The Olympic Park is where names will be made, records broken, new legends created: it is going to be centre stage during the summer of 2012 – and long after.

The nine new world-class sporting venues (six of them permanent) will be a fantastic setting for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

After the Games, the Park will be transformed into the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and will be the focus of the regeneration of this part of London. The new permanent venues and infrastructure will be the foundations for the continuing development of this area of east London for decades to come.

Olympic Park venues

Olympic Park

The Olympic Park is at the heart of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Nine new world-class sporting venues, the Olympic and Paralympic Village and media centres, all set in fantastic new parklands, will be a fabulous stage for the world's athletes to perform at their best.

After the Games, the Park – to be renamed the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park – will become the largest new urban park in the UK for over a century, with the new sporting venues, parklands and residential developments becoming the focus of this part of east London.

The area is unrecognisable from 2005, when London won the right to host the 2012 Games. Seven years ago, the 2.5 square kilometre site was home to light industry, dominated by overhead powerlines, and broken up by rivers, roads and railways. Parts of the area had been used as a dumping ground for industrial and domestic waste and much of the land had been taken over by invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, and polluted with contaminants such as oil, tar and lead.

Work to transform the Park began in 2007. Before construction could start, the land had to be cleared and cleaned. Disused buildings were demolished, with materials recycled or reused elsewhere, electricity pylons were dismantled and the rivers were dredged. Two million tonnes of soil were cleaned with 80 per cent reused to form the new Park landscape.

Following the clean-up, the construction of the main venues and infrastructure of the Park was achieved in less than three years. With the project completed on time and within budget, the Park is a showcase for the best of UK plc – great design, engineering, construction and project management.

Olympic Park by numbers

0

people lost their lives while working on construction of main venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Games

2.5sq km

is the size of the Olympic Park – the same size as 357 football pitches

4

skeletons were removed from a prehistoric settlement found during excavation work on the site of the Aquatics Centre

5

jumbo jets would fit wing tip to wing tip inside the International Broadcast Centre

52

huge electricity pylons were dismantled to clear the landscape so construction could begin in the Olympic Park

53m

is the height of the Olympic Stadium, 3m taller than Nelson's Column

88

rooftop pipes bring natural light into the Copper Box arena, reducing the need for artificial power

115m

is the height of the Orbit, the UK's tallest art structure, with stunning views of the Olympic Park

675

bird and bat boxes are being installed to encourage wildlife to make their home in the Olympic Park

4,000

new trees were planted in the Olympic Park and Olympic and Paralympic Village, the first by Her Majesty The Queen in October 2009

10,000

pages in the planning application for the Olympic Park that was submitted by the ODA, one of the longest ever in Europe

46,000+

people were employed on the Olympic Park and Olympic and Paralympic Village during the construction of the main venues and infrastructure, with the workforce peaking at 12,000

180,000

tiles line the swimming and diving pools in the Aquatics Centre, with almost 600,000 in the whole building

200,000

temporary seats have been installed in the final transformation of venues, including in the Olympic Park

286,446

people went on free bus tours of the Olympic Park between 2007 and 2012

300,000

nails were used to fix in place 56km of timber to form the track surface of the Velodrome

300,000+

wetland plants have brought a splash of colour to parklands surrounding Olympic and Paralympic venues

2,000,000

tonnes of contaminated soil was cleaned, with more than 80 per cent reused on the Olym pic Park

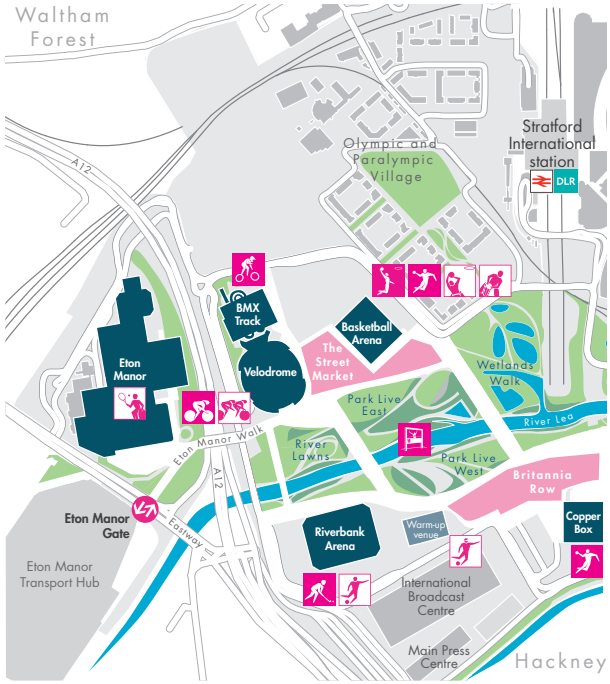
10,000,000

litres of water are needed to fill the pools in the Aquatics Centre

£1,004,000,000

(€1.2bn/$1.5bn) of savings were made by the ODA to ensure the project remained within budget

Olympic Park map



- Entrance and exit
- Spectator zone
- Entrance area
- Competition venues
- Warm-up venue
- Non-sports venue
- Back of house
- Olympic sport
- Paralympic sport
- Park Live
- London Underground
- National Rail
- London Overground
- DLR Docklands Light Railway

Aquatics Centre

Olympic Games
Diving, Swimming, Synchronised Swimming, Modern Pentathlon (swimming element)

Paralympic Games
Swimming

After the Games
Pools open for use by the community, schools and elite athletes; reopens in spring 2014

Capacity
17,500 (reduced to 2,500 after the Games)

Construction
July 2008 – July 2011

Venue facts

The Centre contains a 50m competition pool, 25m competition diving pool and 50m warm-up pool.

Its 3,000-tonne wave-like steel roof is 160m long and up to 80m wide.

The roof rests on just two concrete supports at one end of the building and a supporting wall at the other – a longer single span than Heathrow Terminal 5.

To reduce the amount of mains water used, pool water will be used to flush the venue's toilets.

More than 180,000 tiles line the pools; Paralympic swimmer Liz Johnson laid the last tile in April 2011.

Archaeological investigations before construction discovered an Iron Age settlement, including an ancient burial site with four skeletons.

After the Games, a créche, family-friendly training facilities, cafe and new public plaza will be added, and the venue's two temporary seating wings removed.

Basketball Arena

Olympic sports
Basketball (early rounds), Handball (finals)

Paralympic Games
Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby

After the Games
Dismantled with elements reused elsewhere

Capacity
12,000 (Olympics)
10,000 (Paralympics)

Construction
October 2009 – July 2011

Venue facts

The Arena is one of the largest temporary venues ever built for any Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The 1,000-tonne steel frame is covered in 20,000 square metres of recyclable PVC fabric.

It will be one of the most heavily-used venues within the Olympic Park, with competition events taking place almost every day.

To comfortably accommodate the basketball players, all the venue's doorways are an above average 2.4m high.

It is 35m tall – the same height as a 10-storey building.

It was one of the quickest Olympic Park venues to be constructed, with its giant frame erected in less than three months during spring 2010.

The seating of the arena is black and orange to represent the colours of a basketball.

BMX Track

Olympic Games
Cycling – BMX

After the Games
Temporary seating will be removed and the track reconfigured to make it suitable for riders of all ages and abilities

Capacity
6,000

Construction
March 2011 – September 2011

Venue facts

The new BMX Track is located next to the Velodrome in the north of the Olympic Park.

The fast and challenging course starts with an 8m-high ramp.

Around 14,000 cubic metres of soil were used to build the Track, enough to fill three 50m swimming pools.

This soil was excavated from elsewhere on the Olympic Park site, cleaned, then reused to create the final track.

Construction was completed in time for the third round of the UCI BMX Supercross World Cup, a test event for the London 2012 BMX competition.

After the Games, it will form part of the Lee Valley VeloPark, along with the Velodrome and a new one-mile road cycle circuit and mountain bike courses – to be owned and managed by Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

Copper Box

Olympic Games
Handball (early rounds), Modern Pentathlon (fencing element)

Paralympic Games
Goalball

After the Games
Multi-use arena for community use, athlete training and events; reopening summer 2013

Capacity
6,500 (7,500 for events using the field of play after the Games)

Construction
July 2009 – May 2011

Venue facts

The Copper Box is 115,000 cubic metres in size – larger than the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank.

Retractable seating can change the size of the field of play to suit different sports during and after the Games.

It is the first UK sports venue to be naturally lit – 88 rooftop light pipes will achieve annual energy savings of up to 40 per cent.

The top half of the venue is clad in 3,000sq m of copper with a high recycled content, which will develop a rich natural colour as it ages.

'RUN', a gigantic sculpture by artist Monica Bonvicini – part of the London 2012 'Art in the Park' programme – has been built outside the venue.

Eton Manor

Olympic Games
Aquatics training

Paralympic Games
Wheelchair Tennis,
Aquatics training

After the Games
Transformed into facilities for the local community, including a tennis centre with four indoor and six outdoor courts, hockey centre that will host 2015 European Championships, and space for 10 five-a-side football pitches

Capacity
6,500

Construction
July 2009 – May 2011

Venue facts

Eton Manor is the only new permanent London 2012 Paralympic venue.

It features four indoor and six outdoor striking blue competition courts for Wheelchair Tennis.

During the Games, there will be three 50m temporary training swimming pools, and smaller pools for synchronised swimmers and Water Polo players.

Eton Manor is built on the site of the Eton Manor Old Boys' Club, a local sports club established in the early 1900s.

After the site had been cleared, it was used as the temporary home for a 'digger school', at which people were trained in operating construction machinery with many of them going on to get jobs on the Olympic Park.

Eton Manor is the site of two memorials to members of the Old Boys' Club who died in the two World Wars. These memorials – used by the Club every Remembrance Day – were stored safely during building work, and will be restored and returned after the Games.

Olympic Stadium

Olympic Games
Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Athletics (except Marathons and Race Walks)

Paralympic Games
Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Athletics (except Marathons)

After the Games
Becomes a multi-use venue, hosting sport, cultural and community events, including being the new national centre for athletics and the venue for the 2017 IAAF World Championships

Capacity
80,000

Construction
March 2008 – March 2011

Venue facts

The Olympic Stadium is located on an 'island' site, surrounded by waterways on three sides.

Spectators will reach the venue using five bridges that link the site to the surrounding area.

Its innovative flexible design has a lower tier with a capacity of 25,000, and an upper tier holding a further 55,000 spectators. After the Games the Olympic Stadium will have a capacity of 60,000 for legacy use.

There are more than 700 rooms within the Stadium, with a 60m warm-up track, eight changing rooms and four prayer rooms.

The top ring of the Stadium was built using surplus gas supply pipes – an example of London 2012's efforts to 'reduce, reuse and recycle'.

To meet high-definition TV standards, the Stadium is lit by 532 individual floodlights housed in 14 towers, each 28m high.

Riverbank Arena

Olympic Games
Hockey

Paralympic Games
5-a-side Football,
7-a-side Football

After the Games
Temporary seating stands dismantled

Capacity
16,000

Venue facts

London 2012 is the first Olympic Games where the Hockey pitches are not green. Pink is used for the area surrounding the pitch and blue for the field of play. The blue pitches will provide high levels of contrast with the white ball and white lines for players, officials, spectators, photographers and broadcasters. The pitch run-off areas will be pink, providing a striking and dynamic look to the venue.

The complex includes two pitches, one for competition and one for warm-up.

There are temporary seating stands on three sides of the competition pitch; the fourth side is open, offering spectators a view across the Olympic Park and London.

The Riverbank Arena will also be used to host both Paralympic Football competitions. The warm-up pitch will host the 5-a-side event, the main pitch the 7-a-side competition.

Velodrome

Olympic Games
Cycling – Track

Paralympic Games
Cycling – Track

After the Games
Along with a reconfigured BMX Track and new facilities for road cycling and mountain biking, forms the new Lee Valley VeloPark for use by community and elite athletes

Capacity
6,000

Construction
March 2009 – February 2011

Venue facts

Olympic gold medal-winning cyclist Sir Chris Hoy joined the venue's design panel to help ensure the best possible conditions for participants in the events at the venue.

During the Games, the temperature at track level will be 28°C to optimise athletes' performances.

It is naturally ventilated, eliminating the need for air conditioning.

The roof collects rainwater that will help to reduce mains water usage by more than 70 per cent.

The Velodrome won the Architecture Award at the Design Museum's 2012 Awards.

The track is made from 56km of sustainably sourced Siberian pine, and was fixed in place using more than 300,000 nails.

The venue's outer cladding uses 5,000sq m of sustainably sourced western red cedar.

Water Polo Arena

Olympic Games
Water Polo

After the Games
Taken down after the Games with elements of the venue expected to be reused or relocated elsewhere

Capacity
5,000

Construction
January 2011 – May 2012

Venue facts

The Arena, which has a 37m competition pool and a smaller training pool, is the first dedicated Water Polo venue to be built for an Olympic Games.

The venue's sloping design means the referee's raised table does not obscure the view of spectators, who sit on the opposite side of the pool.

Many parts of the venue, such as the temporary seating, have been hired so they can easily be returned and reused after the Games.

Its silver skin is made from environmentally-friendly PVC that can be recycled.

The Arena's inflatable sloping roof is designed to provide extra insulation and reduce condensation.