



Green Link Walk

Section 4 of 4 Bankside to Peckham

Section start:	Bankside by Tate Modern
Travel to start:	Blackfriars rail/tube station or bus (see page 12)
Section finish:	Peckham
Travel from finish:	Peckham Rye rail or bus station (see page 12)
Section distance:	4.0 miles

Introduction

The waymarking for this section is continuous and generally very clear but it can sometimes take a moment to spot the Green Link Walk signs where there is much other street furniture.

The route is step free and surfaced throughout so it is accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs. (The guidance in the [Go Jauntly app](#) is particularly helpful to anyone following the accessible route.)

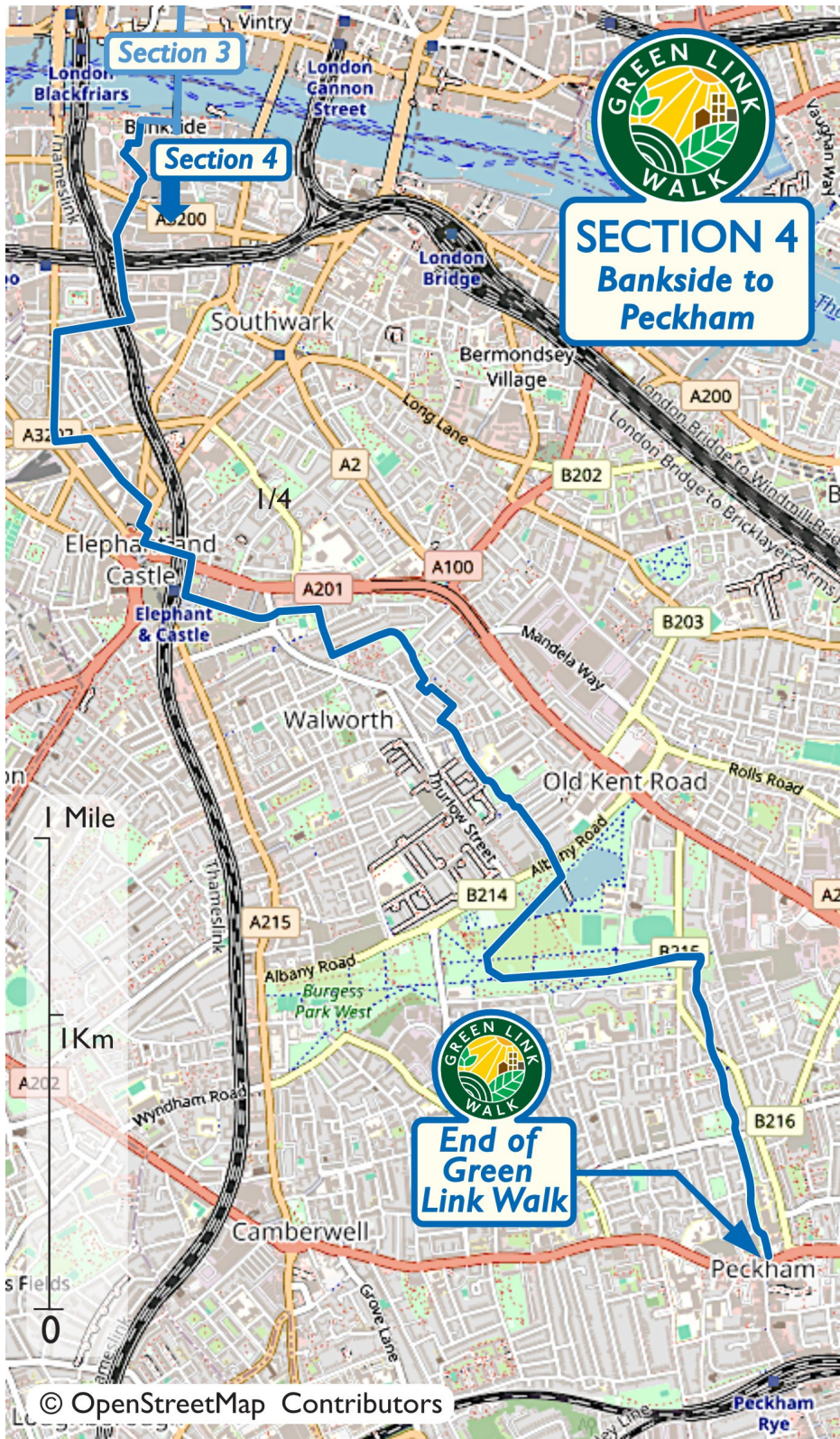
The route passes close to many places of interest that are highlighted on our maps and listed with brief details and internet links on pages 3 and 4.

Our walk guidance includes alternative routes to make more of the green spaces on the route. These suggestions do not always meet full wheelability standards.

There are numerous opportunities to stop for refreshments. WCs that are open to the public are shown on our maps.

Updates: before setting off on this walk, please check with the Green Link Walk page on the [Inner London Ramblers web-site](#) to make sure that there are no obstacles that might affect your ability to complete the section as described. If you come across a problem on the walk, [please let us know by email](#).

Overview map of section 4



Points of interest

[Tate Modern](#) is an art gallery that was formerly Bankside power station. It is the most visited art gallery in the UK.

[Hopton Gardens Almshouses](#) were built in 1749 with a bequest from Charles Hopton. They are Grade II* listed buildings.

[Kirkcaldy's Testing Works](#) contains a massive machine which crushes or tensions materials to test their strength. The works closed in 1974 and reopened as a museum in 1984.

[St George's Cottages](#) were built in 1820 as Almshouses by the Drapers Company. They have been private residences since 1973 and feature a delightful garden.

[Chadwick House](#) is a convent and chapel designed by Sir Walter Tapper and built in 1912. The premises are now a Church of England centre for urban spirituality.

[Merrow Buildings and Ripley buildings](#) are pioneering blocks of London County Council flats adjacent to a delightful former convent in late 18th century style. The flats were built in the Arts and Crafts style.

[St George's Circus](#) was constructed as a grand southern entrance to the City of London in 1771. It features a tall stone obelisk that was built to mark its construction.

The [Baker Street and Waterloo Railway](#) depot opened London Road Depot in 1906.

[Metro Central Heights](#) is the largest building designed by the famed architect [Ernő Goldfinger RA](#). It was built as offices in 1959 to 1966 and converted to flats in 2002.

[The Faraday Memorial](#) at Elephant and Castle is a sculpture commemorating the scientist [Michael Faraday](#). It hides a Northern line electricity substation.

[Southwark Heritage Centre](#) tells the long history of its borough.

[Elephant House](#) is a listed building built in 1840 as accommodation for single men.

[Lady Margaret Church](#) was built in 1889 as St John's College Mission Church. It was declared redundant in 1983 and is now home to a Nigerian evangelical church.

[Pembroke House](#) has been a community centre since 1885. It was set up by students at Pembroke College, Cambridge, for the needy of Walworth. It is still run by the college in a building completed in 1909.

[Surrey Square](#) dates from 1794/5 and its quality is denoted by the raised pavement, an exclusive touch. Only the north side of the square was completed yet the architect, [Michael Searles](#), clearly showed his understanding of classical proportions.

[Surrey Square Park](#) was created from 1963 as part of the Aylesbury Estate development. The estate can be seen immediately to the west of the park.

[Burgess Park](#) was created by demolishing many hundreds of homes on either side of the Grand Surrey Canal which was infilled in 1970. It is the largest park in inner South London and is attractively landscaped.

[Chumleigh Gardens](#) were established in 1995 in the grounds of former almshouses. The gardens reflect the area's diversity by featuring Mediterranean, Islamic, Oriental, African and English gardens side by side.

[The Grand Surrey Canal](#) through Burgess Park opened in 1810. It had been intended to reach Kingston upon Thames, Epsom and possibly Portsmouth but construction got no further than Camberwell. The canal was connected to the Surrey Commercial Docks and was abandoned and infilled when those docks closed in 1970.

[Glengall Wharf Community Garden](#) lies on a former canal wharf and the concrete walls of the canal can still be seen. The garden opened in 2011 and teaches horticultural skills to local residents.

[The Grand Surrey Canal Peckham Branch](#) opened in 1826 and closed with the rest of the navigation in 1970. The GLW follows its course and all the bridges remain in place.

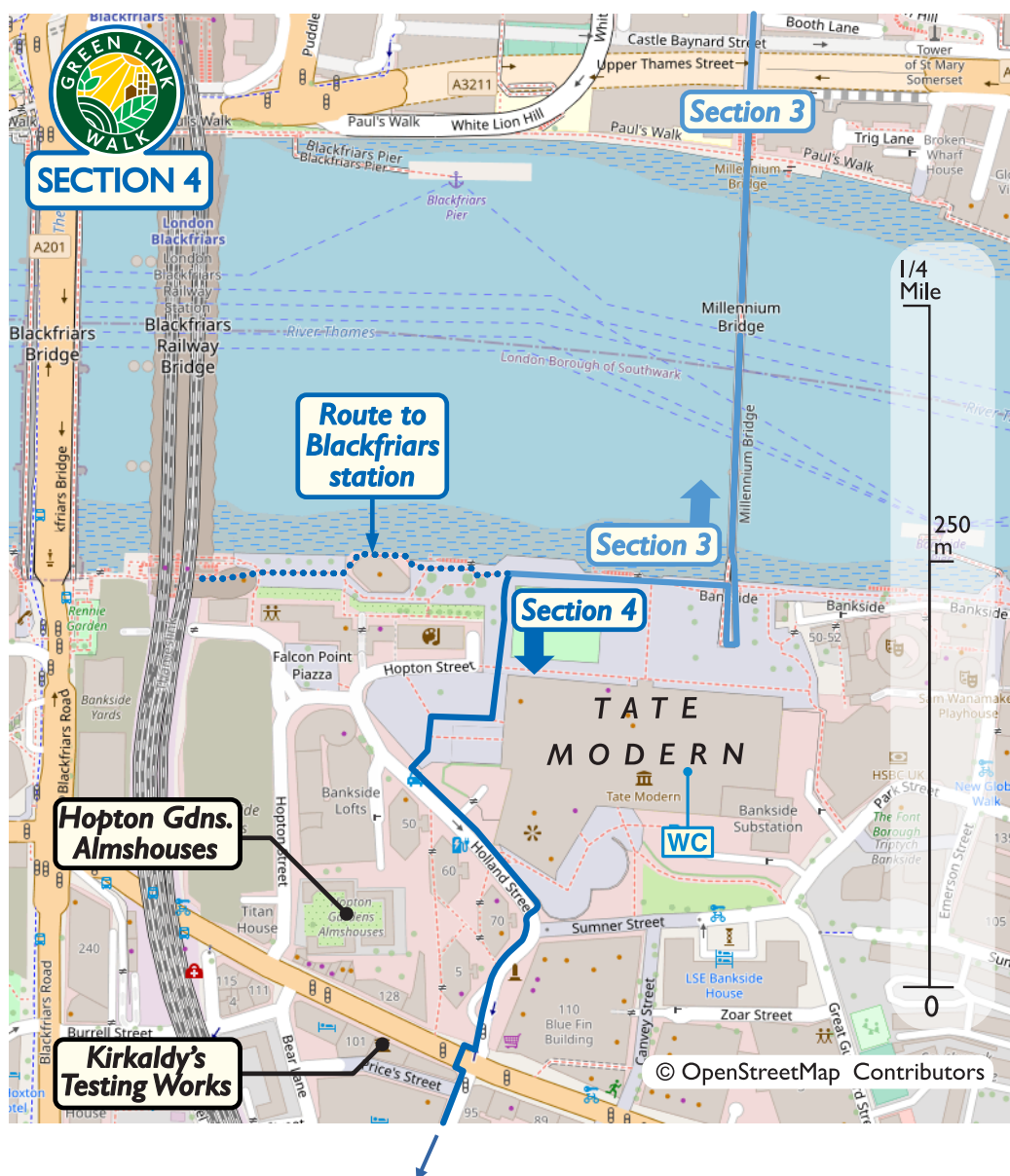
[Peckham Library](#) opened in 1999 to architectural acclaim. The building was designed by [Will Alsop](#) and won the Royal Institute of British Architects Stirling Award in 2000. The library has been suggested as the first 21st century building to be listed by Historic England.

Walking directions

Leave the south side exit of Blackfriars station in the direction of Tate Modern. Walk downriver with the Thames on your left. Pass the pub called Founder's Arms and continue until you reach a grove of birch trees. Here turn right towards the Turbine Hall entrance to the art gallery.

When you reach the railings above the entrance, turn right and then left to cross the top of the ramp down to the gallery entrance.

You soon come to a road (Holland Street). Turn left past a row of bollards to walk along this road. Where the road curves right, cross at the traffic island just before you reach Wagamama.



Continue to the end of the street, cross Southwark Street at the lights and then keep ahead in the same direction along Great Suffolk Street, passing the Hilton London Bankside on your right.

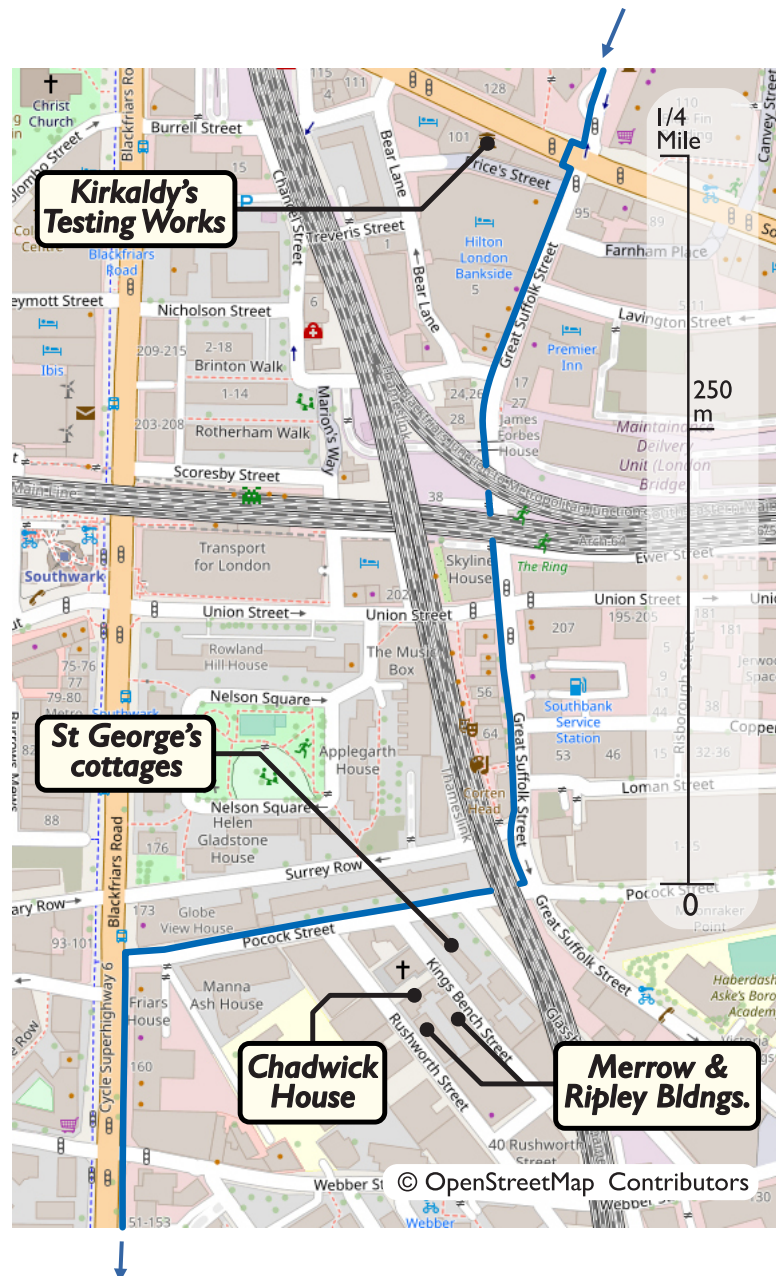
Bear left with the road under two railway bridges. Continue straight ahead, crossing Union Street at the lights.

As the road begins to curve left, turn right into Pocock Street under the second of two railway bridges. Walk to the end of the street to turn left into Blackfriars Road.

Walk down Blackfriars Road, crossing Webber Street, to reach St George's Circus with its central pillar. Bear left to cross at the lights and then turn left along Borough Road.

Take the second right into Keyworth Street passing LSBU (London South Bank University) on your left. Keyworth Street veers left and then merges with Southwark Bridge Road for a short distance to the junction with Newington Causeway.

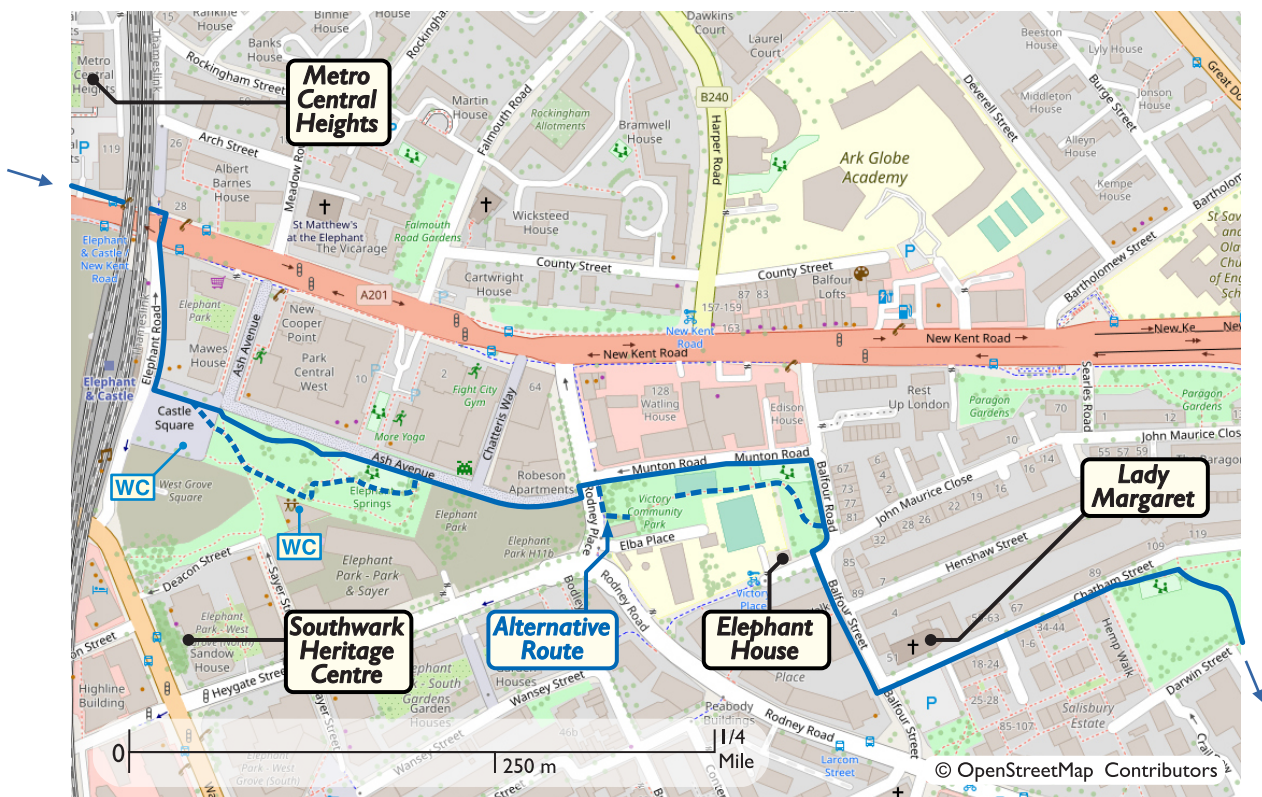
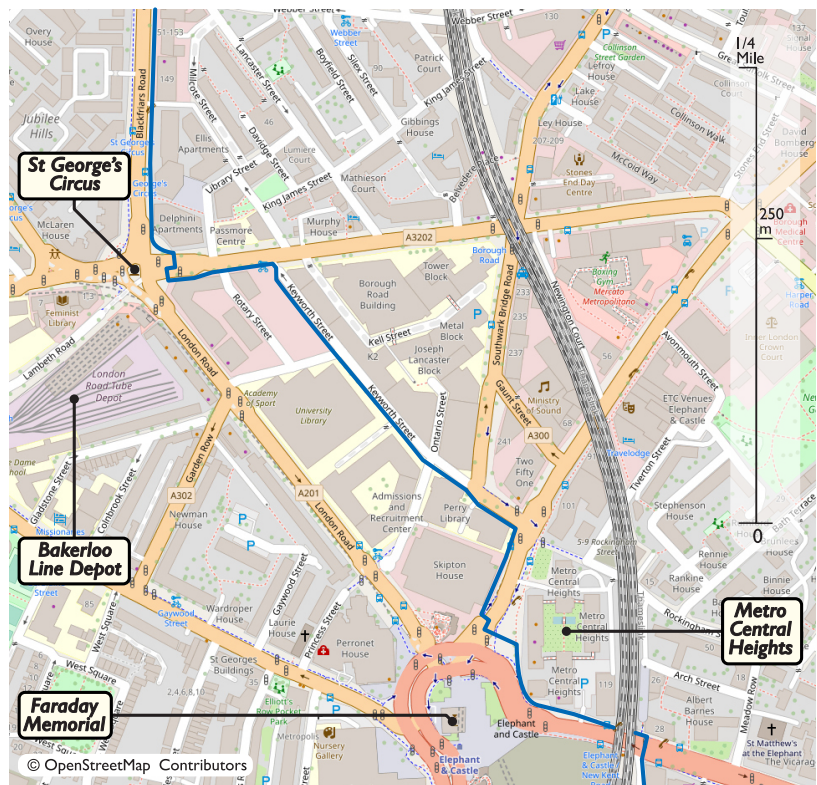
Turn right towards Elephant and Castle. Cross both lanes of the Causeway at the lights just before the next junction. Walk ahead over a paved area passing planters on your left. Follow the road round to the right and then left into New Kent Road.



Walk under a railway bridge. Cross at the lights just after the bridge to continue ahead from the crossing along Elephant Road with the railway viaduct to the right. Walk towards Castle Square.

Turn left into the square just after passing Elephant and Castle station.

Walk across the Square to keep ahead along Ash Avenue. Just after passing Elephant Springs bear left with the Avenue to reach a road (Rodney Place).



Alternative route

Instead of keeping ahead along Ash Avenue, bear right across Castle Square to see more of the gardens. Join a gravel path ahead. Soon turn left onto a narrower path at the first junction to continue through the gardens. Turn left again when you get to the next wide path.

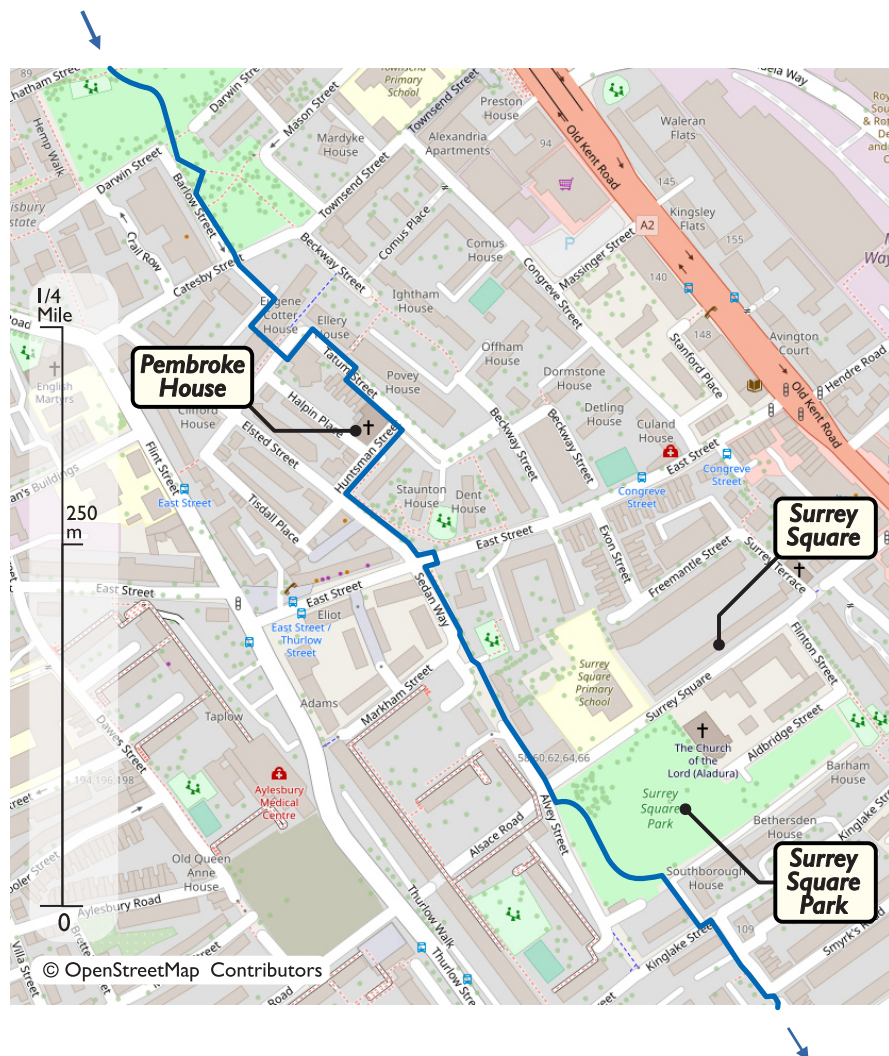
Fork right when you get to Elephant Springs to pass the playground and water feature on your left. Follow the path as it soon curves left to Ash Avenue. Turn right to rejoin the main route before it bears left to a road.

At the end of Ash Avenue, cross the road at a wide pedestrian crossing. The waymarking directs you left after the crossing and then immediately right along Munton Road. Curve right at the end of the park into Balfour Street. Bear slightly right past the end of John Maurice Close, pass the exit from the park and then bear slightly left, still on Balfour Street.

Alternative route

To enjoy the park, go right and immediately left through a gate into the Victory Community Park. There is an accessible new path through the park emerging into Balfour Street at the far end where it rejoins the main route.

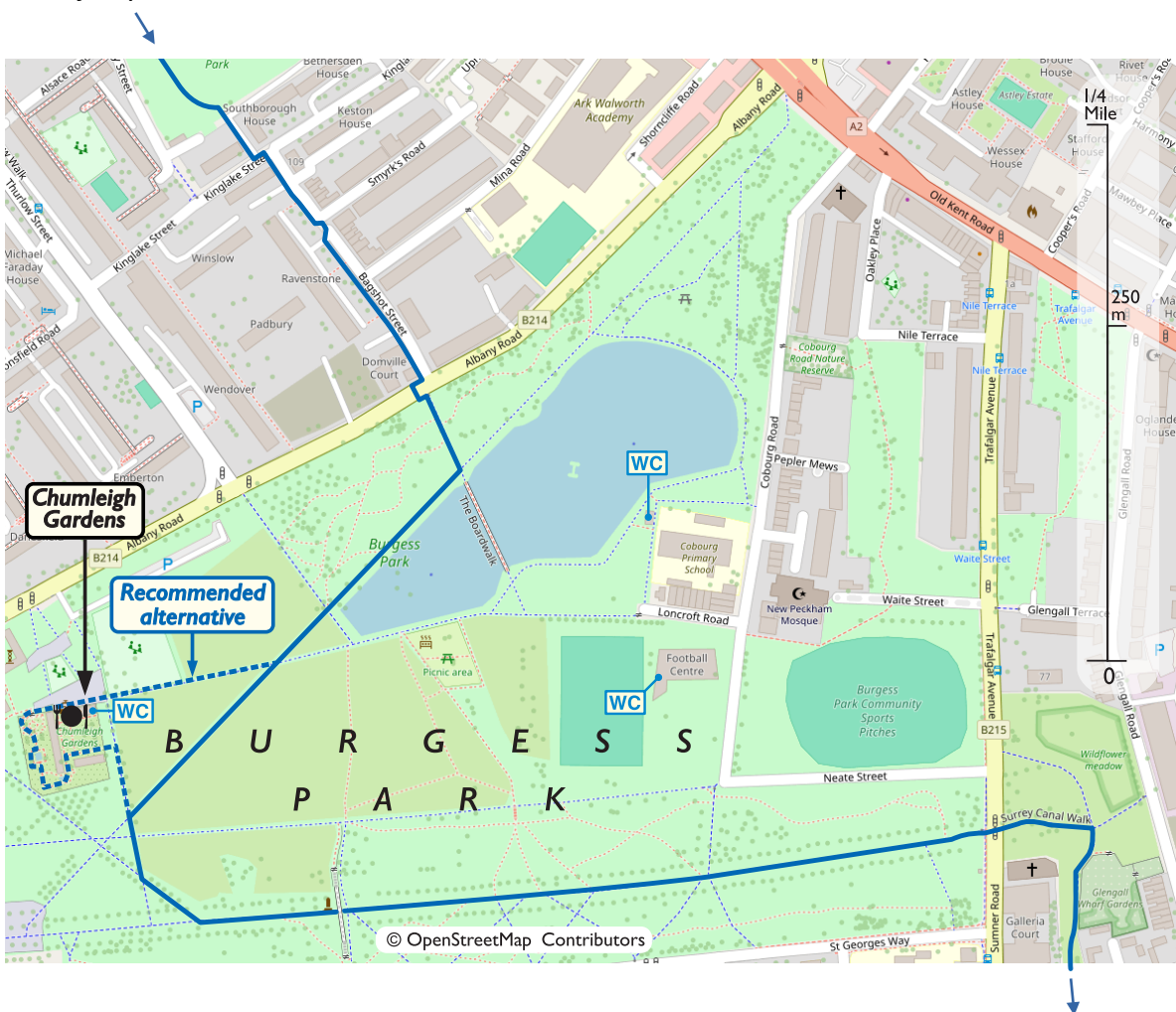
Take the second left to walk along Chatham Street. On reaching an open space (Salisbury Row Park) bear slightly right on a footpath past a play area.



Take the path to the right just after the end of the railing around the play area. Follow this path to cross the end of Darwin Street keeping ahead along the right side of the open space first parallel to Barlow Street and then joining it.

Cross Catesby Street to reach a sharp turn in front of a long building (Eugene Cotter House). Turn right here and then almost immediately left under an archway through the building, passing a bollard. Emerge from the archway and turn left, then take the first right after a few paces to walk along Tatum Street. (There is a dropped kerb to cross to the right of Tatum Street about half way to the next junction.)

Turn right into Huntsman Street at the corner with St Christopher's Parish Church to pass the end of Halpin Place. Turn left at the end of the street to pass the Huntsman and Hounds pub on your right. Walk over East Street at the pedestrian crossing then continue ahead along Sedan Way. Keep on in the same direction through a pedestrian-only link to enter Alvey Street and arrive at Surrey Square.



Go through the gate ahead into Surrey Square Park. Follow the path as it bends left and then right through another gate. Then cross the grassy open space on the path to leave through a gap past a bollard.

Walk ahead between Southborough House on the left and Tenterden House on the right. Cross a road (Kinglake Street) to keep on in the same general direction along Bagshot Street.

At the end of this street, use the crossing just to the right to go over Albany Road. Enter the park ahead (Burgess Park) through a gap in the railings.

Keep ahead to the edge of the lake. Here turn right just before the bridge to walk beside the lake with the water on your left.

At the end of the lake keep ahead past one path junction. Cross a second path junction. Then at a third junction turn left, passing three bench chairs.

Alternative route

Chumleigh Gardens is a good place to linger. Fork right shortly after the end of the lake at the second path junction (beside a 'No Fires etc.' sign).

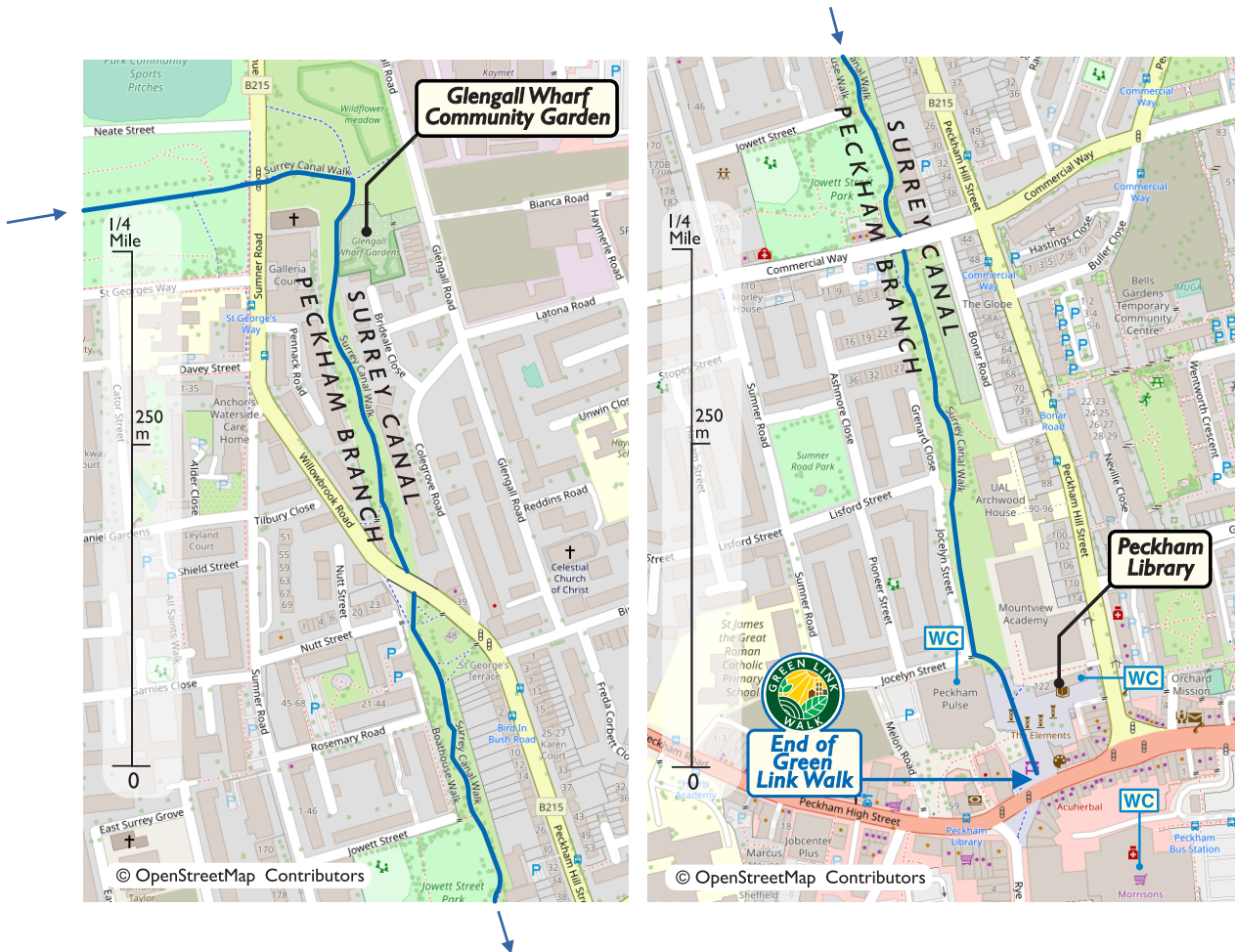
Now keep straight ahead passing a playground on the right and then a café on the left. Pass the labelled entrance to the gardens to go through a gate. Immediately turn left through another gate to enter the back of the gardens.

Keep ahead from the gate, first passing a tree surrounded by pebbles and then a palm tree in a square pool of water. Curve left with the path to reach a pond surrounded by rocks. Curve left again round the end of the pond to another gate.

Walk through this gate to reach the central square of the gardens. Turn right immediately after the building on your right to walk down the near side of the gardens to a gate.

Turn right outside the gate. Keep ahead at the next junction where you rejoin the waymarked route as it passes the three bench chairs.

Cross a path and then bear left at the next junction along a path lined with trees. Bear left again at an angled T-junction with a wide pedestrian/cycle path, that runs under the former canal bridge that is now painted red and black. Keep ahead at a path crossing (towards the Glengall Wharf Garden). Cross the road (Trafalgar Avenue) at the lights and continue ahead – briefly on cycleway C35.



Take the first right off C35 just before the route ahead slopes up. Here you join the Surrey Canal Walk which initially passes a concrete wall on the left with allotments above.

Now keep ahead along the shared walking and cycle path that is signed as the quiet cycle route to Peckham (London Cycle network route 22).

Ignore all left and right turns. Keep ahead under two bridges until the path curves slightly left to arrive at an open space between the Peckham Library on the left and the Peckham Pulse Leisure Centre on the right. This is the end of the Green Link walk.

Travel to and from section 4

Travel options to the start of the section

By train: Blackfriars rail station spans the river with Thameslink and South Eastern services.

The exit from the tube station (Circle and District lines) is on the north bank. There is step-free access via lifts to the south bank by crossing the rail station platform. There is no charge for using the platform to cross so long as you have come from the tube station.

By bus: the 4, 40, 63 and 381 buses stop near Blackfriars station

Travel options from the end of the section

From the end of the section, keep ahead up a slight slope and then under the arched roof to Peckham High Street.

- For the nearest railway station, bear slightly right to cross at the lights and then keep ahead down Rye Lane. Walk along Rye Lane until you reach the sign for the entrance to Peckham Rye station between two railway bridges. Turn right here under a canopy into an alleyway leading to the steps up to the station. The station is served by Thameslink, Overground, Southern and Southeastern trains.
- To reach Peckham bus station with its numerous bus routes, turn left along Peckham High Street.