

# CAPSTONE PROJECT REPORT

Capstone Project - The Battle of Neighborhoods



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## Capstone Project Report

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# **Battle of neighbourhoods in London**

#### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

Many people move from one place to another for various reasons like career, family etc. One of the attractive destinations is London. People who want to relocate from one location to another location need to go through many challenging steps. This will be even more challenging for people moving from different country. In addition, one need to select right location within in the city live in a new city people would consider many aspects which include, safety, schools, good transportation, distance to work location, medical facilities in the neighbourhood, and many more.

#### 1.2 Problem definition

London as a city has many neighbourhoods with each one having different benefits to offer to the residents. One of the most important parameters for a person moving to London or any city is to select right neighbourhood which is safe for oneself and family.

The problem definition for this project is to identify the best boroughs (top three) on safety and perform analysis of its neighbourhoods for key venues. This is performed using crime data available from public sources across different boroughs of London using statistical data analysis methods.

#### 1.3 Interested/Target audience

The people planning to relocate to London are the target audience for this project. These people will be interested to know the safe boroughs and associated neighbourhoods in London for relocation and also explore different venues in each neighbourhood that are of interest so that one can select most suitable neighbourhoods based on the venues of interest within safe boroughs identified.

## 2. Data used for the project

For the purpose of this project the following different sources of data are used.

#### 2.1 List of London boroughs

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of London boroughs

This is a Wikipedia page with list of local authority districts / boroughs in London. We will read the tables in the page and extract the details of boroughs available in the tables.

The two tables are:

- List of boroughs and local authorities
- City of London

The table(s) has/have following columns.

- Borough
- Inner
- Status
- Local authority
- Political control
- Headquarters
- Area (sq mi)
- Population (2013 est) / (2011 est)
- Co-ordinates
- Nr. In map

We will use these tables to extract the list of boroughs in London.

#### 2.2 Recorded Crime: Geographic Breakdown

This data is obtained from London Data store (<a href="https://data.london.gov.uk/">https://data.london.gov.uk/</a>). This data counts the number of crimes at different geographic levels of London (borough, ward, LSOA) per month, according to crime type. Data is available in two files for each level of geography - the most up to date data covering the last available 24 months only and one covering all historic full calendar years. We have considered MPS Borough Level Crime (most recent 24 months) for the purpose of this project. This currently only covers the most recent 24 months of data.

Below is a list of the crime types covered under the new HO categories:

Major Category: Minor Category

**Arson and Criminal Damage** - Arson / Criminal Damage

Burglary: Burglary - Business and Community / Burglary - Residential\*\*

**Drug Offences**: Drug Trafficking / Possession of Drugs

Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society: Absconding from Lawful Custody / Bail Offences / Bigamy / Concealing an Infant Death Close to Birth / Dangerous Driving / Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading State / Exploitation of Prostitution / Forgery or Use of Drug Prescription / Fraud or Forgery Associated with Driver Records / Going Equipped for Stealing / Handling Stolen Goods / Making,

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Supplying or Possessing Articles for use i / Obscene Publications / Offender Management Act / Other Forgery / Other Notifiable Offences / Perjury / Perverting Course of Justice / Possession of False Documents / Profitting From or Concealing Proceeds of Crime / Soliciting for Prostitution / Threat or Possession With Intent to Commit Crimina / Wildlife Crime

**Possession of Weapons**: Other Firearm Offences / Possession of Firearm with Intent / Possession of Firearms Offences / Possession of Other Weapon / Possession of Article with Blade or Point

**Public Order Offences**: Other Offences Against the State, or Public Order / Public Fear Alarm or Distress / Racially or Religiously Aggravated Public Fear / Violent Disorder

Robbery: Robbery of Business Property / Robbery of Personal Property

Sexual Offences: Other Sexual Offences / Rape

**Theft**: Bicycle Theft / Other Theft / Shoplifting / Theft from Person

**Vehicle Offences**: Aggravated Vehicle Taking / Interfering with a Motor Vehicle / Theft from a Motor Vehicle / Theft or Taking of a Motor Vehicle

Violence Against the Person: Homicide / Violence with Injury / Violence without Injury

The web page for this data is https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/recorded\_crime\_summary

The actual file of the data considered for this project is at:

https://data.london.gov.uk/download/recorded\_crime\_summary/d2e9ccfc-a054-41e3-89fb-53c2bc3ed87a/MPS%20Borough%20Level%20Crime%20%28most%20recent%2024%20months%29.csv'

#### 2.3 List of London neighbourhoods in the top three safe boroughs

Based on the analysis of crime data it is found that the top three safe boroughs in London are: Kingston upon Thames, Sutton and Richmond upon Thames.

For the detailed analysis of these boroughs and its neighbourhoods, the following Wikipedia pages are used as source for collecting the list of neighbourhoods/districts within these three boroughs.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London Borough of Sutton

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\_Borough\_of\_Kingston\_upon\_Thames

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Note: For this section, the list of neighbourhoods are collected manually

#### 2.4 Other sources:

- a. Geocoder package: It is used to obtain the Latitude and Longitudes of a given location.
- b. Foursquare APIs are used to obtain the venue details for a given location.

## 3. Project Methodology

The project is executed as per the following major steps.

#### a. Collect and process the list of boroughs in London

To start with we collect the list of boroughs from wiki page <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List</a> of London boroughs

This page has two tables from which the names of the boroughs in London need to be collected. BeautifulSoup package is used to obtain the tables from the web page. The tables are processed to have common column names.

The details of data frame after merging and processing is given below and it has 33 boroughs identified.

```
df_London_boroughs.info()
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 33 entries, 0 to 32
Data columns (total 10 columns):
                   33 non-null object
Borough
Inner
                        4 non-null object
Status 5 non-null object
Local authority 33 non-null object
Political control 33 non-null object
Headquarters 33 non-null object
Area (sq mi) 33 non-null float64
Area (sq mi)
Area (sq mi) 33 non-null float64
Population 33 non-null int64
Co-ordinates 33 non-null object
No. in man 33 non-null int64
Nr. in map
                        33 non-null int64
dtypes: float64(1), int64(2), object(7)
memory usage: 2.7+ KB
df_London_boroughs.shape
(33, 10)
```

#### b. Collect and process the borough wise recent crime data in London

As a next step, the recent borough wise crime data in London is obtained from London Data store (<a href="https://data.london.gov.uk/">https://data.london.gov.uk/</a>). This data counts the number of crimes at different geographic levels of London (borough, ward, LSOA) per month, according to crime type. We have considered MPS Borough Level Crime (most recent 24 months) for this project.

The original table has,

```
df_london_crime_data.shape
(1584, 27)
```

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Following picture shows number of crimes recorded in 24 months across the different Major Crime types.

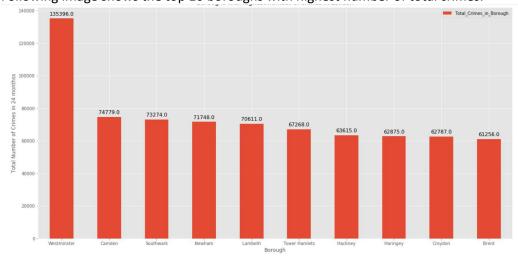
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	613
Possession of Weapons	152
Theft	132
Vehicle Offences	132
Public Order Offences	129
Violence Against the Person	97
Sexual Offences	66
Arson and Criminal Damage	66
Drug Offences	66
Burglary	66
Robberv	65

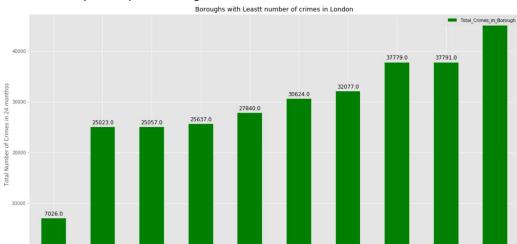
The following image shows the re-structured table with number of crimes across Major Crime category for each borough.

<pre>df_pivot_london_crime_data['Total_Crimes_in_Borough'] = df_pivot_london_crime_data.sum(axis=1) df_pivot_london_crime_data.head()</pre>													
	Borough											24months_Total	Total_Crimes_in_Borough
MajorCrimeCategory		Arson and Criminal Damage	Burglary	Drug Offences	Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	Possession of Weapons	Public Order Offences	Robbery	Sexual Offences	Theft	Vehicle Offences	Violence Against the Person	
0	Barking and Dagenham	3039	3195	1960	532	355	2031	1913	1148	6911	5342	11365	37791
1	Barnet	4032	7432	1512	716	358	3360	1724	1189	13336	10633	13477	57769
2	Bexley	3210	3387	1255	439	234	2005	692	764	5834	5164	9093	32077
3	Brent	4307	6084	3509	742	561	3686	2986	1379	12268	8523	17211	61256
4	Bromley	4171	5233	1588	587	397	3035	976	1161	10494	7070	11953	46665

c. Perform analysis to identify top three safe boroughs in London based on the crime data From the above analysis we have data ready to sort the table based on total number of crimes across each borough.

Following image shows the top 10 boroughs with highest number of total crimes.





Another view is to identify the top 10 boroughs with least number of crimes.

For our project we need to identify the top three safe boroughs.

From the above picture we can understand that the borough "London Heathrow and London city airports" has the least number of crimes reported. But we would prefer not to consider airport for our living, hence we select the next top three boroughs.

The top three boroughs considered for our further analysis are:

- i. Kingston upon Thames,
- ii. Sutton and
- iii. Richmond upon Thames.

# d. Collect list of neighbourhoods and associated geographical coordinates to prepare a table of top three safe boroughs

Now collect list of neighborhoods in and around the top three safe boroughs. This is done manually using the Wikipedia pages.

Collect list of neighbourhoods for the three best boroughs with least number of crimes

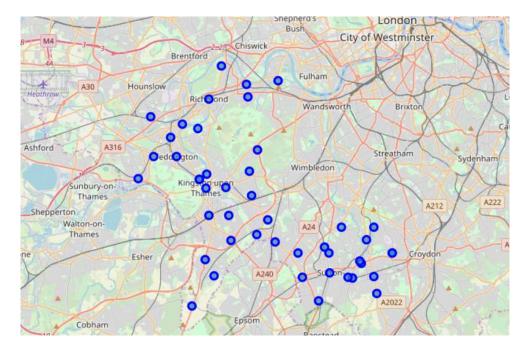
```
Sutton_neighbourhood = ['Bandon Hill', 'Beddington', 'Beddington Corner', 'Belmont', 'Benhilton', 'Carshalton', 'Carshalton Beeches', 'Carshalton on the Hill', 'Cheam', 'Hackbridge', 'Little Woodcote', 'North Cheam', 'Rosehill', 'St. Helier', 'South Beddington', 'Sutton principal town', 'Sutton Common', 'Sutton High Street', 'The Wrythe', 'Wallington', 'Woodcote Green', 'Worcester Park']

Richmond_upon_Thames_neighbourhood = ['Barnes', 'East Sheen', 'Ham and Petersham', 'Hampton', 'Hampton Hill', 'Hampton Wick', 'Kew', 'Mortlake', 'Richmond and Richmond Hill', 'Strawberry Hill', 'St Margarets and East Twickenham', 'Teddington', 'Twickenham', 'Whitton and Heathfield']

Kingston_upon_Thames_neighbourhood = ['Berrylands', 'Canbury', 'Chessington', 'Coombe', 'Hook', 'Kingston upon Thames', 'Kingston Vale', 'Malden Rushett', 'Motspur Park', 'New Malden', 'Norbiton', 'Old Malden', 'Hampton Wick', 'Surbiton', 'Tolworth']
```

Using geolocator.geocode, obtain the longitude and latitude for each neighbourhood and prepare a table with neighbourhoods for top three safe boroughs.

Following map shows the neighbourhoods in the top three safe boroughs of London.



# e. Perform detailed analysis of venues within/around these neighbourhoods using K-Means clustering and identify ten common venues.

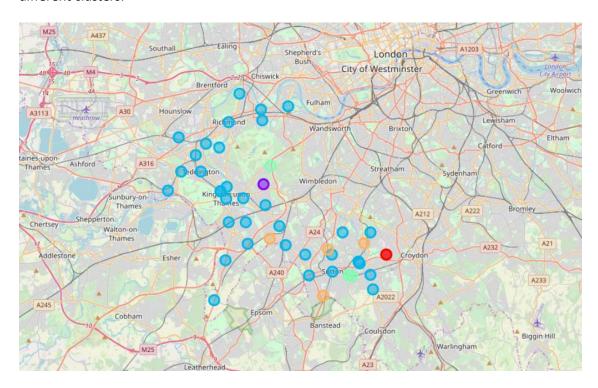
Now use Foursquare APIs to obtain the venues using neighbourhoods and corresponding coordinates (latitude & longitudes). Using the data returned from Foursquare API, we will do further analysis of neighbourhoods and associated venues.

Initially categorize each venue based on its "Venue Category" and group them according to their neighbourhoods. Identify the top five and ten most common venues for each neighbourhood. For this purpose one hot encoding of venues is done.

Now perform K-Means clustering of neighbourhoods into 5 different clusters. This is to identify the similar neighbourhoods in the top three safe boroughs. It does grouping of neighbourhoods with similar venues. This helps people look for neighbourhoods with venues of their interests.

### 4. Results

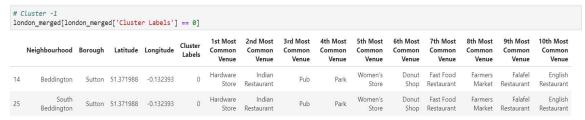
There are 46 neighbourhoods identified across top three safe boroughs and using K-Means clustering algorithm we have grouped them into five different clusters. Each colour below show different clusters.



Further analysis of each cluster.

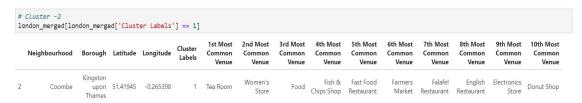
#### Cluster-1:

Cluster-1 has only two neighbourhoods with Hardware store, Indian restaurant, Pub, Park etc as most common venues in this cluster. People interested in these venues would like live in Cluster-1 neighbourhoods.



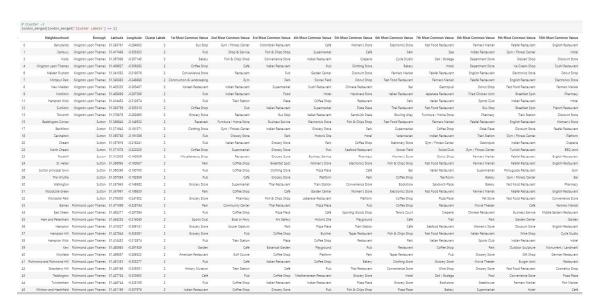
#### Cluster-2:

Cluster-2 has only one neighbourhood with Tea Room, Women's store, Food, Fish & chips shop and Fast food restaurant as key most common venues of this neighbourhood.



#### Cluster-3:

Cluster-3 is the largest cluster with 36 neighbourhoods. This cluster has Pub, Restaurant, Coffee shop, Café, Gym, Park, Italian restaurant, Indian restaurant etc are most common venues of this cluster. This cluster has much wider types of venues.



#### Cluster-4:

Cluster-4 has three neighbourhoods with Bakery, Italian restaurant, Grocery store, Discount store, and Fast food restaurant are most most common venues of neighbourhoods of this cluster.



#### Cluster-5:

Cluster-5 has four neighbourhoods with Pub, Food, Park, Convenience store, Train Station and donut shop are most most common venues of neighbourhoods of this cluster.



#### **5.** Discussion Section

In this project, we identify the top three safe boroughs in London and associated neighbourhoods of interest for the people who want to relocate/move to London. We have seen 33 boroughs in London and the three best boroughs identified are Kingston upon Thames, Sutton and Richmond upon Thames.

One key observation is that Cluster-3 has maximum number of neighbourhoods and highly skewed. This has many types of most common venues. It may be necessary to perform next level of grouping within Cluster-3 to get next level of analysis. Each neighbourhood has good variety of most common venues and it is mostly personal preference to pick the neighbourhood of specific interest.

### 6. Conclusion

People who want to relocate to London will get benefitted from this project as they get know about the safest boroughs in the city. The analysis also provides details of neighbourhoods and associated most common venues for identifying the specific neighbourhood of interest. The scope of current project is mainly around safety considering the recent crime data. This can be further expanded with analysis of schools, ethnicity, social economics data, transportation facilities, distance to work location, medical facilities and more and many more. For all such further study, this project can be a good starting point.

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