



## Green Chain Walk Section 5

Visit the Thames Barrier and discover a secret castle in the woods on this incredible Green Chain adventure.

**Distance** 6.3 kilometers / 3.9 miles

**Duration** 2 hours and 15 minutes



Great views



Public loos



Refreshments



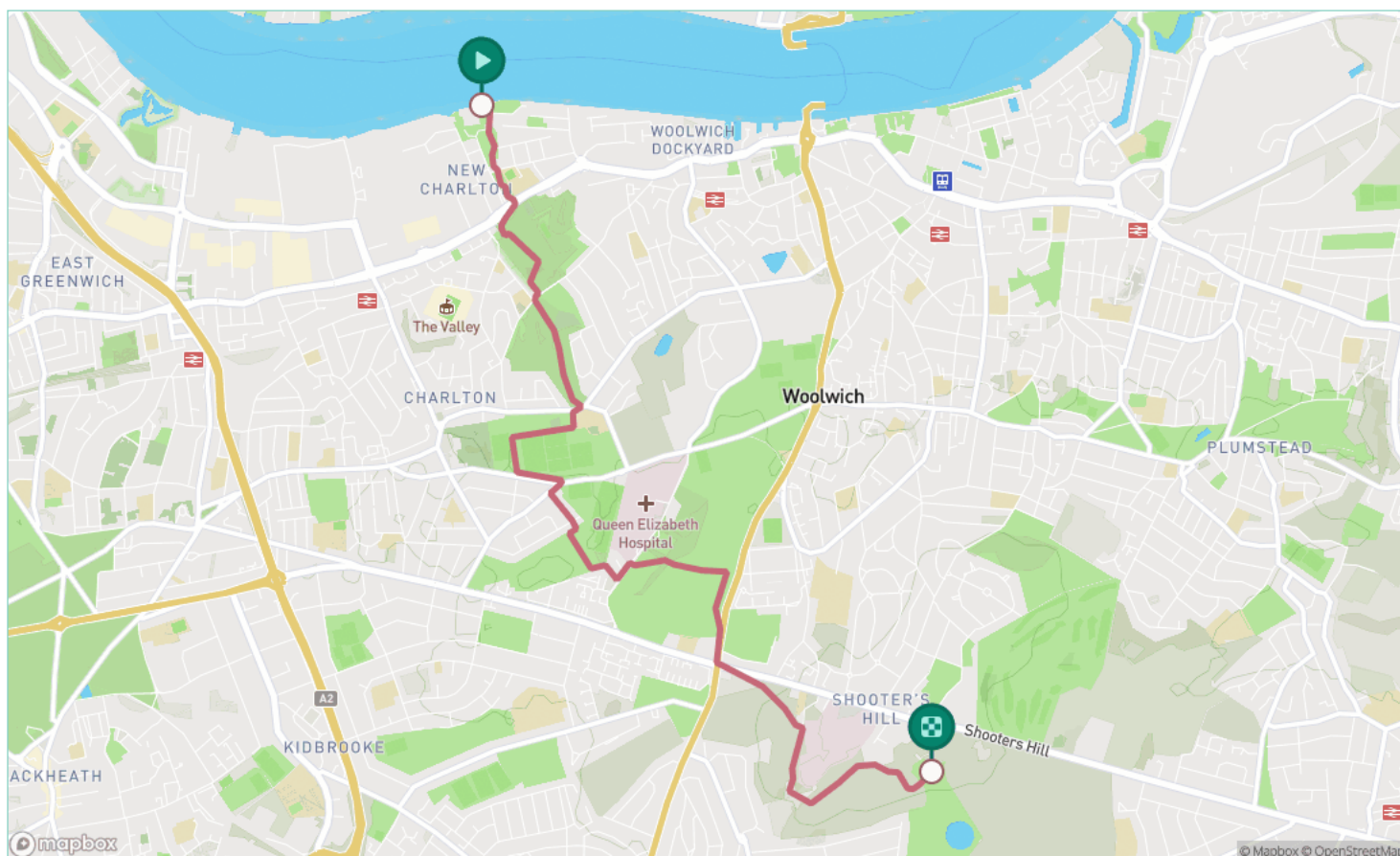
Public transport



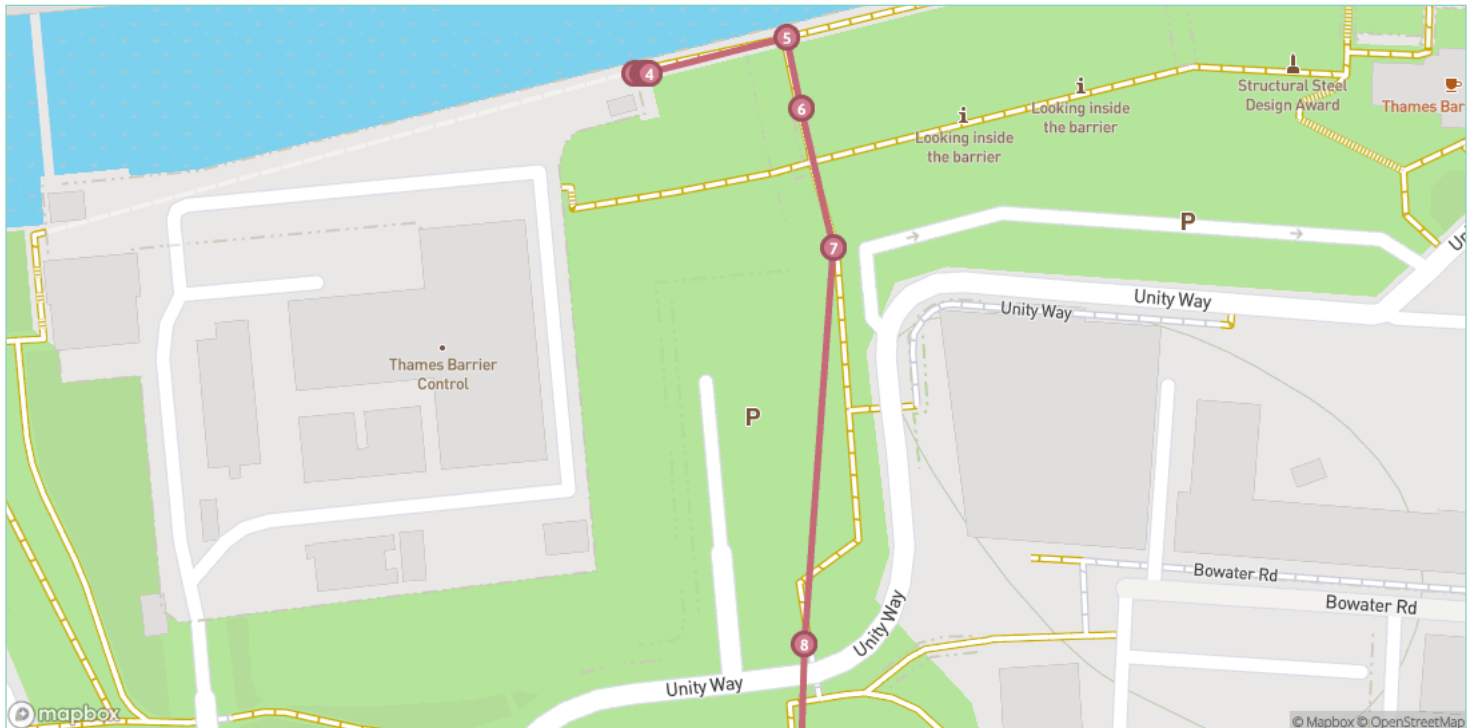
History



Hilly & steep



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**Step 1:** Welcome to section 5 of the Green Chain Walk. This section begins at Barrier Gardens and ends at Oxleas Meadows.

### Did you know?

The Thames Barrier is the world's largest movable flood barrier and was built to save London from disastrous flooding and opened in 1984. The Barrier spans a third of a mile across the Thames and consists of 10 separate movable steel gates built side by side.

**Step 2:** To get to the start of this walk from Charlton Station, head down the right-hand side of Anchor and Hope Lane. When you get to Vaizeys Wharf, turn right and follow the riverside.

**Step 3:** Alternative use bus routes 161, 177, 180 and 472 and get off at the Royal Greenwich University Technical College. The Green Chain footpath can be found by the pedestrian crossing traffic lights.

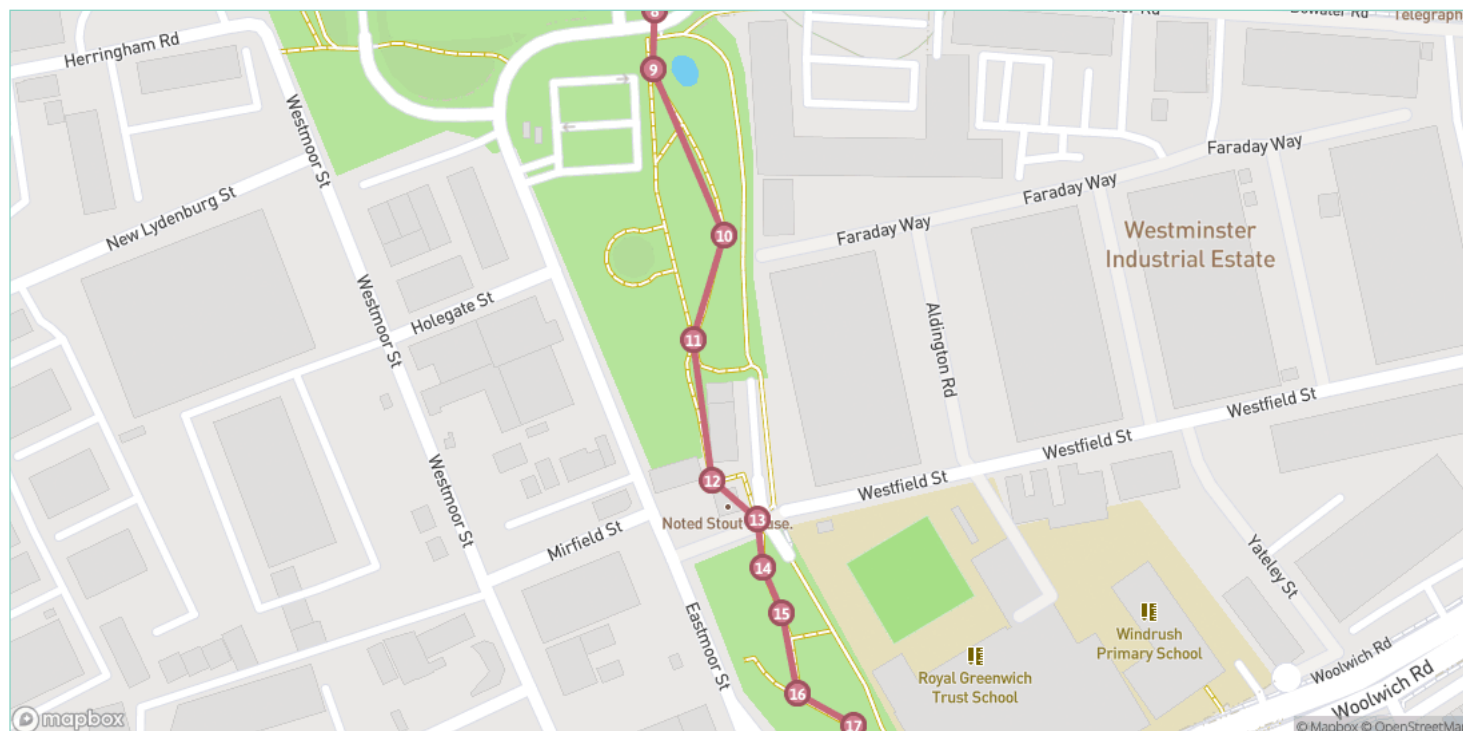
**Step 4:** This point is also one end of the Thames Path National Trail, which follows the Thames for 180 miles.

**Step 5:** Today, we're following the Green Chain, running inland from here towards Falconwood.

**Step 6:** When you're ready, let's begin. Head away from the river by going up the staircase over the embankment.

**Step 7:** Head back down the steps directly in front of you, and continue straight along the pavement. Look out for Green Chain signs along the way.

**Step 8:** Use the road to formally enter Barrier Gardens. Continue straight ahead, to the right slightly, along the fence.



**Step 9:** At the fork, veer left.

**Step 10:** When we walked, there hadn't been much rain. Are things lusher when you're walking?

**Step 11:** At the next fork, continue straight ahead, ignoring the path to the left.

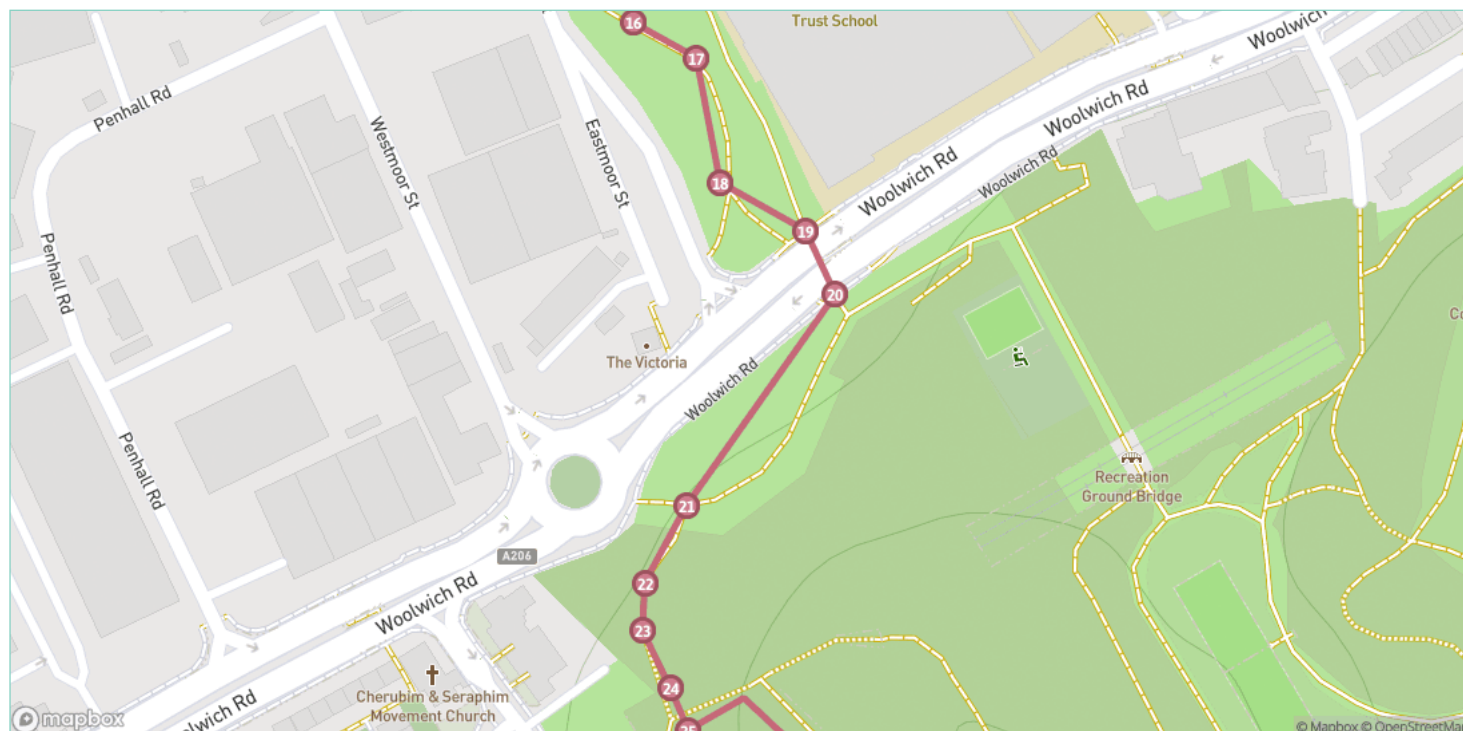
**Step 12:** Follow along the side of a small building and turn left when it ends into this plaza. Turn right at the blue gate.

**Step 13:** Directly across Eastmoor Place is your next path. Ignore the cycle path to the left and take the paved walk on the right.

**Step 14:** There's lots of path options here. Continue straight ahead, ignoring the path on the right.

**Step 15:** Then ignore the path on the left.

**Step 16:** At the bench please follow the path to the left.



**Step 17:** Follow the Green Chain post to the right.

**Step 18:** And then to the left.

**Step 19:** Use the pedestrian crossing to cross Woolwich Road.

**Step 20:** On the other side, head through the gate into Maryon Park. Past the gates, head to the right.

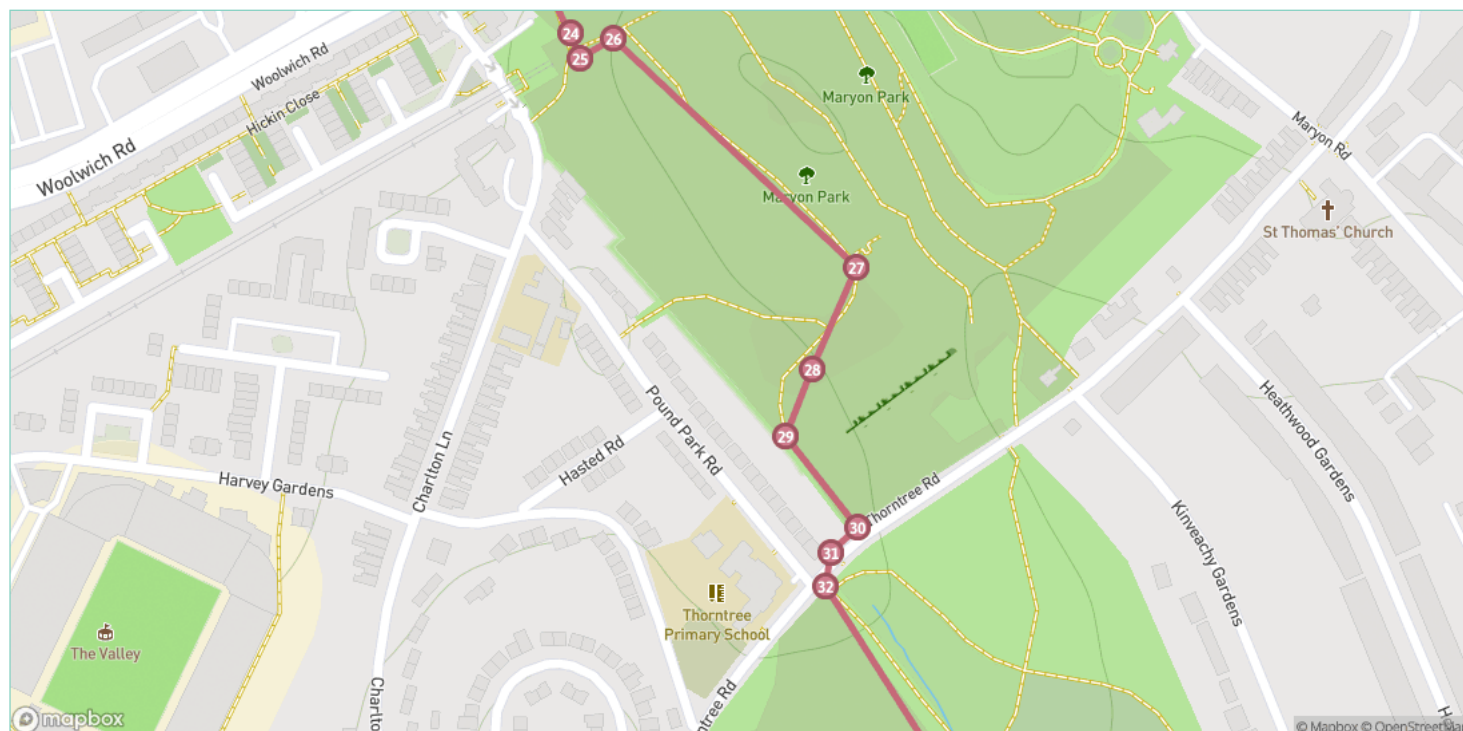
**Step 21:** At the path fork, take the left option, onto the compacted gravel.

**Step 22:** Climb the steps up to Thorntree Road.

**Step 23:** To avoid the steps then left and follow the path towards Maryon Road, turn right along Maryon Road then right up Woodland Terrace to Thorntree Road.

**Step 24:** Feel free to pause midway up at this view over the rail line.





**Step 25:** Continue up the steps behind you.

**Step 26:** Past the metal barriers, turn right. The route flattens out a bit now.

**Step 27:** Follow the trail into this clearing. Follow the trees on your right to the right, then the route continues diagonally opposite, to the left.

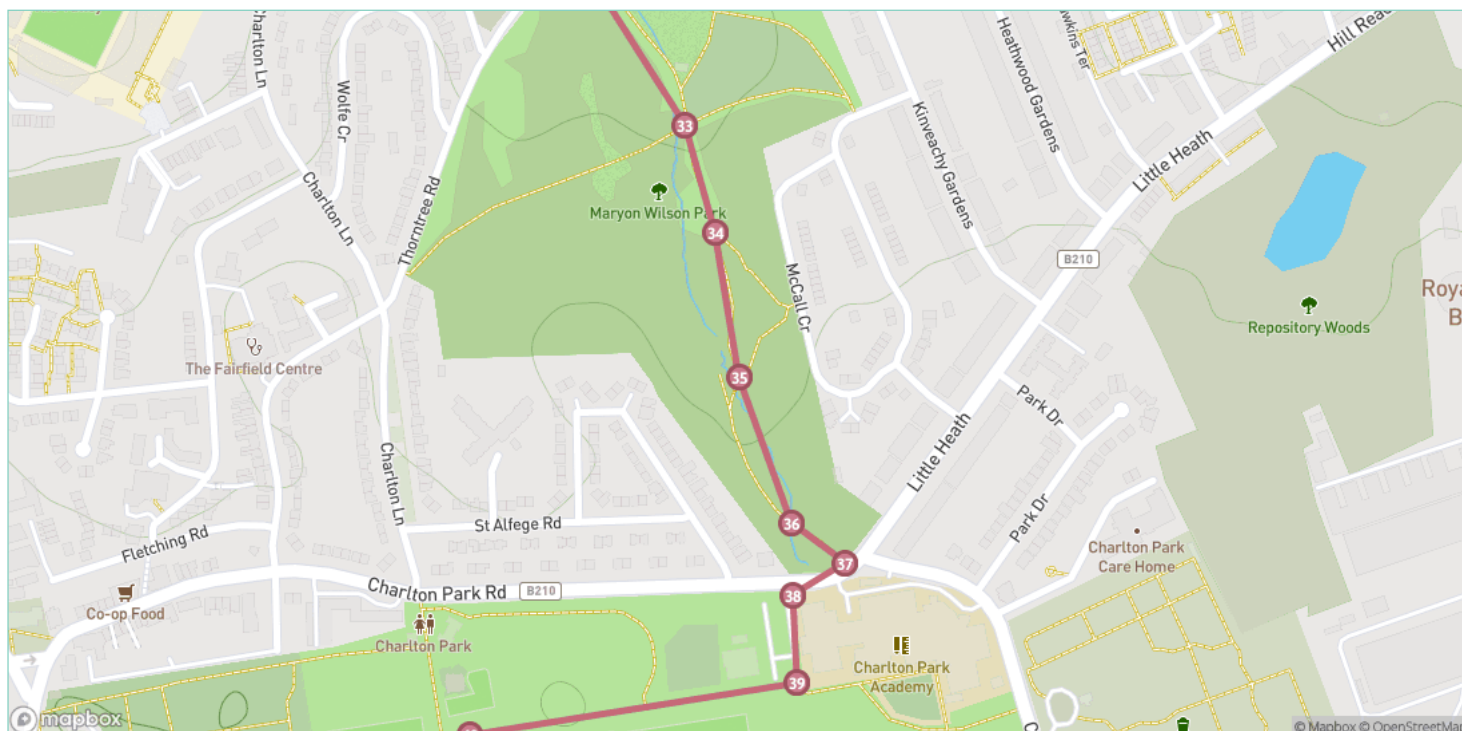
**Step 28:** You're looking for this small opening with a gate in the trees opposite, to the left.

**Step 29:** After the barrier, continue ahead.

**Step 30:** You'll soon come to Thorntree Road. Turn right, towards the pedestrian crossing.

**Step 31:** Use the pedestrian crossing when it's clear, and turn right on the other side.

**Step 32:** Next, turn left into Maryon Wilson Park, keeping the animal enclosure to your left.



**Step 33:** Keep ahead, following the Green Chain posts. This route is shared with the Capital Ring, a 78 mile route in segments also in-app.

**Step 39:** Turn right and follow the paved path straight ahead. Green Chain Section 4A starts at this point.

**Step 34:** At the next fork, stay to the right.

**Step 35:** Keep on the main wide paved path. We came across some horse riders here.

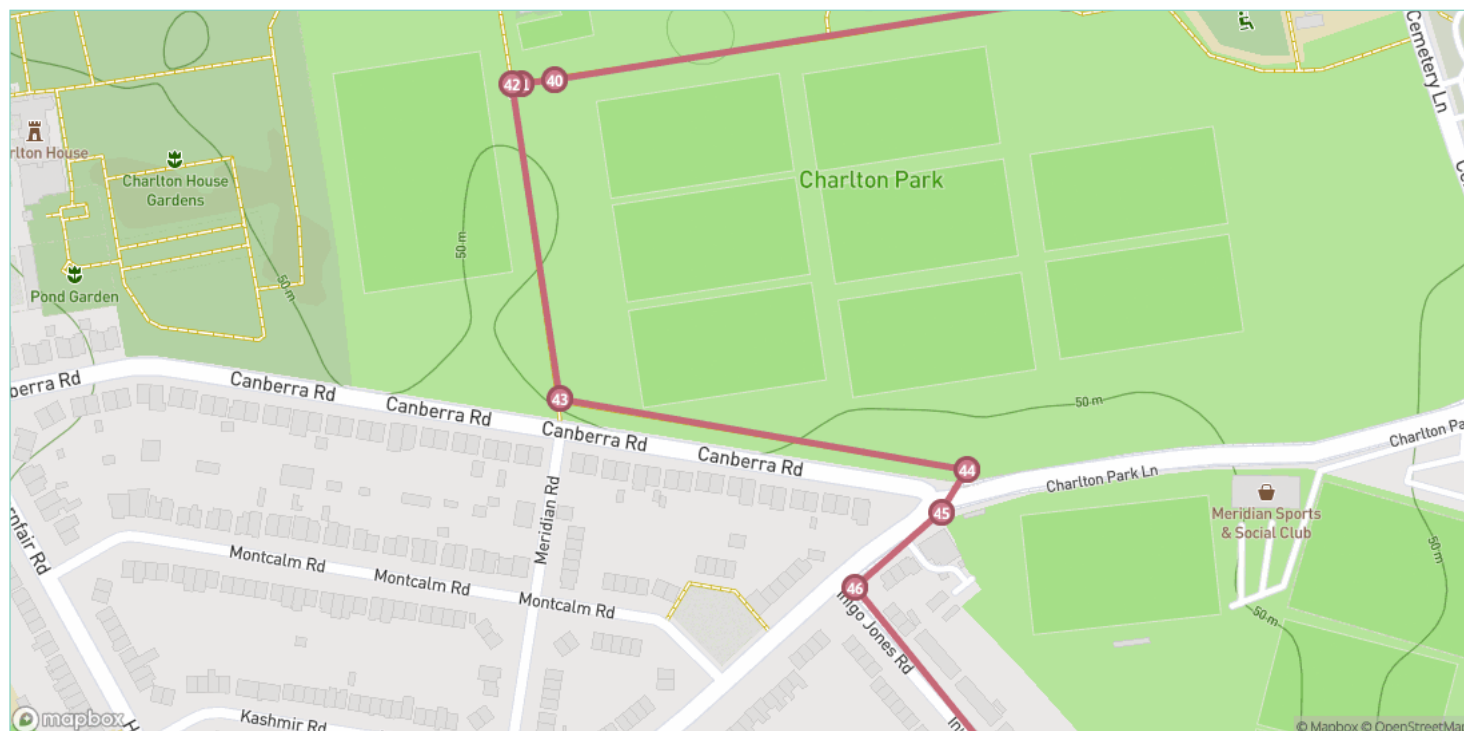
**Step 36:** Up ahead is Charlton Park Road.

### Did you know?

Charlton is one of the few inner London communities to have retained its village features. Referred to in the Domesday Book, the name Charlton means the 'peasants farmstead'.

**Step 37:** At Charlton Park Road, turn right. Use the pedestrian crossing up ahead.

**Step 38:** Turn right after the crossing, then almost immediately left down this access drive towards Charlton Park.



**Step 40:** Continue straight ahead to the path junction. There are toilets and a cafe to the right.

**Step 46:** Next, take your first left onto Inigo Jones Road.

**Step 41:** Straight ahead is Charlton House.

### Did you know?

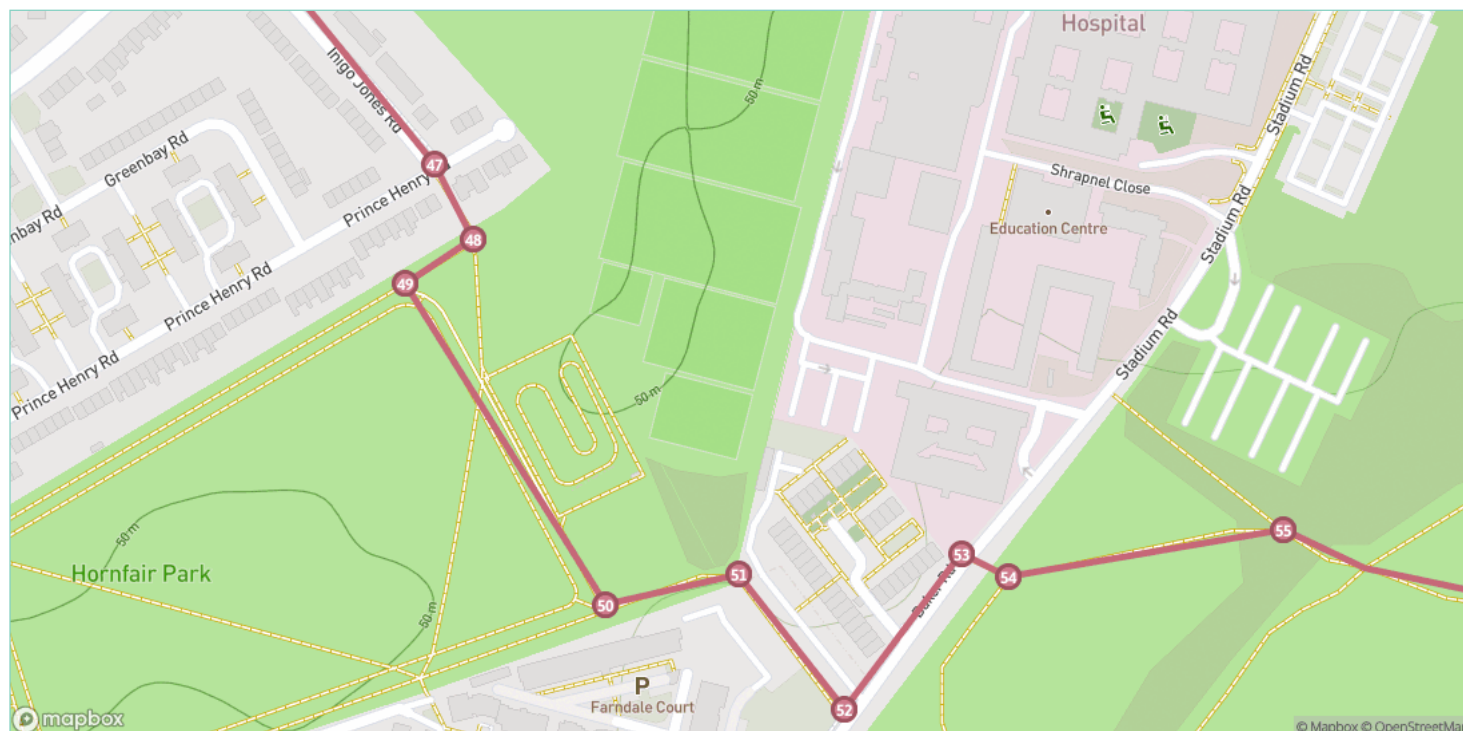
Charlton House is one of the best examples of Jacobean architecture in the country and the finest in London. The house is of red brick with stone dressing and in plan follows the letter 'E'. The interior contains a great hall, chapel, state dining room, saloon and gallery.

**Step 42:** When you're ready, facing Charlton House, the route continues to the left.

**Step 43:** Almost to Canberra Road, turn left to follow the dirt track inside the park.

**Step 44:** There's a fingerpost marking the point where the route exits the park, to the right.

**Step 45:** Carefully cross directly opposite on Charlton Park Lane, and turn right.



**Step 47:** Cross Prince Henry Road and enter Hornfair Park straight ahead.

**Step 48:** Turn right past the gate.

**Step 49:** Then turn left around the play area.

**Step 50:** As you approach the trees up ahead, turn left, keeping the vegetation on your right.

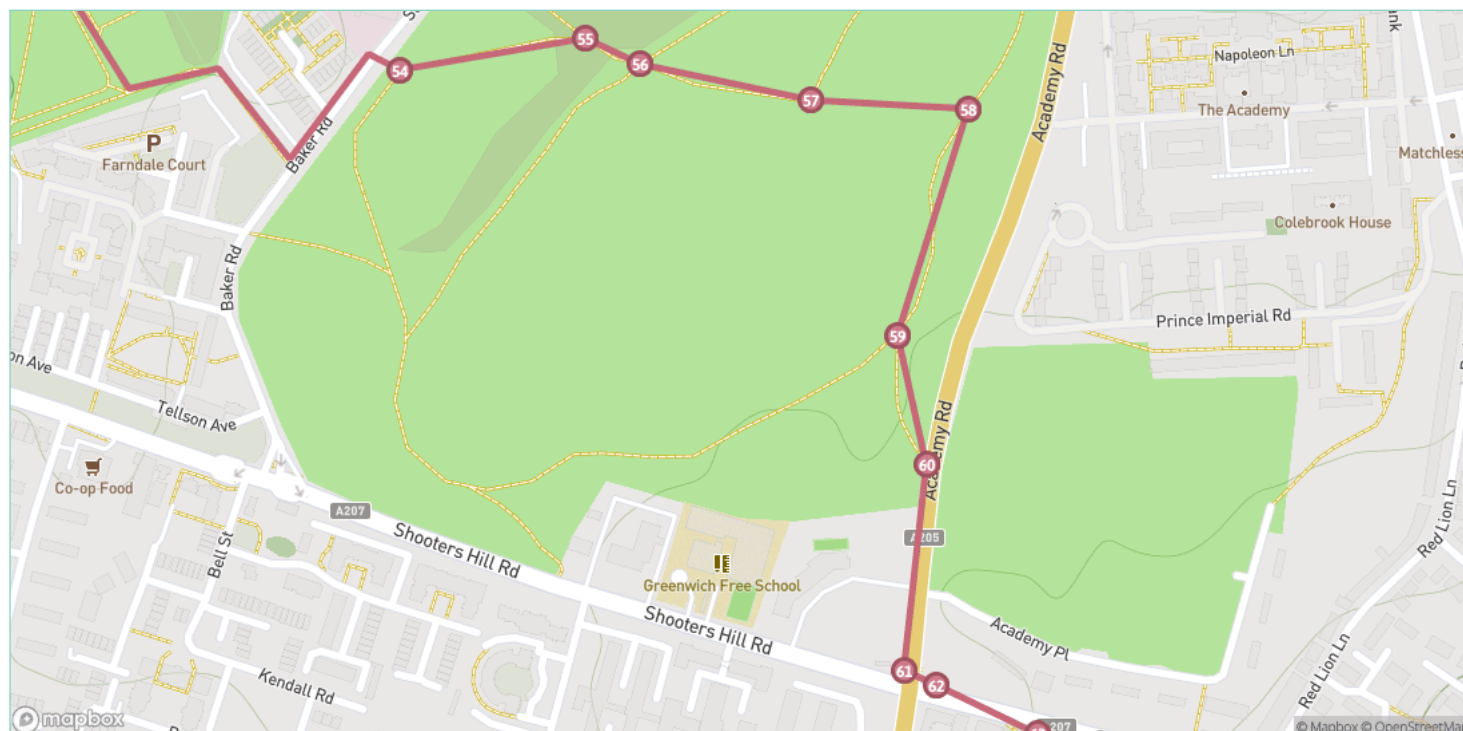
**Step 51:** There's a small path and opening in the fence to your right. Head this way.

**Step 52:** Follow along the green fence, straight ahead towards Baker Road. Turn left at the pavement.

**Step 53:** Find another Green Chain sign after a short walk. Cross Baker Road here.

**Step 54:** The path is not very obvious, but it's this dirt track that heads through the trees up ahead.





**Step 55:** This path brings you across Woolwich Common. Veer right at the fork here.

**Step 56:** Continue straight through this junction.

**Step 57:** Head towards the former Royal Military Academy, following the sign posts as you go.

**Step 58:** When Academy Road comes into view through the trees, turn right before the vegetation to keep it on your left.

**Step 59:** Continue straight ahead, veering left at a fork. This will bring you to Academy Road.

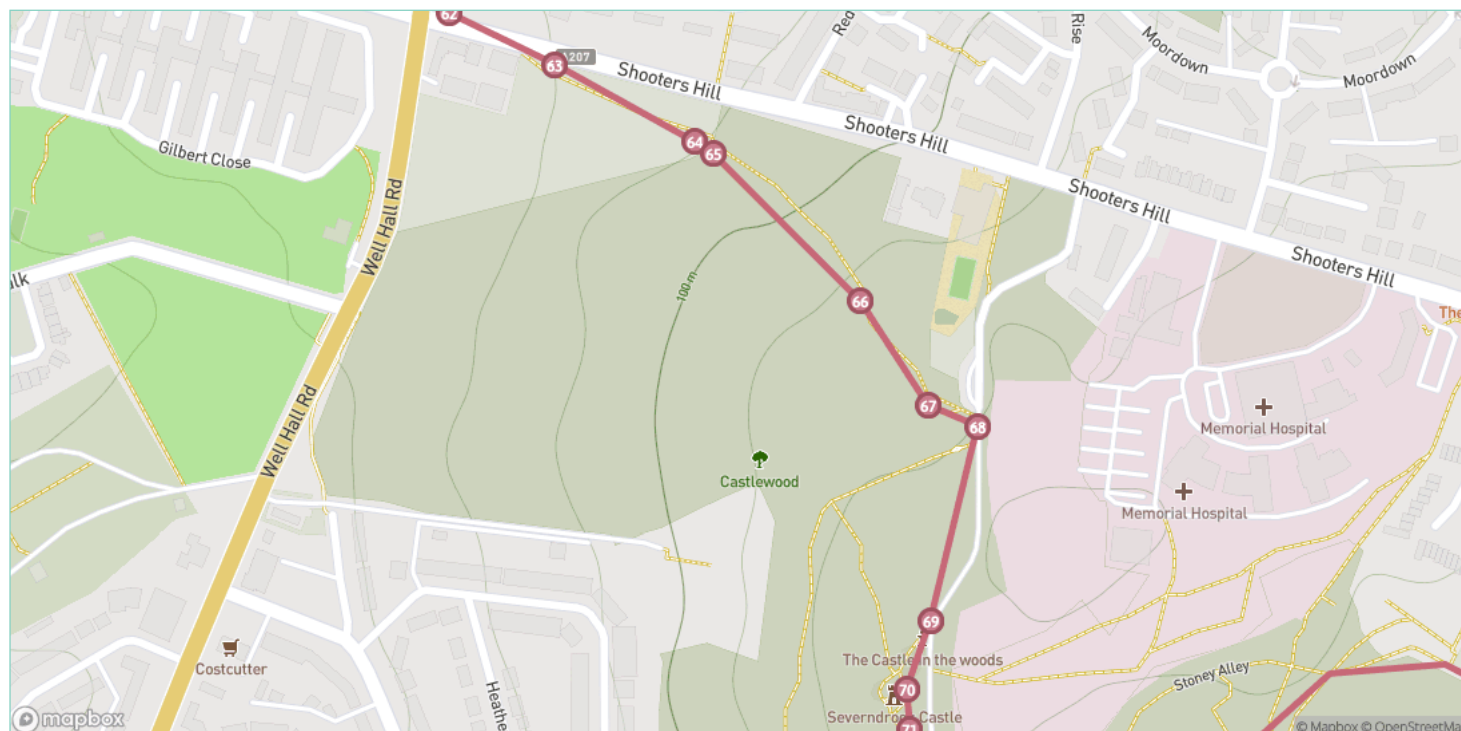
**Step 60:** Bear right to follow the pavement along Academy Road.

### Did you know?

The Royal Military Academy began in the Arsenal in 1721 but was moved to the East side of the Common in 1808. The Academy was established under the Broad of Ordnance 'for instructing and edifying of young gentlemen intended for the office of engineers...they are taught in it the principles and art of fortification and every branch of military science relating to it, besides the French and Latin tongues, writing, fencing and drawing'.

**Step 61:** Use the crossing to cross Academy Road.

**Step 62:** The turn immediately right to cross Shooters Hill. Turn left on the other side.



**Step 63:** Shortly after, Eltham Common appears on your left. Stay straight ahead along the pavement until you see a diagonal path to your right.

**Step 64:** Cross the common towards this Green Chain sign, just by the edge of the woods.

**Step 65:** Enter the forest, following the dirt track.

**Step 66:** There are a few shallow steps up here.

**Step 67:** Emerge into a clearing with a parking area on the left.

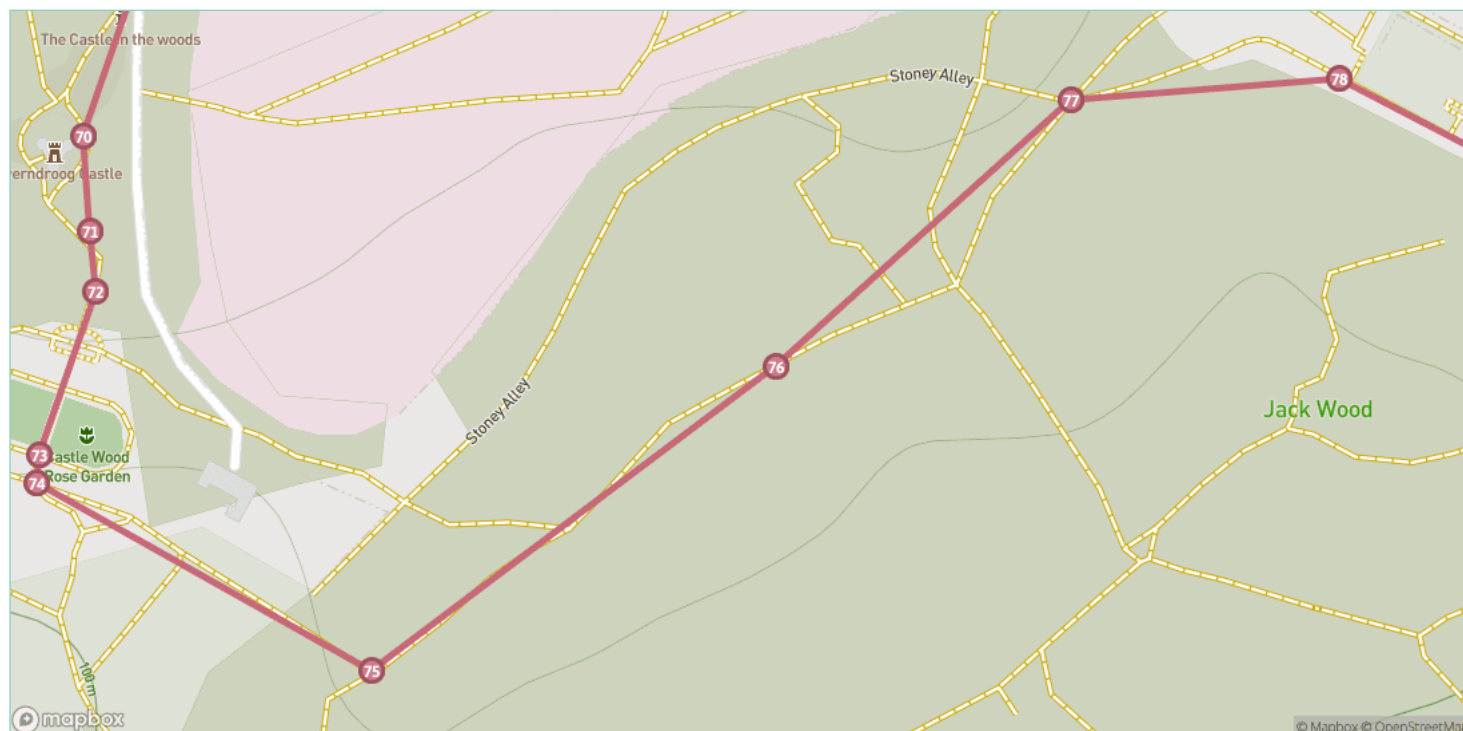
**Step 68:** Follow the sign to the right, along the road.

**Step 69:** Soon, come to Severndroog Castle. Bearing right to get closer look.

### Did you know?

Severndroog Castle is not actually a true castle, but a summerhouse erected in 1784 as a memorial to Sir William James of Eltham Park. It commemorates his exploits in the East Indies, including the conquest of the Castle of Severndroog on the coast of Malabar.

**Step 70:** We enjoyed stopping for refreshments at the cafe in the base. The tower is open weekends as a hilltop observation deck.



**Step 71:** When you're ready, continue on the paved path around the side of the castle. Head down the hill dotted with benches.

**Step 72:** Easy to see why there are so many benches - the view here is spectacular!

**Step 73:** Continue down the steps, straight through the rose garden, and down one more set of stairs.

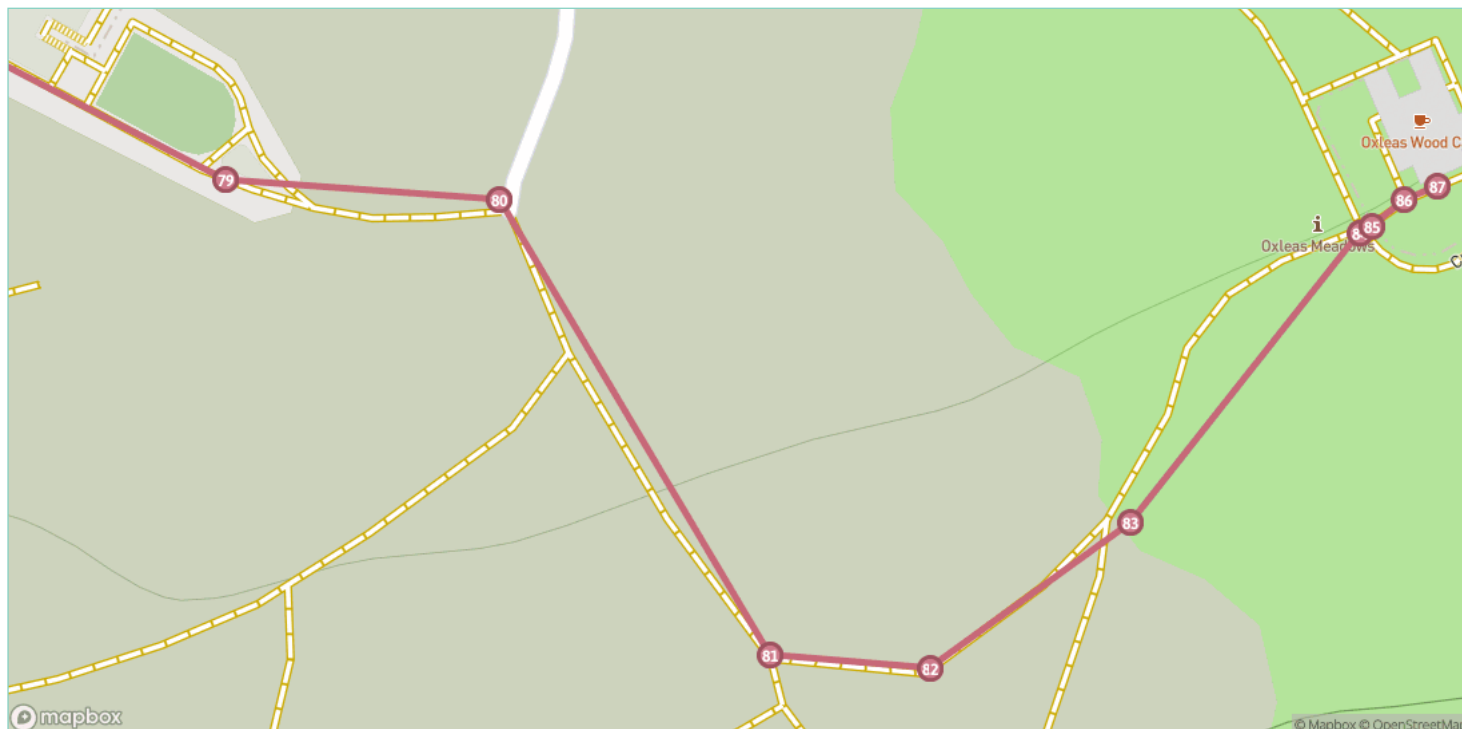
**Step 74:** At the bottom, turn left, and then veer left here.

**Step 75:** Follow the dirt track until you come to a T-junction. Here, turn left.

**Step 76:** We loved the stretch of forest here. It's stunning, no matter the weather!

**Step 77:** At the clearing follow the path to the right.

**Step 78:** The historic structures to your left are well worth a little exploration, if you'd like.



**Step 79:** The route continues straight ahead.

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**Step 80:** Look out for the next signpost, pointing you to the right.

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**Step 81:** Stick to the paved path as it bends to the left here.

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**Step 82:** Continue following the path to the left.

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**Step 83:** And you'll come into Oxleas Meadows.

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**Step 84:** This segment ends here, at the hilltop cafe. A lovely spot to rest after an amazing segment!

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**Step 85:** If you are finishing here, the nearest bus stops are on Shooters Hill road. Return to Step 80 and turn right towards Crown Woods Lane. Route 89 goes to Blackheath Rail Station and route 486 to Woolwich Arsenal.

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**Step 86:** For Falconwood Station, open up the Green Chain segment 6 and follow the first few steps towards Rochester Way.

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**Step 87:** You've now completed section 5 of the Green Chain Walk. How about moving on to section 6 towards Mottingham?

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