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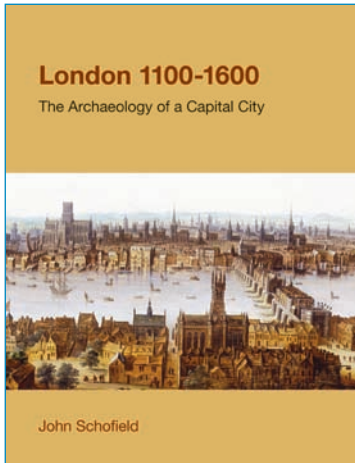
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London 1100-1600

The Archaeology of a Capital City



John Schofield



London, 1100–1600

The Archaeology of a Capital City

John Schofield

Since the early 1970s the increasingly effective conduct of archaeological work in the City of London and surrounding parts of the conurbation have revolutionised our view of the development of London and its European importance between 1100 and 1600. There have been hundreds of archaeological excavations of every type of site, from the cathedral to chapels, palaces to outhouses, bridges, wharves, streams, fields, kilns, roads and lanes. The study of the material culture of Londoners over these five centuries has begun in earnest, based on

thousands of accurately dated artefacts, especially those found along the waterfront. Work by documentary historians has complemented and filled out the new picture.

This book, written by an archaeologist who has been at the centre of this study since 1974, summarises the main findings and new suggestions about the development of the City; its ups and downs through the Black Death and the dissolution of the monasteries; its place in Europe as a capital city with great architecture; and its relations with many other parts of Europe, from the Baltic to the Mediterranean.

London is the medieval city in Europe most intensively studied by archaeologists, owing to the pace of development, especially since the 1970s. Thus, although this is a study of a single medieval city, it will be a major contribution to the archaeology of Europe in this period.

John Schofield was an archaeologist at the Museum of London from 1974 until 2008. He has written several well-received books about medieval towns and buildings, including *The Building of London from the Conquest to the Great Fire* (3rd edition, 1999), *Medieval London Houses* (2nd edition, 2003) and *Medieval Towns* (with Alan Vince, 2nd edition, Equinox Publishing, 2003).

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