

One History – EC1 in the making

One History is a project to highlight, celebrate and record the rich history of the EC1 area. The project was commissioned by EC1 New Deal for Communities and produced by King's College London researchers.

One History draws on memories of local people and original archives. Find out more at the project's website (www.ec1history.co.uk), where you can listen to people's memories of the area, read articles and download an audio podcast of this walk, and another local walk: *From Slum to Slaughterhouse, the St John Street trail*.

The Black Cat trail

The Black Cat trail crosses EC1 from Old Street in the east to the Angel in the west. It reveals some of the major changes in the area, passing by characterful churches, former cigarette factories, 19th century housing estates and Finsbury Council's pioneering efforts to improve social housing in the 20th century.

Cover image:
Advert for Black Cat cigarettes on Dingley Road

Start

Old Street underground station (exit 7), London

Finish

Spa Green Estate, Rosebery Avenue,
London EC1R 4TR

Time/distance

Around 40 minutes to walk approximately
1.5 miles (2.5 km)

Getting there

The walk starts at Old Street underground station (Northern Line) and finishes on Rosebery Avenue, a few minutes walk from the Angel underground station (Northern Line).

Podcast

An audio podcast to accompany this walk is available at the website www.ec1history.co.uk

Local history

Find out more about the history of the area at the Islington Museum (245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB). The museum is open every day except for Wednesday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. For more information call 020 7527 3235 or email islington.museum@islington.gov.uk

EC1 New Deal for Communities

The Black Cat trail was funded by EC1 New Deal for Communities (NDC) to celebrate the history of the EC1 area. Find out more about EC1 NDC at www.yourec1.com

Authors

The Black Cat trail was researched and written by Dr David Green and Eoin Dunne from King's College London.

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Council houses, churches and cigarettes:

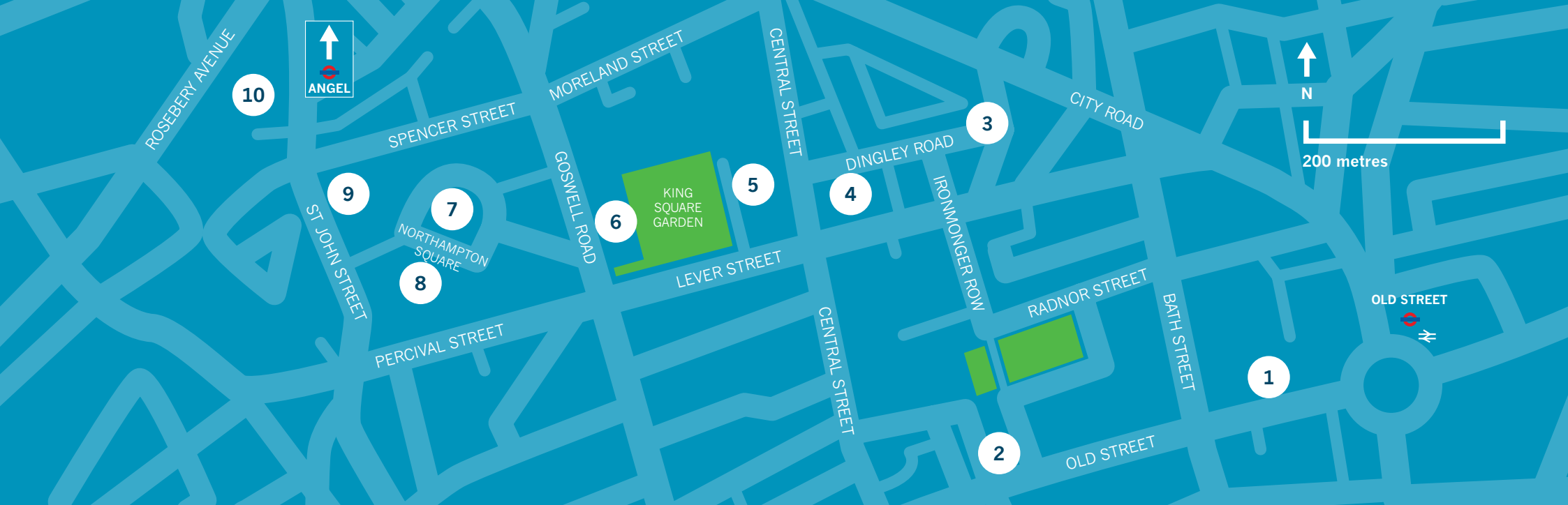
The Black Cat trail



www.ec1history.co.uk

 Audio files available online





1 Old Street

Until the 18th century this ancient street was the boundary between the city to the south and open fields to the north. By the mid-19th century it was lined with factories, warehouses and shops.

2 St Luke's Church

Built in 1733 to replace churches lost in the Great Fire of 1666, St Luke's was designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor and John James. In 2000 the London Symphony Orchestra began a multi-million pound restoration.



3 Black Cat Cigarette Factory

The Black Cat brand, introduced in 1904, was one of the first machine made cigarettes in Britain. The popular brand was made by the Carerras Company, which had a factory nearby on City Road.

4 Salmon and Gluckstein entrance

This ornate doorway was the entrance to one of the factories owned by Salmon and Gluckstein, a large London tobacco company. In the 1930s one in three of all London tobacco firms were located in EC1.

6 King Square

Laid out in the 1820s, King Square was named in celebration of the new monarch, George IV. The large tower on the King Square Estate, Turnpike House, was designed by the eminent architect Joseph Emberton.



5 St Clement's Church

With space for 1,600 people, St Clement's Church was built in the 1820s to supplement St Luke's. Local ratepayers objected to its construction, complaining that it was unnecessary expense to the parish.

7 Northampton Square

Laid out in the early 1800s, the square is named after the Marquis of Northampton who owned the land. By 1885 several of the houses included manufacturing workshops.



8 Brunswick Estate

When the Brunswick Estate, designed by Joseph Emberton, was built in 1962 the tower blocks were the tallest in London.

9 Northampton Institute

The Northampton Institute was founded in 1894 to provide courses in science, technology and arts and crafts for local people, as depicted in friezes carved into the façade of the building.

10 Spa Green Estate

Spa Green Estate was designed by Berthold Lubetkin as part of Finsbury Council's housing plan after World War II. Innovatively at the time, the flats were built to include central heating, hot water and a refuse disposal system.