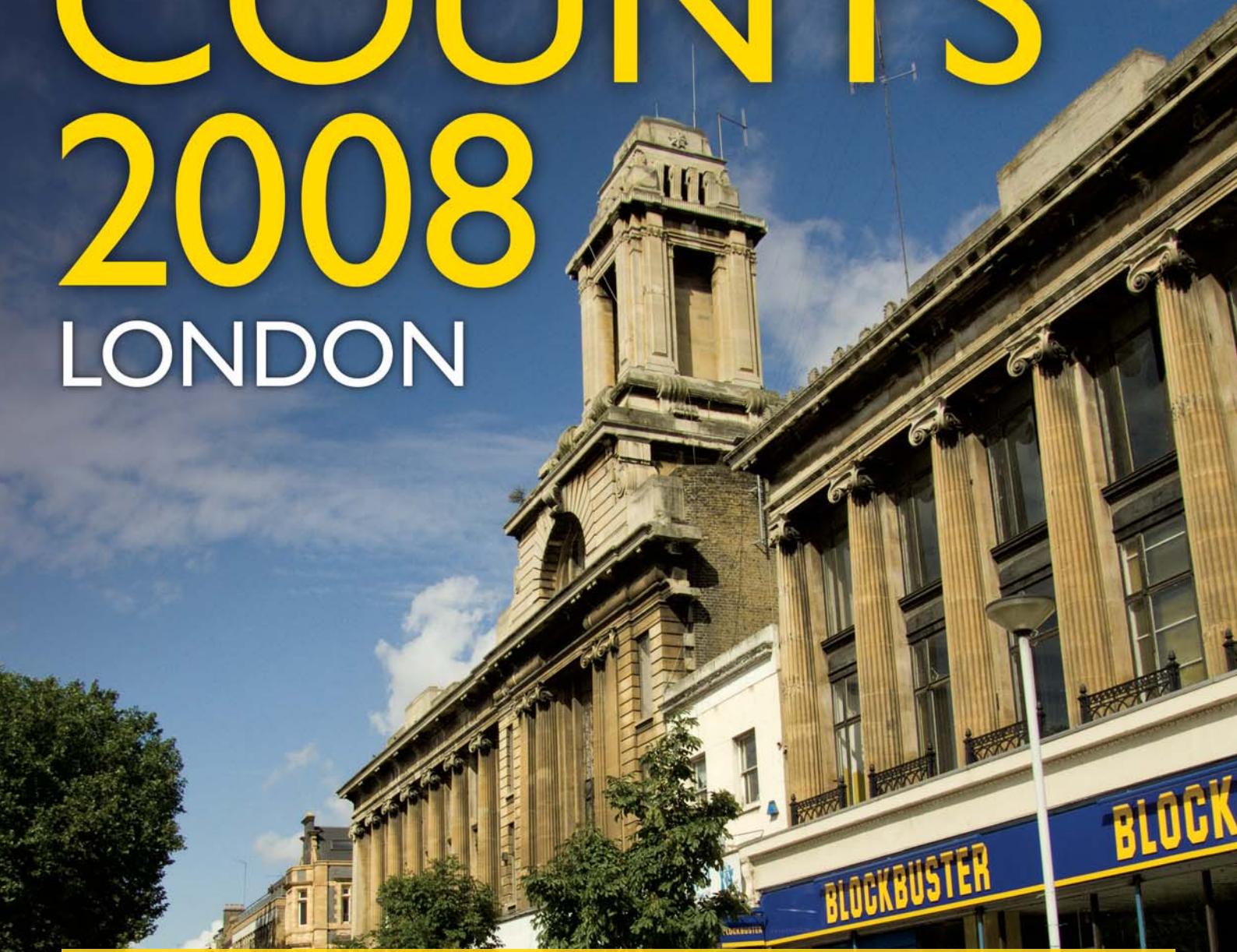


# HERITAGE COUNTS

## 2008

### LONDON



#### 1 HIGH STREET 2012 ▶

High street 2012 is a joint initiative by English Heritage, Transport for London, the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Newham and the London Development Agency to improve the London streets that will receive world wide attention when they host the final stages of the Olympic Marathon in 2012. The project will deliver significant improvements to Whitechapel Road, Mile End Road, Bow Road and High Street Stratford.

Much of the route is through designated conservation areas and there are many listed buildings.

Fluid have been appointed as master planners for the route, and charged with shaping a vision that incorporates existing projects as well as new ideas. It is expected that, as well as public realm and highway improvements, the vision will include a series of building renovation schemes. Following public consultation, the vision study is planned to be completed in autumn 2008.



Heritage Counts 2008 is the seventh annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2008* report, available at [www.heritgecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritgecounts.org.uk) where a full set of statistics relating to the historic environment in the London region can also be found.



## KEY INDICATORS FOR LONDON'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

*Where figures for London are given as proportion of a total figure for England, it should be noted that this region covers an area of 1,572km<sup>2</sup> (1.2% of England) and has a population of approximately 7.5 million (15% of the population) (mid 2006).*

## DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

### Listed Buildings

In April 2002, there were 18,062 entries compared to 18,461 by April 2008 (about 5% of the total for England). This breaks down to 582 Grade I, 1,321 Grade II\* and 16,558 Grade II listed buildings entries.

### Scheduled Monuments

In April 2002, there were 150 scheduled monuments compared to 152 by April 2008 (less than 1% of the total for England).

### Registered Parks and Gardens

In April 2002, there were 140 registered parks and gardens compared to 148 by April 2008 (just over 9% of the total for England).

	18,461
	152
	148
	1
	4



**Registered Historic Battlefields**  
London has one historic battlefield (Barnet, 1471).

### World Heritage Sites

There are four sites in London (about a quarter of the total for England).

### HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

- **Conservation Areas** – In July 2008, there were 955 conservation areas (source: local authority web sites).

The capital enjoys an abundance of open space and waterways, including:

- Over 600 **Garden Squares**, of which 461 are protected by the London Squares Preservation Act 1931.
- Eight **Royal Parks**, numerous **public parks**, approximately 122 **heaths, commons and greens** and 170 **cemeteries and burial grounds** (16 historically important).
- 68km of the **River Thames** and 80km of **canal network**, both bordered by numerous historic assets and historic areas and open spaces.
- The **London Historic Parks & Gardens Trust Inventory of Historic Green Spaces** includes nearly 2,000 sites – see [www.londongardenstrust.org](http://www.londongardenstrust.org)

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS (HERS)

The Greater London record (maintained by English Heritage) contains approximately 73,000 individual records of archaeological sites, monuments, buildings, excavation finds and "event" records (mostly archaeological excavations). 583 enquiries to this data source were made to English Heritage in 2007/08 (an increase of 27% over 2006/07). See [www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/conWebDoc.3219](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/conWebDoc.3219)

## HERITAGE AT RISK

### Buildings at Risk

The English Heritage *Heritage at Risk Register* reported that in London in 2008 there were 84 Grade I and II\* listed building items at risk compared to 81 in 2007 and 98 in 1999. The proportion of Grade I and II\* listed buildings items at risk rose slightly from 4.3% in 2007 to 4.4% in 2008, but still less than the 5.5% of 1999. There were 465 Grade II listed building items at risk in 2008, compared to 516 in 2007 (a reduction of 9.9%) and 550 in 1999 (a reduction of 15.4%). The proportion of Grade II listed building items at risk fell from 3.1% in 2007 to 2.4% in 2008. Since 2007, 65 buildings have been removed from the Register. A major category across all listing grades continues to be those in public ownership, which number 125 items in 2008 (21.9% of all items at risk), although there has been a steady year on year decrease since 2004 (201 and 30% respectively).

## 2 2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES: GREENWICH PARK ▶

The Grade I registered Greenwich Park is scheduled to host the Equestrian, Paralympic Equestrian and Modern Pentathlon events in 2012 for which crowd numbers of at least 23,000 are expected together with stabling for over 200 horses. This has raised concerns at the significant risks that this poses for a park which has never been subject to development on this scale.

At the time of writing, English Heritage is pressing for an impact study to assess the likely consequences for the park's archaeology, designed landscape and historic structures.



### Scheduled Monuments at Risk

Recent survey work has shown that in 2008 there were 121 monuments at risk in London (80% of a total number of 153). Of these approximately 47% are owned by local authorities, with 25% in private ownership.

### Registered Parks and Gardens at Risk

Initial analysis of the 148 Registered Parks and Gardens in London indicates that in 2008, 5% are at high risk, 17% are at medium risk and 78% are at low risk.

## MANAGING POSITIVELY

### • Planning activity

In 2007/08 about 91,300 applications were decided by planning authorities, 8.3% more than 2006/07 and 20.8% more than 2001/02.

### • Listed Building Consent (LBC)

In 2007/08, there were 4,524 decisions on applications for LBC, 3.2% more than 2006/07 and 17.7% more than 2001/02.

### • Conservation Area Consent

In 2007/08 there were 784 decisions on applications to make alterations to properties in conservation areas, 2.8% more than 2006/07 and 31.3% more than 2001/02.

### • Scheduled Monument Consent

In 2007/08 there were 108 decisions by Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), 38.5% more than 2006/07 and a vast 237.5% more than 2001/02.

### • Planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens

In 2007/08 the Garden History Society was consulted on 61 applications, seven fewer than 2006/07.

## CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

### English Heritage

In London during 2007/08, English Heritage spent £2.5 million on all grant streams compared to £2.2 million in 2006/07 and £2.4 million in 2001/02 (historical figures adjusted for inflation). However, within this, the grants for secular assets continues to fall from £977,000 in 2001/02 to £511,000 in 2007/08 (a drop of 47.7%).

### The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Over the period 1994-2008, London was awarded £834.2 million across all funding streams, representing 25% of all HLF investment in England. Of this, £361.6 million was on museums, archives, libraries and collections, and £286.3 million on historic buildings and monuments.

### The Royal Parks Agency (RPA)

The RPA has responsibility for eight historic parks in London. In 2007/08, its total income (self generated, HLF and DCMS grant) was £28.5m compared to £29.4m in 2006/07. The decrease was mainly due to a reduction of 12.8% in grant aid from DCMS but was partially offset by an increase in self generated income of 19.4%.

### Historic Royal Palaces (HRP)

HRP is a Royal Charter Body with charitable status, contracted by DCMS to manage the unoccupied royal palaces on its behalf across six sites in London. It receives no public revenue funding as all costs are met by self-generated income. Its total incoming resources in 2007/08 was £52.6m, compared to £50.8m in 2006/07, an increase of 3.5%.

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

### Local Authority Heritage Champions

Heritage Champions provide leadership for heritage issues within their local authority. As of 31 March 2008, 30 (91%) of 33 London authorities had a Champion, plus one at the Greater London Authority, compared to 27 in July 2007.

## PARTICIPATION

### Attending historic environment sites

The DCMS *Taking Part* survey shows that in 2005/06 approximately 64% of all adults in London attended at least one heritage site. This figure dropped significantly in 2006/07 to approximately 59%, by far the lowest of all the nine English regions (average 69%). For priority adult groups only 45% of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) (national average 50%), 51% of those with limiting disability or illness (average 60%) and 44% from lower socio-economic groups (average 57%) visited a historic site. London had the lowest participation rate in two of these three priority groups (only the West Midlands were slightly lower for the BME group). The overall participation rate may be due to the capital's demographic profile, coupled with a high number of competing visitor attractions.

### Historic Houses Association (HHA)

The HHA received 462,875 visitors to its member properties in London in 2007, compared to 418,418 in 2006 (a rise of 10.6%). This is only 4% of the total visitor numbers for England, but this reflects the small number of HHA properties in London.

### 3 CLORE LEARNING CENTRE ▶

Since opening in March 2007, the Clore Learning Centre at Hampton Court has already made a huge difference to the education provision at the palace. Providing five dedicated learning spaces offering facilities for everything from formal lectures and seminars to practical art workshops, the center has enabled Historic Royal Palaces to cater for over 67,000 education visitors in 2007, an increase of 27% on 2006.



#### English Heritage

Staffed London properties received 341,328 visitors in 2007/08 (6.5% of total for England) with Kenwood House accounting for 37% of all London visits.

#### National Trust

The National Trust's properties in its Thames and Solent Region (which includes Greater London) received 1.56m visitors in 2007/08, compared to 1.39m in 2006/07, an increase of 12.2%.

#### Historic Royal Palaces

Historic Royal Palaces received 2.98m visitors to its properties in 2007/08 compared to 2.92m in 2006/07.

#### Membership of historic environment organisations

**English Heritage** – Total membership stood at about 665,000 in March 2008, with London accounting for around 12% of members.

**National Trust** – Thames and Solent membership reached about 668,868 in February 2008 (19% of total English Membership) compared to 639,000 in February 2007, an increase of 4.7%.

**Historic Royal Palaces** – In just its third year of operating a membership scheme, HRP had attracted over 20,000 members by April 2008.

**Volunteering in the historic environment**  
The **National Trust** enjoys the benefits of a large volunteer workforce, with the Thames and Solent region having 5,758 volunteers in 2007/08, the second highest in England. Numbers have been steadily increasing year on year since 2002/03.

#### School Visits to heritage sites

The **National Trust** recorded 17,030 educational visits in 2007/08 in Thames and Solent region, compared to 28,384 in 2006/07.

**English Heritage** recorded 16,018 educational visits to its London properties in 2007/08, which is only 4.0% of the total for England. However, the region has fewer English Heritage properties when compared with other regions.

**Historic Royal Palaces** saw an annual increase in 2007 of 27% (to over 67,000) in education visitors to Hampton Court, following the opening of the new Clore Learning Centre. The Tower of London continues to receive over 60,000 education visits per annum.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION

Since the publication of *Heritage Counts 2007* there have been a number of major developments affecting the historic environment in the capital. Arguably chief amongst these has been the election in April of a new Mayor of London.

**The Mayor and Greater London Authority**  
In July 2008 the Mayor of London published *Planning for a Better London*, which outlines the key areas he wishes to address in revising the London Plan and various other strategies and guidance that he is responsible for. The document can be seen at [www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/planning.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/planning.jsp). Main points concerning the historic environment include:

- Placing more emphasis on issues affecting outer London, including the setting up of an Outer London Commission.

- A focus on genuinely strategic issues, where the GLA can help improve quality of planning policy and decisions.
- Better protection and enhancement of the historic environment.
- Support for tall buildings in appropriate locations (e.g. existing clusters) whilst elsewhere ensuring that local context is given greater weight.
- Enhancing viewing corridors and strengthening protection of World Heritage Sites.
- Protecting and enhancing green and open spaces.

Revision has also commenced on the *London View Management Framework (July 2007) Special Planning Guidance*. This will be supplemented by the results of English Heritage's own consultation exercise *Seeing the History in the View: A Method for Assessing Heritage Significance within Views*, which commenced in April 2008.

#### Local Area Agreements (LAAs)

The success of the pilot round of LAAs has seen them established as a legal requirement under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Thus English Heritage joins a range of other bodies as statutory "partner authorities" who can assist local authorities to deliver their chosen improvement targets (35 from a list of 198 prepared by Communities and Local Government). Despite there being no specific historic environment target, following the line taken in the London Historic Environment Forum publication *Capital Values*, the sector can still support a range of different improvements. All of the London boroughs have revised and signed off their LAAs and their improvement targets can be seen at [www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk](http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk)



#### 4 BUILDINGS AT RISK: TARGETING LONDON'S EMPTY HOMES ▶

English Heritage's *Heritage at Risk Register 2008* reported that 210 (37%) of the capital's buildings at risk are residential, and that of these, 140 (67%) are vacant and 42 (20%) partly vacant. At the launch of the Register, London Mayor Boris Johnson announced that he would use the register to help bring London's listed buildings at risk back into use as much needed housing. The Mayor has £331 million to spend in his Targeted Funding Stream for Housing and as part of that funding, £60 million has been earmarked for bringing London's empty properties back into use. Long-term dilapidated and, for the first time, listed buildings, have been identified as a priority. The Mayor wants owners of listed buildings on the Register to work with their local authority to bid for money to improve the condition and use of their properties for housing.

Residential listed buildings in London which could be refurbished range from a Victorian villa in Enfield, a Gothic country house in Ealing, to even the remains of a Wren church in Upper Thames Street in the City. There are also many non-residential listed buildings on the *At Risk Register* which could be successfully converted into housing with the help of English Heritage advice. These include a 19th century sailmakers and chandlers in West India Dock Road and a former workshop and engineering works in Park Street, Southwark.

*London Mayor, Boris Johnson, outside 65 Swinton Street in Camden, a terraced house dating from 1775 which lies vacant. Entered on to the Register in June 2003.*

#### 5 EAST LONDON'S RING OF BRIGHT WATER ▶

As part of a national campaign to encourage more people to visit the canals and rivers, British Waterways has shone the spotlight on East London's network of waterways.

The *Yours To Enjoy Anytime* campaign will see over 100,000 East Londoner's receive their own guide to the waterways, along with waterside offers to tempt people to the towpath.

British Waterways' Mark Blackwell explains: "Docks, rivers and canals are very much part of the East End's DNA but many people have perhaps forgotten that they are there. Last year we had almost 2.5 million visits to Camden's towpath, over a million to Little Venice but only 200,000 to the beautiful stretch of the Regent's Canal alongside Mile End Park. We want to reverse this trend and see East London's waterways become a visitor attraction in their own right."

See more and download guides and maps at [www.waterscape.com/features-and-articles/features/your-local-canal-yours-to-enjoy-anytime](http://www.waterscape.com/features-and-articles/features/your-local-canal-yours-to-enjoy-anytime)

*Regent's Canal at Mile End Lock.*



## 6 HERITAGE PROTECTION ▶

2008 saw the publication of the draft Heritage Protection Bill, the spirit and proposals of which are already informing English Heritage's approach to designation. English Heritage has handled about 250 applications to assess London buildings for listing this year, ranging from the BBC Television Centre to the Kennedy's chain of sausage shops. In addition to this reactive work, English Heritage has embarked on strategic designation projects, looking at areas where change is certain and designation clarity is required. For example at the east end of Oxford Street (pictured here), where there is pressure for redevelopment due to Crossrail, English Heritage are assessing a group of commercial buildings with architectural interest above the beleaguered ground floors. The future Olympic heritage boulevard that is High Street 2012 has highlighted a number of 19th and 20th century institutional and commercial buildings.

Any new designation in this promising area of east London will help focus attention for enhancement works, as well as highlight the special histories of the area. Additionally, the national bicentenary commemoration of the abolition of slavery has encouraged the consideration of how important historic interest is to designation. Thus, in London, five listed buildings have been amended, three have been upgraded and four new ones listed to acknowledge their connections to abolition and slavery. English Heritage is also working with the London Fire Brigade to modernise the statutory descriptions for the listed stations in their ownership to help inform future management of the sites. This exciting designation work provides a positive view of approaches championed through the Heritage Protection Reform.



This document has been produced on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum:

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