



# Green Link Walk

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## Section 2 of 4 Lea Bridge to Regent's Canal

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|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Section start:      | Lee Valley Ice Centre (bus stop W)          |
| Travel to start:    | Lea Bridge station and/or bus (see page 12) |
| Section finish:     | Islington (Colebrook Row)                   |
| Travel from finish: | Angel tube station or bus (see page 12)     |
| Section distance:   | 5.0 miles                                   |

### Introduction

The waymarking for this section is continuous but sometimes quite widely spaced. Some signs were pointing in the wrong direction at the time this guidance was researched.

The signed route is step free and surfaced throughout so it is accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs. (The guidance in the [Go Jauntly app](#) is particularly helpful to anyone following the accessible route.)

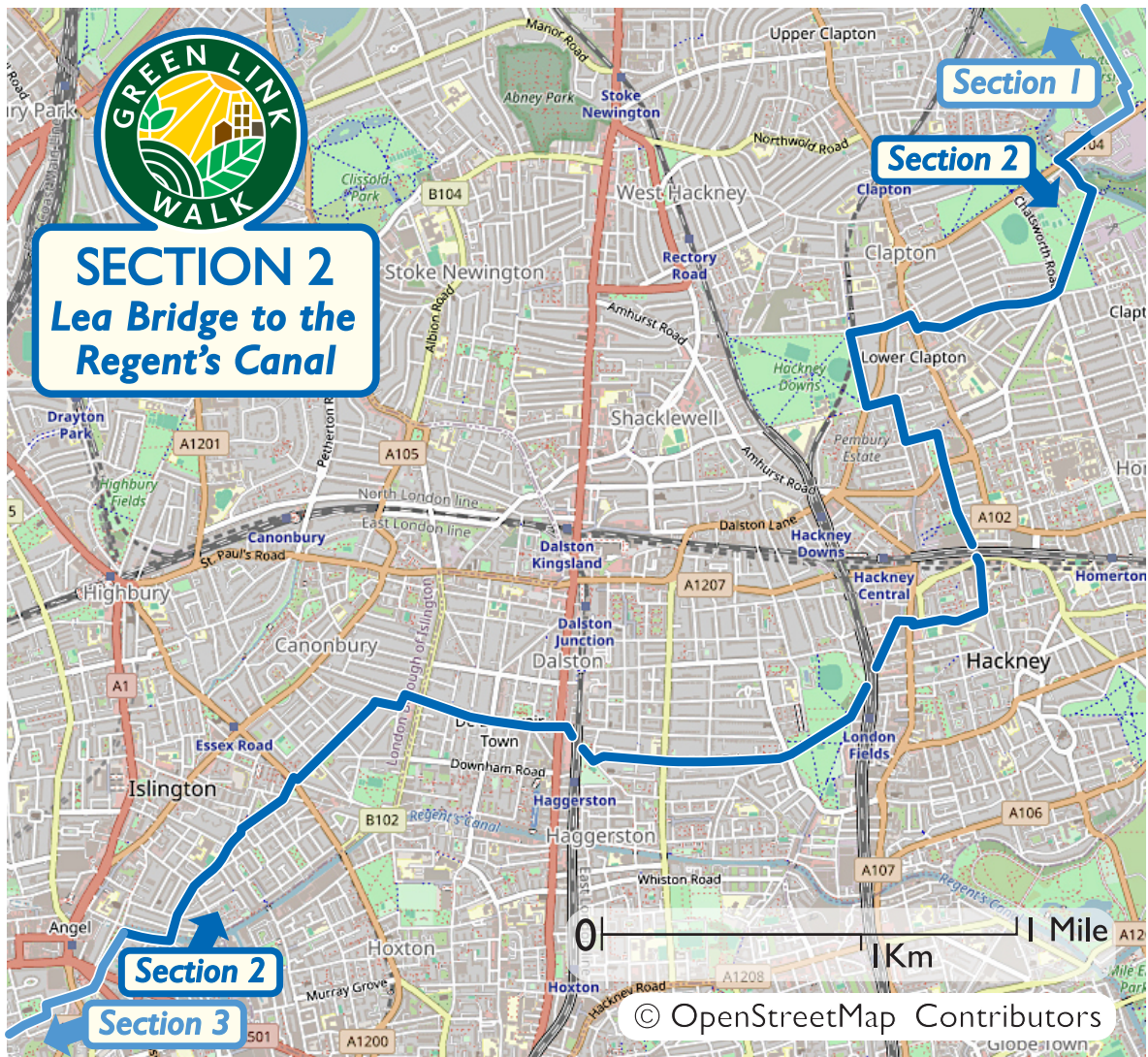
The route passes close to many places of interest that are highlighted on our maps and listed with brief details and internet links on pages 3 and 4.

Our walk guidance includes alternatives routes to explore more of the green spaces on the route. These suggestions do not always meet wheelability standards.

There are opportunities to stop for refreshments. WCs that are open to the public are shown on our maps.

**Updates:** before setting off on this walk, please check with the Green Link Walk page on the [Inner London Ramblers web-site](#) to make sure that there are no obstacles that might affect your ability to complete the section as described. If you come across a problem on the walk, [please let us know by email](#).

## Overview map of section 2



## Points of interest

[Millfields Park](#) was formed from farmland in 1884 but in CE 527 it is believed to have been the site of the Battle of Hackney. Close to the park is the site of Clapton Stadium, from 1898 the home of Clapton Orient FC, now Leyton Orient FC, and from 1930 to 1974 a highly successful [Greyhound stadium](#).

[Clapton Pond](#) has existed since the 1600s. The pond was re-landscaped for public use in the late 1800s to the pattern that largely survives today. The pond is overlooked by the fine [Pond House](#).

[Hackney Downs](#), once ancient common land, is now home to the [Hackney Mosaic Project](#) which was founded by Tessa Hunkin.

[The Portico](#) is the surviving frontage of a former orphans' home and was built in 1825. The Salvation Army purchased the building in 1882. It was sold to Hackney Council in 1970 who demolished all but the magnificent Portico.

[The Round Chapel](#) was built in 1871 and is a Grade II\* listed building. Most of the building now belongs to the Hackney Historic Buildings Trust but the United Reformed Church still occupies the adjacent Old School Rooms.

[Clapton Square](#) was built in 1816 and retains its original railings which are a listed building in their own right. The east side of the square was bombed and has been replaced by modern buildings. Both Clapton Square and St John-at-Hackney are in the same conservation area.

[Church of St John-at-Hackney](#) is a Grade II\* listed building built in 1792/97. In the churchyard lies the tomb of Rear Admiral Sir [Francis Beaufort](#) of 'Beaufort scale' fame. [The Memorial to Blind Fred](#) is a small plaque affixed to the churchyard railing which commemorates a much loved local match seller, Frederick Peters, 1870-1933.

[Sutton House](#) was built in 1535. It is the oldest house in Hackney and one of London's few surviving Tudor residencies. It has belonged to the National Trust since 1939.

[Lennox House](#) is an influential zigurat of a building - a block of flats that was ahead of its time - in the back streets of Hackney just off the Green Link Walk.

The Paragon is a row of Georgian houses linked by colonnades where the route enters Paragon Road. They were built in 1809 by St Thomas' Hospital who then owned the land. The houses are a modest copy of Michael Searles' [Paragon at Blackheath](#).

[The surviving tower of St Augustine's Church](#) is Hackney's oldest building. The exterior dates from the 16th century but parts of the interior may date from 1275.

[Hackney Picturehouse](#) occupies the buildings that were formerly the Carnegie Library of 1907 and, next door, the Methodist Central Hall of 1925. Both buildings were later a music venue but are now a cinema that opened in 2011.

[The Hackney Empire](#) was built by the famed theatre architect Frank Matcham for Sir Oswald Stoll as a music hall in 1901. Having later served as a television studio and a bingo hall it returned to being a performance space in 1986.

[Hackney Museum](#) tells the story of the borough's rich past.

[London Fields](#) are ancient common land. The Lido was added in the 1930s. When bombing during the Blitz damaged or destroyed many of the buildings the park was extended leaving just a pub standing on its own. Formerly the Queen Eleanor it is now known as 'The Pub in the Park'.

[The 'Iron Church'](#) or 'Tin Tabernacle' was the first of very many hundreds across the world. It was erected from a kit of parts in 1858 and was originally clothed in corrugated iron.

[Metropolitan House](#) was built in 1886 as part of the Metropolitan Free Hospital. The hospital closed in 1977 and it is now a business centre and a hostel.

[De Beauvoir Town](#) was constructed from 1830. Originally conceived along the lines of Belgravia it developed as the affluent suburb it remains today. De Beauvoir Square is its centrepiece – the only one of the planned squares to be laid out once the original scheme was downgraded. In the 1980s it became the first district in London to feature widespread traffic-calming measures. [St Peter's Church](#) is often open and enjoys a reputation for excellent music.

[St James' Church](#) maintains Anglo-Catholic worship and a strong musical connection; the Islington Proms are held in the church. The adjacent [Clothworkers' Almshouses](#) are listed buildings.

[The Regent's Canal](#) was opened in 1820 and is the only civil engineering work executed by the architect John 'Beau' Nash, albeit with the assistance of his Clerk of Works, James Morgan. The towpath is used by the [Jubilee Greenway](#) footpath. The route leaves the canal close to the eastern portal of the [Islington Tunnel](#).

## Walking directions

From bus stop W, outside the Lee Valley Ice Centre, walk towards Lea Bridge with the road on your left.

Pass the sign showing that you are entering Waltham Forest and cross the bridge.

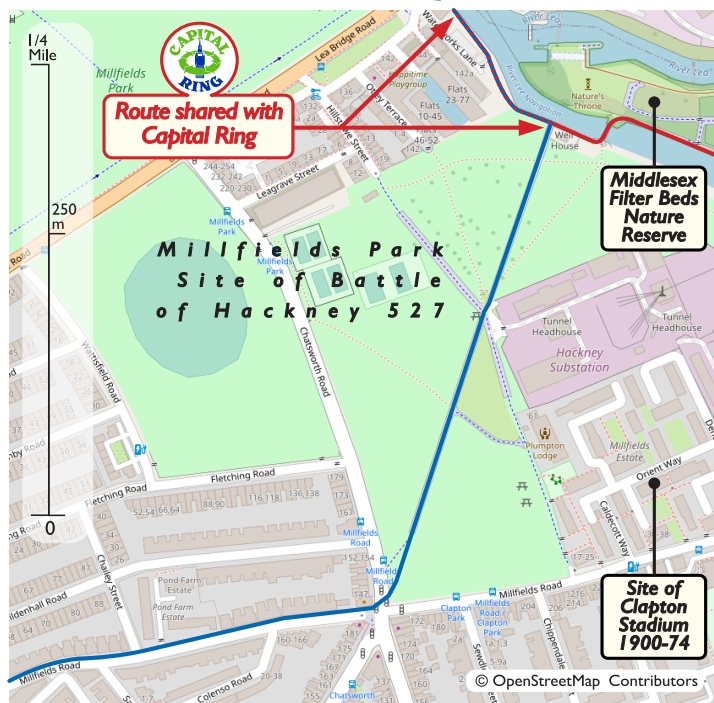
Immediately after the bridge turn sharp right off the road down to the towpath. You come to a signpost with directions for the Capital Ring and Lea Valley Walk. Turn right here along the towpath and walk under the road bridge.

You are now on the Capital Ring route for a short way. Pass a weir on the left, then follow the towpath up a slight rise to cross a bridge over an abandoned side-arm.

Immediately after the bridge, and before the house on the right, bear right on a surfaced path that runs straight across Millfields Park (leaving the Capital Ring).

At the other side of the park, cross over Chatsworth Road at the lights, then keep on, in the same direction as the crossing, over a paved area with bollards to enter Millfields Road.

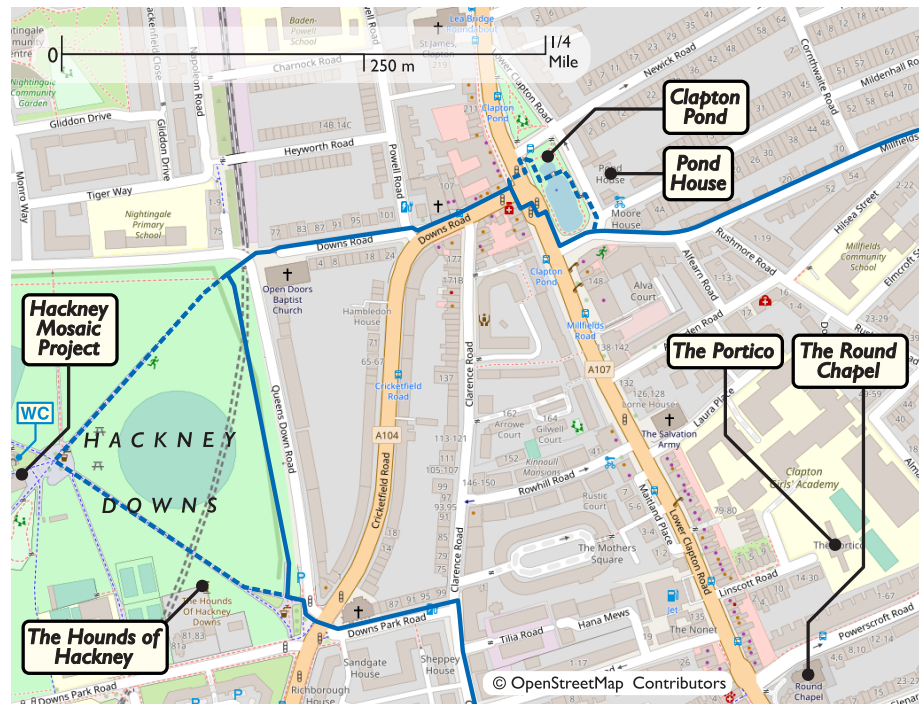
Walk the full length of Millfields Road. This brings you to Clapton Pond.



Turn right on the far side of the pond along Lower Clapton Road to the traffic lights.

### Alternative route

To explore the pond area, turn right down the near side of the pond (also on Lower Clapton Road). Very shortly turn left through a gate, then turn right to walk beside the pond. Turn left over the wooden bridge, then right on the far side to leave the pond area through a gate. Turn left outside the gate to rejoin the main route at the traffic lights.



Cross the main road in two stages at the lights, then turn left along Downs Road. Cross the end of Powell Road. Then, where the main road bends to the left, keep ahead, still on Downs Road (now a no-through road).

At the end of Downs Road, cross Queensdown Road to enter Hackney Downs Park through bollards. Turn left at a path junction to walk on a surfaced track through the park, parallel to Queensdown Road. Near the end of the park, turn left at the first path junction to leave the park by a gate.

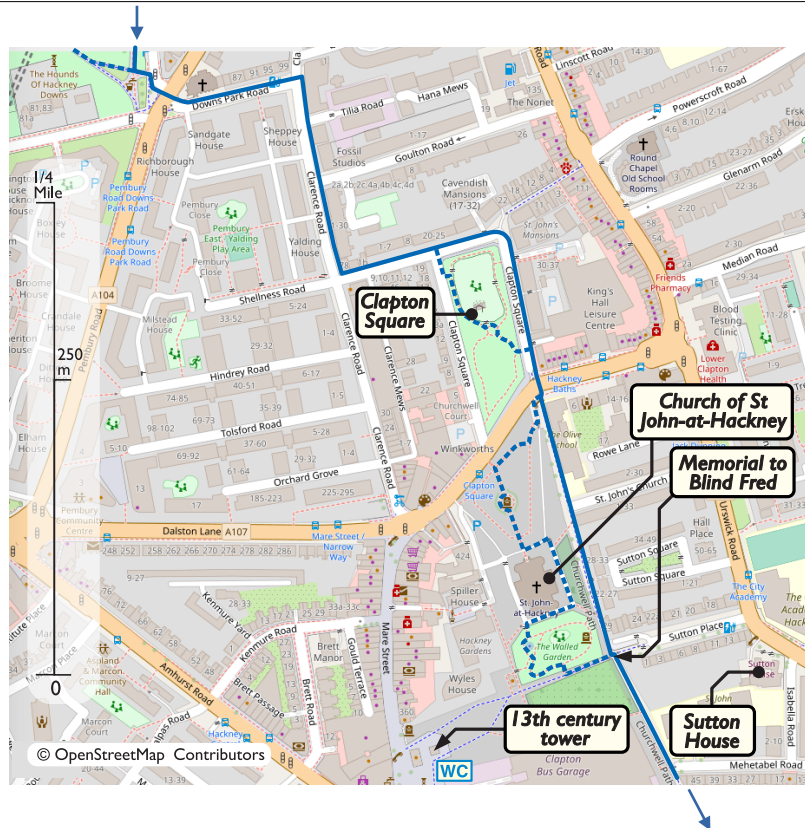
### Alternative route

Explore more of the open space by taking the middle of the three paths where you enter the park. Walk straight towards the centre of Hackney Downs until you reach a circular paved area beside the Hackney Downs Pavilion and the toilets. Look out for the dog mosaics in this area.

Turn left to leave the circular area along the path to the left of the tennis courts. This is the New Cross Fire Tribute Avenue (as described on an information panel at the start of the path). Look out for the Hounds of Hackney Downs on the right after passing the tennis courts. Fork left and then turn right near the edge of the park to rejoin the main route just before the exit gate.

After leaving the park, bear right beside the end of Queensdown Road to cross Cricketfield Road at the lights, then continue ahead in Downs Park Road. (Note that two Green Link signs here had been tampered with at the time this guidance was researched so that they pointed in the wrong direction.)

Walk to the end of Downs Park Road, then turn right along Clarence Road. Take the third left into Clarence Place. This leads to Clapton Square. The main route goes right down the road on the far side of the square.



### Alternative route

To enjoy the green space, turn right down the near side of the square to go left through a gate. Turn right just inside the gate passing a playground. Follow the path as it curves left past a drinking fountain, then keep ahead to leave through a gate. Turn right to rejoin the main route.

At the bottom of the square, now on cycleway C27, take the crossing over the main road (Lower Clapton Road) to keep ahead along the Churchwell Path, keeping left initially beside the brick wall. Keep ahead at a crossing of paths just after the Church of St John-at-Hackney and its walled garden on the right.

### Alternative route

For a greener route, fork right after crossing Lower Clapton Road and fork right again to keep near the road until you can soon turn left towards the war memorial in the centre circle of the park. Walk past the memorial towards the pillared portico of the church. Walk round the church to the left looking out for the sign labelling the tomb of Admiral Beaufort. Then turn right round the back of the church to go left through a gate into the walled garden. Follow the curving, paved path to leave through a gate in the wall. Turn left outside the gate. Almost immediately turn right at the path crossing to rejoin the main route.

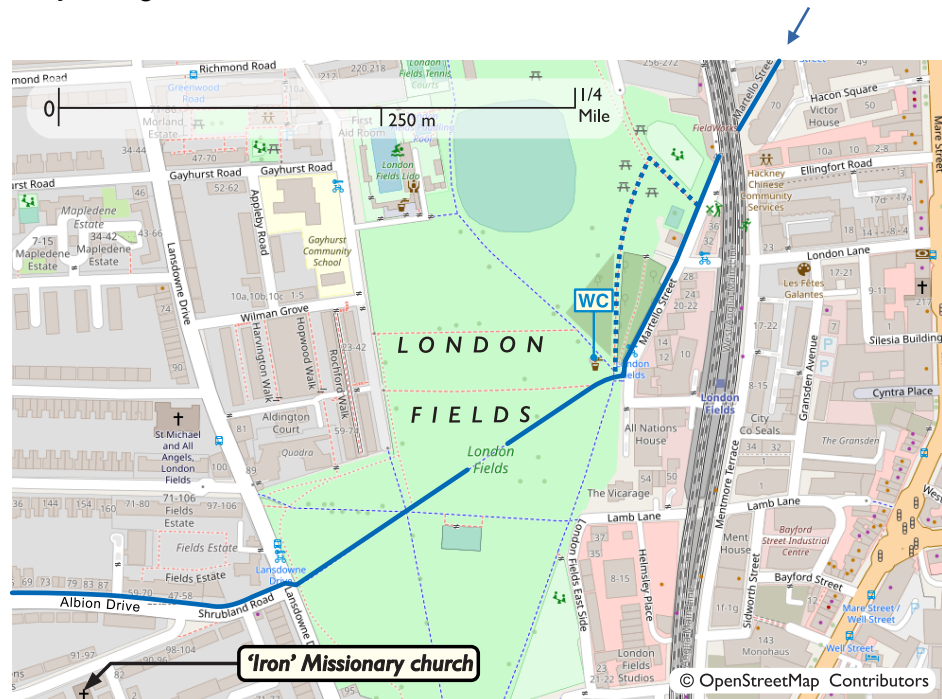
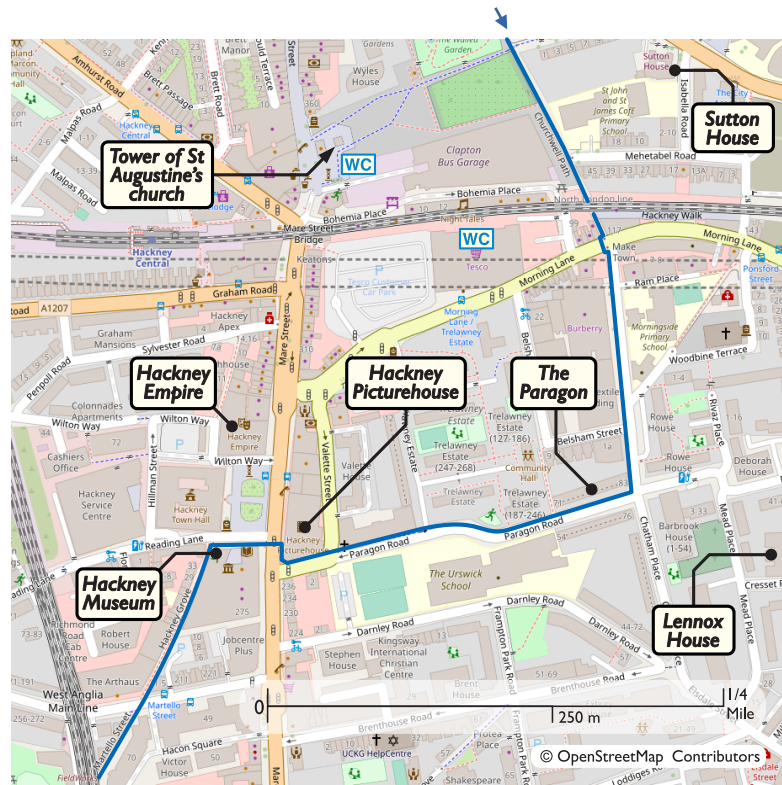
Continue under a railway bridge, then use the crossing over Morning Lane to keep ahead along Chatham Place.

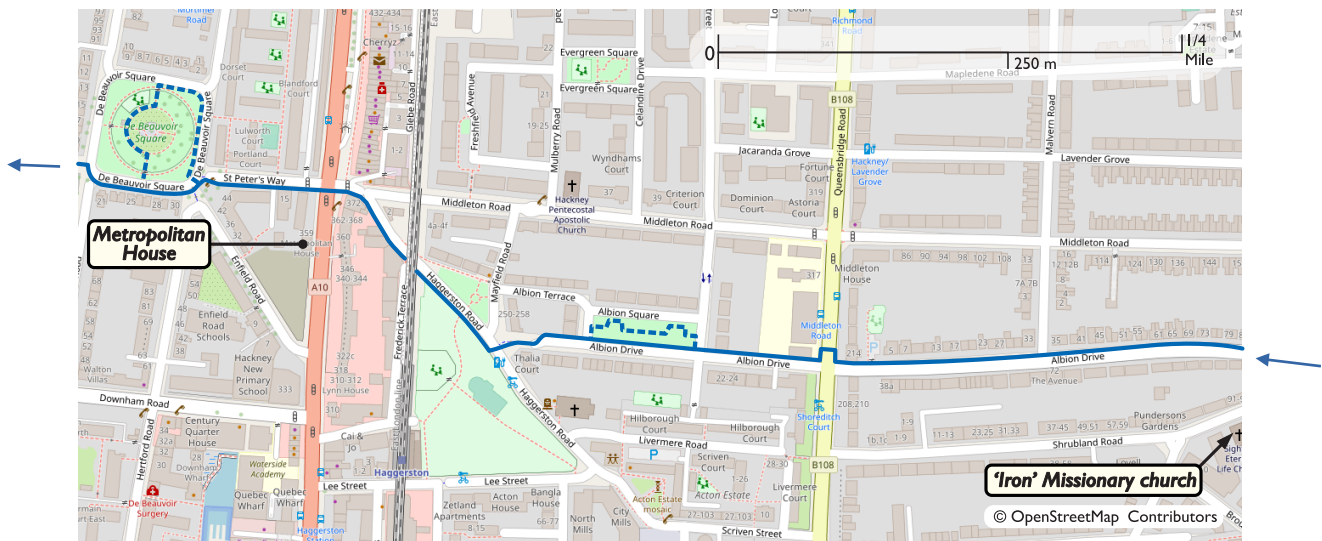
Now leave C27 by taking the second right along Paragon Road. Walk to the end of this road by the Hackney Picturehouse.

Turn right for a short distance along Mare Street, then cross at the lights to enter Reading Lane, passing Hackney Town Hall on your right.

Take the first left along Hackney Grove, which is a pedestrian and cycle route, towards London Fields station. Cross Richmond Road to continue ahead along Martello Street under a railway bridge. Continue after the bridge beside a fence with London Fields on your right.

Turn right through a gate, pass just to the left of the toilets and take the surfaced path diagonally across the fields. (This is to the right of the path down the edge of the park with its cycle track.)





### Alternative route

Visit more of London Fields by turning right through the first gate in the fence shortly after the railway bridge. Follow the path bearing slightly right, then turn sharp left towards the toilets (as signed) at the first junction. This brings you to the gate where the main route enters the park. Turn right past the toilets here.

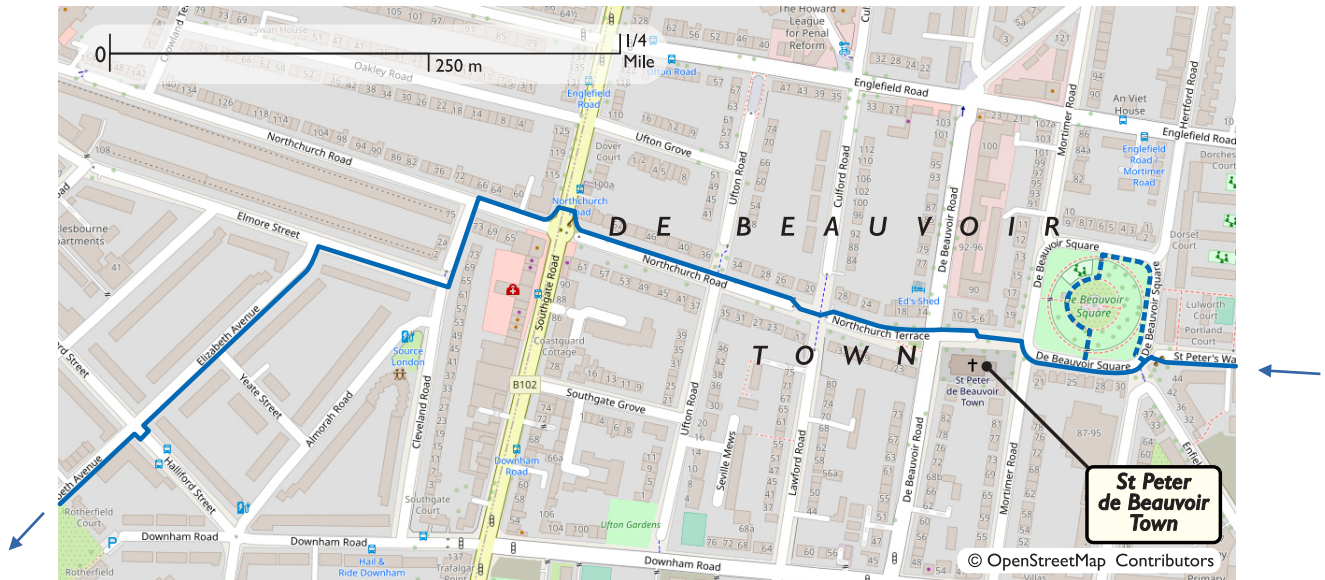
Keep straight on along the path to cross the park. Leave through a barrier to cross Lansdowne Drive. Start along Shrubland Road but then curve to the right as it becomes Albion Drive where Shrubland Road turns off to the left. (Note that a Green Link Walk waymark on a lamp post seems to suggest that you should continue along Shrubland Road. Do not be misled.) Keep ahead on Albion Drive to cross Queensbridge Road. On reaching Albion Square, the waymarked route continues along the road.

### Alternative route

Turn right when you reach Albion Square, then almost immediately left through a gate into Albion Square gardens. Follow the surfaced path through the gardens, past the drinking fountain, to leave through a gate at the far end. Turn left outside the gate and then right back on Albion Drive with the main route.

Continue to the end of Albion Drive to turn right along Haggerston Road. You pass between Stonebridge Gardens behind a fence on your left and a triangular remnant of Stonebridge Common, with war memorial, on the right.

Walk under the railway bridge, then turn left to the lights at the junction with Middleton Road. Cross the A10 (Kingsland Road) at the lights and continue ahead into St Peter's Way. Emerge through bollards in De Beauvoir Square. Pass to the left of the square's gardens.



## Alternative route

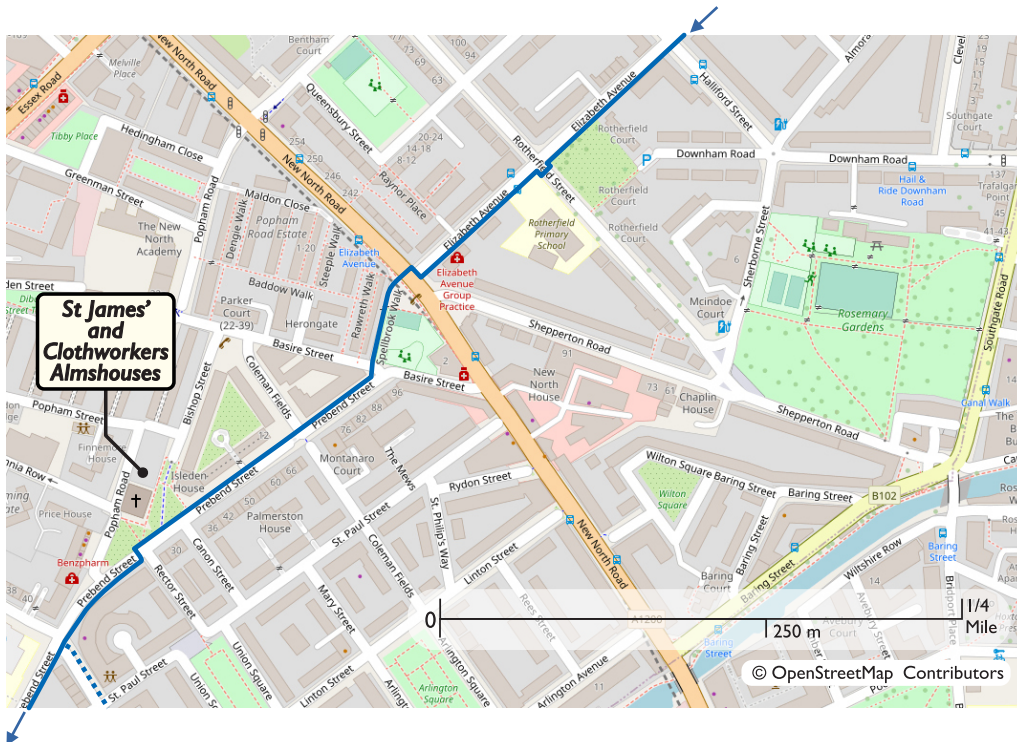
The gardens of De Beauvoir Square are well worth a visit. Turn right after passing through the bollards into the road round the square. Follow the surfaced path as it curves left beside the railings until you come to a gate. Turn left though the gate to walk through the gardens to another gate on the far side. Turn right outside the gate, thus rejoining the main route.

Enter Northchurch Terrace through bollards. Keep ahead to cross De Beauvoir Road, still on cycleway C27 and on Northchurch Terrace. Continue in the same direction through two sets of bollards, now on Northchurch Road. Keep ahead across Southgate Road, where only pedestrians and cyclists can continue, into the next section of Northchurch Road. Take the first left into Cleveland Road, then right into Elmore Street after more bollards – still with C27. Next take the first left down Elizabeth Avenue (here leaving C27).

Continue ahead across two crossroads to reach the New North Road at the end. Cross at the lights keeping ahead but then slightly left along Spellbrook Walk between bollards and then through a barrier. Bear right at the end of the walk along Prebend Street.

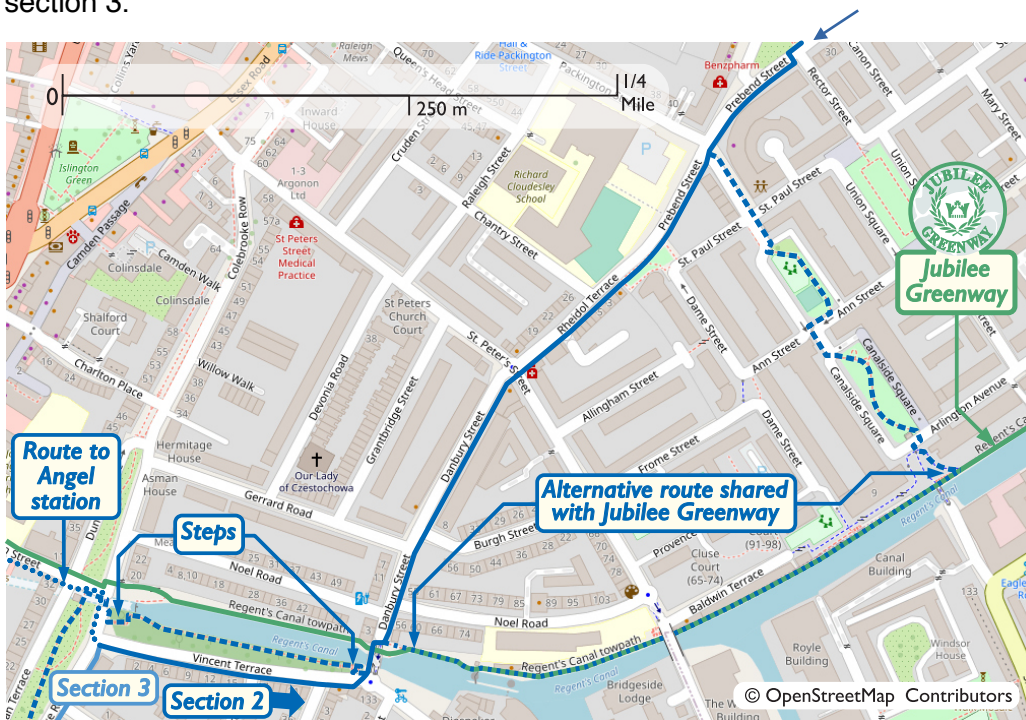
Cross Prebend Street at a pedestrian crossing shortly after passing St James' Church on the right. Then continue along Prebend Street on the other side of the road. (Take the next left down Packington Street for the canal-side alternative route described on page 12.)

Keep ahead as Prebend Street bends slightly left and then right to become Rheidol Terrace.



Cross St Peter's Street, at a mini-roundabout, to continue along Danbury Street. Walk to the end of the street to cross the bridge over the canal.

Turn right at the mini-roundabout, immediately after the bridge. Then cross the pedestrian crossing to walk up Vincent Terrace. Section 2 of the Green Link walk ends where Vincent Terrace meets Colebrook Row. Turn left here to start section 3.



### Alternative route

After passing St James' and crossing Prebend Street, take the next left down Packington Street. Enter the gate into Packington Square gardens, passing to the left of a playground. Exit through a gate at the far end, then turn right and immediately left. Next enter the gate into the gardens of Canalside Square. Exit the gardens at the far end to take a paved path ahead just to the left of the bridge over the canal. Curve left with this path to the canal towpath where you turn sharp right under bridge 40.

Keep along the towpath under bridge 39. Pass the City Road lock with its café. Then climb the ramp (or steps) just before bridge 38. Turn left over the bridge with a view over the wall to the portal of the Islington Tunnel. Turn right after the bridge and then right again through a gate down steps to a path along the canal through Vincent Terrace Woods. Climb the steps at the end, beside the tunnel portal, to reach the end of section 2 at Colebrook Row.

## Travel to and from section 2

### Travel options to the start of the section

By train: The nearest station is Lea Bridge which is served by a rail service between Tottenham Hale (Victoria line) and Stratford (Central line, Overground and rail services).

By bus: The 55 and 56 buses run past Lea Bridge station to the Lee Valley Ice Centre.

The 55 bus runs between Walthamstow Bus Station and Oxford Circus. The route passes these stations: Lea Bridge, Hackney Central, Cambridge Heath, Hoxton, Old Street, Farringdon and Tottenham Court Road.

The 56 bus runs between Whipps Cross bus stand and St Bartholomew's Hospital. The route passes these stations: Lea Bridge, Dalston Junction, Essex Road, Angel, Barbican and St Paul's.

### Travel options from the end of the section

By train: Turn right at the top of Vincent Terrace (or at the top of the steps from the alternative route) then take the first left up Duncan Street. When you get to the top of Duncan Street, turn left along the wide pavement of Upper Street past The York public house. You soon come to the entrance of Angel tube station (Northern line) on the left.

By bus: Many buses stop near to Angel tube station including the 4, 30, 43, 56, 73, 205, 214, 274, 341, 394 and 476.