

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH STRATEGY FOR GREATER LONDON

The proposed Research Strategy publication will take the form of a guidance booklet of *c* 10,000 words or more, with accompanying illustrations, resulting in an overall length of *c* 32–48 pages. The text will draw on the results of the consultation and on the earlier resource assessment (The archaeology of Greater London, Museum of London 2000) and research agenda (A research framework for London archaeology, Museum of London 2002). The strategy will clearly set out key research questions, assess progress towards them, identify research goals and initiatives, present recommendations for priorities in the coming 4–5 years, and include real or exemplar projects proposed by stakeholders or otherwise identified during the consultation. The printed document will be closely related to the project website, which will contain more detailed documentation.

1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- contents
- lists of figures and tables
- foreword
- executive summary
- acknowledgement and contributors

2 INTRODUCTION

An outline of the brief: summarising the principal objectives of the overall Research Framework and identifying likely users of the research strategy. This section will also refer back to the earlier assessment and agenda documents (AGL 2000 and RFL 2002) which, together with the research strategy, make up the research framework. The introduction will also set out how a broadening of the focus of the research strategy from the earlier documents primarily archaeology-led approach to embrace the broader ‘historic environment’.

3 THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT (see separate paper for details)

Provide a short definition of the historic environment: ‘the material and natural world all around us, as shaped by people’s activities through time and perceived by people now.’

Explain how the historic environment is not a discipline but a physical presence, linking research and investigation with communication and participation, as well as conservation management.

Present a model of the historic environment in three interlocking parts, a hierarchy of physical scale, shaping human activities and natural contexts.

4 RESEARCH FRAMEWORK FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT (see separate paper for details)

This section will outline a tripartite model of a Research Framework for the historic environment:

- **Themes** act as cohering concepts, bringing together aspects, generating questions and promoting linkages.

- **Contributory components** are a range of process-types including disciplines, useful foci for question-based research and also contributors to major themes.
- **Projects and programmes** are coherent question-based research activities.

This ‘loose fit’ model, would aim at inclusivity for research interests while encouraging clear design, proper justification, articulation across themes, and the contextualisation that can bring knowledge to wider audiences and sets of users.

This section will also propose and explain six proposed over-arching themes:

- 1 A city in its hinterland and world context
- 2 Inhabiting the pre-urban landscape
- 3 An evolving settlement
- 4 Identifying places and communities
- 5 Buildings for living and working
- 6 Making and using artefacts

5 A RESEARCH STRATEGY FOR GREATER LONDON

The research strategy will be set out in relation to the application of the three basic processes associated with the historic environment – *understanding*, *communicating/participating*, and *managing* – as applied to the six themes, a comprehensive totality for subject, period and location.

Understanding:

- updating the assessment of what we do know and need to know should ideally be organised according to agreed new themes, though there may be some ongoing need to describe our understanding in relation to the period-led approach which dominated the earlier documents
- identifying sources and interdisciplinary connections (both within archaeology and more widely)

Communicating/participating:

- identifying/and encouraging linkages between institutions and activities, public and private initiatives and so on
- information: storage and maintenance, enabling its identification and retrieval
- publishing results through the full range of media, academic to popular, paper/digital and grey literature

Managing: (though not a primary part of the Strategy, management must not be omitted from consideration)

- connecting understanding and management

6 ACTION PLAN

The central part of the Research Strategy will take the form of an Action Plan, setting out recommendations for initiatives over the coming 4–5 years. This will:

- formulate some of the key research questions
- describe a programme of known and potential work

- identify means of review and renewal of the research strategy itself
- identify means of improved dissemination of research
- place proposed work within a wider context

The Research Strategy action plan will attempt to clearly relate recommended initiatives to any actions required to facilitate them or obstacles that would first need to be overcome. Where possible, proposed research will try to identify the organisations that would be involved and the resources needed.

Information may be best presented in a tabular or grid format (see **Table 1** for a sample selection of research initiatives, overleaf). The action plan will be set out within a clear hierarchy and numbering system to enable specific referencing by users.

The action plan will be illustrated with short **Case Studies** where possible and may include quotes and comments from individuals with a representative range of London heritage interests.

Research initiatives will come in a wide variety of types and range from simple to complex. Some proposals may already be under development, with known proponents. Others may be ideas currently at the most preliminary stage, with or without a 'champion'.

7 APPENDICES

Links and resources

The GLHERS published document will also summarise important links and resources available to researchers, including listing of

- relevant regulatory documents and guidance
- useful websites
- useful contact details

Select bibliography and index

Table 1: examples of major research topic areas identified by multiple consultees (a more detailed list will be tabled at the March 20th seminar for discussion)

	project or initiative	dependencies	organisations involved	sponsor/resourcing	other notes
1	synthesis (any example ie archaeological or historic period)	need for a digitally-accessible archive and GIS to aid data mining; consult curators on requirements	archaeological contractors, academics and individuals with LAARC	partnership funding; curators might consider funding ear-marks or ring-fencing	synthesis would complement the great success of PPG-funded site-specific publication and could help generate a research dividend
2	create a GLHERS web-based research hub, including (a) research census listing current projects and practitioners (b) heritage links and resources (c) forum	collection and maintenance of a hub website, possibly through a wiki, blog or other on-line system; funding for a research adviser and content editor	all stakeholders and contributors; LAARC with CBA; EH	English Heritage?	maintain proactive review through a Steering Group, Research Matters newsletter, annual meeting and on-line update to inform research process and disseminate information
3	research audit for historic buildings and areas	a necessary but mammoth task needing careful scoping	should involve all public and private organisations but will need a lead body / facilitator	public - private	long-term project
4	local society project (any example ie recording Roman road evidence in a LB and comparing to documentary and archives)	outside advice from Community archaeologist, LAARC, Conservation Officer etc as appropriate	relevant local history and archaeology societies	self-financing or voluntary with partnership top-up / input	would benefit from involvement of a Community Archaeologist
5	community programme: example Thames foreshore project	support from multiple agencies to facilitate	example: Thames Discovery Programme with support from UCL, MoL and others	Heritage Grant	ongoing 3-year project began autumn 2008
6	Historic Environment Record (HER)	GLSMR/HBSMR management development plan	English Heritage	public	may require further consultation; links to Historic Protection Review
7	Urban Archaeology Database (UAD)	UAD management plan may be a prerequisite	English Heritage; archaeological contractors and academic partners	public - private	potentially very large project which would best begin with a pilot study of geographic area or category of evidence
8	synthetic report on a research theme (any example ie Provisioning of Londinium)	accessible digital archive / GIS to aid data mining; LAARC advice and support	university and/or archaeological contractor partnership	AHRC or similar	ideal for inter- and intra-site finds and environmental research using existing high quality data
9	graduate and post-graduate research	advice from LAARC on topic; cont'd support and access to archives	relevant university, LAARC and archaeological contractors	multiple	use of a priority list, backed by LAARC advice, would enhance student experience and complement overall research strategy goals
10	schools / curriculum	agreement with relevant LEAs	LEA and relevant museum partner	partnership funding	would benefit from expert advice
11	private housing 1870 to the present	collaborative doctoral award scheme	Institute of Historical Research; The Survey of London	decision awaited on funding application; possible VCH / CMH grant	potentially a large project that could generate wide interest
12	industrial archaeology field recording projects	private owner access and support in kind; curator guidance	GLIAS in association with others	mixed voluntary and partnership?	great potential for archaeological contractors and academics to work with GLIAS
13	review and update archaeological methods and standards guidance for new projects	consultation on requirements with curators, contractors and others to develop revised standard WSIs for excavation and post-excavation	GLAAS, CoL and LBS curators; LAARC; archaeological contractors; other regulatory bodies	multiple, including EH?; site specific costs built in to future project-costings	may include update of excavation manual by MoLA and formal adoption; similar approach to standardised px advice guidance
14	developing an accessible digital archive, including map-based/GIS systems for data analysis for 'legacy' archive data	develop metadata standards, including use of OASIS and ADS; approach to new projects and legacy (archive) data should be complementary	LAARC in consultation with archaeological contractors, curators and others	LAARC partnership funding	enhanced accessibility of archive 'legacy' data would generate 'value-added' secondary research
15	improved communication and prompt dissemination of archaeological findings	agree contractor, public and curatorial requirements; review opportunities for interim reporting, grey literature, Open Access, developer-funded websites etc	wide range of stakeholders, from amateur/local to professional and academic; LAARC; EH	any additional cost balanced against savings or included in primary developer funding	drive would be to engage wide range of users of heritage findings, using innovative approach ie web-based site reports and publication by LP archaeology for Prescot St etc
16	development of new university courses relevant to London heritage research	active development of partnerships between relevant university depts, archaeological contractors, LAARC, curators	range of stakeholders	multiple	might include proposed Birkbeck foundation course in LA and UCL Inst. of Archaeology MA in Urban Archaeology