

LONDON'S 50M SWIMMING POOLS

LONDON'S EXISTING 50M POOLS

The 50m swimming pool facilities in the London Region that can host competitions are:



1. The London Aquatic Centre, Stratford;
2. The National Sport Centre, Crystal Palace;
3. Gurnell Leisure Centre, Ealing; and
4. Hillingdon Leisure Complex.

Plus there are 50m lidos at

5. Charlton;
6. Hillingdon;
7. London Fields; and
8. Park Road.

The **London Aquatic Centre** is the pre-eminent competition swimming pool in the UK and has a 50-metre x 10-lane competition pool with 4,000 spectator seating capacity, a diving pool and a 50-metre swim down pool. It should be considered to be the main competition pool for the north-east quadrant of Greater London.

The **National Sport Centre** has a 50-metre x 8-lane competition pool with spectator seating for 3,000 spectators, a diving pool with a full set of boards (but no synchronised arrangement), and a 25-metre swim down pool. Because of its signature 1960's style and design it is a listed building. It should be considered to be the main competition pool for the south-east quadrant of Greater London.

Hillingdon Leisure Complex has a 50m x 8-lanes x 2.5m-lane competition pool with bulkhead and moveable floor for a depth 2m depth with 350 spectator seating capacity (100 seats fewer than the minimum for a regional facility). There is a leisure pool that has limited swim-down capability and a listed 50m lido. It is in the north-west quadrant of Greater London.

Gurnell Leisure Centre has a 50m x 6-lanes x 2.5m-lanes with spectator seating for 200 spectators (250 fewer than the minimum for a regional facility). The pool depth ranges from 0.9m to 2.25m with moveable floor and there is a leisure pool with limited swim-down capability. It is in the north-west quadrant of Greater London. The pool is expected to be closed in 2018 and replaced with a 50m x 10 lane facility in 2021.

The four lidos are unsuitable for competition but no less valuable and valued by London Swimming and their communities.

LONDON NEEDS MORE 50M POOLS

There is a significant gap in supply as Swim England analysis shows Greater London needs at least one more 50 metre Regional Competition Pool with a swim down pool and spectator seating for 450 spectators. In addition to staging **swimming** competitions, these pools will be capable of supporting regional **water polo** competitions

There is no recognisable 50-metre competition swimming pool provision in the south-west quadrant of Greater London. And the London Boroughs of Kingston-upon-Thames and the London Borough of Sutton each have significant water deficits which each equate to a 50-metre 8-lane swimming pool.

LONDON'S 25M SWIMMING POOLS

LONDON'S EXISTING 25M POOLS

The London Aquatic Centre and Hillingdon Leisure Complex both have bulkheads which enable them to be set up as 25m competition Pools. Other pools include the meet the standard for a county short course competition include:

1. **Becontree** in Barking and Dagenham which has a 25-metre by 10-lane community pool, a learner pool, and spectator seating for 500 spectators;
2. **Eltham Centre** in Greenwich which has a 25-metre 8-lane pool with adequate depths plus minimum 17m swim and spectator seating for 200. However it is only 17m wide therefore lane widths are only 2.0m rather than the standard 2.5m
3. **Isleworth LC** in Hounslow which has a 25-metre by 6-lane pool with adequate depths plus minimum 17m swim down
4. **Mile End Park** in Tower Hamlets which has a 25-metre 8-lane pool with adequate depths plus minimum 17m swim and spectator seating for 250. However it is only 17m wide therefore lane widths are only 2.0m rather than the standard 2.5m
5. **Westcroft LC** in Sutton which has a 25-metre 8-lane pool with adequate depths plus minimum 17m swim and spectator seating for 200. However it is only 17m wide therefore lane widths are only 2.0m rather than the standard 2.5m

There are six pools that meet the minimum standard for a district competition:

1. **Acton LC** in Ealing which has a 25m 8-lane pool.
2. **Clissold LC** in Hackney which has a 25m 8-lane pool and seating for 230 spectators.
3. **Glass Mill LC** in Lewisham which has a 25m 8-lane pool with seating for 300 spectators.
4. **Sapphire Ice and Leisure** in Romford which has a 25m 8-lane pool
5. **Swiss Cottage LC** in Camden which has a 25m 8-lane pool which has seating for 184.

There are below which has 25-metre by 6-lane community swimming pool.

1. Bromley High School
2. Central Park LC in Romford
3. Colfe's Leisure in Lewisham
4. Downham Health and Leisure in Lewisham
5. Dulwich College Sports Club in Southwark
6. Dulwich Prep in Southwark
7. East Ham LC in Newham
8. Eric Liddell Sports Centre in Bromley
9. Forest Hill Pools in Lewisham
10. Holloway School in Islington
11. JAGs Sports Club in Southwark
12. Kings Hall LC in Hackney
13. Lady Eleanor Holles School in Richmond
14. New Addington LC in Croydon
15. South Norwood LC in Croydon
16. St Pauls School
17. Streatham Ice and Leisure in Lambeth
18. Sylvestrian LC in Waltham Forest
19. Thornton Heath LC in Croydon
20. Trinity Sports Club in Croydon

This represents one community swimming pool per 110,444 head of population!

LONDON NEEDS MORE 25M POOLS

There is a significant gap in supply as Swim England analysis shows Greater London need for at least 13,932m² of water space. And only one community swimming pool per 110,444 head of population!

The metropolis needs at the very least:

- 20 x 25-metre by 8-lane County competition swimming pools with swim down pool; and
- 64 x 25-metre by 6-lane District competition swimming pools with a learner pool.

LONDON'S DIVING POOLS

LONDON'S EXISTING DIVING POOLS

There are only two swimming pool facilities in the London Region with 10m diving platforms:



1. The London Aquatic Centre, Stratford;
2. The National Sport Centre, Crystal Palace;

Plus there are diving boards in the following pools;

- St George's Leisure Centre (1m, 3m)
- Highgrove Leisure Centre (1m, 3m, 5m)
- Putney Leisure Centre (1m, 3m, 5m)
- Morden Leisure Centre (1m, 3m, 5m)
- Barnet Cophall Leisure Centre (1m, 3m, 5m)

The **London Aquatic Centre** is the pre-eminent competition swimming pool in the UK and has a diving pool with a full set of boards and has the facility for synchronised diving and spectator seating for 4,000 spectators.

The **National Sport Centre** has a diving pool with a full set of boards (but no synchronised arrangement), and spectator seating for 3,000 spectators.

The **Highgrove Pool and Fitness Centre** in Hillingdon has diving board

The **Walthamstow Pool** has diving boards

These pools are capable of supporting **synchronised swimming**.

LONDON NEEDS MORE DIVING POOLS

There is a significant gap in supply as Swim England analysis shows Greater London need for more diving facilities particularly those which enable synchronised diving and have dry-dive training facilities. These pools will additionally be capable of providing **synchronised swimming** to Regional competition level.

THE CASE FOR MORE POOLS

GAPS IN SUPPLY

There is a significant gap in supply as Swim England analysis shows Greater London needs at least

- one more 50 metre Regional competition pool with a swim down pool and spectator seating for 450 spectators. In addition to staging **swimming** competitions, these pools will be capable of supporting regional **water polo** competitions;
- more 25-metre by 8-lane County competition swimming pools with swim down pool;
- more 25-metre by 6-lane District competition swimming pools with a learner pool; and
- more 10-metre diving facilities with synchronised boards and dry-dive training facilities; additionally capable of providing **synchronised swimming** to Regional competition level.

MAXIMISING FLEXIBILITY

50m pools with movable floors and two movable bulkheads can be configured in different ways to suit the needs of a particular activity. For example, the pool can be set up as

- a 50m pool for lane swimming, club training sessions, or competitions;
- two 25m pools for lane swimming and club training sessions;
- two 25m competition pools –
 - there are some competitions that attract large numbers of competitors and need two pools running simultaneously,
- three pools – e.g.
 - one with shallow water for lessons, one 25m pool for lane swimming and club training, one pool for recreational swimmers,
 - two with shallow water for lessons, one 25m pool for lane swimming and club training.

This will enable the facility to host more activities (separately or simultaneously) and potentially increase the number of customers. Being able to host both 25m (short course) and 50m (long course) competitions will enable the facility to attract more competitions and have a positive impact on the local economy.

CLUBS AND MEMBERS

There are 113 existing ASA affiliated swimming clubs in the London with over 3,500 swimming members and at least 39 of these swimming clubs would look to a regional 50-metre swimming pool in a South-West location as their main long-course competition venue.

SWIMMING COMPETITIONS

Each year, there is an average of 200 swimming meets that are licenced for inclusion in the national swimming rankings and further 250 other events that take place annually in the London Region. This is the 5th highest of the eight Swim England regions and reflects the region's geographical size. However, it does not reflect the size of the Region's population which is the second highest of the English Regions and suggests an untapped market

More well-placed regional competition facilities in the London Region will increase the number of competitions which, in turn, will:

- enable more people to compete;

- enable more people to swim regularly by making more water time available that is within acceptable travel time and distance; and
- have a significant economic benefit to the local community particularly when the facility hosts an international, national or regional competition.

More people swimming – whether recreationally or competitively – will have a positive impact on the population’s health <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/new-report-shows-health-benefits-swimming/>

A study has also shown that competitive swimming has a positive impact on academic success. <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/new-report-shows-competitive-swimmers-can-cleverer/>

SWIM ENGLAND

Whilst they are unable to provide financial support, Swim England and London Swimming want to work with councils and partners to deliver the competition facilities needed to meet the demand for the community and club swimming. They will be able to explain the minimum technical and non-technical requirements of the different facilities, target audiences and competitions.

SPORT ENGLAND

Sport England has published advice on affordable 50m and 25m pools at

- <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/swimming-pools/>;
- <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/affordable-models/affordable-sports-centres-50m-pool/>; and
- <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/affordable-models/affordable-sports-centres/>.

POOLS AND BUILDINGS LISTED BY HISTORIC ENGLAND

Historic pools represent a valuable part of London's heritage and, like all pools, are an amenity which are used by young, old, disabled and ethnic minorities alike and those who would be discouraged from swimming by travelling further afield to modern facilities. They form an important form of Edwardian architecture and represent social history.

Listed Swimming Pools

Bowes Road Library and Arnos Pool 269 Bowes Road, New Southgate N11 1BD (London Borough Enfield). Library, swimming pool and caretaker's flat with the: library and pool form distinct wings, the former running east-west, the latter north-south at the east end of the library.
<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1381394>.
<http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/arnos-pool/>.

Camberwell Public Baths Artichoke Place, Camberwell SE5 (London Borough Southwark). Public baths dated to 1891.
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1376535>
<https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/camberwell-leisure-centre/>

Chelsea Sports Centre and Public Baths Chelsea Manor Street, Chelsea, SW3 (Royal Borough Kensington and Chelsea). Circa 1900. Public Baths.
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1080716>.
<http://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/kensington-and-chelsea/chelsea-sports-centre>

Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre, Crystal Palace Park, SE19 (London Borough Bromley). Sports Centre and diving boards built 1960-4. Was used for national championships, international events and, in 1969, to celebrate Swim England centenary.
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1031539>.
<http://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/crystal-palace/crystal-palace-national-sports-centre>

Dulwich Leisure Centre East Dulwich Road, Camberwell SE22 (London Borough Southwark). Public baths and wash houses, converted to leisure centre
<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1385509>
<https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/dulwich-leisure-centre/>

Ealing Village 52 Ealing Village, Ealing (London Borough Ealing). Private art deco, private estate with its own private road and amenities that include a clubhouse, swimming pool and tennis court
<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1249909>. <http://www.ealingvillage.com/>

Fullwell Cross Library 140 High Street, Ilford (London Borough Redbridge). The library and baths orientated towards a small rectangular civic square which is part of the scheme.
<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1391938>. <http://www.vision-rcl.org.uk/>

Golden Lane Estate Recreation Centre Goswell Road, City of London, EC1 (City of London Corporation). Recreation centre, including baths and badminton court or gymnasium, with nursery and tenants' hall
<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1021950>.
<http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/golden-lane-sport-fitness>

Ironmonger Row Baths | Norman Street EC1V (London Borough Islington). Public baths, wash-houses and swimming pools

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1391805>.

<http://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/islington/ironmonger-row-baths>.

Kings Hall Leisure Centre 37-41 Lower Clapton Road, Hackney (London Borough Hackney). Public swimming pool and baths which are now part of the leisure centre

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1096051>.

<http://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/hackney/kings-hall-leisure-centre>

Marshall Street Baths Soho, Westminster, W1 (City of Westminster). Public Baths built 1928-31

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1239704>.

<https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/marshall-street-leisure-centre/>

Parliament Hill Fields Lido Gordon House Road, Hampstead, NW5 (London Borough Camden). is internationally famous on Hampstead Heath with bathing ponds and the Parliament Hill Lido

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1113025>.

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/swimming/Pages/default.aspx>

Penwortham School Penwortham Road, Wandsworth (London Borough Wandsworth). School with associated school keeper's house, handicraft block and temporary classroom/swimming pool.

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1393591>.

Poplar Baths East India Dock Road, Poplar E14 (London Borough Tower Hamlets). Former public baths, slipper baths and vapour baths.

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1334939>

<http://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/tower-hamlets/poplar-baths-leisure-centre>

The Porchester Centre Porchester Road, Queensway, Westminster, W2 (City of Westminster).

Public baths and wash-house built 1923-5 with baths, library and assembly rooms added in 1927-9

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1262987>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1262987>.

<https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/porchester-centre/>

I-218 Pullman Court Streatham Hill SW2 (London Borough Lambeth). Ten ranges of flats arranged in three blocks, designed as a tight, single composition, with open-air swimming pool.

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1064939>.

Richmond Baths Old Deer Park, Richmond TW9 (London Borough Richmond on Thames). Public swimming pools and lido.

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246189>.

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/pools_on_the_park.

St Pancras Public Baths Prince of Wales Road, Hampstead NW5 (London Borough Camden). Public baths, swimming baths & launderette, formerly with wash house and public hall. 1898-1900

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1139080>.

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure/sport-and-physical-activity/sports-centres/kentish-town-sports-centre/>

Seymour Leisure Centre Seymour Place, Lisson Grove, Marylebone (London Borough Westminster on Thames). Public baths and laundry, now part of the leisure centre.

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1264003>.
<https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/seymour-leisure-centre/>.

Schreiber House West Heath Road, Hampstead, (London Borough Camden). Private detached house, and attached swimming pool.

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1379179>.

Stillness Lodge Road, Bromley (London Borough Bromley). Private house including terrace, steps and swimming pool. <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1096076>.

Tottenham Public Baths Town Hall Approach, Tottenham N15 (London Borough Haringey). Now community hall and public baths. <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1079912>.

Uxbridge Lido Park Road, Uxbridge UB8 (London Borough Hillingdon). Swimming pool in 12-sided "star" formation. Now part of Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1323711>.
<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/18253/Hillingdon-Sports-and-Leisure-Complex>.

York Hall Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green (London Borough Tower Hamlets). Public hall, swimming pool and baths, formerly incorporating public wash-house and laundry. <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1078877>.

<https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/tower-hamlets/york-hall-leisure-centre>

Listed pools no longer in use

Brentford Baths, Clifden Road, Brentford (London Borough Hounslow). Victorian public baths, now part residential <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1334358>

Cheshire Street Baths, Cheshire Street, Bethnal Green E2 (London Borough Tower Hamlets). The first building erected under the Baths and Washhouses Acts of Queen Victoria and converted into flats and a boxing club in 1999 <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1357782>.

College Building City University, St John Street, Islington (London Borough Islington). Built as the Northampton Institute in 1894-6, the wing directly north of the tower and the former swimming bath to the rear rebuilt in 1953-5. Now serves as a study area for PhD students.

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1195739>.

<https://www.city.ac.uk/visit/campuses/northampton-square/college-building/the-pool>.

Fulham Baths Entrance Block North End Road, Fulham SW6 (London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham). Entrance block to former baths <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1192468>.

Groundwork Trust Offices Wells Way, Bermondsey SE5 (London Borough Southwark). Public baths and wash house, later public library and sports club, now offices.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1386038>

Haggerston Baths Whiston Road, Haggerston, E2 (London Borough Hackney). Public baths, with swimming pool, men's and women's slipper baths, some removed, annexed laundry and chimney. Hackney Council rubber stamped in 2017 a plan to refurbish and redevelop the Haggerston Baths building into shops, community spaces and offices <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1235838>.

Hornsey Road Baths 260 Hornsey Road, Islington N7 (London Borough Islington). Public baths and wash house dated 1892. Now a theatre, performance space, media suite, a recording studio, dance studio and a cafe <https://historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1207574>.

Laurie Grove Baths, Laurie Grove, Deptford SE14 (London Borough Lewisham). Following the closure of the baths to the public, Goldsmiths University acquired the buildings in 1999 and converted them into studios and teaching rooms for students on the MFAs in Fine Art and curating <https://historicensland.org.uk/services-skills/education/educational-images/laurie-grove-baths-deptford-8307>.

Manor Place Baths Manor Place, Bermondsey, SE17 (London Borough Southwark). Baths, now storage depot and offices for the Borough <https://historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1385689>.

Old Swimming Baths Lady well Road, Lewisham (London Borough Lewisham). Erected in 1884 and closed in the 1960's when the Leisure Centre was opened. <https://www.historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1391811>

13-24 Park Square East Camden NW1 (London Borough Camden). Princes Trust offices which incorporates at the rear a polygonal building in brick that Middlesex Hospital used for rheumatism treatment pool. <https://www.historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1322054>

The Wells and Camden Baths and Wash-houses Flask Walk, Hampstead NW3 (London Borough Camden). Former baths and wash-houses <https://historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1113009>.

Wembley Arena Arena Square, Engineers Way, Wembley (London Borough Brent). Formerly the Empire Pool built for the 1934 Empire Games and used for the 1948 Olympic Games. <https://www.historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1078877>.