

MOLAS LIBRARY

news *letter*

*World Cup
souvenir
issue*

July 1990

Apologies to Angus who for some reason did not get mentioned in the DUA Quiz challenge report in last month's issue. I am lead to believe his contribution was invaluable.

Could people with access to computers please type their submissions to the newsletter on disk, in word and **unformatted**. Disks will be returned promptly. Thanks.

DIARY

From the 10th to the 25th July: London's Pride - The City Festival at the Museum of London. A programme of workshops, visits, walks and lectures to tie in with London's Pride. For details see the leaflets in the Museum.

If you want to see **Billingsgate Bath House** there is a visit planned on Thursday 19th July at 1.30pm. Please contact Olivia, don't just turn up at the baths (security reasons). We hope some site staff will be able to make it.

STAFF

New Staff

Rebecca Stancer
Julian Cotton
Geoff Connal

Resignations

Richard Bucht
Marie Nally
Rachel Cutler
Stuart Bedford
Jeanette Holt
Ralph Collis
Steve Davies
Jane Baldwin
Tina "Toots" Murphy

JOBS

Publications Officer required to co-ordinate the programmes for all internal publications and graphic design work, and to edit museum publications, texts, captions, etc. In addition, duties will include ensuring that financial targets are met through competitive tendering for type setting, print buying, etc.

Application forms and further information from the Personnel Officer. Closing date: 17th July.

Archaeological excavation at the **Abbey of Hautvilliers** (between Reims and Epernay) in France, 1st to 31st August 1990.

The abbey was founded in the Merovingian period, and was the location of a renowned illuminated manuscript workshop in the 9th century. The church dates to the 12th century and the site was in continuous occupation until the French Revolution.

Contact

Pascale Bousquet-Chevallier
39 rue Dostolevski
51100 Reims
France tel: 010 33 26 49 91 70

Bruno Decrock
35 rue Chanzy
5100 Reims
France tel 010 33 26 88 36 44

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD OFFICER

Applications are invited for the post of Sites and Monuments Record Officer with the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust. Salary: Scale 4-5, review pending. The Trust holds the County SMRs for the three Glamorganshire Counties and Gwent. The post is funded currently on an annually renewable basis; initially the appointments would be until April 1991. Membership of IFA would be an advantage. Further details from Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Bath Lane, Swansea, SA1 1RD. Tel: (0792) 655208.

CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

An experienced Archaeologist is sought for the post of

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Applicants should have an honours degree in Archaeology or History, be a member or associate of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and should have had considerable experience of excavation, archive compilation and or report writing and publishing.

Further information from and applications (with CV, four referees), to: Dr F Panton, C.A.T., 92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU.

Closing date: July 13 1990

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT CONSERVATION OFFICER

(up to £12,462)

CONSERVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

To help with work on listed buildings and Conservation Areas. Three year contract in the first instance. You should have a degree and relevant training or experience, together with a good working knowledge of vernacular buildings and conservation techniques.

- Removal expenses up to £6,400
- Essential user car allowance/or subsidised car rental
- Flexible working hours
- Personal accident scheme (whilst on Council business)
- Subsidised restaurant
- Pension scheme

For an application form and further details contact Nicola Smith, County Planning Department, County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP. Telephone (0234) 228069. Closing date: July 9, 1990.

Re-advertisement, previous applicants need not re-apply.



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Senior Bibliographer

British Archaeological Bibliography

A consortium of leading archaeological bodies is preparing to establish a comprehensive computer-based bibliographic service for British archaeology, to replace British Archaeological Abstracts in 1992. A Senior Bibliographer is needed to supervise the transition and carry out a survey, and thereafter to head the new bibliographic service. Candidates must have a degree in archaeology or a related discipline, familiarity with information work, computer skills, and experience in editing and publishing, and be able to manage the finances of the project.

The post will be London based and appointment will be within Grade 2 of the Universities Academic Related Pay Scale (£12,879-£16,695, award pending), plus £1,767 London Weighting. A contributory and fully transferable pension scheme is available.

The initial appointment will be until the end of March 1991. It will then be reviewed on the basis of performance and will be renewable for a further three years, with a review of the project at the end of the second year. It is hoped to hold interviews in July; the successful candidate will be expected to take up the post in September or October.

This is a challenging appointment, with considerable potential for the right candidate. Full details may be obtained on application to The Director, Council for British Archaeology, 112 Kennington Road, London SE11 9RE.



THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

SENIOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHER

£12,624 - £14,874 p.a. inc.

The Department of Greater London Archaeology requires a Photographer to be responsible for all its photographic requirements including studio, darkroom and site work.

Applicants should have at least two years' professional experience and possess both a relevant degree and a vocational qualification. The post will be offered initially on a 12 months' contract.

Further details and application form available from the Personnel Officer, The Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. Telephone (071) 600 3699, ext. 292 (ansaphone after office hours).

Closing date 17th July, 1990.

HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PROJECTS)

Salary range: £13,000-£15,500

A suitably qualified and experienced professional is required for this challenging and demanding post. You will have had several years experience at a senior level of the management and direction of major archaeological projects and will be able to demonstrate high quality negotiating and communication skills, extensive experience of personnel and project management and a proven ability to see projects through to publications.

For further details please apply to:

The Administrator, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust, The Seed Warehouse, Maidenhead Yard, The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PX. (0992) 558170).

NEWS DIGEST

Only the briefest of reports this month. As you probably know, English Heritage have advertised for an Archaeological Officer for the London area, and continue in their single-minded, ill-informed way. Discussions are still in progress but there is little left to discuss. Watch out for information through other channels.

Meanwhile project formation continues largely as before. Negotiations for Brooks Wharf have entered a productive phase, and it seems likely that 1991 will be a year of concentrated waterfront activity, on this site and the nearby Bull Wharf and Vintry sites. These will take over as the major focus of excavation attention from the Fleet Valley, which is coming to the end of its excavation period.

During June we formulated plans, in consultation with the Roman and Medieval Department, for processing and appraising the archive of Professor W.F. Grimes, which after his death in 1988 passed to the Museum. Work on this archive, and seven proposed publications from it, will hopefully be funded by English Heritage in the future.

As we move into the era without guaranteed EH funding, it becomes very important to have detailed accounting procedures for allocating staff and resources to budgets. As part of the management support system now being introduced by ECH Project Services, we need to extend the staff return system to everybody on projects in the department. I will be sending round the necessary memoranda on procedures, but the basic idea is that supervisors on each project, or otherwise if appropriate, should compile weekly staff returns and send them in to the Excavations Office, where the central administration functions will be carried out for now. We must start this system from the beginning of August. Please help by being tolerant and co-operative; this will be the way of managing our money most effectively, leading to efficient spending of votes, better decisions and clearer perceptions of what we can do within budgets. You are ultimately spending the money; help us to justify the archaeological needs, and win further funds.

John Schofield

Staff Meeting:

Friday 20th July
in Lecture Theatre

Max Hebditch will address the MoL staff on recent developments with English Heritage

FINDS SECTION

This last month, although quiet, has produced some interesting information from finds and has seen members of the section attending conferences on a range of topics.

Regular readers of this page will doubtless remember the Giltspur Street bone comb fragment which was found under the head of one of the skeletons. Only a dozen examples of this comb type are known from north-west Europe. St. Guy's Hospital are washing the skeletons from the site and we are happy to report they have recovered the other half of the comb, although in fragments.

At Fleet Valley, Area 3 has produced three more barrel wells, bringing the total to sixteen. In Area 6 (the drain area) a great deal of material has been recovered: ivory combs, bone dice, lace chapes, jettons, pins, the two pinners' bones.

Piling has begun at Vintry, producing a trickle of metal finds and a small amount of pottery. Alex has returned from holiday tanned and with a burning desire to become a Greek waitress. However she has been told she can be funded for an M.Phil. on wig curlers instead!

St. Mary Axe has started up again. At the moment the finds consist of post-medieval pottery and disarticulated human bone but Fiona is confident that there will be more to report next month.

The Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, site has produced possibly the earliest Roman pottery from the City. The medieval crucibles and slag have received their publicity, but Ian Riddler - bone expert extraordinaire - suggests I mention the two skates from the site (one made from a horse's metapodial and of the usual type known to you all, the other utilising a cattle radius and not so easily recognised). After the Dissolution a glassworks was established on the site of the Austin Friars church; the only evidence so far recovered is a fragment from an enormous post-medieval crucible and a glass lump from the side of the furnace.

Events this month included a topping-out display at Whittington Avenue (Maria's site) and a workshop at York University on material culture, conservation, storage and display attended by Fiona, Ruth (Waller) and Patricia. The day before they had visited York Archaeological Trust to discuss the YAT methods of dealing with finds. The latter came about as a result of a talk given by Dominic Tweddle (YAT) at the IFA Finds Group at Fortress House. A number of us also attended the metallurgy day on slags (held at the Museum of London) and found the "hands-on" aspect particularly useful. The one-day conference in Birmingham on competitive tendering will be attending by a contingent from finds.

155

**The Executions Officer,
The Museum of London,
London Wall,
London,
EC2Y 5HN.**

AKA....

Standing Conference of Agriculture
Unit Managers
Department of Urban Archaeology
Museum of London
London Wall
London EC2Y 5HN

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

There have been several new faces in the Archaeology Section recently. Two trainee conservators from the Royal Armouries have been and gone; each spent two weeks with us to observe archaeological methods of conservation which are quite different to those they use on their collections of arms and armour. Now we are pleased to have two students from the Institute of Archaeology's Conservation Course working in the Section for July. They are Phyllis Williams and Michael Halliwell. Michael will be concentrating on material from DUA current sites, under Dana's supervision.

Dana helped to organise a very successful day-school for the Historical Metallurgy Society called "Metalworking: Products and Waste Products". As well as lectures, one of which was given by our own Rose Johnson, this included displays which many staff visited.

Two bone combs featured among the finds treated. The first was a fine Saxon example complete with its bone case from 78-79 Leadenhall Street. With great care and trepidation the comb was released from the case. The second comb is a Roman one with pierced decoration in the form of animals along the centre, from Giltspur Street. A few fragments were found on site, then more turned up when the skull from the grave was being washed and examined at Bart's Hospital. It should be possible to reconstruct these fragments into a virtually completed comb.

On the wet wood front, part of the medieval staircase from Sunlight Wharf has been successfully treated. Dave added to the collection by lifting a large wooden trough from Fleet Valley area 3. He is also completing work on the small barrel base by re-forming the withies. We shouldn't forget the Billingsgate waterfront structures (Roman quay and two medieval revetments) which are being conserved at Portsmouth specially for the Tower Hill Pageant Exhibition. These are visited from time to time and are looking fine.

Helen Jones continues to work part time for the Pageant Exhibition, which consists predominantly of DUA finds. A large amount of ceramics have been reconstructed and other objects which would not otherwise have been displayed are being conserved.

Conservation for the Jewellery exhibition is being co-ordinated by Helen Ganiaris. Archaeological material will be included in this. She has been taking impressions from many intaglio for the catalogue photography.

Finally, we'd like to wish a speedy recovery from a slipped disc to Katie Gardiner - the lab assistant who divided her time between Conservation, Finds and Environmental. Digging in Crete probably wouldn't have been much fun anyway!

The six stages of Project Management

- 1 Wild enthusiasm
- 2 Disillusionment
- 3 Chaos
- 4 Search for the guilty
- 5 Punishment of the innocent
- 6 Promotion of the non-participants

ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION

Current Sites

Environmental sampling is continuing at Pinner's Hall, Bull's Wharf, Vintry, St. Botolphs Crypt and at Fleet Valley. At the moment, Pinner's Hall and Area 3 at Fleet Valley look promising.

Current and Future post-ex projects

Over the past month, a number of us have been ploughing our way through an assessment of all remaining soil samples from the DUA backlog of 1975-1982 occupying much space in the Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval projects to be discussed at an advisory committee meeting. Future projects for next year are now being discussed: one major project may well be the scanning of a large number of samples from all over the City of London to reassess our sampling and processing system and to help establish any interesting patterns in the environmental evidence, perhaps adding to our list of more specific project proposals.

New People!

Malcolm Grant, a student from the Institute of Archaeology is presently working with Nigel Nayling on coppicing practices using wattle hurdles from Fleet Valley and Rainham sites for his M.Sc. thesis.

Meetings and Conferences attended

James Rackham and Alan Pipe attended the Sixth International Conference of Archaeozoology, Washington. James Rackham presented a paper on 'Archaeozoology and Saxon London' (joint author - Barbara West).

Elizabeth Pearson attended an Archaeobotany workshop at the University Museum, Oxford.

Other News

East London Polytechnic is offering a part-time Archaeological Sciences Master's degree. If anyone is interested, please contact Nigel Nayling. Most of their current work is involved with organic chemistry, particularly on corking and luting and on coprolites.

Elizabeth Pearson

where are they now?



CONFERENCE REPORTS

The First Seminar on Health and Safety on Archaeological Sites, York University 29/6/90

Jim Heathcote (IPMS REP) and myself were asked to give a paper regarding Health and Safety: Jim from the IPMS angle and myself from the Excavations Office angle. The topics discussed during the day touched on most aspects: visits, training, Health and Safety policies, new legislation and laws, implementation, financing of Health and Safety posts, etc.... The day consisted of a lecture session in the morning and small group sessions in the afternoon.

Unfortunately it clashed with a Rescue/IFA seminar so the attendance was not as high as expected and in fact many units were not even represented. The ones that were present included: York Archaeological Trust, Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust, City of Lincoln and Peak Archaeological Trust, Stafford Borough Council, University of Lancaster Archaeological Unit, University of York, South Yorkshire Archaeological Unit, Passmore Edwards Museum and Jim Allen from Hinton and Higgs the Museums Health and Safety Advisory Consultants.

The seminar was very well organised and worthwhile and a lot of ideas were discussed: it was very obvious that all the other units/Museums lag far behind MoL and it is still an unknown area for some. It was unanimously decided to organise a follow up seminar within the next six to eight months. Watch this space.....

Caroline Pathy-Barker

Soldiers and civilians in the Roman North.

Conference held at York, 6-8 April 1990.

With a few very notable exceptions, the talks concentrated upon presenting recent excavations with little or no discussion of their context or perceived significance. While 'informative' lectures certainly have their place, it is surely not in the midst of a conference whose title suggests that it was to explore the relationship between civilian and military elements within the population. The presentation of recent work on civilian annexes, various stages of fort and workshop construction, etc. may have been designed to stimulate such debate, but the format of the conference, like so many, did not allow this to happen: too little time for questions, and those that were voiced sought clarification of descriptive details, naturally enough. There was no attempt, or time, to discuss the issues raised, however tangentially, by the speakers. In addition, the whole conference was undermined by inadequate lecture facilities, which resulted in a stuffy classroom and a slide projector which actually obscured the most of the screen for a large percentage of the audience. Nevertheless, some useful information was available.

The conference opened with Richard Hall giving a brief overview of work on the Roman Fortress at York. Much of the work was quite old; a notable exception being the Swinegate - site, completed the same day by Nicky Pearson, where substantial masonry structures had been found in the heart of the Fortress. Relatively restricted excavation areas make their interpretation difficult, but post-excavation will no doubt produce interesting results. Patrick Ottaway offered an overview of the 'civilian' settlement at York, with interesting views on the significance of the recently excavated 'public' buildings at the Stakis Hotel and Queen Street sites. There is some debate as to their specific functions, but both demonstrate an interesting late Roman sequence and a complex development within the civilian area; the public aspects of which he suggested may have owed much to the inspiration of military personnel. Certainly the dividing line between military and civilian seemed less than clear.

The York round-up was completed by Harry Kenwood, who commented upon the environmental evidence retrieved from the military and civilian settlements. Although interesting, this survey did little more than point to the short-comings of the present data set, and to the need for more material, from a broader range of deposits.

Adrian Oliver (Lancaster University Archaeological Unit) gave a resume of work at Ribchester, particularly the areas surrounding the fort. The regular layout of the extra-mural area, and the interpretation of many of the excavated buildings as workshops, led him to suggest that the area developed as a result of military planning, possibly for factories. The impact of this upon the settlement as a whole was not explored.

Tim Strickland set out to re-appraise the legionary fortress at Deva with the potentially exciting view that, as he was no longer actively involved with the work there, he could make some attempt to place it in a wider context. Unfortunately, this consisted of showing slides of busts of various Emperors, and discussing which weekend the troops pulled out on. Sorry if this sounds fatuous, but that is exactly what I thought of the lecture.

David Mason was rather more interesting, although poor timing resulted too much data (already published), and too little of his ideas, which he clearly was eager to impart and are well worth considering. However, all is not lost: read his paper in *Journal of Chester Archaeology*, which more succinctly makes the case.

Tony Wilmott informed us of recent work at Birdoswald, where he has been undertaking detailed excavations for the past three years. The work has concentrated on the north-west corner of the fort, including the north rampart, the west gate, barracks and two granaries. The very late Roman (or possibly post-Roman) sequence was particularly interesting, and may include evidence for the conversion of one of the granaries into a domestic hall. Three papers dominated the conference. Mike McCarthy's, because of the quality of the material and the effort to reference it to wider issues, and Rick Jones and Steve Roskam's, because they attempted to address the theme of the conference and to actually discuss how, in archaeological terms, the relationship might be explored.

Mike McCarthy (Carlisle Archaeological Unit) gave a detailed account of recent work at Carlisle. The remarkable preservation of the early deposits, due to waterlogged conditions, make these excavations particularly important. Most impressive was a collapsed timber wall surviving to a reconstructed height of some 2m (possibly its full height). Even more important was the organic evidence retrieved from the pits, which suggest patterns of rubbish disposal and attitudes towards 'cleanliness'. Potentially, this depositional information may be as important as the advance in our knowledge of the settlement itself, as it offers great potential for understanding sites where organics are virtually absent from the archaeological record.

Richard Jones (Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford), offered one of the most thought provoking papers of the conference, entitled "Roman soldiers as Neighbours". In this he examined the impact of the army on the local native population. He was interested in "finding the right questions to pose about the relationships between soldiers and civilians", and sought to elucidate those archaeological methods most suited to this end. He used a number of archaeological sites to illustrate his case, in particular his own work at Naburn, just outside York, and Birchester, where he attempted to trace changing dynamics to the relationship.

Steve Roskams (York University), offered a provocative talk concerning the questions that might be raised by archaeology, and the assumptions that many archaeologists carry with them. In particular, the degree to which the spheres of military and civilian life were integrated. Archaeologists were asked to pose more basic questions of their data and to approach it with a view to explaining its significance, not just interpreting its formation.

Tim Williams.

Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology - CAA 90

Surveying and Computer Graphics

CAA90 was held between 21st-23rd March 1990 at the University of Southampton. It was attended by some 150 delegates including 6 from the DUA. Robin Boast has given a general overview of the conference. There were a number of papers which had particular relevance to the survey and computer graphics fields.

The conference started with an 'Introduction to GIS' workshop, presented by Gary Lock of the Oxford Institute of Archaeology and Dr Michael Clark of Southampton University Geodata Institute, whose two systems (IBM's GFIS and Tydac's SPANS) were demonstrated. Geographical Information Systems are becoming accessible to archaeology on a wider scale as more systems are implemented. Dr Clark divided systems into those driven by large users and computer companies, and smaller academic systems. He suggested that the latter, being more flexible and a research tool were more appropriate to archaeology. Nevertheless, Gary Lock suggested that the great cost of GIS, in hardware, software, data, staffing and time, means that most archaeological units will be sucked into using whatever system their Local Authority/University/Museum adopts.

Gary Lock expanded on this theme in a paper on 'spatial information on computer SMR's' (Site and Monument Record). All current SMR's hold only text information on computer, with an OS grid reference (of varying precision) usually being the only spatial reference. The remainder of the locational description is held on paper (OS maps). The choice was between staying with current database standards (which are tending, like the DUA's ORACLE database, to SQL based systems), or moving to GIS. Present computer SMR's fail to serve the main users - Planners - whose queries are usually spatial (i.e. where is it?). Standardisation of GIS structures will be the next main problem to be addressed in this field as the number and users of systems grow.

Paul Reilly, of IBM, in an otherwise uninspiring presentation on 'Virtual Archaeology' (Solid Modelling), pointed out the slowness of archaeologists to take up computer graphics. The most controversial suggestion is that changes to methods, systems should be countenanced for the sake of long term efficiency.

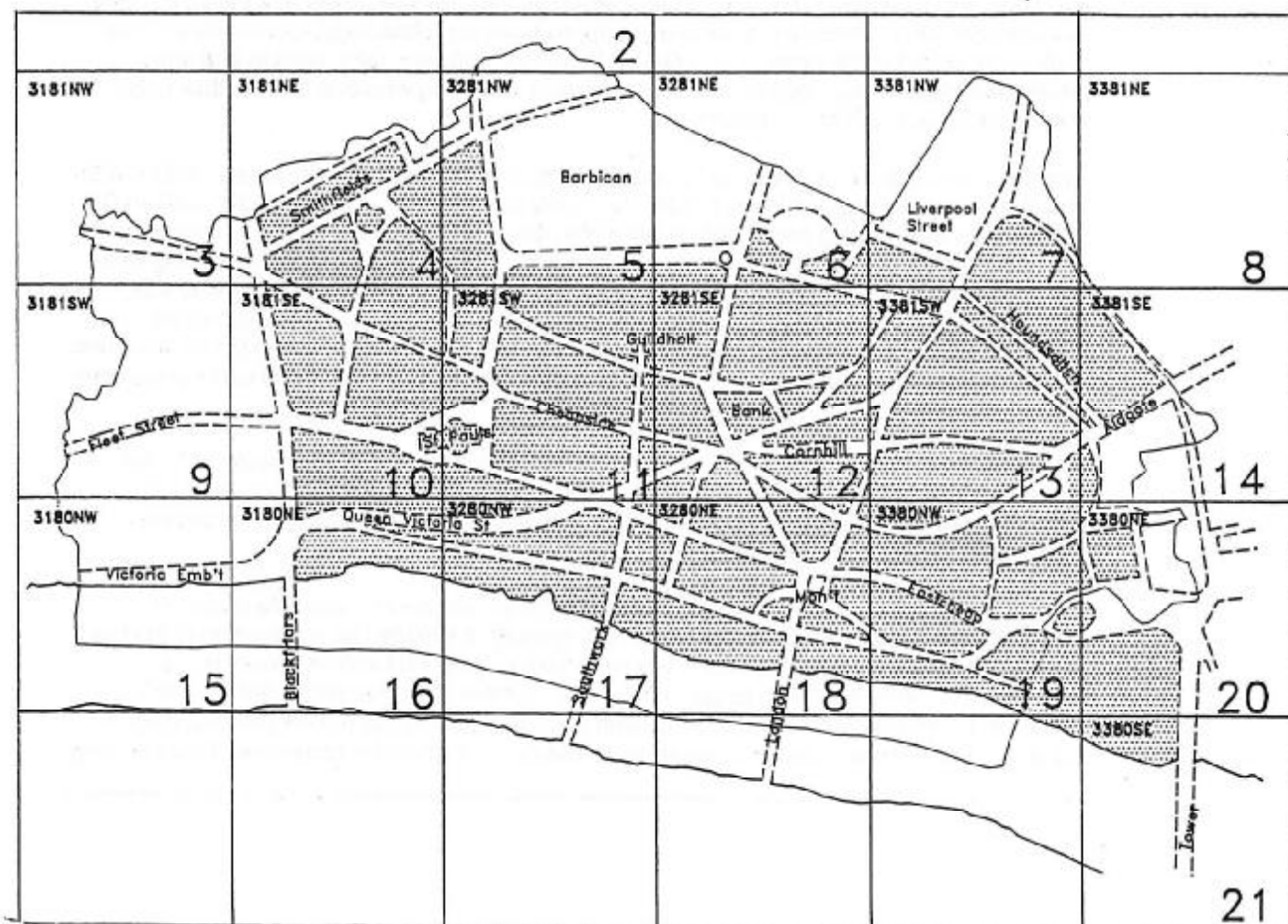
Daniel Arroyo-Bishop gave a paper on current progress with the Archaeodata project (a proposal for a Europe-wide standard recording system). It included an explanation of the use of the UTM (universal metric unit) grid where recording is by 3-d location of cells (more appropriate to prehistoric than single context entry systems). This would be linked to the Universal Transverse Mercator grid projection system (equivalent to the UK OS) to provide a European spatial reference. As an example of adapting a method for computers, their planning

sheets have no grid lines marked as these would interfere with future computer scanning of the image. The Archaeodata manual is to be published shortly (in Paris) with an IBM compatible proprietary database suitably configured also to be made available.

Julian Richards, of York University Archaeology Dept, presented a recently completed project to build a database showing archaeological survival in York. Funded by English Heritage and York City Council (who specified the database to be used), the onset of competitive tendering makes the use of this for evaluating research and excavation strategies even more critical. The YAT archive, City engineers boreholes, Gill Andrews' 1982 deposit survival map, and RCHM publications were used to produce contour maps of the city topography for Pre-historic, Roman, Anglian, Viking, and Medieval periods. The model's performance against reality will be the acid test.

Finally, rounding off Thursday's session, Jason Wood, of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, presented a stunning video of a computer graphic reconstruction of Furness Abbey, which left most people 'gobsmacked'! Spurned by English Heritage, his dream of turning the photogrammetric recording and interpretation of the standing remains into a 3-D computer model, was rescued by a BNFL consultant engineer cum amateur archaeologist. Using software written for designing complicated pipework in chemical plants, and high-powered computer hardware to match, an incredibly detailed representation of the original church was built, complete with interior brick and roof construction details. A sequence of perspective views from different observation positions and angles, captured onto video tape and projected onto a large overhead screen, gave a breathtaking guided tour through the building. Only the popcorn and Superman music were missing!

Mark Green



MUSEUM OF LONDON SEMINARS

'The New Museology'

The third in the new series of Museum of London seminars was held on 13th June, when Dr. Peter Vergo of Essex University led a discussion on the topic of 'The New Museology'. While most of those attending knew this to be the title of a book recently edited by him, Dr. Vergo seemed to assume that everyone had read and inwardly digested it, which was not the case. It was therefore rather disappointing that he chose to spend half of his allotted time defending himself against the various critical reviews the book had received, which meant nothing to those who were unaware of its contents, and seemed a little self-indulgent to those who had. Dr. Vergo then went on to argue that his book was merely a series of essays of a critical nature, by a group of academics and museum professionals personally known to him. It was far from being a programmatic statement about any 'new museology' paradigm. Instead he tried to draw out some topics that would repay further examination by all of those engaged in museum work. Principal among these was defining exactly what was unique to a museum. For Peter Vergo, it is the exhibiting of a collection to the public that really lies at the heart of a museum's activities because many other tasks (such as conservation), he argued, could be carried out by outside bodies. It was here, when debate subsequently opened up, that much disagreement was voiced.

A number of those present felt that this was an inadequate definition, as museums carry out a particular range of activities, such as collecting, documenting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting. Each single activity may be undertaken by a number of other organisations as well, but it is only museums that carry out this unique combination. Nevertheless, it is around the exhibiting of collections to the public that most recent debate has been focused. If it is accepted that putting on an exhibition is not a neutral process, but a product of the cultural environment and personal preferences of those involved in it, then exhibition-making becomes a political act, revealing as much about contemporary society as it does about the past. This can lead to much theoretical agonising amongst exhibition-makers about ideological manipulation and has led in some areas to a call for museum curators to act simply as enablers to allow people to construct their own versions of the past unmediated by the curators' biased vision. In other quarters it had led to a retreat into pure scholarship and a pretence at objectivity, and even to a polarisation between theoreticians and practitioners 'too busy to worry about ideas'. The only sensible way forward would seem to be that we continually refine our critical self-awareness in studies such as those portrayed in Vergo's book, and, while recognising that objectivity is impossible, abide by the rules of balance and scholarship and attempt to act in the best of faith. As discussion showed, the debate will run and run.

Nick Merriman

COMPUTER GRAPHICS BULLETIN BOARD

This will be a regular item, giving an update on work being undertaken on the DUA computer graphics system. This comprises Autocad running on the Sun Sparkstation (plus A0 digitiser and A3 plotter) at Bridge House, and DELL 386 (plus A0 digitiser and A0 plotter) at Ferroners House.

1. Phase and interpretive site plans are being produced for the following sites:-

AST87
 NAV87
 FNC88
 COH90 Contact Dave Dunlop
 LOW88 Contact Duncan Lees/Aedan Woodger
 LHN89 Contact Chris Goode
 DMT88 Contact Majella Egan/Pete Rowsome

2. Deposit Survival Survey.

Chris Sperry-Green has digitised site outlines (as shown on the OS 1/1250 plans) for most sites in the city, and this work is now being verified.

3. East of Walbrook (see separate item by Tim Williams)

4. 1/100 Site plans (Figure 3 of the Level 3 Archive Report).

Mark Green and Crispin Jarman are producing these on a regular basis from developers' building and basement plans, and/or from survey data collected using the Sokkisha Total Station. Draft plans have been, or are being, produced for the following sites:-

ARY90	DUH88	LDH89	UPT90
ASQ87	ECH88	LDL88	UTS88
AST87	FRN90	LEN89	VAL88
BHD90	GAG87	LHN89	VRY89
BIP88	GAM88	LYD88	WAP88
BLM87	GRL88	MGT87	WES88
BOG89	GRM90	MTH87	WIV88
BOS87	GTA89	OPS88	BUF90
BRO90	THM89	PSO90	SBG87
BSL88	GWS89	RAC90	SAB87
BTB89	HEL86	RON90	BBH87
CCT90	HSD89	SAY88	VHA89
CID90	IHA89	TWR89	POH90

5. The Roman London Contour Map has been digitised by Majella Egan, who is also the DUA 'expert' on plotter pens and paper.

6. A generalised City Plan has been produced by Mark Green. This incorporates an OS 1/1250 sheet index.

7. Data transfer between the Sun and DELL has, at last, been made straightforward by the installation of DOS Windows software on the Sun.

8. Autodesk UK have, so far, provided free 2-day Autocad training courses for 11 staff (from drawing office, survey and computing sections). Users are being given on-site training by these and other experienced users, as they need it, and a body of knowledge and experience is thus gradually being developed.

Mark Green

East of Walbrook (EoW) AutoCAD work

Majella Egan and I have made extensive use of AutoCAD for this HBMC publication project. It was used as a tool to aid research, and thus decisions about the degree of accuracy and the level of detail entered were based upon the specific needs, and the considerable time-restraints, of the project. However, it is hoped that some of the information will be of use to colleagues, and it should be relatively simple to upgrade areas of data for future uses. A base map for the study area was compiled; consisting of the information drawn from the OS, plus a framework of topographic features (contours from an 1841 map -- as used on the Londinium map, a recent plot of the Walbrook, etc.). The following information within the study area was plotted.

Simple site locations (as spots)

- (a) All sites, from 1972 to the present.
- (b) All observations recorded in Merrifield's 1965 gazetteer.
- (c) All sites that I have been able to identify, either earlier than 1965 and omitted from the Merrifield gazetteer, or between 1964/5 and 1972.

Further details

These were added in 'stick diagram' form (single lines, with no distinction between found and conjectured) as the aim was to assess alignments, property sizes, distances, built-up space, etc. and the data is supported by conventional drawings, which allow survival/conjecture to be assessed where necessary.

- (a) Where the Merrifield gazetteer observations offered some distinct features, such as building plans or streets, these have been digitised (from his original OS plots).
- (b) All EoW publication sites have had their trench outlines and every phase of landuse entered.
- (c) Selected non-EoW sites have had key features entered, usually in the form of significant topographic features or well preserved phases of landuse, for the purpose of investigating street lines, property alignments, etc. A list of sites/features digitised will be available next month (when I have finished doing it).
- (d) The forum/basilica as reconstructed by Marsden (1987) - thanks to Dave Dunlop.

I will be circulating plots of this data in July/August, and I would very much appreciate comments, not least because there are often discrepancies between recorded versions of the site address, and between these and the cited OS grid references, so while an effort was made to make the entries as accurate as possible, some corrections certainly will be necessary to the site spot data. If anyone is interested in seeing the material before hand, get in touch.

Database relationships

All of the above site data has been stored as separate drawings related to the base map. It is possible, therefore, to call in any information from the keyboard -- by simply typing in the information required, such as asking for a specified site to be indicated -- or by making a list of information required outside of AutoCAD, possibly via a database, which AutoCAD can then act upon; for example, a list of sites with early 2nd century occupation could be submitted to the site spot list to produce a distribution map.

Landuse diagrams

All EoW sites have Landuse diagrams, with dating overlays, on AutoCAD.

Tim Williams

COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

Cut Out and Keep!

Running An Operating System Command

[Esc] [Library] [Run]

1. Press [Esc] to activate menu.
2. Choose the [Library] command.
3. Choose the [Run] command.
4. Either type the command you wish to run or press <Return> to run a shell.

This command allows you to run MS-DOS or Xenix commands while using Word. With Xenix, commands are typed in at the Xenix prompt rather than selected from the Visual Shell. When you use this command Word is temporarily exited and the command you enter is run. Useful commands might be copying files into different directories, listing or viewing files especially data files. When the command has finished running press any key to resume using Word.

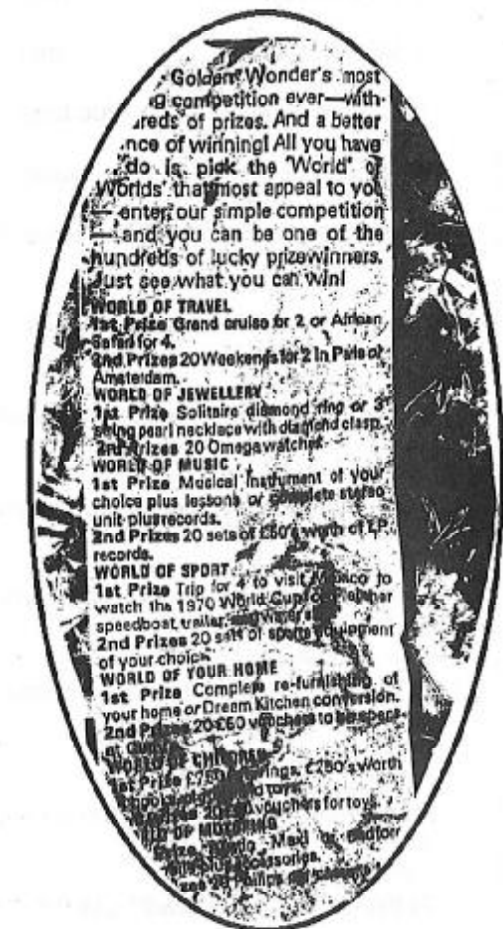
A word of warning: do not delete the file that you are working on in this way!

Peter Marsden's Lunchbox?

The excavations at Billingsgate are continuing to reveal new evidence of the dietary habits of Londoners in the 1960's.

A large number of the food wrappers and containers for beverages found to date carry labels detailing their contents enabling us to conclude that the diet consisted largely of highly processed foods containing salt, sugar, fats and chemical additives. The latest find, illustrated here, is a small cellophane plastic bag which is described as containing **crisps**, or small fried wafers of potato flavoured with salt.

The inscription dates the wrapper to early 1969 AD. It is also clear from the inscription that this food must have been so unpalatable that it was necessary to offer incentives to encourage its consumption. Prizes were offered which were luxury goods normally beyond the means of ordinary people. It is also interesting to note that one of these prizes was a pilgrimage to the World Cup football competition thus indicating that, even then, this game was beginning to supercede religion as the prime means of coercing the loyalty of the masses.



DUA TRAINING

HEALTH & SAFETY APPRECIATION: COURSE EVALUATION

NAME:
(optional)

YEARS WITH MoL:

SECTION:

Please be as frank as possible in your comments. Your views will assist the training co-ordinator in reviewing the effectiveness of the training provision.

Tick one box

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 Course presentation | good | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | bad |
| 2 Course objectives | met | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | not met |
| 3 My objectives | met | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | not met |
| 4 Course duration | too long | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | too short |
| 5 Recommend course | would | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | wouldn't |

6 Any comments on the course materials/handouts:

7 What part of the course did you find most useful?

8 What part of the course did you find least useful?

9 Are there any parts of the course you would omit (as inappropriate)?

10 Is there anything else you would like to have seen on the course?

11 Any other comments (accommodation, opportunity for discussion with other participants, enjoyment etc.)

Please feel free to add further comment

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO SUSAN GREENWOOD

Improving Agriculture, Conserving the Past

Improving our treatment of the planet's land surface is both a matter of conserving the natural world, as far as that still exists, and developing food production and living space on the minimum area and with the minimum environmental degradation. The latter is achieved neither by rampant technology and narrow exploitation of resources nor by a return to the methods of the 'Good Old Days'.

This is true even in agriculture since, as Bernard Little pointed out in the Green Party news letter 'Growing Concerns', organic farming cannot be claimed as a return to the methods of British farming in the late 19th century or early 20th century. If you refer to that period in a discussion with any elderly British country dweller (i.e. not a yuppie in Barbour clutching a copy of Country Living) as a golden age pre-dating agri-business they will take that as a condemnation of Organic farming since, for them, pre-Ware farming was as depressed as the industrial sector of the 30's, and for a much longer period. There may have been no pesticides, little artificial fertiliser and no prairie arable but there were lots of poverty stricken rural folk, earning little from an unproductive landscape. Hedges there may have been in abundance around the arable and the earthworks of ancient fields, farms and defences may have stretched across the grassy expanses of the downs but those depending on these landscapes for a livelihood probably cursed what we now go gooey-eyed over.

Crawford's classic 'Wessex from the Air' is now an awe-inspiring record of what survived after a millenium and a half of grazing but to the living pastoralists it was a grassy desert. Pitt-Rivers' labourers were glad of his operations for the work it gave them especially at times when they were laid off and free to go digging. Indeed I remember my Grandfather, a tenant farmer for much of the early half of this century commenting on the low wages and high rents for country people in late Victorian Wiltshire - and referring to the big landowners as the 'damned lot' (Yes, he lived to 103 and also remembered, just, Joseph Arch founding agricultural Unions in the 1890's).

So when Britain had to 'dig for victory' it meant now life for British farmers. 50 years ago, as the Times noted on the 9th January, Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, Minister of Agriculture under Churchill, reported that 1 million acres had been ploughed in 130 days, and they could have done more if the weather had been better. He set this against firstly the pre-war situation where the arts of ploughing and cultivation had almost been lost, then the present needs for 1940-1 'if the war continued' (A hint of contemporary peace overtures?) and also looked towards the growth of farming post-war.

The pity is that the development in the late 40's benefited only a few and did not reverse the move from the land because growth was by mechanisation and chemical farming. The character of the landscape was impoverished and much of the archaeological record erased. It was not just the archaeology, hedges disappeared, heavy ploughing compacted soils and caused panning and soil erosion. Panning was broken up by yet heavier machinery, digging deeper. In Norfolk records of finds come in phases during the late 40's, the 50's and then the mid 60's; at some sites pan-busting can be taken to mean the breaking of pots, pans and kilns too.

Now we have soils that are de-natured, lacking organic content and the source of fertilisers and pest or herbicides that leach into the ground water. With the erratic weather Dorset chalk soils shrink in the droughts allowing the plough to bite deeper, the soil then eroding down hill, in torrential rain, across roads and into rivers. Dorman-Smith foresaw some of these problems, advising against indiscriminate ploughing and for mixed farming and drainage.

So if Green agriculture is not a return to the past what does it involve? More of a mix of arable and pasture if not at farm level then at least on a parish wide basis to allow proper use of manure. It seems ridiculous to prevent pollution from cattle by creating sewage works for farm slurry, properly handled the material is source of fuel and fertilisers. More rotation of a greater variety of crops is desirable and possible with climate changes. The economics of scale must be re-examined, large units may have advantages of full use of heavy machinery but when it gets to the level of the high-tech. farmer in Oxfordshire recently fined for not declaring his nuclear-powered computer in a combine harvester this seems like technology gone mad. Less intensive crops and free-range animal husbandry would perhaps employ more persons to produce higher quality foods in less quantity. In simple monetary terms that would seem unrealistic but intensive agri-business has been itself heavily subsidised so why not transfer the subsidy to the more ecologically sound practices? And there are hidden benefits not appearing on the balance-sheet.

Hedges and woodland could be re-instated, partly for aesthetic ground but more to halt erosion and to soak up some of the excess CO2 in the atmosphere. Already extensive tree belts are being proposed to screen new roads but why not start to break up the prairie landscape of, for instance, the Berkshire Downs or Norfolk. The planting of saplings has an archaeological dimension needing planning links.

Energy is, of course, vital, and there is no intention that horses be re-introduced, except where a particular 'deep-green' farmer wished, or that electric dairies be switched off. But let us see wind power re-appear as one of several power sources including methane generators and water power. Where farm waste can be concentrated, without over-intensive livestock rearing, methane can power generators of electricity and hot water. Where topography is right water turbines can provide a proportion of power cheaply and cleanly. Such changes have sound ecological advantages and give back power to local communities, both in terms of kilowatts and in economic or even political terms. The village blacksmith becomes the village technologist, expert in electronics and low tech. engineering.

The present agri-business has not only given us polluted water but also subsidised surpluses, now reduced by dumping on the world market and by setting some land aside. Set-Aside is a fairly unimaginative scheme by which some land has been taken out of cultivation, indeed, I know one farmer who has put his whole small arable farm on set aside; it is now 'economic' - and he is more interested in archaeology. The trouble is that his more intensive neighbours may also have been paid to put some of their poorer marginal acres aside only to fund more intensive chemi-farming on the rest. Set aside also does not allow use as pasture. For these and other reasons Greens prefer a low intensity organic farming of whole farms within a framework of hedges, woodland and reserves.

However, I would support Set Aside as a means of putting land to fallow while it rids itself of pesticides and fertilisers and can then be regenerated as new organic farmland. Elsewhere archaeological landscapes, such as the remaining barrows on the South Dorset Ridgeway, could be set aside as areas of managed grassland. Some areas could be left to run wild, like derelict land in cities has or army ranges in Dorset and Wiltshire.

Against a backdrop of such broad issues archaeology is of little concern but as already hinted, preservation of the remaining sites could and should be achieved within less intensive cultivation regimes. If English Heritage are proposing preservation rather than excavation in urban areas then what about the countryside policy? There was a time when this was in the forefront of their public relations effort. In 1984 archaeology was even being allied with landscape conservation, firstly at a conference at Oxford where the overlap between conservation of living flora and fauna and the buried and visible monuments was explored,

secondly at a session at TAG when the following was said 'Archaeologists have a duty to contribute to the development of conservation policies and to the mobilisation of public support for them.' Thus spake Roger Thomas of English Heritage. Since then there has been Ancient Monuments in the Countryside, edited by Tim Darville (1987), but little more, just when changes in agricultural policy could allow preservation of the archaeological record to be melded into broader conservation issues, and the structures of the past be incorporated into a healthier countryside.

Christopher Sparey-Green

Excavations News

1. Billingsgate Bath House

English Heritage has consented to the excavation of the "Lump" (1) in the Frigidarium in its entirety. Ron Harris has made a rubber mould of the pink mortar floor which sealed the lump and excavation of these deposits is proceeding. Between the later mortar floor and the original tessellated pavement is a single dump of waste wall plaster. The pavement below the lump is contiguous with the floor previously lifted to the south the latter will not be re-laid until the former is lifted. It is proposed that some tesserae are removed from the freshly excavated floor, so that they can be examined for traces of any polishes or sealants which may have been used in antiquity.

The deposits overlying the entrance to the Vestibule (3) have been excavated and totally sampled, for sieving. Two phases of pink mortar floor are visible, with a compacted earth surface between them.

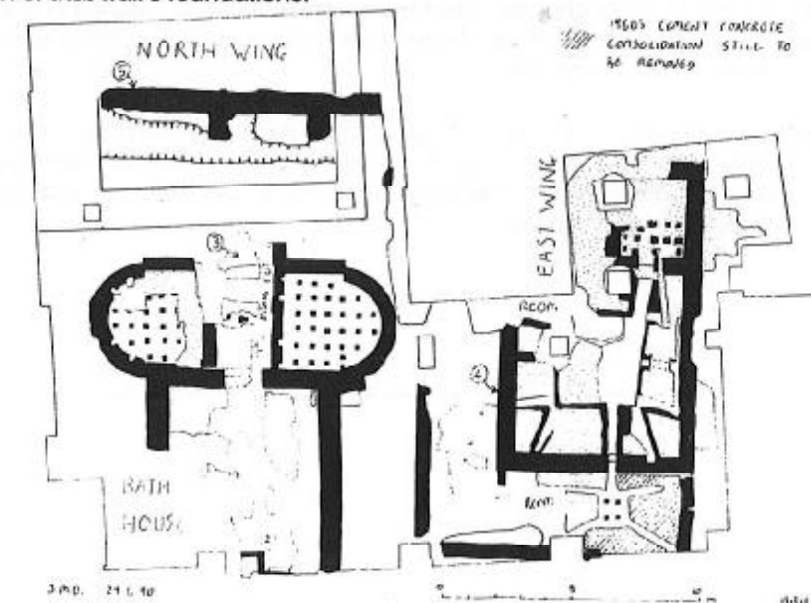
East Wing

The modern capping in Room 2 and in the Corridor has been recorded and Nimbus have begun to remove it.

The pre-conservation recording in Room 4 is complete. The upper course of the western wall of this room (4) which was formerly bedded on cement concrete, has been replaced by Nimbus, using lime mortar.

North Wing

Most of the deposits exposed by the removal of the sand in this area, have now been recorded. The 19th century deposits to the west of the surviving wall have been removed to expose the continuation of that wall's foundations.



2. 5 Pilgrim Street

The site overlies part of the Norman fortress on Ludgate Hill, interpreted as Montfichet's Tower. It also lies on the possible line of the Roman City wall. South of Ludgate it is believed that the City wall ran southwards along the high ground on the east bank of the river Fleet, but as the City wall has never been located here its exact alignment is uncertain.

Work to date has consisted of recording a series of underpinning holes along the western half of the site. Various features dug into the natural geology have been recorded. These include two deep rubbish and cess pits, probably of medieval date. One of the pits had been truncated by a linear feature aligned north-south, interpreted as a construction trench for a robbed out wall foundation, perhaps a late medieval property boundary.

The Roman City wall has not been located and it now appears likely that it lies further to the west.

3. St Botolph's Crypt, Aldgate

The church of St Botolph's lies approximately 40 metres east of the City wall and on the northern side of Aldgate. The work was undertaken in advance of the conversion of the crypt into a day centre for the homeless.

The main purpose of the watching brief was to record several E-W aligned wall foundations that emerge from the crypt walls of the later N-S re-aligned church building.

The earliest phase of church foundations present appears to be of Saxo-Norman date. Associated with the church building and cut by some of the later medieval walls have been some 15 burials of late Saxon date. These burials have disturbed Roman horizontal stratigraphy including some floor surfaces and evidence of clay and timber buildings fronting on to the northern side of Aldgate.

4. Fleet Valley

Following demolition of the railway viaduct, two areas of excavation have become available. In section 3, 60m of the medieval extension to the City wall survive to a maximum height of 4.54m AOD. Both east and west faces have been exposed. The east face is constructed mainly from dressed chalk blocks, the west from Kentish ragstone. Offsets on the E face are replaced by a substantial batter on the W. The wall displays a number of changes in its alignment and evidence of repair. Foundation level is approximately 3.0m OD. A number of earlier timber structures were truncated by the construction of the wall.

In Section 6 the southernmost perimeter wall of the Fleet Prison has been exposed. This lies immediately to the E of the section recorded last year. A second, mostly ragstone, wall lies approximately 1.0m to the south and follows the alignment of the first. Between them they define a drain or water channel which may represent the last vestige of the moat which originally surrounded the prison. Later chalk walls/foundations and a small stone-lined well about the second ragstone wall.

A second trench in Section 6 plus large areas in sections 4 and 7 are due to be made available during July. Another small section of the medieval City wall is also expected to be exposed in early July. The Radar Project has been suspended indefinitely since mid-May due to a lack of essential data from Geospace.

Below is the TAG90 proposal for a half day session, which has been accepted:

FEMINIST THEORY AND GENDER STUDIES

"One of the tasks of women's history is to call into question accepted themes of periodisation. To take the emancipation of women as a vantage point is to discover that the events that further the historical development of men, liberating them from natural, social or ideological constraints, have quite different, even opposite effects on women. The Renaissance is a good case in point.."

(Joan Kelly-Gadol, *"Did women have a Renaissance?": Women, History and Theory, collected essays, 1985, University of Chicago Press.*)

Dip into the above collection of essays and read about the Renaissance as it is never taught in schools. Then consider the implications of feminist questions about periodisation for archaeology. Montelius' Three Age System is usually taken as the beginning of modern archaeological theory. Periodisation has been refined and expanded: we suggest that this has always been done in ways that never question an assumed identity of experience between the sexes. Now try this one: women's experience of the later Bronze Age was necessarily different from man's. (Clue: concepts of sex-roles change through time).

This year's session should break the mould of reading papers at audiences, and build on 1989's enthusiasm for collaborative discussion. Brief suggestions for new ways into topics (in c.10 minutes) using an inclusive feminism of sex, class, age and ethnicity should stimulate floor discussions.

For example, Last year I thought about having a quick rant about the inadequacy of Roman frontier studies which I vaguely remember writing one undergraduate essay on, so there is no great knowledge there, but the germ of an idea..... Or read the paper quoted and work up an idea from that.

It may be a good idea to read the paper anyway, then we begin with a text in common (unlike the usual references to Foucault and Marx which leave the audience behind). Ask me for a photocopy if you can't find it, or buy it for £6.00 paperback.

Finally, the TAG organisers have promised another early evening meeting for women, and made brave assurances about the mass availability of carrot cake and the like.

I look forward to hearing from you, and hope you can invent a title that I can pass onto the TAG committee: a one-line synopsis would be even better. All this by the end of August would be very reassuring.

Yours in hope,

Susie West
Norfolk Archaeology Unit
Union House,
Gressenhall,
Dereham,
Norfolk NR20 4DR

Tel: 0362 860528

PRESS CUTTINGS

NEWS

ENGLISH HERITAGE SHUNS MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGISTS

by Christina Ballinger

English Heritage (EH) has ignored talks with the Museum of London on the future for archaeology in London and notified London planning authorities that it plans to assume the role of strategic assessment and planning adviser, presently held by the museum.

In response to this unexpected move, which is likely to add to the growing rift between English Heritage and the Museum of London and other museum archaeologists, Museum of London director Max Hebditch said, 'I am surprised and concerned that these views should have been circulated among planning authorities, given that joint discussions have not been completed. This move makes one wonder how much point there is in even continuing talks with English Heritage.'

The case of the Rose Theatre sums up the contradictions between EH and the museum. When, last year, it became apparent that an extensive dig was necessary, EH took the side of the developer, Imry Merchant, refused to schedule the site as an ancient monument, and later ordered museum archaeologists off the site, when they refused to stick to EH's narrow remit.

After the Rose, and similar problems at the Roman baths site at Huggin Hill, EH felt the time was right to review archaeology in London. Ignoring the strategic plans submitted by the museum in early 1988 and again in August 1989, EH commissioned another strategic plan and then entered into negotiations with the Museum of London. It is the outcome of these latest talks that EH has pre-empted.

Of EH's plans for London, Harvey Sheldon, head of the museum's Department of Greater London Archaeology said: 'This decision essentially takes away our planning function, which is vital to running an integrated archaeological service in London. It removes the motor from our engine and it will cripple rescue archaeology in London.'

Since 1981, the Museum of London has been responsible for rescue archaeology in 27 of the 32 London boroughs, and the Passmore Edwards for the remaining five. The Greater London Council (GLC) established annual grants, subject to periodic review, while retaining direct responsibility within its historic buildings division for strategic planning.

The museum's role has developed accordingly and it currently supplies an integrated archaeological service for London, covering everything from identifying the sites likely to

self.) It fears that too many expensive digs will discourage developers from owing up to finds, to the detriment of archaeology as a whole.

EH also supports competitive tendering in archaeology, which further reduces developers' costs. Already, the independent Oxford Archaeological Unit has successfully tendered for sites in London and elsewhere in the country, such as Dover.

Concerns have been voiced by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA), which fears that competitive tenders do not adequately cover the costs of long-term storage, preservation of both material and archive, and ultimately public display.

These developments have serious implications for other integrated archaeological services, such as Norfolk and Leicestershire, be affected by development, meeting and advising the investors, excavating, publishing, storing and displaying the material.

Since the abolition of the GLC, when English Heritage took over the authority's historic buildings division (now the London division) EH has assumed the overall authority previously held by the GLC. EH's power to grant aid the Museum of London's archaeology service are discretionary, as were the GLC's, and subject to review. The museum's £400,000 grant for archaeology has been renewed for 1990/1 but museum archaeologists fear it may be discontinued after next year.

English Heritage has stated that it intends to reduce the number of expensive digs in London, thereby reducing the costs borne by developers. (The bulk of archaeological funding in London comes from developers themselves where the archaeological unit forms part of the local museum service. There are rumours that EH may have plans for the reorganisation of archaeological provision throughout Britain.

The SMA is calling for an enquiry into EH's policy on scheduling ancient monuments and is also proposing that guidelines be introduced to ensure professional standards of competence for archaeologists and to make sure that developers bear the full costs of the maintenance of the material excavated.

10
MUSEUMS JOURNAL JULY 1990

Span for a girdle on the Globe

From Professor John Orrell

Sir, Mr Harvey Sheldon (June 13) has unfortunately not published his reasons, whatever they may be, for making the "provisional estimate" that the Globe playhouse was 80 ft across. The site plan issued by the Museum of London is consistent with a 20-sided polygonal building of about 100 ft in diameter, excluding the attached stair turrets.

At a University of Georgia conference last February, which was attended by one of the London Museum's archaeologists, I gave careful reasons for reaching this — equally provisional — conclusion. It is by no means certain that a scheduled site 120 ft across will contain all of the Globe and its ancillary structures.

The results of the radar scan should be made public because the Department of the Environment may be scheduling too small a piece of ground.

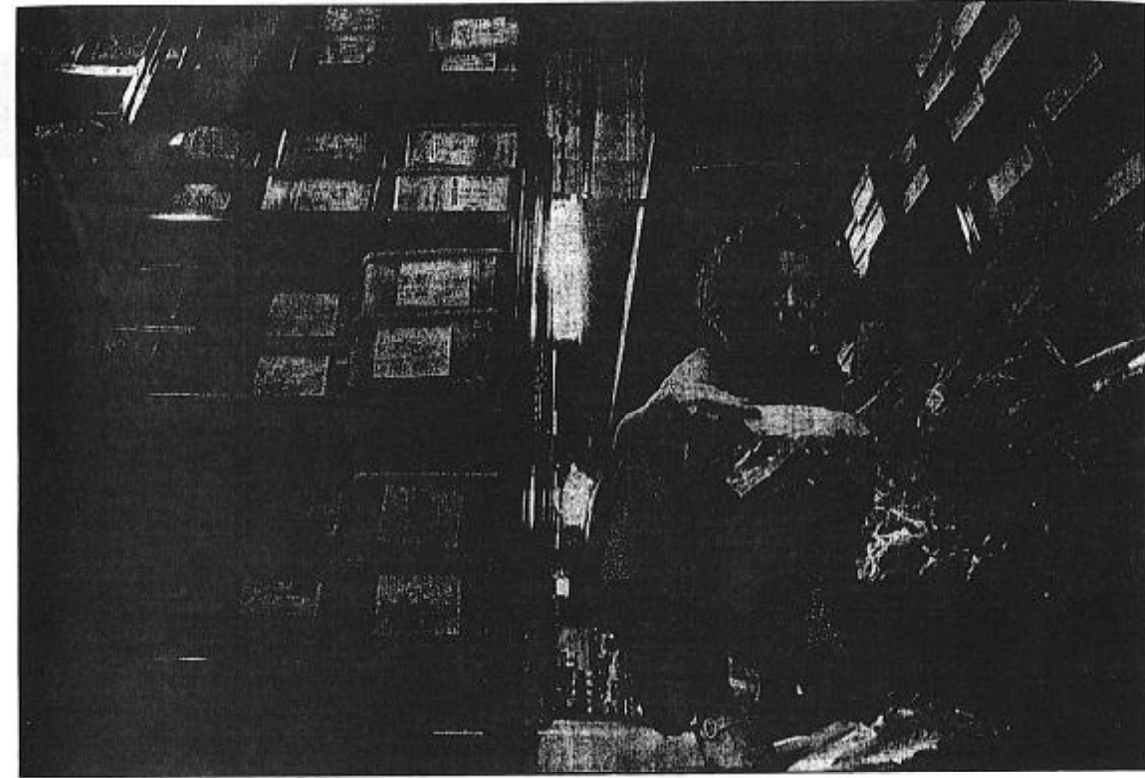
Yours truly,
JOHN ORRELL (Professor of English, University of Alberta),
165 Chatsworth Court,
Fembroke Road, W8,
June 13.

From Professor Andrew Gurr

Sir, Harvey Sheldon's reply to my letter of June 6 about the Globe site says nothing about what was found in the radar scan of the site, which has been in his department's hands for some months. He suggests that I should give the evidence for my doubts to the DoE. This was done three months ago, in a letter co-signed by the Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library and myself.

The radar scan should have produced enough evidence to support one or other of the calculations about the extent of the remains. Why has the DoE not announced any plans to undertake more digging to verify what the scan indicates about the extent of the remains?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW GURR,
University of Reading,
Department of English Language and Literature,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights, PO Box 218,
Reading, Berkshire,
June 14.

THE GUARDIAN
Wednesday June 13 1990

Boxed in... Bridget Brehm, finds appraisal supervisor at the Museum of London's overcrowded urban archaeology section

PHOTOGRAPHY: GRAM TUNER

Problems in store for archaeologists

Joan Stead

ARCHAEOLOGISTS are running out of storage space for the many remains being rescued. The problem is worst in London, where the building boom in the City has led to record quantities of finds.

London is one of the world's prime archaeological sites. More finds are brought into the Museum of London annually than are excavated in the rest of the country put together.

A warehouse near Tower Bridge, in which the Museum of London has stored 1,200 Roman bodies and thousands of other Roman and Saxon finds, is to be demolished at the end of the month.

The St Martins Property Company, which lent Potteryfield Warehouse free, wants to redevelop the site. Scott McCracken, the museum archaeologist in charge of the store, said: "We are grateful to St. Martins, but it's a nightmare searching for a new home for the finds. This is our only warehouse. Everything else is stored in small lock-up garages."

Southwark council, in whose area much of the excavation takes place, is trying to provide space.

John Schofield, chief archaeologist of the department of urban archaeology at the Museum of London, which is responsible for all City excavations, said: "It's a very big problem because of astronomical rents, which the museum just cannot afford." The space required for finds has increased tenfold since rescue archaeology started in the early 1970s.

"We are reaching a crisis point," said Dr Michael Rhodes, head of the finds department in the museum's urban section.

The department has 100,000 objects stored, excluding bulky items such as Roman walls. Much Roman brick and tile is simply thrown away.

A picture is slowly emerging of how modern London was built up.

"It is one of the great projects of our time and we must find space," said Dr Rhodes.

Outside London, the storage problems are just as great. Victoria Buteux, honorary secretary of the newly formed Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group, said: "Like the Museum of London, we feel under pressure to throw more away. But which finds should we throw? To decide that would be an art in itself."

Archaeologists protest over treasure-hunting company

A SEARCH for buried treasure launched by a private company has angered archaeologists. The firm, GT Enterprises of London, wants to exploit Viking settlements, castles, monasteries and shipwrecks, writes Martin Bailey.

The Council for British Archaeology and the Museums Association last week warned members to be 'on their guard' against the damage that can be caused by treasure hunters and added that local authorities may be unaware of the problems.

GT Enterprises has told councils it has been 'commissioned to find lost treasures' and has asked them for details of 'potential sites within your area that could contain treasures'.

In one case, the firm inquired

about Penyard Castle, near Ross-on-Wye, where treasure is said to have been found in vaults in the eighteenth century. Hereford and Worcester council said the castle is a scheduled ancient monument in private ownership and that no excavation could be begun without authorisation.

Yesterday GT Enterprises said it was acting on behalf of a client, 'a benevolent property developer interested in putting money into archaeological projects'. A spokesman said: 'Our company would always act within the law and we recognise that permission is required to do work on a scheduled site.'

However, archaeologists are growing increasingly worried about the activities of other

treasure hunters who are less scrupulous. The most destructive of these, dubbed 'night hawks', pillage ancient monuments at night, severely damaging the remains. Six weeks ago, 'night hawks' struck at Walsby, near Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, where 20 fifth-century Christian graves had just been discovered.

The CBA would like to see the law changed in England and Wales to require the compulsory registration of all finds dating before about 1500. The Government is opposed to such a system, but yesterday, the Department of the Environment said that legislation was likely to be introduced to make it an offence to remove artefacts from a scheduled ancient site.

EVENING STANDARD

I READ some disturbing news about Mr Harrison Ford last week. Well, not exactly about him, but about the Institute of Archaeology which is part of University College, London. It is to auction his super-hero's bullwhip in an attempt to raise cash and its own profile, all at the same time.

Mr Ford is, of course, the archaeology professor in the Steven Spielberg films who becomes a globe-trotting righter of international wrongs as soon as he slips on his bomberjacket and wide-awake hat and cracks his bullwhip at the enemy. He has given a lot of innocent fun to millions—and made millions of another kind for Mr Spielberg and himself.

The director of the cash-strapped Institute of Archaeology's appeal fund shows himself duly grateful for Mr Harrison's generosity in donating his menacing prop and adds that his three film adventures to date have "brought ar-

Bury the bullwhip



chaeology alive for the general public". I question this. Archaeology is a science; Mr Ford is part of fiction. The two should never meet, even for charitable purposes.

Does the serious work of excavating the ancient civilisations of the world have anything to do with that rather uncivilised enclave of

rule the world. There was the Holy Grail that conferred eternal youth on its owner. All these artefacts were sufficient to kick-start our hero into action on behalf of truth, justice and the American way of speaking softly and carrying a bullwhip. But they are not exactly the stuff of scientific knowledge and research.

Archaeologists, the appeals director adds, are thought of as "stuffy old men and women". Harrison Ford's virile build and handsome visage will presumably not only raise the profile of the average prof, but glamorise him or her by association with a super-hero. But is this Walter Mitty-ish fantasy really something we should encourage among the dusty but devoted people who dig and delve, often in literal obscurity, and who serve the past rather than cultivate any more self-serving image based on popular fiction? I think not.

Mixing Hollywood myth with scholarly research may indeed make the latter seem less "stuffy", though most of us find that our museums have already struck a happy balance between popularisation and scholarship without needing Hollywood as a mediator. It is more likely that borrowed glamour will only vulgarise and adulterate an academic discipline.

Call me "stuffy" if you like. But however much in need of fresh cash and a new image the Institute of Archaeology may be, I personally would not subscribe to any scientific fund with such a poor opinion of itself that it needed to take on the trappings of a glorified kids' matinee idol.

The archaeologists warn that institutionalised political bias could creep in. "Where a local authority is Conservative most sites councils - they will have their own criteria. Where the local authority is Labour, one will be imposed from central government under the guise of its quango English Heritage".

The Association of London Borough Planning Officers has expressed concern at the new regime envisaged by English Heritage. A letter from chairman Robin Thompson to Geoffrey Wainwright, the English Heritage archaeologist pushing the changes through, stresses that the present GLAS arrangements provide a generally satisfactory service and asks "why is there a need for change?"

Thompson goes on to question the efficiency of the present legislation in terms of providing planning controls over archaeological excavation. "Changes in legislation would be highly desirable, but until such time English Heritage appears to be asking boroughs to deliver beyond their means."

Thompson is equally aghast about what is seen as another worrying dose of centralisation. "There is concern that centralisation of London's archaeological services could result in the redirection or reduction of resources from their present level."

English Heritage has made no secret of its intention to reduce the amount of money it spends on rescue archaeology. According to the quango's most recent archaeology review: "Large-scale excavation, particularly in urban areas, is becoming increasingly expensive, and it is imperative to ensure that available funding goes to those projects which will contribute most to filling gaps in our understanding of the past."

THEY ought to erect a blue plaque on the wall of Chesham House, in London's West End. It might say: "At this spot, until June, 1990, the London Advisory Committee (dealing with, among other things, putting blue plaques on sites with historic connections) used to meet its public." From now on the committee will do its entire business behind closed

doors. The public and the press will no longer be invited in. English Heritage, which took over this role when the GLC was abolished, will instead give briefings to interested journalists. Why? Well, the press hasn't shown much interest and "very few" members of the public have turned up at the committee's meetings. Since these take place on Friday mornings, this possibly isn't too surprising. "We are not stopping the flow of information," said an English Heritage spokeswoman. "We are just stopping something that no one was taking the opportunity of anyway."

PLANNING

372

8TH JUNE 1990

LONDON PLANNERS FEAR INCURSIONS ON HERITAGE

Moves by English Heritage to radically alter the organisation, structure and funding of archaeology in Greater London have stirred up a hornets' nest of opposition from planners and archaeologists.

There is mounting concern that what the conservation quango wants to achieve in the capital may be the shape of archaeological things to come elsewhere in the United Kingdom, particularly in the former metropolitan county areas.

English Heritage wants to set up an organisation, to be known as the Planning Advice Service, to monitor planning applications, advise planning authorities, take part in discussions with developers, give advice on section 52 agreements and appear as expert witness at public inquiries. In essence, it is proposing to set itself up as the strategic archaeo-

logical authority for London. To pay for this English Heritage plans to withhold part or all of the establishment grant currently distributed to the Greater London Archaeology Service. This comprises the Museum of London, the Passmore Edwards Museum and the Kent Rescue Unit. At present this money is worth at least £460,000 each year.

As an internal briefing paper from the quango makes clear, "in the absence of a strategic planning authority for London, English Heritage proposes for the immediate future to exercise this function itself, alongside its other special responsibilities for the preservation of monuments and historic buildings in London". Additional staff will be recruited both for the planning work and to manage the GLAS grant scheme, which currently covers the provision of planning advice through the Museum of London. This will be ad-

justed accordingly to reflect this shift in responsibilities.

London archaeologists' Planning has contacted view these moves with concern. Because of fears for future employment, few are prepared to criticise the proposals in public. However, a background paper considering the issues is being widely circulated amongst professional staff.

The document complains that English Heritage is attempting to split the archaeology profession into "curators and contractors". "English Heritage is setting itself up as curator without the prior agreement of the local authorities, their senior officers or those already playing this role", says the paper, adding: "There is widespread agreement that some sort of strategic planning authority for London is required. The English Heritage proposals pre-empt the discussion that authority will need to go through about what source of archaeological advice it needs".

BUILDING DE

No 989

The weekly newspaper for the design team

'Don't harvest potatoes', owner told

EH DIGGING IN OVER OLD SITES POLICY

A SHELTERED housing scheme in Somerset is set to become a test case in the growing conflict between archaeologists and developers.

The developers are appealing against the refusal by South Somerset District Council of an application from architects Andrews Downie & Partners, on the eleventh-hour advice of English Heritage.

EH sent a fax recommending refusal just as the planning committee meeting was about to start.

Both the developers and the architects have been told by EH that the site, which has since been scheduled as an ancient monu-

ment, must remain untouched until the technology is available to allow sub-soil radar to detect what is buried.

EH claims that the 0.4ha site in the village of Milborne Port is "exceptionally rare" and a "nationally important case". But

By Amanda Baillieu & Kester Rattenbury

the developers and their archaeological adviser, David Miles of the Oxford Archaeological unit, disagree. They say that while the site is rich in "artefactual deposits" there is no evidence of a building.

The architects say that EH's decision means the site will be left as an "overgrown eyesore" in the middle of the village and that the owner, retired baker

David Coombs, will be unable to sell and move. Coombs has been instructed by EH not to dig up potatoes in his garden which adjoins the site.

The appeal now seems likely to go to public inquiry on the advice of the DoE, whose planning policy guidance recommending in-situ preservation remains in force.

A spokesman for the developer Beechcroft said: "You could get a farcical situation where sites are promoted for development but then get blocked by English Heritage at the last minute."

EH's monument protection programme, which is supported by the DoE, will increase the current 13,000 scheduled sites fourfold in the next 10 years.

Andrews Downie say that the growing influence of archaeologists on development "will create a planning blight in towns and villages across the country, so many of which are built on ancient remains — and ignore the needs of the community."

But Paul Gosling, EH's inspector of ancient monuments and historic buildings, said it would enable development decisions "to be taken from a position of knowledge" and that archaeology is "coming of age" as a planning influence.

\$1m grant enables research on site

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SIX British archaeologists are among those sharing more than \$1 million in research grants in the past year from the National Geographic Society of Washington, DC, one of the major sponsors in the United States of worldwide archaeological research.

The archaeologists include three from Southampton University. Dr Simon Keay, who is excavating a Roman provincial town in Spain, Dr David Peacock, studying ancient quarries in the eastern desert of Egypt, and Dr Stephen Shenan, who is investigating an early Bronze

Age mining settlement in Austria. The others are Professor David Oates, of London University, who is excavating the early temples of Tell Brak in Syria, Dr Edgar Feltenburg, of Edinburgh University, directing a prehistoric study in Cyprus, and Dr Ken Wardle, from Birmingham University, who is working at the Greek prehistoric settlement of Assiros Toumba.

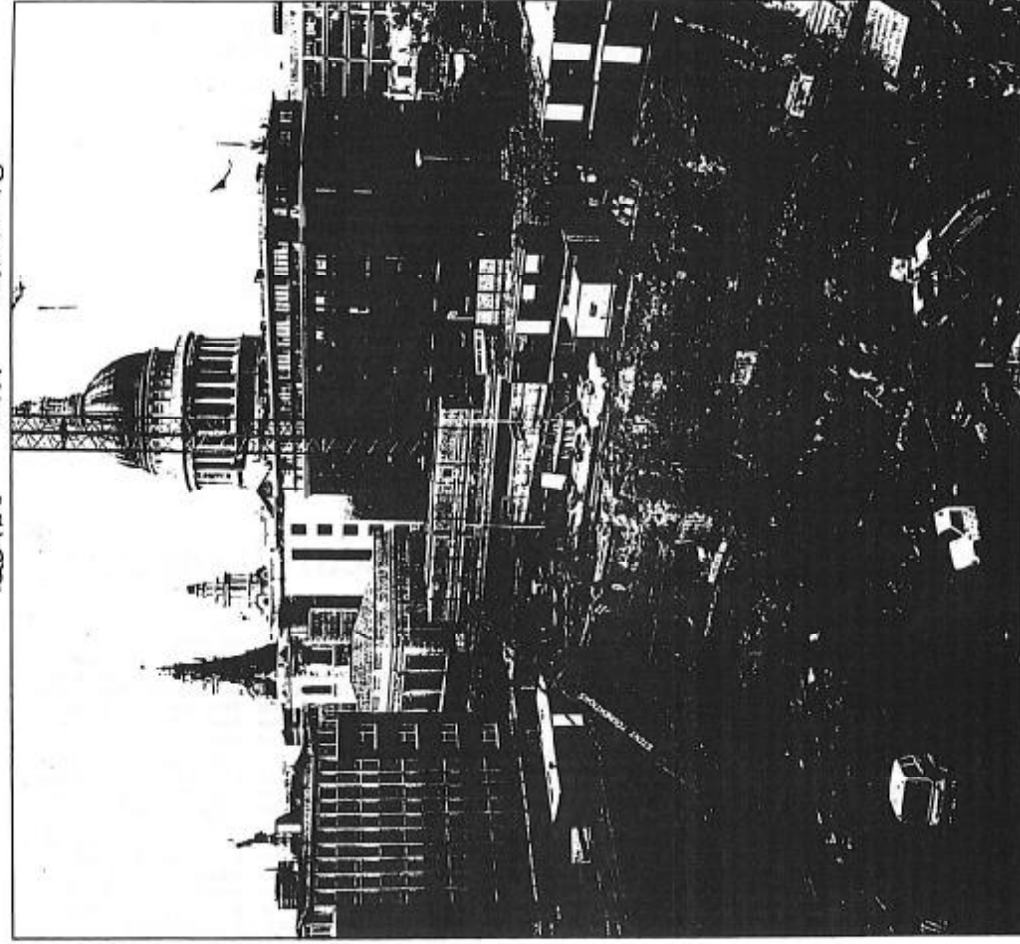
American scholars working in Britain have also received grants from the society's committee for research and exploration. They include Dr Leon Fatts, of Dickinson Coll-

ege, Pennsylvania, who is working with Dr Colin Hazelgrove, of Durham University, on the Stanwick oppidum in North Yorkshire, thought to have been the capital of Queen Cartimandua when Rome conquered Britain in AD 43.

The largest single grant to a British archaeologist, of \$18,000 (£11,250), goes to Dr Pelienburg. Sixty-seven archaeological projects across the world were among the 249 scientific endeavours to share \$3.75 million. Sixteen of them are investigating sites in the Middle East, 13 are working in

Central America, mainly on the Maya civilization, and a further nine are seeking evidence of early human occupation in the Old World and the New. The others are scattered from South America to south-east Asia.

Although the \$59,000 (£37,000) given to British archaeologists is a small percentage of the total, grants on this scale are difficult to come by in England, especially for those digging abroad. The external funding can make the vital difference between being able to carry out the research, or staying at home.



Ludgate: a vast and complex site where developers and archaeologists co-operate.

Digging in to save underground London

On the left the Museum of London, on the right the developers, in the centre English Heritage. Jenny Campbell investigates the politics of preservation.

Here and now turns into history very quickly in the City. For nearly 2,000 years people have occupied the Square Mile, and their houses and homes, places of worship, centres of trade, the tokens of great events, and everyday life have continually been

re-created. In our time, deregulation of the Stock Exchange has had almost a devastating effect on the cityscape as the Great Fire of

London. Buildings, erected as a result in the 60s, have been



Present accord: Moschini with Maloney (right) and Ludgate site excavator Bill McCann.

to look at it. By working and co-operating with the archaeologists from the museum we get good publicity. And we don't get any nasty shocks like the Liny Merchants with the Rose Theatre." A nasty shock indeed. It is estimated to have cost Liny £11 million pounds and lots of bad publicity. Quite a job by anyone's standards, and a clear indication of what can happen with archaeologists.

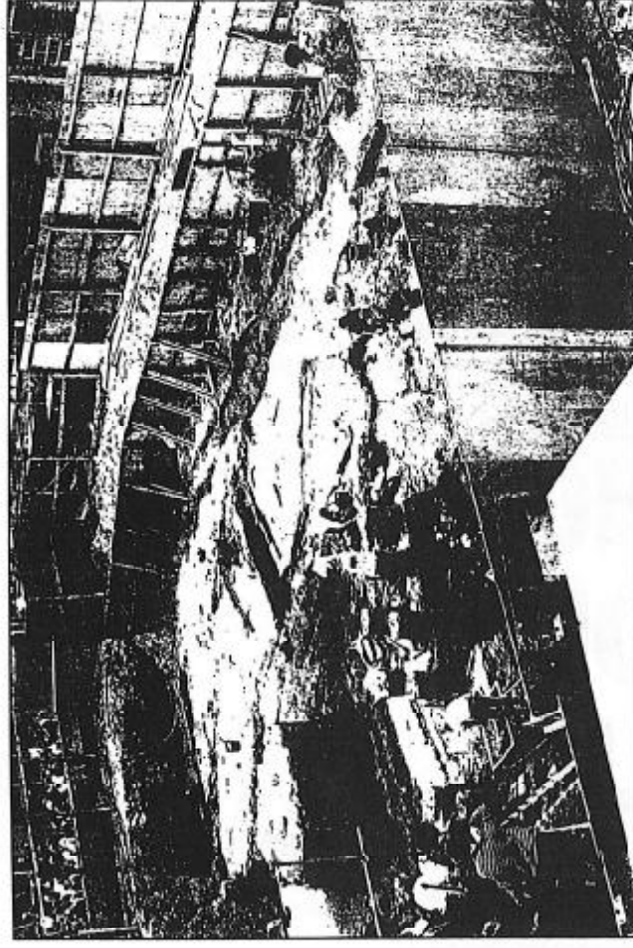
In case anyone has forgotten, last year, when the foundations for a six floor office block were being dug on the Southwark site, the well-preserved remains of the wooden screen stage belonging to the 16th century Rose Theatre was discovered. When it was feared that it was to be destroyed by the construction of an alleyway row cruped. Our leading actors staged demands to halt the progress of the bulldozers. Questions were asked in the House. The

At first I had bad dreams about archaeologists running over time. But

Construction workers in all departments have been enthused and helpful. As is their usual practice, the museum will hold a presentation of the finds and discoveries from the site, with the help of videos, maps, illustrations and a display of artefacts. They will also, as usual, produce a history of the site for the developers. "This is a way of giving something back," explains Maloney gently. "We seek to give a comprehensive service."

Government, much embarrassed by all this, blamed English Heritage, the archaeology and ancient monument quango, whose duty it is to advise the DoE. Nicholas Ridley, then Minister of State for the Environment, turned down an appeal to schedule the Rose as an ancient monument. (Here he would have taken English Heritage's advice.) Finally an eleven-hour compromise was reached, and the rather nice, though unique, remains were reburied not destroyed. (Preservation *in situ* is recognised as a legitimate strategy. Once reburied, the site will remain intact, awaiting the time when technology will have advanced sufficiently to solve the problems.)

At one point in the fracas English Heritage ordered the museum's archaeologists off the site, in order to do the work themselves. The museum was more than mild. It had known very well that the developers were likely to turn up the remains of the Rose. Richard Hughes, a consultant archaeologist and conservator to the engineers Ore Arup, liaising with the museum, had written a fairly precise forecast. "Of course we knew it was there," he says now, though he is reluctant to discuss the politics of the incident. "Unfortunately the developers for whom I wrote the report sold the site on to Liny Merchants. Now an office block stands on top of the Rose, and no one's happy." Now all that was bad enough, but just before there had been trouble at Husein Hill in the City. An ex-



Past shock: the Rose Theatre costing £11 million and lots of bad publicity.

ing floors and accommodation for the necessary electronic wizardry. The need for speed has bounced developers into using fast-track building methods whereby construction is begun before design is completed.

As you watch it go up, you can be sure that, unseen, a hard-hatted horde of archaeologists are scientifically excavating — to a depth of 10 metres in some places — to rescue the past. Perhaps the wide acknowledgement and growing fascination with the City's roots is a compensation for the impermanence of its edifices.

This could, and sometimes does, put archaeologists and developers into a collision course. Since time is money, money's time, office block up and running and collecting rent. The archaeologists on the other hand, although they have no statutory right of access to most sites, need time and money to dig, assess and record. However, in spite of conflicting requirements, the two opposing forces — the developers and the archaeologists of the Museum of London — promoted a code of practice, adopted nationally, which is the result of an increasing respect and understanding of each other's work.

In 1975 things were very different. "There was a deplorable state of affairs in existence," recalls John Maloney. He joined a small archaeological unit created by the Corporation of London, which has become the Department of Urban Archaeology at the Museum of London. He is now Excavations Officer at the DUA. "By that time at least 60 per cent of the City's soil. As in the case of the Rose, the developers got permission to bulldoze the site, permission that could have only been granted on the advice of English Heritage. Developers do not like being referred to as 'up-market Arthur Dalesy'. The Government was not happy that the Department of the Environment received the curses of the conservationists. They all wanted to kick some ass. And English Heritage got a boost up the bum.

Now it may be coincidence, but it has been suggested that there is a link between these two happenings and the subsequent advice from English Heritage to developers that they are under no obligation to use the units coordinated by the Museum of London, and can invite bids from any unit nationwide. Competitive tendering! It is seen by some as a missile launched in a fit of pique from Fortress Houses, HQ of English Heritage in Savile Row, directly at the Barbican, home of the museum. Jealousy of the museum's enviable reputation and success is suggested as a motive, and a cynical observer has remarked that archaeology is a notoriously bitchy profession.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the public justification of English Heritage's position is that since the developers now pay a large part of the cost of excavation they should have the right to select who does their archaeology. The museum, concedes Maloney in a thin-lipped way, wouldn't like it, but could perhaps accept it, except for the fact that the tendering is unregulated. The DUA has encountered 'tendering' on three sites and in no instance has a true competition been organised — contractors have been sought from other units in an attempt to bring pressure on the DUA to reduce its budgets. Developers are not qualified to judge the appropriateness or accuracy of the bid. "English Heritage", he fumes, "are simply not prepared to acknowledge the glaring inefficiencies and risks to the archaeological heritage of such a situation. Until recently responsibility for managing the City's archaeology had been abrogated to the DUA. We were left to gain funding and build good relationships with developers. Now they are blithely stepping in and putting at risk all the department's hard work." The museum's expertise is being grossly undervalued, Maloney argues combatively, and will be put in jeopardy if smaller units,

chaologists are working on the site as any one time, and by the time that the excavation has been completed in August it will have taken two and a half years. It will cost Rosehaugh Stunhope almost as much as the whole of the DUA's budget last year, to which the developers have contributed £2 million directly to the museum.

Moschini has worked with the DUA many times before and is well-acquainted with all that it entails. He knows, too, how to get the best out of the partnership. Archaeologists can be very useful to developers, particularly if they are involved at the earliest stage, when a site is being eyed-up. (All City planning applications are assessed by the museum who advises the City planners on archaeological potential. The Corporation's Local Plan has a major section on 'Archaeology' and archaeological conditions are a normal part of planning conditions where appropriate.

Often the museum's records are good enough for the DUA to have a very clear idea of what will be found. These records can also give the developers technical ground information and save them time. There were relatively few records in existence about the Ludgate site. "What was known," says Moschini who has become knowledgeable about the years, "was that the east bank of the old Fleet River ran right through it." (By medieval times the Fleet was not much more than a smelly drain. Gradually it was covered up, and is now directed down a main sewer.) There are no good records even, limited trial excavations are made. At Ludgate these were dug between the viaduct arches, all the way

the other protagonists, "the English Heritage's attitude implies that 'if someone could do it better than the museum, and 'by that we're getting an uncommercial deal. It implies that developers want the cheapest deal. What we're concerned with is to get the best. We want the right people, we've paid — at the museum's request — for cost consultants and management consultants to work alongside them on the Ludgate site. So far we've run to budget and to time. And since the museum is a charity and not permitted to make a profit, it wouldn't help them one jot to over-value a site."

John Maloney is also worried about the fate of any finds excavated by units from outside the City. It would be inappropriate for the artefacts not to become part of the Museum of London's collections, leaving gaps in its otherwise comprehensive display. The Museum of London is funded in perpetuity, and the conservation of its treasures guaranteed. He grimly recalls the bad old days in the 50s and 60s, when small numbers of archaeological units who often ran out of money, would — under cover of night — dump their finds on the doorsteps of well-established museums, like so many abandoned babies. "The museum is the natural repository for records, knowledge and ideas," admits Roger Thomas. "There's no reason to think that the staff wouldn't be prepared to co-operate or put themselves out for someone who had taken a bit of work off them," he adds optimistically. "My personal view is that archaeology is going through a rapid transition. It's just been thrown into the market-place. My feeling is that it will all settle down."

Not a hope. The past-sinister Maloney, for one, has feelings that run too strongly for the likes of diplomacy to be applied. "I've seen the museum and this department develop over 15 years, to become the largest and possibly the best unit in the world, saving international standards. And now we have reckless proposals that threaten these standards. It's too outrageous to contemplate passively. It must be fought!"

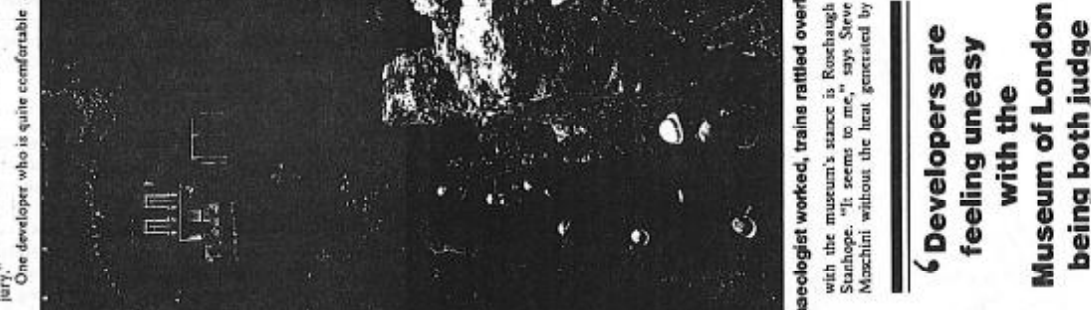
English Heritage had best stay out of the Square Mile and deploy such long-range weaponry as ministerial pronouncements. If they once set foot on a City site, which it is said they rarely do, they could turn into history pretty fast: themselves, their

As the archaeologist worked, trains rattled overhead.

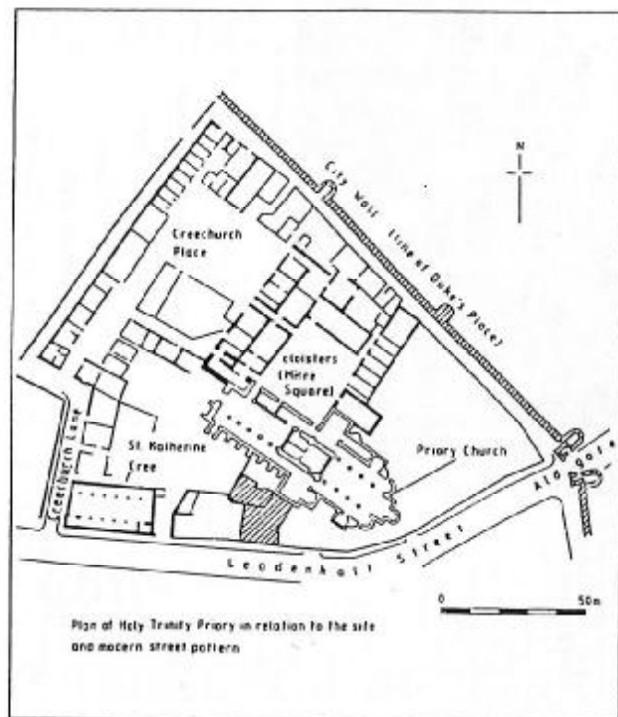
with the museum's stance is Rosehaugh Stunhope. "It seems to me," says Steve Moschini without the heat generated by

Developers are feeling uneasy with the Museum of London being both judge

well he would say that wouldn't he?" writes back Roger Thomas, Inspector of Ancient Monuments. He was defending the English Heritage position since his boss, Dr Geoffrey Wainwright was on holiday. At the museum they have enjoyed a monopoly and perceive it to be under threat. So they try to paint the consequences as black as possible. On the general standard of tendering, no-one would deny the potential pit-falls. I think, at the moment, because the museum has a dual role, developers are feeling uneasy with it being both judge and jury."



Excavations at 78-79 Leadenhall Street



There have been a number of archaeological excavations in the area, undertaken by the Museum of London Department of Urban Archaeology, including the excavation on the site of Swiss Re House in 1984; from these excavations, along with preliminary trial work undertaken on the site itself, it was possible to make a fairly thorough assessment of the nature of archaeology to be expected on the site. However, as is so often the case, new information came to light as a result of the excavation.

ROMAN

The site is situated in the North-Eastern corner of the city near to Aldgate, which has since Roman times been the main route into the City from the East. The Romans established the city wall which ran along the line of what is now Dukes Place and across Aldgate to what is now Jewry Street, with the gate - later known as the Aldgate - being exactly where the road runs today. The line of the wall can be seen on the diagram.

The earliest activity on the site was a wide scattering of stakeholes and postholes; these are probably related to Roman structures of some kind, although it will not be possible to say until further analysis of the site records has been undertaken.

It is known from other sites that there were 1st and 2nd century buildings in the area, constructed with a timber sub-frame and clay walls, and an early defensive ditch to the East; these would pre-date the city walls which were built in the 3rd century. Although most of the earlier Roman activity on the site is currently thought to be

external, we did find the remains of a clay and timber wall to the East.

Surrounding sites revealed evidence of rammed gravel roads and later Roman masonry buildings. One such rammed gravel surface was discovered on a site immediately to the West, and may match up with a similar surface found during our excavations. The remains of masonry foundations and high quality painted wall plaster on the site of Swiss Re House suggest the presence of a fine building, and similar foundations on 78-79 may be from the same, or a related, structure.

LATE SAXON AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

It is well known from documentary and archaeological evidence that the Holy Trinity Priory stood on the ground now bounded by Leadenhall Street, Creechurch Lane and Dukes Place (see diagram). It was founded by Queen Matilda in 1108, and became a major landowner with great influence in the city. The Northern party wall of the site with Swiss Re House coincides with the Southern wall of the Priory Church - part of which now resides in the foyer of Swiss Re House - with the site itself being an open area within the precinct of the Priory.

Excavation on the site of Swiss Re House revealed that there were late Saxon 10th century burials - i.e. earlier than the Priory - in the area, and trial work prior to excavation on 78-79 showed that there was intense burial in the North-West corner of the site. On excavating the site, however, it became apparent that there was also a far less intense scattering of burials across the whole of the site; the division between the two was quite distinct, and probably marks either an extension or contraction of the graveyard at some point. We cannot yet tell whether all these burials pre-date the Priory, and are associated with the 10th century burials previously discovered, or whether some of them are associated with the Priory, as were others on a site to the West.

In the North-Eastern area of the site there was a series of foundation trenches. These would originally have contained masonry foundations, but the stone has since been robbed and the trenches back-filled. Until further research has been undertaken, we are unable to date these trenches, although we can say that they are on different alignment to the Roman masonry foundation trenches and on

continued on next page

"Excavations", continued:-

roughly the same alignment as the Priory Church. There are at least three burials which post-date these foundations, and it may be that the masonry was removed in preparation for the burial ground. Whether these foundations are associated with, or pre-date, the Priory, they are certainly unexpected and of great interest.

FURTHER WORK

Now that the excavation has finished, there are still months of work ahead: the written records fill seven lever-arch files, and the plans fill three, representing ten months work each for two people in order to produce a finished report to go into the Museum archive. There is also the processing of all the finds from the site - the pottery, the metalwork, the building materials - which are the main contributors towards achieving dates for the various discoveries; significant differences in the interpretation of the site can be made according to the dating of its individual features.

Even when the archaeology of a site has been removed, it is possible for discoveries to be made on paper during the writing of the report; the overlaying of plans and the comparison of records can yield correlations which we were not able to see on the site for one reason or another.

Finally, once the archive report has been completed, it may be used along with other reports as a basis for a publication; work is currently underway to produce a publication on the Holy Trinity Priory, with the excavations on the site of Swiss Re House being a major contributor along with the numerous other sites in the area and various historical references.

Christopher Goode
Museum of London