# Greater London

# Historic Environment Record Access and Charging Policy

Historic England

September 2026 v9.1

# 1. Introduction

## Content of the Greater London Historic Environment Record

Historic England maintains the Historic Environment Record for Greater London. The Historic Environment Record (GLHER) is the primary source of information about the historic environment in Greater London. It includes a database containing more than 125,000 records with information on the prehistoric period to the present day. These provide information on internationally and nationally designated (World Heritage Sites, conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments), locally designated and undesignated heritage assets. Full details of the remit and content of the record can be found elsewhere in the GLHER's Information Policy.

The GLAAS Charter explains how we handle requests for pre-application advice and how GLAAS should be consulted on planning applications; it covers our advice on matters of policy and management of the archaeological resource; and it explains how we maintain the Greater London Historic Environment Record and work in partnerships with others. This document supports the GLAAS Charter by providing a service description for accessing information held on the GLHER, licencing its information for re-use and options for enhancing the quality of information provided.

### Mapped Data

The HER, as well as having its own built-in mapping, is linked to a series of digital data layers held in a Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS contains geographical depictions of all sites on the database, ranging from simple point locations to complex plots of extensive sites such as ancient field systems, and information not held on the HER system, such as historic maps. Any maps provided from the GLHER online system or its GIS are for information purposes only. Due to Ordnance Survey copyright restrictions, this mapping must not be reproduced in the researcher's own reports.

# GLHER 'Free to View' Information Searches

Historic England's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) offers 'Free to View' access in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. This can be either online or in person at our offices in Cannon Bridge House

## Online

To visit the record in person, please contact the GLHER team to schedule an appointment and ensure that a team member is available to help with using the HER database and associated GIS (computer mapping system).

Alternatively, the GLHER can also be viewed online here. Our new online system, launched in September 2024, allows direct public access to the GLHER and the bulk of its data. Sites can be searched by either the easy-to-use search tools or its built-in mapping system.

**Please note** that commercial, for-profit, and academic users may use the online GLHER to carry out preliminary investigations or to help determine search parameter needs for their work before requesting an HER search. However, they should contact the GLHER team for a full HER search, either through the online request form or by email, as the GLHER holds information which is not, or not yet, on the HER which is supplied as part of our HER enquiry service, and we also carry out data enhancement on the data supplied as well.

Commercial, or for-profit, data requests are charged, but there is no charge for academic or public requests for GLHER data.

**Any commercial report submitted to GLAAS or the London Borough of Southwark's archaeological adviser, as part of the planning process, which does not include a GLHER search enquiry number, will be rejected.**

An abbreviated set of HER records is also available via the Historic Environment portal: the Heritage Gateway http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/), along with similar data from over 60 English HERs, and a selection of national heritage datasets.

## In Person

For those wishing to visit the record in person, we have a limited number of desks available in our offices in Cannon Bridge House.

Along with the HER system and GIS, there is a small range of additional resources available to visitors, including digital historic environment reports and an office library of London-related books.

An appointment must be made in advance to ensure that a member of staff is available to show visitors how to locate information and make you familiar with the GLHER system.

The GLHER is open during the following times: 10am until 4pm, Monday to Friday, located on the fourth floor of Cannon Bridge House, and is accessible for disabled access with prior notice.

The GLHER contact details are:
Email: *glher@HistoricEngland.org.uk*
Telephone: *020 7973 3779* or *020 7973 3731*
Address: *Historic England*
*4th Floor, Cannon Bridge House*
*25 Dowgate Hill, London, EC4R 2YA*

# 2. Condition of Use

Historic England is committed to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. In order to ensure that information from the Greater London Historic HER is used responsibly, those applying to consult it are requested to provide details about the nature of their enquiry and to follow the Guidance for Users outlined below. Please note that permission to use the HER may be refused or limited in certain circumstances.

## Guidance for Users

1. Greater London HER users are requested to inform Historic England of the following, in writing or online by submitting the below:
(a) the subject or purpose of their enquiry, development type (using the GLHER list of development types);
(b) the use to which the information will be put; and
(c) the names of any other bodies or individuals outside their organisation to whom it is intended to pass HER information.

2. The Greater London HER is the copyright of Historic England.
Some information held in the HER may also be the copyright of others. It is the user's responsibility to ensure that copyright law is not breached.
3. Users are requested to inform and to make their research available to the Greater London HER where new archaeological sites or data are discovered as a result of their work.
4. Users are requested to make appropriate acknowledgement of the Greater London HER in any publication or report which has made use of its data.
5. While efforts have been made to verify the data held in the Greater London HER, Historic England cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any particular data and its source.
6. Historic England accepts that there may be a requirement to treat certain enquiries in confidence. Equally, the HER expects that users will not pass on information in an irresponsible or unethical manner.
7. Historic England reserves all rights of Copyright which are owned in the material provided. Dissemination to a third party without the written consent of the Historic Environment Record Officer is a breach of copyright. Information supplied shall be used for the specified purposes only.
8. Access to all or part of the information requested may be refused in certain circumstances.
8.1 Information may not be disclosed if:
(a) it relates to the subject matter of any legal or other proceedings, actual or prospective (including Local Planning Inquiries);
(b) it relates to confidential, internal communications of Historic England;
(c) it is contained in a document or other record which is still in the course of completion
8.2 Information will not be disclosed if:
(a) it was supplied to the Council by another party who was under no legal obligation to do so and could not have been put under any legal obligation to supply it and has not consented to its disclosure;

(b) its disclosure would increase the likelihood of damage to the environment affecting anything to which the information relates
9. A request for information may be refused if it is manifestly unreasonable or is formulated in too general a manner.

## Complaints procedure

If you have a complaint about the service you have received, please contact the Greater London Historic Environment Record directly. If we are unable to resolve the issue to your satisfaction, please write to the London and South East Regional Director who will look into and clarify the case:

London and South East Regional Director
Historic England
4th Floor
Cannon Bridge House
25 Dowgate Hill
London
EC4R 2YA
Email: London@HistoricEngland.org.uk

# 3. GLHER Charging Policy

## Searching the HER

Historic Environment Record (HER) searches provide information selected from the Record, normally for a defined area, although bespoke searches can also be done for particular periods or types of records. The HER includes information from both digital and hard copy material, and references to other sources held outside the HER. It is constantly being enhanced, and the absence of a record should not be relied upon as indicating a lack of heritage interest; other national or specialist sources may contain information not held or indexed. See the GLHER Information Policy for more details.

## Non-Commercial Data Requests

Non-Commercial/not-for-profit enquiries are free, although the GLHER reserves the right to charge for particularly complex or staff resource-heavy data requests taking more than an hour of HER staff time.

GLHER data for a specified area can be supplied in digital format, accompanied by a licence to re-use it for a specified purpose in accordance with the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015.

## Charging Policy

## *GLAAS Funding Service Level Agreements (October 2026)*

***Please note that, from the 1st of October 2026, the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) will be partly funded by London boroughs and the Corporation of London. This change aligns with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act, which places statutory responsibility for Historic Environment Records (HERs) on local authorities, and with the Government's broader agenda for arm's-length bodies to provide a consistent service provision across England. The GLHER will continue to be updated for those councils that enter into the new funding model but not for those that do not. Without continued maintenance, records relating to new investigations, discoveries, assessments, and changes to heritage assets will not be incorporated into the GLHER. Over time, this will reduce the completeness and reliability of the evidence base available to planners, developers, heritage professionals, and local communities, increasing the risk that planning and other land management decisions are informed by incomplete or outdated information.***

***Customers will be advised when submitting a search request if any part of the search area is in a borough which has not opted in to the new arrangement. As a result, some or all of the data supplied may not have been enhanced after the 30th September 2026, depending on whether the search falls wholly or partly within an opted-out borough.***

Search fees are based on:

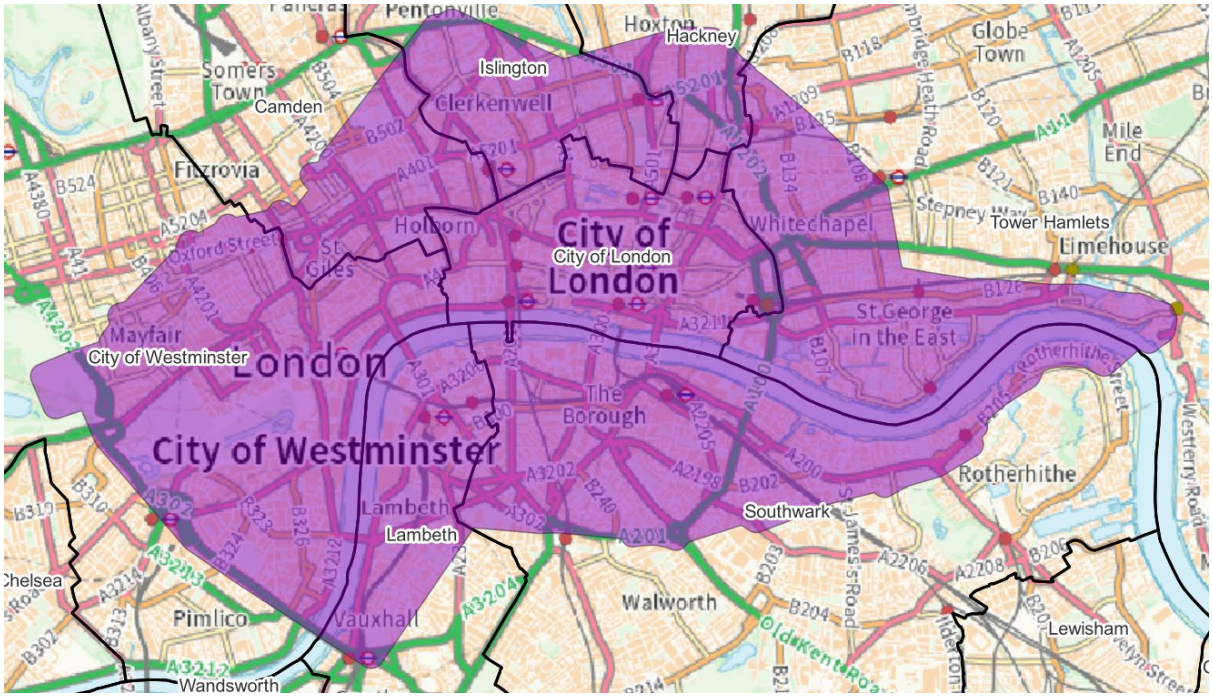
- **The location of the enquiry**, and
- **The type/scale of development**

## Location

There are two geographic areas:

- **Inner London** - where heritage data is denser, and search areas tend to be smaller, and
- **Outer London** – Where the data is generally not as dense, and search areas are usually larger.

For searches that cross areas, whichever has the higher cost will be used.




**Map showing the Inner London area (A more detailed map is available on the GLHER Online.**

## Development Categories

Charges are defined based on the size of the site or the radius of the search area required, and the development type.

### 1) Householder/Listed Building

*Single building developments. A HER search for a proposed listed building consent application or for a heritage statement relating solely to internal works to a listed building without ground excavation.*

- Property curtilage only

**NOTE: No charge will be made if there is no information for the site provided by the GLHER**

### 2) Minor Developments

*Residential developments of fewer than ten homes, or for non-residential developments with less than 1,000 square metres of new floorspace **and** on sites of 0.5 hectares or less.*

Appropriate for small sites, this covers searches:

- Up to **3 hectares** in Inner London (**100m search radius**) or
- Up to **20 hectares** in Outer London (**250m search radius**).

### 3) Major Developments (INNER LONDON)/Medium and Smaller-scale Major Developments (OUTER LONDON)

*Development of 10 to 199 homes, or for non-residential use, 1,000 to 9,999 square metres of new floorspace **and** on sites of 2 hectares or less.*

For medium-sized sites, this covers:

- Up to **12.5 hectares** in Inner London (**200m search radius**)
- Up to **80 hectares** in Outer London (**500m search radius**)

### 4) Large-scale Major Development (OUTER LONDON AREA ONLY)

*Large-scale major development of residential developments of 200+ homes, or for non-residential developments of 10,000 square metres or more of new floorspace, or mineral extraction, on sites over 2 hectares.*

- Large-scale major developments – up to **175 hectares** (**750m search radius**)

### 5) Major infrastructure & other strategic development (OUTER LONDON AREA ONLY)

*Projects with a construction area of 10+ hectares, or requiring GLHER search areas of 175 to 350 hectares in Outer London (e.g. mineral extraction, strategic housing developments, solar farms)*

- Major infrastructure and equivalent development up to **350 hectares** (**750m search radius**)

### 6) Wide area or specialist searches

*For Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), or requiring searches over 350 hectares in Outer London or over 12.5 hectares in Inner London.*

- Bespoke costing by the GLHER

## Standard and Priority Searches

### Standard Searches

The GLHER aims to respond to searches within **20 working days**, but more usually will return results within 10 or fewer.

Wide Area, specialist, or large infrastructure searches may exceed 20 working days to process. In these cases, the GLHER can still supply HER data, shapefiles and HTML reports (*unenhanced data*) within 20 working days, and any remaining data later.

### Priority Searches

Available at Standard Charge plus 40%, with a 5-working-day turnaround. Priority Searches are subject to HER staff availability and are not available for bespoke wide area searches. Please check with the GLHER first for availability. When considering staff availability for searches, precedence will be given to Priority searches.

If, due to staff availability or unforeseen circumstances, after the GLHER has agreed to undertake a Priority search, and cannot complete the request within 5 working days, the Standard search fee will be applied.

**Additionally, Priority search availability may be reduced during the Summer and Christmas holiday periods.**

## GLHER Data Supplied

The following datasets are included, supplied as HTML reports and shapefiles:

- Monuments (archaeological sites and historic buildings)
    - Including Historic Aircraft, Maritime Vessels (where available)
- Activities (fieldwork)

- Areas (Nationally, Locally and GLAAS Designated sites)
- Artefacts (Finds Excluding Portable Antiquities Scheme Data)
- Historic Landscape Characterisation
    - Barking and Dagenham

Supplied as Shapefile only:

- Historic Landscape Characterisation
    - London Rapid HLC Survey (Whole of London)
    - Colne Valley HLC Survey (Greater London Area only)
    - Heathrow HLC
- Archaeological Survival
    - Whitehall and Palace of Westminster
    - Line of the English Civil War Defences
- Thames Archaeological Survey & Thames Discovery Project – Shapefiles
- Archaeological Activity trench outlines (where available)

## Up to 50m of the search point:

- National Register of the Historic Environment (NRHE)
    - As part of the GLHER search, new non-designated NRHE Record sites, or additional information from the NRHE, will be added.
- GLHER Report Backlog
    - Enhancement or addition of information on, and from, activities that the GLHER has been notified of, but not added, or only partly added, to the GLHER online (Activity Records marked as Record Status: Backlog-Full/Published or Backlog – Skeleton)
- Locally Listed Assets
    - The relevant Borough(s) Locally Listed Asset Register will be consulted, and new sites added to the GLHER.

**Note: Only where sufficient information is available from the Borough to create HER data Records.**

***NOTE: Enhancement work is capacity-limited; the GLHER will prioritise information most relevant to the enquiry, in consultation with the enquirer, where necessary.***

## Data Not Supplied:

- Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)
    - Information from PAS is available via: https://finds.org.uk

We no longer supply PAS data as the information we hold is only updated periodically, and the PAS website is more up to date.

- Copies of Activity Reports (Many activity reports can be accessed through the Archaeological Data Service website)
- Historic Maps
- Aerial Photographs
- LIDAR data

# GLHER Charging Menu 2026

| Location/Development | Search Area | Standard Charge | Priority Charge* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Inner London* | | | 40% |
| Householder/Listed Building | Property curtilage only | £127 | £178 |
| Minor Developments | 100 m search radius or up to 3 hectares | £142 | £199 |
| Major Developments | 200m search radius or up to 12.5 hectares | £569 | £797 |
| Wide Area or Specialist Searches | Over 12.5 hectares | Bespoke. Contact the GLHER | Not available |
| *Outer London* | | | |
| Householder/Listed Building | Property curtilage only | £127 | £178 |
| Minor Developments | 250 m search radius or up to 20 hectares | £127 | £178 |
| Medium and Smaller-scale Major Developments | 500m search radius or up to 80 hectares | £253 | £354 |
| Major Developments - Large scale | 750m search radius or up to 175 hectares | £569 | £797 |
| Major Infrastructure and Equivalent Developments | 1000m search radius or up to 320 hectares | £1,012 | £1,417 |
| Wide Area or Specialist Searches | Over 320 hectares | Bespoke. Contact the GLHER | Not available |

*** Subject to GLHER staff availability**

## Requesting Data

To request a remote GLHER Search, please fill in the enquiry form which can be found on the GLHER Webpage or requested directly from the HER team.

Historic England is the copyright holder of the GLHER and must be acknowledged in any reference or summary of the data. Some information held in the GLHER may also be the copyright of others, who must be acknowledged. It is the user's responsibility to ensure that copyright law is not breached.

Requests for information may be refused if it is considered that it may be used for any illegal activity. The information supplied may only be used for the purposes of the original request. If information is refused for any reason, then a written explanation will be provided.

Performance in dealing with enquiries is recorded and monitored monthly.

## Method of Payment

Following the data request, an invoice will be sent out to the GLHER user by Historic England at the end of the month. **Payments should be made within 30 days, and access to Historic England (chargeable) services may be suspended if payment is not made within this time.**