

WELCOME TO UNLOCK WALK 33 AROUND THE ORBIT

The Unlock Walk 33 will encounter some of the places we visited in 2010 but the landscape here has changed enormously since then. New populations have added their mark and some areas have prospered as a result of the massive investment made in developing the Olympic site.

The walk's title is "Around the Orbit" and in an odd sort of way, the Arcelormittal Orbit (to give it its full title), has some of the qualities of a church steeple. It is monumental in scale and forms a place-mark in the landscape of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Westfield Shopping Centre also dominates the area and, as the largest urban shopping centre in Europe, it has earned the nickname – "a cathedral to shopping".

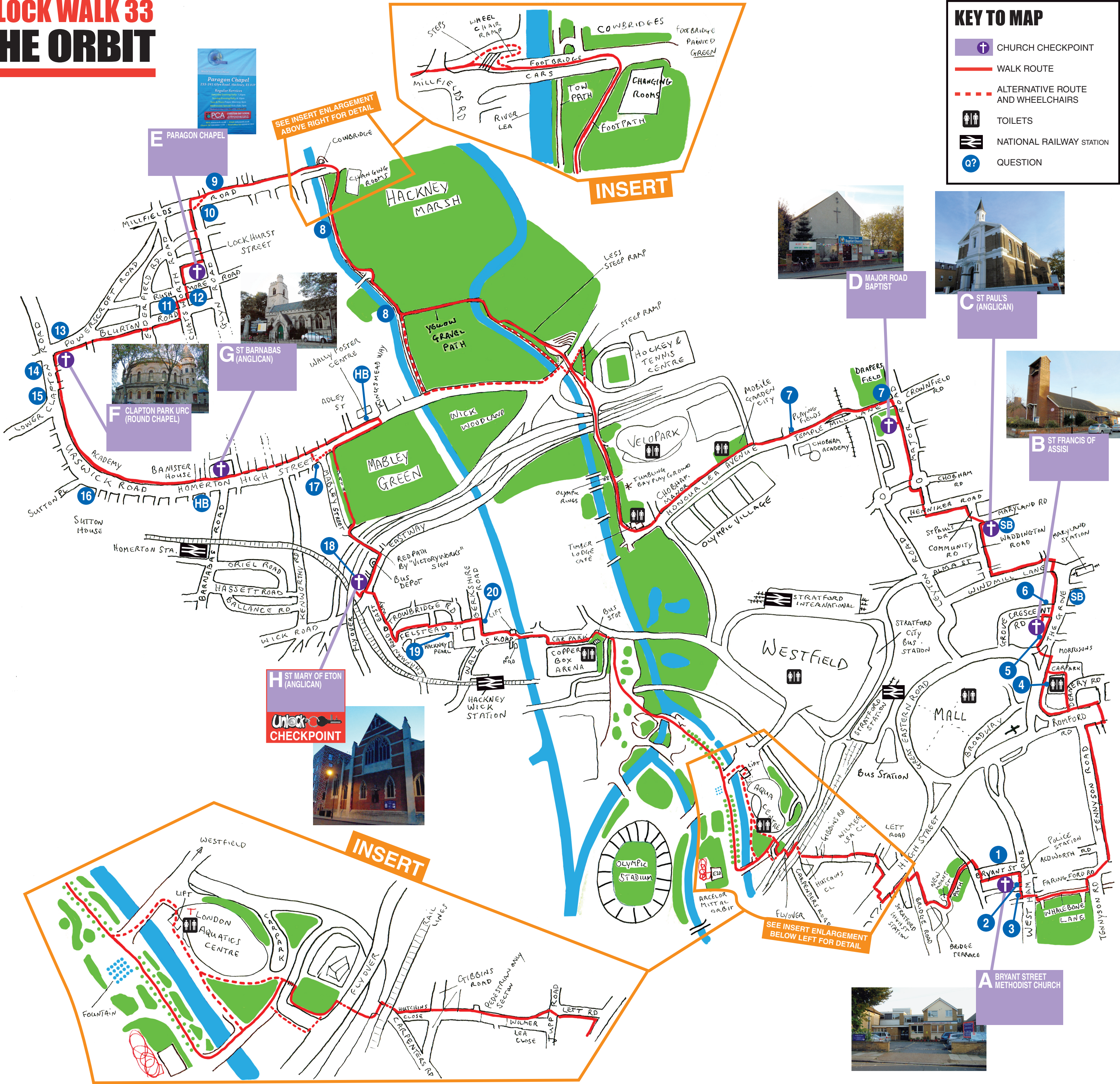
This walk encounters these now iconic features from time to time but does not actually pass through or stop at them. Instead, we will be connecting with real churches and each of these makes a clear and important statement in their own landscapes and streets.

The Orbit and Westfield help us reflect on what makes churches different from secular monumental structures. Churches signal that a worshipping community is present in this place; they proclaim God's glory through their presence and through the purpose for which they have been built. They are here to serve the people rather than prosper from them. Any building can be transformed by this higher purpose, and visiting this rich variety of buildings and worshipping communities is part of what makes the Unlock walk such a special experience.

In contrast with the completely secular space provided by the Olympic Park we will discover that London streets are blessed with many worshipping communities. Along Homerton High Street you will see many churches - some familiar, some very new - occupying traditional church sites and a mixture of other spaces including old shops and warehouses. They all serve to reassure and sustain us as we continue on, knowing that the communities we walk through are still actively living for and worshipping God.

So, perhaps as we walk through and appreciate the beauty and attractions offered by the Olympic Park, we can reflect on how the walk draws together a network of worshipping communities that serve and sustain the spiritual needs of many who live and work there too. Then we might say a prayer that perhaps the next time we decide to include this space in an Unlock Walk, there might be a place of worship located within the Park for us to use as one of our checkpoint churches.

Ian Smith



THE WALKING ROUTE

Some access to the park has been restricted by continuing construction including Crossrail works, and also a malfunctioning lift. Information concerning any last-minute diversion will be posted at the adjacent churches.

IMPORTANT NOTE

LONDON BUSES ARE NOW CASHLESS
You will need either a **Bus Pass**, a **Travelcard**, an **Oyster Card** or a **Contactless Payment Card**. An adult single bus journey on Oyster or contactless card is charged at **£1.50** and multiple journeys are capped at **£4.40**. Travelcards are available from tube/rail stations.

GETTING THERE

As usual walkers are encouraged to start anywhere and go either way, to avoid a bulge at checkpoints. Homerton and Hackney Wick (London Overground) stations and Stratford High Street (DLR) are all adjacent to the walk route. The **308** bus route crosses the walk route at six points, the **242** bus goes along Millfields Road, and Homerton High Street is served by six other bus routes.

RAIL

Stratford.

TUBE

Stratford (Central and Jubilee Lines).

OVERGROUND

Homerton, Hackney Wick, Stratford.

DLR

Stratford High Street, Stratford.

PARKING

- Residential area between St Barnabas Church & Paragon Chapel (**FREE**)
- Near Hackney Wick Station (**NORTH OR SOUTH, FREE**)
- E15, to the north of Crownfield Road (**FREE**)
- Westfield (**£9.50**)

WARNING: there is a **£60 penalty** for parking in Olympic Park Venue car parks.

WHEELCHAIR USERS

All the stations on the map except Maryland have step-free access.

You can go either way around the route.

At Hackney Marsh there is an optional road diversion to avoid the yellow unmetalled path which is firm but slightly rutted from cycles.

If the Wallis Road lift is out of action, wheelchair users should use the **308** bus (ten minute service) between St Mary's and Copper Box (three minute ride).

CLOCKWISE: On leaving Hackney Marsh you need to use the moderately steep ramp to gain the first orange overbridge.

ANTICLOCKWISE: At this bridge there is an optional steep ramp down to avoid the hump on the bridge.

If respite is needed, remember the single-decker **308** bus crosses the walk route at six places, including this bridge.

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

LENGTH OF ROUTE

Approx 8 miles
Map not to scale

**Date of next year's walk is
29 APRIL 2017**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Geoff Coggins - route, access & quiz sheet
Ian Smith - map
Tim & Sarah Watkins-Idle - notes
Tim Watkins-Idle - photos
Ashley Emery - design able-design.co.uk

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.