

July 2005 – April 2007
Phase 1: Planning and set-up
Site plan, budget and timetable for delivery agreed. Began communicating with and involving local people, which will continue beyond 2012.

April 2007 – summer 2008
Phase 2: Demolish, dig, design
The Olympic Delivery Authority set ten major milestones to achieve by the time of the Beijing 2008 Games. They included:
– The majority of the Olympic Park cleared and cleaned
– The transport enhancements that will open up east London and support the London 2012 Games will have started, with many complete
To read about these milestones and the progress that was made download ‘Demolish, dig, design’ at london2012.com/milestones

Summer 2008 – summer 2011
Phase 3: The big build
The ODA set out in advance the milestones it plans to achieve during the ‘big build’ – the construction of the main sporting venues and infrastructure on the Olympic Park.
The first 10 milestones focused on putting in place the foundations of the main venues and infrastructure in the Olympic Park. The next set focused on the construction of the main sporting venues, transport infrastructure and utilities. All these milestones have been delivered.
In summer 2010, the ODA set out 10 new milestones that mark the completion of the big build. The ODA plans to achieve these by 27 July 2011 – one year before the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.
Construction of the first sporting venue on the Park – the Velodrome – was completed in February 2011 and the other main venues are due to follow by summer 2011.
To read about these 10 milestones, download ‘The big build: completion’ at london2012.com/milestones

Summer 2011 – April 2012
Phase 4: Test Events

London 2012 Games

- July 2005**
London wins the bid to stage the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- July 2007**
London Development Agency hands over land for the Olympic Park site to the ODA so it can begin cleaning and clearing it, ready for the ‘big build’
- November 2007**
Olympic Stadium design unveiled
- Summer 2008**
Construction begins
- 8–24 August 2008**
Beijing Olympic Games
- 24 August 2008**
The Olympic Flag is handed to the Mayor of London
- 6–17 September 2008**
Beijing Paralympic Games
- 17 September 2008**
The Paralympic Flag is handed to the Mayor of London
- 2008**
First London 2012 merchandise products licensed for sale
- Autumn 2008**
The Cultural Olympiad kicks off as London 2012’s Cultural and Education programmes are launched
- December 2009**
Pictograms launched
- October 2010**
London 2012 volunteer recruitment begins
- May 2010**
Mascots launched
- 15 March 2011**
Tickets applications open
- 27 July to 12 August 2012**
Olympic Games
- 29 August to 9 September 2012**
Paralympic Games
- Beyond 2012**
Transformation of Olympic Park to create long-term benefits for the local community



Welcome to the Olympic Park

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The Olympic Delivery Authority operates free bus tours of the Olympic Park on weekends and selected weekdays. To book your place on a tour phone 0300 2012 001.

The construction of the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Games is funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Mayor of London and the London Development Agency.

Welcome to the Olympic Park

The London 2012 Games

On 27 July 2012 the eyes of the world will be on this part of London, as the Games of the XXX Olympiad begin.

Over the 60 days of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games around 15,000 athletes and millions of people will gather here to enjoy the sporting and cultural action.

The Games present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the Lower Lea Valley.

For the first time, the Games are being planned hand-in-hand with the long-term improvement of the area. We are thinking of tomorrow today.

After the Games, a new sustainable community will be integrated with the area surrounding the Olympic Park, with local people benefiting from a new park, new homes and world-class sporting facilities.

What was here

The site of the Olympic Park is located in the Lower Lea Valley. It is 2.5 sq km – the same area as 357 football pitches.

For the past 400 years much of the area was used for industry, from textile printing in the 17th century to petrol factories in the 18th century. Bone, soap, and tallow works, along with distilleries, engineering and chemical plants, have all been located in the area in the past.

Since the late 19th century around half of the site has been used for landfill, including a 100-year-old tip on the site of the Velodrome.

About 75 per cent of the land had some form of contamination, such as petrol, oil, tar and heavy metals, like arsenic.

The waterways that criss-cross the Park suffered from years of neglect and the skyline was dominated by the pylons that carried powerlines across the area.

In the months up to the Beijing 2008 Games the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) focused on clearing the land, demolishing the hundreds of buildings across the site and moving the powerlines from the overhead pylons into tunnels that run underneath the site.

At the same time, we were designing the sporting venues that will host the Games. The ODA called this phase of the project ‘demolish, dig, design’.

What is happening now

The majority of the Olympic Park was cleared and cleaned by summer 2008, when construction work began in earnest. Construction is nearing completion on all the main sporting venues on the Park, as well as on much of the new infrastructure, utilities and transport links in and around the Park. The parklands are also taking shape, with around 50,000 plants and more than 1,000 trees already planted.

Construction of the first sporting venue on the Park – the Velodrome – was completed in February 2011. Construction of the other main venues – the Olympic Stadium, Aquatics Centre, International Broadcast Centre and Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC), Athletes’ Village, Basketball Arena and Handball Arena – is on target to be completed by summer 2011.

Outside the Park, construction of the Lee Valley White Water Centre, which will host the Canoe Slalom competitions, was completed in December 2010, while work to enhance the Rowing facilities at Eton Dorney and the Sailing facilities at Weymouth and Portland has also been finished.

Ten amazing facts you never knew about the London 2012 Games

8.8 million

Number of London 2012 Olympic Games tickets that will be available

2,000

Number of newts relocated from the Olympic Park to the Waterworks Nature Reserve

200km

Total length of cabling for the underground powerlines – the distance from London to Nottingham

8.35km

Total length of waterways within or close to the Olympic Park, much of which is being restored – the equivalent of 167 lengths of a 50m swimming pool

800,000

Number of people expected to use public transport to travel to the Games on the busiest day – more than the entire population of Leeds

53m

Height of the Olympic Stadium – three metres taller than Nelson’s Column

205

Nations could compete at the London 2012 Games

4,000

Trees will be planted on the Olympic Park and Olympic Village sites, the first of which was planted on the Olympic Stadium site by Her Majesty The Queen in October 2009

97%

Proportion of material reclaimed from demolition within the Olympic Park which can be reused or recycled

10

Different rail routes will serve Stratford Station during and after the Games, making it the most connected station in London other than King’s Cross St. Pancras

History of the Games

A proud Olympic heritage

The first ancient Olympic Games can be traced back to 776 BC. They were dedicated to the Olympian gods and staged on the plains of Olympia in Greece.

The modern Olympic Games were founded by French-born athlete, poet and educator Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1937). He was inspired by a visit to the Much Wenlock Games in Shropshire, UK. Invited to watch these traditional ‘Olympian Society Annual Games’ by Dr William Penny Brookes, de Coubertin enjoyed the mix of athletics and traditional local sports, preceded by a parade of flag-bearers, competitors and officials.

De Coubertin always paid tribute to the role that his visit to the Wenlock Games had on the founding of the modern Olympic Games. He said: ‘If the Olympic Games exist today, the praise should go not to a Greek, but to Dr Brookes of Wenlock.’

In 2012 London will host a Games like never before, drawing on the UK’s proud Olympic heritage. London hosted the Olympic Games in 1908 and 1948, each time leaving its mark on the Olympic movement with its innovative approach.

In 1908, London stood in as Host City for Rome after an eruption of Mount Vesuvius. It was the first time that the athletes paraded under their national flags at a ceremony at the start of the Games and the Marathon was fixed at 42.195km (26.2 miles) – the distance from Windsor Castle to the Royal Box in the Olympic Stadium in White City. This became the official distance from the 1924 Games onwards.

In 1948, London again stepped in at the last minute to host the first Games after World War II. It was the first time that they were shown on home television and starting blocks were introduced for Sprint races. A Volunteer Programme was created to help run the Games.

The birthplace of the Paralympic Games

The London 2012 Paralympic Games are being planned together with the Olympic Games and will be something truly special.

The UK has a strong link to the Paralympic Games. In 1948, Dr Ludwig Guttmann organised a sports competition that involved World War II soldiers with spinal cord injuries based in Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

The competition took place between sports clubs and other hospitals on the same day as the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games.

Four years later, athletes from Holland joined in, creating the forerunner of the Paralympic Games.



High jumper Harry Porter of the USA at the London 1908 Olympic Games. He won the gold medal and set an Olympic record of 1.905m



The USA’s John Hayes on his way to completing the Marathon at the London 1908 Olympic Games. Hayes won the gold medal after Dorando Pietri of Italy, who finished first, was disqualified for being helped over the line

Eton Manor

Capacity: 10,500 during the Paralympic Games
Olympic Games: Aquatics training
Paralympic Games: Wheelchair Tennis, Aquatics training
After the Games: Converted to a tennis, hockey and five-a-side football facility

Hockey Centre

Capacity: 16,000 during the Games
Olympic Games: Hockey
Paralympic Games: Paralympic 5-a-side Football, Paralympic 7-a-side Football
After the Games: The two pitches will be removed and relaid at Eton Manor

IBC/MPC

During the Games the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC) will host 20,000 of the world's media in state-of-the-art facilities.
After the Games: Employment space

Basketball Arena

Capacity: 12,000 during the Games
Olympic Games: Basketball, Handball later stages
Paralympic Games: Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Basketball
After the Games: Dismantled and reconstructed elsewhere

Handball Arena

Capacity: Up to 7,000
Olympic Games: Handball, Modern Pentathlon (Fencing)
Paralympic Games: Goalball
After the Games: Multi-sport arena for sport, culture and business.

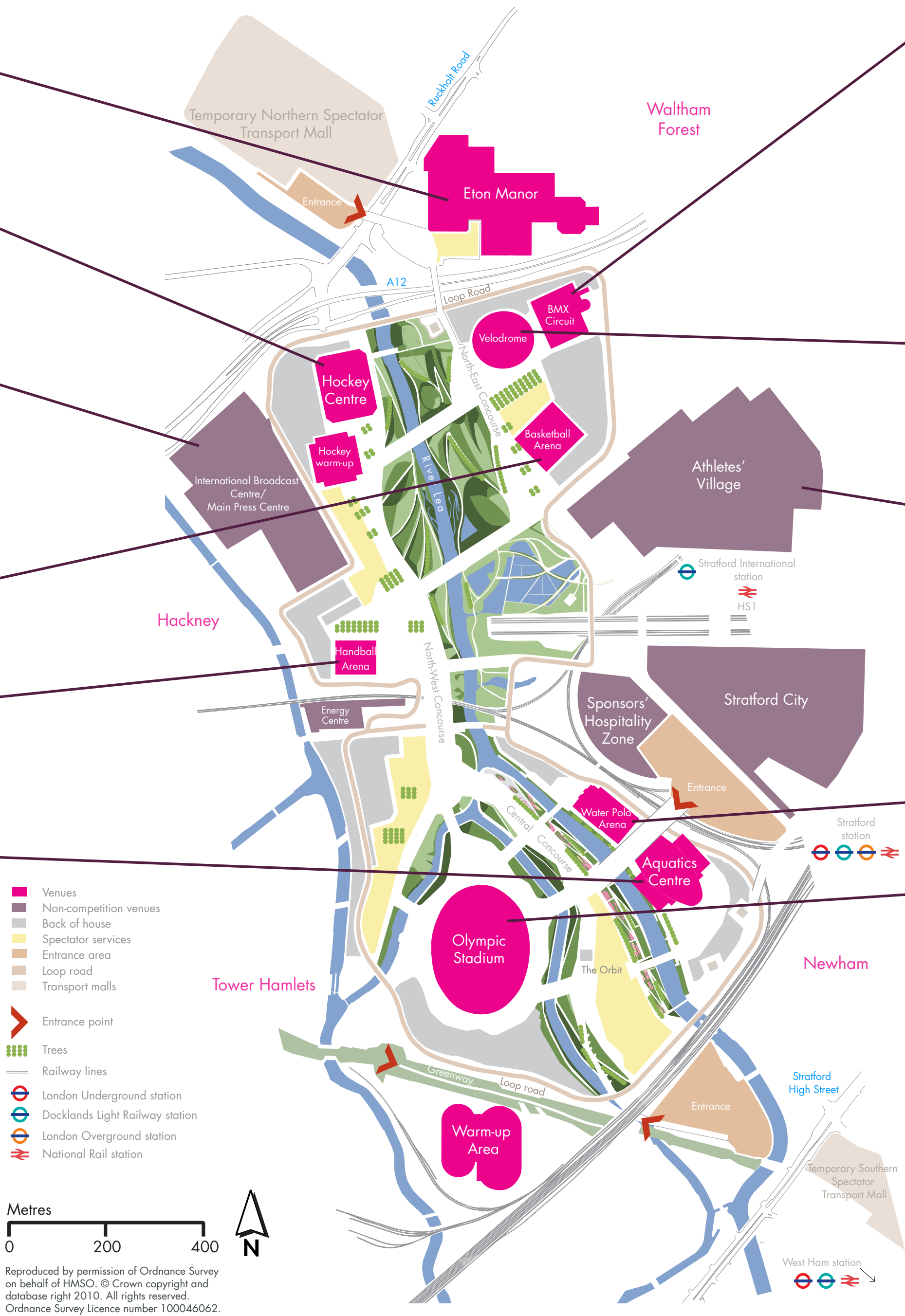
Aquatics Centre

The Aquatics Centre will act as a gateway to the Olympic Park. The venue will house two 50m swimming pools and a diving pool.
Capacity: 17,500 during the Games
Olympic Games: Swimming, Diving, Synchronised Swimming, Modern Pentathlon (Swimming)
Paralympic Games: Paralympic Swimming
After the Games: Pools open for use by the local community and elite athletes. It will also incorporate a crèche, family friendly changing facilities and café amenities alongside a new public plaza



Olympic Park during the London 2012 Games

Indicative map of the Olympic Park during the Games



BMX Circuit

Capacity: 6,000 temporary seats during the Olympic Games
Olympic Games: Cycling – BMX
After the Games: Reconfigured to form part of the VeloPark

Velodrome

Capacity: 6,000 during the Games
Olympic Games: Cycling – Track
Paralympic Games: Cycling – Track
After the Games: The Velodrome will form part of a new VeloPark for community and elite use. It will be joined by the reconfigured BMX Circuit, and additional facilities for road cycling and mountain biking.



Athletes' Village

The Athletes' Village will provide accommodation for athletes and officials during the Games. It will also include shops, restaurants, medical and leisure facilities, and large areas of open space.
Olympic Games: Thousands of beds for athletes and officials
Paralympic Games: Thousands of beds for athletes and officials
After the Games: Will become part of the Stratford City regeneration project, providing thousands of new homes, with a mix of affordable tenures, shared equity and housing for sale and rent. There will also be education and healthcare facilities.

Water Polo Arena

Capacity: 5,000 during the Olympic Games
Olympic Games: Water Polo
After the Games: Taken down with elements of the venue expected to be reused or relocated elsewhere in the UK.

Olympic Stadium

The design features a stadium 'bowl' with a capacity of 25,000, and an additional capacity of 55,000 that can be removed after the Games. An Olympic Stadium with such a large temporary element is a first for Games design.
Capacity: 80,000 during the Games
Olympic Games: Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Athletics
Paralympic Games: Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Paralympic Athletics
After the Games: The Olympic Park Legacy Company is progressing plans to transform the stadium into a venue hosting a variety of sporting, cultural and community events.



Things that are important to us

Accessibility

The sporting venues, new transport services, supporting facilities and the Park itself will be designed and constructed to be inclusive for people of all cultures, faiths and ages, and accessible to disabled people.

Archaeology

While we transform the site for the future, we want to remember its past. We now know it had its own residents before the Romans even reached our shores. Remnants of a Bronze Age settlement including skeletons – at least 2,000 years old – were found when digging began on the tunnels for the underground powerlines and evidence of an Iron Age settlement has been unearthed on the site of the Aquatics Centre.

Archaeologists have also discovered helmets and a military base where anti-aircraft guns were used by soldiers and volunteers to protect London during the Second World War.



A Roman coin was found on the site of the Olympic Stadium

Community relations

Throughout the preparation for the London 2012 Games we are working hard to minimise the disruption to the local community around the Olympic Park, while keeping people informed and engaged about progress and future plans for the Park.



More than 100,000 people have visited the Olympic Park since 2007

Equality and inclusion

We want the London 2012 Games to involve everyone. We want the Games and the substantial investment in the Lower Lea Valley to promote inclusion and have a significant impact on reducing historic and long-standing inequalities.

Health, safety and security

We want to make sure that the London 2012 Games are safe and secure. We are designing venues, facilities, infrastructure and transport to help eliminate health and safety hazards during construction, operation and maintenance, and to meet the needs of operational security during the Games.

Jobs and skills

The London 2012 Games will be the catalyst for employment, business and training opportunities in London and across the UK, through the creation of new jobs, increased sustainable skills among local people and improved links between employers.

Legacy

The London 2012 Games will revitalise the Lower Lea Valley, transforming one of the most underdeveloped areas of London into sustainable and healthy neighbourhoods. The ODA is working closely with the Olympic Park Legacy Company, which is leading on the long-term use of the Park. We want to create great places where people will want to live, work and play.

Sustainability – energy

Through the construction of the venues and infrastructure, staging the London 2012 Games themselves and then long into the future we want to minimise carbon emissions associated with the Olympic Park and venues, and supply energy using energy-efficient and renewable sources.

Sustainability – ecology

Wildlife is being protected during construction work on the Olympic Park site. Local schoolchildren have helped to build new habitats by taking part in a community project to develop a landscape corridor on East Marsh. Almost 2,000 newts and hundreds of toads have already been relocated into specially constructed ponds. An artificial nest has been built for sand martins within the Waterworks Nature Reserve, a nearby wildlife habitat visited by thousands of local schoolchildren every year. Fish, including pike and eels, have been relocated from the small Pudding Mill River at the Olympic Stadium site into the River Lea. We have also carried out dawn surveys to check for black redstart birds and twilight surveys to check for roosting bats.



Around 2,000 newts have been relocated from the Olympic Park

Sustainability – waterways

We are revitalising the waterways around the Olympic Park to enhance the physical environment, create new green corridors for wildlife and allow materials to be transported to and from the site by barge. The waterways have suffered from years of neglect: water quality was poor, river walls were in a bad condition and the landscape was scarred by shopping trolleys and other rubbish dumped along the river channels. However, they are a great asset that we are renewing.