



Bedlington History Tour

A nature-filled walk around Bedlington which links up local parks, woods, riverside paths and the rich history of the town.

Distance 7.2 kilometers / 4.5 miles

Duration 2 hours and 30 minutes



Wildlife



Water feature



Refreshments



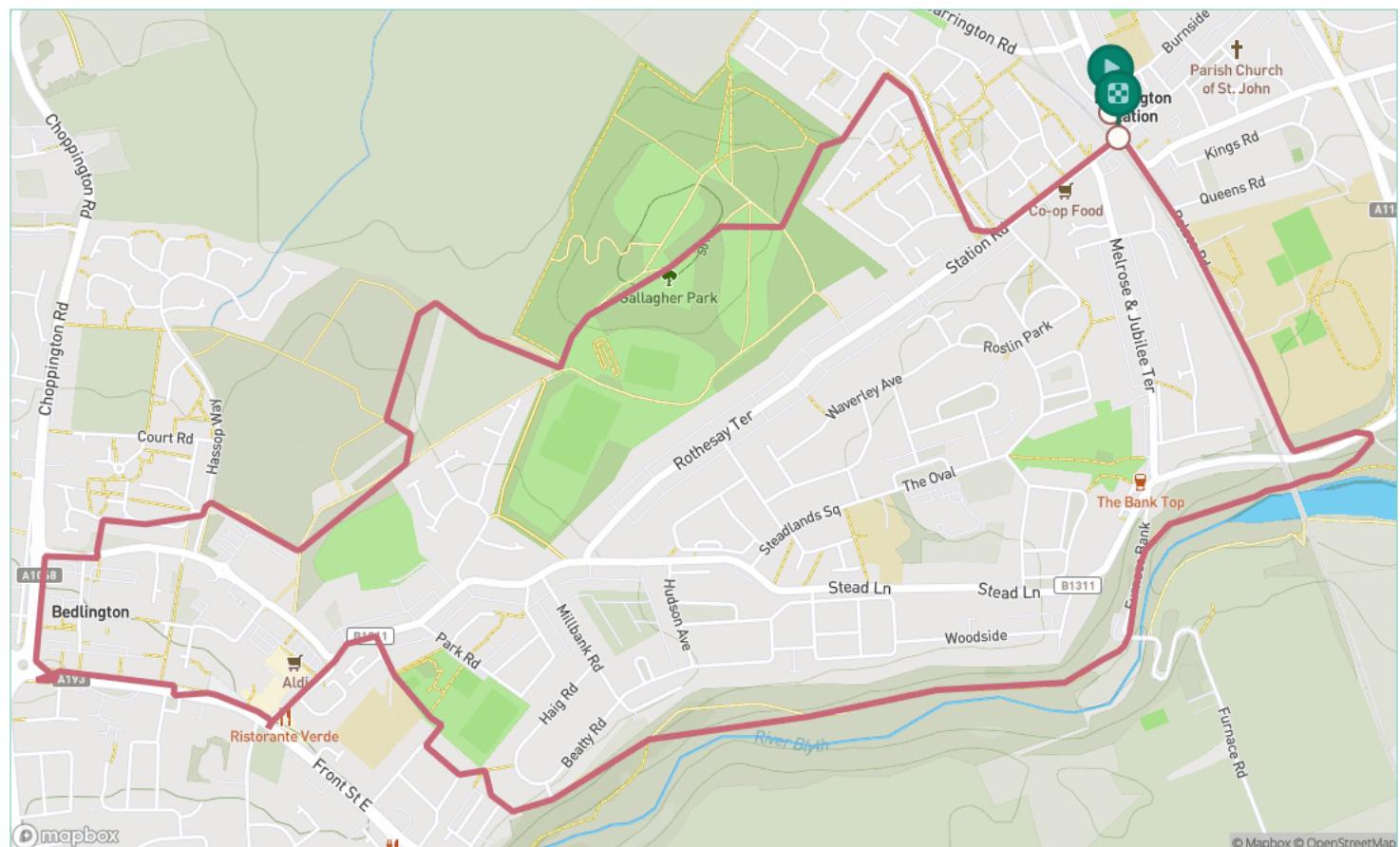
Public transport

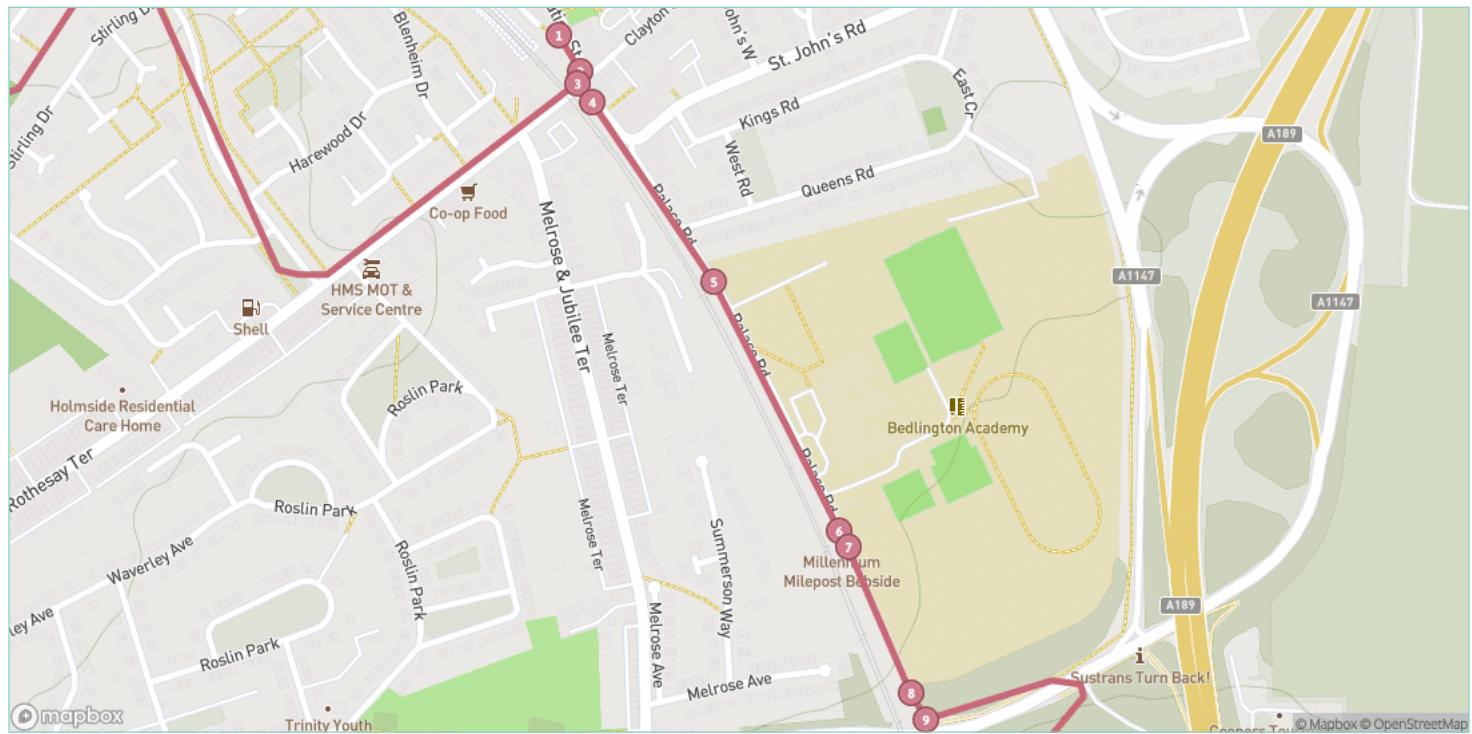


Child friendly



History





Step 1: This walk starts at the new Bedlington Station (open Spring 26) on the Northumberland Line. Exit the station & turn right on Station Street.

Step 2: Bear right on Station Road towards the Signal Box but don't cross the railway lines.

Step 3: Carefully cross over Station Road.

Step 4: Then head straight on St. John's Road with the train tracks to your right.

Step 5: Continue down this road as it turns into Palace Road. Bedlington Academy will be on your left.

Step 6: At the end of the road, continue straight ahead along the shared walking and cycling path.

Step 7: Look out for these creative mileposts for the National Cycle Network.

Step 8: Emerge at the other end of the path. The railway bridge will be on the right, heading over the River Blyth.



Step 9: Turn left and walk alongside the main road until you reach a crossing at a traffic island.

Step 10: Carefully cross the road at the traffic island.

Step 11: Continue left for a few steps until you see the signs for the riverside path.

Step 12: Head right, down the path.

Step 13: Pass an old tunnel on the left which used to be the Engine Pit Waggonway. Read more about the history of industry here below [👉](#)

Industrial History

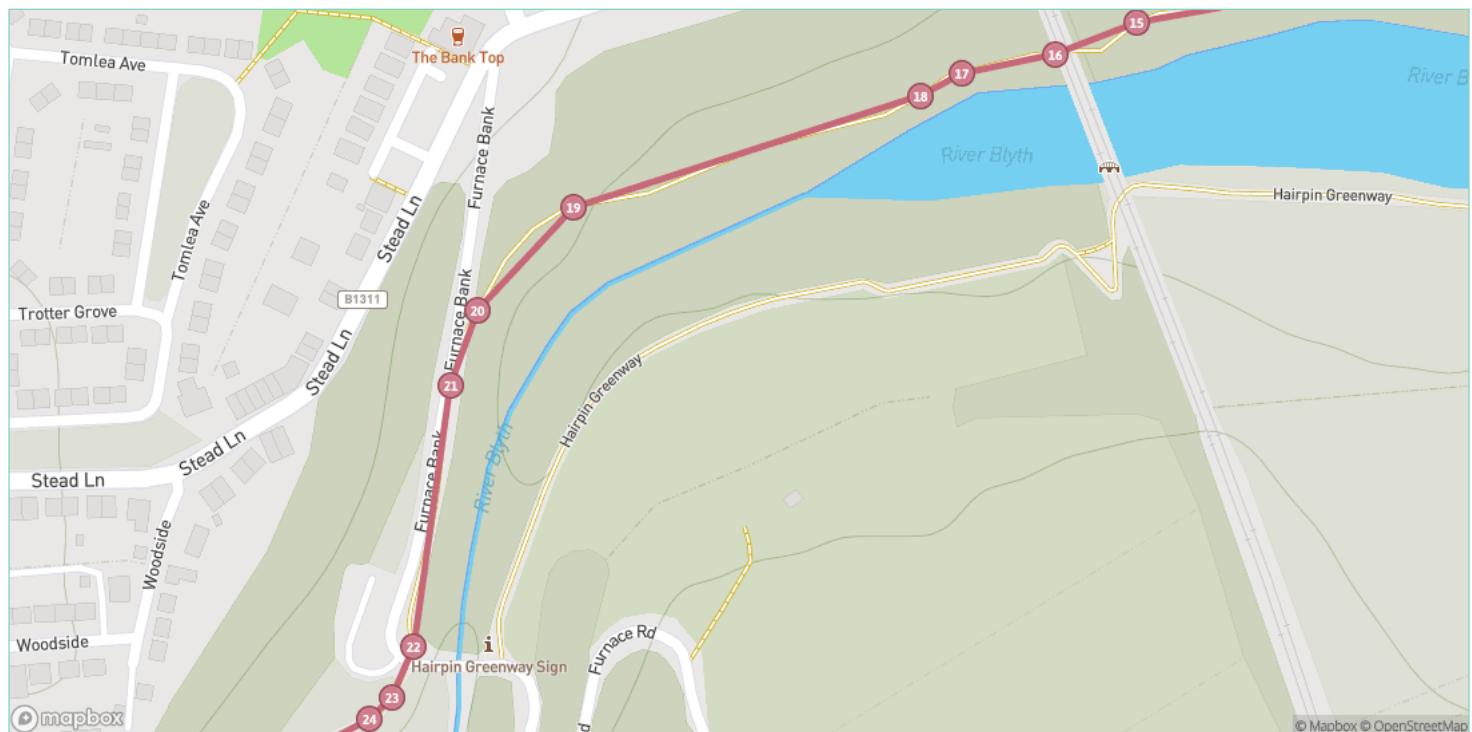
Primary and secondary industries became an important part of Bedlington from the mid 18th century.

Iron works operated between 1736 and 1867. Wrought iron rails were invented here in Bedlington by John Birkinshaw in 1820. This important development triggered the railway age across the UK and beyond.

Coal mining started from 1838 and continued until the closure of the mines in the 1980s.

Step 14: Continue along the path ahead with the River Blyth on the left. The River Blyth is 44km long and meets the North Sea in Blyth.

Step 15: Head under the railway bridge, with trains heading north towards Ashington.



Step 16: Enjoy the tree canopy on this next section. How do the trees look in the season you're walking in?

Step 17: There are plenty of places to sit and rest and enjoy your surroundings.

Step 18: A great spot to watch local wildlife on the river below.

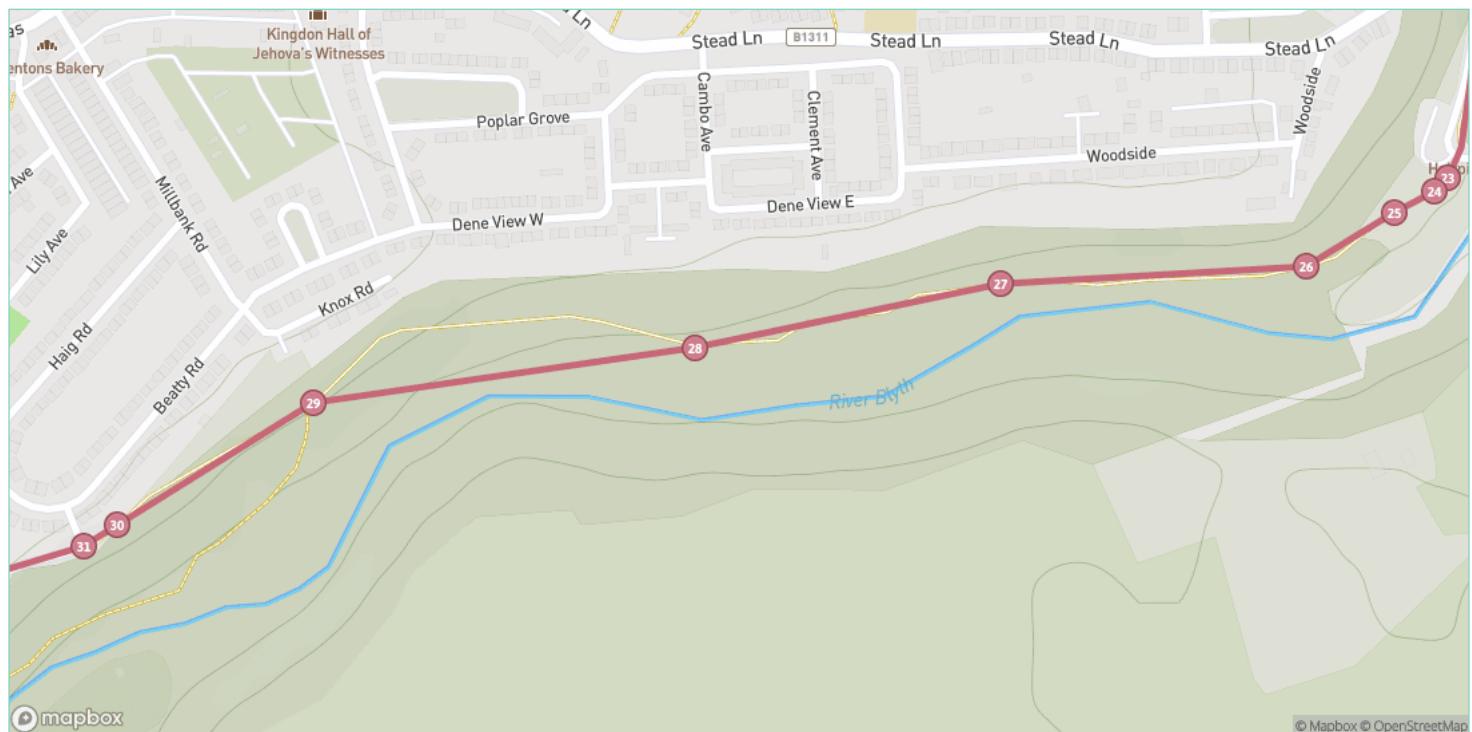
Step 19: Follow the path to the left and continue through the trees.

Step 20: Exit the path onto Furnace Road.

Step 21: Turn left and continue down the road.

Step 22: As the road bends to the left, turn right and cross over Furnace Road towards the path on the opposite side.

Step 23: The sculpture on the right is the sculpture *Glo-Bed-Rail* by Tom Maley which commemorates the Bedlington Engine & Iron Works (1736 to 1867).



Step 24: Go ahead into the green space along the path.

Step 25: This section includes lots of outdoor gym options.

Step 26: Look for this amazing two-faced steel sculpture called Janus by Peter Burke. Read more below 

Janus Sculpture

The sculpture was erected in December 2005 to commemorate the former Bedlington Iron & Engine Works, the site of which you have just walked past.

The Roman god, Janus, was the god of new beginnings. The sculpture symbolises the past of the region - it's traditional heavy industries - and looks forward to the greener environment of today.

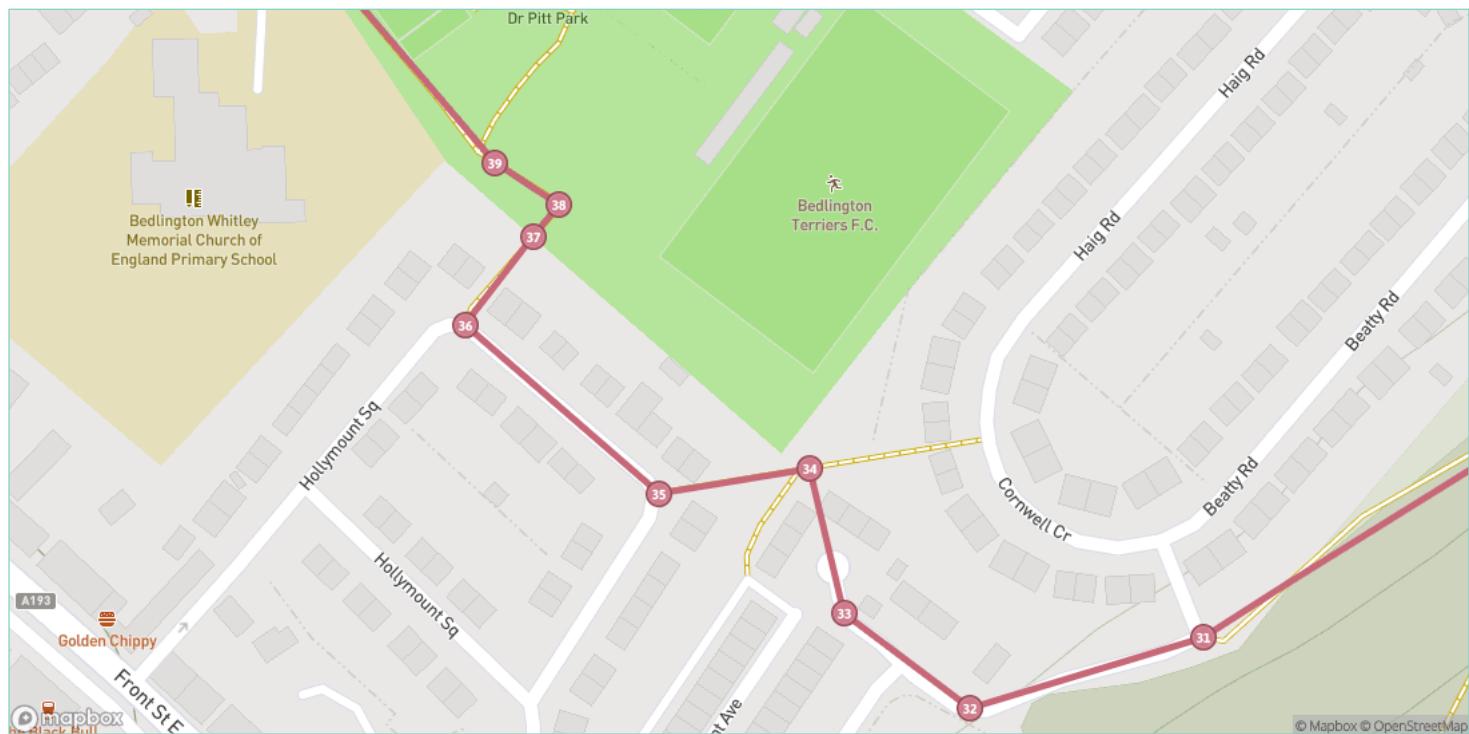
Step 27: Continue along the path. There are lots of places to stop for a break and enjoy the surroundings.

Step 28: Continue along the path as it gently bends right and left.

Step 29: As you head up the hill, keep to the right hand path at the fork.

Step 30: Exit the path and pass the bollards.

Step 31: Carefully cross over Hollymount Terrace and walk ahead along the pavement.



Step 32: Follow the road as it bends to the right then continue ahead.

Step 33: Follow the path on the left of the houses next to the wall.

Step 34: Head left on the path across the grass.

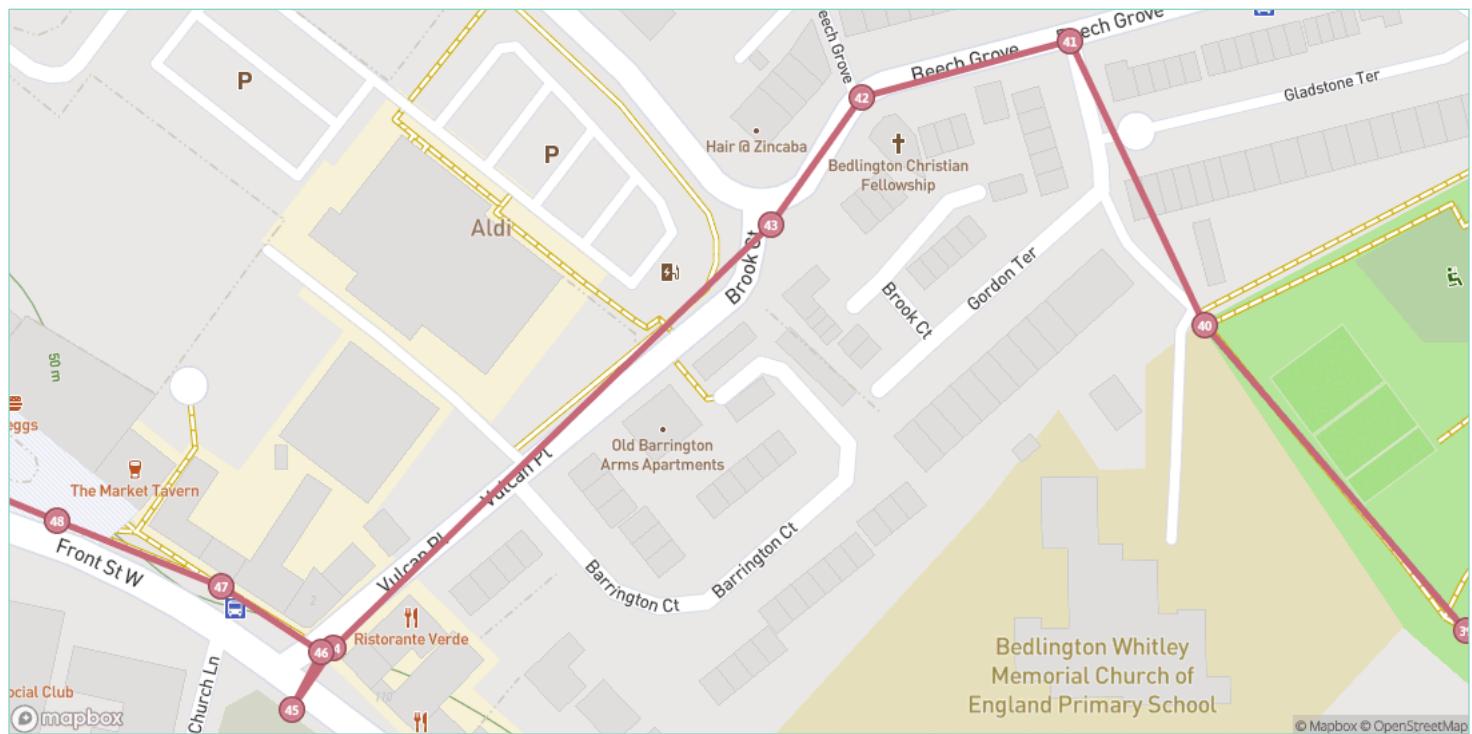
Step 35: This opens up onto a residential street. Turn right.

Step 36: As the road bends left, turn right down the alley.

Step 37: Go through the gates to enter Dr Pit Park. Doctor Pit was a coal mine pit located here rather than a person providing medical advice!

Step 38: This is a lovely small park with plenty facilities.

Step 39: Turn left and head along the path through the park.



Step 40: Exit the park at the far left hand side. Continue straight ahead to walk through the housing estate towards the main road.

Step 41: Turn left on Beech Grove.

Step 42: Continue along Beech Grove as it bends around to the left.

Step 43: Turn left and along Vulcan Place.

Step 44: At the end of the road, we find St Cuthberts Church on the opposite side of Front Street East.

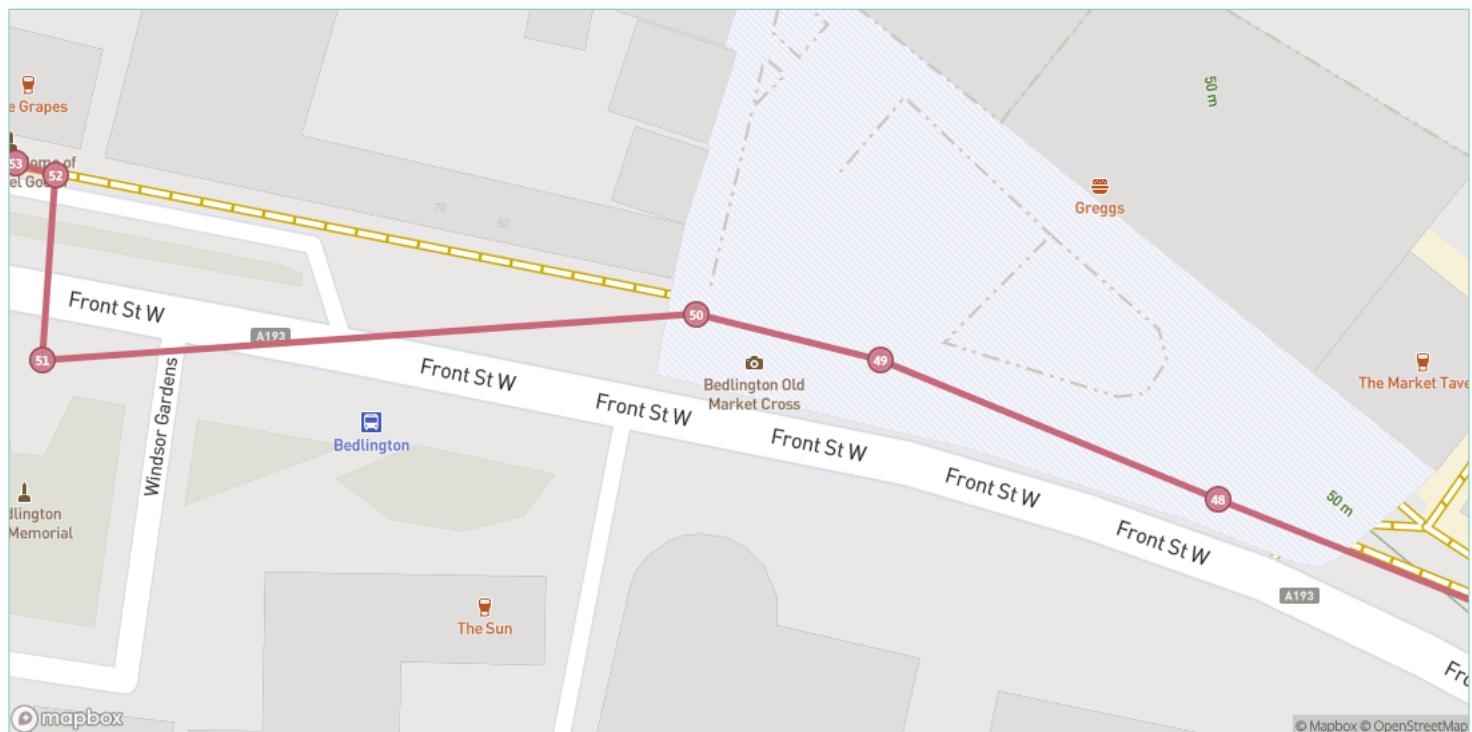
Step 45: Cross over if you'd like to explore. Read more below ↗

Church of St Cuthbert

The Parish Church is Grade II listed. The nave dates back from the middle of the 12th century and the south chapel dates from the 14th century. Several of the headstones are also listed.

Step 46: Otherwise, turn right and cross Vulcan Place at the zebra crossing.

Step 47: A few buildings ahead is the red brick Grade II listed building, formerly a bank. It was built in the late 18th century.



Step 48: Head through the refurbished Town Square.

Step 49: Pass the Bedlington Old Market Cross, another Grade II listed feature in the town, dating from the 18th century.

Step 50: Continue walking along the main road of Front Street West.

Step 51: On the opposite side of the road is the Bedlington War Memorial. Swipe up to learn more 

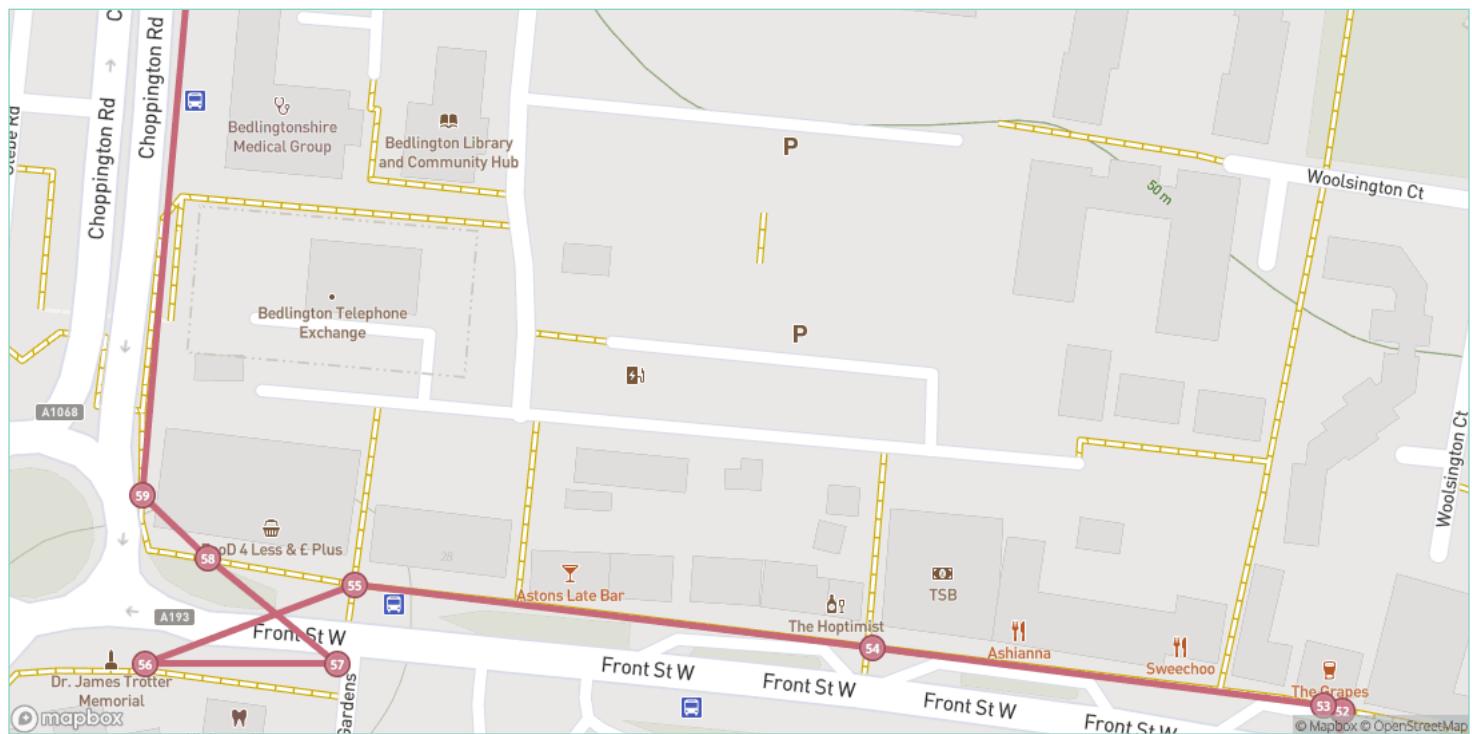
Bedlington War Memorial

The Grade II listed memorial was commissioned by the War Memorial Committee and unveiled in January 1923.

Originally built to honour those lost in WWI, it was later added to to include those from WWII. The memorial bears names as well as the following inscriptions:

"FOR HOME AND DUTY"
 "THESE FELL IN THE GREAT EUROPEAN
 WAR/1914-1918/REMEMBERED BY DEEDS NOBLY
 DONE/HEROES EVERYONE and THESE FELL IN
 1939-1945 IN WORLD WAR II"

Step 52: On the near side you'll find the Grapes Pub (The Kings Arms) another Grade II listed building which was built in the early 18th century.



Step 53: Look out for the blue plaque noting this site as the childhood home of the great railway engineer Sir Daniel Gooch. Learn more below [👉](#)

Sir Daniel Gooch

Sir Daniel Gooch was born in Bedlington on 24th August 1816 and spent some of his childhood in this house. At 21 he became the Locomotive Superintendent of the Great Western Railway. His work as an engineer was incredibly important in international communications, laying Atlantic and French Atlantic Cables in the mid 19th century. He died in 1889.

Step 54: Continue along Front Street West.

Step 55: By the bus stop, cross the road on the left at this drop kerb. Once over the road turn right.

Step 56: Up ahead is the Grade II listed Dr. James Trotter Memorial which was built in 1899. Learn more below [👉](#)

Dr. Trotter Memorial

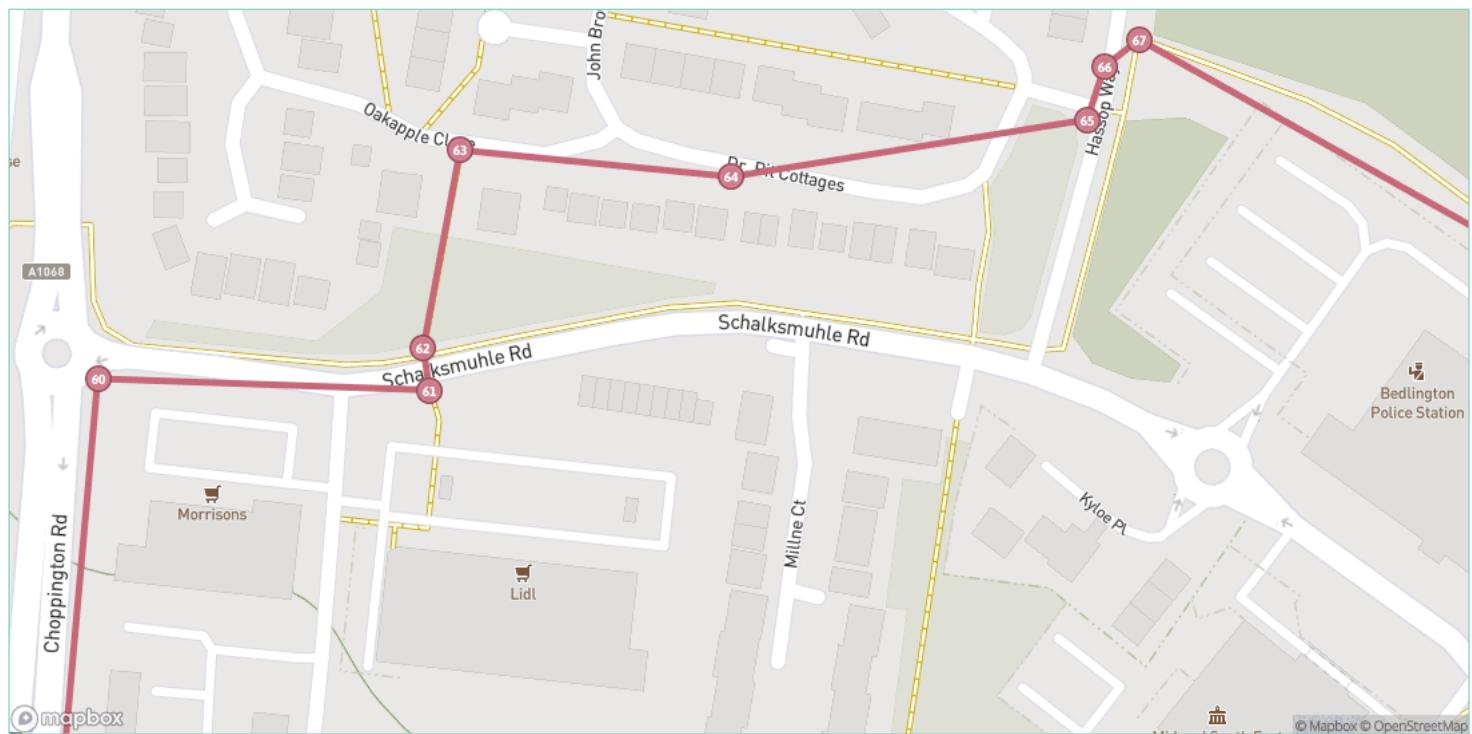
The water fountain commemorates local Doctor James Trotter (1843-1899). A champion of local standards of living, he moved to Bedlington in 1864 and campaigned for better living conditions, helping to improve water supply and sanitation for residents.

His achievements led him to being known as Mr Bedlington in the latter part of his life.

Step 57: Retrace your steps back to the drop kerb and carefully cross back over the main road.

Step 58: Turn left.

Step 59: At the roundabout turn right on Choppington Road.



Step 60: Turn right at the roundabout onto Schalksmuhle Road.

Step 61: Cross the road on the left at this central island.

Step 62: Take the path directly ahead, cutting across the grass.

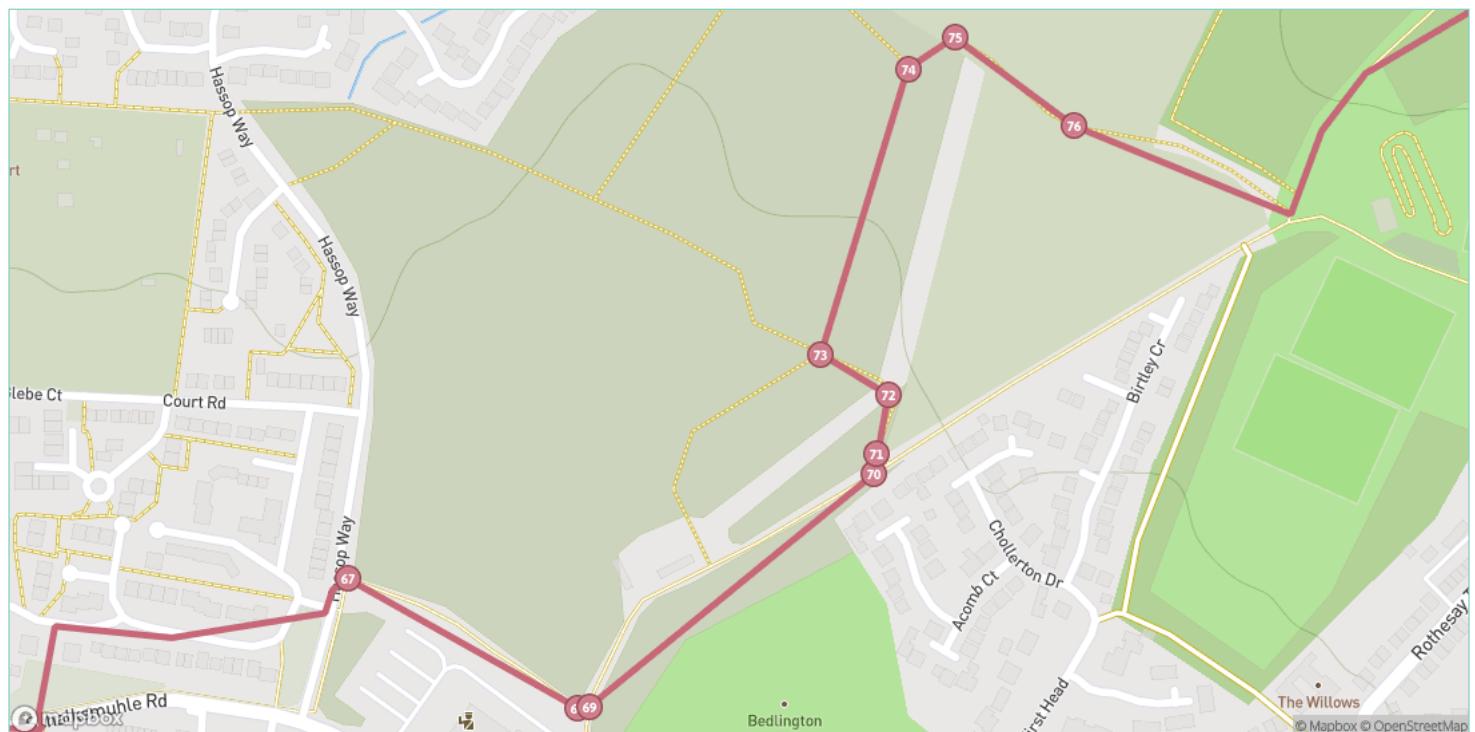
Step 63: Turn right and walk along this residential street, delightfully named Oakapple Close.

Step 64: Continue straight along Dr. Pit Cottages.

Step 65: Follow the road to the right towards the junction. Then carefully cross to the left hand side.

Step 66: Then head right to cross Hassop Way towards the shared path.

Step 67: Enter Gallagher Park on the wide shared path. The park is home to woodlands, wildflower meadows, green spaces and playing fields.



Step 68: Look for the Bedlington 'D' Doctor Pit Memorial which commemorates all those who worked and sadly lost their lives down the coal pit.

Step 69: After the memorial, turn left and walk along the shared path.

Step 70: At this point you can either walk directly ahead for a shorter route and join again at Step 78.

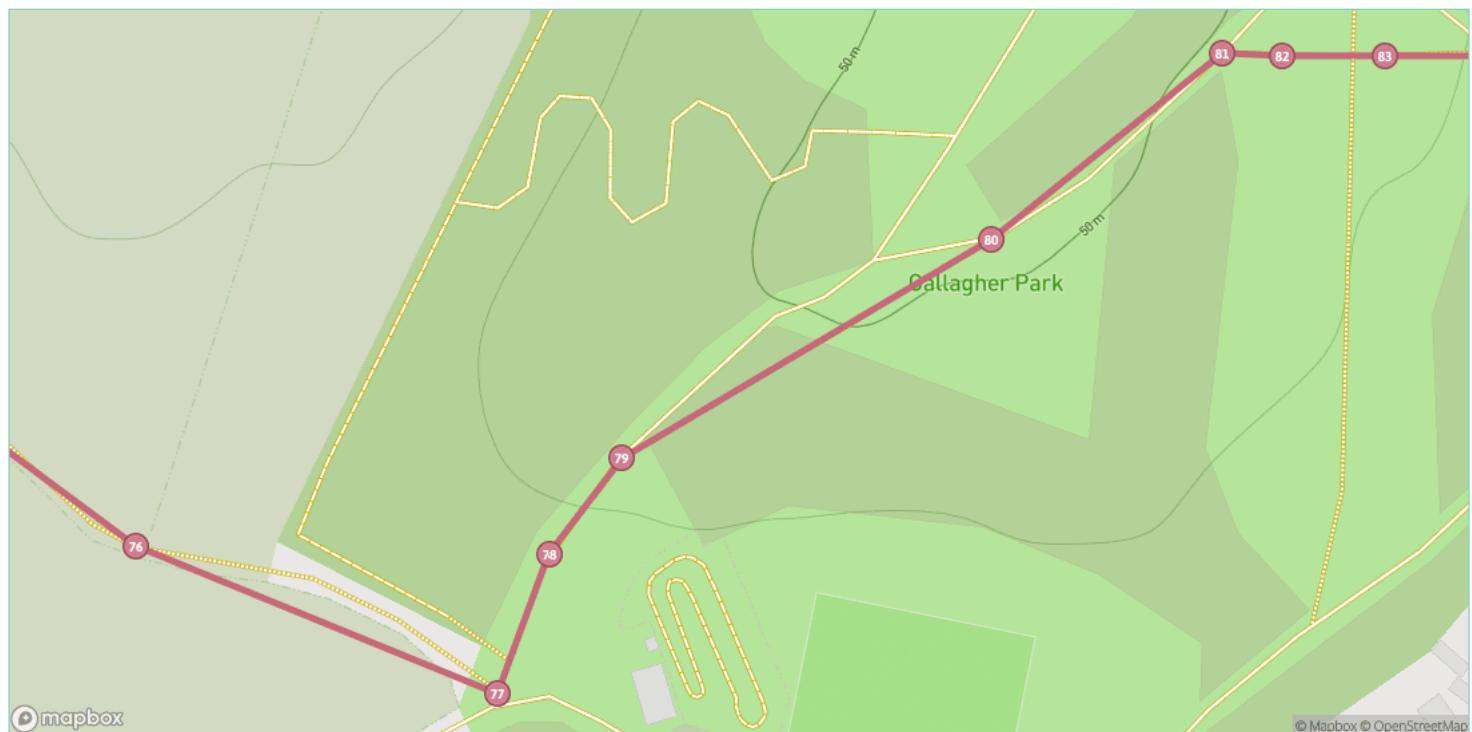
Step 71: Or turn left and go on a small diversion through the woods on a narrow earth path.

Step 72: Turn left here.

Step 73: Then right where the paths meet.

Step 74: Take the path on the right at the fork.

Step 75: Turn right again as the path opens up into a field.



Step 76: Continue along the path through the fields, heading towards the trees.

Step 77: Back on the main path and the end of the small diversion, turn left.

Step 78: Pass the local BMX track on the right.

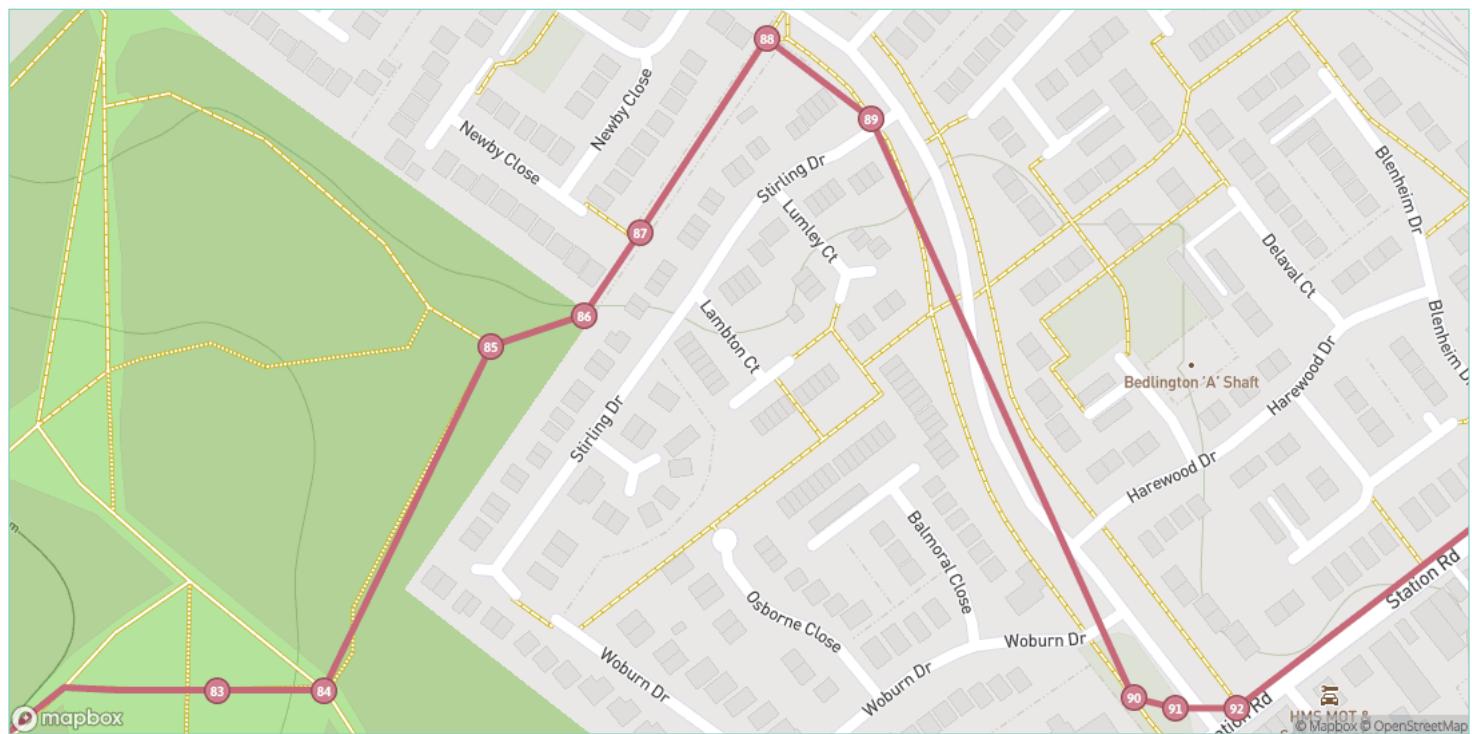
Step 79: Head up the track through the pine woods.

Step 80: Continue through the woods, keeping to the path on the right at the fork.

Step 81: At the top of the hill, on the right, the path opens up with views across to the coast.

Step 82: Head right at this fork towards a bench. A great place to stop, sit down and take in the views.

Step 83: Continue down the grass path into the trees.



Step 84: At the bottom of the hill, take the path on the left that heads back into the trees.

Step 85: At the end of this path, take the path on the right as we approach the end of this local green space.

Step 86: Exit through or around the gap.

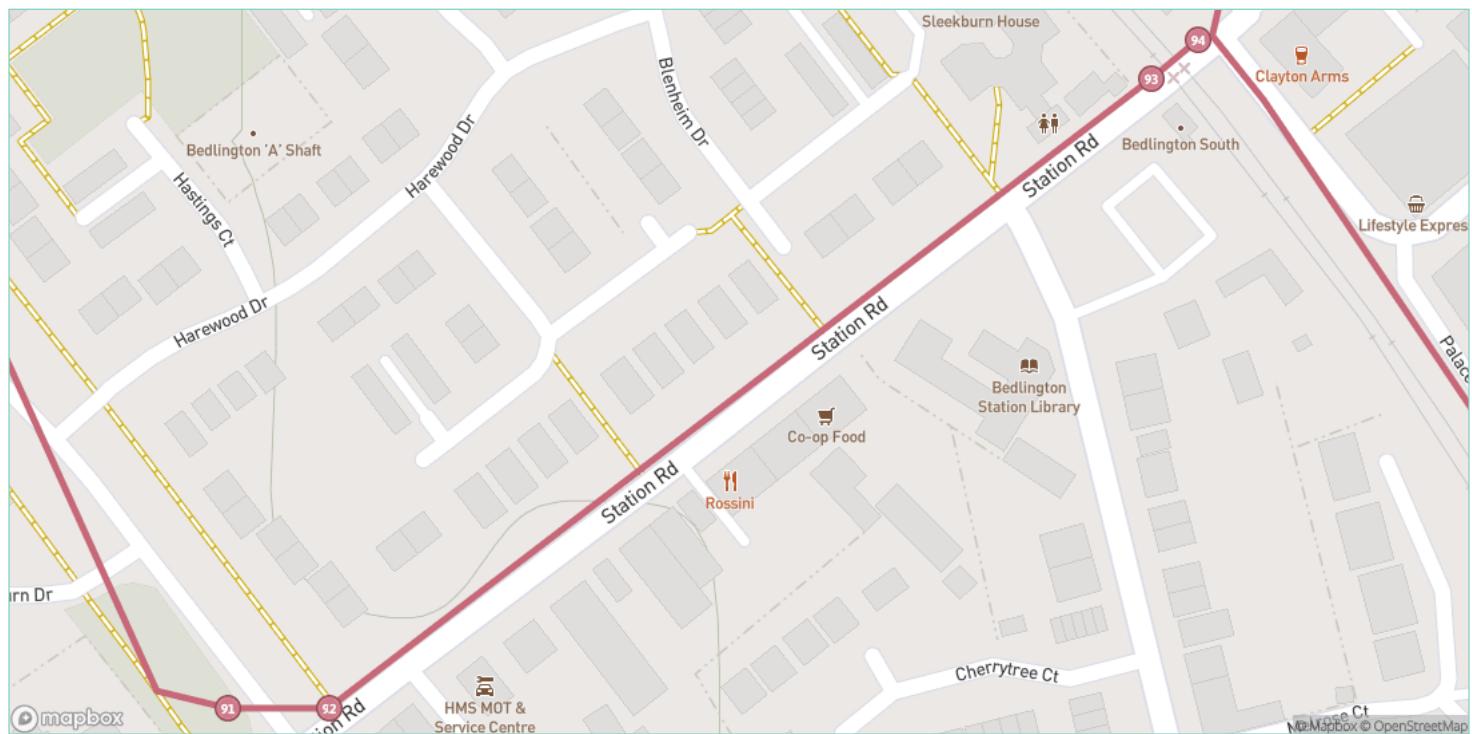
Step 87: Continue straight ahead along this fenced path with houses either side.

Step 88: At the end of the path, turn right.

Step 89: Head along the path parallel to Chatsworth Drive on the left.

Step 90: At the end of Chatsworth Drive is the Bedlington Ellipsoid which commemorates those who worked and lost their lives in Bedlington 'A' pit.

Step 91: Cross over Chatsworth Drive on the left hand side.



Step 92: Then head along Station Road as we head back to the railway station.

Step 93: Cross over the railway tracks at the level crossing.

Step 94: Before heading back up Station Street to arrive back at the station. We hope you enjoyed this nature-filled leg stretcher.