

experience | heritage

Research and Community Programme



MOLA



Sharing heritage

Our Research and Community Programme widens access to archaeology. From national community archaeology projects and local training initiatives to collaborative and ground-breaking research studies, the programme inspires people to be curious about their heritage.

As an Independent Research Organisation (IRO) and leading archaeological and heritage practice, we have the latest discoveries and the sector's leading experts at our fingertips. We share our findings and knowledge through publication, partnership and participation.

We have trained 100s of volunteers in the last three years, the results of our research have been shared in over 1800 articles and publications, and our community archaeology programmes have engaged over 12,000 members of the public face-to-face in the last year alone.

All of this is made possible through the advocacy of our supporters, backing of our donors and through partnership with other organisations.

The Research and Community projects explored in these pages are just a taster of the work being carried out. To find out more, or to offer support, please get in touch support@mola.org.uk or visit our website.



Explore the Research and
Community Programme
in the following pages
and take a closer look at
[mola.org.uk/research-
and-community-projects](http://mola.org.uk/research-and-community-projects)

CITIZAN



5

TEMPLE OF MITHRAS
ORAL HISTORY



7

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PROJECT



9

TIME TRUCK



11

DIGITISED DISEASES



13

ARCHAEOLOGY
TRAINEESHIP



15

THAMES DISCOVERY
PROGRAMME



17

VOLCANO
CLIMATE RESEARCH



19

ARCHAEOLOGY
SESSIONS FOR SCHOOLS



21

PROJECT ANGEL
OPEN DAYS



23

LONDON EVOLUTION
ANIMATION



25

ALTAB ALI PARK DIG



27

As someone who grew up on the coast I believe this to be a hugely important project to record the fascinating history of our coastline. The 70,000 sites that are at risk tell the story of our shared national heritage, so it's vital they are surveyed before the sea takes them.

Heritage Minister, Tracey Crouch



CITIZAN (COASTAL AND INTERTIDAL ZONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NETWORK)

CITiZAN is a national project tackling the threat to England's coastal heritage from storms, tides and rising sea levels. Taking in 5600 miles of coastline and over 500 miles of tidal foreshore, CITiZAN runs free community-based training, building a network of volunteers who can survey and monitor threatened sites using the CITiZAN app before they disappear.

CITiZAN is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with additional support from The Crown Estate, National Trust and Historic England





TEMPLE OF MITHRAS ORAL HISTORY

To capture memories of the discovery of the temple of Mithras in 1954 we undertook an oral history project with Bloomberg. When excavated the temple remains captivated public imagination, with an estimated 400,000 people flocking to catch a glimpse. The oral history archive is an enduring educational and research collection that can be studied and enjoyed by future generations.

‘ Archaeology has a profound ability to stimulate pride of place and foster a sense of shared identity and togetherness. In the hard years that followed the war this discovery seems to have held particular significance. ’

Sophie Jackson, Archaeological Consultant, MOLA

This project was supported by Bloomberg

Bloomberg



ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROJECT

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students from Hackney Community College learned the practical skills of historic building recording on a local 19th-century schoolhouse. As well as learning about a new subject, the students developed their language skills through discussion and debate. The community project went beyond buildings archaeology to engage a marginal group in the community.

“The MOLA project gave ESOL students a great opportunity to carry out fieldwork in a fascinating environment. As well as picking up new skills, students learned about the historic developments of buildings. Students found the project and archaeological discoveries amazing!”

Shuja Ullah, Head of ESOL, Hackney Community College

This project was undertaken with Hackney Community College and supported by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Hackney
Community College

CIFA | Chartered
Institute for
Archaeologists



TIME TRUCK

The Time Truck goes out to communities to inspire them to learn new skills and to discover, care for and experience their local heritage first-hand. From school activity days to local festivals, our specialists lead engaging hands-on sessions in the flexible space. The Time Truck is an mobile-classroom, laboratory, and event space.

“The Time Truck helps us to meet our sustainable business objectives and to take the heritage unlocked by our developments into the very heart of the communities we work in.”

Martin Jepson, President & COO of Brookfield Property Partners, European Offices Division and Mike Rayner, Head of Development at Oxford

The Time Truck is sponsored by Brookfield, Oxford, Stanhope, Wates Giving, Thames Water and Heritage Lottery Fund

Brookfield

OXFORD

STANHOPE



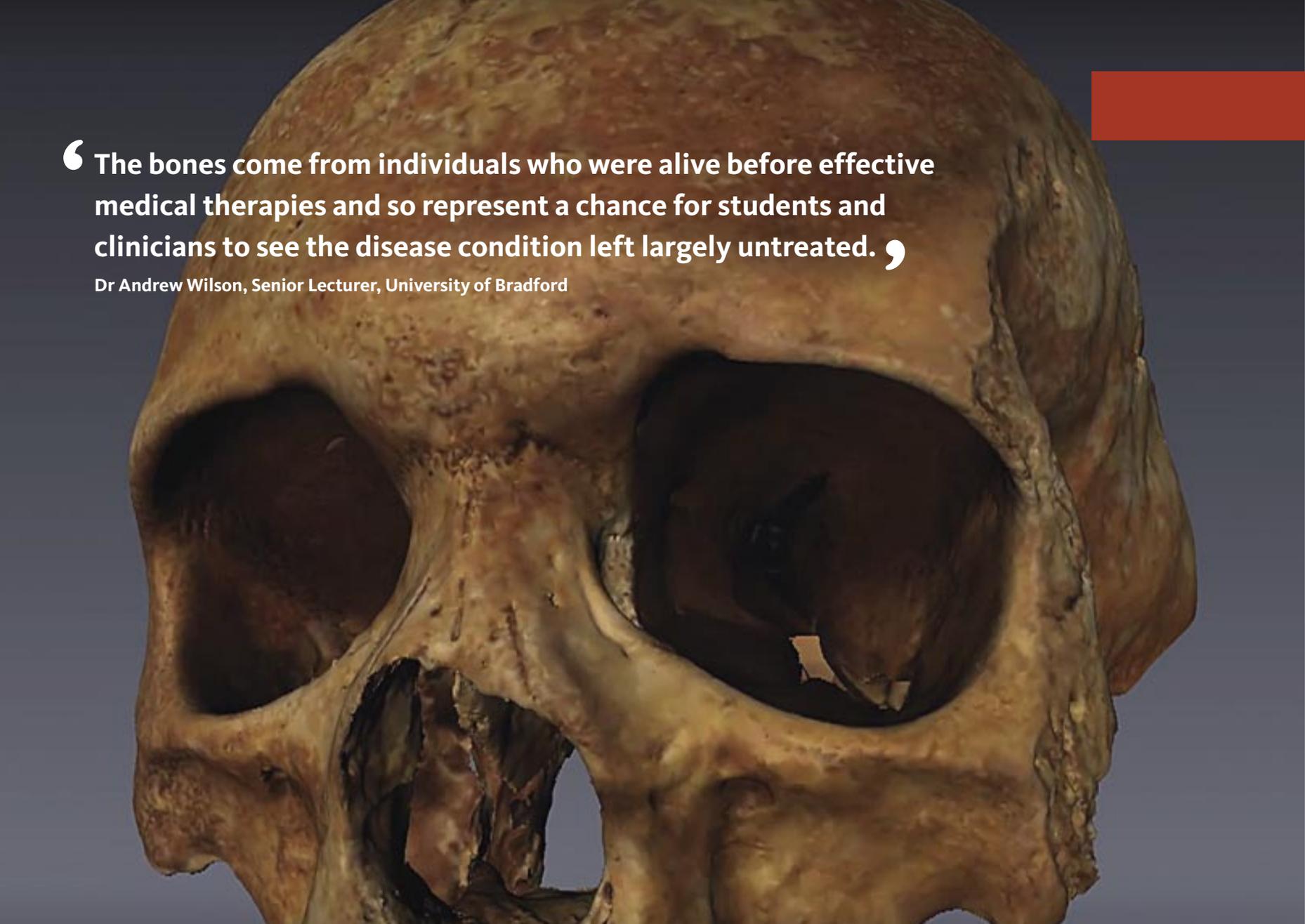
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Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION

Wates
GIVING





‘ The bones come from individuals who were alive before effective medical therapies and so represent a chance for students and clinicians to see the disease condition left largely untreated. ’

Dr Andrew Wilson, Senior Lecturer, University of Bradford

DIGITISED DISEASES

Our specialists worked with a multi-disciplinary team, led by University of Bradford, to produce Digitised Diseases – an open-access resource of human bones, digitised using 3D laser scanning, CT and radiography. Researchers, clinicians and students across the world can use this resource to identify chronic diseases in the skeleton.

This project was created by
University of Bradford and Jisc



“ The development of our towns and cities demands a skilled and committed workforce. Connecting with our heritage is important to achieving this. ”

William McKee CBE, Chairman of the Outer London Commission



ARCHAEOLOGY TRAINEESHIP

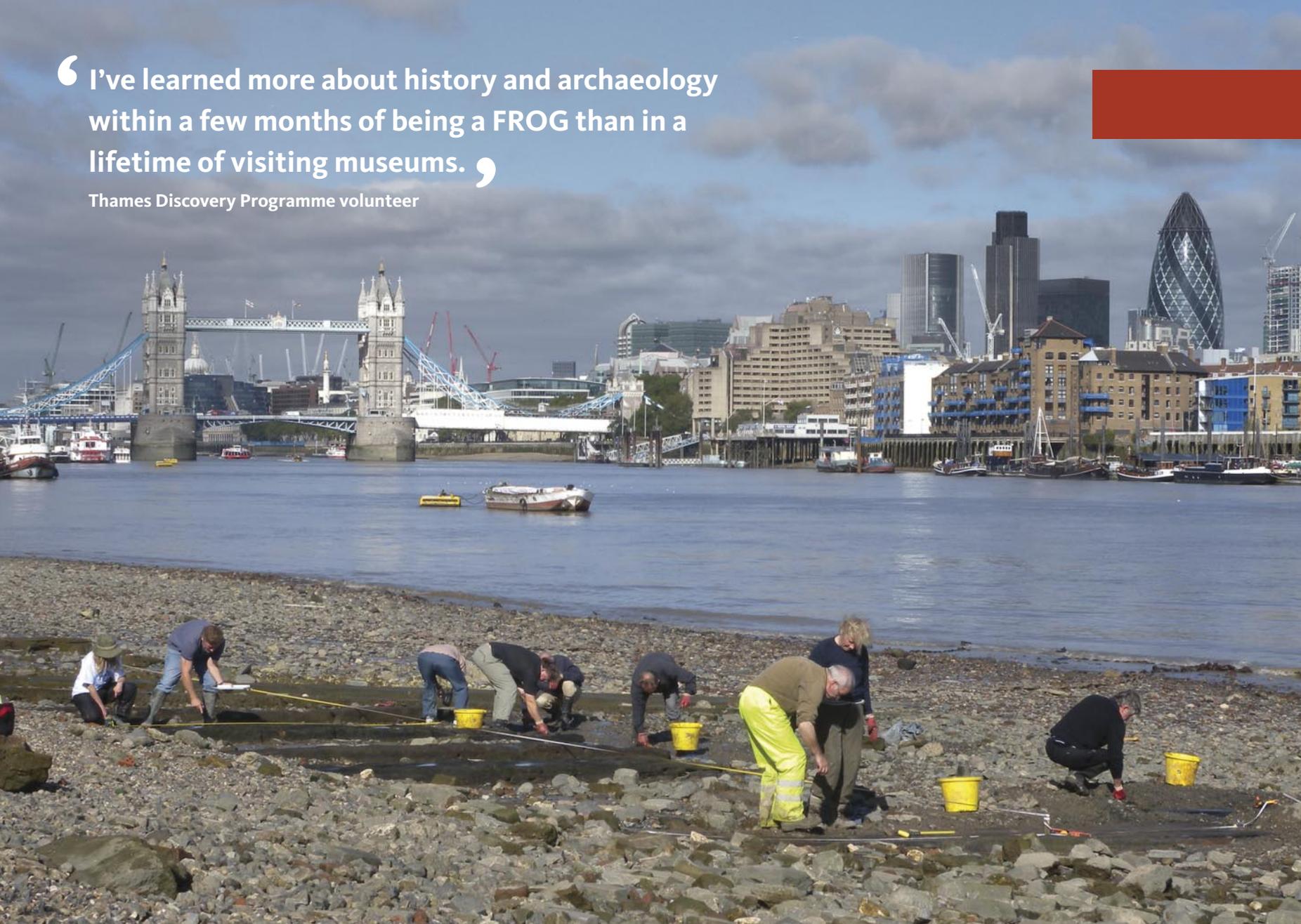
The Archaeology Traineeship provided people passionate about the past with an opportunity to uncover their local heritage for a living. It acted as gateway for those who did not have access to the established routes into the sector, with the many of the trainees now working as professional archaeologists.

The Archaeology Traineeship ran in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council



‘ I’ve learned more about history and archaeology within a few months of being a FROG than in a lifetime of visiting museums. ’

Thames Discovery Programme volunteer



THAMES DISCOVERY PROGRAMME

The Thames Discovery Programme is a multi-award-winning community archaeology project, leading recording and monitoring of the fragile archaeology of the Thames foreshore. Hundreds of people have attended training as part of the Foreshore Recording and Observation Group (FROG), and the project has worked on over 60 sites across the London area.

The Thames Discovery Programme relies on the support of volunteers and partners, including Tideway and The City Bridge Trust



THAMES
DISCOVERY
PROGRAMME





VOLCANO CLIMATE RESEARCH

Through their influence on climate, major volcanic blasts can affect any locality on the planet, and an eruption in distant Indonesia could without doubt reach out to take lives in the UK's capital.

Bill McGuire, Professor of Geophysical and Climate Hazards at University College London

Osteologists researching 10,500 skeletons excavated in London were surprised by radiocarbon dating results for a mass burial pit. This led them to study contemporary historical records and other scientific data. A link between these burials and a catastrophic volcano that erupted in Indonesia in 1258 was established. The research is hugely significant for studies on the global effects of natural disasters and climate change.

This research was funded by the Spitalfields Development Group





ARCHAEOLOGY SESSIONS FOR SCHOOLS

Key Stage 1-2 pupils from Lambeth and Southwark took part in interactive lessons to learn about the history of their local area. Guided by our archaeologists, students excavated artefacts from dig boxes, drew and recorded the finds and considered how the archaeological remains relate to local historical maps and events. The sessions develop skills outlined in the National Curriculum.

These sessions are funded by CoLAT

CoLAT
The City of London
Archaeological Trust

“ I loved that it was hands on...makes history more approachable for the children. ”

A teacher from Comber Grove Primary School, Southwark



PROJECT ANGEL OPEN DAYS

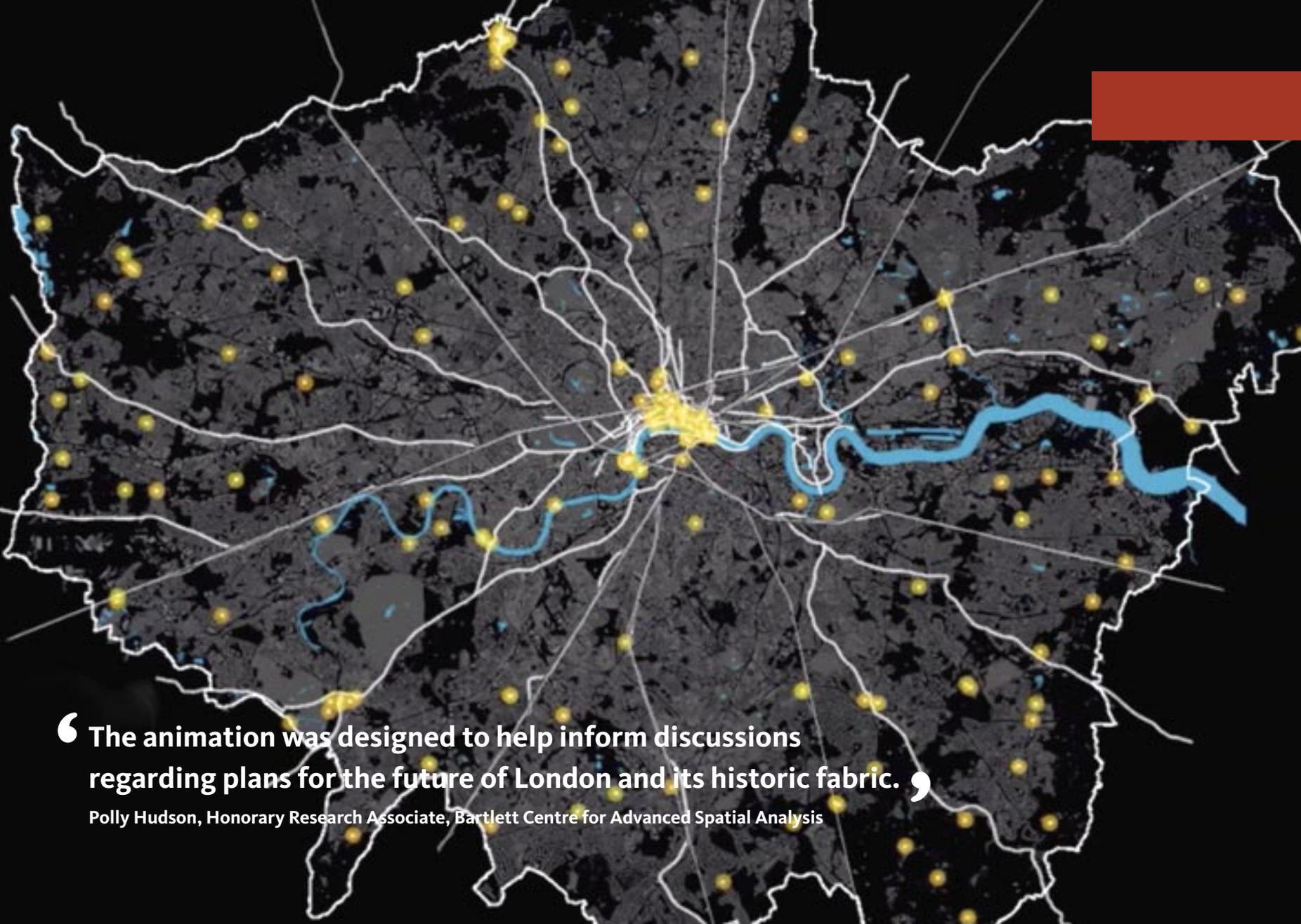
‘As always, it is vital that when we develop land in this way we never lose sight of our heritage. The archaeological works undertaken on the site, combined with the open days, were an opportunity to ensure that this was the case.’

Leader of Northamptonshire County Council, Cllr Jim Harker

Excavations in the heart of Northampton greatly added to our understanding of the town’s origins and development. Whilst the archaeologists continued their work, the site opened its doors to the public for two days with a series of specialist-led workshops and objects from the dig on display. Around 500 local residents came to see the work unfold and to quiz the team about their discoveries.

The open days were supported by
Northamptonshire County Council





LONDON EVOLUTION ANIMATION

A digital animation showing the development of London from its Roman beginnings to the present day was created by UCL's Flora Roumpani.

We provided specialist archaeological datasets to assist with the mapping.

The London Evolution Animation uses georeferenced road network data to demonstrate the extent of the city over time. The animation has been extremely popular with over 325,000 views on YouTube.

“The animation was designed to help inform discussions regarding plans for the future of London and its historic fabric.”

Polly Hudson, Honorary Research Associate, Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis

The animation was created by Flora Roumpani at The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, UCL, directed by Polly Hudson Design for Historic England, with additional data provided by Dr Kiril Stanilov at the Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure and Construction, University of Cambridge



ALTAB ALI PARK DIG AND MUSEUM

Altab Ali Park in East London was transformed into a temporary open-air museum and archaeological dig. Working in partnership with muf architecture, local school children took part in the excavation and local residents brought personal objects to the site to display alongside the finds discovered. The project resonated with the community, with hundreds of people visiting over a week.

“When I saw the church walls come out of the ground and understood how each object we found tells a tale about the way people lived, it made me wonder at the bigger story and how I am part of that too.”

Pupil from Mulberry School

This project was run in partnership with
muf architecture for High Street 2012

muf





If you have a passion for
the past please support
the Research and
Community Programme.

Visit [mola.org.uk/
support-us](https://mola.org.uk/support-us) to find out
how you can help.



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