



Green Chain Walk Section 11

Tackle this challenging Green Chain segment that features local history and gorgeous parks and green spaces. Very steep and hilly in parts.

Distance 8.7 kilometers / 5.4 miles

Duration 3 hours and 30 minutes



Great views



Public loos



Refreshments



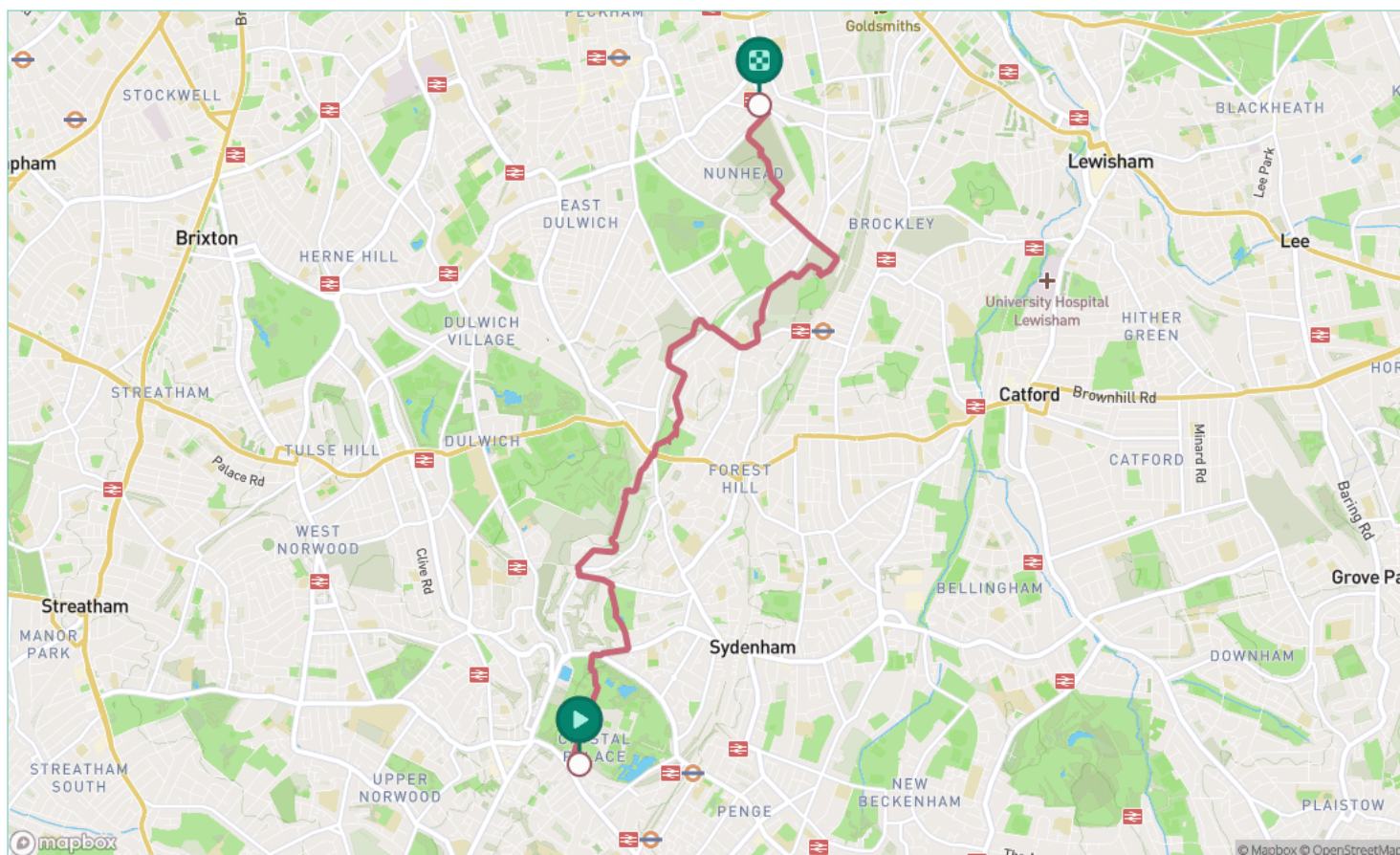
Public transport



History

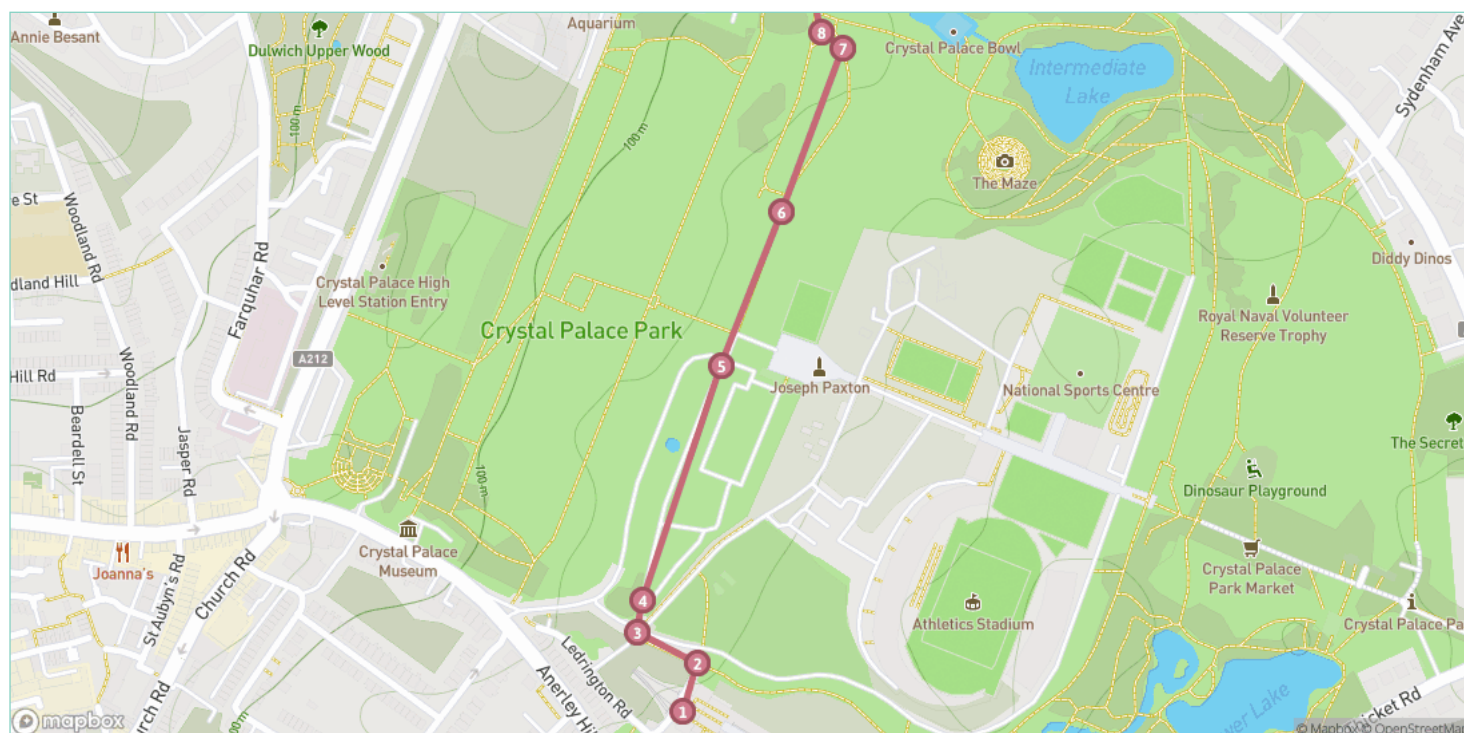


Botanics



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: 15 June 2023.



Step 1: Welcome to the Green Chain Walk! This section starts at Crystal Palace station and ends at Nunhead Cemetery. Turn right into the park.

Step 2: A few paces later you'll see the major Green Chain signpost. Turn left here to follow the path.

Step 3: At the mini roundabout, look to the right and cross towards the black gate directly opposite.

Step 4: Head through the gate and onto the tarmac path. This path runs parallel to the former Crystal Palace.

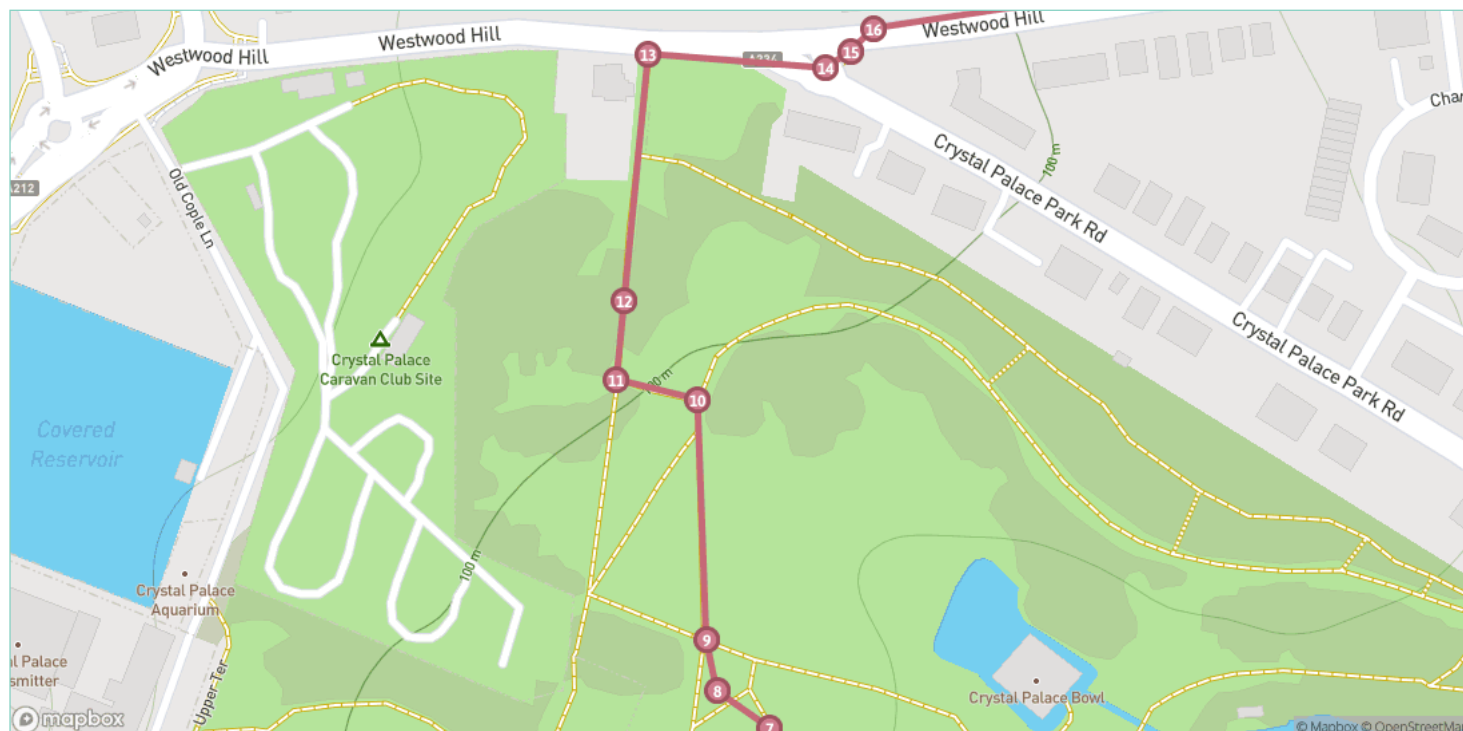
Did you know?

The Crystal Palace started life as the home of the Great Exhibition in 1851. The building was only supposed to last for the life of the Great Exhibition but instead of demolition in 1854 it was moved to Penge Park, as it was then called, and re-erected there on a larger scale. It was a great public success but never made money and went bankrupt in 1911. The building was destroyed in 1936 by a fire which, because of its elevated position, could be seen from many parts of London.

Step 5: To your left you'll see the steps up to the Italian Terraces of the former palace. It is worth climbing the steps to explore.

Step 6: Continue straight, following the main tarmac path through the park.

Step 7: As the path bends to the left, there's a lovely amphitheatre to the right.



Step 8: Just up ahead, you'll see another directional post. Here, turn right towards Sydenham Hill Wood.

Step 9: Follow the paved path for a short while.

Step 10: And then turn left on the path that is perpendicular to the one you're on.

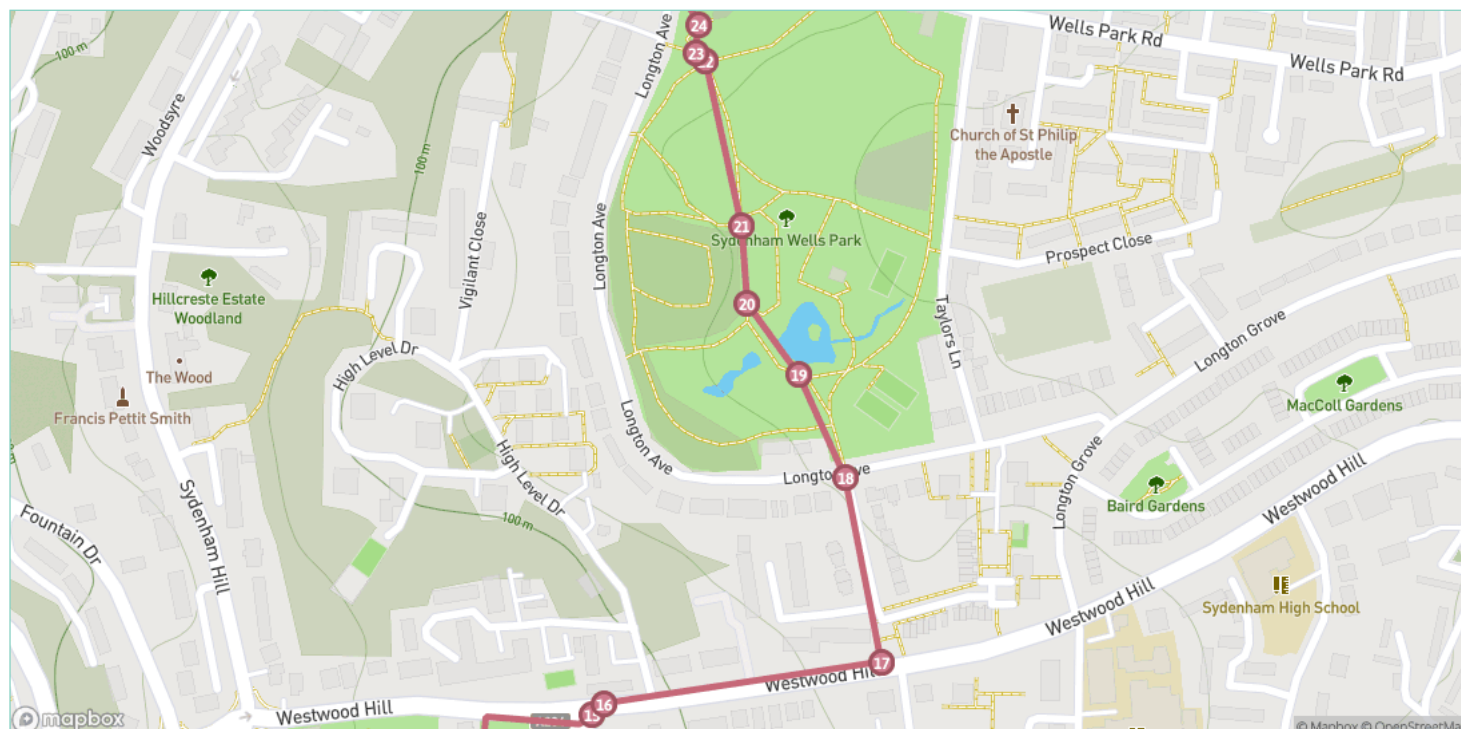
Step 11: Turn right at the next path junction just a few steps ahead.

Step 12: This stretch of path is a bit steep uphill, so take your time.

Step 13: Exit the park at Westwood Gate and turn right onto Westwood Hill.

Step 14: Use the pedestrian crossings at the next junction...

Step 15: ... to cross to the north side of Westwood Hill.



Step 16: Turn right to continue on Westwood Hill.

Step 17: Turn left down a footpath, immediately before a bus stop. There are steps here but a bit further on there's a sloped path that joins on.

Step 18: Walk straight down Ormanton Road and cross Longton Avenue to enter Sydenham Wells Park and walk straight ahead towards the pond.

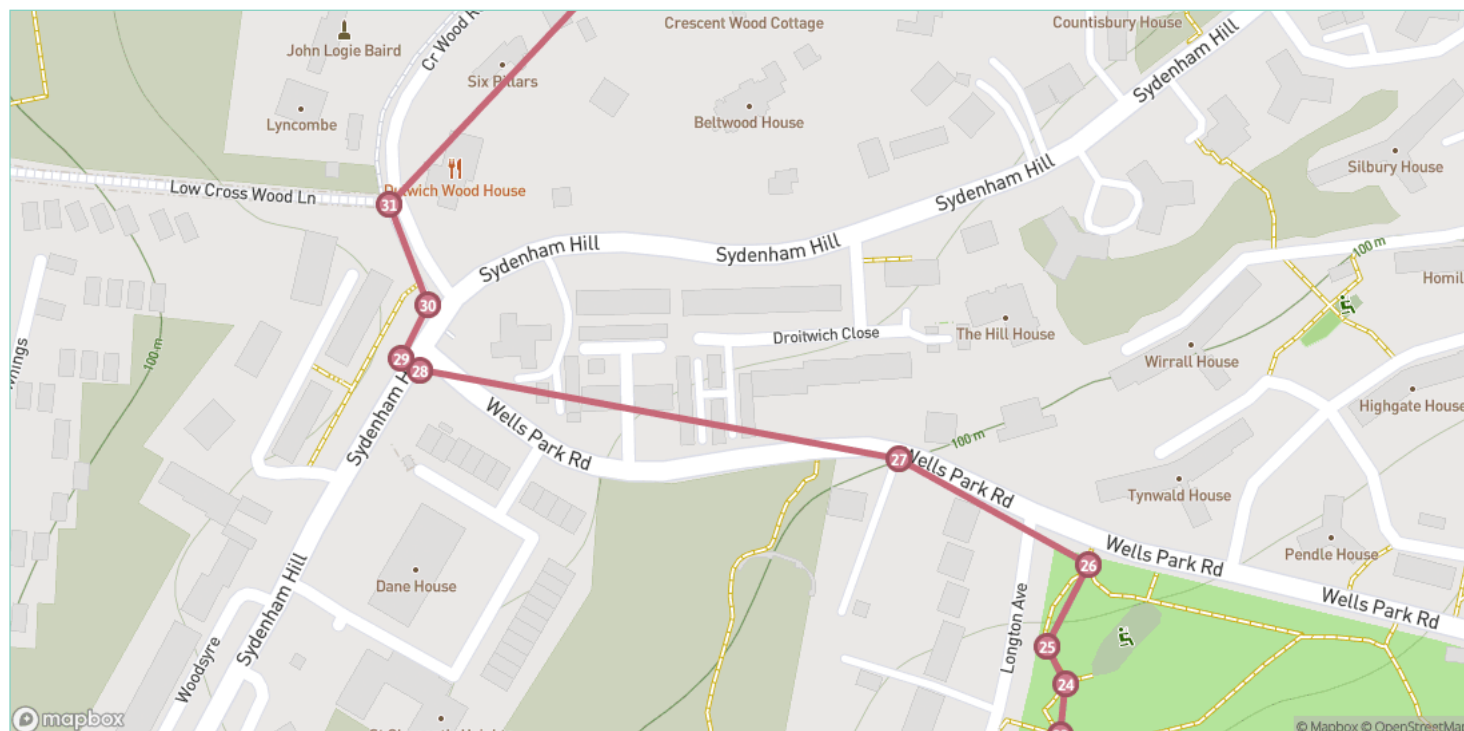
Step 19: There's lots to discover, including a small pond in the centre of the park. At the pond, veer left to follow around its edge.

Step 20: This path brings you to an opening to your right. Keep straight ahead, with the flower beds to your right.

Step 21: The fingerpost up ahead points you to a set of toilets to the right. The main route continues straight ahead.

Step 22: Keep your eye out for Green Chain posts along the way, pointing you in the right direction. Head straight over at the path junction.

Step 23: As you continue along, head right at the fork.



Step 24: At the next junction, head left up the slight incline.

Step 25: This section is very green and lush.

Step 26: You'll soon be at the northwestern gate. Exit the path and turn left on to Wells Park Road.

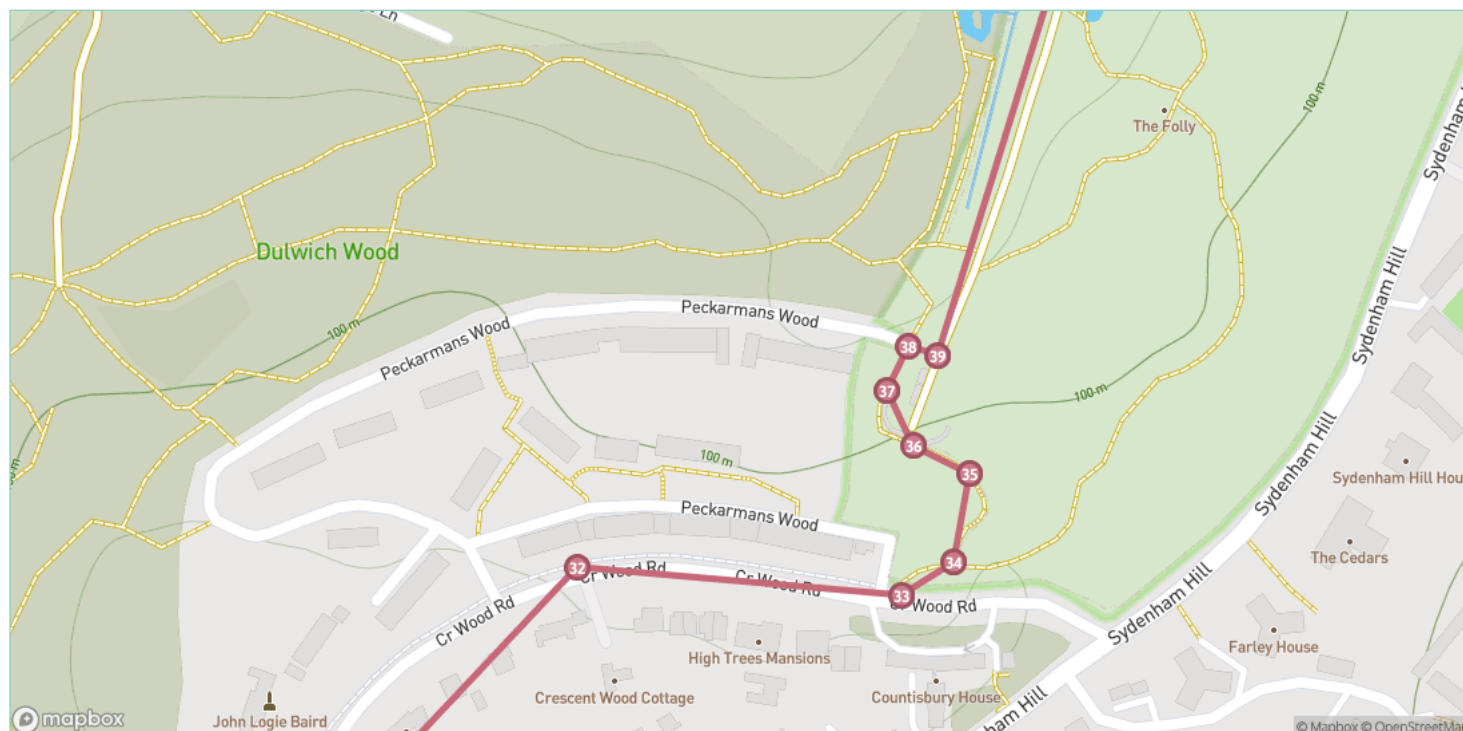
Step 27: You'll be heading up hill here.

Step 28: When you meet Sydenham Hill, use the zebra crossing just to your left to head over the road.

Step 29: On the other side, turn right.

Step 30: Turn left into Crescent Wood Road opposite the Wood House pub.

Step 31: The footpath to your left here brings you to Sydenham Hill Station.



Step 32: Continue along Crescent Wood Road as it loops around to the right.

Step 33: After two entrances to Peckarmans Wood, turn left into Sydenham Hill Wood, through a gate.

Step 34: Follow the path into the right and almost immediately, turn left down a long stretch of steps.

Step 35: Descend the many steps here, taking care in wetter weather.

Step 36: Pass over the entrance to a disused rail tunnel.

Step 37: Then follow the path round to the right and down more steps.

Step 38: Turn right at the Green Chain post after the steps.

Step 39: You've reached the disused railway trackbed. Turn left to continue on through the leafy woodland.

Did you know?

The railway line ran from Nunhead to a 'high-level' station Crystal Palace, opening in 1865 for people visiting the Crystal Palace. There were also stations at Honor Oak, Lordship Lane and Upper Sydenham, with the line being electrified in 1925. When the palace burned down in 1936 passenger numbers fell with the line finally closing in September 1954.



Step 40: Continue until you come to a short staircase on your left. Head up the steps.

Step 41: At the top of the steps, turn right.

Step 42: Head straight towards the gate.

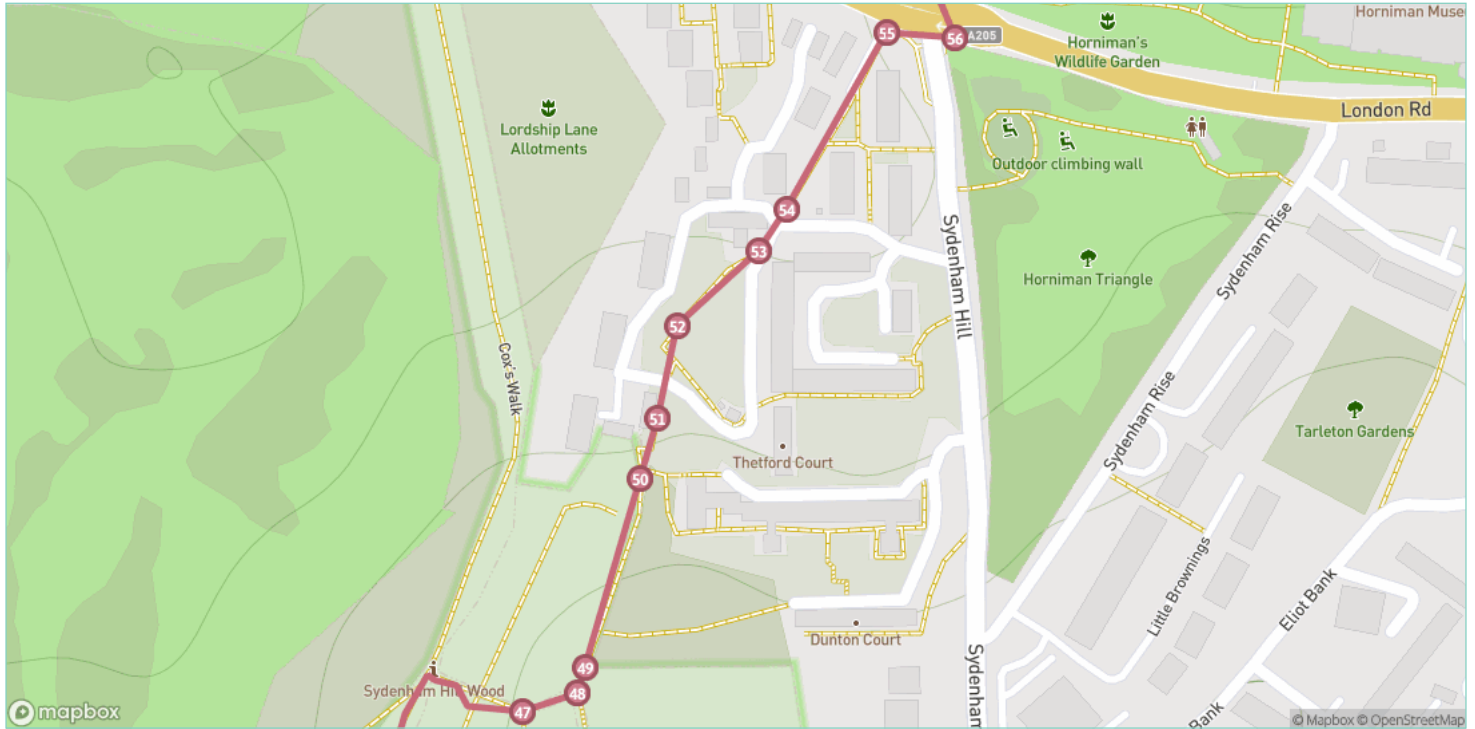
Step 43: Normally, the route would continue across the footbridge to the right. It's currently closed. The next steps show the diversion although we've had reports that this diversion has been changed. Please follow current signage.

Step 44: Just before the bridge, head right down the hill. It's a bit steep, so take your time.

Step 45: Keep the bridge on your left.

Step 46: Follow the dirt tracks back up the slope to the other side of the bridge.

Step 47: From the bridge end, the route continues up the steps to the left.



Step 48: Take a moment to rest at the bench at the top, then turn left to continue through the gate.

Step 49: This next section is flat which makes a welcoming break from the hills!

Step 50: The path will emerge into a clearing. Keep to the tarmac path straight ahead.

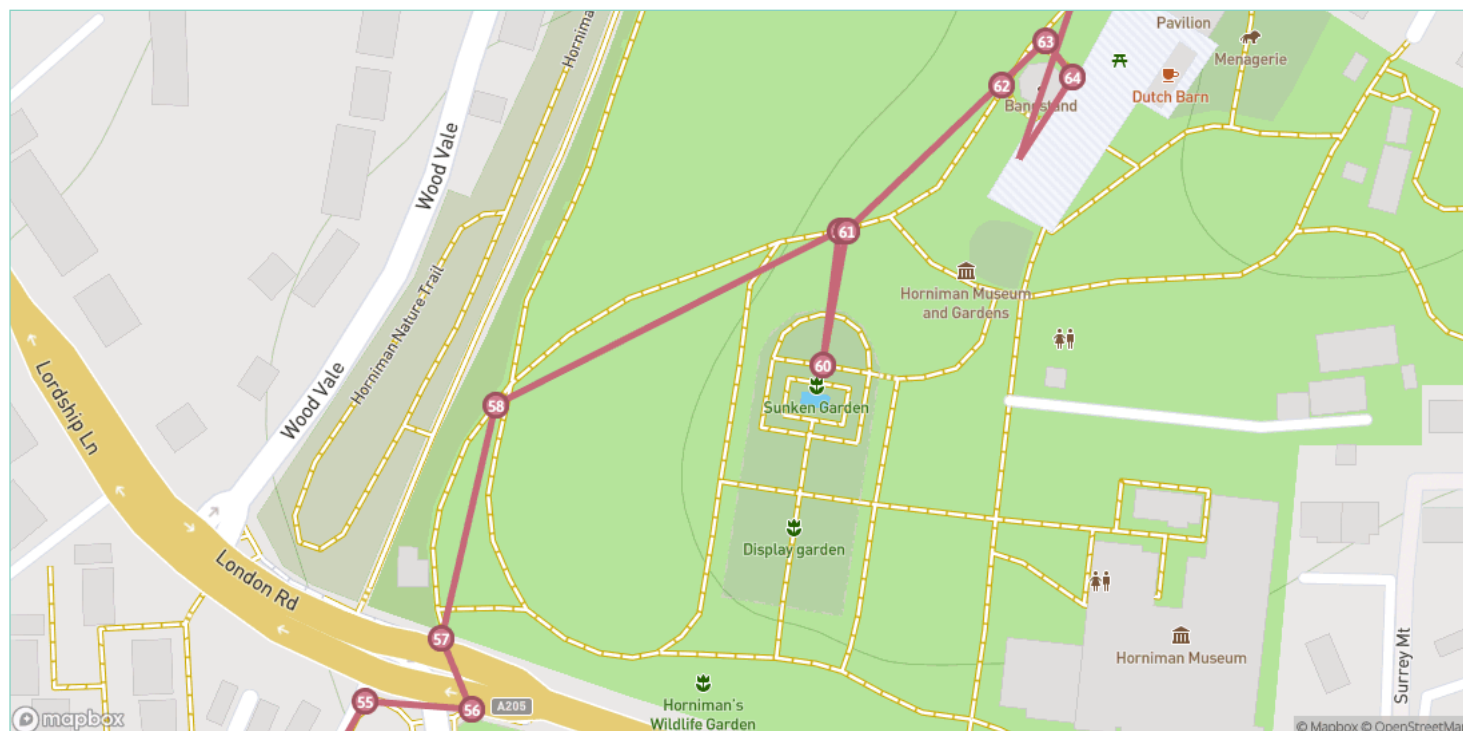
Step 51: Continue ahead, crossing the road Lapse Wood Walk.

Step 52: The footpath continues, bringing you towards Sydenham Hill Road.

Step 53: When you come to Lapse Wood Walk again, turn left.

Step 54: Take the little cut-through passage to the left, between the houses.

Step 55: At London Road, turn right and use the pedestrian signal to cross Sydenham Hill.



Step 56: Turn left to cross London Road towards the Horniman Museum and Gardens.

Step 57: On the other side, turn left and pass through the metal barriers to enter the Horniman Gardens.

Did you know?

The Horniman Museum was commissioned in 1898 and opened in 1901. It was designed by Charles Harrison Townsend in the Arts and Crafts style. The museum specialises in anthropology, natural history and musical instruments and has a collection of 350,000 objects.

Step 58: The main paved path takes you straight through the grounds. Follow it as it heads uphill

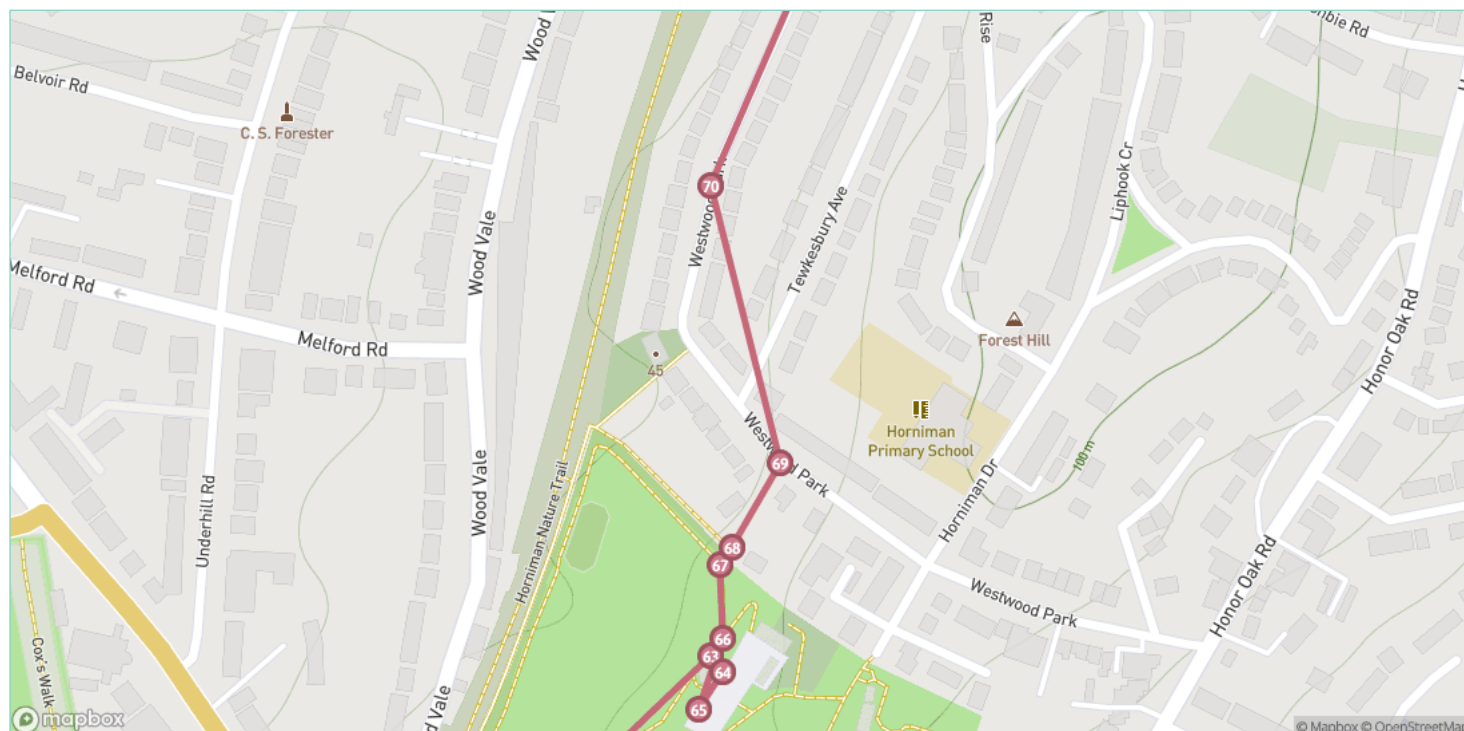
Step 59: At the fingerpost, follow the sign for Nunhead Cemetery.

Step 60: If you'd like, a quick diversion to the right takes you into a lovely garden space, the Horniman Sunken Gardens.

Step 61: When you're ready, come on back and continue along the paved route through the grounds.

Step 62: Pass the base of the bandstand building on your right.

Step 63: If you'd like, feel free to head up the steps here.



Step 64: There's a cafe....

Step 65: ... and, to the right, a spectacular view of London with views of The Shard.

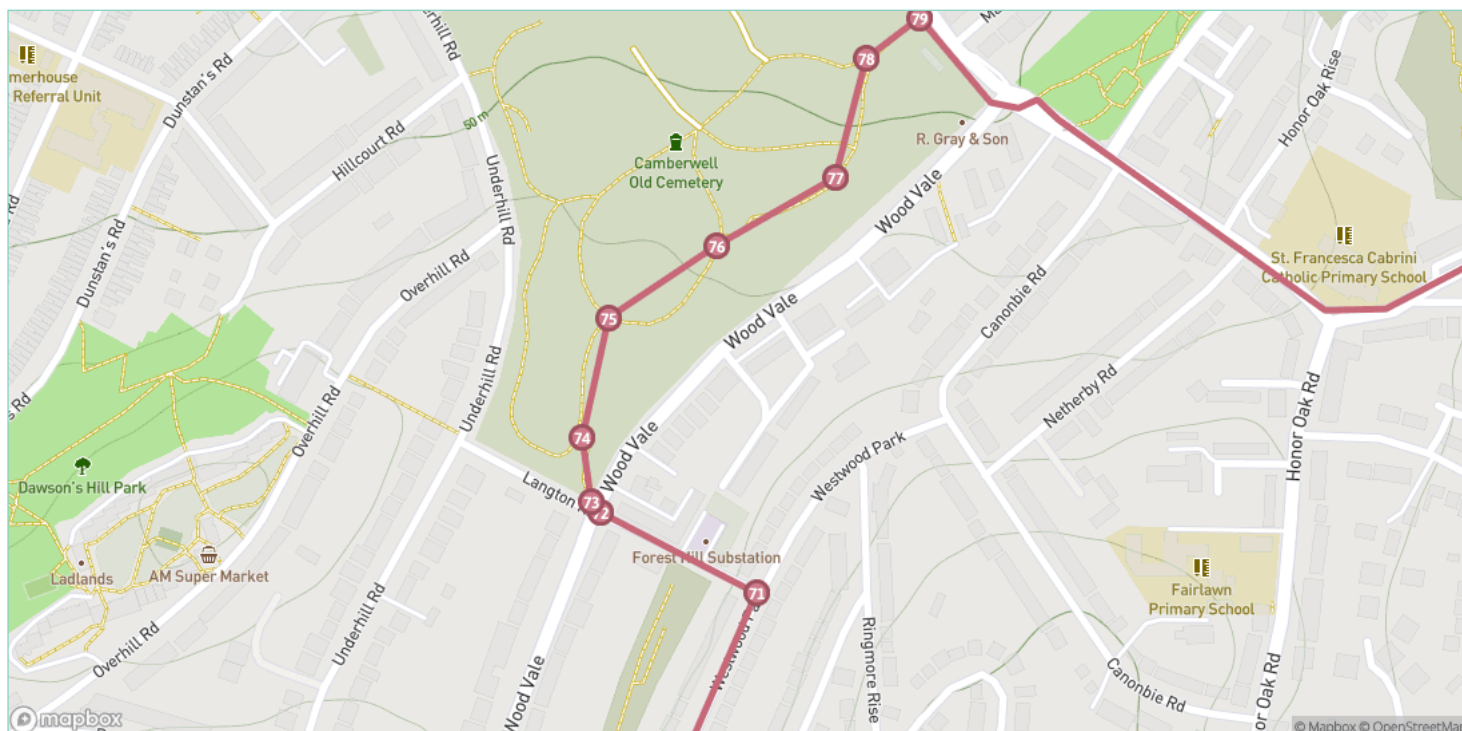
Step 66: The route continues back at the lower level, when you're ready. Veer left at the fork.

Step 67: Next, veer right to exit the park.

Step 68: Follow the route down the green passage between houses.

Step 69: Turn left when you reach Westwood Park.

Step 70: Stick to the pavement and keep your eye out for Green Chain Walk signs along the way.



Step 71: Cross to the far side of Langton Rise, and then turn left to walk along it.

Step 78: Soon, the main gate becomes visible to the right. Head through it.

Step 72: At the next junction, cross over Wood Vale and enter Camberwell Old Cemetery through the gate.

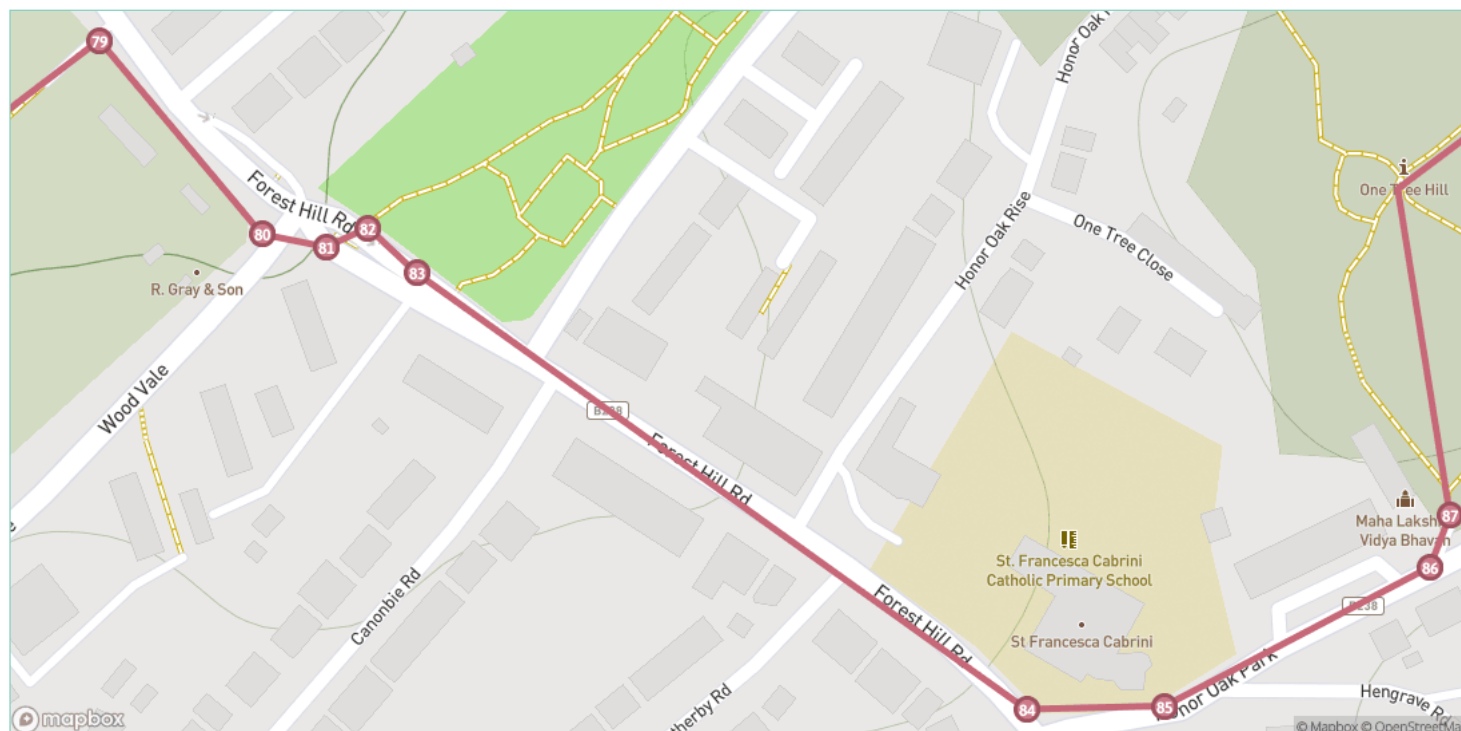
Step 73: The route passes through the cemetery. This is a reflective space, so be sure to be quiet and respectful of other cemetery visitors.

Step 74: At the first path junction, follow the route to the right. The cemetery has a good number of Green Chain navigation posts.

Step 75: Turn right at the next junction.

Step 76: And veer right again at the next junction.

Step 77: Keep following the main wide paved route.



Step 79: At Forest Hill Road, turn right.

Step 80: Use the pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights to cross Wood Vale.

Step 81: Then turn left immediately to cross Forest Hill Road.

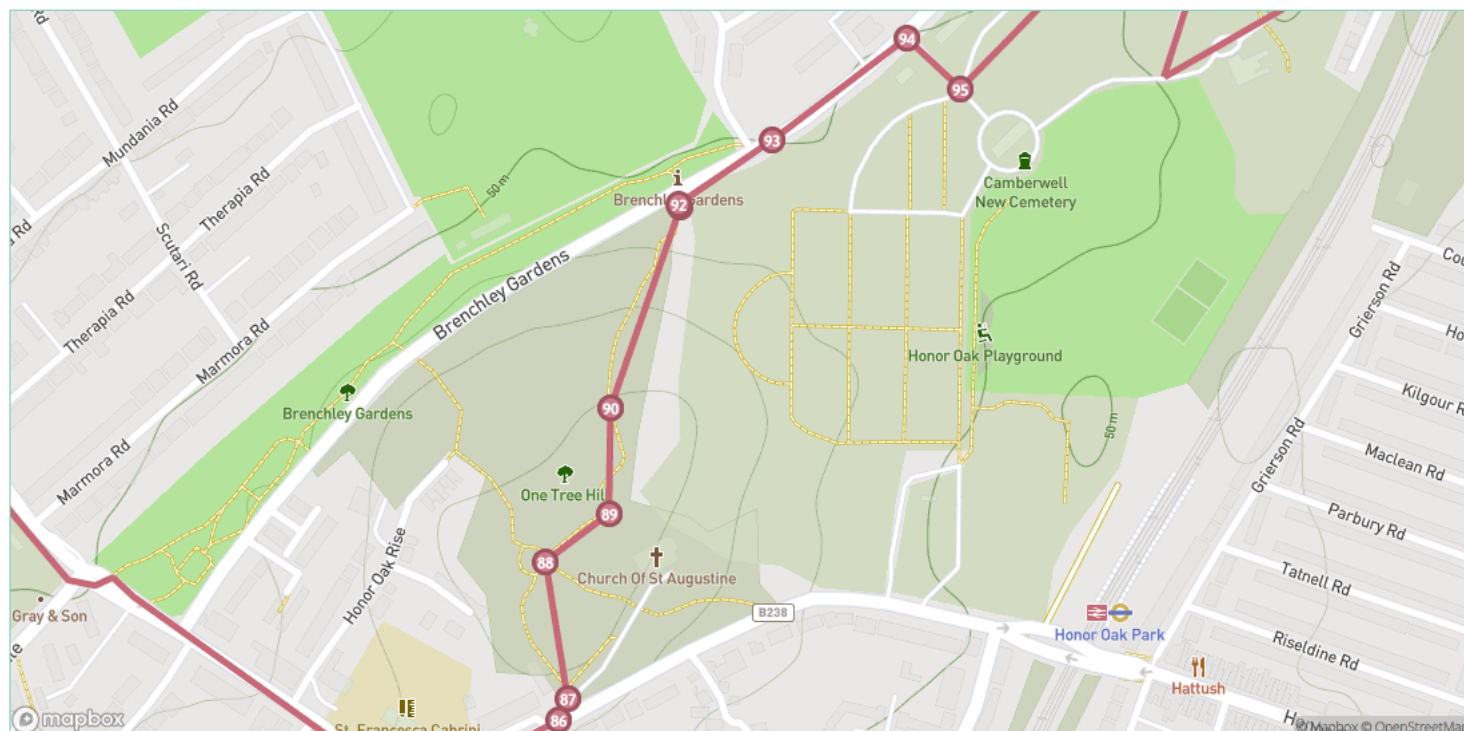
Step 82: Here, there are two route options. One is to turn left and then immediately right to enter Brenchley Gardens. Then follow the path through the gardens, paralleling Brenchley Gardens road. This route is more flat.

Step 83: Pictured and described here is the alternative option. If you take the first option, head to step 92. Now, let's head to the right.

Step 84: Walk up the hill along the pavement. Don't forget to look behind you and take in the view of London in the distance!

Step 85: Follow the road as it bends left and becomes Honor Oak Park road.

Step 86: Just past the Hengrave Road bus stop, bear left by the Green Chain signpost.



Step 87: Go up the steps to the left to One Tree Hill, taking your time and using the handrail if needed.

Step 94: Next, turn right into Camberwell New Cemetery.

Step 88: Continue straight at the path junction.

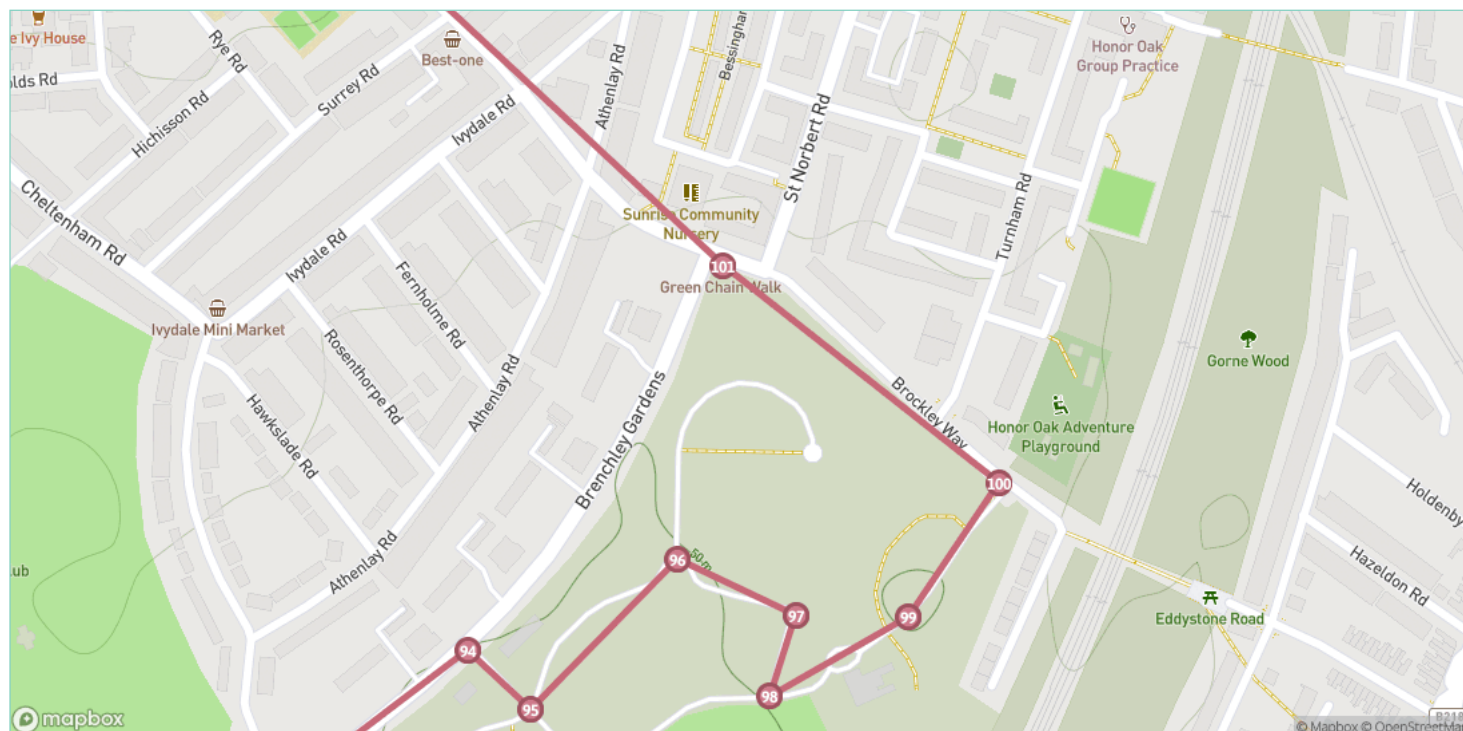
Step 89: Follow the route back down the next series of steps.

Step 90: Even though this option is more challenging, the forest is lovely here. It's so lush! Don't forget to pause and take a breather. What can you see, hear, and smell along the way?

Step 91: Keep along the main path until you get down to Brenchley Gardens. Turn right.

Step 92: If you opted for the other option, you'll come out the gate opposite this one, on the other side of the road.

Step 93: The route continues as one now, down the right-hand side of Brenchley Gardens.



Step 95: Take the first road on the left left.

Step 96: At the next major junction, turn right.

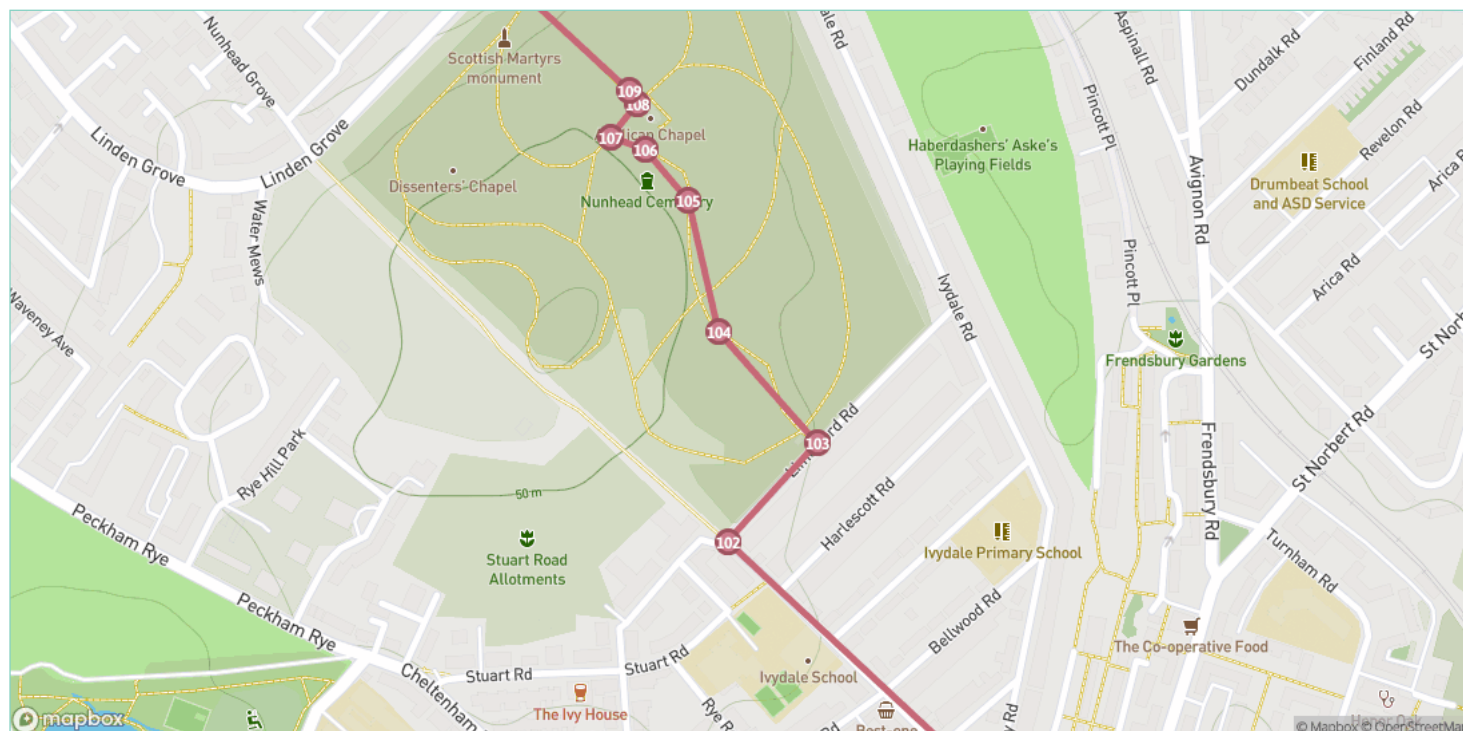
Step 97: Follow the road around to the right.

Step 98: At the next T-junction, turn left. After turning left, please take the upcoming footpath on the left hand side, before the crematorium, if the crematorium gate is shut.

Step 99: Assuming the gates to the crematorium are open. Continue on the road as it heads towards the gates. Keep eyes peeled for moving vehicles.

Step 100: Exit out of the cemetery and turn left into Brockley Way.

Step 101: Follow Brockley Way as it morphs into Merttins Road and then Inverton Road. There are Green Chain signposts along the route.



Step 102: Cross several side streets before taking the final right on to Limesford Road.

Step 107: At the next junction, turn right towards the church.

Step 103: Half way along the road, turn left into Nunhead Cemetery. Walk straight ahead onto the path through the centre.

Step 108: The Anglican Chapel was built in 1844 and fell victim to arson in the late 1970s.

Step 104: Nunhead Cemetery opened in 1840 and is now a Local Nature Reserve.

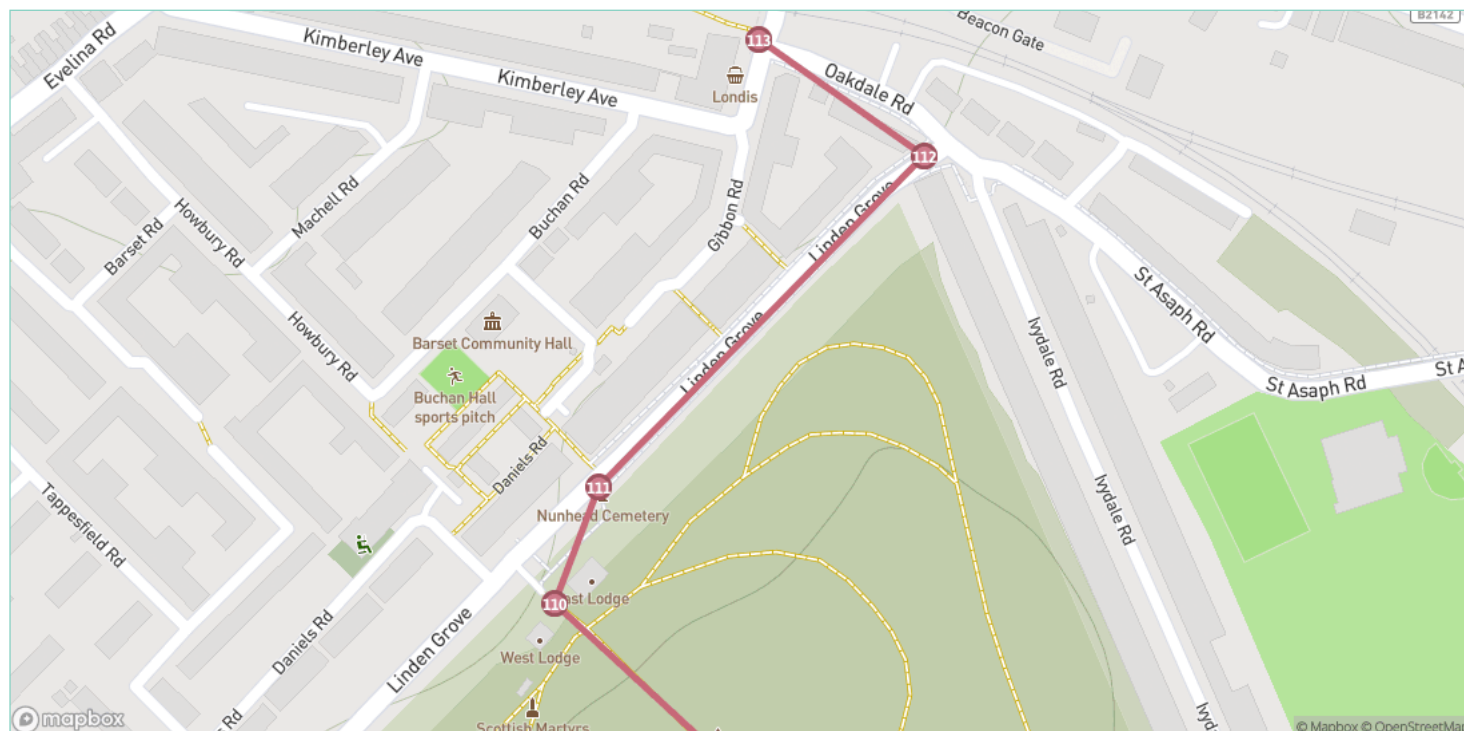
Step 109: With your back to the chapel, it's time to head out of Nunhead Cemetery. You're so close to the end of the walk now! What an epic section.

Did you know?

Nunhead Cemetery is one of the Magnificent Seven cemeteries in London, England. It is perhaps the least famous and celebrated of them. Originally known as All Saints' Cemetery, it was consecrated in 1840 and opened by the London Necropolis Company. It is now a Local Nature Reserve.

Step 105: Continue along the main wide gravel path through the heart of the cemetery.

Step 106: Soon, the ruins of an Anglican Chapel appear through the trees to the right.



Step 110: Exit out the cemetery through the gates. This is the end of this section. We hope you enjoyed it! After a rest, where will you walk next?

Step 111: If you're leaving by train, head through the gates and turn right.

Step 112: At the next junction, turn left on to Oakdale Road.

Step 113: You'll see Nunhead Station up ahead, across Gibbon Road. Nicely done walking today!