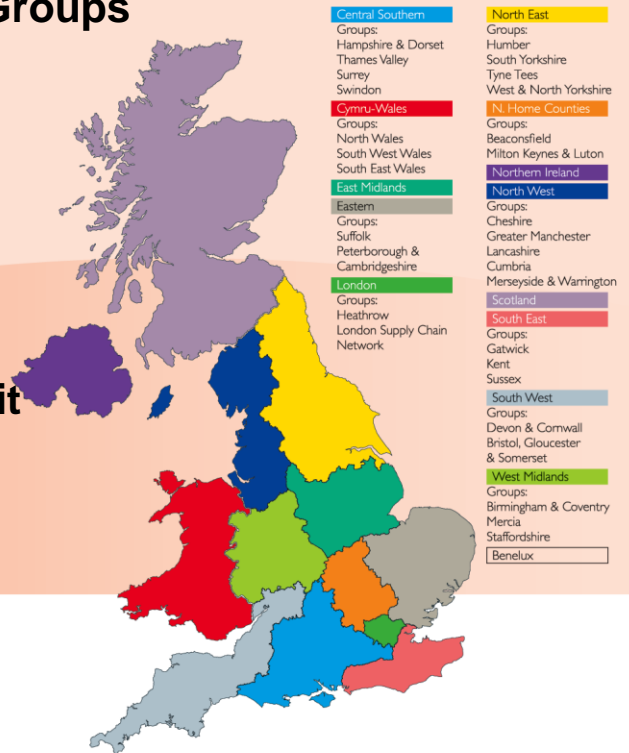


News from the Nations, Regions & Groups

CILT(UK) London Region

15th April 2011

London Region - Olympic Park Visit



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Courtesy of Andy Adamson at the Olympic Development Authority, London Region was delighted to be able to offer a second visit to the Olympic Park for those applicants who didn't get on the list first time round. As before, the coach was full, carrying 20 members and 8 guests, together with our blue-badge guide who did an excellent job, focusing her comments on the logistics and transport issues affecting the site.

There are some remarkable facts surrounding the development: 8.8 million tickets will be sold for the 2010 games. 2000 newts are being relocated from the Olympic Park to the Waterworks Nature Reserve (Ken Livingstone will be pleased). 200km of cabling is required for underground powerlines – the distance from London to Nottingham. There will be 8.35km of waterways within or close to the Park, much of which is being restored – the equivalent of 167 lengths of a 50m swimming pool. 800,000 people are expected to use public transport to travel to the games on the busiest day – more than the entire population of Leeds. The height of the Stadium is 53m – three metres higher than Nelson's Column. 205 nations are expected to compete. 26 different sports will make up the Olympic programme, with 302 gold medals up for grabs. 4,000 trees are being planted at the Olympic Park and Olympic Village sites, the first of which was planted by Her Majesty the Queen in October 2009. 97% of material from the demolition to build the Park can be re-used or re-cycled. 10 different rail routes will serve Stratford Station during and after the Games, making it the most connected station in London after King's Cross St Pancras.

The 2012 Games is catalyst for employment, business and training opportunities in London and across the UK, creating new jobs, increasing sustainable skills among local people, and improving links between employers. Equality and inclusion is a key feature of the Games. Sustainable investment in the Lower Lea Valley is promoting inclusion and will have a significant impact in reducing historic and long-standing inequalities. The sporting venues, new transport services, supporting facilities and the Park itself, are designed to be inclusive for people of all culture, faiths, ages, and are accessible to disabled people.

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