

Time Out



MÆ

In order to demarcate city-state London, one must first decide where the boundary of the 'city' might be. Mæ has taken the premise that the boundary of the city exists where urban London meets suburban London. That boundary can only be confirmed by the presence of a truly suburban form, one that cannot exist in an urban or rural setting.

Harvester restaurants, which are reliant on population densities not found in the countryside, can only exist where road links from urban centres deliver a steady stream of potential customers. Harvesters do not tend to survive in the more competitive urban environment where there are so many more potential venues for lunch or supper. If a neighbourhood can support a Harvester, it is by definition not dense enough to support a sufficient number of local or citywide pubs, cafés or restaurants that are the mark of a city.

Our map shows the position of Harvester restaurants around Greater London in relationship to the postcode map. By joining these positions one is left with an irrefutable map of the real, as opposed to political, boundary of the city of London. As these restaurants are positioned on transport arteries into central London, they form a new set of gatehouses for the redefined city-state.

Michael Howe and Alex Ely formed mæ architects (www.mae-llp.co.uk) in 2001 to create architecture that provides a strong sense of place by being immersed in its physical, social and political contexts.

1. The Red Lion, Ewell Rd, Tolworth, Surbiton.
2. The George Inn, Epsom Rd, Morden.
3. The Grove Tavern, Lordship Lane, East Dulwich.
4. The New Inn, Station Approach, Hayes.
5. The Falcon, Lingfield Crescent, Rochester Way, Eltham.
6. The Compasses, Abbs Cross Lane, Hornchurch.
7. The Beehive, Gants Hill, Ilford.
8. Harvester Woodford, High Rd, Woodford Green.
9. The Cocked Hat, Southend Rd, Woodford Green.
10. Harvester Chingford, Larks Wood Leisure Park, Chingford.
11. The Gryphon, Vera Avenue, Grange Park, Enfield.
12. Arnos Arms, Bowes Rd, Southgate.
13. The Jolly Badger, Hale Lane, Edgware.
14. Queen of Hearts, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore.
15. The George, Bury St, Ruislip.
16. The Granville, Uxbridge Rd, Ealing.
17. The Royal, Boston Manor Rd, Hanwell.