Brief history of Greenwich

These notes were created as research for the Historic England Heritage Schools local history timeline for the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

There is so much more information than we could possibly fit on the twenty-one timeline slides. The notes take the story of the Greenwich area from its earliest inhabitants up to the modern day, tracing the evolution of the borough.

The story of Greenwich is set in the context of national and sometimes international events, as they shaped the local area. The local evidence for historical events is highlighted in blue in the text. There is also a focus on how history affects the built environment, influencing building styles, art, and architecture. Key building styles and local examples are highlighted in red.

There is also a little explanation about the date notation, as this changes over time, from Years Ago, when dealing with the very distant past, to AD for the last 2,000 years. All dates are highlighted in green.

Many images of local buildings can be accessed in the Historic England online archive: http://archive.historicengland.org.uk, while photos of listed buildings can be found here: http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk. Links to further resources to support the timeline Enquiry Questions are also provided at the end of this document.

We hope this resource will be of interest to teachers and help them answer any questions they or their pupils have about their local heritage.

Prehistory

Early humans first evolved in Africa and gradually spread into the Middle East, Asia, Europe and beyond. The first humans arrived in the British Isles when the land was still connected to mainland Europe.

Palaeolithic (**45000 YA - 11000 YA** – 'Years Ago' used when talking about very distant and inexact periods) People were simple hunter-gatherers, semi-nomadic, living in temporary shelters. Flint tools recovered from the Greenwich area show people were staying here during the Palaeolithic: e.g. flint flakes found during the demolition of the Green Man pub on Blackheath Hill.

Mesolithic (**11000 - 4000 YA**) At the end of the Ice Ages people re-inhabited Britain, before the melting ice caused rising sea-levels and cut off the British Isles from mainland Europe. Many settlements were on the coast or riversides, and fishing was an important part of the lifestyle. Finds have been recovered by dredging the Thames adjacent to Greenwich: e.g. stone axe and flint blades, along with a red deer or reindeer antler pick recovered at Elliots' Works, Connington Road, Lewisham.

Neolithic (**c.4000 - c.2000 BC** – 'Before Christ' used for more recent prehistory when relative dates can be worked out from the recorded lifetime of Jesus Christ. Usually used with c. or circa, meaning 'about') People begin to make permanent settlements, farming the land, and the earliest evidence of simple rectangular houses made of wood is known. Material recovered from the Thames include a polished stone axe found by Norway Wharf, Greenwich, and a flint sickle, used in farming.

Bronze Age (**c.2000 - c.700 BC**) Gold had been used for ornaments since the Neolithic, but the discovery of bronze allowed people to make metal tools and weapons. They continued to farm and lived in roundhouses. Local finds have been recovered from the Thames: e.g. a socketed axe-head, a spearhead ferrule and a Late Bronze Age sword was found in a peat layer at the Arsenal in 1778. Greenwich Park, over-looking river, was probably a site of significance and several Bronze Age burial barrows are known. Traces of a possible wooden trackway for crossing the marshes have been found near Bellot Street in Greenwich.

Iron Age (**c.700 BC - c.100 AD** – 'Anno Domini' with years counted since the birth of Christ, 'Year of Our Lord' in Latin) Iron was stronger and easier to work than bronze, so after its discovery people could make a greater range of useful tools. In general, lifestyles were still agricultural with small-scale trade, but people in Britain had started to form together as tribes in tribal territories. There is evidence of local settlements: e.g. the excavation at the Dover Castle pub on Deptford Broadway recovered a fragment of saddle quern (used for grinding grain to flour), a flint blade, and some coarse pottery.

Neolithic or Bronze Age polished stone axe found in the Thames at Brooks Wharf, Greenwich

Most of the area remained open countryside, with scattered settlements, surrounded by farmland and forests. People lived in round buildings - roundhouses - constructed of wooden frames and wattle plaster walls with straw roofs, and little traces of these buildings survive. They had a central hearth (fireplace) for heat, cooking, and light and smoke escaped through the straw. No evidence has been found for windows.

History begins with the creation of written records, which in Britain came with the Romans.

Julius Caesar (the most famous Roman Emperor who wasn't actually an emperor, but a General) invaded Britain in **55 BC**, towards the end of the Iron Age. At the time Britain was divided into many small tribal kingdoms. The Greenwich area was ruled by the Cantiaci tribe, who Caesar described in his books as the most civilised of all the British tribes. Most people lived on isolated farms, but there were villages and larger towns that the Romans called *oppidum* (single). In the towns people held markets to trade goods and craftsmen had workshops, like metalworking. Traces of *oppida* (plural) sometimes survive as paved streets or ditches, which were dug as defences around the town.

An oppidum dating to the 1st century BC was discovered during work on the Waterfront Development, between Beresford Street and the Thames, Woolwich. It was surrounded by two lines of ditches and seems to have been an important settlement. In the Roman period the site was reused as a fort. Where the power station used to stand, large amounts of 3rd and 4th century pottery have been found.

The Cantiaci capital was at Canterbury. They also had close trade relations with tribes in Belgium and northern France (known to the Romans as Gaul).

Julius Caesar arrived in Britain to intervene in a dispute between different tribes and did not stay long. But he wrote about the wealth of the island, in particular its corn, tin, dogs and the potential for slaves. The Romans returned with large armies in **43 AD**, intending to make Britain part of its empire, and many tribes resisted. It is thought that some of the Cantiaci people fled north, moving to Scotland (which the Romans called Pictland) as refugees, forming a new tribe called the Decantae.

Gold coin minted in Gaul c 2nd Century BC (200-100 BC), found in Plumstead in 1861. The decoration shows a stylised horse.

Romano-Britain (43 - 410 AD / 1st - 5th century)

Roman colonisation happened alongside existing ancient British settlements; the Romans built a fort and theatre at Canterbury and it developed into a bustling city (*civitas*). Roman buildings were typically arrangements of rooms around an open courtyard. They used decorative carved stone, bricks, and clay tiles, so traces more often survive. This creates the impression that everyone immediately started living in brick villas once the Romans came. But only the richest, most important people did; most ordinary Britons continued to live in simple roundhouses, the traces of which are difficult to find. A late Iron Age defended enclosure was recorded at Hanging Shaw Wood in Charlton, covering seven hectares (70,000 M2). Material recovered from the site suggests it continued to be used after the Roman colonisation.

In Greenwich Park, to the east between the Vanbrugh and Maze Hill Gates is the site of a Roman villa or temple. A small area of red paving tesserae protected by railings marks the site that was excavated. About 300 coins were found dating from the 1st - 5th century AD.

Fragments of carved marble recovered from the site of the temple during an excavation in 1904.

Across southern Britain locals gradually adopted Roman styles and habits, inter-marrying with settlers from across the empire; including much of Europe and parts of North Africa and the Middle East. By the 4th century, the inhabitants of southern and Eastern Britain were Romano-British, while the ancient British tribes were pushed into the far north and Scotland, beyond Hadrian's Wall, to Cornwall in the west, and to Wales (the Welsh and Cornish languages are survivals of ancient British languages).

Romano-British pottery jar recovered at Woolwich Arsenal in the 19th century

While digging new sewers at the junction of Deptford Broadway and Deptford High Street in 1866, Roman brick foundations and tessellated (tiled) pavements were found. During work since, fragments (sherds) of pottery have been found dating from the 2nd - 4th century AD.

An ancient British trading route had run from St Albans in Hertfordshire all the way to Canterbury. The Romans paved this and it later became known as Watling Street, extending all the way from the coast at Dover to Wroxeter, close to the border with Wales. Roman roads were important; soldiers marched them, government messages travelled along them and traders used them to send their goods to markets. Settlements close to Roman roads grew and became important. Romans also used to build their cemeteries along the roadside, outside their towns, so everyone could see and remember the dead.

Watling Street was maintained into Saxon and Medieval times as an important route from London to Canterbury and traces survive today. It runs through the modern borough of Greenwich, known as the A207 or Shooters Hill Road as it crosses through Eltham and then clips the edge of Blackheath on the route of the Old Dover Road. It ran through Greenwich Park on an alignment with Vanbrugh Park. While the main road continued on to London, a minor road seems to have followed the route of the A206. In Woolwich, this is known as Beresford Street, and a cremation cemetery was found at Beresford Square. It is known as the High Street in Plumstead and Roman cremation urns have been found there too.

Saxon (410 - 1066 / 5th - 11th century)

The Roman government withdrew in the early 5th century; Emperor Honorius famously wrote to the Britons in **410** telling them to 'look to their own defences', as he was struggling to defend Rome against barbarian attacks. While many ordinary Romans stayed, official systems fell into disuse. Germanic peoples - the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, often grouped together as the Anglo-Saxons or just Saxons - took the opportunity to leave their crowded homelands to settle in southern Britain. Men from these areas had worked in Britain as mercenaries in the Roman army for many years and pottery and a quern stone (for hand-grinding flour) from Germany dating to the 3rd or 4th century was found near Summerton Way in Thamesmead. (The river levels later rose, losing any other traces of settlement).

Arriving on ships, the Saxons formed settlements along the Thames, including Lundenwic, just west to the abandoned Roman city of Londinium. They took over existing Romano-British towns and the name Greenwich – Grenewic – is Saxon, meaning the green place near the river mouth. Places ending in -wich, which can also mean town or market, or -ham, meaning a homestead, usually indicate a Saxon history.

The Saxon people had a lot in common with the Britons; they had no written language, had a spoken tradition of storytelling, worshipped a range of different gods, and lived in houses made of wood, wattle, and straw. Windows would not have been glazed, so would be small, to keep the rooms warm. Houses had a central hearth and smoke escaped through a hole in the roof. A key difference was that Saxon houses were rectangular, and sometimes outlines of these buildings survive buried. German styles and culture began to mix with local traditions to form the Anglo-Saxon culture and language (usually called Old English). But colonisation wasn't all peaceful; the Saxons pushed the ancient Britons (who they called Welsh, from their word meaning foreigner) into marginal areas such as forests, taking the best farming land near major waterways for themselves.

Evidence has been found for Saxon settlements, probably based on fishing and small-scale trade, at Woolwich, Greenwich (known as West Greenwich) and Deptford (known as East Greenwich). These were part of an area known as the Hundred of Blackheath.

The Anglo-Saxons divided land into *hides*, one hide being enough farmable land to support a family. Ten hides was known as a *tithings*, equalling ten families who had to pay taxes (tithes) to the king. Although so far no one has been able to say for certain, a Hundred is believed to be an area of land supporting 100 families. Hundreds were governed by a system of collective responsibility known as Frankpledge (people promised - pledged - to make sure they all obeyed the laws, or everyone would be held responsible). The people of each Hundred met at a meeting place known as a 'moot', where they discussed local issues and chose officials - reeves - who were responsible for enacting common laws. The moot for the Hundred of Blackheath took place at the open space known as Blackheath.

[The noble equivalent of the moot was the *Witenagemot*, an informal assembly of the ruling class – secular and ecclesiastic. The Witenagemot met to advise the king. The earliest surviving Old English prose document is a law code issued after a Witenagemot held by Ethelberht of Kent in about 600 AD. Witenagemot is the inspiration for the Wizengamot in the Harry Potter books.]

The area the London Borough of Greenwich is now within was settled by Jutes in the 6th century, who established the Kingdom of Kent (which roughly corresponds to the modern county of Kent). The Hundred of Blackheath included Mottingham and Chislehurst (now in the LB of Bromley); Sydenham, Hither Green, Brockley Green, Lee and Deptford St Paul (now in LB Lewisham). It also included Blackheath (now split between LB Lewisham and LB Greenwich), as well as Deptford St Nicholas, Woolwich, Eltham, Charlton, Kidbrooke, Plumstead, Shooters Hill, and Greenwich town. Abbey Wood and Thamesmead Moorings - part of modern LB Greenwich - were in the historic Hundred of Lesnes. (NB: Not all these places existed in Saxon times - there were a lot less people back then and settled areas were smaller and fewer.)

Much of the area was forested, although this was cleared over time. The Weald of Kent was an ancient wood stretching from Romney Marsh in Kent to the New Forest, Hampshire. *Weald* is the Old English word meaning woodland. Old English is the language that evolved out of the Saxon languages, mixing with bits of Latin and ancient British.

The Kingdom of Kent was the first recorded Anglo-Saxon kingdom and by the end of 6th century had become a significant political power, exercising control over large parts of southern and eastern Britain. Kent had strong trade and political links with Francia (the territory that was to become France) - which is probably where the idea for Frankspledge came from - the people of Francia were known as Franks.

A brooch from a Saxon grave, dating to the 7th century. Recovered from a grave in Sarre, Thanet, Kent.

Orpington, now in LB Bromley next door to Greenwich, was an important settlement in this new kingdom. Grave goods - personal belongings buried alongside the dead to take to the afterlife, like weapons, jewellery - indicate Fordcraft cemetery in Orpington was in use between **450 - 550 AD**.

In **597** the Roman bishop Augustine was welcomed by Queen Bertha of Kent, a Frankish (French) princess, who was already Christian before she married. Augustine set up a new church at Canterbury and began to convert the Saxons. (The only stone buildings in the Saxon period were churches, which reused Roman building material and roughly carved stone. Augustine's first church was probably built like this and traces survive in the church of St Martin in Canterbury.). Christianity had been adopted by many Romano-British several hundred years earlier. It was preserved in the areas where the Britons lived and its influence on the Saxons grew over time. Known as the Celtic Church, it had different customs to the Roman Church, most importantly the date on which Easter was celebrated. This was finally agreed at the assembly known as the Synod of Whitby in 664AD. After this the Roman Church gradually became the norm across Britain.

In 2015, on the Royal Arsenal Riverside site, a cemetery of 76 skeletons of women, men, and children was found. Radiocarbon dated to the **late 7th - early 8th century**, they tie in with the Woolwich settlement. The lack of grave goods (just one knife was found) indicates the people were Christian.

In the **8th century**, Kent became part of the Kingdom of Mercia. It was taken over by the famous King Offa, who built Offa's Dyke, the earthen barrier that runs roughly along the border between England and Wales, separating the Ancient Britons from the Saxons. Offa's wife, Cynethryth is the only Anglo-Saxon queen – or in Western Europe at the time – known to have been depicted on a coin, which indicates her power and influence. Noble and royal women enjoyed significant independent wealth and power during the Anglo-Saxon period, such as the Lady of Mercia, who ruled in her own right, not just as a wife.

In the **9th century**, Kent became part of the kingdom of Wessex, whose most famous king was Ælfred the Great, who oversaw a flowering of learning during his reign, with new schools established and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles (yearly records of important events) first published. The late 9th century was a time of repeated Viking attacks across the British Isles. Although the single, unified Kingdom of England didn't officially exist, the separate Anglo-Saxon kingdoms joined together under Ælfred to resist the Vikings. Viking ships repeatedly sailed up the Thames to attack the rich trading city of London. In **871**, Danish Vikings (the Danes) occupied the city and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles mention that ships were moored on the Thames at Greenwich and at Deptford in Ravensbourne Creek. Although no evidence has been found for this, a buried hoard of coins found near Waterloo Bridge, 6 miles up the River Thames from Greenwich, are believed to date to this time. Most of the coins had the mark of king Ælfred and were probably buried by a wealthy Londoner to prevent the Vikings stealing them. (We can't say whether something happened to the owner, or they couldn't find them again once it was safe.)

A silver halfpenny with the mark of Alfred the Great

Ælfred finally re-occupied and re-fortified London in **886 AD**. But by the **890s**, large groups of Viking settlers - including women and children as well as men - had established themselves inland from the Kent coast and further attempts were made to take control of London and the region.

In the **10th century**, the Kingdom of Kent was absorbed into the new Kingdom of England, united under King Æthelstan, grandson of Ælfred the Great. Athelstan was crowned at Kingston upon Thames, 16 miles from Greenwich. The first capital of England was at Winchester, where it stayed until the 12th century. But none of the Saxon capital is still standing, as even the royal palaces were great halls made entirely of wood with straw thatch roofs. Traces of wood recovered show that Saxon buildings were decorated with carvings of interlaced patterns, sometimes painted in bright yellows and reds. The new country established links with European nations, through treaties and royal marriages.

Most of the area of Greenwich and the Blackheath Hundred remained heavily wooded, with cleared areas of farmland and small towns. In **960** King Edgar gifted farmland known as Plumstead to St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. Edgar was known as 'the Peaceful' and this was a peaceful, prosperous time across England.

The Danes had continued to attack English territory and Danish rule in the north and midlands had been established as the Danelaw in the 10th century. In **1011**, the Danish fleet was anchored at Greenwich while the army camped on the hill above. The Danes raided Canterbury, kidnapping the archbishop Alfege and brought him to Greenwich before killing him in 1012. The church of St Alfege in Greenwich is named in his memory. By 1016, the Danish king Cnut claimed rule over all England (as well as Denmark, Norway, and parts of Sweden). Æthelred the Unready (from the Old English 'unreedy', meaning badly advised) was unable to unite England to defend itself against Cnut. Æthelred's son Edward the Confessor was briefly followed as king by Harold Godwinson, the last Anglo-Saxon king of England.

A copper and silver ornament of a stone church tower, 10th century, found at Canterbury

In his 24-year reign Edward the Confessor was busy. He began aggressive campaigns to bring Scotland and Wales under English rule. In **1042** he also began building Westminster Abbey and developing a royal centre close to, but independent from London. Influenced by Norman building styles - his mother Emma was a Norman - he used carved stone to build. Nothing survives of this building as it was knocked down in 1245 to make way for the Abbey that stands today.

The disputed succession to the English throne allowed the Normans to invade from Northern France (Normandy), claiming Edward had named their ruler Duke William (aka The Conqueror) as his heir.

Norman (**1066 - 1154**)

The Domesday Book was written in **1086** by the Norman conquerors, detailing all their new lands. Instead of the Hundred of Blackheath, it records the Hundred of Grenviz (Greenwich).

The Domesday Book names seven places in the Hundred of Greenwich: Eltham, Lewisham, Greenwich, Charlton, Lee, Woolwich, and Wricklemarsh (an area close to Kidbrooke). The land (except Lewisham) was held by Bishop Odo of Bayeaux - the Norman who had the famous Bayeaux tapestry made. The record shows there were 202 households, mostly fishing and farming with some craft work, like pottery making and blacksmithing or metal working.

Over time a new culture emerged in England, as the Norman French and Anglo-Saxon cultures mixed. But that took centuries. For the first couple of hundred years of Norman rule, the rulers – kings, lords, bishops – spoke French or Latin, while the ordinary people spoke Old English. Ordinary people also continued to live in simple wooden houses around a central open fire hearth, with un-paned windows and small doors, working mostly as farmers. Many Anglo-Saxons lost the freedom they had enjoyed; they became serfs (basically slaves, also known as peasants). They had to work for the local lord for free, pay taxes, and had to ask permission to marry or to leave their village. Stone was used for the most important buildings, mainly castles and churches. As stone survives much better than wood, this period gives us the earliest examples of surviving standing buildings, the most famous example being the Tower of London, 4.5 miles from Greenwich.

Castles were built by the local lord as the main building in his territory, which was known as a manor. Castles were typified by defensive features; high walls to protect the stone buildings inside, battlements, and slit windows to make them easily defended against attack. While some Saxon churches had been built of wood, from the Norman period all churches were built of stone. Norman churches were typified by high ceilings, wide doors, and large, stained-glass windows, to inspire uplifting feelings in those coming to worship. The inside would have been brightly painted, including gold leaf that sparkled in the candlelight. Churches took on increased importance as the main building in the territory known as a parish.

The manor and the parish governed the local area (often covering the same territory), with the lord overseeing the local court and local laws including the continuation of the Frankspledge system, and collecting taxes. The Church (capital C meaning the organisation, small c meaning the building) also collected taxes - known as tithes, after the Saxon word - which it used to provide services to people of the local parish, such as caring for the sick and some basic education.

After the Conquest, when the ordinary Saxons lost their free status and became serfs, the reeves - who had been elected as local representative - became part of the manorial system. The reeve was still elected but was himself also a serf and acted as a go-between the lord and the serfs.

Possibly because the local lord was a bishop (not a military knight or Baron), no castles are known in the Greenwich area, but a number of churches and religious buildings survive. Many of the original Norman churches, like St Alfege in Greenwich, were later rebuilt. Traces of the original buildings survive in some, as in the Church of St Nicholas, Deptford and St Nicholas Plumstead.

Abbey Wood, in the south of the modern borough of Greenwich, was once part of the lands belonging to Lesnes Abbey. The ruins of the abbey are in the modern LB of Bexley. The Abbey of St Mary and St Thomas the Martyr was founded in **1178**.

A jug dating 1275-1300 found at Lesnes Abbey

Abbeys were religious organisations where monks or nuns lived, worked (for example producing illuminated manuscripts), and worshiped. They usually include dormitories for sleeping, refectories for eating, kitchens, workshops, infirmaries for the sick and chapels. The buildings were taken down and the materials reused as part of the Dissolution in the 16th century.

Medieval (1154 - 1485)

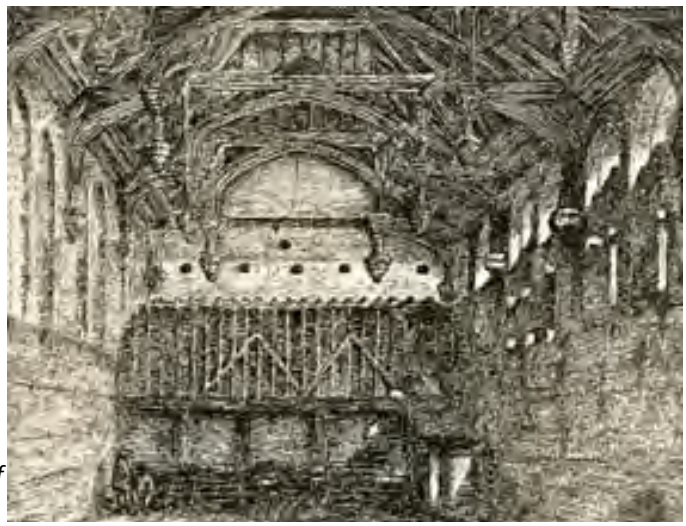
The **12th century** was a turbulent period for England, as disputes over the succession to the throne led to a civil war between the supporters of King Stephen and Empress Matilda. The succession was finally agreed in **1154**. The Norman period ended and rule by the Plantagenet-Angevin dynasty continued until they were displaced by the Tudors. There were also arguments between the royal rulers and the Church, leading to the assassination of Thomas A Becket, the archbishop of Canterbury in the cathedral there.

In the **13th century**, the focus of the conflict turned outwards, with consecutive wars between England and Scotland and England and Wales throughout the century. (England officially conquered Wales in **1283**, although the Welsh princes continued to revolt until the final defeat of Owain Glyndŵr (Owen Glendower) at Harlech Castle in 1409.)

The continuing wars in the 13th century brought hardship to ordinary people, through demands for more taxes to pay for the army. The army also took up more than its fair share of resources, e.g. food. Serfs were forced to serve in the army, which meant fewer people farming and less food produced.

The local lords – known as the Barons – also felt the pinch, since they also had obligations to provide men and arms to support the king in battle. In **1215**, the Barons revolted against King John. They demanded limits to the money they had to pay the king, protection from illegal imprisonment, and the right to trial. The king agreed to sign a charter granting these rights. Although the rights were limited to the Barons and freemen at first (i.e. not serfs), the Magna Carta became the inspiration for many later bill of rights. In 1215, the Lord of West Greenwich was Geoffrey de Say. He was born in West Greenwich, although no traces of his manor or castle are known. He inherited the manor of Deptford through his wife Alice. Her great-grandfather is thought to have built a castle at Broomfield (modern Evelyn Street). He was one of the 25 rebels who confronted King John at Runnymede and signed as guarantor to the Magna Carta.

The 35-year rule of King Edward I, who reformed much common law, brought relative peace and stability to many in England. However he had a reputation for brutal treatment of the Scots and he forced all Jewish people to leave England in **1290**. This otherwise peaceful time was reflected by the construction of large palaces, like Eltham Palace. It was gifted to the king by the bishops of Durham in 1305. Edward III held Parliament here in 1329 and 1375 and the palace hosted a visit by Manuel II Palaiologis, in 1400, the only Byzantine emperor to visit England. It remains an official royal palace and the Great Hall is still standing today. Built of stone, the hall is a typical high status medieval building, with high timber-beamed ceilings and tall arched windows paned with glass. The floor would have been covered with brightly painted tiles and the walls decorated with murals. At this time, there was probably a royal lodge at Greenwich; the park was used for hunting and in **1308** the ferry at Woolwich was first mentioned in historic records.



Interior view of the banqueting hall of Eltham Palace, drawn c1828-1845

The **14th century** saw further wars with Scotland, and new wars between England and France: In **1338**, the (not quite) Hundred Years' War began as a dispute over the throne of France. The situation for the English got even worse when the Black Death (bubonic plague) arrived in **1348**, resulting in the death of one third of the whole population of England. At the time, life for most people was very hard, filled with hard physical work and little time off except for church and religious holidays. They lived in small cottages made of wattle and daub (plaster mixed with animal dung). Windows were small and unglazed, the place was heated with a central hearth, and candles were a rare luxury. Smoke was supposed to escape through the thatched roof, but often hung around making the building dark and unpleasant. The poor conditions led to the Peasants Revolt of **1381**, when ordinary people rose up to demand the end of serfdom, better rights, and the reduction of taxes. Lesnes Abbey was involved in the Peasants Revolt when a mob from Erith burst in and forced the abbot to swear an oath to support them. The revolting peasants also rested on Blackheath before marching towards London.

In **1399**, King Henry IV became the first medieval king to speak English (instead of French) as his first language. The increasing use of English in royal and court (legal) spheres reduced the power and influence of the Church. While reading and writing Latin was a specialist skill, usually belonging to those educated in the Church, English literacy was a skill more accessible to people from secular backgrounds.

By **1453** the Hundred Years War had ended with a French victory, despite the English wining the famous Battle of Agincourt at 1415. Following his victory at Agincourt, Henry V made Greenwich a royal manor and gave it to his brother Humphrey, who built the first palace there. Greenwich at this time was still just a fishing town, with a safe anchorage in the river.

Tudor (1485 - 1603)

By the **late 15th century** renewed civil war had broken out in England, as rival strands of the royal family battled for the throne. The War of the Roses ended with the House of York being beaten by the House of Lancaster who established Tudor rule; a period of peace, prosperity, and expansion.

For ordinary people, houses became larger, using better building materials, with more glass and brick (seen in the brick Tudor Barn in Eltham). Significantly, fireplaces with a chimney to draw out the smoke slowly replaced open hearths, greatly improving the lives of those living in the houses. For the wealthy, manor houses replaced the uncomfortable castles, built with open facades, rather than around defensive courtyards. Elaborate Renaissance palaces became showcases of taste and art, with large multi-paned windows, ornate chimneys, and decorative brickwork and statues being key features. The Palace of Placentia (sometimes called Greenwich Palace) was rebuilt by Henry VII, with a design based around three large courtyards, completed in **1504**. It was the birthplace of Henry VIII and his daughters Mary and Elizabeth, who both lived there as children. Much was demolished in the 17th century and the only bit standing today is the vestry, which became home to the Treasurer of Greenwich Hospital.

Late 18th century drawing of the Palace of Placentia

Gold coin of Henry VII, found during excavation of the Greenwich palace. The image is of a Tudor galleon.

Woolwich Dockyard – known as the King's Yard, Woolwich – was founded in 1512 by Henry VIII, close to his palace at Greenwich. The ship, *Henry Grace à Dieu*, was built here between **1512-1514** and was the largest and most powerful warship in Europe when it was launched. Also built here was the galleon, *Elizabeth Jonas*, named after Elizabeth I, which fought against the Spanish Armada (who incidentally planned her 1588 Armada campaign whilst staying in Greenwich). At this time, England was emerging as a maritime power, establishing global trade links, becoming rich and powerful, and ships were a vital part of this. The period laid the foundations of the later empire, starting with the colonisation of Ireland (Henry VIII declared himself King of Ireland in 1542).

Trade and the growing wealth of the merchant classes since the late 14th century resulted in an expanded middle class in the Tudor period. Towns were growing, there were more schools and education was improving. The decline of Catholic Church power following the Reformation and Dissolution of the Monasteries between **1536-41** released vast areas of land into private hands. From this emerged a powerful class of non-noble landowners (the landed gentry). As landowners, these people could take part in government as voters and as Members of Parliament (MPs).

Early Modern (1603 - 1714)

The arrival in England of James VI of Scotland in **1603** marked the end of the centuries-long wars between England and Scotland. He became James I, as heir to his cousin (three times removed) Elizabeth, and founded the House of Stuart. A house was built for his son, Prince Henry, at Charlton in **1612**. It is one of the country's finest examples of Jacobean architecture, which tends to include lots of ornate features and patterned brickwork. But Henry died almost as soon as Charlton House was finished. A few years later, in **1616**, work started on the Queen's House in Greenwich for James' wife Anne of Denmark. It was the first Classical style building in England. Influenced by ancient Roman and Greek architecture, typically including columns and porticos, it is also known as the Palladian style, after the 16th century Venetian architect Palladio. In the Medieval and Tudor periods, buildings had developed organically over time, and were often asymmetrical and unbalanced. Symmetry was an important element of building deign from the 17th century.

But the **17th century** was rife with religious conflicts across Europe and within England and Scotland. The king clashed with the Church in Scotland and with the English Parliament – which was growing in power – and with the land-owning classes over taxes. Civil War broke out in England in **1642**, with conflicts also erupting in Scotland and Ireland (which continued to reject English rule), known as the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. The English war ended with the abolition of the monarchy and of the House of Lords in **1649** and a period of social reform not attempted again for centuries. This included the famous Putney Debates on social reform and independent groups establishing communes, abolishing social class and promoting gender equality. However, the dominant trend was Puritanism, which advocated simplicity and a lack of adornment in clothing, art, and architecture.

Commonwealth

Following the execution of Charles I in **1649**, there were disagreements between Parliament and the New Model Army (also known as the Roundheads) and in **1650** the temporary Council of state was replaced by the rule of Oliver Cromwell, known as Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of

England, Scotland and Ireland. Despite general religious intolerance and dreadful acts against the Scots and Irish, Cromwell famously welcomed Jewish people back to England (the first time since 1290) in **1656**. However, this was likely influenced by the desire to improve international trade relations - the Jewish Diaspora had links across the globe - rather than religious tolerance.

Restoration

Cromwell died in **1658** and by **1660** the son of executed Charles I, Charles II, was invited back to England as king. Repression against Catholics and Non-conformist Christians led to another succession crisis when Charles' Catholic brother took the throne. In **1688**, parliament invited his protestant heirs to take the throne in a move known as the Glorious Revolution, since it was largely bloodless in England (although it resulted in much strife and bloodshed in Ireland).

In **1707**, an Act of Union formally united the crown of England and Wales with the crown of Scotland to form the United Kingdom, with a single parliament. (An Act of Union in 1800 with Ireland merged the Irish parliament, but was abolished after Irish independence in 1922.)

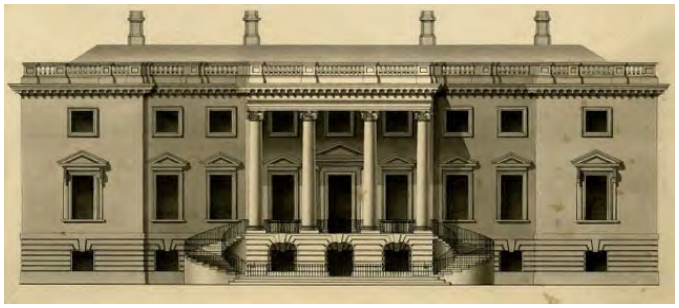
The *out-with-the-old, in-with-the-new* was reflected in the built environment. In **1675** the Royal Observatory was built at Greenwich, using materials recycled from a nearby medieval tower. It reflected the renewed interest in science. In **1696**, the old-fashioned palace at Greenwich was replaced by a new Hospital for Seamen. The elaborate Baroque building - designed by Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St Paul's cathedral - and Nicholas Hawksmoor) recognised the importance of ships, sailors, maritime power, and trade to the nation. (It is now known as the Old Royal Naval College, after its use from 1873 to 1998, and is part of University of Greenwich.)

In Blackheath, the merchant and philanthropist John Morden built Morden College in 1695 as a home for "poor Merchants... and such as have lost their Estates by accidents, dangers and perils of the seas". Possibly designed by Wren, the brick building was built around a large open square, and intended to house 40 single or widowed men. (Today it functions as a retirement home for men, women and married couples.) The confidence and prosperity of the time was reflected in solid, comfortable homes, with large glass windows. Brick was increasingly used, as new industrial brick-making processes developed to make them more affordable.

Early 18th century drawing of Morden College

The reputation of Greenwich, Woolwich, and Deptford as maritime centres attracted a visit from Czar Peter the Great of Russia, who stayed at Sayes Manor in Deptford in 1698. Many new houses were built for traders, sailors, investors coming to the area. As most of the land around the area was still open

countryside, the rich were able to build grand houses and mansions, particularly around Blackheath and Greenwich Park, away from the dirt of London. The best-known examples include the Rangers House, a Palladian style mansion built by a merchant sailor **c.1700** and Vanbrugh Castle built in **1719** in a very early Gothic Revival style, which reflected the medieval features such as crenellations (battlements) and arched windows. The middle classes bought less grand, but large and comfortable town houses, built by speculative developers, such as 6,8,10, & 12 Crooms Hill Greenwich (early **18th century**).

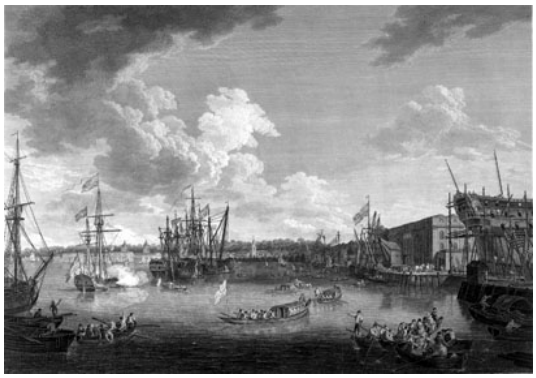


Drawing for a new mansion at Blackheath for Sir Gregory Page, 1767

As the populations of the towns around London expanded, many of the medieval churches were rebuilt and new ones added. Following the Reformation, and the independence of the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church (the Church of Rome), parish churches took on responsibility for social services such as care of the sick, managing water pumps, and administration of the Poor Laws. From 17th-19th century, the Parish Vestry Committee functioned as the Parish Council – the local council. In many villages and towns the church remained one of the most important buildings. An Act of Parliament in 1710 ordered the building of 50 new churches in London to accommodate the growing population, who flocked to work in the new industries around the capital. St Paul's Deptford (now part of LB Lewisham but then part of the Deptford St Nicholas parish), built in **1712**, is one of the finest baroque churches in England. The medieval churches of St Mary Magdalene Woolwich and St Alfege's were also rebuilt, the latter in the Baroque style, deigned by Nicholas Hawksmore. The Baroque style is typically very dramatic, rich and colourful. This represented a noticeable change from the period of simplicity following the Protestant Reformation and during the Puritan-influenced Commonwealth period.

Georgian (1714 - 1837)

When the direct Stuart line died out, a new line from Hanover, Germany, was invited to take the throne. George I landed at Greenwich from Hanover on his accession in **1714**. The Hanoverian period, more commonly known as the Georgian period after the multiple King Georges, was peaceful, prosperous, and orderly. The ostentation of the Baroque was replaced by restrained styles in dress, art, architecture, manners and behaviour. It coincided with a period known as the Enlightenment, when people began to question old ideas and superstitions, including religious belief, and explored new rational, scientific explanations for the world around them.



The Royal dockyard, Deptford, painted in 1775

The Royal Arsenal in Woolwich grew out of the founding of the Royal Dockyard in the 16th century. Over the next two centuries, operations at the Arsenal grew, as weapons and ordnance were stored, developed and manufactured there. Key buildings from the late 17th century include the Royal Laboratory. The Brass Foundry and the Great Pile complex of buildings date to the **early 18th century**. An officers' barracks block, which housed men from the regiments who lived onsite, survives from **1739**, close to Dial Arch, and the Royal Military Academy dates to **1720**. Middlegate House dates to **1810**.

The Napoleonic Wars in Europe spurred new expansion, including the massive Grand Stores complex completed in **1813**. Land at Thamesmead Moorings had been part of the Arsenal since the 16th century, but remained marshland. Between **1812** and **1816**, a canal was built by convicts (quite possibly French prisoners of war), to take materials such as timber from the River Thames to Woolwich Royal Arsenal. Much of this canal has been filled in, but part remains in Thamesmead West and is now called the Broadwater. A disused lock gate and swing bridge over the canal still exist beside the River Thames.

The Artillery Barracks, painted in 1825

The dominant Georgian architectural style reflected the confidence of the era and the expanding imperial nation drew inspiration from the classical Roman Empire. Symmetry and geometric shapes were important (window 'blanks' were used to balance buildings if actual windows weren't needed or couldn't be afforded, especially after the introduction of an increased window tax across the new United Kingdom in 1709). Triangular pediments at the front of buildings and over doorways were another common feature, while grander buildings incorporated columns and porticos. The Paragon building on the old Wricklemarsh by Blackheath was completed in 1805 as a terrace of 14 houses and combines many of these grand elements. The sense of a national pride was notable in that equal care was given to the design of functional, 'working' buildings (such as the Arsenal complex) and to the houses of the lower classes (e.g. the cottages on Peyton Place in West Greenwich SE10).

Improvements in education by the **early 19th century** resulted in an increasingly literate population. However as thousands of people left farming in the country and moved to the cities to work in new factories and industry, urbanisation resulted in increased disparity between rich and poor. This, together with the continuing growth of the professional classes (e.g. lawyers, doctors, clergy), influenced movements for political reform that occasionally descended into violence, as at the infamous Peterloo Massacre in **1819**. But, whilst campaigning for the freedom to vote for their government, the Georgians imposed colonialism on nations around the world. They exploited markets and resources, spreading institutionalised slavery, before leading the world in ending it with the Slavery Abolition Act of **1833**.

Severndroog Castle, is hidden in Oxleas Wood, just off Shooters Hill. It is a Gothic Revival tower built in **1784** in memory of William James, a famous naval commander and businessman. In 1755 he had attacked and destroyed the island fortress of Suvarnadurg (rendered in English as Severndroog) of the Maratha Empire on the western coast of India, between Mumbai and Goa. The fortress had been built to defend against colonialist attacks, particularly those by the East India Company, a commercial organisation fundamental in the development of the British Empire.

Victorian (1837 - 1901)

View from St James', Westminster, showing the route of the new railway, with the viaduct snaking away into the distance on the other side of the Thames.

The growth of empire and the development of new technologies spurred the growth of London in the 19th century. The London & Greenwich Railway was opened between **1836** and **1838**, as the first railway in the capital and the first steam railway built specifically for passengers. The first elevated railway, it ran on a viaduct from London Bridge. There was a stop at Deptford and the terminus was at London Street (now Greenwich High Road). Across the country, railways introduced the possibility of commuting – living in the suburbs while travelling daily into cities and towns to work. New suburbs developed from tiny villages, including Mottingham, where a station opened in **1866**, and New Eltham, which had grown up around the railway station that opened in **1878**. It also made travel for pleasure possible for people from all classes and Greenwich benefited from a Victorian tourist boom.

By the early 19th century, improvements to services like healthcare, sanitation, and education had positively impacted the lives of people across the United Kingdom. However continued improvements would only be possible when more people had a say in how the country was governed. At the time, the right to vote was restricted to those men who owned a certain amount of property and in 1800, that meant only 3% of the population could vote. Reforms to the British voting rights in 1832 had slightly increased the number allowed to vote. Millions signed petitions sent to Parliament by the Chartist Movement between 1838 – 1858, calling for the right to vote for all men over 21. Reforms in 1867 and 1884 meant by 1900 still only 60% of men qualified to vote – and no women.

As well as the continuing growth of the Arsenal complex, which expanded into the Plumstead Marshes, the Riverside area in Charlton developed as an industrial area and the Siemens Brothers Telegraph Works opened in **1863**. A new hospital was built in **1865** on Shooters Hill, adjacent to the Royal Artillery Barrack in Woolwich, to care for wounded from the Crimean War. Advances in medical science influenced its design, which included raised wards to maximise daylight and fresh air.

Plumstead expanded rapidly in the **1880s**, with housing developed for workers at the Arsenal. Two-up two-down terraced housing was common in the area close to the river, while larger and smarter properties were developed uphill from the Thames, around Plumstead Common.

An interesting feature of Victorian growth in the area was the increased use of planning, not only in the design of individual buildings, but in the location of water supplies, sewage, schools and transport links. Building styles were an interesting mix during this period: progress left many people yearning for an imagined rose-tinted past, and medieval-inspired styles, known as Gothic Revival, were popular. The style had been seen occasionally in the preceding century, as architects rebelled against the 'restrictive' neo-classical style. It included tall arched windows, carved stone, and features like mock battlements. But there was also a celebration of modern technology, and new materials like wrought iron and large single-pane glass windows were common.

The Greenwich area's maritime associations continued, and new buildings were added to the Royal Naval Asylum (which now house the National Maritime Museum) and the whole was renamed the Royal Hospital School by Queen Victoria in **1892**.

The population and complexity of the towns across Greenwich increased during the 19th century, part of a nationwide trend, and these became suburbs of London as the city expanded. In 1835 the Municipal Boroughs Act recognised the need for new government of metropolitan areas, with their emerging requirements such as sanitation, transport, and housing. Many responsibilities were removed from the Parish Councils (also known as Vestry Councils), who had held them since the Medieval period.

Greenwich was first defined as a London district in the Metropolis Management Act of 1855 (although it was still part of Kent until the London County Council was formed in 1889). The area was governed by Greenwich District Board of Works. The Board was responsible for delivering coordinated development of infrastructure such as sewage, parks, roads, bridges, and the fire brigade. It was comprised of elected vestrymen, a roll-over from the parish system.

From 1855 – 1900 Greenwich District comprised the civil parishes (under the jurisdiction of Kent County Council) of: Deptford St Nicholas; Deptford St Paul; Greenwich. West Greenwich House was built in 1876 as the first Town Hall.

Reflecting the popular demand for a say in how their local areas were run, the **1894** Local Government Act reorganised the different systems across the UK, establishing urban and rural districts with elected councils. There were Municipal Boroughs for major cities, and elected Parish Councils for rural areas, all overseen by the County Council.

The first Borough of Greenwich was formed in **1900**, and included four civil parishes: Charlton-next-Woolwich, Deptford St Nicholas, Greenwich and Kidbrooke. (Deptford St Paul became the Borough of Deptford, then LB Lewisham). The three civil parishes of Eltham, Plumstead and Woolwich, plus New Eltham formed the Borough of Woolwich. Blackheath was under the direct control of London County Council (until it passed to shared responsibility between Greenwich & Lewisham in 1986).

20th century

Royal Arsenal reached its peak during the First World War, employing 80,000 people. Expansion was such that in **1915** the Government built the 1300-home Well Hall Estate in Eltham (also known as the Progress Estate) for the workforce. It was one of the first council estates and was designed according to the principles of the Garden Suburb, with each house unique and with access to green spaces.

People working in a field in Kidbrooke, 1914

Since the houses of the poor had traditionally been built using the lowest quality materials and were rarely architecturally significant, they were the least likely to last or avoid being demolished after a short lifespan. The planned developments of the 20th century changed this. They were part of the social shift that followed the end of the war in **1918**; recognising that people deserved Homes for Heroes.

In Abbey Wood, from **1900 - 1930** the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society (RACS) built the Bostall Estate. Houses were traditional two-up two-down terraces in distinctive yellow London brick, with gardens. The London County Council bought land in Mottingham and built 2000 new houses in the early 1930s. After the Second World War, the remaining land there was used to build homes for people bombed out during the Blitz and became known as the Coldharbour Estate.

Although there was a global economic depression in the 1930s, public building projects saw new facilities in towns across Greenwich including the luxurious Art Deco Granada Cinema on Powis Street, Woolwich, opened in **1937**, followed months later by an Odeon just across the road. The RACS store on Powis Street was finished in the Art Deco style in **1938**. It reflected the zeitgeist desire to reject the traditional and embrace modernity, with smooth lines and modern materials like concrete, chrome and plastics. And in **1939** the London County Council finished the Charlton Lido swimming pools, intended to make healthy lifestyles accessible to everyone.

The estates in Eltham continued to grow in the interwar years, as did the Kidbrooke Park Estate and Plumstead, where hundreds of semi-detached houses were built. This mass building trend continued after the end of the Second World War in **1945** including the Kidbrooke School in **1954**, which was the first purpose-built comprehensive school in Britain. Blackheath also experienced development after the war, notably the Span houses, whose Modernist design created light, open-plan living spaces.

Local government reorganisation in **1965** led to the formation of the London Borough of Greenwich as known today. The borough includes: Greenwich, Kidbrooke, Charlton, Deptford St Nicholas, Eltham, New Eltham (shared with LB Bexley), Mottingham (shared with LB Lewisham & Bromely) Woolwich, Blackheath, Plumstead, Shooters Hill, Abbey Wood, and Thamesmead Moorings.

From the 1960s, much use was made of concrete, which was quick and easy to use and allowed for larger rooms, large windows, and taller tower blocks. But the brutalist aesthetics – harsh lines and dull greys – suffered from a lack of decorative elements or colour. The Ferrier Estate in Kidbrooke built in the **1960s** and **1970s**, and the Thamesmead Moorings estates experienced social problems caused by alienation and isolation encouraged by the design of the buildings.

The closure of the Siemens Plant in **1968** led to the loss of many jobs and was part of a nationwide trend in industry and manufacturing through to the **1980s**. Work at the huge Arsenal complex continued to decline and the borough's surviving heavy industry is now focused on Angerstein Wharf in Charlton.

Since the **1990s**, the proximity of the Greenwich peninsular to the new economic centre in London Docklands has influenced redevelopment of new residential communities, notably the Greenwich Millennium Village and new low-build houses in Thamesmead Central. The Docklands Light Railway was extended and by the end of the century, much of the Arsenal was sold for redevelopment. Demolition on the Ferrier Estate began in **2009** and the first phase of the new Kidbrooke Village was soon built.

In **2012**, Greenwich was renamed the Royal Borough of Greenwich, partly due to its historic links with the royal family and partly due to its status as a World Heritage Site, due to the important historic sites within its boundaries.

Enquiry Questions:

These questions are to encourage pupils to reflect…

How do you think iron tools changed the built environment in Ancient Britain?
[… on how technology influences our buildings, from something as simple as being able to more easily cut down trees to making double-glazing.]
http://www.livescience.com/2339-iron-age-changed-world.html
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/materials-changed-history.html

How might families have shared the space inside a roundhouse to live together comfortably?
[… on how we innovate and think creatively to make the most of our homes.]
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/british_prehistory/ironage_intro_01.shtml

Why were roads so important for the Romans across their empire?
[… on the influence of communication on settlement patterns.]
http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/romans/roads.htm
http://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Roman-Roads-in-England/
You can also use Google Maps, searching Old Dover Road SE3, to trace the route of the old Roman road from the Kent coast into London.

What were the advantages for wealthy Britons to build Roman-style villas?
[… on how politics, power, and social status influence where we live, and our choices about style.]
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005155
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/romanisation_article_01.shtml

Why might Roman temples still be used after Christianity was introduced?
[… on how societies adapt to accommodate different beliefs and cultures.]
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1021439
http://www.historytoday.com/garry-shaw/migration-roman-britain

What things did Saxons bury with their dead? Why do you think they did this?
[… on how people use possessions, clothing, and buildings to express their beliefs.]
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1021440
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001973

What can you find out about how Saxon buildings looked? How do we know?
[… on the use of archaeology as a primary source for learning about life in the past.]
http://www.britainexpress.com/architecture/saxon.htm
http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/saxons/houses.htm

What place-name evidence can you find for Saxon settlements in Greenwich?
[… on how place names can reveal forgotten history, where other evidence doesn't survive.]
http://anglosaxondiscovery.ashmolean.museum/Life/settlement/placenames.html
http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk
http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/places.html

Why do you think the coins were never dug up after being buried?
[… on how historical and archaeological evidence can be interpreted in different ways to tell a story.]
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/vikings/cuerdale_01.shtml

Do you think life changed for ordinary Saxons after England was formed?
[… on how daily life can be independent of 'Big History'; life goes on despite major changes.]
http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?ParagraphID=erc
http://londonist.com/2014/01/anglo-saxon-london-map-updated

Can you find out how Norman buildings helped them conquer England?
[… on how buildings can be used and built for strategic reasons; castles were not built for comfort!]
http://spartacus-educational.com/NORcastles.htm
http://opendomesday.org/hundred/greenwich/
http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/castles/defence.htm

What sort of work did the monks at Lesnes Abbey do?
[… on how the intended use of buildings is integrated into their design; monasteries were self-contained complexes with difference buildings for all the day-to-day activities.]
http://lacv.btck.co.uk/Site%20Information/Lesnes%20Abbey
http://www.medieval-life-and-times.info/medieval-religion/medieval-monastery.htm

What sort of a home might Geoffrey de Say have lived in?
[… on the links between status and the built environment; people built homes to reflect their wealth.]
http://magnacarta800th.com/schools/biographies/the-25-barons-of-magna-carta/
http://www.bl.uk/collection-items/burnt-copy-of-magna-carta-with-the-seal-attached

What are the key differences between the design of castles and palaces?
[… on how social change influences the type and styles of buildings.]
http://kids.britannica.com/comptons/article-198347/castle

Why do you think Henry rebuilt Placentia, as it was only 50 years old?
[… on buildings as a statement of power; rebuilding was the old rulers being replaced by Tudor rule.]
http://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/explore/greenwich-and-tudors

Tudor shipbuilding changed the English environment forever. How?
[… on human impact on the environment; Tudor shipbuilding caused mass deforestation in England.]
http://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/explore/henry-viii-and-his-navy

What can you find out about the Greenwich World Heritage Site?
[… on how buildings are part of our cultural heritage and need to be protected for the future.]
http://www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/world-heritage-site/
http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/

What evidence is there in the borough for 18th century working class homes?
[… on how material & buildings representing the lives of the poor often haven't survived; history disproportionately tells the story of the wealthy and powerful.]
http://www.localhistories.org/18thcent.html
http://www.ideal-homes.org.uk/a-z-articles

How did transport affect the development of industry in the borough?
[… on how transport – from the Thames to the GLR – has influenced the borough's development.]
http://mikes.railhistory.railfan.net/r142.html
http://www.londonslostrivers.com/royal-arsenal-canal.html

Why do you think the government took responsibility for building homes?
[… on the built environment needing to meet the needs of everyone in society.]
http://www.20thcenturylondon.org.uk/council-housing
www.heritage-explorer.co.uk/file/he/content/upload/9527.doc
http://tenantshistory.leedstenants.org.uk/socialhousing/index.htm

If you designed a house, what features would you include to improve people's wellbeing?
[… on how the built environment affects and influences us.]