



Courtesy: Allies and Morrison

London Plan: Characterisation Studies

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- **Characterisation studies are developing into very useful planning tools.** They have evolved from the landscape and heritage management techniques that influenced past practice.
- These studies act as a helpful evidence base in supporting the London Plan's **promotion of proactive planning** i.e. to identify areas for tall buildings, to inform growth strategies and to assist housing land availability studies.
- There should be **clarity on what characterisation studies will be used for right from the start and this should inform how they are devised.** However, don't be surprised if you find **they can be functional across different council departments** in ways not initially foreseen – users need to be involved and have full access to outputs.
- Cross-borough **consistency in the collection and labelling of base level information** such as identifying which areas are designated to stay the same, change slightly or grow - could be useful.
- There are three core elements of character - **physical, social and historical. Studies need to be comprehensive, locally based and informed by people's perception of their areas.** They should not make assumptions of quality from GIS data alone.

Speakers:

Sue Cooke, LB Hackney
Sarah Parsons, LB Waltham Forest
Tom Rumble, LB Enfield
Jane Manning, Allies and Morrison
Steven Orr, Land Use Consultancy
Lara Goldstein, GLA

Attendees: 57