

Archaeological Archives: Beyond Storage

Adam Corsini
Archaeology Collections Manager
(Engagement)



The Archaeological Archive

**“The World’s Largest
Archaeological Archive”
Guinness World Records**

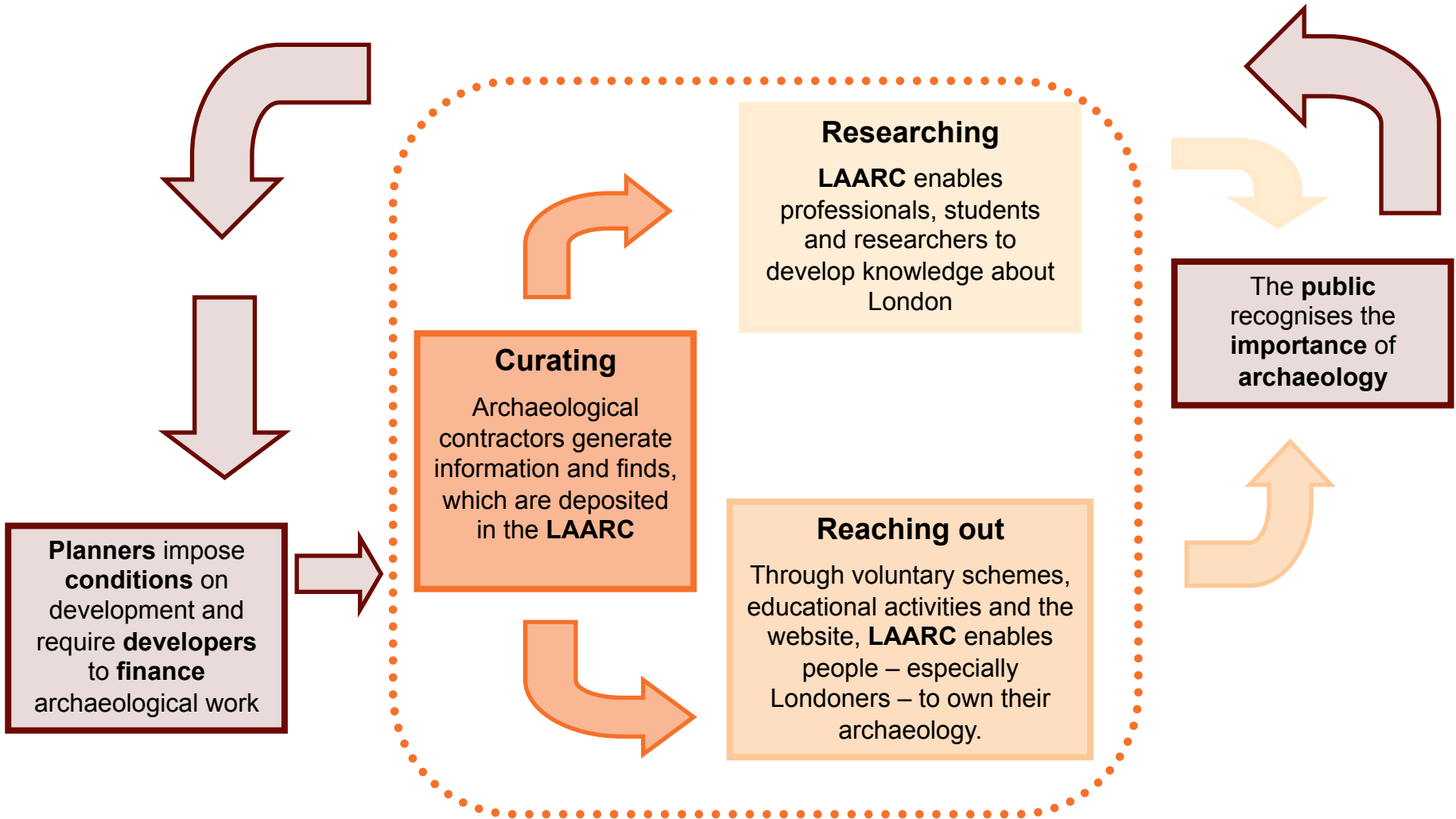


- Records concerning nearly 8,500 excavations in London
- Over 3,500 detailed excavation archives

“The Museum set out to create the LAARC not only to house the archive but also to ensure it was properly curated and made accessible”

H.Swain, 2007

Championing Archaeology



Collections Care Work

Volunteer Work



- Repacking artefacts to archive standards
- Auditing collections
- Storage & Access improvements
- Creating space

- Mixed teams
- Fixed project lengths
- Set project targets

- New skill learning (& sharing)
- Supplemented learning
- Social environment

- Online dissemination (social media)
- Internally inclusive

Beyond Storage: The Challenge

How do you engage people with this?

What does that achieve?



Reassessing archives as spaces



Reassessing archives as spaces

Voluntours



- 11 volunteers
- Average of 2 public tours per month
- Group training
- Tour guiding duos

- 90 minute tours
- Themed tours
- Income generating

- New learning
- Personal experiences

- “Thoroughly Engaging”
- Annual Reviews

Going beyond the archive



Going beyond the archive



Going beyond the archive

Unearthing Bromley



Going beyond the archive

Unearthing Bromley



Engaging with the wider world

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Welcome to the Museum of London blog - insightful and interesting digital content from our team

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Discovery Tags

boat race | Puginash | prints

excavation | Iron Age

Anatomy of a Suit

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Featured Posts

The story of London Tweed

So this is how the story goes. In 1820 a London merchant decides to buy some cloth from a weaver in Hawick, a town in the Scottish borders famous for its cloth production. Very happy with his order, he decides to get some more but – crucially – misreads the weaver's dashed handwriting. Instead of 'half' this Londoner reads 'weave', and assumes this new cloth must take after the River Tweed which runs fast and clear through the textile areas of lower Scotland. 'Tweed' and not 'half' has been the term used ever since.

Sherlock Holmes trailer: You saw, but did you observe?

With only one week to go until our Sherlock Holmes exhibition opens to the public, we wanted to take a closer inspection at our trailer to reveal a few hidden clues as to what visitors might expect... you saw, but did you observe?

Miss Levy's Wedding Dress

This whole thing started a few years ago when a wedding dress came up at auction. Not being a wedding dress aficionado I could nevertheless think of quite a few (entirely rational) reasons why the museum should acquire this particular example. For one thing it was made by Isaac Stobbs, one of my favourite London couturiers. Secondly, we do not have enough of the materials (one never does) and they do not come up at auction very often. The dress also had an intriguing mystery inscription. We will get to that in a moment.

A History of London in 10 Archaeological Objects: Object of VIP6!



By glynn davis on 31 Oct 2012

The LAARC's celebratory object blog is now in its closing stages. When I blogged about Canon B&L, we were preparing for another of our award winning volunteer projects, at our eighth object blog in another century closer to the modern era. Although our hi profile finds doesn't mean London's archaeology doesn't have an important part to play in historical record.

These major events dominate London's Stuart period and are highlighted in the Moax, object to represent one of these major events? Perhaps surprisingly, London didn't catch fire as we are looking objects that could engage us with this conflict directly. It related to the Great Plague of 1665, however, the Museum has just opened its Court exhibition, and I don't want to jump on the Halloween bandwagon. So that leaves us



Fire is an extremely destructive element, however in regards to archaeology it is also archaeological excavations have revealed Great Fire deposits such as P&Y's, B&L's located close to Pudding Lane where the Fire started on the 2nd September 1666 in 1



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Who's the best Holmes? Who's the best Watson?

View image | gettyimages.com Many actors have taken on the iconic roles of Holmes and Watson, but who did it best? This January and February, we're inviting Sherlockians to join in the debate and state their case. So, who's your favourite? Buy tickets for Who's the best Holmes? / Who's the best Watson?

The Great Dock Strike – 125 years on

"The St. Lawrence is mere water. The Missouri's muddy water. The Thames is liquid history." So declared John Burns – a great advocate of London's history – when asked to compare the Thames against those other great rivers in 1920. Forty years earlier in 1899 Burns had been a towering figurehead of the Great Dock Strike, thus sealing his own place in those

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Object of VIP6! GRAND FINAL!



By adam corradi on 13 Aug 2010

Ladies & Gentlemen. You've been voting all week for your favourite objects to determine which is the best artefact from VIP6. Well, the winners are in and are ready to do battle. It's time for...

OBJECT OF VIP6! THE GRAND FINAL!



Monday's winner was this super Saxon 'Bird' Pin. Audited by Friday volunteer Claire during **Week 6's** session, this is a rare example of a late Saxon (C11th – C12th) ivory 'hipped' pin. It was found during excavations at Merton Priory, (MPY68) The pin could be interpreted as representing a bird with feathered wings, eye and the shaft as an elongated beak. The presence of this late pin (as well as waste from antler and ivory working) on the site indicates affluence and perhaps a settlement nearby, maybe of a monastic nature.



The second winner was reworked during **week 5** and was a joint effort by Monday's volunteers Emma & Lucy. Found in 1974 at "The Triangle" (TR74), this is a very rare example of a woven Roman basket. A leather thong would have connected with the leather tag at the top to close the basket. Preserved by the waterlogged conditions of the waterfront, the site was originally a Roman quay. The material deposited in the quay may have come from a warehouse clearance and perhaps the basket was used by a Roman constructing the quay in the first half of the 2nd Century AD and then lost or disposed of.

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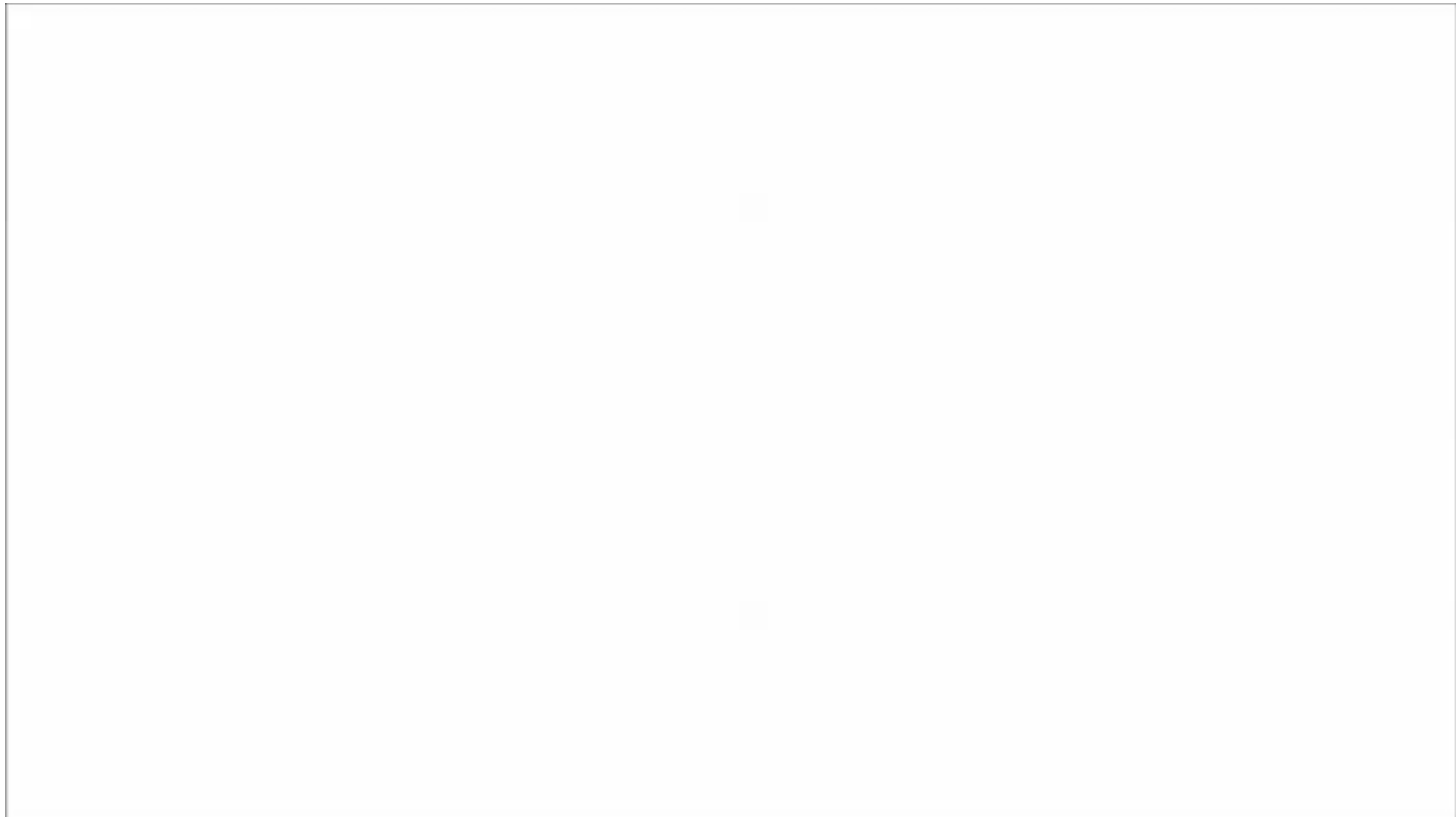


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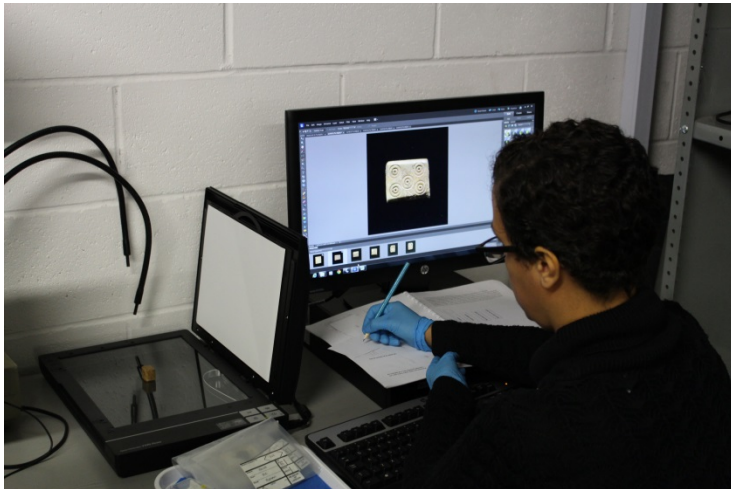
Engaging with the wider world



www.youtube.com/museumoflondon

Engaging with the wider world

Archaeology Online



- 3-9 Selected 'graduate' volunteers
- Scanning and recording artefact groups
- Preparing records for online publication
- Curator-standard records

- Individual work
- Group training workshops

- 10 weeks

- New skill base
- Research & learning

- Continuous project work

Museum of London

Museum Strategy

- Reach more people (visitors)
- Be better known (marketing)
 - Stretch thinking (research)
 - Engage every school child (learning)
- Stand on your own two feet (money)



Museum Strategy

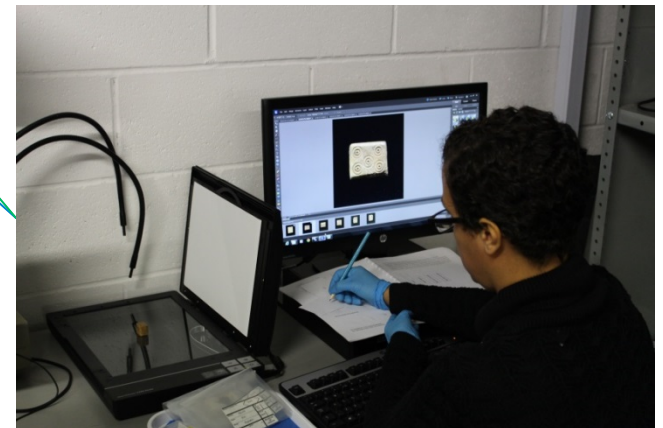
Become better known

Reach more people

Stretch thinking

Engage every school child

Stand on your own two feet



Thanks!

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