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“London 2012 – more maps”

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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: more maps

John King



John Davies' article in *Sheetlines* 95 highlighted the range of free London 2012 maps available. This short update is about additional maps, some of which bear the distinctive Olympic pink branding, most of which were produced by Transport for London.

In regard to the *Why not walk it?* maps, these became available from early May 2012, and were part of the TfL Walking plan for London. Many of these maps are still available at main line London stations. Although I have not personally seen them, three more maps are referred to on the *mappinglondon* blog site. These are Elephant & Castle, Kensington, and Olympia. The Olympia map may be the walking map issued in 2011¹ as was an earlier version of Waterloo.² The latter map carries the Network Rail logo and that of South West Trains.

Besides the *Why not walk it?* maps, there were also some special Olympic A5 sized foldout bus/street maps produced by London Buses (eg Euston and Victoria) (*above left*) available at mainline termini. In addition, Underground *Continuing your journey from....* A5 sized foldout maps were also issued with

¹ Described by Graham Bird in *Sheetlines* 96, 44

² There were even earlier versions of the walking map (pre-Olympics) entitled *A new perspective to London* – one *Waterloo to the City* and one *Euston and King's Cross to the West End*. Infuriatingly neither is dated (but are before 2008 since they mention Nicky Gavron as Deputy Mayor of London) nor do they indicate the source of the mapping; however they are entirely 3D as opposed to the Summer 2012 maps which show only important buildings in 3D.

Olympic branding for certain stations and some of these are still available for collection.³

TfL also issued a special London cycling guide: *Olympic Park and surrounding area, Summer 2012 edition*. This map (*above centre left*) was not numbered as part of the series of 14 London cycle guide maps; however it does incorporate part of maps 4, 5, 7 and 8 from that series. The reverse includes a large scale map of the Stratford area with key Olympic buildings in 3D.

The TfL/National Rail *London's rail & tube services* folder was also re-issued with Olympic branding and shows the main sports venues clearly marked.

The London Borough of Newham produced a very good tourist leaflet (*above centre right*) which included maps of both the Stratford and ExCel sites, appearing to make use of the TfL mapping. Significantly these were available at Underground stations in East London alongside the range of other free maps.

Weymouth and Portland also had an Olympic Games map, a small 18-panel folded card covered map, although the source of the mapping was not indicated.

John Davies' article indicates that maps of the locality for each venue were also distributed and published by LOCOG. Interestingly one map of the main Olympic Park was issued to the AQA Examination Board sometime in 2011 for use in the Summer 2012 GCSE Geography examination.

Unfortunately this map showed West Ham Station having London Overground services instead of Docklands Light Railway services, and also Stratford International having Underground services instead of DLR! Before LOCOG had the opportunity to withdraw the map, it had been printed in a resource booklet and issued to schools. The locality maps actually issued for public use last summer did not have these mistakes.

The range of maps begs the question whether, besides LOCOG locality maps, any maps were issued for the other Olympic sites eg rowing at Dorney Lake, white water in the Lea Valley and the football competition stadiums around the country.

For the sake of completeness, two earlier maps should be mentioned, issued in 2005, available at Underground stations in the East London area and both 12 panel foldout leaflets: *Walk the Bid: a guide to the Olympic sites* (*above right*) was issued before the Games had been awarded to London and *Walk the Olympic Park* issued after the bid was won in July 2005. As to be expected, they are slightly different from each other in terms of details and mapping. The source and publisher of both of these is not immediately clear but featured on the back panel (*below*) are the logos of the five London Olympic boroughs and, surprisingly, the NHS.



³ John King is preparing an article on this map series.