

Capstone Project – The Battle of Neighborhoods

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1. Introduction

- **Background:** Safety is a top concern when moving to a new area. If you don't feel safe in your own home, you're not going to be able to enjoy living there.
- **Problem:** This project aims to select the safest borough in London based on the total crimes, explore the neighborhoods of that borough to find the 10 most common venues in each neighborhood and finally cluster the neighborhoods using k-mean clustering.
- **Interest:** Expats who are considering to relocate to London will be interested to identify the safest borough in London and explore its neighborhoods and common venues around each neighborhood.

2. Data Acquisition and Cleaning

Data Acquisition: The data acquired for this project is a combination of data from three sources:

- The first data source of the project uses a London crime data that shows the crime per borough in London.
- The second source of data is scraped from a wikipedia page that contains the list of London boroughs. This page contains additional information about the boroughs.
- The third data source is the list of Neighborhoods in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames as found on the wikipedia page.

3. Methodology

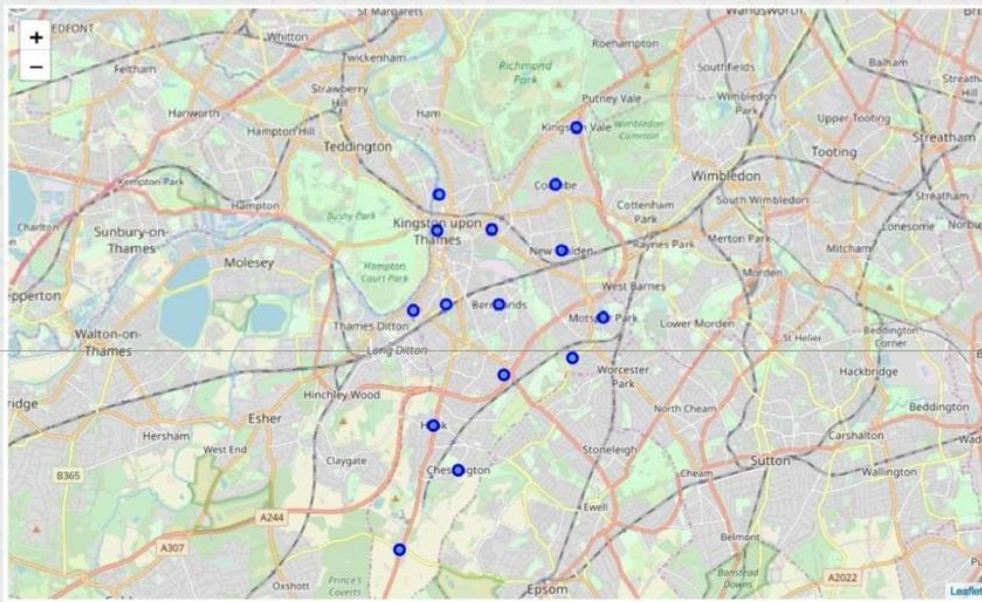
Exploratory Data Analysis

Statistical summary of crimes

	Burglary	Criminal Damage	Drugs	Other Notifiable Offences	Robbery	Theft and Handling	Violence Against the Person	Total
count	33.000000	33.000000	33.000000	33.000000	33.000000	33.000000	33.000000	33.000000
mean	2069.242424	1941.545455	1176.212121	479.060606	682.666667	8913.121212	7041.848485	22306.606070
std	737.448644	625.207070	586.406416	223.298698	441.425366	4620.565054	2513.601551	8828.228749
min	2.000000	2.000000	10.000000	6.000000	4.000000	129.000000	25.000000	178.000000
25%	1531.000000	1650.000000	743.000000	378.000000	377.000000	5919.000000	5936.000000	16903.000000
50%	2071.000000	1989.000000	1063.000000	490.000000	599.000000	8925.000000	7409.000000	22730.000000
75%	2631.000000	2351.000000	1617.000000	551.000000	936.000000	10789.000000	8832.000000	27174.000000
max	3402.000000	3219.000000	2738.000000	1305.000000	1822.000000	27520.000000	10834.000000	48330.000000

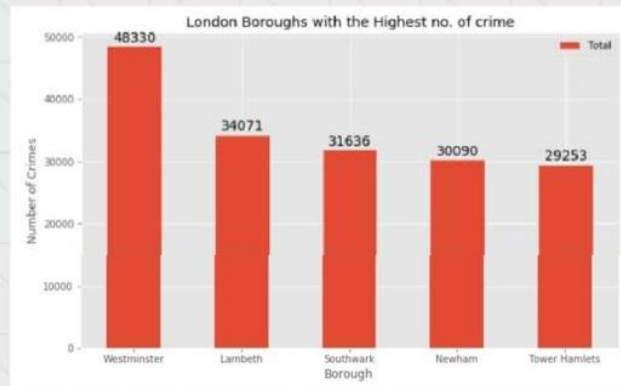
The count for each of the major categories of crime returns the value 33 which is the number of London boroughs. 'Theft and Handling' is the highest reported crime during the year 2016 followed by 'Violence against the person', 'Criminal damage'. The lowest recorded crimes are 'Drugs', 'Robbery' and 'Other Notifiable offenses'

Neighborhoods in Kingston upon Thames



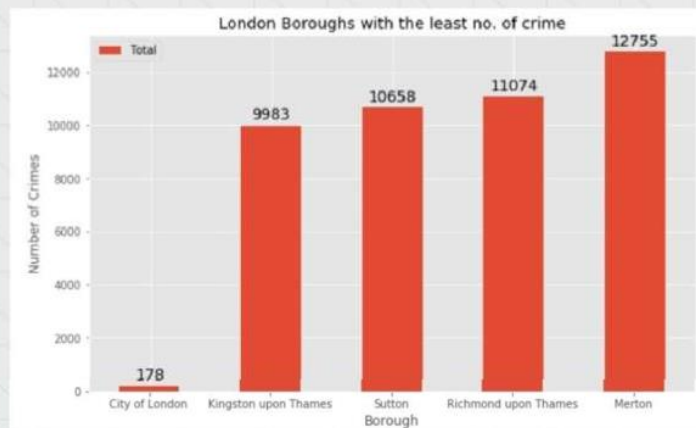
There are 15 neighborhoods in the royal borough of Kingston upon Thames, they are visualised on a map using folium on python.

Boroughs with the highest crime rates



Comparing five boroughs with the highest crime rate during the year 2016 it is evident that Westminster has the highest crimes recorded followed by Lambeth, Southwark, Newham and Tower Hamlets. Westminster has a significantly higher crime rate than the other 4 boroughs.

Boroughs with the lowest crime rates



Comparing five boroughs with the lowest crime rate during the year 2016, City of London has the lowest recorded crimes followed by Kingston upon Thames, Sutton, Richmond upon Thames and Merton.

- City of London has a significantly lower crime rate because it is the 33rd principal division of Greater London but it is not a London borough. It has an area of 1.12 square miles and a population of 7000 as of 2013 which suggests that it is a small area.
- We will consider the next borough with the lowest crime rate as the safest borough in London which is Kingston upon Thames.

Cluster 1: Looking into the neighborhoods in the first cluster

Neighborhood	Borough	Latitude	Longitude	Cluster Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	
1	Canbury	Kingston upon Thames	51.417499	-0.305553	0	Pub	Café	Plaza	Fish & Chips Shop	Supermarket	Spa	Shop & Service	Park
4	Hook	Kingston upon Thames	51.367898	-0.307145	0	Bakery	Convenience Store	Indian Restaurant	Fish & Chips Shop	Wine Shop	Food	Electronics Store	Farmers Market
5	Kingston upon Thames	Kingston upon Thames	51.409627	-0.306262	0	Coffee Shop	Café	Burger Joint	Sushi Restaurant	Pub	Record Shop	Cosmetics Shop	Market
7	Malden Rushett	Kingston upon Thames	51.341052	-0.319076	0	Convenience Store	Pub	Garden Center	Restaurant	Fast Food Restaurant	Discount Store	Dry Cleaner	Electronics Store
9	New Malden	Kingston upon Thames	51.405335	-0.263407	0	Gastropub	Gym	Sushi Restaurant	Supermarket	Korean Restaurant	Indian Restaurant	Fish & Chips Shop	Dry Cleaner
10	Norbiton	Kingston upon Thames	51.409999	-0.287396	0	Indian Restaurant	Pub	Food	Italian Restaurant	Platform	Grocery Store	Farmers Market	Dry Cleaner
12	Seething Wells	Kingston upon Thames	51.392642	-0.314366	0	Indian Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Italian Restaurant	Pub	Café	Wine Shop	Fast Food Restaurant	Chinese Restaurant
13	Surbiton	Kingston upon Thames	51.393756	-0.303310	0	Coffee Shop	Pub	Supermarket	Breakfast Spot	Grocery Store	Gastropub	French Restaurant	Train Station
14	Tolworth	Kingston upon Thames	51.378876	-0.282860	0	Grocery Store	Pharmacy	Furniture / Home Store	Train Station	Pizza Place	Discount Store	Coffee Shop	Bus Stop

The cluster one is the biggest cluster with 9 of the 15 neighborhoods in the borough Kingston upon Thames. Upon closely examining these neighborhoods we can see that the most common venues in these neighborhoods are Restaurants, Pubs, Cafe, Supermarkets, and stores

Cluster 2: Looking into the neighborhoods in the second cluster.

	Neighborhood	Borough	Latitude	Longitude	Cluster Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue
2	Chessington	Kingston upon Thames	51.358336	-0.298622	1	Fast Food Restaurant	Wine Shop	Golf Course	German Restaurant	Gastropub	Garden Center	Furniture / Home Store	Fried Chicken Joint	French Restaurant

The second cluster has one neighborhood which consists of Venues such as Restaurants, Golf courses, and wine shops.

Cluster 3: Looking into the neighborhoods in the third cluster.

	Neighborhood	Borough	Latitude	Longitude	Cluster Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue
11	Old Malden	Kingston upon Thames	51.382484	-0.25909	2	Train Station	Pub	Food	Gastropub	Garden Center	Furniture / Home Store	Fried Chicken Joint	French Restaurant	Deli / Bodega

The third cluster has one neighborhood which consists of Venues such as Train stations, Restaurants, and Furniture shops.

5. Discussion

- The aim of this project is to help people who want to relocate to the safest borough in London, expats can chose the neighborhoods to which they want to relocate based on the most common venues in it.
- For example if a person is looking for a neighborhood with good connectivity and public transportation we can see that Clusters 3 and 4 have Train stations and Bus stops as the most common venues.
- If a person is looking for a neighborhood with stores and restaurants in a close proximity then the neighborhoods in the first cluster is suitable.
- For a family I feel that the neighborhoods in Cluster 4 are more suitable dues to the common venues in that cluster, these neighborhoods have common venues such as Parks, Gym/Fitness centers, Bus Stops, Restaurants, Electronics Stores and Soccer fields which is ideal for a family.
- The preference of venues may vary from person to person, they can select a neighborhood based on ones priorities.

6. Conclusion

- This project helps a person get a better understanding of the neighborhoods with respect to the most common venues in that neighborhood. It is always helpful to make use of technology to stay one step ahead i.e. finding out more about places before moving into a neighborhood.
- We have just taken safety as a primary concern to shortlist the safest borough of London. The future of this project includes taking other factors such as cost of living in the areas into consideration to shortlist the borough, such as filtering areas based on a predefined budget.