



Grimsbury Reservoir Circular

A short loop around Grimsbury Reservoir. A great place for birdwatching!

Distance 2 kilometers / 1.2 miles

Duration 45 minutes



Water feature



Great views



Parking



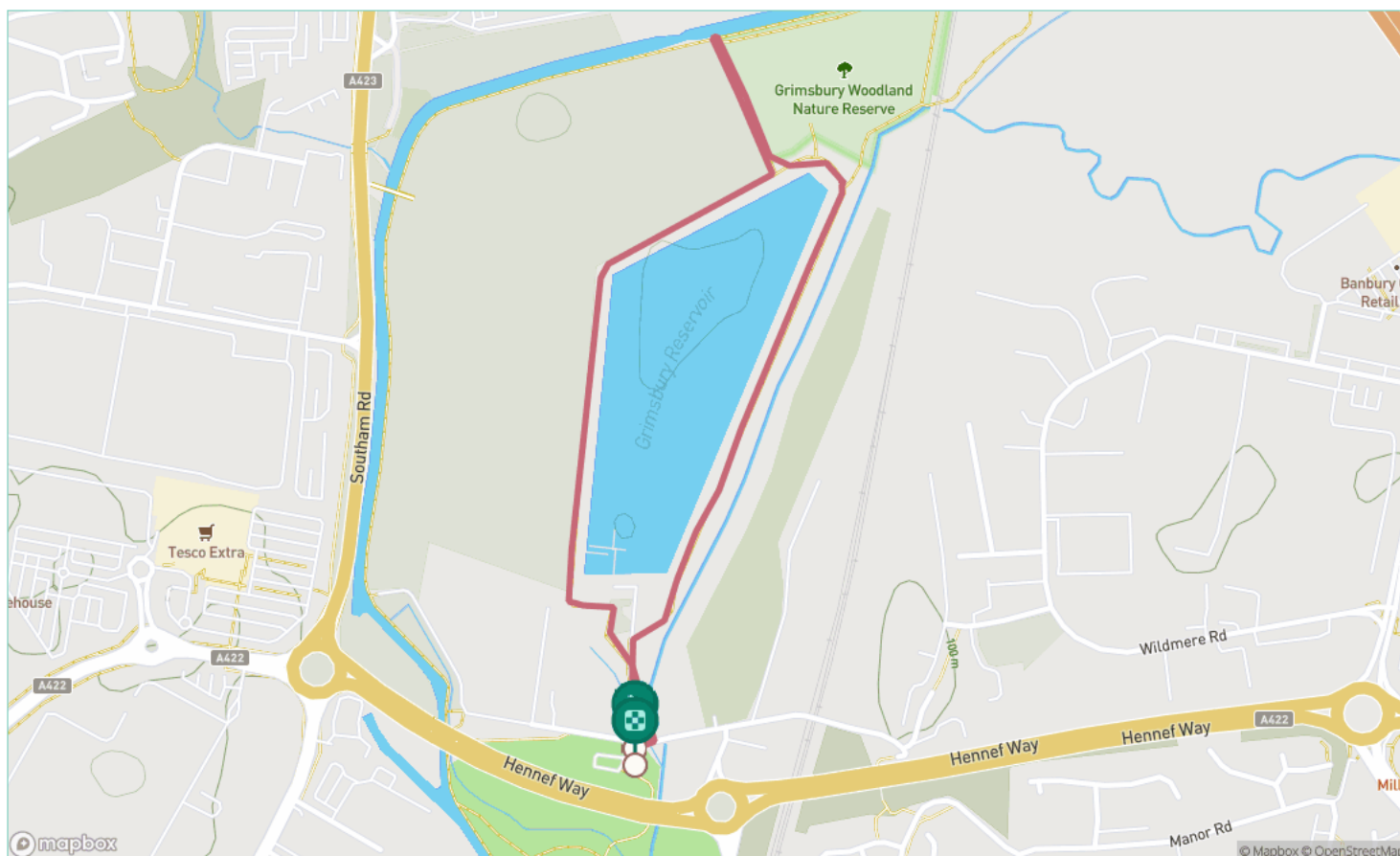
Dog friendly

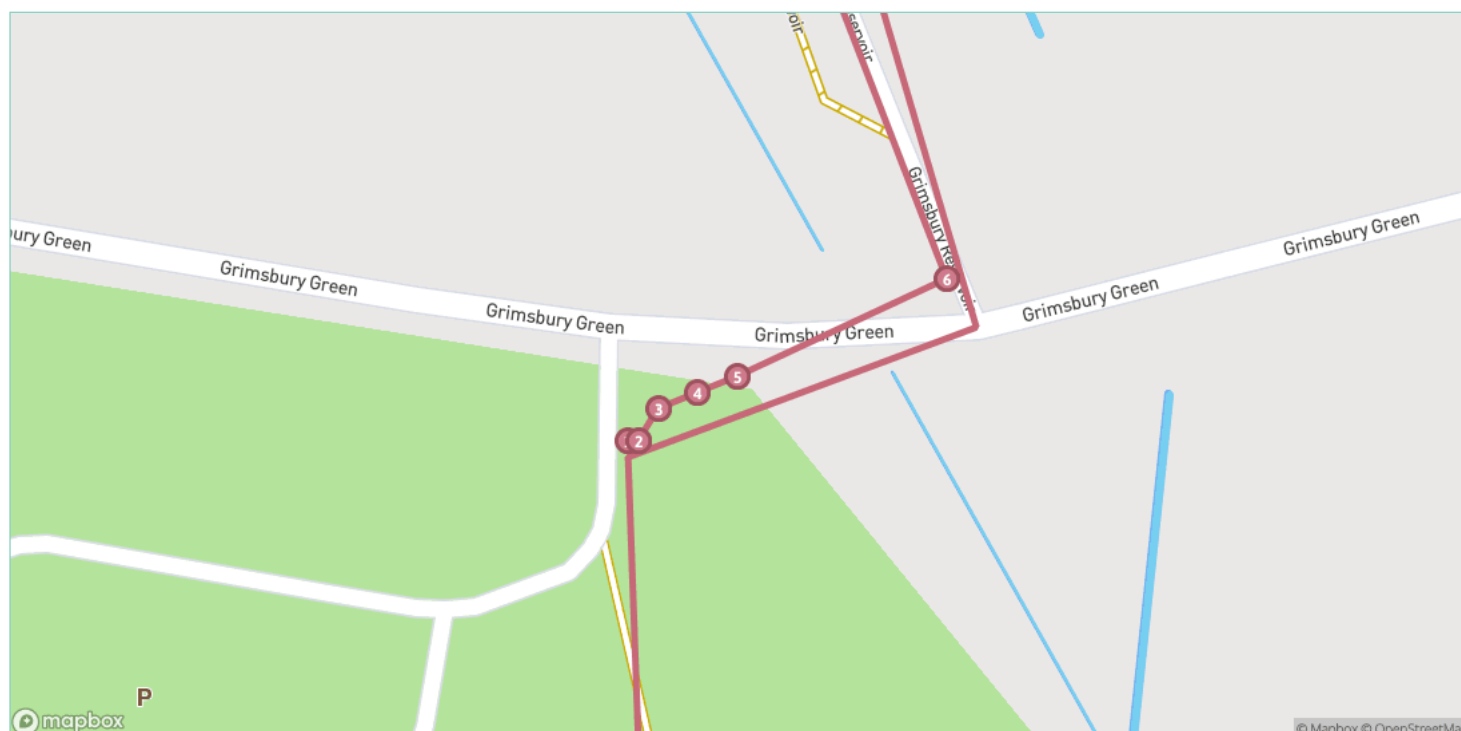


Child friendly



Botanics





Step 1: This walk was created in partnership with Cherwell District Council. Enjoy over 30 walks across North Oxfordshire and experience the sights and sounds of nature as you go.

Step 2: Welcome to this circular walk. It starts from the parking area at the northern end of Spiceball Park, off Grimsbury Green.

Step 3: You can get to the starting point by car from Middleton Road in Grimsbury and then along Daventry Road and Manor Road. The nearest postcode is OX16 3JJ. If you're coming on foot, you can come from Spiceball Park to the south.

Step 4: Use the vehicular exit to leave the car park, bear left and immediately right onto the road.

Step 5: There are no pavements, but it's a quiet road. Still, be aware of other road users. For advice on best ways to walk in the countryside check out the read more panel below.

North Oxfordshire

Best Ways to Walk

We want you to have fun outdoors, whilst looking after yourself, those around you and the natural environment. So here's some guidance to help you prepare for and enjoy your walk.

Check the weather. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear as walking can be wet and muddy.

Trousers are recommended as parts of the route can be overgrown with vegetation and nettles.

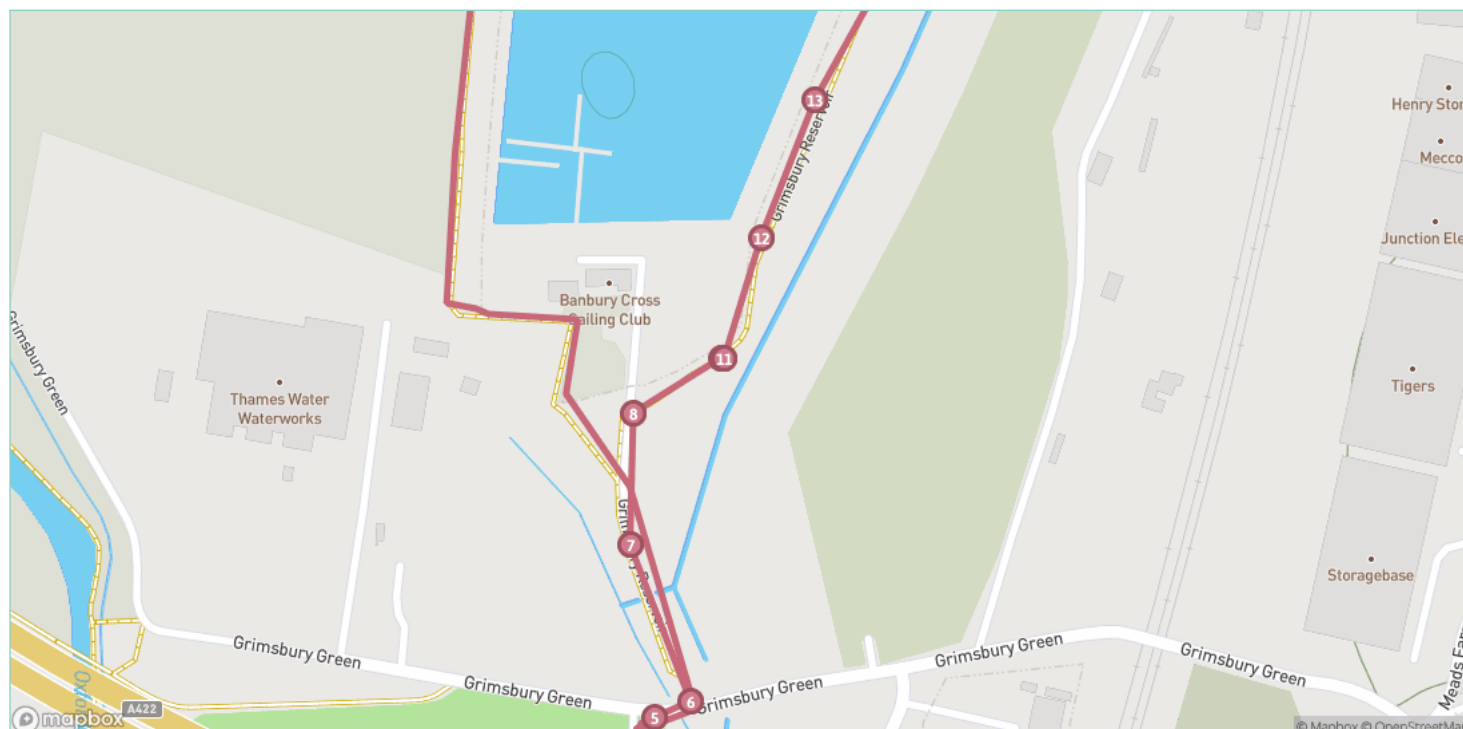
Charge your phone. Take a mobile phone battery pack if you have one. Bear in mind that coverage can be patchy in rural areas so download this walk for offline mode in advance if you can.

Take water. If you're walking alone it's sensible, as a simple precaution, to let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.

Respect landowners. Remember that the countryside is a working place so leave crops, buildings, machinery and livestock well alone.

Leave gates as you find them and please keep to the line of the path.

Respect local people. Park your car responsibly.



Do not obstruct gateways, narrow lanes and village facilities. Consider leaving valuables at home.

Respect nature. Pick up any litter you see and never leave your own. Ground nesting birds can be disturbed by dogs, particularly in the Spring. Their poo can be bad for the environment so please keep them close by and clean up after them.

Look after your dogs. Dogs should be kept under your control and on a lead if animals are in the fields. Current advice recommends you should not walk between a cow and her calf and, if you are threatened by cattle, you should let the dog off the lead.

Stay safe. Take great care when crossing or walking along roads and narrow paths.

More guidance for users of the countryside - follow the Countryside Code using the link below.

Step 6: Turn left at the blue sign for Grimsbury Reservoir and walk down the service road.

Step 7: Follow the road towards the reservoir. Can you see it yet?

Step 8: Veer right as a dirt road appears, heading towards the trees.

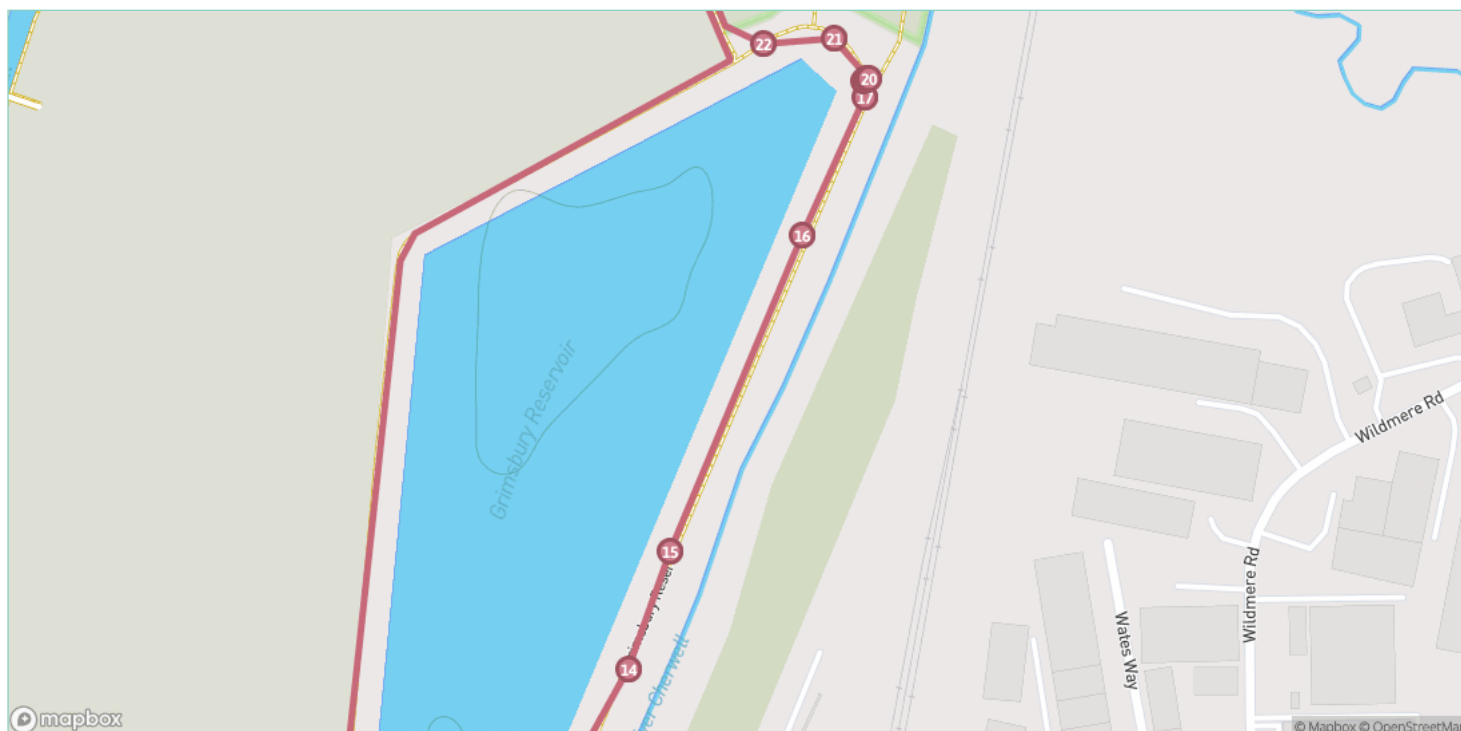
Step 9: To your right is the River Cherwell, which helps supply water to the reservoir.

Step 10: The river water might look brown-ish during rainy seasons as silt and dirt from the surrounding areas flow in more than usual.

Step 11: The path bends around to the left. Stick between the fence on your left and the trees on your right.

Step 12: A proper view of the reservoir! Built in the 1960's, it's often used for fishing and sailing. It's also an important wildlife habitat.

Step 13: The footpath is compacted dirt and gravel. It's mostly flat, but the surface is sometimes uneven.



Step 14: Another view of the Cherwell through the trees. The river starts in Northamptonshire and flows into the Thames in Oxford.

Step 15: Feel free to have a break and enjoy the views of the reservoir and any activity on it!

Step 16: -

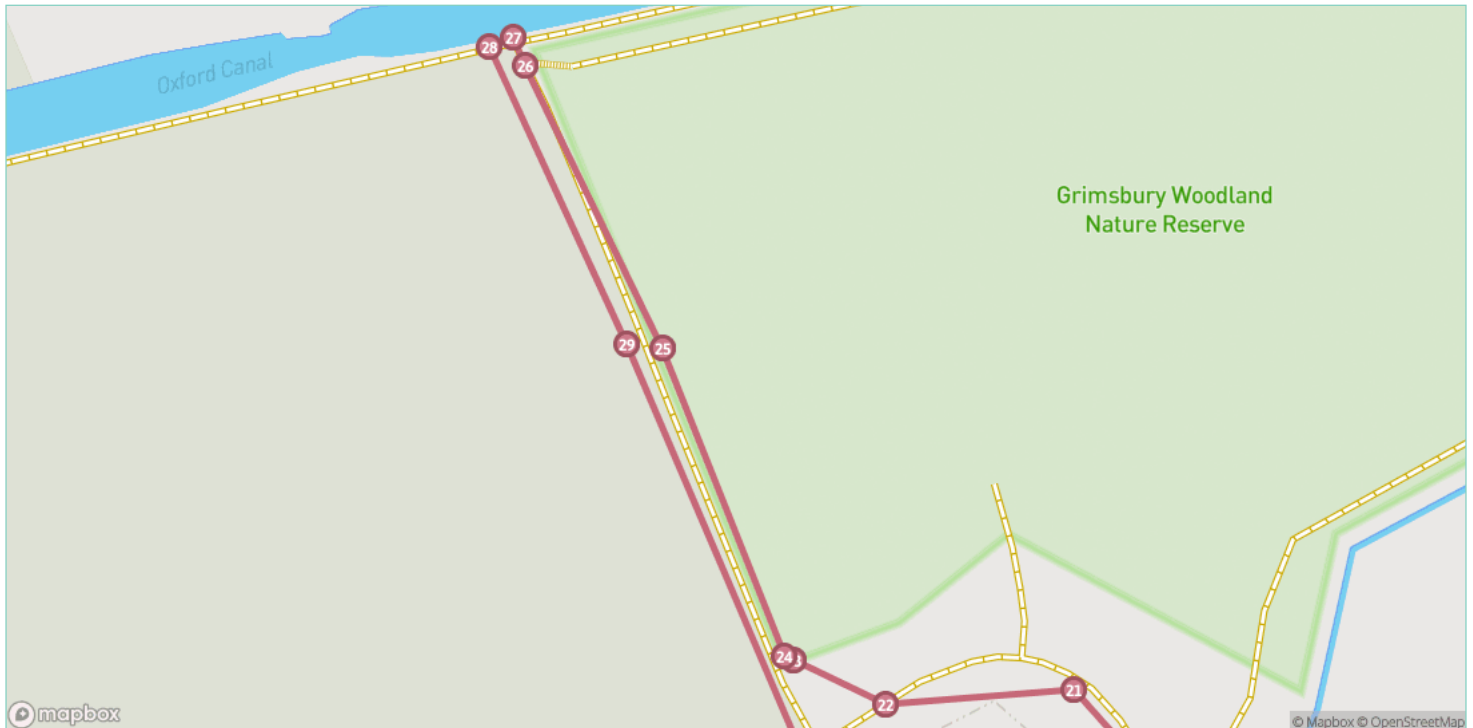
Step 17: Follow the path as it bears left around the corner of the reservoir.

Step 18: Admire the view as you continue along the path.

Step 19: During the building of the reservoir in the mid 1960s, the potential importance of the area to birds was recognised by the Banbury Ornithological Society, which negotiated with Thames Water for a four hectare area to be set aside.

Step 20: That's how the Grimsbury Plantation Reserve, which you're now passing on your right, came into being. The Grimsbury complex has therefore become an ideal place for birdwatching.

Step 21: Take a moment to sit, relax, and enjoy this spot, whatever the weather.



Step 22: Continue until you see the Jacobs Douwe Egberts building in the distance (what was Kraft Foods) and a grassy path to your right.

Step 23: If you're interested in a little detour to see the Oxford Canal, turn right here.

Step 24: You can also take an alternative route to town centre along the canal tow path. If you're interested, follow the track between the fencing and trees. If not, continue on the path around the reservoir's edge, and skip to step 29.

Step 25: There are often cows in the fields along this stretch. Remember not to feed or touch them and keep your dogs well clear.

Step 26: At the end of the track, head down the wooden steps to the canal.

Step 27: The canal was built in the 1780s and runs for 80 miles between Bedworth near Coventry and Oxford.

Step 28: Turn left and keep walking for about 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) and you will reach Banbury Town Centre.

Step 29: Alternatively, retrace your steps to continue the Grimsbury Reservoir Circular, turning right at the reservoir path.



Step 30: Continue along the reservoir, looking out for people and wildlife activity on the water as you go.

Step 31: Stick to the reservoir path as it bends left.

Step 32: Another bench for a quick rest to admire the reservoir views!

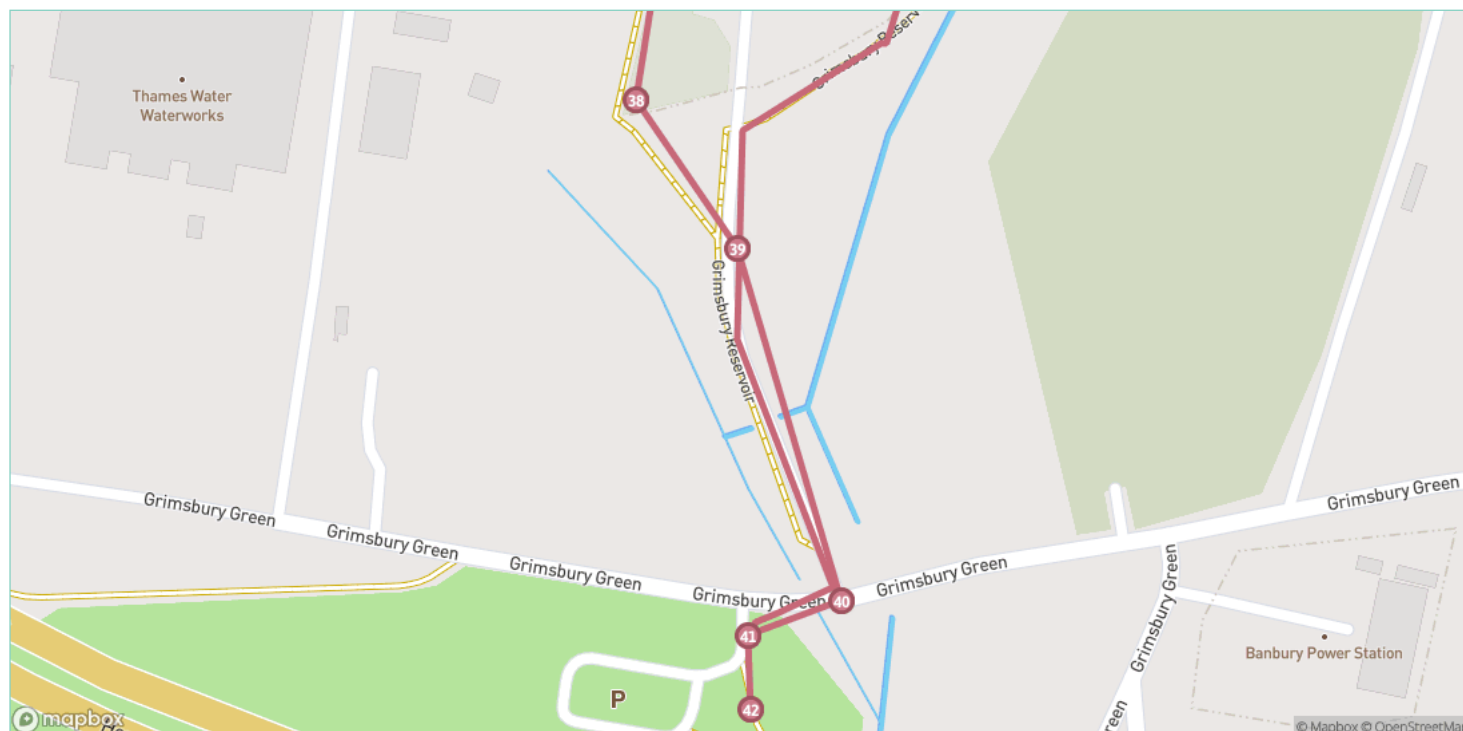
Step 33: Time to say bye to the reservoir for real! We'll now start heading back to the car park where we started.

Step 34: Straight ahead is a water treatment plant. Pretty cool to get up close and see some of its workings.

Step 35: Bear left and stick between two fences.

Step 36: There's above- and below- ground water storage areas here.

Step 37: Turn right to continue following between the fences.



Step 38: The dirt path brings you back to the reservoir access road.

Step 39: Veer right to retrace your steps to the car park.

Step 40: Back at Grimsbury Green, you can look down on the Cherwell. Almost done!

Step 41: And there we are, back at the start! Great walking today.

Step 42: If you have more time, you might want to check out our walk around Spiceball Park. To access it, continue away from the road with the car park to your right. Pass under the underpass and you'll reach the park in no time!