



# North Paddington Nature Pilgrimage

Explore local nature spots, enjoy waterside strolling and celebrate the incredible local libraries as you collect stamps for your passport.

**Distance** 9.8 kilometers / 6.1 miles

**Duration** 2 hours and 30 minutes



Water feature



Public loos



Public transport



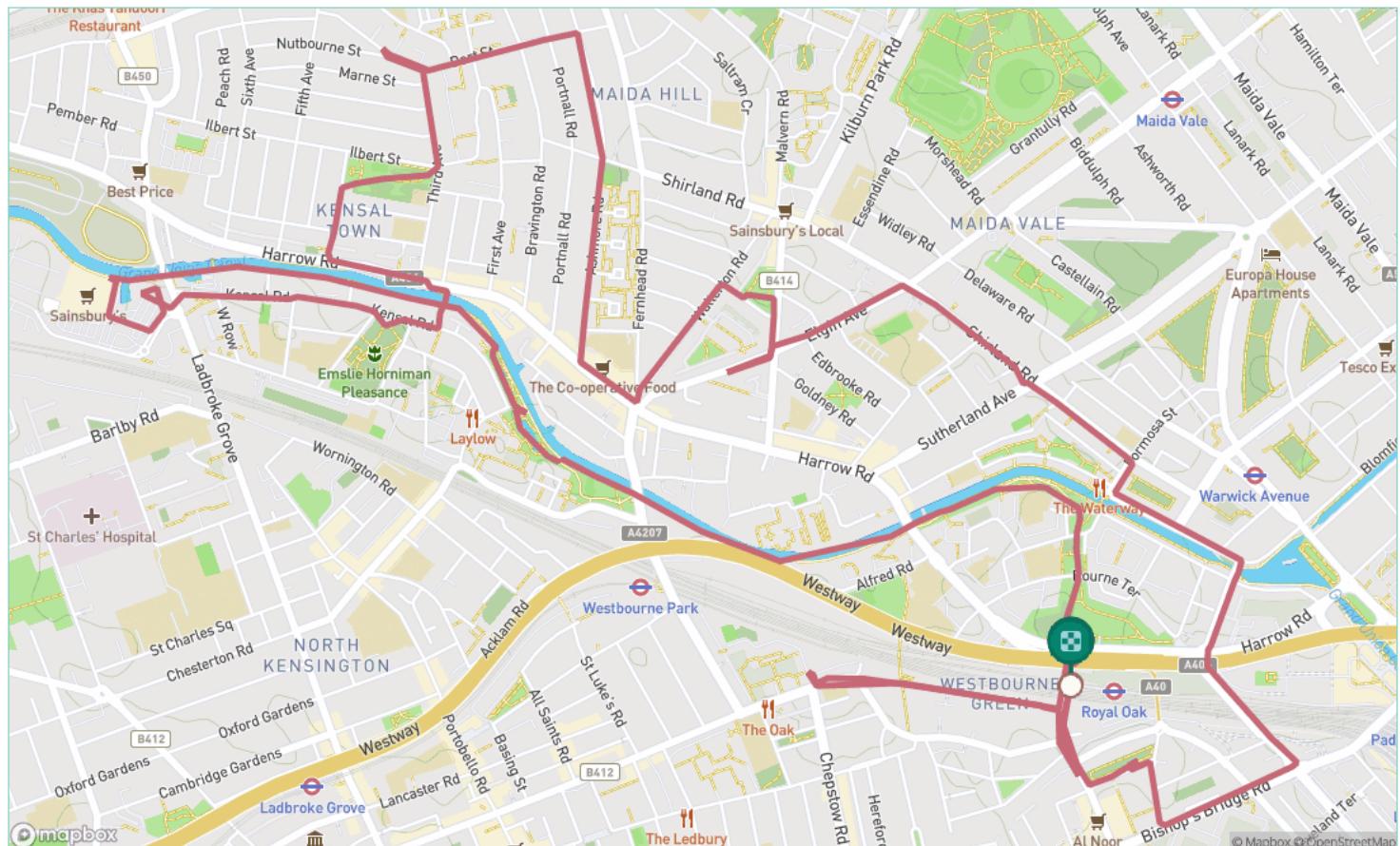
Picnic spot

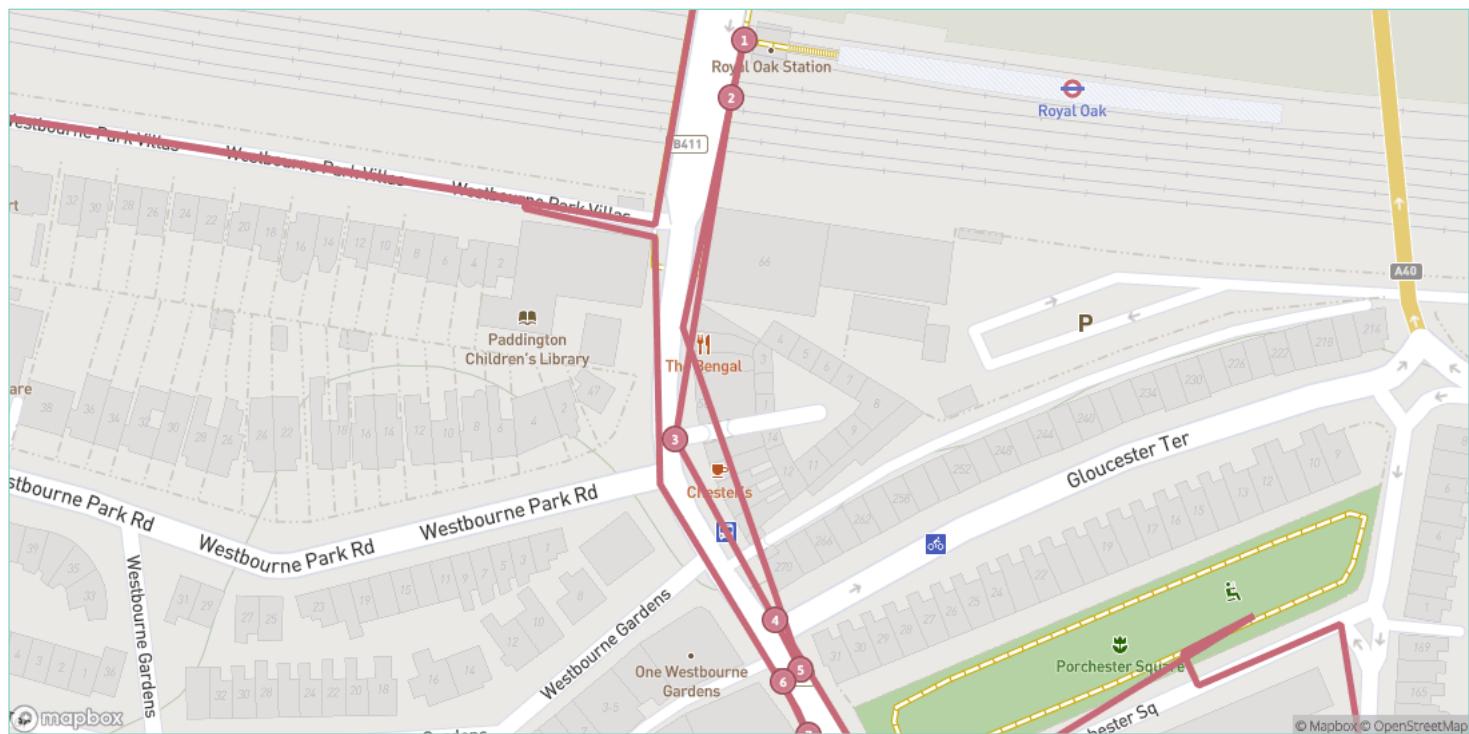


Dog friendly



Child friendly





**Step 1:** We start this walk at Royal Oak Station which is on the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines. Read below to learn more about this walk



walking is 'Bon Camino', which literally translates to 'good way'. We hope you have a good way on this pilgrimage!

## North Paddington Nature Pilgrimage

This project is funded by the Europe Challenge & is a collaboration between Westminster Libraries & the Paddington Development Trust.

Inspired by the Camino de Santiago, where for centuries pilgrims have walked a shared route and collected stamps in Pilgrim's Passports to remind them of their journey, we have developed a pilgrimage around North Paddington. You can collect 13 stamps designed by local children at cultural, ecological, and community-based points of interest in the area, to stamp your very own Pilgrim's Passport, which you can collect from any of the libraries on the route. Once you've collected all the stamps, head to Paddington Library to collect your prize!

The stamps on the Camino de Santiago symbolise your journey, and your personal progression, and people use them to share stories. Once you've finished your pilgrimage, take a moment to look at the stamps you've collected and think about your journey. A common phrase used by pilgrims whilst

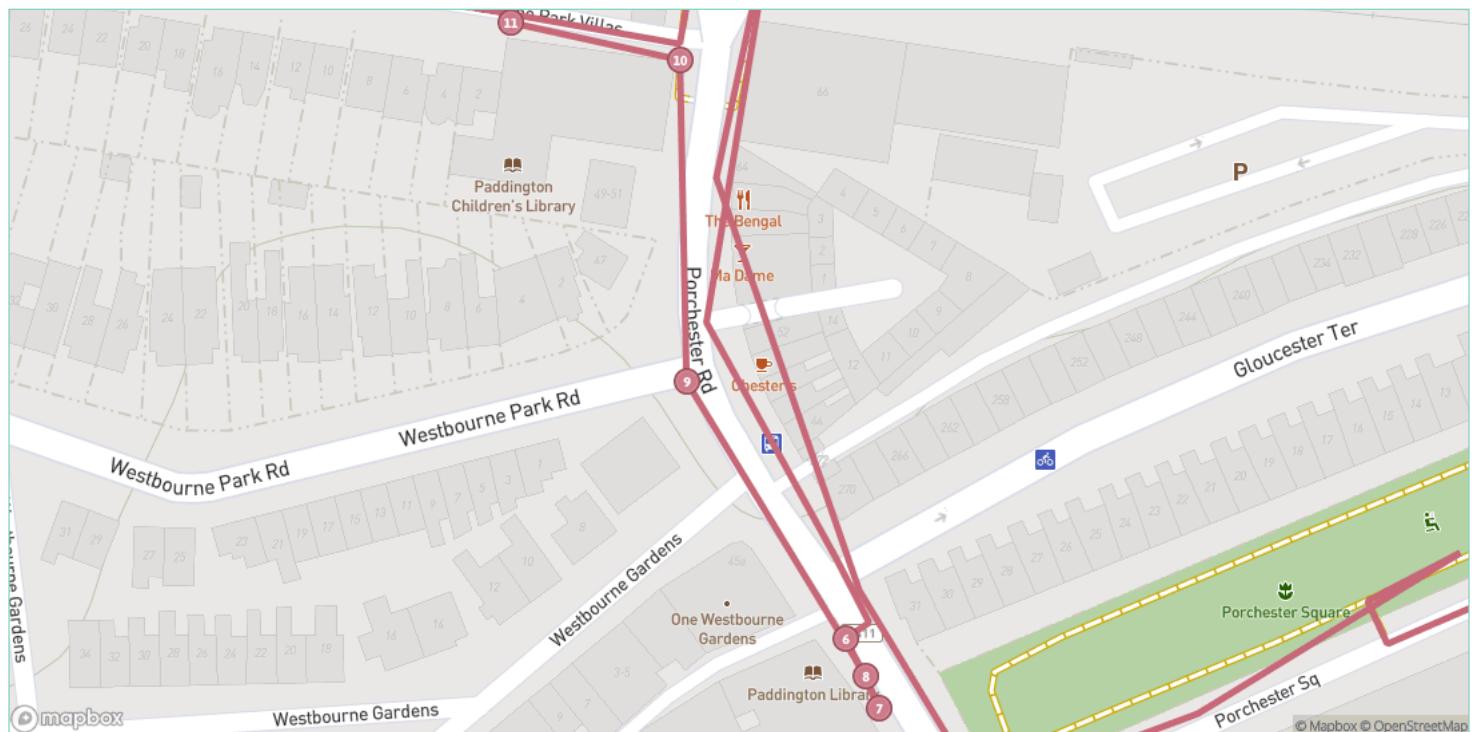
**Step 2:** Turn left outside the station and head over Lord Hill's Bridge.

**Step 3:** Continue along Porchester Road.

**Step 4:** Use the zebra crossing to cross Gloucester Terrace.

**Step 5:** Immediately after, turn right and use the zebra crossing on Porchester Road.

**Step 6:** Turn left and continue along Porchester Road with the iconic Public Library building on the right.



**Step 7:** Within the ornate Porchester Hall entrance is Paddington Library. Read more below.

### Paddington Library

100 year old library!



This stamp was created by the Junior Climate Champions and was designed to show off their love of reading.

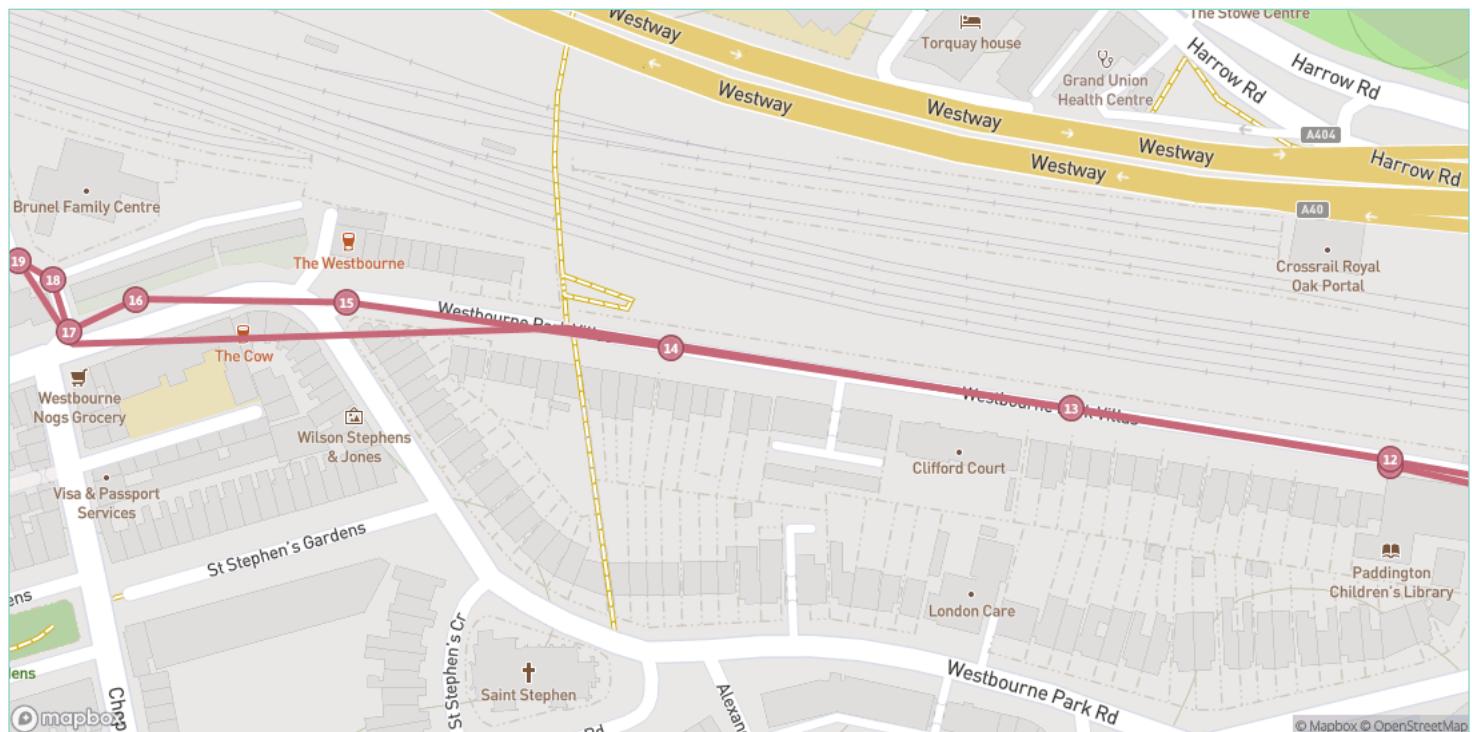
Paddington Library is a vibrant community centre and book depository space located in Westminster, London. It offers a range of services including digital skills teaching, community events, and resources for leisure and learning. The library is accessible to everyone, with facilities

for people with disabilities and free entrance. It provides cozy reading areas, quiet zones for studying, power outlets, and high-speed Wi-Fi for visitors.

**Step 8:** Head back along Porchester Road, with the library now on your left.

**Step 9:** Cross Westbourne Park Road at the zebra crossing and continue on Porchester Road.

**Step 10:** Turn left along Westbourne Park Villas.



**Step 11:** Just after Westbourne Park Baptist Church, look for the small alleyway on the left. At the end is the Paddington Children's Library. Tap



team of children's librarians!

**Step 12:** After visiting the library, turn left and head down Westbourne Park Villas.

**Step 13:** Cross the road to walk along the train tracks and continue along Westbourne Park Villas.

**Step 14:** Walk straight down Westbourne Park Villas, following the road.

**Step 15:** -

**Step 16:** A few more steps and you will see the map of the Brunel Estate, where the Brunel Family centre is being replaced with the Happy Hub.

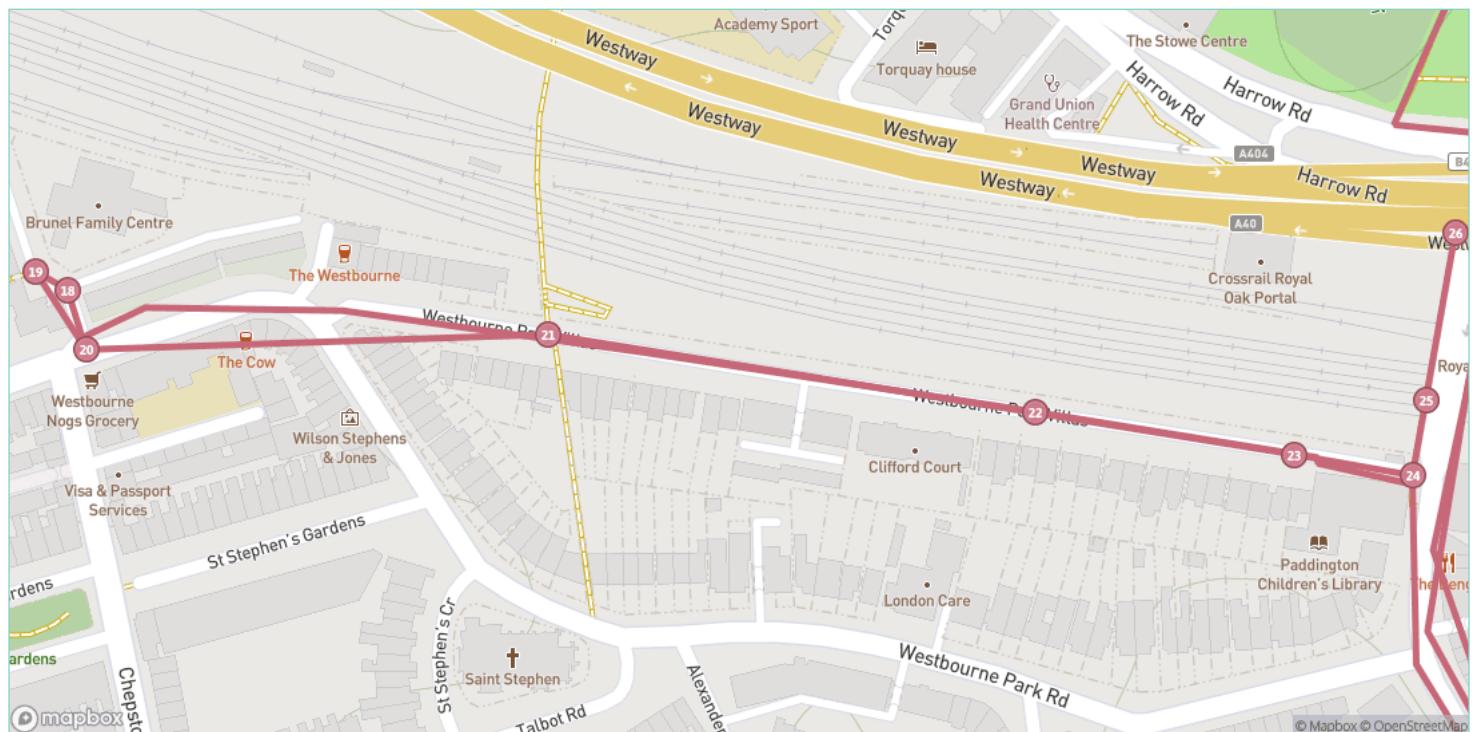
**Step 17:** Turn right into the Brunel Estate.

**Step 18:** Walk towards the blue sign and turn left.

This stamp was created by the Junior Climate Champions and was based on the Westbourne Baptist Church, where the library is located.



Based in Westbourne Baptist Church, this is a library specifically for children from all backgrounds, with books in multiple languages and reading levels, with regular activities and fun for all ages. Make sure to say hi to the dedicated

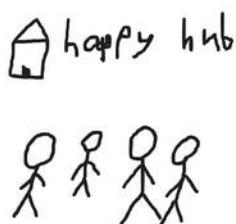


**Step 19:** Here is the new location of the Happy Hub! 😊 Swipe up below to learn more.

<https://happylizzy.com/>

## Happy Hub

### The happiest space!



This stamp was created by the Community Classroom which is run from the Happy Hub.

A community space run with residents in mind, designed to improve the lives and happiness of everyone in the area. They organise free fun for local families, through events, clubs and general happiness. A welcoming space for everyone, you'll leave the Happy Hub with a smile on your face.

[Find out more](#)

**Step 20:** Head back to the road, turn left and keep to the left. You'll pass by St Stephen's Primary School which is on the opposite side.

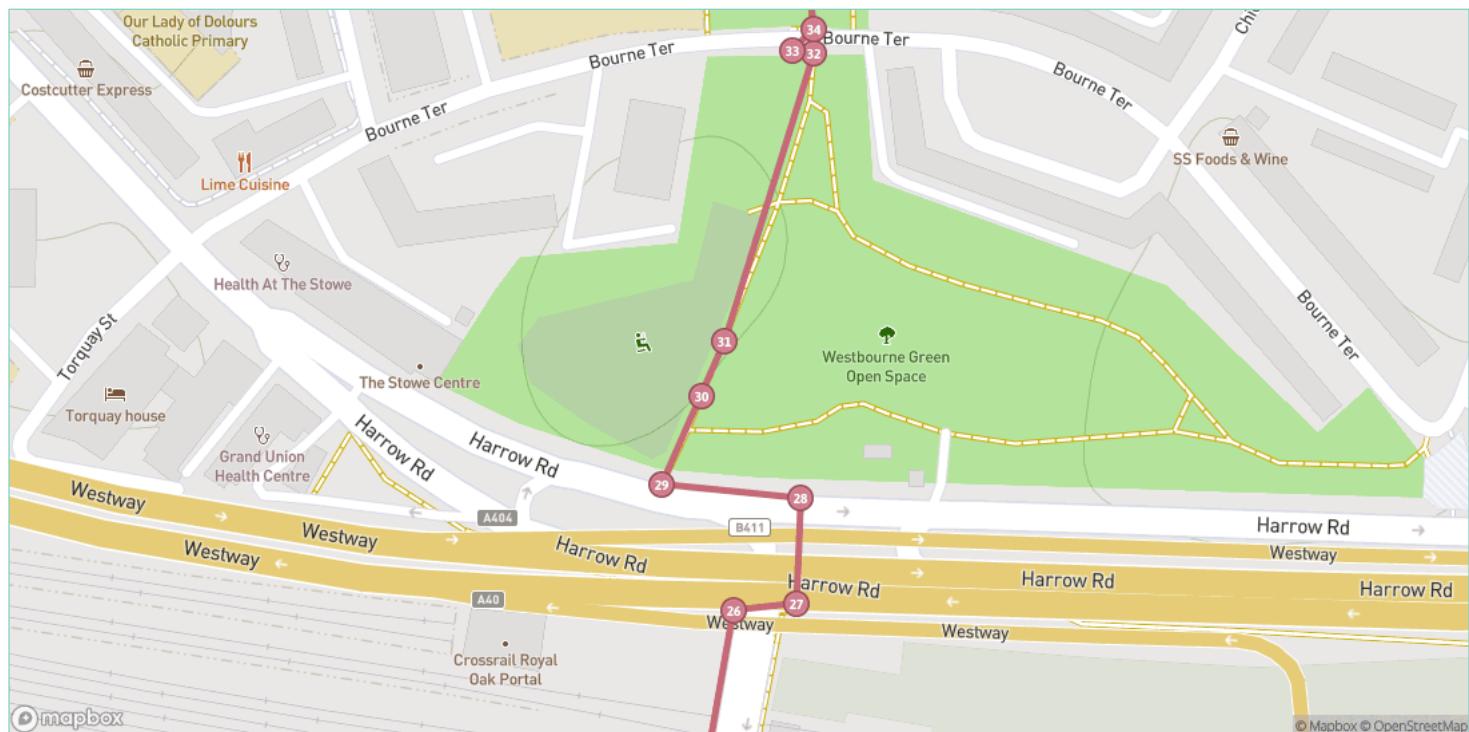
**Step 21:** Head back down Westbourne Park Road, past the Westbourne Pub again, towards Hampden Street Footbridge but don't cross it, walk past.

**Step 22:** Cross the road again to the right side and walk past this gorgeous weeping willow tree.

**Step 23:** Continue back past the Westbourne Baptist Church to get back to Porchester Road.

**Step 24:** At the end of the road, turn left and cross the road at the zebra crossing.

**Step 25:** Continue over Lord Hill's Bridge.



**Step 26:** At the end of the bridge, turn right to cross over the road, with the Westway overhead.

**Step 27:** Once over the first set of pedestrian lights, turn left and cross Harrow Road at the lights.

**Step 28:** Once over the road, turn left.

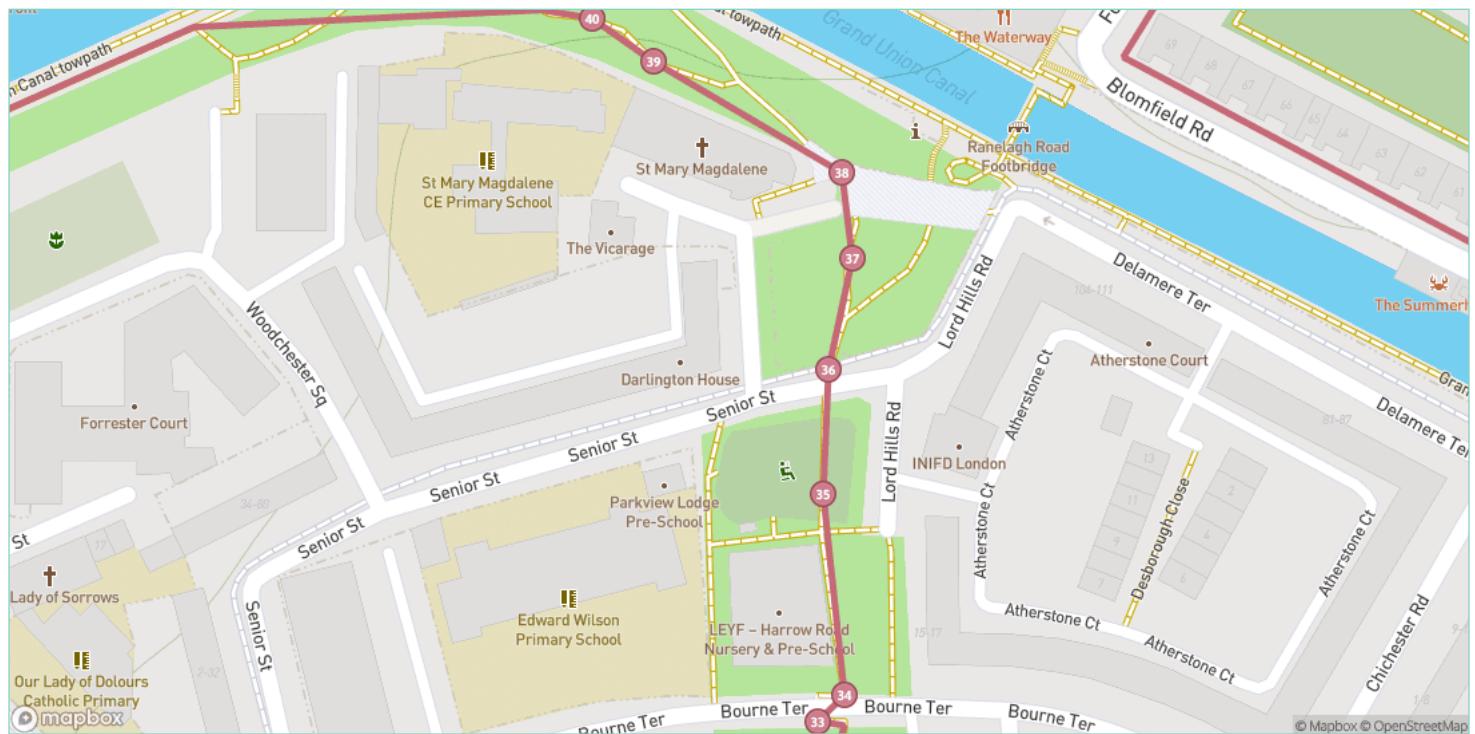
**Step 29:** Then turn right and enter Westbourne Green Open Space. Walk onto the path straight ahead.

**Step 30:** The park has a playground on the left.

**Step 31:** And lots of outdoor gym equipment on the right.

**Step 32:** At the other side of the park, exit and turn left onto Bourne Terrace.

**Step 33:** Carefully cross the road at the zebra crossing.



**Step 34:** Continue ahead along the tree lined path through the green space.

**Step 35:** You'll find another children's playground on the left.

**Step 36:** Carefully cross over Senior Street and head along the path on the left in the green space.

**Step 37:** Grand Junction, St Mary Magdalene's Church, will be on the left.

**Step 38:** Continue along the path as it bears left alongside the church.

**Step 39:** Further up the path on the left is the Grand Junction Cafe. Read more below 

### Grand Junction

**Community and religious space!**

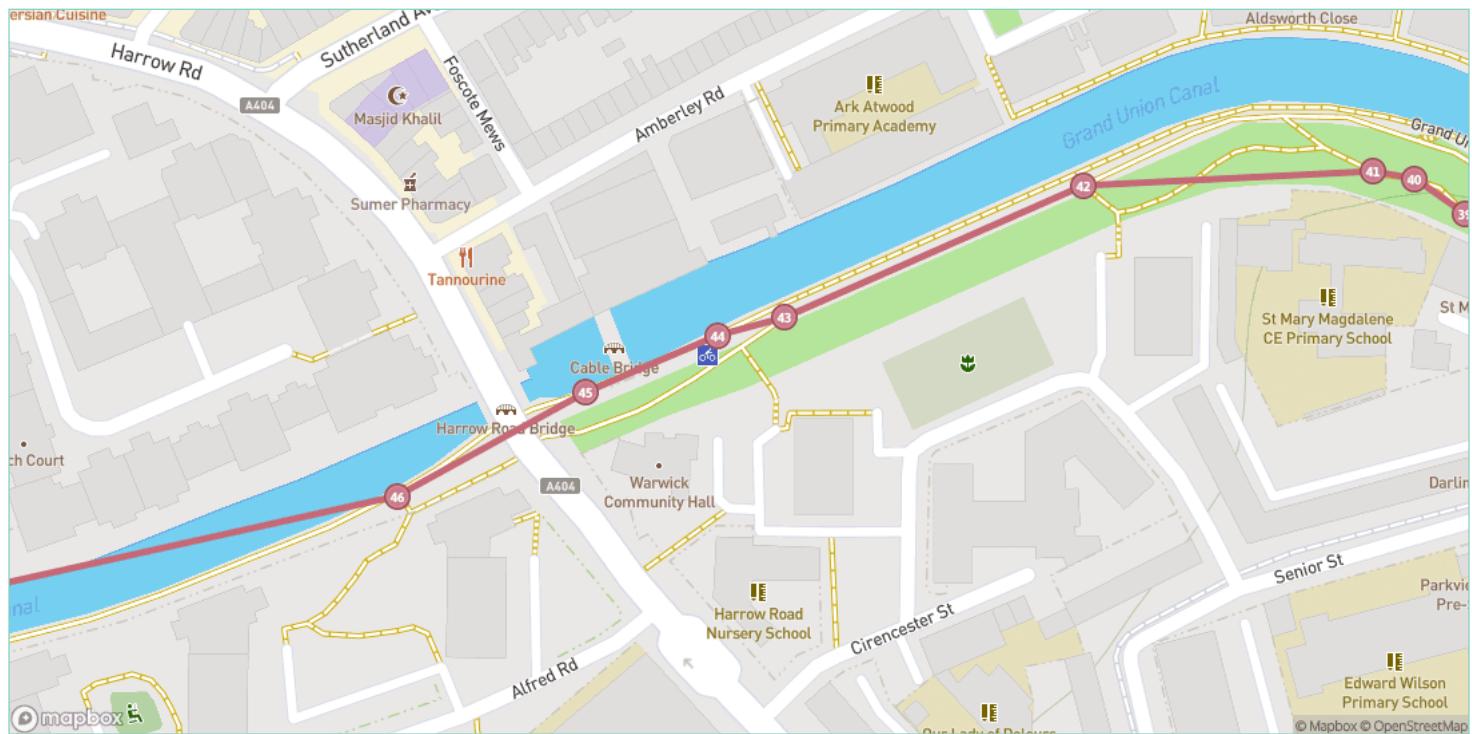


This stamp was created by the Climate Champions and represents the 19th century building of Grand Junction.

**Grand Junction is a venue for arts, culture, and community, based at St Mary Magdalene Church. We create and present an eclectic programme of music, arts, and heritage for young people, families, and adults.**

**Find out more**

<https://grandjunction.org.uk/>



**Step 40:** Continue up the same path.

**Step 41:** Look out for the play animals that can be found either side of the path. Can you recognise any of them?

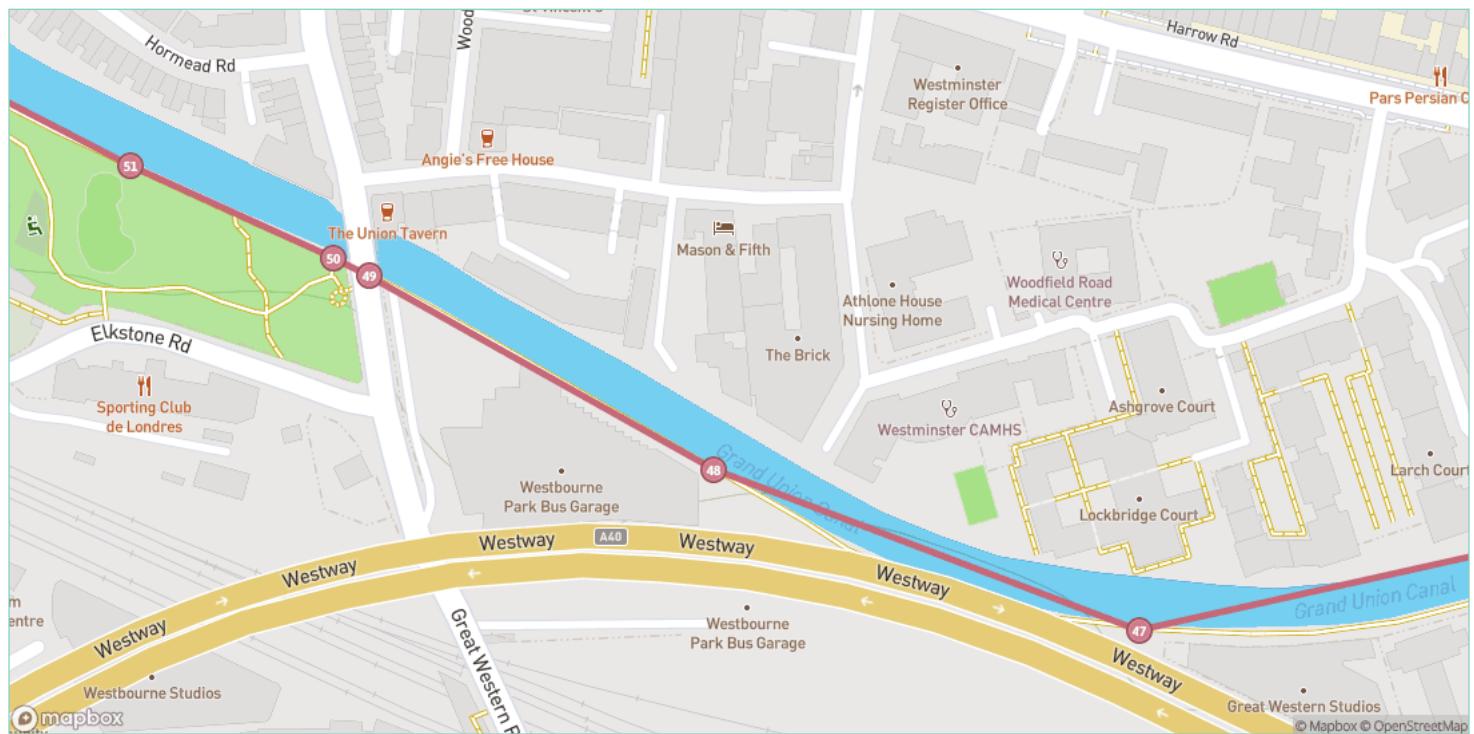
**Step 42:** Turn left and head along the Grand Union Canal towpath.

**Step 43:** When the path splits, keep right and continue along the canal side path.

**Step 44:** Head under a cable bridge and Harrow Road bridge.

**Step 45:** Look out for the wildlife murals painted on the walls opposite. Can you recognise this bird?

**Step 46:** Continue along the towpath.



**Step 47:** The Westway curves overhead.

**Step 48:** Look out for the amazing mural along this stretch of the canal.

**Step 49:** Heading under Bridge 4c carrying the Great Western Road.

**Step 50:** Meanwhile Gardens are on the left.

**Step 51:** This route continues along the canalside path for a short while. Look to the right across the canal. Can you see sculptures? Read on below 

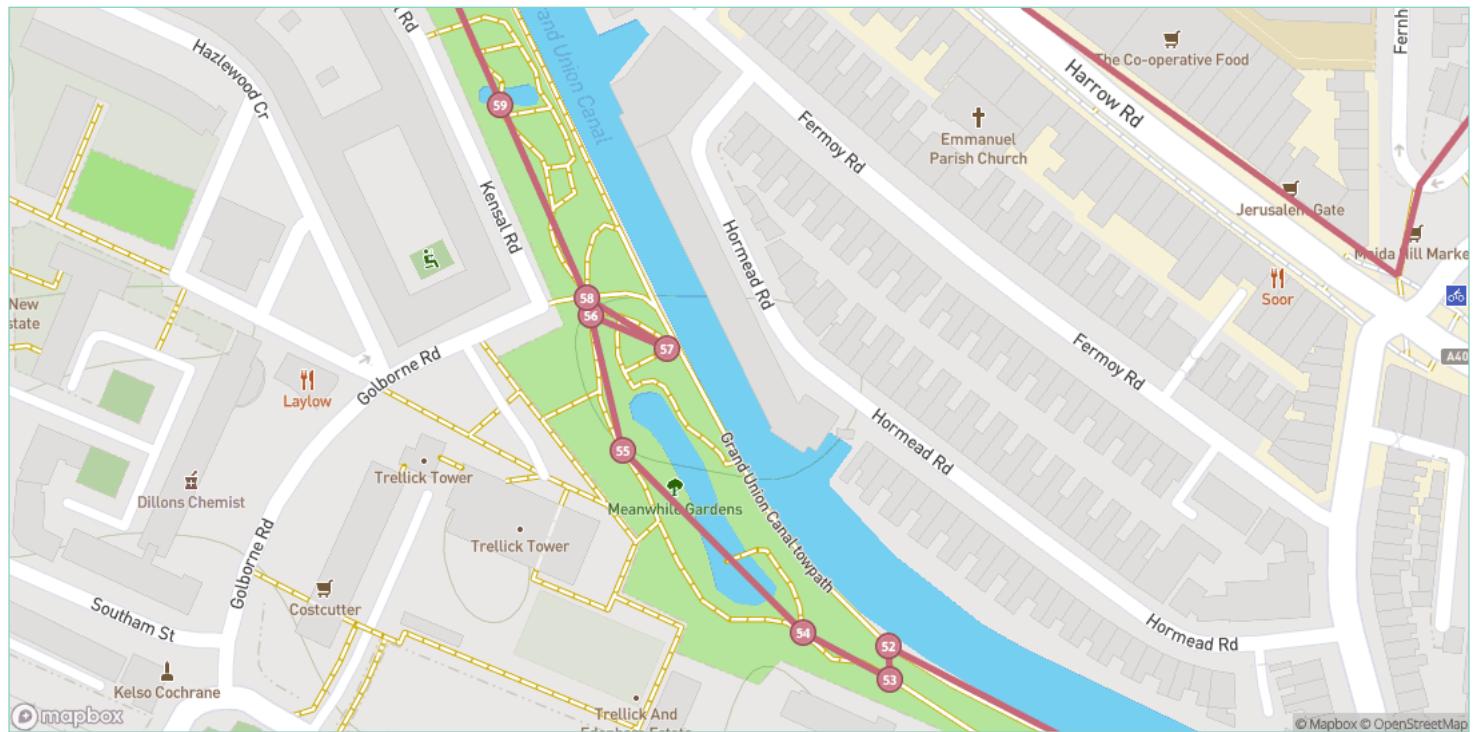
### Gerry's Pompeii

**A secret sculpture garden!**



This stamp was created by the Community Classroom and was inspired by Gerry's sculptures.

An incredible 50-metre long sculpture garden on the bank of the Grand Union canal. It is situated behind Gerry Dalton's former home and visible from the towpath by Meanwhile Gardens opposite. Gerry worked in secret for 30 years to build his masterpiece, and said 'They'll be astonished by what they'll find in my garden in years to come.'



It'll be like Pompeii or something... Gerry's Pompeii.'

#### Find out more

<https://www.gerryspompeii.com/>

**Step 52:** Take the ramped path down into the gardens on the left.

**Step 53:** Head right to continue through the gardens, following the path ahead.

**Step 54:** Fork left along the path.

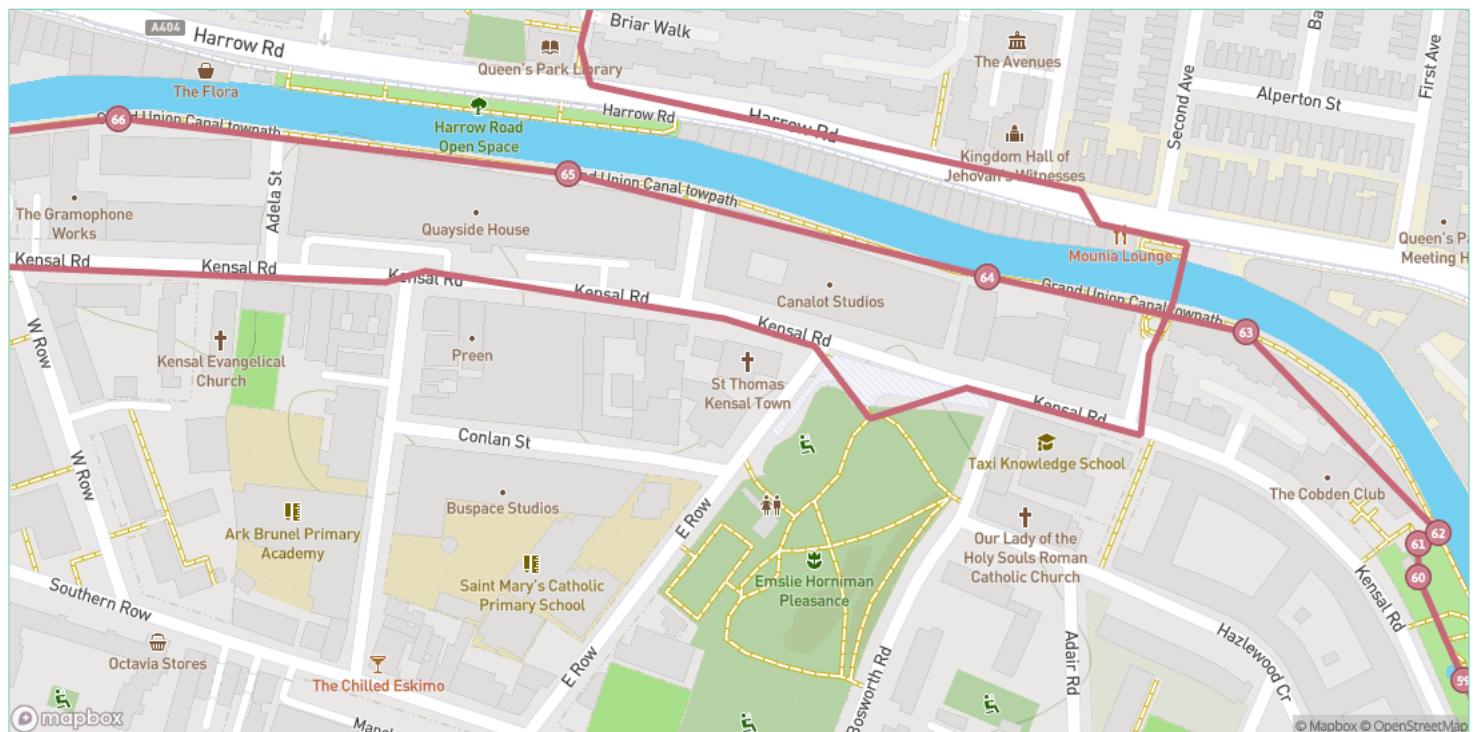
**Step 55:** The gardens have beautiful trees and some outdoor equipment.

**Step 56:** Look for a small gate on the right that takes us into this small garden.

**Step 57:** Golborne Hearted is a small garden used for reflection and mindfulness.

**Step 58:** Exit and turn left. At the fork, take the path on the left. Look out for the wooden sign for the wildlife garden on the right hand side.

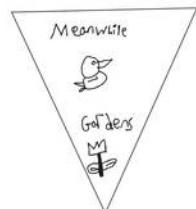
**Step 59:** Head over this small sculptural bridge over the pond.



**Step 60:** Exit the park with the old factory in front of you - this is the Meanwhile Gardens Community Association headquarters. Read more below 

## Meanwhile Gardens

**A hidden oasis!**



This stamp was created by the Junior Climate Champions to represent finding nature in the city.

Originally abandoned factory land, this peaceful oasis was granted temporary measure as a park 49 years ago, leading to its name, Meanwhile Gardens. It's now a permanent park, was home to the first skatebowl in London, and has an incredible wildlife garden, reflection garden, and

Moroccan Garden all in the shadow of Trellick Tower. Make sure you look up - you might see Peregrin Falcons roosting on Trellick Tower!

[Read more](#)

<https://meanwhile-gardens.org.uk/>

**Step 61:** Look for the exit through the gates on the right.

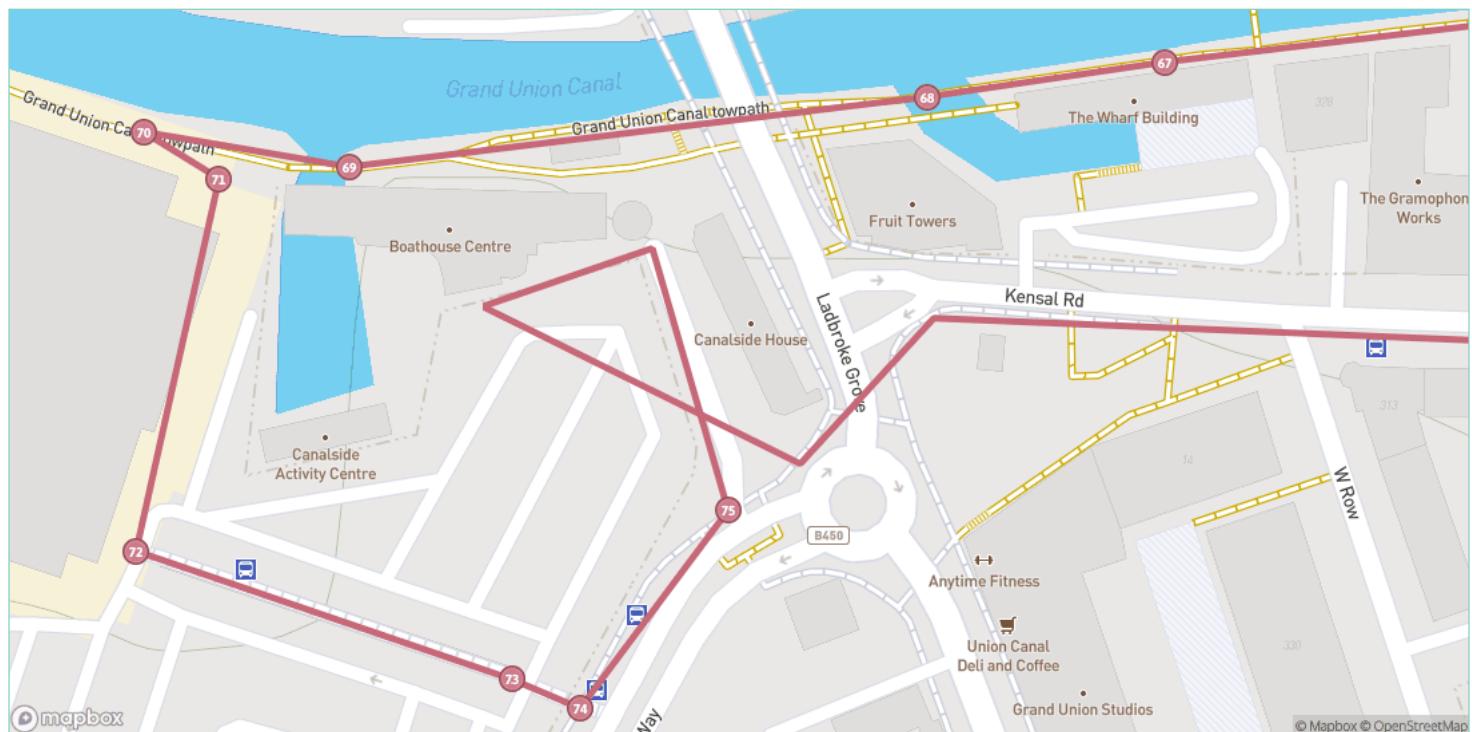
**Step 62:** Turn left to rejoin the Grand Union Canal and continue along the towpath.

**Step 63:** Head under Half Penny Steps Bridge.

**Step 64:** Continue along the Grand Union Canal towpath.

**Step 65:** On the opposite side of the canal is the stunning Queen's Park Library, which we will visit a bit later.

**Step 66:** Cross under another footbridge.



**Step 67:** Head up the ramp.

**Step 68:** Head back down it and then under another bridge.

**Step 69:** Continue heading along the towpath for a short while.

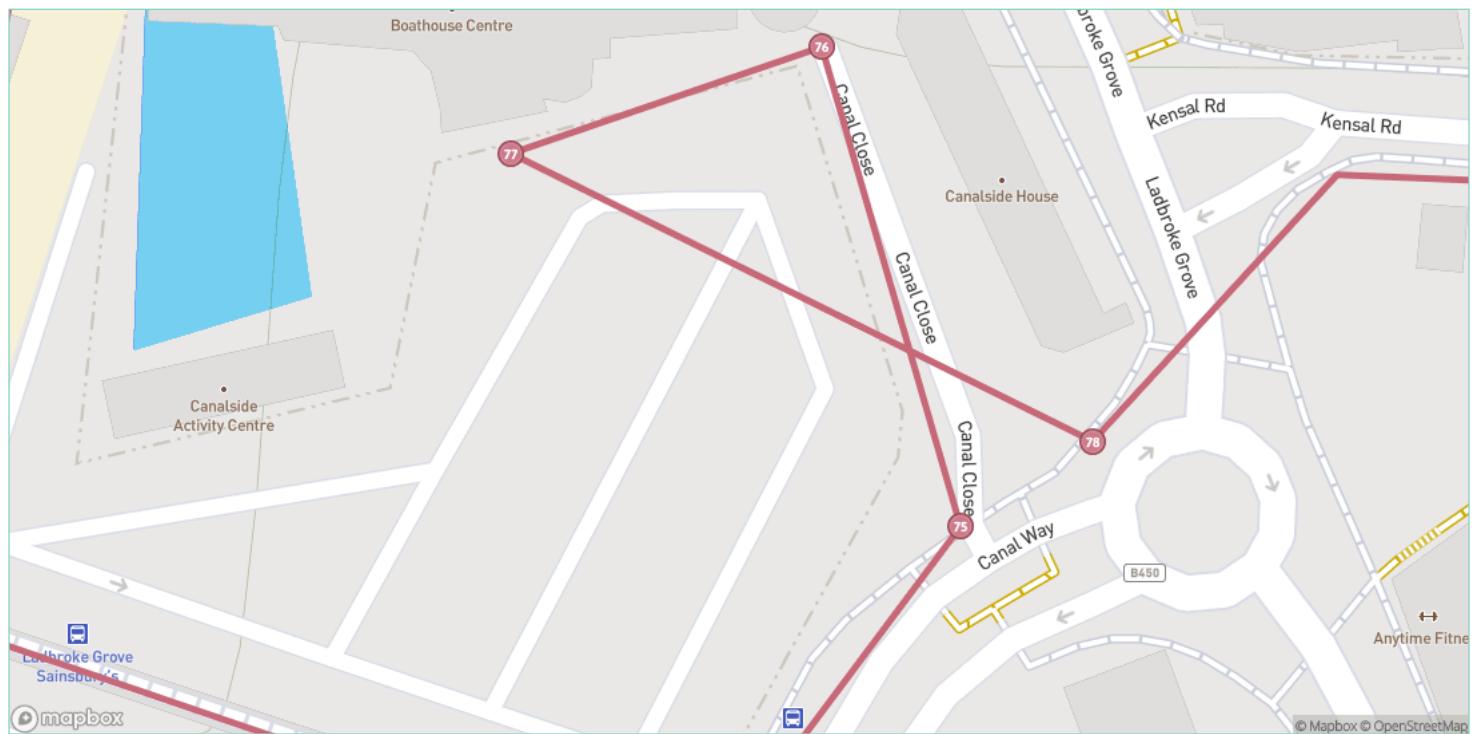
**Step 70:** Look for the exit with bollards on the left hand side that heads away from the canal.

**Step 71:** The pathway opens up to the side of a Sainsbury's supermarket. Continue along the pavement alongside the supermarket and the carpark.

**Step 72:** Turn left at the zebra crossing and continue through the carpark under this roofed walkway.

**Step 73:** At the end of the walkway use the zebra crossing and exit the carpark.

**Step 74:** Turn left and head along the pavement behind the bus stops.



**Step 75:** At the end of the pavement to the left is a small carpark.

**Step 76:** At the end of this carpark is a building on the left hand side.

**Step 77:** To the left of this is the gateway to [Urbanwise.London](#). Learn more below 

### Urbanwise

[Educational charity!](#)

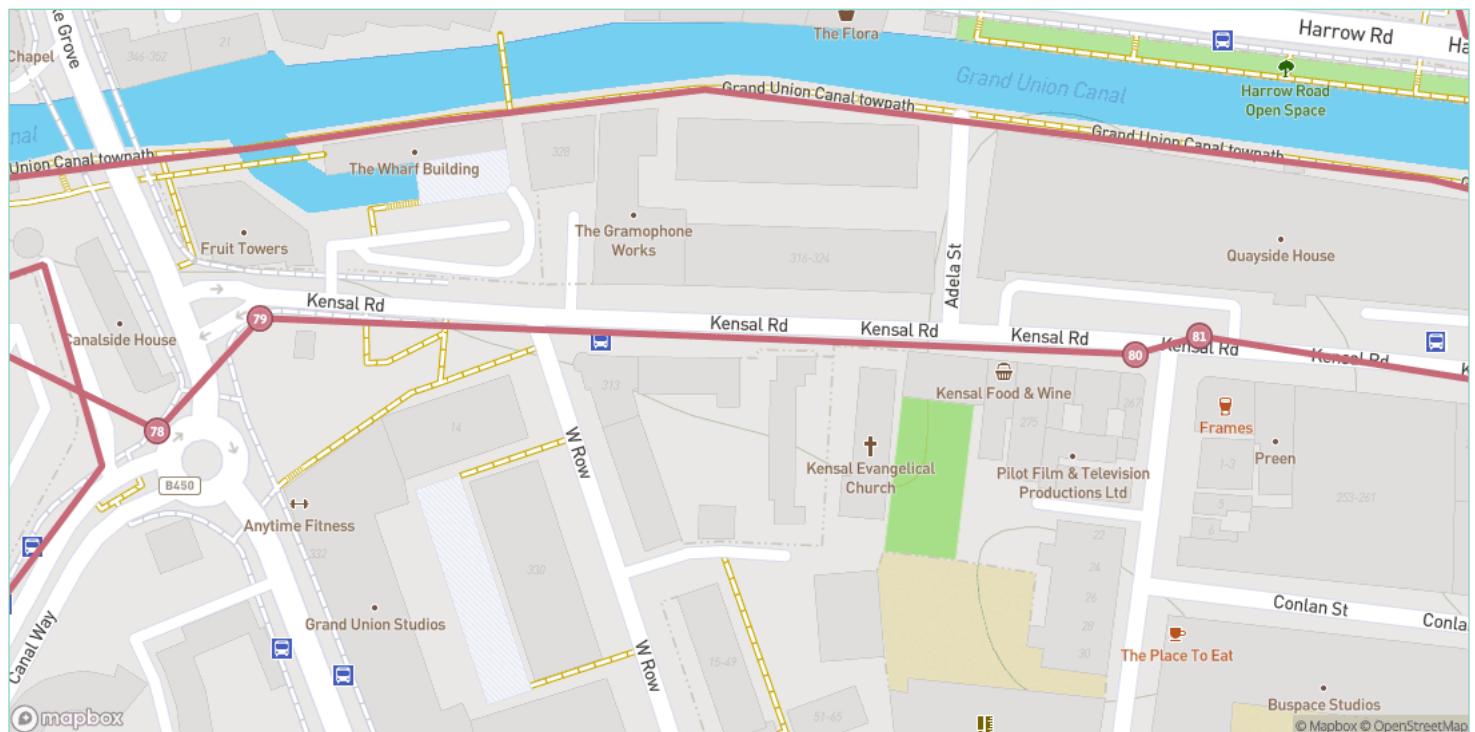


This stamp was created by the Community Classroom and shows people playing on the canal.

An urban studies centre based around increasing interest and knowledge in geography, biology and history for Londoners. They provide dynamic adventures for residents, encouraging adventuring, exploration and curiosity!

[Read more](#)

<https://urbanwise.london/>



**Step 78:** Back on the main road, continue left towards Ladbroke Grove Road. Carefully cross over at this central island to the left of the roundabout.

**Step 79:** Once over Ladbroke Grove continue left and take the immediate right, down Kensal Road.

**Step 80:** Further along Kensal Road, cross at the zebra crossing.

**Step 81:** Just to the right of the crossing, in the building just down from the main road is PiP. Learn more below ↗

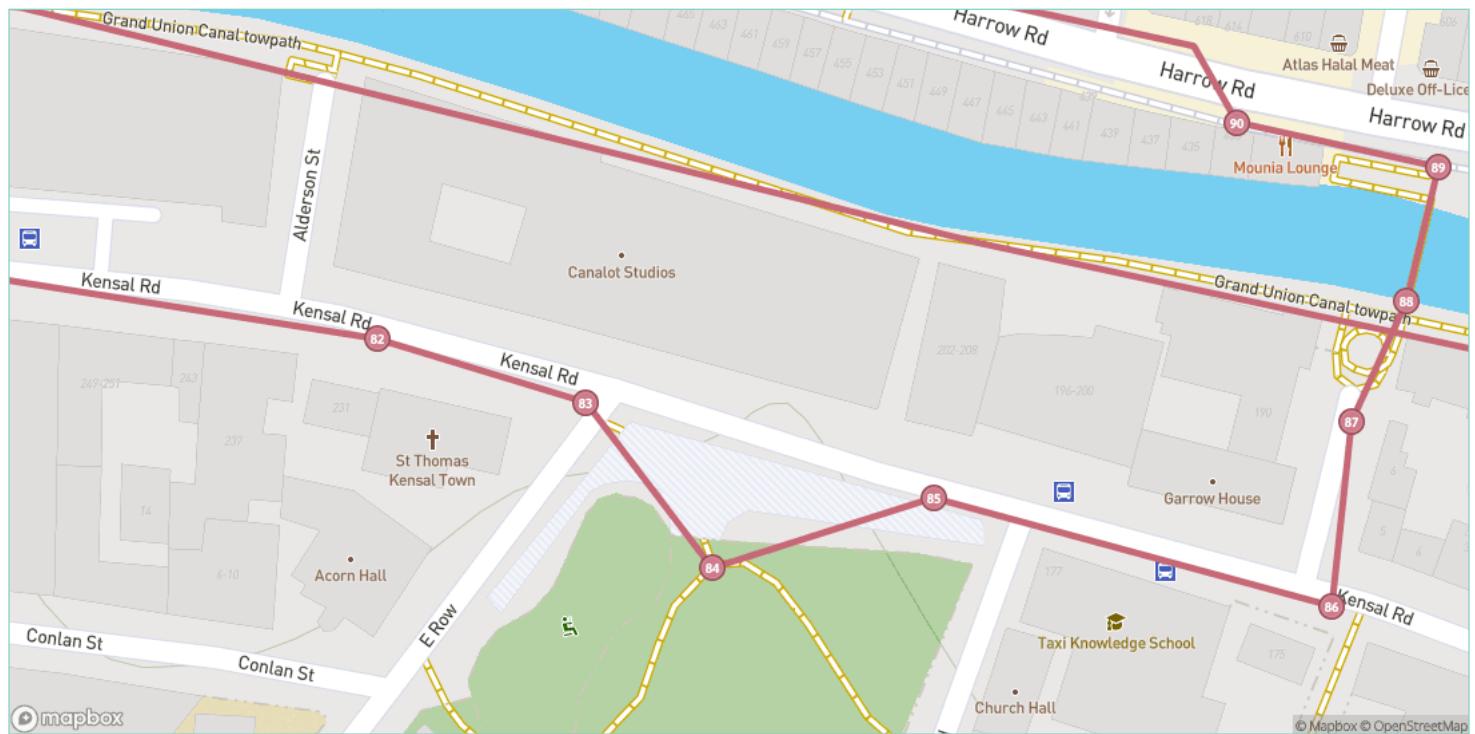
## PiP

### Empowering disabled adults



This stamp was created by the Community Classroom - can you spot the minecraft inspiration?

PiP was started in 1984 by local parents with children with learning disabilities who were transitioning to adult services. They wanted support and challenge for their young adult children to become more independent - something that remains at the heart of their mission today. It's their vision that we live in a



world where people with learning disabilities are valued for their contribution, their creativity and their uniqueness.

#### Read more

<https://piponline.org.uk/>

**Step 82:** Cross over the zebra crossing once again and continue left along Kensal Road.

**Step 83:** Carefully cross the side road of East Row. Continue ahead for a few steps and then enter Emslie Horniman's Pleasance Park on the right.

**Step 84:** The park has an amazing kids playground and adventure playground in the beautiful green open space.

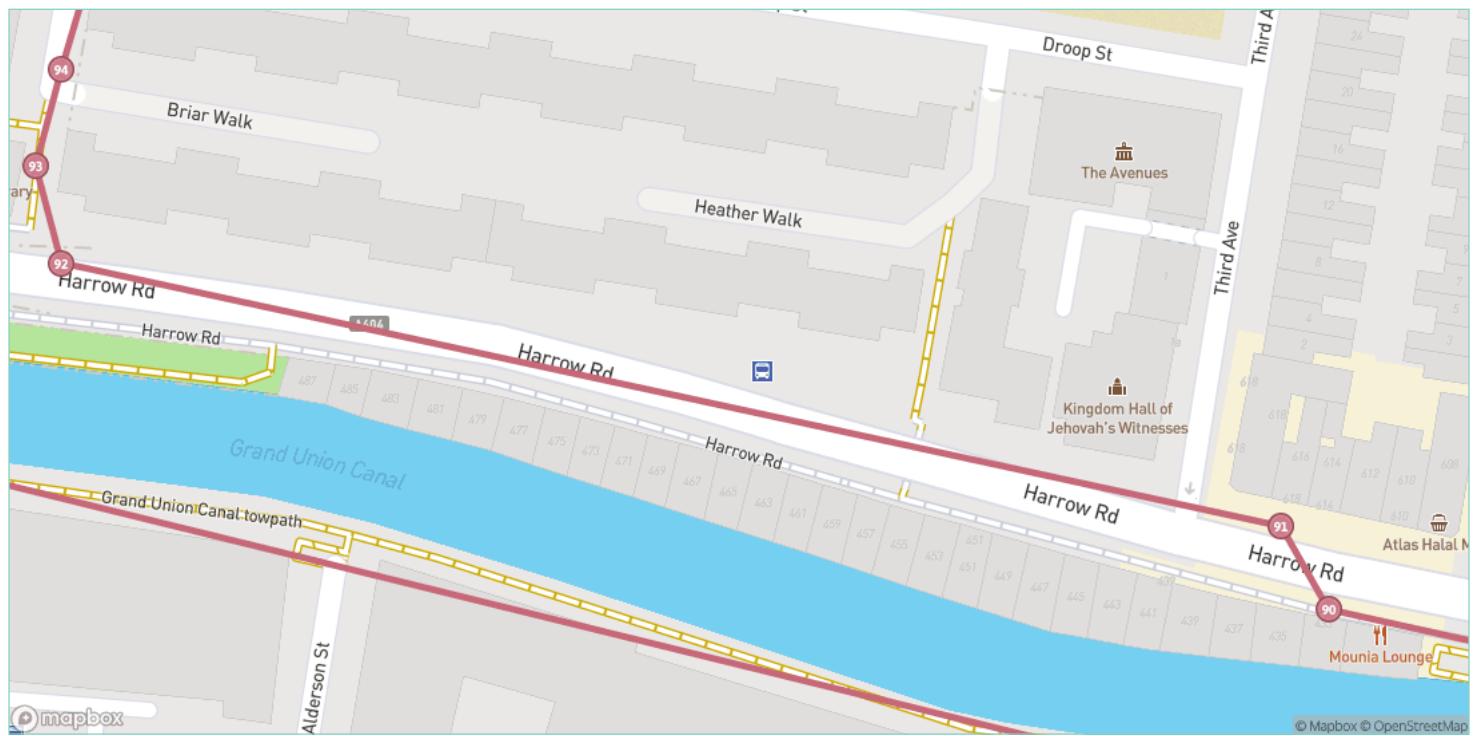
**Step 85:** Exit the park the way you came in and then continue right along Kensal Road, carefully crossing over Bosworth Road.

**Step 86:** Use the zebra crossing over Kensal Road on the left.

**Step 87:** Then continue straight along Wedlake Street, heading towards the ramp up Half Penny Steps.

**Step 88:** The bridge takes us over the Grand Union Canal.

**Step 89:** Once over the canal, turn left along Harrow Road.



**Step 90:** Cross Harrow Road at the pedestrian crossing on the right.

**Step 91:** Turn left and continue along Harrow Road on the opposite side.

**Step 92:** You'll soon arrive at Queen's Park Library.

**Step 93:** The entrance to the library is via the side door to the right hand side. Read more below [👉](#)

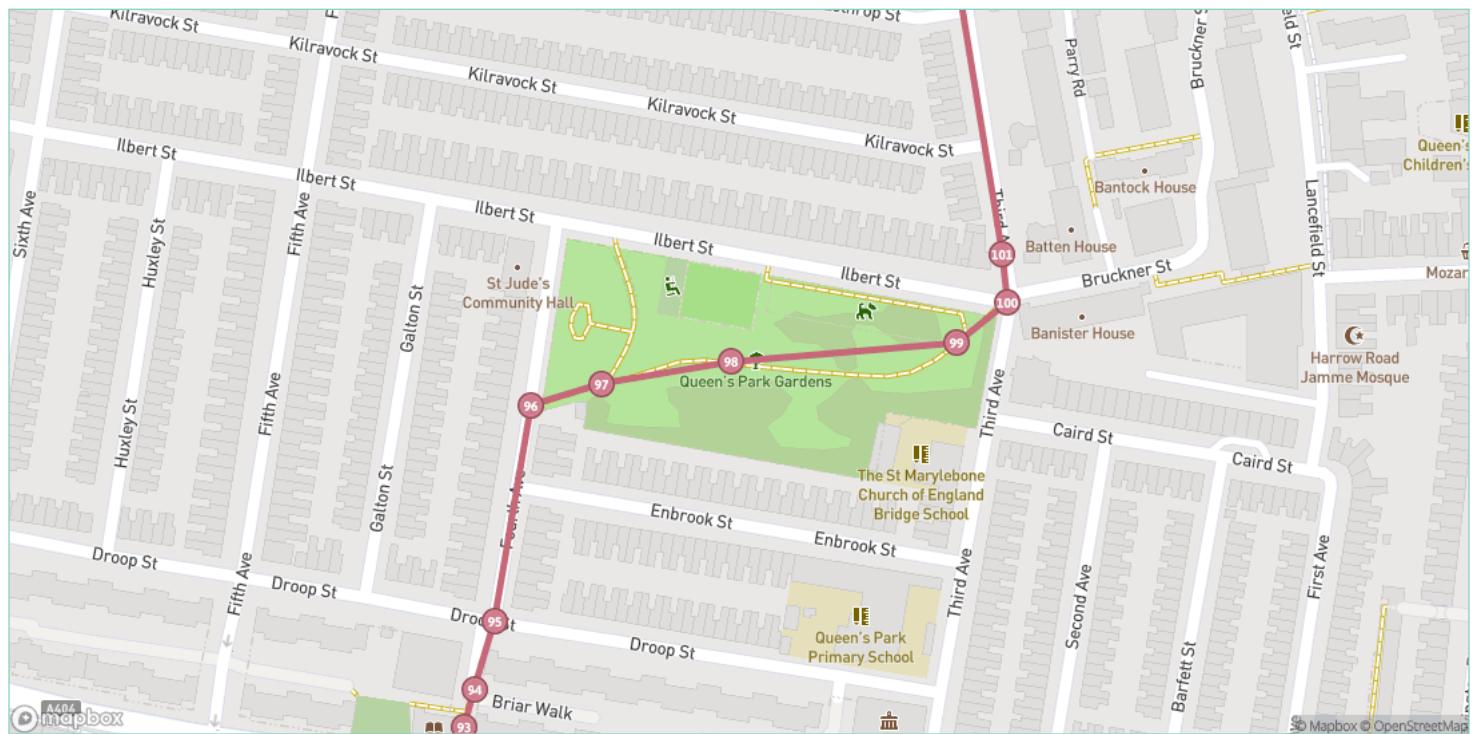
### Queen's Park Library

Westminster's oldest library!



This stamp was created by the Community Classroom and inspired by their good times at the library.

Westminster's oldest library, functioning since 1890, Queen's Park Library is a beautiful place to relax, read, and learn. With free wifi, and a range of books and activities, there's something for everyone here. Open Monday - Saturday, trace the steps people took 135 years ago and head inside!



**Step 94:** Exiting the library, turn left on Fourth Avenue.

**Step 95:** Carefully cross Droop Street and continue along Fourth Avenue.

**Step 96:** Halfway up Fourth Avenue is a side entrance to Queen's Park Gardens on the right. Head in!

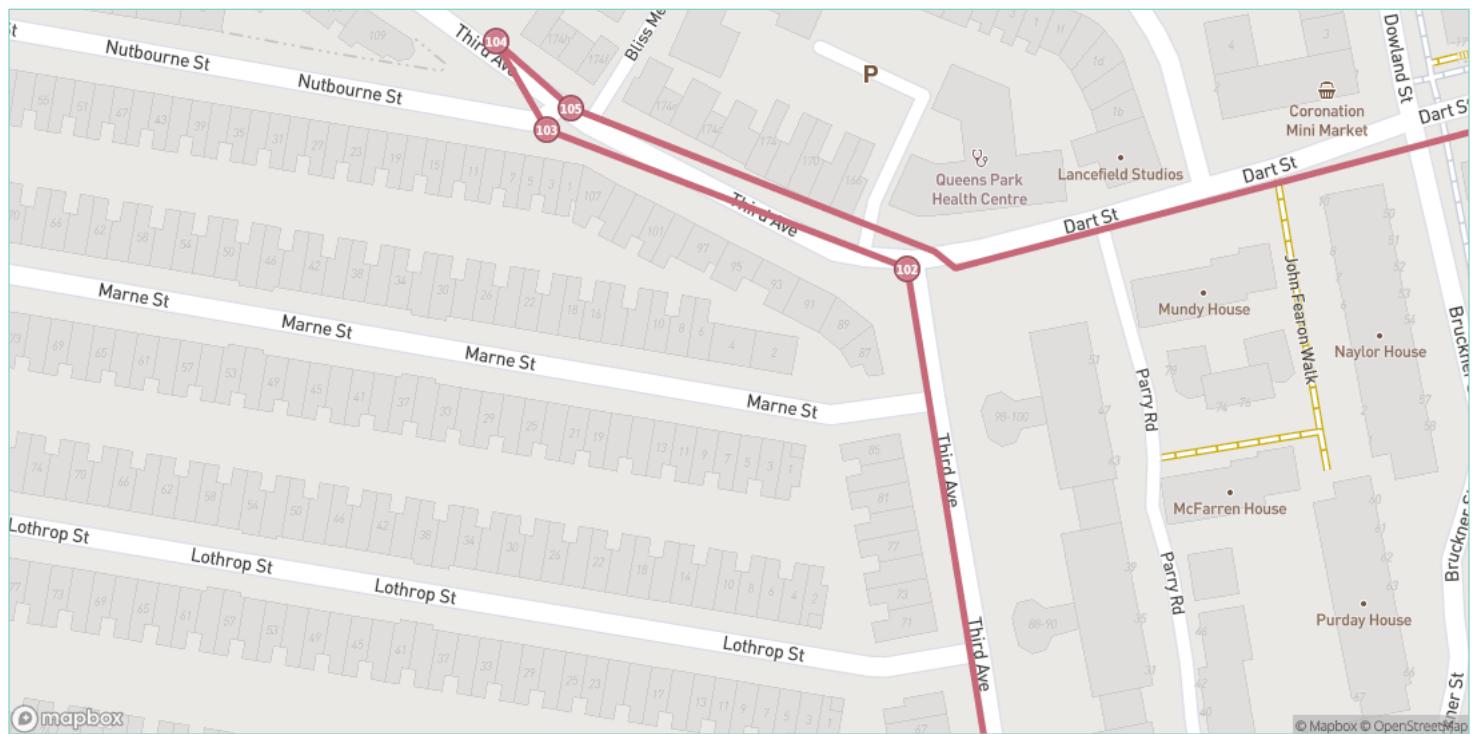
**Step 97:** There is a small playground to the right.

**Step 98:** Head on the path through the centre of the gardens, with a fenced off play area to the left hand side.

**Step 99:** Exit the park through the gates at the far corner.

**Step 100:** Upon exiting, bear left onto Third Avenue, crossing over Ilbert Street.

**Step 101:** Continue up Third Avenue.



**Step 102:** Follow Third Avenue as it bends to the left.

**Step 103:** Carefully cross over Nutbourne Street.

**Step 104:** Immediately after, cross over Third Avenue, to find the Beethoven Community Centre. Read more below 

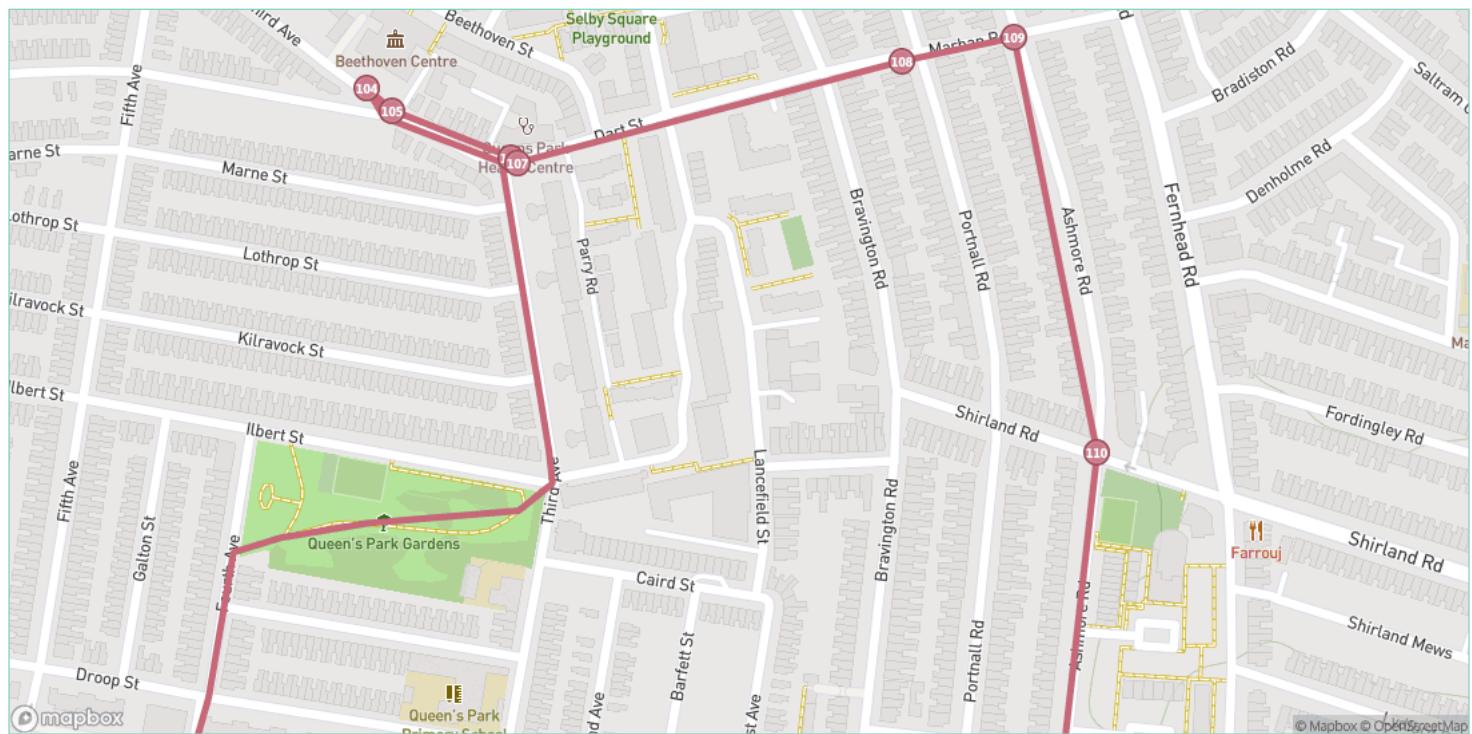
### Beethoven Community Centre

Community hub in Queen's Park



This stamp was created by the Community Classroom.

Home to Queens Park Community Council, the only Parish Council in London, and the Mozart Community Champions, the Beethoven Centre is the site of film nights, lunch clubs, and dance sessions. To fit in with its musical name, it even has a community choir!



**Step 105:** Turn left out of the centre and head back down Third Avenue on the other side of the road.

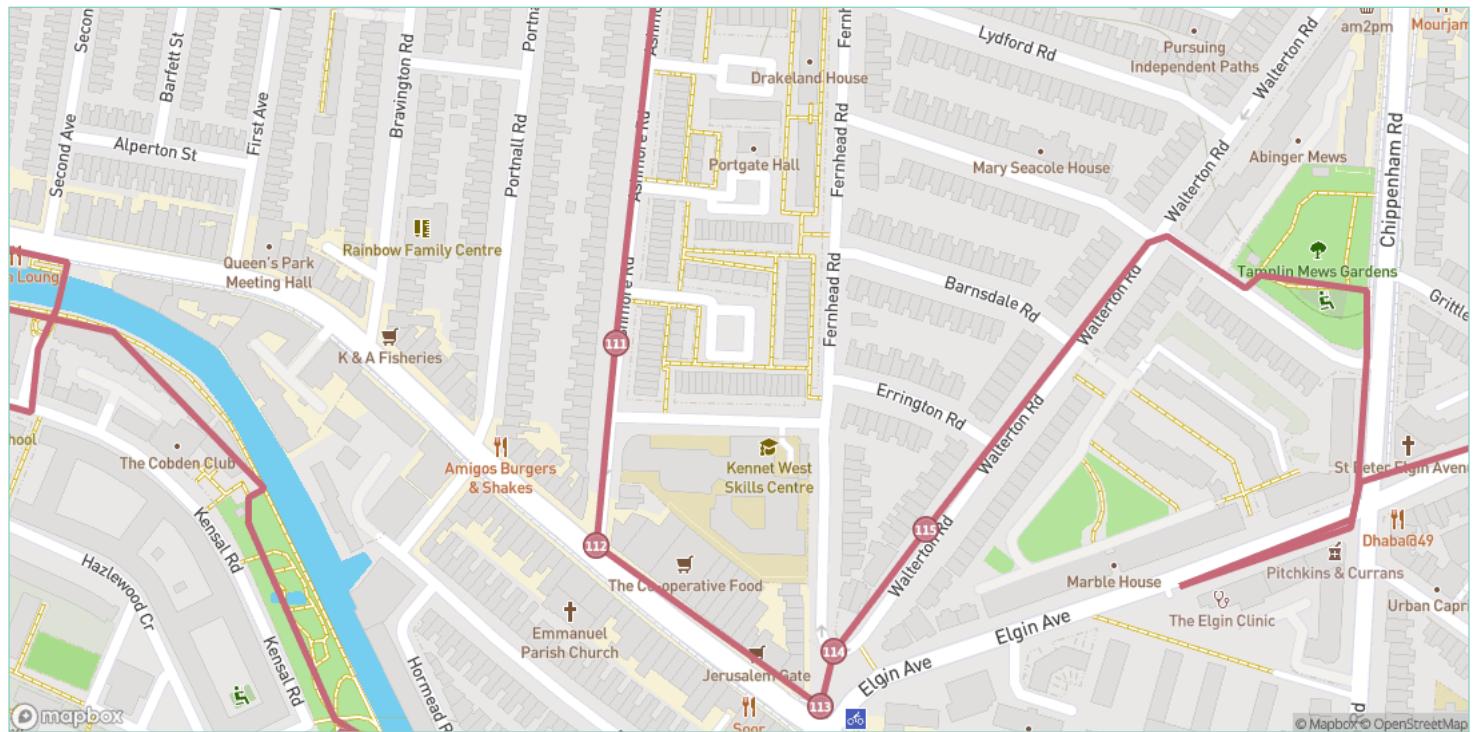
**Step 106:** Cross over Dart Street.

**Step 107:** Turn left and continue along Dart Street.

**Step 108:** Cross side streets with care.

**Step 109:** Turn right and head down Ashmore Road.

**Step 110:** Carefully cross over Shirland Road.



**Step 111:** Continue to the end of Ashmore Road.

**Step 112:** Turn left on Harrow Road.

**Step 113:** Turn left at the paved pedestrian area, with lovely trees, plants and seated areas.

**Step 114:** Just beyond the seated area is Maida Hill Market. Read more below [➡](#)

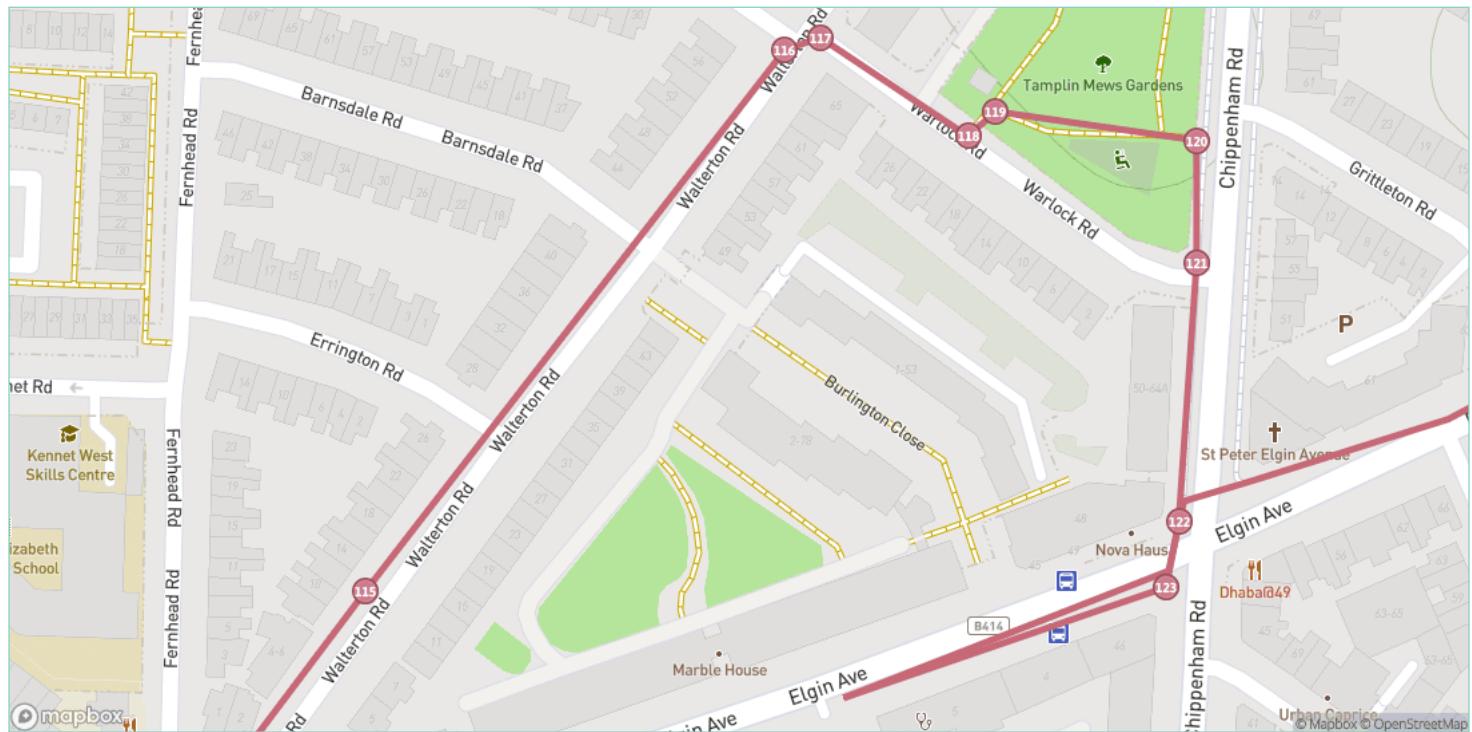
### Maida Hill Market

#### Vibrant market square



This stamp was created by the Community Classroom.

Maida Hill Market, located at the junction of Elgin Avenue and Harrow Road, is a vibrant community hub in West London. Today, it operates as a lively street market, offering a diverse range of goods including fresh produce, street food, clothing, and household items. The market reflects the area's multicultural character, with vendors providing a variety of international cuisines and products catering to the local community.



**Step 115:** Head right along Walterton Road.

**Step 116:** When you reach Warlock Road, turn right and cross Walterton Road.

**Step 117:** Then cross over Warlock Road and turn right along it.

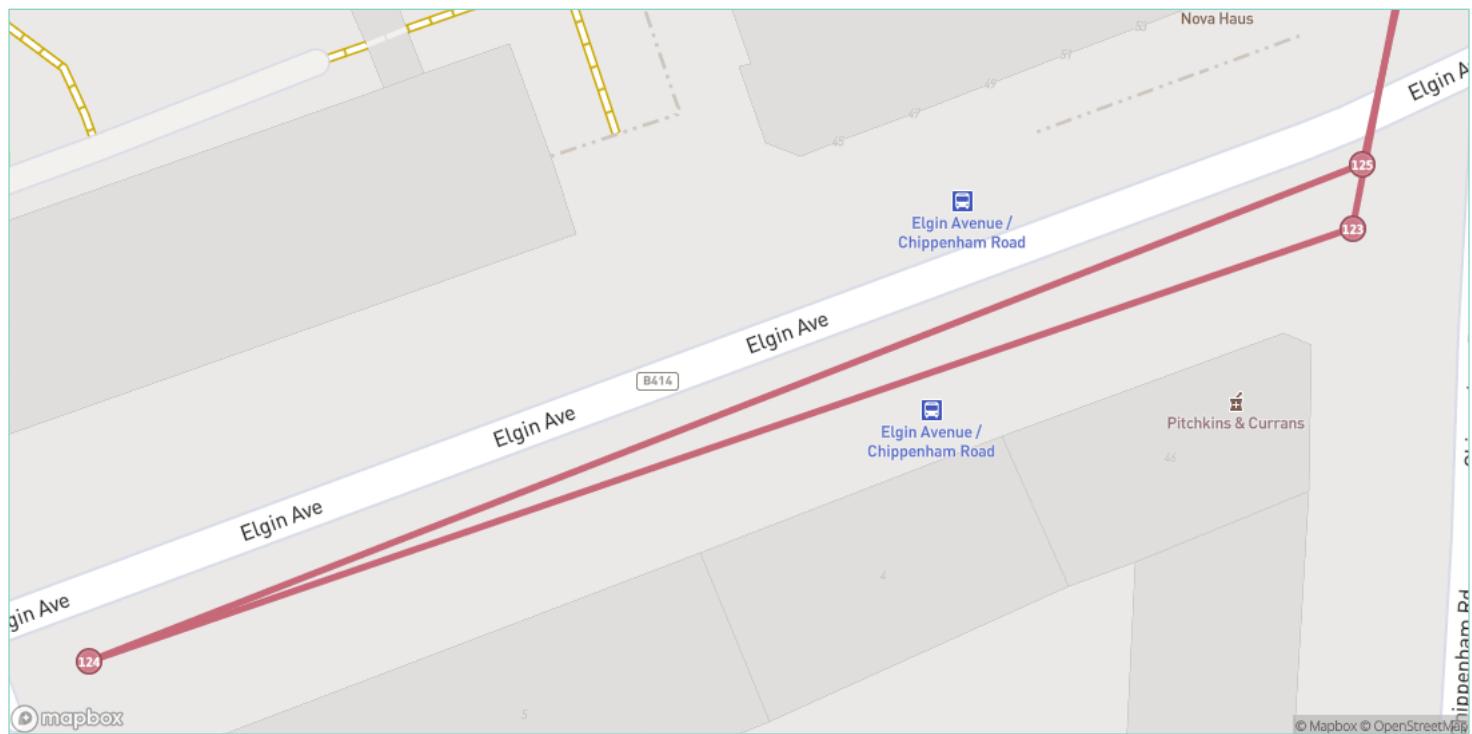
**Step 118:** Halfway along the road turn left through the gate into Tamplin Mews Gardens.

**Step 119:** It's a lovely small green space to sit and have a rest while you admire the trees. Head right on the path.

**Step 120:** Exit the gardens through the gates.

**Step 121:** Turn right and walk down Chippenham Road.

**Step 122:** At the junction, cross Elgin Avenue at the lights and turn right on the opposite side.



**Step 123:** Continue on Elgin Avenue.

**Step 124:** On the left we find the WECH Community Center. Read more below [↗](#)

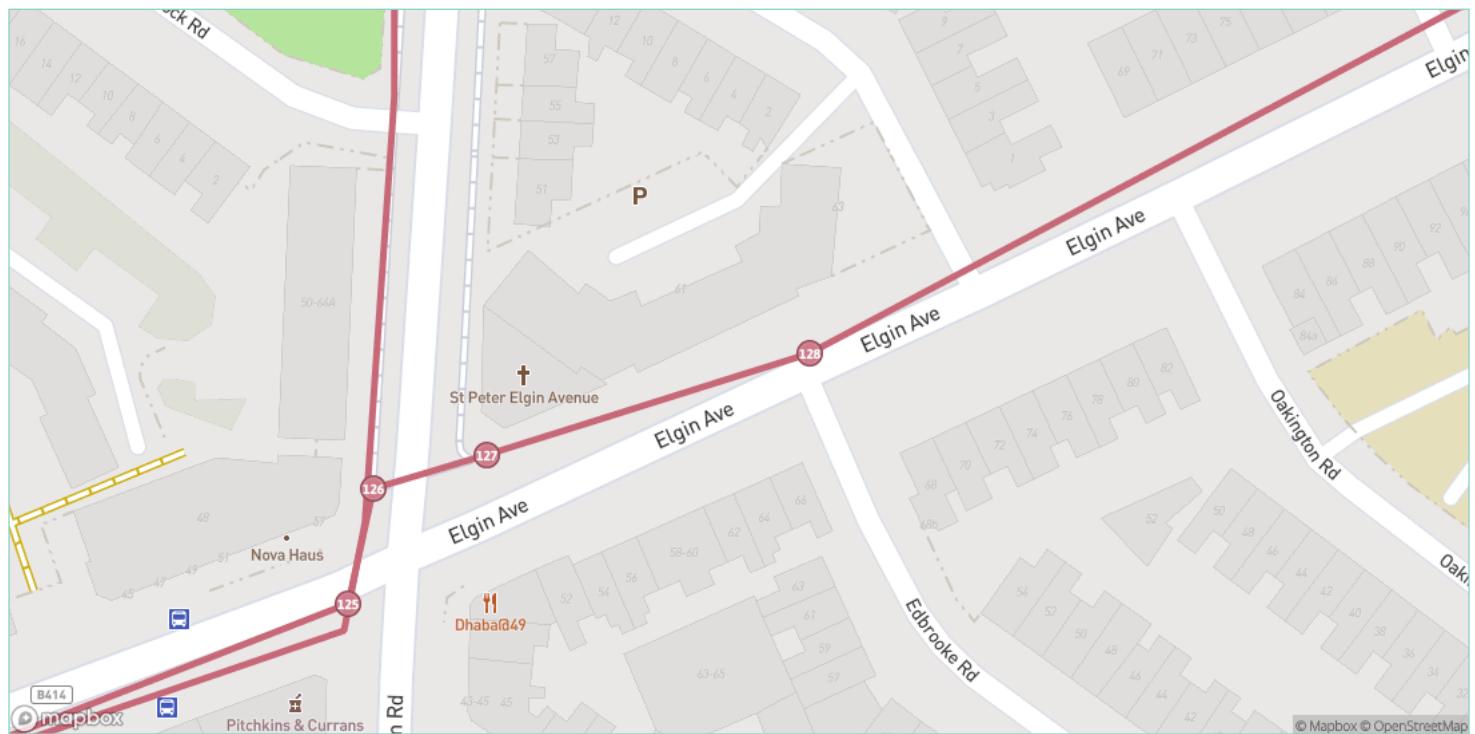
## WECH

### Community owned housing



This stamp was created by the Junior Climate Champions and shows WECH's classic logo.

Walterton and Elgin Community homes (WECH) is a successful resident controlled housing association in Westminster. It emerged from the struggle of residents against the sale of their homes to private developers. It is now a beacon of how resident control can not only revitalise the physical environment of run down estates but also create sustainable and inclusive communities from



the bottom up.

#### Read more

<https://wech.org.uk/about-wech/history-of-wech/>

**Step 125:** Head back down to the junction and go back over the road at the same set of lights.

**Step 126:** Then take the lights on the right and cross over Chippenham Road.

**Step 127:** Then continue to walk along Elgin Avenue.

**Step 128:** Further along Elgin Avenue is The Exchange in the basement of the building on the left. Read more below [Read more](#)

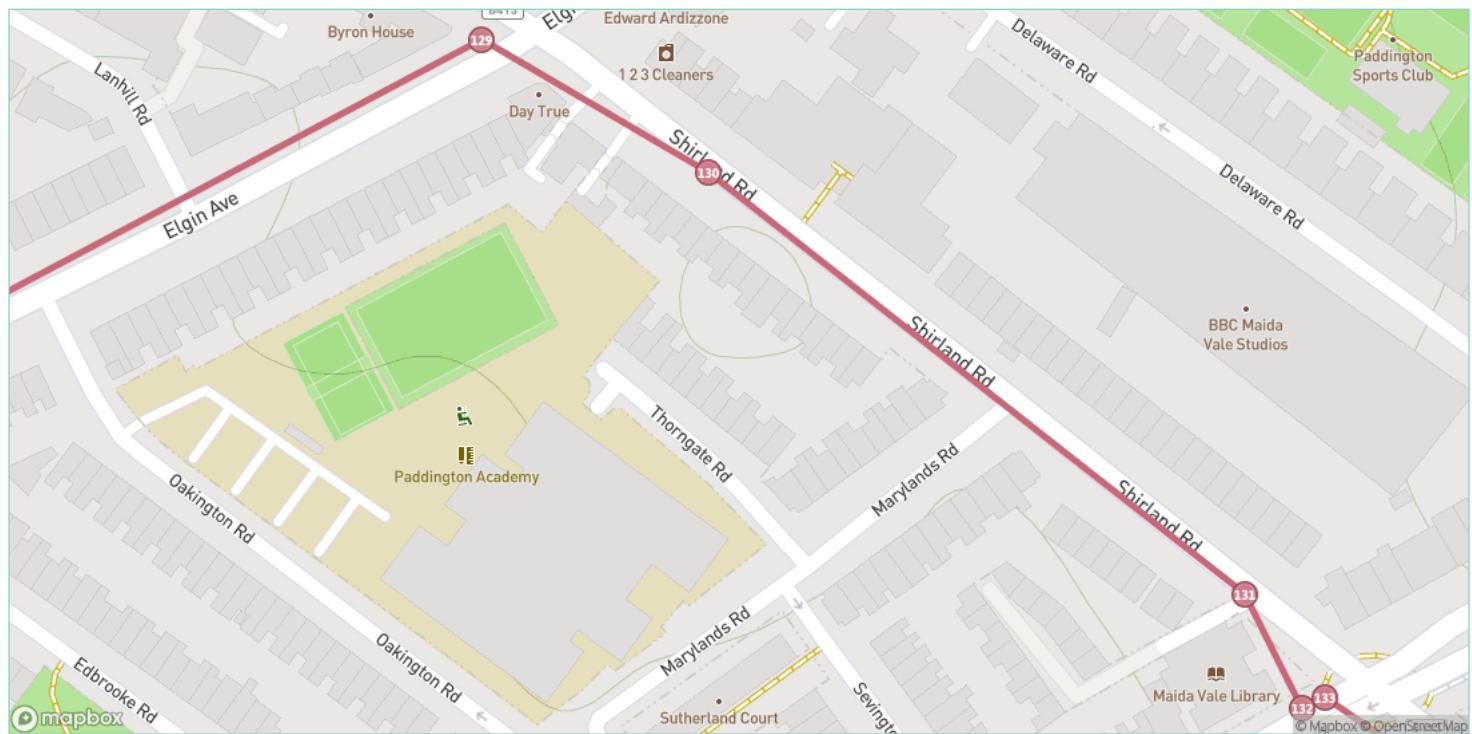
#### The Exchange

##### Community hub



This stamp was created by the Junior Climate Champions and shows people building connection.

A vibrant new community hub in the heart of North Paddington, offering a welcoming, inclusive space for local residents to connect, learn and create. Whether you're looking for support, a space to host your event or class, or simply a great coffee and conversation - The Exchange is here for you.



### Read more

<https://thexchange.org.uk/>

**Step 129:** At the corner of Elgin Avenue and Shirland Road, turn right to cross Elgin Avenue at the lights. Head down Shirland Road.

**Step 130:** Continue to walk along Shirland Road on the right hand side.

**Step 131:** If required, there is a lift on the right to gain access to the Maida Vale Library.

**Step 132:** Further ahead on the corner of Sutherland Avenue and Shirland Road we find the main entrance to Maida Vale Library. Read more below ↗

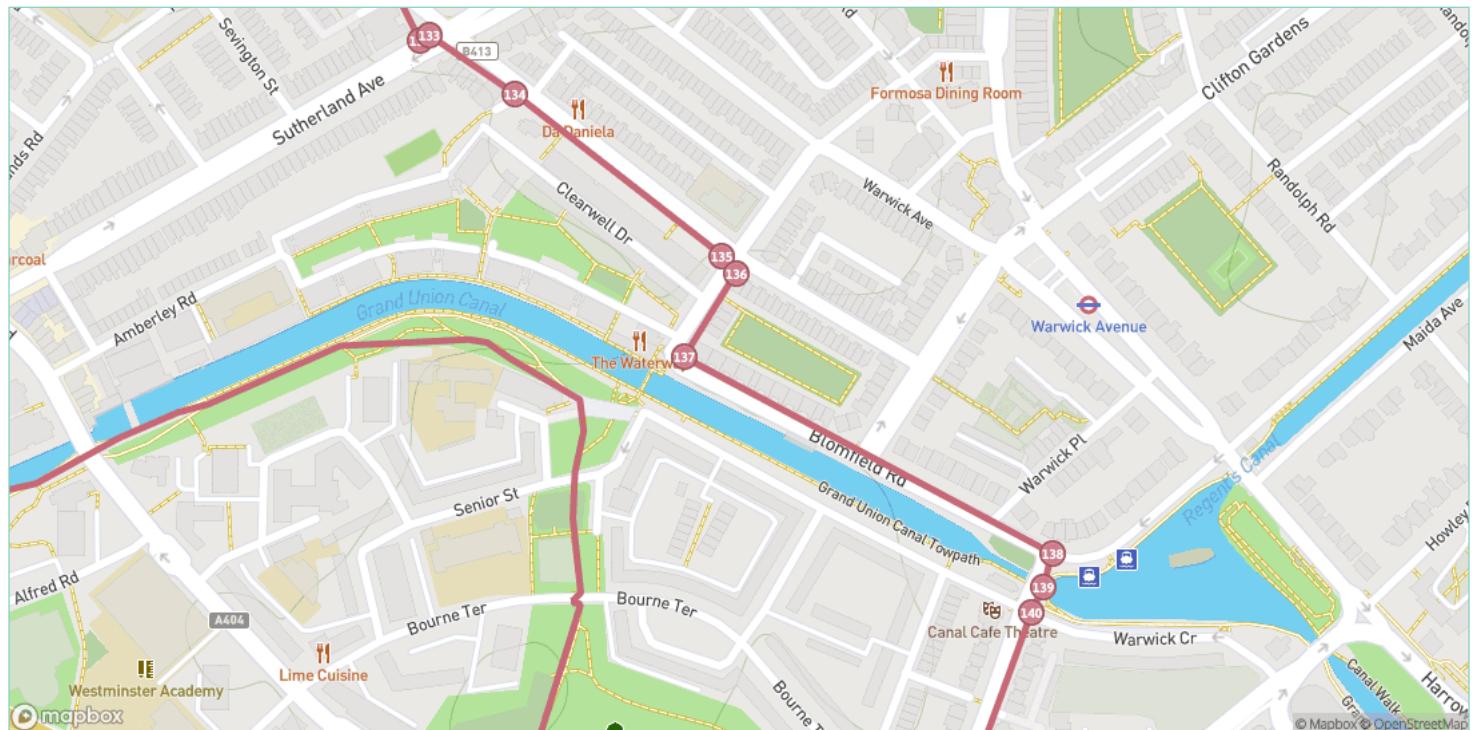
### Maida Vale Library

Historic library



This stamp was created by the Junior Climate Champions.

Originally a Church, then becoming a private subscription library, this lovely building was converted by Westminster Council in 1948 to be a public library. The original subscription library was owned by a French woman known as 'The Mademoiselle', who later disappeared - could you



be the one to find out what happened? For some detective skills inspiration, check out the crime fiction section inside the library today!



This stamp was created by the Junior Climate Champions.

**Step 133:** After visiting the library, cross over Sutherland Avenue at the lights.

**Step 134:** Then continue to walk along Shirland Road.

**Step 135:** At the end of Shirland Road, cross Formosa Street, with the roundabout on the left.

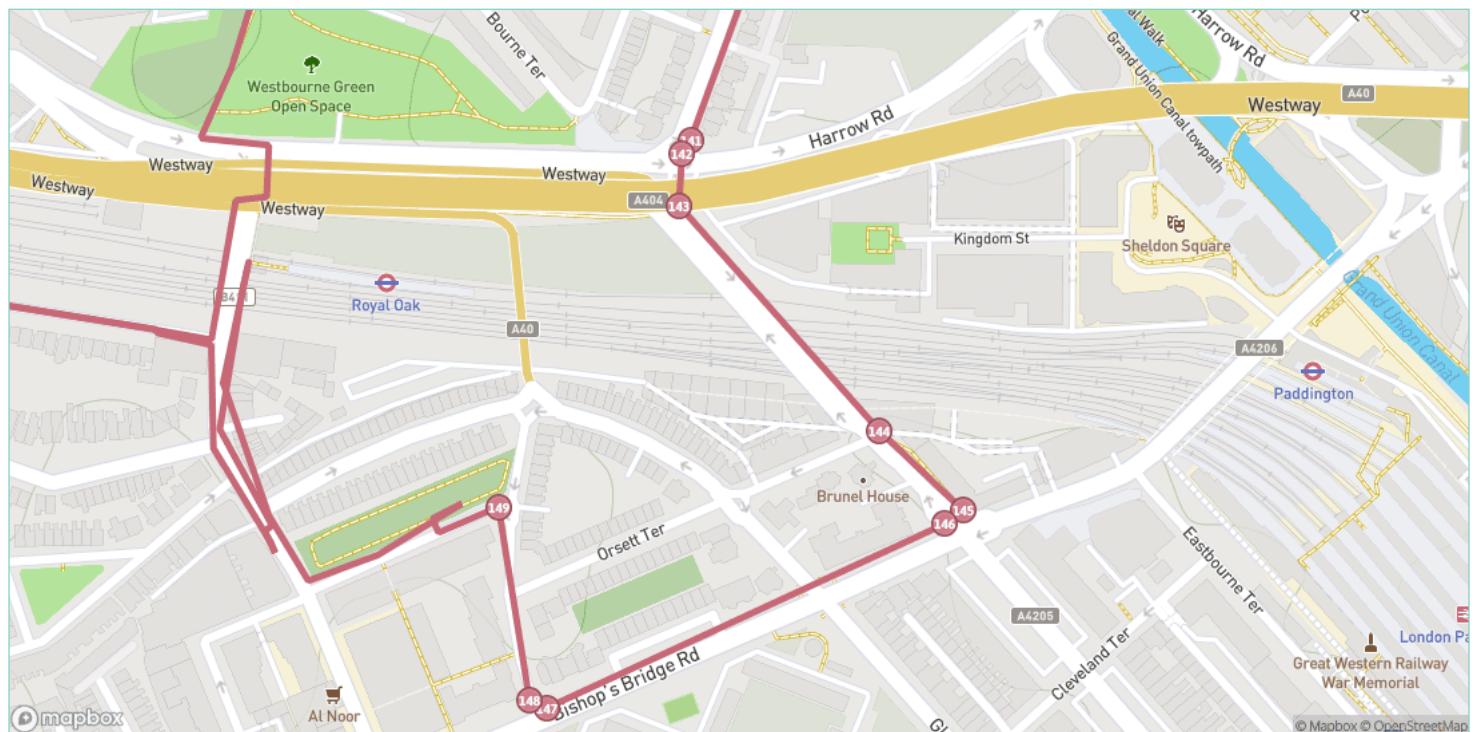
**Step 136:** Once over the road, turn right and walk up Formosa Street on the left hand side.

**Step 137:** Head around the bend and walk along Blomfield Road.

**Step 138:** Turn left and head over Westbourne Terrace Bridge.

**Step 139:** To the left is Little Venice and Browning's Island.

**Step 140:** At the other side of the bridge, cross over Warwick Crescent and continue down Westbourne Terrace Road.



**Step 141:** At the bottom, head right to cross Westbourne Terrace Road at the lights.

**Step 142:** Then cross over Harrow Road and head under the Westway.

**Step 143:** Then head over Westbourne Bridge.

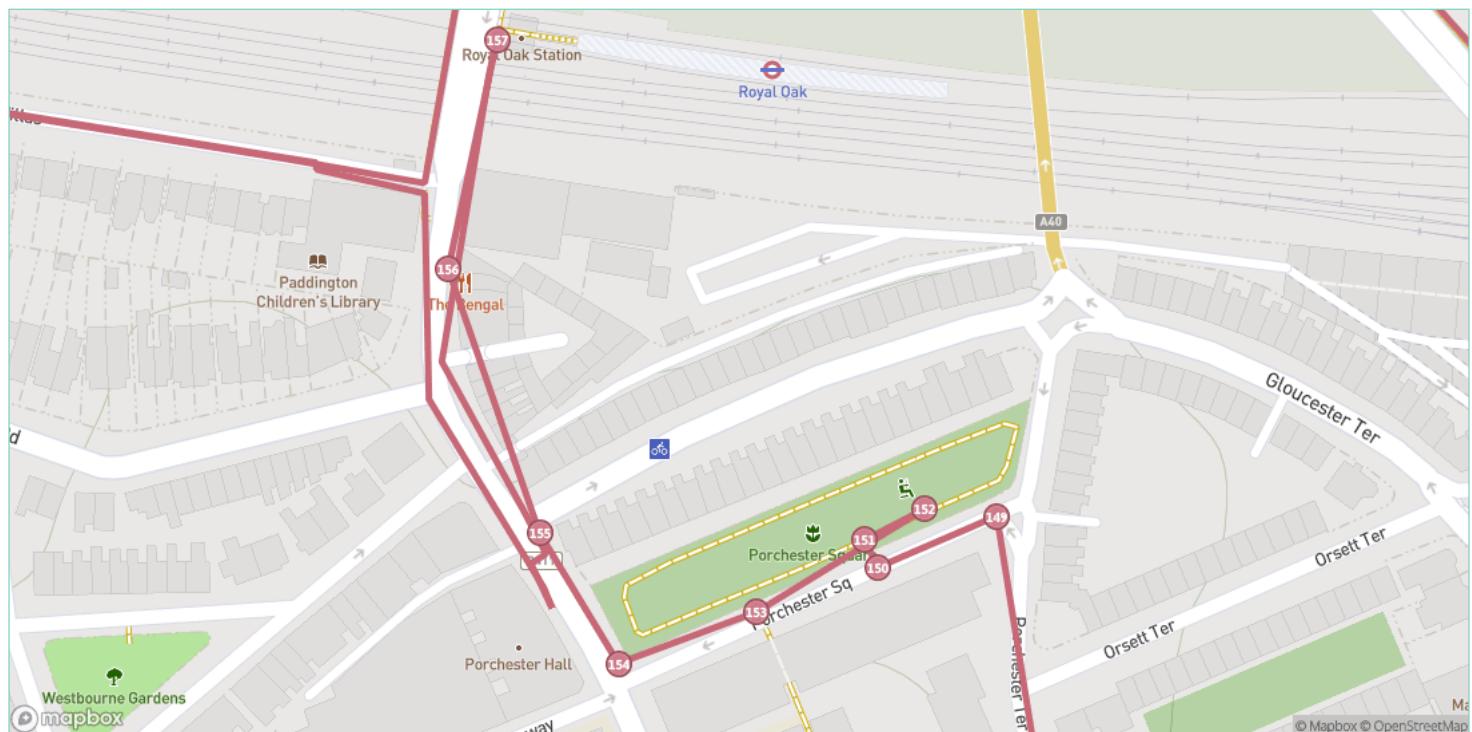
**Step 144:** Over the bridge, continue along the left hand side of the road.

**Step 145:** Turn right and cross Westbourne Terrace at the lights.

**Step 146:** Then continue walking along Bishop's Bridge Road straight ahead.

**Step 147:** Cross over Porchester Terrace

**Step 148:** Then turn right and head up Porchester Terrace.



**Step 149:** Turn left and walk along Porchester Square.

**Step 150:** Halfway along Porchester Square, cross over the road and go through the garden gates.

**Step 151:** It's a small oasis of calm, with plenty places to sit and relax.

**Step 152:** It has a lovely small playground to the right.

**Step 153:** Exit through the same gates, turn right and continue along Porchester Square.

**Step 154:** At the end of the road, turn right and walk along Porchester Road.

**Step 155:** You should recognise where you are as you walk back over the zebra crossing on Gloucester Terrace.

**Step 156:** Then onto Lord Hill's Bridge.

**Step 157:** Well done! You've arrived back at Royal Oak Station, where this walk ends. We hope you enjoyed it.