



Imagine the long-gone smells and sounds of the "Pantry of Bermondsey", stroll through the market and spot a genuine Banksy.

1 Shuttleworth Park - Shuttleworths Chocolate Factory

It is every child's dream to have a chocolate factory on the doorstep, but here it was a reality. Shuttleworths was famous for animal shapes, Christmas specials and Easter eggs. They even developed new recipes like Brazil whirls, truffles, fruit creams and toffees. But it was the owner's concern for his staff that made it a really great place to work.

Along with gardens and a pool, staff had their own canteen, on-site nurse, a chiropodist and a sunray treatment. The progressive attitude did not stop there - they had shift patterns suited to the needs of working mothers too. Despite all this, the factory was demolished in the late 1970s when Shuttleworths merged into the Rowntree Group.

2 Southwark Park

Along with the Victorian bandstand, this park has a cafe, a wildlife garden, a boating lake and an art gallery. Sports facilities include an athletics track run by Fusion, a bowling green, football pitches and tennis courts.

3 Peek Freans Factory

The famous factory was in Bermondsey from 1857 to 1989, and invented favourites such as Garibaldi and Bourbon biscuits. In fact this whole area became known as "The Pantry of Bermondsey", and the wharves and warehouses along the river north of here are said to have contained three quarters of London's butter, cheese and canned meat, with tea clippers (like the Cutty Sark) regularly docking there too. Tinned food began in Bermondsey, invented in 1811 by Bryan Donkin who had a factory on Grange Road. A sample of his tinned beef was sent to Kensington Palace, and he received a letter of thanks stating, "Your patent beef was tasted by the Queen, the Prince Regent and several distinguished personages and highly approved".



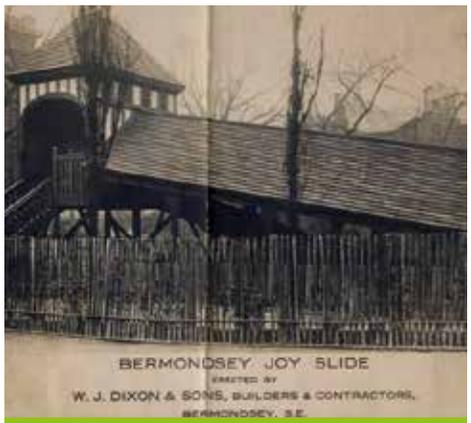
Peek Freans, photograph by Ishwar Maharaj

4 St James' Church Slide

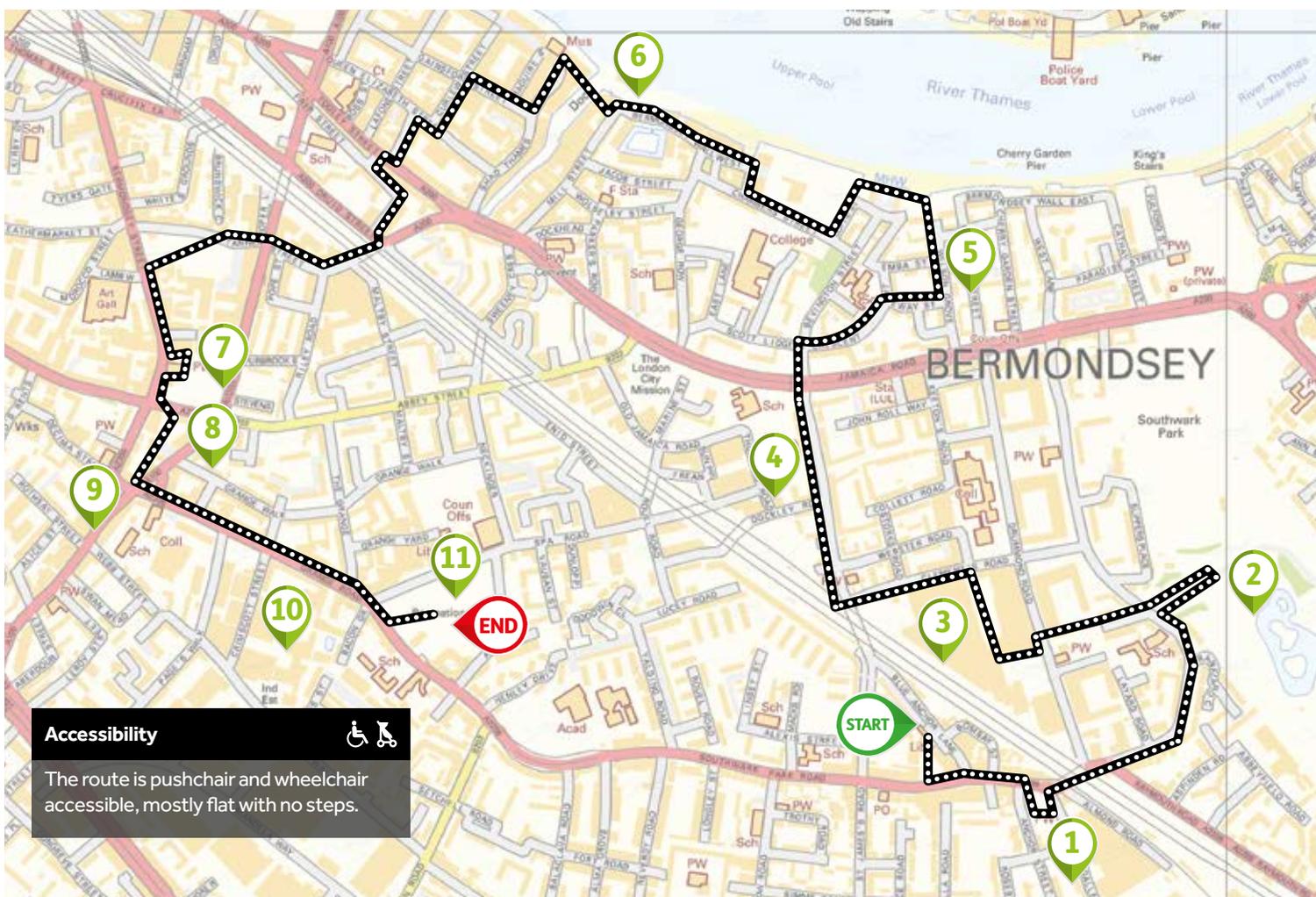
The Joy' slide was a gift from Arthur Carr, Chairman of Peek Freans, to the children of Bermondsey in 1921. It was fantastically popular with young children; many older residents remember the slide, the mats, and the "fearsome Superintendent" with great affection. The slide remained until 1990, but fell into disrepair and was replaced by the playground.

5 Wilson Grove and the Salters

In Bermondsey, Ada Brown met Dr Alfred Salter, and together they transformed this area of London with their legendary work amongst the poor. Alfred was famous for treating his poorest patients for free with the latest methods.



Joyslide, Gary Magold collection



Accessibility
The route is pushchair and wheelchair accessible, mostly flat with no steps.



Jacob's Island, photograph by Robert Larkin-Frost

He created an 'NHS before the NHS'. Ada's Beautification Committee covered the borough in trees, flowers and playgrounds. Both were equally involved in politics; in 1922 Ada made history by becoming mayor of Bermondsey, making her the first female mayor in London. In the same year Alfred became Labour MP for Bermondsey West.

Together, Ada and Alfred cleared away thousands of tenements and built model housing which both improved health and minimised housework. The Salter's houses can still be seen in Wilson Grove.

6 Jacob's Island
When Dickens described "the filthiest, the strangest, the most extraordinary of the main localities that are hidden in London", he was referring to this forgotten (or unacknowledged) corner of Bermondsey. Jacob's Island – Fagin's lair in Dickens' Oliver Twist – was a muddle of medieval houses, secret passages and rickety galleries overhanging muddy creeks.

The ditches were filled in the early 1850s, and the area later redeveloped as warehouses. These were bombed

during WWII, and today only one Victorian warehouse survives. Over the past 30 years the Island area has undergone considerable regeneration and gentrification.

7 St Mary's Church and Rolls Tomb
A tomb in St Mary's commemorates a great family from this area. Apparently John Rolls, a cow keeper, made a good marriage to a wealthy lady in Camberwell in the early 1700s. The land they acquired made even more money from the huge urban expansion in the 18th century. Eventually the Rolls family had so much money they had a castle in Wales, peerages, and had started supporting the community with schools and libraries. The last of the Rolls was the Hon Charles Stewart, the pioneer motorist and aviator who formed the partnership with Henry Royce.

8 Bermondsey Antiques Market, Bermondsey Abbey
Recent excavations have found evidence of a Saxon palace below the site of Bermondsey Abbey, first founded in the 700s. It was the only high point in the marshes, and would have been above water during high-tide. After Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries, the abbey was sold and practically destroyed; only some fragments remain, built into Nos. 5 to 7 of Grange Walk.

On the former site of the abbey you will now find Bermondsey Antiques Market. For a long time it was known to be a 'marché ouvert' (open market). Under this ancient law, only abolished in 1995, the provenance of anything sold here between sunrise and sunset could not be questioned, so stolen goods could be traded.

What the walkers say...
"After the walk I am connected to the Borough and its history."



The Bermondsey Banksy, photograph by Sara Moiola

9 M. Manze's Pie and Mash shop
Eel pie, mash and liquor signal the 'real' East End to many people. Michele Manze opened this shop in 1902, moving with the trend to take traditional pies indoors from roadside stalls. Over the 19th and 20th centuries eels thrived in the dirty waters of the Thames and became a common dish for the working class people who dominated this area of London. Now the river is cleaner though, eels have all but disappeared and the fillings for today's pies have to be imported from Holland.

10 Alaska Building and Banksy
Although Bermondsey was mainly known for the number of leatherworks and tanneries, the fur trade also had a home here up until the early 1900s. The Alaska Factory at 61 Grange Road did a roaring trade processing fur seal skins for the hat industry. It later expanded to include the production of Russian hare, Tibetan lamb and Chinese goat.

Just over the road you will see some art by Banksy. His distinctive stencilling style and witty, anarchic statements have made him one of the best known and most popular street artists in the world, although his graffiti does not always stay up for long. This mural appeared in 2010 and has been preserved. The dog is a deliberate nod to the late artist and social activist Keith Haring.

11 Bermondsey Spa Gardens
Around the corner are the gardens where you might have once spotted 18th century London's rich and famous. In 1770 land owner Thomas Keyse exploited a natural spring that came up from the River Neckinger, which flows underneath here to the Thames. Alongside the healthy natural waters, patrons could enjoy pleasure gardens, a concert hall and even firework displays.