



WeWatch

surveilling cctv in london



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WeWatch

WeWatch informs you about CCTV surveillance and aims to help you to protect your privacy.

This handy sized booklet helps you to become aware of CCTV surveillance, gives you advise about how to protect your privacy and is an useful tool for collecting information about CCTV cameras anywhere around the city.

Maupa, the inquisitive monkey knows everything about CCTV surveillance and will guide you through this booklet as well as the WeWatch Project.

Become a Maupa and meet other ones online at www.wewatch.org.uk

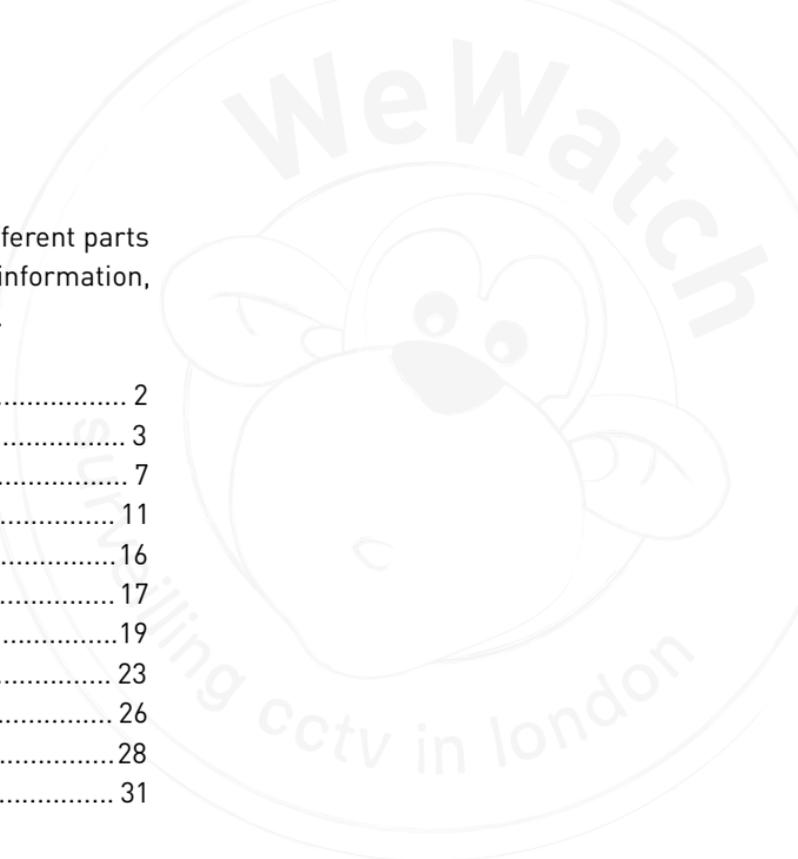
Maupa



Content

This booklet contains three different parts regarding CCTV surveillance: information, tips and the GetActive section.

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THE SPYED FISH

183

OPEN

Books

Big Brother
Restaurant

Have you
ever thought about
CCTV surveillance
before?

CCTV cameras can be found all over London: they are on streets, in car parks, in the underground, in shops and on most private premises. We hardly realise by how many CCTV cameras we are surrounded and that there are many anonymous people observing us every day.





Have a look at places monitored by CCTV cameras. Usually some CCTV cameras aren't working.

Monitor Room

The Metropolitan Police has a huge office where they control many CCTV cameras, like the ones in crowded places or the Traffic Enforcement Cameras. Other CCTV cameras are run by private companies or even private people.

How does CCTV surveillance work?

1. CCTV cameras usually record 24/7
2. The footage is usually stored over a period of a month
3. Quite often it's difficult to figure out to whom a CCTV camera belongs to
4. You are eligible to get a copy of any footage you are on
5. To request a copy of the footage you have to show proofs of identity and you have to pay a service fee
6. For Westminster you can contact Data Protection: DataProtection@westminster.gov.uk
7. The police usually doesn't check all the tapes when your wallet or your bike got stolen



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UNDERGROUND

24/7
Exchange

The Bo...

Most CCTV sign are coloured yellow and blue but that doesn't help a lot to become aware of them, there are far to many signs around us.

The Underground is one of the first places in England where CCTV surveillance was introduced. More than 12, 000 CCTV cameras cover London Underground stations, ticket hall areas, walkways, platforms and trains. All places with CCTV have blue coloured signs, like the one at this station.



Listen to the security announcements when you are in the underground, overground or DLR. They say that CCTV is in use for our safety.

Underground

Station

Any underground station in London has an office where a member of staff is controlling the platforms via CCTV. You can always ask him to have a look at it.

In the underground there are different types of CCTV cameras. Some can turn 360 degrees and the camera is completely hidden like the one in the centre of this image. Others are marked with an underground sign and have this typical square CCTV camera shape.

Tube

In most tubes CCTV cameras are installed. Especially the new ones, introduced during the upgrade after the year 2000, are provided with CCTV cameras. Posters in the cars inform you about the new CCTV cameras (page 27) but it is really difficult to spot them as they are hidden.

A pub landlord in north London successfully refused to install CCTV cams which were claimed as necessary in order to get his licence. In his opinion this would have been an affront to civil liberties.

The Big Eye



The illustration shows a street scene with two shops. The shop on the left is 'The Big Eye', which has a dark blue sign with the name in gold cursive. It has a large window with a grid pattern and a door with a yellow sign. There are two yellow street lamps on either side of the entrance and two potted plants. The shop on the right is 'Butcher's Look', which has a dark brown sign with the name in gold. It has a green awning and a door with a blue sign. A man in a white shirt and dark pants is crouching on the sidewalk in front of the shop, looking at a sign that says 'Pork Eyes'. There is a blue trash bin to the right of the man.

Butcher's Look

Pork
Eyes



'Bad' areas are usually less surveilled than posh ones and crimes often happen in places where no CCTV cameras are. But it's impossible to cover every corner of the city...

Privacy

Why Privacy?

Just imagine you are at the till of a coffee shop and the shop assistant asks you whether you think it's a good idea to drink your third coffee today and refuses to sell you one. How does he know?

CCTV cameras all over the city scanned your face and stored the data without you noticing.

This might seem like something really futuristic but it is very easy to recognise your face and to store this information in a data bank. This data may even be easily connected to your credit card data and other things...

So your need and wish to stay unnoticed or unidentified in the public space is taken slowly away from all of us. That's why it is important to understand and control the information other people get about you and the way they threaten you because of this information.



Protect Your Privacy

1. Don't look at CCTV cameras! You can't see them but they see you very clear.

2. Move with the crowd! That makes it more difficult for an observer to spot you as an individual.

3. Avoid big hats or other outstanding pieces of clothes! They attract attention even when you are within with a big crowd. Decent clothes and colours make you almost invisible in public spaces.

4. Detect a hidden camera:
It is very simple to make your own camera detector with an empty toilet paper roll and some small parts for a couple of pounds. To spot a hidden camera just look through the roll scanning the room very slowly. When you detect a reflection that doesn't disappear when you move it will be a CCTV camera!

5. Avoid to run, because observers might think you run away from something bad you did and will follow you with their camera.



Rules Of Surveillance

How an observer decides to monitor you:

1. The wrong time! Observers love to monitor people alone in the night or on places they are not supposed to be at a certain time.
2. Observers always watch out for people who don't 'belong' in a certain place.
3. Observers might spot you just because of the clothes you wear. Ask yourself, are they inappropriate for the place you are going to?
4. Long coats, big hats, as well as caps, are attention catchers!
5. Another reason to monitor you, is when the observer knows you
6. You will be observed when you have drawn attention to you once before.
7. Maybe he/she just finds you attractive and wants to have a closer look at you

Mr. Charrington

LEYEBRARY

Eye & Mash

Barber

Recently CCTV cars have been launched in London. You see them sometimes in Westminster and more and more often even in other councils.

Even in your local library you might find some interesting books, articles and even films about CCTV surveillance.

OPENING SOON



What are they looking at?

CCTV History

...it's a young history

1. In the 60s police officers in London decided to install the first public CCTV cameras at Trafalgar Square.
2. Just a couple of years later, the London underground was monitored by CCTV cameras, too.
3. In the 90s the License Plate Identification was introduced in the city centre of London. Since then every time you enter the city centre with your car, they know where you are.
4. It's fascinating that most people are in favour of CCTV, but to be honest many people lied in the press about the positive effects of the surveillance system in the past.
5. Independent evaluations have shown that CCTV cameras aren't really helpful to fight crime and some organisations try to make people more aware of the loss of privacy caused by CCTV surveillance.
6. Critical thinking towards a surveillance state is rising



Can you count all the CCTV cameras? Some of them are very old and not in use, but no one feels responsible to take them down...

In 2032 face recognition, as well as walking pattern recognition CCTV cameras will be installed all over London. It will be more difficult to protect ones privacy.

These premises are protected by CCTV



Surveillance On The Street

CCTV Cameras

There's a big market for CCTV cameras. They have various shapes and sizes depending on their purpose. On streets we usually find huge ones, some even in the shape of a street lamp. In buildings there are rather smaller ones, usually panning 360 degrees and with an hemispherical shape. Most in use are the square ones you might find on CCTV signs as well.

Have a look on Maupa's Street in this booklet to discover various types of CCTV cameras!



Surveillance On The Street

CCTV Signs

CCTV signs have to be placed in areas where CCTV cameras are installed, though there isn't any definition of the area, neither there's a definition for the size of the sign and the text it should display.

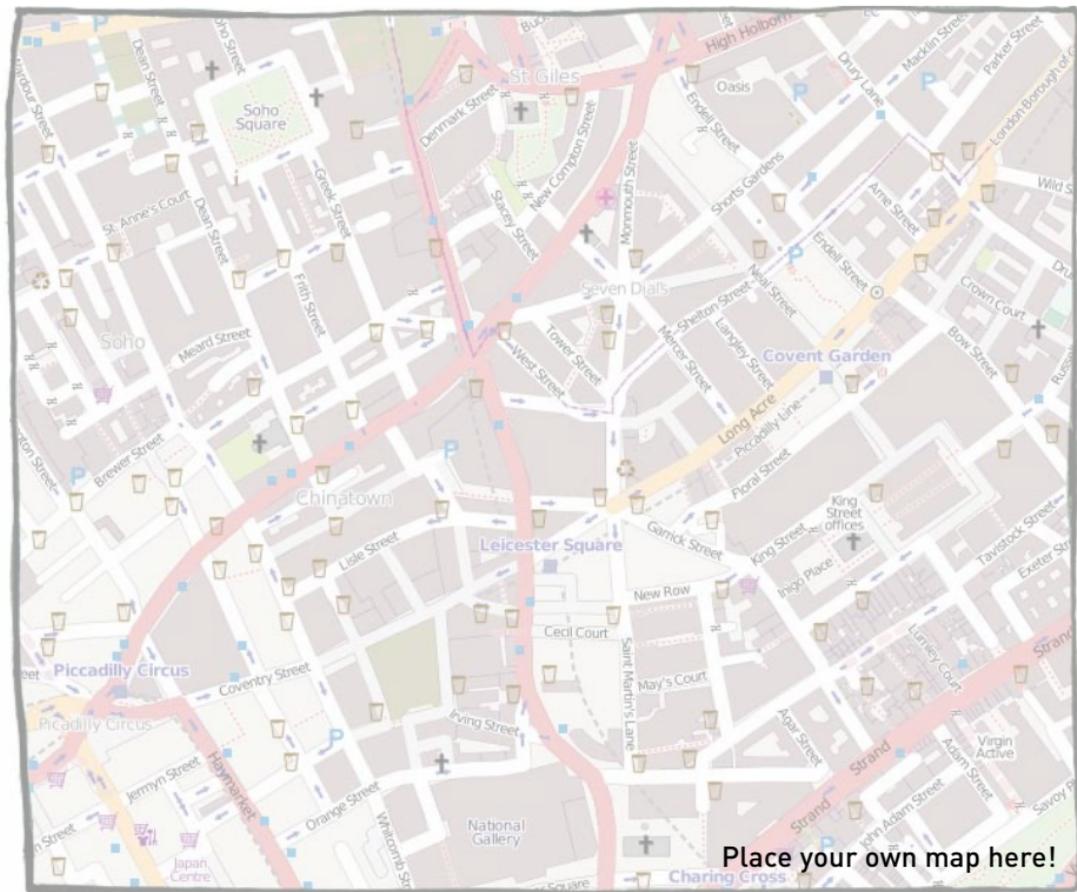
That's why some signs are very small, placed very high or low on walls and anyone looks different. Most often those signs are in the signal colours yellow and red.

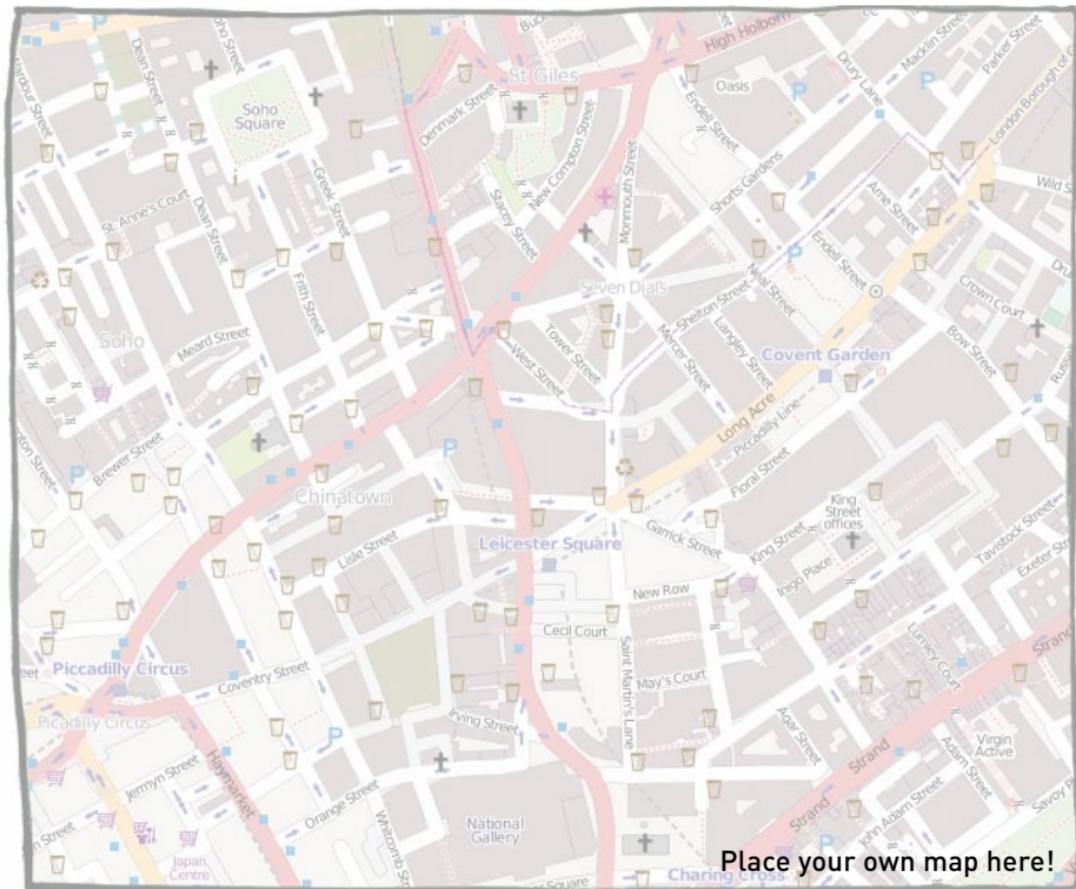


Your CCTV Map

CCTV in your borough

1. Go to openstreetmap.org
2. Search your living area or work area...
3. Print this area in a scale you can see every street
4. Take this booklet and a pencil with you when leaving the house
5. Flag any place where you find a CCTV camera on your map
6. See how many cameras are in your area
7. Share your findings on wewatch.org.uk





Want More?

WeWatch Community

If you want to learn more or want to become a Maupa in our community and share some thoughts or upload some images of CCTV cameras, then visit us on:

www.wewatch.org.uk

Learn more about CCTV surveillance:

“Every Step You Take” (2007) is a documentation by Nino Leitner about CCTV surveillance in London. Books like “Little Brothers” (2008) by Cory Doctorow or “1984” (1949) by George Orwell deal with the problem of surveillance states. Or visit online pages of organisations like NoCCTV and Big Brother Watch.

For more information visit our homepage.

