



This map shows the location of London's highest ranking and longest established football clubs playing at enclosed grounds, as of 2012-13. Green dotted lines show the movements of clubs that have relocated significant distances. Marked as 'former grounds' are those locations where substantial grounds have been vacated, plus the grounds of significant clubs that no longer exist. The many moves of Queen's Park Rangers (4), within the dotted area, are mapped separately on page 244.

▲ It could be argued that the football map of London is in itself an expression of sporting heritage – a manifestation of history, of local rivalries and of local identities.

But it is a map that invites caution when it comes to analysis. For although every fan instinctively retains a mental map of London football and of where his or her club's heartland is located, defining the extent of the club's overall catchment area has, in recent years, become increasingly difficult.

This blurring has partly resulted from the biggest clubs, Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham, widening their spheres of influence in recent years. It is also a result of people's greater mobility within the capital.

Identifiable divisions nevertheless persist. For example the A10 road remains for many the nominal boundary between Arsenal (5) and Tottenham (2). The Lea Valley still more or less divides Tottenham's heartland from that of West Ham (8), which is why the latter's

move to Stratford (OS) in 2016 represents such a significant shift. But there have been many such moves. In 1937 Clapton Orient (6) moved from the Middlesex side of the Lea to Leyton, in Essex. In 1910 Millwall (3) crossed the Thames from the Isle of Dogs to New Cross.

None of these moves, however, was as momentous as that of Arsenal in 1913, from Plumstead to Islington, a distance of 9.5 miles, further than any English club has moved, other than Wimbledon's controversial relocation to Milton Keynes in 2003 – not shown on the map – of which more later.

Arsenal's move not only had an impact on Spurs and Orient, it also created a vacuum, eventually filled by Charlton (11). Yet even today there remain strong pockets of support for Arsenal in Kent.

Chelsea (9), meanwhile, are known to have a following in south west London, south of the river. Is this because no professional club ever established roots in that area

before the arrival in Kingston in 2002 of AFC Wimbledon (14)? And could it be that the tradition of Shrove Tuesday football in that part of Middlesex and Surrey in the 18th and 19th centuries, based more on handling than kicking, led towards the unusual preponderance of rugby clubs in the area, and therefore to the choice of Twickenham (TW) as the national home of rugby?

As for the existence of only six senior clubs within the boundaries of the former LCC (marked in red), that can largely be explained by high land values rendering ground ownership problematic. But it does not explain why three of those six clubs, Fulham, Chelsea and QPR, are to be found within a single borough, that of Hammersmith and Fulham, or why 20 of London's 32 boroughs have no senior clubs at all within their boundaries.

In short, what this map suggests is that the geographical spread of clubs, although influenced by history, might otherwise be random.

Premiership and Football League clubs as of season 2012-13, in order of formation date

Key: f. club formed
 CC cricket club/AC athletic club
 o. current ground opened (capacity) in 2012-13
 • future ground plans

- Fulham** f.1879 for boys at St Andrew's Church, Greyhound Rd (*extant*) **Craven Cottage SW6** o.1896 (25,700) • to be expanded to 30,000 after 2014
- Tottenham Hotspur** f.1882 by schoolboy members of Hotspur CC **White Hart Lane N17** o.1899 (36,240) • to be replaced by new stadium (56,250) on existing site
- Millwall** f.1885 by workers at Morton's factory, Westferry Rd, Isle of Dogs (*dem*) **New Den SE16** o.1993 (20,146)
- Queen's Park Rangers** f. summer 1886 by players of St Jude's Institute (*extant*) and Christ Church Rangers **Loftus Road W12** o.1904 by Shepherd's Bush FC, used by QPR since 1917 (18,439) • relocating to new stadium on Old Oak Common (40,000) in 2018
- Arsenal** f. Dec 1886 by workers at Royal Arsenal, Woolwich **Emirates Stadium N5** o.2006 (60,432)
- Leyton Orient** f.1888 as Clapton Orient by players of Eagle CC **Matchroom Stadium, Brisbane Rd E10** o.1905 by Leyton FC, used by Orient since 1937 (9,271)
- Brentford** f.1889 by members of Brentford Rowing Club **Griffin Park TW8** o.1904 (12,763) • to be replaced in 2016 by new stadium (15-20,000) on Lionel Rd TW8
- West Ham United** f.1895 by workers at Thames Ironworks shipbuilders, Canning Town **Boleyn Ground, Upton Park E13** o.1904 (35,016) • relocating to Olympic Stadium (54,000) in 2016
- Chelsea** f. March 1905 by HA Mears **Stamford Bridge SW6** o.1877 by London Athletic Club, used by Chelsea

- since 1905 (41,798)
 • club seeking to relocate
- Crystal Palace** f. March 1905 by management of Crystal Palace Company **Selhurst Park SE25** o.1924 (26,309)
- Charlton Athletic** f. June 1905 by local teenagers. **The Valley SE7** o.1919 (27,111) but club played at Catford 1923-24, C. Palace 1985-91, West Ham 1991-92
- Barnet** f.1912 by merger of Barnet Alston and Barnet (also given as 1888 and 1919) **Underhill EN5** o.1907 by Barnet Alston (6,023)
 • relocated to **The Hive** Camrose Ave HA8 (5,000) 2013
- Dagenham & Redbridge** f.1992 by merger of Dagenham (f.1949 and Redbridge Forest (f.1979) **London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Stadium, Victoria Road RM10** o.1920 by Sterling Athletic, used by Dagenham FC since 1955 (6,078)
- AFC Wimbledon** f.2002 by supporters of Wimbledon FC (f.1912, relocated to Milton Keynes in 2003) *share with* **Kingstonian** f.1885 **Cherry Red Records Stadium, Kingsmeadow, Norbiton KT1** o.1989 by Kingstonian (4,850)
 • AFCW planning to relocate to Borough of Merton

Non-League clubs with enclosed grounds and of historic interest (in alphabetical order)

- Bromley** f.1893 **Hayes Lane** o.1938 (5,000) *share with* **Cray Wanderers** f.1860
- Carshalton Athletic** f.1905 **War Memorial Ground, Colston Ave SM5** o.1921 (5,000)
- Clapton** f.1877 **Spotted Dog, Upton Lane E7** o. as cricket ground c.1844, used by Clapton since 1888 (c.2,000)
- Corinthian Casuals** f.1939 by merger of The Corinthian FC (f.1882) & The Casuals (f.1883) **King George's Field KT6** (2,700)
- Croydon** f.1953 **Croydon Sports Arena SE25** o.1953 (8,000) *share with* **Croydon Harriers AC** f.1920
- Dulwich Hamlet** f.1893 **Champion Hill SE22** o.1992, on site used since 1931 (3,000)

- Enfield Town** f.2001 **Queen Elizabeth Stadium, Donkey Lane EN1** o.1953 (2,000)
- Hampton & Richmond Borough** f.1921 **The Beveree TW12** o.1949 (3,500)
- Hanwell Town** f.1925 by supporters of Newcastle Utd. **Reynolds Field, Perivale UB6** o.1981 (c.1,500)
- Harrow Borough** f.1933 **Earlsmead HA2** o.1934 (3,070)
- Hayes and Yeading United** f.2007 by merger of Hayes (f.1909) and Yeading (f.1960) **Beaconsfield Road UB4** o.2013 (5,000)
- AFC Hornchurch** f.2005 **Hornchurch Stadium RM14** o.1952 for Upminster FC and athletics (3,500)
- Iford** f.1987 but original club f.1881 **Cricklefield Stadium IG1** o.1923 (3,500) *share with* **Iford AC** f.1923
- Leyton** f.1868 **Hare & Hounds Ground, Lea Bridge Road E10** • current status uncertain
- Metropolitan Police** f.1919 **Imber Court KT8** o.1920 (3,000)
- Northwood** f.1926 **Northwood Park HA6** o.1978 (3,075)
- Redbridge** f.1958 as Ford United **Oakside Stadium IG6** o.1957 by Barkingside (3,000) *share with* **Barkingside** f.1889
- Sutton United** f.1898 **Gander Green Lane SM1** o.1919 (7,032)
- Tooting & Mitcham** f.1932 by merger of Tooting (f.1887) and Mitcham (f.1912) **Imperial Fields SM4** o.2002 (3,500)
- Uxbridge** f.1871 **Honeycroft UB7** o.1978 (3,770)
- Wealdstone** f.1899 **Grosvenor Vale HA4** o.1947 by Ruislip Manor, used by Wealdstone since 2008 (2,640)
- Welling United** f.1963 **Park View Road DA16** o.1925 by Bexley Utd, used by Welling since 1977 (4,000) *share with* **Erith & Belvedere** f.1922
- Wembley** f.1946 **Vale Farm HA0** o.1928 (2,450) *share with* **Hendon** f.1908
- Wingate & Finchley** f.1991 by merger of Wingate (f.1946) and Finchley (f.1874) **Abrahams Stadium, Summers Lane N12** o.1931 (3,500) (see page 111)



Living in the city – Charlton (top) exist mainly because Arsenal left the area in 1913. Leyton Orient (centre) were once based in Clapton, while in 2013 Barnet had to move to neighbouring Harrow, partly owing to access limitations at Underhill (above).