



Green Chain Walk Section 10

Stroll from Beckenham Place Park to Crystal Palace Park through this section steeped in heritage.

Distance 6.9 kilometers / 4.3 miles

Duration 2 hours and 30 minutes

WC

Public loos



Refreshments



Public transport



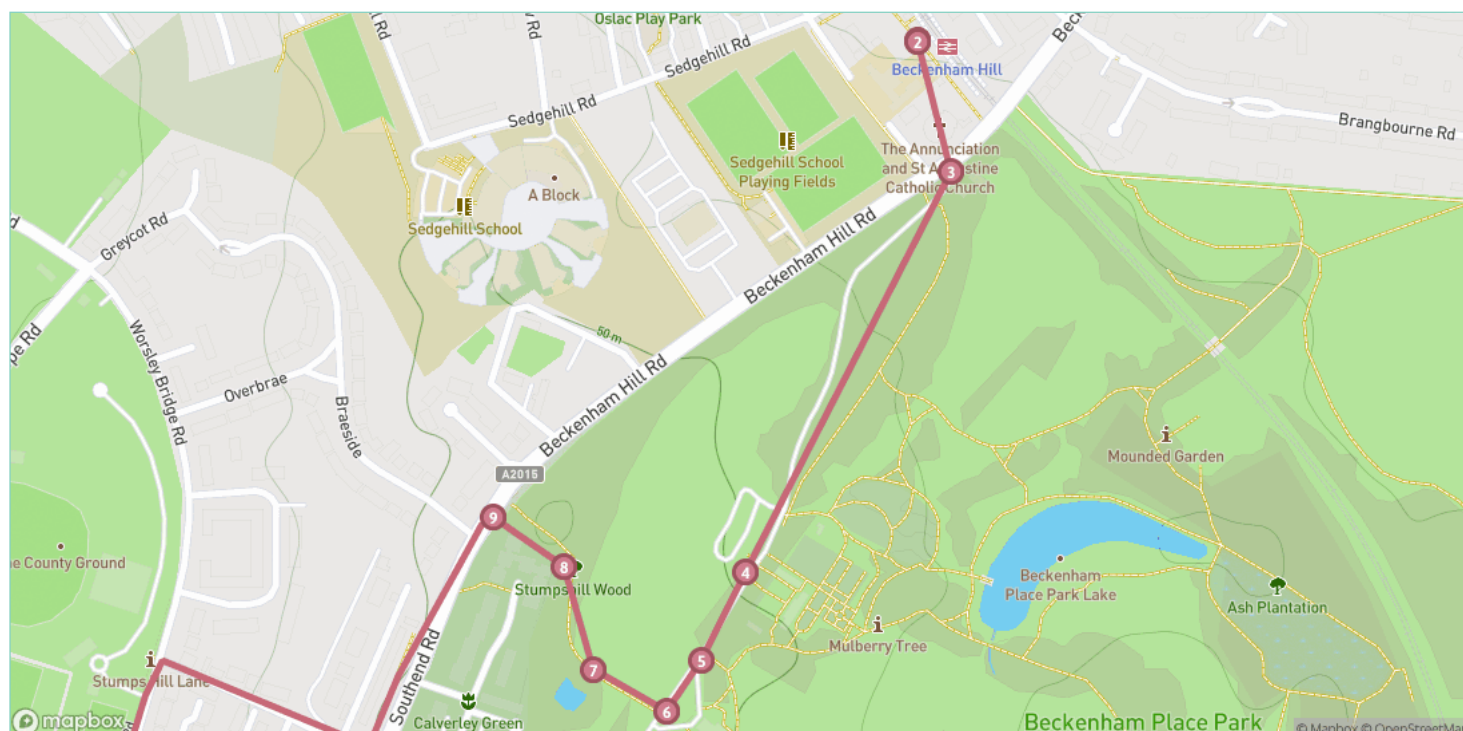
Picnic spot



History



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: 06 September 2022.



Step 1: Welcome to the Green Chain Walk Section 10 from Beckenham to Crystal Palace. This section officially starts at Beckenham House Mansion on step 5. Steps 2-4 provide directions from Beckenham Hill station.

Step 2: Leave Beckenham Hill station via the main exit on platform 1 and immediately turn left to follow the footpath to Beckenham Hill Road.

Step 3: Cross Beckenham Hill Road at the crossing, then turn right to enter the park by the gatehouse entrance. Follow the path past the car park.

Step 4: Before you start, you might want to grab a coffee at the excellent Homestead Cafe. There are toilets here too.

Step 5: You will come to the Mansion, where this section of the Green Chain Walk begins.

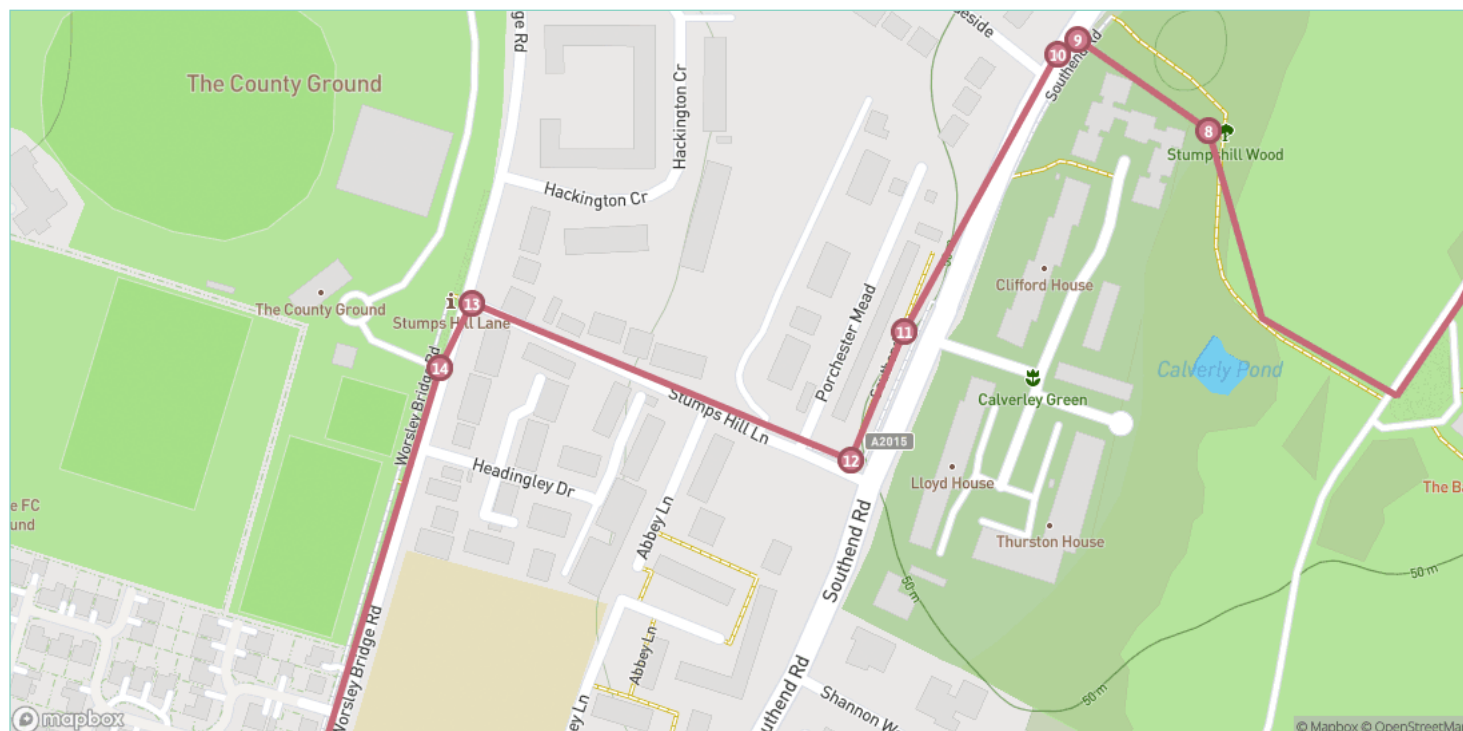
Did you know?

The Mansion was built for John Cator - timber merchant, MP and East India Company shareholder - who owned estates across south and east London, including Blackheath. He later became Lord of the Manor of Beckenham.

Step 6: With your back to the main entrance to the Mansion, take the footpath ahead of you, following the sign to 'woodland' & 'pond'.

Step 7: On your left is Stumps Hill ancient pond, over 300 years old & lovingly restored recently. A plaque nearby will give you more information.

Step 8: Follow the path as it bends to the right and then round to the left once it enters the wooded area.



Step 9: The path will take you out of the park and on to Southend Road. Here, you turn left.

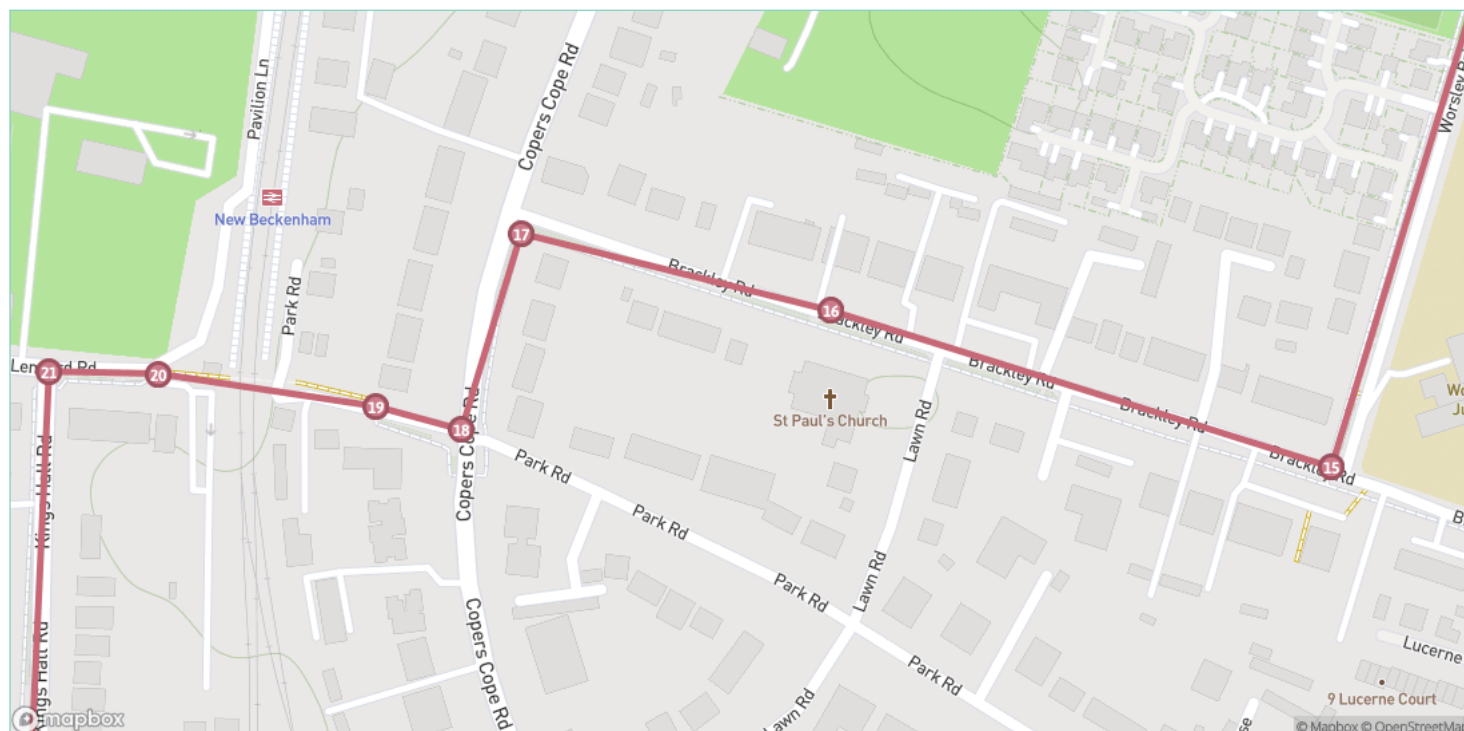
Step 10: This road can be quite busy - cross carefully at the traffic island and continue along Southend Road.

Step 11: Ignore the misleading Green Chain sign that points towards Calverley Close and continue the way you were heading.

Step 12: Turn right on to the appropriately named Stumps Hill Lane that leads you to the cricket ground.

Step 13: When you emerge on Worsley Bridge Road with the cricket ground ahead of you, turn left.

Step 14: Pass the rather grand gates on your right. While their home ground is in Canterbury, Kent Cricket Club play some games here every season.



Step 15: At the end of Worsley Bridge Road, turn right on to Brackley Road.

Step 16: Continue along Brackley Road, past St Paul's Church on your left.

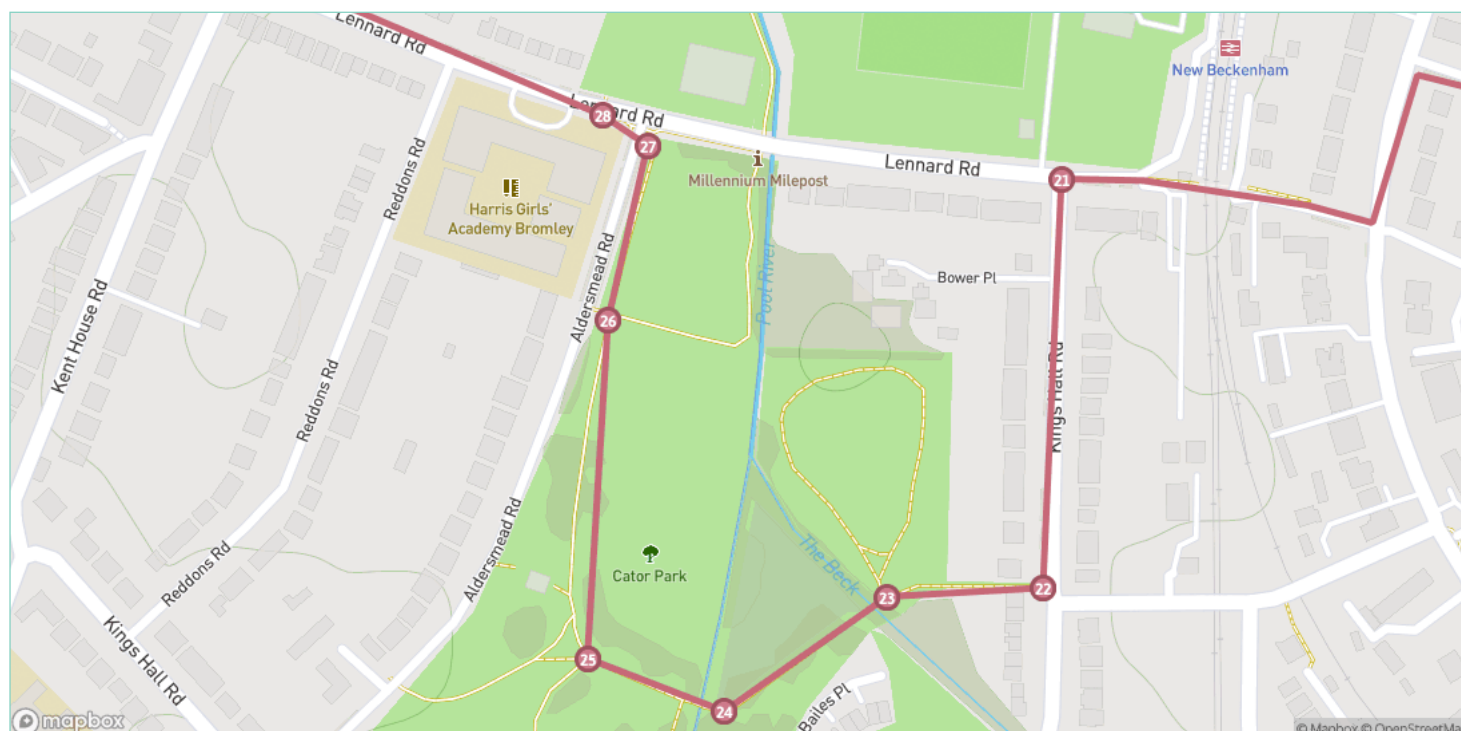
Step 17: At the end of Brackley Road, turn left on to Copers Cope Road.

Step 18: Continue along Copers Cope Road and then take the first right on to Park Road.

Step 19: Go down the subway under New Beckenham rail station.

Step 20: Once you emerge from the subway, walk straight ahead on Lennard Road.

Step 21: Take the first left into Kings Hall Road.



Step 22: Continue along Kings Hall Road until you come to the mini roundabout. Take the alleyway on your right which leads you into Cator Park.

Did you know?

Cator Park is named after the Cator family which once owned land which encompassed a vast area around Beckenham and Blackheath. Beckenham House Mansion, at the start of this walk, was built for John Cator.

Step 23: Continue along the tarmac path over the River Beck.

Did you know?

The River Beck is a tributary of the Ravensbourne. For its first mile, it runs along the border between the London boroughs of Bromley and Croydon; historically, this was also the border between Kent and Surrey.

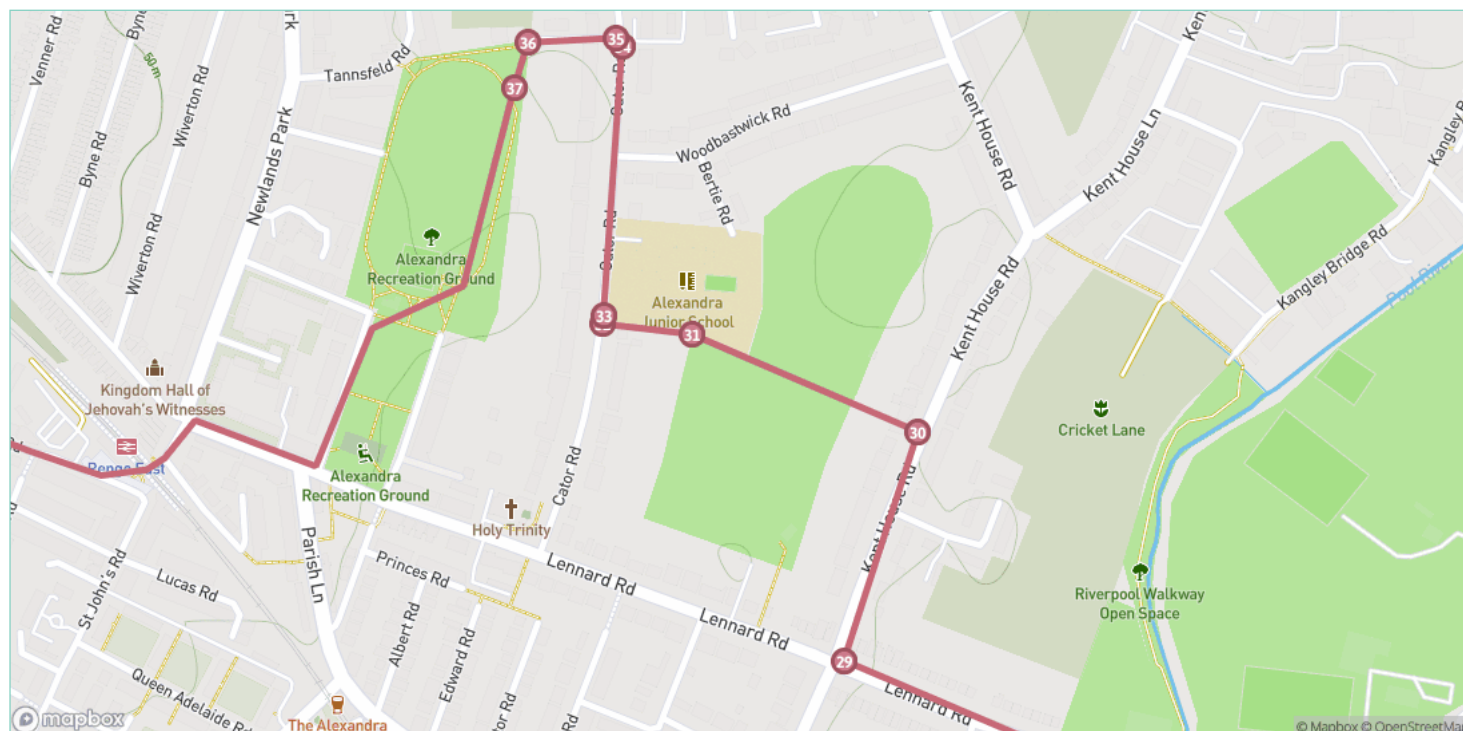
Step 24: The path bends to the right and takes you over Chaffinch Brook.

Step 25: Continue along the path until you reach the major signpost and turn right (following the sign to Crystal Palace Park - you're halfway now!).

Step 26: Continue along the path - but be aware that the right-hand side is now a cycle path so be considerate to other users.

Step 27: Exit the park at the end of the path. Turn right and then immediately left on to Lennard Road.

Step 28: Cross Lennard Road at the crossing outside the school, watch out for cyclists on the bike lane as well as road users.



Step 29: Turn right on to Kent House Road.

Step 30: Continue along Kent House Road for about 150 metres and then walk through the alleyway on the left.

Step 31: Follow the path between the fences to cross the playing fields.

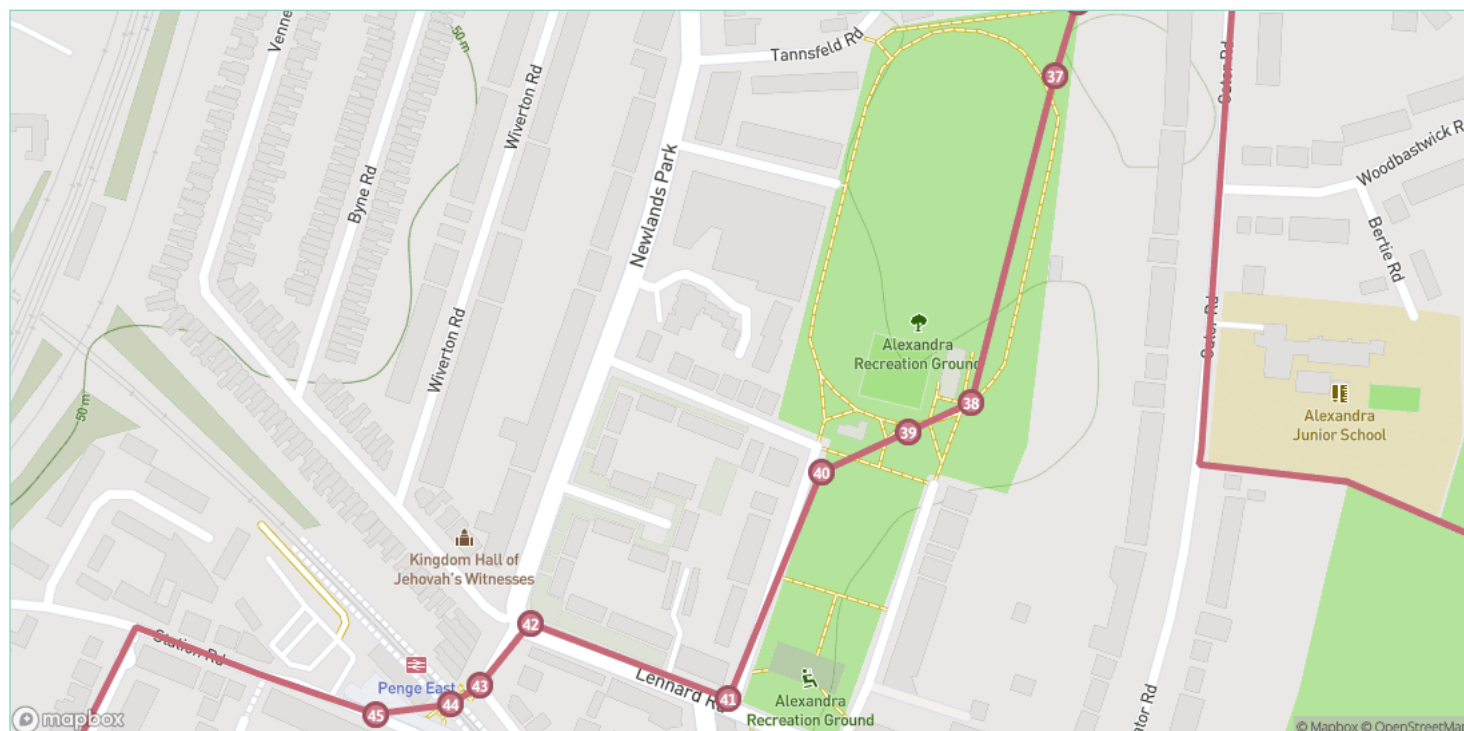
Step 32: But do not even think about riding bicycles or tricycles here unless you fancy a £5 fine!

Step 33: As you emerge from the alleyway, turn right to continue along Cator Road.

Step 34: Just before Cator Road becomes Trewsbury Road...

Step 35: ...take the alleyway on your left between the houses.

Step 36: At the end of this alleyway, you enter Alexandra Recreation Ground. Take the tarmac path on your left as you enter.



Step 37: Follow the path as it skirts the edge of the path.

Step 44: Then head up and over the footbridge to cross the railway.

Step 38: Continue past the beautiful mural on your right.

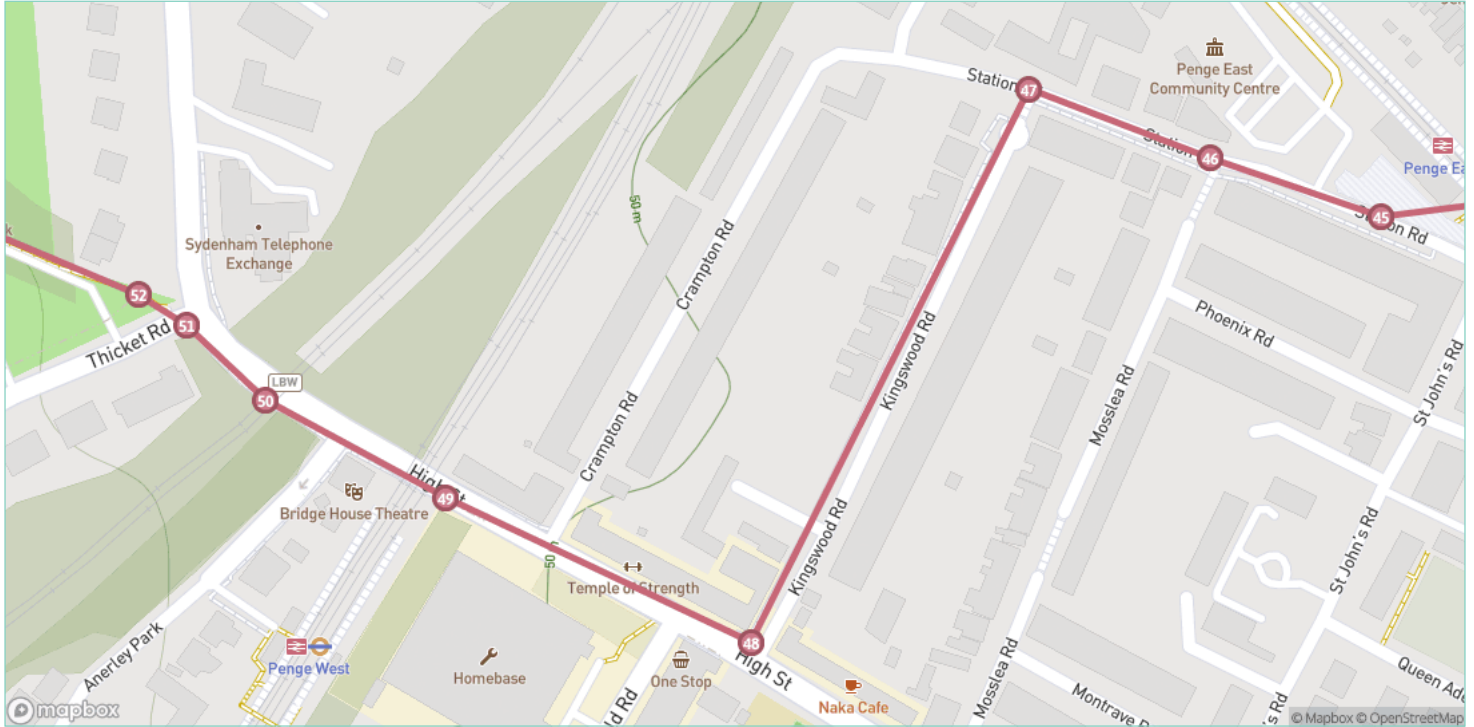
Step 39: Then past the Victorian water fountain.

Step 40: Cross over Maitland Road and follow the road past the playground on your left.

Step 41: At the end of Maitland Road, turn right on to Lennard Road (again!) - there's Crystal Palace transmission tower in the distance.

Step 42: When you come to the mini roundabout, turn left to walk past the little row of shops that takes you to Penge East rail station.

Step 43: If you're needing nourishment at this point, stop at the lovely Little Things cafe, open Monday - Friday.



Step 45: Turn right into Station Road so that you pass the station on your right.

Step 50: The second bridge is rather more splendid and ornate than the first!

Step 46: The adorable little church on your left - the Holy Trinity Mission Hall - is one of the oldest buildings in Penge.

Step 51: After the second bridge, cross Thicket Road and enter Crystal Palace Park.

Did you know?

Penge was a fashionable entertainment district in the 19th century and saw notorious murders in the 1870s. Notable residents have included Bill Wyman of The Rolling Stones to Prime Minister Andrew Bonar Law.

Step 52: Once through the gate, follow the footpath ahead into the park...

Step 47: Turn left into Kingswood Road by the Green Chain signpost.

Step 48: Turn right into Penge High Street and then cross the road immediately at the pedestrian crossing.

Step 49: Continue along Penge High Street towards the Crystal Palace transmission tower, under two railway bridges.



Step 53: ...until you come to the major signpost.

Step 54: There is an information centre and public toilets just to your right after the signpost.

Step 55: At the signpost, turn left and take the footpath that leads you up to the lake.

Step 56: The cafe on your right here - called Brown & Green - is an excellent place to stop for lunch or cake. You can buy duck food here also.

Step 57: Once you reach the lake, follow the path to the right so that the lake is on your left.

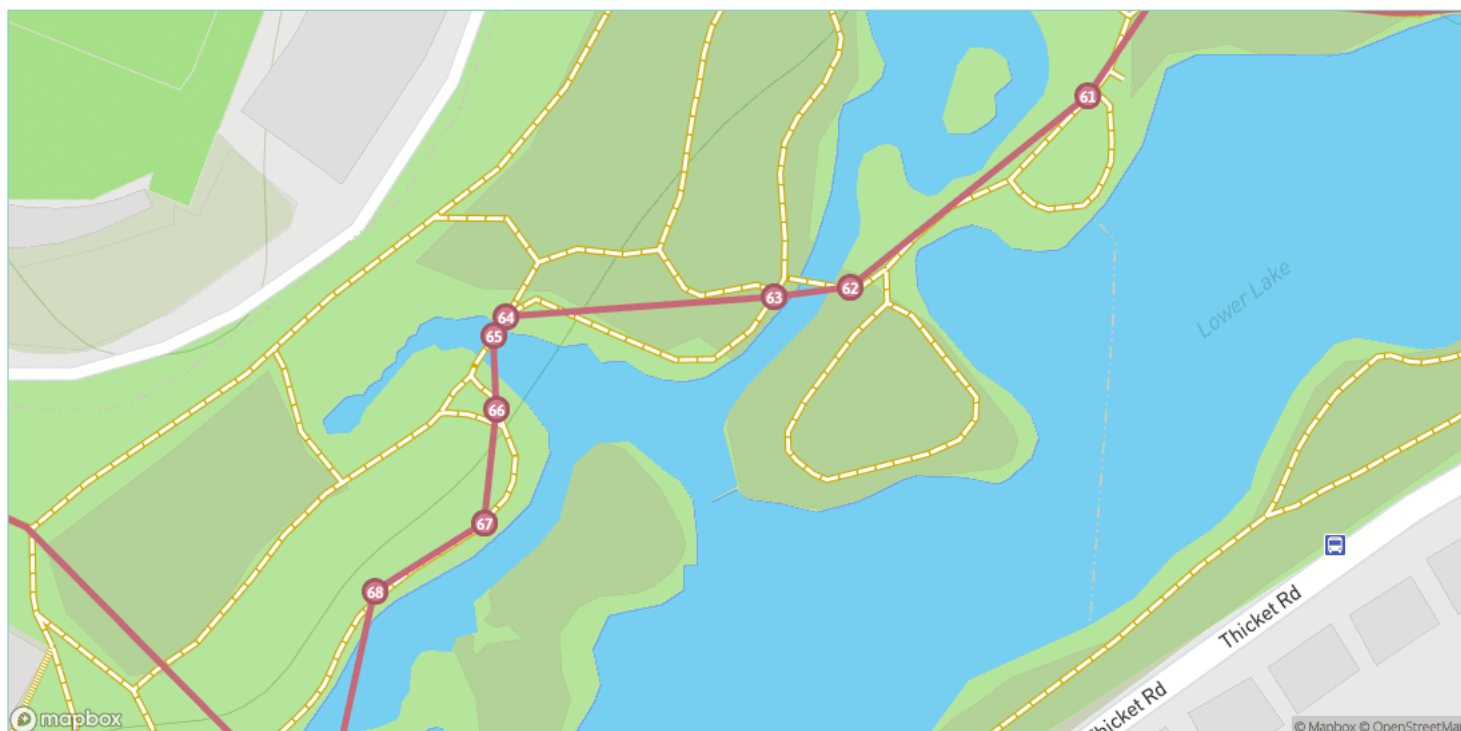
Did you know?

Crystal Palace Park gets its name from the structure moved here from Hyde Park after it had housed the Great Exhibition of 1851. It stood here for 85 years before burning down in 1936.

Step 58: As you follow the path, keep an eye out for the gorilla on your right!

Step 59: Continue along the path - there will now be some trees between you and the lake.

Step 60: Follow the path round to the left past the boathouse. You can stop for a go on a pedalo here when they are open.



Step 61: Now you'll encounter your first of Crystal Palace's prehistoric creatures: Irish Elks - or megaloceros giganteus, if you will.

Did you know?

While famous for its 'dinosaurs', only 3 of the 33 sculptures in Crystal Palace Park are true dinosaurs - there are other prehistoric reptiles, such as ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs, and mammals too.

Step 62: Pass to the right of the elks and over the stone bridge.

Step 63: Continue along the path as it follows the edge of the lake.

Step 64: Then cross over the iron bridge.

Step 65: Look out for the representation of limestone and coal strata on your right as you cross the bridge - a plaque nearby explains it.

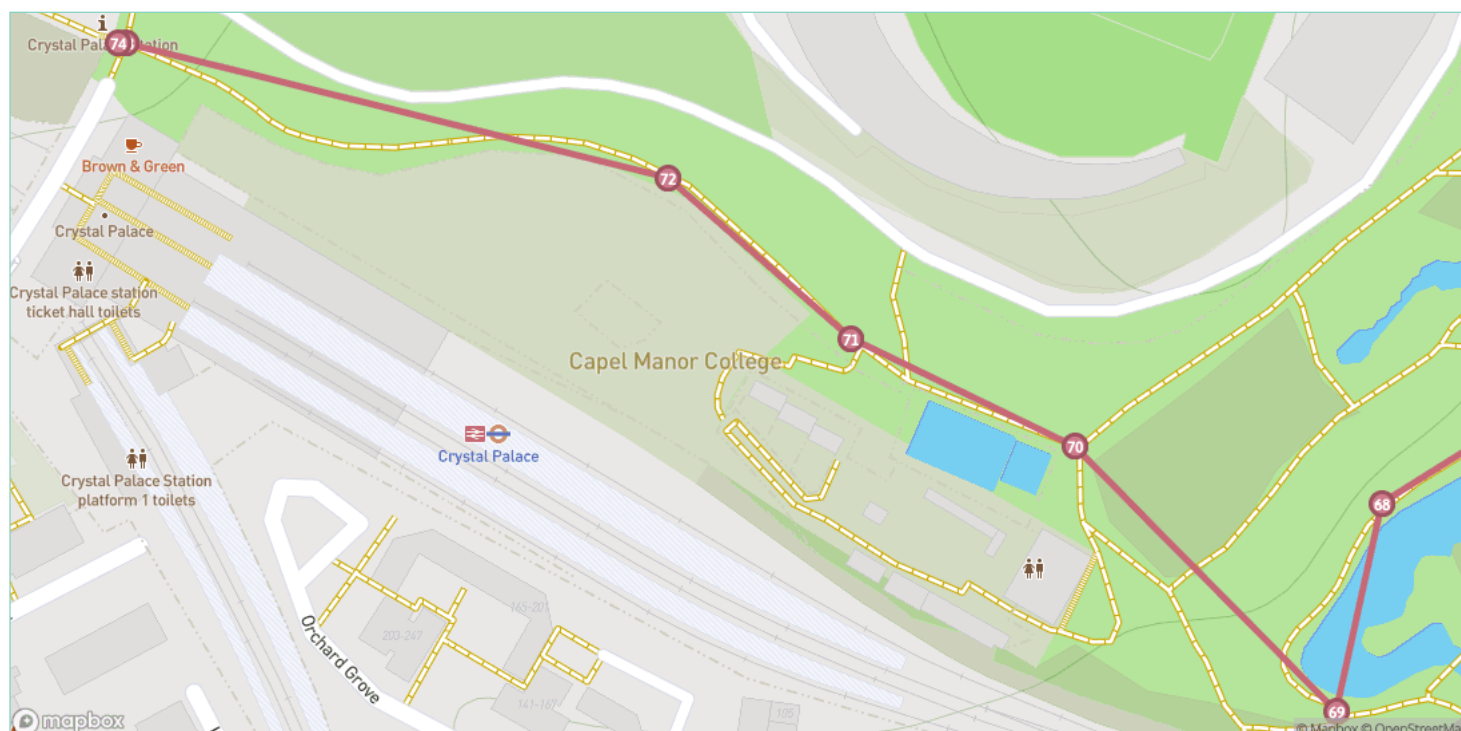
Step 66: Then turn left to follow the path towards the lake once again.

Step 67: You'll soon reach the stars of the show: the dinosaurs! These two beauties are iguanodons.

Step 68: And a bit further along you'll find a megalosaurus.

Did you know?

A megalosaurus is imagined in the opening of Charles Dickens's *Bleak House*: "forty feet long or so, waddling like an elephantine lizard up Holborn Hill".



Step 69: Continue to follow the path until you come to the far end of the lake and then turn right to follow the path up the hill.

Step 74: Before you leave, be sure to read about the Great North Wood, of which Crystal Palace Park was once a part on the information board here.

Step 70: Keep following the path past Capel Manor College and its children's farm (open daily 12-3.30pm excluding Wednesdays) on your left.

Step 71: Continue up the hill...

Step 72: ...and on your right you will see Crystal Palace Athletics Stadium where Section 10 ends. Well done! How about continuing on to Section 11 towards Nunhead Cemetery?

Did you know?

The athletics stadium is on the site of a former football stadium which staged 20 FA cup finals between 1895-1914. None of them involved Crystal Palace FC.

Step 73: If you continue on the path ahead you will soon reach Crystal Palace rail station on your left.