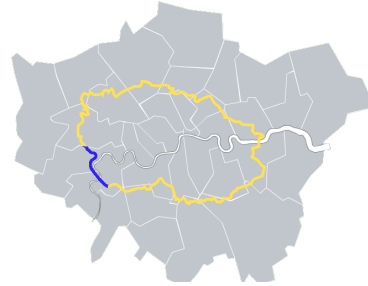




Capital Ring
Section 7
Richmond Bridge to Osterley Lock

Version 1 : July 2009



Start: Friars Lane, Richmond (TQ177746)
Station: Richmond
Finish: Osterley Lock (TQ158788)
Station: Boston Manor
Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

Introduction: This is one of the bluest and easiest sections of the Capital Ring.

It is easy, level walking, mainly on firm towpaths and tracks and some grass. There are steps at Richmond Lock footbridge, with a detour to avoid them, and some short slopes.

The route goes takes in Richmond riverfront, Old Deer Park and observatory, Richmond Lock, River Thames, Old Isleworth, Syon Park, Brentford Lock and the Grand Union Canal.

There are pubs and cafés at Richmond, Old Isleworth, Brentford, Richmond, Syon Park, Brentford and Boston Manor and public toilets at Richmond and Syon Park.

There are underground stations at Richmond and Boston Manor, and National Rail stations at Richmond and Brentford, as well as buses along the route.

Directions from Richmond Station: To reach the start of Section 7 from Richmond railway station, turn left at the main exit and cross the main road at the next zebra crossing, turn right, then immediately turn left along the alleyway opposite the station. At the end of the alley turn left, passing Richmond Theatre on your left. Continue past Little Green on your right, then cross over to the corner of the much larger Richmond Green.

Take the left diagonal path across the Green. When you reach the other side, cross to the left hand pavement of the road which continues in the same direction along Friars Lane. Go down Friars Lane until you reach the River Thames towpath and the main Capital Ring route where Section 7 starts. Turn right along the towpath to start section 7.

Detour from Friars Lane to avoid steps: To avoid the 20 steps either side of Richmond Lock, turn left where Friars Lane meets the riverside and then cross over the river on Richmond Bridge. On the far side turn right down Willoughby Road which later turns into Ducks Walk. At the railway bridge you rejoin the river. Keep ahead under Twickenham Bridge onto Ranelagh Drive.

At the footbridge over Richmond Lock and Weir keep ahead to rejoin the main Capital Ring route.

Section 7 from Friars Lane to Richmond Lock: From Friars Lane turn right and follow the towpath downstream. Pass beneath Twickenham Railway Bridge, built in 1908. The hexagonal access shaft on your right is used by the water authority, and is mirrored by an identical structure on the opposite bank.

Continue beneath Twickenham Bridge which carries the A316 Great Chertsey Road, built in the 1930s through the Old Deer Park on the edge of Richmond.

The towpath here follows a raised causeway, which was built out into the river in 1766. The Old Deer Park on your right, now used for sport and recreation, was originally a Royal Hunting Park of around 370 acres, created by King James I in 1604. The white domed building is the King's Observatory. The line of obelisks was built in 1778 to mark the original Meridian line.

Continue to Richmond Lock. Cross the lock by the bridge and continue to follow the riverside path downstream.

Richmond Lock to Osterley Lock: The path ends at Railshead Road, **A** then follows this away from the Thames to the junction with St Margaret's Road; turn right here. Follow the high wall around Nazareth House, a former convent, to Lion Wharf Road and turn right. Walk down to the river and turn left.

The path goes along a walkway through the frontage of the Town Wharf pub, over a small wooden bridge and past a tall historic lifting crane. Turn left here towards the main road. Then turn right to cross over the small stone bridge and continue ahead towards All Saints' Church, **B** following the pavement on the left.

The path crosses the Duke of Northumberland's River, cut by the monks of Syon to provide fresh water and the power for their flour mill. Further along on the right is the London Apprentice pub which dates from Tudor times. By tradition City apprentices would be rowed with their senior craftsmen to this famous inn to celebrate the receipt of their indentures, entitling them to full journeymen's wages.

Follow the pavement round the corner and cross the road to enter Syon Park by the gates on the right.

Syon Park is the 200-acre London estate belonging to the Duke of Northumberland. The first Duke and Duchess of Northumberland redesigned the estate and commissioned the famous 18th century Scottish architect, Robert Adam, to remodel the interior of the existing house. The result was one of the finest interiors created by Adam with grounds laid out by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the equally celebrated landscape designer.

Follow the road through the estate, past two pavilions in front of the house and the Garden Centre. Turn right to pass a brick barn.

Here you will see, above the entrance, a plaque commemorating Richard Reynolds, a 16th century chaplain of Syon Monastery, who could not accept the supremacy of Henry VIII and was brutally executed in 1535; his body

was placed on the abbey gateway and he was later canonized as a martyr.

Exit by the Brent Lea Gate, crossing at the pedestrian lights and turning right onto the London Road. Walk along to the junction with Commerce Road, cross over and join the Grand Union Canal at Brentford Lock. **C**

Continue past the lock and over the bridge. The wide basin was once lined with canopied warehouses, giving shelter for the loading and unloading of cargo in use until the early 1980s; now they are residential blocks of flats. Only one remains, and the path goes through it.

Continue underneath the railway line until you reach the A4 Great West Road. To continue on this section, head under the A4 towards Clitherow Lock. To leave Section 7 and get to Brentford Station climb the steps up to the A4 and turn right along the road (to avoid the steps continue under the A4, past the wooden footbridge and take the ramp. Head along Transport Avenue and turn left onto the A4). Cross over at the traffic lights and turn right along Boston Manor Road to reach Brentford Station.

Cross the canal at Gallows Bridge. **D**

The bridge has 'Grand Junction Canal' written on it, which was the original name before it became part of an amalgamation of canals in 1929, now known as the Grand Union Canal.

Follow the towpath under the M4 to Osterley Lock.

To get to Boston Manor Station, take a signposted path to the right just before Osterley Lock. Go through the woodland and cross the field. At the crossroads walk straight on and turn right at the main road. Boston Manor Station is a few yards ahead of you.

Section 7 finishes officially at Osterley Lock.