

WELCOME TO UNLOCK WALK 40

THAMESMEAD AND THE ELIZABETH LINE



Our Patience is on the line

Anyone who has a relationship with God will know that God does things in God's own time and in God's own way. We may be made in God's image, but sometimes we lack patience to wait on God's timing.

The 2023 Unlock London walk is a good example of this. We originally planned to have a walk in this area in 2019, because the Crossrail Line was going to open with Abbey Wood Station at its eastern end. But the line and the new station were delayed... and delayed. Then there was Covid.... So, we've had a few years to wait between our original idea and being able to make it a reality.

If we were unhappy and frustrated by the delay, it was just a pale shadow of the impact the delays have had on the people living along the new line. For them the new

Crossrail, now Elizabeth, Line affected their lives and prospects. Access to better jobs, easier travel, inward investment and so on were all adversely affected by the delays; and in areas such as Abbey Wood and Thamesmead, every lost opportunity had a serious impact on the future and prosperity of many individuals and families.

When we knew that the route was becoming (reliably) possible we made the decision to start again reflecting that the year we were doing our preparation and planning work was the Queen's Jubilee year. This was significant because the new line had been re-named the Elizabeth Line in her honour. It gave us the opportunity to reflect on what was meant by a "Jubilee" which is a Jewish and Christian concept. It was also useful to reflect on the qualities that were being celebrated, which were the queen's diligence and commitment to her duty, her Christian Faith, which added depth to her work, and her devotion, which transformed her work into a life's vocation. This all fits with Unlock's vision, too, and we learn that the aim of the ancient Jubilee was to do three things – bring about celebration, emancipation and restoration to the people. On reflection we have to admit that Unlock aims for those in all that we do, every year, which means that we are a Jubilee Movement.

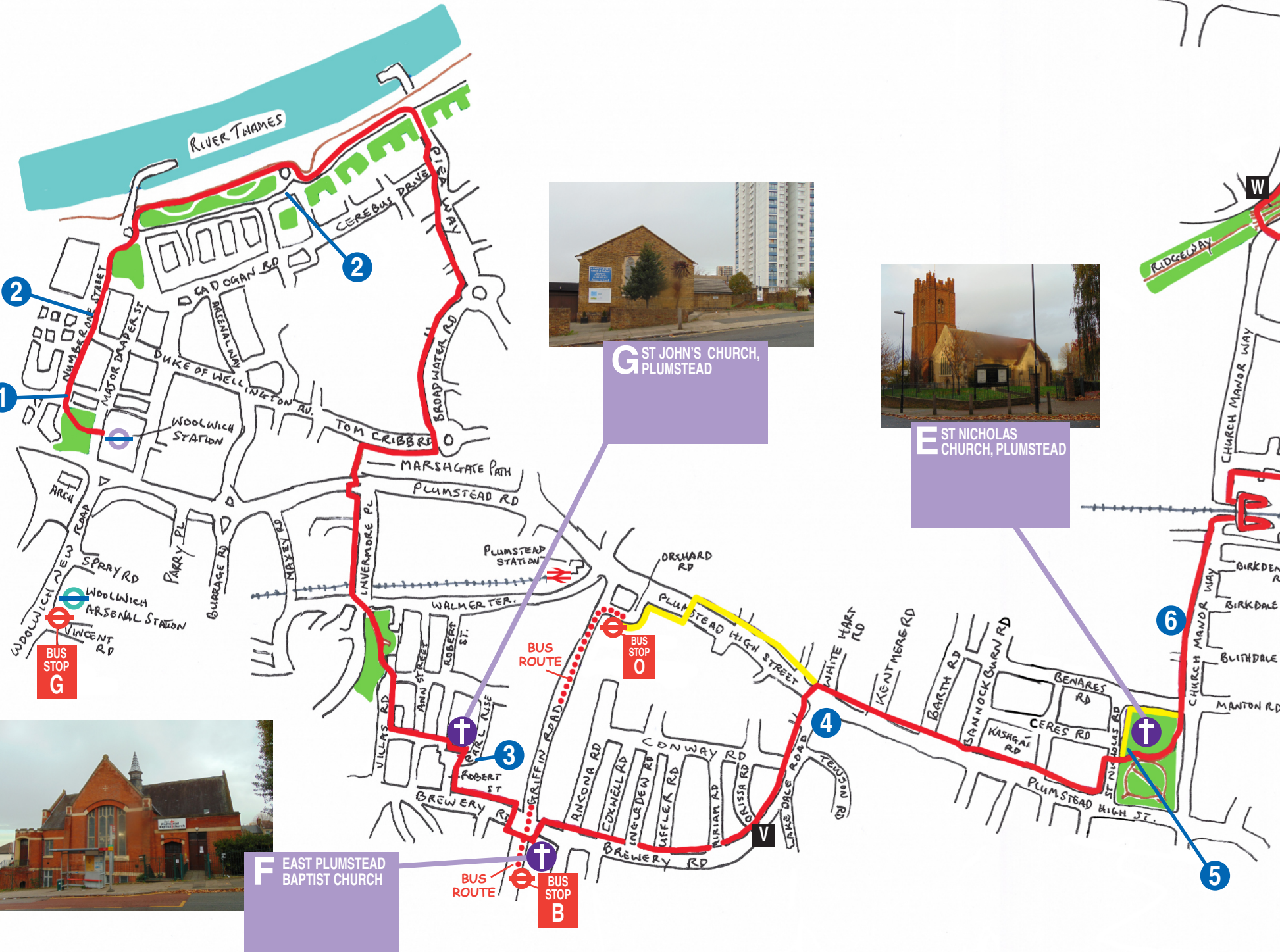
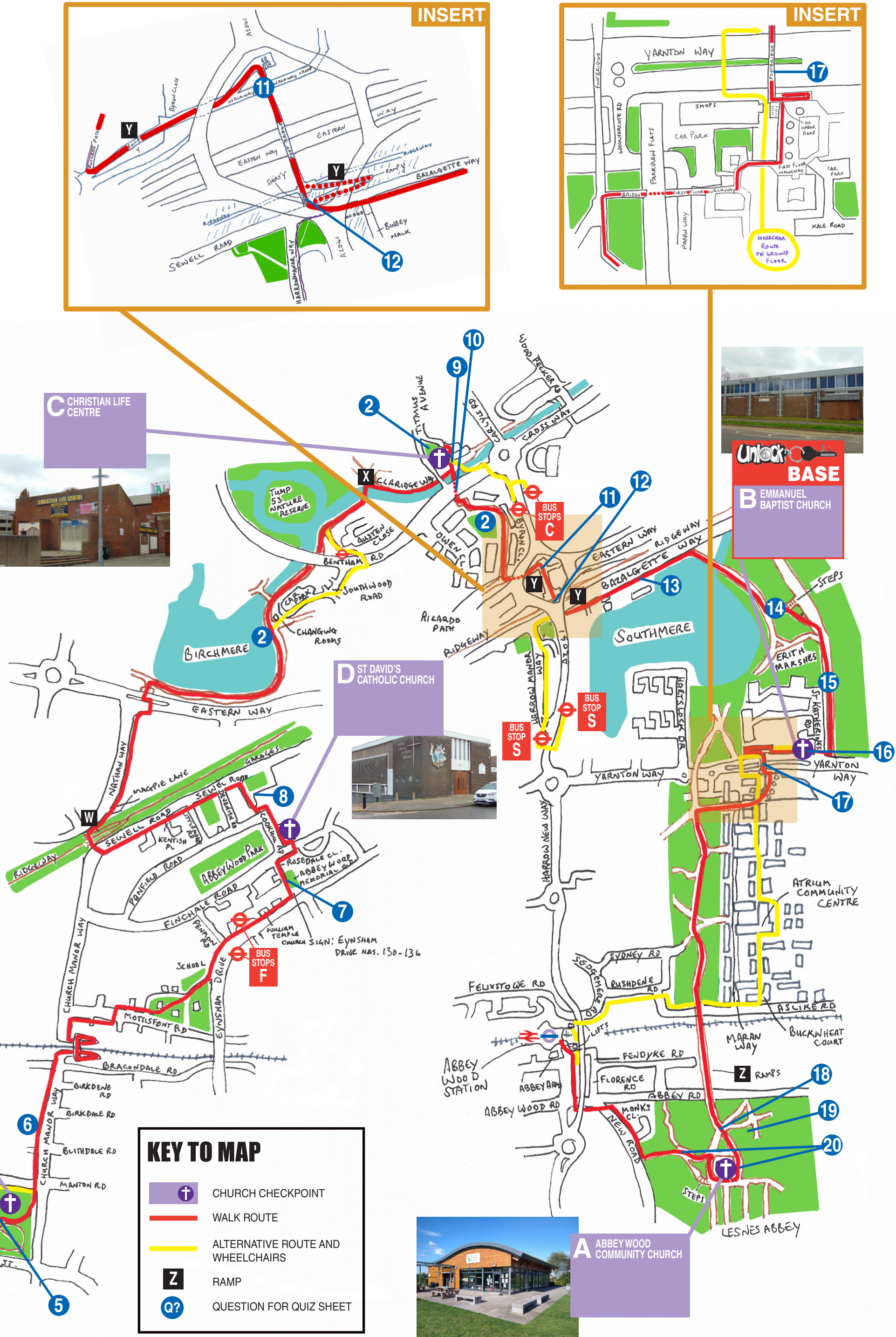
The Queen's celebration was also significant to us in Unlock as our 50th birthday was also in 2022, and the anniversary was at the forefront of our minds as we began working on the walk route. During our celebrations we explored the idea of our life's work with

Unlock as a voyage along a river and reflected on the major points on the way. Being involved in the planning of our walks obviously drew me into my experiences with the many churches I have encountered and spent time with; and, of course, it drew me into considering the workers and resources that Unlock has blessed communities with across the country. Fifty years of blessings won through Unlock's work is a great vision to hold against the Queen's own devotion and commitment to serve the nation.

Then, sadly, Queen Elizabeth died and the whole country seemed to come out in mourning, and we realised that this year's walk would have to be something more than just a way of connecting stations on the Elizabeth Line, but a walk that, in some ways would be a celebration of both Unlock's work and her memory; a celebration of patience, commitment, diligence and faithfulness, and a recognition that we can all pray for the good news that every Unlock Walk brings; a message of Christian love, shared by many communities on a very special path that leads us through the streets and lives of the people of Woolwich, Plumstead, Abbey Wood and Thamesmead.

If we can have a reward for our patience, surely that is what we should aim for.

Ian Smith
(Unlock London Walk Team)



KEY TO MAP	
	CHURCH CHECKPOINT
	WALK ROUTE
	ALTERNATIVE ROUTE AND WHEELCHAIRS
	RAMP
	QUESTION FOR QUIZ SHEET

GETTING THERE

As usual walkers are encouraged to start anywhere and go either way, to avoid a bulge at checkpoints. The area is served by Crossrail and National Rail services, the DLR and numerous bus services. **Since many walkers are expected to arrive by the Elizabeth Line, it will help to ease bunching at checkpoints if those arriving by other means plan to start their adventure somewhere other than at Abbey Wood or Woolwich stations.** The Elizabeth Line link between Woolwich and Abbey Wood is intended as part of the walk.

ELIZABETH LINE

From Reading and Sheffield via Paddington and Liverpool Street to Woolwich and Abbey Wood

DLR

From north of the river to Woolwich Arsenal

NATIONAL RAIL

From Luton, Cannon St, Charing X, London Bridge and stations in north Kent to Woolwich, Plumstead and Abbey Wood

BUSES

From Crystal Palace (122), Dartford (96), Elephant & Castle (53), Peckham (177), Orpington (51)

Other bus services crossing the walk area include: 99, 180, 229, 244, 291, 301, 422, 469, 472. Bus stops B, C, F, G, O & S marked on the map link to notes below for wheelchair users (and maybe the footwear).

FARES

London buses are cashless. You will need a bus pass, a contactless card or mobile phone, or else an Oyster or travel card. A single bus journey is charged at £1.65 (change of bus allowed if within 1 hour of start of journey) and multiple bus journeys are capped at £4.95. For a mixture of bus and train journeys paid with an Oyster or contactless payment card or mobile phone, daily capping works out cheaper than buying a Day Travel Card. Travelcards are available from tube/rail stations.

PARKING

On Saturdays there is free on-road parking in the vicinity of all the Checkpoints. Additionally, the Unlock Base Church, Checkpoint B, has a car park.

WALKERS WITH WHEELS

The entire walk route is step free and push chair friendly, but some of the ramps could well provide a challenge for users of heavier wheelchairs. The ramps are marked on the map at V, W, X, Y & Z. A ground level route between Checkpoints A and B avoiding the ramps on the bridge at Z is indicated on the map, making use of the public lifts at Abbey Wood station to cross the railway line. Frequent accessible bus services provide a means of avoiding V, W, X and Y. Bus service 53 (every 10 minutes) links bus stops O & B on the map, avoiding the steep hill at V. Ramp W is not too bad at 1 in 18. X is a small but steep hump bridge over the little canal. To avoid W & X use bus service 177 (every 10 minutes) between stops F & C on the map. To avoid ramps at Y use any bus (every minute or two) between bus stops S & C. A sheet of more detailed advice for wheelchair users is available on the website or by post or email on request from the office. Note that the map indicates which side of the road is best for wheelchair users.

Bus services 53 and 291 from bus stop G outside Woolwich Arsenal Station will take you to stops close to Checkpoints F and G.

Abbey Wood, Woolwich and Woolwich Arsenal Stations have step free access to all platforms. Plumstead Station platforms are accessed only by steps.

Further information is available on the Transport for London website at: tfl.gov.uk

LENGTH OF ROUTE

Approx 7.5 miles

Map not to scale

Date of next year's walk is
27 APRIL 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Whilst every care has been taken in the design and compilation of this map & notes, Unlock cannot accept any liability arising from any inaccuracy within any part of this document or for any injury sustained whilst doing the walk.