# London Archaeological Bibliography 1996

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6. Roman

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022, 217-32

L06/021

4. Bronze Age

in L96/022, 43-8

Compiled by T J Gostick

8 (3), 69

L96/007

Sloane, B 1995 'Life under London' City to Cities, 29-33 The London Archaeological Research Facility was established in 1992 with the aim of promoting the archaeological study of 2. Mesolithic and Neolithic London, primarily through fostering closer co-operation L96/015

amongst the increasingly diverse agencies working in this field. It was also felt that the compilation of annual surveys of recent

publications of London material would be of assistance to all

those engaged in current research. The fourth in this series of annual Bibliographies published in the London Archaeologist is

presented here, and incorporates a range of material published

mainly in late 1995 and 1996. This service is undertaken in collaboration with the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliog-

raphy, also based at UCL Institute of Archaeology, and the advice and assistance of Jeremy Oetgen and Isabel Holroyd from the BIAB is gratefully acknowledged: so too is the generous support of the City of London Archaeological Trust. Comments and

additions to our London Bibliography are always warmly wel-

1. General, multi-period L96/001

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Oetgen, J & Holroyd, B 1996a British Archaeological Bibliography 5 (1) L96/011 Oetgen, J & Holroyd, B 1996b British Archaeological Bibliography 5 (2) L96/012

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London: Papers in memory of Hugh Chapman Oxbow Monographs 58, 268pp L96/023 Carey, S E 1996 'British round-up: Greater London (including

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022, 85-96

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'Bronze Age trackways in East London' Current Archaeol 143, 412-16

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Brigham, T, Watson, B, Tyers, I with Bartkowiak, R 1996

'Current Archaeological work at Regis House in the City of

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Wallington' London Archaeol 8 (1), 25

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# **Books**

Frameworks for our Past -- a review of research frameworks, strategies and perceptions, by Adrian Olivier. *English Heritage*, 1996.

THIS IS A stimulating, in-depth 1995 survey of archaeological frameworks. The brief was to analyse existing documents, record relevant issues and consider possible solutions. The result is a stark portrait of English archaeology as an increasingly fragmented and mercenary profession.

Today field archaeologists can be largely divided into contractors, consultants or curators/planning officers. Many contractors and consultants are working on developer-funded site assessments, evaluations or excavations, without the guidance of regional research frameworks (defined as the current state of knowledge of a specific topic). Thus it is difficult to formulate good research aims for individual field projects and almost impossible to place these research aims in either a regional or national framework. There is general agreement that English archaeology needs regional/ national research frameworks and strategies (defined as proposals for future work). However, beyond this point consensus ends. One problem has been the absence of a clear, workable definition of what constitutes a research framework. Of the 727 framework documents studied in the report, less than 1% fitted the English Heritage definitions of research frameworks and strategies. Most documents contained elements of these functions, plus a diverse range of other things. More worrying was the absence of corroborative data from some framework documents, resulting in unsubstantiated conclusions.

What will be the role of English Heritage in the development of regional or national research frameworks? Now that developer funding pays for rescue excavations, English Heritage wishes to divert

funds to research. English Heritage will not formulate regional research frameworks, but is keen to help others do that. However, it will have a central role in developing national research frameworks.

The report says little on funding policy. But there are hints, such as:- "English Heritage should commission national and area reviews, support a series of national seminars to address specific topics and determine priorities and sponsor high-level thinktanks to attack particular problems" (6.1, page 34). At the site level there is very positive support for research:- "field projects (whether in the private, public, or developer-funded sector) should always include the costs of engaging in relevant research" (4.3, page 25).

The production of a regional archaeological framework must start with the analysis and hopefully publication of past and recent fieldwork. This can then contribute to regional synthesis, along with contributions from research workers and specialists to provide a multi-disciplinary approach. Only when regional frameworks are established can a national future strategy be formulated. Good examples of the type of regional synthesis required to produce a research framework are The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540 and The Archaeology of Essex to 1500°. However, in many regions or counties the lack of up-to-date synthesis prevents the production of a regional research framework. This problem is often compounded by the non-publication of important excavations and research work. A growing problem is the volume of unpublished developer-funded reports languishing unread on the shelves of planning departments or regional archaeological archives. Sadly some regions appear to lack the equivalent of the London Archaeologist Annual Excavation Roundup, to publish site sum-

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