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“London 2012: Why not walk it”

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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

London 2012: Why not walk it?

London 2012 ‘a summer like no other’ proved an unexpected joy and delight not just for sports fans but also for map collectors. Throughout the city smiling volunteers in their dinky pink-and-purple games-maker uniforms were enthusiastically dishing out a cornucopia of free maps.

One, *London Summer 2012 map*, covers central London at a scale (not defined) of about 1:7272. The map is ungrided with streets uncased in white on pale grey background. Significant buildings and landmarks are in yellow, many with a realistic drawing of 3D aerial view. Also shown are a number of discovery trails, the national Olympic houses of various participating countries, Olympic venues and road event routes. The reverse has east London (roughly Whitechapel to Thames Barrier), at about 1:17,500 with the Olympic venues at Stratford, North Greenwich and ExCel highlighted in pink. Also on the back are a tube map (showing in addition National Rail lines to Stratford from St Pancras and Liverpool Street and to West Ham from Fenchurch Street) and diagram of key central London bus routes.

In similar style, but at a larger scale (approx 1:5500) is a set of eleven *Why not walk it?* maps, each based on a main-line terminus. They show concentric rings indicating 10, 15, 20 and 25 minute walking distances from that station and also mark all bus stops, coach stops and cycle hire docking stations (but oddly do not define on the legend what the symbols represent). The background is darker grey, more streets are named and more landmark buildings are shown than on the general *London 2012* map, but otherwise the information on the map is broadly the same. Each of these has on the reverse a diagram of the station layout and details of passenger flow restrictions at busy times. Also shown is a bus route ‘spider diagram’ and a *Rail & tube services in central London* map.

Two further similar maps are *Stratford & East London* and *Greenwich & Woolwich*. These are in the style of the *London 2012* map, but at a scale of about 1:6666 and showing cycle docking stations and Olympic venue entrance gates. Both of these include a smaller scale version of the other on the reverse.

The *Why not walk it?* maps and the two area maps all carry the statements ‘© Crown copyright Ordnance Survey’ and ‘© Copyright Transport for London’; on their cover they show the Network Rail (the *walk it* maps)¹ or National Rail (the area maps) and Transport for London (TfL) logos. *London 2012* has copyright statement ‘based on Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright’ without mentioning TfL. Its cover has the LOCOG Olympic and Paralympic logos and TfL logo.

Free large scale maps of the locality of each venue were also distributed. These are ‘© Crown copyright Ordnance Survey’ and published by LOCOG. The colouring is in broadly similar style to those above, but with much local detail. The *Stratford* and *Earls Court* maps have ‘print courtesy of Geographers’ A-Z Map Company, an official London 2012 licensee of printed maps’.

John Davies

¹ Except Marylebone, which, for some reason, has the National Rail logo.

London 2012: A summer like no other, a summer of free maps!



*Left: some of the free map covers
Below: King's Cross as shown on London 2012 (left) and Why not walk it?*

Note the different depiction of the British Library



Note also the depiction of the wonderful new concourse roof at King's Cross station

Left: Olympic Park Stratford from Stratford & East London (far left) and LOCOG Olympic Park map (oriented with north to the left)

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