



## Thames Path north bank



Section 1 of 4

Hampton Court Palace to Albert Bridge

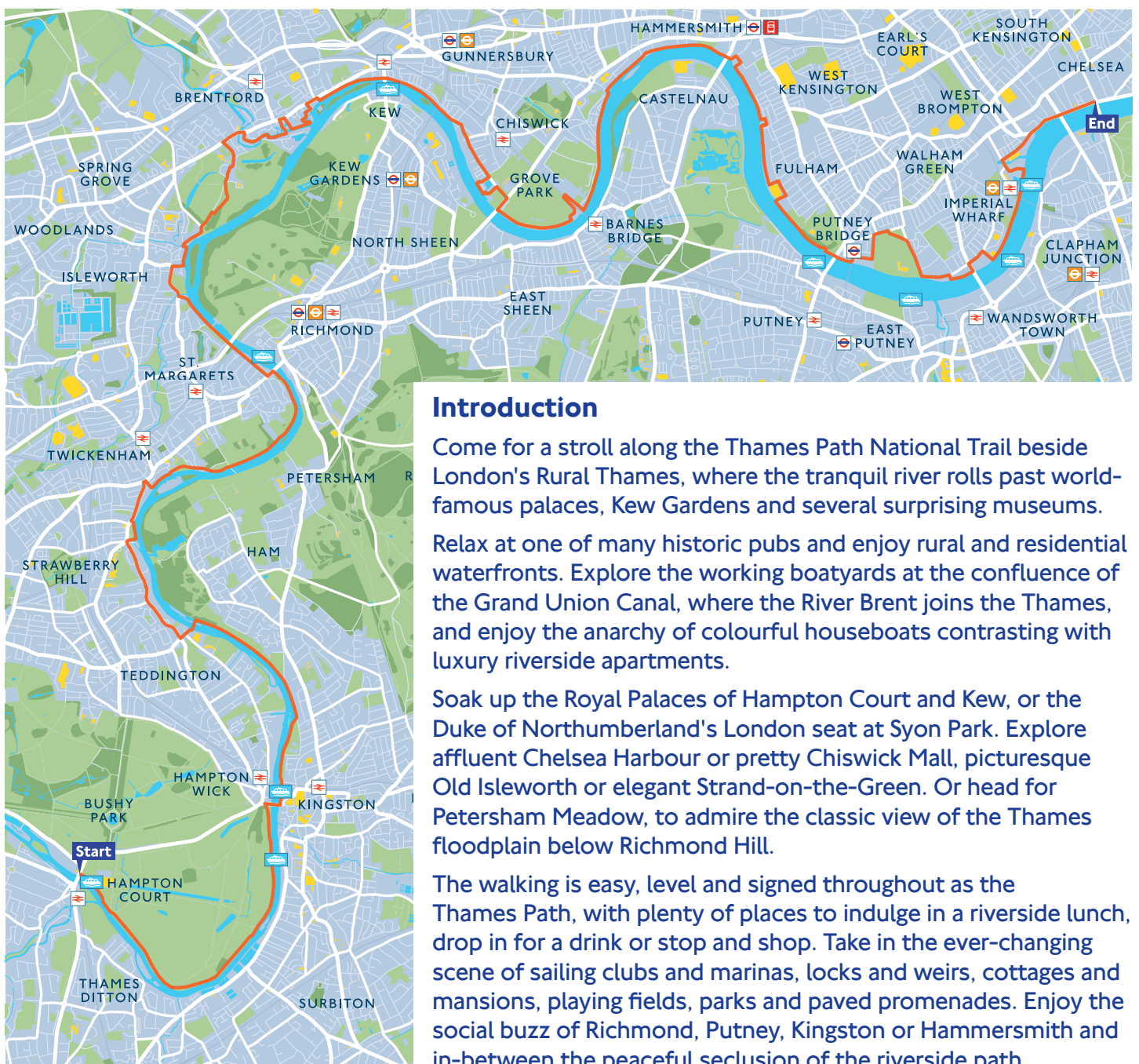
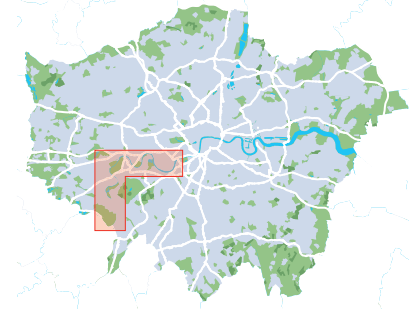
**Section start:** Hampton Court Palace

**Nearest stations to start:** Hampton Court

**Section finish:** Albert Bridge

**Nearest stations to finish:** Cadogan Pier or bus route 170 from Albert Bridge / Cadogan Pier to Victoria

**Section distance:** 23 miles (37 kilometres)



### Introduction

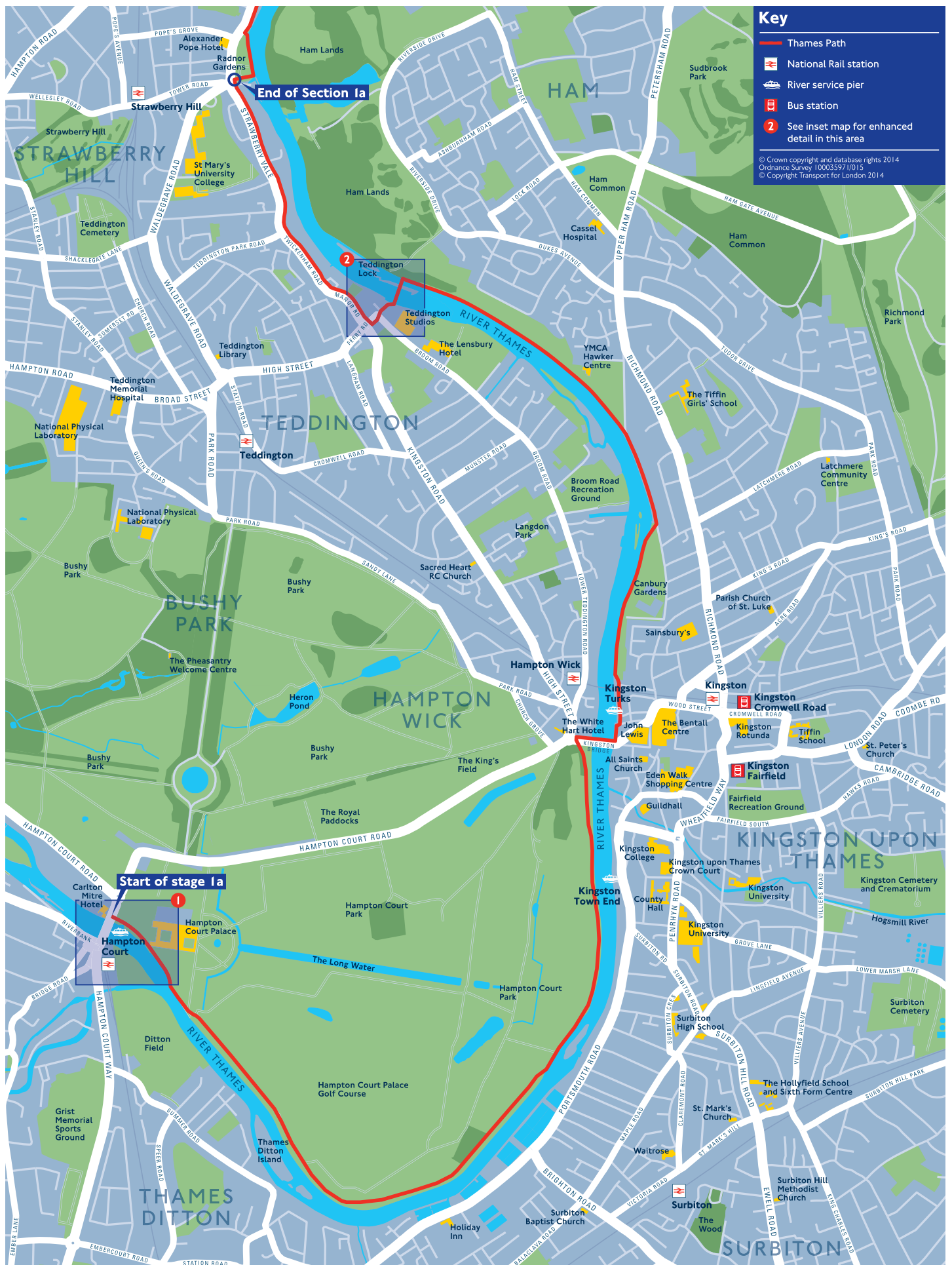
Come for a stroll along the Thames Path National Trail beside London's Rural Thames, where the tranquil river rolls past world-famous palaces, Kew Gardens and several surprising museums.

Relax at one of many historic pubs and enjoy rural and residential waterfronts. Explore the working boatyards at the confluence of the Grand Union Canal, where the River Brent joins the Thames, and enjoy the anarchy of colourful houseboats contrasting with luxury riverside apartments.

Soak up the Royal Palaces of Hampton Court and Kew, or the Duke of Northumberland's London seat at Syon Park. Explore affluent Chelsea Harbour or pretty Chiswick Mall, picturesque Old Isleworth or elegant Strand-on-the-Green. Or head for Petersham Meadow, to admire the classic view of the Thames floodplain below Richmond Hill.

The walking is easy, level and signed throughout as the Thames Path, with plenty of places to indulge in a riverside lunch, drop in for a drink or stop and shop. Take in the ever-changing scene of sailing clubs and marinas, locks and weirs, cottages and mansions, playing fields, parks and paved promenades. Enjoy the social buzz of Richmond, Putney, Kingston or Hammersmith and in-between the peaceful seclusion of the riverside path.

# Hampton Court Palace to Radnor Gardens - section 1a



**Key**

- Thames Path
- National Rail station
- River service pier
- Bus station
- 2 See inset map for enhanced detail in this area

© Crown copyright and database rights 2014  
Ordnance Survey 100035971/015  
© Copyright Transport for London 2014

**Section 1a start:** Hampton Court Palace  
**Section 1a finish:** Radnor Gardens  
**Section distance:** 6 miles (9.5 kilometres)

## Directions

**1** Meet up with the Thames Path beside the river at Hampton Court Palace, which dates back to Henry VIII and Tudor times.

From Hampton Court station cross Hampton Court Bridge and turn right into Hampton Court Palace. Set off south east away from the bridge on the north side of the river beside its long, mellow brick wall which gives way to a stretch of ornamental railings, treating passers-by to sudden views of the elaborate formal gardens.

As the willows and anglers give way to the boats and houses of Thames Ditton Island, the path enters the Barge Walk, making a left-hand sweep around Hampton Court Park and Golf Course. Rounding Hampton Court Park, the path opens out to the view of the Thames Sailing Club boats and the little island of Ravens Ait.

The river completes its curve to reveal the graceful arches of Kingston Bridge, faced with mellow Portland stone. Mature trees shade the path leading to the bridge with swans, geese and houseboats crowding the water's edge. Take the slope left up to Kingston Bridge, cross the river and go down (via steps) to the waterfront beside John Lewis. Walk north behind Kingston Turks Pier, and under the railway bridge into Canbury Gardens.

With a leafy vista in front opening up, follow the waterside to the end of the gardens then briefly join the Lower Ham Road, as it hugs the riverside. As the road bears right, cross onto the riverside gravel path by Trowlock Island. There is a viewpoint here.

Carry on along the path until reaching the major infrastructure of Teddington Weir and Lock.



### Did you know?

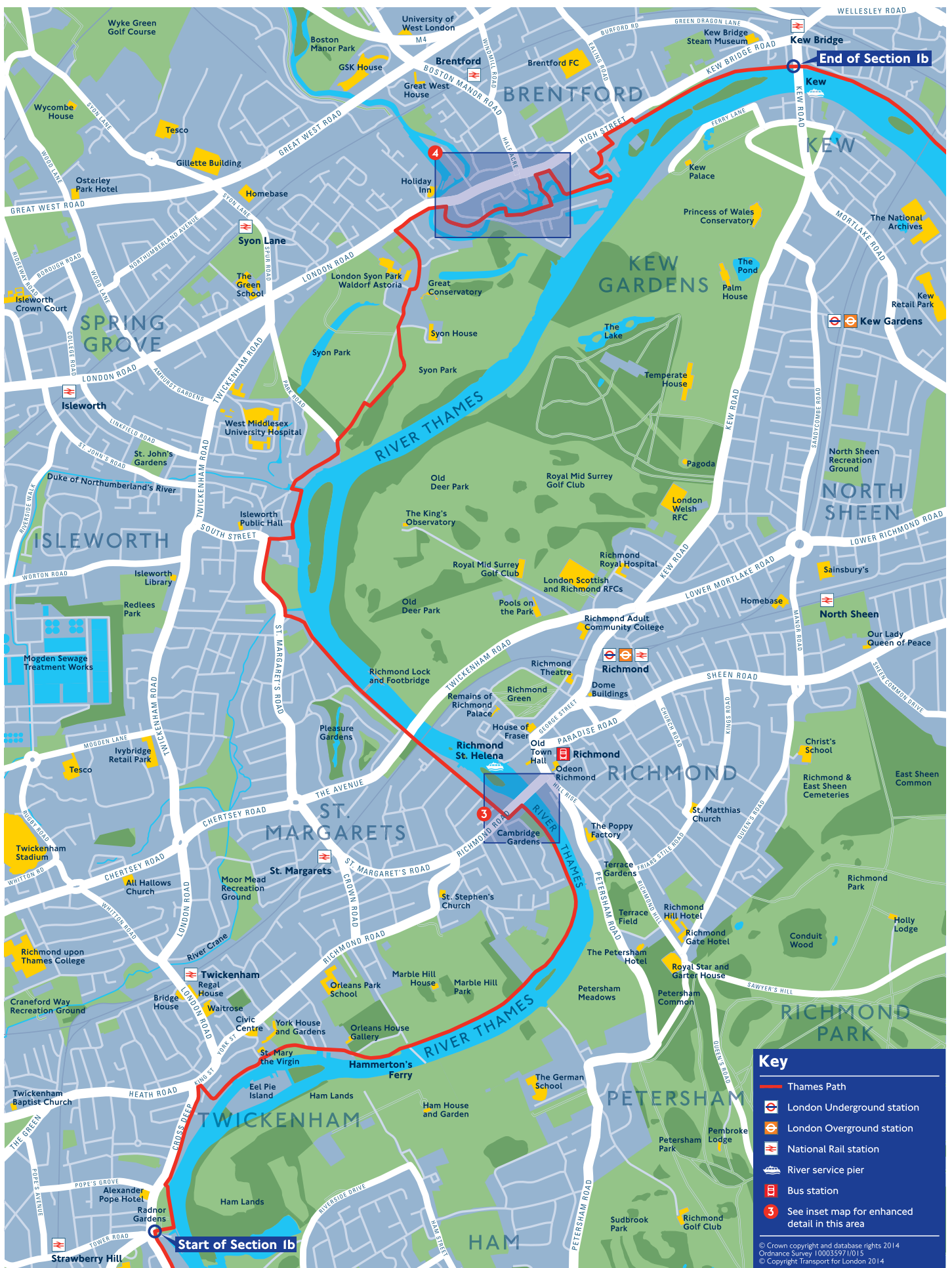
Teddington Weir and Lock is the largest of the Thames' locks. It connects the tidal and non-tidal Thames. The first lock chamber at Teddington Lock was built in 1811 but has since been replaced and two other lock chambers added.

**2** At Teddington Lock take the footbridge over the River Thames to the north side to visit Strawberry Hill and enjoy a bird's-eye-view of the lock and weir. The Thames Path on the north bank goes straight ahead away from the river up Ferry Road, past the Tide End Cottage pub. The Landmark Art Centre is in the cathedral-like church on the left.

Turn right at the crossroads and into residential Manor Road, which becomes Twickenham Road, then Strawberry Vale.



# Radnor Gardens to Kew Bridge - section 1b



**Key**

- Thames Path
- London Underground station
- London Overground station
- National Rail station
- River service pier
- Bus station
- See inset map for enhanced detail in this area

© Crown copyright and database rights 2014  
 Ordnance Survey 100035971/015  
 © Copyright Transport for London 2014

**Section 1b start:** Radnor Gardens  
**Section 1b finish:** Kew Bridge  
**Section distance:** 6.5 miles (10.5 kilometres)

Turn right into Radnor Gardens, which marks a welcome reunion with the Thames, with riverside seats well placed to enjoy the view. On leaving the park, bear right at the traffic lights into Cross Deep, turn right again down Wharf Lane, to the tree-lined Embankment with its footbridge to Eel Pie Island. The island and the little shops in Church Street are worth exploring.

Walk on along the lane beneath the footbridge of York House, past charming houses clustered round The White Swan pub, along Riverside, and under another footbridge to Orleans House Gallery. Cross the green here, bearing right at the end, to the river path.

Pass Hammerton's ferry just before the entrance to Marble Hill House.


### Did you know?

Hammerton's Ferry is a seasonal foot and bike ferry which was started by Walter Hammerton in 1909. He charged 1d for each trip and it has been a picturesque and popular way to travel for over 100 years. It runs between Marble Hill Park and Ham House on the other side of the Thames.

Marble Hill House was built for Henrietta Howard, the mistress of George II. It is one of the last complete surviving riverside villas with 66 acres of riverside parkland. The beautiful and learned Mrs Howard held court here to literary wits and notable figures of the day. It is now managed by English Heritage.

During the 18th century, an idyllic pastoral landscape was created along the Thames below Richmond Hill. Magnificent palaces set in gardens or parks, linked by a series of avenues, were set within a designed landscape of meadows and woodland. Today it forms the largest connected open space in London. The classic view from Richmond Hill was protected by Act of Parliament in 1902.

Richmond's huge Royal Star and Garter House rises from a belt of trees on the opposite bank, and as the path clears Glovers Island the full width of the river is revealed, with glorious views of Petersham Meadows at the foot of Richmond Hill. A final stretch brings the path past flats and houses to Richmond Bridge. The street lights here are more sensitive at dusk as there are important bat feeding grounds nearby. The path occasionally floods here at high tide, in which case, go back to the first alleyway between brick walls, and walk up this to find a route through the streets.

 **3** At Richmond Bridge the Thames Path joins another Walk London route, the Capital Ring for a while. Cross the road and set off straight ahead down Willoughby Road and the pleasant footpath of Duck's Walk, rejoining the river at Twickenham Bridge.


Fairly soon, the tree-lined embankment of Ranelagh Drive arrives at Richmond Lock footbridge, where lock and sluices help control the level of the Thames. Here the path joins the River Crane Walk to skirt a huddle of houseboats, before branching left into a short lane, then right onto the main Richmond Road. Follow the high brick wall past the entrance of what was Nazareth House Convent and turn immediately right into Lion Wharf Road to rejoin the river, with pleasant views of Isleworth Ait. Turn left along the river.



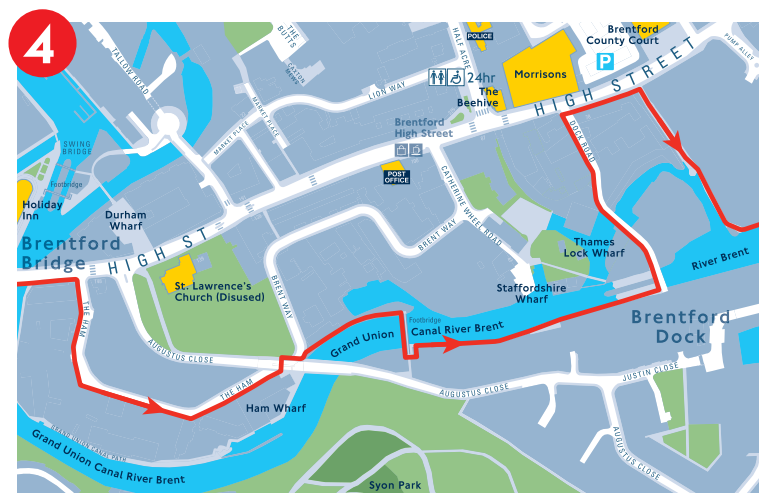
From here the Thames Path is straight ahead until reaching the Town Wharf pub. The riverside path is literally the boardwalk terrace to the pub. Follow the river in front of the pub, across their terrace, and out over a small hump-backed footbridge to continue along the riverside path. Alternatively, for a step-free route or if the pub terrace is too crowded, turn left before the pub and right onto Church Street. Both routes come out at the Duke of Northumberland's River (actually a man-made canal), where it joins the Thames.

Carry on up Church Street and round the corner of the London Apprentice pub to the picturesque waterfront of Old Isleworth. Passing All Saints' Church with the old tower on the left, walk round the corner to the gates of Syon Park.

Enter Syon Park, the 200 acre grounds of the Duke of Northumberland's historic London home. Walk up the gravel path in the broad verge past the front of Syon House. Cross in front of the garden centre, with the car park on the left, and bearing ahead and slightly right, head for the walled access road which leads up to Brentford High Street.

 **4** Turn right onto Brentford High Street and continue onto Brentford Bridge over the Grand Union Canal. Turn right onto The Ham and follow the road round until it reaches the Grand Union Canal once again. Continue along the canal to a footbridge (with steps at both ends).

Cross the footbridge and follow the path in front of a housing estate until Thames Wharf Lock. Cross over the canal on the cobbled Dock Road and turn right onto the High Street.



Continue along High Street, and take the next narrow passageway to the right. This leads past the boat yards, along the canal towpath and to the mouth of the river Brent where it joins the Thames.

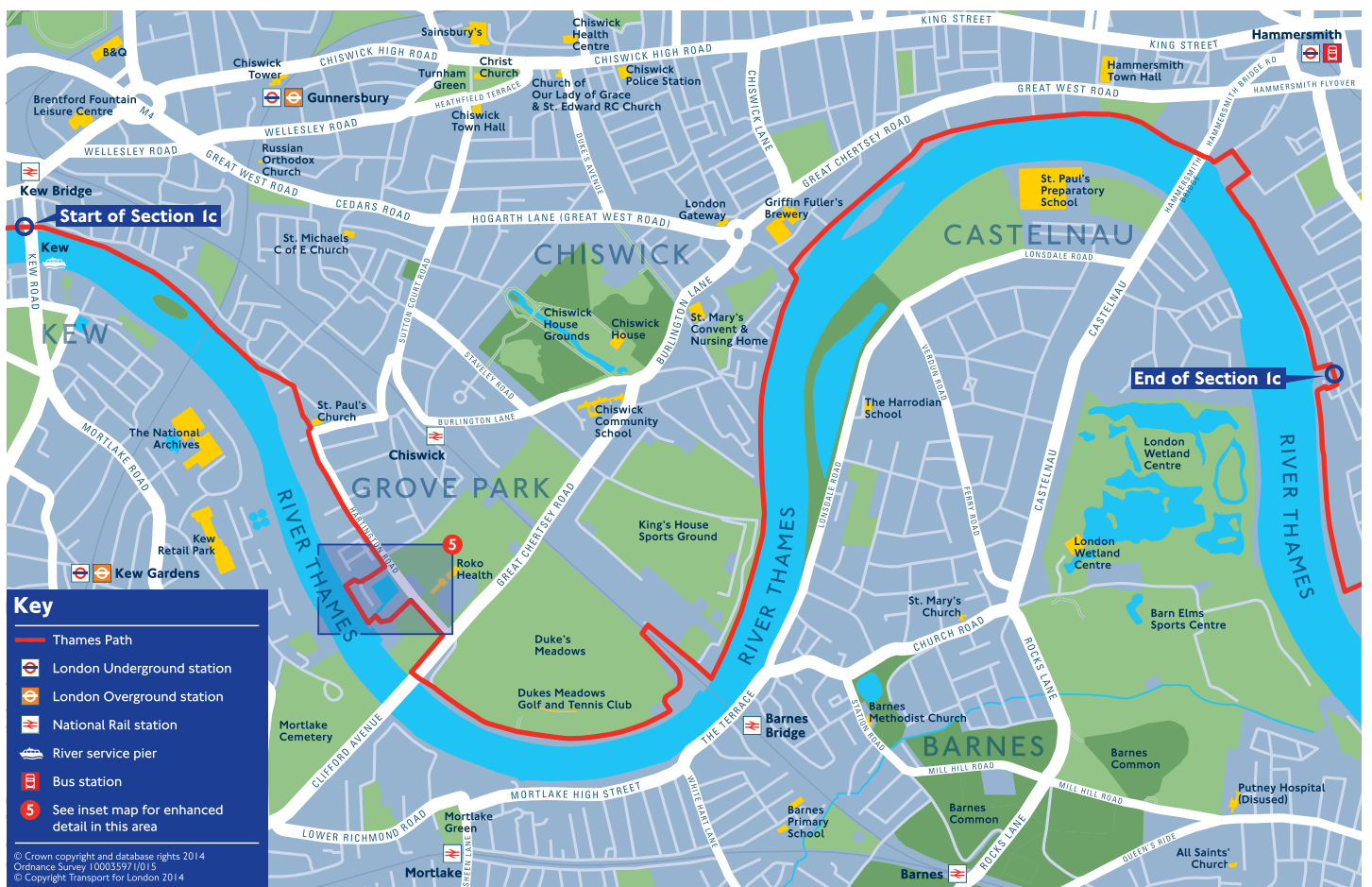
Walk round the water's edge in front of the new housing development at Ferry Quay and turn left down Goat Wharf to join the High Street again. Just after the traffic lights, turn right, down a passageway, Smith Hill, and left into the gate in the wall which leads into the car park of a red brick building.

Follow the path round to the left, following the river wall, until steps up lead along the back of the Waterman's Art Centre and Waterman's Park. Look over the river here to Kew Gardens or across the High Street to the tower of the London Museum of Water and Steam, where awesome beam engines once pumped London's water supply from the Thames.

### Did you know?

The London Museum of Water and Steam houses the finest collection of stationary steam pumping engines in the world. Also nearby on the High Street is the Musical Museum, which contains one of the world's best collections of automatic instruments, from the tiny clockwork Musical Box to the self-playing 'Mighty Wurlitzer'.

## Kew Bridge to The Crabtree, Fulham - section 1c



**Section 1c start:** Kew Bridge  
**Section 1c finish:** The Crabtree, Fulham  
**Section distance:** 5.5 miles (9 kilometres)

At the end of the Gardens join the main road briefly and after 15 metres turn sharp right down The Hollows. The steps descend to a narrow stretch of towpath. A secluded community of houseboats provide a contrast to the luxury riverside flats. Kew Bridge rail station is nearby.

The broad sweep of the Thames at Kew Bridge marks the start of lovely Strand-on-the-Green, a popular choice for a Sunday stroll. The narrow footpath is lined with charming cottages and grander Georgian houses interspersed with old pubs, such as The Bell and Crown, City Barge, and the Bulls Head. Benches set out on the walkway allow uninterrupted, placid views. Look out for the blue plaques, one of which marks where the painter John Zoffany once lived.

The towpath is often flooded at high tide; in which case follow the road parallel to the river instead.

At the restored drinking fountain, the Thames Path enters the conservation area of Grove Park Road. Bear right at the roundabout into Hartington Road.

Turn right just beyond Cavendish Road into Chiswick Quay. Follow the passage, between houses and a boundary wall, to the right to reach the riverside promenade. This leads to the lock at the entrance to the marina at Chiswick Quay. Cross over the dock gates and down through a gap in the hedge.

**5** Turn left past the houses along Ibis Lane to get back on to Hartington Road. Turn right past the rugby grounds and right again on to Chiswick Bridge. Take the steps off the bridge back down to the river. Walk past the racks of boats stored under the bridge, and along the access road in front of the boathouse. Cross to the tree-lined path beside the river for the peaceful stretch around Dukes Meadow Golf and Tennis Club.

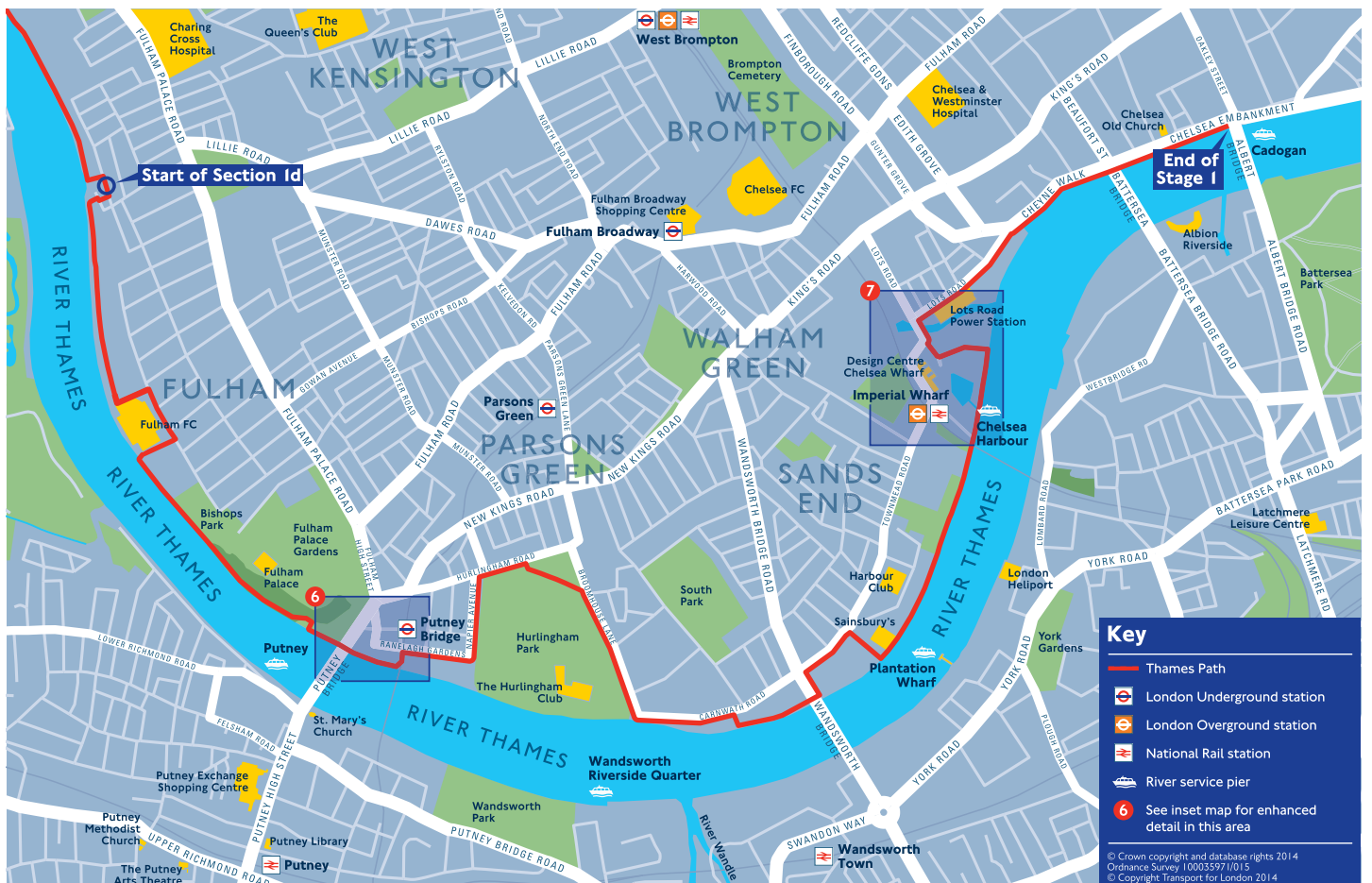
After another boathouse, the route becomes even more rustic; a quiet country lane leads under the railway bridge, opposite the allotments. Turn right along the path parallel with the railway with a sports centre on the left. Follow the narrow path past a patch of trees to get back to the Thames.



From Barnes Bridge, follow the riverside path beside the grassed terrace and bandstand of Duke's Meadows to the glinting sculpture of a gull and chicks on a tall post. Carry on straight ahead for The Thames Path which leaves the pastoral landscape to enter the walkway of Corney Reach estate, named after a walled medieval estate that was just downriver from Chiswick Pier.

Continue along the Thames Path on elegant Chiswick Mall, where the lane runs between gracious houses and their private riverside gardens. Past The Black Lion pub follow the riverside with views of Hammersmith Bridge. Take the passage beside The Dove pub into Furnivall Gardens. From here, walk on past more historic pubs to Hammersmith Bridge. Go under the bridge and after a short distance turn left into Queen Caroine Street, then right into Crisp Road. About half way along Crisp Road (just after Riverside Studios) turn right and head back to the Thames.

## The Crabtree, Fulham to Albert Bridge - section 1d






**Section 1d start:** The Crabtree, Fulham  
**Section 1d finish:** Albert Bridge  
**Section distance:** 5 miles (8 kilometres)

Pass new riverside apartments that line the Thames Path until reaching the River Cafe. By Palace Wharf the path leads inland and sharp right round the garden of the Crabtree Tavern before joining the Thames once more. Follow the river past flats and houses until Fulham Football Club's Craven Cottage stadium.

### Did you know?

Craven Cottage was originally a royal hunting lodge and has history dating back over 300 years.


To get round the football ground, turn left and follow the boundary to the road, then turn right in front of the stadium, back to the Thames. Immediately past the stadium, turn right into Bishop's Park, the public park surrounding Fulham Palace. Walk straight ahead beside playing fields to rejoin the riverside walk, with its massive plane trees.

 **6** Carry on through the park all the way to Putney Bridge, turning inland alongside it and take the tiled arch to the right under the bridge (in front of All Saints Church). Putney Bridge station is nearby.

Continue along the river to the railway bridge and again go inland, turning right onto Ranelagh Gardens. Before the main gates of Hurlingham Park, turn left into Napier Avenue. At the end turn right into Hurlingham Road and take the second gate into the public part of Hurlingham Park. Walk diagonally across the sports field to reach Broomhouse Lane on the far side.

Turn right on the road and follow the brick wall, bearing left round to Carnwath Road and the first opening down to the river. Look across at the mouth of the River Wandle, to the left of which red cranes lower huge waste containers onto waiting barges. Follow the riverside path along the slipway round to the left until forced back inland and onto Carnwath Road once more. Take the next possible turning right off Carnwath Road down the side of a vacant wharf to rejoin the Thames with Wandsworth Bridge ahead. Walk towards the bridge passing industrial warehousing, and then inland alongside the bridge.

At Wandsworth Bridge cross at the lights and take the right turning (Townmead Road), walking straight on until a roundabout into Sainsbury's car park. Turn right and cross the car park to the riverside, where the waterfront soon provides good views of Battersea Heliport on the far bank. Turn left to follow the riverside walkway past more industrial sites towards Imperial Wharf, which has replaced industry with more new residential apartments.

 **7** Passing the landscaped gardens of Imperial Wharf, the path leads under the railway bridge to the spacious walkway of Chelsea Harbour and its marina. Carry on along the Thames before turning inland along Chelsea Harbour Drive. The great chimneys and massive bulk of the Lots Road Power Station (now disused and awaiting redevelopment) loom into view.



## Did you know?

Lots Road Power Station was a coal and later oil-fired power station that supplied electricity to the London Underground system until 2002. It is also sometimes known as the Chelsea Monster.

Cross the small access road bridge over Chelsea Creek and turn right opposite a pub into Lots Road, hugging the wall of the power station. Now the stark brick of the World's End estate is straight ahead, with the small riverside Cremorne Gardens on the right. Lots Road merges into Cheyne Walk beside the river where a line of stylish houseboats stretches ahead to Battersea Bridge.

Stay on Cheyne Walk and the embankment all the way to Albert Bridge and Cadogan Pier or bus stops.

*This is the end of this section.*