

# HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of  
**LONDON'S**  
Historic Environment

2005



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# Heritage Counts 2005 in London

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**Cover image:** London's Arcadia: the River Thames from Richmond Hill. Jason Debney (far right), coordinator of the Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS), and colleagues. See Section B2.

*Heritage Counts* is the annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. The report identifies the principal trends and challenges affecting the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2005 on the state of England's rural and maritime heritage. 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 2005* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

London has always thrived on being an open and vibrant city. It is one of its greatest strengths – central to its successful bid to host the 2012 Olympics.

A vital aspect of London's continuing prosperity and success is its uniquely rich mix of historic buildings, public spaces, landscapes and waterways, which coalesce to create a great world city. Maintaining and investing in this uniqueness is crucial to its future. London has flourished by striking a successful balance between the old and the new. It is not a question of choosing one or the other. We must have both. The challenge is to reuse the legacy of historic buildings and areas we have inherited from past generations to regenerate failing parts of the city – to get the right buildings in the right places. Looking after the historic environment is intrinsically linked to making London a truly sustainable city.

This year's *Heritage Counts* is a snapshot of the state of London's historic environment and our stewardship of it – in particular its historic landscapes and waterways, its parks, gardens, squares and open spaces; its burial grounds and cemeteries (now havens of biodiversity); its rural fringe and Green Belt, and the defining importance of the River Thames, its tributaries and the canal network. All are vital components of its success.

With the Olympics now firmly on the horizon, we appeal to all those involved in shaping the future of London to work together to ensure that London presents its best face to the world in 2012 and to leave a lasting and sustainable legacy for future generations.

Philip Davies  
Chair of the London Historic Environment Forum

London's position as a premier world city is underpinned by its unrivalled cultural and artistic heritage and its status as one of the few global centres for international business. While at 1,572 square kilometres it is the smallest of the nine English Regions, it supports a resident population of 7.39 million (mid-2003 estimate). By 2021, this is expected to rise by 857,000.

While the estimated Gross Value Added for London in 2003 was £174 billion, it houses about a quarter of England's most deprived communities. London currently has the highest unemployment rate of any English region at 6.8 per cent (the national rate is 4.6 per cent) with 257,000 out of work in April 2005. Arguably the most multicultural city in the world, the 2001 census showed that approximately 40 per cent of Londoners are from ethnic groups (the average for England is 13 per cent) with over 300 different languages spoken and 14 religions practiced.

From early in its development, London has not had a single centre, and is commonly viewed as predominantly urban sprawl. Nevertheless, London is a surprisingly 'green' city. Despite its suburban growth, many parts of London retain their original village feel; Dulwich and Petersham are good examples, while others, such as Downe in the Borough of Bromley give little indication of being within the boundary of a major world city. A network of rivers and canals, and 68 kilometres of the Thames, flow alongside parkland, riverside palaces, highly urbanised cityscapes, docklands, marshland and mudflats.

Development continues apace in London presenting a complex range of issues for the capital's extraordinary historic environment such as:

- The delivery of 120,000 new homes and associated infrastructure, in the Thames Gateway growth area by 2016.
- The 2012 Olympics and development of the Lower Lea Valley area.
- Increased building densities, tall buildings, and water-side development.
- Climate change impacts.
- Heathrow Airport expansion, including proposals for a third runway and sixth terminal.
- Transport infrastructure development such as Crossrail, Thameslink 2000 and the East London Line.
- Regenerating deprived neighbourhoods and declining suburban town centres and maintaining public spaces.
- Expansion of the banking and financial services sectors, notably in Spitalfields/South Shoreditch and London Bridge/Bankside areas.
- Suburbanisation of the urban-rural fringe pressuring the Metropolitan Green Belt.
- Attracting new audiences to cultural heritage sites, broadening access and involvement.
- A growing appreciation among the public and planning authorities that all new development should reinforce local distinctiveness and contribute towards a sense of place in local environments.

All of these pose different challenges, not least to London's historic character. A willingness and ability to respond through innovative adaptation, careful place-making, quality design and materials will be the key to London's future evolution.

## KEY FACTS

London possesses an immensely rich built fabric of outstanding historic and architectural interest:

- 4 of England's 16 World Heritage Sites
- Approximately 40,000 listed buildings and structures
- 152 scheduled monuments
- 949 conservation areas
- 147 registered parks and gardens
- Over 600 historic squares
- 8 Royal Parks
- 39 urban public parks
- 16 historic cemeteries
- 1 registered historic battlefield.



# The historic environment in London: distribution of assets

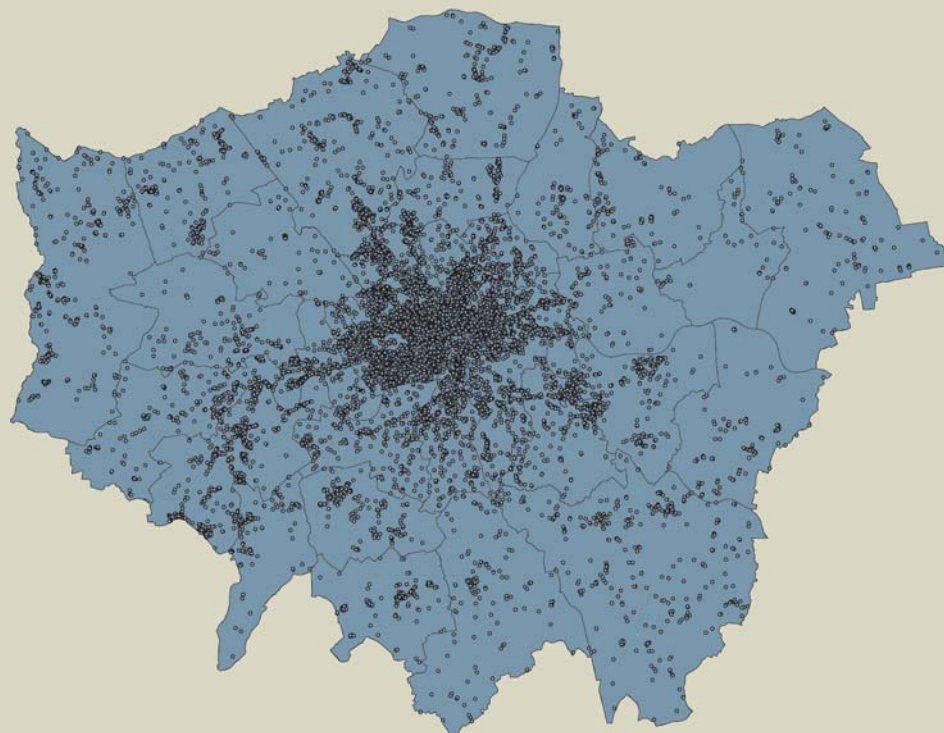
## London – Regional Data (Distribution)

BOROUGH	LISTED BUILDINGS	SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	REGIST. PARKS & GARDENS & BATTLEFIELDS	CONSERVATION AREAS	BOROUGH	LISTED BUILDINGS	SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	REGIST. PARKS & GARDENS & BATTLEFIELDS	CONSERVATION AREAS
BARKING AND DAGENHAM	30	0	0	2	HILLINGDON	406	5	1	27
BARNET	626	2	4	16	HOUNSLOW	508	5	6	27
BEXLEY	113	4	4	21	ISLINGTON	955	1	0	42
BRENT	83	0	2	22	KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	1,263	2	14	36
BROMLEY	505	8	5	46	KINGSTON UPON THAMES	148	6	0	26
CAMDEN	1,871	1	14	35	LAMBETH	912	0	8	56
CITY OF LONDON	608	49	4	24	LEWISHAM	302	1	3	24
CITY OF WESTMINSTER	3,875	2	20	55	MERTON	233	3	4	28
CROYDON	146	7	2	11	NEWHAM	106	2	2	7
EALING	296	6	3	30	REDBRIDGE	120	0	2	14
ENFIELD	291	5	5	16	RICHMOND UPON THAMES	792	3	14	70
GREENWICH	539	7	3	21	SOUTHWARK	859	7	5	36
HACKNEY	532	0	4	26	SUTTON	175	6	1	13
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM	239	1	2	47	TOWER HAMLETS	875	7	4	51
HARINGEY	276	0	2	26	WALTHAM FOREST	102	0	0	11
HARROW	283	9	4	28	WANDSWORTH	291	0	5	45
HAVERING	150	3	1	10					

Source: English Heritage

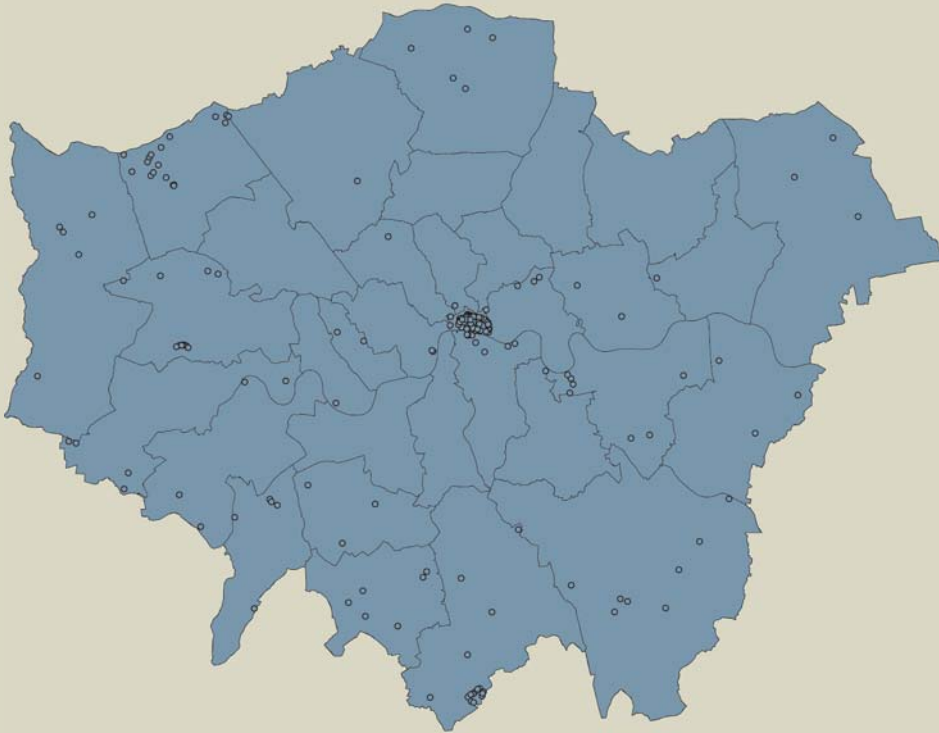
## Listed Buildings in the London Region

- Listed Buildings



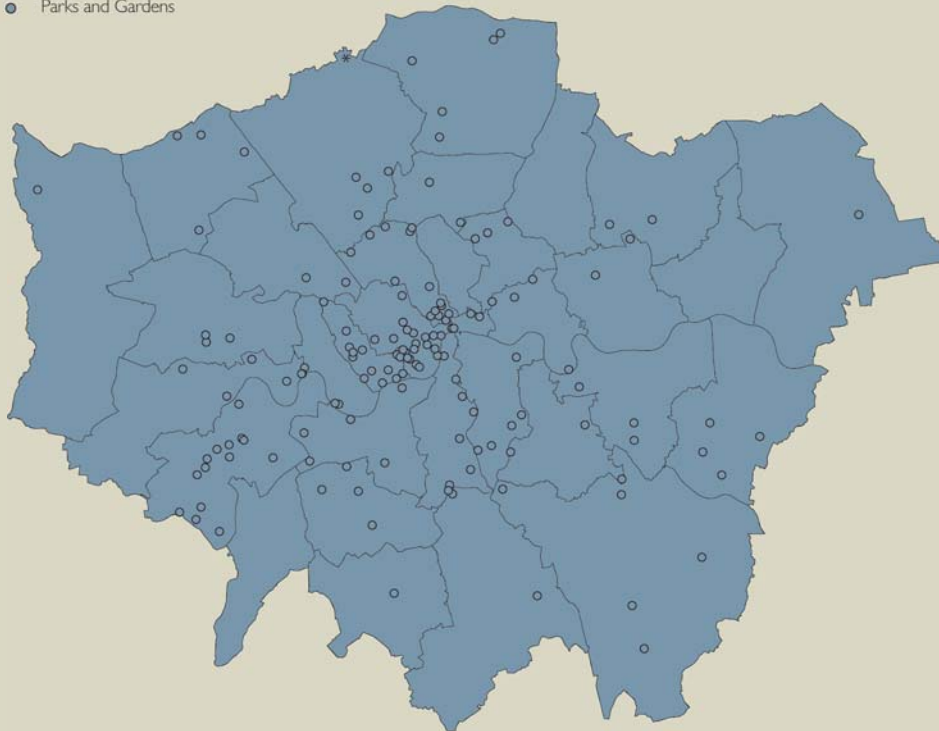
## Scheduled Monuments in the London Region

- Scheduled Monuments



## Battlefields and Parks & Gardens in the London Region

- \* Battlefields
- Parks and Gardens



# A

## Understanding the region's assets



### Centre Point

Landmark 1960's office block, now listed Grade II

© English Heritage

## A.1

### DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS: A NEW APPROACH

The importance of London's many historic sites is currently recognised through specific designations: listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites. However, following the publication in June 2004 of *Protecting our Historic Environment: Making the System Work Better*, a new system for designation and management of the historic assets has been put forward. This proposes the amalgamation of the existing designations into a new unified list (*The Register of Historic Sites and Buildings of England*) a new unified "Heritage Consent", and the introduction of statutory management agreements. Together with government research into the way that historic environment services are delivered locally, these reforms represent the most fundamental re-examination, for at least a generation, of the ways we protect and manage the historic environment.

A number of pilot projects have been testing the longer-term proposals, exploring the consequences of unified designation and consent regimes, and statutory management agreements. In London, the pilots have focused on Centre Point and the northern section of the Piccadilly Line.

## A.1.1

### WORLD HERITAGE SITES

World Heritage Sites are inscribed by an international committee of UNESCO, upon the advice of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). Of England's 16 World Heritage Sites, London has four: the Tower of London; the Palace of Westminster; Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church; Maritime Greenwich; and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In addition, Darwin's Home and Workplace, Down House and Environs, Bromley; and the Great Western Railway: Paddington to Bristol (selected parts) are both on UNESCO's tentative list for World Heritage Site status.

## A.1.2

### SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Scheduled monuments are designated by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on the advice of English Heritage and are selective examples of nationally important archaeological remains. London had 152 scheduled monuments in April 2005, less than one per cent of the total number in England (19,717). This is not considered representative of the known potential due to the fact that there are over 500 Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs) across London. These are areas of expected archaeological interest based on over 74,000 entries on the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (an archive of archaeological investigations across the capital).

London's small but eclectic stock of monuments has increased this year with the addition of ten surviving 'E' shaped WWII fighter dispersal pens at the former Royal Air Force fighter station at Kenley near Croydon. This is the latest example of substantial progress being made in recognising the historical importance of WWII sites, with anti-aircraft positions and pillboxes already on the list.

At Bermondsey, part of the site of a large Romanesque Benedictine Abbey completely demolished at the Dissolution (currently in use as a popular antiques market) is up for development. Southwark Council wishes to see the site developed in a way that maximises its economic potential, while safeguarding its social value as a much-loved market place. Archaeological excavations (funded by the developers, Urban Catalyst) have been taking place to formulate a foundation design, which would preserve the remains of the abbey foundations, beneath the new development. All parties hope that

## A.1 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS: A NEW APPROACH

this will lead to a successful solution for this sensitive site that permits development, allows the market to remain and preserves the Abbey foundations *in situ*.

### A.1.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

The DCMS lists individual buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Candidate buildings must normally be over 30 years old to be eligible. Buildings that are listed are categorised into one of three grades (I, II\* and II) which reflect their relative architectural and historic interest. In April 2005, London had 18,510 entries on the statutory list, which represents an estimated 40,000 individual buildings and structures (a single entry might cover a terrace of houses). This is an increase of 31 on last year and accounts for five per cent of the total number of listed building entries in England (372,038). The City of Westminster has the greatest number of listed building entries in London (3,875) and the greatest density (184 per square kilometre) compared with the national average of about three per square kilometre.

In addition, London boroughs also maintain local lists of buildings that are considered to be of local historic or architectural merit, but these lists do not carry any statutory recognition.

### A.1.4 HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

The *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest* is compiled by English Heritage. National recognition of a site's historic interest depends on the age of its main layout and features, its rarity as an example of historic landscape and design, and the quality of the landscaping. Although there are no statutory controls to protect them, local planning authorities must consider the importance of these registered sites when determining planning applications. London had 147 entries on the *Register* in April 2005, no change on the previous year. This is about nine per cent of the total for England (1,587) and examples range from the gardens of the Inner and Middle Temple (early medieval and later) to those at the Barbican (1962-82).

### A.1.5 BATTLEFIELDS

The *English Heritage Register of Historic Battlefields* currently identifies 43 important battle sites for the purpose of offering them protection and promoting



#### Down House, Bromley

Charles Darwin came to Down House in 1842, following his voyage around the world. It was here and in the surrounding countryside that he developed his theories on evolution, culminating in the publication of *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859). Bromley Council with English Heritage and others is preparing a nomination document which the Government will submit to UNESCO in February 2006. Part of this process involves consultation with local communities, including the residents of nearby Downe village, where it is hoped that World Heritage Site status will help boost the local economy and revive lost local services, such as a shop and post office. In association with this, the London Development Agency has been advising on sustainable management of increased visitor demands, marketing and promotion, improved visitor information, interpretation, accessibility and transport.

© David Sellman

a better understanding of their significance. Each entry is based on the available evidence and includes a map of the battlefield area showing the position of the armies and features which were part of the original battleground. These maps are intended to be the starting point for battlefield conservation and interpretation by identifying the most visually sensitive areas. Although London has seen its fair share of armed conflict over the centuries, it has just one battlefield (Barnet, 1471) on the *Register*. Straddling the border with Hertfordshire, the battlefield is semi-rural in nature and partly covered by a golf course.



## A.2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

## A.2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

### A.2.1 CONSERVATION AREAS

Conservation areas are designated by local planning authorities as areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. London's many examples vary widely from rural villages, through leafy suburbia, to grand London squares and avenues. As of August 2005, there were 949 conservation areas in London. In determining which areas qualify, local criteria (as against national criteria for listing buildings) are employed. It is vital that the special interest justifying designation is clearly defined and analysed in a written appraisal of its character and appearance. This provides a sound basis for defending an authority's policies and decisions and also forms the groundwork for more detailed studies for preserving and enhancing individual conservation areas. The rate of completion of appraisals in London is not good, and English Heritage in conjunction with the London boroughs has identified this as a priority area for action in the immediate future. Furthermore, the Government introduced a new set of Best Value Performance Indicators for conservation areas in 2005, which are intended to monitor the numbers within local authority areas and the proportion of these that have an up-to-date appraisal and a published management plan (consistent with existing published guidance). The purpose of this new indicator is to encourage local authorities to devote more time and resources to the proactive management of their conservation areas.

### A.2.2 LONDON'S OPEN SPACES

A uniquely green city, London enjoys an abundance of open space, comprised of publicly accessible parks, grasslands, farmland and city squares. This not only helps the capital breathe but also provides a crucial haven for key habitats and species and recreational space for enjoyment and relaxation. This includes:

- Over 600 garden squares of all shapes and sizes, of which 461 (such as Gordon and Woburn Squares) enjoy statutory protection.

- Eight Royal Parks, covering some 5,000 acres.
- Forty Urban public parks, which although mostly dating from the mid-19th century, includes at least one important new public park at the north end of the Thames Barrier.
- Approximately 122 heaths, commons and greens, most of which are of historic interest. Much of this survived due to its unsuitability for economical cultivation, and some, such as Hampstead Heath, were the subject of some of the earliest campaigns to protect London's open spaces from development.
- Almost 170 cemeteries and burial grounds covering at least 1,300 hectares, 16 of which are historically important.
- An estimated seven million trees covering 20 per cent of the land area (the equivalent of 40 square miles of forest). A quarter of these trees are in woodland, the bulk of which is between 25 and 300 years old.
- Ancient woodland (i.e. dating from 1600 or before) covering 2,203 hectares, although, there has been 19 per cent loss of this resource since 1920 and 13 boroughs have none at all. Examples can be found both in Highgate and Oxleas Woods.
- Gardens of private dwellings accounting for about 20 per cent of land cover (30,000 hectares). Many such gardens are from residential developments in the late 19th and early 20th century that are now being redeveloped as multi-residential, with an adverse effect on 'green chains' that are so valuable for wildlife.

### A.2.3 LONDON'S HISTORIC WATERWAYS

Water is also a significant feature of the London landscape:

- The River Thames runs for 68 km through Greater London from Hampton in the west to Dartford Creek in the east, fed by a number of rivers and streams. Since the 19th century, thousands of artefacts spanning the complete period of human habitation have been found in the Thames foreshore making it arguably London's richest archaeological site. One site, Chambers Wharf in



## A.2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

Bermondsey, has long been recognised as an archaeologically significant stretch of the foreshore, and recent finds from the site include Neolithic pottery, flint tools, prehistoric coins and a rare Iron Age dagger. With the Thames tidal range increasing, possibly as a result of climate change, this has led to an increased stripping of individual foreshore layers. In many stretches, medieval and Roman layers have already gone, leaving only the prehistoric. One find which was discovered eroding was a human skeleton, which had already lost parts of its limbs, so a rapid rescue excavation was carried out before the next tides destroyed the remainder. This was a good example of archaeological remains being saved, but in the absence of a regular monitoring system, it begs the question of how much foreshore archaeology is being lost.

- London has approximately 80 km of canal network, established primarily to link the capital with manufacturing centres in the Midlands and North. These run through contrasting cityscapes, from Little Venice at Paddington to the former industrial areas in the Lower Lea Valley. They are also the focus for canal-side regeneration, such as at Limehouse Basin, Kings Cross, Paddington Basin and Brentford Lock.



### Exposed Thames Foreshore Archaeology

The size of the Thames foreshore is considerable: an estimated area of 1,200,000 square metres is exposed at each low tide.

© Museum of London Archaeology Service

## A.2.4

### OTHER HISTORIC SPACE DESIGNATIONS

In addition to the protection afforded through historic environment legislation, other significant designations and classifications include:

- **Metropolitan Open Land:** Unique to London, this designation was introduced to protect strategically important open spaces such as Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common, Hampstead Heath, Hackney Marshes and Oxleas Wood. Its function is to protect open spaces so as to provide clear breaks in the urban fabric and to contribute to London's green character; to serve the needs of Londoners outside their local area, and to protect a feature or landscape of national or regional significance.
- **Green Belt:** Green Belt land forms about 22 per cent of the land area within the London boundary. Green Belt legislation was introduced to control urban spread and ensure that the countryside is close to the built-up parts of

London, providing recreation, protecting landscape and biodiversity, and helping retain agricultural land.

- **Strategic Views:** The Mayor, through the London Plan, introduced 26 protected views (which include the ten Strategic Views of St Paul's Cathedral and the Palace of Westminster). The intention of this policy is to preserve historic views across areas of London, and views of key landmark buildings, from harmful development.
- **Natural Environment Designations:** A number of historic sites and areas (particularly parks) in London will enjoy additional protection and recognition by virtue of providing a home for a rich variety of habitats and species, and are thus covered by a host of natural environment designations. Further detail can be found at [www.englishnature.org.uk](http://www.englishnature.org.uk) and [www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk)

These provide protection for vital parts of London's green space that make particularly important contributions to the region's landscape, character, recreational amenities and biodiversity.

## A.3 ACQUIRING INFORMATION



### The Thames Gateway

Extending for 40 miles along the Thames from London Docklands to Southend in Essex and Sheerness in Kent, the Gateway is identified both in Regional Planning Guidance for the South East as a national priority for regeneration and growth, and in the Sustainable Communities plan as one of four growth areas for new housing in the South East.

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## A.3.2

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

In order to manage change effectively in a way that is sensitive to an area's existing character, it is first necessary to understand the pattern of its historic development and its historic buildings and landscapes. Characterisation is a means for achieving this and is a vital tool when developing strategic planning frameworks, and key principles and policies for change. Current work in London includes:

- **The Thames Gateway:** Following the production of a strategic characterisation study in 2004, a series of regional seminars and meetings took place to disseminate the key messages this year. A report on the contribution of the historic environment to the future of the Thames Gateway was subsequently launched at the Thames Gateway Forum event in November.
- **London's rural/urban fringe:** A programme of county-based Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) studies has now encircled the Greater London area. The next stage is to develop an HLC map exploring London's rural/urban fringe, providing increased understanding necessary for informed conservation management in these dynamic and often marginalised landscapes.
- **Stratford:** The decision to hold the 2012 Olympic Games nearby will greatly speed redevelopment of this area. Stratford's historic town centre is of considerable heritage interest, albeit fractured by insensitive post-war redevelopment, and new and increasing investment will provide an ideal opportunity to re-stitch this fragmented townscape. In 2005, English Heritage and the London Borough of Newham jointly commissioned the preparation of a Townscape Strategy for Stratford that will provide a pragmatic, pro-active strategy for future investment and planning decisions.
- **2012 Olympic site, Lower Lea Valley:** Following the awarding of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to London, the London Development Agency (LDA) has started to prepare the Olympic development, in advance of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) becoming operational early in 2006. English Heritage will continue to work with the LDA's Masterplan team and Olympic steering groups, monitoring the Olympic developments to ensure the recognition and integration of key elements of the area's industrial past.

## A.3

### ACQUIRING INFORMATION

#### A.3.1

##### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Historic Environment Records are major sources of information for understanding the local historic environment, used extensively for planning and research. The Greater London record is managed by English Heritage and contains over 75,400 records for archaeological sites, monuments, finds and buildings. Use of the London record continues to grow: over 550 enquiries were made in 2004/05 with 86 per cent answered within 24 hours. 42 per cent of enquirers made use of the GIS (Geographic Information System) facility.

## B. I

### HERITAGE AT RISK

The 2005 *Register of Buildings at Risk in Greater London* reported that 93 Grade I and II\* listed buildings, 572 Grade II listed buildings and four scheduled monuments are at risk. Since 2004 there has been a net increase of 28 entries (58 removals, 86 additions).

Local authorities have a central role to play in forging partnerships with agencies, owners and developers, building preservation trusts and funding bodies to rescue buildings at risk. Despite some major successes since last year, (such as the major works completed to Nicholas Hawksmoor's St George's Church in Bloomsbury) there are unfortunately significant new entries in 2005, including the Grade II\* Crystal Palace Sports Centre in Bromley, which although only just over 40 years old, finds itself under threat as future sports provision on the site is in question. See [www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1424](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1424) for more detail on Register entries.

There are approximately 122 heaths, commons and village greens in the Greater London region and a survey by the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust identified 101 of these as of historic interest. Most are of historic landscape importance with 52 per cent associated with listed buildings and 73 per cent with conservation areas. It is apparent that there has been a high level of change to these spaces in the past 50 years. While almost all of them are in some way affected by the impact of traffic, light-pollution, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, specifically:

- 44 per cent have seen significant tree and scrub growth, which has dramatically changed their characters.
- Some 68 per cent have seen margins eroded or tracks upgraded by highway development.
- 47 per cent have seen leisure development, such as play areas and visitor buildings, and 35 per cent sports development, such as tennis courts.
- 70 per cent have had new tarmac paths constructed.



### Buildings at risk in Public Parks

The expansion of London has been punctuated by public parks, many originating as historic landscape parks around mansions, such as Beckenham Park Place in Lewisham, pictured here. These buildings, mostly listed Grade I or II\*, came into local authority ownership as a consequence of acquiring the park. Many have suffered a slow decline through neglect and vandalism. Although the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Public Parks Initiative scheme has provided almost £68 million over eight years to 50 London parks, so far only one of the 'at risk' mansions has been the subject of a successful bid. To begin to tackle this issue, English Heritage and the HLF commissioned a study to identify the underlying issues affecting the repair and use of these buildings and to suggest ways of identifying sustainable futures that might have a wider, generic application. The study report proposes strategies intended to take each case to the stage where local authorities can make properly informed decisions on the buildings' future.

© Richard Dumville

In addition, there has been a good deal of standardisation since the 1900s including levelling, drainage, sports provision, tree-planting, formalisation of ponds, and construction of paths, kiosks, and pavilions. These changes were largely in response to public demand, which today requires personal security and inclusive access, which is resulting in further formalisation. Management planning needs to balance these requirements with maintaining the wildness of these landscapes that is so cherished.



B.1 HERITAGE AT RISK  
B.2 MANAGING POSITIVELY



## The Thames Landscape Strategy: London's Arcadia

This is a major element of the Strategy, covering 122 enhancement projects scheduled to be carried out by 2008 along the stretch of Thames from Teddington through Richmond and Twickenham to Kew. It is home to the highest concentration of historic buildings, landscape gardens, avenues and designed vistas in England. With major support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, early work has included landscaping improvements on Richmond Hill, which greatly enhance the famous views down across Petersham Meadows to the river and Marble Hill House on the opposite bank. See <http://www.londons-arcadia.org.uk/>

© Thames Landscape Strategy

The way forward involves establishing a consensus for partnership work and, above all, a clear understanding of the special importance of the site in order to promote healthy budgetary support and consistent decision making. This has been begun by the Greater London Authority, which has carried out habitat audits on heathland, woodland, acid grassland and other relevant types. The London Historic Environment Forum (LHEF) has now commissioned complementary research about the historic environment issues surrounding this important resource, and will be considering how the lessons learned from the studies findings can be taken forward and developed, in order to help instil codes of best practice and begin to turn the tide of erosion and loss of character that is afflicting this fragile resource. The full report will be made available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

## B.2 MANAGING POSITIVELY

### B.2.1 THE RIVER THAMES

Launched in 1994, the Thames Landscape Strategy: Hampton to Kew is essentially a 100-year blueprint for the River Thames in west London. Incorporating London's Arcadia, the Strategy contains almost 200 projects to co-ordinate river interests ranging from nature conservation and historic landscapes to recreation and education. A variety of projects, governed by a partnership of local authorities and national agencies, are underway or have been completed, including major enhancements and landscaping work at Brentford and Kingston Riversides, and the restoration of the 18th-century Garrick's Temple and Lawn at Hampton. See [www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk/](http://www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk/) for more information.

In June 2002, and covering the Thames from Strand on the Green to Nine Elms, the Thames Strategy: Kew to Chelsea was launched mirroring the aims and aspirations of the neighbouring Thames Landscape Strategy. Guided by a steering committee of local authority and agency representatives, a number of projects are being developed, with initial work having commenced at Broomhouse Dock, Fulham, and on the towpath and Jubilee Gardens in Mortlake. See <http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/external/thamesstrategy/default.htm>

Facilitated by the Thames Estuary Partnership, the Draft Thames Strategy East was launched for public consultation in early 2005. It sets out a vision for the future of the river from Tower Bridge to Tilbury and Gravesham, based upon recognising, conserving and enhancing the diverse social, economic, cultural and environmental legacy of the area. Its purpose is to provide a holistic and long-term management framework, by promoting a character-based approach to planning for development over the next 100 years. It will be a vital tool in enabling the regeneration of the Thames Gateway and ensuring that the Thames is placed at the forefront of development considerations. See <http://www.thamesweb.com/>

## B.2 MANAGING POSITIVELY

### B.3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

#### B.2.2

##### PLANNING TRENDS

In 2004/05, a total of 86,804 applications for development of all types were decided by the 33 London authorities, a slight decrease of 6.5 per cent on the previous year but still the third highest of the nine English regions. Of these:

- 4,157 were listed building consents (up 6.2 per cent on 2003/04), of which 3,589 (86.3 per cent) were granted.
- 602 were conservation area consents (up four per cent on 2003/04), of which 429 (71.3 per cent) were granted.

In London, certain categories of application must be referred to English Heritage prior to decision – this includes those affecting Grade I and II\* listed buildings, demolition of principal parts of a Grade II listed building, specific types of listed buildings (railway and underground stations, theatres and cinemas and bridges across the Thames) and third part applications affecting buildings owned by a local authority. Unless a local authority has determined to refuse consent, it must obtain from English Heritage a direction as to the granting of consent, or authorisation to determine the application as it sees fit. However, both must first be endorsed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which also authorises directly any application for near or complete demolition of any listed building. The London Region of English Heritage received 1,862 of these applications in 2004/05.

It is an offence to disturb a scheduled monument either above or below ground, without having first obtained scheduled monument consent from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. In 2004/05, 62 applications for scheduled monument consent were received by the Secretary of State, seven less than the previous year.

The Garden History Society is notified of all planning applications affecting a registered park or its setting. In 2004/05, it was notified of 70 applications (8 more than 2003/04).

#### B.2.3

##### WORLD HERITAGE SITES: MANAGEMENT PLANS

There are no additional planning controls over development in, or affecting, a World Heritage Site. However, their existence is a material consideration, which must be taken into account by planning authorities when considering development proposals. The preparation and agreement of a management plan is an important step in ensuring that management decisions affecting sites are fully informed. These bring together all responsible parties in order to ensure a coordinated approach to their management. In London, agreed plans are in place for Maritime Greenwich and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Those for the Tower of London and the Palace of Westminster/Westminster Abbey are in preparation.

#### B.2.4

##### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CHAMPIONS

London's local authorities are essential to the protection and management of the capital's rich historic environment. The appointment of a Member or Senior Officer as a Historic Environment Champion enables them to fulfil this role more effectively and ensure that the historic environment makes its full contribution to the economic and social well-being of their local communities. Specifically they can:

- Provide leadership for heritage issues within local authorities.
- Include heritage issues in the authority's policies and strategies.
- Ensure that the historic environment is taken into account when the authority is considering key decisions.
- Work with officers to ensure that the historic environment contributes to activities such as regeneration initiatives.

To date, just over a third of London's authorities have champions, but increased efforts are being made to encourage more authorities to make appointments.

B.3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES  
B.4 SKILLS AND TRAINING



**Gordon and Woburn Squares**

A partnership between the University of London, the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage will fund a programme of much needed works to these classic London squares. First laid out as formal spaces in the 1830s, they have fallen into disrepair in recent years and suffer from antisocial behaviour. The regeneration project will open the squares for everyone to enjoy and create natural links between the two.

© Richard Dumville

In 2004/05 in London, English Heritage offered grants totalling £3.3 million, spread across secular buildings (£0.9 million), places of worship (£0.8 million) and area-based projects (£1.3 million). These included £75,000 for repairs to the Victorian Grade I listed Crossness Pumping Station, and £19,000 for urgent structural works to the 17th-century Howbury Tithe Barn (both 'at risk' and in the Borough of Bexley).

The Heritage of London Trust, founded in 1981, is the only building preservation trust to cover the whole of London. Although it is entirely dependent on voluntary donations, in 2004/05, the Trust was able to offer grants totalling almost £93,000 to a variety of historic buildings around the capital, particularly those which benefit local communities.

**B.4**  
**SKILLS AND TRAINING**

Recent research into the labour and skills resource in the built heritage sector has shown that England's historic buildings are under threat from a shortage of skilled craftspeople. Published by the National Heritage Training Group and backed by English Heritage and ConstructionSkills (the Sector Skills Council for the construction industry), the research found that while there are about 1,600 traditional craftspeople currently working within the built heritage sector in Greater London, some 27 per cent of local contractors have outstanding vacancies, with the industry needing to recruit almost 550 people at a local level over the next year; just to meet immediate demand. Areas in most need include speciality bricklayers, carpenters and roofers, joiners, lead workers, stonemasons and thatchers. While almost two-thirds of public and commercial stockholders and private home dwellers interviewed in the research expressed a high level of satisfaction with the work done on their property, not surprisingly, 54 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively, experienced delays in getting building work underway. Quite often there can be a wait of over three months for the right skilled craftsman. In London, delays are a particular problem when obtaining cabinet makers, carvers, gilders and joiners.

The findings of the report have prompted the National Heritage Training Group to develop a Skills Action Plan to address skills shortages and encourage more people into the sector. For more information and to see the full report, visit <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.5184>

**B.3.**  
**CAPACITY AND RESOURCES**

**B.3.2**  
**GRANT FUNDING**

The Heritage Lottery Fund distributes money raised by the National Lottery to heritage projects. Its grants range from multi-million pound investments in iconic sites and buildings to small grants that make all the difference to community groups. These can include the natural environment, parks and landscapes, historic buildings, museums, libraries and archives, archaeology, industrial, maritime and transport heritage, as well as cultural traditions, language and history passed on from generation to generation. From its inception in 1994 to March 2005, it has allocated over £678 million in over 1,600 awards across London.



## B.5 OUTREACH AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

## B.5 OUTREACH AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

A region's historic environment can often provide a valuable starting point for social interaction and development. Using historic places in this way is also important for their long-term well-being, as it ensures a wider appreciation of the resource and a developing base of supporters to help care for them. A range of heritage outreach projects is undertaken by various organisations across the region.

In July 2005, the Mayor published *Delivering Shared Heritage*, the first report from the Mayor's Commission on African and Asian Heritage (MCAAH). The Commission was established in 2003 to take forward recommendations in the Mayor's Cultural Strategy. It investigated the needs of Black and Asian community-based heritage organisations and assessed the priorities and working practices of key heritage institutions, such as museums and archives, to determine how they are serving the needs of African-Caribbean and Asian Londoners. The subsequent recommendations focus on nine key areas:

- Leadership and advocacy
- Diversifying governing-body appointments
- Equitable partnerships
- Diversifying audiences
- Sharing best practice
- Collections development
- African and Asian infrastructure and commemoration
- Access to heritage careers
- Heritage and education

With their findings now published, the MCAAH will now be engaging with the sector and its strategic partners to begin a process of implementation on the report's recommendation. For more information and to see the full report, visit <http://www.lmal.org.uk/news/index.cfm>

English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have jointly published *Easy Access to Historic Landscapes*, which will help property owners and managers reconcile access improvements for all visitors with conservation of the significant historic features of sites. Barriers to access and individual



### Chiswick House

Chiswick House and Gardens hosted a two-day Community Arts Festival, which marked the culmination of a series of arts-based community and education projects led by English Heritage's London Outreach and Education Departments. Projects drew upon the fascinating stories and heritage of the site, to inspire new audiences to create work and engage in its future regeneration.

© Nigel Corrie, English Heritage

site specific solutions are illustrated throughout the guidance to stimulate ideas, but new access solutions are being developed all the time, so over the next five years, a library of good design and good practice case studies could be developed.

To see the full report visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.5712](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.5712)

Making attractions as accessible as possible means balancing the value of access with its impact on the historic environment. If that impact is too great, however, it undermines the very reason for visiting in the first place. In 2004, the Royal Parks addressed these issues by holding a Disability Action Day at Bushy Park. People with a wide range of abilities were given a tour of key areas in the Park, to identify and discuss specific issues of access. A variety of suggestions and actions arising from this event will be implemented as part of the restoration project for the Park. It has also led to stronger links between Royal Parks and the organisations represented at the event. For further details visit [www.royalparks.gov.uk/docs/AnnualReport04-05.pdf](http://www.royalparks.gov.uk/docs/AnnualReport04-05.pdf)



## Economic benefits of historic buildings

Studies measuring the tangible effects of historic buildings indicate that the economic impact is far larger than is often assumed. Research in 2004 estimated that Tate Modern had generated over £100 million and 3,000 full-time jobs since it opened in 2000, stimulating the successful regeneration of the pedestrian streetscape along the waterfront. The iconic nature of the building was instrumental in the success of the project, and it could be claimed that many visitors are as motivated by the opportunity to see the building themselves as the art it contains. On a more human scale, the economic benefits accrued to domestic properties with historic fabric were highlighted in the *Heritage Counts 2003* report, which found that properties built before 1837 were on average worth 27 per cent more than a property built in the last five years. Properties built between 1945 and 1959 also increased in value by 12 per cent. It may therefore be argued that investment in historic buildings and areas is capable of generating substantial economic benefits not only to the institution or landowner but also to the wider community through employment and private investment.

© Visit London

## C.I

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The London Development Agency's Economic Development Strategy, published last year, draws on the principle that progress in improving social equity for all Londoners, improving the environment and making the city a good place in which to live, work and play are vital to London's continued economic success. In order to ensure this success, the strategy seeks to:

- Build on London's strengths, including its social diversity.
- Identify opportunities, such as the scope for marketing, to make the best use of existing assets.
- Address existing weaknesses, such as social exclusion, poor environments and pressure on infrastructure.
- Address looming threats, including loss of competitiveness and poor housing.

The historic environment will be instrumental in achieving these targets, from the social objective of providing affordable housing to the environmental consideration of making the most effective use of land and other scarce resources in delivering sustainable communities, both of which can benefit from the re-use of historic buildings. London's iconic streetscape and built fabric will also be influential in attracting international investment to London, which can bring economic benefits to other parts of the country. The strategy asserts that the high value-added sectors on which London relies will not thrive in places with dirty streets and a poorly maintained public realm. Equally, if open spaces, biodiversity and the natural and built environment heritage are not maintained, visitor numbers and business investment are likely to diminish, and residents may be tempted to move away to towns that are seen to care more for the quality of their environment and heritage.

Visit London estimates that approximately 27 million people visited London in 2004, of which 13.4 million were from overseas. Overnight visitors spent an estimated £9.2 billion in the capital, while day visitors and airfares to London carriers added an extra £5.6 billion. Tourism together with the visitor economy is one of the largest industries in the

C.1 ECONOMIC BENEFITS

C.2 SOCIAL BENEFITS

capital, worth almost £15 billion per annum. In visitor surveys, attractions, and to a lesser extent the historic environment, consistently come out top as the principal reasons for visiting London: according to the 2004 London Overseas Visitors Survey, 36% of overseas visitors stated that seeing the sights was the main motive for coming to London, while four per cent stated history as the primary attraction.

The historic cores of many of London's towns and villages present an excellent opportunity for suburban regeneration initiatives based on the restoration of these heritage assets as attractions for tourists, and a focus of civic pride and identity. Many, including the Mayor, hope to see tourists, and the economic benefits they bring, dispersed across the capital. Promotion of the many historic environment attractions in the outer boroughs will play a key role in achieving this and is likely to be a focus of the London Historic Environment Forum in the coming years.

**C.2**  
**SOCIAL BENEFITS**

The local historic environment is a rich resource for teaching across the curriculum. Giving a local focus, not only for history and geography but for other subjects, can stimulate the production of exciting and original work. Looking at issues which affect the local community can involve pupils in weighing evidence, listening to opinions, and making and justifying decisions, all part of the Citizenship curriculum.

- The successful establishment of a united Tower of London Education Service in late 2004 has brought together the educational skills of both Historic Royal Palaces and its partner on the site, the Royal Armouries. The Education Centre in the Waterloo Block, the new Learning Centre in the Tower Vaults on Tower Hill and other spaces within the Tower complex all house formal and informal class-based activities. This approach will be repeated at Hampton Court Palace, where major funding has been secured for the development of a new dedicated learning centre, to be opened in January 2007.
- English Heritage and the London Parks and Gardens Trust will be building on the popular annual Open Garden Squares Weekend, which allows access over one weekend every June to private squares and other green spaces in



**De-cluttering our streets**

As part of the national *Save our Streets* campaign to make historic areas and landscapes more attractive, safe and enjoyable spaces for people, English Heritage has produced a free eight-page education booklet highlighting the negative impact generated by street clutter and providing a framework for schools to use the *Save our Streets* campaign for citizenship, history, geography, art, literacy and ICT projects. The booklet shows teachers how to use streets near their schools as outdoor classrooms where pupils can make a critical analysis of their surroundings and complete a simple audit of clutter to send to their local councillor. Pictured are a group of nine-year-old children from Lyndhurst Primary School in Southwark, who have been creating "clutter audits" of their street.

© Press Association

London. A two-year project (with financial support from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund) commenced in summer 2005 to extend the event across the whole of Greater London, adding to the number and range of new sites, building volunteer capacity, widening audience participation and raising awareness of the value of London's green spaces through a range of new publications.



## C.3 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



### Kensington High Street

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has enhanced its distinct 'destination' areas that attract large numbers of people for eating, shopping and relaxation. In Kensington High Street, pavements are now level and the number of different materials used has been minimised – there are also drop curbs and sensitively designed tactile paving. Street clutter has been removed and street furniture rationalised so that it hinders pedestrians as little as possible. Unnecessary railings have also gone to give pedestrians more freedom and improve the general quality of the environment. Much of the over-provision of barriers and signage is due to fear of litigation and the predominance of the regulation safety culture beyond all reasonable limits. Indeed, early indications are that the accident records for Kensington High Street will actually show a decrease in personal injuries over the last three years.

© Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

- **Climate change:** Flooding and the 'heat island' effect are two major impacts of climate change predicted for London.
- **Brownfield development:** The re-use of historic buildings can make a real contribution to achieving desired housing levels without sacrificing green space.
- **Public realm:** London's environment is defined to a large extent by its highly distinctive streets and public spaces, which necessitate effective maintenance and consistent decision making in order to avoid a proliferation of street furniture and inappropriate pavement surfacing.

Biodiversity is another area of environmental concern that has implications for the appreciation and proper care of the historic environment. In 2004, the London Parks and Green Spaces Forum commissioned a survey of almost 300 small open spaces in central London in order both to improve understanding of the contribution of small parks and squares to sustaining biodiversity in the city centre, and to find out whether particular styles of gardening were associated with a richer variety of bird life. The survey was designed to help develop best practice guidelines for improving public open spaces with a current low biodiversity interest and hence improve access to nature (an aim of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy). The survey was also designed to help inform landscape restoration proposals being undertaken through grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage.

Birds were chosen as the animal group to record as a good indicator of overall biodiversity, being among the most visible forms of wildlife and one of the more important groups for public appreciation of nature. The survey found that the best managed gardens for people, with a rich, well vegetated and well maintained landscape, were also likely to be good for birdlife. The findings are also proving helpful in developing an approach to shrubbery management which balances wildlife and security issues. For more details please visit: [www.green-space.org.uk/london/](http://www.green-space.org.uk/london/)

## C.3

### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The historic environment sector is responsible for facilitating the perpetuation of some of the most beautiful landscapes and places in London. Such environments are essential for the distinctiveness of the region and the well-being of its inhabitants. There are a number of issues that should be of interest to the historic environment sector in caring for these landscapes:

The Forum comprises a membership that reflects the range of organisations that both influence, and are active in, the historic environment across London. It includes those organisations involved in heritage and historic environment issues as well as those involved in regional economic, planning, environmental and cultural policy and services (member bodies listed on back page).

The aim of the Forum is to become an influential and authoritative voice for the historic environment sector in the London region. It will do this by:

- Promoting understanding and appreciation of the region's historic environment and demonstrating its contribution to the social, economic and environmental well-being.
- Engaging with key regional bodies and influencing the development, review and implementation of relevant regional strategies.
- Acting as an effective champion for the historic environment by identifying and publicising areas of concern and formulating action plans to address them.
- Developing a more integrated and sustained approach to the marketing of the historic environment in the region.
- Acting as a consultative group on historic environment issues and coordinating responses to proposals as necessary.
- Sharing information on plans of individual organisations and exploiting opportunities for collaboration.
- Promoting best practice in the management of the historic environment in the region.

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