

The Natural Environment of Tudor London

Carolyn Roberts

Professor Emerita, Gresham College

Water and Environment Consultant

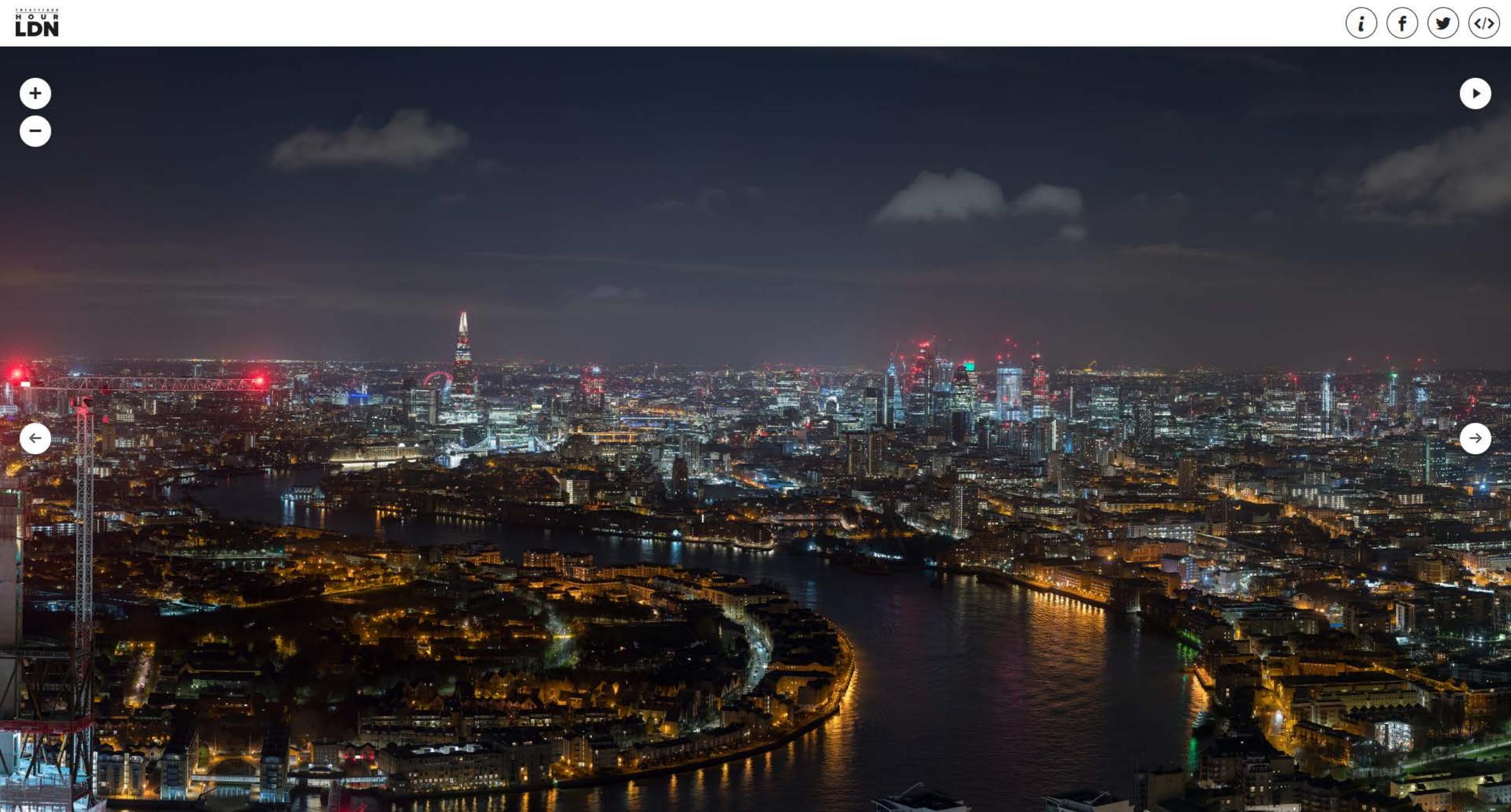
Honorary Research Fellow, University College London

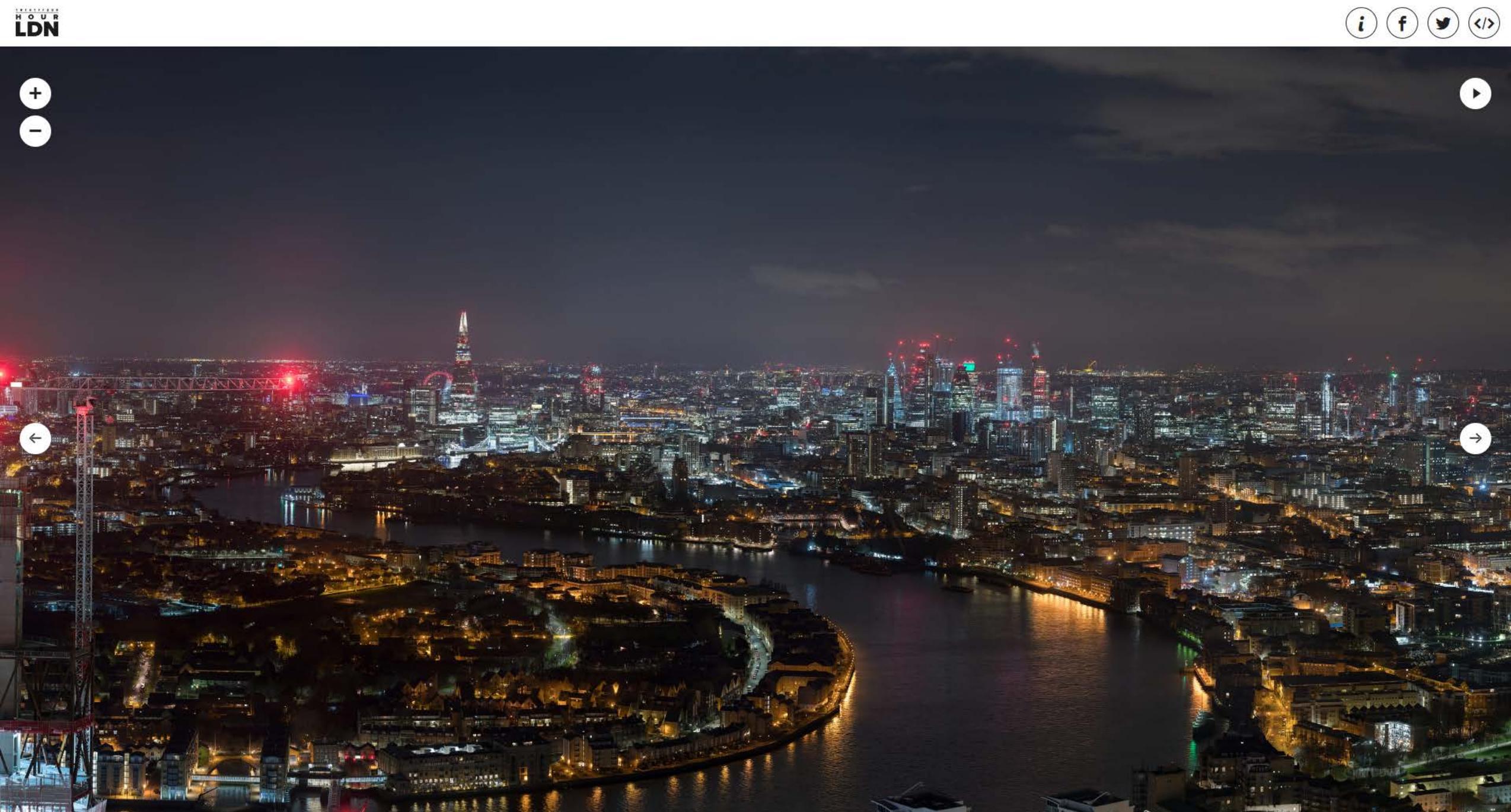
Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Keele University



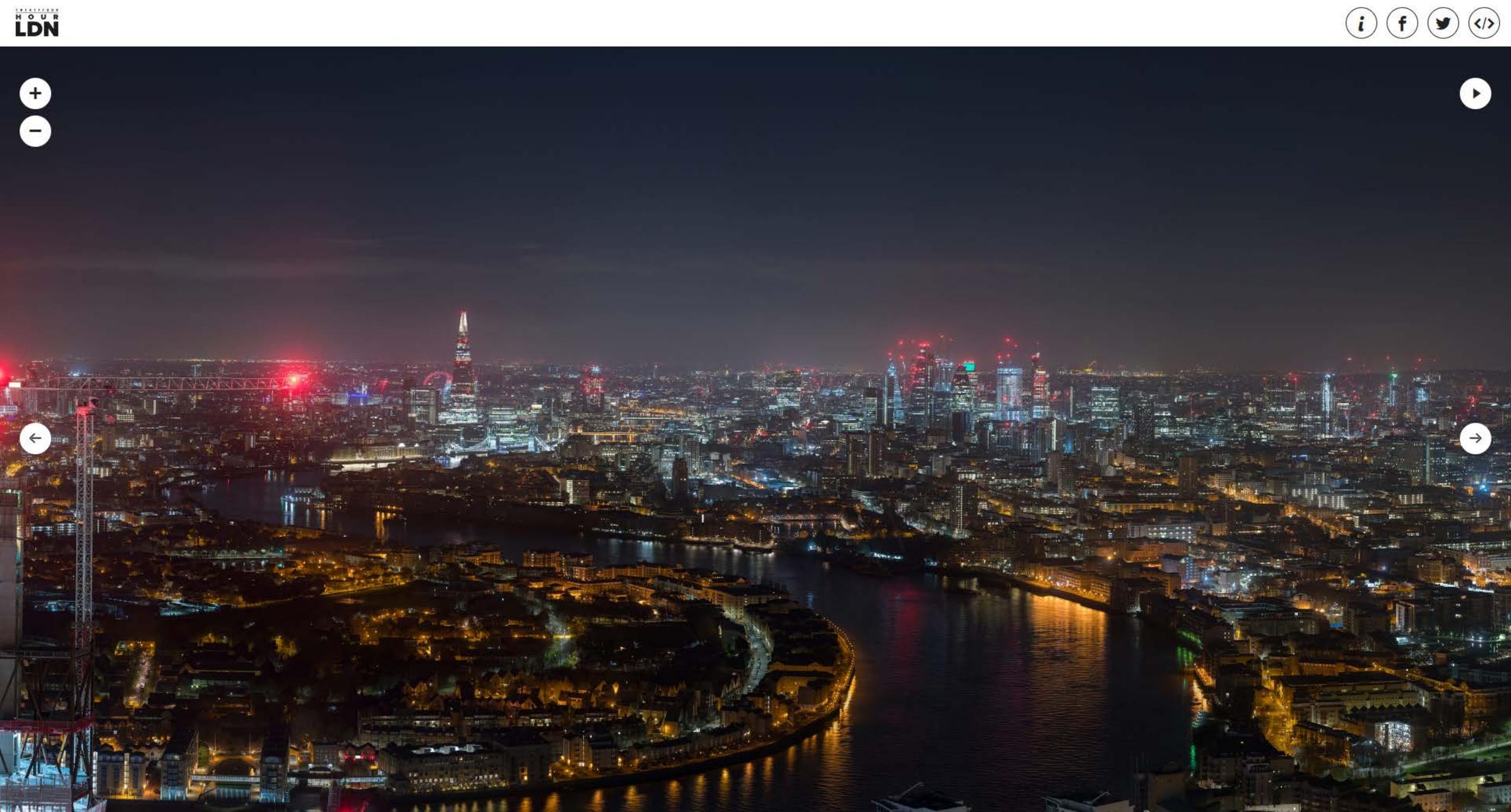




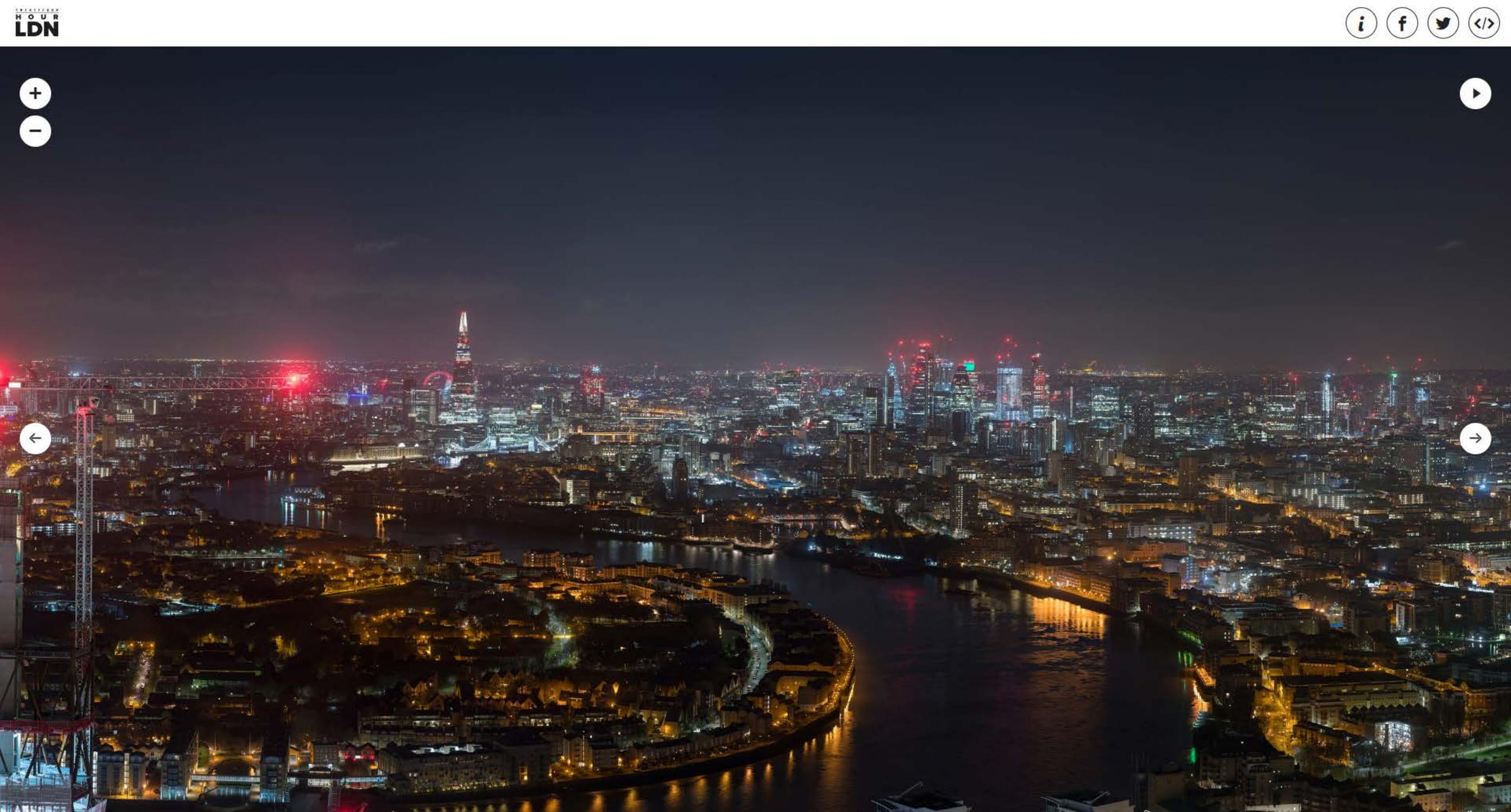




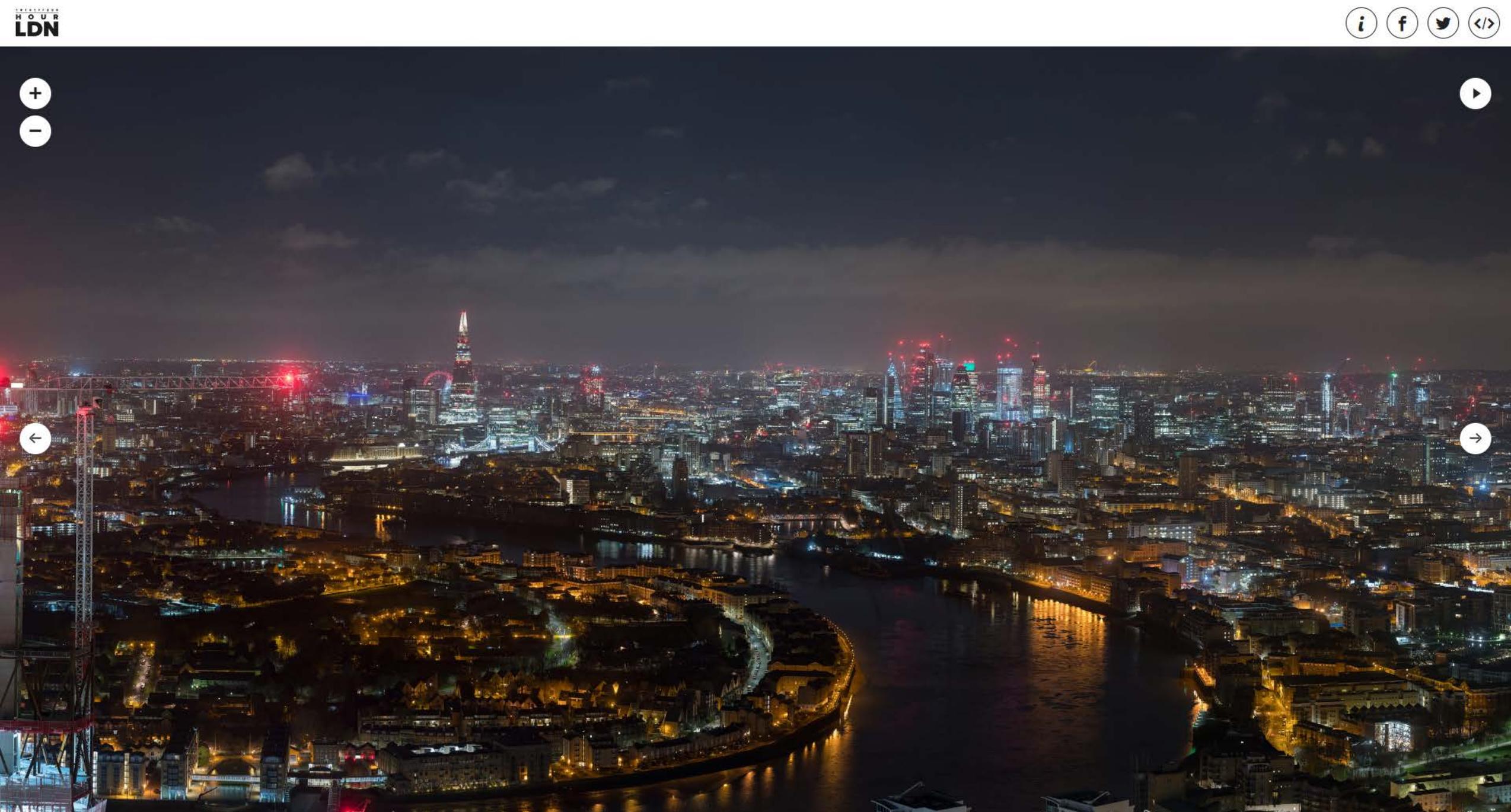
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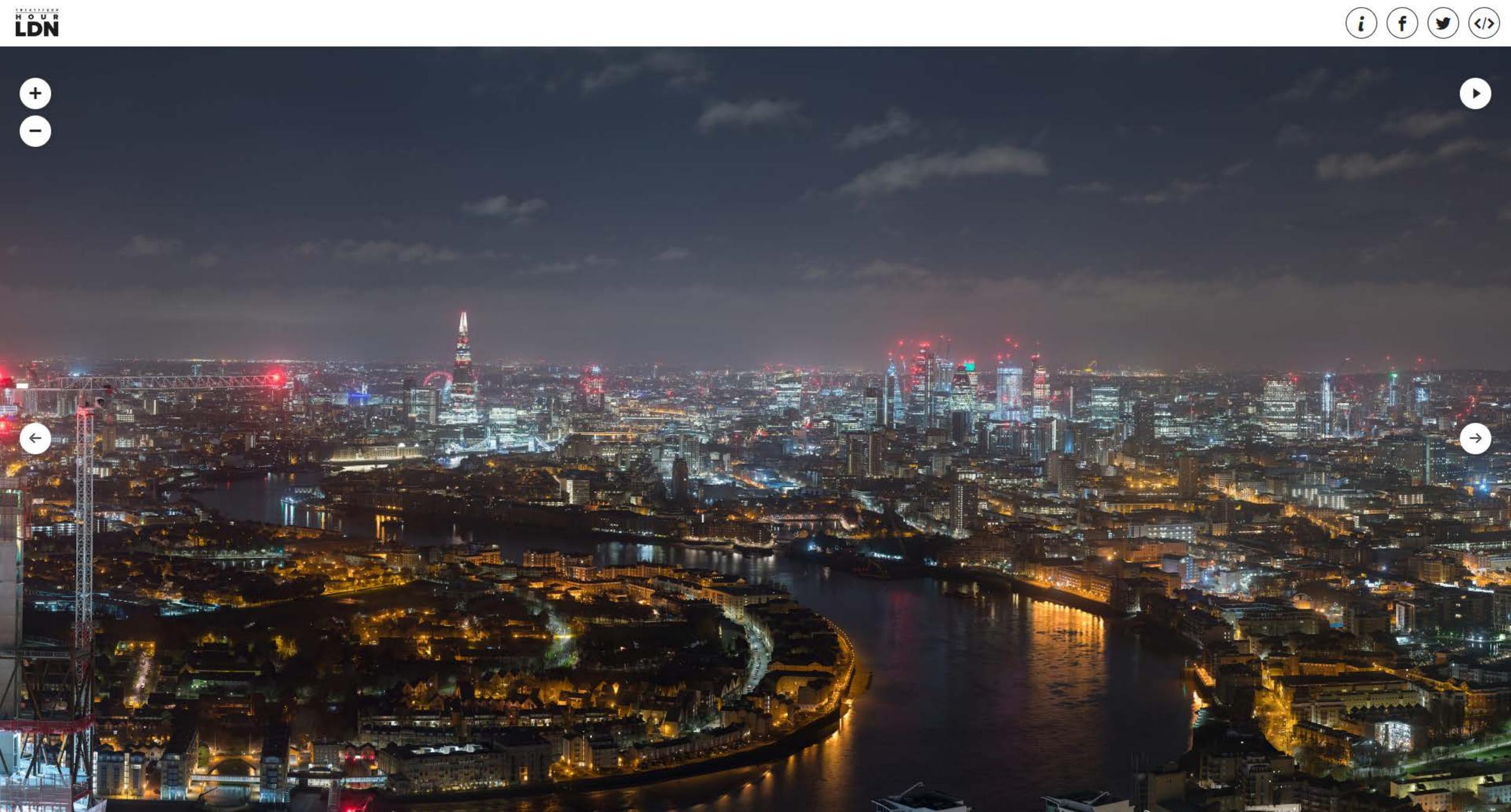
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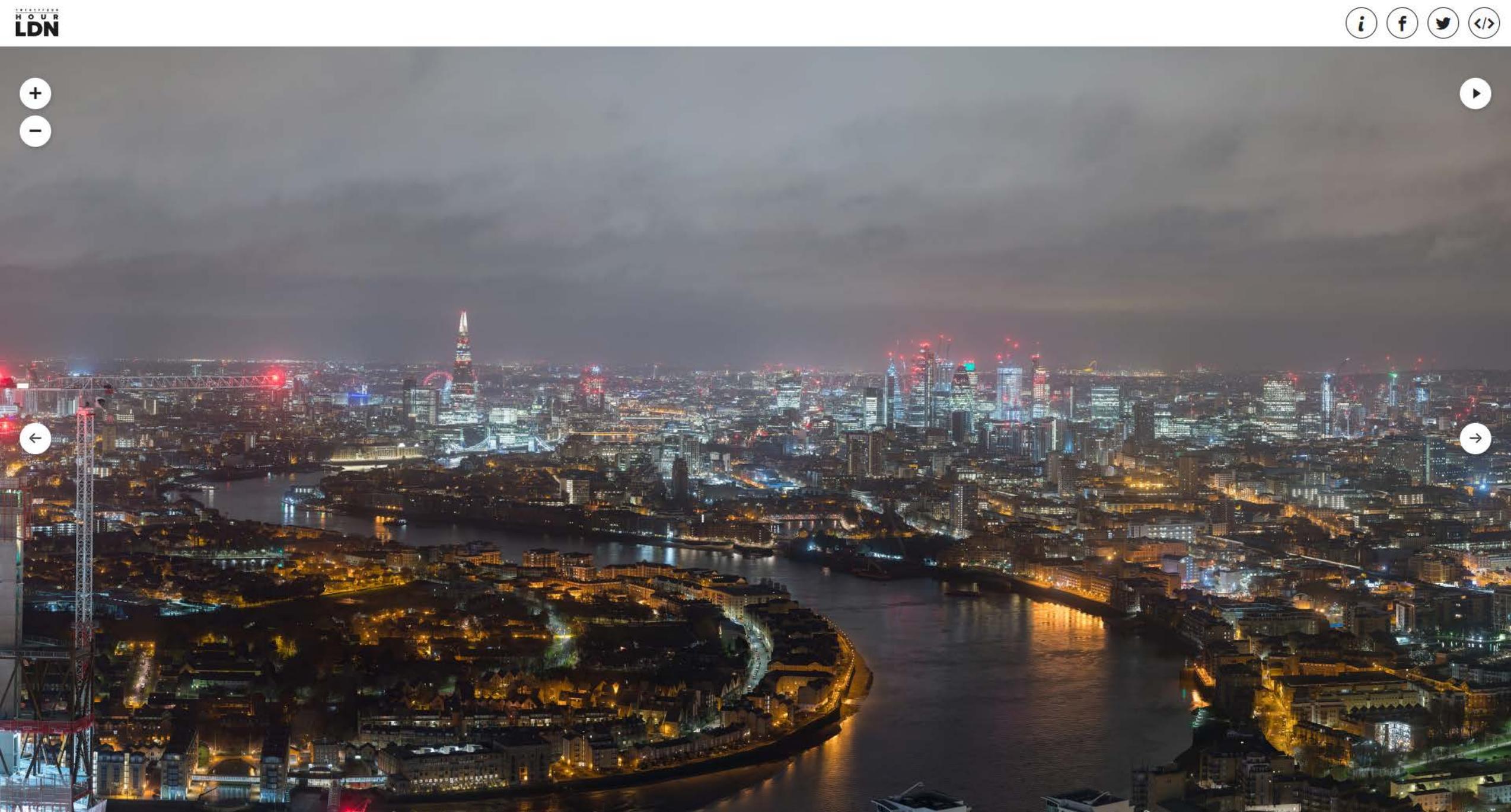
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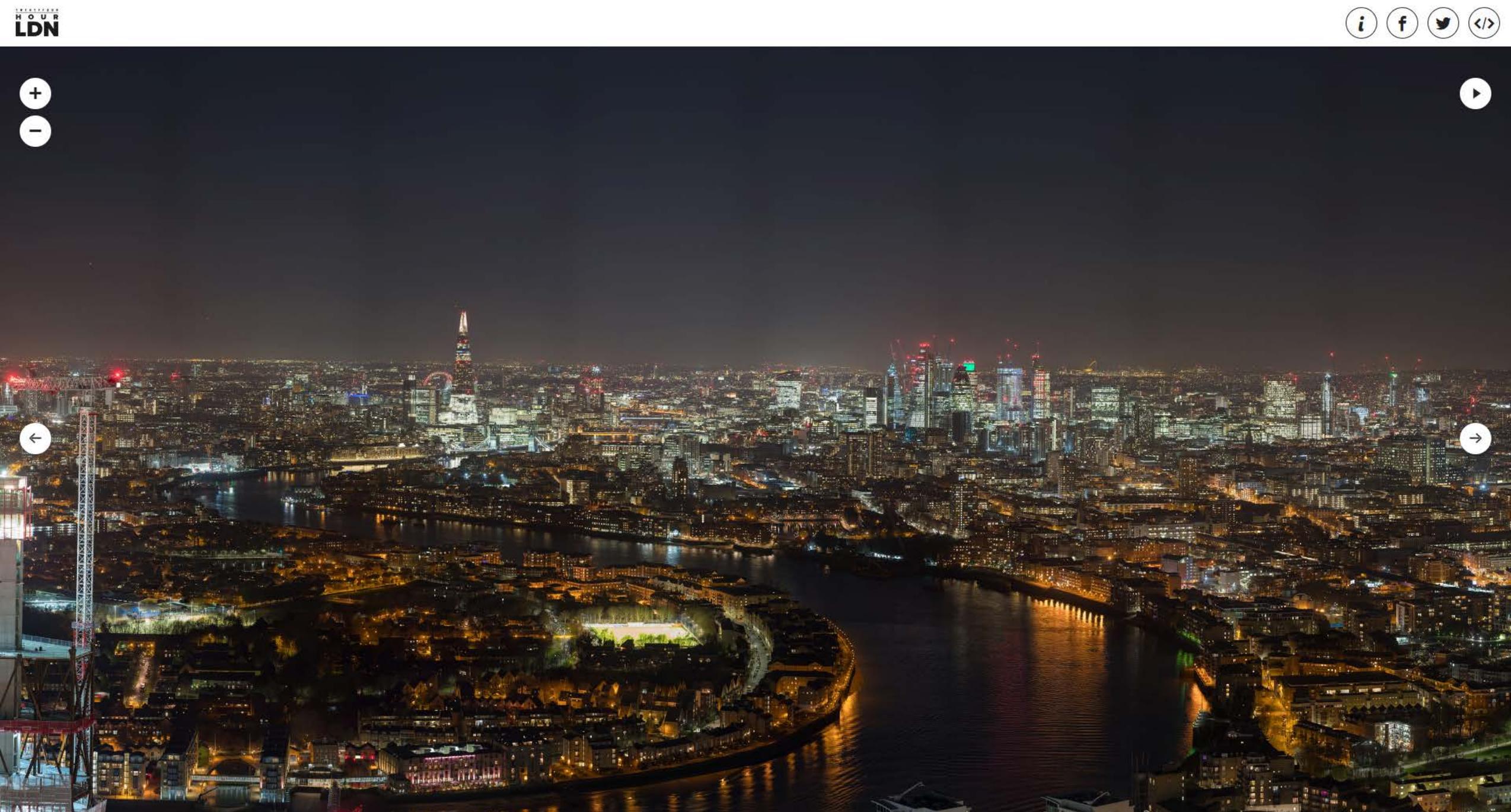








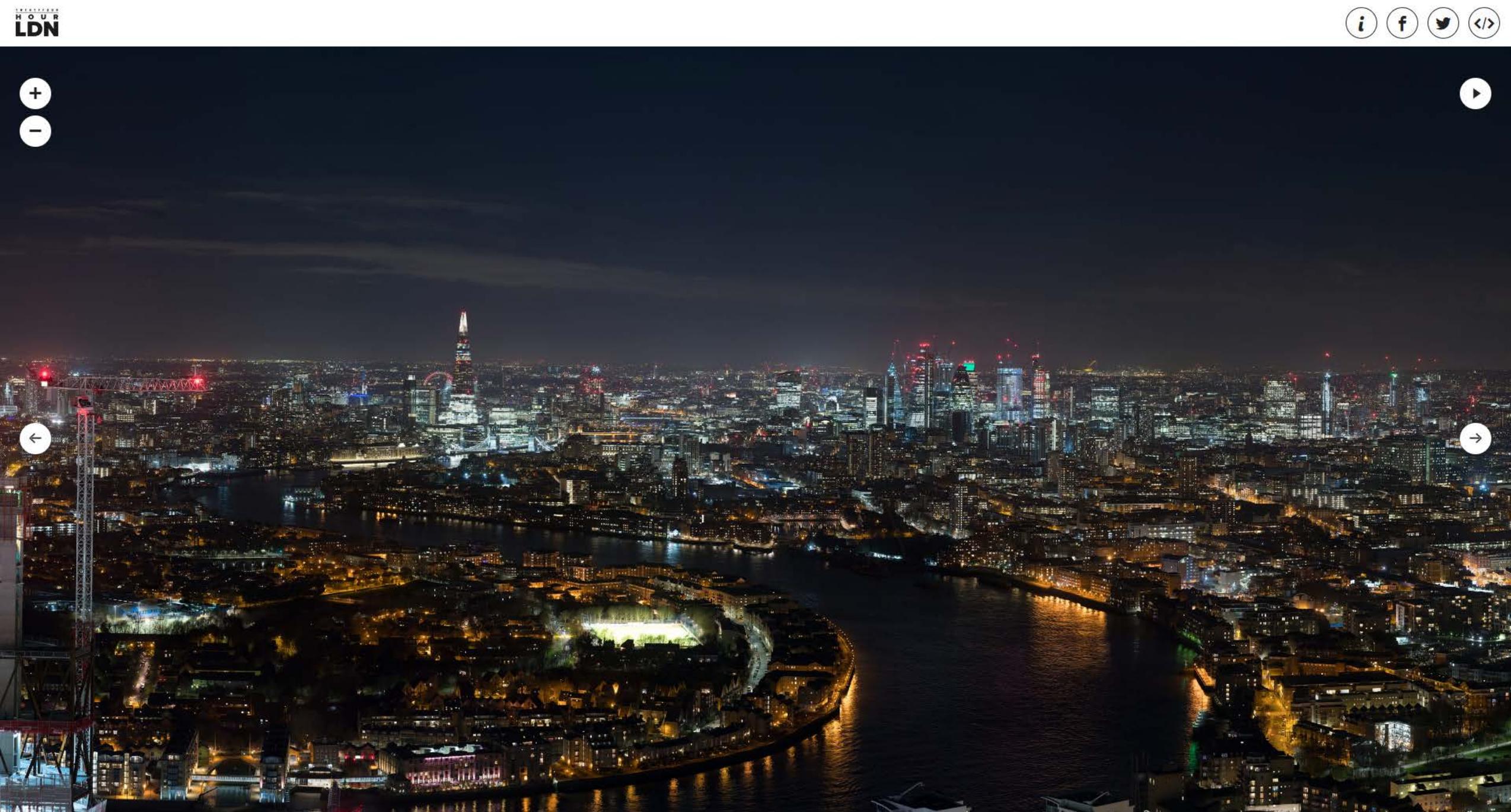
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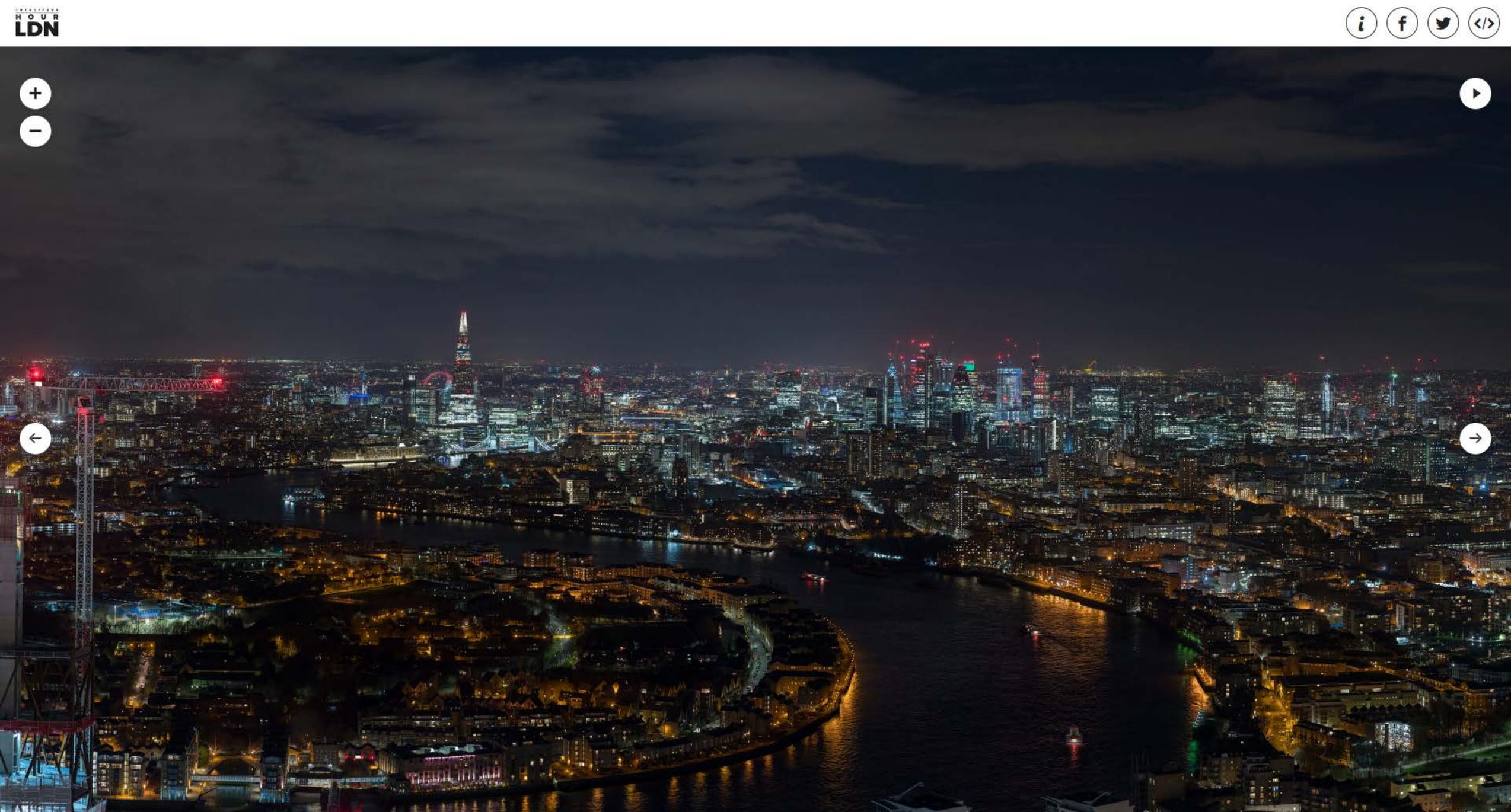
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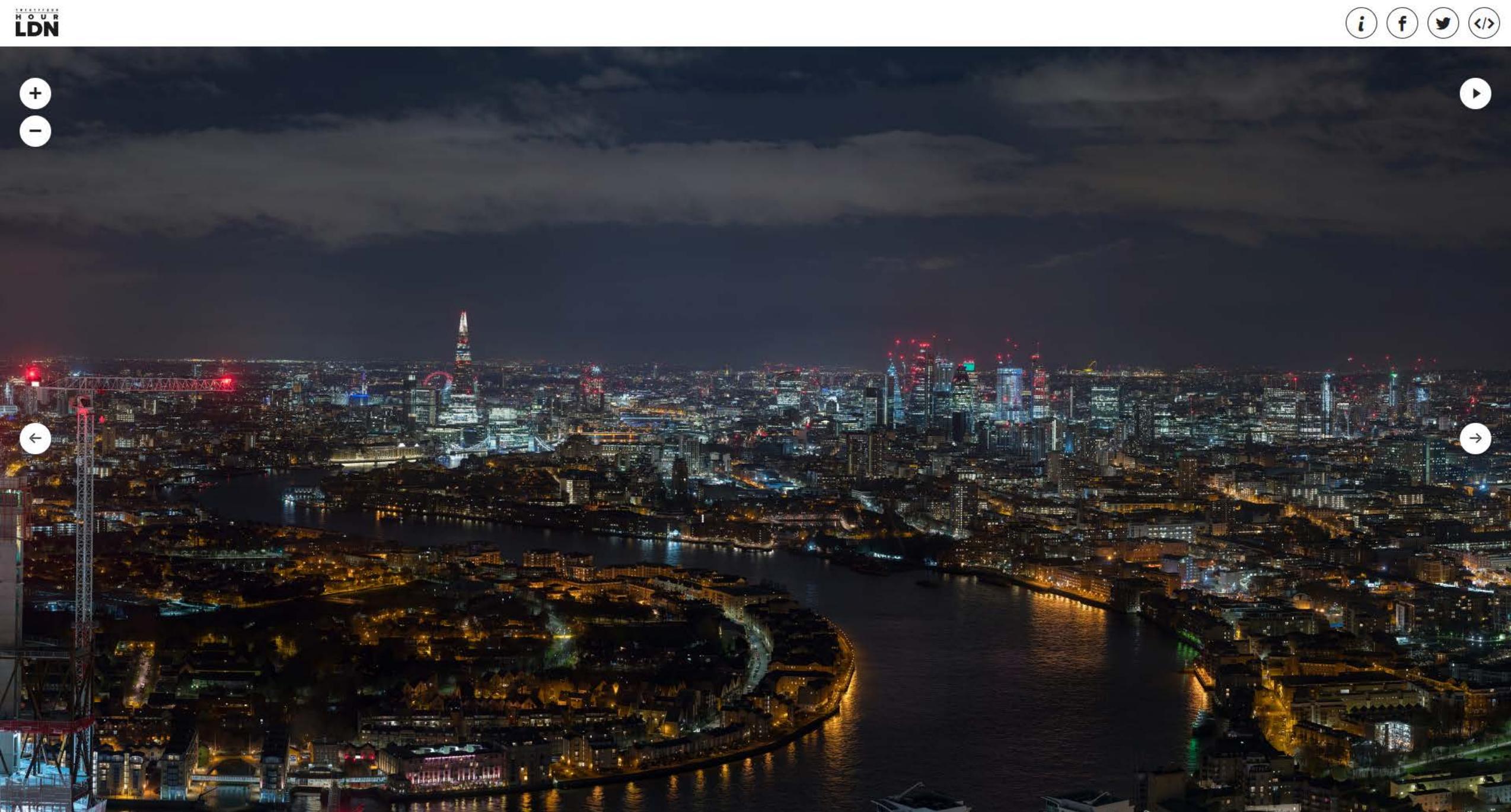
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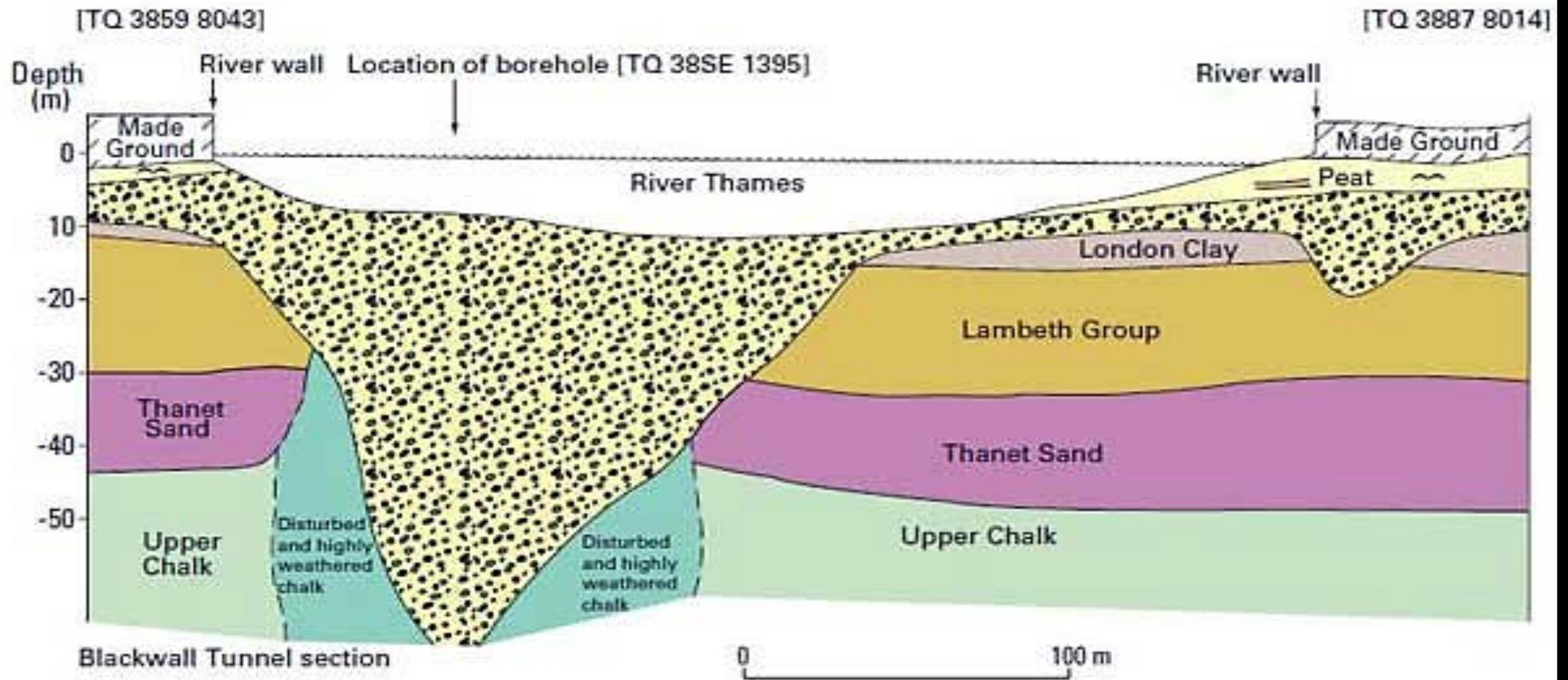


www.lenstore.co.uk/vc/24-hour-london/





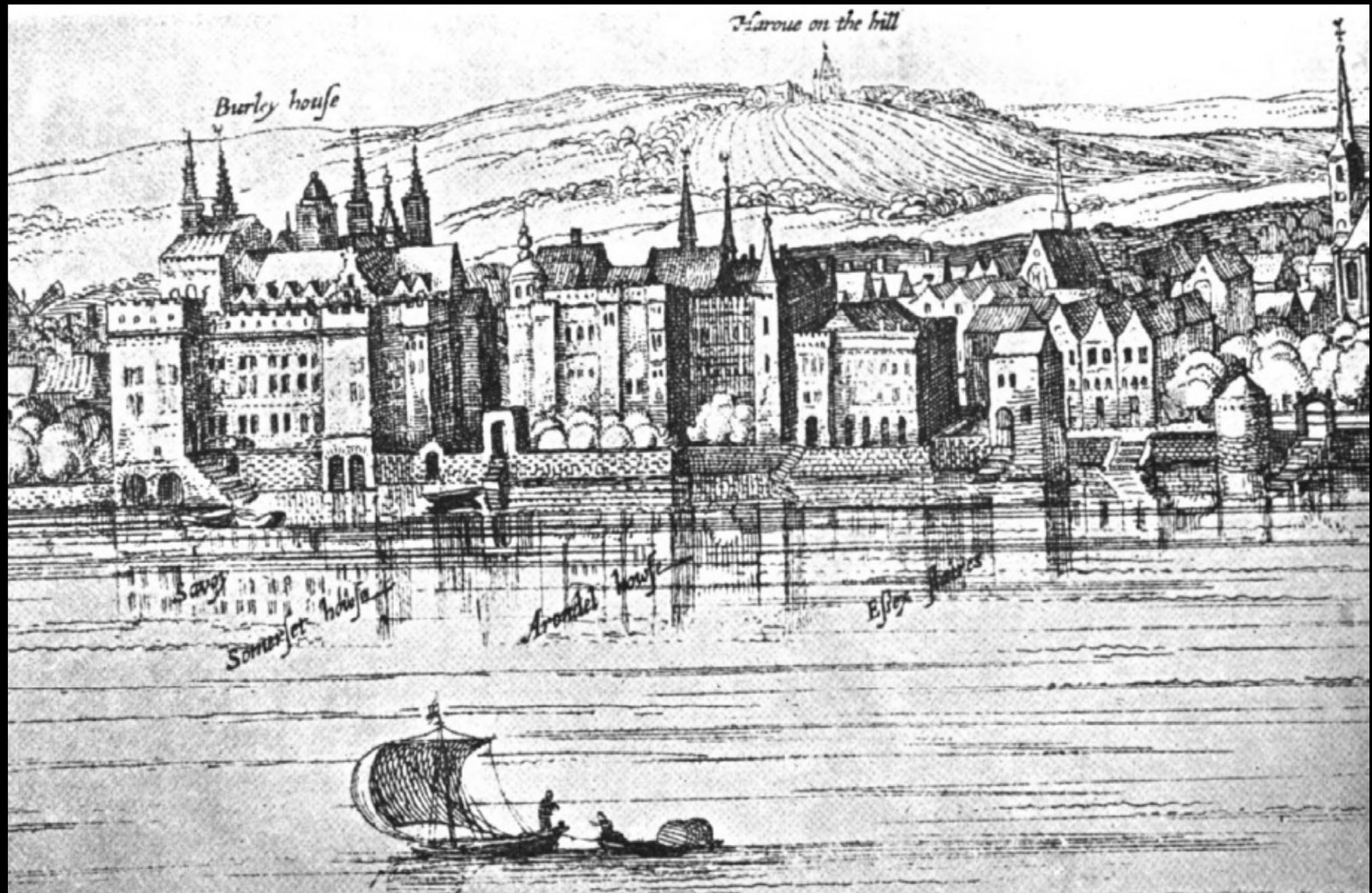
'Panorama of London', by Claes Janszoon Visscher, c. 1616



Cross-section at the Blackwall Tunnel, showing zone of highly weathered chalk cross-cutting the Thanet Sand and Lambeth group. From Ellison *et al.*, 2004.

The Strand area from Visscher's 'Panorama of London', 1616.

A narrow zone of villas alongside the Thames with hilly countryside close behind





London in the 'Gough' Map of Great Britain. Probably around 1370, with later additions

<http://www.goughmap.org/map/#>

La cite de lundres ki est chef dengleterre.
Brutus ki prime enhabita engleterre
la funda. E la ye la troie la nuuele.



Andgate. Hougate. Crupelgate. Bisshopelgate. Billigelgate. Allegate

London, 1390
by Matthew
Paris, monk
and
cartographer



The imprisonment of Charles Duke of Orléans in the Tower of London, about 1483.

The River Thames embankments are shown in detail, with the White Tower and Traitor's Gate. London Bridge at the top.

British Library; illustrator is unknown.

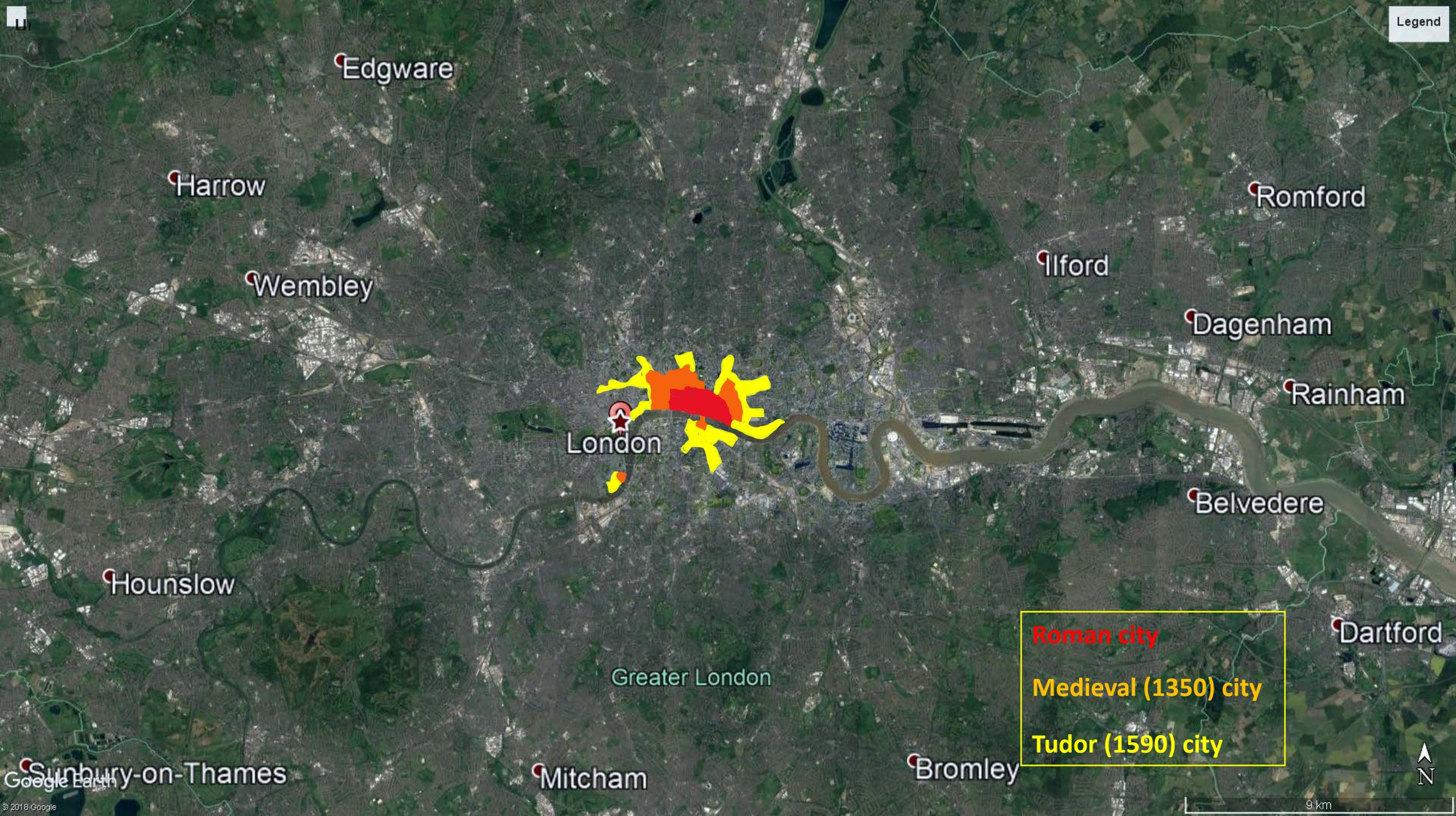
The Cittie of
London by
Cornelius
Dankerts,
c 1633

from 'London in
Maps'



Map of London,
originally started
by Wenceslaus
Hollar (1607-1677)
but published after
1688





Edgware

Harrow

Wembley

London

Hounslow

Sunbury-on-Thames

Mitcham

Bromley

Romford

Ilford

Dagenham

Rainham

Belvedere

Dartford

Greater London

- Roman city
- Medieval (1350) city
- Tudor (1590) city



9 km



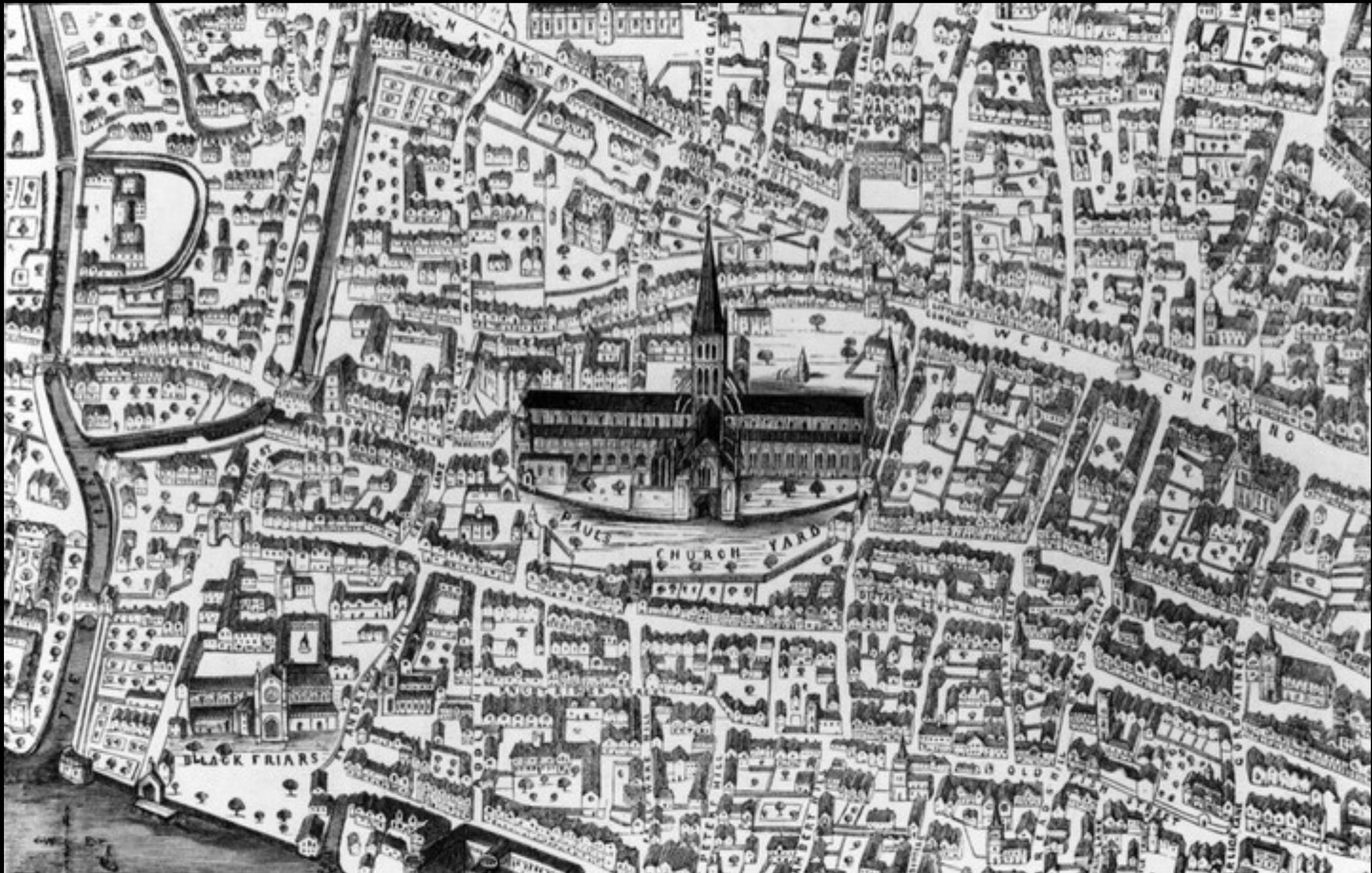
LONDON going out of Town. — or — The March of Bricks & mortar! —

Designed & Published by George Cruikshank — November 1st 1829 —

‘London going out of Town’ or ‘The March of Bricks and Mortar!’

Designed, etched and Published by George Cruickshank, 1829

A map of London in around 1505. St Paul's Cathedral in the centre (Getty Images)



'Old Saint Paul's' in
dyptich by John Gipkyn
(active 1594-1629).

Society of Antiquities
of London, Burlington
House



London as an environmental paradise?

Domenico Mancini, 1483, Parisian scholar, described it as 'the royal city'

Another writer said 'sovereign of cities...the flour of Cities all...seemeliest in sight...'

Vaclev Schasek, 1466 'elegant gardens, planted with various trees and flowers, which are not found in other countries'



John Stow,

‘A Survey of London’, 1598

‘Thou stately stream that with
the swelling tide

‘Gainst London walls incessantly
dost beat

Thou Thames, I say, where
barge and boat do ride,

And snow-white swans do fish
for needful meat...’

George Turberville, 1567

‘Along the shore of silver
streaming Thames

Whose ruddy bank, the which his
river hems

Was painted all with variable
flowers.....’

Thomas Platter, 1592

‘the banks of this river are
wooded and gay with pleasant
hamlets and homesteads’
(further downstream)

Andreas Franciscius, 1497, Venetian

London is 'so pleasant and delightful that it would be hard to find one more convenient and attractive'.

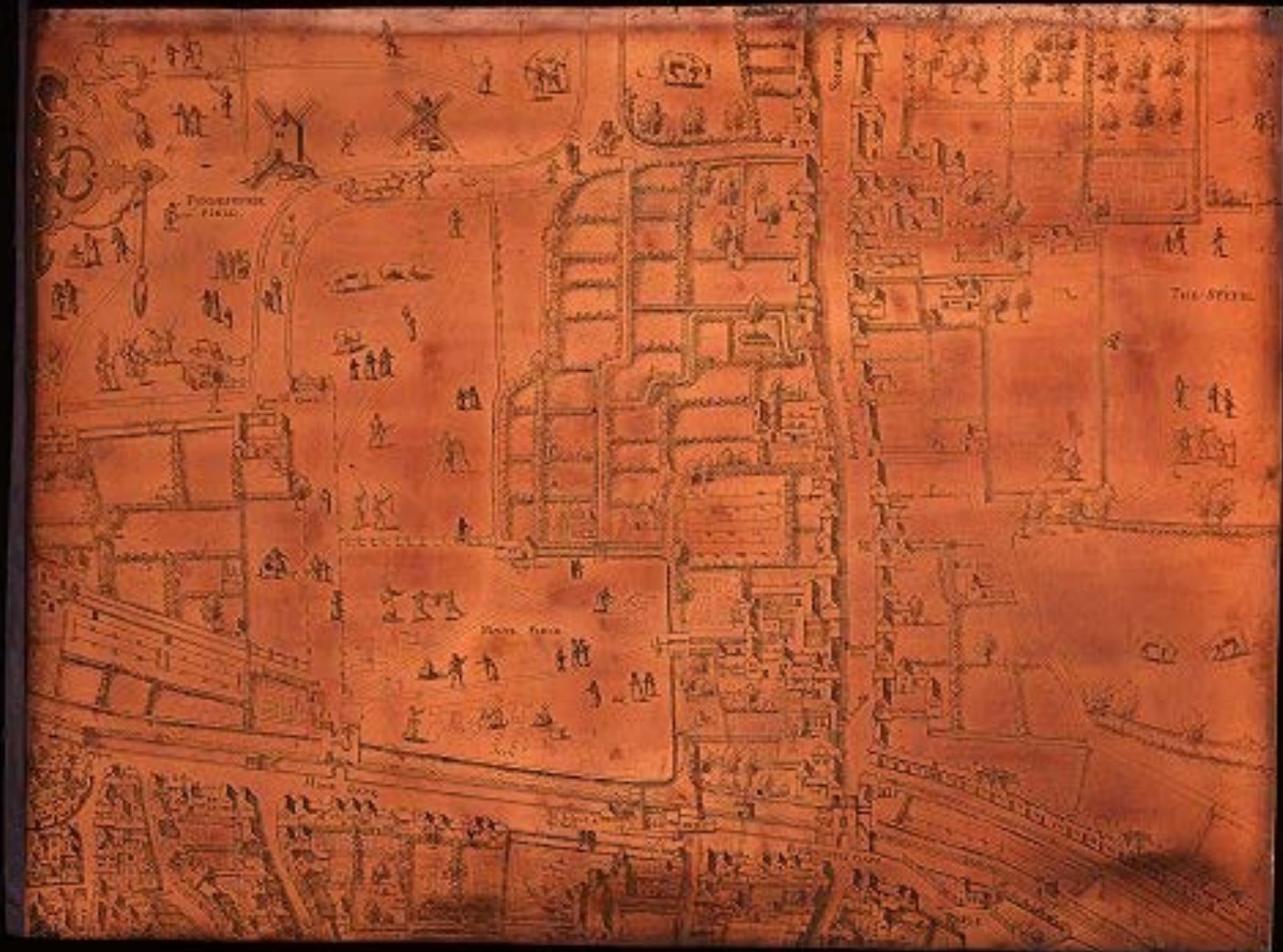
But streets 'were so badly paved that they get wet at the slightest quantity of water.....on account of the rain.....a vast amount of evil smelling mud formed, which does not disappear quickly but lasts a long time, in fact nearly the whole year round'.



Sir Thomas Gresham, aged 46
by unknown Netherlandish
artist, circa 1565

Purchased in 1872 by the National
Portrait Gallery

Engraved
copper
baseplate of
what would
become the
'Agas Map'
circa 1555-8.
Part of a series.



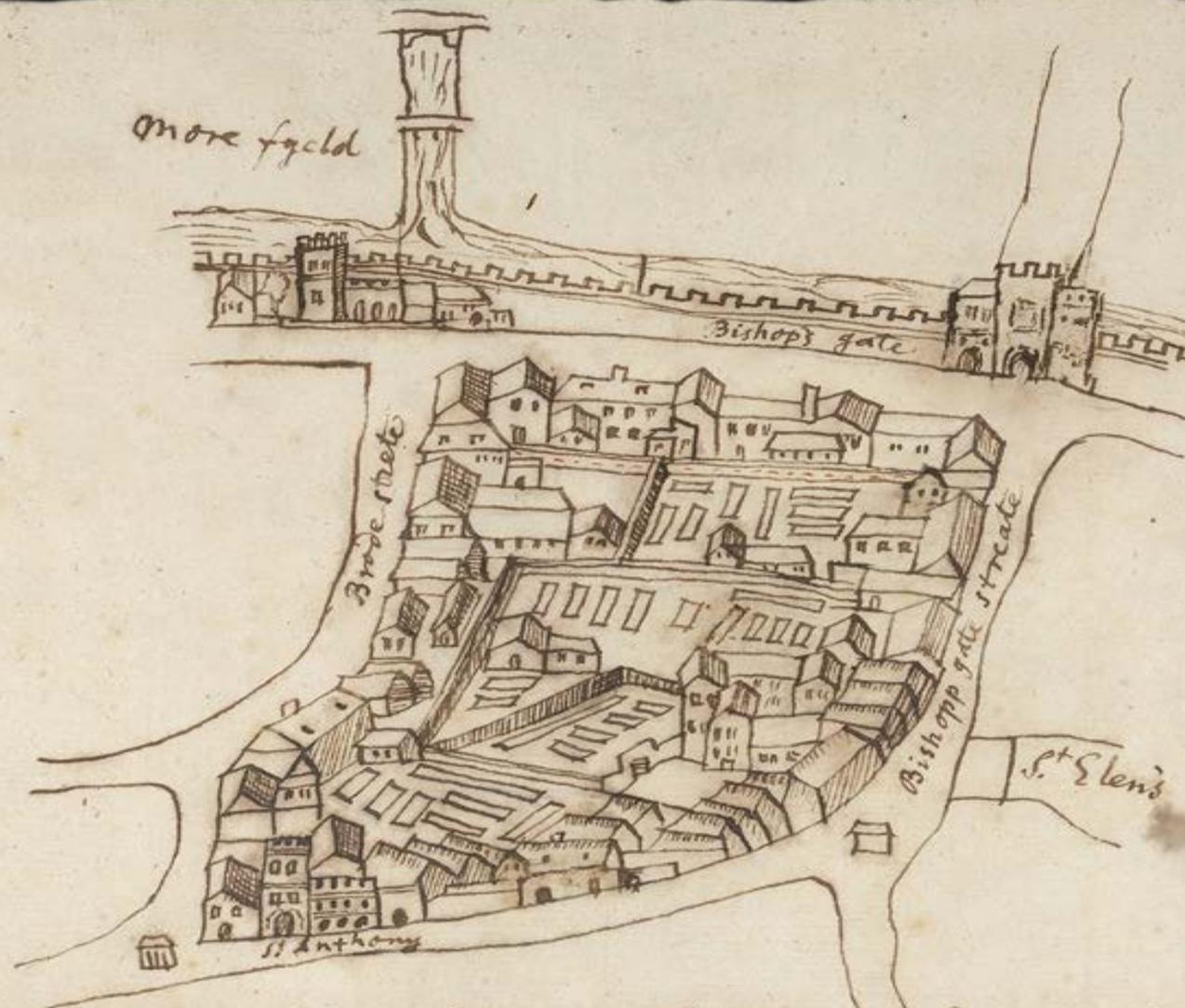


Reproduction of the 'Agas' or 'Woodcut Map of London', formally titled *Civitas Londinum* (c. 1561), and wrongly attributed to Ralph Agas.



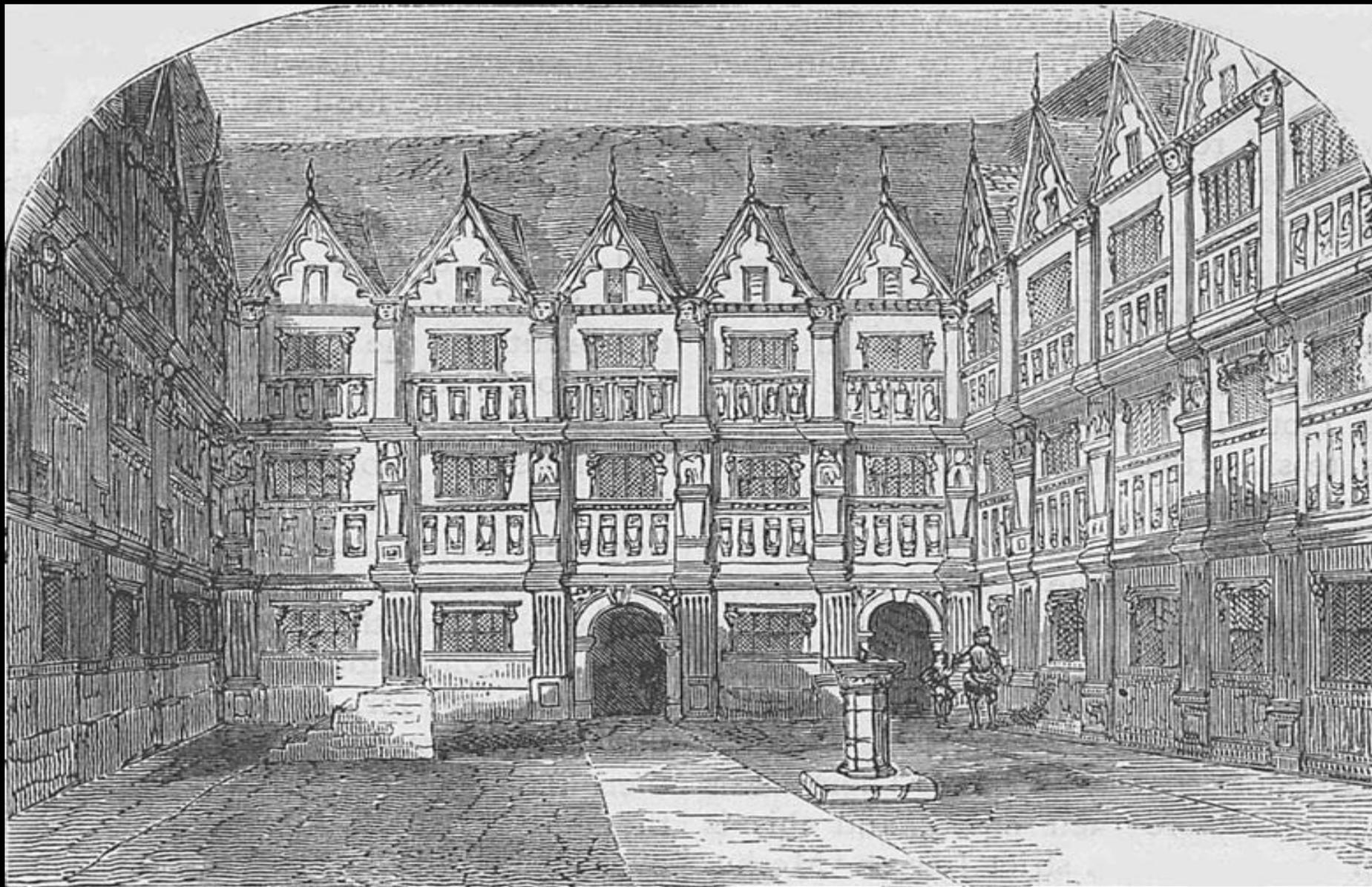
**Thomas walks north from
Bishopsgate to Moorfield**

Copy of a woodcut plan of the site of Thomas' house in Bishopsgate, prior to building what was to become Gresham College



As the plan of this house does not answer to the present form of Gresham college, it is not improbable it may represent the plan of the buildings and gardens which stood there, before Sir Thomas Gresham built his house, which is now the college. And if so, the ground plot of London and Westminster, from whence it was copied, must have been near as old at least as the beginning of Elizabeth's reign.

The Site of Gresham house & Gardens from a plan of London being a Wooden print in the Collection of Sir Hans Sloane Bart. dated 1618. but supposed to have ^{been} first cut about the year 1560.
copied by EMD. 1739.



Sir Thomas and Lady Ann Gresham's townhouse in Bishopsgate Street, London. Built in the 1560s, but not finished until 1566

The 'Agas Map' of c. 1561 showing Bishopsgate, the Wall, Moor Gate and Moorfield, Spitelfield and Fynnesburie Field's windmills



The 'Agas Map' of c. 1561 showing hills North of the city.

Formal and informal gardens, hedges, fields, deciduous trees



Native trees and very early introductions, courtesy Hilary Miller, 2018

Oak *Quercus robur*

Beech *Fagus sylvatica*

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Common lime *Tilia x europaea* / *T. vulgaris*

Small leaved lime *Tilia cordata*

English elm *Ulmus procera*

Wych elm *Ulmus glabra*

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Birch *Betula pubescens* / *B. verrucosa*

Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*

Willow *Salix alba* / *S. fragilis*

White poplar *Populus alba*

Black poplar *Populus nigra*

Holly *Ilex aquifolium*

Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*

Yew *Taxus baccata*

Very widespread and frequent. Commonly pollarded. Major timber tree

Native to S England. Extensive Chilterns trade to supply London's firewood.

Frequent – in some areas branches and leaves were cut for winter animal feed

Native to S E England, notably Epping (pollarded), Hatfield & Hainault Forests.

Possibly native or a very early introduction.

Native – usually a woodland tree.

Possibly a very early introduction. Very tall and formerly abundant

Native. More rounded silhouette than the English elm.

Small tree in woodlands and hedges.

Common

Small tree / shrub, common in hedges but also as small individual trees.

Widespread and form large trees, usually in wet places.

Early introduction.

Native.

Evergreen, often an understorey in woodland

Scotland (further south in the post-glacial period). Planted elsewhere

Native conifer. Not obvious on any of the early maps of London

The 'Agas Map' of c. 1561 showing densely packed houses in the main area within the city walls, and villas beyond in St Giles, and Aldersgate Street





**Thomas walks from
Bishopsgate to London Bridge**

The 'Agas Map' of c. 1561 showing formal and informal gardens, fields, deciduous trees

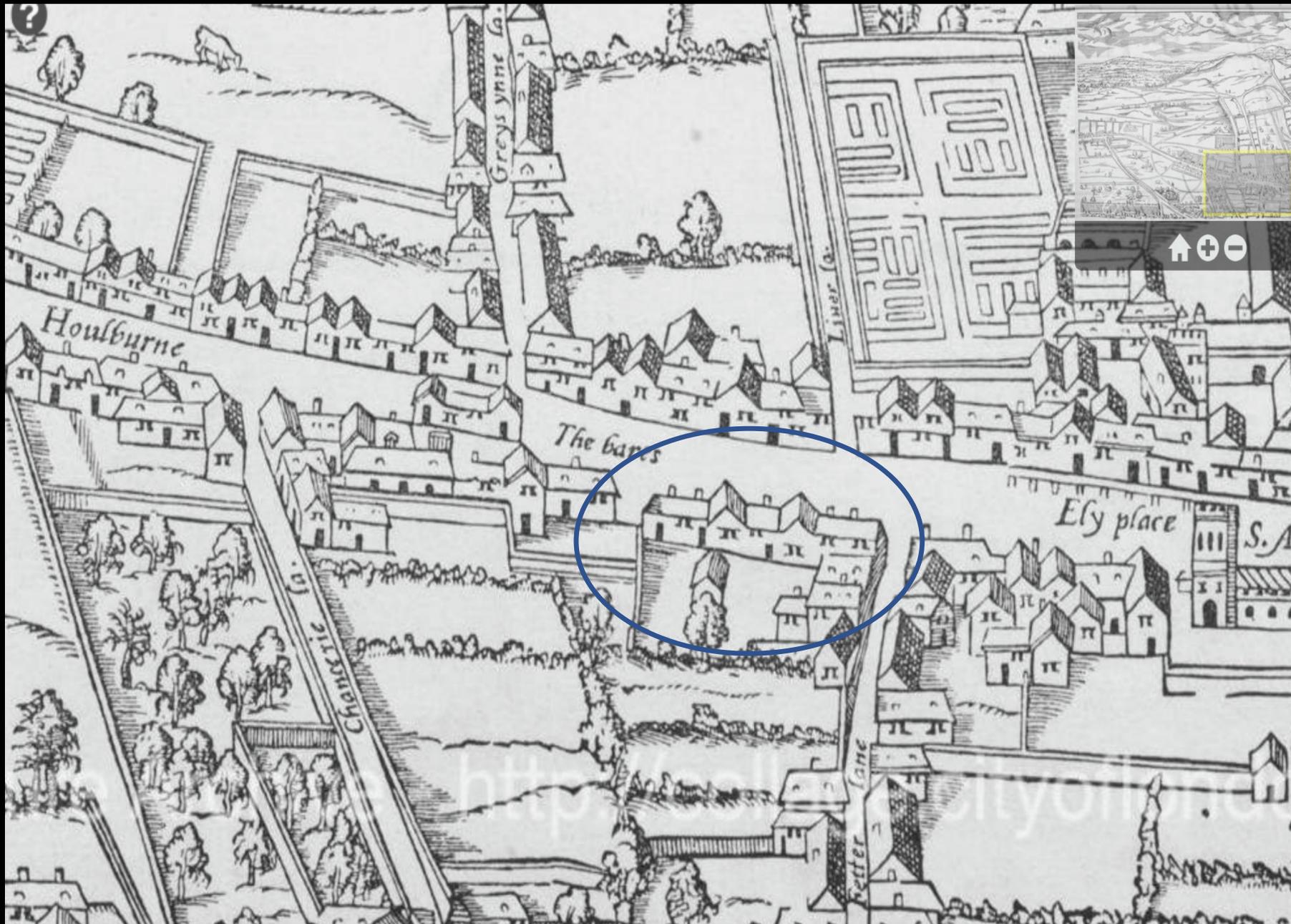


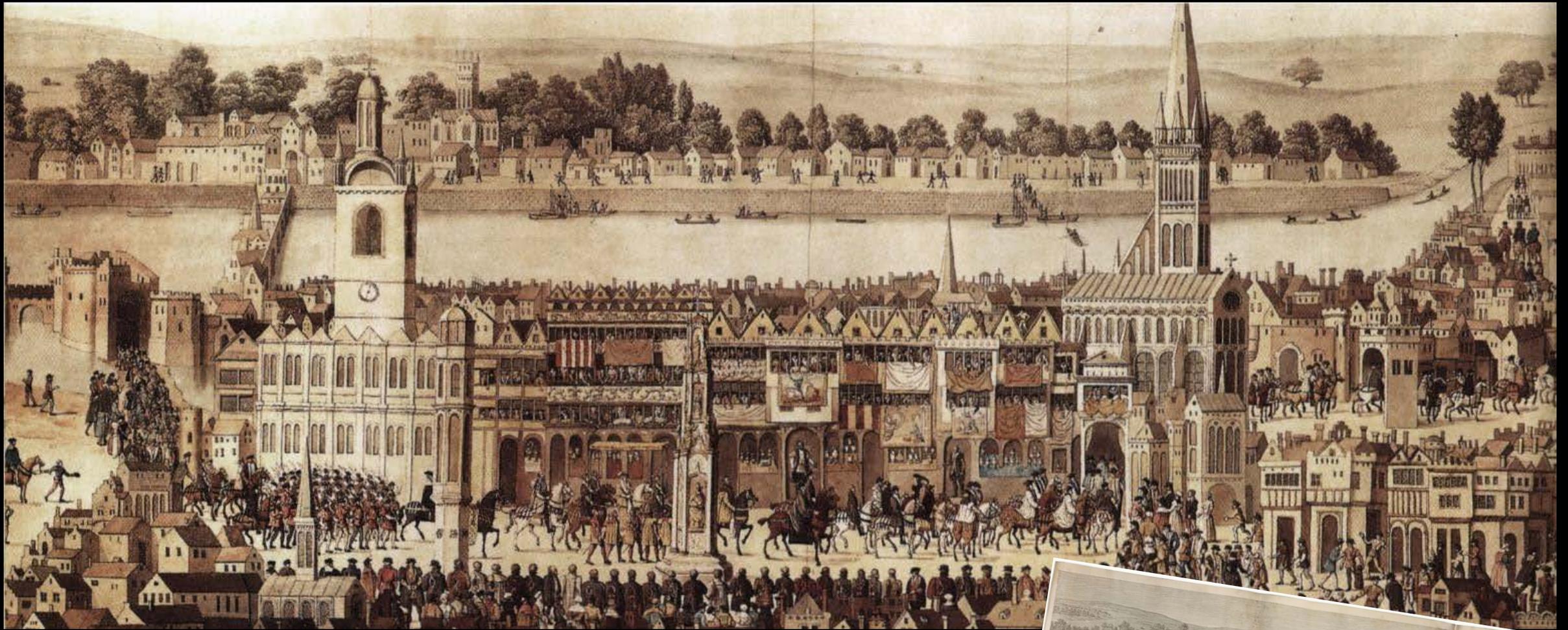
Eastcheape
Market in
about 1598.
(Re)drawn by
Hugh Alley



The 'Agas Map' of c. 1561 showing Holborn and Clerkenwell.

Formal and informal gardens, fields, hedges, deciduous trees, and the site of Barnard's Inn, current home of Grrsham College





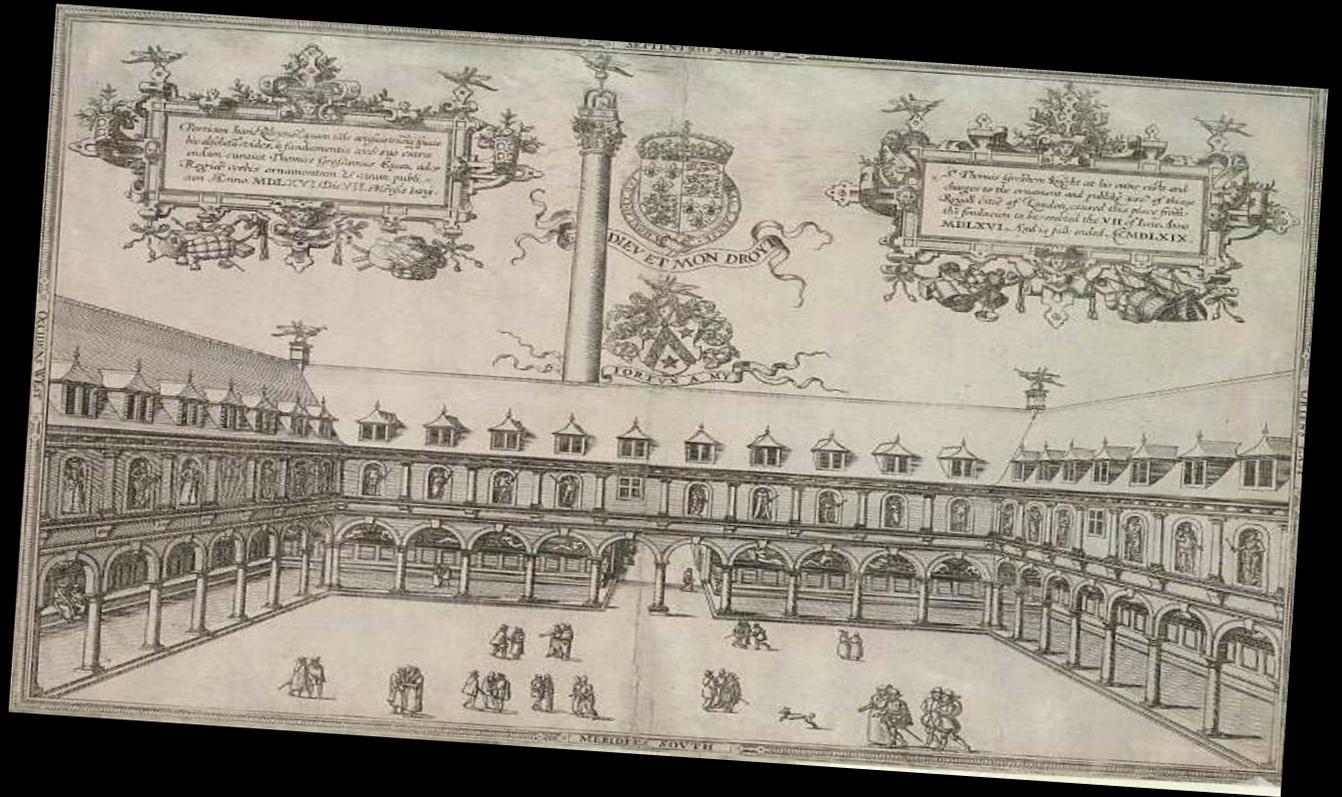
Procession of Edward VI along Cheapside to his coronation, 1547. Looking towards Southwark

Redrawn in 1787; Royal Academy of Arts

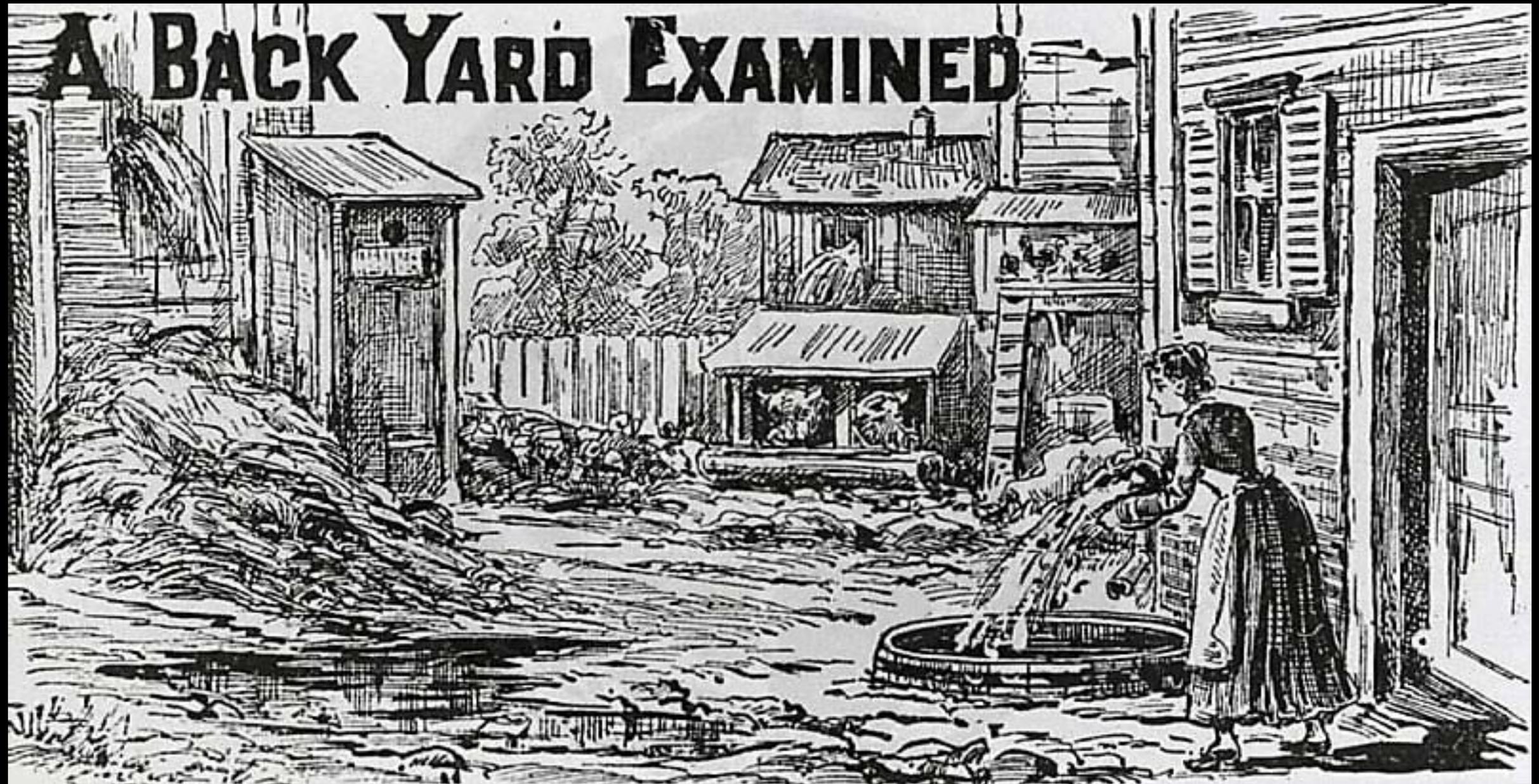




VIEW of the ROYAL EXCHANGE



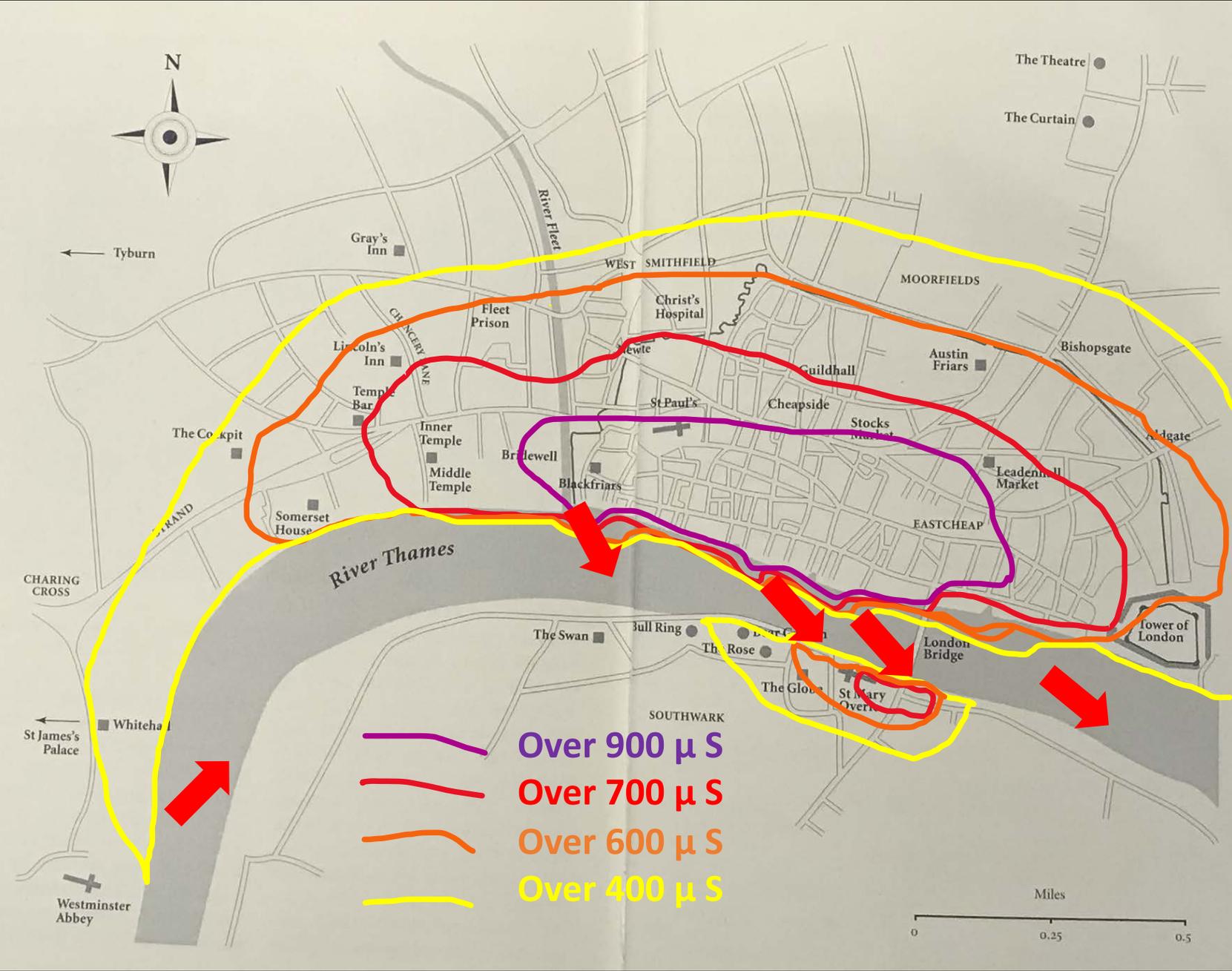
The Royal Exchange, London.
Not completed until 1571, opposite the
Bank of England, near the junction of
Cornhill and Threadneedle Street.





From: *The Corpse in the Garden: Burial, Health, and the Environment in Nineteenth-Century London*
Enviro Hist Durh N C. 2011;16(1):38-68.
doi:10.1093/envhis/emq146

Estimated impact of waste water practices on groundwater conductivity, Mid 1500s



CITY OF LONDON

THE GREAT CONDUIT
STOOD IN THIS
STREET
PROVIDING FREE WATER
13TH CENTURY TO 1666

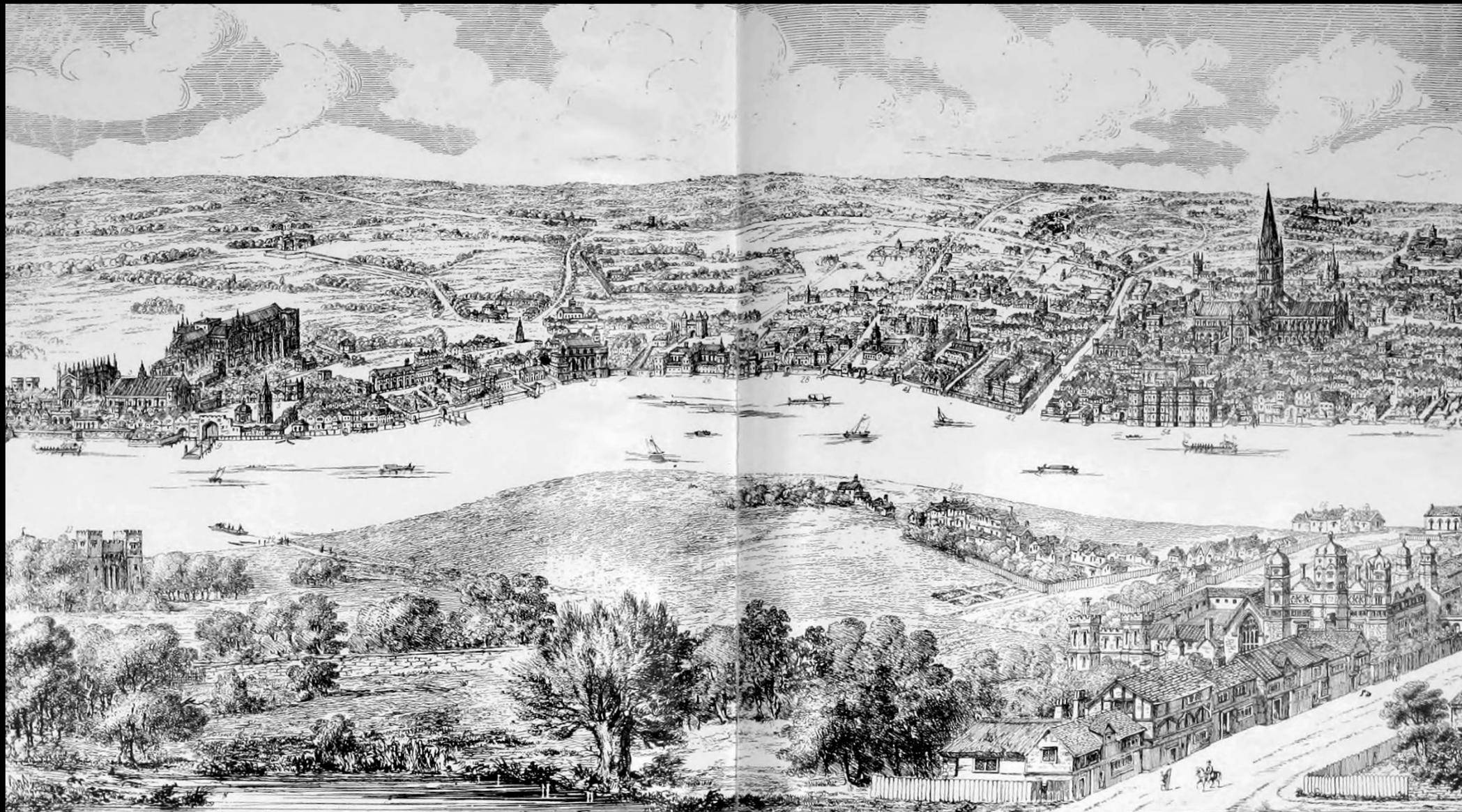


Thomas travels from London Bridge to St James and Westminster



**Panorama of
London,
Westminster
and
Southwark,
by Anthony
van den
Wyngaerde,
1543 (part
only).**

**Sutherland
Collection,
Bodleian
Library**



1. The Palace of Westminster.
2. St. Stephen's Chapel.
3. Westminster Hall.
4. Westminster Abbey.
5. Old Palace Yard.
6. The Clock Tower.
7. The Gate House.

8. St. Margaret's Church.
9. The King's Stairs.
10. Star Chamber.
11. Lambeth Palace.
12. Stangate Horse Ferry.
13. St. James's Hospital.
14. St. James's.

15. Whitehall.
16. Holbein's Gate.
17. Scotland Yard.
18. Charing Cross.
19. King's Mews.
20. St. Martin's Church.
21. St. Mary's Hospital.

22. St. Giles's Church.
23. Convent Garden.
24. The Strand.
25. York House.
26. Durham House.
27. Savoy Palace.
28. Somerset Place.

29. St. Mary's Strand.
30. St. Clement's Dane.
31. Lincoln's Inn.
32. Lincoln's Inn Fields.
33. Gray's Inn.
34. Ely House.
35. Fetter Lane.

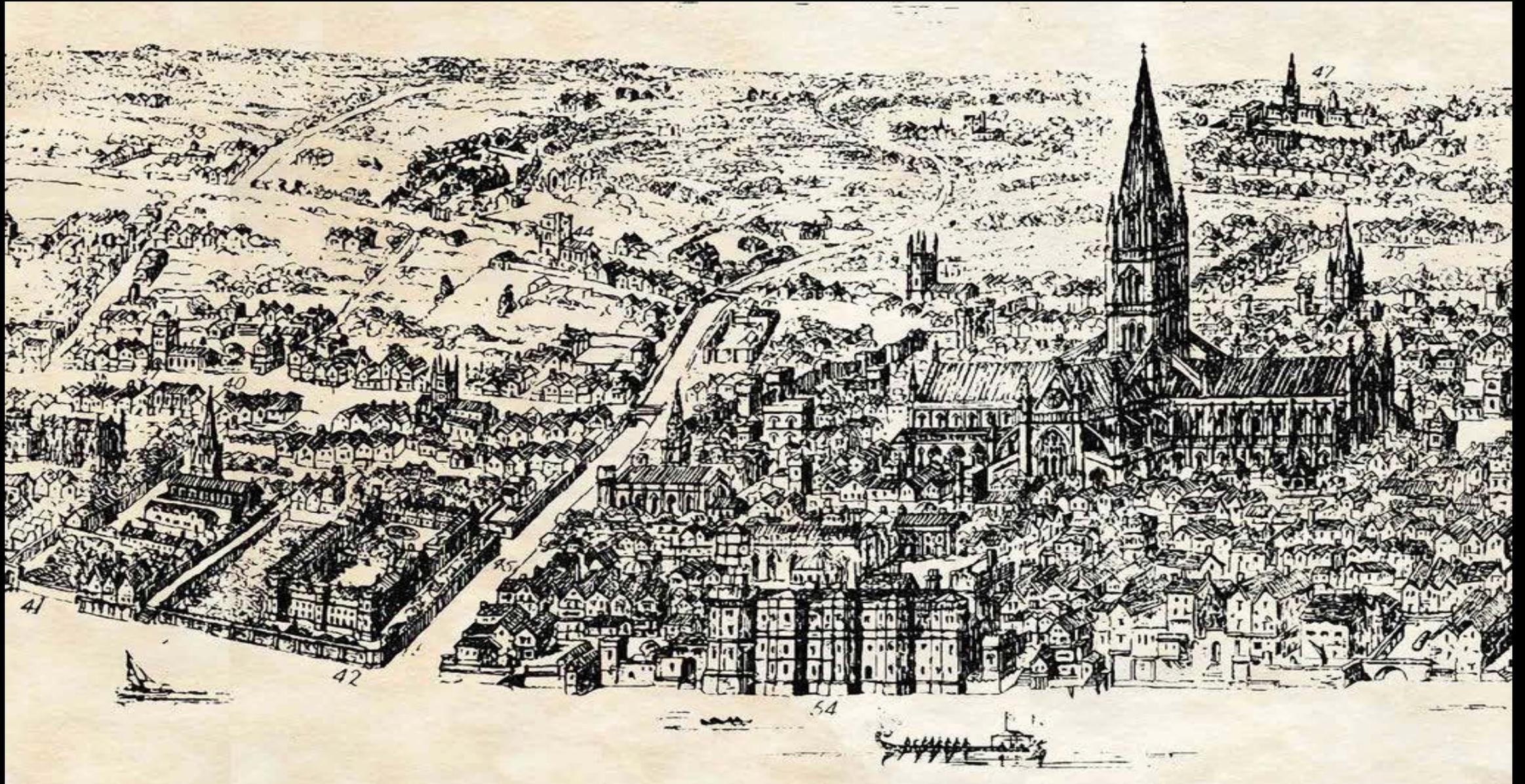
36. Rolls Place.
37. St. Dunstan's Church.
38. The Temple Church.
39. The Temple.
40. Fleet Street.
41. Grey Friars.
42. Palace of Bridewell.

43. St. Bride's.
44. St. Andrew's Church.
45. St. Sepulchre's Church.
46. Fleet Ditch.
47. St. John's Hospital.
48. Smithfield.
49. St. James's, Clerkenwell.

50. Newgate.
51. Ludgate.
52. Blackfriars.
53. The Wardrobe.
54. Baynard Castle.
55. St. Paul's Cathedral.
56. St. Paul's Cross.

57. St. Bartholomew's the Great.
58. Grey Friars.
59. Queen's Hythe.
60. The Standard.
61. Rochester House.
62. The Stews.
63. Bank Side.

Panorama of London, Westminster, and Southwark, by Anthony van den Wyngaerde, 1543 (part only, with St Paul's)



London as
in 1574, by
Georg
Braun and
Frans
Hogenberg





1593 John Norden's Map of Westminster

The 'Agas Map' of c. 1561 showing Westminster Hall, and Lambeth Palace, St. James' Park (with deer), orchards and Charing Cross



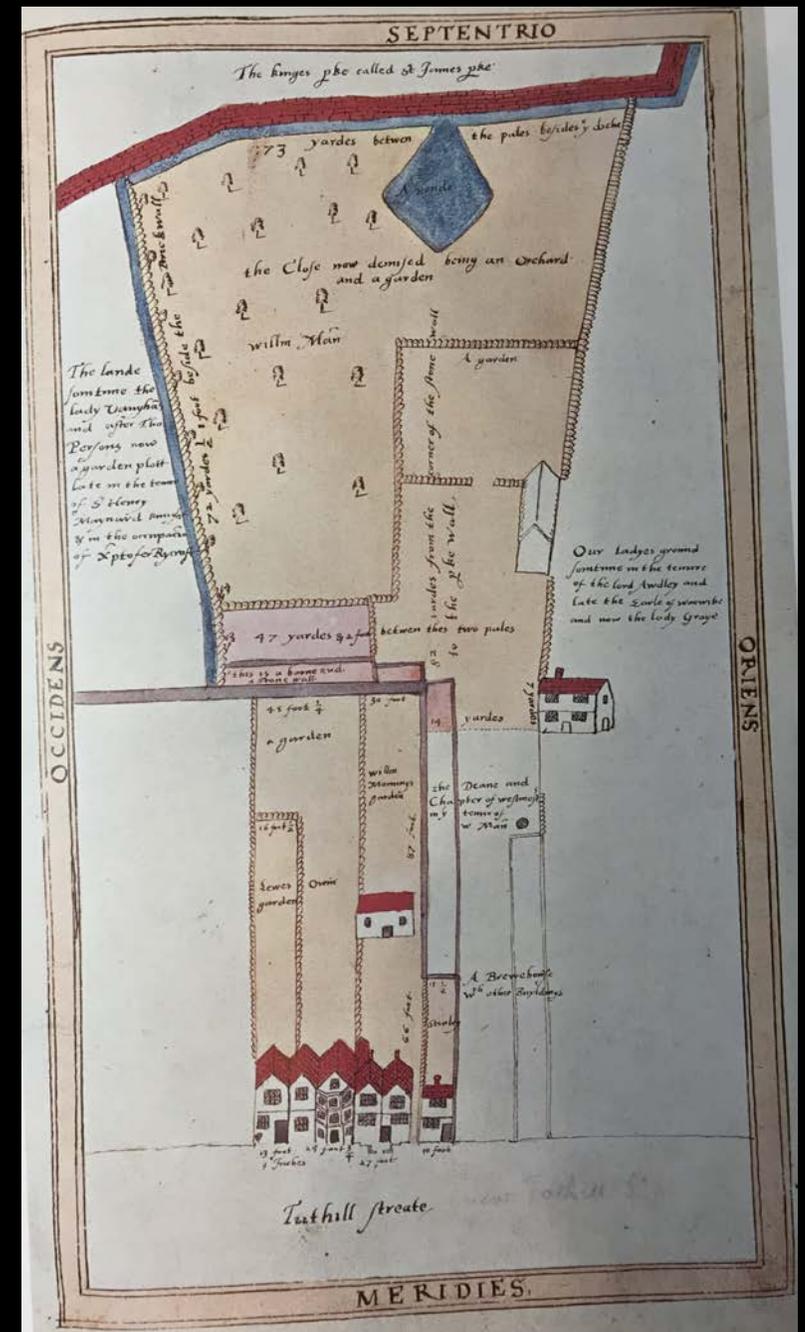


S. James Parke

Charingcross

The Courte Gate

Ralph Tresswell, c 1612.
Estate in Tothill Street,
Westminster. From
London in Maps



London, by John Norden,
1593

British Library:
<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/crace/a/00700000000001u00033000.htm>
 I, Public Domain
 Norden also created a
 panorama, viewed from
 Southwark, in about 1600





In this painting from 1677, you can see how thick the ice would have been on the Thames.



View of London from Southwark, c. 1630; based on Claes van Visscher's 'Panorama of London' (1616)

Staghounds were a recognized institution in the fifteenth century, and in later times meets were held in Lincoln's Inn Fields, St. James's, and Mayfair. They were gradually driven from Middlesex by the extension of London. In addition to the Lord Mayor's hounds, a pack of staghounds was formed in 1824 by the Hon. George Grantley Berkeley whose hounds hunted twice a week in the Harrow Weald.

On one occasion the stag entered the kitchen of a house, the wrathful owner of which said in reply to Grantley Berkeley's apologies:

Your stag, sir, not content with walking through every office has been here, sir, here in my drawing room, sir, whence he proceeded upstairs to the nursery, and damn me, sir, he's now in Mrs. --'s boudoir.

Pieter Bruegel the Elder's
painting
'Netherlandish
Proverbs'
c. 1559

Staatliche
Museen zu Berlin



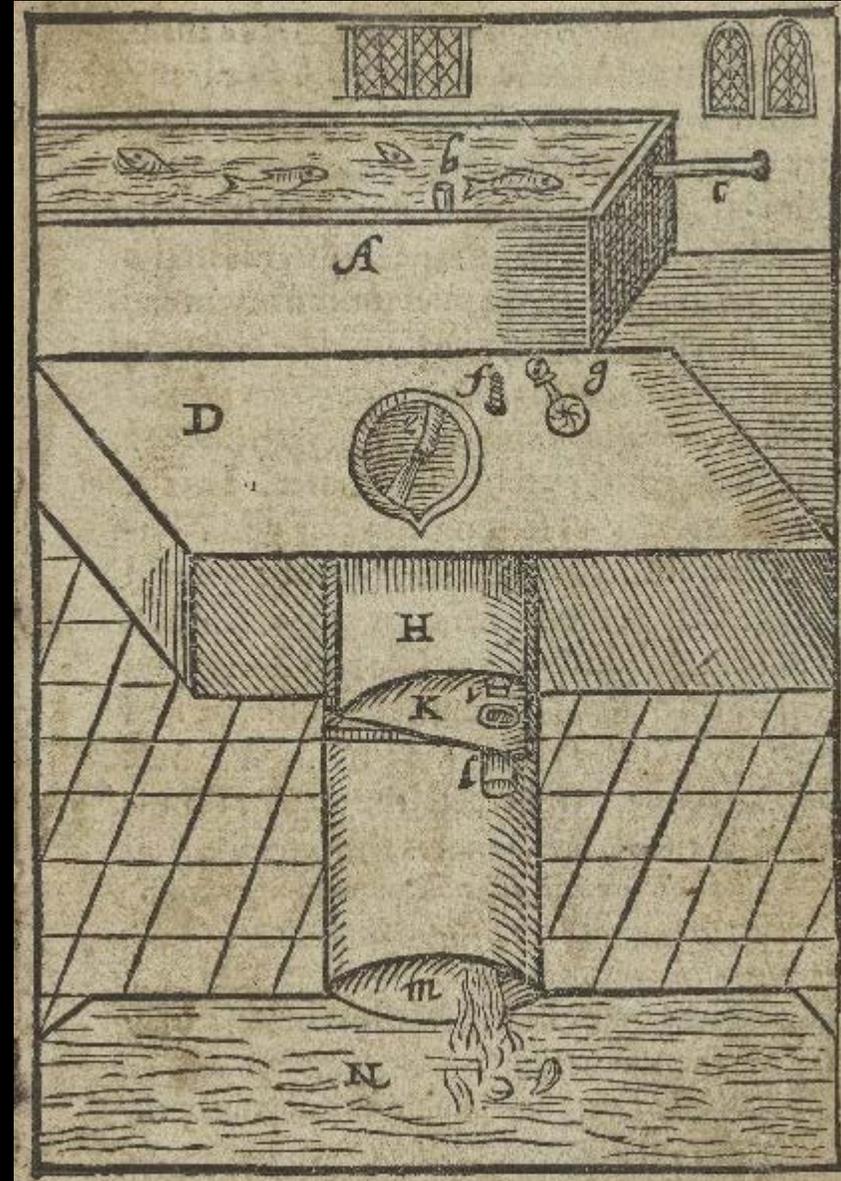


The Proverb
here is 'They
both c**p
through the
same hole'



Diagram of a flushable toilet
from Sir John
Harington's *Metamorphosis
Upon Ajax* (1596), sig. L5r.
Image courtesy of LUNA at
the Folger Shakespeare library.

<http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/SEWA1.htm?name=MOOR11>



**By 1486, stocks of
some fish in the
Thames had to be
protected from over
fishing**

Lamprey



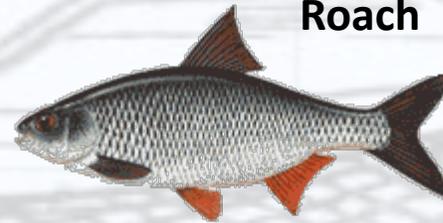
Tench



Bream



Roach



Flounder (estuary)



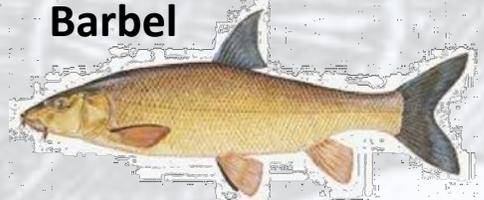
Pike



Dace



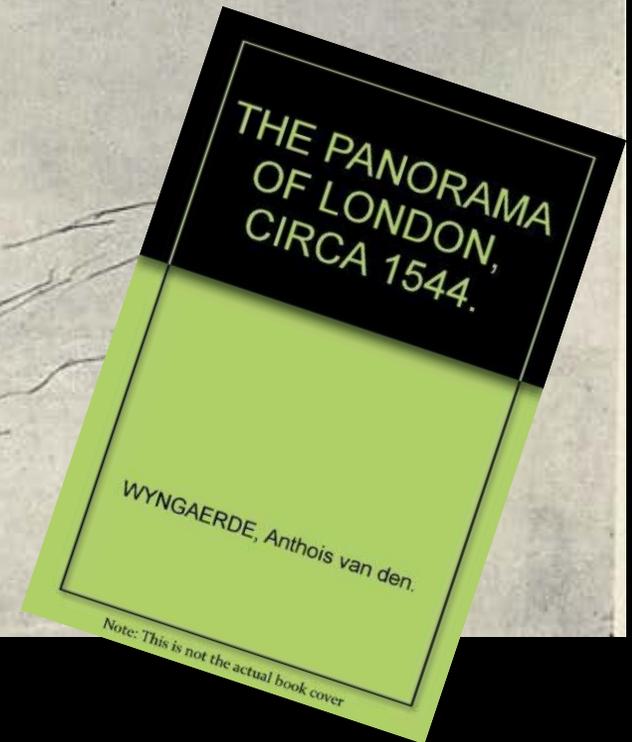
Barbel



Salmon

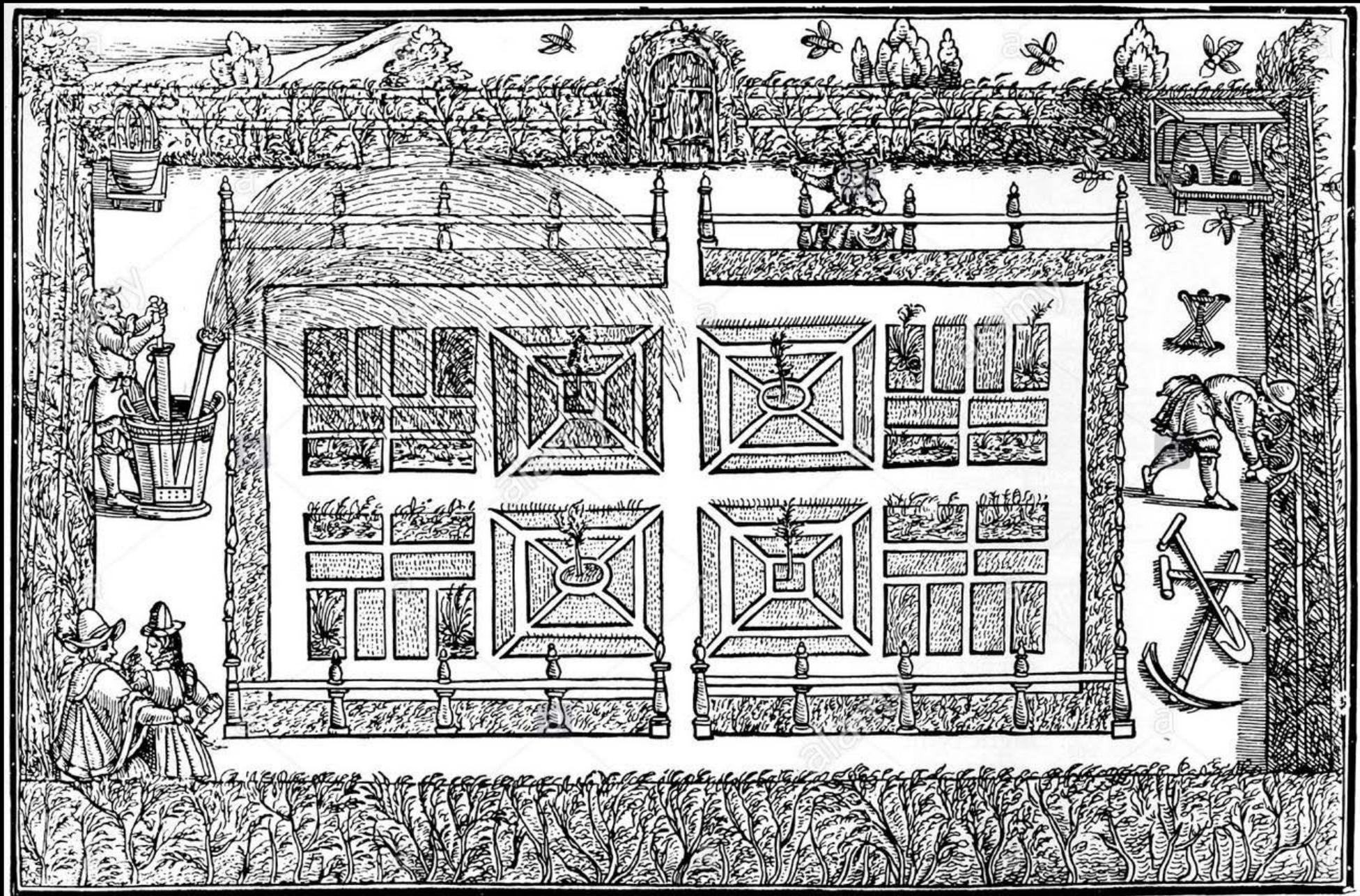


Sketch by
Anthony van
den
Wyngaerde,
c. 1544.
Palace at
Westminster,
Charing
Cross,
Lambeth
Palace in the
foreground.
Gutenberg
source





**Thomas travels from
Westminster to Southwark**



Thomas Hill , 'The Gardener's Labyrinth', published 1577, and 1587



Herbs commonly grown or gathered

Rue

Sage

Basil

Sweet Bay

Parsley

Hyssop

Mints

Savory

Fennel

Dill

Coriander

Rosemary

Thyme

Chives

Marjoram

Garlic

Caraway

Lovage

Flowers commonly grown

Violet

Columbine

Lily

Rose

Pinks

Lavender.....







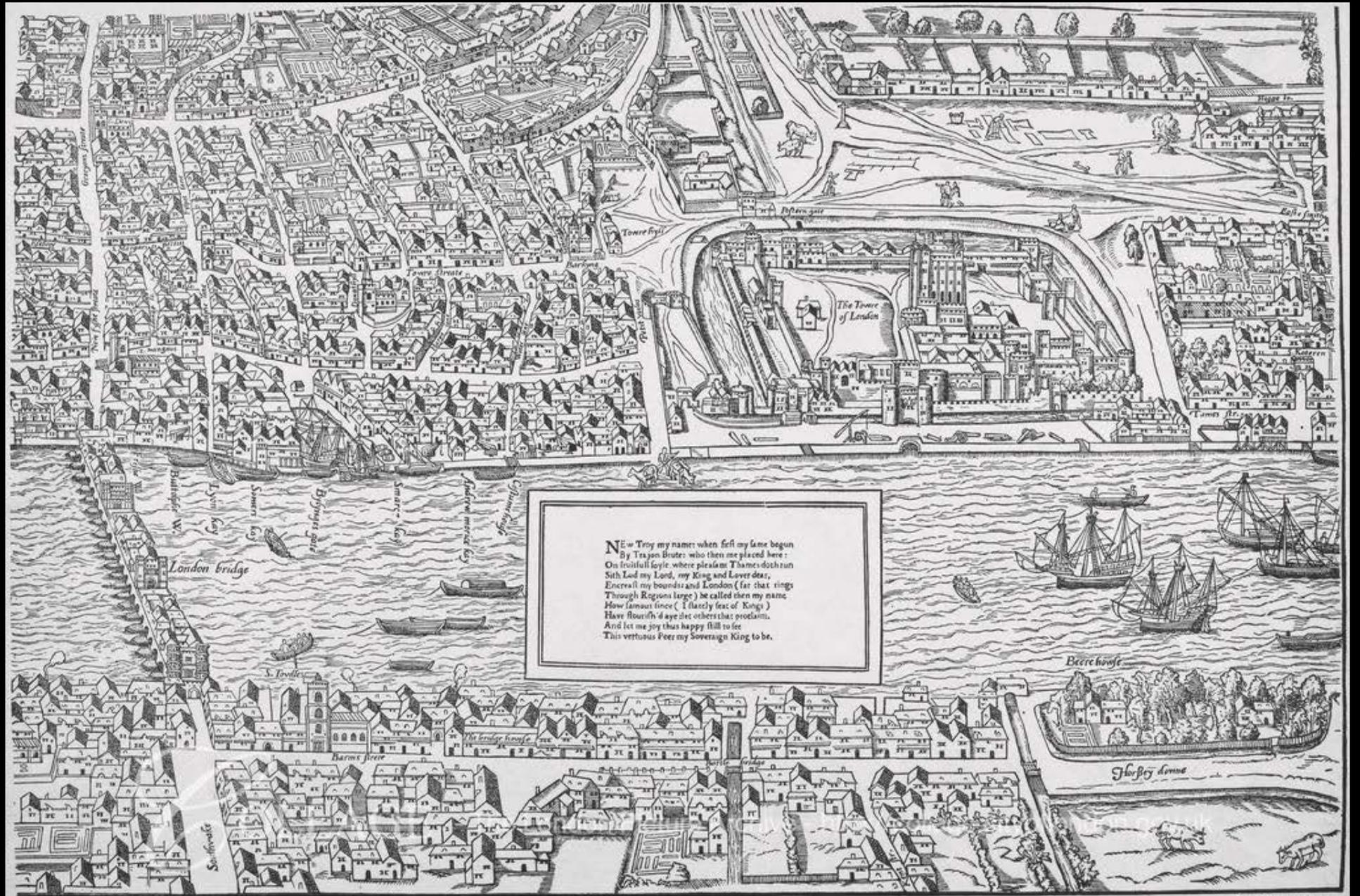
William Smith, 1588. Topographical artist. Painted during Shakespeare's time in London

View of London
from Southwark,
c. 1630, based on
Claes van
Visscher's
'Panorama of
London' (1616)

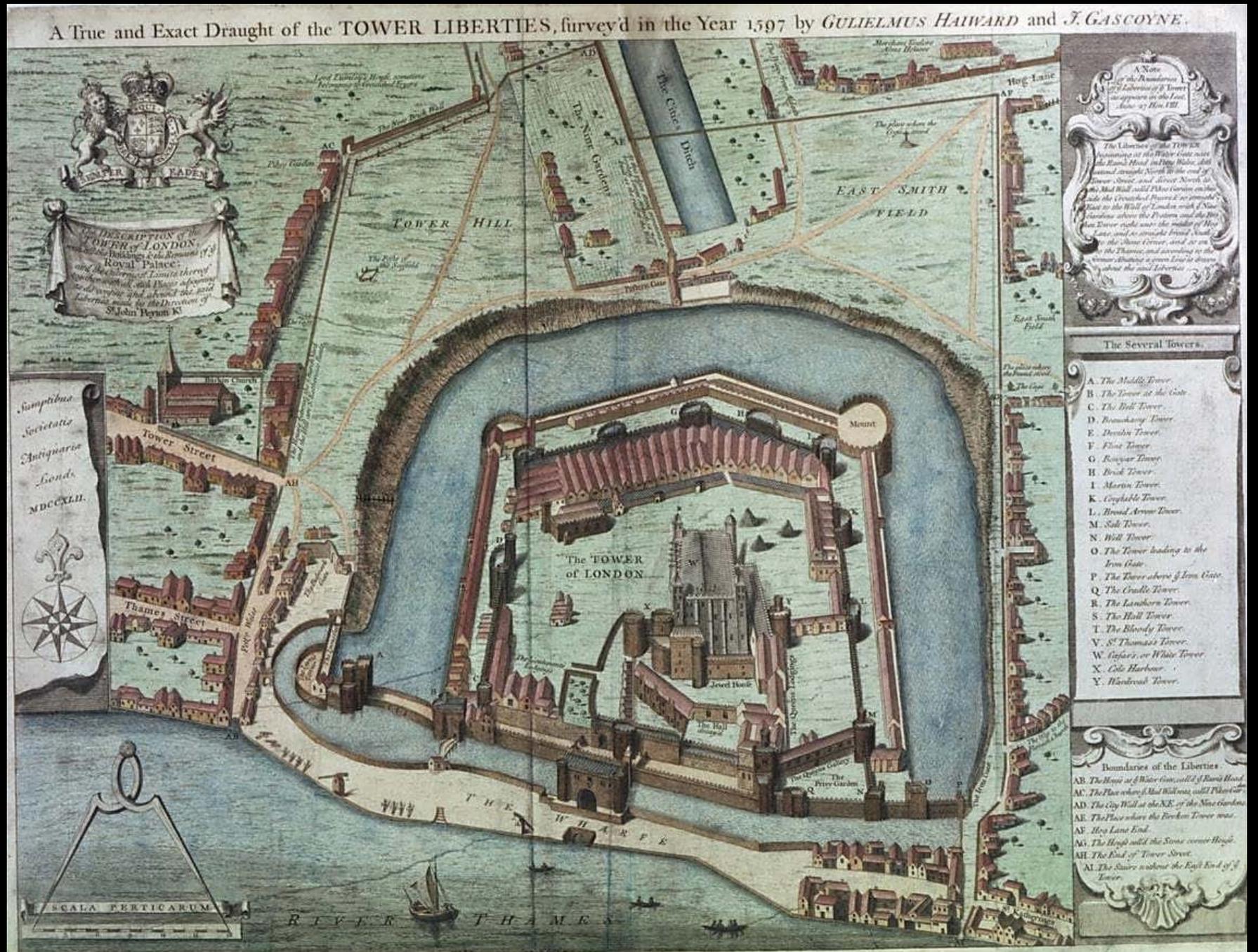
Bear gardens



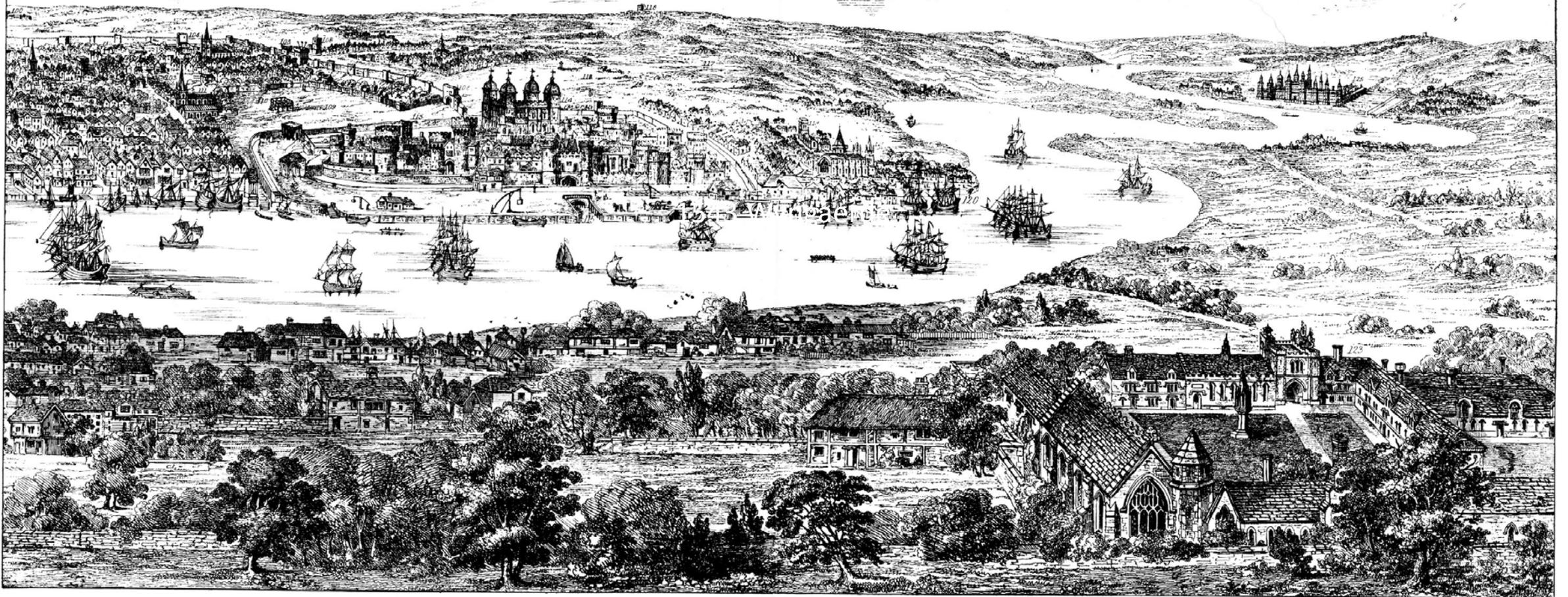
'Agas Map' of c. 1561, showing London Bridge, part of the City of London and the Tower



‘A True and Exact Draught of the Tower Liberties’, surveyed in 1597 by Gulielmus Haward and J. Gascoyne



Panorama of London, Westminster, and Southwark, by Anthony van den Wyngaerde, 1543 (part only)



100. St. Mary Spittal.
102. Houndsditch.
103. Crutched Friars.

104. Priory of Holy Trinity.
105. Aldgate.
106. St. Botolph, Aldgate.

107. The Minories.
108. The Postern Gate.
109. Great Tower Hill.

110. Place of Execution.
111. Allhallow's Church, Barking.
112. The Custom House.

113. Tower of London.
114. The White Tower.
115. Traitors' Gate

116. Little Tower Hill.
117. East Smithfield.
118. Stepney.

119. St. Catherine's Church.
120. St. Catherine's Dock.
121. St. Catherine's Hospital.

122. Isle of Dogs.
123. Monastery of Bermondsey.
124. Says Court, Deptford.

125. Palace of Placentia.
126. Greenwich.

From the Panorama of "London, Westminster, and Southwark, in 1543." By Anthony Van den Wyngaerde. (Sutherland Collection, Bodleian Library, Oxford.) For continuation see pp. 234, 235.



**Thomas ends his day with a
feast at Bermondsey**

'A Marriage
Feast at
Bermondsey'
Attributed to
Marcus
Gheeraets
the Elder, c.
1569

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marcus_Gheeraets_the_Elder_-_Festival_at_Bermondsey.png



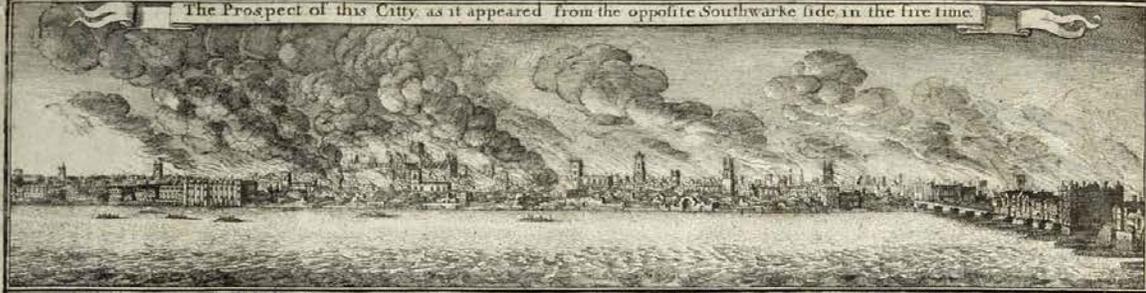
The Great Fire of London 1666, based on a painting by Jan Griffier the elder. Museum of London



The Great Fire of London 1666, unknown artist, around 1675. Museum of London



AN EXACT SURVEICH OF THE STREETS LANES AND CHVRCHES CONTAINED WITHIN THE VVINNES OF THE CITY OF LONDON FIRST DESCRIBED IN SIX PLATS BY JOHN LEAKE IOHN LENNINGS WILLIAM MARR WIL. LEYBURN THOMAS STREETE & RICHARD SHORTGRAVE in Dec^r. A. 1686. BY THE ORDER OF THE LORD MAYOR ALDERMEN AND COMMON COVNCELL OF THE SAID CITY. Reduced here into one entire plat by JOHN LEAKE IOHN LENNINGS WILLIAM MARR WIL. LEYBURN THOMAS STREETE & RICHARD SHORTGRAVE in Dec^r. A. 1686. BY THE ORDER OF THE LORD MAYOR ALDERMEN AND COMMON COVNCELL OF THE SAID CITY.



The Right Honourable Sir William Turner the Lord Mayor of 1689.

1. Cathedral of St Paul
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100. St Dunstons Church



Published with the consent of the Wardes, by the care Industrie and Charge of Nathaniel Droghda, Stationer and one of the Wardes at his shop at the Angel, in the second Ward of Southwarke, leading from Whitechapel street.