

The Escape Committee

1. An Introverts Guide to London

Initial Plan;

Get a map,

Get buses to various areas of London,

Find areas where I am alone/are quiet/disused,

Begin to plot empty/quiet zones

Consider differences throughout various times of day,

What types of areas are the quiet areas? What kind of people are around and why?

Plot the quietest routes from A to B

Create a new map.



2. 11.11.14 – 13.11.14 Searching for quiet in London

Starting early in the morning I began to take buses to

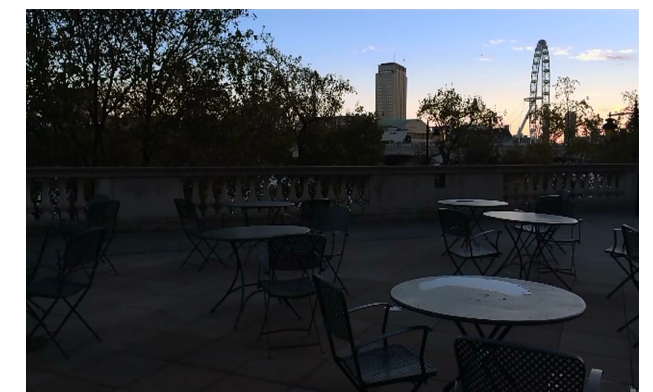
various areas of London which I had researched the night before. I filmed particularly quiet areas and took the time and details such as weather and who was around.

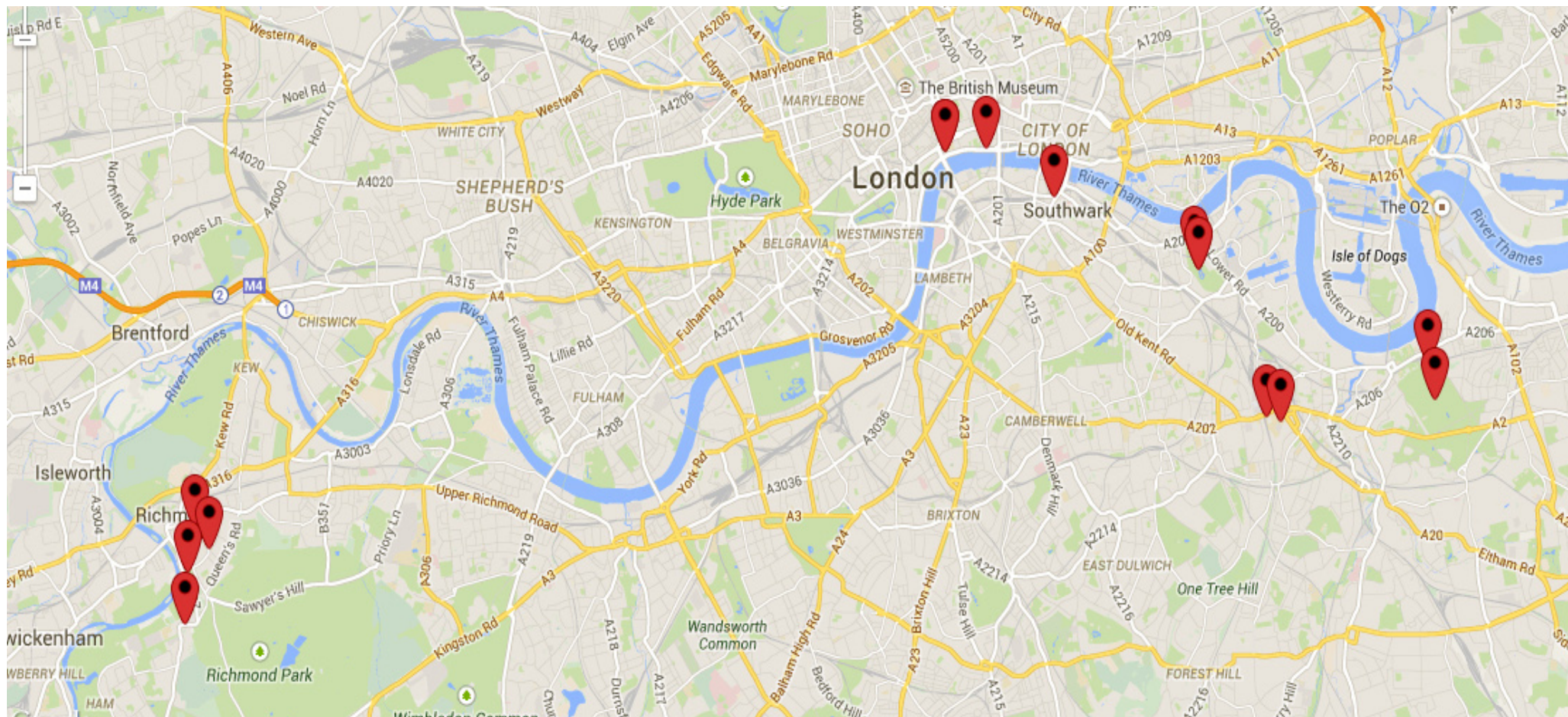
I initially focused on areas such as parks where you would

typically go to find quiet and tranquility but as the day

progressed and I found myself in areas such as Waterloo where quiet is particularly hard to come by, I began to look more at areas such as public toilets and particularly empty bus routes.

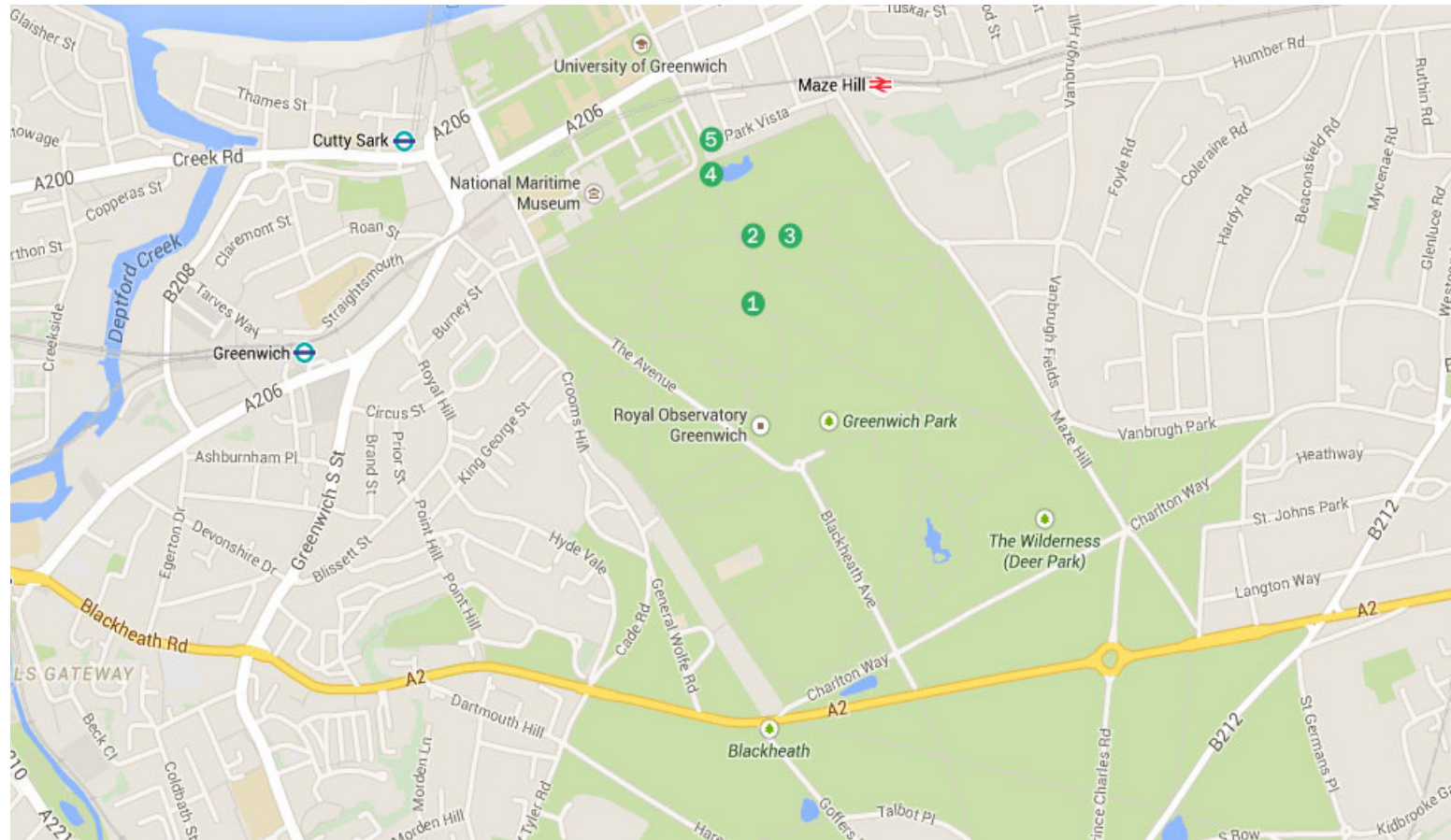
Are there times of day where central London is quieter?





I started to plot the locations I had found onto a map, but many of the small side streets I had been down were hard to make out in the process so decided to make smaller maps of each area.

1. Greenwich



1. Path Overlooking Maritime Museum, Greenwich Park
09:10 11.11.14
Windy but sunny, 11°
Dog walkers, joggers, maintenance mowing lawn and people walking to work.

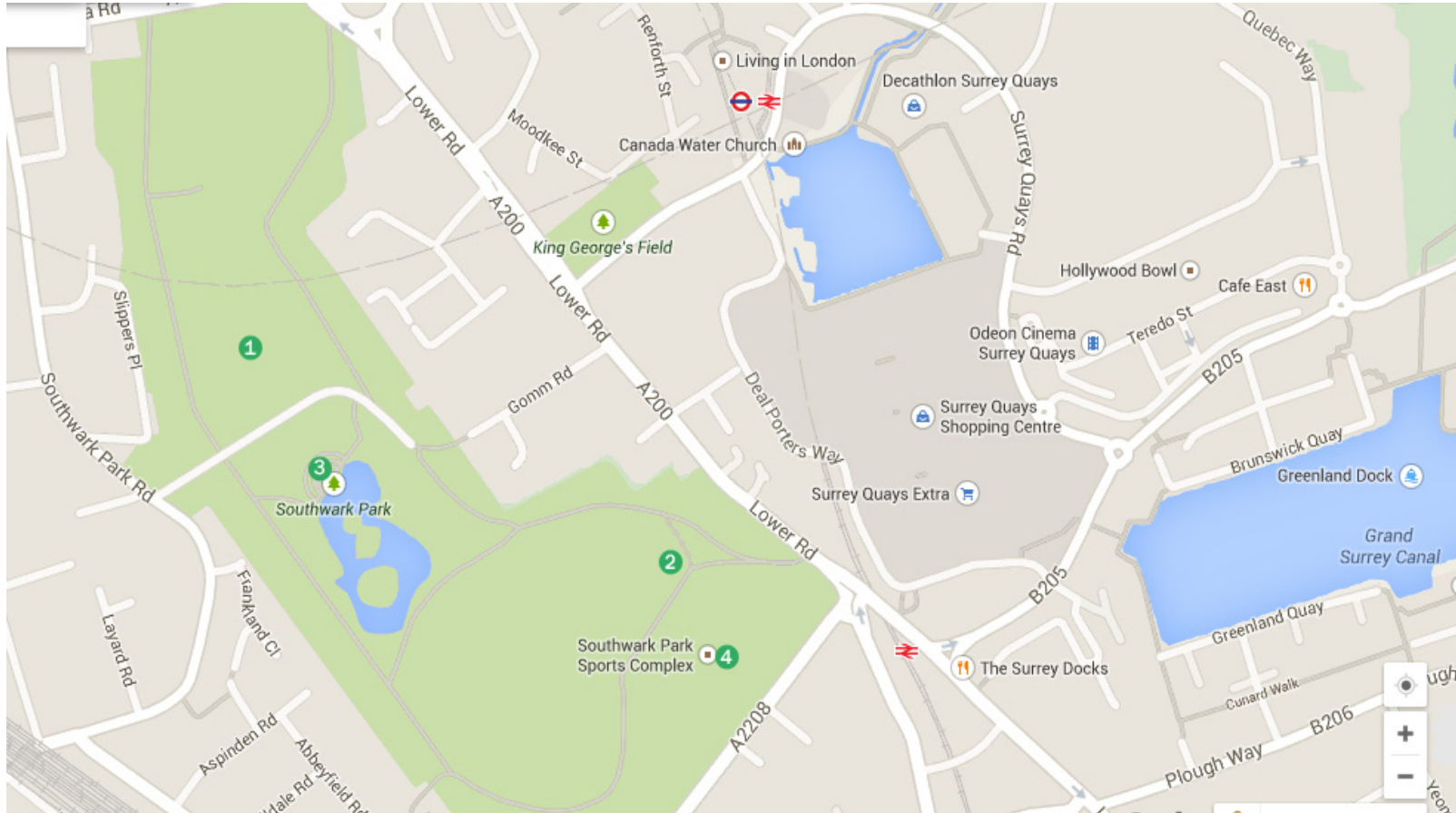
2. Benches on Lovers Walk, Greenwich Park
09:35 11.11.14
Windy but sunny, 11°
Dog walkers

3. Hill near Lovers Walk, Greenwich Park
09:50 11.11.14
Windy but sunny 11°
Dog Walkers

4. Pond Near Entrance, Greenwich Park
10:30 11.11.14
Windy but Sunny 12°
Dog Walkers and families

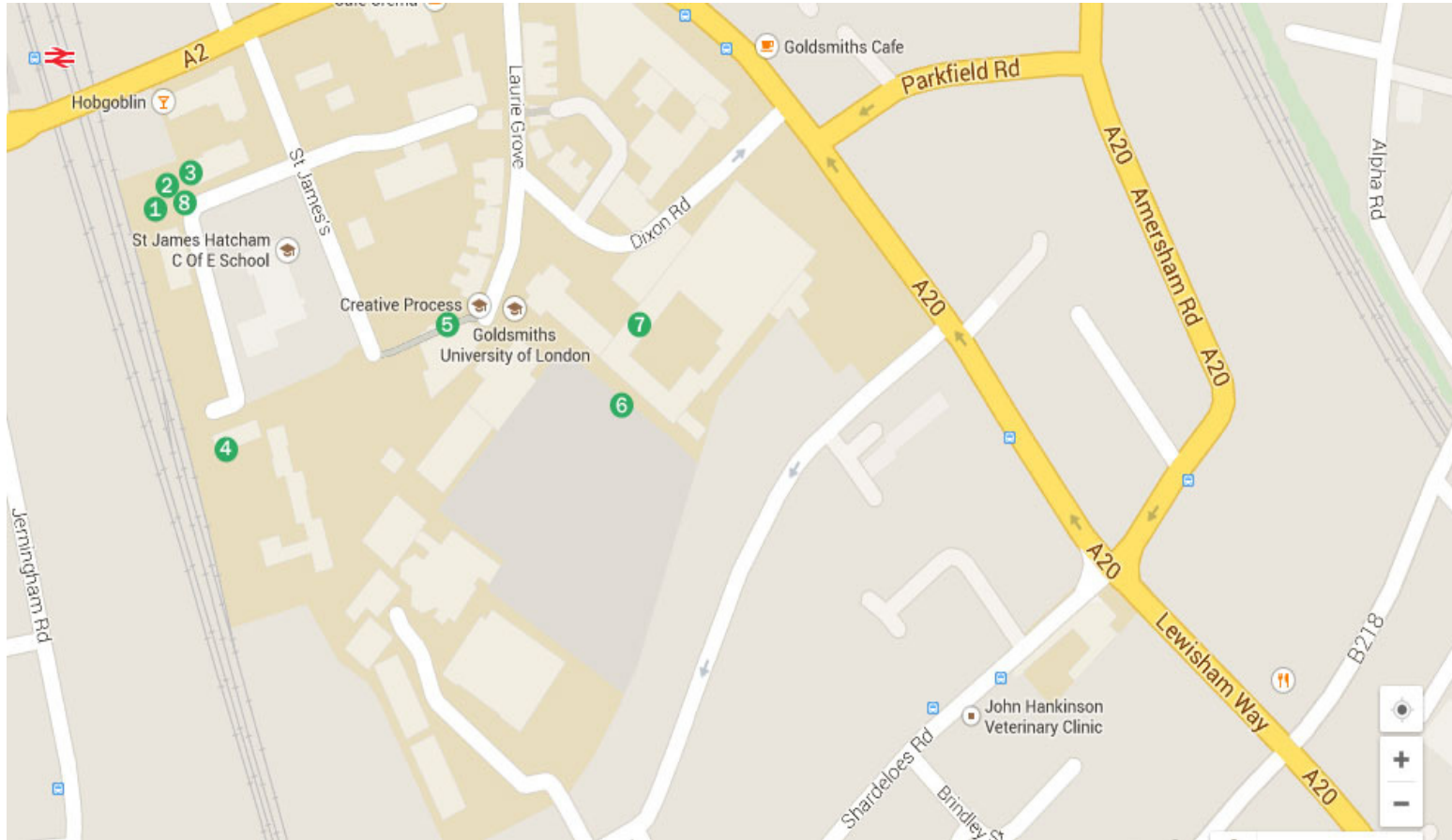
5. Junction of Park Row and Park Vista, Greenwich
10:50 11.11.14
Windy but Sunny 12°
Jogger

2. Southwark Park



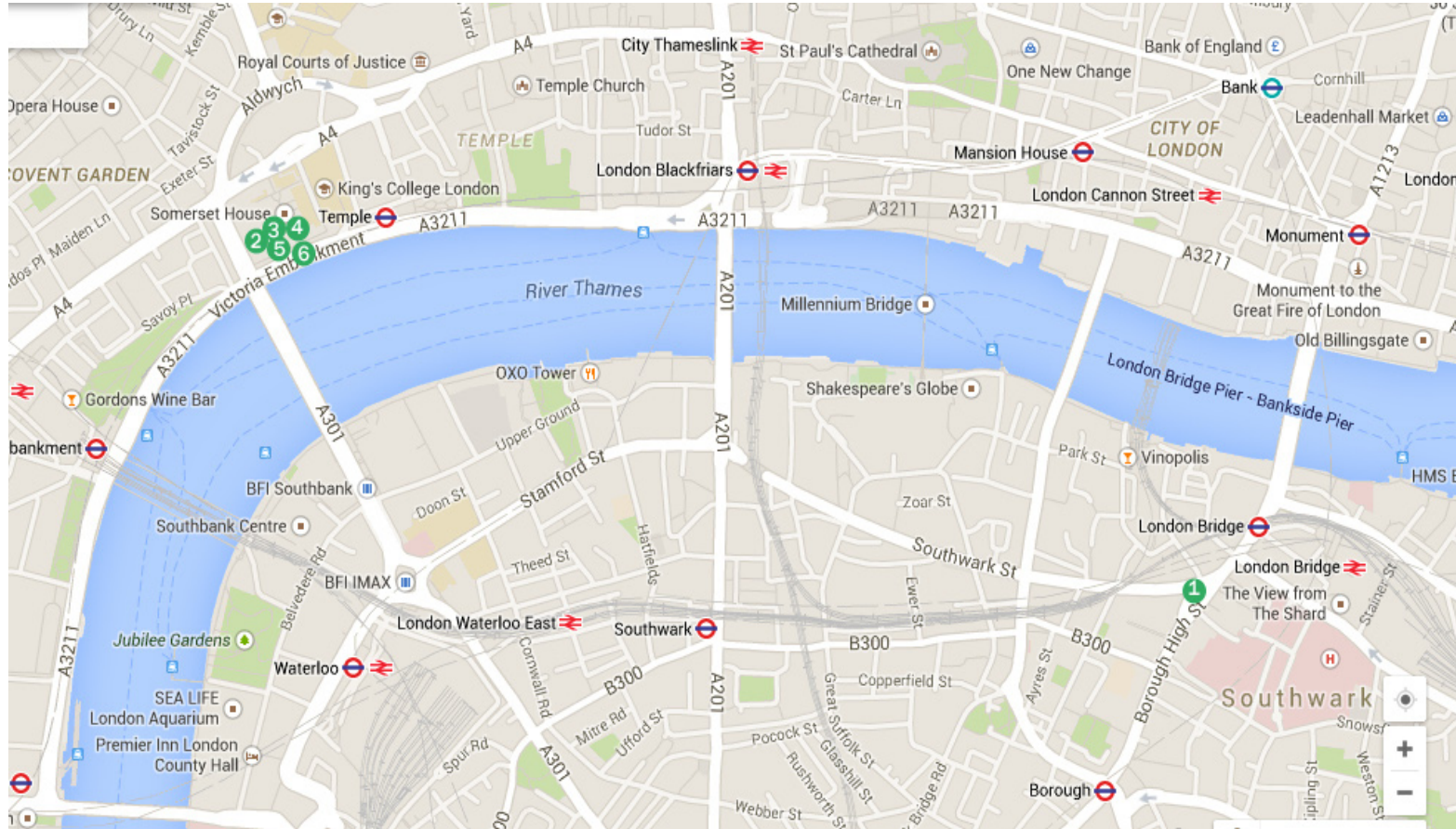
1. Southwark Park Bowls Club
10:10 11.11.14
Cloudy 11 °
Dog walkers
2. Tennis Courts, Southwark Park
10:20 11.11.14
Cloudy 11 °
Dog walkers & Joggers
3. The Ada Salter Rose Garden, Southwark Park
10:50 11.11.14
Cloudy 11 °
4. Southwark Park Sports Complex
11:20 11.11.14
Cloudy 11 °

3. Goldsmiths



1. Smoking Shelter, Block D, Loring Hall, New Cross
23:40 10.11.14
Cloudy, 9°
Students
2. Second Floor Hallway, Block D, Loring Hall, New Cross
16:45 10.11.14
Students
3. Kitchen, Flat 5, Loring Hall, New Cross
23:04 10.11.14/ 07:10 11.11.14
Flatmates
4. Path to St James Laundry Room, New Cross
16:58 10.11.14
Students
5. Path from St James's to Laurie Grove, New Cross
20:05 12.11.14
Light Rain 10°
Students
6. Overlooking Green outside RHB, Goldsmiths, New Cross
19:45 12.11.14
Light Rain 10°
Students
7. Corridor of RHB. Goldsmiths, New Cross
19:30 12.11.14
Staff and Students

4. Somerset House & London Bridge



1. Downstairs Bathroom, Costa Coffee, 3 Southwark St
 12:15 11.11.14
 Cloudy 12°
 Customers

2. Wounded: The Legacy of War exhibition, Somerset House
 15:23 12.11.14
 Windy 10°
 Staff

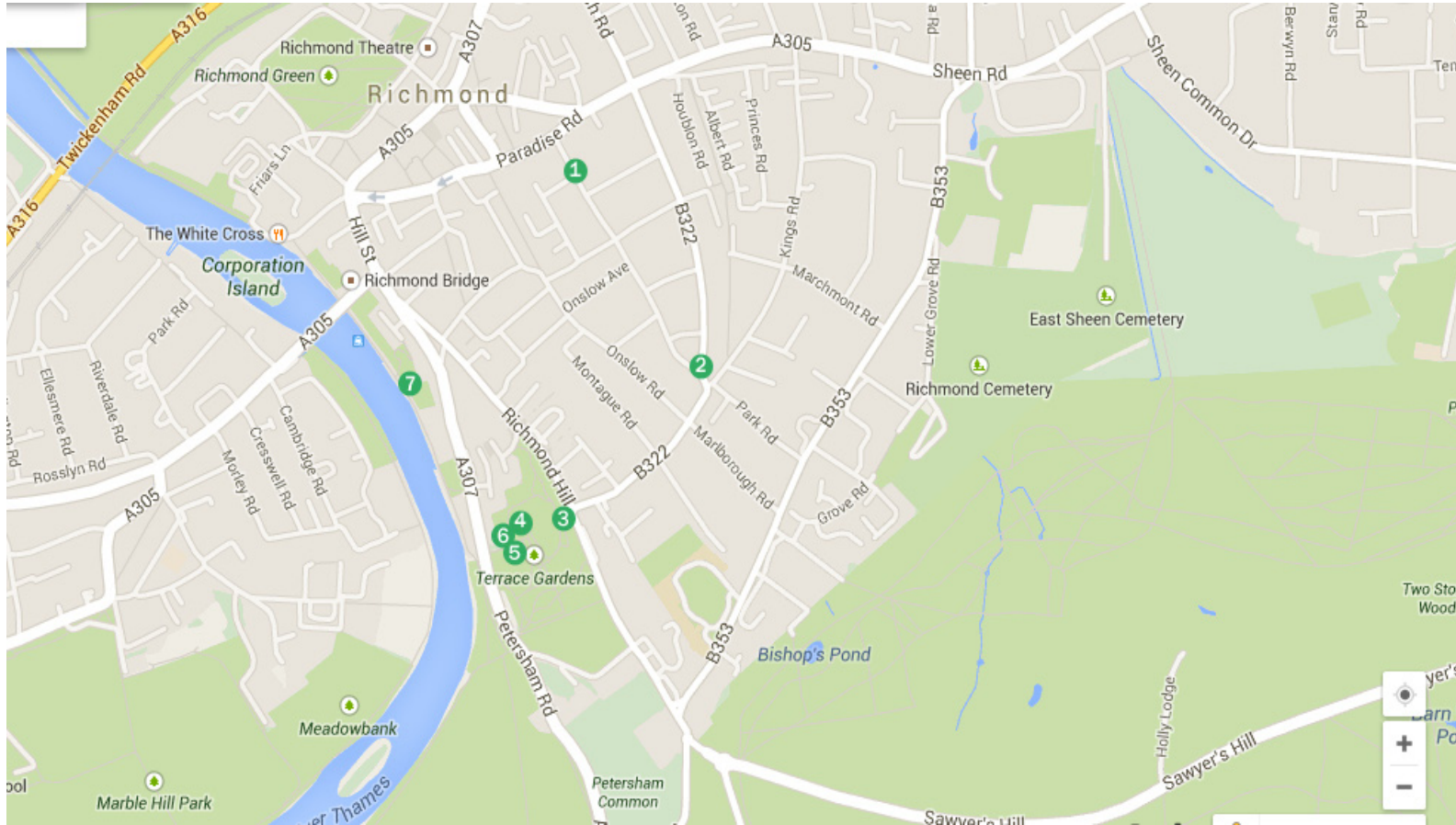
3. Ground Floor Corridor, Somerset House
 15:35 12.11.14
 Windy 10°

4. Bottom Floor Staircase, Somerset House
 15:49 12.11.14
 Windy 10°
 General Public

5. Elevator, Somerset House
 16:00 12.11.14
 Windy 10°

6. Outdoor Seating of Cafe, Somerset House
 16:30 12.11.14
 Windy 10°

5. Richmond



1. Dynevor Road, Richmond
15:45 11.11.14
Cloudy 10°
General Public

2. St. Matthias Church, Richmond
15:58 11.11.14
Cloudy 10°
General Public

3. Bench on Pathway, Terrace Gardens, Richmond
16:15 11.11.14
Cloudy 10
Jogger

4. Benches Overlooking Main Gardens, Terrace Gardens, Richmond
16:29 11.11.14
Cloudy 10°
Dog Walker

5. Birch Trees on Path, Terrace Gardens, Richmond
16:37 11.11.14
Cloudy 10°

6. Gateway to Main Gardens, Terrace Gardens, Richmond
16:39 11.11.14
Windy 10°

7. Waterfront, Richmond
16:49 11.11.14
Windy 10°
Joggers & Cyclists

Now I needed to start thinking what to do with the information I had collected so far.

I want to make a map similar to 'Silent London' by

Simon Elvins, which shows quiet areas of London, but I want to focus more on paths and routes between quiet places.

Can I map my emotions in given areas?

PsychoGeography: “the study of the precise laws and specific effects of the geographical environment, consciously organized or not, on the emotions and behavior of individuals.”

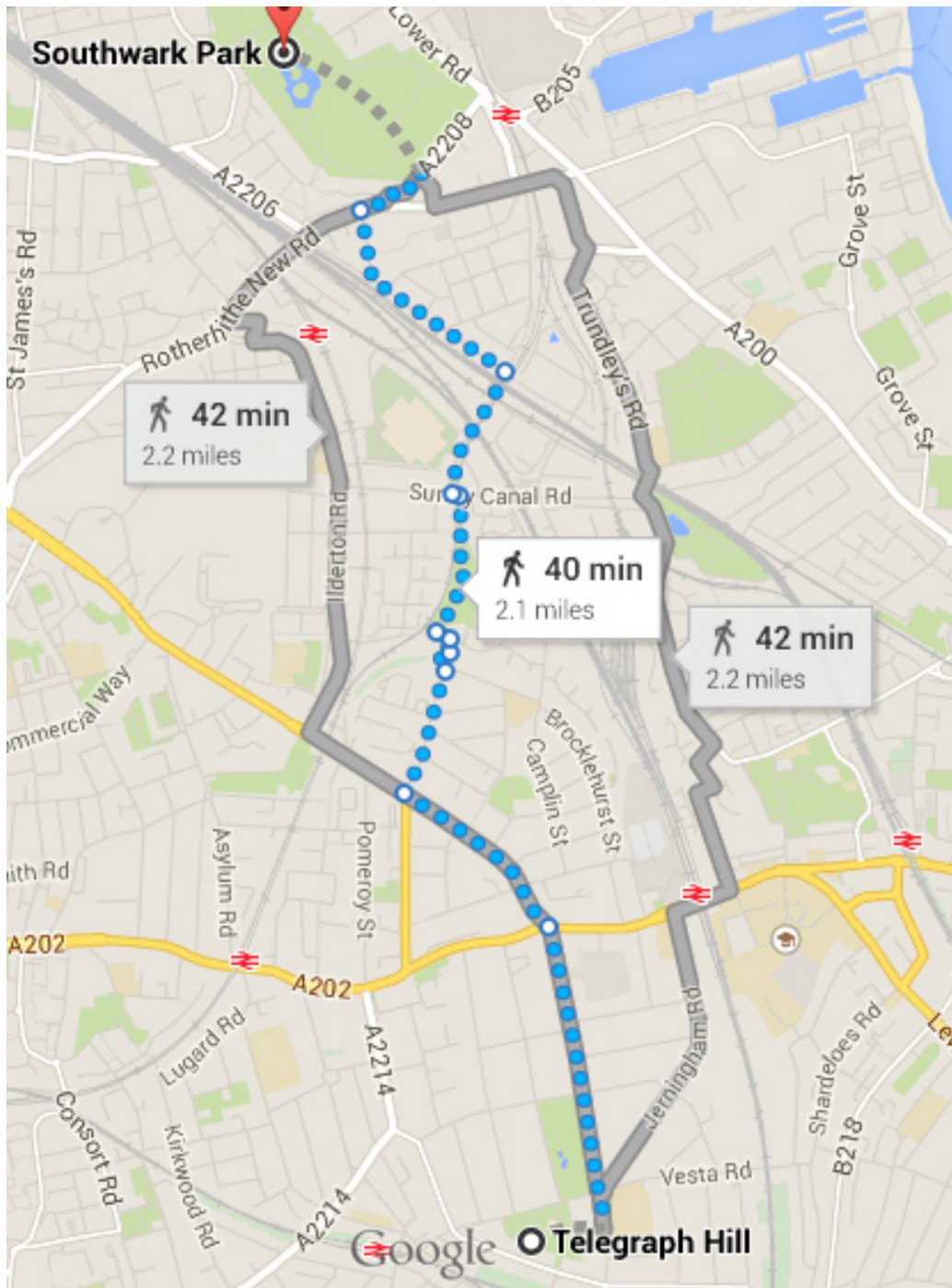
“Unfold a street map... place a glass, rim down, anywhere on the map, and draw round its edge. Pick up the map, go out in the city, and walk the circle, keeping as close as you can to the curve. Record the experience as you go, in whatever medium you favour.” Robert MacFarlane, *Psycho-geography: A Beginner's Guide*.

“A friend recently told me that he had just wandered through the Harz region of Germany while blindly following the directions of a map of London.”

“To derive was to notice the way in which certain areas, streets, or buildings resonate with states of mind, inclinations, and desires, and to seek out reasons for movement other than those for which an environment was designed.” Sadie Plant, *The Most Radical Gesture*.



Silent London by Simon Elvins (2005) “Using information the government has collected on noise levels within London, a map has been plotted of the capitals most silent space. The map intends to reveal a hidden landscape of quiet spaces and shows an alternate side of the city that would normally go unnoticed.”

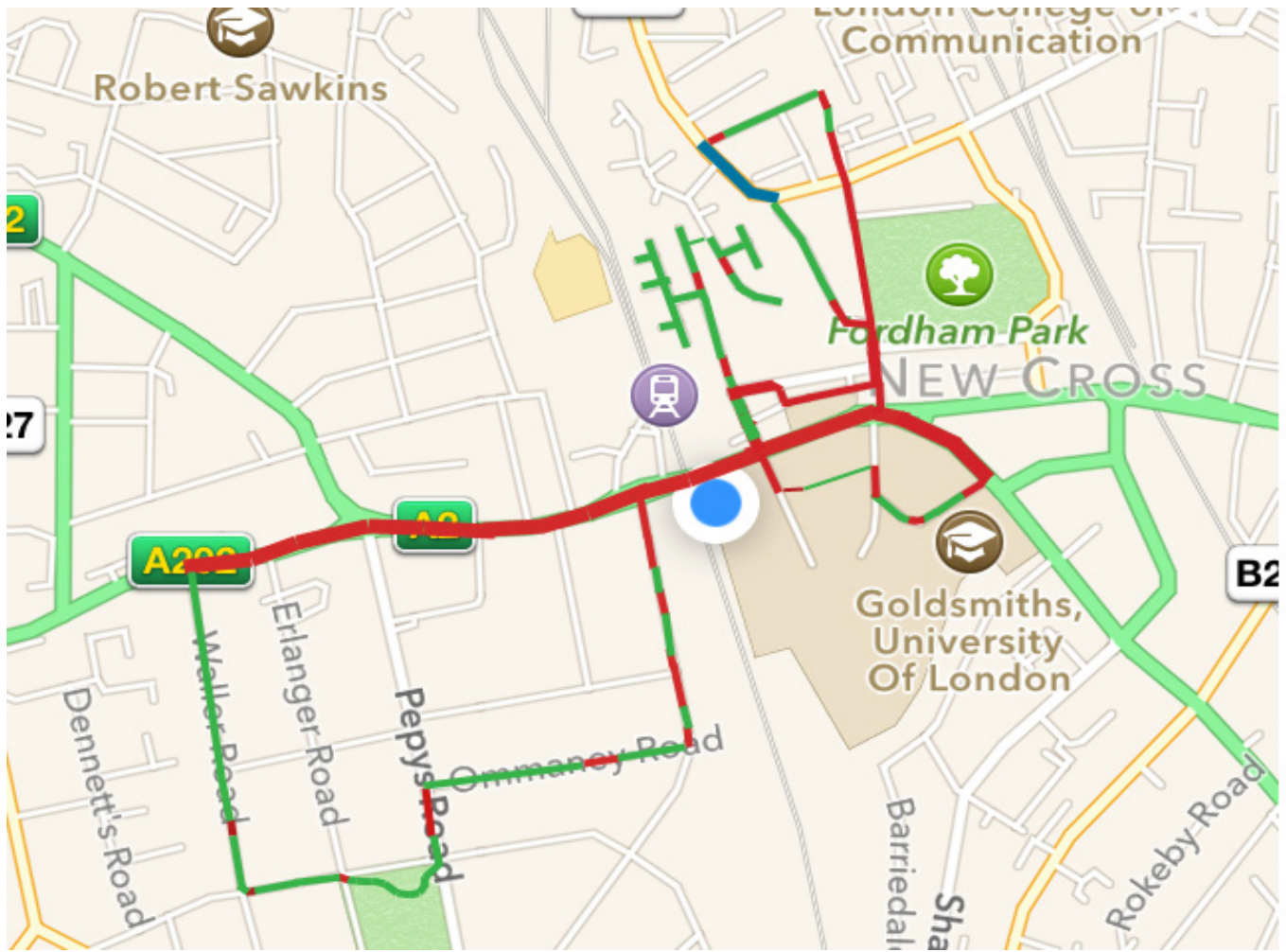


Can I get from Southwark Park to Telegraph Hill, two quiet places, finding a route where I see nobody?

How many times will I need to take the route to find out when people are generally around, such as for the school rush or walking home from uni.



Where's quiet in New Cross?



- Person/People present
- Alone
- No people, just cars/vehicles

This map is based on one trip down each individual street, for the map to be more accurate, each route would need to be repeated a number of times in different conditions and at various times of day. Will this take too long?



Finding 'pockets' of alone. Instead of relying on parks for quiet spaces, what about the moments you are alone in an elevator?

Filming in elevators on Oxford Street was actually quite difficult as although many of the elevators are off in the corner of the shop and rarely used, it seems as though as soon as someone sees you press the button they run over instead of using the escalators or stairs. (can you lead people into using the elevator?)

When editing this lot of film, as I did with my footage from around new cross, I split it into two, one side was the 'alone' side and the video swapped to the other side of the screen as soon as the doors opened, ending that 'pocket' of alone.

I also experimented with filming on escalators, pointing my phone up to the ceiling and holding it steady on the moving hand rail, creating a smooth, slightly surreal compilation of videos.

Many of them made the shop look empty despite me being in a crowd.



What does it really mean to be alone?

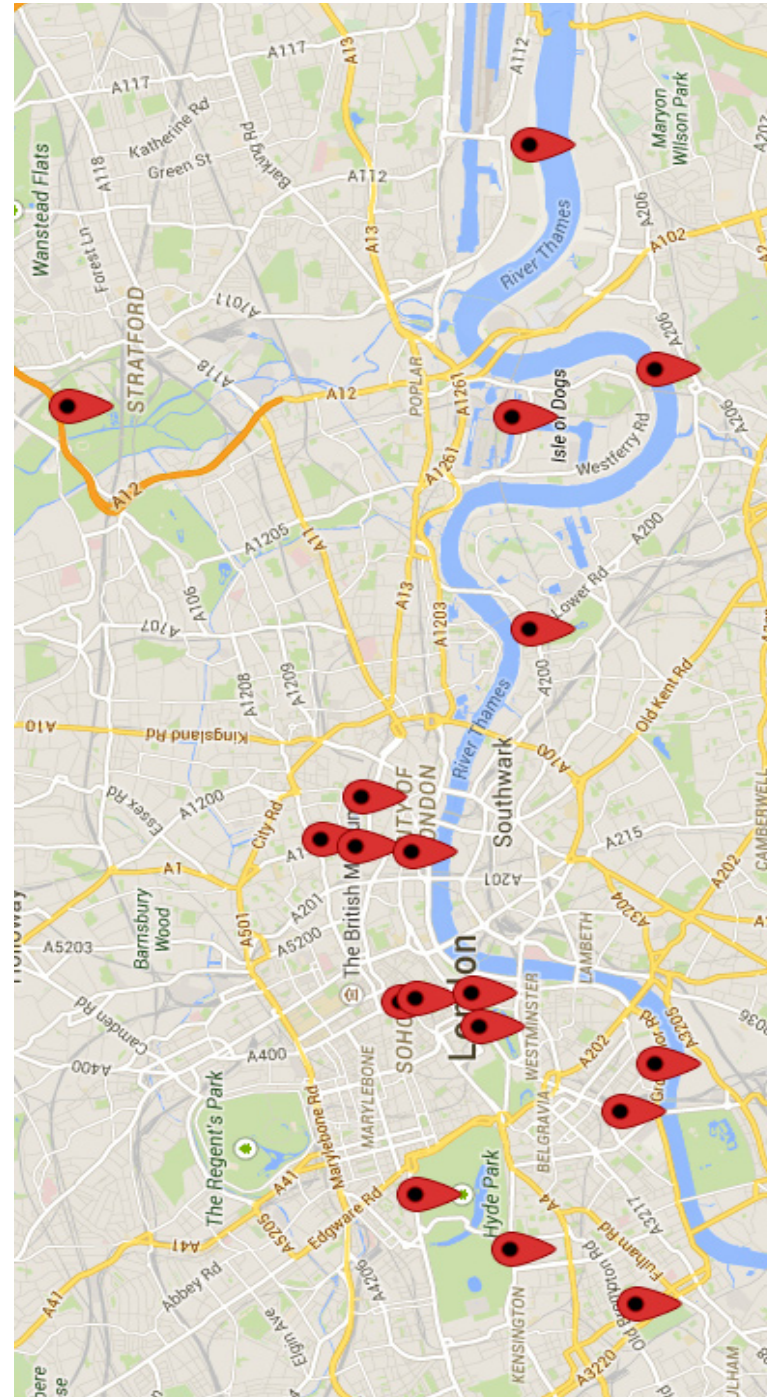
Often in cities we are surrounded by hundreds of people but will rarely communicate or often even acknowledge them.

Using the way I shoot my film I could create a version of London where I'm the only person, or at least the only one who seems to be around. If I get up early and start filming at sunrise which is before most shops open at 9, I should be able to capture quiet moments in well recognisable areas of Central London.

If I edit the sound (as I did in some earlier experiments using footage from Oxford Street and the sounds of Greenwich Park) I can remove the sounds of traffic and people.

My main issue will be trying to avoid people walking in the background of my shots, especially if there is a long stretch of road, or on the other side of the street.

I have plotted my initial places of interest on the map opposite.



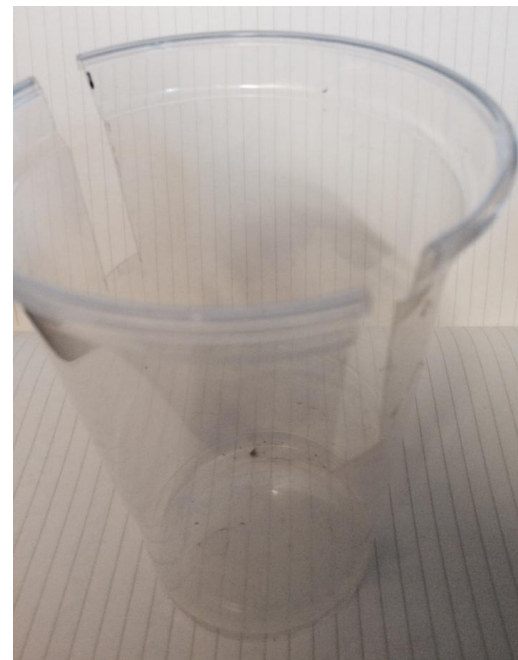
After the first day of filming I've noticed that one major issue is handshake in the films I've taken. Is there any way to prevent or lessen this? Can I make some kind of tripod?

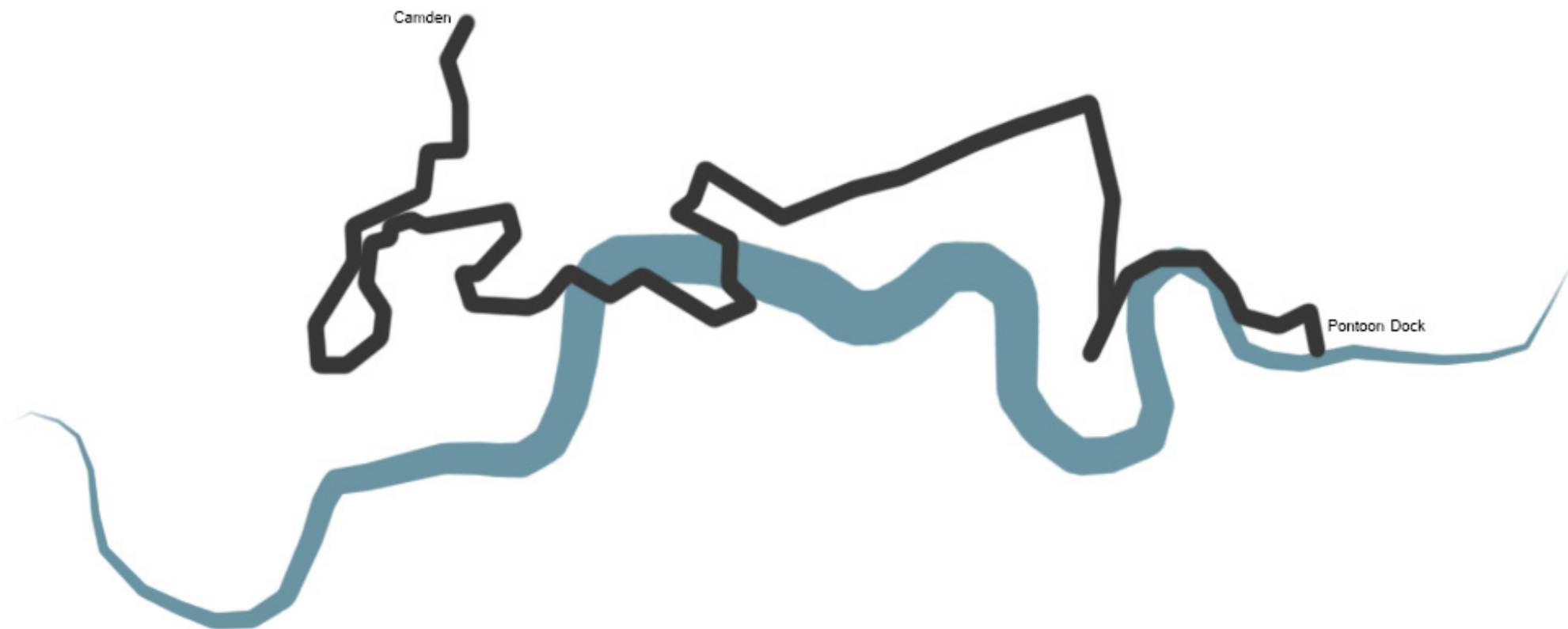
I made a makeshift but very convenient tripod out of a cup with slits either side, could angle the slits for high and low shots.

The first cup I made, while sturdy and wind resistant, cracked very easily throughout the day as I knocked into things. Had to re-tape the cracks shut, which meant that a number of the videos were slightly wonky.

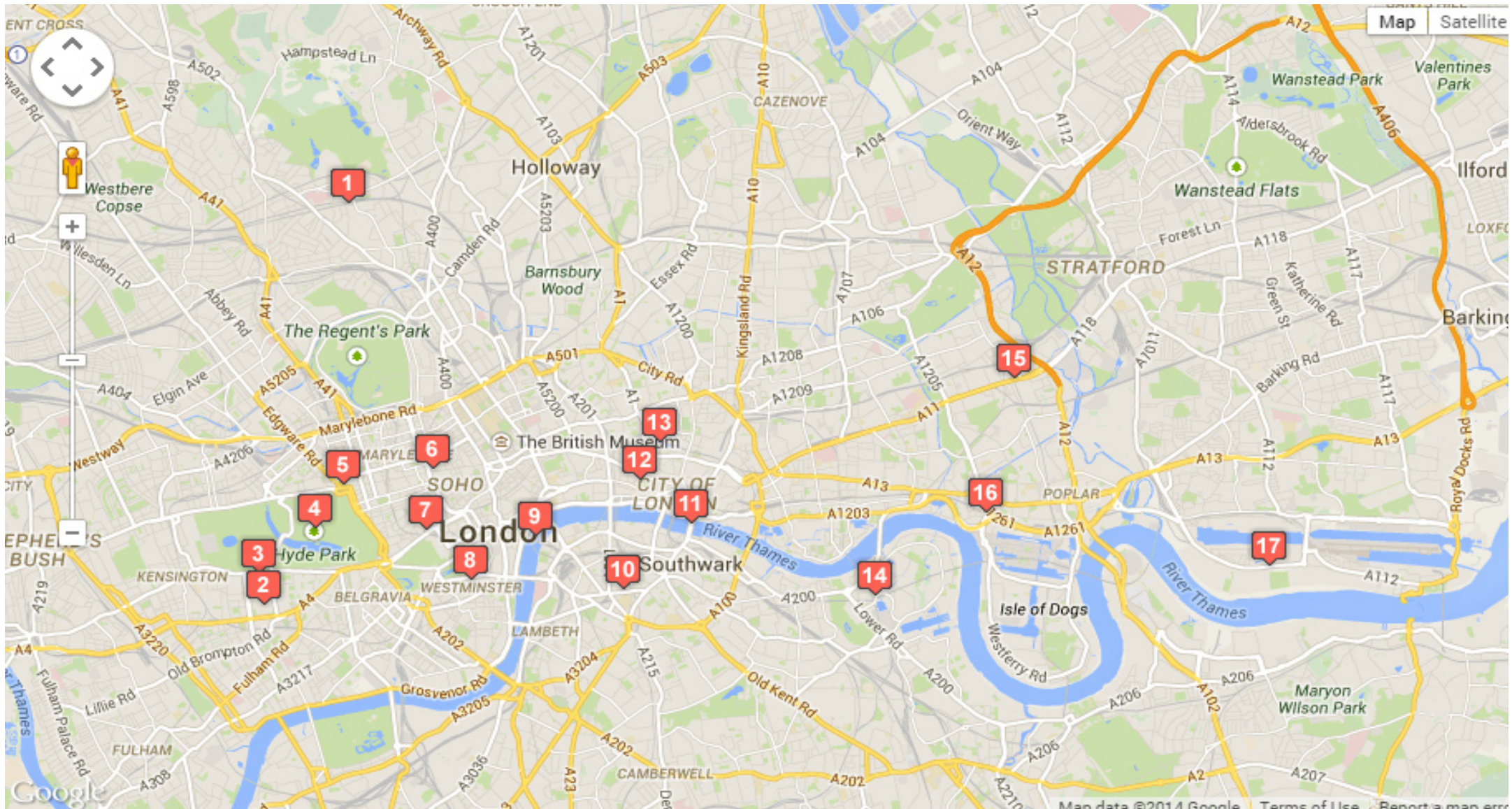
The second cup was far more flexible and harder to break, it did however move around in the wind, regardless of weighing it down, due to the flimsy sides.

I think in future maybe I should use a real tripod.





This is a very simplified version of my final route through London, showing my journey from its start in Camden to its end at Pontoon Dock. Originally I wanted to begin my journey in Primrose Hill, but unfortunately due to technical difficulties the clip was lost and had to be recreated up Telegraph Hill. I was also unable to reach my chosen final location which was the Thames Barrier, as works were taking place and the gardens were locked upon my arrival, I did still get moderately close though.



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|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Camden | 5. Marble Arch | 9. Golden Jubilee Bridges | 13. Barbican | 17. Pontoon Dock |
| 2. Natural History Museum | 6. Oxford Street | 10. Southbank | 14. Canada Water | |
| 3. Royal Albert Hall | 7. Green Park | 11. London Bridge | 15. Bow Church | |
| 4. Hyde Park | 8. Westminster | 12. St Pauls Cathedral | 16. Westferry | |