



INSTITUTE OF
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

August 8th, 2018.

I am writing to you as director of the Layers of London project, led by the University of London's Institute of Historical Research in partnership with Historic England, the National Archives, The British Library, the London Metropolitan Archives, the Museum of London Archaeology and Birkbeck, and a number of local libraries and archives. Layers of London has been made possible by National Lottery players through the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as through the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Ford Britain Trust, and the Institute of Historical Research Trust.

The project aims to engage with hundreds of thousands of Londoners from across the city's 32 boroughs, providing them with the tools to explore and share their histories and identities through a state-of-the-art website to be launched on September 21st. The website will be a platform through which Londoners can contribute to developing a record of our great multicultural city, using layered historic maps as a base upon which to record hundreds of thousands of stories, voices, perspectives, memories, and histories. No comparable website exists.

Members of the public will be able to peel back the layers of London's history, all the way to the Roman period, and explore interactively – wherever they are – the story of London's remarkable, diverse and sometimes turbulent history over 2,000 years and its evolution into the city it is today.

More importantly, the website will be a co-production with the public, using a range of ways - social media, online tools, workshops and training events - to involve people of all kinds across London's diverse boroughs and beyond. We have an active programme of school and community engagement, and have developed the latter to dovetail with the London and National Curricula, namely but not exclusively in history and geography.

The result will be a lasting legacy for London's heritage, allowing content to be added for many years. The legacy for this project is enormous, including plans to replicate the map nationally.

It is our pleasure to invite you to the launch of the Layers of London website on September 21st 2018, from 6-8pm in the Chancellor's Hall of Senate House, Malet Street.

This will be a chance to share more information about the project and to meet project partners, community groups and volunteers.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Matthew Davies

Director, Layers of London Project

Executive Dean, School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy; Birkbeck, University of London



Layers of London

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