the Roman, Saxon and Medieval port of London

Gustav Milne
County Hall ship 1910
Roman lighter, Guy’s Hospital 1958
1962-3 excavation of Blackfriars ship
Much of London's medieval harbour has now been excavated and destroyed in advance of modern redevelopment. The numbers on this map mark the locations of some major archaeological investigations in the City and Southwark. J. Stripe, London ARF

KEY 1: Confluence of River Fleet; 2: Puddle Dock; 3: Baynard's Castle; 4: Trig Lane; 5: Trig Street; 6: Queenhithe; 7: Vintry; 8: Three Cranes Wharf; 9: Dougate, confluence of Walbrook; 10: Steel Street; 11: Swan Lane; 12: London Bridge (N); 13: Billingsgate; 14: Old Custom House; 15: Tower Wharf & Watergate; 16: Millennium Bridge (S); 17: Bankside; 18: Winchester Palace; 19: London Bridge (S), Fennings Wharf; 20: Fastolf's Place & the Rosary
Ports of London:

changing river -port organisation -topography
monetary system -shipping -commodities traded
languages -location

C1-5\textsuperscript{th}: Londinium
C7-9\textsuperscript{th}: Mid-Saxon Lundenwic
C10-11\textsuperscript{th}: Danish & Anglo-Norman Lundenburg
C12th: Beach market to merchant port
C13-14\textsuperscript{th}: Merchant port
waterfront features
foreshore deposits
diatom study
absolute levels
absolute dates
contours - boreholes
Tidal range: HAT-LAT
Marti.. Camulo.. Tiberinius Celerianus Bell... Moritix Londiniensisiium
Classis Britannica CL BR
troop transport; *cursus publicus*;
ship-building; harbour construction;
stone-quarrying; bricks; iron industry
Classis Britannica: C1-C3rd

Procurator Augusti et Praefectus Classis eg AD130 Maenius Agrippa

Economic development/ regeneration
Romanisation/ taxation
C3rd riverside wall
C3-4\textsuperscript{th}:
River levels drop:
tidal head moves east
Londinium abandoned  c. AD 457
Lundenwic:
AD 600 ‘Aldwych’ settlement develops west of walled *Londinium*
Beach market

place name: Strand
Lundenwic beach market

672  Land Grant: port mentioned
734-7  Charters: shipping dues
857  Weights & measures
AD 886

Lundenwic abandoned: relocated in Londinium (Ald-Wych)
DOCUMENTED HISTORY of SAXON, NORMAN and MEDIEVAL PORT

ETHELRED’S IV LAW CODE:
Robertson, A (ed) 1925, *The Laws of the Kings of England from Edmund to Henry I*

REGULATIONS REGARDING MEN FROM LOTHARINGA

PORT AND MARKET REGULATIONS
Riley, T, (ed) 1861, *Liber Albus*

CUSTOMS ACCOUNTS FOR 1481:
Cobb, H, 1990 *Overseas Trade of London: exchequer customs accounts 1480-1*, London Record Society no 27
AD 900

AD 1500
embankments raised over foreshore to south of riverside wall
Plan of the twelfth-century timber bridge abutment recorded at Fenning Wharf. After Watson et al. 2001. K. Brandon LARF
- Galley Quay  
  C13th shipyards
- Wool Quay  
  New Fish Street  
  C AD 1000 LONDON BRIDGE
- Hay Wharf
- Wine Wharf
- Garlickhithe
- Salt Wharf  
  C10th shipyards
- Timberhithe
- Fish Wharf
- Old Fish Street
- Wood Wharf
**beach market**

* Shallow draft vessels beached on foreshore

* No harbour works

Barter/ in kind

* No warehouses

No merchants
No middlemen

Cargoes ‘sold’ on board direct to consumer

**merchant port**

* Range of vessels, inc deep-draught cargo carriers

* Harbour structures

* Cash economy

* Warehouses

Merchants
Middlemen

wholesale/ retail
12th-century harbour

- Riverside wall undermined/removed
- Waterfront opened up to ‘private’ encroachments
- Development of specialist larger cargo carriers
- Introduction of masonry warehouses
- Work begins on masonry bridge
1971 medieval barge excavation
Medieval cargo carriers

- AD1000 20 tons
- AD1100 60 tons
- AD1200 100 tons
• 13\textsuperscript{th} - 14\textsuperscript{th} century cogs \textit{Kogge}
VINTRY:
Anglo-Norman wine trade

HANSEATIC STEELYARD
Baltic trade
TOWER WHARF:

medieval river wall
Coinage

AD 900  silver penny

AD 1350  silver & gold different values
long-cross penny

half-penny

fourthing (farthing)
Coinage Edward I:

groat (4d)
penny
half penny
farthing
Coinage
Edward III

gold noble
mark
sovereign
Jettons

French

Nuremberg
Tally sticks
A London merchant

74 A London merchant: funerary brass from All Hallows-by-the-Tower commemorating "John Bacon, citizen and woolman" who died in 1437. His feet are resting on a wootback, the source of his wealth. Museum of London
1382 Custom House at Wool Quay

- GREAT CUSTOM £10,000 pa
  wool, fleeces & hides exported
- CLOTH CUSTOM £4,500 pa
- TUNNAGE & POUNDAGE £4,500 pa
  Import duty on tuns of wine & ad valorem duty
- PETTY CUSTOM £400 pa
  Other goods carried by ‘aliens’
Customs Officials

42 staff in C15th London

• Controller x 1
• Collector x 2
• Searcher (inspector)
• Tronager (weighing)
• Waiters (inspect cargoes on board)
• Sundry clerks & servants
PORTS OF LONDON: AD 50 to AD 1500
changing river, port organisation, topography, monetary system, building fabric, shipping, commodities exchanged, language & location

C1-5th  Londinium
C7-9th  Mid-Saxon Lundenwic
C10-11th  Saxon & Norman harbours
C12th  Beach market to merchant port
C14-15th  Chaucer’s harbour
C16th  New Age & New World
1559: port reform and new Custom House
1571: Royal Exchange
1597: Gresham College

free lectures from professors in
eg Astronomy, Geometry, Physics, Law
Gresham Ship
armed Elizabethan merchantman
wrecked in Thames estuary
Built 1574
Thomas Gresham (1519-1579)
Armed Elizabethan Merchantmen

TRADE 1571-1580
Muscovy, Eastland, French, Spanish, Barbary, Levant Companies

EXPLORATION New World circumnavigation 1577-80

WAR 1588 Spanish Armada
1588: 34 London merchant ships fought against Spanish Armada with *Merchant Royal*, *Toby*, and *Hercules* from Levant Company.
PORTS OF LONDON:
changing river, port organisation, rationale, topography, monetary system, building fabric, shipping, commodities exchanged, language and location

early & later Londinium
Mid-Saxon Lundenwic
Alfredian & Ethelredian harbours
C12th: beach market to merchant port
Chaucer’s harbour