

site became increasingly waterlain from the late prehistoric/early Roman period onwards.

Archive: P.C.A.

Stratford, PDZ 3, Work package 3 (TQ 3753 8407)

K. Tyler, A. Fairman, P.C.A./M.o.L.A.S.

Two trenches were excavated to the depth of natural gravels where possible. The evaluation identified the possible undulating surface of Lea Valley gravels at c 1.4m–2.3m OD, giving way to Tufa sand at the south. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper layers of the Tufa and from the fill of a possible ditch cut into an alluvial layer immediately above the Tufa. Evidence of possible Late Saxon–early Medieval revetting was observed at the base of the alluvial sequence in the northern part of site. The timbers were sealed by alluvium, cut by an east–west channel and a further revetment made of wattle, presently dated to the early post-medieval period (c 1600). This was again sealed by further alluvial deposits. Further post-medieval revetting was recorded in the southern trench, along with the remains of mooring/rubbing posts and the in situ hull of a late 18th to 19th century clinker built ‘gig’ type small boat. The abandonment of the boat parallels the general abandonment of the associated river channel and formation of a soil horizon nearby. The remains were sealed by substantial depth of made ground.

Archive: P.C.A.

Newham, PDZ 6, Work package 4 (TQ 3792 8522)

K. Tyler, S. Barrowman, P.C.A./M.o.L.A.S.

Natural river terrace gravels were recorded across the site from 1.85m in the west rising to 3.0m OD in the east. A palaeochannel cut the gravels in the east of the site. Alluvial sequences were present across the site, measuring from 0.6m to 1.4m in thickness. This may reflect the site’s location upon what was floodplain, possibly of the historic Leyton River. No archaeological remains were present within the alluvium. A possible 17th–19th century ploughsoil survived across the site, with associated ridge and furrow features. The site was sealed by a considerable depth of made ground/ground raising placed across the site prior to construction of the recently demolished 20th century residential development.

Archive: P.C.A.

Newham, PDZ 10.01 (TQ 3792 8522)

K. Tyler, S. Barrowman, P.C.A./M.o.L.A.S.

Natural river terrace gravels were seen in the trench base from 2.70m to 2.98m OD, cut by an undated east–west ditch at the north end of the trench. The ditch was sealed by 0.4m depth of alluvium supporting a relict topsoil horizon at 3.38m OD. Victorian to modern made ground deposits overlay the topsoil to a depth of c 3.4m.

Archive: P.C.A.

95 Takeley, Priors Green (TL 5726 2154)

A. Robertson, M. Pocock, E.C.C. (F.A.U.)

ECC FAU are currently undertaking the excavation of a c. 3.1ha site, at Priors Green, Takeley, in advance of residential development. The investigation has produced evidence for human activity on the site from the Mesolithic through to the present day, beginning with scattered finds of flint tools, lost or discarded by mobile hunter-gatherer communities who visited the site over 6000 years ago.

Activity increased noticeably during the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, beginning with the clearance of the natural wildwood which covered the site. Features investigated to date include rubbish pits, ditches (no doubt demarcating stock enclosures and paddocks) and a small number of cremation burials, as well as an important series of waterholes or wells along the northern edge of the site. Some three metres deep, these features have so far produced important waterlogged remains including worked timbers, seeds and plant remains, which will provide information about the surrounding landscape, diet, economy and other environmental factors affecting the communities living in the area.

Exploitation of the landscape appears to continue into the Iron Age, with further stock enclosures and field boundaries, although there is evidence to suggest that the soils were becoming exhausted/ denuded, following the deforesting of the site in the Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age, with large quantities of silt washing into the waterholes along the northern edge of the site during this period. In contrast to the earlier periods, there is virtually no evidence for occupation during the Roman period, possibly as a result of the poor soils, and the site appears to have been left to scrub over, becoming woodland again, until cleared once more for agricultural purposes in the late 12th or 13th century. At this time, a small hamlet sprang up to the west of the site, at Jacks Green, and fields and paddocks were laid out at right-angles to Jacks Lane, a medieval track which still forms the southern boundary to the site. The medieval field system passed out of use at an unknown date, but certainly prior to the 1840’s, when map evidence shows that the area had been reorganized into four fields, the boundaries of which survived until grubbed-out in the 20th century.

Previous reports: Havis 2006; Bennett & Havis 2007

96 Takeley, land adjacent to Westwood House (TL 548 211)

M. Pocock, E.C.C. (F.A.U.)

Three evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of a residential development. A series of build-up and levelling layers, consisting primarily of modern rubbish and rubble, capped the topsoil in lower lying areas of the site. A series of features were identified close to the present road frontage with two ditches running parallel to the road. Finds suggest these features are of medieval or early post medieval date and probably comprise plot divisions close to the road.