
20mph Speed Limits In London



Update – March 2015

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Headlines. The main news on 20mph in London since our last update in December 2014 is:

- Tower Hamlets will become a 20mph borough on 13th April 2015
 - (12th March) TfL announce 8 new trial locations for 20mph limits on the Red Routes network (TLRN). Five of the central London bridges will now be subject to 20mph limits.
 - Southwark is now a 20mph borough and joins Islington, Camden and the City of London.
 - Hackney will be a 20mph borough by end July 2015.
 - Croydon is about to start consultation on 20mph in its first area.
 - Hounslow has introduced traffic orders for 20mph zones outside all primary schools.
 - Wandsworth is introducing 20mph limits in 2 wards and consulting on 20mph limits in 12 other neighbourhoods.
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- **As of summer 2015, almost a third (31%) of all Londoners will be living on roads and streets with a 20mph speed limit (2.7 million out of total 2015 population of 8.7 million). In the Inner London boroughs more than half (54%) of the population will be living on 20mph streets and roads (1.7m out of 3.1m population)¹.**

The following is the current position as regards 20mph speed limits in London. This is divided up into the situation with:

- A) Borough controlled roads
- B) Recent developments on the TfL controlled Red Route Network (TLRN)
- C) How policy on 20mph in London is evolving
- D) Encouraging greater compliance including through enforcement.

The situation is always a little fluid but this should be a reasonably accurate picture.

A) Borough Roads

1. Borough-wide 20mph Limits. A number of the London boroughs have moved towards borough-wide 20mph speed limits. These are:

- **Islington** implemented a 20mph speed limit on all the roads it manages in January 2013 through a mix of large signs, small repeater signs and 20mph roundels in the carriageway. As of 7th October 2014, the police started to enforce against those exceeding the 20mph limit.
- **Camden** implemented a policy of borough-wide 20mph speed limits on all on its borough roads in December 2013.
- **City of London.** An authority-wide 20mph speed limit came into force on 20th July 2014. All TfL controlled Red Routes are also included except for Upper and Lower Thames Street and the Tower gyratory which remain 30mph. Enforcement of the limit is being undertaken by City of London Police.
- **Southwark.** 20mph was adopted by full Council and approved by Cabinet for implementation in November 2012. Southwark formally becomes 20mph borough Monday 16th March 2015.
- **Lambeth.** Plans to move to 20mph on borough managed roads with implementation in 2015/16. Working with TfL on including appropriate Red Route roads.

¹ London population by borough – 2015 projections (<http://data.london.gov.uk/population-projections/>). % Roads in 20mph in London taken from 2011 FOI (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/20mph_zones_in_london) amended as follows - where boroughs have adopted 20mph on all borough roads projected 95% of population live in 20mph street, where some main roads excluded (Haringey) 85% coverage projected. Projection for Wandsworth updated (from 10% to 20%) owing to introduction of 20mph limits. Hackney and Tower Hamlets included on the basis of summer 2015 introduction of borough-wide 20mph limits; Lewisham and Lambeth excluded.

- **Hackney.** On 29th January 2014, Hackney announced that it would be rolling out 20mph across the borough's main roads. Hackney will become a fully 20mph borough by end July 2015.
- **Lewisham.** The Mayor of Lewisham Sir Steve Bullock announced on 11th June 2014 that all of the roads in the borough will be subject to a 20mph limit. Implementation planned to be complete by July 2016.
- **Tower Hamlets.** October 2014 consultation on 20mph borough-wide speed limit. Cabinet approves 20mph limit for the borough in February 2015. Implemented as 18 month trial from 13th April 2015. TfL trial of 20mph Commercial St (TLRN) will be implemented at the same time.



20mph Limits in Islington



20mph Limits in Camden



20mph Limits in the City of London

2. Position is Between 20mph on Residential Roads and Borough-wide 20 Limit

- **Waltham Forest** has a commitment to 20mph on all residential roads and in all residential areas and, as part of its Cycle Action Plan, appears to commit to a borough-wide 20mph limit.
- **Haringey.** Summer 2014 Cabinet adopts policy of 20mph on all residential roads and in town centres. Main roads remain 30mph. Traffic orders implementing the policy will be being issued on 23rd January 2015².

3. Residential Roads

- **Greenwich** has committed to 20mph (to be implemented over time via zones) on all its residential roads.

4. Amending Policy Towards 20mph Limits

- **Croydon.** September 2014 Council Scrutiny Committee investigates move towards 20mph on residential streets and some other roads (but excludes arterial main roads). Borough to be divided into 5 roughly equal areas and each will be consulted on 20mph limit for that area. Consultation on Area 1 (Norbury, Upper Norwood and Thornton Heath) begins Spring 2015.
- **Hammersmith & Fulham.** Consultation begins in April 2015³ on a programme to roll out 20mph limits to all residential roads between 2016 and 2018.
- **Hounslow.** Consultation on traffic orders to introduce 20mph limits (in zones) around all of the borough's primary schools⁴ ends Friday 13th March 2015. Consideration being given to roll out of 20mph on all residential roads in the borough.
- **Wandsworth.** Although policy is not changing, significant roll-out of 20mph zones (with 20mph limits) is occurring in the borough on residential roads. Introduction of 20mph limits on residential roads in Bedford ward in Balham and Furzedown ward in Tooting from January 2015⁵. Consultation also in 12 other neighbourhoods across the borough⁶.

Other boroughs have created a large number of 20mph zones in residential areas. These include Newham, Ealing and Kingston (all have more than 30% of the borough roads (by length) limited to 20mph).

² http://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough_wide_20_mph_speed_limit.pdf

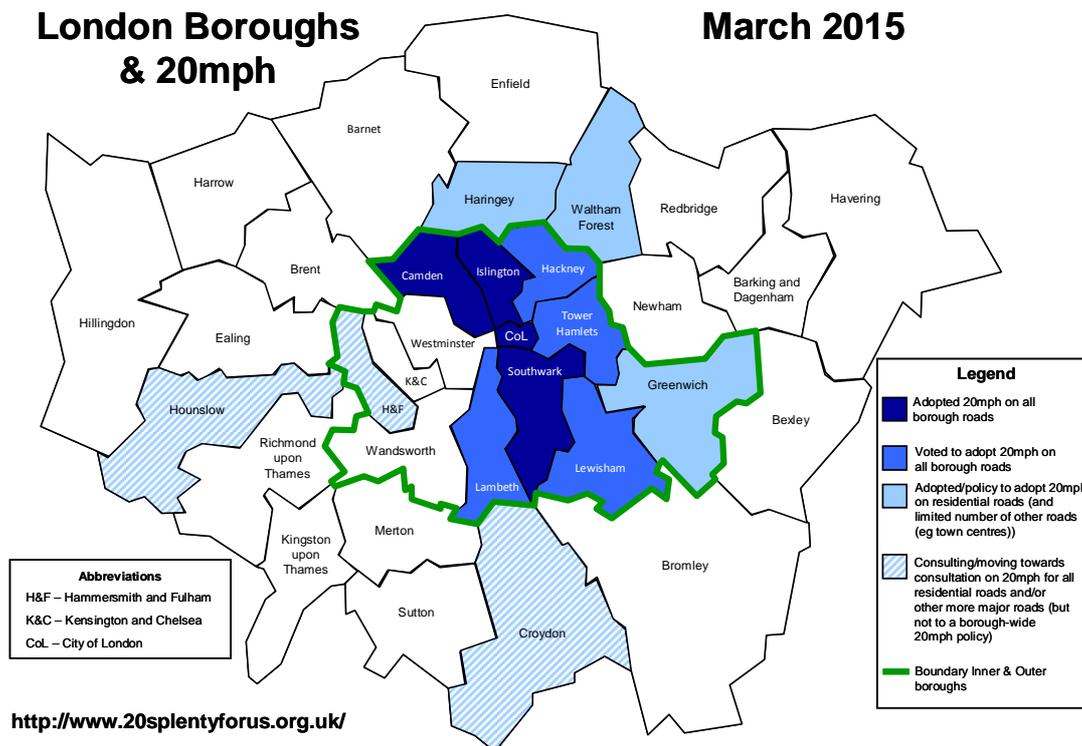
³ http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/News/Have_your_say_on_20mph_plan.asp

⁴ http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/index/council_and_democracy/consultations/primary_school_20mph_speed_limit_zones.htm

⁵ http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/article/12694/work_to_begin_on_balham_and_tooting_s_new_20mph_zones

⁶ http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/article/12774/don_t_miss_the_chance_to_vote_for_a_20mph_limit

The current position of the London boroughs in terms of policy towards 20mph limits is summarised as follows:



B) TfL and the TLRN

- The other big change in the past 2 years has been the position of 20mph on the TfL managed TLRN (Red Route network). The rise in (cycling and pedestrian) casualties in 2011 coupled with the work of the GLA in terms of a) the Mayor’s Roads Task Force and its creation of typologies that lean a more towards “place” and less towards “movement”, b) the Vision for Cycling and c) the GLA Transport Committee who for the first time proposed a Vision Zero approach to road casualties in London have all led to a greater acceptance of the idea of 20mph on parts of the TLRN.
- Changes towards 20mph speed limits on the TLRN in London include:
 - 20mph speed limit on the IMAX roundabout at Waterloo from June 2013. This began as a trial and has now been incorporated permanently and forms part of the new section of 20mph on the TLRN on Stamford St and Southwark St.



IMAX Roundabout Waterloo

- The area-based scheme in Camberwell (linked to Cycle Superhighway 5) and the implementation of 20mph limits for Camberwell Town Centre



Camberwell Town Centre

- 20mph is implemented New Cross on CS5.
- 20mph speed limit in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- The removal of the Tottenham Hale gyratory included replacement with two-way roads and 20mph on all roads within the former one-way system.



Tottenham Hale

- Camden High Street is 20mph enforced by the phasing of its traffic lights.
- 18 month trial of 20mph speed limits on two north-south corridors (including two bridges) through the City commences in July 2014⁷ – 1) **Blackfriars Bridge**, New Bridge Street, Farringdon Street (up to Charterhouse St) and 2) **London Bridge**, King William Street, Gracechurch Street, Bishopsgate, Norton Folgate (up to Worship Street).



Blackfriars Bridge

- 12th March 2015 TfL announce eight further pilots of 20mph on the TLRN⁸. These will potentially be supported digital speed cameras, enforcement by the Metropolitan Police Road & Transport Policing Command (see D below) and a re-phasing of traffic lights⁹. The eight locations are:
 - o Commercial St (Tower Hamlets) – start date April 2015
 - o Upper Street and Holloway Rd (between Pentonville Rd and Seven Sisters Rd)
 - o Westminster Bridge, Stamford Street and Southwark St (between Victoria Embankment and Borough High Street. Incorporates the previous 20mph trial at Waterloo Roundabout)

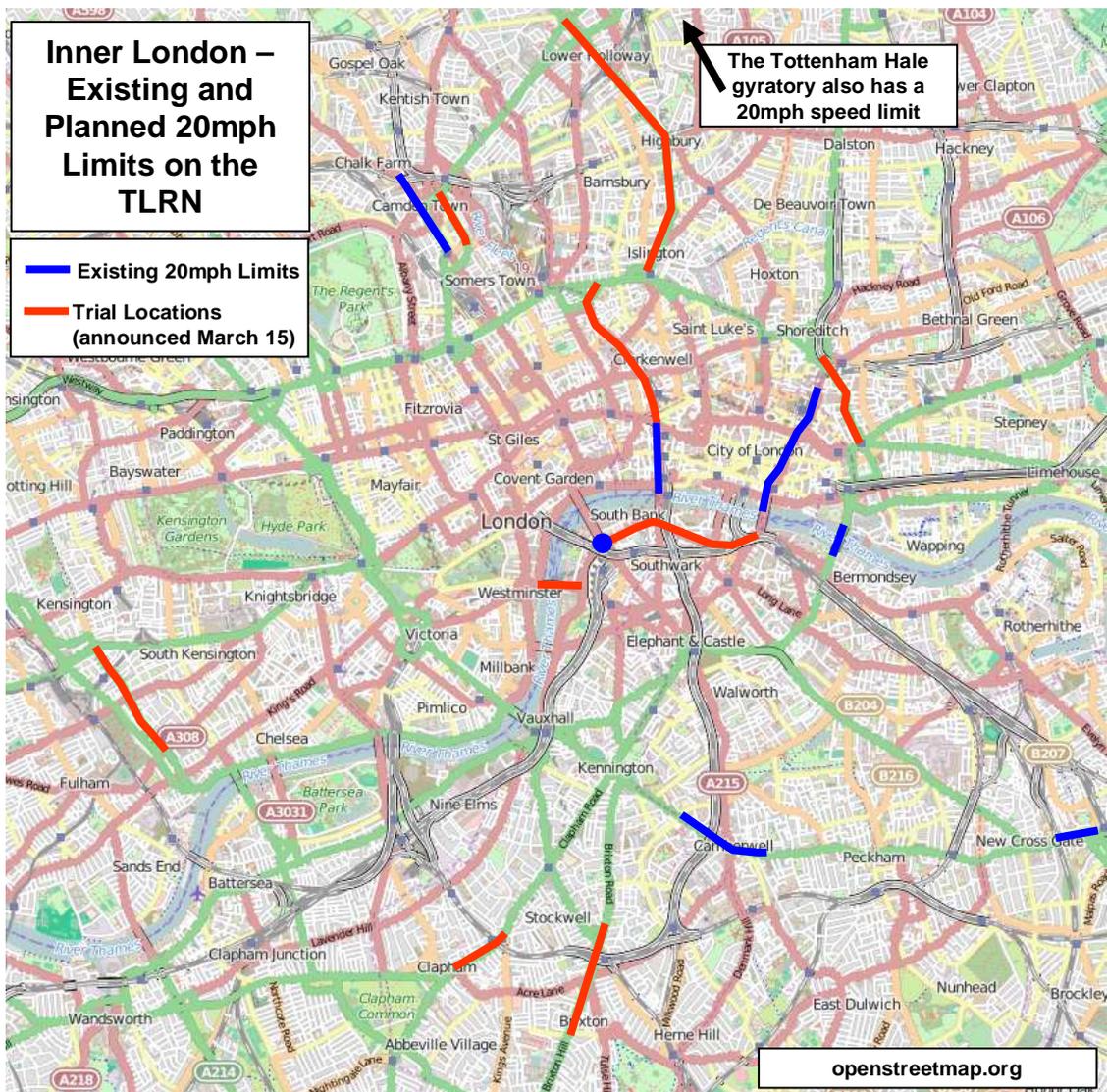
⁷ <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/what-we-do/media-centre/news-releases/2014/Pages/consultation-begins-on-citys-20mph-speed-limit.aspx>

⁸ <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2015/march/tfl-outlines-new-sites-for-potential-20mph-speed-limits>

⁹ <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/20mph-limit-on-major-london-routes-in-radical-plan-to-save-lives-10102995.html>

- Brixton Town Centre (between St Matthews Rd and Stockwell Park Walk)
- Clapham High Street (between Clapham Park Rd and Bedford Rd, which forms part of Cycle Superhighway 7)
- Earls Court Rd and Redcliffe Gardens (between A4 Cromwell Rd and Fulham Rd)
- Kings Cross Rd and Farringdon Rd (between Pentonville Rd and Charterhouse Rd. Linking up with the previous 20mph trial along Farringdon St and Blackfriars Bridge)
- Camden Street (between Camden Rd and Crowndale Rd).

Once these 8 pilots have been introduced, the map of 20mph on the TLRN will be as follows:



C) Evolution of Policy

- The TfL/GLA Safer Streets for London Road Safety Action Plan¹⁰ (up to 2020) from June 2013 strongly supported the creation of more 20mph zones in London.
- The Mayor of London Vision from Cycling¹¹ from March 2013, called for wider use of 20mph on the TLRN and the installation of 20mph zones and speed limits on borough roads owing to the *“clear evidence that traffic travelling at speeds of 20mph improves the safety of both cyclists and pedestrians”*.
- The Mayor of London Roads Task Force (RTF)¹² report of July 2013, called for far wider use of 20mph speed limits to encourage walking and cycling and reduce road casualties and the *“Introduction of 20mph limit across central London to improve safety, attractiveness and ambience and full evaluation of impacts”*.
- The Pedestrian Safety Action Plan for London¹³ from the GLA and TfL (adopted in July 2014), calls for the trial and roll out of 20mph limits on TfL managed roads (Red Routes) and to encourage London boroughs to deliver more 20mph schemes, the wider enforcement of 20mph speed limits and trials of Intelligent Speed Adaptation (ISA) technology on London buses (starting in 2014).
- The TfL/GLA Cycle Safety Action Plan¹⁴ published in November 2014 also affirms working with boroughs to introduce 20mph limits and zones and to ensure that the RTF hierarchy including 20mph streets is adopted by boroughs. It sees the trial on the two north-south TLRN corridors in the City of London as being undertaken *“to create safer and more attractive environments for cycling”*.
- In the April 2014 report on pedestrian safety from the GLA Transport Committee entitled *Feet First – Improving Pedestrian Safety in London*¹⁵, there was a proposal to increase the percentage of London’s road network that is covered by 20mph limits (from the current level of 19%) to 50% by 2016. This was backed up by a proposal for a Vision Zero approach to road danger in London with a longer-term aim of eliminating road death and injury.

D) Encouraging Compliance - Enforcement.

As with the evolution of policy on 20mph at a borough and TfL/GLA level, there are signs of increasing support for enforcement of 20mph limits by the Metropolitan Police with developments in a number of areas in the capital.

1. Development of ACPO Policy. It is now the clear policy of the police to enforce 20mph limits following the change of guidance from Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in October 2013 (<http://www.acpo.presscentre.com/Press-Releases/ACPO-marks-refreshing-of-speed-enforcement-guidance-26e.aspx>)

"The principal alteration to our guidance relates to areas under a 20 mile-per-hour limit. Enforcement will be considered in all clearly posted limits, but limits are only one element of speed management and local speed limits should not be set in isolation. We are now introducing speed awareness courses as a key part of enforcement in these areas for those who breach the limit between 24 and 31mph. Rest assured, deliberate high harm offenders will always be targeted and they will be prosecuted."

¹⁰ <https://www.tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/safe-streets-for-london.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Cycling%20Vision%20GLA%20template%20FINAL.pdf>

¹² <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/roads-task-force>

¹³ <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/pedestrian-safety-action-plan.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/cycle-safety-action-plan.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/publications/feet-first-improving-pedestrian-safety-in-london>

2. Enforcement in London. Enforcement of 20mph limits is occurring in London. Since the City of London adopted their authority-wide 20mph limit in July 2014, the City of London Police have been issuing fixed penalty notices. The City of London Police is, however, a different force from the Metropolitan Police. In Islington where all borough roads became 20mph in January 2013, compliance with the 20mph limit was undertaken initially through “advice” by police but this position has changed since October 7th 2014, when the Metropolitan Police in Islington began to fine drivers for exceeding the 20mph limit.

http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/drivers_breaking_islington_s_20mph_limit_to_be_fined_for_the_first_time_tomorrow_1_3796635

This combination of enforcement and advice to encourage compliance (see Community Roadwatch below) is now being undertaken regularly and systematically in Islington¹⁶.

February 2015. Hackney Council confirms that in its roll out of 20mph speed limits on the borough’s main roads the Council “will be working closely with the police to enforce where cars don’t adhere to the speed limit” and that “the speed limit will be enforced with the help of police officers as well as road signs and markings”¹⁷.

3. Road & Transport Policing Command. The Metropolitan Police has set up the 2,300 officer strong Road & Transport Policing Command and this became operational from 1st December 2014. At the Road Danger Reduction & Enforcement Conference of 1st November 2014, Sergeant Simon Castle confirmed Metropolitan Police support for enforcement of 20mph limits and the role that the newly established command would play in that.

4. Enforcement – Local Level. The ward panel has the capacity to set policing priorities and enforcement of speed limits can be a priority. The tweets of the local Sergeant in the Caledonian ward from around September 23rd illustrate the role of the ward team.

<https://twitter.com/MPSCallySgt>

In Southwark’s Newington ward and Rotherhithe ward, priorities of enforcement of the 20mph speed limits have been set in the past, and the teams have received the requisite training and undertaken enforcement operations.

5. Community Roadwatch. It is no longer the police alone who play a role. The newly established Community Roadwatch in London is empowering local communities to play their part in encouraging compliance with training and support from the police. TfL is now trialling an initial phase of Community Roadwatch in Southwark, Islington and Lambeth with a planned roll out across London boroughs by the end of 2015.

<https://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/safety-and-security/road-safety/community-roadwatch>

¹⁶ http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/crime-court/police_and_public_to_join_forces_and_enforce_islington_s_20mph_limit_in_uk_s_first_community_speed_watch_1_3863589

¹⁷ www.eastlondonlines.co.uk/2015/02/lower-speed-limits-to-see-calmer-and-safer-environment/