



THAMESMEAD AND THE ELIZABETH LINE

THE RIDGEWAY

This path from Plumstead to Crossness used to be called the Southern Outfall Sewer, which explains more clearly what it is - the path is on top of the South London sewer built by Joseph Bazalgette and opened in 1865. The pipes terminate at the Crossness treatment works and pumping station to the North East of our route. The building, and the enormous steam engines, were a wonder of the Victorian world and after years of dereliction are being restored. Some walkers will remember the Greenway, which is an identical pathway North of the river which has been on the Unlock walk in Stratford.



WOOLWICH ARSENAL

At the time of the First World War, the Arsenal was one of the largest industrial areas in the world, with about 80,000 people working there, and it covered most of the area on our walk between the railway and the river. Guns had been tested on the site since the mid 1600's and the site grew since then in size and importance. By the time of the Second World War munitions sites were more dispersed to make them harder to bomb, but the arsenal remained a very important centre with around 20,000 employees. It was gradually reduced after the war and weapons manufacture finished in 1967.



THAMESMEAD NEW TOWN

With the closure of the Arsenal, a huge amount of land became available for redevelopment. The Belmarsh prison complex was built North of Plumstead station, but the largest project was the creation of Thamesmead in the late 1960's. Much of the area had been flooded in 1953, so the original design had garages on the ground floors, with homes on the first floor and above. The blocks, with their brutalist concrete architecture, have appeared in many films such as A Clockwork Orange, but at the same time many waterways and lakes were designed as part of the scheme to create a calming influence and reduce vandalism. The homes were originally occupied by families from inner London, but the area now has the UK's highest proportion of people of African descent, which is reflected in the local Churches.

ELIZABETH LINE

The idea of an East West railway line across London was first developed in the 1940's, and in due course the Crossrail act of parliament was approved in 2008, with work starting in 2009. Thirteen years, a name change and about 20 billion pounds later, train services started in 2022. Much of the delay - and cost - was in sorting out incompatible signalling technology used along the route. It has dramatically shortened the journey time from Abbey Wood and Woolwich into Central London and the West End, which has resulted in a housing boom on land near the stations. The trains are nine coaches and 200 metres long and can carry up to 1500 people each, and have a top speed of 90 miles per hour.

LESNES ABBEY

This is the "Abbey" in "Abbey Wood". Ancient woodlands "Wood" is directly to the South, and includes a site of special scientific interest where members of the public are allowed, with supervision, to dig for fossils. The abbey was founded in 1178 by Richard de Luci, Chief Justiciar of England (the King's chief adviser). It was an important landowner and involved in draining the local marshes but, partly because of the expense, it was never rich, and was one of the first to be closed by Henry VIII and demolished in 1534. The site became farmland, before being excavated in 1909 and it became a park. The site is now managed by the London Borough of Bexley.



DON'T FORGET

- Follow current Covid guidelines.
- A-Z map of London. (if you have one)
- Some of the churches on the route may provide refreshments.
- A snack or picnic lunch. (some food may be available on the route too)
- We walk whatever the weather.
- Look for things to pray about as you walk.
- Start at any time after 9am at any church checkpoint, but with time to get back again by 5pm.
- Get your map stamped at each checkpoint.
- Use the quiz sheet to draw your attention to points of interest along the way.
- Take time to learn about the churches you visit and about Unlock.

Please work with us to ensure that the **2023** walk generates more income to fund Unlock's vital work. You can do this by:

Seriously & prayerfully consider how you can support Unlock's ongoing work.

Sponsorship – get as many sponsors as you can, by explaining to them what you are raising money for; and ensure that they gift aid their sponsorship wherever possible.

Promoting Unlock's work in your church or area
Put up a display in your church, or write something for your church magazine.

Bring along some friends – encourage new people to join you for an Unlock London Walk experience in **2023**.

Through your Church – persuade your church to give funds to support Unlock as part of its regular missionary giving.

Donations – you can make a personal donation to Unlock's work, either on a one off basis, or better yet, at regular intervals.

The aims of the Unlock London Walk are:

- To raise money for Unlock's work in deprived urban areas across the UK.
- To raise awareness of the issues of exclusion that Unlock exists to address.
- To showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas. Come and see what God is doing in the city.
- To encourage churches in more affluent parts of the country to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city.
- To give 100s of people an opportunity for an unusual and enlightening day out in London.

Unlock works by running local projects in UK cities, where a trained Unlock Development Worker, accompanied by a local team, is employed to encourage and enable local people and their leaders to grow in faith and confidence by:

UNLOCKING REAL LIFE STORIES OF URBAN PEOPLE
REVEALING GOOD NEWS OF THE DOWN TO EARTH CHRIST
RELEASING LIFE CHANGING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

2022 donations from the walk have raised over £21,000. In a difficult economic climate this is a great testament to the commitment of our faithful band of walk supporters, and we really appreciate it. However, we must not be complacent and Unlock needs your support more than ever. Unlock relies heavily on income from the Unlock London walk to fund our work. Because we are directly engaged in Christian Mission it is very difficult to secure other types of funding. So please keep up the momentum and do all you can to maximise the returns from the 2023 Walk. Unlock local projects are making a real difference, bringing the gospel to people that the churches haven't been able to reach; and there's more we can deliver if we have the resources!

MAKING YOUR DONATION COUNT EVEN MORE

Donating on-line saves Unlock valuable staff time and money and is quick and easy to do via:

Give as You Live Donate

If you want a quicker simpler way to solicit and collect your Unlock sponsorship you can now register with Give as You Live Donate, who will collect all your sponsor money, claim the gift aid, and send it all to Unlock on your behalf. This allows you to promote your fundraising for Unlock via social media or by e-mail, and to collect sponsorship from people at a distance who you do not regularly meet up with. It saves you managing a pile of small change or writing a cheque. It also saves Unlock time and money, making your support more valuable to us, because more of it can be channelled straight into our front line work with the Bible amongst the urban poor.

For further details on how to request sponsorship or make a donation go to unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php

Give as You Live - For On-line Shoppers

Would you like to support Unlock every time you shop online at no cost to you and no cost to us? With Give as You Live, thousands of major brands including Play.com, John Lewis and Expedia have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to Unlock. The average shopper will raise £2.10 per month through what they already buy online. **Give as You Live** is easy to set up and use. Simply visit **Give as You Live** at giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock for full details, try it today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

The following are available are available from unlock-urban.org.uk, or from the Unlock National Office:

- More copies of this map brochure & sponsor forms.
- Resources to help you promote Unlock's work.
- Information about Unlock local projects – real stories of real people.
- Unlock resources free to use.

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UNLOCK LONDON WALK 40 THAMESMEAD AND THE ELIZABETH LINE SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023 9AM TO 5PM

