



# Banbury Linear Walk - North East

A one way route from North Banbury to town, following the Mineral Railway Path and Oxford Canal sections of the Banbury Fringe Walk.

**Distance** 3.6 kilometers / 2.2 miles

**Duration** 1 hour and 15 minutes



Wildlife



Water feature



Great views



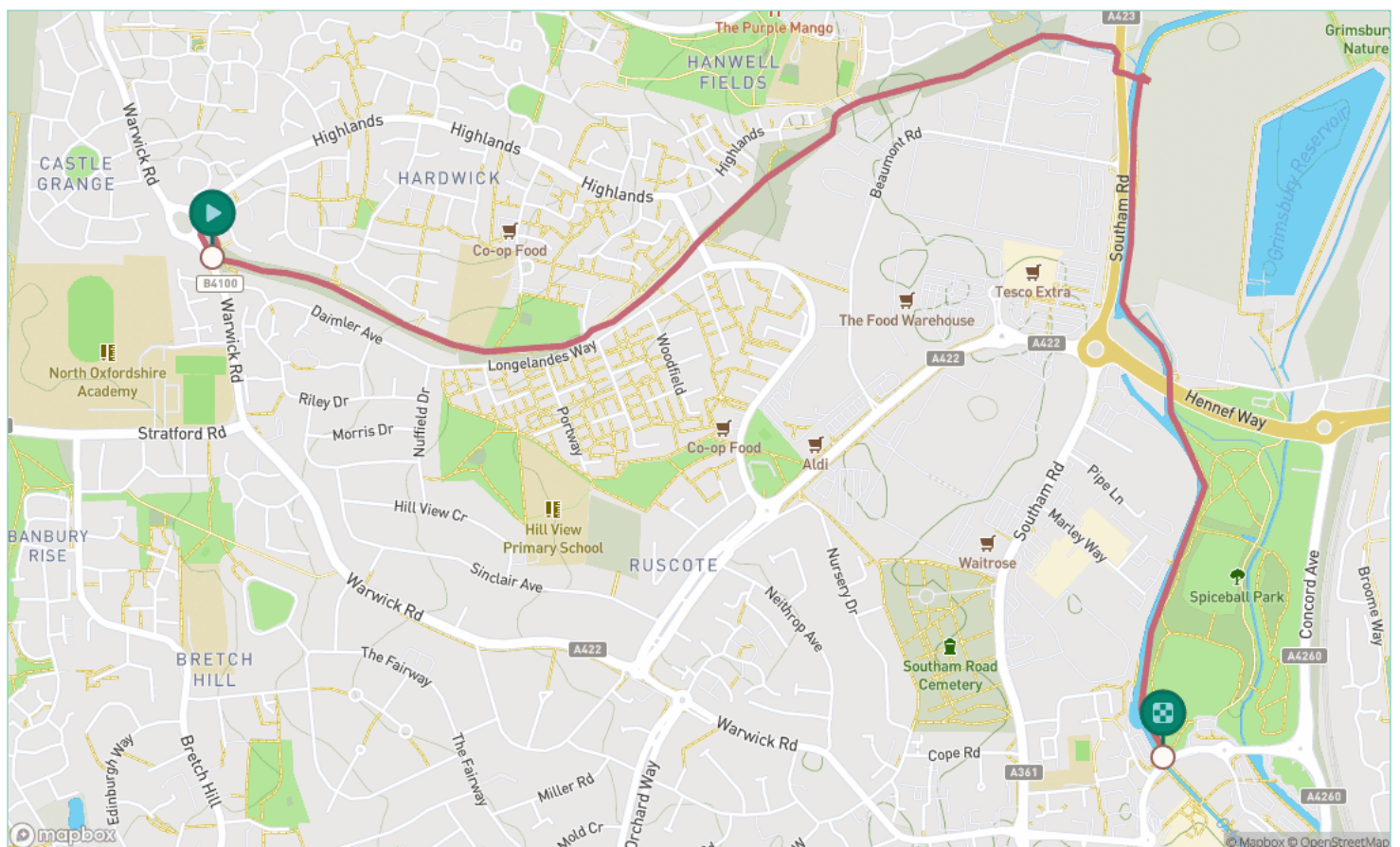
Public transport



Parking

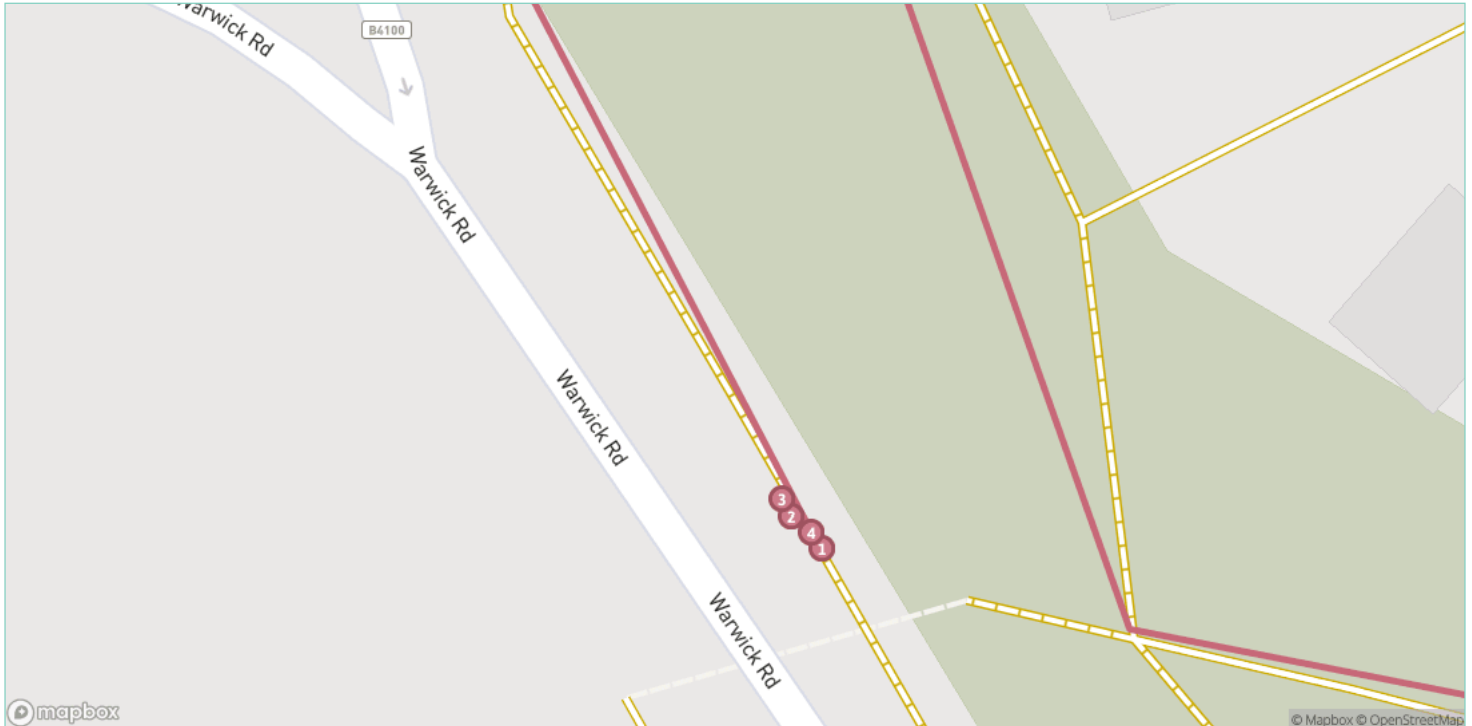


Botanics



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: 27 October 2023.



**Step 1:** This walk was created in partnership with Cherwell District Council. Enjoy over 30 walks across North Oxfordshire and experience the sights and sounds of nature as you go.

**Step 2:** Welcome to the north east Banbury Linear Walk which begins on Warwick Road, at the overpass over the Mineral Railway Path, just before Highlands (OX16 1XP).

**Step 3:** As this is a linear walk, at the end you can return to the starting point by going back the way you came or catch the B9 bus (along Highlands) back to the start.

**Step 4:** You are advised to wear stout, waterproof footwear as walking in the countryside can be muddy and wet, even in the summer months. For advice on best ways to walk in the countryside check out the read more panel below.

## North Oxfordshire

### Best Ways to Walk

We want you to have fun outdoors, whilst looking after yourself, those around you and the natural environment. So here's some guidance to help you prepare for and enjoy your walk.

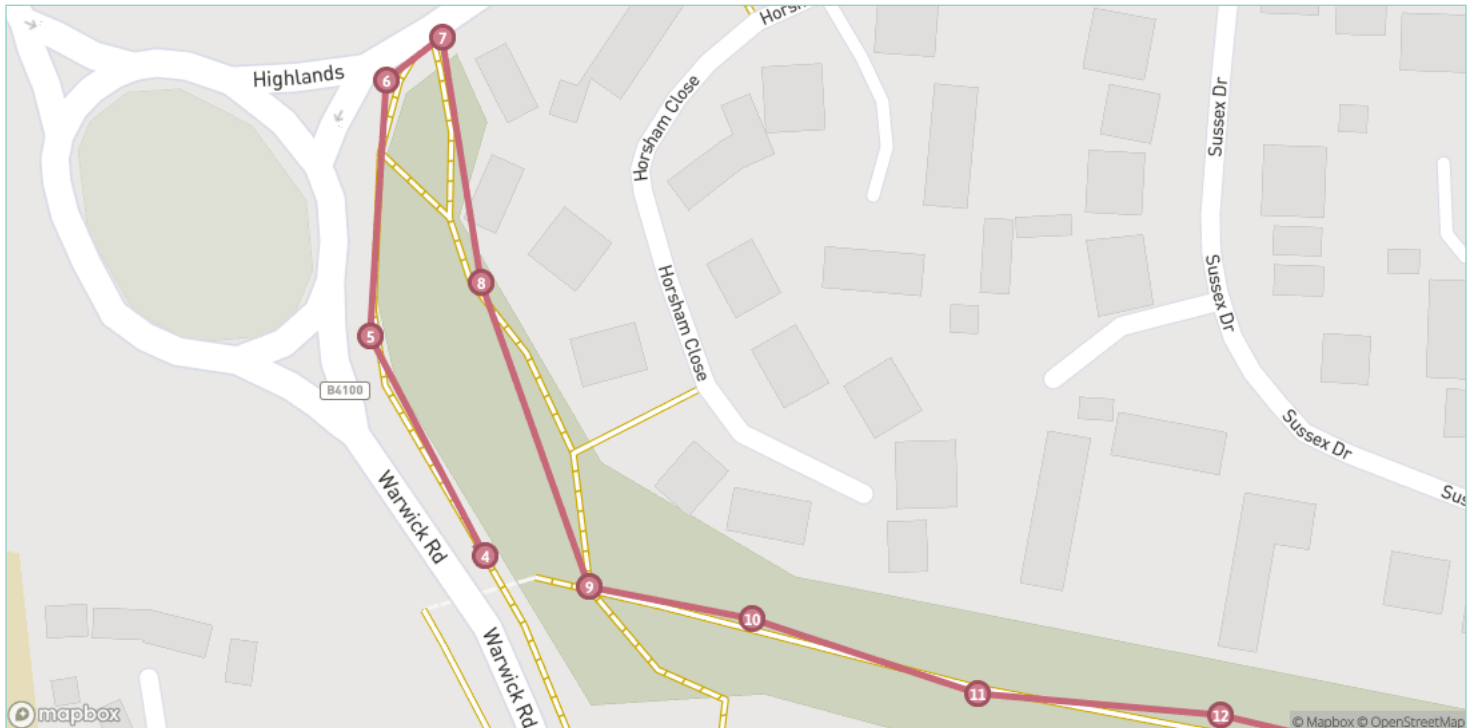
Check the weather. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear as walking can be wet and muddy.

Trousers are recommended as parts of the route can be overgrown with vegetation and nettles. Charge your phone. Take a mobile phone battery pack if you have one. Bear in mind that coverage can be patchy in rural areas so download this walk for offline mode in advance if you can.

Take water. If you're walking alone it's sensible, as a simple precaution, to let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.

Respect landowners. Remember that the countryside is a working place so leave crops, buildings, machinery and livestock well alone.

Leave gates as you find them and please keep to the line of the path.



Respect local people. Park your car responsibly. Do not obstruct gateways, narrow lanes and village facilities. Consider leaving valuables at home.

Respect nature. Pick up any litter you see and never leave your own. Ground nesting birds can be disturbed by dogs, particularly in the Spring. Their poo can be bad for the environment so please keep them close by and clean up after them. Look after your dogs. Dogs should be kept under your control and on a lead if animals are in the fields. Current advice recommends you should not walk between a cow and her calf and, if you are threatened by cattle, you should let the dog off the lead.

Stay safe. Take great care when crossing or walking along roads and narrow paths.

More guidance for users of the countryside - follow the Countryside Code using the link below.

**Step 5:** Begin by walking north, along the right side of Warwick Road. On your right you can see the path down below-that's where you're headed.

**Step 6:** Turn right at the roundabout onto Highlands...

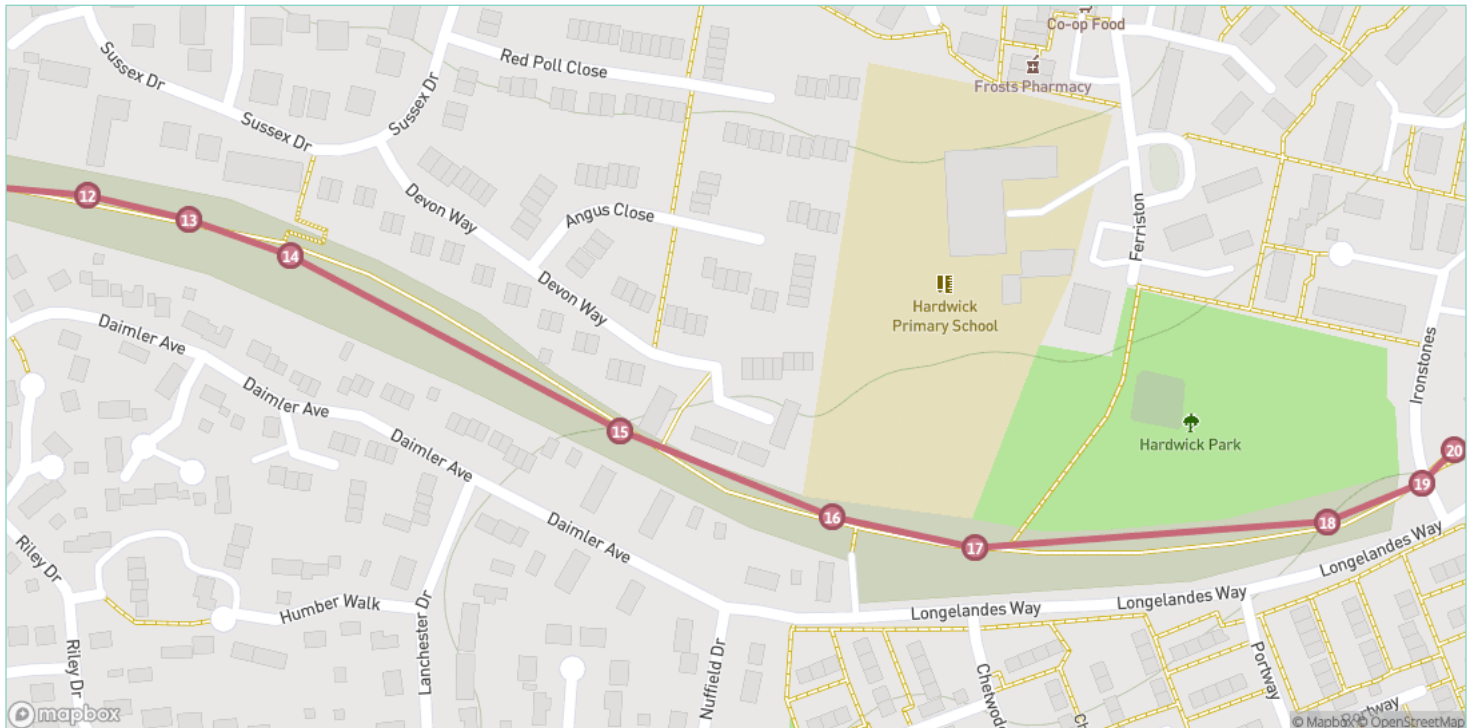
**Step 7:** ... and follow the path to the right as it slopes gently down towards the Mineral Railway path.

**Step 8:** There are several long and shallow steps. Turn left at the bottom.

**Step 9:** The second-to-last major segment of the walk! A long corridor of peacefulness to get you back to the canal.

**Step 10:** When operational, the Mineral Railway line formed part of the route serving ironstone quarries in the Wroxtton area.

**Step 11:** It was constructed in 1917 by German prisoners of war to carry the ironstone to the main Great Western Railway line east of the Southam Road.



**Step 12:** Operations ceased in 1967 when rail transport became too costly, but ironstone is still quarried in the area and transported by lorry.

**Step 13:** What sorts of birds can you see and hear as you walk along?

**Step 14:** One of the exposed rock faces which can be seen along the path has been designated as a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest.

**Step 15:** Without occasional glimpses like this one, you wouldn't even really be able to tell you're so close to built up areas.

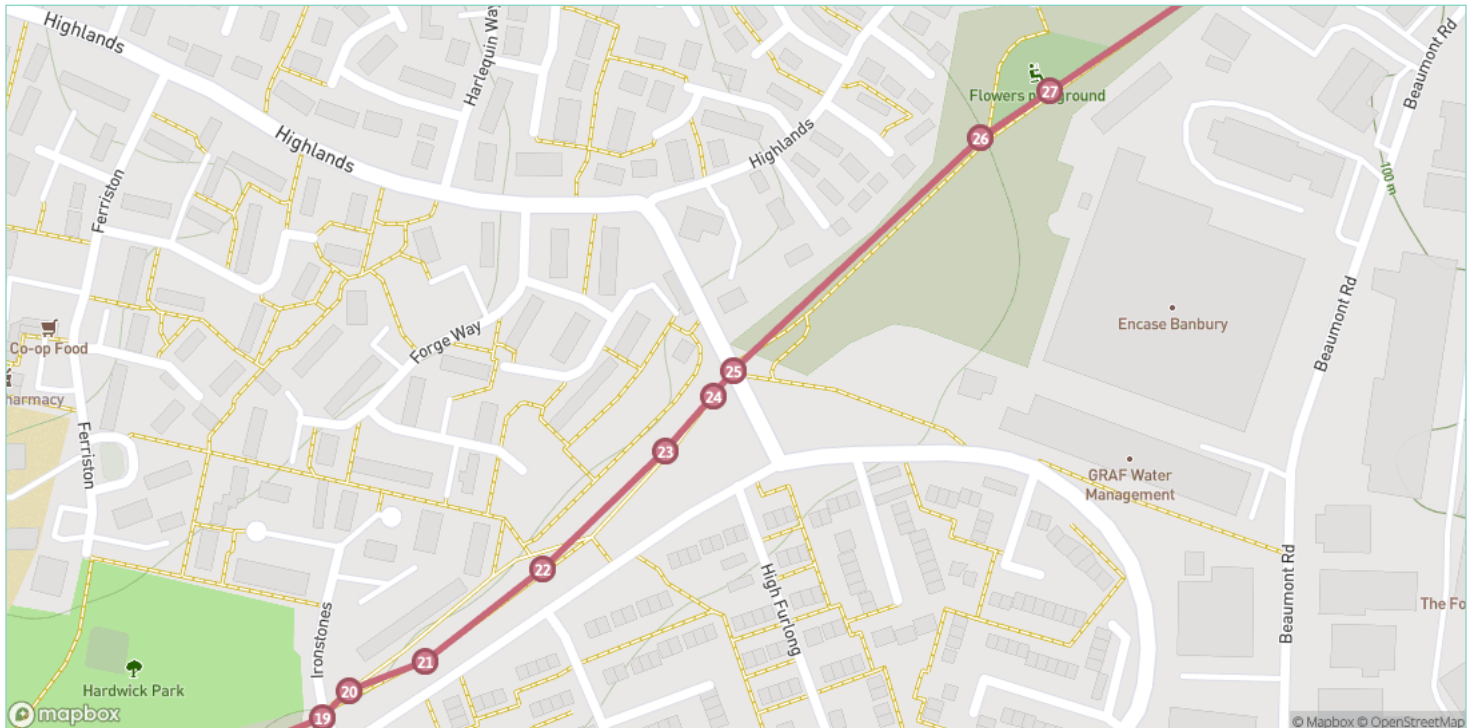
**Step 16:** Stay straight ahead without getting distracted by side paths.

**Step 17:** -

**Step 18:** As you emerge from the woods, the path takes you towards the Ironstones road.

**Step 19:** Use the dropped kerb to cross, then follow the pavement to the left. This is Ironstones, a reminder of the local quarrying industry.





**Step 20:** Almost immediately bear right off the path onto a grass track and continue straight ahead.

**Step 21:** The path can a bit hard to make out exactly, but you're heading straight on.

**Step 22:** Rejoin the tarmac path.

**Step 23:** A little further on, the route passes through a tunnel under Highlands.

**Step 24:** The corrugated metal tube was so cool to walk through.

**Step 25:** If you prefer not to use the tunnel you can come up to the road and cross over with care, rejoining the Mineral Railway path on the other side.

**Step 26:** Where the route reaches a fork, follow the pavement to the right.

**Step 27:** Try to resist the urge to hopscotch - or don't!



**Step 28:** The pavement curves round to the left...

**Step 29:** ... and then to the right, following the footsteps!

**Step 30:** At the fork, take the right path.

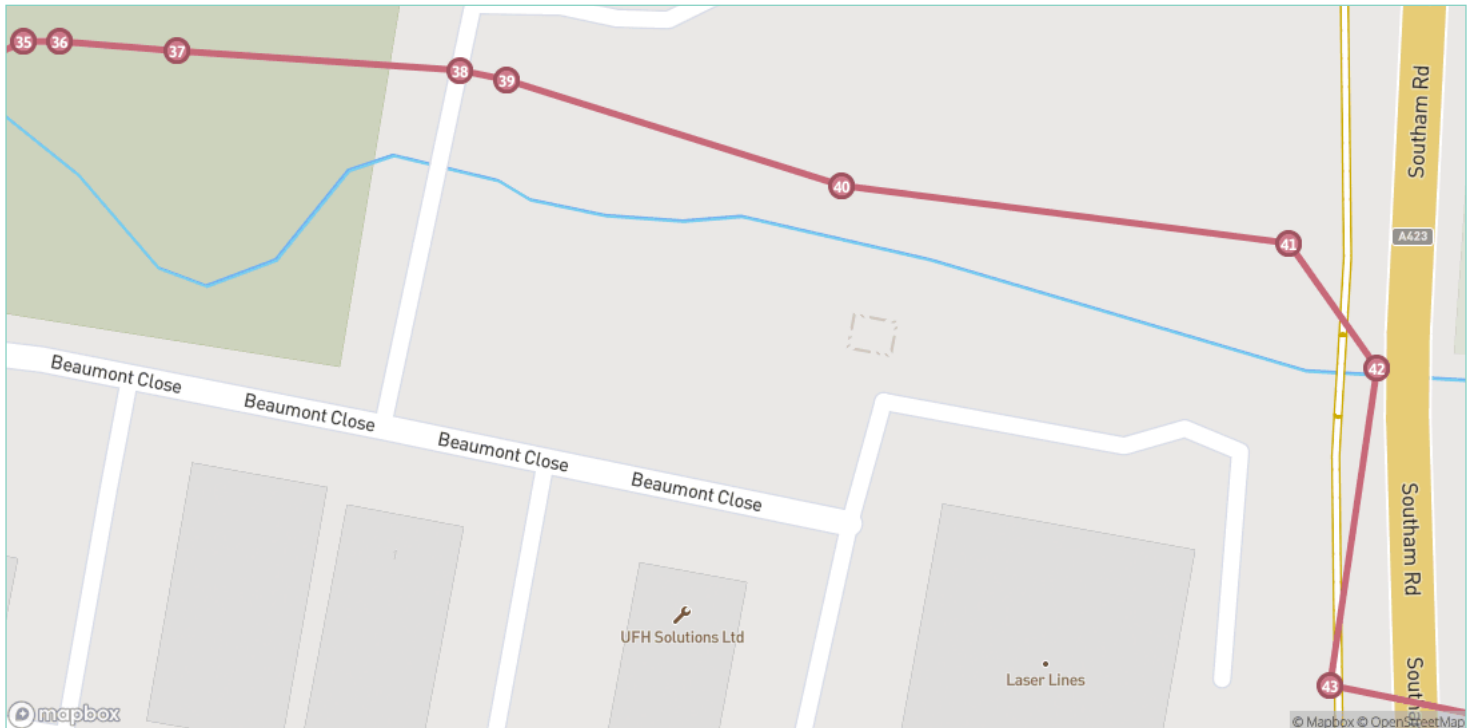
**Step 31:** You know you're going the right direction as you'll still see Banbury Fringe arrows. Head up the short hill straight ahead.

**Step 32:** On your left, you might see this unnatural looking rock and concrete formation. What do you think this was?

**Step 33:** Another view of the built up areas you're avoiding by sticking to this route along the top of the embankment!

**Step 34:** Carry straight on until the embankment ends.

**Step 35:** The path turns right and takes you steeply downhill.



**Step 36:** Take great care at this point as the path is very steep, although is zig zagged to reduce the slope.

**Step 37:** Turn left at the bottom onto the path which runs alongside a stream.

**Step 38:** Cross the paved access road.

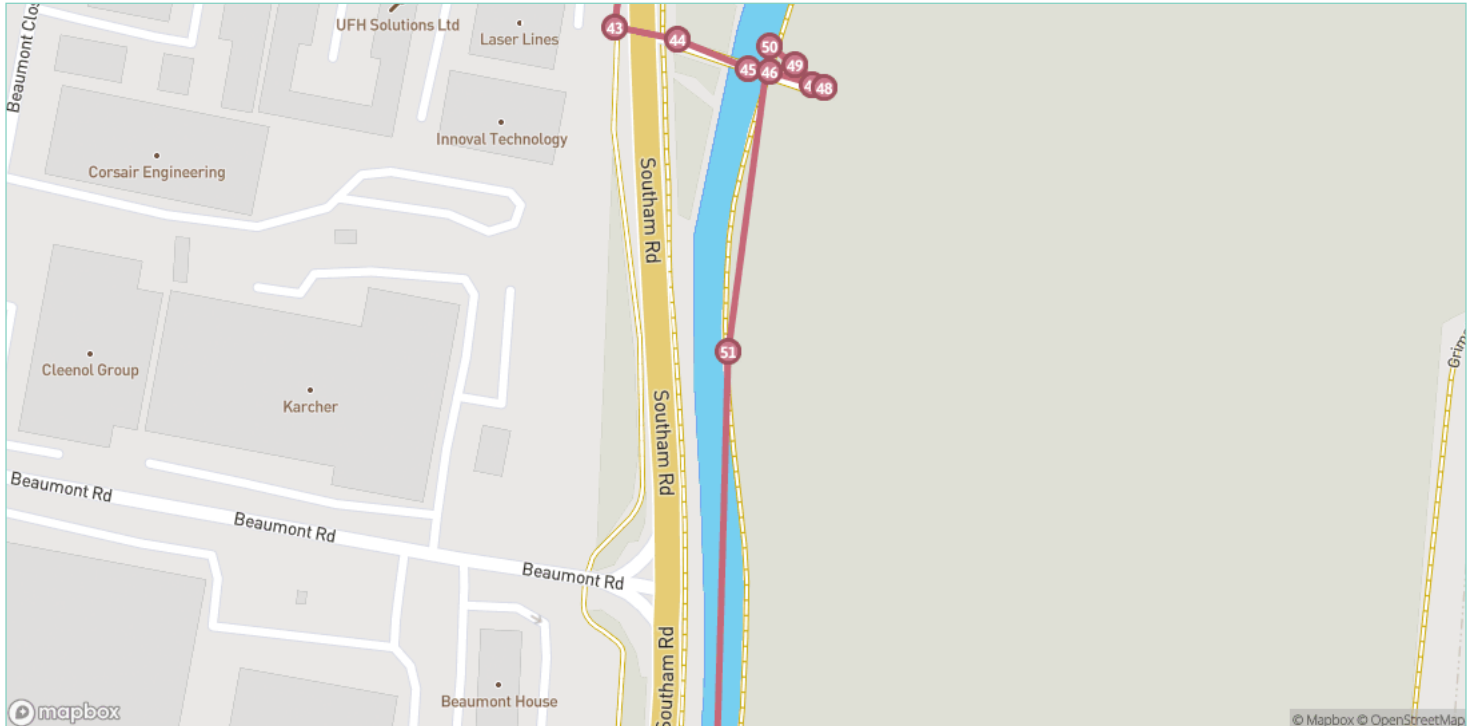
**Step 39:** Take the staircase down on the other side.

**Step 40:** This little stream will lead you back to the Oxford Canal.

**Step 41:** Southam Road can have lots of traffic. Turn right to walk along the pavement.

**Step 42:** You're headed for the canal bridge across the road. You'll see it shortly after you get to Southam Rd. Don't cross the road straight away.

**Step 43:** There is no controlled crossing point here and it's a busy road so take care. Cross quickly opposite the canal bridge only when it's clear.



**Step 44:** Walk up the ramp to cross the canal.

**Step 45:** And we're back! Recognise this view from earlier?

**Step 46:** Head down the ramp on the other side.

**Step 47:** Use caution - especially watching out for this hole in the concrete!

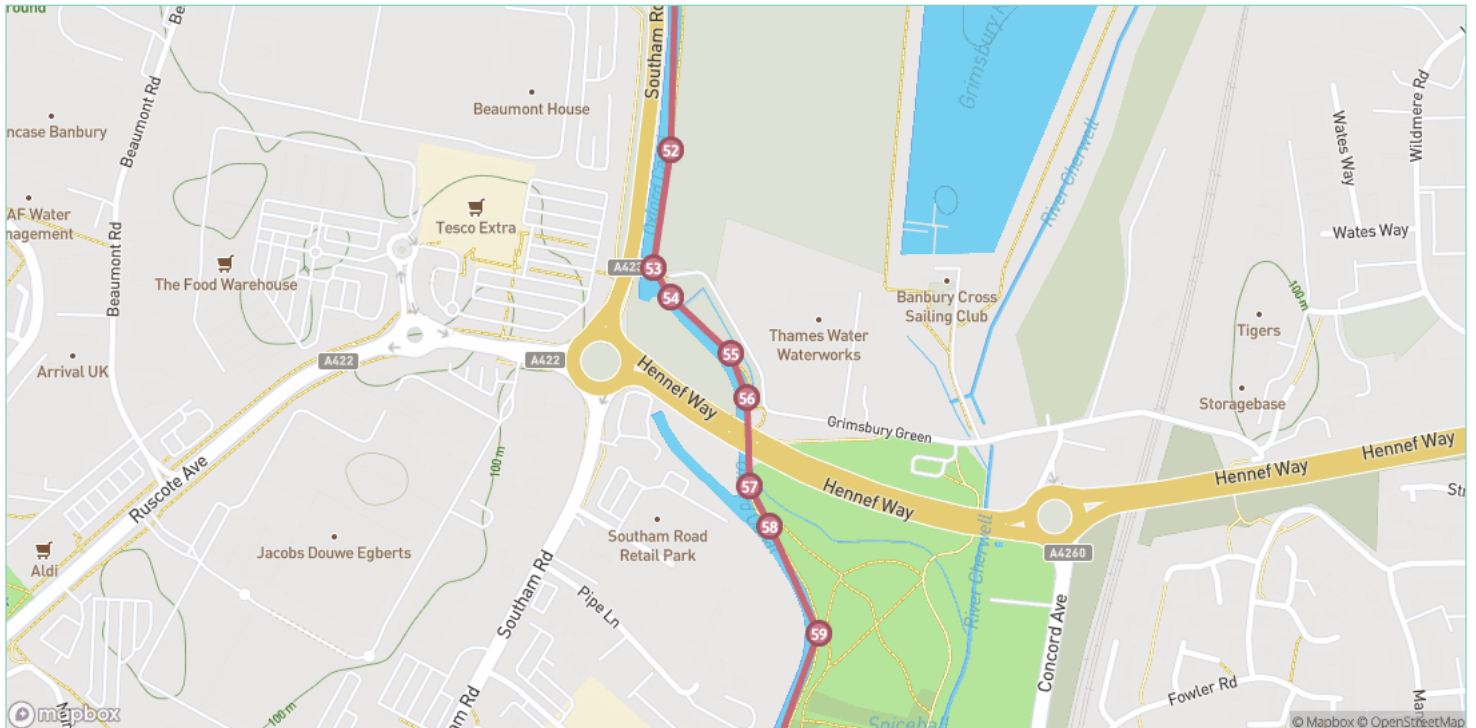
**Step 48:** At the bottom, follow the fenced walkway round to the left.

**Step 49:** Head back to the canal towpath, and turn left.

**Step 50:** This is Bridge 161, so do you have a sense of where we are and where we're headed?

**Step 51:** Back on the towpath, this time on the opposite side of Banbury. Now, you're headed south towards town.





**Step 52:** Through the fence on your left are some gorgeous green fields!

**Step 53:** The canal twists and turns, but navigation is simple - stick to the towpath!

**Step 54:** This is one of a series of water connections between the Oxford Canal and the River Cherwell, a few hundred metres to the east.

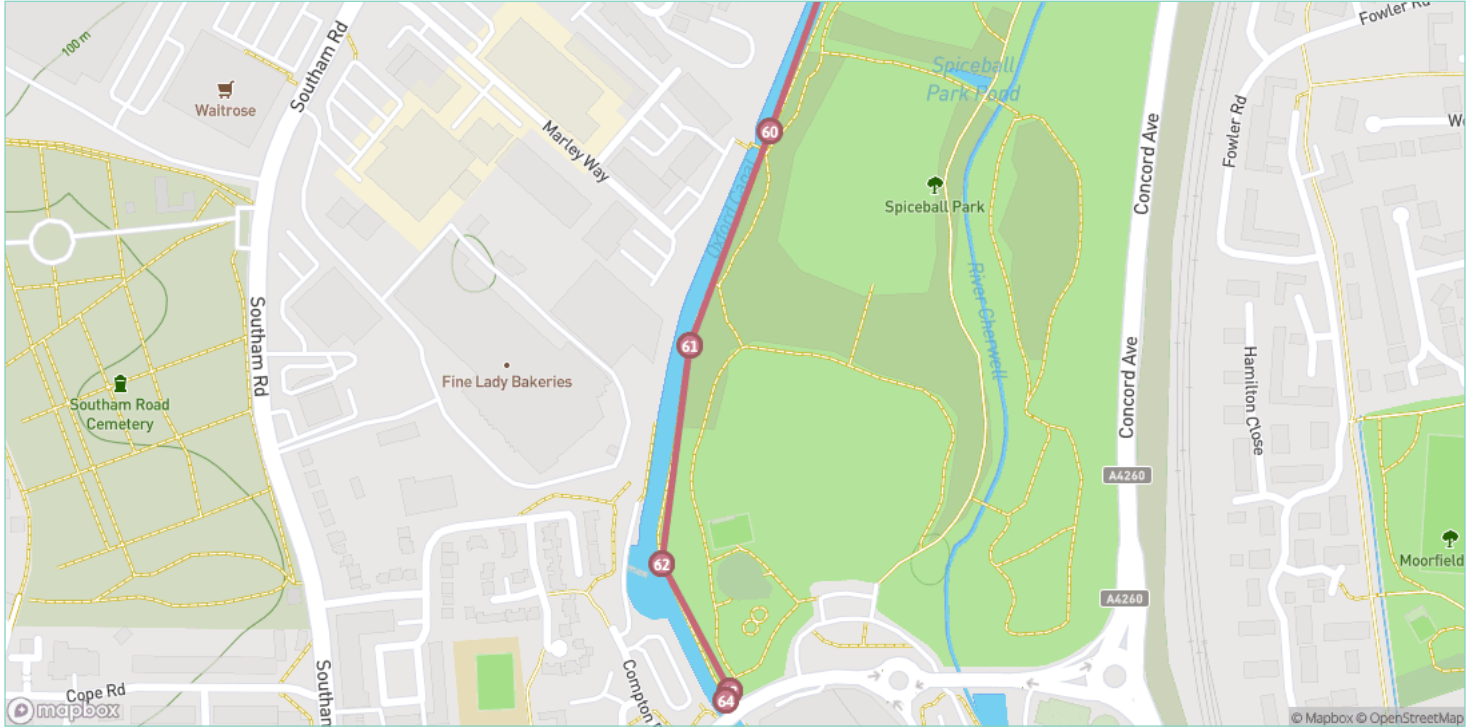
**Step 55:** -

**Step 56:** Even with traffic passing overhead, the canal path can be quite peaceful and pleasant.

**Step 57:** -

**Step 58:** Spotted any birds along this stretch of the canal??

**Step 59:** Check out the lovely tree decorations by local houseboat residents on your left.



**Step 60:** Bridge 163 - you're making your way back to town. Remember you started around 168?

**Step 61:** On your right is a food plant - can you smell the scent of baked goods?

**Step 62:** The Premier Inn building in the distance is your symbol that you're nearly back to the start.

**Step 63:** And that's it! If you haven't already, why not try out the other three linear segments of the Banbury Fringe Circular Challenge some time?

**Step 64:** We hope you enjoyed this one. They're each so unique, so there's always more to discover! Please note that you can use the B9 bus to get back to the start of this walk, getting off/on along Highlands.