

MOLAS LIBRARY

news
letter

*competitive
tendering
special*

May 1990

INTRODUCTION

Thanks to everyone who helped with the developer presentation for Great Tower Street. It seems to have been a success. Enjoy the sunshine while it lasts!

DIARY

The new exhibition at the Museum, London's Pride, opens on May 1st. The following lectures are included in the London's Pride events programme:

Lunchtime lectures on Wednesdays and Fridays at 1.10pm, in the Lecture Theatre:

11th May: *The Battle for Open Spaces in Tudor and Early Stuart London*, Vanessa Harding.

16th May: *The Gardens of Hampton Court Palace*, David Jacques.

18th May: *The Gardens of the City Livery Companies*, Brigid Boardman.

30th May: *The pleasure Gardens*, Patrick Goode.

1st June: *Wild in London*, David Goode.

Workshops on Thursdays at 1.10pm in the Lecture Theatre:

3rd May: *London's Historic Nurseries Revived: Planning and Planting the Museum's Garden Court*, Richard Stone and Carol Colson.

10th May: *Gardening in the Royal Parks*, Jennifer Adams.

17th May: *Plants, Flowers and the Decorative Arts*, Tessa Murdoch.

31st May: *From Night-soil to Pineapples - Recycling in the 18th Century*, Wendy Evans.

The Archaeology of London, a series of lectures at the British Museum, at 1.15pm in the Lecture Theatre:

Wednesday 16th May: *The rise and fall of Roman London*, Gustav Milne

Wednesday 23rd May: *Saxon and Norman London*, John Clarke

Wednesday 30th May: *The London of Chaucer and Shakespeare*, John Schofield

STAFF*Appointments*

Dave Lawrence, SA, 1-3 Great St Thomas Apostle
Cathy Rosborough, SA, Pinners Hall

Resignations

Helene Larrison

JOBS

DGLA, SA for Sutton house, Homerton High Street. Closing date: 18th May.

DGLA, SA for post ex phase of St Mary's Nunnery, Clerkenwell. Closing date: 16th May.



Richards Moorehead & Laing Ltd.
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**INDUSTRIAL
ARCHAEOLOGIST**

We are looking for a qualified, suitably experienced and practically-minded person to assist the Resident Engineer in supervising the archaeological aspects of a large derelict-land reclamation scheme at the Minera lead/zinc mines near Wrexham. The scheme has been designed to conserve as much of the historical interest on the site as is practicable, and is part of the Clywedog Valley Heritage Park being promoted by Wrexham Maelor Borough Council and others.

Appointment will be from mid-June or later, for an eight-month period, but may be extended. Salary up to £11,000 pa with casual car and other normal site allowances.

For more details contact Nick Ward at the address below. Applications by letter with full cv and referees. Closing date 9th May 1990.

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**THE TRUST FOR
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Appointment of
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(South Kesteven)**

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Applications, with c.v., to
**TLA, 28 Boston Road,
Sleaford, Lincs, NG34
7EZ.**



*An International
Conference of
Medieval Archaeology*
23rd - 24th September 1992
University of York

Organised by York Archaeological Trust, the Society for Medieval Archaeology, and the Department of Archaeology, University of York

**CALL FOR
PAPERS
AND FIRST
ANNOUNCEMENT**

* **SUTTON HOO RESEARCH PROJECT**

SUPERVISORS/SITE ASSISTANTS

Experienced SUPERVISORS and SITE ASSISTANTS are required during the 1990 excavation season at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, where a team of archaeologists from the University of York are currently investigating the Anglo-Saxon cemetery and underlying prehistoric settlement.

Please apply with CV to: Professor Martin Carver, Director, Sutton Hoo Research Project, Sutton Hoo, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DJ. Tel: 03943 7673

Closing Date: 25 May 1990.

NEWS DIGEST**Competitive tendering**

On Brooks Wharf, our evaluation and rejection of the developer's proposal that excavation should precede demolition was sent on 18 March. Thereafter, apart from slow breaking-out of the basement slab, there has been little apparent movement, but meetings are now being arranged with the client. Meanwhile work has started at Pinners' Hall, supervised by Cathy Rosborough, on the other major site where competition appeared.

At the AGM of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers on 3 May I expressed widespread concerns throughout the profession about competitive tendering (as distinct from other aspects of contract archaeology). This paper is given below, and can be taken as a statement of DUA policy. A national campaign against competitive tendering is also gathering momentum (see press cuttings).

New projects

Damian Goodburn is to organise a one-day conference on the practical aspects of Wet Site Excavation and Survey, on 27 October 1990 in the Museum; this will be a joint venture between the DUA and the Nautical Archaeology Society. Craig Spence has been compiling the 1989 Archaeology Review, and sponsorship towards its cost has now been secured by John Maloney and colleagues; we would hope it is published in September.

Competitive tendering: paper for SCAUM

This paper distinguishes between Contract Archaeology and Competitive Tendering, and concentrates on the latter. I shall borrow words from other critics of competitive tendering, to show that our concern is widespread. To quote David Baker in a draft paper, 'Conducting archaeological projects on a contractual basis is business-like, can improve efficiency and requires a professional regulatory Code of Practice. But promoting competitive commercial procedures as the basis for organisational 'best practice' ignores fundamental issues about the nature of archaeological work.'

I will briefly touch on eight questions or concerns: who are the curators of archaeology in Britain? Regulation; monopolies; whether a local unit can claim to provide a better service than a unit from outside the area; staff worries; whether the developer requires competitive tendering; the policy of English Heritage in this matter; and the role of SCAUM.

Before we start, I suggest as a guiding principle that the service we perform is, in order of precedence, to (i) the strata, (ii) the community; and only then (iii) the developer of a site.

1. The curator question

What kind of institution, in the present organisation of archaeology in Britain, should be the curator? All archaeologists have a curatorial function, and this central concept should be inserted into the IFA guidelines. I do not see that County Archaeological Officers should

necessarily solely have the pivotal role sometimes claimed for them. A similar role could be claimed by museums and their archaeologists, since museums hold the archive and finds, and their collecting policies will increasingly influence the nature of archaeological research. It is therefore a basic and terrible mistake to assign the role of curator to one archaeologist and that of contractor to another. It implies that the contractor is just a technician doing automatic work according to a brief laid down by the curator in which he, the contractor, has had no say. Organisational simplicity has gagged the archaeologist precisely when flexibility is crucial -- the point at which the strata are examined -- by separating the roles.

2. Regulation

It would perhaps be unfair to criticise competitive tendering based upon the London experience of recent months. In the City we have seen two cases, the first characterised by lack of a specification and grossly incomparable bids by the competing organisations, and the other by a totally inadequate and archaeologically suspect specification and constantly changing parameters of access.

But what arises from this is a concern that competitive tendering, of its very nature, will never be adequately regulated or will ever be capable of regulation. This is a constant theme of recent criticism, for example from the statements made two years ago by the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the council of the Museums Association. The fear is that developers will choose the cheapest option. We have been told this by developers, and it is naive to think otherwise. Some clients such as trustees are under instruction or legal obligation to obtain the lowest bid for any part of the development which does go out to tender.

3. The monopoly question

The proponents of competitive tendering say that the roles of curator and contractor should be separated. They allege that a unit operating in a certain area without competition may abuse its position. It is also said that some developers want this separation, though we could produce, I am sure, at least an equal number of developers who are satisfied with a single local unit. Half-baked misunderstandings of current economic orthodoxy are brought out to imply that (i) archaeology is a business like any other commercial undertaking, (ii) competition is therefore good because it somehow improves the quality of the service, and (iii) units working in specific territories are thought to be applying monopolies in the commercial sense.

I suggest that these are very serious and basic questions. Is archaeology a business like making or selling? It is true that our performance should be measured like that of any other workers. We should of course be cost efficient and constantly strive to improve ourselves. And archaeological units can be very successful at running commercial ventures to support archaeology, both directly by funding and indirectly by education, as proved by the Jorvik Centre in York. But the archaeological study of strata and finds itself is not, and must never be, an endeavour driven predominantly by commercial motives. The prime archaeological objective must be preservation, and modelling ourselves on commercial practices will merely dissipate energies and provide developers with an easy let-out.

Does competition improve the quality of service? I would suggest that this is unproven. What is the case, however, is that one major result of competition is that many companies go to the wall. The fundamentals of competition in the business world are uncertainty and risk. We must not apply them to archaeology. Perhaps one way out would be to be like architects and charge a standard rate of fees, so that the archaeology always cost the same, regardless of the practitioners.

Are units who wish for or claim sole agencies in specified areas guilty of running monopolies? This is surely not the case. A monopoly exists when a company or a cartel has such a dominant position in a market that it can force up prices and thus profits. Here we might make a distinction between units who just dig and those, based on museums, who dig and curate. The units who dig and then dump the finds could make a profit; perhaps some do. But the museum units have a far longer responsibility, and funds whether from public or private sources are nowhere near sufficient for long-term needs. Any procedure which erodes those funds is misguided and cynically phillistine.

4. The question of whether a local unit will provide a better service

The majority of British archaeology is organised through regional, county or local units. Indeed, many were set up under DoE initiatives in the mid seventies. The advantages of units covering specific geographic areas are many, but there are two main ones. Firstly, a core of experience and knowledge builds up which is directly beneficial to the archaeological resource. There is compatibility of recording, archive systems and storage. Coherent and workable policies for local research within a national framework emerge and are encouraged. Local support derived from local loyalty is fostered at all levels - the planning department, the wider community, and results in greater access to developer funding and other forms of sponsorship. This argument is supported by the Society of Museum Archaeologists and by the Museums Association. Secondly, much is made by the proponents of contract archaeology of a need for independent assessment of sites -- but independent of what? The county archaeological officers are not independent of the planning departments for which they work. It can be argued that a unit or museum outside the local authority is a far more independent force to assess, and thereafter to preserve or record archaeological remains. Equally more effective may be a museum which has a special route to the council *not* through the planning committee, i.e. through some other committee.

5. Staff worries

As managers we have duties towards our employees, and staff are expressing fears about competitive tendering. Firstly, it may undermine conditions of employment, wages and the health and safety policy of archaeological units -- both the units who stay inside a defined area and their roving competitors -- by price wars and undercutting. Secondly, the excavators of a roving unit will continue to suffer the indignities of being pushed round the country, occasionally moved into cities where temporary salary enhancements for urban living are unlikely to be sufficient, constant accommodation problems, and generally second-class careers. There will be little provision for considered training policies. This will encourage a large turnover of temporary staff and a loss of human resource to the profession.

6. Does the developer require or expect competitive tendering?

The answer here is not clear. English Heritage say that developers of their acquaintance welcome a move towards competitive tendering; even if true, they could only be for such commercial reasons as cost cutting. On the other hand, developers of our acquaintance are more concerned about a change in relationships with local units, a change in which they do not see any advantage. Ove Arup and Partners, the largest structural engineering practice in Europe, see no need for a change. It is not true that competitive tendering is well established in

the construction world: on a development project, neither the architect, nor the engineer, nor probably the quantity surveyor will be appointed by commercial tendering. The tendering process enters into the development programme far too late, when the scheme is already fully determined. The archaeologist should be part of the development team, since archaeological considerations commonly affect land purchase costs, can influence the style and position of a building, and certainly usually affect the engineering site investigation and groundworks. Many developers will just want to know what is normal archaeological practice, and here we come to the policy and attitude of the people they turn to, English Heritage.

7. English Heritage

The English Heritage policy, according to a meeting between Lord Montagu and the Museums Association last Wednesday, is to be neutral about competitive tendering. In a letter of 14 February to the two Museum of London units, however, Geoff Wainwright explained his policy when approached by a developer for advice as composed of five elements. Three elements are uncontroversial: English Heritage would confirm whether or not the site has archaeological potential, they would identify the need for an evaluation, and they would advise that the archive and finds should be deposited with the appropriate museum. It is the other two elements which cause concern. When asked by developers, English Heritage will provide names of 'suitable contractors' for evaluations and project specifications. They will further assess adequacy of project specifications -- nothing wrong with that in itself -- and in cases of competitive tendering, they will advise the developer which tenders will satisfy the project design brief, but not adjudicate between acceptable competitive tenders.

This is not a neutral policy; it is tacit encouragement of competitive tendering, and the list of suitable contractors will lead to favouritism and abuse. English Heritage would themselves have a monopoly of patronage with little responsibility.

8. The role of SCAUM

There are currently two great needs: firstly, for regulation of contract archaeology in general and scrutiny of whether competitive tendering is the right way forward. Competition is not the only way of making archaeology more effective; establishing proper performance measures and targets would do the same job. I would suggest that SCAUM can play an active role, which is so far being undertaken neither by English Heritage nor by IFA, in regulation of standards; by necessity, this will mean adjudication of costs. I find it feeble, to say the least, that SCAUM rightly expressed concern about contract archaeology in general and then elected to wait for the IFA guidelines without asking for representation on the guidelines working party. SCAUM must ask for representation on that working party without delay. (SCAUM Chairman Phillip Holdsworth explained that SCAUM had asked for representation on the IFA Contracts Working Party, but had been refused). Secondly, I propose that as responsible archaeologists we reject competitive tendering in all parts of British archaeology, since it has no good features and considerable harmful consequences. There must be a better way to discharge our paramount responsibility to the strata and its curation.

John Schofield

Copies of English Heritage's 'Competitive Tendering for Archaeology Projects' are available from the Excavations Office.

2 April 90 Archaeology

Saxons and secrets

Gerald Cadogan digs into recent discoveries on the missing 700 years in the history of London

(Seaby £16.50).

A dig in 1961 under the Treasury in Whitehall revealed a sizeable hall, thought at the time to be an outlying farm. A gold ring was found in Garrick Street, and two glass bowls came up in a stone coffin when St Martin in the Fields was rebuilt in the 18th century. All are in the British Museum.

Another clue was in the place names such as Aldwych and perhaps Fleet (fleet: a place where boats float, where the Fleet river joined the Thames at Blackfriars presumably), hinting that the Strand might once have been the centre of Saxon London.

The breakthrough came when a dig at Jubilee Hall in Covent Garden in 1965 found a burial and a timber building of the 7th century. Since then, the Saxons have been sighted in 20 other digs above and below the Strand.

We now know that Lundenwic ran from the river to the top of Monmouth Street, and

west to Trafalgar Square and perhaps south to Whitehall, although the ground was low and marshy where the Tyburn river came down to the Thames. Eastwards it stretched to Aldwych. Beyond that there are only chance finds up to the Fleet river, though St Bride's Fleet Street may date back to this time.

At Ludgate Circus there would have been a bridge or ford to take people to St Paul's in the walled city, and to bring out Roman building materials for re-use in the new London to the west. Huge gravel pits beneath the Sainsbury extension of the National Gallery supplied road surfacing.

They are so big that the London Museum archaeologists conclude that the community as a whole kept the roads up. At the other corner of Trafalgar Square the cemetery with the glass bowls suggests that this was when St Martin in the Fields began.

Lundenwic thrived on trade.

ley, wheat, apples or pears, plums, hazelnuts and blackberries or raspberries. There was a little game, plenty of fish, notably salmon, and oysters. Beef was the main meat. It probably came as carcasses rather than on the hoof, as the cattle remains in the digs at Jubilee Hall and Malden Lane lack feet and lower jaws.

But Lundenwic was doomed. The Vikings were coming, and it lay outside the walls. They attacked in 842 and 851, and in 872 their Great Army wintered there. Well before the end of the century Lundenwic had been abandoned for the safety of the walls of Lundenburh.

The City revived, as its many churches founded in the Late Saxon period (the 10th and 11th centuries) imply, and at last achieved the importance which its selection as the seat of a bishop way back in 604 had envisaged.

William the Conqueror (1066-87) treated it generously, in spite of having had to cut a swathe of destruction on his way to London. Even so he built the White Tower to keep an eye on London, and kept his main residence at Westminster where Edward the Confessor (1042-66) had refounded the monastery of St Peter and moved the royal palace.

By 1100 London had started to spread again outside the walls. Lundenwic was coming back to life.

As the chief town, it had links with settlements in the county at Battersea, Northolt, Shepperton Green, Tottenham Court Road and Barking. But the river mattered most. That brought stone querns for grinding corn from Hythe and the Rhineland; pottery from northern France and the Low Countries, and Continental grapes and figs and of course wine.

Exports are more difficult to trace. Likely items are cloth and slaves. Slaves were an old business. Before the Roman conquest England used to sell them to the Continent in exchange for wine. In Saxon times Pope Gregory redeemed them in the slave market in Rome to send back to help convert the Saxons and Angles.

Frisian traders took slaves from London in the 7th century. Even the 11th century Domesday Book lists slaves and a Bishop Wulfstan denounced the Dublin-Bristol slave trade.

For food Lundenwic had bar-

THE great unknown in the history of London has been the Saxon town. The Saxons gave us our language and our monarchy, founded the great shrines of St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey and started London's pattern of streets and churches; but the question of where Londoners lived and worked in the 700 years between the departure of the Romans in 410 and the Norman conquest has been shrouded in mystery.

Recent archaeological work has begun to fill in this large blank in our history. Remains of the Saxons have been found in a large settlement centred on the Strand and called Lundenwic, quite distinct from Lundenburh, the old walled Roman city of Londinium.

From around 200, in the middle of the Roman rule, Londinium had been in recession. Buildings were abandoned and a thick layer of dark earth spread over them. It seems the city was given over to market gardening except by the river where commerce continued.

After the Romans left the place stayed a desert. Although St Paul's was founded in 604, no trace of the first cathedral or the community around it has been found.

Until 1965 there were only a few chance clues to where the Saxons lived, as Alan Vince explains in *Saxon London*

FINDS SECTION

This past month has produced few finds of real note, however it is worth saying that the wall plaster from St. Mary Axe has all been washed and is to be viewed by the expert, Roger Ling, in the future. From the same site comes a large almost complete ceramic cauldron of late third century date, whose source is unknown. It would have been suspended by a handle, or rope under its thick rim. It has scorch marks and a distinctive saggy bottom! It is a rare find, with only one other example being known from Whittington Avenue. A boardroom presentation was held for Great Tower Street on the 3rd May.

Staff News:

Sadly the Finds Section said farewell to Tilly during April. Due to her departure there is now a three month post vacant to assist Alex Moore in the completion of Thames Exchange finds processing.

In contrast we would like to welcome Mary Hinton, who has joined the Section as the Collections Assistant.

During April, Ian Riddler, Geoff Egan and Angela Wardle gave a joint talk at the 'Priorities in Finds Research' conference - a combined venture between the Roman Finds Group and the Finds Group for 700-1700.

Still with conference news - Ruth Waller and Liz Tough have just recently attended the IFA Conference in Birmingham.

Finally we would like to wish Patricia all the best for her wedding on 5th May, and luck for the future.

Ruth Edmondson

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

This last month has seen the arrival of Liz Pearson and the resignation of Alison Rutherford who is leaving to work on a site in S. Wales.

The section was well represented at the spring meeting of the Association for Environmental Archaeology with four members of staff giving short papers on a range of topics. Alan Pipe and Dominique de Moulins summarised the animal and plant remains from the Roman cemetery at Hooper Street (HOO88) and considered the possible significance of this material in relation to the burials and cremations. John Giorgi summarised the results of archaeobotanical investigations of archaic levels (7th-6th Century B.C) on the Forum and Palatine, Rome. This is the first time that systematic sampling and retrieval strategies have been used in these areas and preliminary results show that a wide range of cereals (wheats and barley), legumes (peas and beans) and fruits (olive, grape, figs) may have been utilised. Also present were the residues from the advanced stages of crop-processing (i.e. glume bases and small arable seeds). This suggests that the crops may have been grown in the close vicinity of the sites although as yet no evidence from the earlier stages of the processing sequence have been recovered. Liz Pearson discussed the results from two sites from Roman Milton Keynes which suggests the presence of kitchen gardens. Cultivated brassicas (turnip, rape, cabbage etc.), black mustard, celery, coriander, summer savory, caper

spurge and plum were found from a well or waterhole within an enclosure on the Bancroft Villa site and from a large pit at Wavendon Gate, a small rural site. These plants are known as *cultivars*. However, although they may also grow as escapes from cultivate, the wide range of possible cultivars present, in the absence of any obvious domestic rubbish, particularly with an enclosure, suggests that they were grown there.

The "Environment and Economy in Anglo-Saxon England" conference organised jointly by MoL and CBA was held on the 9/10th April and attended by some hundred delegates. Most people seem to have gained something from the range of topics that were covered. A copy of the extracts is available in the Environmental Office. The text of the papers and discussions will be published by the CBA in the autumn.

The titles were:

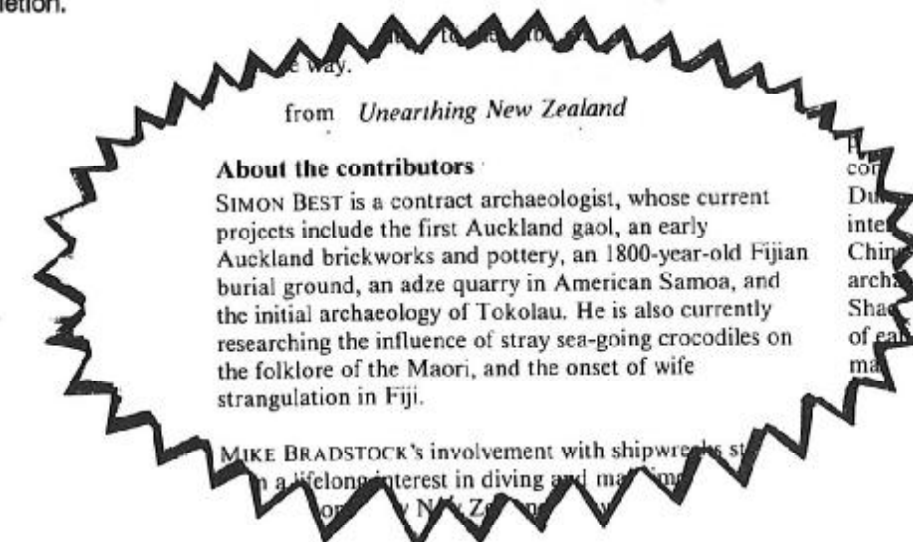
- *Anglo-Saxon Britain, an archaeological overview.* - M. Carver.
- *Trees and Woodland in the Saxon Period, the documentary evidence.* - O. Rackham.
- *Timber and woodland in the Saxon period, the dendrochronological evidence.* - I. Tyers, J. Hillam and C. Groves.
- *The Anglo-Saxon Landscape and rural economy: some results from sites in East Anglia and Essex.* - P. Murphy.
- *Animal exploitation in East Anglia villages.* - P. Crabtree.
- *Cereals and ovens in late Saxon Stafford.* - L. Moffet.
- *Preliminary environmental results from Anglo-Saxon West Cotton and Raunds.* - J. Campell.
- *Cereals and plant foods; a reassessment of the Saxon economic evidence from Wessex.* - F. Green.
- *Deer Park Farms, Northern Ireland: environmental evidence from an Early Christian rath.* - Harry Kenward.
- *Saxon urban economies, an archaeological perspective.* - A. Vince.
- *Animal provisioning of Saxon Southampton.* - J. Bourdillon.
- *Middle Saxon London and its environs.* - J. Rackham et. al.
- *8th-11th century economy and environment in York.* T. O'Connor.

Site - orientated work has been limited over the last month with the "Strange Sediments of Bishopsgate" being photographed and samples in order to try and ascertain their origins, and the examination/sampling of a prehistoric trackway/platform on Waterloo Road (DGLA S&L) being the highlights.

Josie and her team have been preparing a board room presentation for 1-4 Great Tower Street (TWR89).

The DUA power soil auger was put through its paces on the early prehistoric site at Uxbridge to try to recover late glacial peats, however it was thwarted by the over-lying gravels.

The laboratory work proceeds apace with several Saxon reports and one wood report nearing completion.



CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Current Sites

The current site archaeological conservation work has recently been primarily concerned with the liaison, scheduling and preparation of objects for developer displays. Many objects were conserved for the Vintry Wharf and London Wall shows held in March. April's efforts were concentrated on finds for the 1-4 Great Tower Street display. This included input into a 'Tracy and Julie special' panel: 'the journey of a find' - illustrating a corroded copper alloy and enamel horse fitting from excavation to archive/display.

Some progress has also been made on reducing the coin backlog (BAS 88, QSK 89, TWR 89, and from the Fleet Valley project).

The most interesting objects which are being treated, or have recently been completed include Roman copper alloy bracelets and an open-work decorated bone comb (WES 89); a Roman decorated shale platter (LDL 88); a Saxon bone comb in its decorated case (LHN 89); (TWR 89); a copper alloy crescent shaped Roman cosmetics grinder - we are collecting the corrosion products next to the grinding surface to be analysed for residues of the ground substances, and a 18th century gilded button with glass inlay over silver foil or paint, and evidence of the textile it was attached to.

Interesting objects from the Fleet Valley project have included an 18th century pewter tankard; a wooden med. bucket base - it is being reconstructed now that the freeze-drying treatment has been completed; and a med. unfinished copper alloy brooch with an emerald.

A private stone conservator, Seamus Hanna, came to the Fleet Valley site recently to collect a fine example of medieval window tracery, which had been re-used as a well lining; and a spiral staircase fragment: both of which will be conserved in his own laboratories in Northamptonshire. These objects are too large to be treated at the Museum of London facilities.

Workload Reports

In March a report for HBMC was compiled listing all the objects which have been conserved or are awaiting treatment on a site by site basis.

In April a report was prepared listing the perceived workload ahead with reference to priorities and time needs. The lists in each of the three divisions of the report: developer displays, coin dating priorities and publication needs (other than HBMC) illustrate the problems which are arising in trying to meet all the demands. Aside from these three areas of work, we aim to be available for immediate site work: that is to visit/give advice or lift especially fragile objects; and to treat/stabilise vulnerable artefacts which have been freshly excavated - such as metal/organic composites, jet, shale, ivory and some bone and glass. We understand that sometimes people are frustrated by delays in conservation work, but we have to service the requirements of many different and sometimes conflicting projects. We are working towards rationalising and prioritising our work, in consultation with other departments.

HBMC Publication Programme

Work is progressing on project 25: med. coins and tokens, domestic fittings, knives and shears. Work has been completed on project 40: tin glaze ware and post med. pots.

Courses & Outside Meetings Attended

Institute of Field Archaeologists Annual Conference: Kate and Dana attended 1 day. Kate chaired a discussion on conservation and funding; and Dana presented a poster on her current research (Surfaces on Metals from Wet Sites) - [thanks Julie & Tracy!!]

Several people in the lab. also attended the seminar on buildings conservation, which was organised by Susan Greenwood and held at the Museum.

Other News

Robert Payton is leaving the archaeology section (DGLA) in order to take up his new position as Head of Applied Arts Conservation on 14th May.

Dana Goodburn-Brown

FLAT TO LET

Stoke Newington, 6 month let (July to December).

250 per month.

Contact Nick Bateman at Plaisterers Hall:

606 5984.

**'Flabby' JM to cut
Staff by hundreds**
The Times 3-5-90

GUIDES REQUIRED

Citisights organise a large number of walking tours of the history and archaeology of London throughout the summer months. Apart from our standard programme, we also provide more general tours, specifically on Saturdays. It is not necessary that you have any guiding experience but that you have some knowledge of London's history and/or archaeology, and are able to project your voice.

Most of our tours take place at weekends, but there is also the possibility of work throughout the week. Guiding tuition is only good provided. Please contact us even if your knowledge is only good for a single historical period or if you are only able to take one or two walks.

Please telephone Kevin now on 806 4325 for further details. If nobody is in the office then please leave your details on the answerphone and we will get back to you.

CITISIGHTS OF LONDON, 213 Brooke Road, London E5 8AB
Tel: 806 4325

CONFERENCE REPORT

Economics & Archaeology Conference, Isegran (Norway).

The Medieval Archaeology Research Group's conference on production and trade as reflected in archaeology was held in the lavishly provided outstation of Oslo University at Isegran, a small island close to the fortress of Fredrikstad in southern Norway. With a relatively small group, each person giving a paper, the emphasis was as much on arising and wider discussion as on the lectures themselves, with university staff tending to exhibit an opinion on everything, while archaeological-unit staff were more selective.

Papers included: an account of steatite-bowl manufacture and trade; tracing the phases of construction in medieval town halls in Finland (virtually the only secular stone buildings in the country apart from castles), which correspond very closely with chronological peaks in Hanseatic trade; the fish-based economy of the Lofoten Islands inside the Polar Circle; amber-bead, copper dress-accessory and bone-comb manufacturing in discrete areas of medieval Lubeck (close parallels with London finds among the first two); finds of medieval cloth seals compared with documented patterns of trade and production; metaphysics of ceramic interpretation (Belgian speaker, using principally English data); patterns of production in Netherlandish towns; a culturally impoverished fortress (in the middle of a Polish marsh) apparently continuing to use pottery typologically two centuries out of fashion as far as its neighbours were concerned.

The current opening up of Estonia, Poland, Karelia, etc. to foreign researchers was a major theme of discussion, but beyond 'Finnish' USSR (apart from Novgorod publications), a seemingly impenetrable barrier still remains which no one has managed to breach (there must be or have been an urban unit to uncover the original 12th century Kremlin wall a couple of years ago, but who are they?)

The Group's next conference will hopefully be in Warsaw, and efforts will be made in the interim to set up a stronger modern trade in archaeological information, involving not only the Baltic countries, East Germany and the countries to the north and west, but also reciprocal exchange with important centres further to the east.

Geoff Egan

MUSEUM OF LONDON SEMINARS

The first in the new series of Museum of London seminars: Public Communication was held on Monday 2nd April, and was well attended.

Alex West (BBC) introduced some of the problems associated with using the media as a means of presenting archaeology to the public.

The way we present archaeology is too distant (we have to make people realise why we should save and/or record our heritage) and too linear (we go from site to display through finds, conservation and publication). To overcome this, we have to learn to understand the public and how they receive information put to them. Why should the public be interested in what we find interesting? The technological aspect of our work is important to us but it is not the most appealing to the general public.

We have to overcome the language barrier, lose our snobbery and achieve a sense of drama. The

best way to present archaeology to the public is to do so without them knowing, we should not give the impression of lecturing the audience.

Alex believes we have the potential to change the world with archaeology. For example, we know that social inequality started some time in the past. As archaeologists we can prove this, (Alex did a programme for Chronicle on slaves in North America on this subject) and we are therefore in possession of a very political tool. We should learn from the Ecological movement. The recent interest in green issues is a prime example of how specialist disciplines can help to change peoples attitude to the world around them.

Nick Merriman also touched on this. It is our duty to communicate our findings to the public. And when we do so, it becomes an ideological and political tool, potentially useful or dangerous. An animated discussion followed. Questions included:

- . Which public are we aiming at?
- . What is it really interested in?
- . Has the media created a false impression of archaeologists?

Opinions on the degree of interest were varied. Scott Goodfellow (freelance journalist) suggested that people are interested in objects. This was confirmed by Christine Whitehead's work for Thames Television on an archaeology programme: Treasure Island, last year. There was an uproar at this. The archaeologists expressed their displeasure at archaeology being portrayed as treasure hunting. Archaeology is about people and we should be presenting it as part of people's life. However we have yet to present archaeology in this way.

Concern was expressed about our particular situation in London. We have to be very careful as to how we use the media as we have the developers to take into account.

The problem of a lack of "archaeological personalities" in the media was also raised. Mortimer Wheeler and Glyn Daniel were successful at using the media because they were great communicators. (Michael Wood was yet again criticised for his communication skills !)

Unfortunately we never had time to return to some of the more theoretical questions raised. We need to establish ways of reaching the general public, and not just the educated middle classes. It seems as though we have forgotten what it is to not be archaeologists but just members of the public.

Also, we have to be aware of the potentially dangerous, but also useful ideological tool we possess.

Olivia Belle

BYWAYS

BBC2 Friday ^{May 11th} ~~April 27th~~ 7.30pm

AN ECHO OF APPLAUSE

" So many of the places where Londoners used to gather to be thrilled, moved and entertained have all but vanished. But if you know where to look, you can still find ghosts of former pleasures, hear echoes of applause "

Presented by COLIN SORENSEN
Keeper of the Modern Department, Museum of London

Produced by CHRIS MOHR
BBC South & East — Elstree

COMPETITIVE TENDERING: SOME AREA OF CONCERN

Competitive contract tendering and Archaeology

A draft discussion document

Our major concern is that the practice and image of British archaeology will suffer as a result of competitive tendering.

1. The majority of British archaeology is organised through local, county or regional units. We believe that there are many advantages in the establishment of archaeological organisations covering specific geographical areas. Where such units are established, a core of experience and knowledge exists which is directly beneficial to the archaeological resource. We believe that competitive tendering works against the organisation of archaeological units covering specific geographic areas, and is thus detrimental to the archaeological resource.
2. Many archaeological units are involved in the overall study of particular areas or aspects of the past which are based upon the excavation or recording of smaller component areas. In many instances the location of excavation sites is decided by the threat to the archaeological resource through development rather than by archaeological choice. We believe that competitive tendering will be detrimental to overall research strategies, often developed over many years, as it encourages archaeological investigation in "isolation", results in inconsistencies in the archaeological record and archive and inevitably will lead to misinterpretation of the archaeological resource.
3. We believe that the archaeological resource is best served by the use of complementary excavation, recording and post-excavation techniques and that the best practical method of achieving this end is currently that of the established archaeological units, covering specific geographic areas.
4. We believe that where established archaeological units are restricted by their charter, local authority restriction or specific Act of Parliament from carrying out archaeological work outside of a specifically designated area, rather than encourage so called "health competition", competitive tendering is actually of advantage only to "outside" contractors.
5. We are concerned that the term "monopoly" is being used by some archaeologists in attempting to justify the need for competitive tendering in geographic areas where established archaeological units exist. We believe the term "monopoly" is being used to imply that archaeological units with a sole agency agreement for certain geographic areas and using their sole agency agreement to commercial advantage.
6. We are concerned that competitive tendering will undermine the conditions of employment, wages and the health and safety policy of currently established archaeological units, by "outside" contractors seeking a price advantage.
7. We are particularly concerned that the use of competitive tendering will be detrimental to the funding of archaeological specialisms, in particular those which rely on proportions of excavation budgets or particular excavation sampling strategies. We believe that some competitive tenderers might be tempted to not use archaeological specialists or specialisms, in

8. We are concerned that there is no guarantee that the final arbiter of any form of competition involving archaeological research designs will be a suitably qualified archaeologist or archaeological body and not, for example, an unqualified property speculator seeking to minimise the archaeological component of their development.

9. There are currently many problems in developer funded archaeology caused by a disparity in the costs of excavation or primary research and the costs of post-excavation, material conservation and archive curation. In practice, many archaeological bodies are having to cover the costs of material conservation and archive curation out of establishment budgets, rather than through direct source funding. This is not an ideal situation. We do not believe that competitive tendering can in any way improve this difficult situation.

We are concerned that there is no link made in the draft Approved Practice between the funding available for the initial archaeological investigation and the costs which are necessary to ensure the management of the archaeological archive. No proposals are made in the accompanying report to suggest a process where the cost of "managerial" curation can be established and who is ultimately responsible for the cost of the archaeological archive, "in perpetuity".

10. We believe that competitive tendering in archaeology is detrimental to the archaeological resource unless an officially recognised regulating body sets and maintains archaeological standards. We are concerned that the draft Approved Practice appears to abandon the IFA responsibility for the setting and maintenance of archaeological standards and passes that responsibility to the sponsors of archaeology.

THE INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS

The London Area Group

It has been proposed that an IFA Area Group should be set up to cover the Greater London Area. Such a group would act as a forum for IFA members within the Greater London area or members whose interest lay within that area, and would ensure representation for London archaeology at Council level within IFA. In accordance with IFA practice, a Provisional Organising Committee has been proposed consisting of the following persons:

Chairman	Brian Davison, English Heritage
Hon. Secretary	David Beard, DGLA
Hon. Treasurer	Hedley Swain, DGLA
Committee Member	Eric Norton, DUA
Committee Member	Clive Orton, Institute of Archaeology

The first meeting of the proposed London Area Group will take place as soon as the IFA Council has approved its formation. This should be in the very near future.

The Competitive Archaeology Monitoring Campaign

As you will be aware, recent event involving competitive tendering both within the London Area and elsewhere have given considerable cause for concern.

A national campaign is being mounted to bring the problems created by competitive tendering to the attention of members of IFA. It is our intention to call a fringe meeting at the April IFA conference in order to discuss this problem. The meeting will be followed with a mailing to all members of IFA presenting our views on the effects of competitive tendering on the standards of British archaeological practice. It is our intention to call for amendments to the existing IFA guidelines on competitive tendering to be voted upon at the AGM in September. A separate sheet is enclosed outlining some of the principal points of discussion on these topics.

The Need for more members within the Museum

Currently only about 10% of the archaeological staff of the Museum are members of IFA. This is a very low representation from one of the largest archaeological bodies in the country. The London Area Group would be open to non-members, only corporate members of IFA could vote at these meetings. If you are concerned with the future of London archaeology then please join IFA so that you are represented in these votes.

IFA is intending to introduce corporate membership to register archaeological bodies, and it is highly likely that the criteria for membership will require a minimum percentage of IFA members in the organisation. It is obviously essential that the Museum has enough members to make registration possible.

Even more important is the need for support for the proposed amendments to the IFA guidelines on competitive tendering. As only corporate members of IFA can vote at the AGM (i.e. Members, Associates and Practitioners) it is vitally important that you join IFA in order to give us your support.

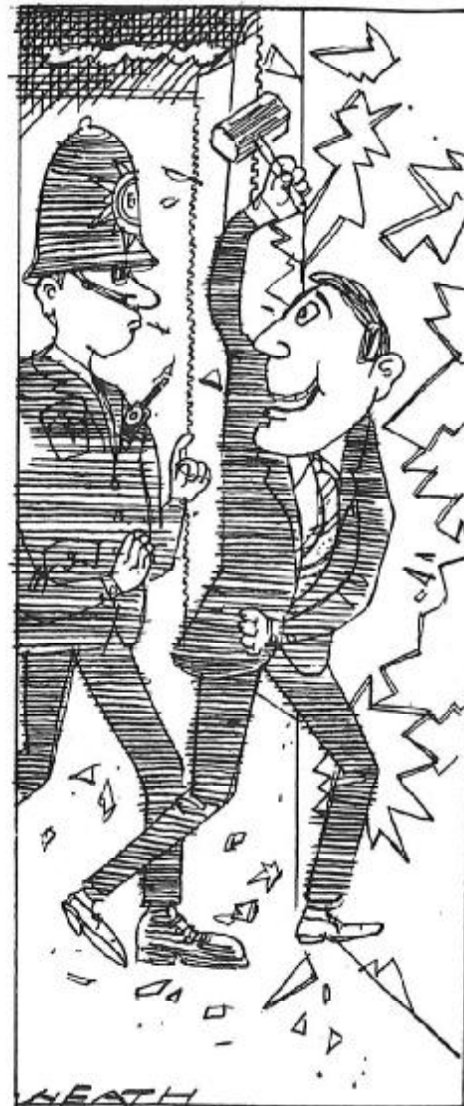
For further information please contact either:

- Kevin Wooldridge D.U.A. Bridge House 01-236 5654
- Dave Beard D.G.L.A. (South West) 01-940 7724 or 01-940 5989

remember, it's *YOUR* job that's at stake!

URGENT!
FLAT TO LET
 Leyton, July/August
 100 per week (total)
 Close to tube - 2 beds and garden
 For 2 people/ one couple & one person
only condition FEED & LOVE 2 RESIDENT CATS

contact: John Shepherd
 work: 071-600 3699 x224
 071-928 0778/9
 home: 081-539 5736



'It's alright officer, I'm not an anarchist, I'm a property developer'

MUSEUM OF LONDON CRICKET TEAM

How can you tell that summer is nearly here? It's begun to rain just about every day, English have returned bloodied from the West Indies and I write a piece for the Newsletter about the Museum of London Cricket team.

Surprisingly, this year is the 10th birthday of the Museum Cricket Club. I say surprisingly, because there have been many occasions in the last decade when it looked as if the club might struggle to get enough players for a chess match let alone a cricket game. Somehow though the team has managed to survive and is probably stronger now than it has been for some years.

We have a full set of fixtures for the coming year, including a game against archaeologists from the Wessex region at picturesque Portchester Castle and a Presidents XI game to celebrate our 10 years existence. (If you are trying to forget that you once played for the cricket team at some time in the last ten years, don't be surprised if you get a call up for the anniversary match!)

We still have room for new players Interested ?(especially folks in DGLA who happen to read this), why not contact:

- Kevin Wooldridge at Bridge House 236-5654
- Mark Burch at Plaisterers Hall 606 5985

P.S. If you think that cricket is the most banal game invented and would never dream of getting involved, *have you ever considered SOFTBALL????*

The Softball team is after anyone who wants to play in a midweek league this summer, especially women.

Contact either:

- "Coach" Rowsome at Bridge House 236-5654
- Naomi Crowley at DUA Building Materials 600-3699 ext.328

FIXTURES 1990

APRIL	JULY	SEPTEMBER
28	1	2
	7	9
MAY	14	16
6	22	23
13	29	30
20		
26	AUGUST	
	4	
JUNE	5	
3	12	
10	19	
17	26	
24		

CLUB GAME

RAILWAY P.H.
WEST END THEATRES
WORLD WIDE TV
BIRKBECK III

NATURAL HISTORY
BIRKBECK III
WOODSIDE PARK
HARROW

RAILWAY P.H.
N2 CASUALS
ROSE & CROWN P.H.
AUTO FEED
NEW STATESMAN

HARROW

PORTSMOUTH DIGGERS
NATURAL HISTORY
PRESIDENTS XI
NEW STATESMAN

WORLD WIDE TV
WEST END THEATRES
WOODSIDE PARK
AUTO FEED
ROSE & CROWN

Victoria Park
Central Park (TBC)
Victoria Park
Finsbury Park
Greenford

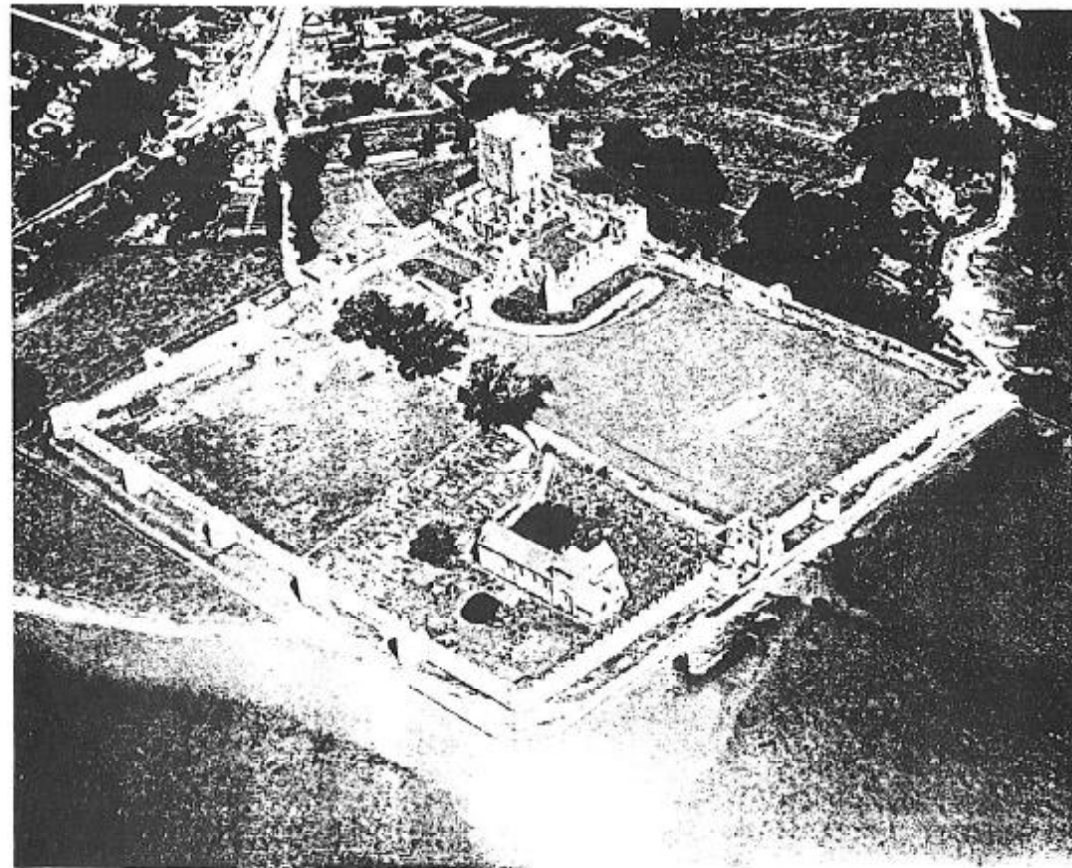
Hampstead Heath
Greenford
Woodside Park

Hampstead Heath
Hampstead Heath
Cophall
Victoria Park
Battersea Park
Hampstead Heath

Harrow
Portchester
Chiswick
Hampstead Heath
Hampstead Heath

Hampstead Heath
King Georges Field
Woodside Park (TBC)
Victoria Park
TBA

Naomi Crowley



39 Aerial view of the Saxon Shore fort at Portchester, at the head of Portsmouth Harbour, Hampshire.

EXCAVATIONS NEWS

1. Billingsgate Bath House

The North Wing

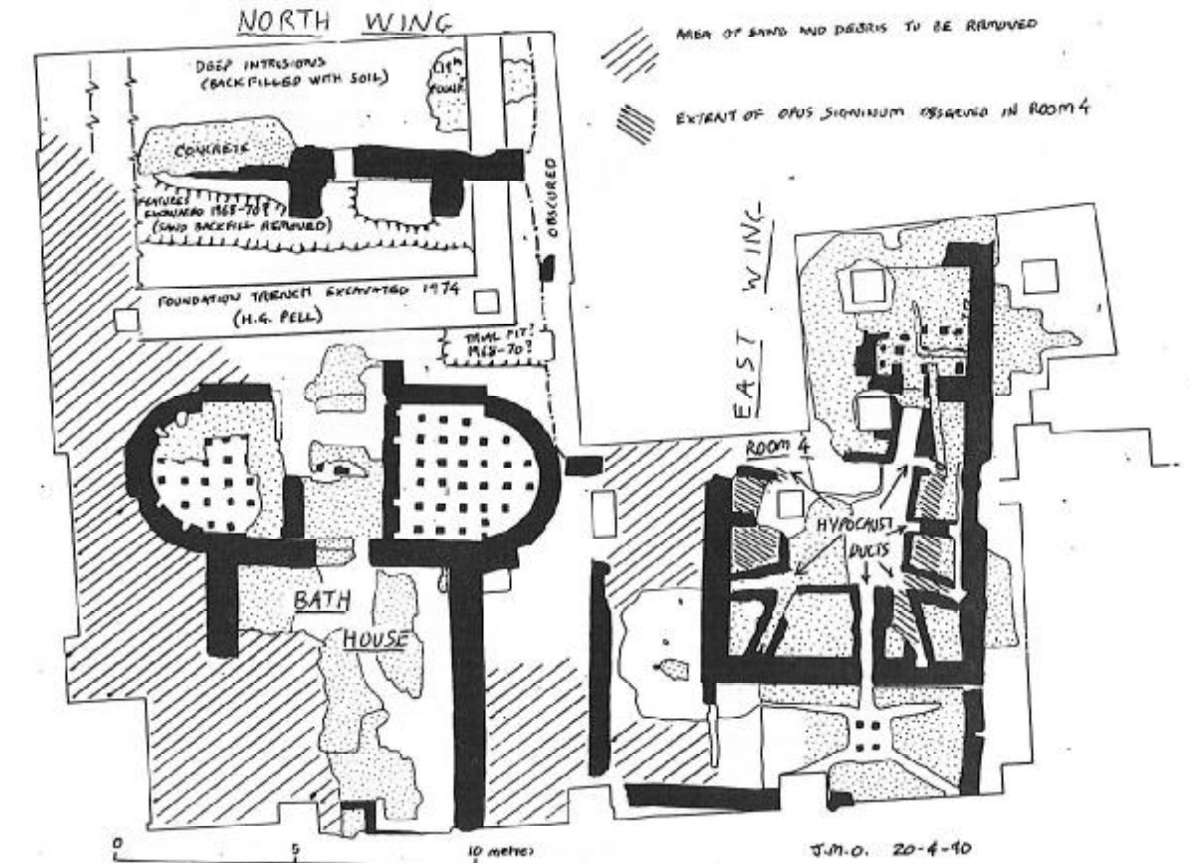
The removal of silica sand from the areas to the north of the bath house (see plan) has exposed pits and trenches, which were presumably excavated during the 1960's and 1970's. To the north of the wall of the north wing, a thickness of 0.5m of sand a rubble backfill has been cleared. This material continues to a deeper level but to remove more may threaten the stability of the Roman wall and the advice of a structural engineer is to be sought.

The East Wing

Further examination of Room 4 (see plan) has located traces of Opus Signinum mortar adjacent to, and underlying the hypocaust ducts. It is not clear whether the mortar is the remains of an earlier (and lower) floor surface to Room 4, or if it is the foundations for the duct structures themselves.

FINDS REPORT

Some assorted building materials have been recovered from the backfilled areas of the north wing. Glass vessels, dating to c. 1970 AD have also been found, including a complete bottle bearing the painted inscription "Pepsi". There is some controversy as to whether the inscription represents the name of the manufacturer or some form of salutation to the drinker!



2. Fleet Valley

The single trench in area 7 was vacated during the month. Medieval mark-up dumps under the Fleet Prison were excavated down to approximately 3 metres O.D. Results from the power augur suggest that approximately 25 metres of archaeology remain to be excavated. Demolition of the viaduct is scheduled for completion by the end of May. At that stage the DUA will return to the major part of the area to complete the previous excavations. The northern end of area 6 will become available at the same time.

Another trench was opened up in area 3 during the month. Approximately 2 metres of rubble backfill were machine cleared for the entire width of the viaduct area. A part of the N-S stretch of the medieval city wall was uncovered at 4.44m O.D.

Although damaged by the insertion of a 19th century drain, the wall is otherwise in an excellent state of preservation. The eastern face has now been exposed to a depth of 2 metres and is composed of predominantly dressed chalk blocks with some ragstone, Reigate stone and flint nodules. One put-log hole has been uncovered so far and there is evidence of both galetting between courses and rendering on the chalk face. A chance in its orientation suggest that the northern end of the "dog-Leg" which characterised the walk in this area has been located.

Significantly, the footings for the viaduct have not been cut through the wall but rest upon it, and a small part of the western face has been observed under the west face of the viaduct approximately 40 metres to the south. This implies that up to 70 metres of the wall may survive under the present structure. The excavation of this will begin at the end of May when the viaduct has been demolished.

PRESS CUTTINGS

SCOTT GOODFELLOW

Monday April 26 1990

What A Load Of Rubbish

THE City of London is a strange and soulless place. At dusk, as the dealing floors go quiet and the last commuter shuffles off to Cripplington, the square mile goes massively, monumentally dead. From sky to scrape, there's no use there.

That's not the end of the matter, though. Don't just scrape; dig. For trapped beneath the pavement and the bedrock is a rich sediment of past lives: a layer cake of odds and soots, Roman to Victorian singular, the City was the teeming heart of the nation, and the bones, the stores, the rags and tatters of twenty centuries are all down there - just beneath your feet.

Most of us, without either the shovel or the inclination, stop here - at idle speculation. But next time you're walking past a building site, and the ground is shaking with the sound of pile-drivers, and the cranes and diggers are noising and swooping like Hollywood dinosaurs, look into the deepest hole - go on, look - and you just might see, down there with their inquisitive snouts, the archaeologists.

A peculiar thing, the archaeologist. In the public imagination, fed with tales of buried treasure and Egyptian tombs (not to mention the macho but slapdash Indiana Jones), there is a curious glamour in being one. Unhappily, myth and reality parted company long ago.

Found any gold? The archaeologist looks up, long suffering. Found any bones? The archaeologist knows that hers are stiff from working in a hole. Found anything at all? Yes. A pot-hole, is curiously random planks and the backbone of a medieval chicken. She doesn't want to despoil them but the thrill of the dig is a sacred one. The point of it all is not things but

Old shoes, broken pots, toilet seats: yesterday's garbage is raw material for today's archaeologist. Midweek goes down among the diggers



"Are you sure you can build all of this in one day?"

facts - an idea of what went on in a certain spot, and how, and why. Archaeology has come a long way since General Pitt-Rivers armed the locals with pick-axes to dig out the Valley of the Kings in the 1880s. Now every site is excavated inch by inch, every find mapped in three dimensions before removal and almost everything salted away for future research. The most important finds are not treasure troves but the scant remains of long forgotten buildings and the tiny clues that help us understand how people lived: grains from cesspits, an old shoe or a belt-buckle, discarded in a well or dropped in the privy.

Science only goes in for far, though. Whether with pickaxe or shovel, the digger is exposed to the same dreadful conditions. If it's not the heat, and in London

got the symptoms but think that it just might be a fatal disease transmitted by rat urine.

There aren't a lot of diggers over 30 and it's small wonder. They've either seized up or escaped to the safety of a desk job.

In London, despite the mud on their boots, the senior archaeologists have had to "become professional business negotiators as well as academics". After the Big Bang came the development boom and the City's Department of Urban Archaeology has had to expand to keep up. It came into being in 1974 to replace the efforts of one man and it now employs over 200 full time archaeologists.

Last year they probed over 70 sites and raised over £3m in sponsorship from developers. There's no mucking about (except literally) when almost every dig has to be in that tight window of opportunity between demolition and construction - the last chance before the layer cake of the past is chewed up by the deep basements and piling of the future.

It's fitting that developers should choose to pay for all this. After all the City has been providing prestige development contracts since the Romans. Perhaps they owe it to earlier generations of speculators to take care of their remains. After all, a man from Roschough Stanhope, developers of the Broadgate and Ludgate sites, confided: "We'll be hoping for the same treatment." Fair enough, but would you go to a museum to see a lump of Broadgate, even if it was displayed with the only surviving Filofax?

There are some useful spin-offs, though. The Roman town hall, a building as big as St Paul's, was excavated last year. It would certainly have got Prince Charles' seal of approval for its merits, and what not, but it passed

to be a shoddy bit of work that may well have fallen down of its own accord. (Perhaps old buildings always seem more solid and virtuous because only the good ones survive.) So much for the classical virtues. So much for Quinlan Terry. Bring back pressed concrete.

But it isn't big lumps of masonry that set archaeological hearts aflame. Debris, rubbish, broken pots, shoes with holes in them - whatever the century, whoever the people this is the stuff Henry VIII's best crockery vanished long ago, but just last year an old drain near Blackfriars Bridge yielded up a hoard of broken plates and bowls that may well have belonged to one of his humbler subjects. The worthless is discarded, left for the tramps or the archaeologist.

How about the 11th-century three-seater loo discovered at Ludgate, a small reminder of that once-great London landmark, Whittington's Longhouse, a mammoth 128-seater provided for the citizenry in the 15th century by Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor. This rare survival is one of only a handful in the country. But, alas, as it was a plank with three holes and a nasty reputation, even it will be hung in the Museum of London and marvelled in by American tourists.

A few years ago, in the United States, a team of researchers set up a project to analyse household rubbish. What, they asked, could you find out about the people from the things they threw away? For archaeology, the question is the same. But unlike the garbage analysis people, they can't knock on the front door and ask why the residents had a load of forged coins down their well - or a cat with no legs for that matter. The householders, house and all, have vanished. The well for the cess-pit or perhaps the

Found Anything? Yes. A pot-hole, two planks and the backbone of a medieval chicken

cellars is all that remains under later foundations.

So how do they make sense of it all, these archaeologists? Well it would be nice to explain how the townsfolk took revenge on the forger by sawing his cat's legs off, but it won't do. Archaeology is rarely able to tell the story, it can only comment on material cultures - how they grow, develop, decay.

So in the dreadful centuries between the GLC finally completed the Thames Barrier and while the wharves and docks were continuously and ingeniously replaced and improved. When excavated in the 1970s, the waterlogged timbers were found to be perfectly preserved, providing a record of how technicians and needs changed.

At least they were preserved. No more. The City of London, as old as Paris, older than Warsaw or Prague or Barcelona, has little to show for its great age. Of course, much of it was destroyed as the Great Fire, and again in the Blitz, but, virtually alone among Europe's great cities, London has almost consciously attempted to make the obliteration total. Where Warsaw rebuilt its Bałtowski town centre, London built Paternoster Square.

Of course a few waterlogged timbers here and there, or the foundations of a castle, or the 30 feet high, that disappeared last year to make way for an essential new rail link between Holborn and Blackfriars, or even the Rose Theatre, missing presumed forgotten under an office block, these aren't so great that they justify holding back the flow of progress.

But you're looking down at that pavement, thinking of the weight of history beneath you, not knowing what may survive down there in the slow accretion of ages, and you can only feel that the sweeping away of all this debris is a loss. It is estimated that over 70% of London's hidden past has gone already, most of it unrecovered.

By the end of the century, another 15% will have gone. It must be important, in any scheme of things, for this to be recorded. They may be mad and they may have piles, but those archaeologists are doing a good job in difficult circumstances.

So far, the museum has been Westminster Council's sole planning adviser in what should be done to protect the Saxon remains at Covent Garden in the face of the coming Royal Opera House redevelopment, which has just been granted planning permission in principle. In the past few weeks, the museum has found itself shouldered aside by English Heritage, which has made it clear it would have no objection to commercial tenders being offered by outside teams for the rescue work at the Royal Opera House which Westminster has said must be done before redevelopment can start.

English Heritage admits it wants to break up the museum's monopoly, but maintains there is no threat of closure of the archaeological department as a whole.

before granting planning permission. But at present the system works mainly on a voluntary code of practice drawn up by the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group, represented by the British Property Federation and the standing conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. English Heritage is one of its sponsors.

"What happens next at the Royal Opera House could have enormous implications for the rest of the country," says George Dennis, the museum planning officer in charge of the archaeological negotiations at Covent Garden.

Let slip the digs of war

Battle lines are being drawn between Museum of London archaeologists and English Heritage. As Jean Stead reports, market forces of the present are at odds with attempts to rescue remains of the past

THE DISCOVERY of a Saxon town under the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden has brought into sharp focus a dispute between the Museum of London archaeologists and English Heritage, the advisory body funded by the Department of the Environment which in turn funds the museum.

Like all archaeological disputes, it is a bitter and committed battle, this time ostensibly encompassing the arguments about the best way to rescue the historic and prehistoric remains under London, but in reality about the less complex issue of market forces.

Freelance teams of archaeologists are moving with increasing frequency into London, formerly the exclusive and lovingly protected province of the 350 or so Museum of London archaeologists. The idea of breaking up the museum's monopoly is favoured by English Heritage, which has its own team of archaeological advisers. This has been angrily opposed by the museum's archaeologists, who feel that any interference with the complicated jigsaw of archaeological sites they have pieced together over the years could be fatally damaging.

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Opera House lament 19/10/90

THE PREDICAMENT faced by the Royal Opera House to match its duty to the archaeological remains beneath it with the need to fulfil the financial targets of its development plan is depressing. It throws into focus the way in which obvious public benefits are made to become rivals under the avaricious tyranny of market forces. Jean Stead's article (Guardian, April 13) was right to draw attention to the destructive battles between institutions all of which need to preserve, present and restore the artistic and cultural heritage.

The Government's zeal for privatisation and its distrust of academic concerns have led it into some disastrous situations. The absurd fight over the site of the Rose Theatre was one. Any other country, one suspects, would have immediately recognised the potential of such a major cultural relic. The Government agonised over its importance relative to the principle of the freedom to pursue profit cashed in the office block.

This ethos should not be allowed, however, to spread to English Heritage or to be used to bully the Royal Opera House. English Heritage has only one concern, which it shares (or should) with the Museum of London and the ROH: the preservation and display of the record of civilisation. To do this properly requires high principles and a commitment to more altruistic ideals than just the "best that money can buy". Doctored archaeology is just as bad as poorly sung opera.

The Covent Garden area has suffered more than most in terms of lost glories. Its present day custodians must make sure that in building for the future cultural glory they approach its past with proper respect - and fend off the passing ideological preoccupations of politicians. Simon Mundy, Director, National Campaign for the Arts, Francis Street, London SW1.

Digging in... at Spitalfields cemetery in Bishopsgate



PHOTOGRAPH FRANK MAR

I'm a great advocate of this sort of trading. I'm not. I'd like central funding as much as anyone else. But I am a realist. It is the only way we can get the money.

Increasingly, he says, developers have been coming to them for advice, not trying to get work on the cheap but "in a sensible, commercial sort of way". Last year the Oxford team of 60, acknowledged since the sixties for its abilities in rescue archaeology, earned an income of £1 million. He says they would be happy to tender

for the Department of the Environment recommended in it that English Heritage's responsibilities for archaeological rescue should be handed over to the standing Royal Commission for Historical Monuments for England. Mark Fish, Labour's Shadow Arts Minister, says he on the other hand would bring archaeology under the wing of a separate Arts Ministry under Labour's new drafted arts policy.

Solutions for the present crisis, as developers enter further into rich archaeological

Digging along with the developers

John Schofield, head of the Museum of London's Department of Urban Archaeology, urges archaeological investigations on new developments in the capital

The City of London has been a financial and commercial centre for centuries. Construction of buildings which symbolise its present prosperity disturbs the remains of many previous waves of redevelopment.

The modern City stands on top of what is in effect an archaeological mound – the accumulated remains of 2 000 years of human activity. In places up to 10 metres deep, it contains evidence that is both unique and irreplaceable.

For virtually the first 1 000 years of the capital's existence there is almost no written record, and the buried fragments of roads, buildings, defences and waterfronts thus form a vitally important part of the nation's heritage.

Any building activity below ground level, especially basement construction, poses a threat to these buried remains. Already at least 75 per cent of the strata comprising London's past has been destroyed – and most of that has been in the 19th and 20th centuries. Until very recently, there were few archaeologists around to record the remains before redevelopment.

The Department of Urban Archaeology (DUA), one of two field departments in the Museum of London, was formed in 1974 to monitor the surviving archaeological deposits in the City. The DUA has provided information and advice to statutory bodies and numerous developers, seeking to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains or to provide a full record through excavation of deposits which are threatened with destruction.

The pace of work has quickened considerably over the past two years. Following the deregulation of the Stock Exchange and the need for offices designed around computer technology, planning permission for new floorspace increased by 13 per cent between June 1987 and July 1988. At the end of June 1988, 1.2

million m² of office floorspace was under construction in the Square Mile: double the figure of a year earlier.

Most of the larger redevelopments permitted are located outside conservation areas and towards the outer edges of the City. Nevertheless, an unprecedented 22 per cent of all permitted new work (as measured by floorspace) in the year up to July 1988 was in conservation areas, where 40 redevelopments received planning permission: a quarter of them involving new building behind totally or partly retained façades.

A further problem for archaeologists, naturally, is that some developments are constrained by height restrictions around St Paul's. The consequence appears to be that the new buildings are driven deeper into the ground, thus removing even more of the archaeological strata beneath them.

This pressure demanded a rapid and comprehensive response from the archaeological services of the Museum of London. In 1987 the DUA investigated some 18 sites; in 1988 the figure trebled to 54, and in 1989 the figure was 61. Nearly all these excavations have been funded by developers, with assistance on a small number of sites from English Heritage.

The DUA's services also include providing information about the deposits and the implications of specific developments, thus minimising the threat to archaeological remains.

Recent major discoveries sponsored in this way have included the Roman amphitheatre in Guildhall Yard (excavations sponsored by the Corporation of London); other substantial Roman buildings in the shafts excavated for the new Docklands Light Railway Bank extension; a possible Roman Temple near the Old Bailey (P&O Developments); and, nearer our own day, the waterfront of the years after the

Great Fire of 1666 near the Victoria Embankment, which incorporated timbers from several ships (work sponsored by Morgan Bank).

During the postwar redevelopment of the City, developers often allowed access to their sites and sometimes made a contribution towards archaeological investigation on them. But during the late 1970s it became clear that the existing combination of government (then DoE) funds, and occasional sponsorship, was not enough to provide an efficient service on all sites where archaeology was certain to be encountered.

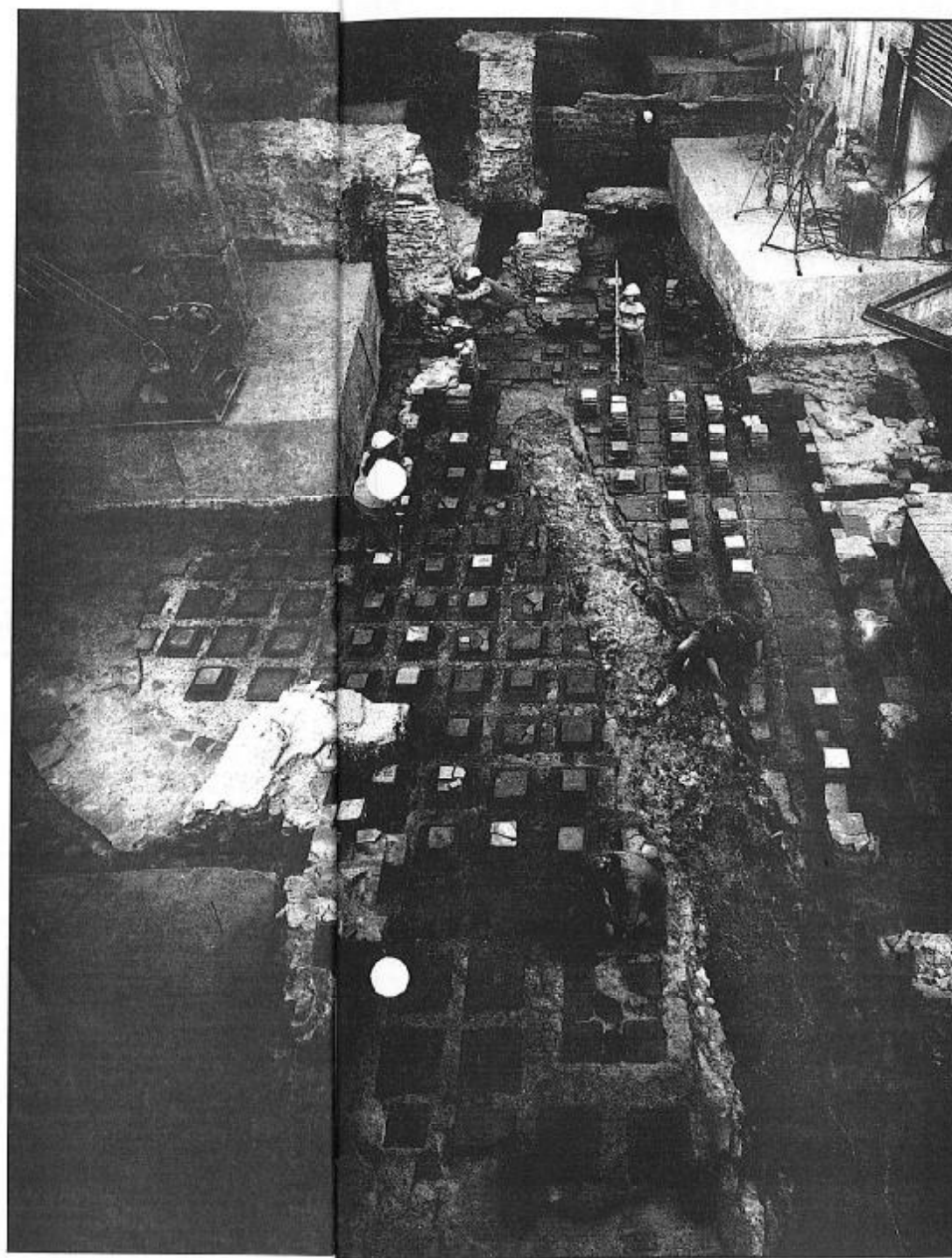
Nor did the existing legislation adequately cover London sites. Part II of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 provides for a statutory period of four-and-a-half months for archaeological investigation on sites in areas designated under the Act – so far, only five historic town centres, all outside London.

The Museum of London began suggesting to every developer that it should assume the responsibility of dealing with the archaeology on its sites in an appropriate way. Since 1978 more than 350 DUA site investigations have been sponsored by developers.

In 1986 The British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group, a joint working party of the British Property Federation and the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers, produced a national code of practice, based partly upon the London experience.

The preamble to the code argued that 'a realistic understanding between archaeologists and developers on a voluntary basis can achieve results that are as good as, and often much better than, those based on the requirements of part II of the Act.'

The DUA deals with the City as one archaeological site or entity, and is able to provide informa-



proper system of regulation.

In the City, when excavation is warranted, a team of qualified archaeologists is assigned to the site, and full support is given by the Museum of London's specialists. Site investigation techniques have been developed to reduce the amount of time required on site as far as possible. Much of the specialist recording and analysis takes place off site: for instance, examination of ancient timbers, decorated stonework from former churches, or sampling for environmental archaeology, the science of ancient ecology. The finds are removed to the museum, to which they have been donated by the developer.

Upon completion of the excavation the site is handed back to the client, the archaeological responsibilities having been discharged.

But sponsoring excavation need not be merely a necessary duty for the developer; it can bring good publicity and the satisfaction of knowing that he has saved part of the nation's heritage. Press releases are agreed between the museum and the developer; the message is that archaeology and property deve-

lopment can co-exist, with a proper recognition of each other's needs.

In rare cases, archaeological remains may merit preservation. Some of these sites are already scheduled as ancient monuments by the Secretary of State for the Environment; others deserve to be. Scheduled monument consent is required before ancient monuments can be touched. The structures which might merit preservation of some kind are usually of stone or brick, as in the recent case of the Roman baths at Huggin Hill. The normal constituents of archaeological strata, however, are clay, timber and gravels, which are fragile and unlikely to survive in the open air without extensive conservation.

For the developer faced with preservation requirements there are a number of options: incorporate the structure into the building – as with a Roman projecting wall-tower at Crosswall (European Ferries, architects Josephs & Partners) or, very successfully, the arch of a monastic church at the corner of Mitre Street and Leadenhall Street (Speyhawk, GMW Partnership); leave the structure outdoors, to form a garden for City workers (as with stretches of the City wall and three bombed church sites); or seal the ruin carefully and build over it (the solution reached at Huggin Hill by Hammerson Group with architects Chapman Taylor Partners).

Although the most visible aspect of the DUA's work is excavation, we would prefer to slow down the erosion of that precious historical resource, the mound of layers on which the City is built. Rescue archaeologists excavate where deposits are going to be disturbed or destroyed. It is often possible, and beneficial both to the developer and to archaeology, to bridge over the archaeological deposits – to avoid deep basements, for instance, or to pile only around the perimeter of a new building.

This objective for the small amount of archaeological strata still remaining does not imperil commercial development, since at least three-quarters of the City's area has already had the archaeological strata removed. The key to success when dealing with archaeology in London is to accept it as a necessary part of the redevelopment process, and to obtain an archaeological assessment from the local unit before planning permission is applied for.

Increasingly, planners will look for this component in the application as archaeology becomes a material consideration in the planning process.

With care and recognition of each other's concerns, developers and archaeologists can co-exist and, together, provide solutions to the problems posed by redevelopments in centres of the nation's heritage.

Developers are already doing the right thing in the City, and they can build on it.



Excavation in progress, left, on the spectacular Roman building at Huggin Hill in the City of London, since preserved by Hammerson Group, the site's developers. Above: Defenders of archaeological heritage in the City: John Schofield (at left) and his negotiating team

tion and advice not only to statutory bodies but also to developers enquiring about archaeological considerations even before planning applications are submitted. Most often, sites are brought to the attention of the DUA through planning applications. If a site has archaeological significance, the excavations officers negotiate with developers or their agents to try to eliminate or reduce the threat to archaeological remains,

or to secure the time and resources required for excavation and the associated immediate tasks. During 1988-89 a total of £3.2 million was donated by developers for this purpose. Accurate site evaluations are crucial. The Museum of London holds records and finds of previous excavations in the City going back 150 years, and from this archive has developed a keen sense of predicting how much

archaeology survives beneath a proposed development.

The DUA works only in the City, feeling that only local knowledge, carefully acquired over a number of years, can do full justice to the archaeology and give the developer value for money. The recent advent of competitive tendering between archaeological units for sites poses a real threat to archaeological standards, since there is as yet no

Three groups of archaeologists recently quoted for a dig on a central London construction site. Two bids were the same, the third undercut by 40 per cent. Some archaeologists are calling for national guidelines to regulate such competitive tendering.

Commercial sponsorship of archaeology has generally worked well — so far, at least. Digging a little deeper, however, uncovers misgivings in some archaeological circles about the future of developer-financed excavation.

Construction companies are now the single most important patrons of "rescue" archaeology in the United Kingdom. Last year, they contributed £14 million to the costs of excavations carried out before construction. The Museum of London, with 240 professional staff, negotiated just under £3 million from developers in 1988 for digs in the Square Mile alone.

But the true costs are much higher. Time allowed for the excavation, changes in design to accommodate historic deposits, for example, account nationally for an add-on cost of £50 million. In exceptional cases, rescue archaeology can represent over 20 per cent of the total redevelopment figure.

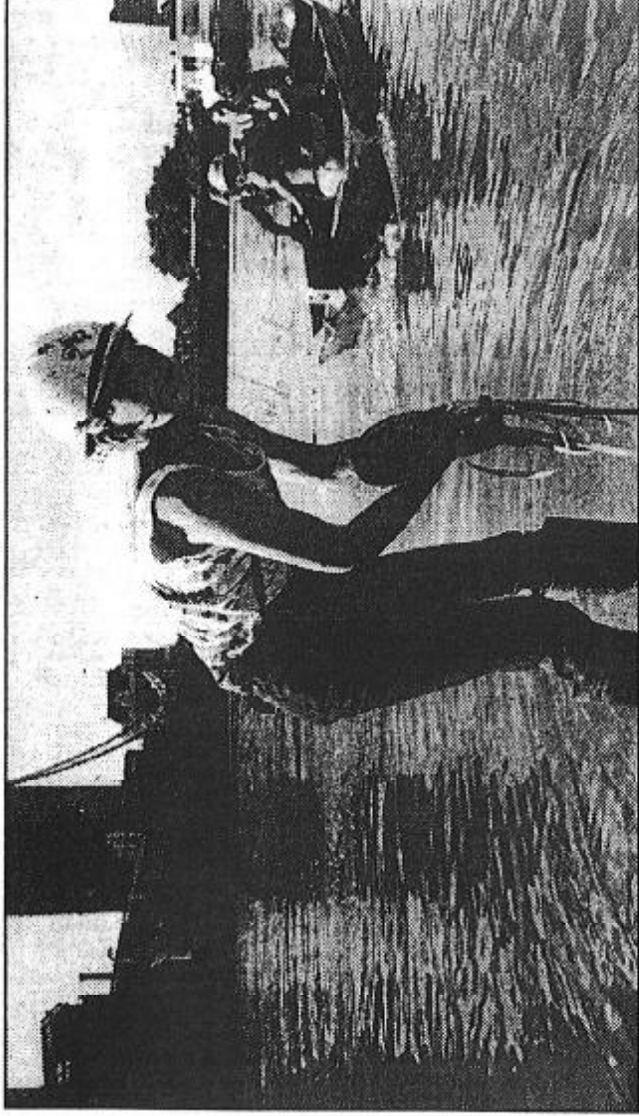
On schemes promising substantial profit margins, developers have been prepared to accept a single estimate from local archaeologists of how much the work will cost. But as development margins shrink, developers will be looking to cut costs, and that means competition.

There are some 50 active units in England and Wales, some independent, the rest attached to local authorities, museums and universities, employing about 1,200 professional archaeologists. Competitive tendering is already spawning itinerant squads staffed by professionals, students and volunteers, and could encourage the setting up of groups run along strictly commercial lines.

Peter Addyman, director of the York Archaeological Trust, welcomes the prospect of competition: "The client has freedom to choose other professional services. Why shouldn't that extend to archaeology? If local archaeologists had a monopoly, they could become complacent."

Developers can be relied on not to cut costs at the expense of heritage, says Brian Hobley, founder and until recently chief of the Department of Urban Archaeology attached to the

Digging at a tender spot



Searching for 16th-century artefacts at Tower Pier, London

Museum of London. He has now set up his own consultancy, to advise developers. "Developers I know want to call in authorized units, not some fly-by-nighters. There are half a dozen units, with good track records, and they will be tendering for most of the work."

Other archaeologists, such as Brian Philip, director of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, are not so confident. "We hope competitive tendering doesn't catch on. It will reduce the quality of work and lead to damage of some sites. Itinerant units are abroad, with no primary interest in the archaeology of other areas, and prepared to undermine the work of local archaeologists."

His first brush with the new era of competition came last year, when his unit was voted off an excavation.

"Advisers to Dover District Council recommended hiring non-Kent archaeologists, with no knowledge of Dover's complex archaeology whatever, through a commercial contract. The outside unit carried out a token

dig, before 100 piles were driven through part of historic Dover." Earlier this year the Oxford Archaeology Unit was invited by City Gate Estates, the developer of an office block in south London, to carry out a preliminary assessment of a key Roman site before a planning application was made. This was done without the knowledge of Museum of London archaeologists who have been involved in the area since 1975.

The framework for discussion between developer and archaeologist is set by a Code of Practice drawn up by the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group sponsored by the British Property Federation and the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. BPF members are advised to follow the liaison group's model agreement.

Most local authorities now employ archaeological officers to monitor planning applications, which should provide an additional safeguard against damage to key sites, while English Heritage plans to bring 40,000 monuments under its protection by the end of the century, nearly quadrupling the present total.

But archaeologists are under growing pressure to be on and off sites quicker. Project management companies now expect tighter timetables for archaeological investigations. When developments were spread over two years, property companies accepted without too much difficulty three to four months for rescue digs. Not so, more recently, with fast-track methods of construction and cladding.

Archaeologists are increasingly putting in competing bids for excavations. Alastair Guild reports on the ramifications

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The framework for discussion between developer and archaeologist is

introduced from the United States, cutting comparable building programmes to 50 weeks.

"We are sometimes pressured into agreeing to insufficient timescales, only to find that later there have been delays in construction," says John Maoney, principal excavations officer in the Department of Urban Archaeology, the Museum of London.

Some archaeologists believe that, given the build up in development pressures, now spreading out from the south east, and the impetus for wider use of competitive tendering, the tendering process itself requires national guidelines. Absence of such ground rules has led to difficulties in the US.

In the early days, competitive tendering was virtually unregulated. Federal guidelines have since been introduced. It is perhaps significant that in the US, it is the government that has taken the initiative. English Heritage has so far stood back from the controversy in the UK.

"Laws and regulations require federal agencies to advertise for competitive bids, emphasizing cost effectiveness," says Dr Diane E. Gelburd, assistant director in the economics and social sciences division of the US Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

Many private companies sprang up in the 1970s to provide archaeological studies required under national environmental policies. Universities saw employment opportunities for students and expanded their programmes to meet the demand for field workers. But many academics considered working on federal government projects to be undesirable and discouraged the best archaeologists. "That is one reason for the difficulty in getting high quality archaeological studies," says Dr Gelburd.

"Competition often encourages better, innovative studies. By contracting for studies, we have the opportunity to obtain the best services. But if the companies are untried or the 'request for proposals' is not sufficiently specific, the archaeological report may be inadequate. The main problem is the lack of standards," says Dr Gelburd.

"Without national guidelines in the UK the vital post excavation work, or recording the site before it is covered over and conserving the artefacts for future display, could suffer. English Heritage now expects developers to meet all archaeological expenses.