

After infilling, the moat acted as a sheep pasture (Fig. 1), parade ground and allotment. In more recent times it has hosted charity events, tournaments and operettas, and last, but not least, it provides the principal recreation ground for the surprisingly large number of people who still live within the walls of the fortress.

Comparing the present view of the fortress from Tower Hill with that captured on the earliest known photograph of the Tower, taken c.1850 (Fig. 2), there is no doubt that the gardens and the infilled moat form part of a landscape that remains predominantly early Victorian in composition and appearance. Importantly, this view includes the reconstructed and refaced towers and walls of the inner curtain defences and the rising mass of the Waterloo Barracks beyond. All these works were executed by the Office of Ordnance in the wake of the burning of the Grand Storehouse in 1841, and with the guiding hand of the Duke of Wellington never far away. The programme was completed before Anthony Salvin began work on the Beauchamp Tower in 1852, an act that heralded the start of a second wave of restorations under the aegis of the Office of Works.

Looking at the proposals put together by Historic Royal Palaces and their consultants in the Millennium Project Report, what is so depressing is the absence of any understanding or appreciation of the prevailing historic landscape, coupled with the suggested removal of features which the authors

have not even bothered to date. The futility of trying to 'restore' the moat to any particular pre-1843 period is compounded by a proposed 'towpath', which may prove to be a necessary means of underpinning repaired sections of the retaining wall that rest on the infill, or are weakened by its removal. Apart from losing the Royal Engineers' drain during the excavation of the moat, the instinct to preserve is dealt a further blow by a scheme to replace the western gardens and their late Georgian railings with a set of stone steps for visitors to sit on. Given that the Tower is a World Heritage Site, and one of the country's most important scheduled monuments, why not explain to the visitor what he or she sees now, rather than invest large sums of money in new creations? Surely to avoid the sort of damage that historic buildings and sites have suffered in the past, when accretions deemed to have no aesthetic value were removed or concealed, preservation rather than alteration should be the goal.

As it stands, the 'Historic Background' in HRPAS Millennium Project Report comprises only three paragraphs taken from a handful of published works, and is quite worthless. The absence of historic data seems, therefore, to be at the heart of the problem. Doubtless if asked the authors of the report will argue that all of this will be addressed during the £1,000,000 feasibility study. A few days in the Public Record Office should, however, prove to be a quicker and more cost-effective approach.

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Enquiries to Museum of London Archaeology Service, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (0171-972 9111).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA (0181-688 2720).

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (0171-972 9111).

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (0181-855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (0171-731 4498).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (0181-546 5386).

North-east London, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre, 31 Stock Street, E13 0BX (0181-472 4785).

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Old Library Headquarters, 25 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1DE (01306-886 466).

Vauxhall Pottery, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 135 Walworth Road, SE17 (0171-703 3324).

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology includes 10 issues a year of British Archaeology, as well as the supplement CBA Briefing, which gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The subscription of £18 p.a. includes postage, and should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (01904 671417).