

use. Post-medieval dress accessories is one of the major groups of finds recorded from the foreshore. For example use of the archive would enhance any artefactual study of buckles, dress hooks, mounts and strap-ends. The 1997-1998 Portable Antiquities Annual Report highlighted one such study of dress hooks conducted by a finds Liaison Officer in Lincolnshire¹³. Another area where the archive would be useful would be in the study of post-medieval tableware. The survival of pewter plates, tankards, bowls, spoons along the foreshore is exceptional. Research of the touchmarks from these items would greatly add to our knowledge of pewter manufacture in London.

Research of any theme would be supported by the mudlark finds the Museum has acquired. Over the past 25 years at least 2500 objects from the foreshore have been added to the collections, including at least 1700 medieval items. The Museum also has a whole range of comparable material in the archaeological archive from excavations on riverside sites such as Billingsgate lorrypark, Thames Exchange (Upper Thames Street) and Baynard House (Queen Victoria Street).

Much of the Thames foreshore has been disturbed by redevelopment, dredging and erosion from river traffic. However, there are pockets of undis-

turbed archaeology, including the remains of medieval and post-medieval structures and deposits. Perhaps objects discovered in these areas could provide valuable evidence for activities conducted on the adjacent riverside. One area of potential research could be to see if it is possible to identify groups of artefacts from undisturbed deposits and establish if they have any wider significance.

The Museum of London records objects found in the Greater London area in order that the information about the past is preserved and accessible to all. This archive, built up over the past 25 years, has the potential to help develop a greater understanding of aspects of London's past. However, this can only happen if it is actively used by students, archaeologists and *bona fide* researchers. The Museum is currently looking at ways to make the archive more accessible and will be encouraging greater use in future.

If you want to know more call Nikola Burdon, Adrian Green or Cheryl Smith in the Museum of London's Department of Early London History and Collections (020 7814 5730).

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13. Department of Culture, Media and Sport *Portable Antiquities Annual Report 1997-98* (1999) 22.

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (020 7410 2200).

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 Jim Davison, 28 Blenheim Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 6BB.

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, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (020 7410 2200).

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, SE18 1JT (020 8855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue

Group. Processing of material from the Borough. Tuesdays, 8.00 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 85 Rannoch Road, W6 9SX (020 7385 3723).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society (KUTAS). Processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Thursday (10 a.m.) at the North Kingston Centre, Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE. Enquiries 020 8546 5386.

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).

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 individual subscription rate of £20 p.a. includes postage; payment should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, III Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (01904 671417).