



Thames Path South Bank Section 4a

Follow the Thames Path from the Thames Barrier to Tripcock Ness. Passing through Woolwich and Thamesmeade.

Distance 5.6 kilometers / 3.5 miles

Duration 2 hours



Wildlife



Water feature



Great views



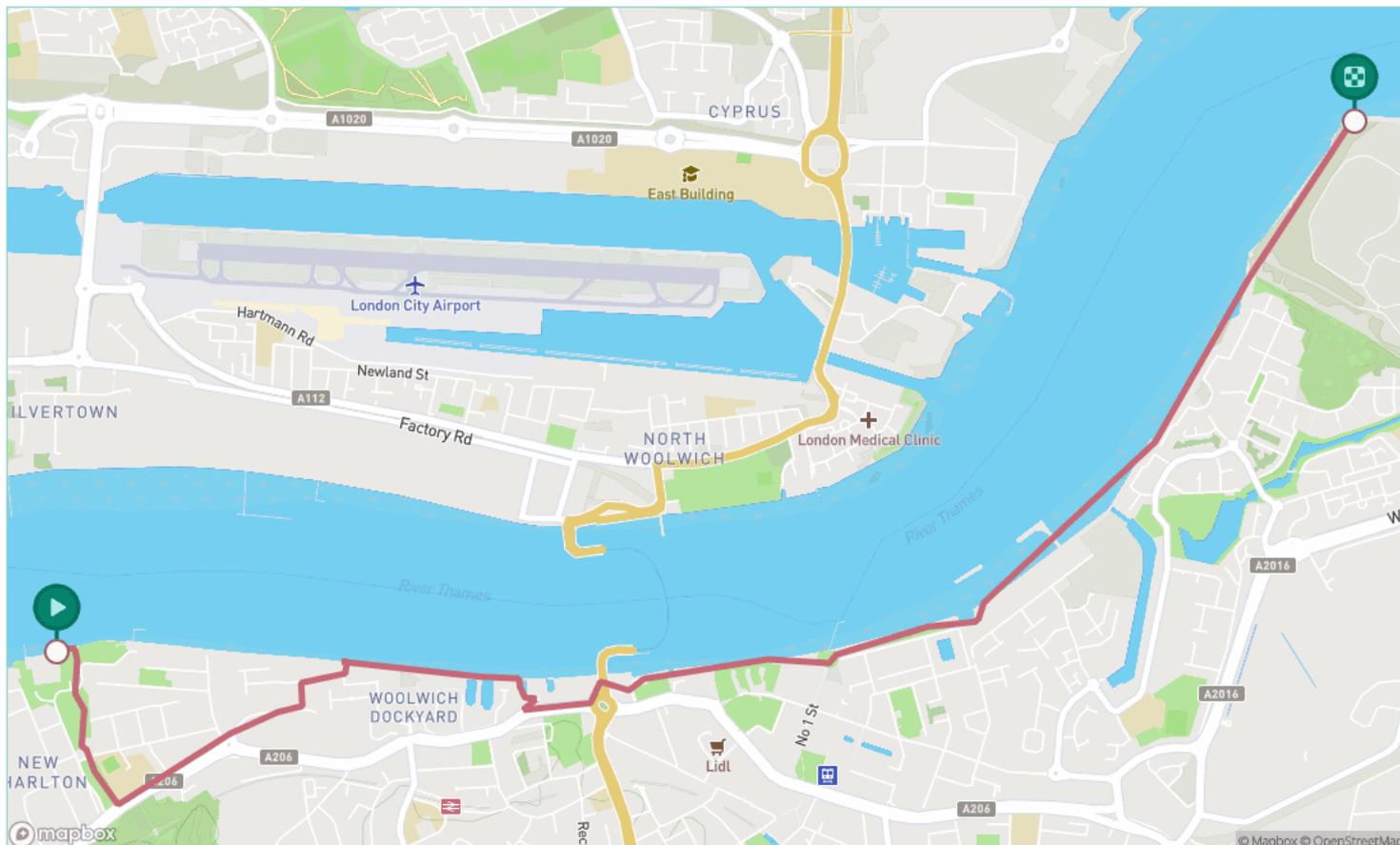
Public transport



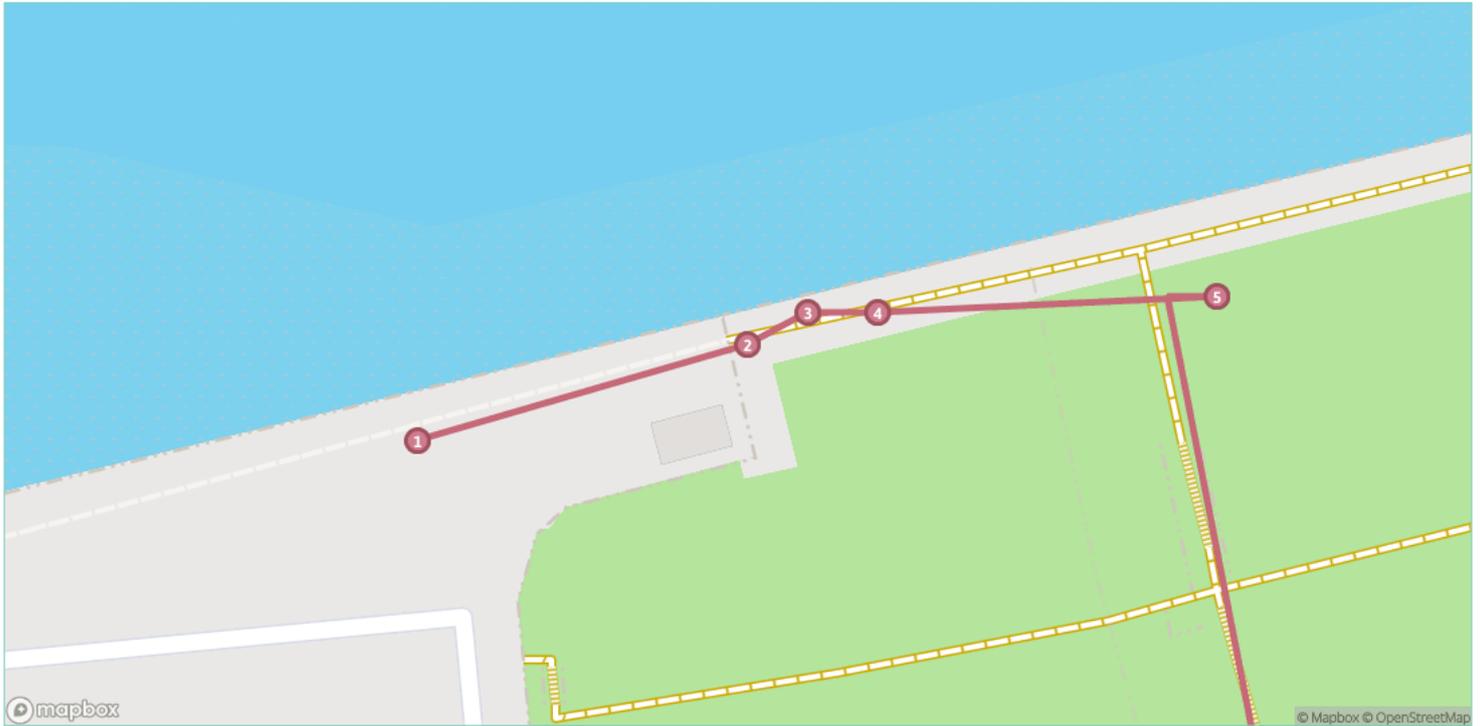
History



Dog friendly



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: 24 August 2022.



Step 1: Welcome to the Thames Path! This walk follows the South Bank of the iconic Thames Path National Trail from the Thames Barrier to Tripcock Ness.

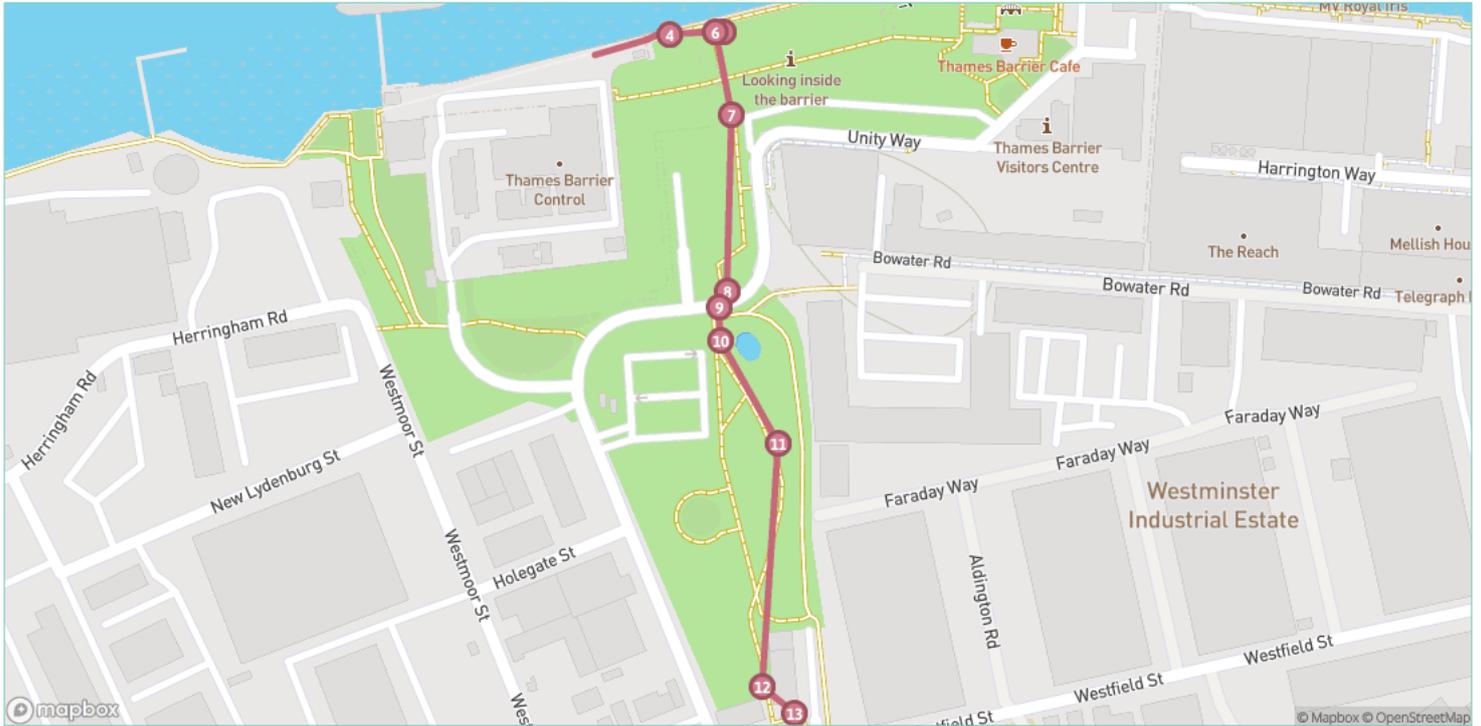
Step 2: To get here from Charlton Station, turn left out of the station and go ahead (across Woolwich Road) towards the river. Upon reaching the river, turn right and follow the Thames Path here.

Step 3: The hull-shaped cowls of the Thames Barrier make for an awesome introduction to this section.

Did you know?

This feat of modern engineering is the defence that protects 1.25 million Londoners, 26 Tube stations and over 4,000 properties from the increasing risk of flooding due to rising water levels and 'surge tides'. Conceived after 300 people died in the flood of 1953, it finally opened in 1982. The Barrier will serve until at least 2030. The round-the-clock control room receives up to 36 hour advance warnings of surge tides from satellites and other sources, and the Barrier closes four hours before high tide. Full closure takes 30 minutes, raising six gates and lowering four.

Step 4: This feat of modern engineering is the defence that protects 1.25 million Londoners, 26 Tube stations, and over 4,000 properties from the increasing risk of flooding and "surge tides." It finally opened in 1982.



Step 5: From the barrier, the first part of the walk is slightly away from the river, shared with the Green Chain Walk (also in the Go Jauntly app).

Step 6: To begin, go up this set of stairs to your right and straight back down the other side.

Step 7: Head straight through the park in front of you.

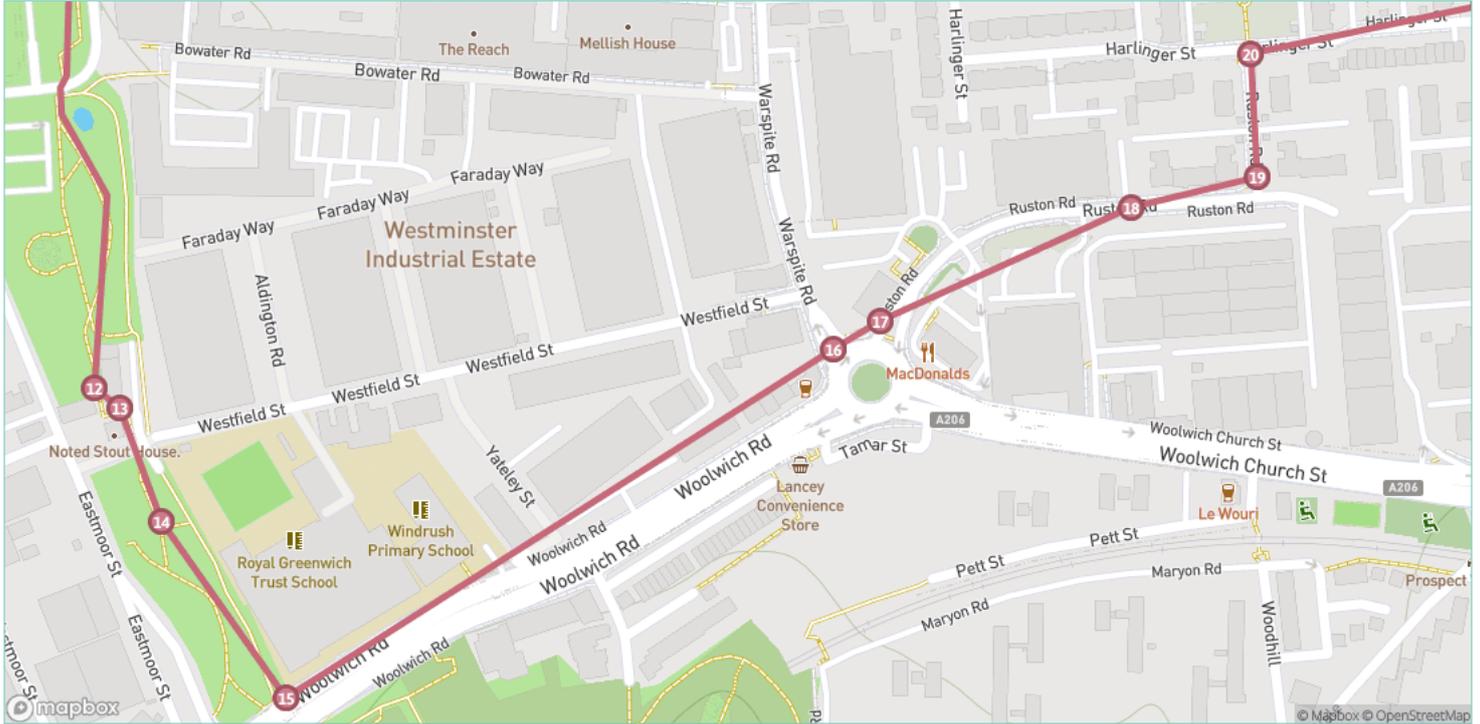
Step 8: At Unit Way, cross to the other side...

Step 9: ... and continue straight ahead, walking along the fence on your right.

Step 10: There's many paths through this park. Don't fret if you get confused. Here, veer left.

Step 11: The Thames Path barge symbol will help guide you along the way on this segment.

Step 12: You'll soon end up along this brick building. Turn left just after it.



Step 13: Next, turn right to cross over Eastmoor Place.

Step 14: Re-enter the green corridor by following the paved path straight ahead.

Step 15: Turn left at Woolwich Road, leaving the Green Chain Walk.

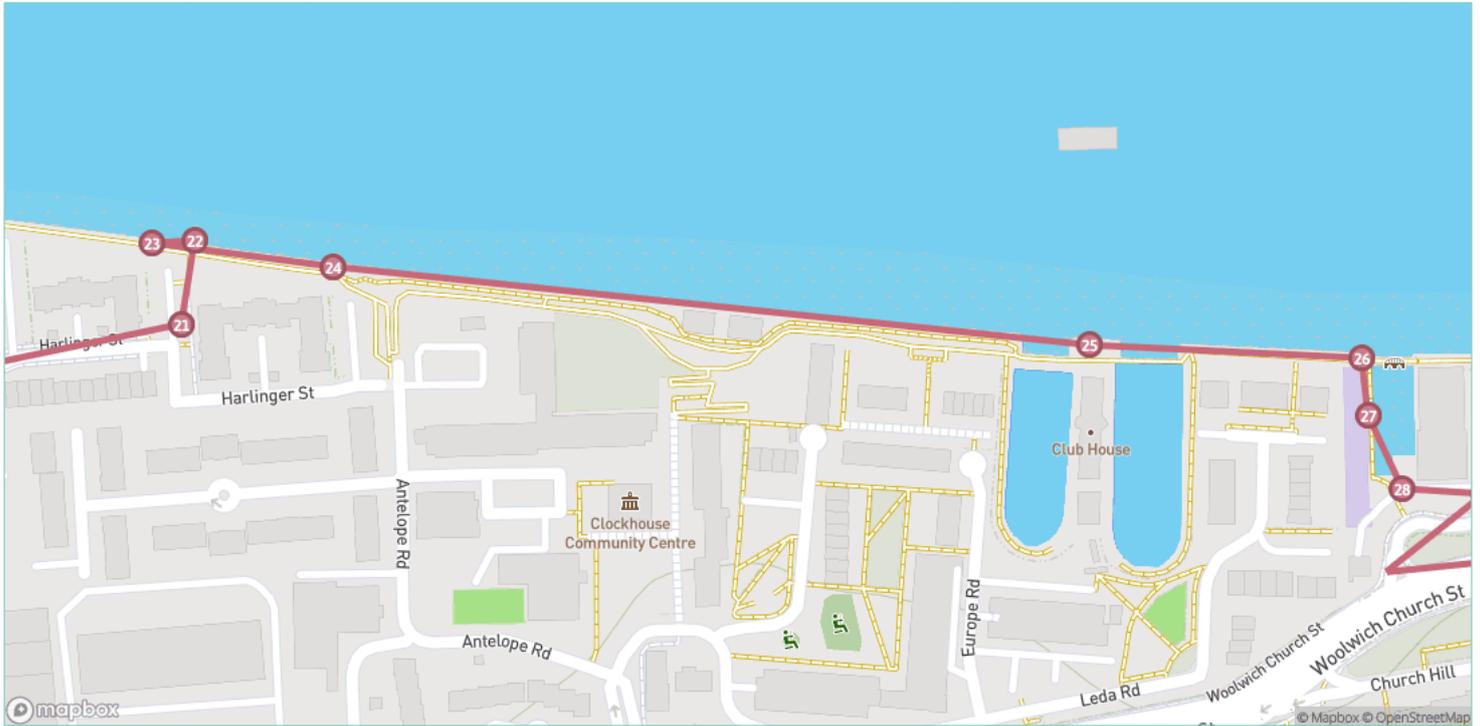
Step 16: At the roundabout, cross over Warspite Road and go right on the other side.

Step 17: Take your first left onto Ruston Road.

Step 18: Follow the Ruston Road round as it bends to the right.

Step 19: Turn left to continue on Ruston Road.

Step 20: At the T-junction, turn right onto Harlinger Street.



Step 21: Walk through the car park on your left and pick up the riverside route once again.

Step 22: Just across the river is the Tate & Lyle Thames Refinery, the largest sugar refinery in the EU and one of the largest in the world!

Step 23: The route continues to the right, but to the left you can see the Thames Barrier and, in the distance the high rise towers of Canary Wharf.

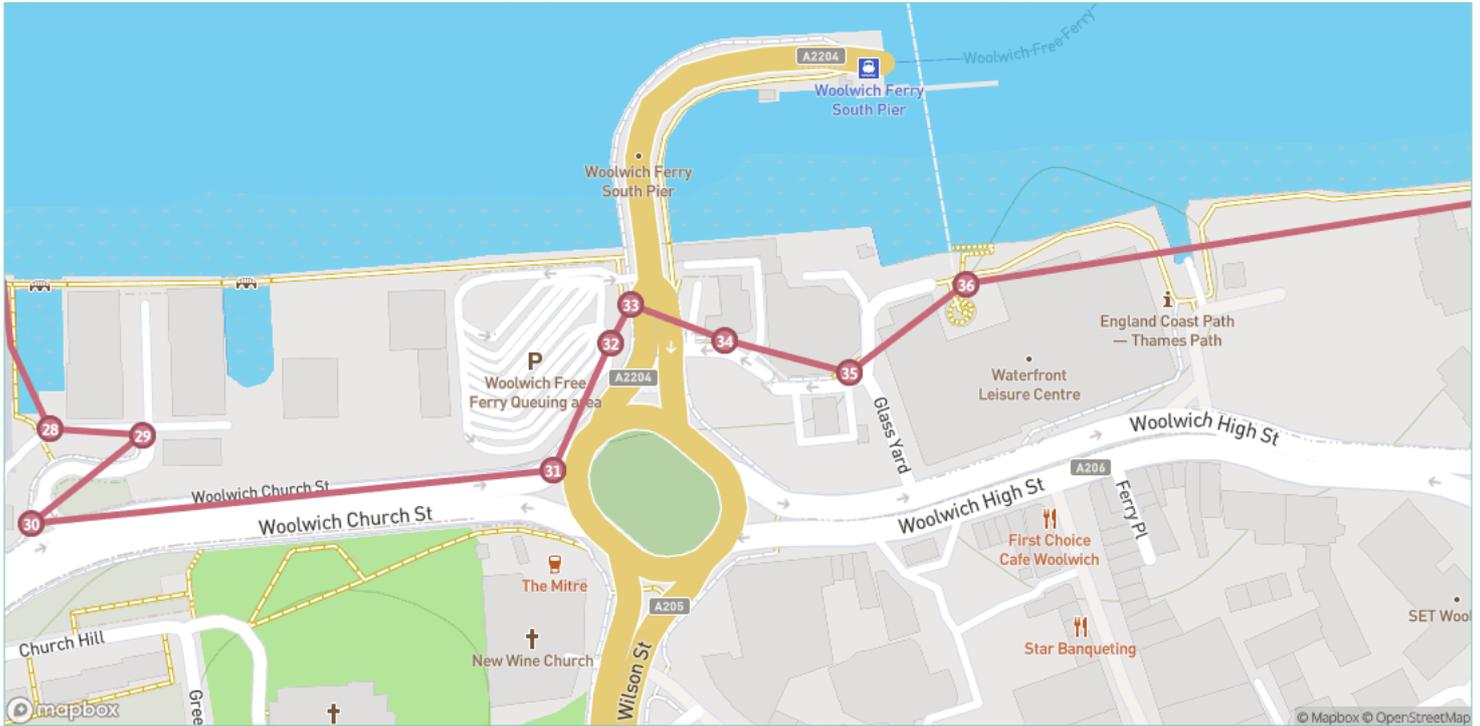
Step 24: At the white staircase here, you can either go up and over or take the ramp to the right.

Step 25: Keep following the paved path along the river. There's loads to discover on the way.

Step 26: You may encounter a diversion from the river here.

Step 27: If you do, follow the diversion to the right and walk along the building side.

Step 28: Turn left to walk through the car park.



Step 29: Next, turn right to walk up the property access road as it slopes up towards Woolwich Church Street.

Step 30: Turn left to walk along the busy Woolwich Church Street for a short stretch.

Step 31: At the roundabout, follow the pavement to the left.

Step 32: This landmark is the Woolwich Free Ferry. This free service for vehicles and passengers dates from 1889, but there has been a ferry across the river here for many centuries.

Step 33: Cross over the Ferry Approach Road at the pedestrian crossing and turn right at the other side.

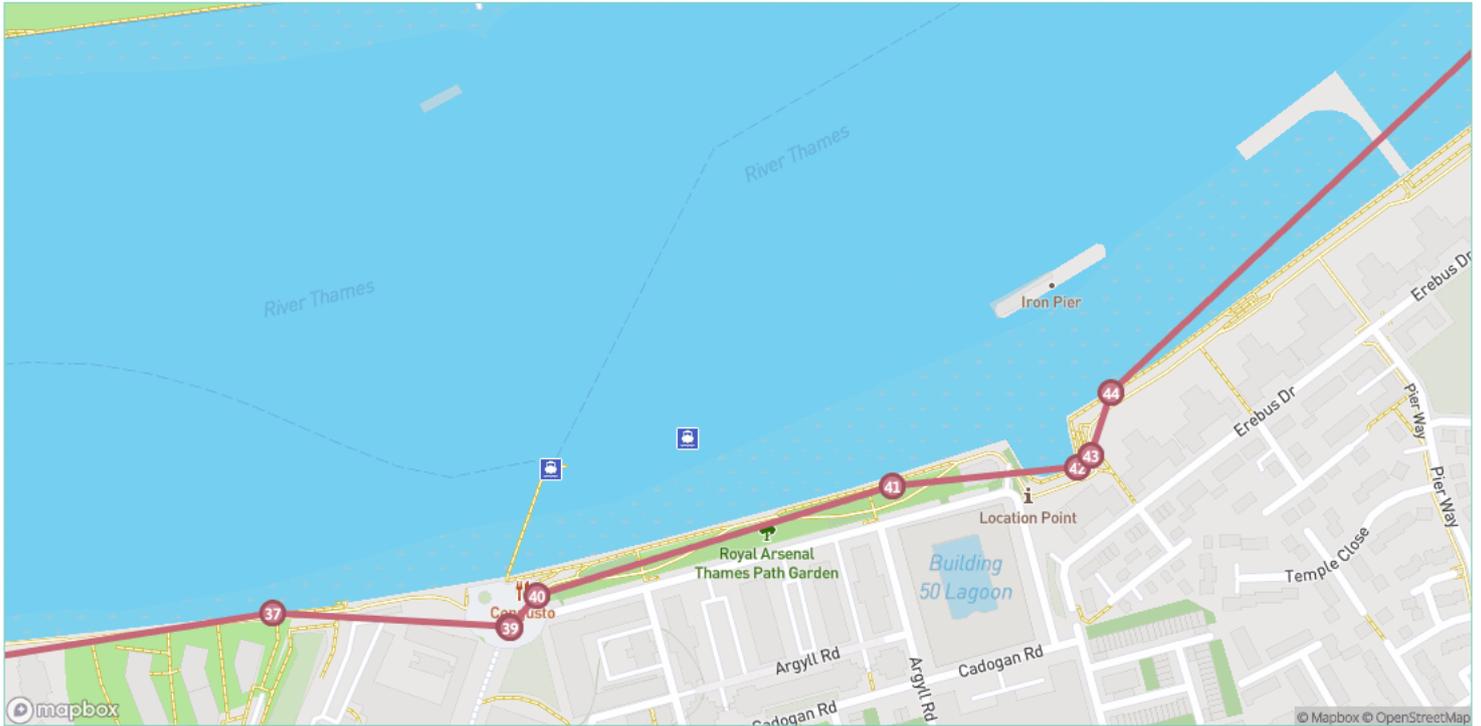
Step 34: Take the access road on your left down a slope.

Step 35: Follow the road around the back of the Waterfront Leisure Centre to reach the river again.

Step 36: Find the rotunda for the lift and stairs to the Woolwich Foot Tunnel. The Capital Ring and Jubilee Greenway walks pass this point, too.

Did you know?

Built in 1912, as an alternative to the Free Ferry, the tunnel was used by thousands of workers who had previously lost wages whenever the ferry was delayed by fog. This is also the starting point for the Capital Ring walk, part of the Walk London Network.



Step 37: Continue along the riverside route. It is worth glancing back for superb views of the O2 arena and Canary Wharf.

Step 38: You're now coming into Woolwich, an area famous for shipbuilding, then munitions, in the time of Henry VIII.

Did you know?

In 1805 George III changed its name to Royal Arsenal Woolwich.

Step 39: The Royal Arsenal flourished during World War I, when some 80,000 people were employed here.

Did you know?

The Royal Ordnance Factory closed in 1967 and much of the area has since been redeveloped. Nearby is also 'Firepower' - the Royal Artillery Museum.

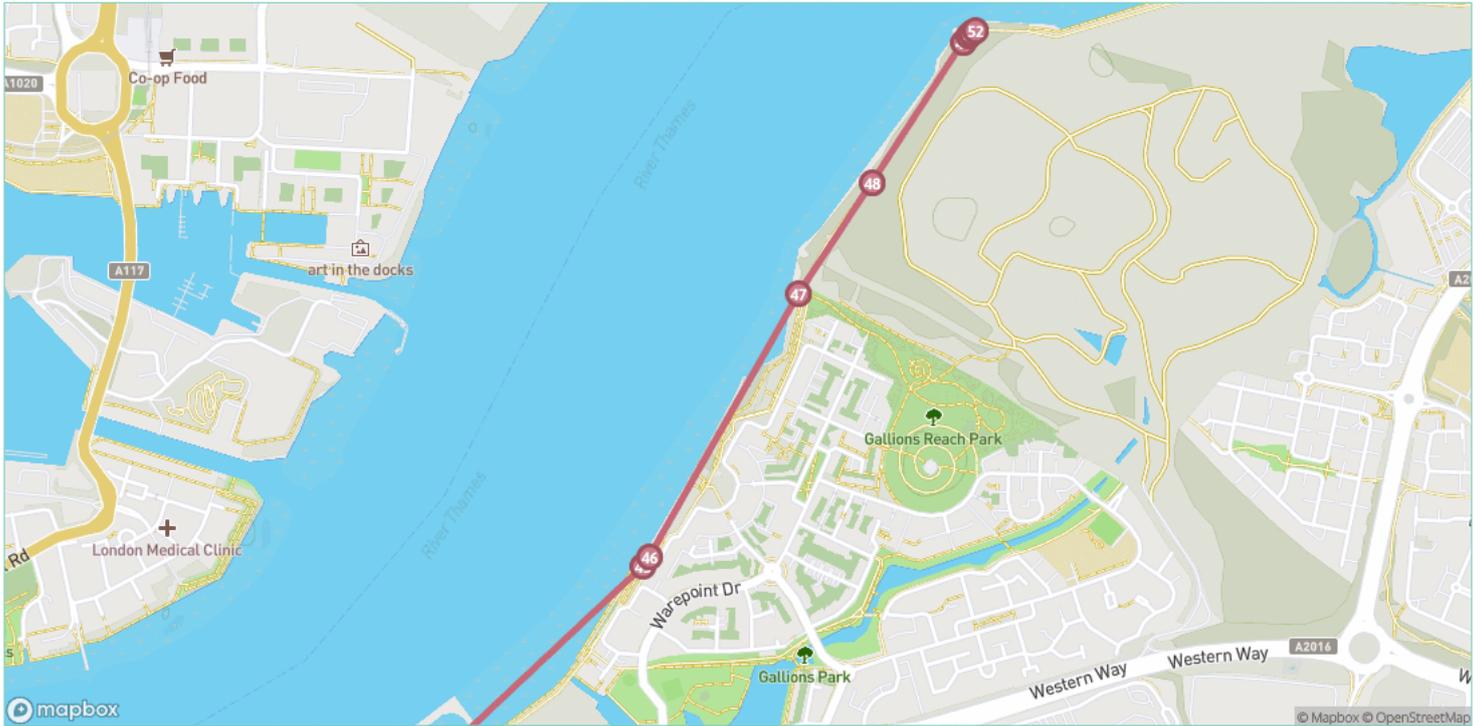
Step 40: Carry on along the Thames Path, with the river on the left.

Step 41: Follow the landscaped promenade past former artillery buildings and new apartments.

Step 42: Every so often, the path has to go around an inlet.

Step 43: At the blue fencing, take the ramp down to the walkway on the lower level.

Step 44: Along this stretch, the river is lined by historic and disused pier structures.



Step 45: As the path enters the Thamesmead area, it goes from paved to gravel. Pass through the gate to continue on ahead.

Step 46: The river begins to broaden out into Gallions Reach.

Step 47: On the other side of the river is the entrance to the King George V Dock.

Did you know?

The dock was just barely big enough to take the Mauritania in 1939, with inches to spare!

Step 48: The path briefly returns to pavement as the view of the river is sometimes blocked by the surrounding vegetation.

Step 49: Soon, you will come to Tripcock Ness.

Step 50: Across the river, you might spot two 60 metre towers that operate the drop-gate flood barrier that guards the mouth of Barking Creek.

Step 51: This is the end of this segment of the Thames Path. To return, you can retrace your steps back towards Woolwich, or continue on and catch a bus in Thamesmead.

Step 52: You've now completed this section of the Thames Path. How about moving on to the next section towards the Crossness Incinerator?