Colchester). Recent excavations have established that a Roman settlement existed in the vicinity of Old Ford, straddling one of the Roman roads (Fig 2, Site 2). The road had been constructed during the mid 1st century AD, and was *c* 20m wide. It had two phases of major reconstruction, post early 2nd century and 4th century AD, and was still in use at the end of the 4th century AD. Evidence for the settlement comprised a number of ditches, pits, pebble yards and building material. A tile built kiln was also present. The settlement on this site appears to have been largely restricted to the 4th century.

Another length of the Roman road was found at Appian Road (Fig 2, site 3; Sheldon 1972), along with evidence for Roman structures comprising floor and roof tiles. Further excavations at the junction of Parnell Road and Roman Road (Fig 2, Site 4; Mills 1984) also revealed the road (but no structural remains), along with an assemblage of predominately 2nd century pottery. This suggests that the earlier phase of the settlement was to the east, moving west during the 3rd and 4th centuries

.

Field ditches have been excavated from a variety of sites around Old Ford. At Morville Street (Fig 2, site 5, McIsaac et al 1979), four ditches aligned east to west were found dated to the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Another pair of ditches was at right angles and may have represented the corner of a field. These ditches were not aligned to the road, at least 240m to the north, and this may indicate that they were

aligned relative to a farm to the south or a landscape feature such as the River Lea. Alternatively they may have had pre-Roman origins, although little Iron Age material is known from the area. A single late 3rd/4th century pit was found, indicating that settlement continued despite the lack of boundaries. This may indicate a change to larger fields.

Further excavations in Parnell Road were undertaken in 1974 (Fig 2, site 6, McIsaac *et al* 1979). This site produced evidence for Roman boundary ditches defining enclosures. The enclosures varied in size, being smaller to the south, where they were closer to the Roman road. Many Roman pits (but no evidence for structures) were also found.

In 1990 an excavation was undertaken in an area between Armagh Road and Parnell Road (Fig 2, site 7; Pitt 1990). A number of structural remains were found, forming of the outline of a small post-built building. A later phase of building was also indicated, represented by a large beam-slot filled with charcoal and daub. This was interpreted as a large structure, possibly an open ended barn, fronting on to the road. Further ditches and pits were also present.

A watching brief carried out in 1992, to the rear of 566 Roman Road produced evidence for Roman pitting and gullies in an area thought to have been a yard (Fig 2, site 8, Pitt 1992). Cultivation is also known from further west, as at Driffield Road, where a Roman gully and pit were discovered in 1992 (Fig 2, site 16).

At Usher Road, a group of 19 ditches were laid out on east-west and north-south alignments at a slight angle to the postulated line of the Roman road, 20m to the south (Fig 2, site 9). These were described as being primarily field boundaries. The earliest system was laid out in the mid/late 3rd century AD. It was renewed at least four times, about once every generation, although one north-south ditch was continuously present throughout the occupation. This may represent one uncontested feature within a changing social landscape. 90% of the pits excavated were backfilled in the late 3rd to mid 4th centuries AD. After the mid 4th century AD there was and significantly less activity on site.

The road may have been used for the transportation of food from Essex and East Anglia to the Roman City of London (Londinium). The large amount of cattle bone with evidence of butchering, and the many coins found, suggest that this settlement may have been primarily a market, with the trading of cattle, as well as slaughtering, for sale in Londinium. The field enclosures may have been pasture for cattle prior to trading, and structures such as the 'barn' at site 7 would have been used for the storage of feed or for stabling. As this settlement was only three kilometres from Londinium it would be ideally placed for such activities.

A number of Roman period burials have been recorded in the area of Old Ford. Evidence for a Roman burial ground has been found under Saxon Road (Fig 2, site 10). To date, two sarcophagi, two inhumations, a cremation urn and other grave goods have been discovered. In 1991 on an excavation to the west of Armagh Road, another burial ground was found containing 78 grave cuts (Fig 2, site 11, Pitt 1991). Furthermore, two Roman stone sarcophagi were revealed in 1972 during works by the Metropolitan Water authority on or near to Armagh Road (Fig 2, site 12, Owen *et al*

1973). One sarcophagus contained two inhumations, one of which had been disturbed by the interment of the later one. The grave pit for this sarcophagus cut an earlier grave. These burials are likely to have been part of the cemetery, but isolated Roman burials have also been found in this area, perhaps indicating the presence of family burial plots, a common feature of Roman roadside settlements. For example, four Roman burials were found in 1971 in an area to the east of Parnell Road (Fig 2, site 13, Sheldon 1972).

2.4 Saxon

Little is known of this area during the Saxon period. A small settlement was probably present during this period, on the western side of the River Lea (Fig 2, site 14) and Victoria Park, north of the site, is known to have been a deer park during this period (Fig 2, site 1). It is likely that, in common with much of Tower Hamlets, the land nearby was too low lying and waterlogged, although it is likely that the area was managed for activities such as hunting, fishing and reed cutting. It is likely that the Roman road continued to be used as a thoroughfare until well into the medieval period

2.5 Medieval

The crossing of the River Lea at Old Ford was in use throughout the medieval period, but it's importance diminished during the 12th century, following the construction of a new bridge at Bow. A small hamlet and manor house had developed on the west side of the river by the 14th century (Fig 2, site 14). During the medieval period the settlement again appears to be focused on the road and ford.

2.6 Post-medieval

During the 17th century the area immediately around the site comprised farmland. Archaeological evaluation on Wright's Road revealed that some quarrying also took place during this period (Fig 2, Site 15, Pitt 1994). John Rocque's 1746 map of London shows the site to be comprised fields (see front cover). At the time of Rocque's map, Roman Road was undeveloped. This was in contrast with Old Ford Road to the north, and Bow Road to the south, and reflects the medieval and later changes in transportation routes across the River Lea.

The settlement of Bow developed considerably during the 19th century and the site lies to the north of the centre of Bow, as defined by Bow Road. The opening of the Hertford Union Canal and the construction of railways from the 1840s greatly improved transport links in the area, and Victoria Park was laid out in the first half of the 19th century (Fig 2, Site 1).

The contemporary pattern of roads, railways, houses and factories had been established by the late 19th century. By the time of the first detailed Ordnance Survey map in 1894-96, the entire area had been fully developed.

Table 1: Sites in the vicinity

(To be read in conjunction with Fig 2)

Site No.	Location	NGR	Period	Description	SMR ref
1	Victoria Park	536200 183800	Palaeolithic	Axe	080060
			Iron Age	Coin	080723
			Iron Age	Pot	080954
			Saxon	Deer Park	080908
2	Lefevre Walk	536950 183580	Neolithic	Pits & ditches	-
			Iron Age	Coin	080825
			Roman	Settlement	080862
			Roman	Kiln	08086201
3	Appian Rd	536950 183560	Roman	Road	?
4	Parnell & Roman Rd	536950 183550	Roman	Road	080967
5	Morville St	537150 183200	Roman	Ditches	080823 080824
6	Parnell Rd	536920 183550	Bronze Age	Gully	083500
			Bronze Age	Posthole	083501
			Roman	Ditches	082963 083502 083505
			Roman	Pits	083503 083506
7	Armagh & Parnell Rds	536840 183550	Roman	Postholes (building?)	082966
				Beam slot (building?)	082965
				Pits & ditches	-
8	Roman Rd	536770 183400	Roman	Pits	-
				Gullies	-
9	Usher Rd	536970 183400	Roman	Ditches	080947
10	Saxon Rd	536603 183198	Roman	Sarcophagus	080795
			Roman	Inhumation	080793
			Roman	Sarcophagus	08079301
			Roman	Cremation	08079303
			Roman	Grave goods	08079302
			Roman	Inhumation	080798
11	Armagh Rd	536800 183500	Roman	Burial ground	-
12	Armagh Rd	536760 183610	Roman	2 sarcophagi	080757 080758
13	Parnell Rd	536960 183630	Roman	4 burials	080797
14	Wick Ln	537200 183800	Saxon	Settlement	080925
15	Wright's Rd	536580 183460	Post-med.	Quarry pit	082753
16	Driffield Rd	536270 183390	Post-med.	Cultivation Soil	083124
			Roman	Gully	083122
			Roman	Pit	083123

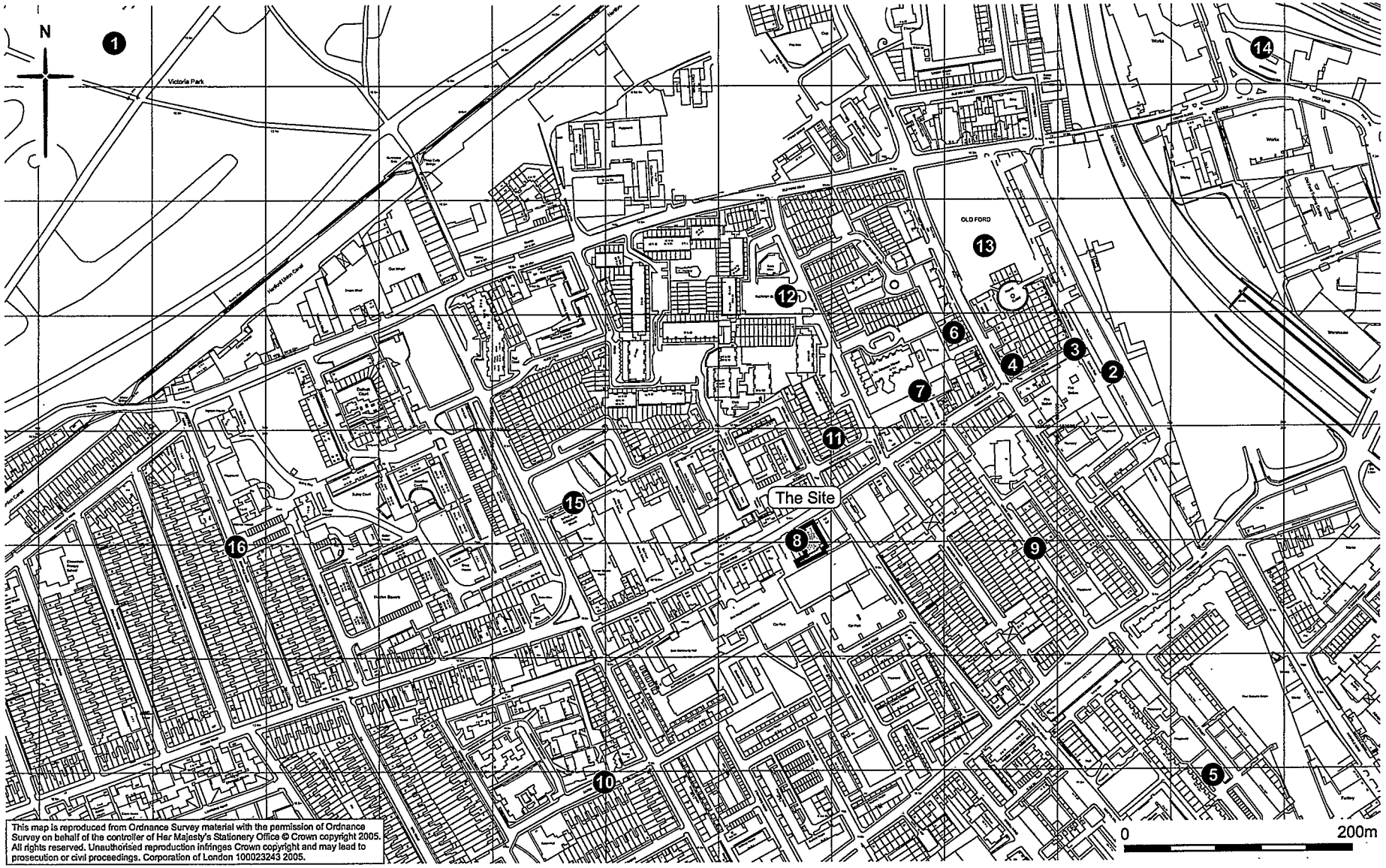

Fig 2 Previous archaeological investigation within the vicinity of the site

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2005), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Three evaluation trenches were excavated (Fig 3). Following a separate agreement, an additional area (Area A) was then excavated. Area A was located within the current building and extended from the northern end of Evaluation Trench 1, in the location of proposed ground beam supports for the existing wall and front façade, to be retained.

The slab was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. The trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors down to the first significant archaeological deposits. Observed archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand.

The locations of the evaluation trenches were recorded by the MoLAS Geomatics team. The location of the additional area was recorded by offsetting from adjacent standing walls. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated in relation to the known height of ground floor slab. The value for the height of the floor slab was provided by Quadrillion Construction. The value was checked against OS survey value in the surrounding area.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; 123 context records; 45 plans at 1:20 and 6 section drawings at 1:10. In addition 3 boxes of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code ROB05 in the MoL archive.

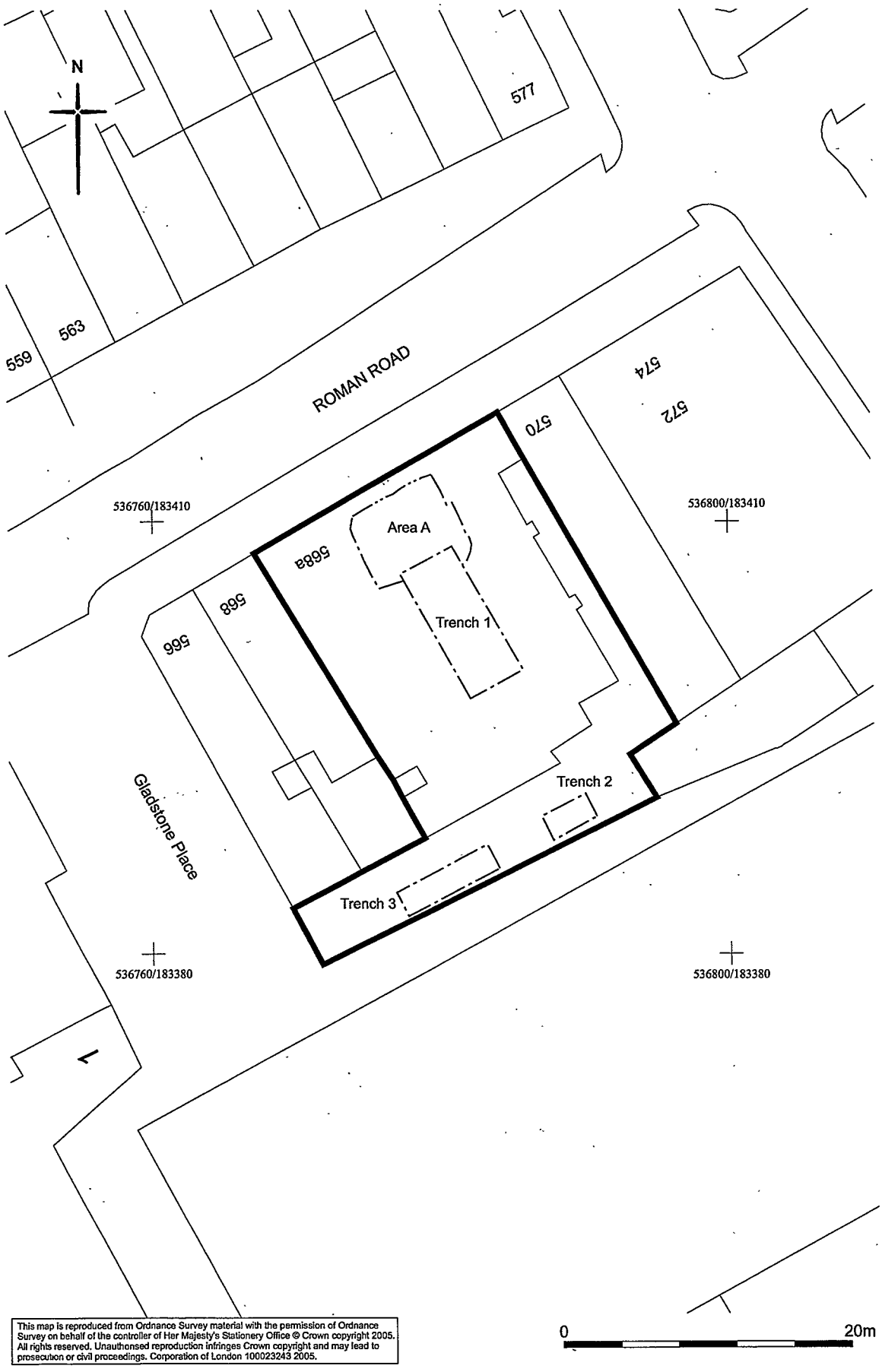

Fig 3 Location of trenches

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see (Fig 3)

Table 2: Evaluation Trench 1

Location	Inside existing building
Dimensions	Approximately 10m by 4m
Modern ground level/top of slab	12.76m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	12.24m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.80-1.05m
Level of base of deposits observed	11.19 m OD
Natural observed	11.47 m OD (S)

Natural deposits in the form of brickearth were encountered in the SW corner of the trench, 1.29m below modern ground level.

The earliest archaeological deposits in Trench 1 consisted of series of levelling dumps [40], [41] and [46]. It is possible that context [41] represents remains of a brickearth surface. Pottery from context [41] has preliminarily been dated to 50-400 AD (Table 6). These deposits were not fully excavated and possibly equate with those excavated at a later date in Area A (contexts [153] and [151]).

A number of features were cut into these levelling deposits. These include a NNW-SSE running ditch [29] (width 1.36m, depth 0.36m). This feature continued across Area A (cut [104], fill [102]). The total exposed length of ditch was approximately 17m. The pottery assemblage from the ditch fill [28] has preliminarily been dated to 270-400 AD (Table 6).

A rubbish pit [26], a singular posthole [31] and a large cut feature, possibly a pit [33] were also cut into the levelling deposits.

A gravel road surface [42], possibly an alley-way running NNW-SSE, was laid on top the levelling deposits. This gravel alley-way was present in Area A [107].

These features and deposits were capped by a built- up of silty 'plough-soil' [6]. A series of postholes and stakeholes ([2], [4], [8], [10], [12], [14], [16], [18] and [20]) were recorded cutting into the plough-soil. These features were encountered 0.52m beneath the ground floor slab and its associated make-up.

Table 3: Evaluation Trench 2

Location	Behind the existing building
Dimensions	Approximately 3.60m by 2.10m
Modern ground level/top of slab	12.67m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	12.27m OD (SW), not reached (NE)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.60m
Level of base of deposits observed	11.37 m OD

Natural observed	11.37 m OD (SW)

Trench 2 revealed natural brickearth deposits approximately 1.30m below modern ground level in the SW corner of the trench. The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of weathered brickearth [38]. A series of dark silty garden soil deposits, [1] and [27], of post-medieval date were deposited over the weathered brickearth. These deposits only survived in the SW corner of the trench; elsewhere they had been completely truncated by construction of a modern underground concrete structure. The subterranean structure was only partially exposed during the evaluation. Its full dimensions are not known but the exposed area measures 1.90m by 1.60m and the level for the top of the concrete is 11.42m OD. It has been suggested that this structure is likely to be a small air raid shelter and date to the Second World War.

Table 4: Evaluation Trench 3

Location	SW, behind the existing building
Dimensions	6.60m by 2.10m
Modern ground level/top of slab	12.67m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	12.35m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.80m
Level of base of deposits observed	11.52 m OD
Natural observed	11.52m OD

Trench 3 revealed natural brickearth deposits approximately 1.15m below modern ground level. The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of weathered brickearth [38]. A dark silty garden soil [27]) was deposited over the weathered brickearth. Two cut features [22] and [24] cut into this. Their fills [21] and [23] respectively contained a mixed assemblage of pottery and possibly date to the 18th/19th century. They represent late post-medieval activity, maybe a garden feature. A dark silty garden soil [1] sealed these features.

Table 5: Area A

Location	Inside of existing building, N/NW of Trench 1
Dimensions	Approximately 7.30m by 7.50m, truncated to north by foundations of the existing building
Modern ground level/top of slab	12.76m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	12.24m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.90m
Level of base of deposits observed	11.30m OD
Natural observed	11.39m OD

Natural brickearth overlying bands of firm dark yellow sand and gravel deposits was encountered at 11.39 OD.

The earliest archaeological deposits observed consisted of substantial levelling dumps [153] and [151]. These deposits contained evidence for root action and vertical shafts

possibly made by Cockchafer larvae. The presence of these shafts indicate that the land was used a pasture for livestock and it is possible that these dumps were deliberately deposited in order to improve the quality of the soil (see Discussion Section 3.3). These levelling deposits were not fully excavated and probably equate to those found in Evaluation Trench 1 (contexts [40], [41] and [46]).

A row of 20 postholes (context numbers [156] to [175]), were cut into the levelling dumps. They followed a linear alignment running SE-NW across the middle of Area A (see Fig 4). The postholes indicate the position of a wall of a substantial structure. A further cluster of postholes ([133], [135], [141], [143] and [145]) was discovered south-east of the row of post holes and may be associated with this structure.

Towards the northern trench edge of Area A, also above the levelling dumps, lay a light beige, brickearth layer [176]. This deposit acted as the make-up layer for a pebbled surface [152] comprising small, evenly laid rounded pebbles. A thin spread of dark grey fine gravel (particle size <7mm) and silt [177], had accumulated over the earlier pebbled surface. This was followed by the deposition of a mortar floor surface [146]. The thickness of this floor varied between 0.10m and 0.20m.

Though there was no stratigraphic relationship between the post hole structures and the surfaces to the north of the Area it is likely that the mortar floor is associated with the structures. It is unclear whether the pebbled surface [152] is associated with the structure, indicating an early floor surface, or whether it predates the building and may have been the remnants of an external surface.

A linear cut [150], possibly a boundary ditch, was recorded south of the row of postholes and respects the same alignment. This feature had been truncated to the west by another linear cut [148], running NNW-SSE at right angle to [150]. Fills [147] of [148] and [149] of [150] produced small number of pottery fabrics (Table 6) that possibly date to the Late Iron Age (100 BC- 100 AD). However, it is more likely that they date to the early first century AD rather than the first century BC.

These features along with the structure were sealed by a series of levelling dumps: a silty sand layer with abundant mortar content [137], sandy mortar in sandy silt matrix [129] and finally slightly sandy silt [131], which extended across Area A (Fig 5). These dumps can be associated with the decline and demolition of the structure, and on the basis of pottery evidence context [137] has preliminarily been dated to 120-160 AD, context [129] to 50-400 AD and context [131] to 120-250 AD (Table 6). Together they indicate deposition sometime during the second century AD.

A cluster of postholes ([116], [118], [120], 122], and [124]) and a solitary beam slot [126] were cut into [131] (Fig 5). Pottery from the fill [125] of the beam slot has been dated to 270-400 AD. In addition a large rectangular pit [139] was encountered in the south western corner of Area. Pottery dated to 270-400 AD was also found in its fill [138] (Table 6).

A silty make-up or levelling layer [114] sealed the postholes.

Over this make-up layer the gravel alley-way [42] earlier encountered in Trench 1 was also recorded running NNW-SSE in the western side of Area A [107]. Pottery associated with the alley-way has preliminarily been dated to 50-400 AD (Table 6).

East of the gravel alley way levelling layers [132] and [130] were recorded. Overlying these were two further gravel surfaces [127] and [128]. These have been interpreted as possible yard surfaces.

The latest features in Area A were NNW-SSW running ditch [104] (same as [29] in Trench 1), circular rubbish pit [106] and large shallow rubbish pit [109]. Their fills [102], [105] and [108] respectively all produced pottery assemblages dated to 270-400 AD (Table 6).

Archaeological deposits were encountered beneath the ground floor slab and its make-up approximately 0.50m below the top of concrete slab.

Table 6:Breakdown of preliminary date ranges by the numbers of key contexts

Context	Earliest Date	Latest date	Fabrics
5	250	400	AHFA, ?NVCC
19	50	400	SAND, UNTIL SPOT-DATED
28	270	400	NVCC, NVCC WPD, OXPA, AHFA
41	50	400	SAND, POSS AHFA AND POSS LATE ROMAN FORM
102	270	400	OXRC, AHFA
105	270	400	OXRC MORT, AHFA/BBS
107	50	400	SAND
108	270	400	OXRC, OXWW MORT, NVWW MORT, AHFA
125	270	400	OXRC, OXWW MORT, ?MHAD, AHFA
127	50	400	SAND UNTIL SPOT-DATED, 1 POSS AHFA (250-400), 2 POSS FMIC (50-120)
129	50	400	Poss MHAD, if so then 200-400
131	120	250	SAMCG, SAND-POSS HWC, If HWC then 120-160
132	50	400	SAND UNTIL SPOT-DATED
137	120	160	HWC AL
138	270	400	?OXRC
147	-100	100	SHELL TEMPERED BEAD-RIMMED JAR
149	-100	400	SMALL SHERDS, POSS LIA

3.3 Discussion of the results

The Evaluation Trenches to the south of the existing building did not reveal much evidence of past activity, other than that associated with Post-Medieval dumps/garden soil.

However, Evaluation Trench 1 and Area A situated nearer Roman Road revealed substantial amounts of Roman activity.

After a preliminary interpretation of the archaeological data recovered from Evaluation Trench 1 and Area A, the sequence of Roman activity found on the site can be broken into five phases.

3.3.1 Phase 1

The earliest phase of Roman occupation consists of deliberate levelling and raising of the ground level (contexts [40], [41], [46] in Evaluation Trench 1 and contexts [153] and [151]), Area A). This dumping could be the results of gravel extraction and quarrying for the construction of the Roman road from London to Colchester. Although such quarries were not found in the site at 568a Roman Road, evidence of extensive gravel quarrying has been encountered elsewhere in the area (for example Pitt 1991). These large dump layers also contained evidence of root action and possible insect burrowing. The Cockchafer beetles found in deposits in Area, lay their eggs in dry, well-drained pastureland and when the larvae hatch they burrow vertically upwards leaving marks in the soil (Pitt 1990). Their presence are an indicator that that the land was used as a pasture for livestock during this phase and that dump layers were deposited in order to improve the soil quality for this purpose.

3.3.2 Phase 2 (Fig 4)

The second phase of Roman activity on the site consists of the construction of a fairly substantial building. The walls seem to have been constructed by driving wooden stakes and posts in to the ground (contexts [156]–[175]). A substantial mortar floor ([146]) that can be associated with the rows of postholes was also discovered. The mortar floor was laid on top of an earlier pebbled surface (152]) possibly representing an earlier floor associated with the same building.

3.3.3 Phase 3 (Fig 5)

A linear ditch/gully ([150]) running roughly E-W was cut right behind a row of postholes associated with the Phase 2 building. The feature was then backfilled with sandy deposits containing mortar inclusions. The ditch/gully could represent a new land boundary. The building seems have fallen out of use and it was subsequently demolished and levelled at this point (layers [129], [131], [137]). The evidence for structures for Phase 3 exists in the form of a cluster of postholes and a solitary beamslot in the southwestern corner of area A.

3.3.4 Phase 4 (Fig 6)

During this phase the ground was levelled again with dump layers ([130], [132]) that contained evidence of root action, indicating the land was used once again as a pasture land or for agricultural purposes. In addition, a gravel alley way or path ([127], [128]) running roughly N–S along with a possible gravel yard surface, were laid on top of the levelling dumps

3.3.5 *Phase 5 (Fig 6)*

The latest sequence of Roman activity on site comprises of a fairly substantial linear ditch ([104], [129]) running roughly NNW-SSE. A series of rubbish pits was located to the west of the ditch. The ditch has initially been interpreted as a boundary ditch dividing the land into new plots.

This phase was followed by built up of 'plough-soil' probably indicating continuous cultivation and agricultural activity on site. A series of stake and postholes were cut in to this deposit in Trench 1, possibly indicating fence lines or a small-scale building. It is yet unclear whether these features represent Roman or later activity on site.

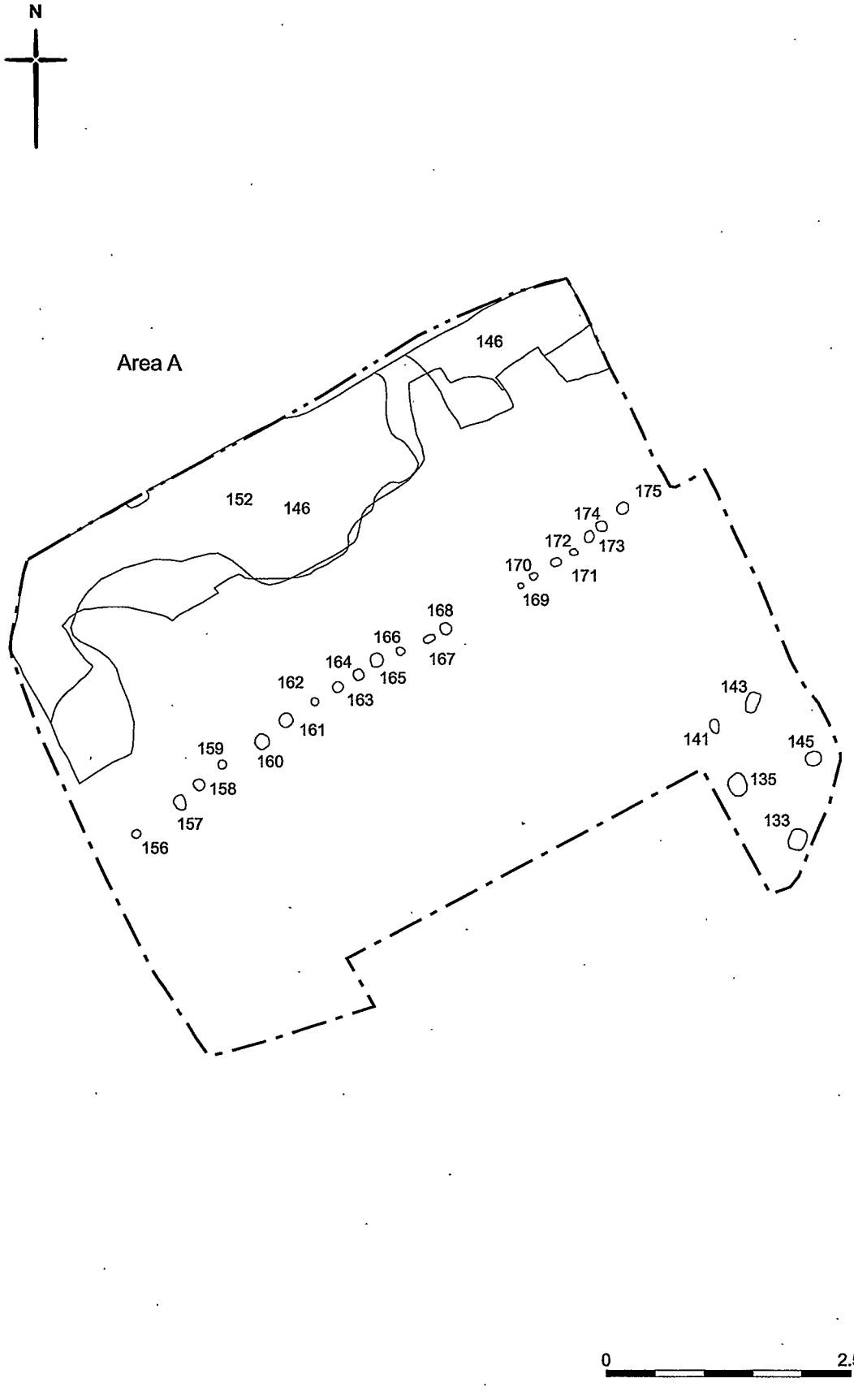

Fig 4 Phase 2 structure

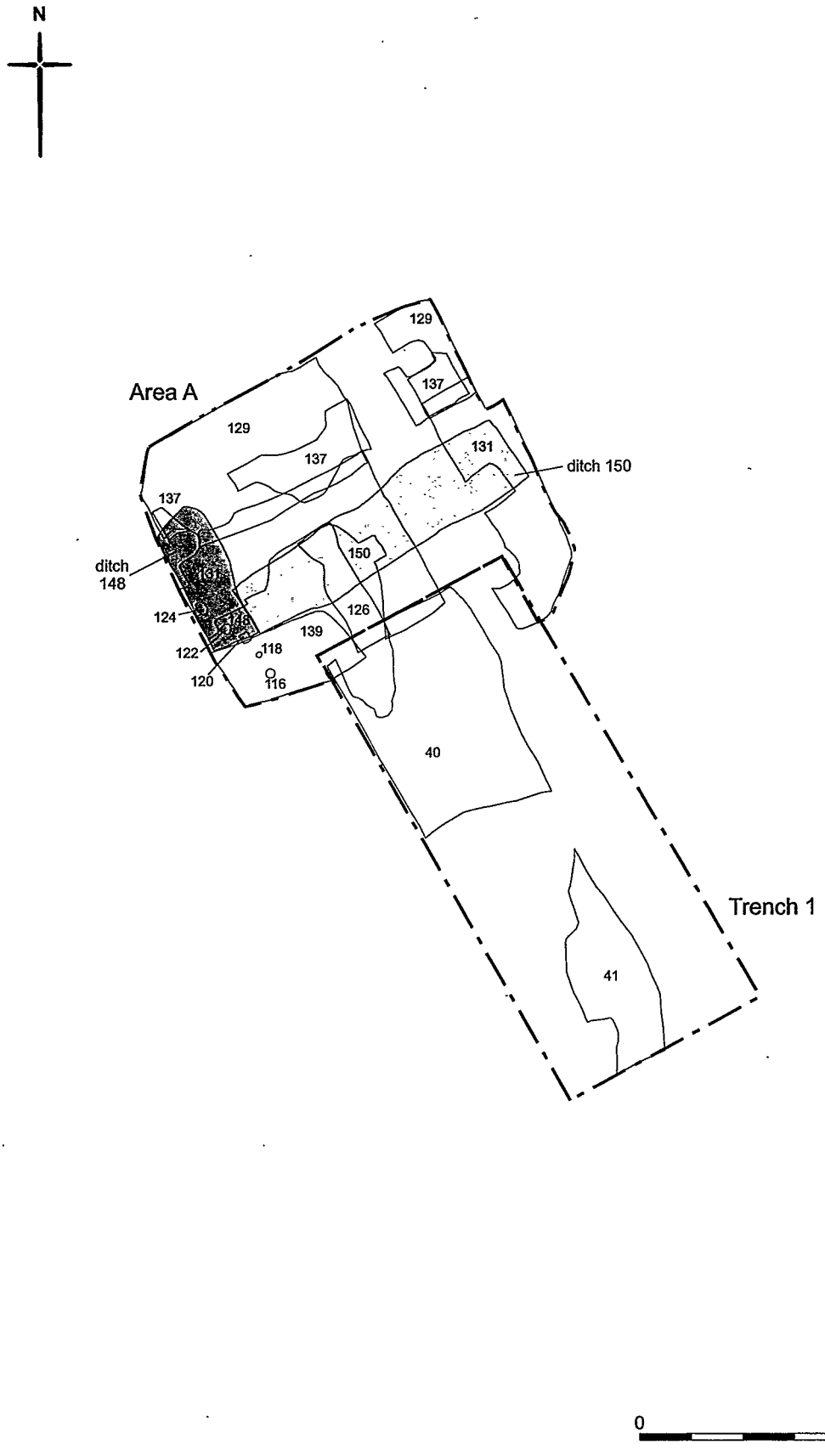

Fig 5 Phase 3 main deposits and features

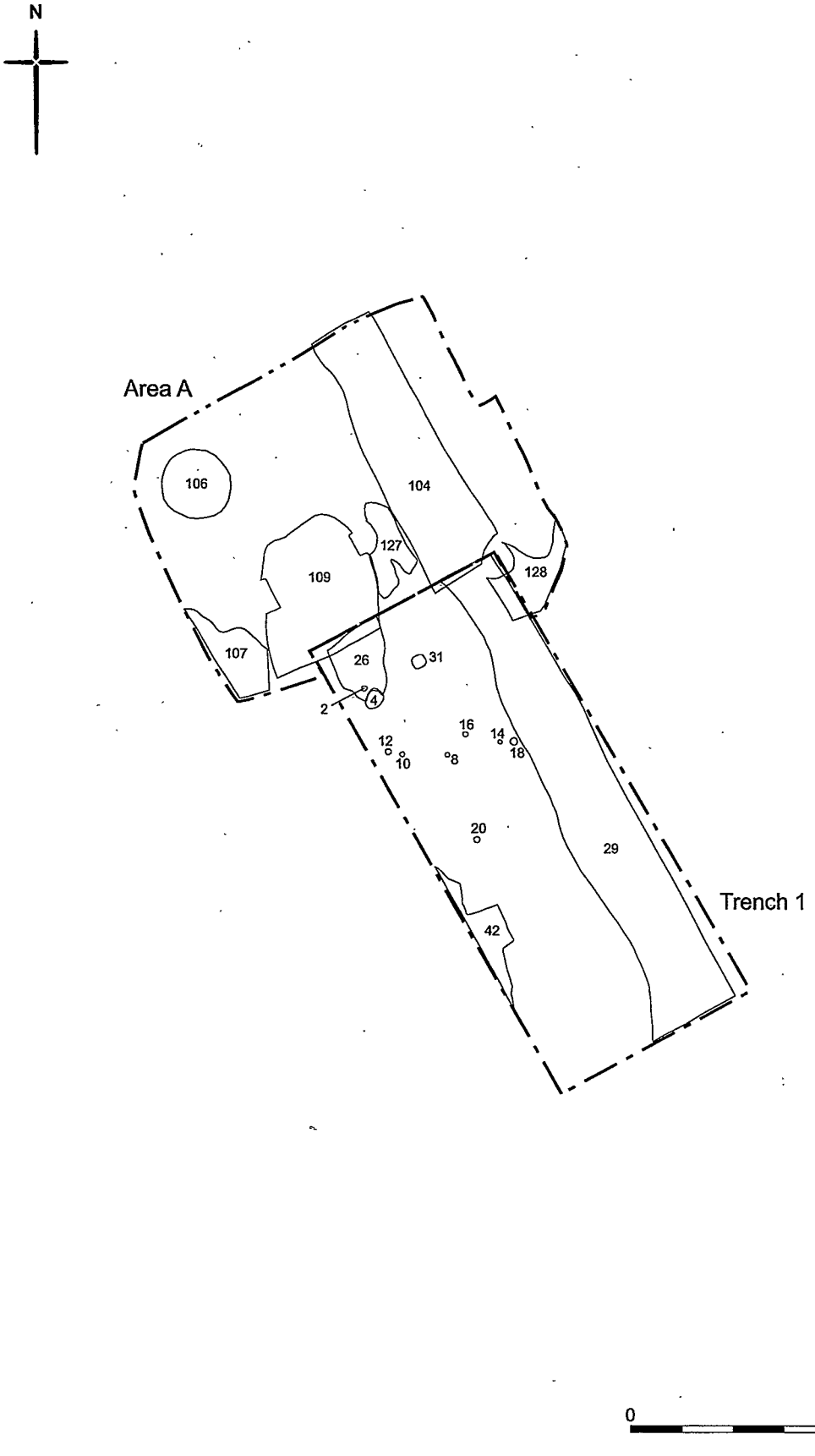

Fig 6 Phases 4 and 5 main deposits and features

3.4 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'.

The three evaluation trenches, along with Area A, represent approximately 20-30 % of the total area of the site. Trenches 2 and 3 at the back of the existing building were excavated to the level of the natural and revealed post-medieval deposit overlaying weathered brickearth deposits. In both Trench 1 and Area A archaeological deposits were encountered at approximately 0.5m below the ground floor slab. Area A was fully excavated and revealed several phases of Roman occupation, including structural elements and horizontal stratification. Trench 1 revealed to phases of late Roman activity on the site. The depth survival suggests that horizontal truncation processes for this area appear to be minimal as little as 0.80m..

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

The following research aims and objectives were outlined in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2). The limited nature of the proposed works hampered the establishment of specific archaeological research objectives. Nevertheless, a few broad site-specific research questions and objectives established. The evaluation was intended to address the following broad research aims:

- *What is the nature and level of natural topography?*

Natural light reddish brown brickearth deposits overlying bands of dark yellow sand and gravel were encountered in all trenches. The height at which natural deposits were observed varied between 11.37m OD in Trench 2 to 11.52m OD in Trench 3.

- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

The earliest deposits identified consisted of deliberate levelling and raising of the ground level in Area A. It is likely that this dumping could be results of gravel extraction and quarrying in surrounding area for the construction of the Roman road from London to Colchester. The levelling and raising of the ground level could have also been carried out in order to improve the land for agricultural purposes.

- *What are the latest deposits identified?*

The latest deposits identified consist of post-medieval garden deposits in Trenches 2 and 3. In addition a subterranean concrete structure probably dating from the Second World War was encountered in Trench 2.

- *Are any remains of Roman date relating to the Old Ford settlement, its cemetery or associated field systems present on the site?*

Trench 1 and Area 2 revealed that several phases of Roman activity relating to the Roman settlement at Old Ford are present on site. Evidence for this activity includes structures, cut features and horizontal stratified deposits. Roman activity on site is further discussed in Section 3.3 of this report. No evidence for the Roman cemetery was encountered during the evaluation

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is high. There is also high potential for survival of Roman and later cut features. However such survival is more

limited in the external areas to the south of the existing building because of extensive post-medieval garden activity. The average depth of archaeological deposits where they do survive is likely to be 0.80-1.05m.

4.3 Significance

Whilst the archaeological remains are of great local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Assessment by EH criteria

The recommendations of the GLAAS 1998 guidelines on *Evaluation reports* suggest that there should be:

'Assessment of results against original expectations (using criteria for assessing national importance of period, relative completeness, condition, rarity and group value) .....' (Guidance Paper V, 4 7)

A set of guidelines was published by the Department of the Environment with criteria by which to measure the importance of individual monuments for possible Scheduling. These criteria are as follows: *Period*; *Rarity*; *Documentation*; *Survival/Condition*; *Fragility/Vulnerability*; *Diversity*; and *Potential*. The guidelines stress that 'these criteria should not...be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case'.[1]

In the following passages the potential archaeological survival described in the initial Assessment document and Section 3.2 above will be assessed against these criteria.

Criterion 1: period
Taken as a whole, archaeology in the Application site is not characteristic of any particular period. The Evaluation indicates that the site was in use during the Roman period, and was again re-occupied in the post-medieval period.

Criterion 2: rarity
Any prehistoric features discovered on the site should be considered of regional rarity. There is nothing to suggest that any of the other likely archaeological deposits are rare either in a national or regional context.

Criterion 3: documentation
There are no surviving documentary records for remains in the area from the Roman period. Whilst there may be considerable contemporary documentation for the later medieval period from *c* 1300 on, it is unlikely that any of this would shed any light on the types of archaeological deposits found on the site.

Criterion 4: group value
None of the likely archaeological deposits are associated with contemporary single Monuments external to the site. The structural remains, as well changes in land use and boundaries, observed on this site most likely relate to the Roman roadside settlement in the area.

Criterion 5: survival/condition

[1] Annex 4, DOE, Planning and Policy Guidance 16, (1990). For detailed definition of the criteria see that document. Reference has also been made to Darvill, Saunders & Startin, (1987); and McGill, (1995)

The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological remains will be horizontally truncated to across the northern area of the site to level at or just below late Roman ground surface. In some areas modern intrusion will have caused truncation to lower levels.

Criterion 6: fragility
Experience from other sites has shown that isolated and exposed blocks of stratigraphy can be vulnerable to damage during construction work. The unstable nature of the soil on site suggests that there may be considerable disturbance to the archaeological deposits. There is however no reason to suggest that the archaeological remains themselves are of a particularly fragile nature.

Criterion 7: diversity
Clearly, taken as a whole, the archaeological deposits which are likely to be found in the site represent a diverse and heterogeneous group of archaeological remains of all types and periods. However, this diversity is in itself the product of a random process of vertical and horizontal truncation and separation. There is no reason to suggest that the diversity *per se* has any particular value which ought to be protected.

Criterion 8: potential
(the term Potential in this context appears to mean that though the nature of the site, usually below-ground resources, cannot be specified precisely, it is possible to document reasons predicting its existence and importance)

There is clearly potential in the archaeological deposits found to contribute to a wider understanding of the area, particularly in the late Iron Age and Roman period.

6 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at the site of the former chapel at 568a Roman Rd involves the partial demolition of the current building (façade to be retained) and the construction of a 3-storey mixed residential and commercial building with basement.. The impact of this on the surviving archaeological deposits will be to truncate any surviving archaeological deposits.

The assessment above (Section 5) does not suggest that preservation *in situ* would be the only appropriate mitigation strategy. MoLAS considers that the remaining archaeological deposits should be excavated archaeologically in advance of any further ground reduction (i.e. preservation by record).

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed within 568a Roman Rd rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

7 Acknowledgements

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9 Appendix A: Roman pottery assessment

Rupert Featherby

9.1 Quantification and assessment

Table 7 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Roman pottery	408 sherds. Total 4.3kg

Table 8 Pottery

Roman pottery	4.3kg	408 sherds

9.1.1 Summary/Introduction

There are 408 sherds of Late Iron age/Roman pottery from 25 contexts, twenty-two are small in size (less than 30 sherds), two are medium (31 to 100 sherds) and one is large (100+ sherds). Four contexts also produced post-Roman pottery. The sherds are generally small to medium sized with a number of sherds being abraded.

9.1.2 *Methodology*

The pottery was spot-dated using standard MoLAS/MoLSS methods. It was quantified by rows, sherds, estimated number of vessels (ENV), estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), and weight and the data entered into the MoLAS/MoLSS Oracle database.

9.1.3 Discussion

Table 9 (below) shows the date ranges for ROB05. Five contexts date to *c* AD 160, two contexts date to the 2nd/3rd centuries, but 12 contexts date to the 4th/5th centuries and 6 contain either unsourced fabrics or single sherds and are therefore less secure for dating purposes.

Table 9 Date range of assemblage

Date of Contexts	Late Date					
Early Date	100	160	200	250	400	Total
-100	3					3
40	1					1
50					6	6
120		1	1	1		3

200					1	1
250					4	4
270					5	5
350					1	1
300					1	1
Total	4	1	1	1	18	25

9.1.4 Fabrics

Imported wares account for only 2.7% of the assemblage by sherd count (see Table 4), which is lower than half the inland City average of 25.8% but is common in late Roman assemblages. Amphora at 1.9%, by sherd count, is more than twice as common than Samian at 0.7%, by sherd count. However, both of these are lower than their respective expected averages with amphorae at 14.3% and samian at 11.5%.

Table 10 Breakdown by fabric origin

Origin	Sherds	%	Weight	%	ENVs	%	EVEs	%
Romano-British	391	95.8%	3964	93.0%	344	95.6%	3.43	96.9%
Imported	11	2.7%	288	6.7%	10	2.8%	0.05	1.4%
Miscellaneous	6	1.5%	11	0.3%	6	1.7%	0.06	1.7%
Total	408	100.0%	4263	100.0%	360	100.0%	3.54	100.0%

Table 11 Breakdown by fabric type

Ware	Sherds	%	ENV	%	EVE	%	Weight	%
Amphora	8	2%	8	2.2%	0	0.0%	269	6.3%
Samian ware	3	0.7%	2	0.6%	0.05	1.4%	19	0.4%
Romano-British fine ware	27	6.6%	27	7.5%	0.26	7.3%	124	2.9%
Black-burnished ware	16	4%	14	3.9%	0.15	4.2%	167	3.9%
Romano-British reduced fine ware	14	3.4%	10	2.8%	0	0.0%	105	2.5%
Reduced ware	274	67.2%	247	68.6%	2.79	78.8%	2680	62.9%
Tempered ware	11	2.7%	11	3.1%	0.07	2.0%	59	1.4%
Oxidised ware	49	12.%	35	9.7%	0.16	4.5%	829	19.4%
Miscellaneous wares	6	1.5%	6	1.7%	0.06	1.7%	11	0.3%
Total	408	100.0%	360	100.0%	3.54	100.0%	4263	100.0%

9.1.4.1 Early fabrics

Fabrics dating to the late Iron age/Early Roman period, i.e. *c* 100BC–AD160 comprised only a small percentage of the assemblage, 3.9% by sherd count. There were no imported early fine wares present. The general lack of pottery dating to this period strongly indicates that there was little Roman activity on this site up to the second century AD. Black burnished ware types are in relatively low proportions in comparison to the rest of the city area, 4% opposed to 9%. Black-burnished ware 2, dating *c* AD 120–250 is in greater proportions by sherd count than black-burnished

ware 1, dating *c* 120–400, 1.4% to 0.6% respectively. When taken in consideration with the general paucity of early Roman fabrics this would suggest that the use of the area was becoming more common from the middle of the second century.

9.1.4.2 Late fabrics

Romano-British late fabrics at 27.2% of the assemblage by sherd count represent the majority of sourced wares. Alice Holt/Farnham ware (AHFA), which is dated *c* AD 250–400, and Oxfordshire wares, dating *c* AD 240–400 are the most common late Roman fabrics by sherd count, 17.9% and 4.7% respectively. Roman late 'calcite-tempered' ware, dating *c* AD 300–400, Nene Valley colour-coated ware, dated *c* AD 150–400, and Portchester 'D' ware, dating *c* AD 350–400, have also been identified.

No imported late Roman fabrics were also identified.

9.1.5 Forms

A relatively standard range of vessels have been identified on ROB05 with jars being the most common at 16.9% by sherd count, bowls were the next most common at 4.4% (see Table 12).

Table 12 Breakdown by form

Form	Sherds	%	ENV	%	EVE	%	Weight	%
Amphora	7	1.7%	7	1.9%	0	0.0%	248	5.8%
Beaker	10	2.5%	9	2.5%	0.33	9.3%	42	1.0%
Bowl	18	4.4%	14	3.9%	0.62	17.5%	232	5.4%
Bowl/Dish	4	1.0%	4	1.1%	0.06	1.7%	64	1.5%
Cup	2	0.5%	1	0.3%	0.05	1.4%	4	0.1%
Dish	5	1.2%	3	0.8%	0.06	1.7%	22	0.5%
Flagon	16	3.9%	2	0.6%	0.15	4.2%	230	5.4%
Flagon/Jar	1	0.2%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	149	3.5%
Jar	69	16.9%	55	15.3%	2.15	60.7%	1168	27.4%
Jar/Beaker	1	0.2%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	14	0.3%
Lid	1	0.2%	1	0.3%	0.12	3.4%	69	1.6%
Mortarium	6	1.5%	6	1.7%	0	0.0%	100	2.3%
Unidentified	268	65.7%	256	71.1%	0	0.0%	1921	45.1%
Total	408	100.0%	360	100.0%	3.54	100.0%	4263	100.0%

9.1.6 Discussion

As noted above the majority of sourced fabrics are late Roman in origin. The great paucity of early Roman fabrics suggests that the area was little used during that period, although there is also evidence of limited late Iron Age activity. This would indicate that the greatest activity took place post AD 250. The relative high quantity of late Roman pottery is unusual in Roman London assemblages and therefore needs to be further investigated. It raises a number of questions, which relate to the development of late Roman London and its surrounding 'landscape'.

9.2 General discussion of potential

Due to its size, the Roman assemblage has limited potential for the refinement of the dating once the spot-date information has been fully integrated with the stratigraphic sequence.

9.3 Significance of the data

9.3.1 International and National

The pottery has little national or international significance as a standalone assemblage

9.3.2 Regional and Local

This assemblage has little significance in understanding the Roman land-use in general of the area itself and would best be served by being considered along with other nearby road sites. However, the late nature of the assemblage is of interest and may expand our understanding of the development of the Late Roman countryside, especially in relationship to Londinium's decline.

9.4 Revised research aims

1) *How does the assemblage from ROB05 compare to other assemblages recovered adjacent to the Roman road in the nearby vicinity?*

2) *What does this assemblage tell us about the late Roman development of the area?*

9.5 Method statements

Task 1. Full integration of spot-date information with stratigraphic sequence on the ORACLE database and checking of discrepancies to finalise phasing. Production of combination reports and interpretation and preparation of dating table.

Task 2. Analysis of pottery by group/land use and writing of contributing text to the chronological narrative

Task 3. Research and write text on the late Roman period in the area in relation to this site with reference to nearby late Roman sites

Task 4. Preparation of figure list using Oracle, the selection, preparation and packaging of pottery for Finds Review

Task 6. Attendance at Finds Review

Task 7. Illustration of two Vessels by Drawing Office

Task 8. Check pencil illustrations

10 Appendix B: Struck/worked flint assessment

Tony Grey

10.1 Quantification and assessment

Table 1: Struck/worked flint quantification

Struck/worked flint	3 pieces

Three pieces of flint were submitted for analysis from two contexts. These are quantified and identified in an accompanying Excel file and in Table 2 below. The struck flint pieces consisted of debitage including two tertiary flakes struck from a blade core from context [28] and one small secondary flake from context [114].
In addition, one piece of burnt flint was recovered from wet sieved context [6].
The raw material represents flint of variable quality in grey with cortex present on one piece.
The technology was blade and flake-based using hard hammer striking.
This small assemblage has no diagnostic material. A Bronze Age date might possibly be suggested.

Table 2: Breakdown of struck/worked flint assemblage

Ctxt	Flakes	Blades, blade-like flakes	Cores, core fragments	Retouched forms	Wt	Comments
28	2					Two tertiary flakes off blade core.
114	1					Small flake.

10.2 Realisation of the original research aims

The assemblage affirms the residual presence of possibly Bronze Age flint within Roman and later contexts.

10.3 General discussion of potential

This small assemblage of struck and worked flint has no potential for further research.

10.4 Significance of the data

Limited significance.

10.5 Revised research aims

None.

11 Appendix C: Clay tobacco pipe assessment

Tony Grey

11.1 Quantification and assessment

Two clay tobacco pipe stems were recovered from context [21]. These cannot be identified by form or dated. They therefore fall within the general date range c1580-1910

11.2 Realisation of the original research aims

No relevance to original research aims

11.3 General discussion of potential

This assemblage has no potential for further research

11.4 Significance of the data

This assemblage is of limited local significance

11.5 Revised research aims

No further work is required on this material.

12 Appendix D: Animal bone assessment

Alan Pipe

12.1 Quantification and assessment

Table 13: Finds and environmental archive general summary

Animal bone	Estimated 164 fragments. Total 0.551 kg.

Table 14: Contents of animal bone archive

	Weight (kg)	No. fragments	No. boxes
Animal bone (hand-collected)	0.540	111	1 archive quality 'shoebox'
Animal bone (wet-sieved)	0.011	53	1 archive quality 'shoebox' (with above)

The animal bone from contexts [5], [25], [102], [108] and [125] was recorded directly onto the MoLAS/MoLSS Oracle 8 animal bone assessment database. The context groups were described in terms of weight (kg), species, carcase-part, fragmentation, preservation, modification, and the recovery of epiphyses, mandibular tooth rows, measurable bones, complete long bones and sub-adult age groups. The assemblage was not recorded as individual fragments or identified to skeletal element. All identifications referred to the MoLSS reference collection. Fragments not identifiable to species level were generally allocated, on the basis of wall thickness, to the approximate categories 'ox-sized' and 'sheep-sized' as appropriate.

A total of 0.540 kg, estimated 111 fragments, of animal bone was recovered by hand-collection from context groups [5], [25], [102], [108] and [125]. An additional 0.011 kg, estimated 53 fragments, of animal bone was wet-sieved from samples [25] {2} and [108] {4}.
The animal bone was in a 'medium' or 'good' state of preservation, generally with insufficient surface damage to degrade tool marks or measurement points, if present. Most fragments were between <25mm and 75mm in greatest length. Much of the animal bone consisted of unidentifiable fragments of 'sheep-sized' and 'ox-sized' longbone. The identifiable bones derived largely from ox *Bos taurus* and sheep/goat *Ovis aries/Capra hircus* with occasional fragments of horse *Equus caballus* head and lower limb from [108], and a single recovery of pig *Sus scrofa* lower limb from [125]. Ox was represented by elements from the head, vertebra, rib, upper limb, lower limb, foot and toe, although no horncores were recovered; sheep/goat was represented by the vertebra, rib, upper limb, lower limb and toe, again with no recovery of horncore.

There was clear evidence for butchery on ox bones from [25], [102] and [125]; and three burnt 'sheep-sized' longbone fragments from [108] {4}, but no further examples of bone modification. There were no measurable or complete bones; and only four epiphyses, with no recovery of mandibular tooth rows. There was a single juvenile sheep/goat lower limb bone from [25] {2}, but no other evidence for sub-adults.

12.2 General discussion of potential

Further analysis of these bones will allow identification of each skeletal element and then interpretation of the butchery marks and the very limited epiphysial fusion data. This will allow some comment on carcase part selection, preparation and disposal, with reference to consumption of beef, mutton and pork.
There is no potential for interpretation of local habitat characteristics.

12.3 Significance of the data

This assemblage has only very limited significance as evidence for the local meat diet. There is no wider significance as a 'stand-alone' assemblage although this group will augment the current dataset for Roman animal bones in Bow.

12.4 Revised research aims

RRA01 What are the characteristics of the local meat diet?

12.5 Method statement

The material should be recorded, as individual bones, directly onto the MoLAS/MoLSS Oracle 8 animal bone post-assessment database, and then analysed as a discrete assemblage with reference to the stratigraphic and finds evidence.

Resource requirements are-

Task 1: Recording onto post-assessment database
Task 2: Preparation of report

Table 15: The animal bones from ROB05/summary

Context	Sample	Wt (kg)	Frags	Pres	LMam	SMam	Fish	Bird	Amph	Mandibles	Measurable	Epiphyses	Complete
5	0	0.005	<25mm	medium	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0.200	25-75mm	medium	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
25	2	0.010	<25mm	poor	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
102	0	0.005	25-75mm	good	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
108	0	0.080	25-75mm	medium	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
108	4	0.001	<25mm	medium	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
125	0	0.250	>75mm	good	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total		**0.551**			**164**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**

Table 16: The animal bones from ROB05/detailed summary

CONTEXT	SAMPLE	SPECIES	PART	AGE	STATE
5	0	ox	head	mature	
25	0	ox	toe	mature	
25	0	ox	upper limb	mature	butchered
25	0	ox-sized	vertebra/rib	mature	
25	0	sheep/goat	toe	mature	
25	0	sheep-sized	vertebra/rib	mature	
25	2	sheep/goat	lower limb	juvenile	
102	0	ox	lower limb	mature	butchered
108	0	ox-sized	vertebra/rib	mature	
108	0	horse	head	mature	
108	0	horse	lower limb	mature	
108	0	sheep/goat	upper limb	mature	
108	4	sheep-sized	longbone		burnt
125	0	ox	head	mature	
125	0	ox	lower limb	mature	
125	0	ox	foot	mature	
125	0	ox	toe	mature	
125	0	ox	upper limb	mature	butchered
125	0	ox-sized	vertebra/rib	mature	butchered
125	0	sheep/goat	lower limb	mature	
125	0	sheep/goat	upper limb	mature	
125	0	pig	lower limb	mature	

13 Appendix E: Assessment of the plant remains in two samples

Kate Roberts

13.1 Quantification and assessment

Table 17: Finds and environmental archive general summary

Bulk soil samples	flots from 6 samples;

Six samples of twenty to thirty litres were taken from ROB05 for environmental analysis. These came from three layers, two pit fills and one ditch fill. All have been provisionally dated as Roman. All samples were processed by flotation, using a Siraf flotation tank, and meshes of 0.25mm and 1.00mm to catch the flot and residues respectively. Both the flots and residues were dried, and the latter sorted for finds and environmental material. The flots were briefly scanned using a low-powered binocular microscope, and the abundance, diversity and general nature of plant macrofossils and any faunal remains were recorded on the MoLAS Oracle database. Table 18, Table 19, Table 20 and Table 21 show the contents of the samples.

13.1.1 Charred remains

Only low levels of charred plant remains were present on this site. The level of preservation was not good, and there was a large degree of fragmentation and surface pitting. Occasional indeterminate cereal grains were present in all of the samples other than that taken from layer (151). A single possible spelt grain (*Triticum spelta*), a typical Roman cereal, was present in pit fill (25). Other charred plant remains included occasional charred seeds. These were marginally more common in the samples from pit fills (108) and (25) and these samples included seeds from plants that could be described as arable weeds, including grasses (Poaceae indet.), vetch/tare/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and a small seeded dock (*Rumex* sp.).

13.1.2 Waterlogged remains

Waterlogged remains were also present in these samples. Some of this material was modern and intrusive, which makes the presence of other non-charred material unreliable.

13.1.3 The invertebrates

None present.

13.2 General discussion of potential

This assemblage has no potential for further research

13.3 Significance of the data

This assemblage is of limited local significance.

13.4 Revised research aims

All information that could be retrieved from this assemblage has been done so at assessment stage. However a brief note should be written in a further report, detailing the plant remains found.

13.5 Method statements

A brief note should be written, describing the plant remains found during the assessment.

Table 18 Organic remains in flots

Abundance 1 = 1–10 items, 2= 11–50, 3 = 50+ items
Diversity 1 = 1–3 items, 2 = 4–7 items, 3 = 7+ items

Context	Sample	Process	Constituent	Abundance	Diversity	Diversity Comment
6	1	F	CHD GRAIN	1	1	INDET (1)
	1	F	CHD SEEDS	1	1	GRASS
	1	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	
	1	F	WLG SEEDS	2	2	STE,FUMOF,RUBFRID,CHE,ATR
25	2	F	CHD GRAIN	1	1	CF.SPELT,INDET (2)
	2	F	CHD SEEDS	1	1	V/L,LARGE GRASS
	2	F	CHD WOOD	3	1	
	2	F	MIN WOOD	1	1	
	2	F	WLG SEEDS	1	1	CAR,STE,CHE
	2	W	BONE LMAM	3	1	MAINLY FRAGS
	2	W	BONE SMAM	1	1	
102	3	F	CHD GRAIN	1	1	CF.INDET (1)
	3	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	
	3	F	WLG ROOTS	1	1	
	3	F	WLG SEEDS	1	1	ATR
108	4	F	CHD GRAIN	1	1	INDET FRAGS (2)
	4	F	CHD SEEDS	1	1	MONFOCHR,GRASS,RUMC/O/S
	4	F	CHD WOOD	3	1	
	4	F	WLG SEEDS	1	1	FUMOF,SAMNI,CHE

	4	W	BONE LMAM	1	1	
146	5	F	CHD GRAIN	1	1	INDET (1)
	5	F	CHD SEEDS	1	1	MALVA,INDET
	5	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	
	5	F	WLG SEEDS	1	1	CHEN
151	6	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	

Table 19 Botanical remains in flots

Abundance 1 = 1–10 items, 2= 11–50, 3 = 50+ items
Diversity 1 = 1–3 items, 2 = 4–7 items, 3 = 7+ items

					CHD Grain	CHD Seeds	CHD Wood	WLG Seed	
Con	Samp No	Proc Vol.	Flot Vol.	Proc	A D	A D	A D	A D	Comments
6	1	3	2	F	1 1	1 1	2 1	2 2	NON CHARRED MATERIAL PROBABLY INTRUSIVE
25	2	3	5	F	1 1	1 1	3 1	1 1	POSSIBLE SPELT WHEAT
102	3	5	5	F	1 1		2 1	1 1	NON CHARRED ARE MODERN
108	4	4	5	F	1 1	1 1	3 1	1 1	GOOD SEEDS
146	5	10	5	F	1 1	1 1	2 1	1 1	GOOD SEEDS
151	6	1	5	F			2 1		POOR

Table 20 Finds found in residues

Context	Sample	Constituent	Proportion
6	1	BFLINT	O
	1	BRK/TIL	O
	1	POT	O
25	2	BRK/TIL	O
	2	CEMENT	O
	2	CLNK	O
	2	FE OBJ	O
	2	MORTAR	O
	2	POT	O
102	3	BRK/TIL	O
	3	POT	O
108	4	BRK/TIL	O
	4	FE OBJ	O
	4	POT	M
146	5	POT	O

Table 21 Processing information

Context	Sample	Res Vol	Bulk Vol	Mesh Size	Flot	Flot Vol	Any left unprocessed?
6	1	3	20	1	Y	2	N
25	2	3	20	1	Y	5	N
102	3	5	30	1	Y	5	N
108	4	4	20	1	Y	5	N
146	5	10	20	1	Y	5	N
151	6	1	20	1	Y	5	N

14 Appendix F: Building Material Assessment

Ian Betts

14.1 Quantification and assessment

Table 22 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Building material	2 crates of ceramic building material (bulk of material discarded after assessment). Total 10.11kg 1 retained shoe box

14.1.1 The building material

Table 23 Building material

Material	**Count**	**Count as % of total**	**Weight (kg)**	**Weight as % of total**
Stone	4	4	0.71	7.0
Daub	12	11	0.25	2.5
Roman ceramic	84	80	9.05	89.5
Medieval ceramic	1	1	0.1	1.0
opus signinum	1	1	1	0.01
Mortar	3	3	3	0.01
Total	105		10.11	

14.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology

All the building material has been recorded using the standard recording forms used by the Museum of London. This has involved fabric analysis undertaken with a x10 binocular microscope. The information on the recording forms has been added to an Oracle database.

14.1.1.2 Roman daub, mortar, opus signinum

There are a few minute flecks of mortar and what appears to be opus signinum (both context [25]) but nothing more can be said.

There are a small number of fragments of fairly sandy brown and orange coloured daub from five contexts ([5], [107], [131], [137], [149]). Most was found with 1st – mid 2nd century pottery suggesting they relate to some sort of early Roman activity. They may have formed part of a clay and timber structure as one ([131]) has part of what appears to be a wooden wattle impression.

14.1.1.3 Roman stone building material

Paving?
The decayed remains of what appears to be stone paving from an important Roman building were found in the fill of a rubbish pit ([108]). The stone is Purbeck marble brought in from Dorset.

Roofing
There are three fragments of fine grained laminated sandstone, at least one (13mm thick) of which was used as roofing ([125]). One other is a weathered pebble (10-13mm thick), but again could originally have been used as roofing material ([108]). The other stone (21mm thick) has a smoothed edge suggesting use as a hone or perhaps as paving ([125]).

14.1.1.4 Roman ceramic building material

14.1.1.4.1 FABRICS

Early Roman fabrics
2454, 3023, 2815 group

Later Roman fabrics
2459B, 2459C near 2459B

14.1.1.4.2 FORMS

Roofing tile
Fabric type: 2459B, 2459C near 2459B, 2815 group, 3023
The majority of Roman ceramic building material comprises tegula and imbrex roofing material.

Flue tile
Fabric type: 2815 group
A solitary combed box-flue tile in fabric 3006 (part of 2815 group) was found in context [28]. This tile, which probably dates to the period AD100–160, must derive from some sort of hypocaust heating system.

Brick
Fabric type: 2454, 2459B, 2815
There are a number of Roman bricks present including a complete pila from the floor of a hypocaust. This is a bessalis measuring 188–190mm square by 32–34mm in thickness. Interestingly, one corner was accidentally damaged before firing, but it was still taken to the kiln to be fired. Presumably, it was used as it would have been out of sight when situated in the floor supports.

Markings on tiles and bricks

Animal and shoe
One tegula from context [105] has a scatter of hob nail marks in the top surface whilst another tegula ([108]) has a faint paw impression.

14.1.1.5 Saxon building material

None

14.1.1.6 Medieval ceramic building material

14.1.1.6.1 FABRICS

Undated fabric

2587

14.1.1.6.2 FORMS

Peg roofing tile

The only post-Roman building material recovered from the site was a peg roofing tile in context [23]. This is probably medieval in date although pottery dated 1580–1800 was found in the same context. It is possible the post-Roman tile and pottery represents later contamination of a Roman context.

14.1.1.7 *Post-medieval building material*

None (but see above).

14.1.1.8 Assessment work outstanding

None

14.2 General discussion of potential

14.2.1 Building material

The ceramic building material present suggests constructional activity during the 1st-mid 2nd century with later activity in the mid 2nd –mid 3rd century. The presence of both a pila brick and combed box flue suggests at least some of the material derives from the demolition or alternation of a masonry structure with hypocaust heating. The Purbeck marble flooring must also derive from a building of some social status.

Other building material probably derives from the various timber roadside buildings found on the site.

Roman buildings dating to the late Roman period are also likely to have been present somewhere close by to account for the presence of sandstone stone roofing, which is generally 4th century in date in the London area.

14.3 Significance of the data

The building material probably relate to both the roadside structures found on the site, which can be linked to the Roman settlement at Old Ford, and from at least one important masonry hypocausted building located somewhere in the vicinity.

The building material is therefore of local significance in helping to define the nature of Roman occupation in the Old Ford area. Its significance will be increased still further if the assemblage is compared to other building material found in the same area.

14.4 Revised research aims

14.4.1 Building material

How does the building material from the site compare with similar assemblages from the same area and what does this say about the nature of Roman building activity in the area?

14.5 Method statements

14.5.1 Building material

Task 1: Compare assemblage to other brick and tile found in the same area

Task 2: The building material assemblage should be compared with the stratigraphical sequence and all available dating evidence

Task 3: Write publication report

Task 4: Editing publication report

14.5.1.1 Work required for illustration/photography

None

15 Appendix G: Accessioned Finds and Slag Assessment

Nicola Powell

15.1 Quantification and assessment

Table 24 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Accessioned finds	20, including 1 stone, 1 bone and 1 glass, 4 copper-alloy, 1 iron, 1 lead and 11 coins (assessed separately)

15.1.1 The accessioned finds

Table 25 Summary of accessioned finds by material and period

Material	Roman	Comment
Copper alloy	4	
Lead	1	
Bone	1	
Iron	1	
Glass	1	
Coin	11	Assessed separately
Quern	1	
Total	**20**	

15.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology

The accessioned finds were recovered during the excavation at 568a Roman Road, Bow, London E3 (ROB05). The finds have been processed in accordance with Museum of London (MoL) standards and the records have been entered onto the Oracle relational database. The iron has been X-rayed (ROB05 – X8631). The accessioned finds have been examined briefly for the assessment and the initial identifications confirmed or revised. The finds have also been examined in the light of the available stratigraphic and dating evidence. A summary of the material is given below, and its significance and potential discussed in terms of understanding the function and development of the site itself.

15.1.1.2 Categories by dating and materials

15.1.1.2.1 ROMAN

Bone

An incomplete bone pin <7> was recovered from context 125, the fill of the beam slot. It is 52.5mm long, with the head lost and tapering regularly to the point.

Stone

Context 25 produced a fragment of rotary quern < 14>.

Glass

A single piece of natural green vessel glass <13> was recovered from context 23. It weighs less than 1g and is too small to ascertain what type of vessel it came from.

Copper-alloy

Objects or parts of objects made of copper-alloy formed the largest group of finds from the site. The head and a small part of the shaft of a ball-headed pin <2> was recovered from context 13. The size and form suggest it may be the head of a hairpin. The remaining three objects are so far unidentified. All are in poor condition and have been subject to radiography. An incomplete object <11> may be the shaft of a pin, nail or stud. As one end appears wedge-shaped, it may possibly be part of a toilet instrument and warrants further investigation. A very corroded rectangular object <17> was recovered from [125], the fill of the beam slot. The x-ray showed rivet holes or decoration, suggesting this may be a decorative box fitting or mount. An irregular, flattened piece of copper-alloy <19> was also recovered from this context.

Lead

Context 41, a levelling dump, produced a large piece of lead waste <20>.

Iron

Levelling dump [41] produced a large piece of plate or strip <16>. As with the copper-alloy objects, this iron object is heavily corroded and in poor condition. It may be part of a larger tool or object.

Other bulk iron objects from the site included a possible hobnail and fragments of nail. All are probably Roman in date.

Slag

Slag, with a total weight of 94g, was recovered from context 102.

15.1.1.3 Functional analysis

The assemblage is too small to attempt any form of functional analysis.

15.1.1.4 Assessment work outstanding

There is no assessment work remaining to be done.

15.1.1.4.1 LIST OF OBJECTS FOR INVESTIGATIVE CONSERVATION AND CLEANING

The following accessioned find should be subject to investigative conservation:

<17> rectangular object (to aid identification and dating).

15.1.1.4.2 LIST OF OBJECTS FOR ILLUSTRATION

The following accessioned finds should be illustrated for publication:

<2> copper-alloy pinhead
<7> bone pin
<17> rectangular object if warranted after investigative conservation

15.2 General discussion of potential

The accessioned finds, slag and iron nails have little potential for interpreting the site. All can be given broad Roman dates and objects such as the copper-alloy pin head can support the dating of contexts, thus indicating Roman activity.

15.3 Significance of the data

The accessioned finds, slag and nails are of local significance only in terms of the site itself.

15.4 Revised research aims

There are no revised research aims for the accessioned finds, slag and nails.

15.5 Method statements

The accessioned finds should be further discussed for any publication of the site.

15.6 Accessioned finds

Further analysis of accession <17> after conservation; further research on unidentified accessions and write up the accessioned finds for inclusion in the site publication: 1 day.

16 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-8739

Project details

Project name	568a Roman Road
Short description of the project	Three evaluation trenches, measuring 10m by 4m, 6.6m by 2.1m and 3.6m by 2.1m were excavated across the site. In addition, Area A was excavated north of the evaluation area. The Evaluation trenches 2 and 3 revealed postmedieval garden deposits overlying weathered brickearth. Trench 1 and Area A reveal archaeological deposits c. 0.5 m below ground floor slab. Several phases of Roman occupation was identified, including horizontal stratification as well as structural elements and cut features. The height at which natural brickearth deposits were observed varied between 11.37m OD and 11.52m OD.
Project dates	Start: 09-05-2005 End: 07-06-2005
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ROB05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	BUILDING Roman
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Roman
Monument type	BACKYARD Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	FLOOR Roman
Monument type	ALLEY Roman

Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Methods & techniques	'Documentary Search','Environmental Sampling','Metal Detectors','Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW 568a Roman Road
Postcode	E3
Study area	250.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 36780 ~~83403~~ 83400 Point
Height OD	Min: 11.00m Max: 11.00m

Bowbing - TQ 3678 8341
TQ 3679 8340
TQ 3678 8339
TQ 3677 8341

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	MoLAS project manager
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	David Lakin
Project supervisor	Johanna Vuolteenaho

Sponsor or funding body	Quadrillion Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal'
Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Digital Archive Exists?	Yes
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey'
Paper Archive Exists?	Yes

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Entered by	Johanna Vuolteenaho (johannav@molas.org.uk)
Entered on	20 June 2005