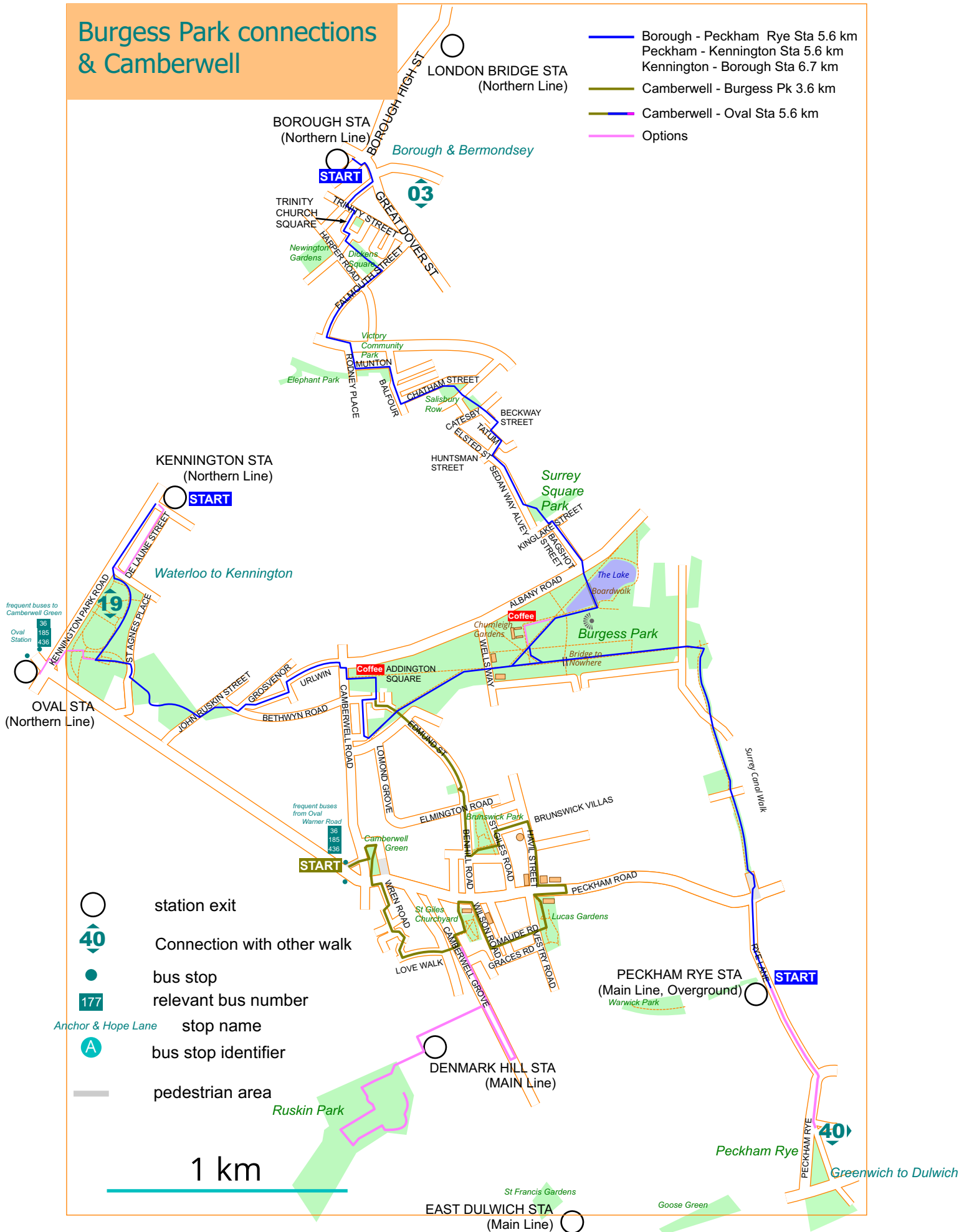


Burgess Park connections & Camberwell



Camberwell

Camberwell was already a substantial settlement with a church when mentioned in the Domesday Book, and was the parish for a large area including Dulwich and Peckham. Its Domesday assets were: 6 hides and 1 virgate (750 acres /300 hectares); 1 church, 8 ploughs, 63 acres/25 hectares of meadow, woodland worth 60 hogs.

Up to the mid-19th century, Camberwell was visited by Londoners for its rural tranquillity and the reputed healing properties of its mineral springs. Like much of inner South London, Camberwell was transformed by the arrival of the railways in the 1860s. Camberwell Green is now a very small area of common land; it was once a traditional village green on which was held an annual fair, of ancient origin, which rivalled that of Greenwich.

Camberwell today is a mixture of relatively well preserved Georgian and 20th-century housing, including a number of tower blocks.

Camberwell Grove, Grove Lane and Addington Square have some of London's most elegant and well-preserved Georgian houses.

The Camberwell Beauty butterfly, rarely found in the UK, was first identified on Coldharbour Lane in 1748. A large mosaic of the butterfly, which used to adorn the Samuel Jones paper factory on Southampton Way, was removed and re-installed on the side of Lynn Boxing Club on Wells Way.

The Free Library and Art Gallery moved from Battersea to Camberwell in 1887 and over the following decade John Passmore Edwards funded new buildings that became the South London Gallery and the Camberwell School of Art (now Camberwell College of Arts, part of the University of the Arts London).

Grand Surrey Canal

1801 The Grand Surrey Canal was authorised by an Act of Parliament. Intended to link the River Thames to Portsmouth via Epsom.

1809 opened

1810 Canal stopped at Camberwell Road due to a lack of funds.

1823 The Friendly Female Society, 'for the relief of poor infirm aged widows and single women of good character who have seen better days' opened its almshouses for 20 occupants in Chumleigh Street Road.

1824 St George's Church, Wells Way, by Francis Burford built in Greek Revival style.

1826 Peckham Canal extension was built from Glengalls Wharf to Peckham High Street.

1940s The canal's decline began and part was abandoned

1960s the westernmost sections dewatered after concerns of children falling in.

1971 remaining stretch was closed and filled in

Burgess Park

The park was inspired by local people, like Jessie Burgess after whom the park is named, by post-war optimism and by the Abercrombie Plan – a grand plan to rebuild London in the 1940s. The aim of the park was to create a 'green lung' for South London. Burgess Park's significance is due not so much to its size (although it is large) but to its history, and the unusual way it was created within recent living memory. The park slowly emerged from the space left by demolished factories, churches and streets as well as bomb damaged areas and the filled-in Grand Surrey Canal branch from Camberwell to Peckham. The canal footbridge remains as the bridge to nowhere. The park contains three listed buildings: the lime kiln, Chumleigh Gardens and Passmore Edwards Library and wash-house.



1745



1830 showing canal