



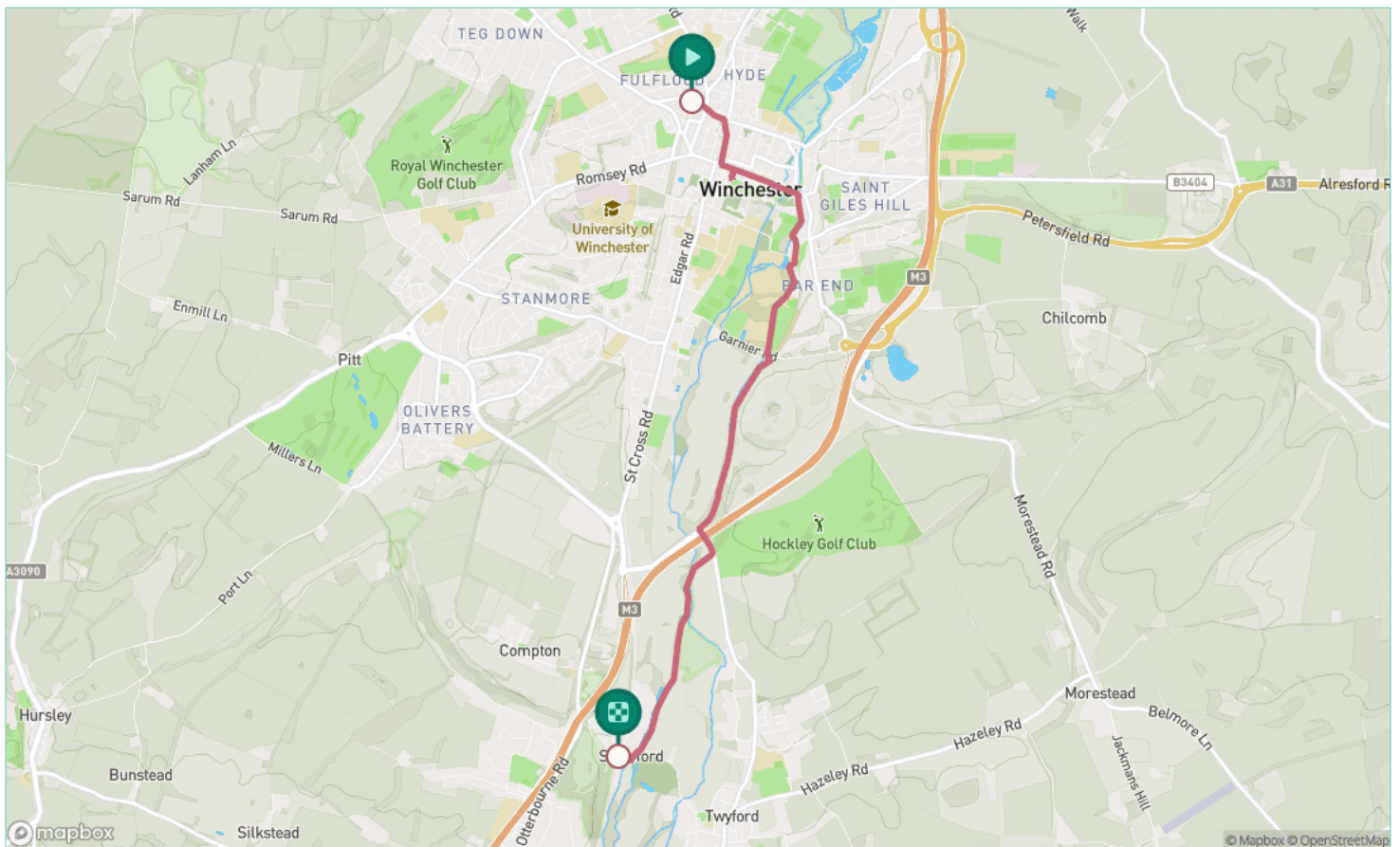
# Itchen Navigation: Segment 1 of 3

The Itchen Navigation has so much to enjoy. On this segment to Shawford, discover scenic riverside paths right from the heart of Winchester.

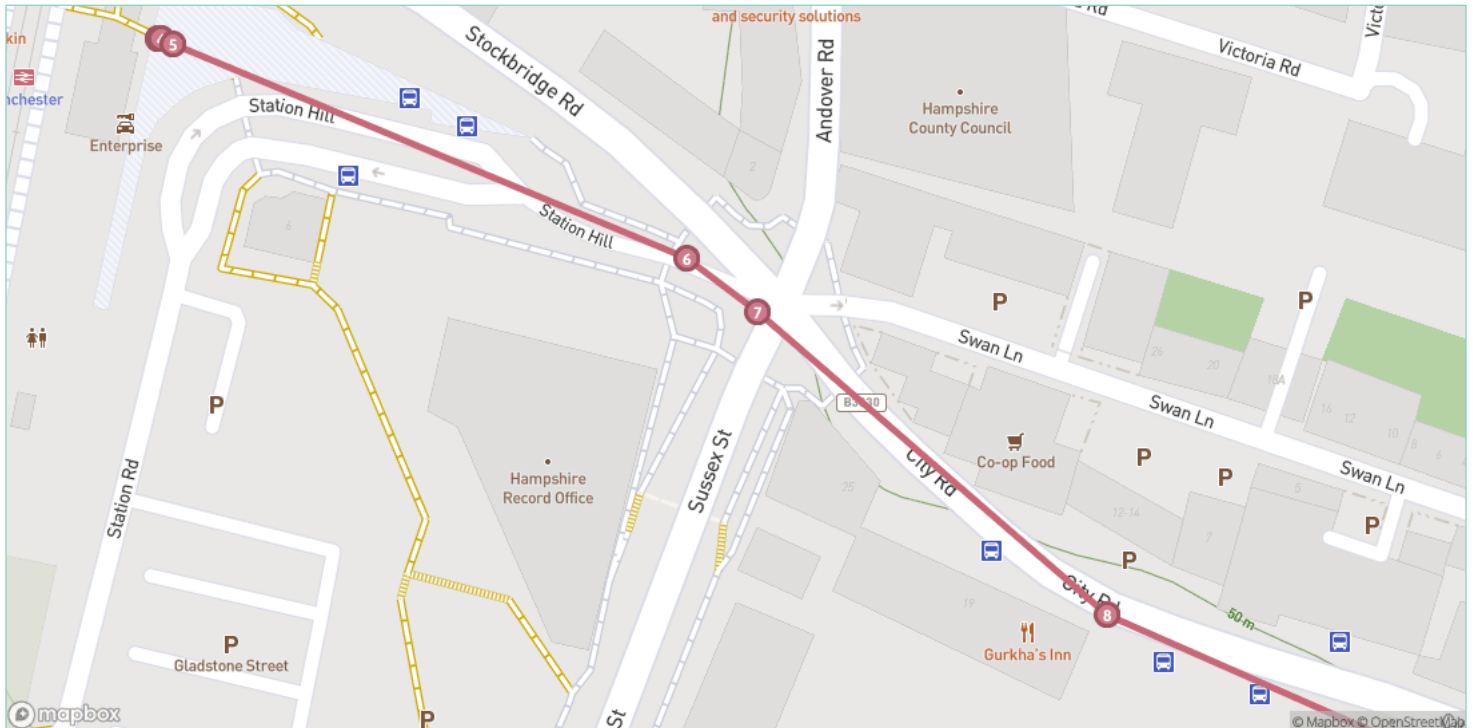
**Distance** 6.4 kilometers / 4 miles

**Duration** 2 hours and 30 minutes

- Water feature
- Public loos
- Refreshments
- Public transport
- Picnic spot
- Dog friendly



Disclaimer: Directions are provided as guidance only. Weather, construction, closures or other factors may affect routes. Please take care when crossing roads and avoid private land. Always follow local signage and use common sense. Created by Go Jauntly Ltd © 2023. Last Updated: 23 March 2023.



**Step 1:** Welcome to Winchester! This is part 1 of the Itchen Navigation walk, which runs to Southampton. Today, we'll be walking to Shawford.

**Step 2:** The Itchen Navigation is well sign-posted. As it follows the route of a waterway, the trail is mainly flat and level, however there are some locations with stiles, gates or gradients. Additionally, the route can get muddy and wet.

**Step 3:** Be sure you've packed plenty of water and snacks, and you're wearing good, comfortable walking shoes.

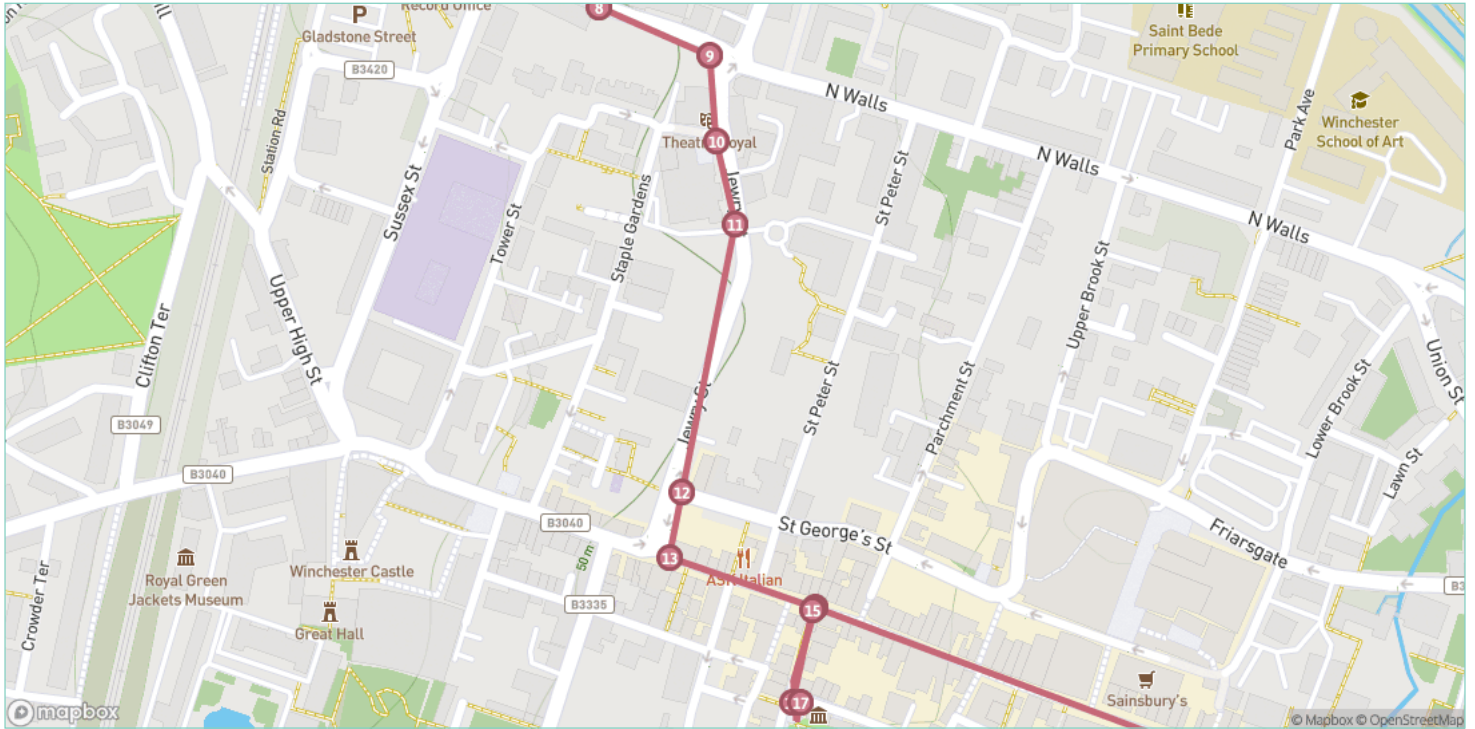
**Step 4:** When you're ready, we'll head out from the railway station in Winchester. The station is served by frequent Southwestern Railway trains coming from Weymouth, Southampton, Eastleigh, and London Waterloo.

**Step 5:** Exiting out the station, head straight ahead down Station Hill on the pavement. Keep the road to your right and head past the bus stops.

**Step 6:** At the junction, cross first to the right to cross to the other side of Station Hill.

**Step 7:** Then cross Sussex Street. You can use the pedestrian signal or the subway.

**Step 8:** Continue straight ahead of you, down the right-hand side of City Road.



**Step 9:** At the next junction, turn right into Jewry Street.

**Step 10:** Pass the Library and The Arc, Winchester's Discovery Centre - experience arts, reading and a community hub all under one roof.

**Step 11:** Did you know the library was the first public library in the country? It's here, on the site of the County Gaol, dating to the 13th century.

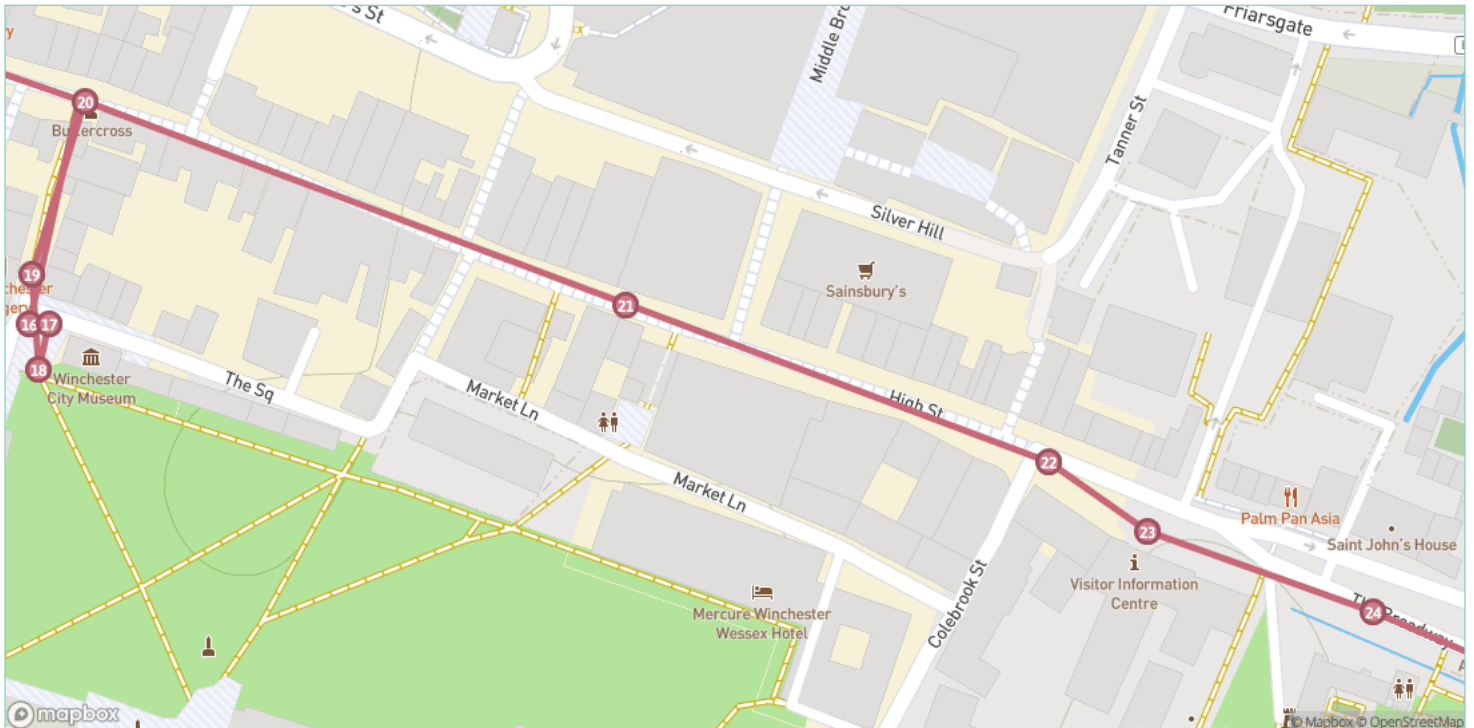
**Step 12:** Continue along, passing shops and restaurants. Cross to the other side of Jewry Street using the pedestrian crossing opposite Barclays Bank.

**Step 13:** Just a bit further down Jewry Street, turn left onto the pedestrianised High Street.

**Step 14:** Walk down the High Street to the Buttercross Memorial, dating from the early 15th century. Can you spot the 12 figures of the monument?

**Step 15:** By the monument, turn right, through the passageway.

**Step 16:** You'll emerge in a lovely tucked away square with cafes and restaurants.



**Step 17:** Here, you'll also find the City Museum, and, to the right of the museum...

**Step 18:** ... the grounds of historic Winchester Cathedral. It's open for visiting daily, if you'd like to head over and check it out.

**Step 19:** The route continues back down the High Street. When you're ready, retrace your steps past the cafes and through the passage.

**Step 20:** Turn right when you reach the High Street.

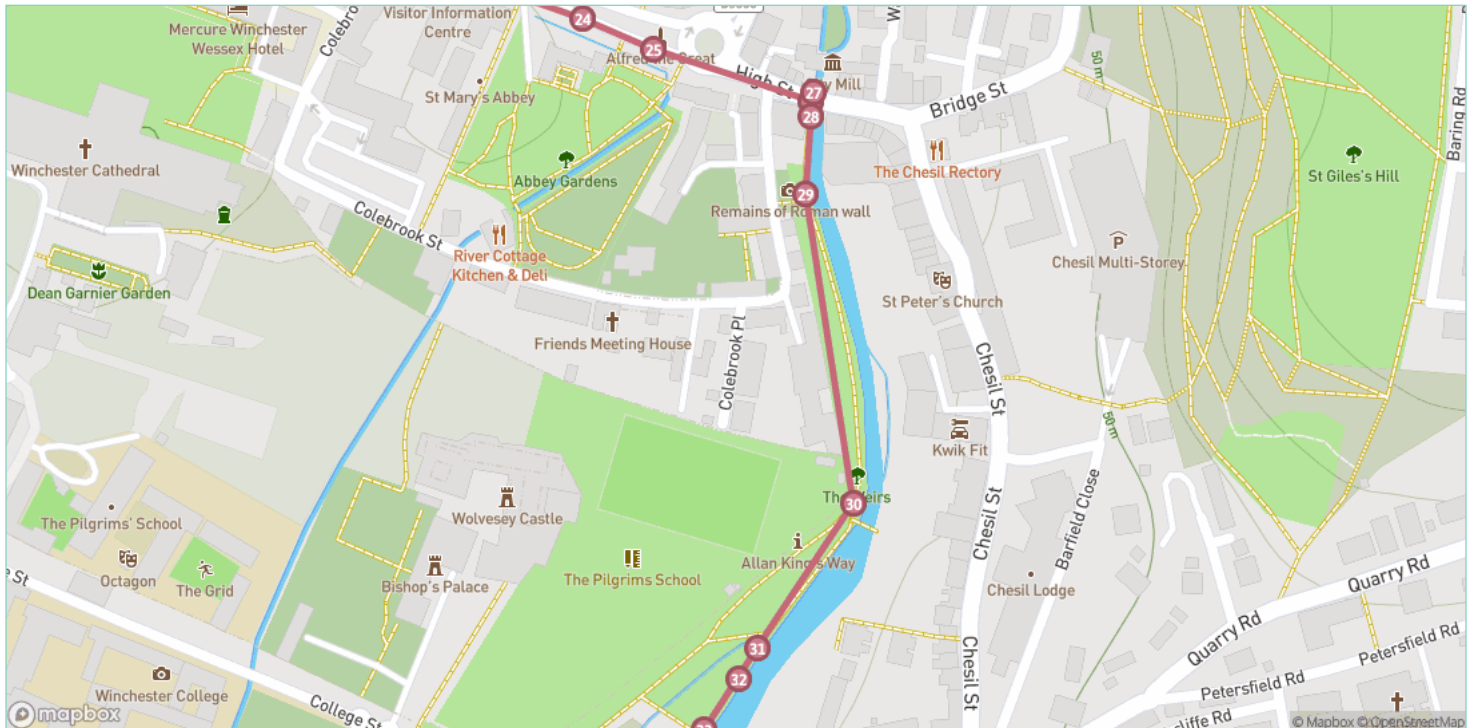
**Step 21:** Continue on the High Street. There's a public market every Thursday - Saturday.

**Step 22:** After the pedestrianised section ends, carry on down the High Street onto the Broadway, passing the Victorian Guildhall on your right.

**Step 23:** We loved the detail on the building - it is about 12 miles to Southampton following the Itchen Way. We're not going that far today though!

**Step 24:** Carry on, passing the Abbey Gardens and Mayor's residence on your right. There are also some public toilets on the far side of the building.





**Step 25:** The statue of King Alfred the Great stands guard over the Broadway, honouring his work laying out the medieval city of Winchester.

**Step 26:** Now it's time to join the Itchen! Past the statue, continue straight until you reach the path on the right just before the City Bridge.

**Step 27:** Just across the road to the left is Winchester City Mill, a working 18th century corn mill featuring family activities and historic exhibits.

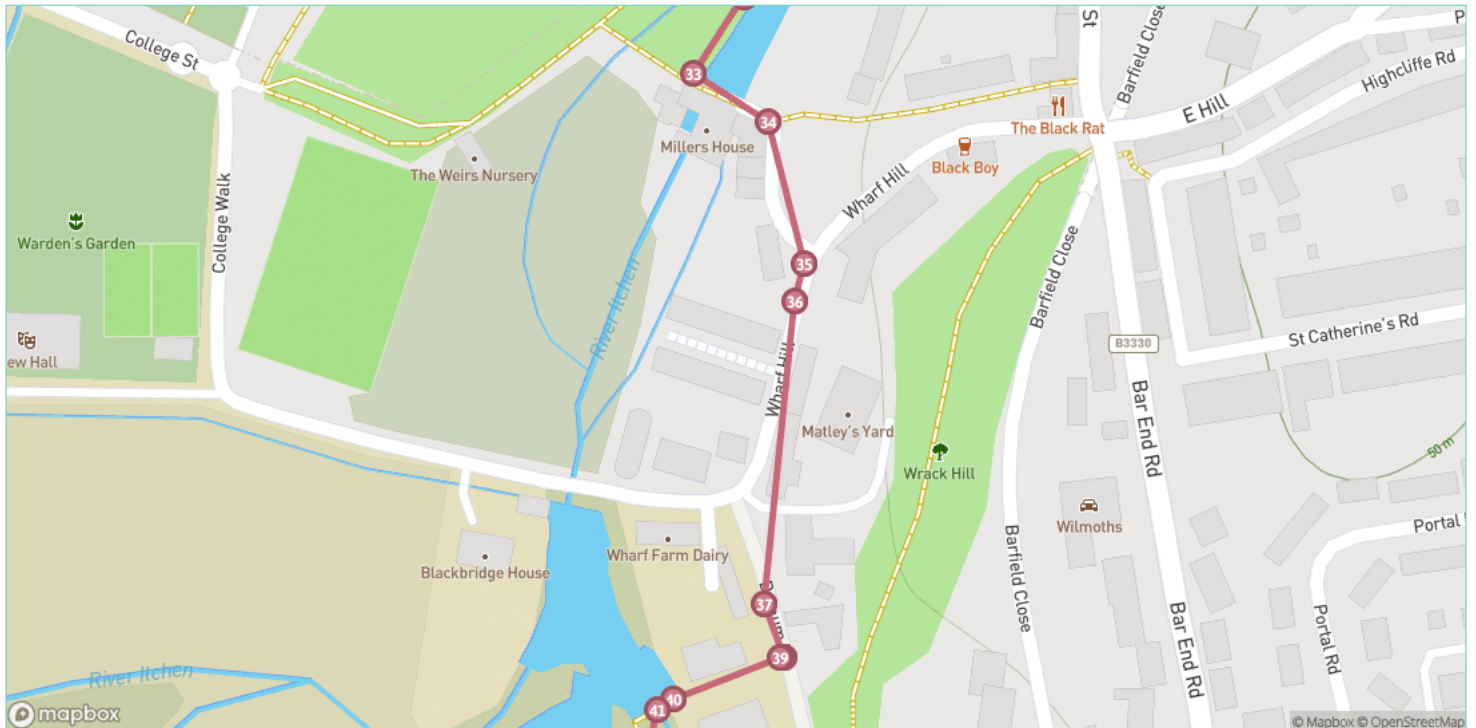
**Step 28:** The route heads right, though. Walk down the ramp, greeted with an excellent vista of the River Itchen.

**Step 29:** Walking along the river's edge, there's loads to see. Don't miss this remaining portion of the Winchester Roman wall here.

**Step 30:** Keep straight along the river, veering left at the fork by the large cut tree trunk.

**Step 31:** As you walk along the Itchen today, you'll see lots of locks, weirs, and other structures managing the flow of water.

**Step 32:** The Itchen Navigation has a long history and was created as a straightened and controlled channel of the river, it's not a proper man-made canal. Today, it's a pleasant corridor perfect for exploring and recreation.



**Step 33:** Keep along the river until you arrive to the converted Wharf Mill building, straddling the water and weir. Turn left.

**Step 34:** Take the first right along Wharf Hill.

**Step 35:** Turn right to continue on Wharf Hill. If you go left instead of staying right, you'll find the Black Boy pub, named after young boys who got dirty unloading cargoes of coal from the barges at the nearby wharf.

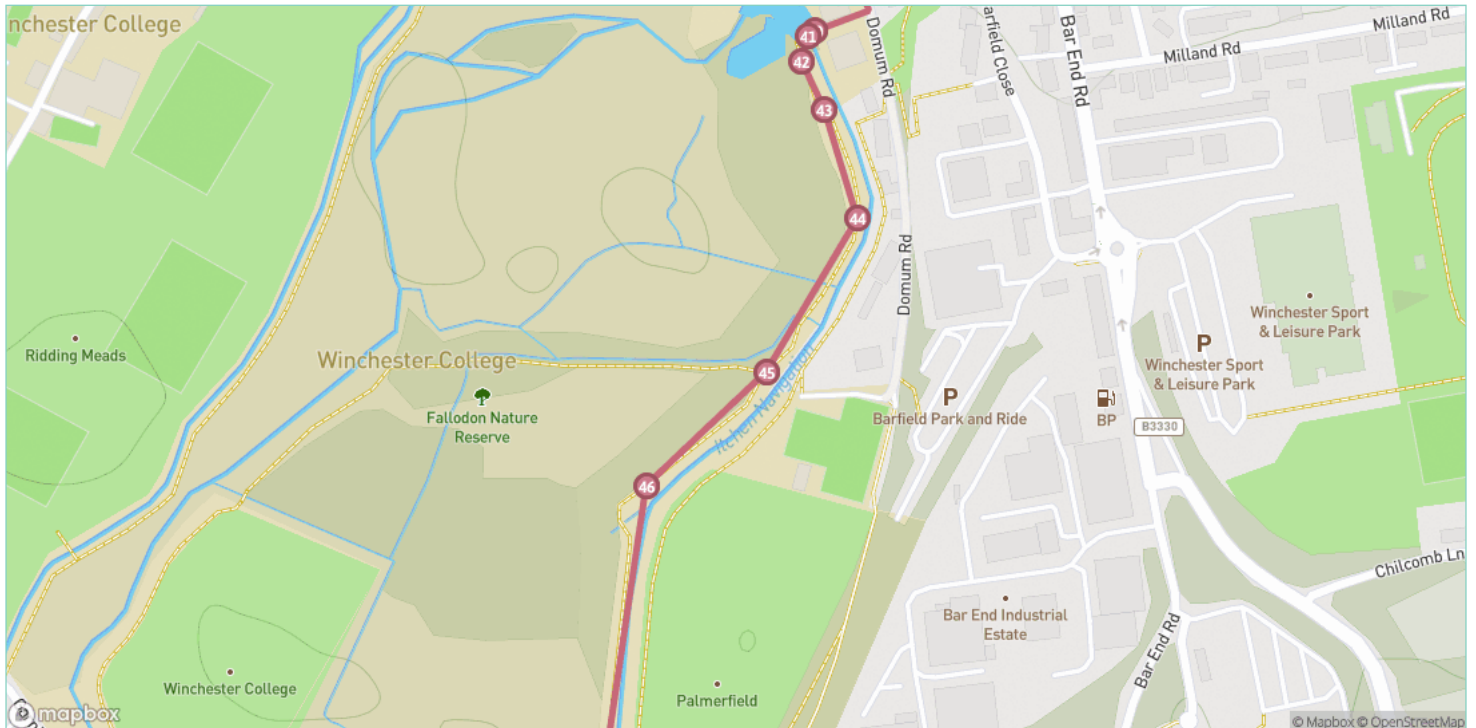
**Step 36:** Pass an Itchen Way sign on a post! Technically, this route follows the Itchen Navigation, but you'll find these signs guide the way too.

**Step 37:** Where Wharf Hill bends to the right at a junction, cross the road and turn left to continue ahead onto the quiet Domum Road.

**Step 38:** A short while later, look for the gate on your right marked with the yellow Itchen Way arrow. Head through.

**Step 39:** This is the official start of the Itchen Navigation footpath, running through the pleasant linear nature reserve. Unlike many relics of the industrial revolution, a wonderful amount of natural activity is supported here.

**Step 40:** Follow along the dirt footpath, crossing over the Itchen.



**Step 41:** As you go, there are flowers, birds, water creatures and all sorts of insects to discover. Keep your eyes peeled for trout, pike, water voles scooting about on the banks, and if you're lucky, the colourful flash of a kingfisher!

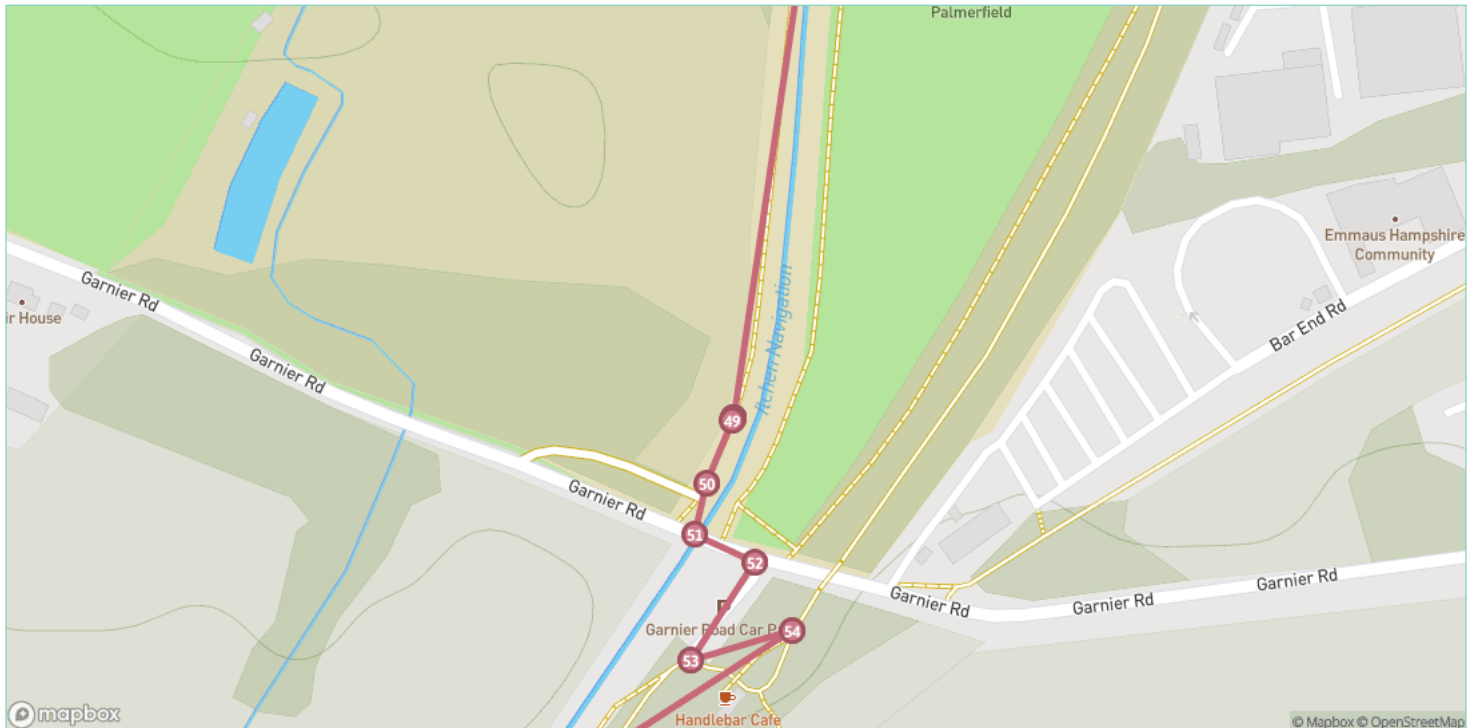
**Step 42:** On the other bank now, turn left to continue along the navigation. Go through the gate ahead.

**Step 43:** The path here was a bit muddy, and is a grassy patch along the water.

**Step 44:** What sorts of wildlife have you seen already along the navigation? Follow the river and path as it meanders right.

**Step 45:** Continue on, through a series of gates and fields, always with the water to your left.

**Step 46:** We couldn't get enough of this view! The channel is wider here and allows lovely views as you bend slightly to the left to follow it.



**Step 47:** As you approach Garnier Road, don't miss this marker memorialising the last barge carrying coal to Winchester, in 1869.

**Step 48:** The first serious move to improve the Itchen for commercial use was an Act of Parliament from 1665. Progress was not very fast, and it wasn't until 1710 that the necessary works were completed and the Navigation was ready for use.

**Step 49:** The navigation was mainly used for coal, but also for corn, iron and timber. The completion of the parallel railway in 1839 almost entirely eliminated the need for the waterway route and by 1869 the use of barges had stopped.

**Step 50:** Continue on, towards the gate up ahead. Go up the short slope on the other side and then turn left onto the Tun Bridge.

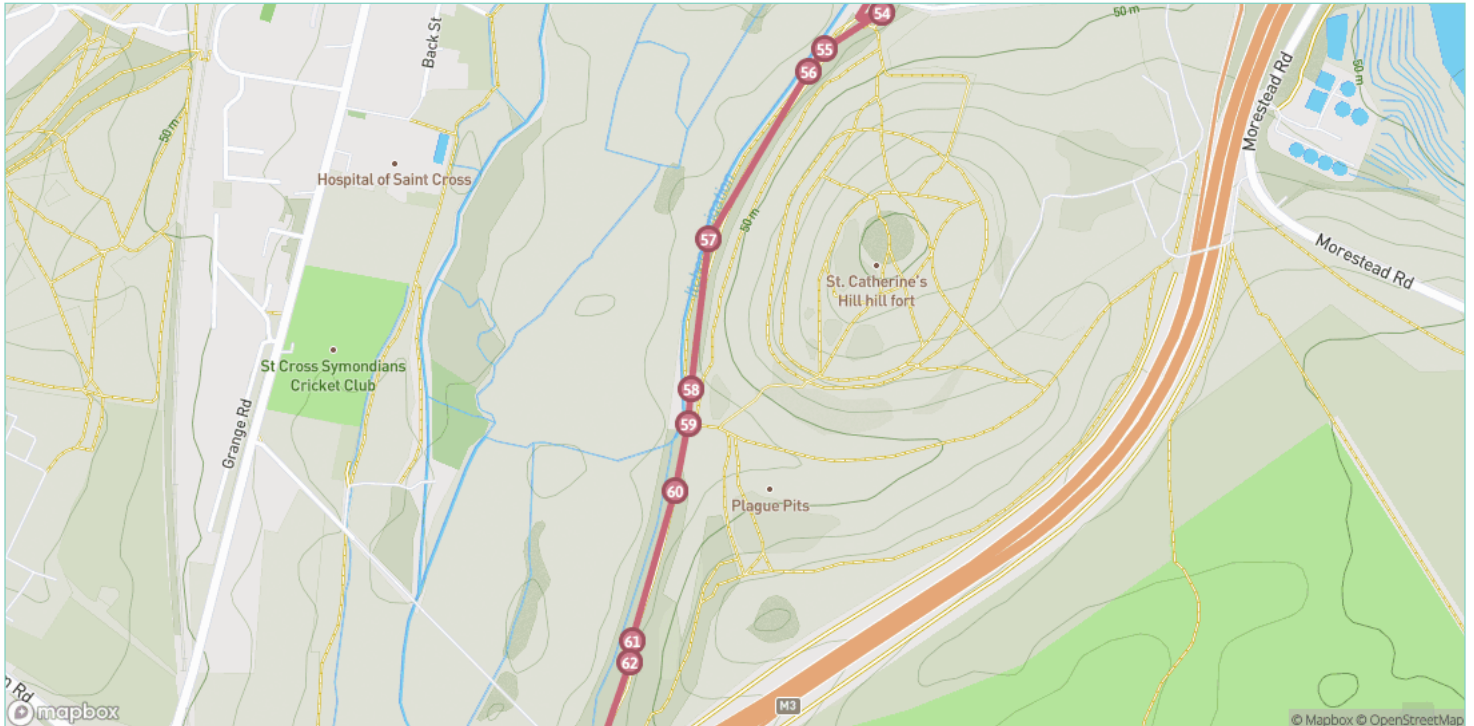
**Step 51:** The bridge has an excellent view of the impressive waterway, benefiting tremendously from recent efforts to make it suitable for recreation.

**Step 52:** On the other bank, turn right to head through the car park.

**Step 53:** On the far end of the car park, the Itchen Way continues straight ahead, down the paved path.

**Step 54:** If you'd like, you can turn left instead, under the brick arch, and follow the path a short way to the lovely Handlebar Cafe.





**Step 55:** If you popped into the cafe, return to the car park, and the route continues along the paved route marked with the yellow Itchen Way arrow.

**Step 56:** This stretch is very pleasant. The pavement is wide and flat, the trees surrounding make the path feel cozy, and the water is lovely.

**Step 57:** What nature can you notice in amongst the tree canopy today?

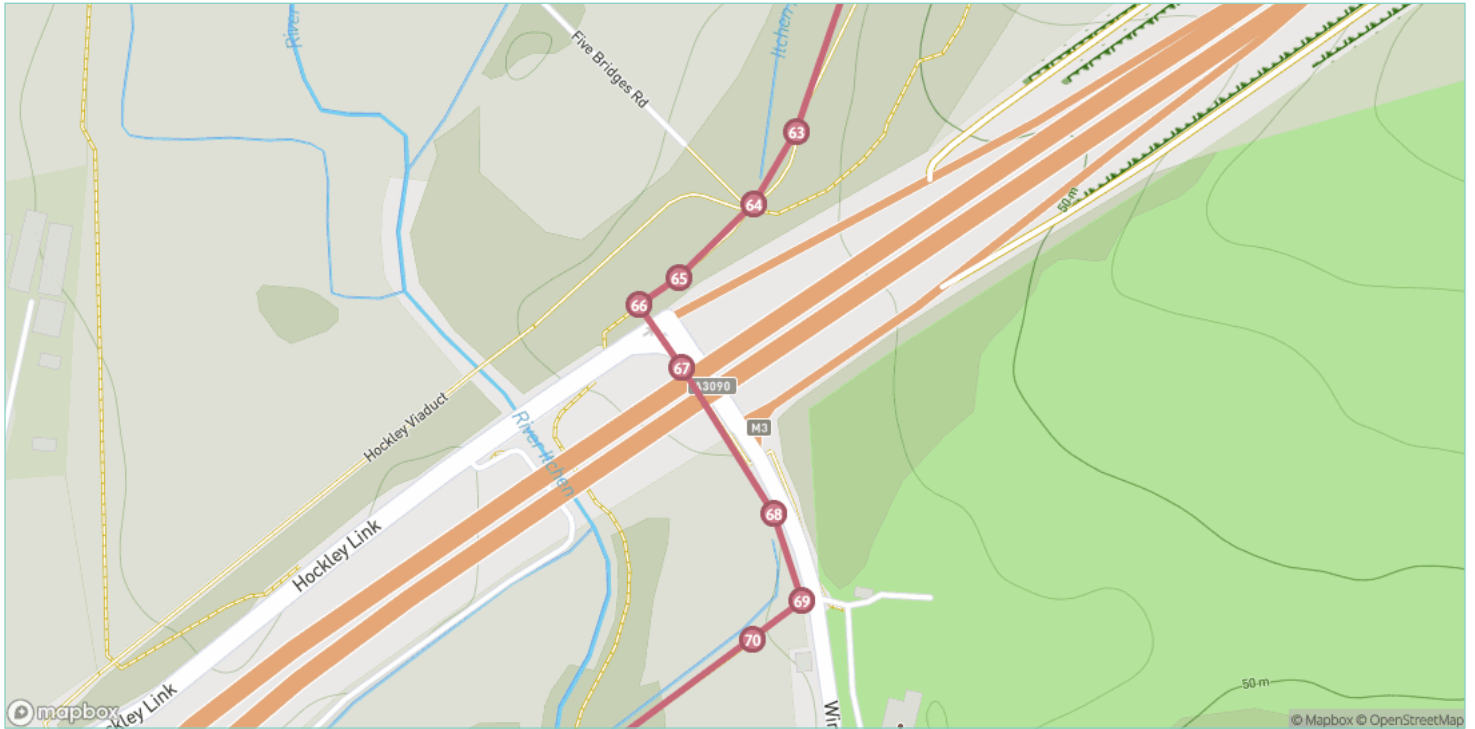
**Step 58:** Keep going along the tarmac path. As the trees clear, you'll see St Catherine's Hill to your left.

**Step 59:** If you're up for it, you can go through the gate to the left here and follow the paths up to the summit of the hill.

**Step 60:** It's steep and there are many steps, but the views overlooking Winchester are spectacular! This pic is a teaser. 😊

**Step 61:** As you continue along the path...

**Step 62:** ... you'll pass under a brick viaduct overhead. This is a former railway line that ran separate from the mainline to the west.



**Step 63:** This part of the route is shared with Route 23 of the National Cycle Network, which runs all the way from Reading to Southampton.

**Step 64:** A bit further along, you'll find a finger post pointing you in a number of directions. Our route continues straight ahead to Southampton.

**Step 65:** Head past a set of bollards.

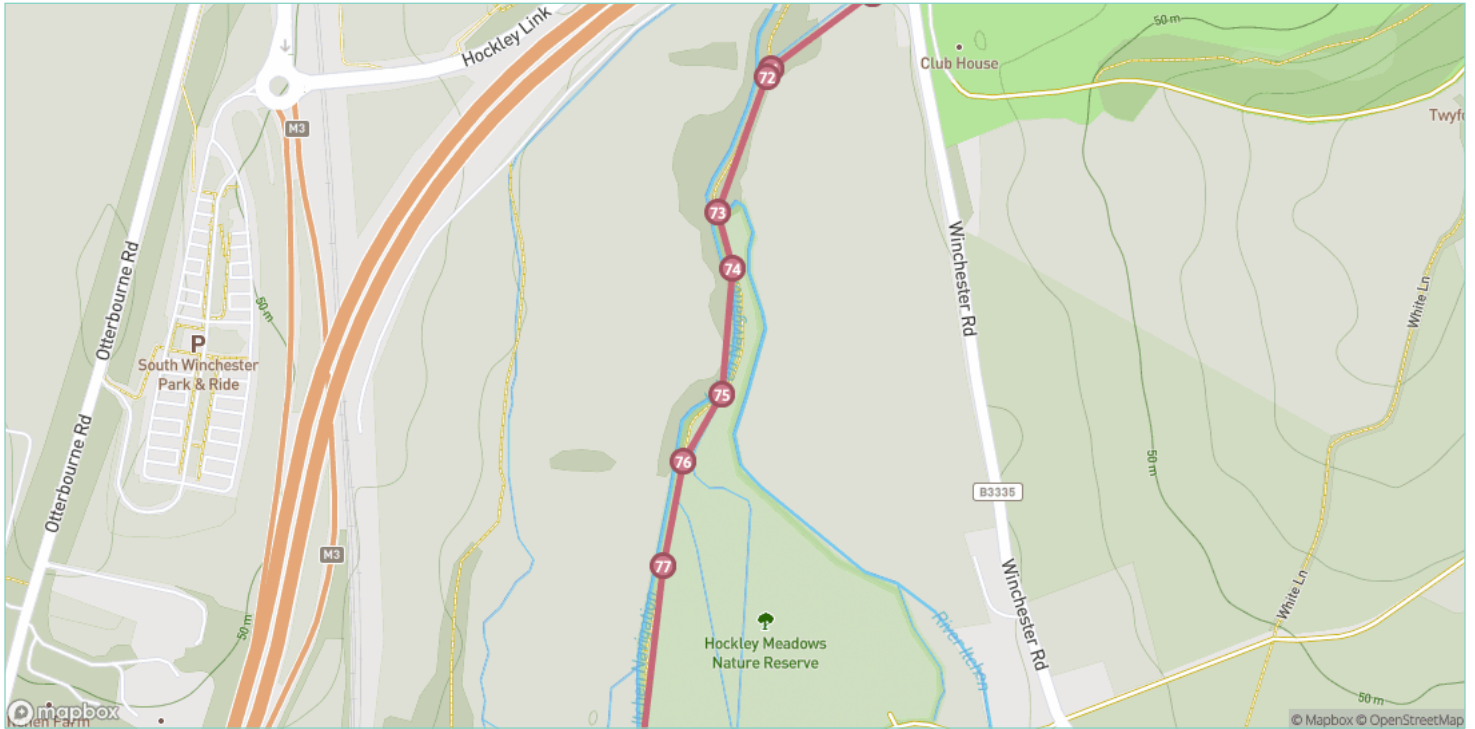
**Step 66:** Just after, head left on the path to the Hockey Link road. Use the lights to cross straight ahead to the other side.

**Step 67:** The route continues under the M3 on the tarmac path.

**Step 68:** On the other side, keep going straight along the pavement. It's separated a bit from cars but it'll be nice to get back on the water!

**Step 69:** Just before the bus stops, turn right at the footpath marker and head back towards the river.

**Step 70:** Follow the dirt track ahead.



**Step 71:** Keep going until the path junction where the route heads left, as per the Itchen Way markers.

**Step 77:** We spotted some ducks along the bank here. What sorts of flora and fauna have you seen so far?

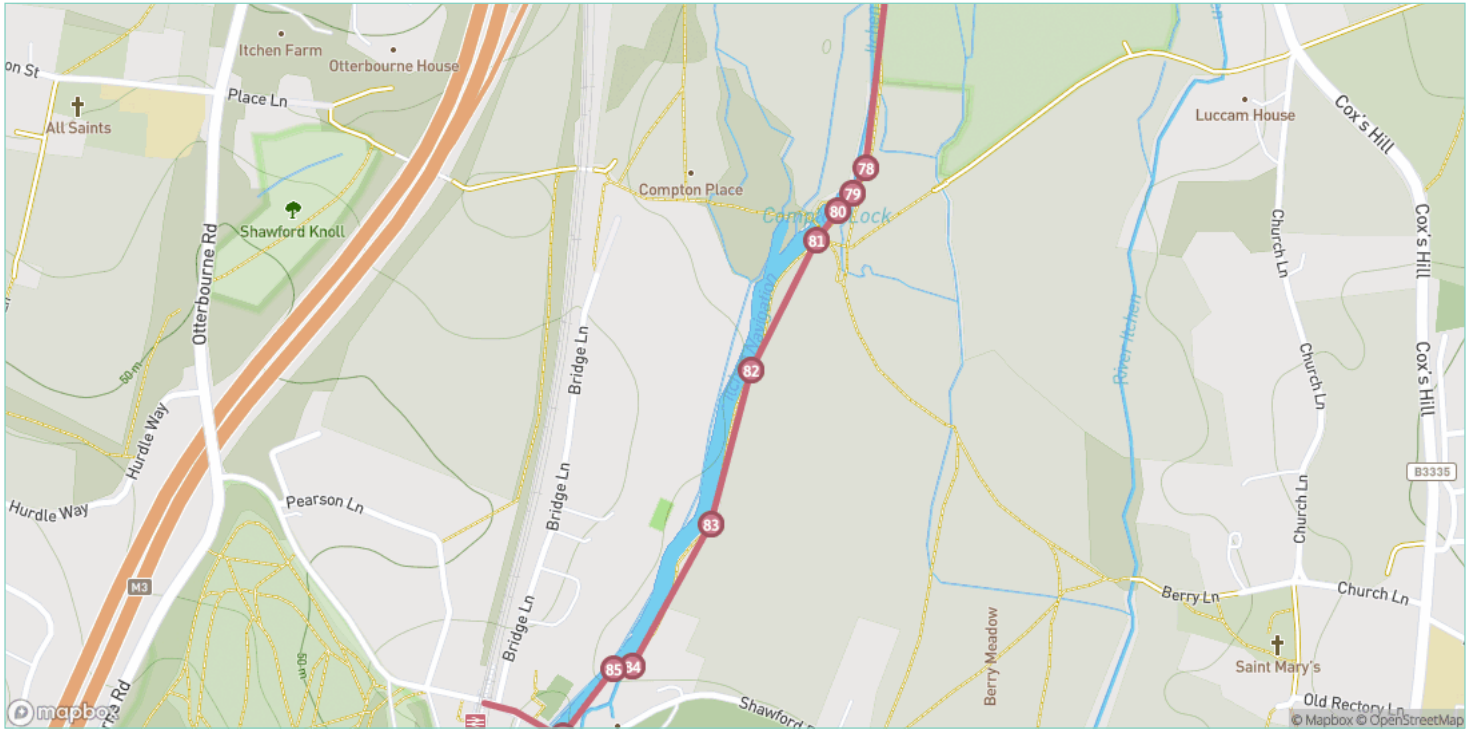
**Step 72:** It's lovely to be back along the Itchen! The path here is gravelled as we walk through the Hockley Meadows Nature Reserve.

**Step 73:** A weir was used to manage water flow at the water junction between river and navigation. There are a few spots of rushing water on the way.

**Step 74:** Largely though, the water is calm. This is by design - it was meant to be used for barges, so the water shouldn't be flowing too fast.

**Step 75:** Keep straight ahead along the gravel path and through the gate.

**Step 76:** Head through another gate, as the landscape continues to open up and change around you.



**Step 78:** Believe it or not, we're almost at the end point. Just a bit further to go. Stay to the right after the gate up ahead.

**Step 79:** Follow the path towards Compton's Lock. Locks were used to change water levels, allowing barges to move up and down the navigation.

**Step 80:** After the lock, the path got a bit tricky to navigate after wet weather. We encountered mud and puddles.

**Step 81:** Continue with the water to your right. There are some narrow sections along this stretch.

**Step 82:** Further along, take care along the uneven ground, stepping over the many tree roots.

**Step 83:** You're almost to Shawford now. Great job so far!

**Step 84:** Head over the wooden footbridge here, crossing over the water to the right.

**Step 85:** Enjoy the views across the water from this crossing point before we head away from the navigation.





**Step 86:** Keep going along the path after the bridge, coming to a few shallow steps up to the road. Turn right to walk along Shawford Road.

**Step 87:** The Itchen Navigation continues on the opposite side of the road, but that's for another day. You can find Section 2 in-app also.

**Step 88:** Our route ends at Shawford station. To get there, head right towards the railway viaduct. Pass the Chef and Brewer pub on the right.

**Step 89:** And here we are, at Shawford! This small country station usually has service of about one train per hour, so be sure to check the timetable.

**Step 90:** As you head back to Winchester or elsewhere along the Southwestern Railway network, we hope you enjoyed this walk today. Sections 2 and 3 of the Itchen Navigation await on Go Jauntly.