

A photograph of two women in traditional Indian attire (sarees) laughing joyfully. The woman on the left is wearing a pinkish-purple saree with a silver border and is pointing towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a bright blue saree with a gold border and is looking back at the first woman. They are standing in front of a classical building entrance with a pediment and columns. The background is a warm, orange-brown color.

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2004

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

# Heritage Counts 2004 in London

**Cover image:** Two visitors to this year's London Mela festival of South Asian culture held at Gunnersbury Park, Hounslow, are pictured in the portico of the seventeenth-century grade II\*-listed Doric Temple. Containing a number of listed buildings and landscape features, this historic park has benefited from a £400,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for restoration work, improved access and refurbishment of the children's play area.

*Heritage Counts 2004* is the third annual state of the historic environment report. It provides new information and analysis on the condition of heritage assets, the pressures they face and the social and economic benefits that they provide. This report has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum, and is one of nine separate regional documents. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2004* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

This year sees the tenth anniversary of the creation of the National Lottery and the Heritage Lottery Fund which has distributed over £665 million to projects in London since 1994. It is also the 21st anniversary of the creation of English Heritage; the National Heritage Memorial Fund is celebrating its 20th anniversary; and it is just over 50 years since the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act (1953) formalised government's authority to give grants for the repair and restoration of listed buildings.

London's historic environment is crucial to its success as a great world city. We must value it, not just because it is old, but because of what it contributes to the present and the future. Careful stewardship of this finite resource is an essential part of making London a truly sustainable city. It is not a question of choosing between old and new: we can, and must, have both. Conservation can provide the catalyst for neighbourhood regeneration as well as a stimulus to the best new design. *Heritage Counts* highlights how investment in London's heritage can deliver demonstrable economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits and enrich the quality of life for all.

Philip Davies  
Chair of the London Historic Environment Forum

# The regional context

London's position as a world city is underpinned by its unrivalled cultural and artistic heritage and its status as one of the few global centres for international business. The last decade has witnessed formidable economic growth in the capital. However, it is a city divided between the extremes of on the one hand wealth creation and success, and on the other deprivation and social exclusion, with some of Europe's poorest communities living side-by-side with the most affluent.

## Key issues facing the historic environment in London include:

- Major development proposals such as the possible expansion of Heathrow Airport, the Thames Gateway growth area and the Lower Lea Valley (including the Olympic Zone)
- Development of major transport hubs
- Regenerating deprived neighbourhoods and town centres
- Development pressure on the City fringe
- Declining suburban town centres and the suburbanisation of the rural fringe
- Demands for Thames and water-side development
- Erosion of the quality of the public realm and open spaces
- Increased "densification"
- Tall buildings and their potential effect on the character and sense of place of historic areas
- The need to explore ways to attract new audiences

Greater London is the smallest of the nine English regions, yet its resident population of 7.2 million (in 2001) is the highest of any city in Western Europe and 15 per cent of the total for England. Growth projections foresee a rise in population over the next 15 years of 800,000, equivalent to a city the size of Leeds.

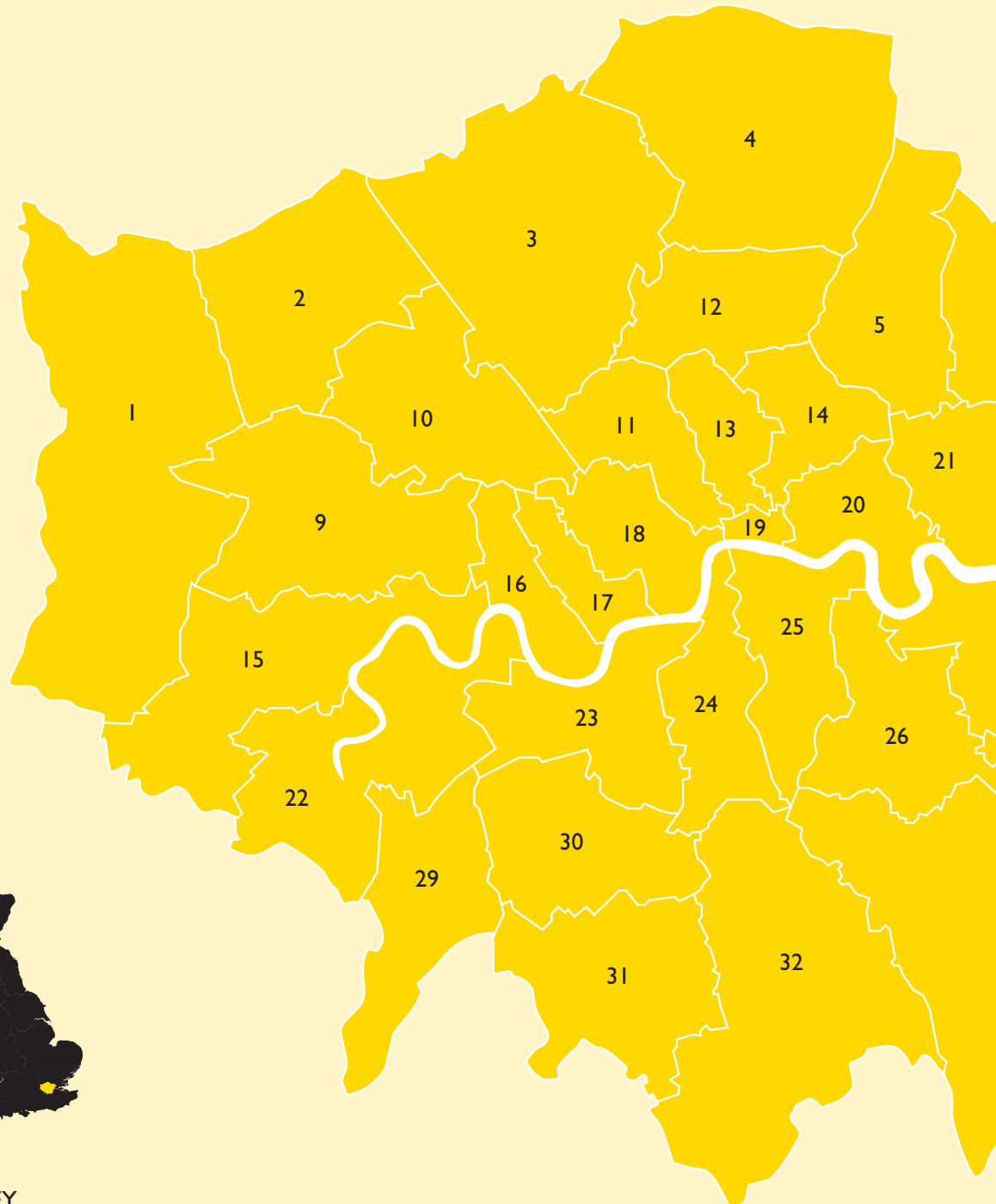
While more people have been leaving London each year since 1991, the inward flow is actually greater, primarily through migration. London is the most ethnically diverse city in the world with 40 per cent of its population from ethnic groups, over 300 languages spoken and 14 different religions practised.

London has the ten most densely populated areas in England, ranging from 13,244 persons per square kilometre in Kensington and Chelsea to 7,440 per square kilometre in Wandsworth (the average for England as a whole is 378 per square kilometre). However, developed land in London accounts for just 58 per cent of the total area, and over a third of London's area is classed as 'green'.

London is administered by a directly elected Mayor (Ken Livingstone) and Assembly (the Greater London Authority). There are 33 local authorities and Londoners are represented by 74 MPs and ten MEPs. London has its own Minister, Keith Hill MP (also responsible for the Thames Gateway) and almost 2,000 Councillors and Aldermen.

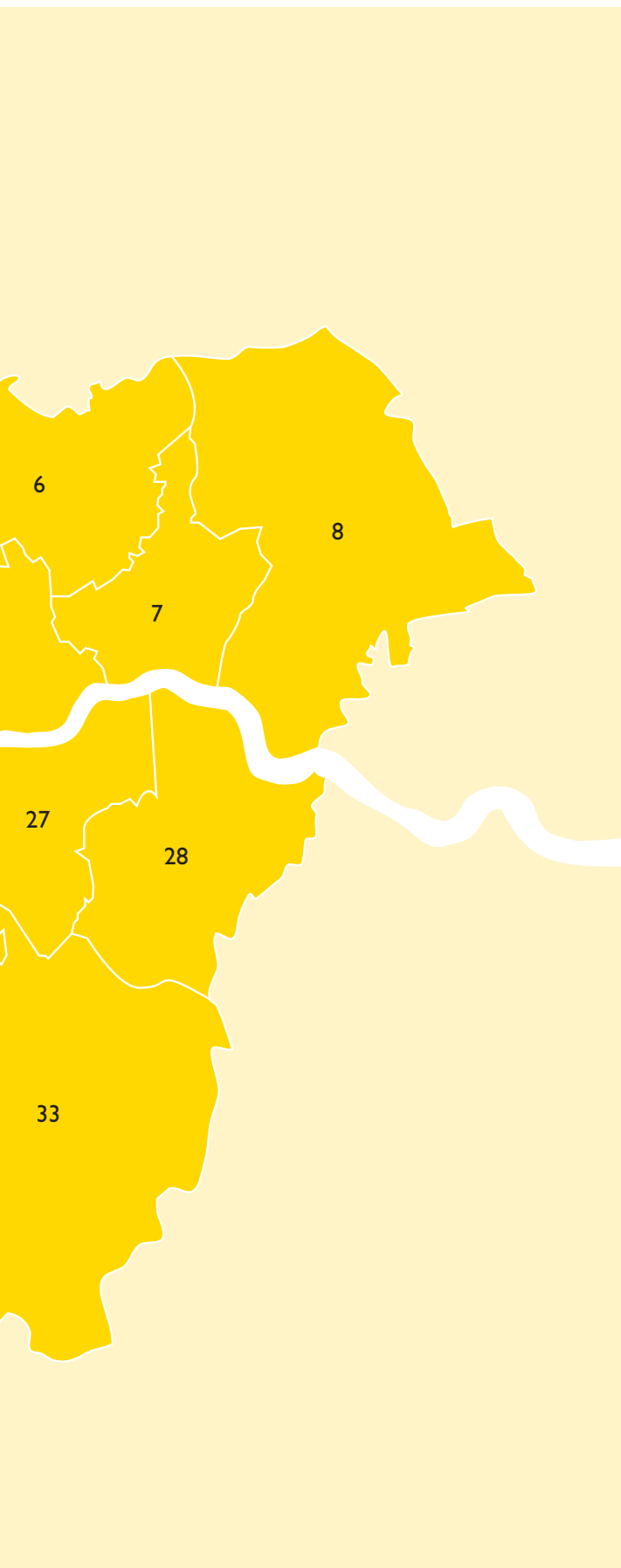
London's economy at £162 billion accounts for 17 per cent of the UK's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Regional GDP is 23 per cent above the national average per head. At the same time, however, about a quarter of England's most deprived communities are to be found in London, mostly in the boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Islington and Newham. London has the highest unemployment rate of any English region at 7.1 per cent (national rate is 5.1 per cent) and there are more unemployed people in London than Scotland and Wales put together.

# London: key facts



## MAP KEY

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Scheduled<br>Monuments  | Listed<br>Buildings   | Parks &<br>Gardens  | Conservation<br>Areas   |







AREA	1,584 square kilometres
POPULATION	7.2 million
GDP	£162 billion

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

- Four of England's 16 world heritage sites
- Approximately 40,000 listed buildings and structures
- 150 scheduled monuments
- 885 conservation areas
- 147 registered parks and gardens
- Over 600 historic squares
- Eight Royal Parks covering 5,000 acres
- 39 urban public parks
- 16 historic cemeteries
- One registered historic battlefield



					
1	Hillingdon	5	406	1	22
2	Harrow	9	283	4	27
3	Barnet	2	622	3	16
4	Enfield	5	291	5	16
5	Waltham Forest	0	102	0	6
6	Redbridge	0	120	2	14
7	Barking & Dagenham	1	30	0	2
8	Havering	3	150	1	10
9	Ealing	6	296	3	25
10	Brent	0	85	2	22
11	Camden	1	1,870	14	30
12	Haringey	0	276	2	26
13	Islington	1	954	0	40
14	Hackney	0	532	4	16
15	Hounslow	5	503	6	19
16	Hammersmith & Fulham	1	237	2	47
17	Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea	2	1,261	14	34
18	City of Westminster	2	3,871	20	55
19	City of London	49	608	4	23
20	Tower Hamlets	1	874	4	47
21	Newham	2	106	2	6
22	Richmond upon Thames	3	791	14	65
23	Wandsworth	0	288	5	43
24	Lambeth	0	911	8	56
25	Southwark	7	859	5	35
26	Lewisham	1	302	3	24
27	Greenwich	7	538	3	21
28	Bexley	4	113	4	20
29	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	6	147	0	22
30	Merton	3	232	4	27
31	Sutton	6	175	1	13
32	Croydon	5	146	2	11
33	Bromley	8	500	5	45



# Understanding the Region's assets

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## A1 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

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The importance of London's many historic sites is recognised through specific designations, such as world heritage sites, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, registered historic parks and gardens and registered battlefields.

### A1.1 WORLD HERITAGE SITES

World heritage sites are selected ('inscribed') by an international committee of UNESCO, upon the advice of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). England has 16 sites, of which 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. There are two other 'tentative' candidates for future WHS status, wholly or partially within London: Darwin's Home and Workplace, Down House and Environs, Bromley; and the Great Western Railway: Paddington to Bristol.

### A1.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Scheduled monuments are designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of English Heritage and are selective examples of nationally important archaeological remains. London currently has 150 scheduled monuments, one more than in 2003 and less than one per cent of the total number in England (19,594). The City of London has the majority of London's monuments (49).

### A1.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

English Heritage identifies individual buildings of special architectural or historic interest and recommends them to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for listing. A building must normally be over 30 years old to be eligible for listing. In April 2004, London had 18,479 entries (not individual buildings or structures) on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural and historic interest categorised into one of three grades (584 at grade I, 1,326 at grade II\* and 16,569 at grade II). This was an increase of 90 (0.5 per cent) over the total number recorded in April 2003. London's listed buildings represent almost five per cent of the total number of listed building entries in England (371,971). It is estimated that the whole of London has approximately 40,000 individual listed buildings and structures. In London, the City of Westminster has both the greatest number of listed building entries (21 per cent of the total for the region) and also the greatest density at 184.3 per square kilometre, compared with a London average of 11.8 per square kilometre and national average of about 2.9 per square kilometre.

### A1.4 HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

The *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest* is compiled by English Heritage. Inclusion on the register helps to safeguard a site's historic features and qualities. London had 147 entries on the register in April 2004, categorised into one of three grades (13 at grade I, 29 at grade II\* and 105 at grade II). This is an increase of four (2.8 per cent) over the total number reported in April 2003.

## A1.5 BATTLEFIELDS

*The Register of Historic Battlefields* is compiled by English Heritage. Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, just one (Barnet: 1471) lies partly in London.

## A2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

### A2.1 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 boulevards. In April 2004, there were 885 conservation areas in London, a reduction of seven (0.8 per cent) since April 2003 (a combination of de-designation and amalgamation).

### A2.2 URBAN OPEN SPACES

London is a uniquely green city. An aerial view of the metropolis reveals an extraordinary quilt of open spaces – great inner city parks, outer London woodlands, private gardens large and small, formal squares, heath land, sports fields, cemeteries, tiny corners of grass, trees and flowerbeds. Running through this is a network of rivers, canals, docks and other water features. This patchwork of open spaces is a haven for key habitats and species. Publicly accessible parks, grasslands and city squares are estimated to make up about 13 per cent of the land area of the Greater London region. There are over 600 historic garden squares across London and 41 urban public parks. In addition there are almost 150 cemeteries (16 being historically important) covering about 1,300 hectares (one per cent of land) and 700 allotment sites.

Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) is a designation unique to London, protecting strategically important open spaces such as Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common, Hampstead Heath, Hackney Marshes, Oxleas Wood, Hyde Park and Mitcham Common. The function of MOL is to protect open spaces in order to provide a clear break 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.

London also has:

- Approximately 500 Archaeological Priority Areas, indicating areas of likely archaeological sensitivity in all London borough Unitary Development Plans
- over 1,300 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation recognised by borough councils, covering nearly 19 per cent of the land area
- 34 Sites of Special Scientific Interest including Abbey Wood and Syon Park, representing sites for wildlife and geology
- ten Strategic Views of both St Paul's Cathedral and the Palace of Westminster which are currently protected by a Direction of the Secretary of State (to be replaced in due course by policies in the London Plan)
- 98 Local Nature Reserves – places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally (of which Abney Park Cemetery and Danson Park are examples)
- Two National Nature Reserves (Ruislip Woods and Richmond Park) established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain, and as places for scientific research
- Two Ramsar sites (one near Hampton Court and one in the Lea Valley), wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention and principally of importance to waterbirds



**London's green lungs: The River Thames at Kew**  
© NMR: English Heritage

- Two Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) at Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park. SACs are strictly protected sites designated by the EC Habitats Directive and form a European network of important high-quality conservation sites
- Two Special Protection Areas (near Kempton Park and in the Lea Valley) classified for rare and vulnerable birds
- 68 kilometres of the River Thames and approximately 80 kilometres of canal

## A2.3 HISTORIC COUNTRYSIDE

Despite the density of London's urban fabric, around ten per cent of its land (mostly in the urban fringe) is classed as farmland. There are approximately seven million trees in Greater London (25 per cent within woodland), and about eight per cent of London's land area is covered by woodland, almost a quarter of which is classified as Ancient Woodland dating back to at least AD 1600. An estimated 20 per cent of land area lies under the canopy of individual trees, while the same proportion of land is taken up by the gardens of private dwellings.

Green Belt land forms 22 per cent of the land area within the London boundary. Green Belt legislation was introduced to control urban spread and ensure that countryside is close to the built-up parts of London, providing recreation, protecting landscape and biodiversity and helping retain agricultural land. London has no National Parks and no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) although a very small portion of the southern boundary of the Borough of Bromley falls within the Surrey Hills AONB.

## A3 ACQUIRING INFORMATION

### A3.1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Historic Environment Records are major sources of information for understanding the local historic environment, and used extensively for planning and as a resource for researchers. The Greater London record is managed by English Heritage and contains over 75,000 records of archaeological sites, monuments, findspots and buildings, a net increase of 1,000 compared to 2003. Use of the London record continues to grow: over 500 enquiries were made in 2004 with 82 per cent answered within 24 hours. 40 per cent of enquirers made use of the GIS (Geographic Information System) facility.



## A3.2 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 one tool to achieve this and is also a key component in the formulation of strategic planning frameworks, including key development principles and policies. Recent studies in London include:

- 2012 Olympic Bid, Lower Lea Valley: The London Development Agency is heavily involved in the bid to bring the 2012 Games to London, and have commissioned the preparation of a Masterplan for the Lower Lea Valley and Olympics. In association with the Masterplan Team, English Heritage has worked very quickly to provide an historical overview of the proposed Olympic site, helping to identify buildings and areas of historic and townscape interest which might be affected by the games, and which would merit further investigation or formal designation
- The Thames Gateway: a strategic characterisation study to support the aims of the government's *Sustainable Communities Plan* for the Thames Gateway Area (as reported in *Heritage Counts 2003*) was completed in August 2004. The main output of the project is a GIS map-based, interactive tool, available to key decision makers and developers in the Gateway area. A series of regional seminars and meetings are scheduled to take place to disseminate the key messages, with the aim of helping to inform a heritage strategy for the Gateway in a similar way to that being prepared for the green environment.



**St George's Circus: eighteenth-century obelisk and later terracing**  
© English Heritage

### St George's Circus, Southwark – ripe for re-birth

This Regency townscape is set around a large circus with an obelisk at the centre. Some of the early nineteenth-century buildings have been lost, but many remain, albeit vacant and dilapidated. Major roads and heavy traffic are a serious blight, but it is still a place of great character. English Heritage, working with all the major stakeholders in the area, commissioned the preparation of an Urban Design Framework, including proposals for enhancement and development, an action plan for implementation, and potential funding partners. Next steps are to ensure that the recommendations inform London Southbank University's proposals for the area, which will affect the key listed buildings on the circus. Key partners have been approached to join in making an application for an HLF-funded Townscape Heritage Initiative partnership for the area.

# B

## Caring and sharing



St Paul's: The 'Ark' community hall within the nave  
© Hélène Binet

### 'A new heart for Bow': St Paul with St Mark, Old Ford, Tower Hamlets

This 1870s grade II-listed church, suffering from unsympathetic repair and dry rot, closed in 1991. With the appointment of Matthew Lloyd Architects and the raising of major funding of around £3 million, including £570,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, 'A New Heart for Bow' was launched to save the building and provide for the expanded needs of the church and its community. The radical approach taken retains the original structure, while inserting a freestanding building within the church (the 'Ark') to provide space for multiple uses without losing the character of the existing worship space. There are also meeting and counselling rooms, a café and a gym in the attic area. The project has been a great success, with the congregation growing in numbers since reopening, and is an excellent example of conservation, sustainability, innovative design and good financial sense all coming together.

## BI HERITAGE AT RISK

### BI.1 BUILDINGS AT RISK

English Heritage has published a *Register of Buildings at Risk in Greater London* annually since 1991, containing information on all listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments known to be at risk from neglect, decay, under-use or redundancy. The 2004 *Register* reported that in London there were 23 grade I-listed buildings (3.9 per cent of all London grade I buildings) at risk compared to a national average of 3.0 per cent, 69 grade II\*-listed buildings (5.2 per cent of all London grade II\*) compared to the national average of 3.7 per cent; and 552 grade II-listed buildings (3.3 per cent of all London grade II). Seven structural scheduled monuments in London (4.7 per cent of all London monuments) are at risk, compared to the national average of approximately 1.4 per cent.

Since the 2003 *Register* there has been a net reduction of 50 entries (107 removals, 57 additions). Over 90 per cent of the buildings on the original 1991 *Register* have been repaired. Approximately 40 per cent of buildings on the *Register* are either under active repair, or have agreed solutions awaiting implementation. Over 35 per cent of the grade I and II\* entries are considered economic to repair. 188 buildings at risk (28 per cent) are in public ownership, and 23 per cent are owned by local authorities.

An example of a recent deletion is the Isokon Flats, Camden, an iconic grade I-listed modern movement building of 1933-34 by Wells Coates, which a Housing Association has taken ownership of and refurbished, with some flats sold privately but the majority kept for key workers. Work in progress includes the Roundhouse, Camden, a famous grade II\*-listed former engine shed and latterly a theatre, now under refurbishment as an arts and performance venue, helped by funding from the HLF (£3.6 million) and English Heritage (£250,000). New entries include the late eighteenth-century Brunswick House at Vauxhall and the former Art Deco/Moorish ABC Cinema in Walthamstow – both listed grade II\*.

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. Three boroughs (Southwark, Islington and Hackney) have dedicated Buildings at Risk officers within their conservation teams.

Growing concern at the large number of long-term empty properties (of all types) in West London has resulted in the launch, by the Minister for Housing and Planning Keith Hill, of **Empro.co.uk**, a website designed to put prospective landlords and developers across London in touch with the buildings. With funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), a number of local authorities are involved together with the Empty Homes Agency, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and Urban Catalyst.



**The East front of Ham House viewed across the Cherry Garden**

© National Trust Photo Library

## B1.2 LANDSCAPES AT RISK

As originally reported in *Heritage Counts 2003*, English Heritage is continuing to develop a method for assessing vulnerability of designed landscapes at risk. Pilot surveys have been undertaken throughout 2004, looking at areas such as the impact of golf courses and the adequacy of the planning system in protecting historic parks and gardens.

## Ham House – making water work

This seventeenth-century National Trust property near Richmond is a partner in a three-year project to manage the impact of climate change on the River Thames. Ham Lands, on which the House sits, are flood prone and have been selected by the Environment Agency as one of seven pilot actions to make up the European Floodscape Project. The project aims to develop a community-based landscape consultation plan for Ham Lands and maintain and enhance the historic character of the meadows, recreational and wildlife use and to re-introduce wet meadows for flood risk management.

## B2 MANAGING POSITIVELY

London has always enjoyed a distinctive regime of controls over development. Protection was introduced for London squares as early as 1931, 16 years before the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act. Uniquely, it also has a special direction protecting ten strategic views as well as separate Regional Planning Guidance for the River Thames. These are now to be replaced by the Mayor of London's *London Plan*, the first strategic plan for the capital in 30 years.

## B2.1 PLANNING TRENDS

There were 92,866 planning applications affecting the Greater London area in 2003/04, the third highest of any English region, and a considerable increase on the 58,542 applications that were decided ten years earlier in 1993/94.

## B2.2 LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS

Where a building is listed, listed building consent is required for any works, external or internal, which affect its special architectural or historic interest.

Applications which must currently be referred to English Heritage in London are: those affecting grade I- and II\*- listed buildings, those involving demolition of principal parts of a grade II-listed building, those affecting specific types of listed buildings (railway and underground stations, theatres and cinemas and bridges across the Thames) and third-party 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 ODPM. ODPM also authorises directly any application for near or complete demolition of any listed building. In 2003/04, a total of 3,913 applications were decided by local authorities in London, compared to 3,863 in 2002/03, an increase of 1.3 per cent. Of these, 3,329 (85.1 per cent) were granted. In 2003/04 local authorities notified the London Region of English Heritage of 2,107 applications, compared to 2,128 in 2002/03, a decrease of one per cent.

English Heritage must also be notified of certain categories of planning application affecting the setting of listed buildings or the character or appearance of conservation areas. However, in such cases, English Heritage does not have powers of direction, and can only offer advice. In 2003/04, English Heritage was notified of 776 planning applications, compared to 543 in 2002/03, an increase of 42.9 per cent.

## B2.3 SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENTS

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. Planning authorities are advised in national policy guidance to have regard to the effect of any development upon the setting of a monument in undertaking their planning functions. In 2003/04, 69 applications for consent were made compared to 85 in 2002/03 (a decrease of 18.8 per cent), and 6.9 per cent of the national total (1,004).

## B2.4 PARKS AND GARDENS

There are no additional planning controls over development affecting the site of a registered park and garden. However, inclusion on the *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest* is a material consideration, which must be taken into account by local planning authorities when considering development proposals. National policy guidance advises local planning authorities to include policies for their protection in development plans. The Garden History Society is notified of all planning applications affecting a registered park or its setting. In 2003/04 it was notified of 62 applications, compared to 58 in 2002/03 (an increase of 6.9 per cent), and 8.3 per cent of the national total (751).

## B2.5 CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

English Heritage must be notified of applications for conservation area consent to demolish unlisted buildings within a conservation area, and in 2003/04 was notified of 467 applications. In 2003/04, a total of 578 applications were decided by local authorities in London, compared to 550 in 2002/03, an increase of 5.1 per cent.

## B2.6

### 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. National planning guidance advises planning authorities to include policies for their protection in development plans. In addition, 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 co-ordinated approach to their management. Of the four sites in London, agreed plans are in place for both Maritime Greenwich and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. For the Palace of Westminster/Westminster Abbey site, the draft management plan went out for public consultation in November 2004 with the aim of full adoption early in 2005. That for the Tower of London is still in preparation.



**More space to enjoy Tower Hill**  
© Historic Royal Palaces

## Tower of London – new public space on Tower Hill

Tower Hill was opened in July 2004 as a major new public space for London. The culmination of a long-term project to improve the setting of the Tower, it followed earlier phases that restored the riverside wharf and livened up approaches from Tower Hill underground station. With an estimated five million people a year using Tower Hill and the riverside wharf, it is now a place to be enjoyed, with areas to sit and enjoy the views, new pavilions housing visitor facilities and a welcome centre, and opportunities for open-air art and theatre.

## B3

### CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

## B3.1

### INVESTING IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Heritage Lottery Fund is unique in that no other heritage funder covers such a breadth of heritage, and no other UK organisation funds heritage projects on such a huge scale. Since the Lottery was introduced in 1994, the Fund has (at July 2004) awarded over £665 million to over 750 projects across various grant programmes in London, 27 per cent of the total for England. Schemes large and small, such as the Museum in Docklands (£14.3 million), Peckham Rye Park (£2.4 million), Downe Village Hall (£44,000) and the archive/learning based Building History in Wandsworth (£29,900), have all benefited. September 2004 saw the completion of the HLF's largest church project, with the restoration of

Nicholas Hawksmoor's grade I-listed Christ Church Spitalfields. By ensuring that everyone can have a role in looking after their local heritage assets (for example through volunteering, educational projects and training) HLF support has significantly increased the number of people with an active interest in safeguarding our diverse heritage for the future.

In 2003/04 English Heritage's London region offered grants totalling £3.6 million, spread across secular (£1.3 million), places of worship (£0.6 million) and area-based (£1.7million) projects such as the Roundhouse Camden (£0.25 million), St Leonard's Shoreditch (£160,000), Alexandra Palace Theatre (£60,000) and Avondale Park railings

## CARING AND SHARING

### B4 SKILLS AND TRAINING



**The Thames at Twickenham**  
© English Heritage

## The River Thames – providing for the future

While the Thames flows past or through 16 of London's 33 local authorities, there is no overall planning authority for the Thames throughout the capital. To achieve better consultation procedures and a greater degree of consistency in the planning process, three separate landscape strategies for the Thames have been produced, Hampton to Kew (1994), Kew to Chelsea (2002), and *Thames Strategy East*, now at consultation stage. The Strategies are supported by full-time co-ordinators, part-funded by the respective partnerships. The Heritage Lottery Fund has recently funded the enhancement of the riverside landscape at Richmond, while a detailed cultural heritage study was carried out in 2004 in support of the Thames Strategy East.

scheme (£30,000). This was an increase of almost 29 per cent on 2002/03 (£2.8 million). Funding of a smaller scale is available from other bodies too. The Heritage of London Trust (founded in 1981) is the only building preservation trust to cover the whole of London. It is entirely dependent on voluntary donations and in 2003/04, the Trust offered 19 grants totalling almost £50,000 including a grant towards the restoration of the grave at St Bartholomew's, Sydenham, dedicated to 20 workers killed during the construction of the Crystal Palace.

## B3.2 EMPLOYMENT

The total number of people directly employed in caring for the historic environment includes:

- approximately 1,700 people (full and part-time, seasonal and permanent) employed at historic visitor attractions in London
- approximately 100 conservation and design staff working in London's 33 local planning authorities, of which 40 posts across 23 authorities are financially supported by English Heritage
- 180 full, part-time and seasonal staff employed directly by English Heritage at 14 properties and at its London headquarters
- 18 staff at the Heritage Lottery Fund, who process applications across their various grant-giving programmes and provide advice and support to potential applicants
- A full and part-time staff complement of approximately 567 at the properties managed by Historic Royal Palaces, including the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace State Apartments
- 237 members of staff working for the Royal Parks agency in managing approximately 5,000 acres of historic parkland in Greater London
- A staff complement of approximately 60 staff, supported by 700 volunteers, managing the National Trust's 885 acres of property including eight registered museums in a range of significant parks and gardens across Greater London

## B4 SKILLS AND TRAINING

Caring for the historic environment requires a wide range of skills and training. Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) is a comprehensive web-based training programme for councillors and officers in local authorities. The website [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk) includes technical advice, training

activities and a searchable database of case studies, illustrating good practice. Supplementing HELM in London is a programme of training and awareness seminars for London borough conservation and design and development control staff run by English Heritage and London First. Through its comprehensive volunteer, education and youth programmes, the National Trust is helping people to realise their potential and contribute to the local community. At Morden Hall Park, the Trust offers two long-term volunteering opportunities (in wardening and education) in return for accommodation. Long-term work experience opportunities are also available at Sutton House, Hackney.

## B5 ATTRACTING NEW AUDIENCES

A number of initiatives have been introduced across London aimed at broadening the audience for the historic environment. A MORI poll in 2000 of focus groups in Birmingham, Leicester and Greenford, West London found that approximately 45 per cent thought that Black and Asian heritage is not adequately represented. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £24,000 helped to create a public exhibition at Hall Place Bexley for Black History Month 2002, which mapped the arrival of ethnic minority communities into the borough of Bexley and show their experiences in and contributions to the area.

At Osterley Park in Hounslow, the National Trust successfully attracts large numbers to both the neo-classical house and landscaped grounds by providing (through audience consultation) a varied programme of attractions, including arts provision for the local community through use of part of the house as a contemporary art gallery, space for a youth drama group and promoting the benefits of a popular four-kilometre walk in the grounds. The Trust is actively exploring new ways of promoting better engagement with the property.



**New access ramps at the Royal Academy of Arts**

© English Heritage

### The Royal Academy of Arts: making access easier

Careful planning is needed for the provision of access to historic buildings and sites for the needs of people with disabilities. At the grade I-listed Royal Academy of Arts, a scheme designed by Michael Hopkins and Partners saw the creation of double-ramped access at the main entrance from the courtyard. A thorough understanding of the history of the building helped to ensure that this was a scheme of a particularly high standard.

London Open House, the capital's independent contribution to the European Heritage Days initiative, gives all sections of the community the opportunity to visit a wide range of buildings across London free of charge. An estimated 350,000 people visited London buildings over two days in September 2003, with even greater numbers expected in 2004.

Schemes of improved access under the requirements of the Disability Discriminations Act 1995 (DDA) have been provided at a number of historic sites around London.

# C

## Using and benefiting



Shoreditch street scene: local character under threat  
© English Heritage

### South Shoreditch – furnishing a future

The furniture trade thrived in South Shoreditch until the 1950s, but the unique character of the area now faces intense pressure for change and redevelopment especially so given its location on the 'city fringe'. An Urban Policy Framework Study for the area in 2003 resulted in both a character appraisal and a set of policies to guide change. The latter will become one of the new Action Area Plans to be established under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), and as such can become a model for other key historic areas around the country.

### C1 HERITAGE AND REGENERATION

Landmark historic buildings, a street of character or well-worn places where lives have been led provide continuity and a sense of place. They encapsulate memory and humanise the city. London is a vibrant and arresting place precisely because it blends the new with the familiar. Regenerating London and enhancing its character requires partnership work between local authorities, public agencies, developers, and most importantly, local people.

### C2 HERITAGE TOURISM

Tourism is a huge generator of jobs and wealth and is a key part of the capital's economy, helping to stimulate urban regeneration in areas such as the South Bank and Docklands. Half of all overseas visitors to the UK spend time here and account for half of all visits to London attractions. 27.6 million people are forecast to visit London in 2004 (of whom 12.6 million will be from overseas) with 'overnighters' spending nearly £9.6 billion. This makes tourism the second largest earner of foreign currency after financial services.

The top five historic buildings/sites in London last year were:

- The Tower of London (charge) – 2.0 million in 2003/04
- Kew Gardens (charge) – 1.1 million in 2003
- Westminster Abbey (part charge) – 1.0 million in 2003
- St Paul's Cathedral (part charge) – 0.7 million in 2003
- Hampton Court Palace (charge) – 0.5 million in 2003/04



## C3 PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

New projects aimed at promoting participation and engagement in London's historic environment include:

- The first Junior Open House, a project for 11-14 year olds from inner London state schools which promotes visits to London buildings, architectural workshops and curriculum-related activities
- Open Up 2005, through which pupils aged 11 – 14 visit key London buildings and follow this up with intensive classroom workshops with architects and model-makers. Pupils' work is then displayed at one or more of Open House Events
- The HLF-funded Happening History youth outreach programme run by Groundwork Camden, which provides access to local heritage sites in Camden and Islington for disadvantaged people from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Targeting young people aged 10-25, participants are encouraged to become actively involved in creating 'mini-projects' around sites such as the Cally Park's Clock Tower and Maiden Lane Estate that enable them to develop skills in design, management and conservation



London continues to be a prime destination for tourists  
© English Heritage

## Pulling Together: the London tourism strategy

Promoting London as a tourist destination and as a gateway to the rest of the UK is a statutory duty of the Mayor of London, who works through the London Development Agency (LDA) in implementing his Tourism Strategy for London. The Mayor's *Plan for Tourism in London* was published in September 2002, and one of the key elements of its 'Blueprint for Growth' is to ensure that growth is more evenly spread across London and to encourage visitors to venture beyond the attractions of the central area. By working with each of London's five sub-regions the LDA will develop a strategic plan and partnership organisational structure to deliver the greatest tourism development benefit. Strategic Action Plans covering 2004/05 and 2005/06, were completed in September 2004 for both the South and East London Sub-Regions while those for West and North London will follow early in 2005.

## C4 EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Well-structured visits to heritage sites can make learning enjoyable, deepening pupils' understanding of past and present, origins and identity, and helping to meet curriculum targets across a wide range of subjects. In the period April 2003 to February 2004, the National Trust's London properties accommodated a total of 408 educational visits encompassing 13,116 educational visitors. The most visited sites were Morden Hall Park (6,483), Sutton House (4,336) and Osterley Park (1,594). This volume of visits was achieved by just four dedicated community and education staff (one at Morden, one



**Enjoying Bedford Square**  
© English Heritage

## London Squares – raising the profile

The *London Squares Campaign* has raised awareness of London's 600 garden squares and helped secure lasting environmental improvements in Russell, Brunswick and Bloomsbury Squares. It has included working with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Greater London Authority to undertake the first survey of the wildlife benefits of garden squares as well as supporting the increasingly popular annual London Parks & Gardens Trust's Open Garden Squares Weekend which attracted over 5,000 visitors to 80 private garden squares in 2004. This included the first ever Garden Skills fair in Bedford Square, where over 1,500 people could obtain advice on everything from horticultural advice to tree care and railing design.

at Osterley and two at Sutton House) with support from the Regional Learning and Interpretation Officer. The recently acquired Red House in Bexleyheath will provide further opportunities for educational visits, not least as William Morris features in the National Curriculum.

English Heritage's London properties attracted 6,602 educational visitors in 2003/04 (6,576 in 2002/03), with Eltham Palace proving the most popular with 2,300 free visits. There is one dedicated Education Officer for the whole region. In April 2004, English Heritage took over the management of Apsley House at Hyde Park Corner and its highly established education programme.

Formal education opportunities are also provided at Hampton Court Palace and the Tower of London, managed by Historic Royal Palaces. Both sites attracted increased numbers on previous years, a trend that is expected to continue with the provision of new dedicated spaces within the vaults on Tower Hill and a planned new Education Centre in and behind the Barrack Block at Hampton Court. Some 52,524 children and 2,000 students were welcomed to Hampton Court Palace in the academic year 2003/04, and a total of 75,896 education visits were made to the Tower of London over the same period.

# The London Historic Environment Forum (LHEF)

## WHO WE ARE:

The LHEF comprises a membership that reflects the range of organisations that both influence and are active in the historic environment across London. This includes both organisations with a focus on heritage and historic environment issues and those involved in the delivery of regional economic, planning, environmental and cultural policy and services. In 2003/04 membership included representatives from the Association of London Government, the Corporation of London, DCMS/Government Office for London, English Heritage, Greater London Authority, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Royal Palaces, London Development Agency, London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies, London Rivers Association, Visit London, Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS), National Trust, Royal Parks and the Standing Conference on London Archaeology (SCOLA). It is hoped to expand this membership further in 2005.

## WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

To become an influential and authoritative voice for the historic environment sector in the London region.

### Our remit is:

- To promote understanding and appreciation of the region's historic environment and demonstrate its contribution to the social, economic and environmental well being of the capital
- To engage with key regional bodies and influence the development, review and implementation of relevant regional strategies
- To act as an effective champion for the historic environment by identifying and publicising areas of concern and formulating action plans to address them
- To develop a more integrated and sustained approach to the marketing of the historic environment in the region

- To act as a consultative group on historic environment issues and co-ordinate responses to proposals as necessary
- To share information on plans of individual organisations and exploit opportunities for collaboration
- To promote best practice in the management of the historic environment in the region

### Our key objectives are:

- To prepare and publish annually the London region edition of *Heritage Counts*
- To produce evidence in early 2005, through a commissioned study, that will demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of London's historic environment
- To foster relationships with key regional bodies and attempt to ensure that the historic environment is embedded in their relevant strategies and policy development
- To raise the profile of the historic environment with relevant organisations within the region, including local authorities

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This document has been produced by the London Historic Environment Forum:

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- London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies
- London Rivers Association
- Museum of London Archaeology Service
- National Trust
- Royal Parks
- Standing Conference on London Archaeology
- Visit London



ENGLISH HERITAGE