



**BRITISH  
EQUESTRIAN  
FEDERATION**



## **Greenwich Park**

**Venue for the Equestrian Events  
of the London 2012 Olympic and  
Paralympic Games**

[www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk)

**Greenwich Park will be the venue for all of the equestrian competitions at the London Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.**

## A Unique Venue

The Equestrian events will be taking place at this famous World Heritage site which once saw the births of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. This venue also places equestrian sport at the heart of the Olympic Games for the first time in the Games' post-war history. It will unite the disciplines in one place, be close to the Olympic Park and easily accessible via public transport.

The park is visually stunning with views across London from the Royal Observatory. The stadium next to the Queen's House promises to be one of the finest settings ever seen in an Olympic Games promising a unique atmosphere that cannot fail to excite television viewers and spectators alike.

There are a number of things that make Greenwich special compared to Equestrian sites at previous Olympic Games:

- Greenwich Park is 4.5 miles from the Olympic Park
- Good transport links, via the Jubilee Line and the Docklands Light Railway, will make travel between the Olympic Park and Greenwich quick and easy at Games time.
- The riders will enjoy and benefit from the unique atmosphere provided by staying within the Olympic Village alongside athletes from all sports and from across the World.
- The Venue is easily accessible to the World's media who will be based at the main Media Centre in the Olympic Village.
- The On-site facilities, such as the venue media centre and the officials offices, will be of Olympic standard and will be housed in a variety of permanent buildings already in the Park and some temporary buildings.
- The full site includes not only Greenwich Park but also the National Maritime Museum, The Queen's House and associated land. There is also scope to use Blackheath if necessary.
- Greenwich Park is a World Heritage site and is also the home of the Meridian Line.
- There are fantastic views over the Thames and Canary Wharf



## Widely Endorsed

At the FEI (International Equestrian Federation) General Assembly in 2007 the President commented on an independent feasibility study carried out regarding Greenwich:

*"The study concluded that Greenwich is not only the right location but a wonderful location for the London Games."*

Princess Haya, President of the FEI comments:

*"The FEI has visited Greenwich Park and fully supports Greenwich Park as the equestrian venue for London 2012. The FEI believes the park will be a great location for equestrian sport in 2012."*

Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman of London 2012 comments:

*"Greenwich Park is an iconic venue, visually stunning, and in a historical setting. It is also an urban park close to the Olympic Park and central London. We see it as one of our showcase venues for 2012 and I have no doubt that it will provide an amazing backdrop for the equestrian events at the London Games."*

## An Olympic & Paralympic Games

An Olympic Games has very different requirements to other major equestrian events such as Hickstead or Badminton. For example:

- To promote a 'green' Games all access will be via public transport and Park & Ride schemes.
- There will be a variety of facilities on site for spectators although this will not require the space usually taken up by trade stands at a Horse Trials such as Badminton.



# Other Features

## Spectators

- There will be a minimum of 23,000 spectators seated in the arena
- Spectators on cross-country day will be confirmed when the course design has been completed.

## Competition Planning

- A programme of ground management is being planned to ensure optimum conditions will be established for the cross-country phase.
- The competition arena and most of the training areas will be temporary all weather surfaces.
- There are many stunning natural features that will be built into the design of the course
- The natural landscape of the park will provide exceptional viewing opportunities

## Offices & Accommodation

- Excellent facilities will be provided within the National Maritime Museum, the University of Greenwich and Devonport House. These will include:
  - The venue media centre
  - Organisers and officials offices
  - Athletes areas
  - Grooms accommodation

## Cross-Country Course

- 75 hectares (185 acres) for course to be built within.
- Minimum distance – 6,270M. (a possible track has already been mapped)

## What else will be added to the Park?

- Stabling for horses across all of the Olympic disciplines
- Extensive temporary all weather training areas
- A veterinary clinic
- The main arena

## What Next?

- A Competition Manager for the equestrian events will be appointed prior to the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games in August 2008.
- Following the 2008 Games the Competition Manager will continue to develop the detail of the venue and competition. This detail will be available at [www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk) as it develops.

## A Lasting Legacy

- Discussion is ongoing to regarding the redistribution of purchased sports equipment and re-locatable assets to equestrian centres throughout Great Britain.
- An Equestrian Legacy Plan for London, called Hoof, is being developed and implemented by the British Equestrian Federation.
- This plan will be rolled out to the wider UK once the model has been established in London.
- Hosting a memorable event at Greenwich Park will raise the profile of the sport both nationally and internationally