

Tyranny and Treason

A self guided walk through Westminster's role in the English Civil War



Explore one of the most dramatic periods in English history
Find out why the country went to war and briefly became a republic
Visit where parliament was disbanded and the king was executed
Discover how the Civil War shaped London's landscape

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*the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks*







This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

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Tyranny and treason

Re-live the drama of the English Civil War in the heart of London

Introduction

Westminster is the heart of Britain's capital and the hub of the nation's three most powerful institutions – the Monarchy, the Government and the Church.

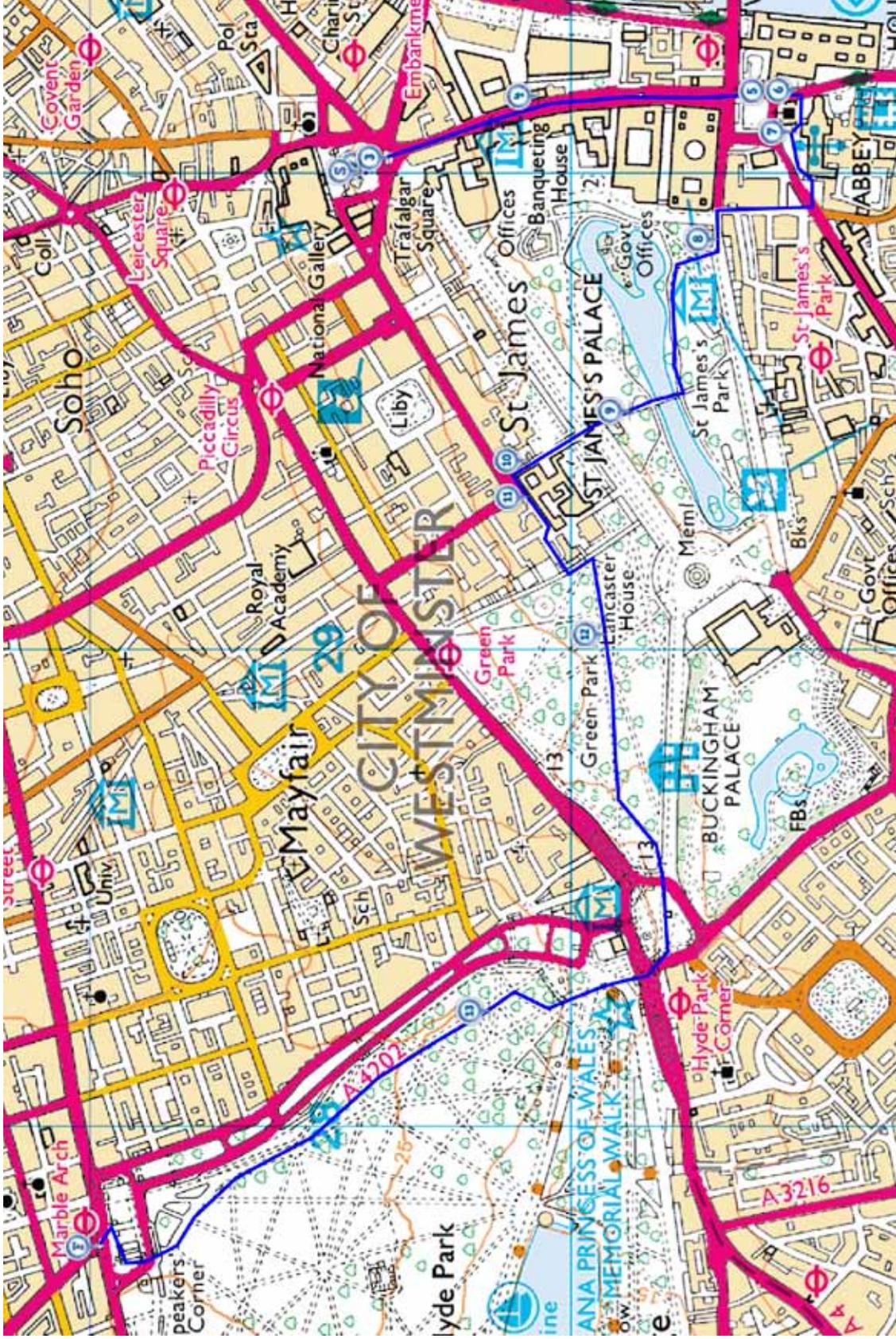
In the 1630s and 1640s, the king and parliament were in major disagreement about religion. It was one of the most dramatic periods in our island's history when parliament was disbanded, the country went to war, the monarch was executed for treason, and England briefly became a republic.



Statue of King Charles I on horseback (1633)
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

On this walk you will stand face to face with the two main characters in the English Civil War – King Charles I and Oliver Cromwell – and see the very buildings and locations where dramatic events unfolded. It's a story of politics and power, rebellion and riot, armies and battles, treason and trial, beheadings and hangings. You can also see how history is influenced by geography and geography is influenced by history.

Route overview



Practical information

Location	Westminster, Central London
Getting there	Underground - The nearest stations to the start of the route are Charing Cross and Embankment Train - The nearest mainline station is Charing Cross Bus - Served by dozens of different bus routes Bicycle - Plenty of London Cycle hire docking stations on the route
Start point	Trafalgar Square
Postcode	WC2N 5EA
Directions from railway station to start	<i>From Charing Cross</i> - leave the station and turn left onto the Strand. Continue to the end of the Strand then use the pedestrian crossings to enter Trafalgar Square. <i>From Embankment</i> - leave the station using the Strand / Villiers Street exit (opposite to the riverbank). Continue to the end of Villiers Street then turn left onto the Strand.
Finish point	Marble Arch, W1K 7AN
Onward journey	To return to Charing Cross or Embankment stations use Marble Arch underground station. Alternatively Hyde Park, Oxford Street, Buckingham Palace and other attractions are all easily accessible by public transport or on foot.
Distance	3 miles
Level	Gentle – A flat route on pavements and through city parks

Conditions

The route is in a very busy area of Central London. Look after valuables and take care crossing roads - always use pedestrian crossings.

Suitable for

Families – Plenty of sights and sounds for children to enjoy. The flat route is ideal for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Refreshments

Plenty of cafes and restaurants near the start and end of the walk but expect London prices. There are also cafes and kiosks in the parks. The parks make ideal picnic spots.

Facilities

Public toilets are available in St James's Park, Green Park and Hyde Park

Other info

Banqueting House is usually open 10am-5pm, Mon-Sun except Bank Holidays

- Adult tickets £5, concs £4, under 16s free
 - Early closing at 1pm for private evening events, so check opening times before visiting
- (Tel: 0203 166 6154/5)

Westminster Abbey open Mon-Sat from 9.30am

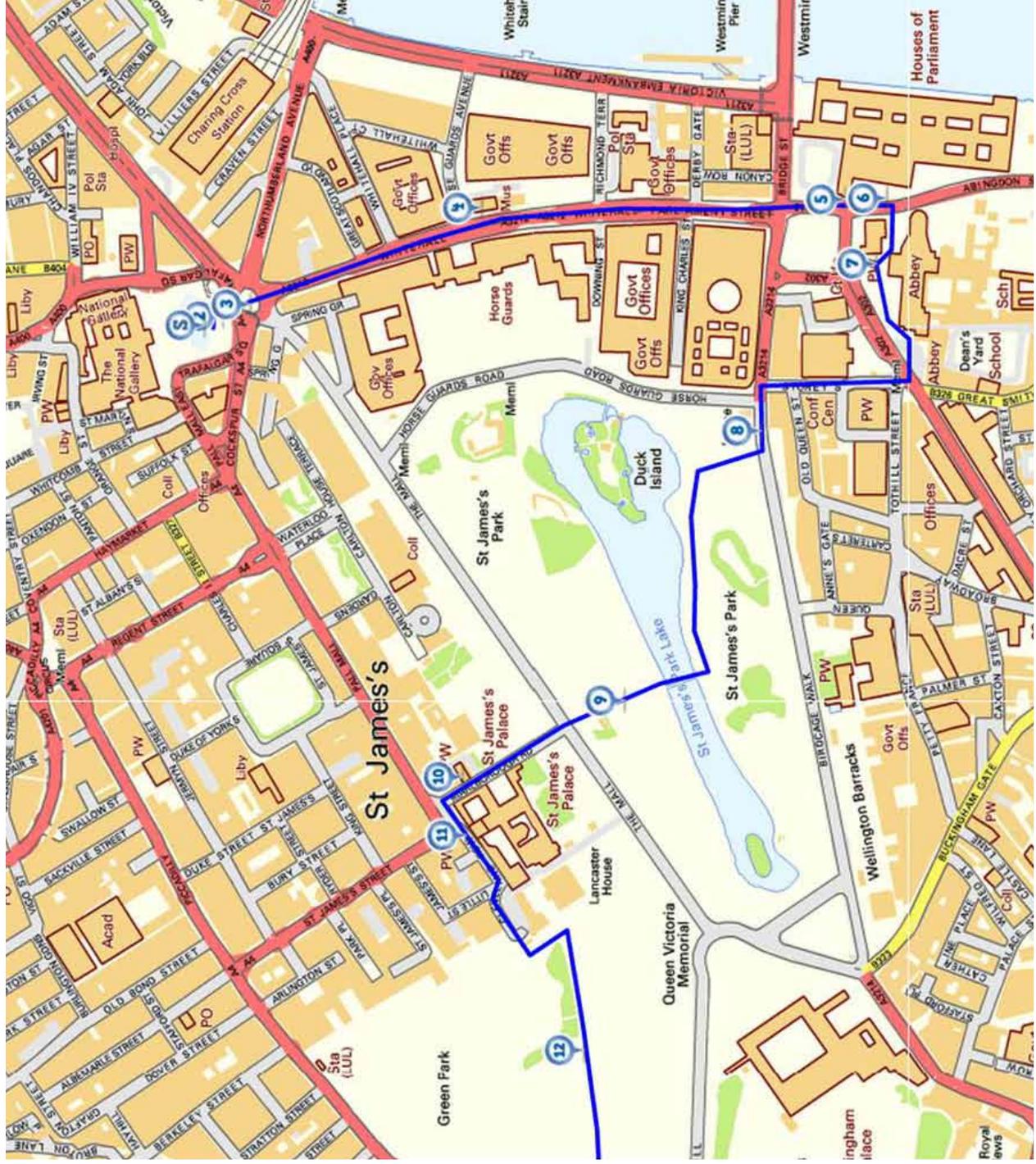
- Sundays for private worship only, no tourists
 - Closing times: 2.30pm Sats, 7pm Weds, 4.30pm other weekdays
 - Adult tickets £16, concs £13, children aged 11-18 £6
 - Free entry for children under 11 and wheelchair users
 - again check opening times before visiting
- (Tel: 020 7222 5152)

St James's Palace is not open to the public

Tourist information

Tourist information available at Westminster Abbey. Nearest dedicated facility is the London Information Centre at Leicester Square, open 8am-midnight (Tel: 020 729 22 333)

Detail of first part of the route



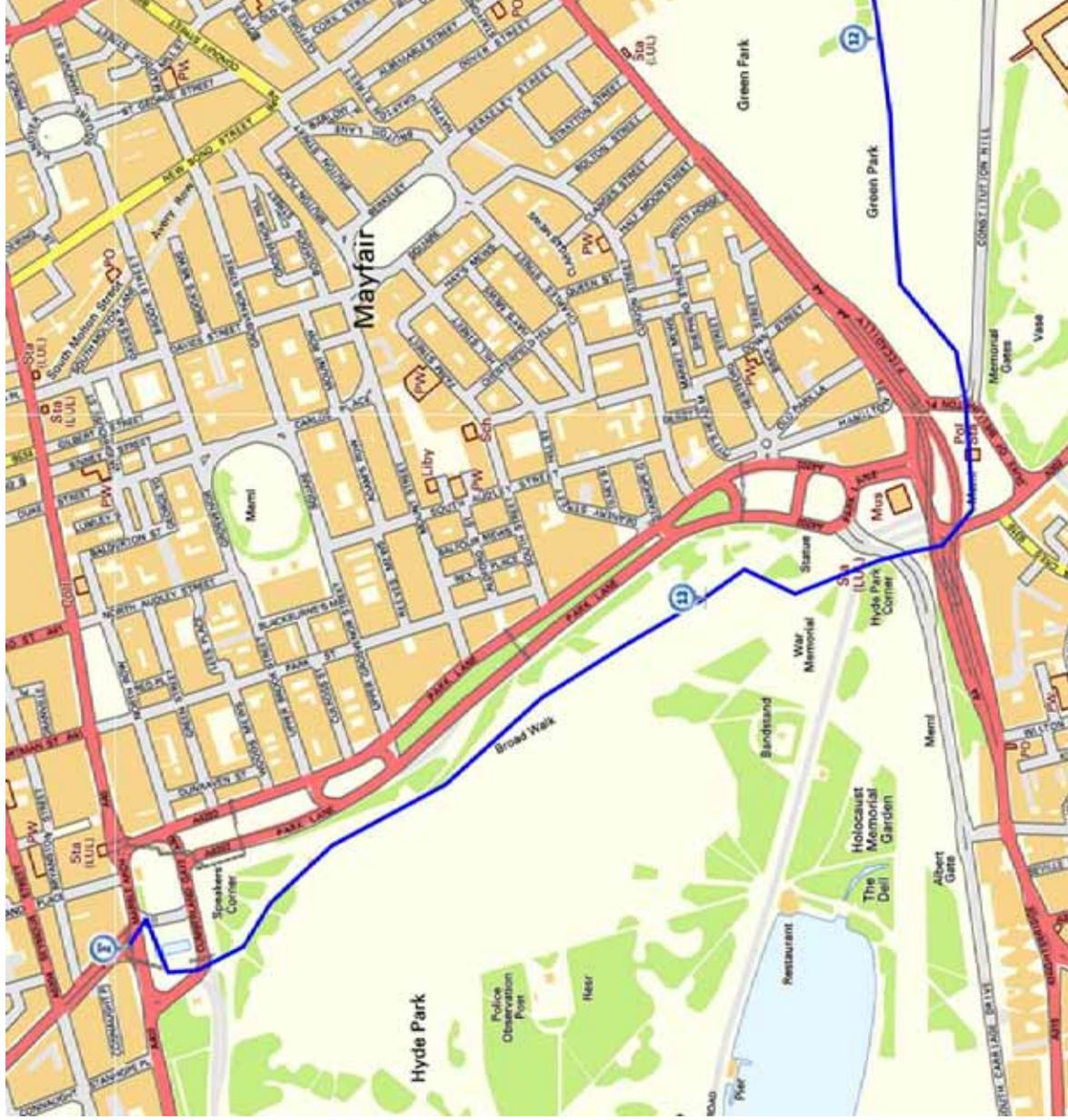
Stopping points

1. Trafalgar Square
2. Trafalgar Square
3. Statue of Charles I at the top of Whitehall
4. Banqueting House, Whitehall
5. Palace of Westminster, east side of Parliament Square
6. Statue of Oliver Cromwell, outside Houses of Parliament
7. St Margaret's Church, south side of Parliament Square
8. Birdcage Walk
9. St James's Park
10. The Queen's Chapel, Marlborough Road
11. St James's Palace, junction of Pall Mall, St James's Street and Cleveland Row
12. Green Park

Detail of second part of the route

Stopping points

12. Green Park
13. Hyde Park
14. Pedestrian island at bottom of Edgware Road



Directions

These directions are for use with the London Civil War walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. History unfolded

Trafalgar Square

Directions 1

Stay in Trafalgar Square and listen to Track 2.

2. The heart of the action

Trafalgar Square

Directions 2

From Trafalgar Square use the pedestrian crossings to cross to the traffic island at the top of Whitehall where there is a statue of King Charles I on horseback. Stop by the statue and listen to Track 3.

3. A good man but a bad king

Statue of Charles I at the top of Whitehall

Directions 3

Use the pedestrian crossing to cross to the left side of Whitehall. Walk down Whitehall in the direction of the Houses of Parliament. Immediately after crossing Horse Guards Avenue the Banqueting Hall is on the left. Stop outside and listen to Track 4.

4. Traitor or martyr?

Banqueting House, Whitehall

Directions 4

Continue along the left side of Whitehall. When you reach Parliament Square, use the pedestrian crossing to go straight across to the front of the Houses of Parliament. Stop near the first vehicle gates, known as the Carriage Gates, where there are usually some police on guard and listen to Track 5.

5. 'I see the birds have flown'

Palace of Westminster from Parliament Square

Directions 5

Continue a short way further with the Houses of Parliament on your left. Stop beside the statue of Oliver Cromwell and listen to Track 6.

6. Tyrant or hero?

Statue of Oliver Cromwell outside the Houses of Parliament

Directions 6

Cross St Margaret Street and go through the passageway between Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Chapel. Stop just to the left of the main door of St Margaret's Church and listen to Track 7.

7. Not a final resting place

Westminster Abbey & St Margaret's Church

Directions 7

Continue through the Abbey grounds towards the front entrance of Westminster Abbey. From the plaza in front of Westminster Abbey use the pedestrian crossing to cross Victoria Street. Pass in front of the Methodist Central Hall and continue along Storey's Gate. At the end, turn left into Birdcage Walk. Cross over to the entrance of St James's Park. Stop near the entrance to the park and listen to Track 8.

8. Royal menagerie

Birdcage Walk

Directions 8

Follow the main path through St James's Park to the lake. Cross the lake using the Blue Bridge and follow the path straight ahead. Stop after a short distance and listen to Track 9.

9. The longest walk

St James's Park

Directions 9

Continue up the path towards the ornamental gates. Cross over The Mall via the pedestrian crossing and walk up Marlborough Road towards St James's Palace. The courtyard of St James's Palace is on the left side and the Queen's Chapel is on the opposite. Stop outside the chapel and listen to Track 10.

10. A Catholic Queen

The Queen's Chapel, Marlborough Road

Directions 10

Continue to the top of Marlborough Road and turn left into Pall Mall. Stop outside the main entrance to St James's Palace and listen to Track 11.

11. Royal births

St James's Palace entrance, Pall Mall

Directions 11

Continue straight along Cleveland Row. At the end of Cleveland Row are a few steps down into Green Park. Turn left down the wide path and then the first right along the wide path that crosses the whole park. Stop part way along this path and listen to Track 12.

12. How a king kept his cool

Green Park

Directions 12

Continue walking through Green Park towards Hyde Park Corner. Use the pedestrian crossing then go through Wellington Arch. Follow the pathway to the other side and use the pedestrian crossing to reach the archway into Hyde Park to the left of Apsley House. Cross South Carriage Drive and head towards the Statue of Achilles. From there follow the path towards the London Bombings memorial. After passing this memorial look on the right for a series of grassy mounds and embankments. Stop near these embankments and listen to Track 13.

13. To dig like moles

Hyde Park east side parallel to Park Lane

Directions 13

Continue through Hyde Park towards Marble Arch. At Marble Arch, use the pedestrian crossings or subways to cross to the bottom of Edgware Road. Cross to the traffic island at the bottom of Edgware Road. Stop by the circular stone tablet in the ground and listen to Track 14.

14. Posthumus Revenge

Pedestrian island at bottom of Edgware Road

Directions 13

To return to Trafalgar Square use Marble Arch Underground station. Alternatively you may like to go to the West End by following Oxford Street or enjoy exploring the Parks.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **David Flintham** for creating the walk
- **Jenny Lunn** for editing the walk materials
- **Rory Walsh** for taking photographs
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio commentary
- **Florence Lee, Nick Stanworth, Alex Ricketts and Sam Carlsson** for additional assistance with compiling walk resources
- **Laura Shawyer** for testing the walk and providing additional photographs

Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route:

A Tale of Two Forts – London’s Hyde Park and St George’s Fields Forts

by David Flintham (*Fort*, Volume 38, 2010, pages 3-8)

Banqueting House

www.hrp.org.uk/banquetinghouse

The British Civil Wars and Commonwealth

www.british-civil-wars.co.uk

Civil War and Revolution - BBC History

www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution

The Royal Parks

<http://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks>

St Margaret’s Church

www.westminster-abbey.org/st-margarets

Westminster Abbey

www.westminster-abbey.org





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