

**Lambeth Palace: London Borough of Lambeth**

**Site types: Urban and Historic Building Recording**

**Fieldwork: MOLA (2018 - 2024)**

**GLHER Records: [LAMBETH PALACE MASTERPLAN at Lambeth Palace Road London](#)**

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### **Proposed scheme**

Lambeth Palace is a nationally important heritage asset, including a range of Listed Grade I buildings, but is not a scheduled monument.

A planning application was submitted in 2021 for a significant number of improvements to enable the Palace to be carbon net zero by improving accessibility, renewing infrastructure through building services and the construction of a new air source energy centre as part of a wider sustainability programme. Planning permission included three heritage conditions: archaeology, building recording and public engagement.

### **Archaeological response**

A program of pre-application internal and external test pits were excavated during 2020 demonstrated the anticipated high level of archaeological survival within these spaces.

MOLA submitted archaeology and building recording written schemes of investigation, alongside a Public Engagement Framework by the project architects, Wright & Wright.

Given the confined spaces and limited option to vary the route of the services, it was necessary to adopt a process by which segments of service trenches were archaeologically excavated to reveal the buried structural remains. Then the precise route through the areas stripped could be agreed to minimise impact. The guiding principle was that whilst nineteenth and twentieth century masonry and drains could be recorded and removed, late seventeenth and eighteenth-century archaeology could only be subject to limited removal and for earlier period walls were to be left undisturbed if at all possible.

Internal walls that were to be stripped of plaster or other render was subject to a rolling program of recording.

Regular site meetings and a good working relationship between archaeologists and the client's team were essential to achieve mutually satisfactory outcome.

## Outcomes

The project was delivered with a low level of harm to archaeology and has shown for the first time that extensive Saxo-Norman chalk block constructed buildings occur across much of the inner court area as well as in the area of the Tudor Morton's Tower.



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