A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London
A STRATEGY FOR RESEARCHING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF GREATER LONDON

Museum of London 2015
A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London

Published by the Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN

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Typesetting and design by Steve Cracknell at Archetype Informatique

Copyediting by Liz Nichols

Front cover: Museum of London visitors operating a reconstructed Roman water wheel, based on archaeological findings in the City of London
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# Contents

Figures .......................................................... viii
Tables ............................................................. viii
List of Abbreviations ........................................ viii
Executive Summary ............................................ ix
Acknowledgements ............................................. x

1 Introduction ................................................... 1

2 The historic environment of Greater London ............... 4
  2.1 Defining the historic environment ....................... 4
  2.2 Applying the definition to Greater London .............. 6

3 The context for a Research Strategy ......................... 9
  3.1 The need .................................................. 9
  3.2 The policy context ....................................... 9
  3.3 Greater London antecedents ............................. 12
  3.4 Strategic terminology .................................. 13

4 Summarising recent research ................................ 14
  4.1 Introduction ............................................. 14
  4.2 A city in its hinterland and world context (SE1) ....... 14
  4.3 Inhabiting the pre-urban landscape (SE2) ............... 16
  4.4 An evolving urban settlement (SE3) ...................... 17
  4.5 Identifying places and communities (SE4) ............... 18
  4.6 Buildings for living and working (SE5) ................. 19
  4.7 Artefacts: manufacture and consumption (SE6) ....... 20

5 Developing the Action Plan .................................. 22

6 Strategic Actions .............................................. 24
  6.1 Introduction ............................................. 24
  6.2 Developing a research culture and implementing the strategy 24
  6.3 Longer term goals ....................................... 29

7 Priority subject areas and research priorities ............. 31
  7.1 Introduction ............................................. 31
  7.2 Priority subject areas .................................. 32
  7.3 Research priorities ..................................... 34

8 Developing new research proposals ......................... 44
  8.1 Introduction ............................................. 44
  8.2 Encouraging and supporting research .................... 44
  8.3 Choosing a research topic ................................ 44
  8.4 Writing a proposal ...................................... 45

9 Case studies .................................................. 47

10 Bibliography ................................................ 59
Figures

Figure 1  The main excavation area at Bloomberg Place in the City of London .  ix
Figure 2  Excavating human burials at Spitalfields.  x
Figure 3  Lower Palaeolithic flint handaxe found near St Paul’s.  1
Figure 4  Thames Discovery Programme volunteers recording the north foreshore of the river.  4
Figure 5  A Roman sculpture in the form of an eagle grasping a serpent  .  5
Figure 6  Ships and barges crowd the north quay of West India Docks in 1900.  6
Figure 7  School children handling prehistoric axes in the London Before London gallery  .  7
Figure 8  Guildhall Yard in the City of London with the curving line of the Roman amphitheatre’s arena wall marked out in slate  .  9
Figure 9  Reconstruction of an Iron Age settlement, based on findings from Southwark  10
Figure 10  Making bread in a Roman kitchen  .  11
Figure 11  The archaeology of Greater London (Museum of London 2000) is an assessment that forms the first part of the research framework  .  12
Figure 12  A research framework for London archaeology (Museum of London 2002) is an agenda that forms the second part of the framework .  12
Figure 13  A large Roman bath house excavated at Shadwell in 2002 .  14
Figure 14  Barrels of rum stored in a warehouse at the West India Docks in c 1930.  15
Figure 15  Brunel’s Great Eastern steamship, launched in 1858 .  15
Figure 16  Reconstruction drawing of Bronze Age hunters killing an aurochs  .  16
Figure 17  Barbed and tanged flint arrowheads found with the dismembered remains of the Hillingdon aurochs.  16
Figure 18  The Fish and Coal Offices behind King’s Cross  .  18
Figure 19  A beautifully preserved early Roman timber structure at Bloomberg Place  19
Figure 20  Part of a hoard of metal vessels recovered from a 4th-century well at Drapers’ Gardens in the Upper Walbrook valley  .  20
Figure 21  Part of a 19th-century gasholder structure at the Harford Street Gasworks in Tower Hamlets .  21
Figure 22  Brunel’s Thames Tunnel, built between 1825 and 1843 .  22
Figure 23  View of the LAARC.  25
Figure 24  Students gaining work experience at the LAARC  .  26
Figure 25  Painting of the Great Fire of London by Jan Griffier the Elder  .  28
Figure 26  Poster advertising ‘Unearthing Barnet’.  29
Figure 27  ‘History, right under your feet’, a LAARC pop-up event at Intu Bromley  .  29
Figure 28  View of ships and barges along the north bank of the Upper Pool of the Thames in c 1910  .  31
Figure 29  Cross-section of the Victoria Embankment.  32
Figure 30  The Roman and medieval city wall with the medieval church of St Giles-without-Cripplegate  .  33
Figure 31  The Surrey Commercial Docks in Rotherhithe c 1876  .  35
Figure 32  Excavations at Convoys Wharf  .  36
Figure 33  Thames Discovery Programme volunteers recording moulded stonework on the foreshore  .  36
Figure 34  The Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey superimposed on Thorney Island, showing the prehistoric Thames flood plain at high tide  .  37
Figure 35  ‘The March of Bricks and Mortar’ by George Cruikshank  .  38
Figure 36  Hollar’s 1665 view of the New River at Islington.  39
Figure 37  Examining a skeleton at MOLA  .  40
Figure 38  Hogarth’s print of 18th-century ‘Gin Lane’ in St Giles Rookery  .  41
Figure 39  Artist’s impression of Southwark’s Elizabethan playhouses and arenas  .  42
Figure 40  Reconstruction of the Globe Theatre  .  43
Figure 41  Students visiting the Museum of London conservation department  .  44
Figure 42  Thames Discovery Programme’s community archaeology outreach table displaying artefacts from the foreshore at the Tower of London.  .  46
Figure 43  Londinium: a new map and guide to Roman London  .  50
Figure 44  Thames Discovery Programme volunteers recording features on the foreshore in front of Custom House, to the west of the Tower of London.  51
Figure 45  A busy summer day at ‘Tower beach’  .  51
Figure 46  Analysis and publication of Lundenwic: excavations in Middle Saxon London 1987–2000 was funded by English Heritage (now Historic England).  52
Figure 47  Community outreach work at the LAARC ............................... 55
Figure 48  Participants in the Volunteer Inclusion Programme at the LAARC ............................... 55
Figure 49  Children from Hermitage Primary School learning about finds collected from the Thames foreshore ................................................................. 56
Figure 50  The Queenhithe Dock Heritage Timeline mosaic ................................................................. 57

Tables

Table 1  A model of the historic environment ................................................................. 6
Table 2  The historic environment of Greater London ................................................................. 7
### List of Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADS</td>
<td>Archaeology Data Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHRC</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities Research Council</td>
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<td>CHB</td>
<td>Centre for Human Bioarchaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIfA</td>
<td>Chartered Institute for Archaeologists</td>
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<td>CMH</td>
<td>Centre for Metropolitan History</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCLG</td>
<td>Department for Communities and Local Government</td>
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<td>DCMS</td>
<td>Department for Culture, Media and Sport</td>
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<td>EH</td>
<td>English Heritage (now Historic England)</td>
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<td>ESRC</td>
<td>Economic and Social Research Council</td>
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<td>GLAAS</td>
<td>Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLHER</td>
<td>Greater London Historic Environment Record</td>
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<td>GLHERS</td>
<td>Greater London Historic Environment Research Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLIAS</td>
<td>Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society</td>
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<td>GLPP</td>
<td>Greater London Protection Plan</td>
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<td>GLSMR</td>
<td>Greater London Sites and Monuments Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>HADAS</td>
<td>Hendon and District Archaeological Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBBSMR</td>
<td>Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>HE</td>
<td>Historic England (formerly English Heritage)</td>
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<td>HER</td>
<td>Historic Environment Records</td>
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<td>HLC</td>
<td>Historic Landscape Characterisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHR</td>
<td>Institute of Historical Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAARC</td>
<td>London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre</td>
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<td>LAMAS</td>
<td>London and Middlesex Archaeological Society</td>
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<td>MoL</td>
<td>Museum of London</td>
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<td>MoLARCH</td>
<td>Museum of London Archaeology</td>
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<td>MoRPHE</td>
<td>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</td>
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<td>NHPP</td>
<td>National Heritage Protection Plan</td>
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<td>NPPF</td>
<td>National Planning Policy Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OASIS</td>
<td>Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations</td>
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<td>PPG15</td>
<td>Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPG16</td>
<td>Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning</td>
</tr>
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<td>PPS5</td>
<td>Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHAPE</td>
<td>Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programme</td>
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<td>TDP</td>
<td>Thames Discovery Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRIE</td>
<td>Thematic Research Strategy for the Historical Industrial Environment</td>
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<td>TRRO</td>
<td>Thematic Research Strategy for the Roman-period Historic Environment</td>
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<td>TRSP</td>
<td>The Research Strategy for Prehistory</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRUE</td>
<td>Thematic Research Strategy for the Urban Historic Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSI</td>
<td>Written Schemes of Investigation</td>
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Valuing, cherishing, celebrating and protecting London’s unique historic environment depends upon understanding its significance. What we know, yet sometimes take for granted, has developed over thousands of years as a cultural influence at local, regional and national levels. Past change, by natural and human agencies, has created much of what we recognise as London’s greatest qualities; future change has the power to enhance or degrade them. By exploring the past, research crucially informs decisions about its place in London’s future. By revealing its time-depth, an informed balance between future changes and the protection of evidence for past achievements can reinforce its identity as one of the world’s most fascinating and dynamic historic cities.

The final part of a research framework for London follows on from a Resource Assessment (Museum of London 2000) and a Research Agenda (Museum of London 2002). The Greater London Historic Environment Research Strategy (GLHERS; the ‘Strategy’) aims to help researchers navigate their way through the forest of competing priorities towards well-focused proposals.

This Strategy develops and expands its terms of reference from the focus on below-ground archaeological remains in the earlier documents to encompass the broader historic environment – the totality of the physical evidence for past human activity. The historic environment is defined in terms of an inter-related set of research elements and these are applied to the Greater London area: a city in its hinterland and world context; inhabiting the pre-urban landscape; evolving urban settlement; identifying places and communities; buildings for living and work; and the manufacture and consumption of artefacts.

Development of this Strategy has taken place against a background of several major policy initiatives. These have included Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5 2010), the identification of priorities in the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP 2011) and the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF 2012) as well as several new regional and thematic research strategies.

The Strategy summarises recent research work, ordered chronologically within the set of research elements. An Action Plan for the next five years sets out Strategic Actions to facilitate the development of a research culture suitable for the wider historic environment and Research Priorities related to national, thematic and regional research strategies. Identification of particular projects is not attempted here beyond a few examples but will be a priority of the implementation stage. The penultimate chapter offers some general advice to those developing research proposals and seeking support from funding bodies and others. The Strategy is supported by Case Studies reflecting the wide range of research work completed in recent years, currently underway or proposed.

Figure 1: The main excavation area at Bloomberg Place in the City of London, where Roman timber buildings lined the lower Walbrook stream (MoLA)
The project team would like to thank the over 300 consultees who played a part in developing this strategy. Consultees came from a wide variety of backgrounds, representing a broad range of interests within the research community, from national and local museums, academic institutions, archaeological contractors, consultancies, private sector clients, local societies, community and amenity groups as well as individual views. All have given their valuable time to discuss ideas for promoting and developing research as well as helping identify individual projects and initiatives.

We are also grateful to the project Steering Group for their patient advice and support, as well as staff from English Heritage, particularly Rob Whytehead at the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) and Barney Sloane at the Historic Environment Enabling Programme.

It should be noted that English Heritage (EH) split into two organisations on 1 April 2015. Historic England (HE) is now responsible for advisory services and research while the English Heritage Trust looks after their historic sites and monuments. This research strategy falls within the remit of Historic England which, through its Research Group, promotes and enables national, regional and thematic research frameworks and strategies.

Figure 2: Excavating human burials at Spitalfields; osteological analysis of the skeletons has added greatly to our understanding of the pathology and health of medieval London’s population (MoLA)
1 Introduction

1.1 The area covered by the 32 London Boroughs and the City has a complex history, stretching from the first appearance of humans in what would become the Thames basin to an expanding metropolis and ‘World City’. This fascinating and diverse story belongs to the largest centre of population in the country, a modern city whose diversity reflects an increasingly mobile global population. Its physical evidence – built and buried – is an inheritance from the past, shaping the continuing evolution of London but also affected by that process. The value of London’s heritage – social, cultural and economic – would seem uncontestable, with the 2014 issue of Heritage Counts emphasising the many tangible benefits and prompting ‘heritage makes you happy’ headlines in the press (http://hc.historicengland.org.uk/value-and-impact-heritage/) but a tendency to underestimate the value of our heritage still persists in some quarters. Understanding its full significance is a strategic research task to be shared by many interests.

1.2 Developing a Historic Environment Research Strategy for Greater London is part of an overall programme supported by Historic England for promoting research, improving communication of its results, and using them for more effective management. The Strategy aims to provide the research community with an independent and practical resource by:

- summarising current issues and identifying priorities
- encouraging collaboration in developing research projects
- facilitating links between work stemming from planning and development and work generated in a more formal academic context
- supporting best-practice through case studies as examples of research.

1.3 The Strategy takes into account government policy as set out in Planning Policy Statement 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5 2010). PPS5 represented a change in emphasis from the earlier policy statements Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and planning (PPG16 1990) and Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the historic environment (PPG15 1994), taking a more holistic approach which emphasised the delivery of public benefit and enhanced understanding. PPS5 was in turn superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaced all previous Planning Policy Statements in March 2012. The NPPF is a shorter document that deals with policy rather than guidance but carries forward the principles of PPS5 and has as a central theme the ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’. Historic England has issued a series of Good Practice Advice Notes which supersede the PPS5 Good Practice Guide (https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/pps-practice-guide/). The Strategy also aims to contribute to outcomes from the first five years of the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP 2011). The NHPP provides a framework for bringing together work by Historic England and other partners within the sector to protect the historic environment, building on the NPPF principle that understanding and articulating
1.4 The Strategy is also intended to:

- support local authority decision-making by recognising the close relationship between development and research, and the role of research in caring for a valuable heritage
- help realise the potential of the Greater London Historic Environment Record as well as London’s many archives and Museum collections
- promote wider participation in projects
- give the sponsors of research a clearer message about its value.

1.5 This strategy document has been written for a wide readership, professional and voluntary, with a range of experience in the heritage sector. Potential users are:

- archaeologists, architectural historians, historians and other heritage professionals
- regulators, town planners, conservation officers and other experts in local government and national agencies
- consultants and their clients, including property developers and other private and public funding bodies
- community groups, local societies and individual researchers
- schools and the education sector
- museum visitors and the general public

1.6 Central to the development of this Research Strategy was a broad-based consultation with over 300 individuals and organisations working on aspects of London’s historic environment. Participation was encouraged and views were gathered at seminars, face-to-face meetings and through the Museum of London project webpages at [http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections-research/laarc/research-strategy/](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections-research/laarc/research-strategy/).

1.7 This Strategy will be developed through an Action Plan over the next five years. A set of proposed initial actions can be found in Chapters 6 and 7 below. The Strategy will be supported by webpages hosted by the Museum of London ([http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections-research/laarc/research-strategy/](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections-research/laarc/research-strategy/)).

1.8 Chapter 2 briefly explains the term ‘historic environment’, its various elements and how they apply to the Greater London area. The term is now widely used in academic, administrative and political parlance, but its full implications are not always grasped. The broad definition offered here can be shared by all and helps place particular activities within a wider context.

1.9 Chapter 3 outlines the policy context of research strategies, nationally and for Greater London. It also considers the role of ‘research priorities’ in justifying the use of increasingly scarce resources. They need not limit freedom of enquiry, if they are recognised as intrinsically dynamic, and are flexibly responsive to advancing and changing knowledge. Work occasioned by land-use development needs the discipline of an articulated and consistent framework in order to strike a balance between unfocused generality and the kind of over-prescriptiveness that inhibits creativity.

1.10 Chapter 4 outlines research work since publication of the preceding Research Agenda in 2002. It is ordered chronologically, but within the top-level research elements of the historic environment outlined in Chapter 2 in order to gauge how far recent work has been able to develop understanding of them.

1.11 The core of the Strategy is the Action Plan, whose development is described in Chapter 5. It is divided into Strategic Actions (Chapter 6), intended to facilitate and nurture a research culture, and the pursuit of Research Priorities, presented as priority subject areas and sample research priorities (Chapter 7). These are broadly structured around the ‘understanding’ headings of the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP 2011), and have regard for the three basic activities associated with the historic environment: understanding, communicating/participating, and managing. As far as possible, both Actions and Priorities are related to other national, thematic and regional research strategies. The illustrative selected projects are not intended as a comprehensive or ranked list. The Action Plan will have a five-year span (2015–19) but cannot be set out in more detail until a new Advisory Board, informed by its stakeholders, decides how to take the plan forward. Development of a more detailed programme of actions and priorities should form an initial task in the implementation phase.

1.12 Brief advice on participating in research work can be found in Chapter 8.

1.13 Chapter 9 presents Case Studies, examples of the wide range of research work completed in recent years, currently underway or pro-
posed. A select bibliography and links to online resources conclude the document.

1.14 There is a danger that high-level documents such as this Strategy will end up sitting on bookshelves, rarely used except reactively to justify work that was required or intended anyway. Proactive use is more difficult to achieve and gauge. Relevant and usable measures of research success could be devised by a post-adoption Advisory Board, and might include the following:

- closer and more explicit links between recognised research needs and research designs, especially in development-related archaeological fieldwork
- reasons justifying planning conditions incorporating clearer statements about how the required work will take the Strategy forward, beyond nominally referring to it
- the development and articulation of high-level research themes as the basis for encouraging and coordinating research possibilities, whether through doctoral theses and MA dissertations, or local community-based projects
- the development of programmes and projects that require a holistic approach to the historic environment, where appropriate de-compartmentalising above and below ground evidence, and creating new partnerships between established interests
- the design of programmes and projects, whether broad-ranging or specialised, so that non-academic dissemination is facilitated.

1.15 Finally it must be stressed once again that this document and its Action Plan invite open participation and collaboration rather than impose a closed framework. Publication of research strategies – whether national, regional or local – aims to encourage debate about priorities and their review in the light of experience gained from implementation.
2 The historic environment of Greater London

2.1 Defining the historic environment

2.1.1 The ‘historic environment’ is the totality of the physical evidence for past human activity, buried and built. It includes the historic landscapes and townscapes that are the context for archaeology, architectural and urban history. It helps us see how human activity has shaped the natural world inherited from the past, and is changing it in the present before passing it on to the future. How we choose to change it relates to how we value it, and values can alter over time. Conservation seeks to manage that change in the public interest.

2.1.2 Certain places hold special meanings for people. A strong ‘sense of place’ reflects identity and character that can be deeply felt by local inhabitants and appreciated by visitors. Understanding the historic character of a place is an essential starting point for deciding its future. Heritage conservation recognises opportunities to manage change in ways that will sustain the heritage values of a place for present and future generations. The more clearly these are understood, the easier it is to determine appropriate scales and types of change and to establish guidelines or policies for managing them.

2.1.3 The historic environment can be usefully seen as a set of four nested or inter-related structural elements. The widest is the whole landscape with its patterns of prehistoric and historic habitation. It contains discrete settlements, urban and rural, nucleated and dispersed. These

Figure 4: Thames Discovery Programme volunteers recording the north foreshore of the river at low tide near Custom House (TDP/MoLA)
contain standing buildings and structures and buried remains of former ones, of all types and functions, which in turn contain or are associated with artefacts and deposits, fixtures, collections and portable items, visible and used, buried and discarded. In this hierarchy of physical scale, lower elements help understand higher ones, and higher ones raise questions for exploration at lower levels.

2.1.4 Several consultees questioned the need for this ‘elemental’ structure, given the complex web of diverse strategies and priorities inherited from earlier documents and intricately referenced here in later chapters. A comprehensive high-level set of inter-related elements offers a consistent overview for regional strategies, applicable to the basic functions of research, conservation management and explanation. Continuity of overview for work done is the starting point for deciding future priorities, as illustrated by use of this structure in Chapter 4. It seeks to improve proposals for strategies and projects by highlighting wider implications and useful linkages rather than merely adding yet another layer of justification.

2.1.5 The historic environment has been shaped by many kinds of overlapping human activities conventionally labelled at the highest level as economic, social, political, ideological, religious and cultural. Major natural contexts for them, as constraints or opportunities, are climate, topography, natural resources, flora and fauna, and human population. Variously defined specific activities or subject areas (Chapter 7.2 below) cut across them. Warfare and defence, for example is, *inter alia*, the continuation of political activity by another means, driven by ideologies or economic considerations, and often subject to topographical considerations. Similarly, health and welfare can involve *inter alia* specialised buildings, social relationships and the human population. These are only two examples.

2.1.6 The historic environment is also the research territory of several disciplines, working individually or collaboratively. There is a distinction between ‘traditional’ archaeology, with its particular (but not exclusive) focus upon pre-documentary and below-ground aspects, and a wider archaeological approach, shared with
A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London

other disciplines, which seeks to understand an historic asset before making decisions about its research and management (Table 1).

2.2 Applying the definition to Greater London

2.2.1 The Greater London area has its own particular characteristics. Applying the four structural elements in the hierarchy of physical scale for the historic environment generates a framework within which one of them naturally divides into three parts, making a total of six structural elements (Table 2).

2.2.2 The unique historical dominance of London requires a top-level element, a city in its hinterland and world context (SE1), representing it as a totality from the earliest time it can be recognised until the present day. Its size and character change through time, as does its hinterland, the extra-urban area with which it interacts, overlapping with adjacent regions. It has extra-hinterland connections in the local European region and more widely across the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic environment structural elements: the hierarchy of physical scale</th>
<th>Segments of human activity</th>
<th>Natural contexts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>landscape and habitation pattern</td>
<td>economic activity</td>
<td>climate</td>
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<tr>
<td>settlements and places; urban and rural</td>
<td>social and family relationships</td>
<td>topography</td>
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<tr>
<td>buildings and structures</td>
<td>political activity</td>
<td>inert natural resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>artefacts and deposits</td>
<td>ideology and religious belief</td>
<td>flora and fauna</td>
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<td></td>
<td>cultural activity</td>
<td>human population</td>
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Table 1  A model of the historic environment

Figure 6: Ships and barges crowd the north quay of West India Docks in 1900 (Museum of London)
globe: some are trading links for the exchange of goods, ideas and people; others more directly influence its growth, contraction and political role. Studies focused on this outward-looking element are likely to be inter-disciplinary. London’s unique role as capital city also distinguishes it from other large British cities.

2.2.3 The complexities of London require three complementary elements for ‘urban and rural settlements and places’.

(a) Inhabiting the pre-urban landscape (SE2) deals with the area now covered by City, the wider metropolis and suburbs before they came into existence. A long chronological period includes prehistoric human occupation before the first settlements, together with all pre-Roman settlement and all Roman and post-Roman settlement outside their contemporary urban areas. There are important research linkages between this area and adjacent modern areas.

(b) An evolving urban settlement (SE3) is mainly concerned with the developing urban form as it spread across the pre-urban landscape, whether absorbing existing settlements, over-writing them, or developing

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<tr>
<th>Historic environment structural elements: the hierarchy of physical scale</th>
<th>Greater London structural elements (SE1–6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>landscape and habitation pattern</td>
<td>• A city in its hinterland and world context (SE1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settlements and places, urban and rural</td>
<td>• Inhabiting the pre-urban landscape (SE2)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• An evolving urban settlement (SE3)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Identifying places and communities (SE4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buildings and structures</td>
<td>• Buildings for living and working (SE5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artefacts and deposits</td>
<td>• Artefacts: manufacture and consumption (SE6)</td>
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</table>

Table 2 The historic environment of Greater London

![Figure 7: School children handling prehistoric axes in the London Before London gallery (Museum of London)](image-url)
on green fields. It has strong linkages with the top level element of the city in its hinterland and world context.

(c) **Identifying places and communities** (SE4) focuses upon urban diversity, areas distinctly definable at various times, and the urban villages created within the city by absorbing earlier settlements or particular immigrant populations.

### 2.2.4 Two elements common to all types and periods of settlement equate closely with the two lower levels of the model.

(a) **Buildings for living and working** (SE5) deals with the architectural and functional history of identifiable structures from all periods, whether still standing or known only from documentary or excavation records. That history naturally includes contexts such as time, place, type and materials.

(b) **Artefacts: manufacture and consumption** (SE6) equates with 'artefacts and deposits', covering technology from flint-knapping onwards and including the hardware of industrial archaeology. Artefacts can be buried discoveries, items attached to or placed within extant buildings, attached to or used by people. At the higher end it can include collections principally valued for their aesthetic qualities, whether made or acquired for their contexts.

### 2.2.5 These framework elements are not owned exclusively by archaeology, architectural or art-historical history or wider urban historical studies, though certain disciplines will be stronger in some of them than in others. Rather, they are meeting points for coalitions of interests and joint working in thematic programmes and projects. The task of promoting these will rest for the most part with London's major institutional interests. It is hoped that they will have some regard for the Research Framework and its Strategy in devising and carrying out their work.
3 The context for a Research Strategy

3.1 The need

3.1.1 The rich, complex and densely patterned historic environment of Greater London, and its many uses, requires a Research Strategy to help strengthen and focus work by a wide range of interested organisations and individuals. It can coordinate efforts by highlighting the more obvious gaps in knowledge and showing what other people are doing, thus opening up opportunities for partnerships and avoiding duplication of effort; it can also promote accountability for resources consumed in doing work.

3.1.2 Research into the six structural elements of Greater London’s historic environment increases knowledge and understanding. Investigations collect information to answer questions about past human activities, using existing publications and record systems as well as the product of primary work in the field and original historical documentation. Whether knowledge is pursued for its own sake or also to serve related purposes such as conservation management, there is an obligation to transmit it for the benefit and enjoyment of many different audiences. Gaining a proper understanding, whether of a much overwritten historic landscape or a much-altered historic building, is an act of research, the essential first step in explaining it or conserving it.

3.1.3 The research community in Greater London ranges from internationally renowned institutions such as University College London’s Institute of Archaeology and Institute for Historical Research to the Museum of London and local societies such as the Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) and the Camden History Society. Many individuals pursue their own interests, some to the highest academic standards. Several organisations provide research services, usually in relation to development and conservation work, through conventional excavation projects and by recording standing buildings. The managers of change, conservation architects and surveyors, local authority Conservation Officers and Historic England’s Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service are closely linked with these primary researchers.

3.2 The policy context

3.2.1 The Strategy was developed between 2008 and 2013, a period that saw the introduction of new government policies relating to the historic environment. Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the historic environment (PPS5 2010) has been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012. Following external review, government ministers have published streamlined Planning Practice Guidance for NPPF. As a result Historic England is revising its Good Practice Advice on several topics. Against this changing background the Strategy generally uses definitions of significance, heritage assets, knowledge and understanding, policies and topics as set out in PPS5. Definitions used here are also broadly consistent with national best practice in Frameworks for our past (Olivier 1996) and Theme G2 in the English Heritage Research Agenda (English Heritage 2005a).

Figure 8: Guildhall Yard in the City of London with the curving line of the Roman amphitheatre’s arena wall, discovered in 1988, marked out in slate (MoLA)
3.2.2 Survey work commissioned by English Heritage (now Historic England) has provided information on the perceived importance and ranking of research topics. These included a project to gain the views of 250 local authorities on priorities for listed building designation in 2010. As part of the NHPP, English Heritage developed a method for prioritisation informed by professional judgement and external review. This approach might inform the Greater London Historic Environment Research Strategy (GLHERS) during the first five-year Action Plan and lead to a more complete identification of priorities, in parallel with other national initiatives.

3.2.3 This Strategy is intended to complement national and thematic research strategies that continue to be developed by Historic England. Of particular relevance is the NHPP, which seeks to achieve agreement on key priorities across the Historic Environment sector by 2015 (NHPP 2011). It includes an action plan that identifies Components, Measures and Activity Topics. The four Components identified are ‘Foresight’, ‘Threat’, ‘Understanding’ and ‘Responses’. The ‘Understanding’ stage is most relevant to development of a research strategy and includes the Measures ‘Identifying potential’ and ‘Assessing significance’. All of the Activity Topics set out in the ‘Understanding: assessment of significance’ section of the NHPP are relevant to the London area: 4A Urban and public realm; 4B Transport, infrastructure and industry; 4C Sport, leisure and entertainment; 4D Worship and commemoration; 4E Conflict and defence; 4F Rural settlement and land use; 4G Alluvial and wetland archaeology; and 4H Marine assets and landscapes. Detailed information can be found at https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/nhpp-plan-framework/.

3.2.4 Also relevant to the London Research Strategy is a series of Historic England Thematic Research Strategies intended to help identify research goals and provide criteria for the allocation of resources. Specific Thematic Research Strategies are available at a variety of stages, including drafts for comment and final documents posted on the Historic England website. Thematic Research Strategies are available for the Urban Historic Environment (April 2010), Prehistory (June 2010), the Historic Industrial Environment (July 2010), Roman-period Historical Environment (February 2012), Water and Wetland Heritage (December 2012) and Heritage Science (October 2013). Development of a

Figure 9: Reconstruction of an Iron Age settlement, based on findings from Southwark (Museum of London)
The context for a Research Strategy

Marine and Coastal Strategy is in preparation and should be available in late 2015. Details on the Thematic Research Strategies and their status, including links to the documents, can be found at https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/approaches/research-principles/research-strategies/. Four of the Thematic Research Strategies are described in more detail below and given acronyms for ease of reference. They are referred to in the Chapter 7 research priorities where appropriate.

3.2.5 The Thematic Research Strategy for the Urban Historic Environment (TRUE; https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/approaches/research-principles/research-strategies/urbanstrategy/) identifies nine priority research programmes: 3.1 synthesis of developer-funded research; 3.2 historic characterisation; 3.3 survival of early form and fabric in historic towns; 3.4 the 20th century; 3.5 parks, open spaces and cemeteries; 3.6 historic ports; 3.8 suburbs; and 3.9 threatened or vulnerable building types; as well as goal 3.7 to add to the overall evidence base. TRUE Appendix 4 lists 28 preferred topics within the 9 programmes and relates the topics to Historic England objectives, research themes and SHAPE (Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes) sub-programmes.

3.2.6 The Research Strategy for Prehistory (TRSP; https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/approaches/research-principles/research-strategies/prehistory-strategy/) identifies nine overarching research themes as well as six subsidiary critical priorities. The research themes are listed as: landscape perspectives; innovative studies of sites and monuments; understanding prehistoric society; critical approaches to key transitions; realising the full potential of scientific techniques; studying human interactions with the environment; responding to changing environments; integrating research and building partnerships; and raising profiles. TRSP Appendix 4 lists 51 topics and relates them to Historic England objectives, research themes and SHAPE sub-programmes.

3.2.7 A Thematic Research Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment (TRIE; https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/approaches/research-principles/research-strategies/industrial-strategy/) identifies eight priority research programmes relating to the Origins, Impact and Legacy of Industrialisation and described as: understanding early industry; examining evidence of proto-industrialisation; industrial landscapes; transport systems, communications and public utilities; understanding industrial sites and buildings; improving public understanding; designation, regeneration and sustainability; and threatened or vulnerable sites. TRIE Appendix 4 lists 27 project ‘focus’ topics and relates them to objectives, research themes and SHAPE sub-programmes.

3.2.8 A Thematic Research Strategy for the Roman-period Historic Environment (TRRO; https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/approaches/research-principles/research-strategies/roman-strategy/) identifies six Critical Priorities (identifying vulnerable sites; landscapes; key transitions; potential of unpublished work; changes in climate and countryside; getting the most out of data) as well as three Secondary Drivers (interactions with the environment; approaches in commercial archaeology; awareness of recent research) and two Underpinning Actions (securing key archives; partnerships beyond England). TRRO Appendix 2 lists 21 topics and relates them to objectives, research themes and SHAPE sub-programmes.

3.2.9 The Greater London Historic Environment Research Strategy complements other, mainly archaeological, research frameworks and their strategies, covering areas adjacent to London.
These research frameworks include: the South East, covering Kent, Surrey and East and West Sussex; Solent-Thames, covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight; the Eastern Region (revised); and the Greater Thames Estuary Historic Environment (see Bibliography for further details and links).

3.2.10 At the end of 2013 English Heritage (now Historic England) released a strategy for the development of research resources, in line with recommendations made by the NHPP and in the Southport Group report, to coordinate and guide the development of a new generation of Research Frameworks and develop a prioritisation process (https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/research-resources/).

3.3 Greater London antecedents

3.3.1 This Research Strategy for Greater London directly relates to two earlier reports, an Assessment, *The archaeology of Greater London* (Museum of London 2000) and an Agenda, *A research framework for London archaeology* (Museum of London 2002). Both were primarily concerned with the archaeological resource. The strategic objectives identified in Appendix 3 of the latter, organised by chronology and theme, are listed at the start of Chapter 4 below. These remain relevant today, but it is important to note that the GLHERS structural elements (SE1–SE6) differ significantly from them.

3.3.2 The Strategy is therefore the third stage in a process that overall aims to find out what is already known, identify the obvious gaps and propose ways of filling them. In one major respect it innovates compared with other regional strategies, through a major enlargement of scope by substituting ‘Historic Environment’ for ‘Archaeology’. Its field of interest is expanded to cover fully what survives above as well as below ground, including urban areas and buildings as well as landscapes and sites. It aims to treat the historic built environment as an element in its own right to be integrated with others as appropriate rather than tacked often.
awkwardly on to the end of a mainly archaeo-
logical document.

3.3.3 A full Research Strategy for the Historic Envi-
ronment would have been preceded and facili-
tated by a much broader resource assess-
ment and agenda, covering its whole scope. This one has to draw upon the 2002 Research
Agenda, so is inevitably more developed for
archaeological than for historic built aspects. Consequently there is a lack of connection back
to the Agenda from some of the research priori-
ties set out here, which are largely exemplars
pointing the way forward to more completely
integrated future versions.

3.4 Strategic terminology

3.4.1 Documents on research strategies are multi-
plying, and with them, a variety of approaches,
some defining their terms more clearly and
explicitly than others. The terminology used in
this document is briefly outlined below.

3.4.2 The four interlocking elements of the historic
environment, applied to Greater London as a
set of six (one having three examples), consti-
tutes a high-level framework of reference for
the basic functions of research, conservation
management and explanation at regional scale
(see Table 2, Chapter 2 above).

3.4.3 Subject areas or specific activities (Chapter
2 above and Chapter 7.2 below), more sus-
cceptible to changing academic emphases, are
the focus for one or more disciplines on one
of more of those elements, generating pro-
grammes and projects.

3.4.4 Various tools help devise and implement
them. Disciplines include archaeology, history,
demography, geomorphology, ecology, art
history, architectural history and many others.
Chronology offers opportunities for narrative
and analysis within or between periods while
studies of place – a London Borough or a
valley such as the Lea – invite multi-disciplinary
work. Historical development can be explored
through time-based processes such as ‘conti-
nuity and change’ and ‘transition periods’, and
concepts such as ‘regionality’ and ‘identity’.

3.4.5 A problematic word is theme. Originating posi-
tively as a reaction against the constraints
of chronological narrative, it is now too often
employed as an unstructured justification for
work that has not been thought through suffi-
ciently. Here, a valid theme brings together
aspects of human activities and gener-
ates questions, thereby promoting linkages
between the structural elements of the historic
environment. It can be led by archaeology or
architectural history, or a combination of histori-
cal and related studies; most themes combine
several disciplines. Examples are the Thames
as connector and divider, barrier and highway,
and the provision of council housing as a
factor in shaping settlements and the wider
conurbation.

3.4.6 A second problematic term is priority. Origini-
ing in a realistic recognition that not
everything can be done, so that choices have
to be made, or some things done first in order
to inform later tasks, it can too easily be diluted
into merely listing what individual researchers
want to do. A genuine priority should emerge
from a hard-nosed consideration of relativities
and linkages, and difficult choices between
often dissimilar projects, rather than the avail-
ability of dedicated funding. Transparency of
choice for priorities requires awareness of
‘political’ overtones when work is connected
with policies or dedicated resources only
loosely related to exploring the historic envi-
ronment. In this Strategy, recognition as a
potential ‘priority’ depends upon two minimal
additional tests: (1) it should relate to gaps
in understanding by reference to the six
inter-related historic environment research
elements of Greater London and, (2) it should
explore well-grounded significance, whether
academic, educational, for land-use manage-
ment, community awareness, tourism, or any
combination of such factors.
4 Summarising recent research

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter reviews research over the past decade, chronologically within each of the six structural elements of the Greater London Historic Environment as defined in Chapter 2, rather than by the simple chronological periods used in the earlier Assessment and Agenda documents. This review inevitably reflects a bias towards archaeological research, embedded in the earlier Resource Assessment (MoL 2000) and Research Agenda (MoL 2002), though it is important to note that there are many other strands of heritage research and important networks of researchers, such as Greater London's fifty local history societies. While there are gaps in our knowledge of the broader historic environment, this review provides some examples of how specific projects can inform our proposed structural elements.

4.1.2 This summary also shows how the six new research elements relate (and sometimes do not) to the earlier framework objectives set out in the primarily archaeological 2002 Research Agenda. The Agenda identified sets of chronological objectives: Prehistory (P1–6), Roman (R1–13), Saxon (S1–8), Medieval (M1–6), London after 1500 (L1–10), and a series of major overlapping ‘themes’ (Topography and landscapes TL1–4, Development TD1–7, Economy TE1–4, People and society TS1–8, and Continuity and change TC1–4). A short list of interim Strategic Objectives (SO1–15) was also included in the Research Agenda as an appendix (MoL 2002, 107). These codes are cross-referenced below.

4.1.3 Detailed publication references and cross-references are not included in this summary. There are several good starting points for readers requiring more detailed information, such as the bibliography in the Resource Assessment (MoL 2000), the London Metropolitan Archives, London’s many local studies libraries, and online resources such as The British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography (http://www.biab.ac.uk/).

4.2 A city in its hinterland and world context (SE1)

4.2.1 Extensive archaeological work in recent years has generated data on the relationship of London to its hinterland, addressing themes associated with development (TD1–2) and economy (TE1–4) and relating specifically to Roman (R1–2, R12–13), Saxon (S3–4, S7), medieval (M5–6) and post-medieval London (L8–10). Historical analysis of the relationship between London and the countryside – later the world – requires synthesis of data on London’s consumption of resources and production of goods. Important research has included the Centre for Metropolitan History project Feeding the city, which measured the impact of medieval London’s
Figure 14: Barrels of rum stored in a warehouse at the West India Docks in c 1930 (Museum of London)

Figure 15: Brunel’s Great Eastern, built at Millwall Dock on the Isle of Dogs, was the world’s largest iron steamship when launched in 1858
A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London

A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London

4.2.2 Evidence for London’s substantial trade continues to be collected from both occupation sites and waterfronts. London’s importance as a post-medieval port and later centre of world trade can be seen at numerous sites of industrial production and distribution, the latter including physical evidence of quays and enclosed docks, shipbuilding and ship-breaking yards (L10). Particular trade arrangements may be revealed through analysis of specific sites, such as the Hanseatic Guildhall, and more generally through the study of ubiquitous artefact types such as widely traded pottery. More fieldwork on pottery production sites such as Kingston can contribute to further analysis at a synthetic level. Research into local history by groups such as the Camden History Society has resulted in numerous publications relating to aspects of London’s development, particularly in the post-medieval period.

4.3 Inhabiting the pre-urban landscape (SE2)

4.3.1 Research into the pre-urban landscape has focused on prehistoric sites investigated as part of the development process. Many are multi-period in nature and have led to site-specific analysis of prehistoric levels (P1) as well
as work on themes associated with topography and landscapes (TL1–4) and continuity and change (TC1–4). Broader research initiatives have included collation of research data by the National Ice Age Network (NIAN) and a summary of radiocarbon dates from the London area.

4.3.2 Research has confirmed the presence of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic artefacts in the Greater London area, though predicting the location of any deposits pre-dating the Anglian period is difficult given their rarity (P2). Important assemblages of Late Upper Palaeolithic flintwork have also been found, while several Early and Late Mesolithic sites have been investigated (P3). Early Neolithic findings include London’s earliest known burial, evidence of domesticated crops, ‘placed deposits’, pottery and flintwork. Excavations at Heathrow Terminal 5 have recorded Early–Middle Neolithic monuments, including the Stanwell ‘cursus’. The monument-dominated landscapes of the Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age had a recognisable agricultural organisation from around 1500 BC and there was a rise in the deposition of metalwork in the Thames (P4). Middle and Late Bronze Age discoveries from the Thames floodplain, gravel terraces and the Lea, Colne and Wandle valleys include trackways, field systems, burnt mounds, funerary deposits, enclosed and unenclosed settlements, ringworks and defended enclosures of hillfort type. From the middle of the first millennium BC the landscape was dominated by hamlets, and an extensive Middle Iron Age settlement has been recorded at Heathrow (P5). Agricultural intensification and enclosed settlements are typical of the Late Iron Age (P6).

4.3.3 In contrast to the extensive prehistoric evidence, finds relating to the Roman rural landscape have been rare (R1–2, R12). Projects on the East London Gravels and West London Landscapes have provided some evidence for field patterns and resource exploitation. Rural settlements and villas have been identified at several sites across the Greater London area.

4.3.4 There is evidence of Early Saxon field boundaries superimposed on Roman field systems at East London Gravels sites and Saxon rural settlements have been found at several locations (S1–2, S7). Some evidence of medieval agriculture and rural settlement has also been recorded within Greater London (M1–2, M6). There is less surviving evidence of post-medieval and modern rural landscapes (L8), although map regeneration techniques and historical records can enhance the limited archaeological evidence and local history societies are doing valuable work in this area. Many buildings represent a relict rural and village landscape now within suburban London (L2).

4.4 An evolving urban settlement (SE3)

4.4.1 Archaeological work since 2000, particularly in Central London, has produced a mass of evidence relating to urban development (TD3–6) from the Roman period onwards. Excavations in the City of London, Southwark and areas nearby have uncovered extensive remains of infrastructure and buildings in Londinium (R3–10). Excavations at sites in and around Covent Garden have provided evidence of Saxon activity from the 6th century continuing up to the 9th-century abandonment of Lundenwic (S3, TC2–3). Fieldwork at sites in the City of London continues to confirm that its reoccupation dates from the late 9th century, with 10th-century development concentrated along the waterfront (S4). The sites of many buildings have been recorded in both the Middle and Later Saxon settlements (S5). There is still little evidence for a Saxon presence in Southwark, which may have been a burh.

4.4.2 There is a wealth of evidence, both archaeological and documentary, relating to medieval London’s development. Large excavations at sites such as Poultry and Guildhall Yard have provided detailed information on property organisation and layout, housing, crafts, commerce and industry (M5–6). Post-medieval archaeological and documentary evidence includes data relating to London’s suburbanisation, which eventually embraced other, formerly independent, settlements (L2), many of them the subject of research by London’s local history societies. The Great Fire and other instances of destruction and urban renewal can be identified through archaeological records and building surveys. Military defences have been recorded at many sites, including features relating to the English Civil War, the Artillery Fields at Spitalfields and 20th-century defences in East London (L5). The recording of transport infrastructure has included canals and railways, tunnels, bridges, viaducts and associated buildings such as warehouses (L10). Work along the inter-tidal banks of the Thames and its tributaries has found evidence of reclamation and flood defences. Research into sites of recreation includes excavation of Southwark’s Tudor playhouses and surveys of historic parks and gardens (L7).
4.5 Identifying places and communities (SE4)

4.5.1 Archaeological investigations, documentary work and historical research have collected data relevant to research agenda themes relating to people and society (TS1–8) from all of the main chronological periods, including prehistory (P2–6). Excavation of Roman levels has recorded several City of London sites with specialised use – a post-Boudican fort at Plantation Place, the amphitheatre at Guildhall Yard, a water extraction zone at Blossom’s Inn and industrial development in the Upper Walbrook at Drapers’ Gardens; other excavations have found a temple complex at Tabard Square in Southwark and a bath house and associated settlement at Shadwell (R7–10). Fieldwork projects have produced evidence of social organisation at Saxon sites (S6, S8) in Lundenwic and associated with the re-occupation and growth of the City of London.

4.5.2 Evidence relating to medieval neighbourhoods and the development of London’s civic administration has been found at Guildhall Yard (M3–4), whilst royal power and patronage has been analysed through archaeological work at the Palace and Abbey at Westminster (M5). In some cases social status has been analysed by comparing artefact assemblages and documentary evidence with the archaeological remains of properties, such as those found at Poultry and Guildhall. The study of medieval burials from Spitalfields considered pathology and health, work complemented by data held at the Museum of London’s Centre for Human Bioarchaeology (CHB) (M3). Traits can be identified and compared between monastic cemeteries, parish burial grounds and Black Death cemeteries such as at St Mary Graces, East Smithfield.

4.5.3 Understanding of post-medieval London’s communities (L3–4) has been increased through general surveys such as volumes in the Survey of London covering Clerkenwell and Knightsbridge and the Victoria County History, as well as Pevsner’s Buildings of England and the work of local history groups such as the Hornsey Historical Society. Work on religious sites (L6) has been well represented over the past decade, including research into the impact of the Reformation and Dissolution on London’s monasteries. In the Bishopsgate suburb
at Spitalfields, household assemblages have been related to the archaeological and documentary data. Similar work has been applied to London’s slums, their people and material possessions. Several London Boroughs have been compiling Local Lists and Conservation Area Appraisals; these will be a valuable resource in the future for those developing research projects into local communities.

4.6 Buildings for living and working (SE5)

4.6.1 Archaeological fieldwork continues to collect extensive evidence of past buildings, contributing to research into themes relating to development (TD6), and represented in all periods, including examples of prehistoric structures (P2–6). Roman buildings investigated over the past decade include hundreds of examples of private residences and workshops dating from the 1st to the 4th century, including well-preserved groups of timber buildings along the Walbrook at Poultry and Bloomberg Place (R5). Early and Middle Saxon buildings have been recorded in Lundenwic and at dispersed villages and farmsteads across the Greater London area (S3), while Late Saxon buildings have been excavated at several sites in the City of London (S4–5).

4.6.2 A wide range of medieval residences has also been recorded archaeologically (M5), while analysis of earlier excavation results has included several medieval monastic houses around London and religious sites within the City (M4). Individual post-medieval standing buildings have been the subject of excavation, standing building recording and survey as spot-listing cases as well as being attractive topics for research by local history societies (L2). Examples include private and public housing, commercial buildings and shops, hospitals and schools, prisons, theatres and other places of entertainment, and industrial buildings (L6–10). Development pressures on some building types has prompted thematic surveys of schools, hospitals, co-operatives, police stations and Town Halls, such as the English Heritage and London Borough of Hackney study of the South Shoreditch furniture trade and its buildings. Local history societies have researched the streets, buildings and former residents of many individual areas and have published the

Figure 19: A beautifully preserved early Roman timber structure at Bloomberg Place (MoLA)
histories of buildings as varied as public swimming pools and local public houses.

4.7 Artefacts: manufacture and consumption (SE6)

4.7.1 Developer-funded archaeological excavation has continued to generate large assemblages of provenanced artefacts whose research is fundamental to material culture studies (TS8, TC4) for all periods, including prehistory (P2–6). Notable evidence for Roman industry and production has included glass-working at Basinghall Street and pottery kilns at Northgate House, both in the Upper Walbrook, and tile kilns at St Martin’s-in-the-Fields, Westminster (R13). Saxon assemblages have been recorded at several sites, particularly those associated with Middle Saxon Lundenwic and the Late Saxon reoccupation of the City of London (S7).

4.7.2 Excavation work has revealed many examples of London’s post-medieval industrial heritage, including the manufacture of tin-glazed pottery, porcelain production at Limehouse and Vauxhall, glass manufacture in Vauxhall and Doulton stoneware from Lambeth (L9). The research potential is exemplified by a single Mortlake site with evidence of a 17th-century tapestry works, 18th-century sugar- and pot-houses, 19th-century malt-houses, shoemaking and early 20th-century armaments manufacture. Archaeological fieldwork and building survey work along the River Wandle at Merton has found extensive evidence of industry, including 18th-century calico printing, milling, 19th-century copper-and iron-working, paper-making and the William Morris & Co printing works; work at the site of Battersea Palace, Wandsworth found the 18th-century Battersea enamel works and Price’s Patent Candle factory. Other archaeological investigations have collected evidence of soap works, lard making and early gasworks. Local history societies have carried out research on many parts of Greater London, publishing findings on a wide variety of aspects of local industry. A dynamic interest in industrial archaeology organised at a community and voluntary level is promoted through the extensive survey and investigative work carried out by the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS).
Figure 21: Detailed view of part of a 19th-century gasholder structure at the Harford Street Gasworks in Tower Hamlets (MoLA)
5 Developing the Action Plan

5.1 The Action Plan lists Strategic Actions (SA1–14) and Research Projects and Programmes (RP1–32). These are cross-referenced to the historic environment Structural Elements, described in Chapter 2 above, and to the Framework Objectives set out in the Research Agenda (Museum of London 2002).

5.2 The GLHERS consultation aimed to address issues relevant to a wide range of historic environment issues but, as the third part of a process which was primarily archaeological from its inception, this has proved to be a challenge. It should also be noted that the consultation took place in 2008–9, before the publication of Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) in 2010 and the appearance of several relevant regional, thematic and national research strategies. At the end of 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced that all of the PPSs would be replaced by a single document, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was published in March 2012: references in this Research Strategy relate to it. Definitions and priorities set out in these strategies have been imported into this document (see Chapter 7). Stakeholders and consultees were not explicitly asked to rank research priorities during the GLHERS consultation; rather, more realistically, the consultation sought information on the areas and projects they felt to be important.

5.3 The list of research topics, programmes or projects identified below is therefore not comprehensive nor should it be accepted uncritically. Absence does not necessarily denote unimportance. Projects identified illustrate many aspects of worthwhile research, and can provide examples of strategic actions, projects and programmes to act as a catalyst. Many of the research priorities listed here inter-relate or overlap and could no doubt be better defined with more time to reflect, while selected examples of projects may turn out not to be the best or most representative. It is therefore essential that the first five-year action plan for the GLHERS sees significant refinement, moving towards a more balanced list and a wider consensus. Reflecting the PPS5 and NPPF emphasis on furthering understanding, this might include areas and types of heritage asset identified as the least understood, most threatened, most significant or most valued, especially in combinations of these attributes.

5.4 In a further move towards a Strategy for a multi-purpose historic environment, the Strategic Actions and Research Projects and Priorities listed below have been related as far as possible to the three basic processes associated with it – understanding, communicating/participating and managing. These processes, embedded within the framework of the six elements defined for London, are consistent with developing the Research Strategy as an active process involving the whole research community.

- **Understanding** involves: updating the assessment of what we do know and need to know, organised by the six elements, with due regard for the period-led approach of the earlier documents; identifying sources and interdisciplinary connections (both within archaeology and more widely).
- **Communicating/participating** involves: identifying and encouraging links between institutions and activities, public and private initiatives; improving information management to better enable its identification and retrieval; disseminating results through the full range of media, from academic to popular and on paper, digitally or as ‘grey literature’.
- **Managing** involves connecting understanding and usage

5.5 By indicating the mix of ongoing work, the summary of recent research presented in Chapter 4 can help to identify gaps and imbalances in overall research. The 2008–9 consultation identified a large number of ongoing research projects, exploring a wide range of topics. Developer-funded archaeological work and university-based projects were the main drivers of the consultation but it is important to recognise that the work of local history societies is also significant and that amateur, voluntary and community-inspired work also takes place every year. Much of the research, particularly archaeological, relates to individual sites; synthetic or collaborative projects that would more directly promote greater understanding of historic environment elements are relatively rare.

5.6 The Strategic Actions identified during the consultation begin with a series of recommendations for facilitating research programmes by setting up an Advisory Board, research strategy website and improved communication.
developing the action plan arrangements (Chapter 6). An audit of ongoing research projects early in the five-year plan would help to identify more precisely the mix of research, and has therefore been identified as a strategic priority. Auditing archaeological research would be relatively straightforward, but collating information on research into aspects of the historic built environment would require more resources. Other strategic actions relate to providing advice and support to researchers, updating and expanding the Assessment and Agenda documents and tackling long-term goals.

5.7 A Research Strategy Advisory Board will play a crucial role in driving forward Strategic Actions, shaping the Action Plan and helping researchers to achieve tangible results in relation to an evolving set of priorities and changing funding landscape. The identification of agreed roles and membership is an important early milestone within the Action Plan (see SA1 below).

5.8 Research Priorities are listed in Chapter 7. It should be emphasised once again that the lists of Strategic Actions and Research Priorities have an archaeological bias that will need rebalancing as the GLHERS evolves over time. The research projects and programmes listed are a mix of the specific and generic; some are already underway while others are proposed for the future. Some current projects are included in the list or as case studies to provide examples.
6 Strategic Actions

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The GLHERS consultation exercise showed that many stakeholders wanted to identify a set of Strategic Actions, distinct from Research Priorities, in order to support development of a research culture and facilitate implementation of the research strategy over the life of the initial five-year Action Plan. The suggestions are set out below as a series of Strategic Actions divided into two sets, Actions intended to help develop a research culture (SA1–9) and longer-term Aspirations that would enhance research capabilities (SA10–14). Many of these initiatives, which relate to methods and standards rather than specific heritage assets, could play a central role in creating the research infrastructure that will help researchers to develop their own research projects and programmes. Many are examples of ‘applied understanding’ as defined in PPS5 and the NHPP, dealing with the development of methods and standards rather than researching specific historic environment elements or assets. Development of Strategic Actions should also take into account the recommendations of the Southport Group report ‘Realising the benefits of planning-led investigation in the historic environment: a framework for delivery’ (CIfA 2011).

6.1.2 It should be recognised that several Strategic Actions will require a significant commitment of resources. Development of a timetable for delivery of Strategic Aims will require more detailed proposals and fund-raising but it is our hope that these can be tackled during the five-year life of the GLHERS Action Plan.

6.2 Developing a research culture and implementing the strategy

SA2 Developing the online Research Strategy

The online presence of the Research Strategy will be driven by a series of dedicated webpages which will be a hub for sharing resources and providing support for researchers, including initiatives such as (a) a research audit listing current projects; (b) links to other online information; and (c) a discussion forum. The website will develop links with heritage groups such as the CIfA Area Group for London, the Greater London Archaeological Forum, LAMAS and London Archaeologist. The webpages will evolve over

SA1 Setting up a Research Strategy Advisory Board

An Advisory Board will be put in place to advise on the content and development of the Action Plan during its implementation stage. The new Advisory Board will play a central role in ensuring that there is good communication within the London heritage sector about the Action Plan and will take a lead in collating and focusing contributions to the Plan.
time according to the wishes of its users and contributors.

SA3 Sharing news and views about research

Contributors to the consultation suggested several ways to improve communication across the wider research community. The need for improved communication between researchers in the heritage sector is also raised in the Southport Group report (CIfA 2011, recommendations 8–12) The Strategy webpages should assist in achieving these goals, helped by the following initiatives:

1 An annual conference or seminar whose goal will be to provide a forum for the discussion of research and sharing of knowledge. The event might best be run in association with an existing heritage organisation’s annual conference, such as the LAMAS Spring conference.

2 An occasional ‘Research News’ note, produced in association with the LAARC or an existing organisation such as London Archaeologist or LAMAS, may take the form of an electronic ‘e-note’ or be distributed as a printed leaflet, perhaps in association with an existing periodical such as the LAMAS Newsletter.

3 The Strategy will contribute to information-sharing initiatives such as CIfA’s Research and Impact Group (http://www.archaeologists.net/groups/RIG), the online magazine Historic England Research, formerly Research News (https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/periodicals/historic-england-research/) and UCL’s Centre for Applied Archaeology occasional seminar series (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/calendar/articles/2014-15-news/20140924).

SA4 Carrying out a research audit

The consultation identified a need amongst researchers for a hub, probably in the form of an online catalogue, where they could find information on research projects. This facility could complement other valuable online resources such as the Greater London Historic Environment Record, which is accessed via...
A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London

Compilation and dissemination of the results of an initial research audit would need to be followed up with regular updating and review of the information listed. A research audit could be broken down into a series of sub-categories:

1. An audit of archaeological projects in progress, perhaps carried out under the auspices of the LAARC and using links accessible through the GLHER and their Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database.
2. An audit of London’s historic buildings and areas was identified as a larger task requiring substantial resources but which might benefit from an initial scoping exercise (see also RP23 in Chapter 7 below).
3. An audit of graduate and post-graduate theses, drawing on and collating information held by others, such as EThOS, The British Library’s Electronic theses online service, which can be found at http://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do;jsessionid=679C7A12A2EB47DD9BB021402A28B151.
4. An audit of local history research, bringing together information on the large amount of work carried out by societies affiliated with LAMAS and other heritage groups (see Case Study 9.1.4).

SA5 Providing advice and support to researchers

During the consultation period several stakeholders said that an initiative to signpost and coordinate the provision of advice would be of great help to researchers when putting together proposals and grant applications. This concern is also echoed by the Southport Group report (CIfA 2011) and addressed by proposed initiatives on participation (recommendations 1–7) and research support (recommendations 8–12).

Many organisations already provide support to London researchers. These include national bodies such as Historic England as well as museums, universities, archaeological contractors, the LAARC, the Institute of Historical...
Research (IHR), local archaeological and history societies, archives and local studies libraries, and various community groups. The Strategy may assist in providing practical help to researchers by providing and sharing lists of research organisations, topics and projects. This might include advice for students, including graduate and post-graduate researchers, who are interested in using primary data, such as that held by the LAARC (see Case Study 9.1.24). Another example of a recent initiative in this area is the IHR summer school in research methods for local historians (see Case Study 9.1.6).

SA6 Developing collaborative research projects

While there are excellent examples of academic and commercial organisations collaborating on historic environment research projects, contributors to the Strategy’s consultation stage felt that there is a need for much more work in this area as many researchers continue to work in isolated ‘silos’. The Southport Group report (CIfA 2011) also raises concerns in this area and suggests several initiatives relating to widened participation and research as well as specific actions. These include securing more funding from the Research Councils and others for collaborative work between universities and commercial enterprises (recommendation 10) and a series of actions to overcome divisions between specialisms within the historic environment sector (recommendations 18–21). A particularly positive recent initiative is MoLA’s successful application for Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status (http://www.mola.org.uk/blog/independent-research-organisation-status-mola; see Case Study 9.1.26).

SA7 Promoting community-based research projects

Local or community-based research, often set up as collaborations between local archaeology and history societies, community groups, schools, museums and archaeological contractors, can provide valuable opportunities for public participation. Community archaeology programmes run by the Museum of London and others help to facilitate and coordinate public involvement at a local level. The Research Strategy can also play a key role in community projects by providing initial advice on developing a proposal and securing the resources and funding required for it to succeed. Crowdfunding platforms provide an increasingly viable way to seek support for community projects. Kickstarter is one of the best-known crowdfunding companies (https://www.kickstarter.com/) but others include Crowdfunder (http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/) and there are many more. MicroPasts (http://crowdsourced.micropasts.org/) actively crowd-sources volunteer work on archaeological and historical research and has begun crowdfunding campaigns for collaborations between community organisations and academic institutions that already includes a Thames Discovery Programme project (https://crowdfunded.micropasts.org/projects/londons-lost-waterway; see Case Study 9.1.25). In addition to publicising opportunities for community participation in projects the Research Strategy can promote training and awareness of standards, in line with the recommendations of the Southport Group report (CIfA 2011, recommendations 1–7), the CBA (Farley 2003) and guidance on the use of volunteers (CIfA 2008).

SA8 Supporting research initiatives at educational institutions

Enhanced links between the heritage sector and organisations primarily involved in education can play a central role in the implementation of the Strategy, in line with the increased emphasis on ‘understanding’ in guidance and policy documents such as PPS5 and the NPPF, and as highlighted in the Southport Group report’s proposed initiatives on participation (recommendations 1–7) and research support (recommendations 8–12). Resource centres such as the LAARC may play a key role in this area (also see SA9 below). The Strategy can promote improved communication and understanding of London’s heritage by encouraging support for educational initiatives at many levels, just some of which are listed below:

1. Museums and other heritage organisations should work to develop links with primary and secondary schools and provide input on parts of the National Curriculum and Key Stage projects with London Local Education Authorities (LEAs). Many London museums have access and learning programmes, with the Museum of London being particularly active in this area, engaging school children with targeted National Curriculum topics such as The Great Fire of London. The Museum of London website includes resources for teachers and students at http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/schools/classroom-homework-resources/.

2. The LAARC and archaeological contractors...
may be able to help with access and foundation courses or undergraduate degrees such as those offered by Birkbeck College, University of London http://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2015/undergraduate/programmes/UUBAARCH_C/. Support might include advice on course content, teaching assignments, access to data and artefacts, site visits and liaison with students selecting topics for research.

3 The LAARC and archaeological contractors might provide similar support for graduate studies such as the MA in Urban Archaeology, a degree programme first offered in 2011–12 at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/studying/masters/degrees/ma_urban_archaeology) though it should be noted that this course is not being offered in 2015–16.

SA9 Raising the profile of archaeological archives (LAARC)

Resource centres such as archaeological archives can play a key role as drivers of public participation, research and collaboration. The research strategy supports the extension of existing LAARC programmes to improve archive access, completing the ‘minimum standards project’ and ‘digitising and internet dissemination’. Development of digital archives and a map-based interface (using a GIS) for site archives deposited at the LAARC would be of significant help to researchers, with metadata standards complementing the work of the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and OASIS. The Southport Group’s recommendations 13–17 include more general comments on increasing archive accessibility and use. Examples of current LAARC initiatives include:

1 A range of educational, training and volunteering initiatives should take place at the LAARC and include artefact processing, identification and research, interpreting archaeological archives for undergraduates and placements for MA students in artefacts studies. The LAARC volunteer programme partners with external volunteer schemes and facilitates research work based on individual archaeological site archives (see Case Study 9.1.24).

2 Training excavations, often community-
based, have in the past been arranged with the involvement of the LAARC in association with archaeological contractors such as MoLA. Community digs and allied activities can also be planned to coincide with events such as the Festival of British Archaeology. The Hendon School Community Archaeology Project is an interesting example of collaboration between an archaeological society (HADAS), a local school and heritage professionals (UCL Institute of Archaeology) to develop a sustainable community archaeology project (see Case Study 9.1.8).

3. A series of pop-up museums and outreach events unearthing the archaeology of London’s outer boroughs. The LAARC roadshow has visited shopping centres in Barnet, Havering and parts of South London to celebrate local archaeology by offering free interactive activities and the opportunity to handle real artefacts from the local area.

6.3 Longer term goals

SA10 Updating the resource assessment

The Resource Assessment for Greater London (MoL 2000) might be updated and broadened in the future to include the built heritage.
SA11 Updating the research agenda

The Research Agenda (MoL 2002) could also be updated and expanded in the future to include the built heritage.

SA12 Enhancement of the Greater London Historic Environment Record

Bringing forward an HER management development plan for London would require a detailed feasibility study and could complement Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans (CAAMPS) prepared by local planning authorities. The GLHER has the potential to play an increasingly important role in local authority decision-making, providing an evidence base for both individual planning decisions and broader plan-making policies. The NHPP action plan identifies ‘Enhancing the capabilities of historic environment records’ (5C1) as an important management response and states that it will support key partners in establishing better standards of access, improved consistency and management of HER content, and development of inter-operability, access, data exchange and coverage. The Southport Group report also supports the enhancement of HERS (CIfA 2011, recommendation 16).

SA13 Developing urban and landscape characterisation resources

1 An important strategic aim identified by consultees is to develop arrangements between stakeholders to characterise London’s historic environment in a consistent manner and in partnership with the London Boroughs. Consistent characterisation can promote understanding of the historic environment to local communities, contribute to regional and local policy planning and aid planning decision-making.

2 This aim is consistent with Historic England’s national programme of urban characterisation and survey (see TRUE 3.2) which has three strands: a modified version of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for major conurbations and metropolitan areas; characterisation-based Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) projects for smaller towns or areas; and Urban Archaeological Databases (UADs) for a detailed archaeological record of selected major historic cities.

3 Landscape characterisation is also identified as a key research theme ‘Landscape perspectives’ in the Historic England Research Strategy for Prehistory (see TRSP PR1) and Historic Industry (see TRIE IND3).

4 Characterisation work has the potential to contribute towards many of the specific research priorities set out below.

5 Development of an Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) or supporting Extensive Urban Surveys (EUS) for areas of London would provide valuable support to heritage research and should be linked with the GLHER. Creation of a UAD or EUS are major tasks that would require large financial commitments. Initial consultation and a pilot study might help to establish the feasibility of these goals and the best approach to a programme of work that might extend over several years.

SA14 Updating archaeological archive deposition standards

Several contributors to the Strategy’s consultation stage mentioned a long-term hope for the development of improved standards and updated guidance on the compilation and curation of archaeological archives, an issue that is also touched upon by the Southport Group (CIfA 2011, recommendation 14). Review of collection policies and archive deposition standards would require consultation with curators, contractors and others to develop new standards, consider the implications for Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) and look at changes to excavation and post-excavation guidance. An important aspect of review is to agree how better to explain evolving standards for digital deposition as they increasingly form an important part of the standard site archive. Osteological data will also see increasing digital deposition, made accessible through the Centre for Human Bioarchaeology (CHB) database. Standards should be expanded to cover historic building record archives appropriately.
7 Priority subject areas and research priorities

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Identifying research priorities for an historic environment as complex as Greater London is a major challenge, and there are various documents on the subject, using a variety of conceptual vocabularies, as discussed in Chapter 3.4. The GLHERS consultation identified a number of strategic needs and research aims; these were subsequently reviewed, refined and categorised by the project team in liaison with the project’s Steering Group. A series of priority actions can now be identified, in line with the emphasis first set out in PPS5 on achieving understanding through research strategies.

7.1.2 Section 7.2 seeks to correlate the broad subject headings of London research priorities with other complementary research strategies at the national level, particularly the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) and its Appendix: Framework of Measures and Activities. NHPP Measure 4: Assessment of Character and Significance relates most closely to ‘understanding’ and identifies eight priority subject areas (4A to 4H) (see below and also https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/nhpp-plan-framework/nhpp-plan-framework.pdf). London research priorities can also be identified in relation to the Thematic Research Strategies for the Urban Historic Environment (TRUE), Prehistory (TRSP), the Historic Industrial Environment (TRIE) and the Roman period (TRRO). Cross-references to these strategic documents help to provide an additional research context for the London priorities we have identified (see https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/approaches/research-principles/research-strategies).

Figure 28: View of ships and barges along the north bank of the Upper Pool of the Thames in c 1910; the changing fortunes of London’s port have had far-reaching implications for the use of historic buildings and character of entire areas (Museum of London)
Detailed cross-references to these and other research frameworks, the framework objectives set out in the 2002 research agenda and SHAPE (Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes) might prove useful to researchers if developed during the Research Strategy’s five-year action plan.

7.1.3 Section 7.3 lists research priorities, sometimes expressed as specific projects that were proposed by GLHERS stakeholders. Like the survey of recent work (Chapter 4) they are broadly arranged by their primary relevance to the six elements of the historic environment in Greater London (Chapter 2). This works fairly well for general categorisation, in identifying the distribution of research interest and possible gaps, and for showing that something placed in one element can also illuminate other elements or link several of them.

7.2 Priority subject areas

7.2.1 Urban and public realm

NHPP section 4A includes four subsections: Historic towns and suburbs (4A1); Later 20th-century heritage assets (4A2); Historic ports and dockyards (4A3) and Public buildings (4A4). These broadly equate with sections in TRUE on urban morphology (3.3), suburbs (3.8), the 20th century (3.4), historic ports (3.6) and threatened or vulnerable buildings (3.9). Town halls, schools, courts, police stations, libraries, drill halls, post offices, workers’ institutes and many other civic/community buildings are at risk of change or loss, though some of these categories are relatively well-recorded in the London area. Priority actions should focus on assessment of poorly-understood classes of public building under the most threat. To these can be added certain vernacular building types, designed open spaces, and buried archaeological assets. There are also less tangible issues such as processes of urban change and the influence of landscape. The way elements of early town plans influence later urban layout can be of particular importance for informing planning and development decisions, engendering local identity and helping with ‘place-making’.

7.2.2 Transport, infrastructure and industry

NHPP section 4B has three subsections. Historic water management assets (4B1) includes mills, pumping stations, dams, weirs, riverside walls, sewers and other structures. Traditional and modern industry (4B2) together with its associated housing includes a wealth of material, some of which is particularly vulnerable.

Figure 29: Cross-section of the Victoria Embankment, completed in 1870, showing the new river wall built out into the Thames; the embankment provided space for the Metropolitan District Railway, Bazalgette’s low-level intercepting sewer, and conduits for water and gas mains and telegraph cables (Museum of London)
to redevelopment and of central importance to local communities. This area of research is covered in greater detail in the Thematic Research Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment (TRIE) under themes relating to the Origins, Impact and Legacy of Industry. The NHPP category Transport and Communications (4B3) includes a range of structures and landscapes important to our historic environment but often under-appreciated and under threat. Specific examples of research projects identified during the GLHERS consultation include road, rail and canal transport. The nearest equivalent to 4B3 in TRIE is IND4. London’s historic ports and dockyards (NHPP 4A3; TRUE 3.6) are also of great heritage significance and vulnerable to threats relating to environment, ownership and economic pressure.

7.2.3 Sport, leisure and entertainment

NHPP section 4C includes historic sporting facilities and other leisure buildings, entertainment buildings and landscapes (4C1). These can have a high communal heritage value and are often under threat, deserving study to underpin heritage protection and management decisions. Parks and gardens (TRUE 3.5) might be included in this category, as could London’s public squares, though these also relate to public buildings. Priority actions should focus on poorly understood and threatened examples.

7.2.4 Worship and commemoration

NHPP section 4D has sub-sections for places of worship (4D1), and churchyards, cemeteries and burial grounds (4D2), the latter overlapping with TRUE research priority 3.5. The NHPP notes that nationally Christian places of worship (4D1) are relatively well known but that the heritage of many non-Christian faiths is poorly understood. Disused burial grounds are subject to redevelopment pressures while visible historic cemeteries and commemorative monuments can be at risk from neglect (4D2). Cemeteries are also identified in TRUE research priority 3.5. London boasts a great number and variety of burial places and many of these have been the subject of full archaeological excavation and publication, including Roman, medieval and post-1500 burial, but much remains to be done to realise their full heritage significance.

7.2.5 Conflict and defence

As NHPP priority (4E) this is particularly well represented in London by defences from prehistoric times up to the 20th century (Battlefields 4E1 and 20th-century military heritage 4E2). A rich history of development of fixed defences, including Roman, Saxon and medieval defensive ditches and walls, Civil War defensive works and structures relating to the World Wars have been the subject of extensive archaeological excavation and other research, including community projects and local history society work. More unusual heritage assets include temporary airfields, bomb damage sites and Cold War installations. Evidence of conflict is found throughout the archaeological record and also includes recent material such as the Blitz. The NHPP action plan notes that the social role of defences and civil defence are less well understood topics in this area of research.

7.2.6 Rural settlement and land use

This forms an important topic in the NHPP action plan (4F) with subsections including Rural historic buildings (4F1) and Field systems.
Identifying historic rural settlement is a priority in the London area and some areas have good potential, though surviving evidence is largely masked by later development and difficult to locate. This area of research can also be related to research themes set out in the TRSP and particularly with theme ‘Landscape perspectives’ (PR1). TRSP rightly states that prehistoric sites can only be properly understood as part of a wider landscape. Identifying and recording extant building evidence should involve local community groups wherever possible, while curators may wish to focus on case studies to examine designation issues. Field systems such as boundary ditches can survive over extensive areas within Greater London and represent periods from the prehistoric to early modern, as recorded on the recently published East London Gravels sites.

7.2.7 Prehistory themes/Sedimentary and wetland archaeology

The NHPP topic of Sedimentary and wetland archaeology includes the subtopics Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeology (4G1) and Ploughzone archaeology (4G2). TRSP research themes are categorised differently but include: Innovative studies of sites and monuments (PR2); Understanding prehistoric society (PR3); Critical approaches to key transitions (PR4); Realising the full potential of scientific techniques (PR5); and Studying human interactions with the environment (PR6). In addition to these, responses to changing environments can be identified in the archaeological record and is a key research theme identified in TRSP as PR7, which is particularly relevant today due to concerns about climate change.

7.2.8 Marine assets and landscapes

The NHPP topic of Submerged heritage assets and landscapes (4H1) has some relevance to the GLHERS, particularly regarding the Thames estuary and thematic research into the area’s prehistory (TRSP).

7.3 Research priorities

7.3.1 Theoretical and methodological issues

RP1 Key period transitions

Research into key period transitions would address priorities set out in the NHPP as well as the thematic research strategies identified in TRUE such as the synthesis of developer-funded work (3.1). A particular emphasis might be placed on prehistoric chronologies, which require a critical approach in identifying and defining key period transitions, a research priority set out in TRSP as PR4. One project might look at the poorly understood evidence for the later Iron Age to Roman transition, which might be improved through analysis and publication of sites such as Uphall Camp and the oppidum at Woolwich Arsenal. Key period transitions are also identified as research priorities in TRRO (theme RM3) for the Late Iron Age to Roman (topic 6), Early to Late Roman (topic 7) and Roman to post-Roman (topic 8).

RP2 Scientific techniques

Consultees identified a continuing need to realise the full potential of scientific techniques available to researchers. TRSP includes this goal, and particularly dating, as a key prehistoric research aim (PR5). A GLHERS consultee proposal falls into this category, namely completion of scientific-dating reference work for the London area. This would build on Historic England’s dating syntheses already published; it would include regular updates of a radiocarbon audit followed by dendrochronology and pollen audits.

RP3 Synthetic research

An area of priority research action identified by many consultees is the perceived need for synthesis and publication of large quantities of archived data, whether from site-specific developer-funded archaeological excavations, analyses of individual standing buildings or the growing number of area appraisals, and whether single or multi-period. A substantial ‘research dividend’ could help identify new areas of research. The provision of syntheses could derive maximum benefit from individual projects, provide new insights into the evolution and character of the urban historic environment, and inform the better understanding of significance for future management. These research gains could contribute to the work of museums, education programmes and popular publication, thus reinforcing the public value of developer-led intervention (TRUE 3.1). TRIE IND6 and TRRO RM4 call for the collation and synthesis of grey literature relating to the historic industrial environment and Roman period respectively. The Roman-period thematic research strategy also places particular emphasis on the potential for synthesis to build upon the work of commercial archaeology (RM4 topic 11).
7.3.2 A city in its hinterland and world context (SE1)

RP4 London as a World City: trade, production and consumption

There is a need to review and synthesise data relating to the role of London’s port in trade, production and consumption, including evidence of important industrial heritage and London’s role as the centre of the British Empire. Research would address the NHPP priority relating to historic ports and dockyards (4A3) and contribute to several of the priority research programmes identified in the thematic research strategy for the historic industrial environment (TRIE), particularly IND5.

RP5 London and the tidal Thames

Research into aspects of London’s relationship to the Thames was identified by consultees as a significant research priority. The case studies for the ‘Thames Discovery Programme’ and ‘London and the tidal Thames 1250–1550’ provide examples of ongoing work in this area, with the Thames Discovery Programme providing an outstanding example of community involvement. Research on the Thames is able to address some aspects of NHPP priorities 4A and 4B, TRUE priority 3.6 (historic ports), TRSP aims relating to the changing environment (PR7) and TRIE priorities associated with the impact of industry (IND4).

7.3.3 Inhabiting the pre-urban landscape (SE2)

RP6 The archaeology of surviving surface horizons and plough soils

Prehistoric soil horizons may survive at many sites within the Greater London area. Research
would address NHPP aim 4G2 and several priorities set out in the TRSP document, helping in the continued development of an understanding of site distributions and their significance.

RP7 Prehistoric settlement

The value of study of prehistoric settlements is identified in TRSP key research aim PR2 and relevant to NHPP aims 4F and 4G. The consultation identified a project proposal for synthetic work comparing evidence for prehistoric activity on Greater London’s gravel terraces with that from terraces dominated by floodplains and clay lands.

RP8 Understanding prehistoric society

NHPP priority 4G and the TRSP research aims ‘Understanding prehistoric society’ (PR3) and

Figure 32 (left): Excavations at Convoys Wharf, the site of Deptford Royal Dockyard, uncovered a Tudor storehouse and later warehouses, docks, basins and slipways (MoLA)

Figure 33 (below): Thames Discovery Programme volunteers recording moulded stonework on the foreshore at Victoria Tower Gardens near the Houses of Parliament (TDP/MoLA)
‘Studying human interactions’ (PR6) might be addressed by proposals for research on Iron Age evidence in Greater London. This topic is identified as a priority in the *British Iron Age agenda for action* (Haselgrove et al. 2001, 24–5), where ‘longer-term research should be aimed at filling gaps in existing knowledge’. Strategic areas of interest are identified as: chronological frameworks, settlement patterns and landscape history, material culture studies, regionality, and the nature of socio-economic changes.

RP9 Evidence for Pleistocene and Early Holocene activity

NHPP topic 4G1 notes that it is difficult to locate or accurately quantify Pleistocene and early Holocene activity in terms of taphonomy, boundaries and chronology. No examples of applicable research projects were identified during the GLHERS consultation though the need for continuing survey and characterisation work was recognised. Research could contribute to several TRSP themes.

RP10 Wetland, riverine and waterlogged evidence

The evidence of wetlands can be difficult to locate or quantify, meaning that continuing survey and assessment is justified to establish distribution patterns, character and significance. Research could address aspects of NHPP priority 4G. Much of the evidence is prehistoric in date and can be related to TRSP research theme PR1.

RP11 Climate change and sea level rise

The study of archaeological evidence relating to the Thames has the potential to contribute to analysis of long-term records of climate change and sea level rise as well as identifying the resulting impact on development. Research would contribute to TRSP themes PR6 and PR7. Specific projects might include revision of the correlation of relative sea level rises with radiocarbon dates and the definition of the Thames tidal head at various points in time.

7.3.4 An evolving urban settlement (SE3)

RP12 The impact of suburban encroachment on earlier settlements

Research into the effects of rapid growth and improved transport on ‘village London’ would be aided by collation and synthesis of the available evidence. New research would complement the Centre for Metropolitan History’s ‘Life in the suburbs’ project (http://www.history.ac.uk/projects/research/life-in-the-suburbs).

Figure 34: The Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey superimposed on Thorney Island, showing the prehistoric Thames floodplain at high tide. Will the area look like this again one day? (MoLA)

The subject is particularly suitable for local history and archaeology societies looking for community projects. Research into London’s suburbs can address priorities set out in NHPP aim 4A1 (historic towns and suburbs) and in TRUE themes relating to suburbs (3.8) and threatened or vulnerable building types (3.9).

RP13 London’s transport infrastructure

Further survey and assessment of London’s historic transport systems would be of significant research value and is particularly suitable for the development of projects by GLIAS and other local groups in order to promote community involvement. Research on transport systems is recommended by NHPP priority 4BD (transport and communications) and in the thematic research strategy for the historic industrial environment (TRIE IND4).

RP14 The development of farmsteads and field systems

Synthetic study of rural settlement could collate the results of past archaeological analysis to improve our general knowledge of the topic. Research may address NHPP priorities 4F1 (rural historic buildings) and 4F2 (field systems).
A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London

as well as some themes set out in TRSP for the prehistoric period.

RP15 Post-medieval defensive sites and structures

A survey to create an inventory of post-medieval defences, organised by date, type and function, could provide a basis for future thematic study and amplify developer-funded work. The survey should extend up to and include structures associated with World War II and the Cold War, and is particularly suitable for community and local society involvement. Research would address NHPP priorities 4E1 (battlefields) and 4E2 (20th-century military heritage).

7.3.5 Identifying places and communities (SE4)

RP16 The development of individual settlements

Settlements developed across the Greater London area from prehistoric times up until the early modern period. These can make ideal research projects for local societies and volunteers from the suburbs that eventually embraced early centres. Individual studies might include: collation and synthesis of evidence for post-Roman development of villages; comparative analysis of Greater London’s medieval centres and their hinterlands in relation to origins and morphology, trade and commerce, demographics and other key indicators. This research would address priorities set out in NHPP 4A1 (historic towns and suburbs) and in TRUE aims such as the study of urban morphology (3.3).

RP17 Publishing significant archaeological backlog sites

Several important pre-PPG16 London archaeological sites excavated in the 1980s were not included in the Greater London Publication Programme and their publication would still be of value. A shortlist of priority sites and archives was developed in past reviews and included the Uphall Camp Iron Age settlement, Roman waterfront sites at Huggin Hill and Cannon Street Station, the City defences and post-Dissolution sequences at London’s medieval religious houses. Synthesis can enhance the public value of earlier developer-funded work, as noted in research priority TRUE 3.1.

RP18 London’s water management structures

Survey and assessment of evidence for water
Priority subject areas and research priorities

management systems would be of significant heritage value while providing opportunities to involve groups such as GLIAS, local societies and other groups promoting community engagement. Research would address priorities identified in NHPP section 4B1, which lists historic water management structures such as mills, pumping stations, riverside walls and sewers. Priorities set out in TRIE IND4 relating to the impact of industrialisation include utilities such as water supply and drainage.

RP19 Parks and gardens; disused burial grounds and brownfield sites

Survey and resource assessment work on London’s parks and gardens has substantial potential to contribute to research, as our understanding of these key heritage assets remains poor. Projects may be particularly suitable for community involvement and initiatives developed by local history societies. This research priority can be more broadly defined to include disused burial grounds, as well as use of disused infrastructure such as railway lines, canal paths and other brownfield sites. Work would address priorities set out in NHPP section 4C1 as well as TRUE 3.5.

RP20 Osteological data from 18th- and 19th-century disused burial grounds

Comparative analysis of osteological data has high research potential, complementing the work of the Centre for Human Bioarchaeology (CHB) and archaeological contractors who usually analyse and publish burial grounds individually. Analysis and publication work by MoLA on East London burial grounds at Lukin Street (Catholic), Payne Road (Baptist) and Commercial Road (Mr Sheen’s commercial burial ground) will allow comparison of burial practices for three specific social communities. The work addresses priorities set out in NHPP section 4D2 and TRUE priority 3.5.

RP21 Thames fisheries

Documentary and historical research into medieval London by the Centre for Metropolitan
History (CMH) includes proposals to carry out research work on Thames fisheries. It is relevant to research into historic ports and identified as a priority in NHPP 4A3 and TRUE 3.6.

RP22 The social and economic history of early modern London

Research into the social and economic history of early modern London includes a range of CMH projects, with one example being the digitisation of sources such as the 1695 Marriage Duty Returns, effectively London’s first census. The research can be related to several NHPP priorities, including the study of historic towns and suburbs (4A1).

7.3.6 Buildings for living and working (SE5)

RP23 Survey of the built environment of London

A systematic resource assessment for the built environment, similar to that carried out for the archaeology of Greater London (MoL 2000), could identify historic structures by date, type and class/function, creating an inventory to inform management priorities. The work could use Listed Buildings databases and the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) and would complement development of a GLSMR/HBSMR management development plan for London and Local Planning Authorities’ Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans (CAAMPS). Although the project would be a large and expensive undertaking, pilot projects could first look at examples of public buildings, shops/commercial premises and industrial buildings and landscapes, most of which are unlisted. Work on compiling a survey of the built environment would address aims set out in NHPP section 4A on the urban and public realm, as well as several priorities set out in the thematic research strategy for the urban historic environment (TRUE), including historic characterisation (3.2), survival of early form and fabric in historic towns (3.3), the 20th century (3.4), historic ports (3.6), adding to the evidence base (3.7), suburbs (3.8) and identifying threatened or vulnerable buildings (3.9). A survey would also contribute directly to the TRIE Legacy of Industry priority research programmes, identified as achieving a better understanding of the resource (IND6), developing an evidence base (IND7) and identifying threatened and vulnerable buildings (IND8).

RP24 Analysis of Saxon and early medieval building types

Buildings recorded in Lundenwic and the City of London should be compared with evidence from other regions and from national studies. Research work of this type would contribute to NHPP aim 4A1 relating to the urban and public realm, and TRUE priorities such as the synthesis of developer-funded research (3.1).

RP25 19th- and 20th-century private housing

Research into 19th- and 20th-century private housing includes a collaborative doctoral award by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to the Centre for Metropolitan History (CMH) and the Survey of London. London’s local history societies, many of them affiliated with LAMAS, also conduct many research projects on local housing. Private housing studies can address priorities set out in NHPP aim 4A2 and in TRUE as historic characterisation (3.2), the 20th century (3.4), suburbs (3.8) and threatened or vulnerable building types (3.9).

RP26 London’s slums

Research into London’s historic slums has been identified as a high priority. Propos-
als have included a collaboration between the CMH, King’s College London and MoLA to examine the development of the St Giles Rookery from the early/mid-18th century onwards and address broader questions concerning the factors behind slum formation. Slum research might contribute to NHPP aims relating to the urban and public realm (4A) and TRUE priorities such as historic characterisation (3.2). Some aspects of slum formation might be of relevance to the study of research priorities relating to the impact and legacy of historic industry (TRIE IND5).

RP27 London’s religious sites

Projects on London religious sites might include comparative research into monastic houses, churches and chapels, cathedrals, synagogues and even Roman temples. The work could build on a large body of existing developer-funded excavation findings and English Heritage (now Historic England) funding for analysis of religious houses and research into topics such as London’s friaries. Research would contribute to NHPP aims relating to places of worship (4D1) and cemeteries (4D2) as well as some priorities identified in TRUE, including synthesis of...
developer-funded research (3.1), and parks, open spaces and cemeteries (3.5).

RP28 The post-Reformation use of monastic sites

A large body of important evidence for the later use of London’s monastic sites was assessed for English Heritage as part of MoLA’s Greater London Publication Programme but was not included in subsequent analysis and publication work. Further research would contribute to better understanding of London’s religious inheritance, addressing priorities identified in NHPP urban and public realm topics (4A) and also in TRUE, such as the synthesis of developer-funded research (3.1).

RP29 An area-based inventory of public buildings

Local inventories of public buildings or wider surveys of single building categories have been identified as being of significant research value while promoting community engagement and local empowerment, as recommended in PPS5 in 2010 before its replacement by the NPPF. London’s local history societies and community groups could play a leading role in initiating projects. A survey would contribute to NHPP research aims relating to public buildings (4A4) and to aspects of TRUE research priorities such as the identification of vulnerable buildings (3.9).

RP30 Places and buildings of entertainment

Survey and inventory work could build on and expand current analysis of London’s Tudor playhouses and animal-baiting arenas, while also including Victorian theatres and music halls, bingo halls, early cinemas, pleasure gardens and sporting venues. Local history societies and community groups might take a
lead in developing projects. Research would address topics prioritised in NHPP section 4C, which includes historic sporting facilities and other buildings used for leisure and entertainment (4C1), and also TRUE research priorities such as the identification of vulnerable buildings (3.9).

7.3.7 Artefacts: manufacture and consumption (SE6)

RP31 London’s relationship to its hinterland

Researchers might develop projects for the comparative analysis of finds assemblages from Londinium and its hinterland, following on from work such as ‘Settlement hierarchies in Roman Essex’ and other ‘Urban Hinterlands’ work for the Roman and later periods. Research would contribute to the NHPP action plan topic of rural settlement and land use (4F).

RP32 Artefact studies at the LAARC

The LAARC provides an important facility for the study of London’s material culture through its huge archive of carefully catalogued archaeological artefacts. Artefact studies by students and researchers can foster educational, public and academic engagement with the material that the LAARC curates. Examples of academic research into artefacts can be found in Case Study 9.1.5. Archive-based artefact studies contribute to many of the research priorities identified in the NHPP as well as in the TRUE, TRSP and TRIE documents.
8 Developing new research proposals

8.1 Introduction

People across the heritage sector can play an active role in the development of the Research Strategy and help make it a success. This may involve heritage professionals taking actions that help to facilitate research by identifying crucial research topics, as well as organisations and individuals proposing and participating in research work themselves.

8.2 Encouraging and supporting research

Individuals working in the heritage sector can encourage research work and highlight priorities by including appropriate references in heritage guidelines and documentation. Curators and planners may be able to recommend research through Archaeological Written Schemes of Investigation (WSIs) and planning conditions. Academic institutions, sometimes in association with museums and heritage groups, can help to identify how particular MA and PhD research topics might contribute to the strategy. Local societies and community groups should be offered advice on how their projects and programmes can be tailored to contribute to overall research goals on a variety of topics. All of these actions require proactive communication between interested parties and are crucial to showing that involvement in and use of the strategy can be straightforward and meaningful.

8.3 Choosing a research topic

8.3.1 Individuals, groups or organisations considering the choice of a research topic will find that there is now a plethora of guidance and advice available. The range of organisations and doc-

Figure 41: Students visiting the Museum of London conservation department (Museum of London)
documents can be bewildering and it is important not only to develop an overview of heritage research but also to try and get specific advice from an appropriate institution or individual, perhaps involving a curator, museum, archive, academic institution or a local voluntary or community group.

8.3.2 As noted in Chapter 3, researchers may find it helpful to read and become familiar with definitions of significance, knowledge and understanding, as well as indicative policies and topics set out in documents such as Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the historic environment (PPS5 2010), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP 2011). Information on government policy can be found by consulting the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and their website https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/conservation-of-historic-buildings-and-monuments. Researchers should also consult thematic national research priorities, regional research strategies, the published assessment and agenda stages of the research framework for London and other relevant specialist and academic guidance relating to specialist areas of research where relevant. The bibliography at the end of this report lists some of the main documents and online resources available.

8.4 Writing a proposal

8.4.1 This document is just one of several strategies that attempt to identify key topics and priorities for research and should not be consulted in isolation. Research strategies, whether national, thematic or regional, are likely to become increasingly influential in a wide variety of organisations setting heritage objectives and deciding on the most effective way to use and direct limited resources.

8.4.2 In today’s public spending environment securing funding for heritage research can be difficult. Funding bodies such as Historic England, the Heritage Lottery Fund, universities, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, trusts including Wellcome and Leverhulme, and many smaller and more local organisations such as local archaeological societies may receive an increasing number of applications for financial support while the total funding available is decreasing.

8.4.3 Although competition for research money has increased it is still possible to gain funding from many sources. Well thought through research proposals and applications are crucial to success. Careful selection of a topic and detailed reference to relevant research strategies is fundamental to gaining support. It is also essential that applicants for research funding follow the relevant guidance provided by the funding body.

8.4.4 When writing a proposal it is best to be familiar with applicable guidelines issued by Historic England and other relevant heritage groups. In the case of Historic England particular attention should be paid to the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MorPHE) guidance which covers the management of all historic environment research and provides a framework of defined roles, procedures, stages, terms and key documents. The use of MorPHE is required in funding applications to Historic England and many other heritage organisations encourage its use as well. The guidelines are available at https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/. Training on the use of MorPHE is available from Historic England.

Reference should also be made to the Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage (SHAPE), which provides more guidance for external grant applicants (English Heritage 2008). SHAPE Online is an accessible way of searching projects funded or undertaken by Historic England and can be found on http://shape.english-heritage.org.uk/.

8.4.5 A convincing research topic and well-written proposal also requires precise identification of the target audience for the work. This may be a traditional academic readership but the writers of proposals may also want to consider how 21st-century London’s multi-cultural population might influence a chosen area of research and its dissemination. An awareness and understanding of London’s dynamic and rapidly changing social make-up may help in the successful framing of some research topics and increase a project’s relevance to a broader readership.

8.4.6 A plan for volunteer and community involvement can also be a deciding factor in winning support for a research project, as many funding bodies now expect to see a list of goals and outcomes that include at least an element of social inclusion. The involvement of a local community and volunteers is often the primary goal of a project but may also prove useful to the delivery of academic research work such as that involving extensive archive searches or collection of field data.

8.4.7 Proposers of research and applicants for funding will no doubt improve their chances of
Assembling the right mix of skills on a research team, perhaps through a collaborative working arrangement or research consortium, may help to achieve these goals. Match funding and help in kind might also help to get a project up and running. In some cases research projects may benefit from being designed to include initial pilot studies followed by incremental stages, with well-defined products and reporting structures for each stage and at final completion. Researchers should be aware from the outset that the application processes and documentation required by some funding bodies can be very demanding and tend to rise with the funding sought, sometimes requiring a significant investment of time and other resources.

Figure 42: Thames Discovery Programme’s community archaeology outreach table displaying artefacts from the foreshore at the Tower of London (TDP/MoLA)
9 Case studies

The case studies included in this Strategy have been chosen to illustrate the wide range of London research work that has been completed in recent years, is currently underway or has been proposed. Many other examples could be chosen but it is hoped that the ones presented here show that London’s heritage sector has an active research culture that taps into activities and initiatives from a wide variety of stakeholders. National, regional, local and thematic research agendas, as well as the Archaeological Resource Assessment (MoL 2000) and Research Agenda (MoL 2002), have helped in the development of many of the case studies included here. We hope that this Research Strategy will contribute to the development of many more research proposals that build on what has already been achieved.

9.1.1 Life in the suburbs: health, domesticity and status in early modern London

Life in the suburbs is the third phase of a collaboration between the Centre for Metropolitan History (CMH), the University of Cambridge and Birkbeck, University of London which, since 2003, has examined a broad range of questions relating to the social and economic history of London between 1500 and 1720. The work was ESRC-funded and took place between 2008 and 2011. Particular use was made of family reconstitution techniques, databases and property histories for sample areas of the City of London. The work focuses on the demographic and economic development of London’s eastern suburb between c 1550 and c 1700, looking at the parishes of St Botolph Aldgate and Holy Trinity Minories. The Cambridge team has investigated the consequences of a six-fold population increase and extensive urbanisation to determine the economic attributes of residents and evaluate the impact of this changing environment upon health. Colleagues at the Centre for Metropolitan History and Birkbeck investigated social changes, including the nature of domestic units and the development of the built environment, as well as the health of the inhabitants. This research follows on from the Wellcome Trust-funded project Housing, Environment and Health in Early Modern London and previous AHRB-funded work on reconstituting London families http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/earlymodernlondon/. The research addresses Structural Elements SE3–5 and Framework Objectives L3–4, TD1, TD6–7, TS1 and TS4.

9.1.2 Survey of London: parish surveys of Woolwich, Battersea and East Marylebone

The Survey of London, now part of the Bartlett School of Architecture UCL, published two major new parish surveys on Woolwich and Battersea in 2012 and 2013. Both are riverside parishes but present a striking contrast in terms of historical patterns of development and present-day character. Battersea, with a rich industrial history and a large residential hinterland, both working-class and middle-class, is famous for its park, power station and dogs’ home. Woolwich has a long and distinguished association with the military, boasts an outstanding concentration of civic and municipal buildings and has a strong tradition of working-class self-improvement. The Survey’s current area of study has moved north of the Thames to Eastern Marylebone. More information on these and other projects can be found at https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/research/survey-of-london. The research addresses Structural Elements SE1 and SE4 as well as Framework Objectives L1–10, TD1–7, TE1–4 and TS1–8.

9.1.3 Victoria County History: Middlesex – The City of Westminster

The 13th volume of the Victoria County History of the historical county of Middlesex, The City of Westminster: landownership and religious life, was published in 2009. The landownership section covers the manors of Westminster, Eye (Ebury), Knightsbridge, the Soke of Leicester and the Savoy and the Soke of Mohun; the Episcopal and secular inns, the properties of Oxford and Cambridge colleges and other estates of medieval origin; and later creations including the Grosvenor and Bedford Estates. The volume includes an overview of religious history and detailed accounts of the main churches, chapels and other places of worship. Work on two further City of Westminster volumes is now underway: Local government and social life (vol. XIV) and Law Courts and Lawyers’ Inns.
9.1.4 Audit of local history research

An audit of local history research, proposed by the LAMAS Local History Committee (http://www.lamas.org.uk/committees/local-history-committee.html), would address an important need identified in the GLHERS consultation. There are over 50 local history societies in Greater London but there is no centrally held list of their research publications. LAMAS is well placed to coordinate an audit, though many other organisations are also concerned with local history and could be asked to take part as well. Local history publications are usually produced in single, short print runs or as articles in a local society’s annual journal. Diligent searching of library catalogues may reveal some of this body of work but researchers would benefit from a readily accessible summary, organised by subject matter. An audit could also be used to promote the digitisation of local journals, improving access to the large volume of research within them. A local history audit might also collect information about ongoing or proposed research projects by individual society members, much of it conducted on a personal basis, thereby promoting cooperation between groups and individuals that might enhance research findings. This initiative would facilitate research relating to all of the Structural Elements SE1–6.

9.1.5 Artefact studies by researchers using the LAARC

Three recent PhD research projects provide examples of the LAARC’s value to university-based researchers and the potential for work on other materials and object types.

1 A PhD study of medieval scabbards (Ole-Magne Nottveit, University of Bergen) highlights the potential to use artefacts to investigate trade, comparing the substantial collections of 13th-century leather from London with those of Bergen. Classifying decorative styles, patterns and motifs, the study questions the lists found on medieval custom rolls, suggesting trade was much more varied than previously thought. The overall work sheds light on aspects of daily life for the people of medieval Bergen, medieval Londoners and foreigners living in London at the time. More information on the project can be found at http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections-research/laarc/research/.

2 PhD research (Kevin Hayward, University of Reading) compiled a stone reference collection at the LAARC by examining the geological source of tombstones and architectural fragments, using petrological and geochemical techniques. The reference collection consists of nearly 200 examples of worked stone from prehistoric, Roman and medieval contexts, as well as numerous outcrop samples. The collection allows for direct hands-on comparison so that the geological character and quarry source of a piece of rubble or worked stone can now be more confidently assigned, providing a basis from which further research can be undertaken. More information on the project is available from: http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections-research/laarc/research/.

3 ‘Superior Quality’: exploring the nature of cost, quality and value in historical archaeology is a PhD research project by Penny Crook of La Trobe University in Australia which examined 19th-century Victorian tableware, looking at London’s archaeological collections alongside trade catalogues and similar material from around the world (http://www.latrobe.edu.au/humanities/research/specialisations/archaeology-historical). The LAARC contains many large, relatively unstudied 19th-century household assemblages with potential for research into the global connections of the material culture of the modern historical period.

These research projects address Structural Elements SE1, SE4 and SE6 as well as Framework Objectives TE1–4 and TS8.

9.1.6 Institute of Historical Research (IHR) summer school in local history

In 2014 the IHR held its third annual summer school on local history. The school is open to anyone interested in expanding their skills in local history research and provides a varied programme of lectures and workshops delivered by a team of experts. The 2014 summer school used practical advice and example to show students how to strengthen their own local history projects, as well as providing them with the opportunity to meet specialists
and other researchers and to discuss their work. The programme included sessions on ‘Sources and Approaches’, ‘Households’, ‘Urban Heritage’, ‘Landscape and Gardens’ together with practical advice on disseminating research through a session on ‘Writing, Presenting and Publishing Local History’. Further information can be found on the IHR website at http://www.history.ac.uk/research-training/courses/local-summer-school. This initiative addresses Structural Elements SE1–5 as well as strategic processes of understanding and communicating.

9.1.7 Living in Victorian London: material histories of everyday domestic life in the 19th-century metropolis

Living in Victorian London is a pilot project that aims to develop a new approach to the study of 19th-century domestic life by looking at the material from three London excavations held at the LAARC. The work is a collaborative effort between Alastair Owens and Karen Wehner of the Department of Geography at Queen Mary College, University of London and Nigel Jeffries and Rupert Featherby, who are specialists at Museum of London Archaeology. The primary objective of the work is to provide a material history of life in Victorian London, focusing on historical archaeology, evaluating and developing the ‘ethnographies of place’ methodology. The project re-examines the material dimensions of Victorian urban life, shifting away from the perception of the period through art and literature. The project demonstrates the potential for collaborative research and offers insights on how LAARC’s archaeological collections can provide a foundation for research for people from non-archaeological backgrounds. More information about the project can be found at: http://www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/victorianlondon/index.html. This research addresses Structural Elements SE1 and SE3–6 as well as Framework Objectives L2–3, L10, TD6–7, TE3–4, TS4 and TS8.

9.1.8 Hendon School Community Archaeology Project

The Hendon School Community Archaeology Project is a collaboration between Hendon School, the Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) and the UCL Institute of Archaeology. The project aims to provide students at the school with an experience and understanding of archaeological fieldwork, while investigating an important multi-period site. The project began in 2006 and has proved to be a success, both in the archaeological findings made and as an innovative collaborative form of community archaeology. The focus of fieldwork is the 16th-century residence of John Norden, cartographer to Elizabeth I, though a significant assemblage of medieval pottery has also been found. As a community archaeology project, an important aspect of the work is the sustainability of the project, with the emphasis on volunteer work, minimal costs and resource sharing between the project partners. The project provides a useful model of a collaborative community approach which is not dependent on securing initial funding. For more information see http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/directory/hendon_moshenska. This initiative addresses strategic processes of understanding and communicating.

9.1.9 Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans

Local planning authorities have a duty to draw up and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas and to consult the local community about these proposals. Most London boroughs, and the Cities of London and Westminster have published, or are carrying out, a programme of Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans. Appraisals include defining the special architectural or historic interest of a conservation area, assessing its origins and historic development and identifying its character. These are intended to provide a sound basis for policies in the Local Development Framework and Supplementary Planning Documents, and for developing a Management Strategy for an area, including proposals for enhancement. The preparation of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans involves public consultation. Examples can be found on borough websites such as Lambeth’s http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/building-conservation/conservation-area-profiles-guide. This research addresses Structural Elements SE1–6.

9.1.10 Synthesis of archaeological research: Londinium: a new map and guide to Roman London

Many of the contributors to the Strategy’s consultation phase identified a need for syntheses of archaeological findings and research work which currently tends to go to a limited and
A recent Roman London initiative saw the collation of a new map and guide which has sold well, demonstrating the potential for synthesis of available data. **Londinium: a new map and guide to Roman London** (MoLA 2011), was developed with funding from City of London Archaeological Trust (CoLAT), LAMAS and Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee (SLAEC), as well as benefiting from the support of archaeological contractors. The map represents a significant update of the 1983 Ordnance Survey map of Roman London. The new map includes the most important archaeological findings of recent years, accompanied by a descriptive commentary [http://www.mola.org.uk/publications/londinium-new-map-and-guide-roman-london?pid=131](http://www.mola.org.uk/publications/londinium-new-map-and-guide-roman-london?pid=131). The project made use of GIS data, with the paper map backed up by extensive digital mapping. This allowed the Museum of London to develop Streetmuseum™ Londinium, an iPhone and iPad app that uses information from the paper map to create virtual tours of the Roman city ([http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/Resources/app/Streetmuseum-Londinium/home.html](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/Resources/app/Streetmuseum-Londinium/home.html)). This research addresses Structural Elements SE1–6 and Framework Objectives R1–10, TD1 and TD4–6.

### 9.1.11 Thames Discovery Programme

The Thames Discovery Programme (TDP) aims to communicate an understanding and informed enjoyment of the historic Thames to a wide audience. The project was launched in 2008 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Other partners included the Museum of London, English Heritage (now Historic England) and the UCL Institute of Archaeology. The Thames Discovery Programme has been hosted by Museum of London Archaeology since 2011.

TDP archaeologists have surveyed a large number of archaeological sites along the tidal Thames, with the work supported by volunteer Foreshore Recording and Observation Groups. Volunteers have also been given training to help monitor the surveyed sites for changes after the programme’s three-year funding period. The project includes a regular programme of other activities for anyone interested in learning about the Thames.

The Thames Discovery Programme demonstrates the massive potential for public involvement in archaeological recording. Outreach work also involves school groups, student research projects, opportunities for work experience, travelling displays, exhibitions, lectures, site visits and an annual conference, all supported by a website. More information is available at: [http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/about/](http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/about/). This research addresses Structural Elements SE1–3 and Framework Objectives P1, R2, S2, M2 and TL1–4.

### 9.1.12 Greater London Publication Programme

The Greater London Publication Programme was an English Heritage-funded initiative designed to support the analysis and publication of selected ‘backlog’ excavation findings through the MoLA monograph series. The programme was agreed in the early 1990s and the results began to appear in 1997. The original list of proposed titles evolved over time, with some...
Figure 44: Thames Discovery Programme volunteers recording features on the foreshore in front of Custom House, to the west of the Tower of London (TDP/MoLA)

Figure 45: A busy summer day at ‘Tower beach’ as Thames Discovery Programme volunteers and tourists mingle on the foreshore (TDP/MoLA)
An active publication programme includes gazetteers, a journal and booklets of walks. Recent e-papers include *The rise, fall and transformation of Bankside Power Station 1890–2010*. For more information see [www.glias.org.uk](http://www.glias.org.uk/). This research addresses Structural Elements SE1 and SE3–6 as well as Framework Objectives L1–10, TD6 and TE1–3.

9.1.14 Wanstead Parklands Community Project

The Wanstead Parklands Community Project (WPCP) aims to raise awareness of historic Wanstead Park through the recording of the ecology and history of the 18th-century house and park by non-destructive methods. The project began in 2005 with funding from a Local Heritage Initiative Grant, Nationwide Building Society Community Awards and the City of London Corporation. A rolling programme of investigations continues, with the West Essex Archaeology Group (WEAG) providing guidance and carrying out archaeological fieldwork. A geophysical survey was undertaken with the support of the University of East London and Essex University. The park includes evidence of a possible Roman villa and a surviving 18th-century landscape associated with the house. More information can be found on the Wanstead Park Community Project website, at [www.wansteadpark.org.uk](http://www.wansteadpark.org.uk). This research addresses Structural Elements SE1, SE4–5 and Framework Objectives R12, L1–2 and TD2.

9.1.15 Recording a World War II air-raid shelter at Edgware Junior School

Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) runs an active programme of fieldwork in the London Borough of Barnet. An interesting example of their commitment to community involvement and education was the 2006 excavation and preservation of a World War II air-raid shelter at Edgware Junior School. The project involved learning opportunities for the children and documentary research. The Edgware project was part of a larger research programme funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the work was supported by HADAS, UCL, Edgware Junior School, English Heritage, Barnet Archives and the Imperial War Museum library. For further information see [www.hadas.org.uk](http://www.hadas.org.uk/) and *London Archaeologist* 11(9) (2007), 237–40 ‘Unearthing an air-raid shelter at Edgware Junior School’. This research addresses Structural Element SE1 and Framework Objectives L5, TD5 and TC3.
9.1.16 Developer-funded research and publication by archaeological contractors

Developer-funded analysis and publication work became the primary driver of archaeological research after the passage of Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and planning in 1990. In London MoLA, and later PCA, developed in-house publication series for dissemination of significant findings requiring more space than that available in journals such as Trans LAMAS. More information can be found at http://www.mola.org.uk/publications and http://www.preconstruct.com/Publications/Monographs.htm. This research addresses all of the Structural Elements SE1–3 and Framework Objectives identified in the Agenda and Strategy.

9.1.17 Londinium: an assessment of the resources

This English Heritage-funded project from 2003–4 was unusual in that it was an assessment-only commission. The aim of the work was to assess the potential of finds and environmental material from Roman London in order to develop an online database. The database was intended to enable further research and act as a platform for the development of separate research projects that could be funded by others. The assessment was undertaken by Angela Wardle and colleagues at MoLA and has provided the basis for grant applications to other funding bodies that have led to several follow-on projects. Some of these have been relatively small and have attracted funding from CoLAT and other funding bodies to examine particular categories of artefact, while a Designated Challenge Fund grant supported a training post for work on the finds database. This research addresses: Structural Elements SE1 and SE6 as well as Framework Objectives R13, TD7, TE1–4, TS8 and TC4.

9.1.18 Community and training excavations: Shoreditch Park and Syon House

The Museum of London-led community excavation of Shoreditch Park in 2005–6 remains a good example of collaborative work between a museum, archaeological contractor and local community. Sponsored by the Big Lottery Fund, over 700 Hackney school children learned how to be archaeologists for a day, excavating and processing their discoveries under the guidance of MoLA archaeologists and LAARC staff. The site uncovered the remains of houses destroyed in World War II bombing raids. Several older Hackney residents remembered the wartime bombing and had a direct link with the evidence, allowing the collection of oral histories to add to the site archive. Post-exavIGATION work included the development of activity boxes for community outreach. Increased local interest in the park helped to inspire the Shoreditch Trust to invest in a redevelopment plan that highlights aspects of the park’s history. More information on the project can be found at: http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections-research/laarc/community-excavations/shoreditch-park-community/.

The Syon House training excavation, organised by the Faculty of Lifelong Learning, Birkbeck, began in 2004 and continued for six seasons. Syon Abbey, the only Bridgettine house in England, was a double house for nuns and religious men. After the Dissolution the abbey was converted into a residence. The Birkbeck field project at Syon combined student training in archaeological excavation and research into the ground plan and structural history of the abbey church, first identified during a Time Team investigation in 2003. The Birkbeck excavations also contributed to the understanding of the layout and development of the rest of the abbey and the post-Dissolution gardens of Syon House itself. The Museum of London and MoLA have run summer training excavations at Syon in more recent years. Further information about the Syon project can be found at http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/events/syon-park-excavations. The Syon House projects address Structural Elements SE4 and SE5 as well as strategic processes of understanding and communicating.

9.1.19 The Centre for Human Bioarchaeology

The Centre for Human Bioarchaeology (CHB) was established as a branch of the LAARC in 2003, building on MoLA work at Spitalfields, and holds over 17,000 excavated human skeletons from sites across Greater London. The collection is a unique assemblage of international significance and spans the Neolithic to post-medieval periods. Over two-thirds of the collection is available online via the Wellcome Osteological Research Database (WORD), allowing researchers to download detailed information. Research has included work on the Black Death, analysis of the development of teeth and comparisons between skeletons with tuberculosis from London and internationally. CHB research promotes the standardised recording and analysis of osteological data.
from London sites, supporting a database of international importance. Aside from in-house academic analysis and publication work, the CHB’s team of osteologists run educational events that include evening courses, workshops, school visits and displays. For more information see http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/Centre-for-Human-Bioarchaeology/. This research addresses Structural Element SE4 and Framework Objectives TS4–5.

9.1.20 London and the tidal Thames 1250–1550: marine flooding, environment and economic change

This 2008–10 ESRC-funded Centre for Metropolitan History project at the Institute of Historical Research researched past occurrences of storm flooding along the tidal river Thames and its estuary, exploring the ways in which people responded to the threat. Research used surviving documentary sources, which include year-by-year accounts of the management of riverside properties, to assess the loss of reclaimed land to the sea. Other aspects of the project included the impact of population decline and agrarian recession on the economics of coastal and river-side defence, the flood threat to medieval London’s low-lying suburbs, and the possibility that the long-term flooding of lands down-river spared the City of London the worst effects of North Sea storm surges. See http://www.history.ac.uk/projects/research/tidal-thames for more information. This research addresses Structural Element SE1 and Framework Objectives TL1–4.

9.1.21 Upper Cray Valley archaeological project

The Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS) promotes the study of archaeology in the Upper Cray Valley through fieldwork and research as well as supporting a wide range of public events in association with local museums. Their Upper Cray Valley Project is a long-running survey of archaeological finds from the area. The survey findings have been published in six period-based volumes, with the last of these appearing in 2007. The Society carries out excavations, field surveys, documentary research and post-excavation finds processing, and has a close relationship with the Bromley Museum. More information on ODAS is available at: www.odas.org.uk. Their research work addresses Structural Elements SE4 and SE6 as well as Framework Objectives R13, S1 and S6.

9.1.22 Online presentation of findings during excavation work (L – P : Archaeology)

L – P : Archaeology has developed extensive online resources to present findings as archaeological work progresses, engaging the local community and enhancing education and learning opportunities. An example is the 2008 excavation at Prescot Street, just to the east of the City of London, in the area of the eastern Roman cemetery. The Prescot Street web pages have allowed quick dissemination of findings during both the dig and post-excavation work. The approach is based on an open source, standards compliant, web-delivered system for the creation, storage, manipulation and publication of archaeological data and media. The website has allowed people of differing backgrounds and levels of knowledge to follow progress both on and off site, demonstrating the potential for web-based presentation of archaeological results at both a popular and academic level. More information about the project can be found at www.lparchaeology.com/prescot/.

These initiatives address Structural Elements SE1–4 as well as strategic processes of understanding and communicating.

9.1.23 Morden manorial records

The Merton Historical Society has worked with archive holders to gather together translations of the manorial records for Morden, where Westminster Abbey owned an estate from before the Norman Conquest. Many of the medieval manorial records are still in existence, mostly in the Muniment Room at Westminster Abbey, though some documents have found their way into other archives. Translations of all the known documents have been added to the Merton Historical Society website and can be viewed or downloaded. Images of the documents have been added alongside the translations, by courtesy of the various archives. More information can be found at http://www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/index.php?cat=projects&sec=1&mordenmanorialdocs. This project addresses Structural Element SE1 and Framework Objectives M6, TD1–3.

9.1.24 Volunteering and outreach at the LAARC

Since opening in 2002 the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) has provided nearly 1,000 volunteers with the opportunity to work with their collections. The
Figure 47: Community outreach work at the LAARC caters for all age groups (Museum of London)

Figure 48: Participants in the Volunteer Inclusion Programme at the LAARC (Museum of London)
9.1.25 MicroPasts crowd-funding of the Thames Discovery programme ‘London’s lost waterway: an archaeology of wherries and river stairs on the tidal Thames’

MicroPasts is a specialist web platform which has successfully crowd-sourced volunteer work for a variety of archaeological and historical research projects. They have recently launched crowd-funding campaigns for three starter projects that involve collaborations between community organisations and academic institutions. One of these projects seeks support for a collaboration between the Thames Discovery Programme (TDP), UCL and the Museum of London to map landing places along the river Thames where river ‘taxis’ operated from the late 16th century onwards (https://crowdfunded.micropasts.org/projects/londons-lost-waterway). This project has the potential to address Structural Elements SE1–6 as well as Framework Objectives TL2 and TD4.

9.1.26 Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status for MoLA

In September 2014 MoLA announced that it had successfully achieved Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status, having been assessed by RCUK. MoLA is now one of only a handful of non-university organisations which are eligible to apply directly to the Research Councils for funding and are the only archaeological contractor in the UK with this status, which they will retain for at least five years. In order to become an IRO MoLA needed to demonstrate an in-house capacity to carry out research that materially extends and enhances the national research base. The granting of IRO status will help MoLA to secure significant research funding as both a lead and supporting partner. See http://www.mola.org.uk/blog/independent-research-organisation-status-mola for more information. This initiative addresses strategic processes of understanding and communicating.

9.1.27 ‘Mapping the River Thames’ and ‘Queenhithe mosaic’ projects

Two recent projects provide excellent examples of initiatives that involve children and local community groups in learning about the Thames. ‘Mapping the River Thames’, funded by Hermitage River Projects, is helping children from Hermitage Primary School to think like archaeologists, using sources such as maps to build a picture of the past in their area. At St Katherine’s Dock the children focused on...
the textures, tastes and smells of the products traded there to immerse themselves in the past. Oral history interviews bring real river people into the story while a Thames foreshore visit gives the children a chance to discover their own little piece of the past. The pupils have used video stories to present what they have learned to parents and friends on the school website. The project was organised by The Gleaners, a non-profit Community Interest Company, as part of a two-year rolling programme of activities for Key Stage 2 called ‘The River Thames: Journeys of Discovery’. For more information see http://www.thegleaners.co.uk/primary-project.html.

‘The Queenhithe mosaic project’ was organised by Southbank Mosaics, a social enterprise where artists, volunteers and students are trained in mosaic design and make public realm art works. At Queenhithe a community archaeologist helped volunteers collect ceramic sherds from the foreshore at low tide and sort them into chronological order, using the information in the design of the top and bottom borders of a 30m-long mosaic on the wall of the dock. The Queenhithe Dock Heritage Timeline depicts key events and people that shaped the area over the centuries, creating a durable record of the neighbourhood’s heritage for passers-by. The findings and experiences of the participants will also be used in a book and a film. For more information see http://www.southbankmosaics.com/projects/queenhithe-dock-heritage-time-line-mosaic/.

These projects address Structural Elements SE1, 4 and 6 as well as Framework Objectives TL2 and TD4 and strategic processes of understanding and communicating.

9.1.28 Fulham Palace community archaeology walled garden dig

In the summer of 2012 a remarkable community archaeology dig took place in the walled garden of Fulham Palace, the Grade I Listed residence of the Bishops of London until 1973. Fulham Palace Trust, which has managed the property since 2011, secured funding for the dig from the Heritage Lottery Fund and designed
the project to reflect their community development aims. The goal of the dig was to uncover evidence of the garden’s layout from its creation in the 1760s onwards, using the evidence to guide restoration work. The project engaged the community from the outset and attracted 94 volunteers, 21 students of archaeology and associated studies, 239 children from seven local schools and 313 people who dropped in during family days. Supervision was provided by archaeologists from Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) working closely with the Trust. For more information see the Fulham Palace website http://www.fulhampalace.org/ and a short film about the project entitled ‘The Dig’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3i3ScNjZqg.
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The Strategy’s terms of reference extend beyond archaeology to encompass the broader historic environment – the totality of the physical evidence for past human activity. Over 300 consultees from a wide variety of backgrounds played a part in developing this document, giving their time to discuss ideas for promoting research and identifying priorities.

The Strategy sets out a series of inter-related Research Elements that can be applied to the historic environment of the Greater London area, summarising recent research work in relation to the research elements. A proposed five-year Action Plan includes Strategic Actions to facilitate the development of a research culture and Research Priorities related to national, thematic and regional research strategies. Identification of particular projects is limited to a few examples – the hope is that the research community will develop projects and shape the strategy during its implementation stage. A range of Case Studies covering recently completed or current research work helps to demonstrate London's vibrant historic environment research sector and its potential to evolve in new directions.