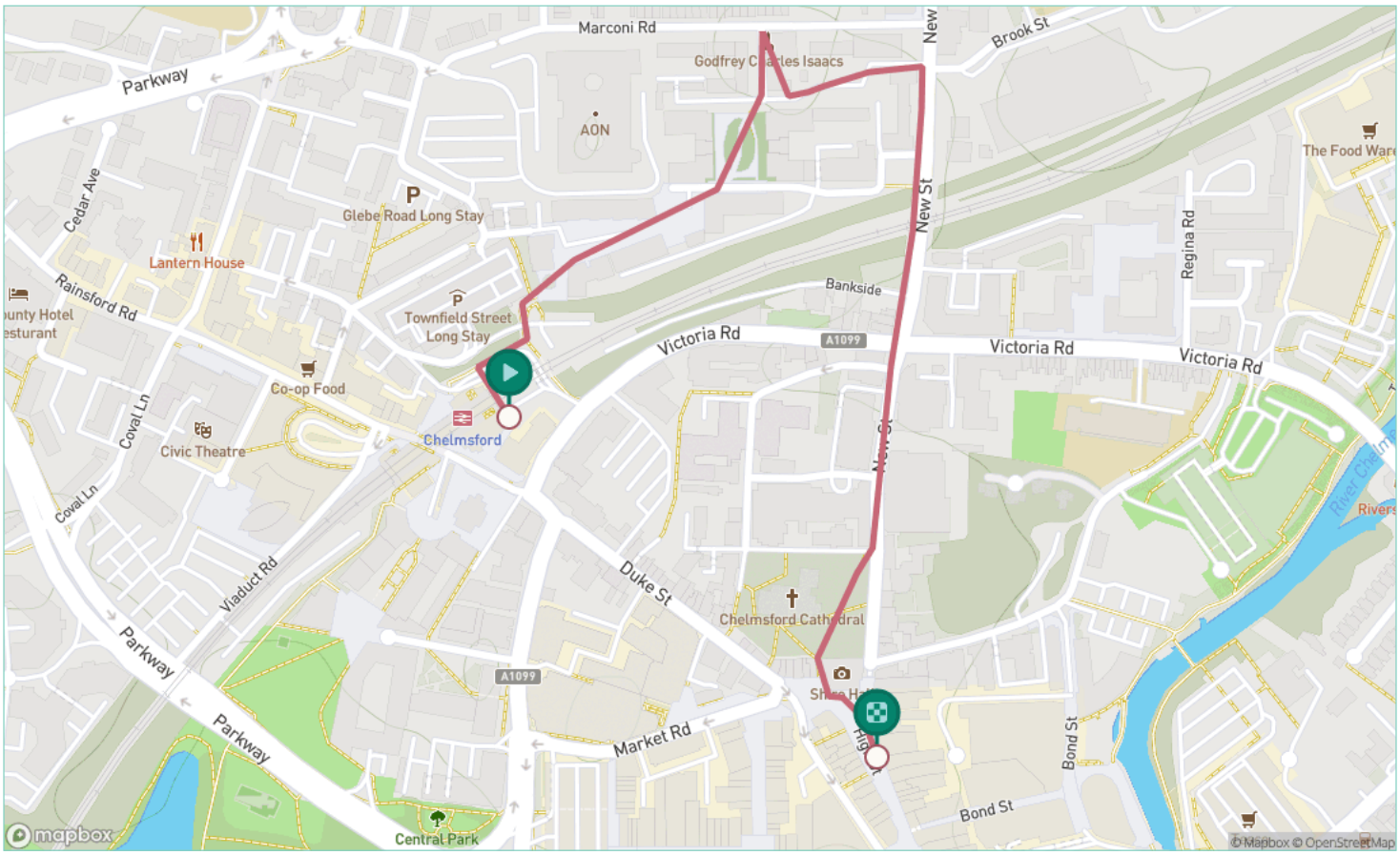
# Marconi Trail - Step Free Route

Walk from the rail station to the High Street, via remains of Chelmsford's historical links to Marconi and the early days of wireless radio.

**Distance** 1.2 kilometers / 0.7 miles
**Duration** 30 minutes

Wheel friendly | Refreshments | Public transport | History | Dog friendly | Child friendly

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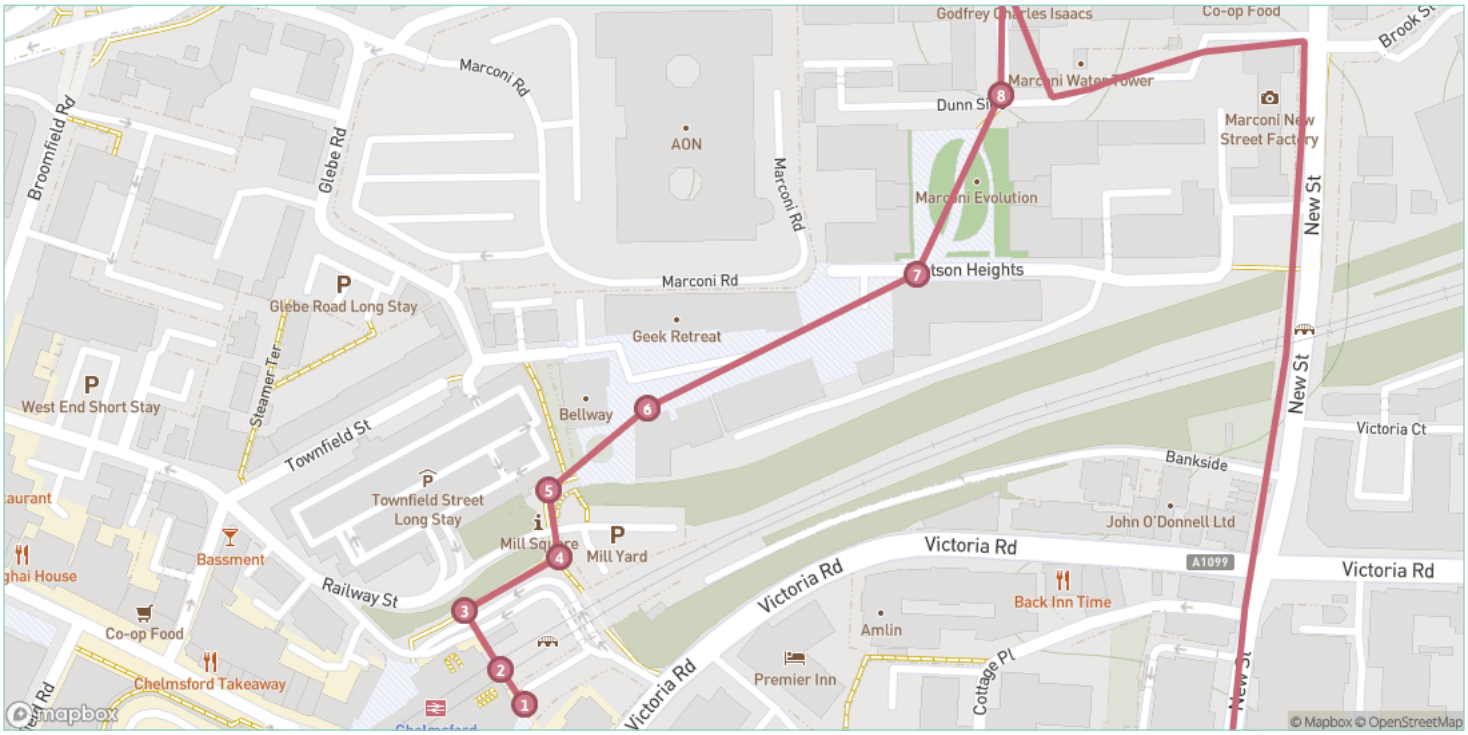


**Step 1:** Welcome to Chelmsford! This is a step-free walk to the High Street. It begins at the main entrance of the railway station.

**Step 2:** You can walk around the station or through it, as our route doesn't require you to pass through any ticket gates.

**Step 3:** Exit the rail station building and turn right on the shared path. There will be a brick wall to your left.

**Step 4:** Turn left at the end of the path. This is Mill Square, named after the former mills located along the railway. After the bridge, turn right.

**Step 5:** The whole area has been redeveloped but there are still signs of its past as you'll soon see. Continue past the tree to the other corner.

**Step 6:** You're now in "Cunard Square" the name of which represents the close link between Marconi radios and Cunard ships. Continue straight.

**Step 7:** Stick to the blue line as it snakes its way through the plaza.

**Step 8:** Walk down Dunn Side road. You're heading to the building at the end on the right hand side, where Dunn Side meets Marconi Road.

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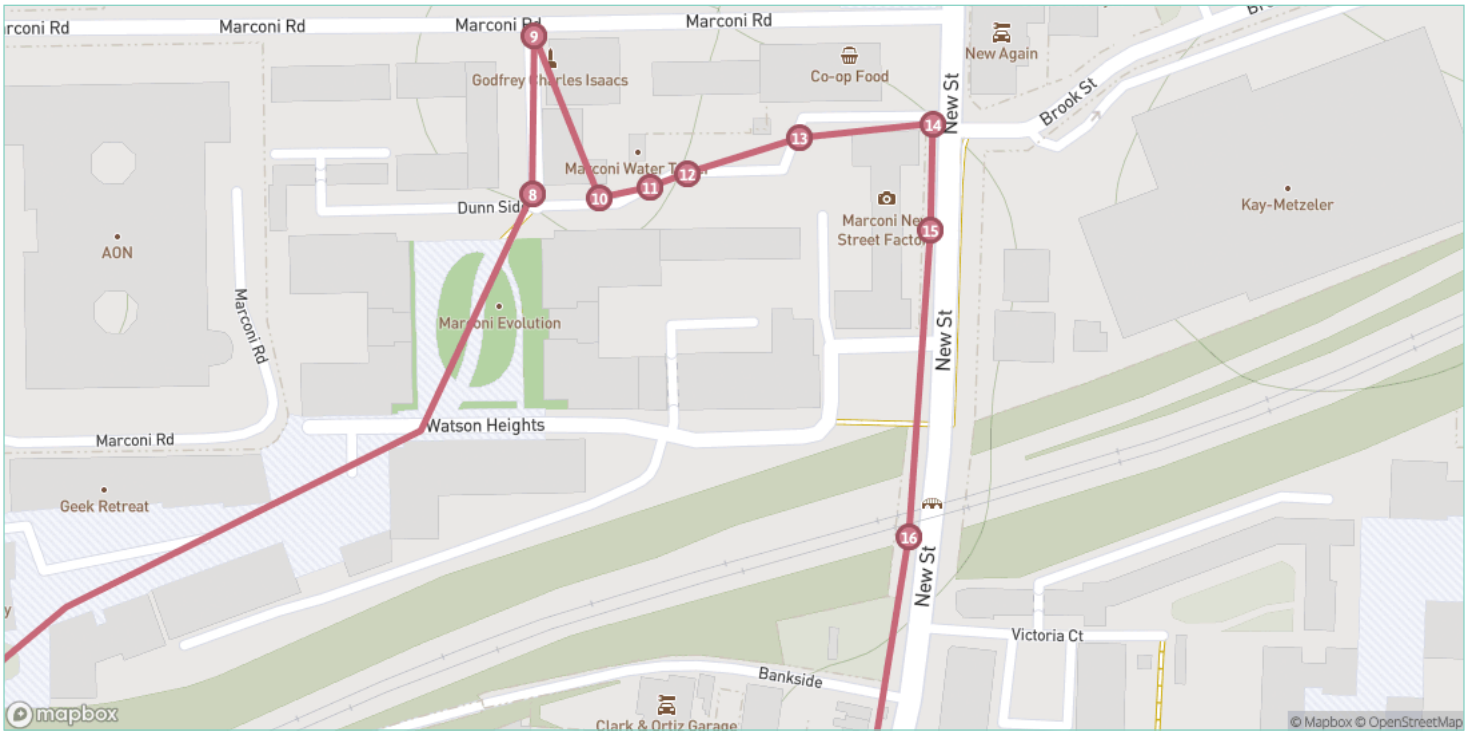


**Step 9:** This building is the former pump house. Note the blue plaque to Godfrey Isaacs, managing director of The Marconi Company from 1910-1924.

**Step 10:** Return the way you came along Dunn Side road. Turn left at the junction to follow the blue line in the pavement towards the clock tower.

**Step 11:** On your left is the old water tower from Marconi's New Street Works factory.

**Step 12:** A few steps ahead, the exposed steel beams are from the original factory.

**Step 13:** The clock tower is at the rear of the Marconi building. Continue along Dunn Side so that we can pop around to its front.

**Step 14:** Turn right at the junction and follow the pavement along New Street.

**Step 15:** This is the world's first purpose-built wireless factory. It was from behind here that Dame Nellie Melba made her famous broadcast in 1920.

**Step 16:** Continue following the pavement under the railway viaduct.

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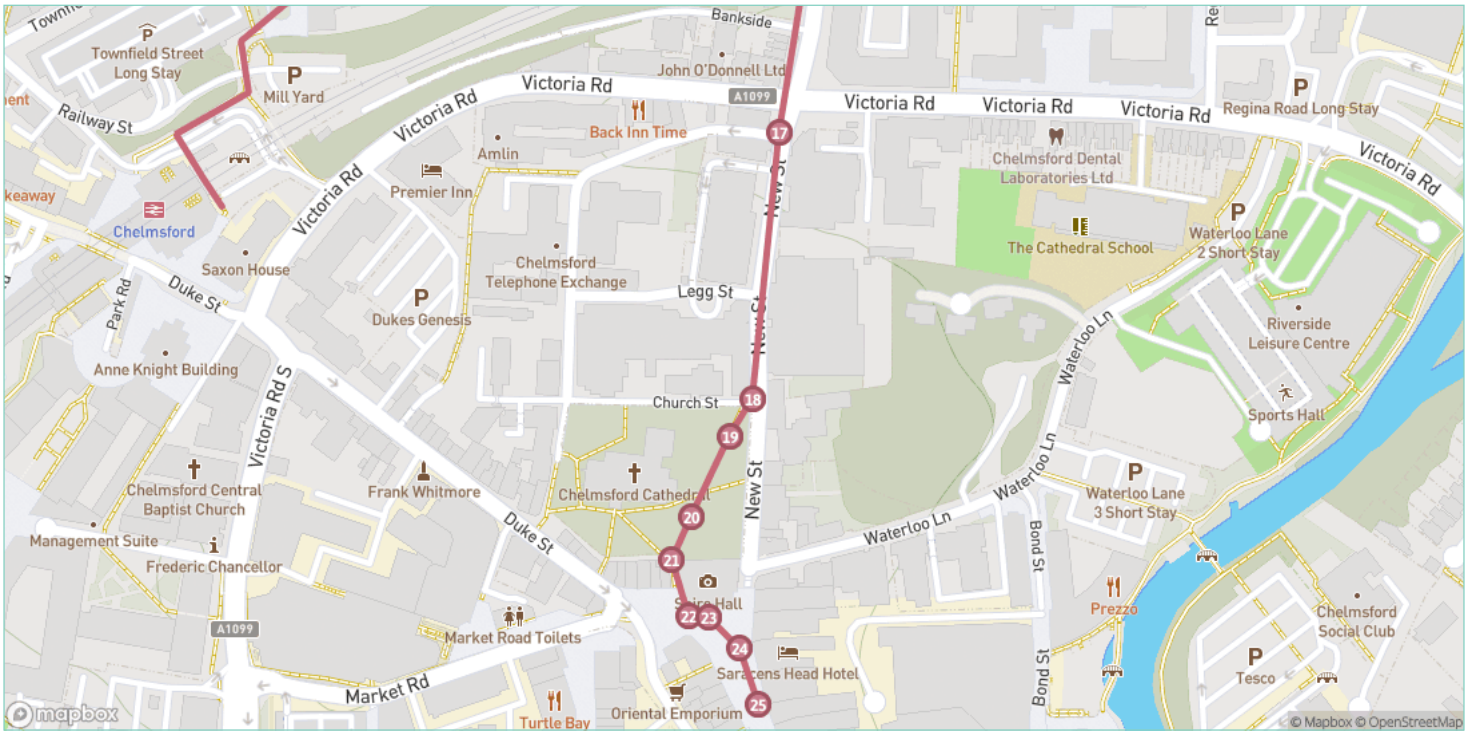


**Step 17:** Cross Victoria Road and any other side roads, continuing ahead on the right-hand side of New Street.

**Step 18:** Turn right into Church Street.

**Step 19:** Cross Church St and enter the churchyard of the Chelmsford Cathedral, parts of which date back to the 13th century.

**Step 20:** Continue on the path straight ahead, following the paving stones towards the gap in the buildings.

**Step 21:** The blue plaque on the right honours Thomas Hooker, a "Father of American Democracy," who lived and preached for a time in Chelmsford.

**Step 22:** Head through the footpath to Shire Hall. It was designed by John Johnson and opened in 1791. It housed the County Court until 2012.

**Step 23:** Follow the pavement around to the front of Shire Hall, with the hall on your left. Across the street, you'll see the Saracen's Head Hotel.

**Step 24:** On the wall of the hotel is a blue plaque for Guglielmo Marconi, who stayed at the hotel when visiting Chelmsford between 1912 and 1928.

**Step 25:** Straight ahead of you is the High Street, with lots of shops and restaurants. Feel free to take your time exploring. Don't forget to check out some of our other walks too!

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