

STANDING CONFERENCE ON LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY (SCOLA)Website - www.scola.org.uk**SUMMER 2006 NEWSLETTER**

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The annual SCOLA Newsletter is intended to keep members in touch with what we are doing and the problems we are addressing. This year it is in two parts, the second being a text of the interesting paper our Chairman, Dr Peter Addyman, gave at our Annual General Meeting in March, while the first contains dates for your diaries and items of news.

SEPTEMBER 20th DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY (CBA) GROUP FOR LONDON6-8pm at the London Archaeological Archive & Research Centre (LAARC)

This will be a very important meeting. The CBA has not for many years now had a Regional Group covering London as an entity, but rather two Groups - CBA Mid Anglia (which includes London north of the Thames in its remit) and CBA South East (which includes London south of the Thames in its remit). The CBA feel that this should now be regularised. The SCOLA Committee have discussed the matter fully, and though there are, inevitably, some differences of opinion, the Committee's general feeling is that the idea is to be supported, and that if a CBA London Regional Group is set up it is unlikely that SCOLA should continue to exist as an independent organisation.

The CBA have arranged this open meeting to discuss the options at the LAARC. It will be chaired by the CBA President, Dr Nick Merriman, who was on the SCOLA Committee a few years ago, and whom many members will know. A discussion paper will be available in advance of the meeting from the CBA secretariat in York (tel 10904 671417, e-mail info@britarch.ac.uk). SCOLA members are urged to attend. Most members will know where the LAARC is, and will probably have visited it. It is located in Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road London N1 7ED; it is close to the junction with the New North Road, five minutes walk from buses 21, 76, 141, and 271 and fifteen minutes walk from Old Street Underground station and from Essex Road national rail station; there is metered parking on Eagle Wharf Road and surrounding streets.

NOVEMBER 14th PRESENTATION OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIZE 2006

The presentation of this prize, which is sponsored by SCOLA and by *London Archaeologist*, will be at 2.30 on November 14th at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly and will be followed by a talk and a cup of tea. It would be good to see lots of SCOLA members at the event. You will find more about the prize below.

CONFERENCE IN 2007

In association with the CBA and the Society of Antiquaries we are actively exploring the idea of a major conference in 2007 to engage the widest possible London audience in their own archaeology. Look for a further announcement in due course.

SCOLA IN 2006

This year we have taken up several pressing matters. Besides the Select Committee Inquiry, on which see below, we have made representations about the apparent intention of the Government to introduce legislation with the specific purpose of delisting, and so permitting the demolition of, the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington. We have also expressed concern that the work on underpinning and restoring the historic church of St George the Martyr, Southwark, would destroy unrecorded important archaeological deposits at a location whose importance in Roman times is becoming more and more apparent. We continue to take a close interest in the archaeological implications of the preparations for the Olympics in 2012, a note on which is to be found later in this newsletter.

SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY

At the end of 2005 the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee of the House of Commons announced an Inquiry with the title 'Protecting and Preserving our Heritage' and with terms of reference that included the priorities for the forthcoming Heritage White Paper; the remit and effectiveness of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), English Heritage and other organisations; the balance between heritage and development needs in planning policy; access to heritage and its position as a cultural asset; and funding, with particular reference to the adequacy of the budget for English Heritage, and the impact of the 2012 Olympics on Lottery funding for heritage projects. SCOLA submitted evidence, concentrating on the historic environment, including archaeology, and on matters relating to Greater London. Among the points we made were that Historic Environment Records (the old SMRs) should be made statutory, that there must be proper resources for archaeological investigation and proper storage of what is found; the need for a VAT regime that encourages maintenance of the heritage; and the importance of proper dissemination of the results of archaeological interventions. We expressed concern at the decline in the spending power of the budget for English Heritage, at the lack of appropriate expertise within DCMS, and at the failure of the Mayor of London to balance heritage and development needs in his London Plan. We also expressed concern at the absence of any guarantee of standards in the current system of developer-funded archaeology, and at the threat to the honourable tradition of the involvement of amateurs in archaeology, not merely as voluntary helpers in museums and in projects controlled by professionals, but also as principals in their own right, since, perhaps especially in London, there are now few opportunities for excavations not related to development, and such excavations virtually always exclude amateur involvement.

On the Olympics, we said that they were pertinent to the Committee's Inquiry in ways far beyond their impact on lottery funding. They will provide a great opportunity for London to show its heritage to the world and in particular for the buried heritage at or near the sites where Olympic facilities are to be built to be properly recorded and, when appropriate, preserved and displayed - perhaps as an Olympic feature.

The Committee did not ask SCOLA to give oral evidence, but their report, which has just been published, shows that they took notice of what we and the CBA, among others, said. We are specifically cited for our point about amateur involvement. The Committee seems to have found their original terms of reference too wide, since they have immediately announced a sequel, an inquiry into museums and galleries, cultural property and archives.

In their report, the Select Committee say that the decline in real terms in its grant-in-aid has led to justified fears that English Heritage will in future be unable to

carry out its functions to the standard required. They are concerned at the omission of a reference to the importance of the historic environment from the Prime Minister's 'priorities letter' to DCMS, and at the slow progress on reform of the heritage protection system. They welcome the largely positive view taken by the heritage sector of the impact of the Olympics, but concern at the possibility that an overspend on the Olympics would lead to a further diversion of funds. They note that the present VAT regime for repairs distorts priorities, rewards neglect and works against conscientious maintenance of historic assets. They ask for successor guidance to PPG 16 to be enhanced to reflect the importance of public access to information from archaeological excavations, and proper storage of items unearthed. Records of excavations should be publicly deposited, with appropriate linkage to Historic Environment Records, and there should be a statutory requirement on local authorities to maintain or have access to Historic Environment Records, as an important step in disseminating information and increasing public engagement.

This is a good report, and SCOLA is writing to the Government urging them to react positively and speedily to its recommendations.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr Mike Heyworth (CBA Director)

In early June a conference on 'Archaeology in the Community' was hosted by the UCL Institute of Archaeology, organised by Gabriel Moshenska with support from English Heritage, UCL Institute of Archaeology, and Heritage Marketing and Publications (see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/events/conferences/community/index.htm> for the full conference programme).

The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for the discussion of community based archaeology in the UK, examining the themes and strategies that are central to its development. This included discussion of the origins and growth of community archaeology, an analysis of its current state, and examples of good practice. There were presentations from a number of projects, many based in London and south east England.

The conference also discussed future developments in the practice and promotion of community archaeology in the UK and beyond. Thoughts on these issues will be incorporated into the publication of the conference, which it is hoped will appear in the next few months. This publication will provide a useful guide to the diverse projects that are currently in progress in this area - and promote the high standards to which many of the projects aspire.

One direct outcome was the establishment of an email discussion list for community archaeology which the CBA has set up using its own discussion list facilities. Anyone can join the list through its web page at <http://britarch.net/mailman/listinfo/communityarchaeology>.

The CBA also undertook to provide a web-based 'show case' for community archaeology projects, allowing everyone to add and update their own content. It is hoped to launch this facility at a further conference in Manchester in early November (see <http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/umfac/assets/thefile,62456,en.pdf>). This conference, on the theory and practice of community archaeology, will be an opportunity to build on the UCL discussions, critique current practice and move forward to promote good practice throughout the diverse range of initiatives that are underway, many funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Local Heritage Initiative.

The CBA has a working group currently looking at diversifying participation in archaeology, under the chairmanship of its President, Dr Nick Merriman. The group is

looking at options to develop a 'toolkit', based along the lines of the Community Access to Archives project (see <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/partnerprojects/caap/team.htm>), to guide community groups who want to develop their own projects. This forms part of CBA's support for local and regional groups who are undertaking 'archaeology for all' (the CBA's mission statement), building on the report of its earlier working group on participation in archaeology (see www.britarch.ac.uk/participation)

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY & LOCAL SOCIETIES

Don Cooper

The increased profile of Community Archaeology caused in part by the Government initiatives in Widening Participation have given a boost to local society activities as well as promoting greater co-operation with local schools, museums and universities. The Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) has during this year been involved in a number of Community Archaeology events. Following a request from Hendon School, University College London's Institute of Archaeology (IoA) and HADAS have carried out some historical research, a resistivity survey, and a small excavation all designed to involve the pupils of the school in learning about archaeology in a hands-on way. HADAS and the IoA have also been involved with Edgware School in researching the air raid shelters under the school playing field and excavating one of them. Again in support of teaching the history of the Second World War, this excavation brought home some of the realities the war to the students. The long standing excavation at Kingsbury School has also involved HADAS in carrying out a resistivity survey and helping with the excavations.

This process of involving schoolchildren in archaeology by hands-on activities at their schools has proved very successful in raising awareness of the subject and heritage matters in general.

In another area, for some years now HADAS, in conjunction with Birkbeck College, has been running a local course in Post Excavation Processing. This, again, has provided an opportunity for local people to get involved with the post-processing of local excavations which would otherwise not have been processed.

In order to build on this fine start it is hoped to get greater involvement with the local council in the coming year and, perhaps, start a Young Archaeologists Club based around the schools currently interested.

UPDATE ON THE LONDON HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Michael Hammerson

About four years ago, English Heritage set up a series of regional Historic Environment Forums, consisting of representatives of bodies concerned with the historic environment. Their aim is to promote wider knowledge and appreciation of the subject, not only among the public but particularly among the decision-makers whose decisions can impact so severely on the Historic Environment, and whose sympathies are not always in tune with it. As longer-standing members will now know, SCOLA is a member of the London Historic Environment Forum (LHEF), together with English Heritage, the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies, Museum of London Archaeological Services, the National Trust, the Royal Parks, Historic Royal Palaces, the London Rivers Association, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Visit London, the Association of London Government, the Government Office for London, London Museums Libraries and Archives, and the London Development Agency; though, inevitably, not all attend regularly. SCOLA and the London Forum are the only representatives of the voluntary sector.

The main task of LHEF up to now has been to commission and produce a publication, aimed at decision-makers in the public and private sectors, giving a concise explanation of the contribution of the Historic Environment to London, socially and economically. That has at last come to fruition in a 32-page booklet, *Capital Values*, published in June with a foreword from Lord Smith of Finsbury, Chair of the London Cultural Consortium. It emphasises that London's historic environment is not just the iconic buildings and open spaces which tourists come to see, but a profusion of small elements, often of purely local value, which can be found across the Metropolis, and that they can and should be cared for sensitively as a major source of local pride, identity and cohesion.

Issues covered include

- the General Contribution of the Historic Environment;
- the role of the Historic Environment in Local Area Agreements, which set out three-year priority strategies for local areas;
- its contribution to the economy, in terms of tourism, regeneration, culture, access, social cohesion, education, health and well-being, green space, sustainability, and the provision of good quality public space. Each section is accompanied by a selection of case studies.

The A4 booklet is well-illustrated in colour, though my judgement of the illustrations must inevitably be slightly clouded by the fact that nine of the 56 photographs are mine! These will be useful documents to show to local councillors, planners, etc. (English Heritage have already sent copies to Leaders of Councils, London MPs, etc.). Members who would like a copy should please send an addressed A4 size envelope to the Hon. Treasurer, 4 Bramalea Close, Highgate N6 4QD. Further copies are obtainable from English Heritage.

LHEF has also had a useful preliminary meeting with the Mayor's Commission on African and Asian Heritage, chaired by Dame Jocelyn Barrow, and will be looking at ways of working together with that Commission. It has also had two meetings with Visit London (formerly the London Tourism Board), who have taken up LHEF's long-standing aspiration to give more prominence to the historic environment in outer London by promoting visits to Village London - the historic villages and ancient landscapes which still survive in the Greater London area. At LHEF meetings I have long advocated the promotion of a London Historic Villages Tourist Trail, to spread the benefits of tourism revenue beyond the traditional honeypot sites of London (tourism, after all, is our second largest generator of revenue) and hence act as a catalyst for regeneration in outer London through sympathetic restoration of the historic environment, and as a focus for local identity and civic pride. It is therefore pleasing to see official recognition of the need for an initiative of this type - which will be aimed not only at tourists, but particularly at encouraging Londoners themselves to explore their historic environment - and we aim to work closely with them and to sit on the working group being formed to develop the initiative, which is proposed to be as a public campaign from March 2007. Inevitably, the initiative will only cover selected areas, at least to start with. PR material and guides are, we understand, to be co-ordinated by Time Out Magazine. We have emphasised the importance of engaging local communities themselves in the initiative, to ensure both that historical and geographical accuracy are maintained, and that the enthusiasm and interest of the communities themselves is seen by visitors to be a major feature, and that local archaeological and historical societies and amenity groups are consulted.

LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIZE 2006

We had 16 entries for the 2006 prize - over twice as many as in 2004. Members may be interested to see what they were (in alphabetical order of the publisher):-

How to Survive in Field Archaeology - Bexley Archaeology Group
 Memories of Foots Cray Place - Bexley Archaeology Group
 The Archbishop's town - the making of mediaeval Croydon - Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society
 Fulham and Putney - John Dowsing
 Sutton House - English Heritage/National Trust
 The Steam Engine at Wrotham Park - Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society
 The Last Hendon Farm - Hendon and District Archaeological Society
 A Priory Revealed using data relating to Merton Priory - Merton Historical Society
 Material Culture in London in an Age of Transition - Museum of London Archaeological Services
 Holy Trinity Priory City of London - Museum of London Archaeological Services
 Old London Bridge Lost and Found - Museum of London Archaeological Services
 The Doulton Stoneware Pottery in Lambeth - Museum of London Archaeological Services
 Tarbeht's Lundenwic - Pre-Constuct Archaeology
 Pottery as Plunder - Pre-Constuct Archaeology
 Archaeology for All - Treasures of the Thames - Thames Explorer Trust
 A mediaeval dock at Waltham Abbey (LA article) - Waltham Abbey Historical Society

In 2004 it seemed that only people closely involved with a publication nominated it. We emphasised this time that anyone could make a nomination, and were gratified to receive some nominations from people unconnected with a publication, who had read it and thought it worthy of recognition. We were also pleased that two of the nominations were for journal articles.

At the time of writing the judging panel has drawn up a short-list and will study the candidates very carefully over the summer. If you want to know who wins, come along to the presentation on 14th November at 2.30 at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House.

COPPED HALL TRUST ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT Nicholas Bateson

Copped Hall lies just outside London, between Waltham Abbey and Epping, and has its own bridge over the M25. Located on a spur off the northern slopes of the Epping Forest ridge, it has extensive views to east, north and west. For the last five years the West Essex Archaeological Group (WEAG) has conducted an early-summer dig at the northern end of the Copped Hall gardens, which has been complemented for the last three years by a late-summer training dig led by professionals but with strong support on site from the WEAG volunteers; this year's training dig will take place over three weeks from 13th August. The trainees come largely from west Essex and north-east London. Many of them decide to keep a link with the site by joining WEAG, and they return year after year to dig, to work on the finds and to help with the training dig. Organising the training dig is a demanding and complex task as, quite apart from the digging itself, the students can camp in the grounds and have all meals provided.

The dig is revealing the remains of a Tudor great house, built by Elizabeth's Vice-chamberlain and knocked down in the 1750s, to be replaced by a Georgian mansion 250 metres to the south. An earlier masonry structure that underlay the Tudor house is also beginning to be exposed. Pottery has been found from the first century AD and first century BC.

This is a project in research archaeology well grounded in the local community and helping to produce a new generation of trained volunteers and – who knows? – perhaps some professionals also. For those interested in knowing more, technical reports on the first two years' work are available from WEAG. The Copped Hall Trust is holding an Open Day on Sunday 27th August, when the archaeological site will be included in a tour of the grounds, and a conference specifically on the archaeology is to take place on Sunday 3rd September (for details please ring 01992-813-725 or 0208-521-0973; alternatively check weag.org.uk or coppedhalltrust.org.uk).

THE GREATER LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE Rob Whytehead

English Heritage has quit 23 Savile Row, the former 'Fortress House', for which planning permission to redevelop the site has been granted.

The London Region office has moved directly to our new headquarters building, known as 'Waterhouse Square'; readers may well know it as the old Prudential Building, on Holborn. This Grade 2* Listed Building was designed by Alfred Waterhouse, and built piecemeal from 1876 to 1906, with a number of alterations thereafter. Its distinctive terracotta and brick façade became a model for Prudential buildings elsewhere in the country. Renovated to modern office standards in the 1990s, the air-conditioning has proved a great success in the recent hot weather, in marked contrast to 'Fortress House'.

The remainder of the occupants of Savile Row have moved to temporary offices in 3 Bunhill Row, just north of the City. As more floors become available in Waterhouse Square, after Christmas, the headquarters staff who are to remain in London will be transferred there. Others will be relocated to regional offices elsewhere, in particular Swindon and Birmingham.

All correspondence should be addressed to: English Heritage, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-140 Holborn, London EC1 2ST. Our telephone numbers remain the same.

Waterhouse Square is close to Chancery Lane underground station. If you are coming to visit us in London Region, our office entrance is on the Leather Lane side of the building, if you enter the inner courtyard from that side you will see a revolving door immediately to your left, with a security reception just inside; we are on the first floor.

London Region's structure remains the same We have two heads: the Head of Regional Advice, Paddy Pugh, and the Head of Regional Partnerships, Drew Bennelick. Paddy heads the two teams that provide historic environment advice to Greater London. The four GLAAS Archaeology Advisers (David Divers, Kim Stabler, Mark Stevenson, Diane Walls) sit with these teams to contribute to the broad spectrum of expertise they encompass.

Drew heads the more strategic Regional Planning team, that includes the GLSMR Manager and Officer, Barry Taylor and Steve Ellwood, and Robert Whytehead, Regional Archaeologist. Also based in the London Region office are the Director of our South Territory (the combination of London and South East Regions), Philip Davies; the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Adviser, Jill Hummerstone; and the Government Historic Estates Unit, headed by Will Holborow.

The integration of GLAAS with London Region has been in place for a year now, and seems to be working well. However the implementation of a number of initiatives to support the service have taken rather longer to achieve. Our website is about to go live, although not all pages will be available immediately. A casework management system is still some way off, but we have a number of measures planned to make our interaction with local planning authorities more systematic.

THE HISTORY MATTERS DECLARATION 2006

"History Matters - pass it on" is a campaign being run by the main heritage organisations in England and Wales including the National Trust, English Heritage, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Council for British Archaeology, Heritage Link, Historic Houses Association and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. SCOLA is closely associated with several of these. Its declaration is:-

We believe that history matters. A society out of touch with its past cannot have confidence in its future. History defines, educates and inspires us. It lives on in our historic environment. As custodians for the past we will be judged by generations to come. We must value it, nurture it and pass it on.

Have you signed up to the Declaration yet? Hundreds have already done so. Visit www.historymatters.org.uk sign up and get your name on the list.

If you agree that history matters, wear a History matters badge to show you care; write a History Matters postcard to say what matters to you and why; name your favourite historic place on a postcard or text it to 07717 977777. Visit www.historymatters.org.uk for more ideas on how to get involved. Join the nation in declaring your support for the History Matters - pass it on Campaign. Collectively, the opinions expressed demonstrate the importance of history and heritage to our society.

For campaign material - badges, posters, postcards - to distribute to members, friends, colleagues, visitors - contact Marie Moller at marie.moller@nationaltrust.org.uk.

BURSARIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING EXCAVATIONS

Once more, SCOLA offered two bursaries, each of £150, to young students to go on a training excavation. Regrettably, there was little interest, and the only student to whom we offered a bursary was unable to get a place on the course she was interested in. We still believe this was a worth-while initiative, but our efforts at publicity may not have been as good as they should have been. We shall probably not repeat the offer in 2007.

THE SYON HOUSE TRAINING EXCAVATION

Harvey Sheldon

Birkbeck College undertook its third summer training excavation in Syon Park between June 12th and July 14th 2006. As well as the five week training excavation there was a one-week environmental archaeology course and a one-week course in the recording of standing buildings.

Two large areas were excavated on the lawns and meadows between Syon House and the Thames. In the northern area work concentrated on the north-eastern part of the abbey church, in the more southerly area on the extensive complex of monastic buildings that lay beyond it.

A number of important discoveries were made this year. The east wall of the monastic church was located, as well as the foundation of some internal walls close to the east end and structures abutting the north wall, probably from the monastic range beyond.

South of the church there were a number of stone-based walls with brick above, which may include the south-east corner of the cloisters. Here two monastic inhumations were recovered, buried probably beneath the floor of the south cloister passage. Walls from buildings adjoining the cloisters were also located, probably including the refectory.

Particularly exciting was the discovery, just north of the church, of an extensive circular brick-walled and paved feature probably of restoration date. This was set centrally within the formal gardens as laid out east of the house by the early seventeenth century. It was connected to brick drains and may well have contained a pond or a fountain marking, at least in the later seventeenth century, the central hub of this grand open space where various walkways converged.

CENTRAL LONDON YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB

SCOLA gave a second £200 to this Club in October 2005, with a promise of a similar sum in 2006. Members will be interested in this note from them:-

Once again, SCOLA funding has enabled us to organise two sessions that the members found both interesting and fun.

In January we were able to hire Iron Age pottery expert Jim Newbold who talked to the members about ancient methods of pot making and firing. We had looked at Roman and Medieval pottery before but Iron Age potters were a new experience for our members. Jim brought some replica pots with him to illustrate his talk and then our members were given their own lump of clay to try out the 'paddling' technique where the pot is formed over the fist and then 'paddled' into shape by patting it using a flat piece of wood. They then added decoration by pinching the rim and making marks with their fingernails. When they left they certainly knew a lot more about Iron Age pots!

In May, our session was called 'Glazed Expressions' and we looked at ceramic roof, wall and floor tiles through the ages with many examples from the LAARC collection for the members to handle. With the help of SCOLA funding we were able to buy some unglazed tiles for the members to design their own medieval floor tile patterns based on those found at Merton Priory which they had seen earlier. They all grasped the idea of symmetry and their own heraldic patterns looked very effective. We also showed them examples of Delftware wall tiles in blue and white and they all showed their artistic talents by copying the traditional plant and animal motifs onto plain tiles.

Thank you for helping us to bring archaeology alive for our members.

2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Gary Brown

It is now only six years until the 2012 Games will be staged. The majority of the events are to be held on a new Olympic Park site in the Lower Lea Valley. The new park area is currently a mixture of small commercial premises, derelict land, railway sidings, housing and waterways. Within the next few years this relatively downbeat landscape will be transformed into a variety of arenas for athletics, aquatic sports, warm up areas, landscaped walkways, river walks and other infrastructure. In order to do this there will need for major alterations to the existing landscape and consequential impacts on the buried archaeology and on the historic built landscape. However, it has been a firm tenet of the partners involved in delivering the 2012 Games that proper consideration for the archaeological resource and the built heritage assets are given as part of the development process. All developments in the Olympic Park are being dealt with through the existing planning frameworks of the four constituent local authorities: Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service provides archaeological advice to each of the Boroughs and English Heritage also takes a view on matters concerning the built heritage, including historic waterways.

Archaeological and built heritage services are being provided by a joint team from the Museum of London Archaeology Service and Pre-Construct Archaeology (MoLAS-PCA), which is itself part of a larger Environmental team being coordinated by Capita Symonds Ltd.

The MoLAS-PCA team is headed by Nick Bateman who is assisted by Gary Brown. However, the majority of the legwork, including bringing together of reports attending meetings etc., is undertaken by Kieron Tyler. James Dixon is responsible for coordinating built heritage issues and Peter Moore has been responsible for fieldwork associated with undergrounding power cables.

To date much of the work that has been undertaken by MoLAS-PCA has been desk based and has included contributions to the Masterplan application and Environmental Statements, detailed desk based assessments for the Construction Zones, and assessments for the Historic Built Environment.

Fieldwork opportunities have been limited, but where they have occurred they have been in accordance with standard planning protocols. Perhaps the most significant archaeological fieldwork that has taken place is that of a team of geoarchaeologists who are working in conjunction with the geotechnical investigators and are headed by Jane Corcoran. This team logs and takes samples from all boreholes that are being sunk as part of the site investigations. These boreholes are then used by the geoarchaeologists to build up a stratigraphic diagram showing profiles of the buried landscape, indicating topographic features such as river channels, lake edges and upstanding gravel islands. Such information can later be used to make predictive models for future intrusive investigations (field evaluations) or to inform where it would be impractical for trenches to be sited due either to very deep modern accumulations or because of major ground reductions such as old reservoirs.

Where sites are available for evaluation (including buildings) a written scheme of investigation is prepared and submitted to David Divers at the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) prior to commencement of work. Archaeological evaluations have been undertaken at all of the access shafts for undergrounding the power cables (seven in total). An extensive field evaluation took place on the site of the proposed Aquatics Centre and another evaluation has taken place a short distance to the south, also on Carpenters Road. These have informed on the past environment and landscape and located a probable late Bronze Age round building. Evidence for the London to Colchester Roman road, predicted to cross the Aquatics site, was not located. Other evaluations are in the pipeline but depend upon land availability. Only one set of buildings has been recorded to date as the majority are still occupied, and these buildings too were on Carpenters Road. Other built heritage assets have also been recorded including war memorials, railway viaducts and watercourses.

Over the next 12 months it is anticipated that considerably more fieldwork will have been commenced as sites currently occupied become available and as the actual construction programme gets under way.

Londoners in particular, but the greater constituency beyond, should be reassured that archaeological and heritage matters associated with the 2012 Olympic Games, are being undertaken in a systematic and professional manner. To this end we should all commend both the London Development Agency and the Olympic Delivery Authority for their professional approach.