

London Region

ARCHAEOLOGY

April 2001-March 2002



This Review demonstrates London Region's engagement with the archaeology of Greater London in the year April 2001-March 2002. We hope to show the vast range of archaeology present across London, and the messages it has to give us of how the past has influenced the present.

The Review starts with a summary of the results of significant investigations undertaken in the year as a result of English Heritage advice, follows with a description of the Greater London Archaeology

*Cover picture: An aerial view of the River Thames snaking its way through London
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Advisory Service's work, and features on the role of the Regional Archaeological Science Advisor, the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Survey of the year's Archaeological Finds

Sites large and small have added to our understanding of London's past

The buildings of London's inner city and its suburban sprawl mask varied ancient landscapes, and a lengthy story of human inhabitation

This description of the year's more interesting finds, made by archaeological contractors on sites as a result of GLAAS advice, is set out under thematic headings. (The name in italics is that of the London borough in which the site lies).

Periods and their approximate timescales:

Mesolithic: c12,000 - 4,000 BC
Neolithic: c4,000 - 2,400 BC
Bronze Age: c2,400 - 700 BC
Iron Age: c700 BC - 43 AD
Roman: c43 - 410 AD
Anglo-Saxon: c410 - 1066 AD
Medieval: 1066 - 1485 AD
Post-Medieval: 1485 - Present

Agriculture and Subsistence

Our understanding of the development of the human landscape across Greater London has been enhanced by a wide variety of sites. Investigation of large areas for gravel extraction has revealed broad patterns of land use in east, west, and south London. At Southall Farm, Rainham *Havering* a Neolithic interrupted ditch enclosure defined a special place, which was actively used judging by the significant quantities of pottery and struck flint found there. The

Bronze Age wooden tank at Southall Farm, Rainham (Havering)



place remained important in the Bronze Age when a burnt flint mound covering a wooden 'tank' set in the ground was created. The heated flint thrown into the water would have created a steam bath, the use of which may have been ceremonial.

At Marks Warren Farm *Barking and Dagenham* monitoring in advance of gravel extraction revealed dispersed features including pits, ditches and occasional post holes dating from the Iron Age Roman and Medieval periods. Areas of known archaeological interest were excluded from the extraction area following evaluation in the 1980's. It was also possible to preserve an area containing a channel and extensive burnt mound deposits during the current programme.

In west London the final phase of excavation at the Imperial College Sports Ground, south of Sipson Lane, Sipson *Hillingdon* showed that the prehistoric fields continued to the west, but that two Anglo-Saxon sunken huts had been inserted into the field system, one within a curving ditch - the first sign of Saxon settlement within this large area. Evaluation of the nearby ICBC site at Sipson identified further field systems in one part of the site. At Beddington Lane *Sutton* a lower density of features was found in the ongoing strip, map and sample programme, showing the variable intensity of occupation across these landscapes.

Isolated features, particularly prehistoric ones, can be interpreted in the light of the information gained from these larger sites. Thus a pit containing quantities of Early Iron Age pottery found on the Kentucky Fried Chicken site, High Street, East Ham *Newham* may represent a special feasting event. Such prehistoric finds had not been made in this part of London before. Similarly an Iron Age boundary ditch was an unexpected discovery at Tapestry Court, Mortlake High Street *Richmond upon Thames*.

The origins of the medieval villages founded in this rural landscape, from which our



modern suburban cores developed, are proving harder to find. However at 16 Fairfield Road, Beckenham *Bromley* 3 Anglo-Saxon sunken huts and other features were the first physical evidence for the Saxon origins of the village. At 178 London Road, Mitcham *Merton* the base of a 10-12th century wall of flint and sandstone was found; and medieval rubbish pits at 21 Church Road, Mitcham. The line of the substantial medieval ditch that first defined the property at 1182-1228 High Road, Whetstone *Barnet* does so to this day. Medieval rubbish pits were also found at 14-21 High Street, Hornchurch *Havering*.

Archaeology can trace the evolution of these villages to their present day form. Substantial remains of early post-medieval houses are sometimes found, such as the sequence of 17th and 18th-century cellars at Tapestry Court, Mortlake High Street *Richmond* where the earliest cellar was constructed fronting the High Street, and later ones added to the rear. On The Fulham Island site, Fulham Broadway *Hammersmith and Fulham* ancillary structures such as drains, soakaways and cess pits that served the road frontage properties were investigated. These contained discarded pottery and other artefacts characteristic of the 19th century, giving an idea of the relative wealth and status of the householders in the village of Walham Green.

Urban Origins

Two investigations took place in Roman roadside settlements that did not develop into medieval settlement centres. At Lefevre Walk, Old Ford *Tower Hamlets* the postholes for timber buildings were found, as well as masonry rubble from more substantial buildings discarded in a ditch. Evidence for a medieval building was found there unexpectedly, with artefacts including a crucible, whetstones and London Ware pottery dated c.1180-1270. The evidence for the location of the Roman roadside

settlement of *Sulloniacae* has proved more elusive, but further traces of occupation of some kind at the base of Brockley Hill Road *Barnet* were found on its east side. These included drainage ditches and some pits with artefacts, but no clear evidence for buildings.



A substantial Roman settlement stood at Brentford *Hounslow*, and the site has some claims for continuity of settlement through to the medieval town. The known extent of the Roman settlement has been pushed as far west as 107 London Road, by traces of timber frame buildings dated c.AD 70-200, and a later boundary ditch of c.AD 270-330.

Excavation of the High Street frontage part of the British Waterways Board site at Brentford showed that a Roman ditch ran along the later High Street property boundary and that this was almost certainly



Above left: 16 Fairfield Road, Beckenham, (Bromley) 3 Anglo-Saxon sunken huts and other features were the first physical evidence for the Saxon origins of the village.

Above right: The Fulham Island site, Fulham Broadway (Hammersmith and Fulham)

Lefevre Walk, Old Ford (Tower Hamlets)

107 London Road, Brentford (Hounslow)



Roman roadside ditch at British Waterways Board site, Brentford (Hounslow)

Tudor circular brick bread oven with glazed floor tiles



the north side of the Roman road. This shows that although the road ran north of the modern High Street, it swung down to cross the Brent where the road does today. This may have been marginal land in the Roman period, but it was subdivided by ditches into separate plots, and small cereal drying ovens used in one part of it. Settlement evidence was more substantial in the late medieval and Tudor periods, with a sequence of a tiled hearth and then Tudor circular brick bread oven with glazed floor tiles. Baking was undertaken in close proximity to contemporary tanning pits, and tanning remained a business on the site from Tudor times to the early 20th century. Horn cores removed from cattle skins were discarded in these pits. The street frontage was lined with small houses and shops.

Two small sites yielded Anglo-Saxon remains within the area covered by the middle Saxon

emporium of *Lundenwic* around Covent Garden *Westminster*. Three pits filled with animal bone debris were found at 40-42 King Street, WC2; and at 31 James Street a wood-lined well and pit were located. In addition traces of the first suburban buildings were found at James Street, notably a cesspit containing 17th-century tiles decorated with religious and classical scenes.

A tantalising find of two Roman pits containing fragments of box flue tiles at 6 Skerne Road, Kingston upon Thames *Kingston* points to some form of Roman occupation there. The flue tiles must have derived from a substantial building that was furnished with a heating system- possibly in the vicinity. The origins and development of medieval Kingston upon Thames have been traced at 21-23 London Road, where a Saxo-Norman boundary ditch was first dug. This was replaced by ditches on a different



108-110 The Grove, Stratford (Newham)

6 Skerne Road, Kingston upon Thames (Kingston)



alignment, later covered by a gravelled surface on which lay silt containing late 13th/early 14th-century pottery. A deep pit and a medieval well were also found, as well as an important sequence of pottery kilns (described below).

Another urban plot was investigated at 108-110 The Grove, Stratford *Newham*, the occupation evidence coming from rubbish pits containing medieval, early post-medieval and later finds groups. A particularly unusual assemblage was that of ceramic and glass medicinal wares related to a late 17th and early 18th-century apothecary's shop that once stood on the site.

River and Estuary

Rivers and marshes offer plenty of resources for people who live by a subsistence economy, these areas and their margins have generated much archaeological evidence this year. The A13 follows the marsh edge through east London, improvement works have exposed archaeology at a number of sites in an area where prehistoric wooden trackways have been found in recent years, and where it was hoped to find the settlements that these trackways served. Three main areas of interest were identified during a comprehensive programme of conventional trial trenching and geo-archaeological modeling.

At the Prince Regent Lane junction *Newham* excavations revealed a series of paired oak piles dating from the Middle Bronze Age (C14 dated to Cal BC 1780-1540). Pottery, animal bone and craft waste were recorded from around the timbers and it appears that they are the remains of an elevated timber walkway. Trial trenching further east at Woolwich Manor Way, revealed an important early Neolithic site buried beneath up to 4 metres of alluvium. Alongside pottery, worked flint and animal bone, was one of the largest deposits of burnt grain ever recovered from a site of this date. Changes to the engineering of a proposed flyover ensured that this site was preserved *in situ* beneath the new road. Also at Woolwich Manor Way, excavations on the site of flyover supports revealed a number of timber structures including at least 3 trackways. Spreads of burnt material underlay the trackways and part of a beaker vessel was excavated from the peat. Of particular interest were a



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number of wooden artefacts including a yew hooked peg which is rare or even unique to the Greater London area.

Prince Regent Lane junction (Newham)

The final site on the trip eastwards along the A13 was a large open area investigated at Movers Lane junction *Barking and Dagenham* where important evidence for occupation from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Late Bronze Age periods was recovered. Timber remains dating from the latter period included *(continued page 8)*



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Woolwich Manor Way (Newham)

A Science Advisor's year 2001-2002

Over the year, approximately 80 sites have been advised upon, with many site visits ranging from the Lower Palaeolithic in Stoke Newington to World War I in Rainham.

The role of the London Region archaeological science advisor is to increase the quality and quantity of archaeological science undertaken in London. This is not limited to developer-funded interventions, but any sort of archaeology. In the year 2001-2002, this has ranged from working with the Time Team through monitoring the Rose Theatre's stability to assisting with amateur fieldwork projects. I am here to improve standards, promote research and monitor quality. This tends to be done both in the field, at a desk and at the end of a phone, suggesting mechanisms to get the best out of a project and introducing new forms of analysis as appropriate.

The job is based in the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, in order to give best access to equipment and libraries. This means there is a reciprocal arrangement between English Heritage and UCL, with teaching provided. This year saw the

launch of an MA degree in the Archaeology of London, supported by English Heritage and the Museum of London. The course is intended to promote students' awareness of the archaeology of the city in which they live. Student placements have been arranged in the LAARC, the Museum itself, the GLSMR and also on the Southwark community archaeology project.

Over the year, approximately 80 sites have been advised upon, with many site visits ranging from the Lower Palaeolithic in Stoke Newington to World War I in Rainham. I have also been visiting archaeological contractors to discuss development of scientific procedures, ranging from Bayesian modelling of dating sequences to creating reference collections of animal bones.

Some of the key fieldwork for me this year has involved infrastructure archaeology and the river Thames. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) is

Bronze Age trackway. A13 roadworks (Newham)



currently being built, cutting a swathe through East London. This has involved carefully structured research designs and intense fieldwork, the route goes through the east London marshes and has provided interesting glimpses of the Early Neolithic occupants and ecology of the floodplain.

On an almost parallel course with the CTRL, is the A13, the main artery linking Essex with London. Junction redesign has led to a series of excavations into the prehistory of the area. This is leading to serious rethinking of the archaeological succession here and has provided particularly detailed environmental reconstructions of the area.

The river Thames has played a central role to the people living in London for millennia. It has rich archaeological remains present on the foreshore, but these are being rapidly eroded, and are unprotected in law. It has often fallen to amateur groups to record the remains as they appear, and they undertake this invaluable role with great enthusiasm. One project I assisted with is the sampling and excavation of the Vauxhall Bronze Age structure, filmed by the Time Team. This site is steadily eroding, but is a rare and enigmatic structure, possibly a platform or bridge, possibly used for ritual purposes. The environmental work showed it was actually in an embayment rather than jutting out into the contemporary tidal river.

A contrasting site is that of the Bermondsey foreshore where a Thames mudlarker discovered a human skeleton. The skeleton was already partly incomplete and on the basis of the Neolithic finds adjacent to the body, it was decided to lift the body to salvage what remained so it could be studied. A mixture of amateur, professional and student archaeologists carried this out, and the body has subsequently dated to the early post-medieval period, which goes to underline the problems of digging on the foreshore.

Providing training is an integral part of the job, and indeed is one of the more popular services within the advisory remit. This year, seminars have been held in geoarchaeology, archaeological conservation and bone. These are open to the London archaeological community and are generally attended by a mixture of field staff, specialists and curators. Promoting discussion between archaeologists



Digging on the foreshore, Bermondsey (Southwark)

also comes into the theme of getting information across. To this end, two period-based seminars have been held at UCL this year, on the prehistory of east and west London. This is going to be followed up by a formal conference in September 2002, which will address the question of where to direct research in the coming years.

As well as London-specific issues, there are some areas of research that I am looking into which impinge on the work we do in London. Key to this is the issue of preservation *in situ*. National policy is to preserve archaeological remains of national significance. London has a rather high proportion of such sites, owing to the fantastic archaeological record we have. However, curators must be sure that ground conditions are suitable and this still needs researching. I contribute to a government funded project examining the effect of loading (i.e. placing a large building over a site) on archaeology, as well as looking at the effects of piling. This type of research, along with guidance documents is going to help curators ensure that our archaeology stays intact for the future.

Jane Sidell
Regional Archaeological Science Advisor

I contribute to a government funded project examining the effect of loading on archaeology, as well as looking at the effects of piling.





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Ditch around Iron Age roundhouse at Innova Park, Rammy Marsh, Enfield (Enfield)

two trackways, three stake-built structures and a tree root system used as a platform.

These excavations have revealed the importance of the marshland/gravel terrace margins to the populations of the earlier prehistoric period.

The final phase of excavation took place at Innova Park, Rammy Marsh *Enfield*, beside a former channel of the River Lea, where the structural and eaves drip gullies to an Iron Age roundhouse were revealed. The site continued to be used in the Roman period when a number of riverside and field boundary ditches were dug, although these attempts to defend against flooding ultimately proved futile and the ditches were filled with flood silts. This settlement evidence, taken with the quantities of animal bone from earlier phases of excavation, should produce an important body of information on the prehistory of the River Lea valley.

*Far right: Grand Stores Complex, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich (Greenwich)
Inset: Remains of the mid 19th-century railway plates and turntable, Royal Arsenal*

Saxon finds from the Lea Valley have been made in the Stratford Box of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link *Newham*. These include fragments of a boat's timbers, and also those of a bridge suggesting early attempts to cross the channels of the River Lea there.

The potential of the Wandle Valley to preserve prehistoric evidence was demonstrated at Mill Lane, Carshalton *Sutton*. Pockets of peat containing flint tools and flakes were found, and two truncated pits, one containing a collection of flint nodules and the other a broken antler pick.

Prehistoric cooking pits have been found on the banks of the River Brent at Brentford High Street *Hounslow*. An Anglo-Saxon sunken hut, containing lead loom-weights, was ideally situated on the bank of the Thames at Hammersmith Embankment *Hammersmith & Fulham*.

Modern encroachment onto the Thames has sealed earlier river structures. These are sometimes exposed as at Battersea Wharf, Queenstown Road *Wandsworth*, where an 18th-century brick river wall was revealed at a former ferry landing place, as well as a series of wooden riverbank revetments.

Industry and Industrialisation

Recording of the Royal Arsenal site at Woolwich *Greenwich* continued along the waterfront and in the south-eastern part of the site. Documentary research has shown that a circular stone block footing found previously is that of a Martello Tower, dated to before 1808 but gone by 1810. This is the



© MoLAS

Saxon hut on the bank of the Thames at Hammersmith Embankment (Hammersmith & Fulham)

first such tower to be discovered in London and was probably the first built in Britain. Quick-setting mortar was developed at the Royal Arsenal specifically for the construction of Martello Towers. One edge of Prince Rupert's triangular fort of 1667 has been located thus confirming for the first time where within the site the fort lay.

Remains of the mid 19th-century Boiler House were excavated after partial demolition of the former Completing Shops, Turners Shops and Turnery, the below-ground evidence augmenting that recorded in the standing buildings prior to conversion. Recording was also undertaken of the Grand Stores complex, built 1806-13 during the Napoleonic Wars. This provided enormous storage spaces for the Storekeepers Department supplying the British Army.

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London Pottery Production through the ages

Three potteries were investigated this year. The earliest was a series of early 14th-century kilns at 21-23 London Road, Kingston upon Thames. The first kiln was sub-rectangular, with tile floor and walls, an internal pedestal was formed of two parallel raised tile platforms, and this may have produced tiles. A kiln was then constructed within the existing kiln walls, and this was rebuilt three times each gradually more circular than the last. The latest of the kilns was circular, and had two flues and stokepits at opposite ends. The base of one flue was lined with pitched tiles to protect it from the heat. The rounded kilns are thought to be pottery kilns, and pottery wasters had been found on an adjacent site last year. Archaeo-magnetic dating indicates that the five kilns were constructed between 1375 and 1420, which puts them towards the end of the Kingston pottery industry.



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At 212 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, a large collection of waste potsherds from the Isleworth Pottery were found filling a clay pit in a field once owned by the pottery. These were plain, or decorated with blue-and-white Chinese-style designs and floral patterns. A wide range of porcelain vessel forms were represented in the assemblage, including plates, bowls, saucers, cups, teabowls, teapots, tureens, sauceboats, fish drainers and pickle dishes, and dated to the second half of the 18th century.

The site of the Doulton Pottery kilns in which they produced their stoneware bottles in the late 19th-century was uncovered at 9 Albert Embankment *Lambeth*. Kiln shelves retaining the circular imprints of the bottles had been reused as paving across the site. The combination of kilns, flues, waste products, unfired clay and the historic record make this site particularly important.



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Railway structures including a 1930s turntable at Kings Cross St Pancras (Camden)

We are concerned that the large documentary archive for this nationally important defence production and supply site, currently spread across a number of locations, should be amalgamated, ideally as an on-site local history resource, and we are actively pursuing possible options to this end.

Works in advance of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link - CTRL - at Kings Cross St Pancras Camden have recorded a number of railway structures including a 1930s turntable marked 'L(M)S' - London (Midland) & Scottish Railway.

At Charringtons Wharf, Blackwall *Tower Hamlets* remains of the 17th-century

Blackwall Yard, including wooden docks and slipways have been preserved within the site. A documented 19th-century soap works has been recorded at Ferry Lane, Brentford *Hounslow*, as well as a number of earlier industrial kilns. Building recording of the small scale mid 19th-century workshops at the P&O site, Kings Cross *Islington* included evidence for the industrial processes that took place within them. Price's Candle Factory, York Road *Wandsworth* has been recorded prior to demolition. The premises comprised late 19th-century warehouses and ancillary buildings. On-site processing included the extraction of coconut oil for the manufacture of candles.

Ritual and Religion

Roman burials from the Spitalfields cemetery have been excavated at Providence Row, Gun Street and the Spitalfields excavation site *Tower Hamlets*. The excavation of the medieval Spitalfields hospital cemetery was completed, with some 10,500 individuals now identified there. This led to some challenges in the relative dating and seriation of the burials as well as sampling the assemblage for detailed analysis.

Fronting onto the southern boundary of the medieval cemetery, a range of stone and timber tenement buildings were recorded. Along with earth floors and pitch tiled hearths, a chalk built cellar was discovered which contained a number of gold and copper alloy coins dating from the demolition of the building in the 1530's. Later remains associated with the post dissolution use of the site by the Honourable

Images of Spitalfields (Tower Hamlets): the Roman cemetery at Providence Row, Gun Street. The cellar of a medieval tenement and the Tudor gold coins hidden in it, Steward Street



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been disturbed and moved in advance of the original railway construction. These have been saved and fully recorded. Vestry rebuilding at All Saints Church, West Ham Newham revealed vaults and lead coffins, as well as 17th and 18th-century ledger slabs.

The site of a medieval mill was identified at Merton Priory, the medieval chalk walls were rebuilt in brick in the Tudor period

Archaeology at English Heritage Properties

English Heritage has made a corporate commitment to writing a Conservation Statement - in effect a short Conservation Plan - for every one of our historic properties. In our view they are an essential tool in the management of any significant historic site. Draft Conservation Statements were prepared by Dr. Michael Turner for Eltham Palace, and by Dr. Steven Brindle for the Roman Wall at Tower Hill; the Westminster Abbey Chapter House; the Jewel Tower at Westminster; the Wellington Arch; and Winchester Palace.



© RLE/Union Railways

Recording grave slabs near St Pancras Old Church (Camden)

Artillery Company were also recorded including evidence of a covered walkway.

Part of Merton Priory has been subject to evaluation to assess the potential impact of a proposed redevelopment. In the scheduled area the ground had been heavily disturbed by the digging of calico trenches in the 18th century. Medieval masonry was found to have been reused in the construction of the late 19th-century railway sidings. To the south west, medieval wall footings had been robbed in the 17th century, although a crushed greensand floor survived. The site of a medieval mill was identified, the medieval chalk walls were rebuilt in brick in the Tudor period. Further medieval Reigate stone masonry had been re-used to line the mill race. Subsequently the mills were developed for calico production and substantial remains of the early 19th-century mills survived.

This year, the gardens at Down House, Bromley were examined for traces of the garden layout as it was towards the end of Charles Darwin's life. Masonry repairs to Winchester Palace and London Wall are described in the Ancient Monument Casework report.

The gardens at Downe House (Bromley)

A combination of investigation techniques, including documentary, aerial photograph analysis, building recording, remote sensing and trial trenching, have been applied to Syon House and grounds Hounslow, to try to locate remains of the late 15th-century Bridgettine Priory and to inform the Conservation Management Plan. Traces of walls have been detected close to the house, and a trench dug to the north west found a layer of crushed Reigate stone, possibly a floor or masons' working area.

CTRL works near St Pancras Old Church Camden have uncovered grave slabs that had

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GLAAS Annual Review

The range of work conducted in the past year

The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service provides archaeological advice to local authority planners, developers and their agents, and local people, for 31 London boroughs, and maintains the Sites and Monuments Record for the whole of Greater London

General Review of the Year

A major event for London's archaeology this year was the opening of the Museum of London's *London Archaeology Archive Research Centre* (LAARC) at their Eagle Wharf Road, N1 premises. English Heritage contributed to the Centre and greatly welcome its inauguration. It provides an active and open museum store, archive and study centre that should facilitate and encourage research into London's past. We are working with the LAARC to create the 'London Past Places' project to which we will contribute the GLSMR data.

The formation of the London Archaeology Forum is an opportunity for local archaeological societies, local authority representatives, and professional archaeologists, to meet to report on work across Greater London and to discuss issues of common interest.

During the year television has taken an interest in London's archaeology. Time Team filmed and broadcast a programme on the Bronze Age timbers at Vauxhall that must have supported a platform jutting into the Thames, and beside which two palstave axeheads had been placed. Optomen TV prepared for and filmed a programme on the Battle of Barnet for a series to be titled 'Two Men in a Trench', enlisting the help of local historians, archaeologists and metal detectorists to investigate the site, as well as Dr. Hooper to date hedgerows by their species.

The English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme, which assesses the range of monuments worthy of scheduling across the country, has reached London. A list of sites compiled some time ago has been updated from the GLSMR, by Christian Biggie of University of Oxford, and this will be assessed and scored for relative importance. The list will then be circulated for comment, and recommendations made for scheduling sites that meet the criteria of national importance.

GLAAS issued Quarterly Reviews through the year and improved the presentation and content. Team members have spoken at the SCOLA PPG 16 Conference, addressed the Institute of Legal Executives' National Conference, and provided CPD training sessions to local planning authorities. Contributions have been made to the University College London 'Archaeology of London' MA course, and the Birkbeck College Extra-Mural archaeology studies course.

The team has maintained liaison with the Environment Agency, and participated in Thames Estuary archaeology meetings and Flood Defence planning seminars. We contributed to the CBA mid-Anglia Committee; the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Archaeology Committees; the Standing Committee on London's Archaeology; and established liaison with the Diocesan Archaeology Advisors that cover Greater London, in conjunction with the Council for the Care of Churches.

GLAAS Casework

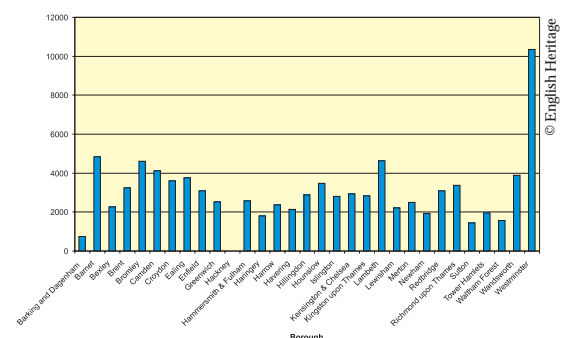
The GLAAS Team's advice is given in the context of DTLR Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 & 16, and other national policies, as well as those in the London boroughs' Unitary Development Plans. These stress the need for early assessment, and as a result the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record and the Archaeology Advisors are regularly consulted by applicants and their agents on the archaeological implications of proposed redevelopment in advance of

Time Team at Vauxhall. Bronze Age timbers investigated on the Thames



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Total No. of Planning Applications in 2001/2 Financial Year



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planning applications being made. National agencies and local planning authorities also consult us when compiling Masterplans and other strategic planning documents.

Once a planning application is made adequate information must be sought by local planning authorities to enable them to make a Pre-determination Assessment of a site's archaeological potential and the impact of any proposed development. To this end local authorities consult GLAAS on the implications of certain applications. In addition the GLAAS Team search planning lists to identify applications with archaeological implications, based on the information contained in the Sites and Monuments Record. The team scanned approximately 93,000 planning applications this year (the L.B.Hackney figures are not available), this compares with some 84,000 applications last year. Nearly one fifth of all planning applications in England. Despite this increase, the number of applications appraised for their archaeological potential fell slightly to c.3,000, but the number of these applications on which advice was given to local authorities remained constant at c.1,000.

212 evaluations secured by placing a condition on planning consent.

Once the impact of a planning application has been assessed, the planning authority is in a position to make a decision, either to ensure the preservation of archaeology *in situ*, or to secure its full excavation - so that a record of what will be destroyed by construction can be preserved for future generations. These measures are usually secured by appropriate planning conditions. This year some 24 significant excavations took place, as well as smaller scale investigations, and many are described above. In addition monitoring of ground works during construction was recommended for 85 applications, because the degree of ground disturbance did not merit advance excavation.

GLAAS has established guidelines for archaeology in Greater London, and we set briefs and advise local authorities on schemes of works submitted to them to ensure the guidelines are met. Archaeological fieldwork is monitored, and projects tracked so that they are adequately reported on. All significant fieldwork should be assessed, and the salient results fully published and disseminated. We encourage accessible communication of investigations and their results, and this is leading to a number of outreach activities, local exhibitions and popular publications.

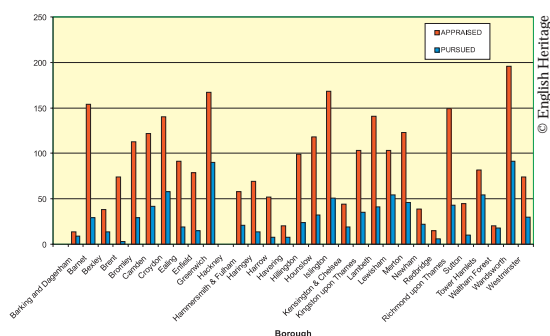
The GLAAS Team

The GLAAS Team has been through a number of personnel changes in the year. Jez Reeve left to be Head of Social Inclusion and Diversity for English Heritage, and Robert Whytehead was promoted to head the team, with the title Regional Archaeologist. Kim Stabler has taken over as Archaeology Advisor to the north and west London boroughs. Paul Charlton departed the GLSMR, after 6 years service. Barry Taylor was appointed GLSMR Manager, and Marcela Olmedo SMR Assistant. Marcela has subsequently taken maternity leave, and Hanna Steyne stepped in to provide cover. Petra Malina, our Caseworker, departed at the beginning of the year, and was replaced by Lidia Szaflarska.

The rest of the team are Catherine Cavanagh, Archaeology Advisor to the Inner London boroughs; Mark Stevenson, Archaeology Advisor to the south London boroughs; and Nick Truckle Archaeology Advisor to the East London boroughs.

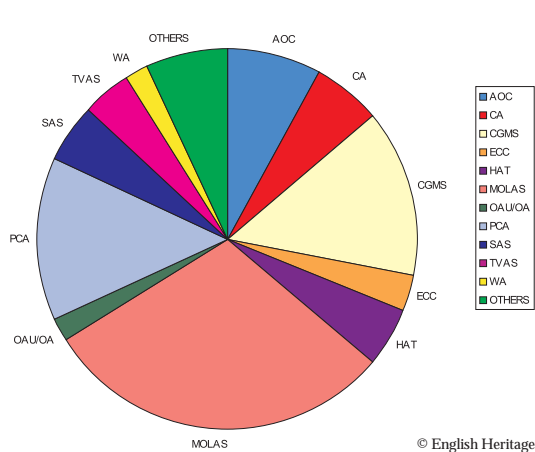
The GLAAS Team are based in Room G01 at English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1S 2ET; Telephone: 020-7973-3735.

Planning Statistics 2001/2002



Over the year it was recommended that some 100 applications should be supported by desk-based assessments of the archaeological potential of a site and/or of the standing buildings on it. Where necessary an application may have to be supported by the evidence from field evaluation of the site, to assess the presence and relative importance of any archaeology there. PPG 16 advises that field evaluation should be done pre-determination, but this often proves difficult to secure, for a variety of reasons. Some 23 pre-determination evaluations were recommended last year, this contrasts with

Total No. of Reports of All Types by Archaeological Organisation



GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS FOR ORGANISATIONS:

- AOC: AOC Archaeology
- CA: Compass Archaeology
- CGMS: CGMS Archaeology
- ECC: Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group
- HAT: Herts Archaeological Trust
- MOLAS: Museum of London Archaeology Service
- OAL/OA: Oxford Archaeology
- PCA: Pre-Construct Archaeology
- SAS: Sutton Archaeological Services
- TVAS: Thames Valley Archaeological Services
- WA: Wessex Archaeology

OTHERS INCLUDE:

- Acanthus Lawrence & Wrightson Architects
- Ove Arup & Partners International Ltd
- Alan Wyatt Architects
- Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd
- C G Archaeology
- Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society
- Foundations Archaeology
- Framework Archaeology
- Gifford & Partners
- John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
- L-P Archaeology
- Orpington & District Archaeological Society
- Parsons Archaeology
- Richard Hughes
- Surrey County Archaeological Services

The work of the Inspector of Ancient Monuments

In London, the pressures of development on the historic environment never cease

In London, the pressures of development on the historic environment never cease, and this applies as much to the capital's 160-odd Scheduled Ancient Monuments as to anything else. Having assumed the post of Inspector in May 2001, numerous cases, both major and minor, were ongoing. A major debt of gratitude is owed to Charmian Baker, the Field Monument Warden for London, for covering the post on a part-time basis from September 2000, and for providing invaluable support since then. This summary covers major cases of 2001-2, with a selection of the minor cases and other issues.

Of the ongoing cases, probably the most complex and difficult was that at the site of the Priory and Hospital of St Mary, Spitalfields, *Tower Hamlets* where major excavations had taken place in 1999 on a large development site between Bishopsgate and the market buildings. A major group of Roman burials, including the superb 4th-century burial of a lady in a lead coffin inside a stone sarcophagus, was overshadowed in sheer bulk by the 10,500 mediaeval human remains, lifted from the site. The size of the cemetery was surprising enough, but so was the discovery of substantial remains of a 14th-century Charnel House, standing to a maximum of around 3.5m in height. Uncovered, these began to decay seriously, exposed to the elements for the first time in 350 years.

Negotiations to conserve this fragile masonry represented a very high priority and by December 2001 ground consolidation work and a scaffolding roof had been erected, safeguarding the Charnel House through the worst of the winter. Since then, detailed negotiations for the incorporation of the monument in the new development have taken place, accompanied by survey work and preparation of a detailed specification and schedule of works, funded by

Charnel House



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English Heritage, it is now likely that full grant-aided repairs will go ahead this calendar year.

Discovery of the remains of London's Roman Amphitheatre beneath Guildhall Yard *City of London*, had been one of the capital's biggest archaeological stories of the 1990s. The previous Inspector Ellen Barnes had successfully negotiated the immensely complex engineering solution, whereby the remains were underpinned, and preserved within the basement of the new Guildhall extension designed by Richard Gilbert Scott, housing an art gallery and office accommodation for the City Corporation. Charmian Baker carried forward the negotiations relating to its display, culminating in the Amphitheatre's opening to the public in July 2002.

In the City, repairs to the Roman and Medieval walls were an ongoing theme. In 2000-2001 and 2001-2, substantial developments affecting sections of the wall have gone ahead at Cooper's Row off Tower Hill, and at Noble Street off London Wall. In both cases the negotiations, carried forward in collaboration with Kathryn Stubbs of the City's Planning Department, have included provision for protection, recording and masonry conservation. At Noble Street, the work seems to have identified Roman masonry surviving to a higher level than previously realised: at both sites, better lighting and interpretation will be provided.

Work at Scheduled Roman sites outside the City in the past year have yielded mixed results. At Fordcroft *Bromley*, repairs to the cover over the Roman bath-house prompted an English Heritage initiative to investigate whether survey by Ground-Probing Radar could enhance our very patchy knowledge of this tantalising site. Sadly, the ground conditions proved unfavourable, though there is clearly a high likelihood that there are buried remains of further significant Roman buildings in the immediate vicinity. The installation of an irrigation system at Gidea Park Golf Course, *Havering* cutting the line of a putative (and scheduled) 'Roman road' provided the opportunity for a more positive evaluation: the results here were altogether more decisive, as the road proved to be post-medieval!

There have been significant advances in our understanding of Prehistoric London in the past year, though relatively few of them were on scheduled sites. Caesar's Camp at Holwood, *Bromley* is a major multivallate Iron Age camp, and

one of the most important prehistoric earthworks in south-eastern England. Here, major development proposals for the house and estate have included evaluation of the fringes of the monument, and should lead to beneficial works to clear a car park and modern development from the line of the outer ditch, and to manage the site better in future.

The biggest story in Saxon archaeology in the capital continued to be the Royal Opera House site, and the related 'Lundenwic' project, to publish a synthesised account of 18 Saxon sites in the area bounded by Long Acre, the river, Trafalgar Square, and Kingsway *Westminster*. Both of these are now moving into the main analysis and assessment stages, the former as a developer-funded project, while Lundenwic is one of the English Heritage /MoLAS backlog series, and another testimony to the effectiveness of this partnership. Indeed, one of the most encouraging developments of the last year has been the appearance of several more volumes in this series, including those on the Charterhouse, London Bridge, and the Roman waterfront.

At Northolt Manor, *Ealing*, excavations carried out in the 1960s on a moated site revealed fine remains of a mediaeval manor complex, and also the longest unbroken sequence of stratified pottery remains (late Saxon-18th century) yet found in London. Steps have been taken to help the London Borough of Ealing obtain a proper Assessment Report for this important backlog site.

There has been work at a number of medieval scheduled sites in 2001-2, notably at Merton Priory, where a substantial development evaluation was carried out. This helped to map a couple of the outer buildings and drains, though the more important discoveries were made outside the scheduled area, most notably the impressive evidence of a sequence of mill-races and associated buildings.

The Winchester Palace site *Southwark* has been the scene of numerous excavations, large and small, since the work of Francis Celoria in the 1960s, which between them have contributed greatly to our understanding of Roman Southwark, as well as of the medieval palace. Two important pieces of work took place in 2001-2. A development-related evaluation on the corner of Stoney Street and Clink Street revealed important evidence of the palace kitchen. In the winter of 2001-2, English Heritage carried out

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English Heritage carried out major masonry repairs to the standing remains of Winchester Palace

major masonry repairs to the standing remains of Winchester Palace, which provided the opportunity for some further recording work. Merton and Bermondsey Abbeys, and Winchester Palace figure in the list of backlog projects currently moving towards publication.

Medieval standing monuments can be vulnerable in a modern urban environment. In 2001-2, repairs were carried out at two scheduled sites. At Howbury Grange, a very fine moated site at Slade Green, *Bexley*, the superb masonry revetments were in a state of serious disrepair and in danger of partial collapse. Major grant-aided repairs were carried out, initiated and led by Charmian Baker with much support from EH professional staff. At the King's Manor site in Rotherhithe, the London Borough of Southwark has carried out much-needed repairs after vandalism, at English Heritage's urging.

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Ground probing radar survey, at Fordcroft in Bromley

The most significant piece of archaeological work on a Post-Mediaeval scheduled site during the period under review was probably the excavation of a test-pit by Giffords Archaeology at one edge of the Rose Theatre site, funded by English Heritage to support the Rose Theatre Trust. This achieved its aims in finding clear evidence of the theatre's boundary ditch and

Howbury Grange, Slade Green, Bexley

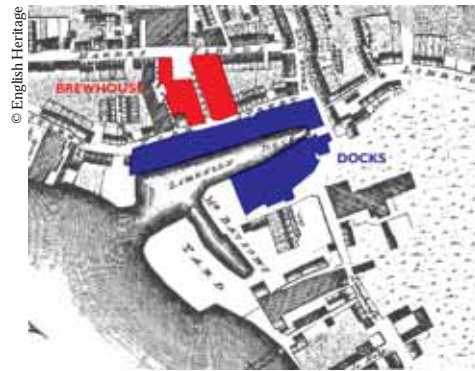
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The Greater London Sites & Monuments Record

The last year has seen some major changes to the Greater London SMR. After the technical difficulties that we suffered during the summer we began to restructure our database, creating a more efficient system and bringing us in line with national heritage data standards. We have invested in a new database program, Exegesis, which is used by over half of all SMRs in the country. Once this system has been fully tested it will make the Greater London SMR compatible with neighbouring counties such as Kent and Essex. We've also improved our mapping system, moving all our existing data onto ArcView Geographical Information System (*above right*).

These long term technical works have given us some time to look at ways of improving our service. From this year we have started to receive and send SMR requests via email and have aimed for a 24 hour response time for at least 50% of all commercial enquiries. The enthusiasm for our use of email was such that over 95% of SMR reports are now sent

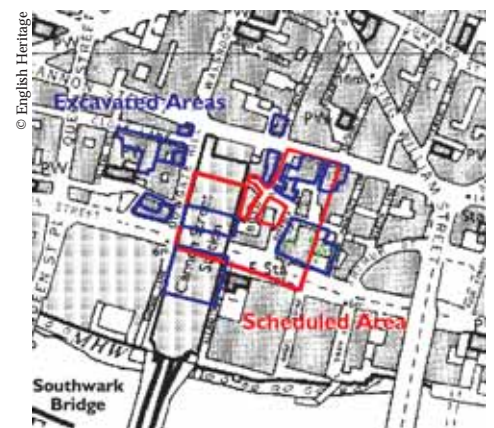


electronically whilst over 75% of search requests are received in this way. We have also been working with the Museum of London on a joint project to create a web site, allowing access to both the Greater London SMR and the LAARC archives.

We received a total of 281 enquiries last year, (247 commercial, 28 research and 6 local government), a reduction on previous years that is due, in part at least, to the technical problems we experienced last summer. Our aim now is to increase the proportion of research enquiries from

10% to 20% of the total over the next two years by working more closely with academic bodies and actively encouraging use of the SMR by research students. This has already seen some success with students from the Institute of Archaeology, London and Cambridge University doing work at the SMR this year.

Our plans for the future involve expanding the data held on the GIS to include historic maps, characterising the historic urban environment and looking at new ways of mapping differences in archaeological survival across Greater London (*below*).



The work of an IAM (continued)

fence, and in establishing that the 16th and 17th-century strata are well-preserved right up to the line of Southwark Bridge (and indeed, probably going under the bridge's arches). The work was intended to help shape a major application by the Trust to the Heritage Lottery Fund, for works to present the Theatre remains to the public.

An advance of a different kind was made at the site of Elsynge Palace in Forty Hall Park, *Enfield*, where there are very well-preserved buried remains of a major Tudor royal residence. The recognition, by English Heritage, that the large nearby ponds and other topographical features may well represent contemporary garden archaeology on a

grand scale and of national significance, has taken discussions on the future of the site into a new phase. A valuable desktop study by Compass Archaeology, commissioned by the London Borough of Enfield, has brought together all the existing evidence, and plans are in hand for a major topographical survey, to be carried out by English Heritage.

London has a few scheduled industrial sites. During the year under review, major repairs were carried out to the flight of locks on the Grand Union Canal at Hanwell, *Ealing*. At Kempton Park Pumping Station *Hounslow*, the most recent (and arguably the most spectacular) of London's SAMs, we discussed the issues relating to public opening of the monument with the Kempton Great Engines Trust and the local authority. We wish to be as encouraging as possible to this excellent initiative, and hope that it will bear fruit in the near future.

Steven Brindle,
Inspector of Ancient Monuments

For further information please contact Barry Taylor or Hanna Steyne at the Greater London SMR.

Telephone 020-7973-3779; e-mail: barry.taylor@english-heritage.org.uk

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