



Thames Path South Bank Section 1a

Follow the Thames Path from Teddington Lock to Richmond. Historic houses, Petersham meadows & wildlife en-route.

Distance 5 kilometers / 3.1 miles

Duration 1 hour and 45 minutes



Wildlife



Water feature



Great views



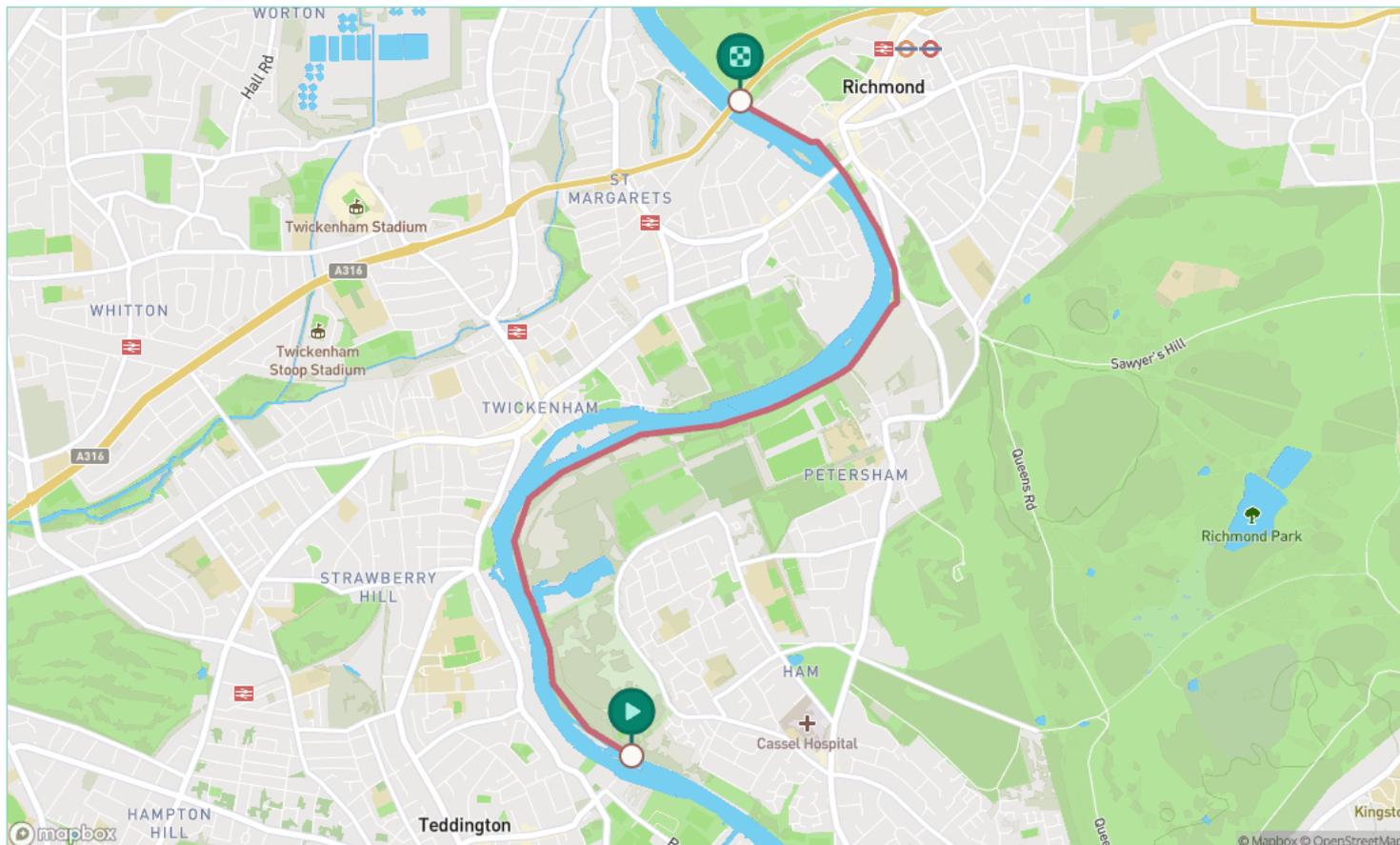
Refreshments

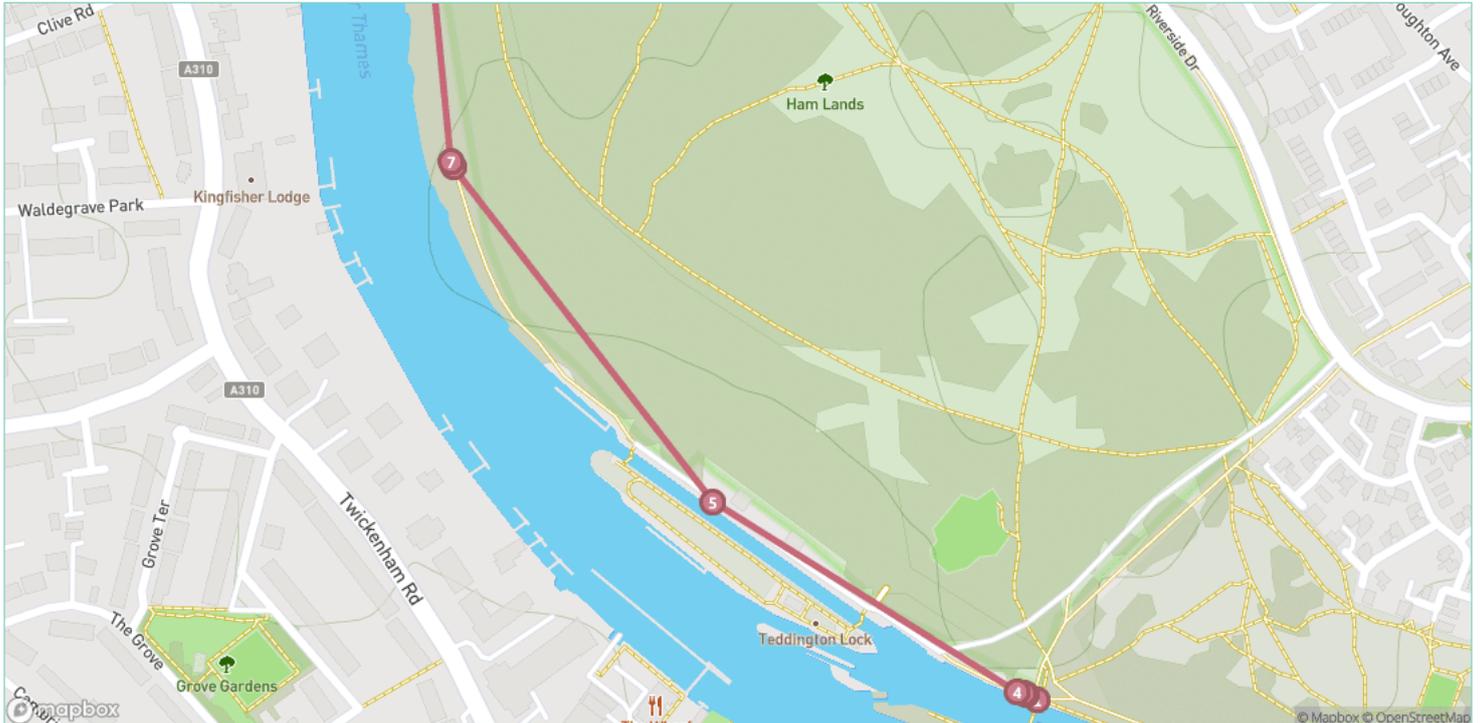


Public transport



Dog friendly





Step 1: Welcome to the Thames Path! This walk follows the South Bank of the iconic Thames Path National Trail, from Teddington Lock to Albert Bridge.

Step 2: The nearest station to the start of this walk is Teddington. From Station Road exit, turn left onto Station Road and then right onto the High Street. Follow the High Street East until it becomes Ferry Road and cross the river.

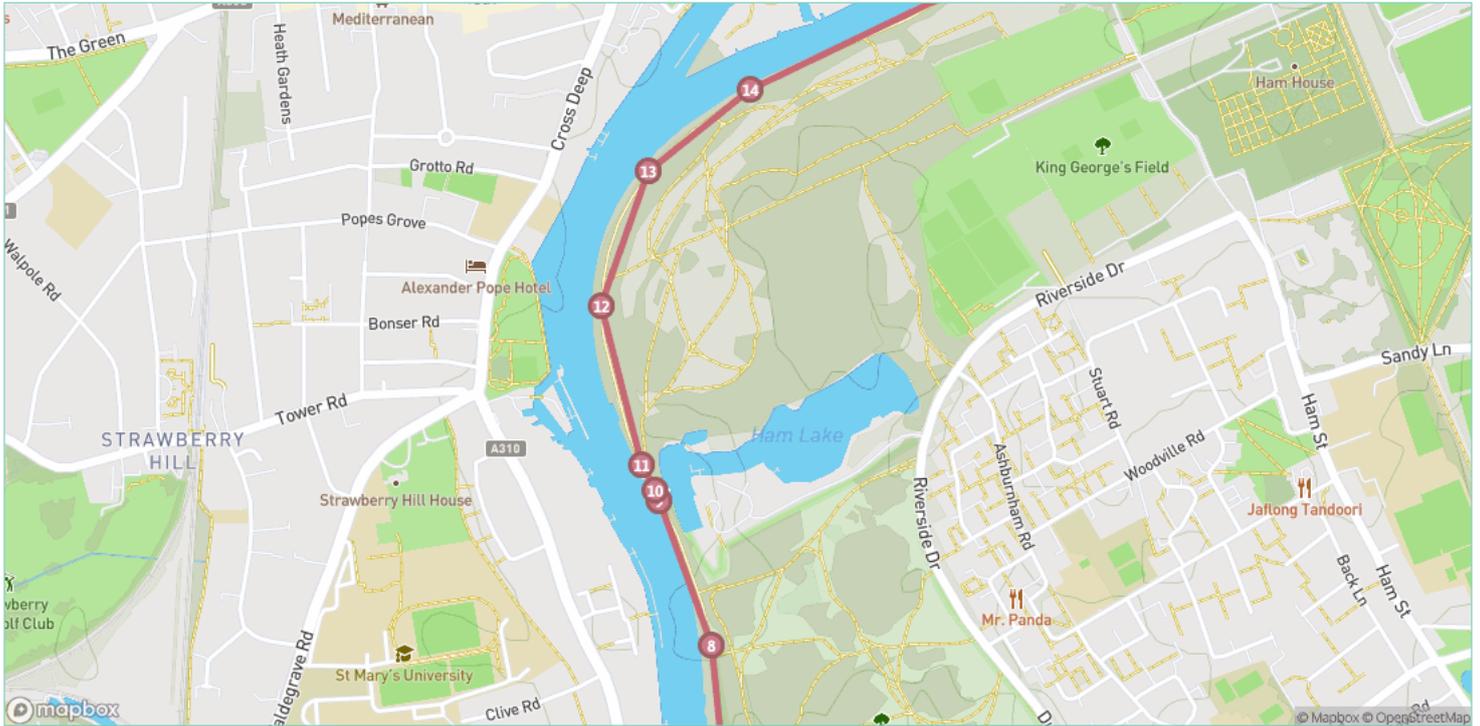
Step 3: Alternatively take bus routes 281, 285 or R68 to Teddington Lock from the High Street. From Teddington Lock bus stop, walk ahead along Ferry Road, crossing the river by the footbridge and turn left.

Step 4: At Teddington Lock, walk with the river on your left.

Step 5: The Thames Path is broad and gravelled here above the sloping river bank with tide-washed willows.

Step 6: On your left, you'll pass an obelisk marked "Thames Conservancy Lower Limit 1909."

Step 7: This was erected to mark the boundary between the justifications of the Thames Conservancy and the Port of London Authority.



Step 8: Other paths will appear to your left and right amongst the trees, but the Thames Path marches on beside the river.

Step 14: Follow the path round the curve in the river by Eel Pie Island and the jetty of the Richmond Yacht Club.

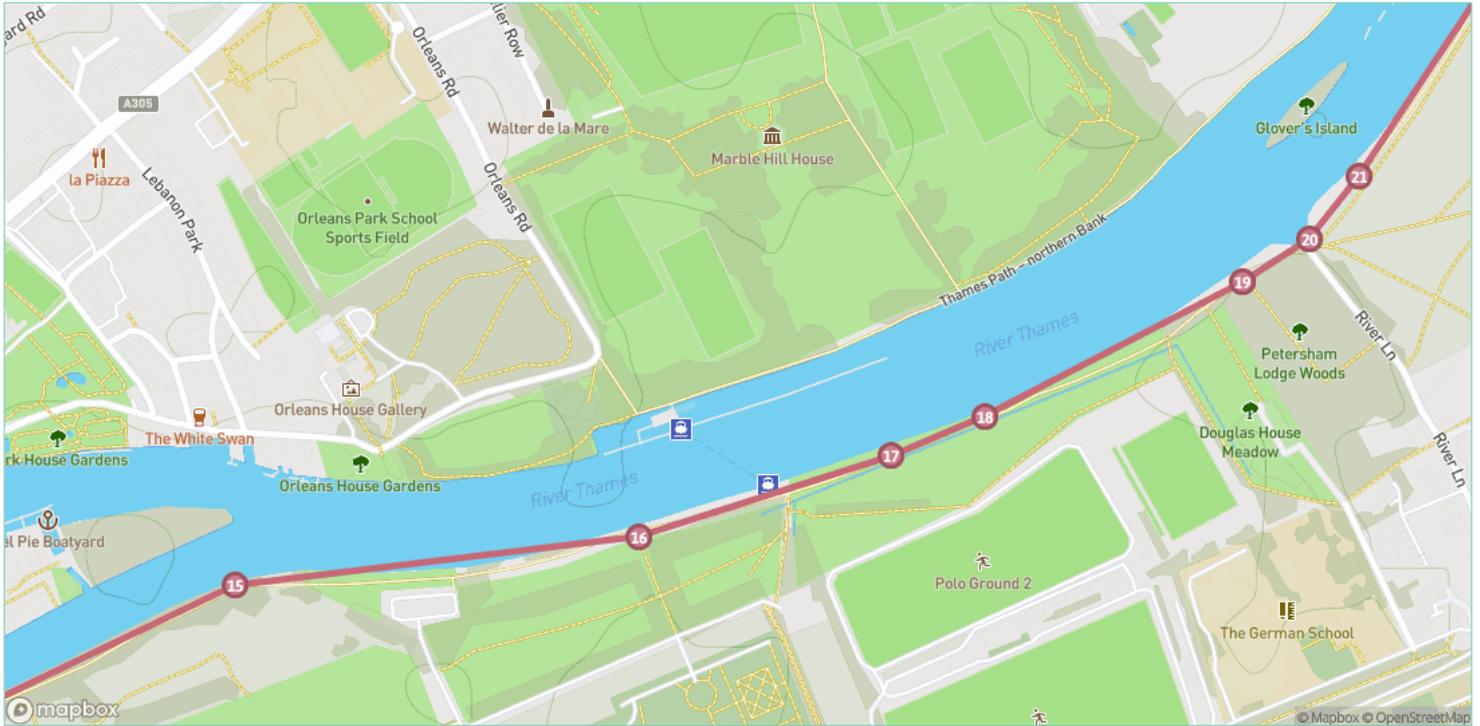
Step 9: Cross the entrance of the lagoon that forms the Thames Young Mariners Outdoor Education Centre.

Step 10: Now the Gothic summerhouse of Radnor Gardens comes into view on the far bank.

Step 11: The haven you enter is Ham Lands Nature Reserve. Continue straight on the Thames Path.

Step 12: The nature reserve was created from gravel pits filled with rubble from London's wartime bombsites.

Step 13: There are benches along the stretch so why not take a break to enjoy the surroundings?



Step 15: Continue under the trees along this very secluded and peaceful stretch.

Step 16: The path opens out to the entrance of Ham House. Continue along the river past the house and gardens.

Did you know?

The house and gardens are managed by the National Trust and can be visited separately for an admission fee. At the boundary of Ham House is a seasonal ferry going over to the north bank of the Thames.

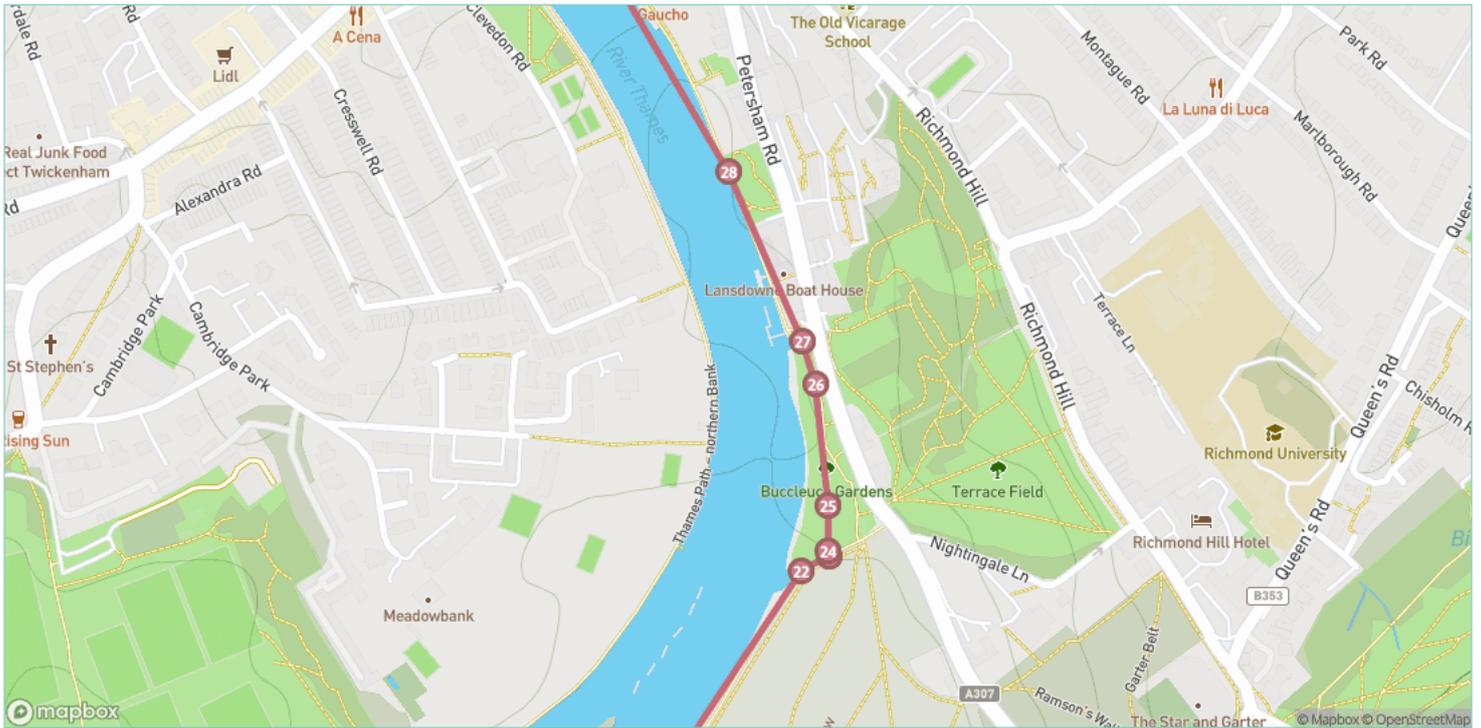
Step 17: Across the water on the north bank you'll see Marble Hill House, a Neo-Palladian villa which is a museum of Georgian life.

Step 18: As you continue past the Ferry stage, you'll pass Ham Polo Club on your right.

Step 19: Continue on, passing through Petersham Lodge Woods.

Step 20: After the small beach, the path reveals views across Petersham Meadows. You'll sometimes find cattle grazing here.

Step 21: The Thames Path skirts the meadow wall and the path is tarmac here. Glover's Island is to your left.



Step 22: As the path bends to the right, Richmond Bridge is ahead, but looking back along the river there's not a single building in sight.

Step 23: Pass through the metal kissing gate on your left to continue.

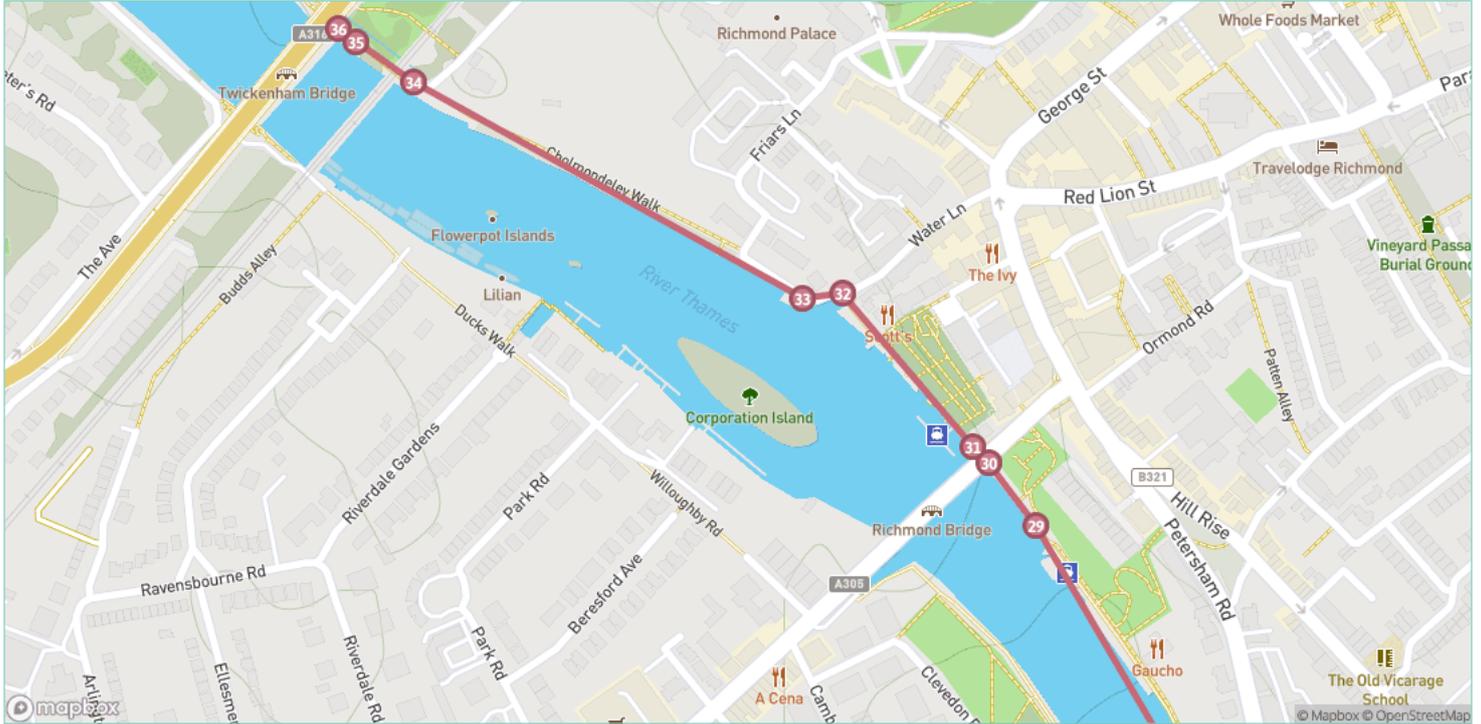
Step 24: Take the path straight ahead to walk through Buccleuch Gardens, with trees species including maple, plane, willow, maidenhair and more.

Step 25: Together with Terrace Gardens on the other side of Petersham Road, they form a park which was laid out in the mid to late 19th century.

Step 26: It's a popular spot for runners too. Head towards the bollards at the end of the gardens.

Step 27: As you exit the gardens, follow the path to the left to rejoin the water.

Step 28: Keep beside the river as it passes the Richmond Canoe Club and Riverdale Gardens.



Step 29: As you approach Richmond Bridge you'll pass many restaurants, cafes and bars should you need refreshments.

Step 30: Then walk under the arch of Richmond Bridge, built with Portland Stone and opened in 1777 as a replacement for a ferry crossing.

Step 31: As you emerge on the other side, you'll join the sociable buzz of the historic Richmond waterfront with more options for food and drink.

Step 32: Continue along the river front, passing The White Cross pub, joining Riverside road.

Step 33: Continue riverside. The Capital Ring joins the Thames Path for a while along here. Head straight into Cholmondeley Walk.

Step 34: Head under Richmond Railway Bridge.

Step 35: A few steps later you'll reach Twickenham Bridge where this segment ends.

Step 36: You've now completed this section of the Thames Path. How about moving on to the next section towards Mortlake?

Did you know?

You can walk all 15 sections of the Capital Ring too. Search in-app to plan your next London walking adventure!