



Explore centuries of change in Walworth and Kennington, including Victorian social housing projects, the regeneration of Burgess Park, and artists' workshops in Iliffe Yard.

1 Aylesbury Estate

In 2005 Southwark Council was faced with a choice: it could spend £350million updating this 1960s housing to basic living standards, or demolish and start again.

The decision was taken to redevelop the estate to create better and more homes. The old estate provided the backdrop for many TV shows such as The Bill, as well as films on urban deprivation like Harry Brown, starring Michael Caine. Tony Blair chose it as the first place to make a speech as Prime Minister in 1997, in an effort to demonstrate the government's intention to care for the poorest in society.

The new development will be more contemporary with nearly double the amount of homes. Of the 4,900 new flats, just under half will be available for social housing and the rest will be sold to fund the whole scheme.

2 Burgess Park

Named after Jessie Burgess, Camberwell's first woman Mayor, this park is also unique in the way it was created, by gradually carving out land between the 1950s and 80s. The closure of the 19th century Grand Surrey Canal in the early 1970s left several 'bridges to nowhere'. It transported timber to the Surrey Commercial Docks; the old route is still visible in the Surrey Canal Walk at the top of the park.

The area was in need of change after suffering a great deal of bomb damage in World War Two. However a lot of perfectly good homes were also demolished to build the park, which caused some local controversy. Since the boundaries of the park are still in dispute, there may well be further development and change.

In 2012 Burgess Park re-opened after an £8m transformation, establishing it as a park central to the local community and recognised more widely



View of Aylesbury Estate from Burgess Park, photograph by Sara Moiola

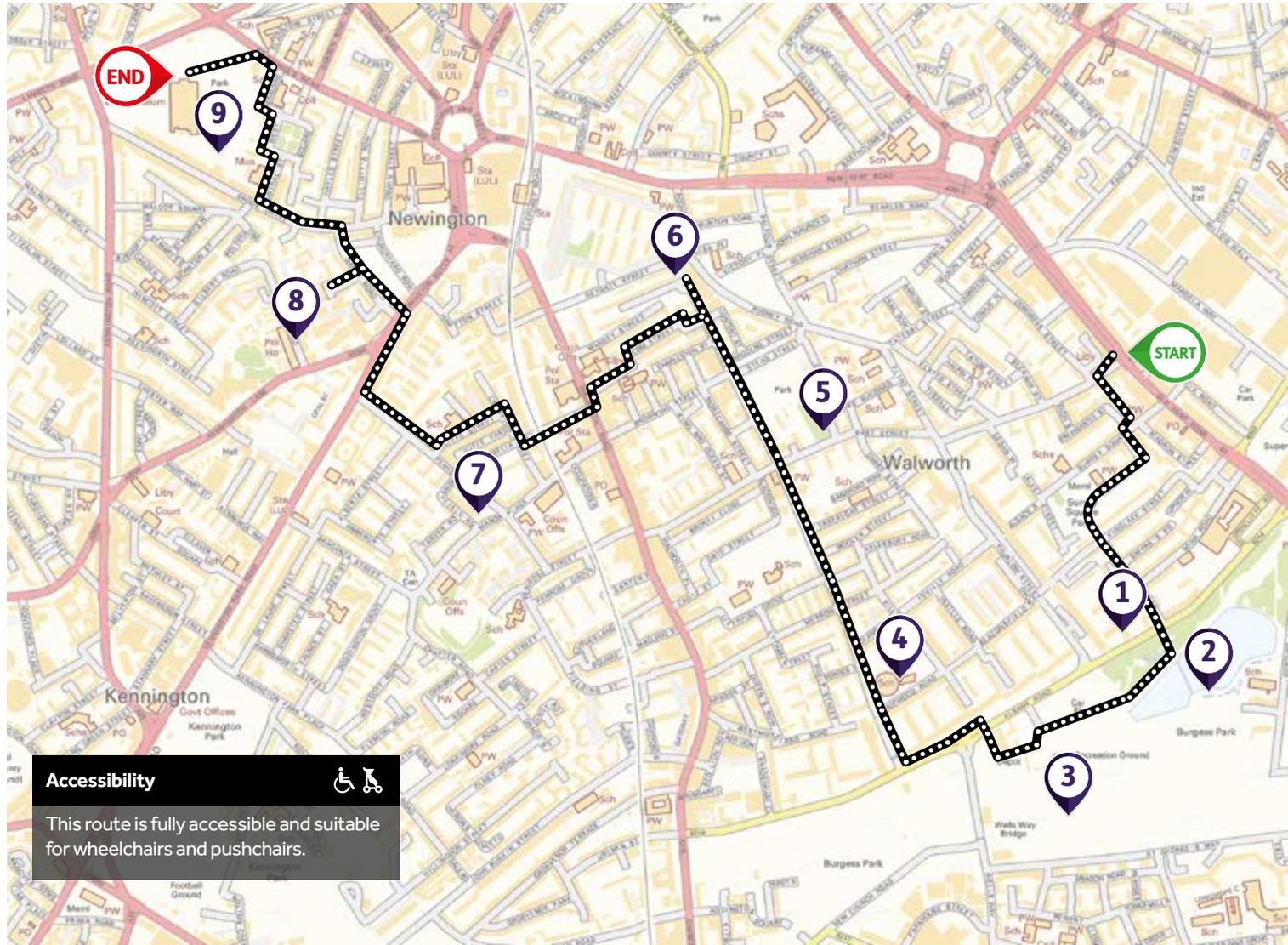
for its heritage, sports facilities, lake, wildlife, design and horticultural excellence and even barbecues.

3 Chumleigh Gardens

This is a hidden gem of tranquillity at the heart of Burgess Park. Based around three almshouses built in the 1820s, four world gardens provide some unexpected surprises from far corners of the globe. They reflect Islamic, Mediterranean, Oriental and Caribbean, and English garden plants and styles. Almshouses were the original social housing, providing a safe and affordable place for vulnerable people before state welfare was developed in the 20th century.



Chumleigh Gardens, photograph by Sara Moiola



Accessibility



This route is fully accessible and suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.



These were built by the Female Friendly Society, founded in 1802, and would have provided essential housing for 'poor, aged women of good character'.

**4 Michael Faraday School**

As part of the regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate, this school has become a flagship for the new housing project. It is named after the famous chemist and physicist who was born in the area, and whose ground-breaking discoveries enabled the use of electricity in everyday technology.

The unusual circular design is a vast improvement on the cramped 1970s school buildings in the centre of the Aylesbury Estate, and encloses a large open space at the centre.

**5 East Street Market**

Also known locally as 'The Lane', or 'East Lane', the market has been running since 1880. Open every day except Monday, it has over 250 stalls, and is a good place to find African and Caribbean fruit and vegetables.

East Street is also famous for being the birthplace of Charlie Chaplin and features in the title sequence to the TV programme Only Fools and Horses.

Reflecting dramatic social change, no. 153A East Street was the home of the first birth control clinic. Founded by Dr. Drysdale and Margaret Sanger in 1921, it provided an alternative in an age where there was little choice. Although their motives and belief in sterilising the 'unfit' may be maligned today, their pioneering actions undoubtedly helped thousands of women who felt tied to a life of bearing children.

**6 The former Heygate Estate**

This is another example of the extensive housing regeneration in the area. Home to more than 3,000 people, Heygate Estate was based on Corbusier's ideas of a modern living environment. Known as 'Brutalism', the concept was to create tall concrete blocks around central communal



**Elephant & Castle Regeneration Plan,**  
Artists impression

gardens, with bridges that linked all areas together. Ironically, this created an isolated environment with little sense of community, and a worrying level of violence and crime. The new development has generated controversy over the number of homes that will be available as social housing.



**East Street Market,**  
photograph by Robert Larkin-Frost

Very little of the original buildings remain as work has now started to create the new Elephant Park estate as part of the overall regeneration of the Elephant and Castle area. Over the next 15 years, Lend Lease and Southwark Council's regeneration of Elephant and Castle will create nearly 3,000 new homes as well as 160,000 sq ft of retail space. It will also generate around 5,000 new jobs in the local area and will house Central London's largest new park for 70 years.

**7 Iliffe Yard**

This was originally part of the Pullens Estate, which comprised 600 flats surrounding four working yards, of which about 300 flats and three yards – Iliffe, Peacock and Clements – now remain. The scheme was built with artisans and small traders in mind, so families could live and work on the premises. Today they house a creative community and are rated by iconic designers such as Terence Conran

as being a vital force in London's cultural and artistic life. In 1896 Charlie Chaplin, aged seven, lived here for a short time until he was transferred to a special 'Poor Law Residential School' for workhouse children.

**8 Osborn Water Tower House**

Originally part of the Lambeth workhouse and infirmary, this Victorian water tower was converted into a private home in 2011. Featured on TV programme Grand Designs, it boasts a 360° view of London from the top floor (created from the old cast iron water tank) and the largest sliding doors in the UK. It cost the couple who bought it £2million to renovate, and is regularly cited as one of the most unusual homes in the capital.

**9 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park**

Formerly the site of the Bethlehem Hospital and Asylum (popularly known as Bedlam), the park was created when the hospital moved out to Bromley in 1926. The land was purchased by Viscount Rothermere, owner of the Daily Mail, who gave it as a public park in memory of his mother, Geraldine Mary Harmsworth. Now surrounding the Imperial War Museum, it houses items from the museum's collection including a fragment of the Berlin Wall at the front of the building. To the west of the museum is a Soviet War Memorial to the dead of WWII, sculpted in Stalingrad by Sergei Shcherbakov. In May 1999, His Holiness the Dalai Lama opened and consecrated the Tibetan Peace Garden next to the Imperial War Museum.



**Iliffe Yard,**  
photograph by Sara Moiola