

General Certificate of Education
January 2007
Advanced Level Examination



GEOGRAPHY (SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 7 Fieldwork Investigation

GGA7/PM

You will need no other materials.

To be issued to candidates on 1 December prior to the examination

Pre-release material

Instructions

- This material must be kept **unmarked** for use in the forthcoming examination.
- The centre section of this booklet contains coloured photographs, which can be detached.

Advice

- You should use the information contained in this booklet to become familiar with the aim, objectives, methods and data provided. Methods of data presentation should be considered, and subsequent analysis and conclusions drawn. Enquiry-related issues should be explored. You should use your own experience of fieldwork.

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TITLE OF ENQUIRY

To what extent is there evidence of re-urbanisation in part of Tower Hamlets, London?

AIM

The aim of this enquiry is to assess the extent to which the characteristics of the housing, environment and residents reflect those of an area affected by re-urbanisation.

In order for this enquiry to be completed, a number of objectives can be identified.

- Objective 1. To determine whether the type, value and quality of the housing reflects that of an area experiencing re-urbanisation.
- Objective 2. To consider whether the quality of the environment reflects that of an area experiencing re-urbanisation.
- Objective 3. To determine whether the socio-economic characteristics of the residents reflect those expected in an area experiencing re-urbanisation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The *Essential Word Dictionary for A/AS Level Geography* (Michael Raw) defines re-urbanisation as 'movement of people back to the inner areas of cities in MEDCs from the outer suburbs and exurbs'. It comments that 'planners encourage re-urbanisation as a means of revitalising the inner areas of cities. The process of gentrification is part of this trend towards re-urbanisation'.

There is close agreement with this definition and further development of the concept by John Pallister and Ann Bowen in *AS Level Geography*. They state: 'Indeed what re-urbanisation is all about is the return of high status and high income groups back into the inner city of cities in MEDCs. It is closely linked to the process of gentrification which occurs in inner city areas where old housing, dilapidated and badly in need of repair, is bought by middle class and wealthy people who have the money to modernise and improve the properties'.

The location of the London borough of Tower Hamlets is shown in **Figure P1a**, whilst **Figure P1b** shows the areas of Spitalfields and Banglatown, Bethnal Green South and Mile End and Globe Town, within Tower Hamlets, and the transect used in this enquiry. Selected information about the study area from the website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk is shown in **Figure P2**. **Figure P3** shows extracts from the newspaper article '*Poverty and despair in Britain's lost generation*'.

Figure P1a

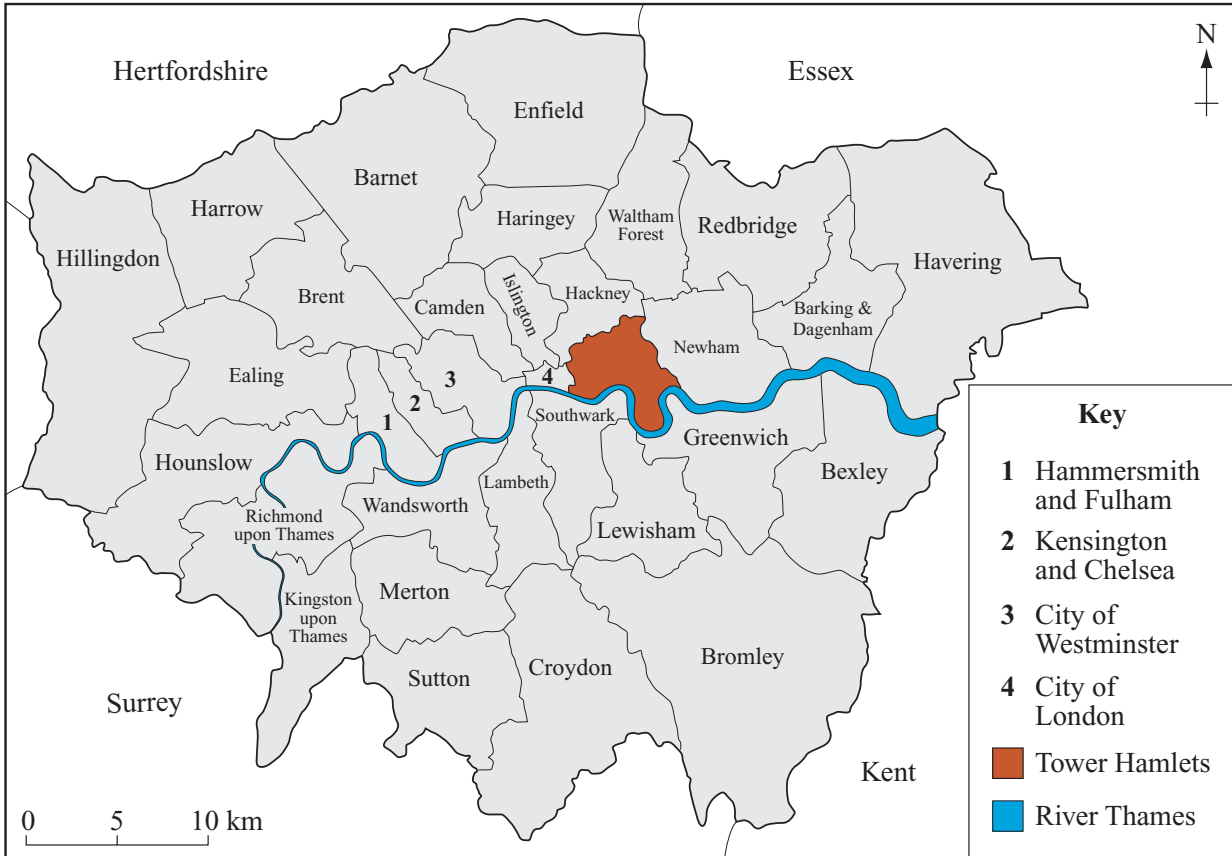


Figure P1b

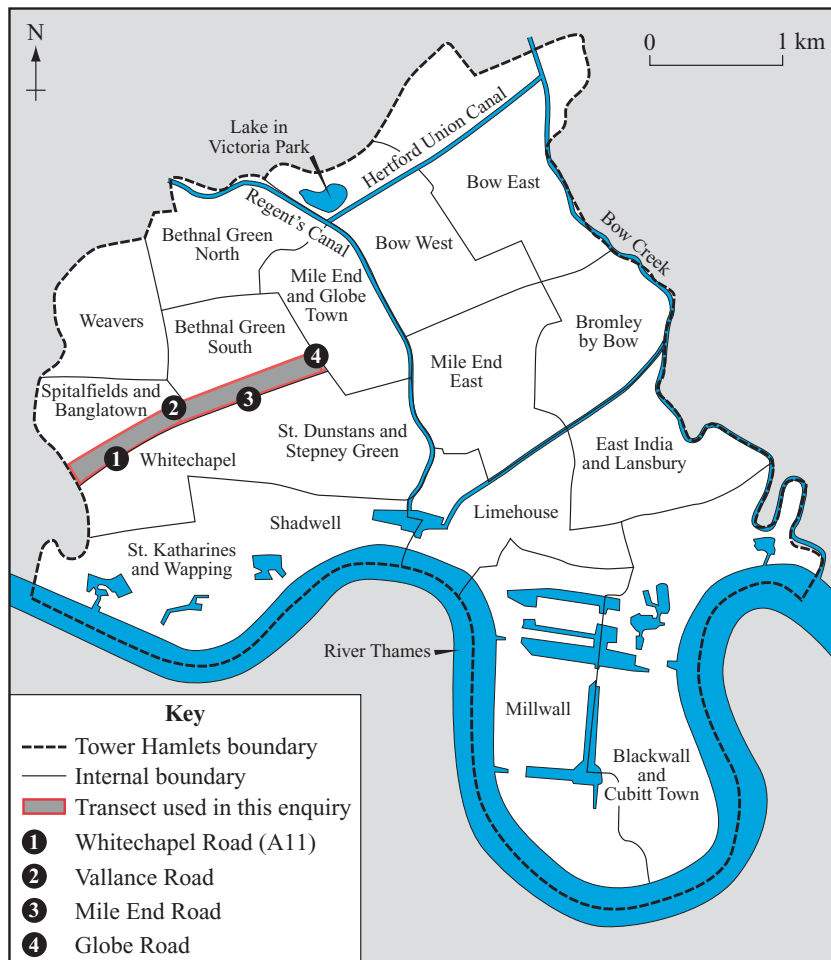


Figure P2

Factories and rows of terraced houses consumed the rural landscape of the 18th century, except for pockets of land saved for parks and gardens.

As the workshops, docks and factories of East London made a major contribution to the development of London as a world trading centre, it was very much at the expense of workers who endured damaging working conditions.

Throughout its history, Tower Hamlets has continued its trend of welcoming people of different faiths and cultures. During the 20th century, newcomers from Bangladesh settled in Spitalfields and the surrounding areas, along with Somali and Vietnamese refugees.

With its culture and cuisine, the predominant Bangladeshi community gives such life and vitality to the area that it has been dubbed Banglatown.

This is in stark contrast to the mid 20th century period when much of the area was destroyed by bombing during the Second World War.

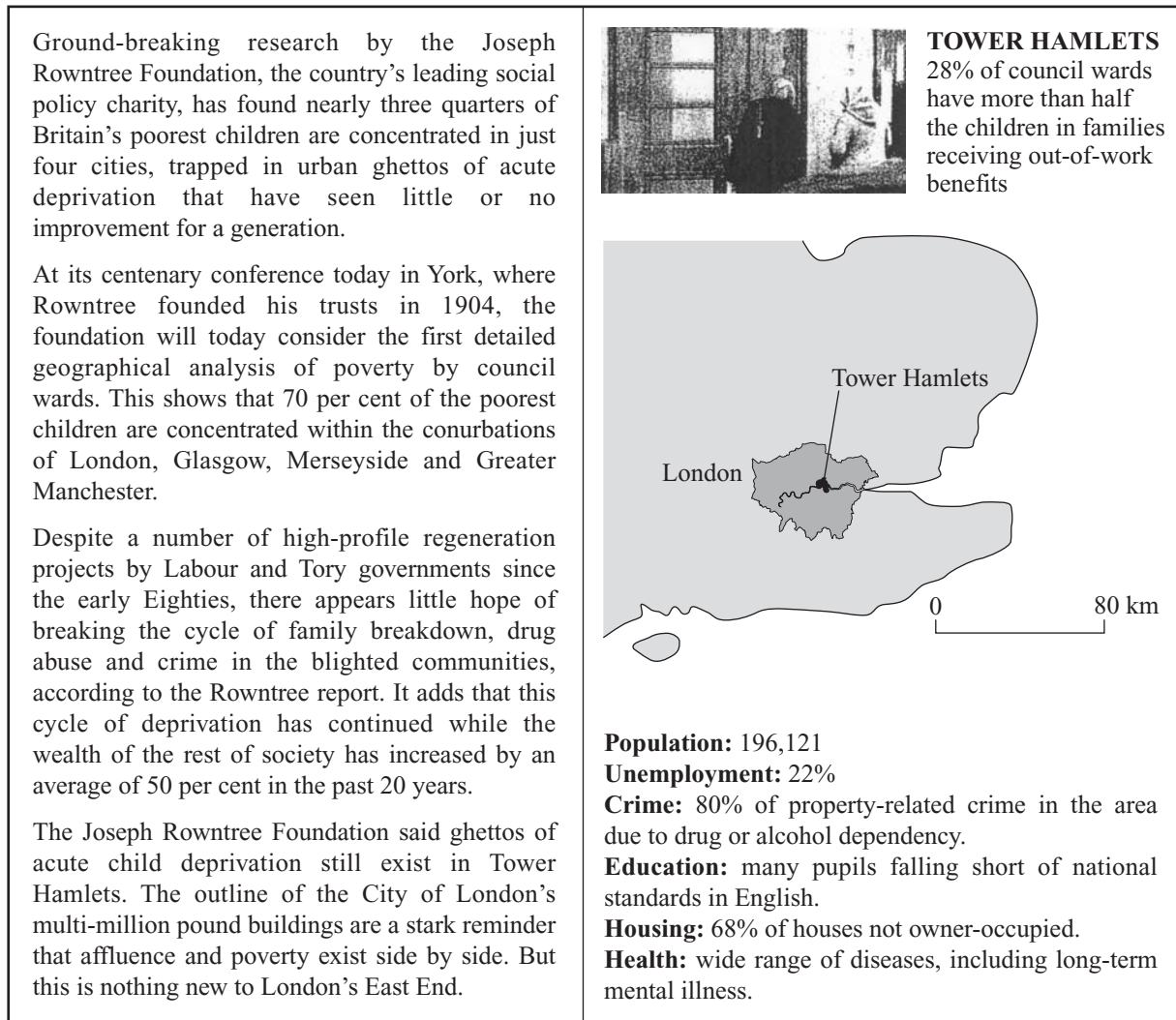
The post-war period was also a difficult time as the traditional dock industries fell into rapid decline, leaving substantial areas of land and buildings vacant and derelict.

But Tower Hamlets has a history of responding to the demands of time. After several decades of failed schemes and plans, part of the borough (all of the Isle of Dogs and most of Wapping) was designated an economic development zone.

As a result, the years since 1980 have seen massive expansion of new industries and employment, and an extraordinary landscape-changing transformation has taken place.

Empty warehouses have been converted, and derelict sites have been replaced by towering office blocks and contemporary housing complexes, many with award-winning glass and steel designs.

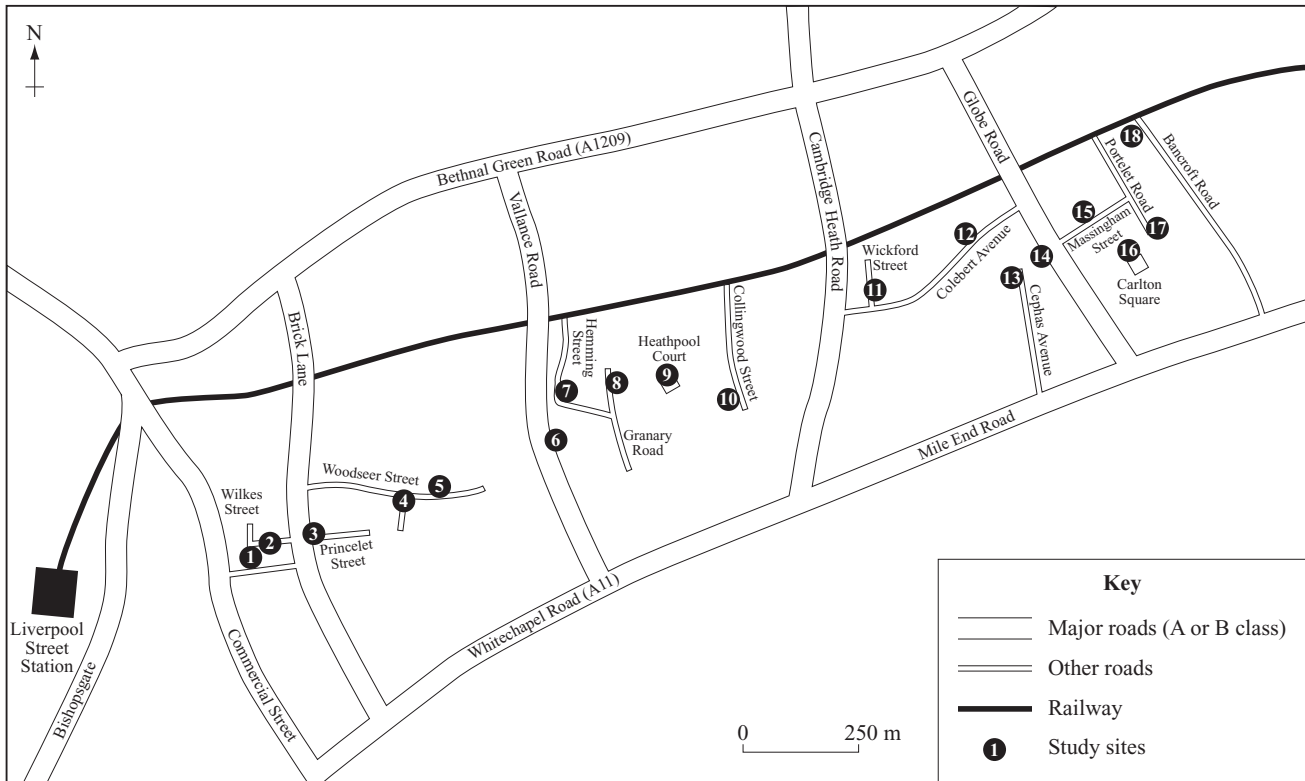
Figure P3



DATA COLLECTION

Figure P4 shows the location of the eighteen study sites shown within the transect. The transect was determined by drawing a line between the two main transport routes in the area – the A11 to the south and the railway to the north – and then identifying an area approximately 50 metres either side of the line to determine the transect. Photographs of the study sites are shown in **Figures P5a** and **P5b** (in the centre of this booklet). These photographs were taken, and the data collected, in August 2005.

Figure P4



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In order to gain an insight into the value of property in the study area, council tax bands were used. These were obtained from www.voa.gov.uk website. Searches were made of the streets in the Tower Hamlets billing authority which contained study sites. Then the first 20% of the total observations were considered for each street. The modal council tax band and the range of council tax bands were determined. These are shown in **Figure P6a** whilst **Figure P6b** provides an example of the raw data available from the website for study site 1.


Figure P6a

Study site	Street name	Modal council tax band	Range of council tax bands
1	Wilkes Street	G	D–H
2	Princelet Street	F	B–H
3	Brick Lane	B	A–C
4	Arthur Deakin House, Woodseer Street	C	B–C
5	Woodseer Street	B	B–F
6	Vallance Road	D	A–E
7	Hemming Street	No properties found	
8	Granary Road	C	C
9	Heathpool Court	C	B–C
10	Collingwood Street	C	C
11	Wickford Street	C	B–C
12	Colebert Avenue	E	B–E
13	Cephas Avenue	C	B–F
14	Globe Road	C	A–E
15	Massingham Street	C	C
16	Carlton Square	E	D–E
17	Portelet Road	C	C–D
18	Bancroft Road	B	B–E

Council tax bands (£)	
Band A	Up to 40 000
Band B	40 001 to 52 000
Band C	52 001 to 68 000
Band D	68 001 to 88 000
Band E	88 001 to 120 000
Band F	120 001 to 160 000
Band G	160 001 to 320 000
Band H	320 001 and above

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Figure P6b



Council Tax Valuation List your search results

BA Ref	Address	Band	Comp	Court	Effective
877200017	1, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		15/03/2000
877200033	MAIS BST GND PT 1ST 2ND & 3RD FLRS AT 3, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	D	Yes		10/10/1999
877200033	3, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	Deleted	No		
877200041	FLAT 1ST FLR 4, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	Deleted	No		
877200041	MAIS 1ST & 2ND FLRS 4, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	H	No		01/04/2002
877200143	5, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6GF	G	No		
877200091	6, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		15/08/1997
877200114	8A, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		01/12/2000
877200101	8, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	F	No		01/12/1999
877200130	10, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		
877200127	11A, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	B	No		
877200169	11, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	H	No		12/06/2000
877200156	12, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		22/06/1998
877200211	13, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	Deleted	No		01/04/1993
877200208	14, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		
877200305	15, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	F	No		
877200402	16, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	F	No		
877200509	17, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		
877200606	MAIS 1ST 2ND & 3RD FLRS 18, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	D	No		
877200703	19, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		
877200758	21, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		25/01/2000
877200800	23, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		
877200907	25, WILKES STREET, LONDON, E1 6QF	G	No		

The quality of the housing was assessed using a Quality/Decay Index (QDI) on a scale of 1 to 10. Descriptors for three QDI scores are given in **Figure P7a** whilst the scores given are shown in **Figure P7b**. Scores were given for study sites shown on the map (sometimes the area shown in the photograph is more extensive). Where a variety of qualities was displayed, the quality which was thought to be most representative was used as the basis for the score awarded.

Figure P7a

QDI	Descriptor
1	Immaculate paintwork/windows/brickwork. Building materials/style show care and thought. Design is interesting – detail added. Much evidence of improvement/excellently maintained. Overall, building is aesthetically pleasing.
5	Average paintwork/windows/brickwork. Building materials/style functional. Design is basic – ‘no frills’. No evidence of improvements/some maintenance. Overall, building is satisfactory in appearance – it neither adds to nor detracts from the landscape.
10	Very poor paintwork/windows/brickwork. Building materials/style unattractive. Design is unattractive. Building in a state of disrepair – in need of immediate attention. Overall, building is unsatisfactory in appearance – it is an eyesore.

Figure P7b

Study site	QDI score	Study site	QDI score
1	4	10	4
2	6	11	4
3	3	12	4
4	5	13	2
5	4	14	9
6	4	15	7
7	3	16	1
8	3	17	2
9	8	18	2

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The area surrounding the buildings at the study sites was scored on a scale of 1 to 5, using four environmental indicators. The results are shown in **Figure P8**.

Figure P8

Feature	Scoring system	Study site number																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Overall appearance	1 – attractive appearance 5 – undesirable appearance	3	4	2	3	3	3	2	5	3	3	3	3	4	3	1	2	2	2
Landscaping	1 – greenery clearly present 5 – built environment	5	5	5	4	5	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	5	3	4	3	4	4
Traffic flow/cars parked	1 – very few 5 – a lot	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	4	1	3	2	4	4	4	4	3
Sense of space	1 – spacious 5 – crowded	4	5	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	5	1	2	2	2

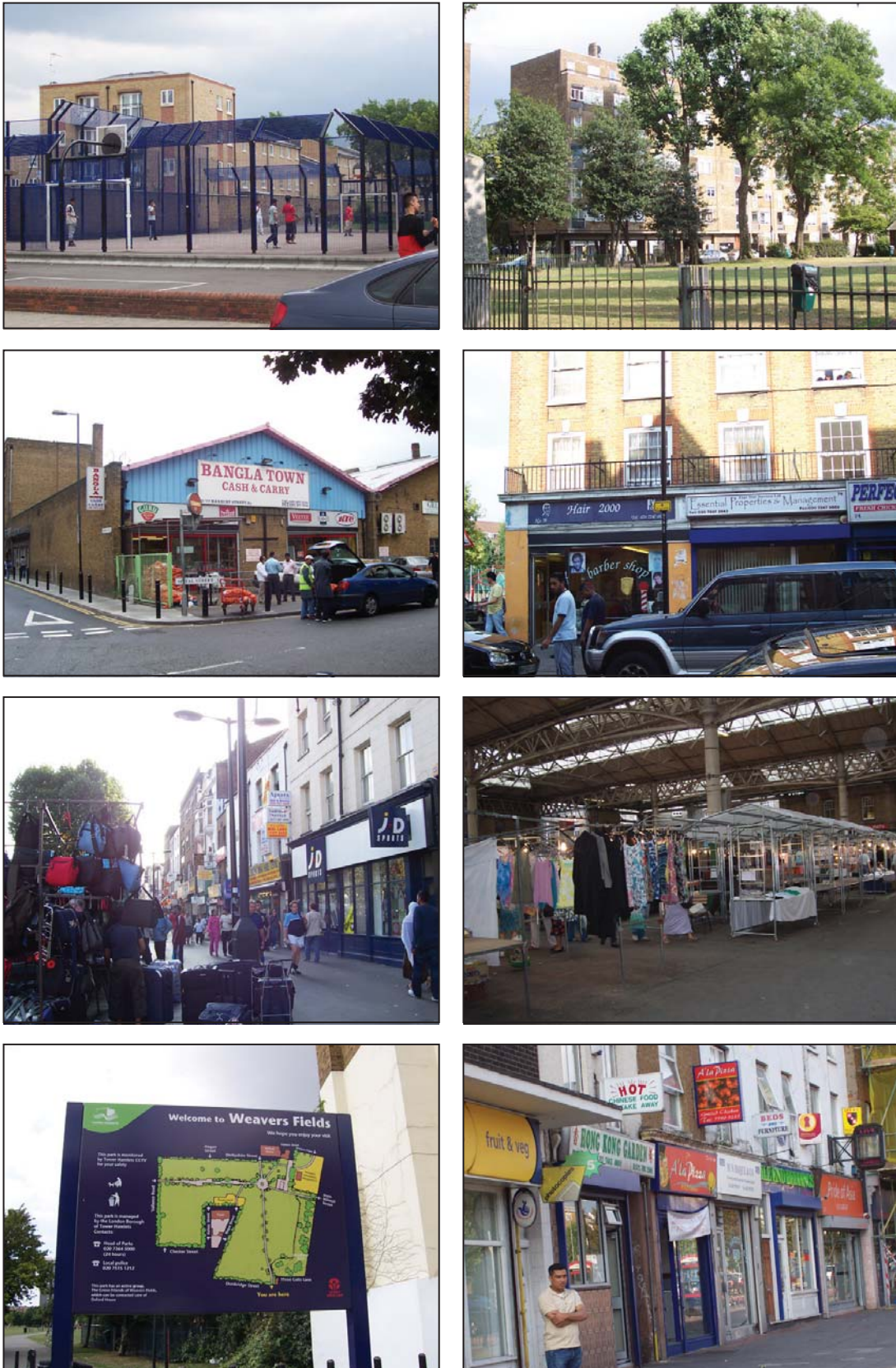
Some census data for 2001 were obtained from the websites www.towerhamlets.gov.uk and www.statistics.gov.uk. A summary of selected socio-economic characteristics is shown in **Figure P9** for Tower Hamlets as a whole and for the areas covered specifically by the transect.

Figure P9

Socio-economic characteristic	Tower Hamlets		Spitalfields and Banglatown		Bethnal Green South		Mile End and Globe Town	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population								
Total	196 106	100	8 383	100	13 675	100	11 801	100
Aged 0 to 15	44 891	22.9	2 059	24.6	3 613	26.4	2 673	22.7
Aged 75 and over	7 786	4.0	123	1.5	327	2.4	633	5.4
Housing								
Number of households	78 530	100	2 936	100	5 035	100	4 627	100
Overcrowded	22 984	29.3	1 136	38.7	1 952	38.8	1 247	27.0
Owner occupied	22 742	28.9	820	27.9	1 252	24.8	1 145	24.7
Without central heating	3 982	5.1	125	4.3	200	4.0	239	5.2
Lone parent with dependent children	5 538	7.1	132	4.5	332	6.6	366	7.9
No car	44 852	57.1	1 855	63.2	3 193	63.4	2 820	60.9
Ethnic Origin								
Bangladeshi	65 553	33.4	4 874	58.0	6 608	48.3	3 537	29.9
African	6 596	3.4	189	2.2	466	3.4	449	3.8
Caribbean	5 225	2.7	100	1.2	287	2.1	300	2.5
Work								
Unemployed	No data	No data	442	13.2	726	13.6	477	10.5
Professional, employers and managers	No data	No data	2 243	36.4	3 400	35.2	2 810	33.4

Figure P10 shows some of the facilities present in or close to the transect studied.

Figure P10



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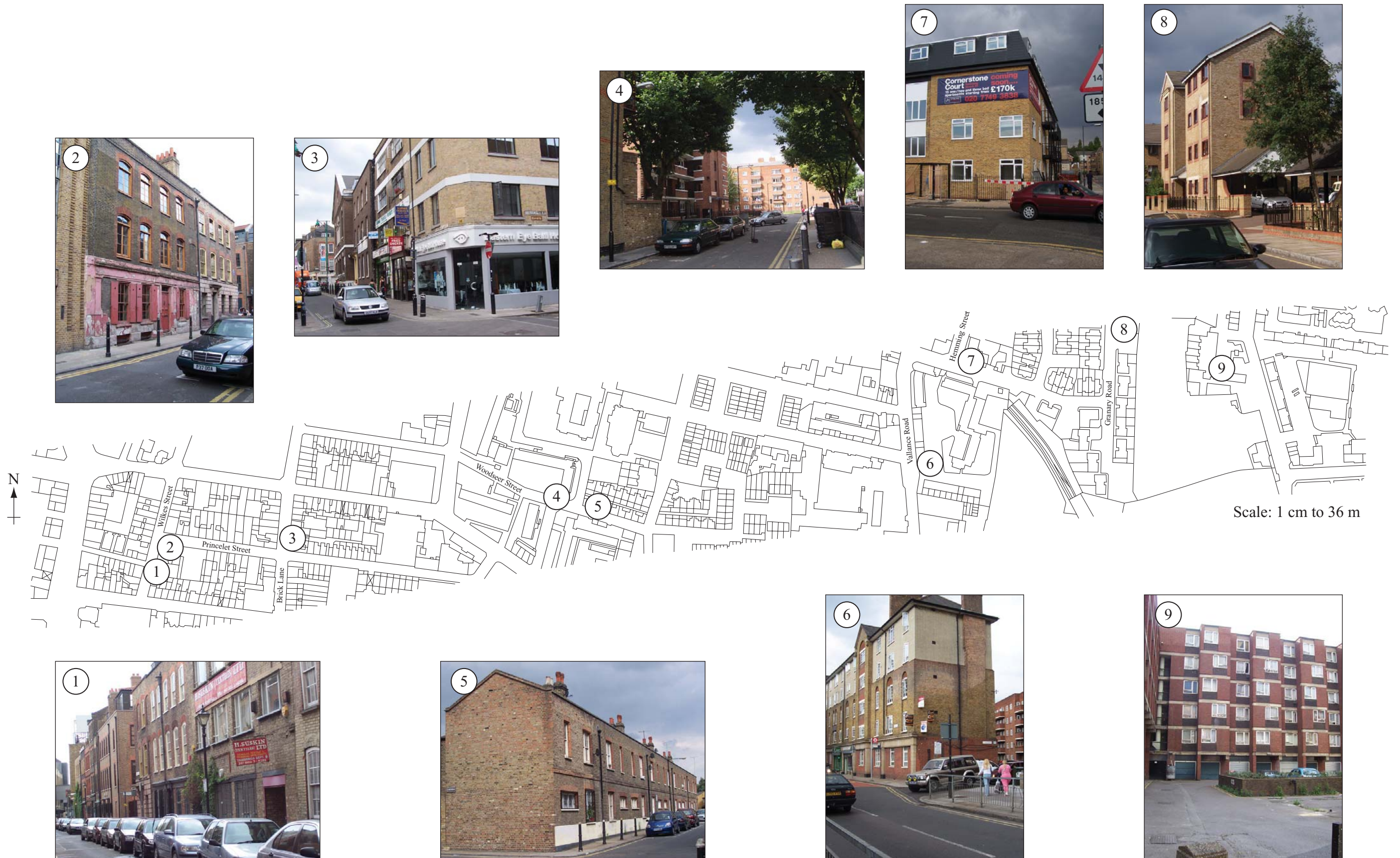
- Figures P1a & P9:** www.statistics.gov.uk
Figures P1b, P2 & P9: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk
Figure P3: 'Poverty and despair in Britain's lost generation', 13/12/2004, *The Independent*
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Figure P5a



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Figure P5b

