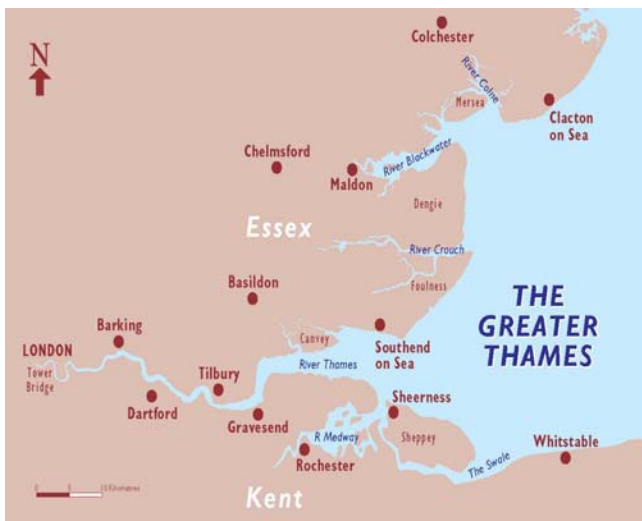


## **THE GREATER THAMES ESTUARY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK**

### **The Update and Revision of the Greater Thames Research Framework (Williams and Brown 1999)**

#### **SUMMARY 1 – JUNE 2007**

In 1999 'An Archaeological Research Framework for the Greater Thames Estuary' was published by the Greater Thames Archaeological Steering Committee. The research framework reviewed the existing state of knowledge, and developed a research agenda and strategy to underpin decision making and research, and to enhance our understanding of the region's historic environment. The GTE Research Framework covers an area from Whitstable in Kent, upstream to Tower Bridge then around to Clacton, Essex.



Since the publication of the research framework a considerable amount of work has been carried out in and around the estuary and the update and revision of the framework is now being undertaken (funded through English Heritage) co-ordinated by Essex County Council (Ellen Heppell) on the behalf of the Greater Thames Steering Committee.

The over-arching aim of this update and review of is to provide an enhanced framework to underpin curatorial decisions, and provide a basis for programmes of research which is up-to-date and relevant. In order to achieve this it is important that individuals and groups studying, working on and managing the resource in the region can contribute to the revision. A wide range of stakeholders will be consulted through the course of the project - documents will be issued and the preparation of the framework will progress through cycles of consultation, document review and revision. Key changes to the resource assessment will be identified, but the main focus of the review will be to update and amend the agenda and strategy in light of work that has taken place.

## **Project update and request for information**

The project team are currently gathering information on significant projects which have been carried out since the original framework (1998) in order to consider their contribution to the resource assessment, research agenda and strategy. This will include, for example, field and desk-based projects, work carried out through the development control process, research projects, thematic surveys and synthesis projects. The input of stakeholders is crucial to this process.

Please let us know about any significant projects which you have carried out in the area or that you are aware of. Please include the name of the project, its location, type of work, a brief summary of results, and what contribution they have made to addressing the research agenda or if they have raised new questions (a pro-forma for responses is available on request). Could you please provide this information to Ellen Heppell by the end of August, thanks.

In order to develop the revised research agenda and strategy key questions we will consider include:

- What has been done / what are the key projects in the Greater Thames?
- What has been learnt from the work that has been carried out?
- What has changed?
- Whether the existing resource assessment / research agenda covers the relevant themes?
- What framework objectives need to be revised or added in light of the more recent work?

If you have any thoughts on these please include them. For information, a pdf of the published framework can be downloaded from the Thames Estuary Partnership website at:

[http://www.thamesweb.com/page.php?page\\_id=63&topic\\_id=10](http://www.thamesweb.com/page.php?page_id=63&topic_id=10)

Many thanks

**Ellen Heppell**          Project Officer

e-mail: [ellen.heppell@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.heppell@essexcc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01376 331431

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit

Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road

Braintree

Essex CM7 3YQ