



The Dream & Bold Forest Park Walk

Experience views and wildlife as you wander your way up the hill of the old collieries to find the giant head sculpture, 'The Dream'.

Distance 3.5 kilometers / 2.2 miles

Duration 1 hour



Wildlife



Great views



Parking



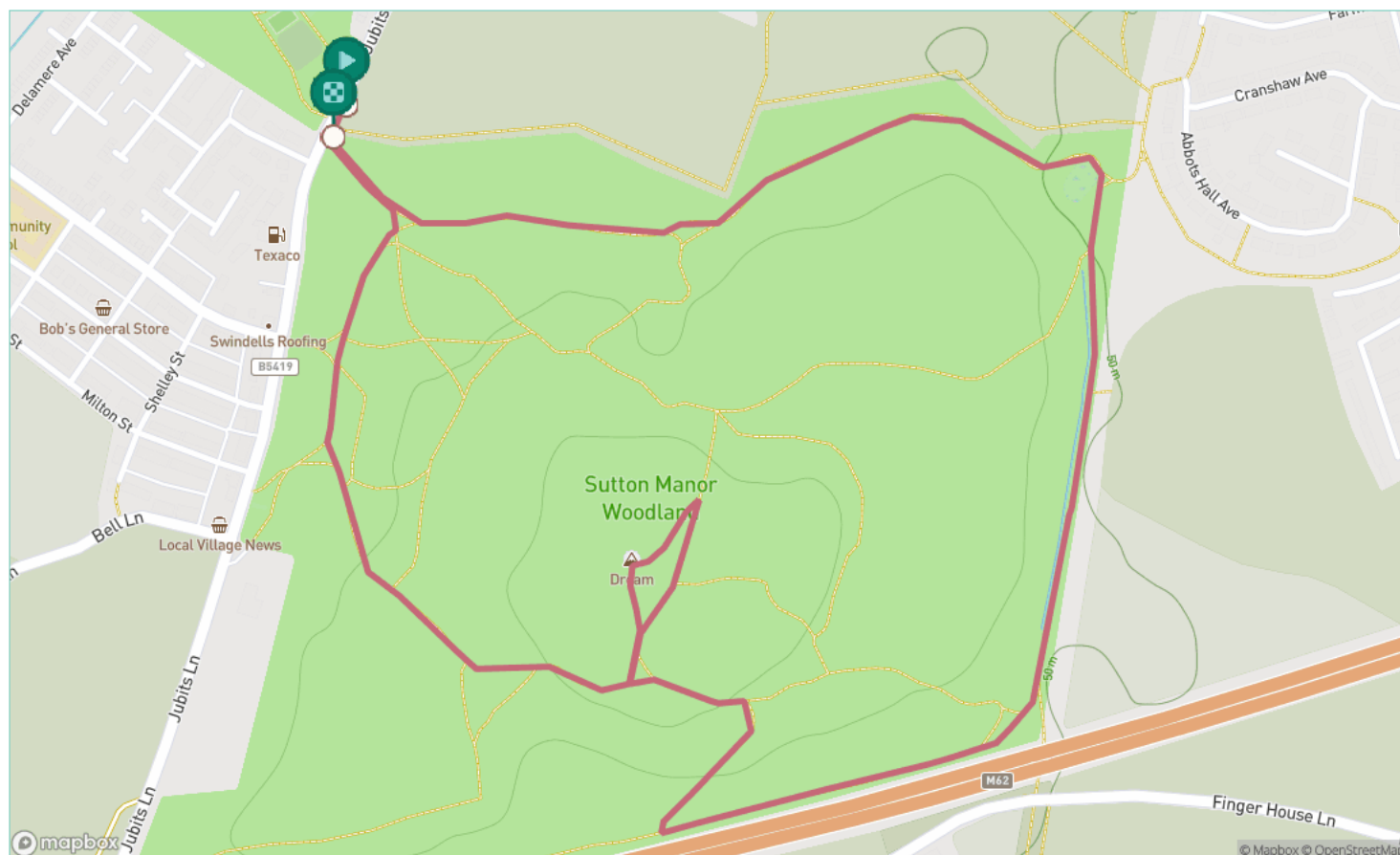
Hilly & steep



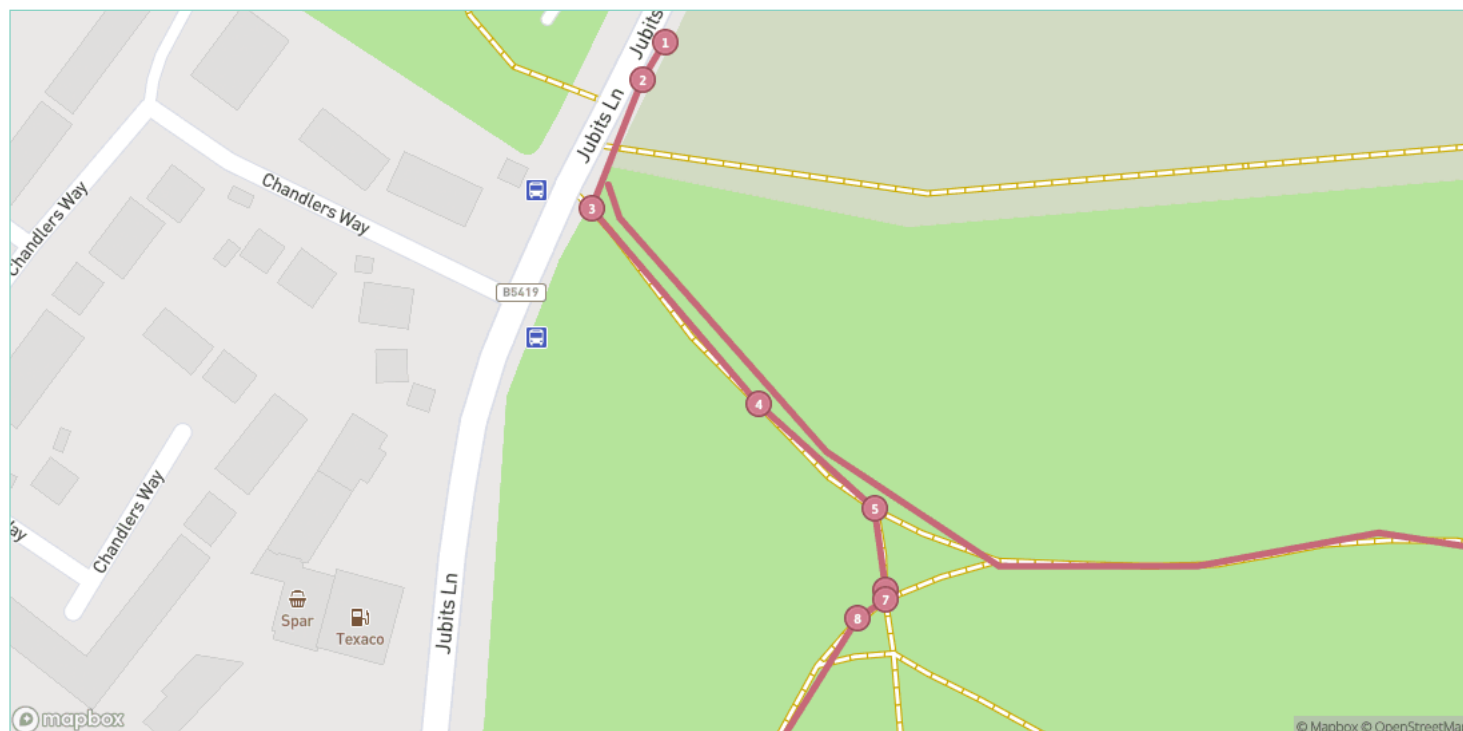
Dog friendly



Botanics



Disclaimer: Directions are provided as guidance only. Weather, construction, closures or other factors may affect routes. Please take care when crossing roads and avoid private land. Always follow local signage and use common sense. Created by Go Jauntly Ltd © 2026. Last Updated: 01 September 2026.



Step 1: Start your walk at the bus stop (buses 17, 168 & 922) or car park on Jubits Lane. With the shelter to your left walk along the pavement.

Step 2: You'll notice the opening to the park on your left. We are heading into Bold Forest Park. Mind the barriers as you go.

Step 3: Join the tarmac path and make your way into the park.

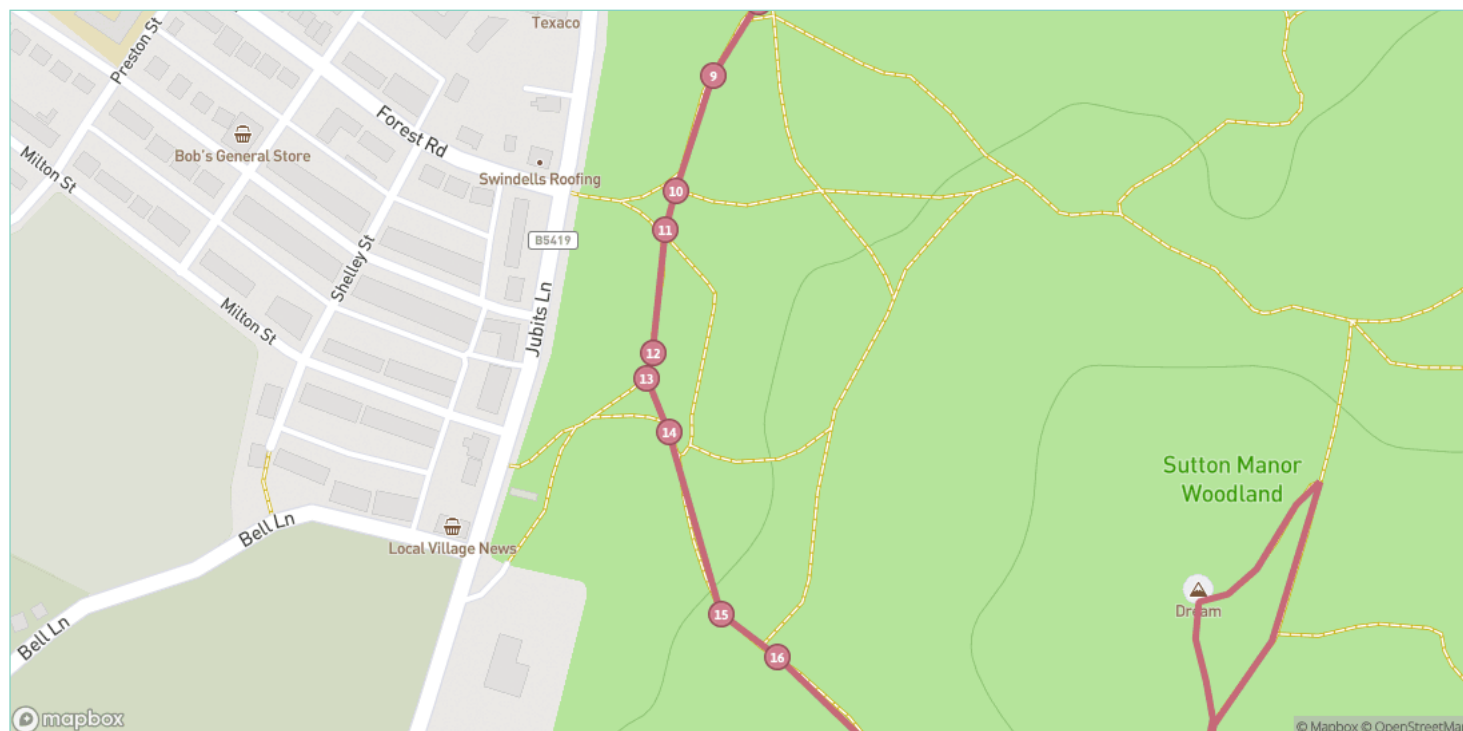
Step 4: Bold Forest Park stands on the land of the former industrial coal mining site of Bold Colliery, Sutton Manor Colliery and Clock Face Colliery. Following the pit closures it was transformed into this forest park.

Step 5: At the junction, take the path to your right.

Step 6: You'll spot some wavy sculptures as you wander. These are known as the Sutton Manor Waves and were installed in 2012.

Step 7: They were designed in collaboration with local schoolchildren, artist Bernadette Hughes and writer Collette Hughes. Each monolith is inscribed with poetry reflecting the memories of the miners.

Step 8: Continue straight along the curved path.



Step 9: The final colliery (coal mining plant) closed in 1991.

Step 10: You'll spot additional artworks around the park, like this sculptural bench. It shares more of the stories of the area's mining heritage.

Step 11: Follow the path through the trees and hedges.

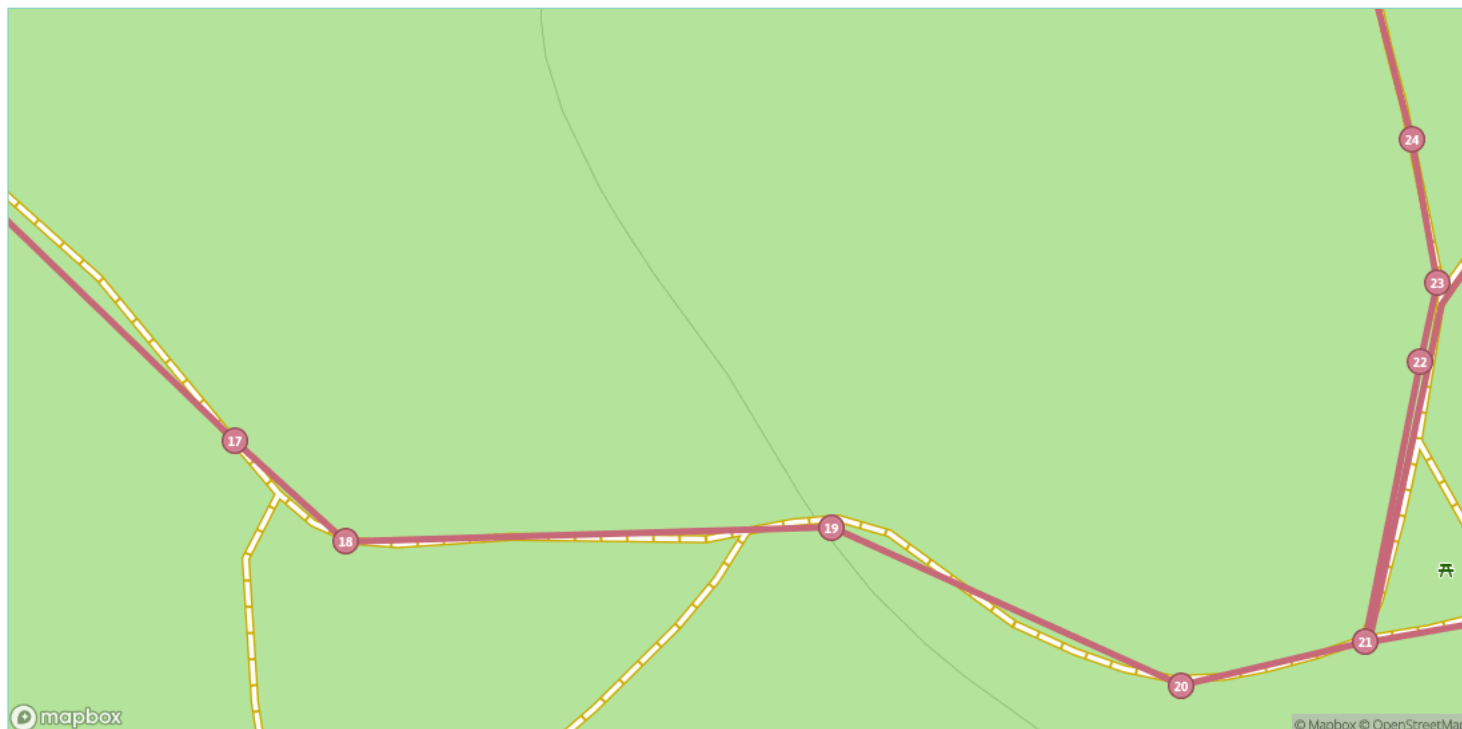
Step 12: Keep to the main path as you get to the junction.

Step 13: Continue along through the open space. This is a great opportunity to catch a glimpse of some local birds flying over.

Step 14: Common birds you might spot while you walk are the common blackbird, chiffchaff and willow warbler.

Step 15: Continue along the path.

Step 16: The coal extraction in the area began around 1540 when the Eltonhead family found coal while digging for clay.



Step 17: Follow the path as it starts to go up the hill.

Step 18: Bold Colliery was working between 1875-1985. It produced over 160,000 tonnes of coal a year at its peak in 1965.

Step 19: The big chimneys you can see in the distance are from the Stanlow Refinery in Ellesmere Port where they process crude oil.

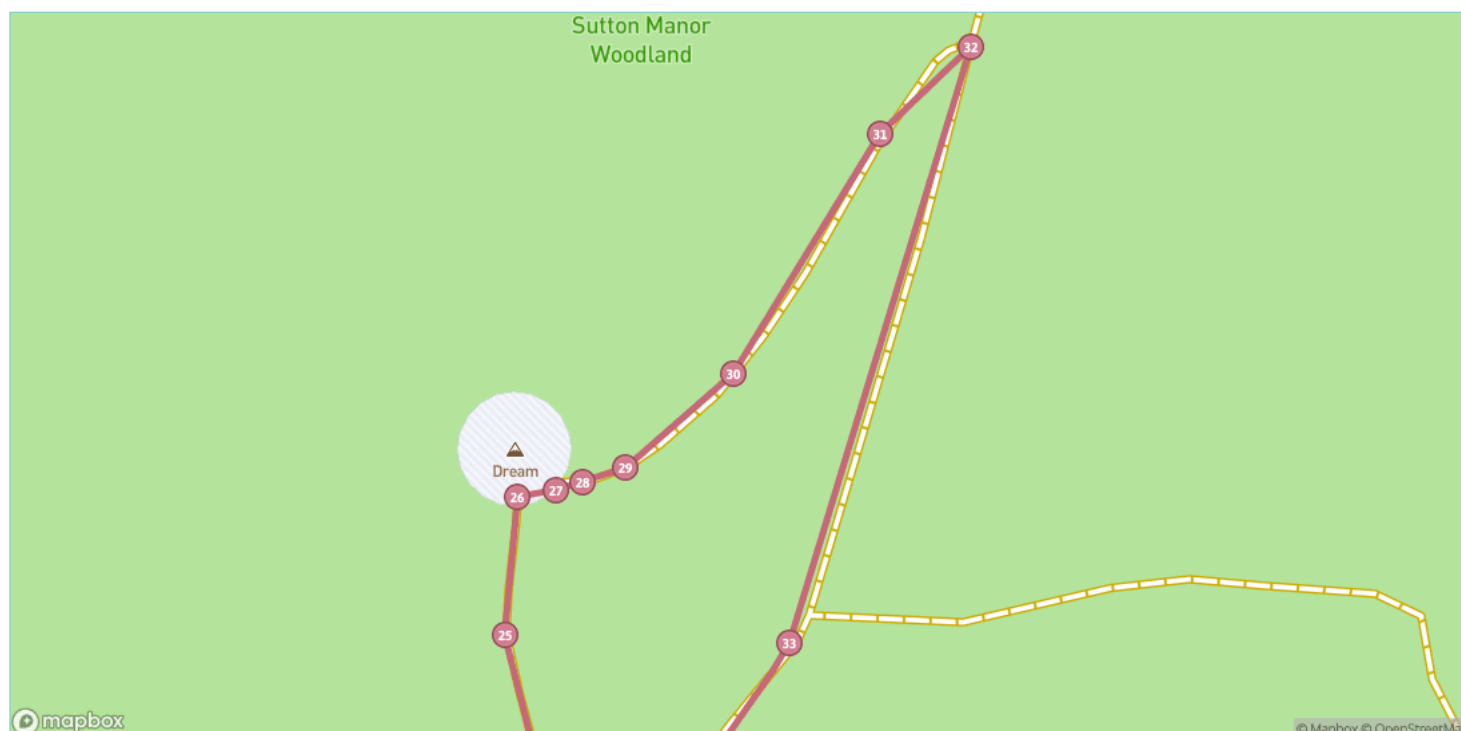
Step 20: Take a moment to look around. You can see quite a way over the fields and roads of Merseyside.

Step 21: Continue up the slow slope of the hill.

Step 22: You'll see the sight of the tall strangely shaped head appear at the top of the hill. This is a sculpture called 'The Dream'.

Step 23: Make your way up the path towards the sculpture. You'll start to realise just how tall it is as you approach it!

Step 24: Unveiled in 2009, The Dream was created by Catalan sculptor Jaime Plensa. It is a 20m (66ft) high sculpture of a young girl's head. It weighs 500 tonnes and is made of white Spanish dolomite and concrete.



Step 25: The sculpture shows the girl with her eyes closed in a dream-like state. It represents how the community looked to a brighter future.

Step 26: It was part of Channel 4's 'The Big Art Project' in 2008. The white was chosen to be in stark contrast from the black of the coal beneath.

Step 27: Take a moment to walk around the sculpture and take it all in. The light changes the contours as the day goes on.

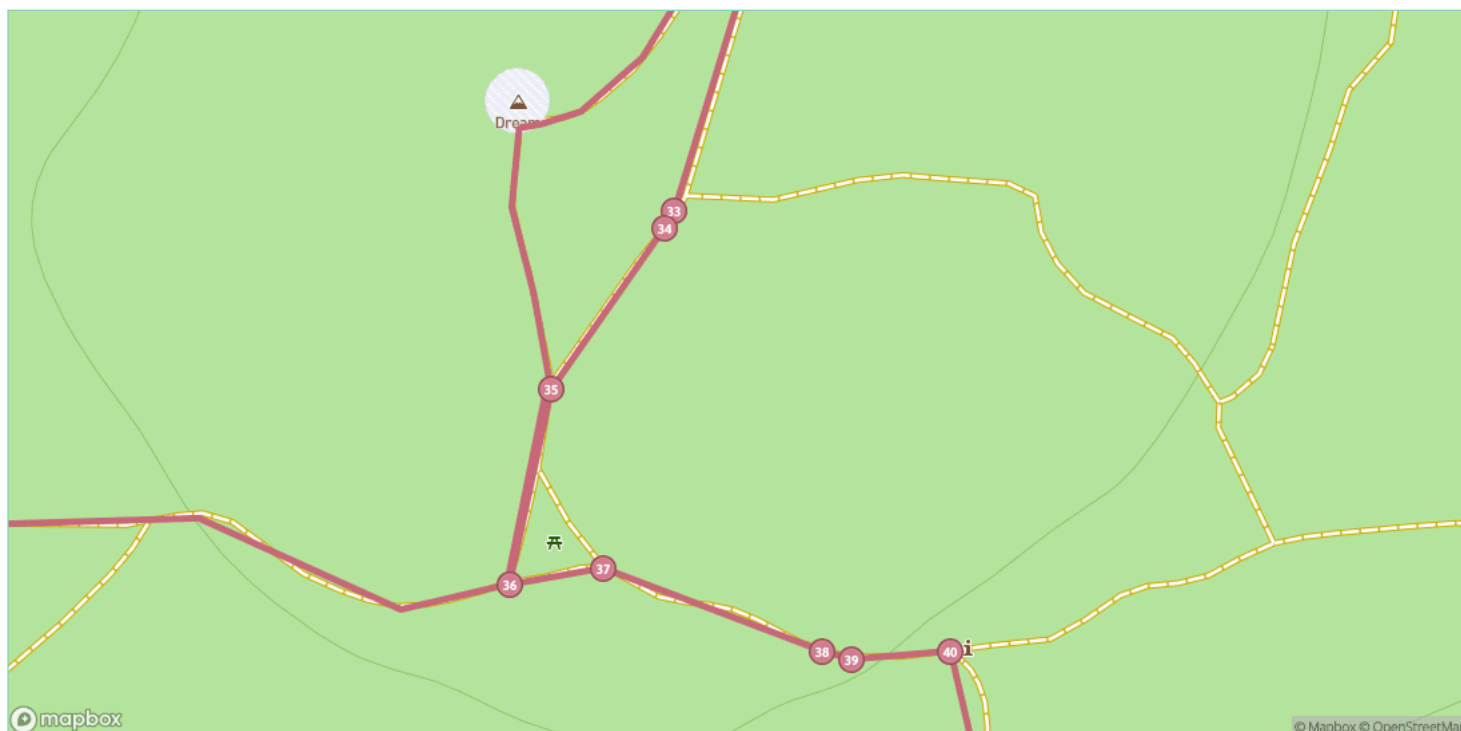
Step 28: Once you've experienced The Dream by wandering and looking up, return to the path around the edge of the steps.

Step 29: Take the second path (the one you didn't come up on) to make your way back down the hill.

Step 30: Be sure to look back to see the head from different angles. It is amazing how one piece of art can change with light and direction.

Step 31: Follow the winding path down through the trees.

Step 32: At the bottom, turn to your right. Follow the path, which will take you for another view of the beautiful sculpture.



Step 33: Continue along the path and make your way down again.

Step 34: Look up as you go to see the head disappearing into the plants.

Step 35: Continue along the path. Be careful of your footing as you turn to see the sculpture again.

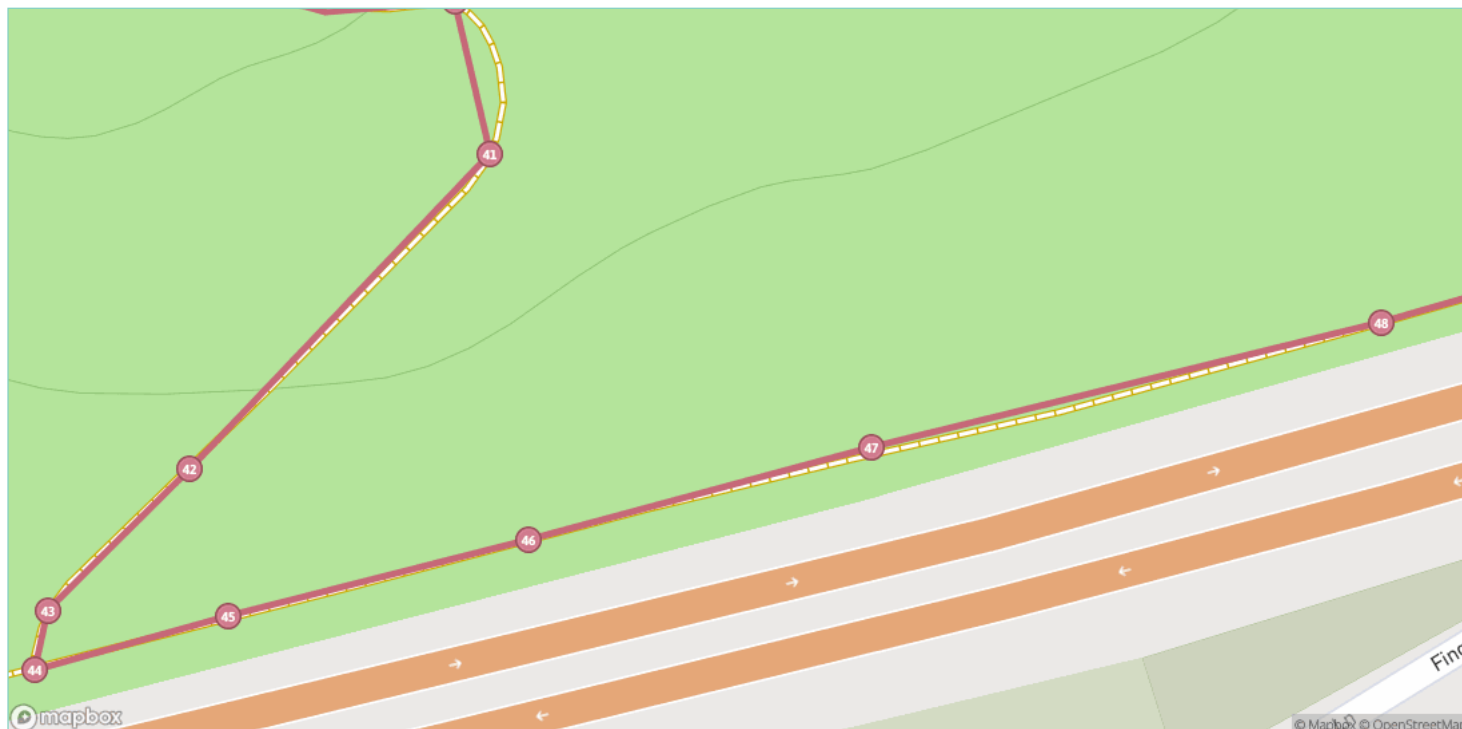
Step 36: At the bottom of the hill, rejoin the main path and bear left to continue.

Step 37: Follow the path.

Step 38: Look out for the many different textures in the shrubs around you. This very spiky plant is gorse. The spring flowers have a coconut scent.

Step 39: This tree is the Rowan, or Mountain Ash as it's also called. In late summer and autumn, you will see it covered in bright red berries.

Step 40: Follow the path around the bend, bearing right.



Step 41: Make your way down the hill. You can see the M62 motorway at the bottom!

Step 42: If you visit around late summer, you'll find an abundance of blackberries growing in the hedgerow.

Step 43: Make your way down to the path at the bottom of the hill and get ready to turn left at the end.

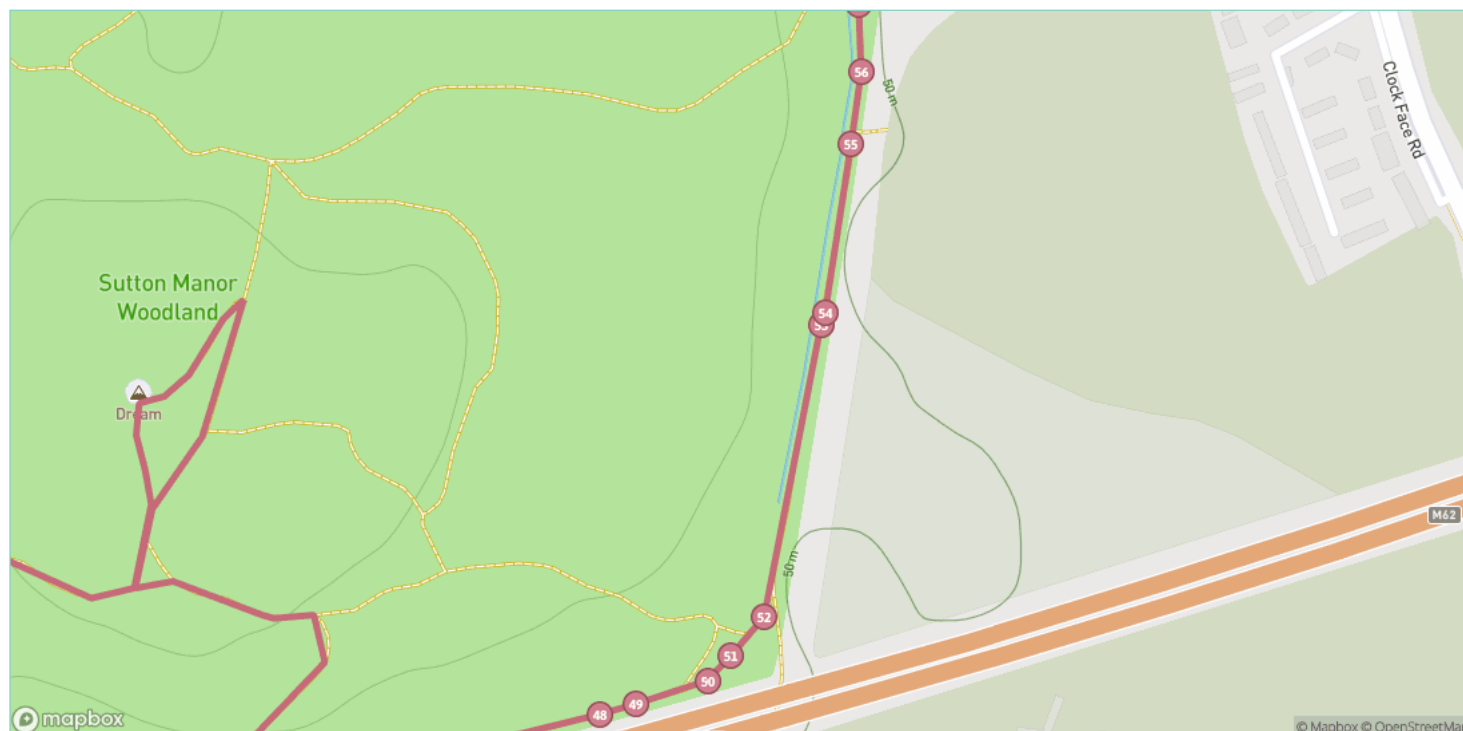
Step 44: Follow the path on your left towards the motorway sign in the distance.

Step 45: As you go, you can enjoy the towering weeping willow dancing above you.

Step 46: Keep an eye out for the wild flowers making the grass their home.

Step 47: Continue along the path. The M62 motorway running next to the park was opened in 1973.

Step 48: It's surprising that it isn't noisier. You can still hear the rustling of the leaves even with the whooshing of the cars going by.



Step 49: Continue along the path as it begins to veer away from the road.

Step 50: Follow the path as it starts to curve to the left. We are heading back into the main woodland.

Step 51: These spiky balls are teasels. They are loved by bees, butterflies and hover flies when they are flowering.

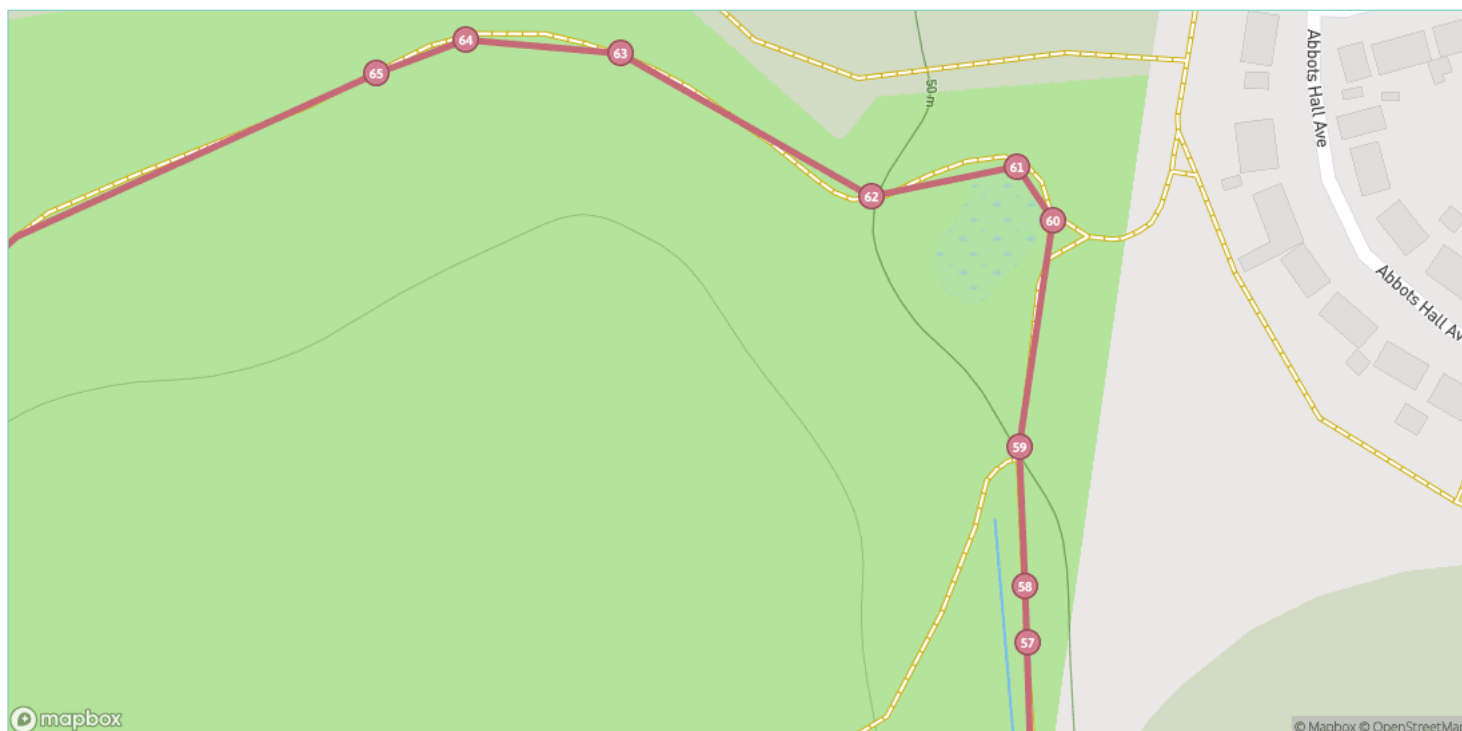
Step 52: Follow the path next to the railings, keeping to your left.

Step 53: This tree with the bright red berries is a cotoneaster. They are not a woodland plant but often grow after birds eat the berries and poop!

Step 54: This beautifully fluffy looking plant is feverwort. It is another favourite with the bugs and butterflies.

Step 55: You'll notice water birds as you walk around this part. There is a small waterway hidden in the hedgerow. See if you can spot any birds.

Step 56: Continue along the path taking your time to see what birds and bugs you can spot as you go.



Step 57: This cheerful yellow flower is the common fleabane. They enjoy living near damp areas and wet ditches like the one in the hedgerow.

Step 58: Continue along the path and keep to your right at the bend.

Step 59: Carry in along the path as it bends to the left.

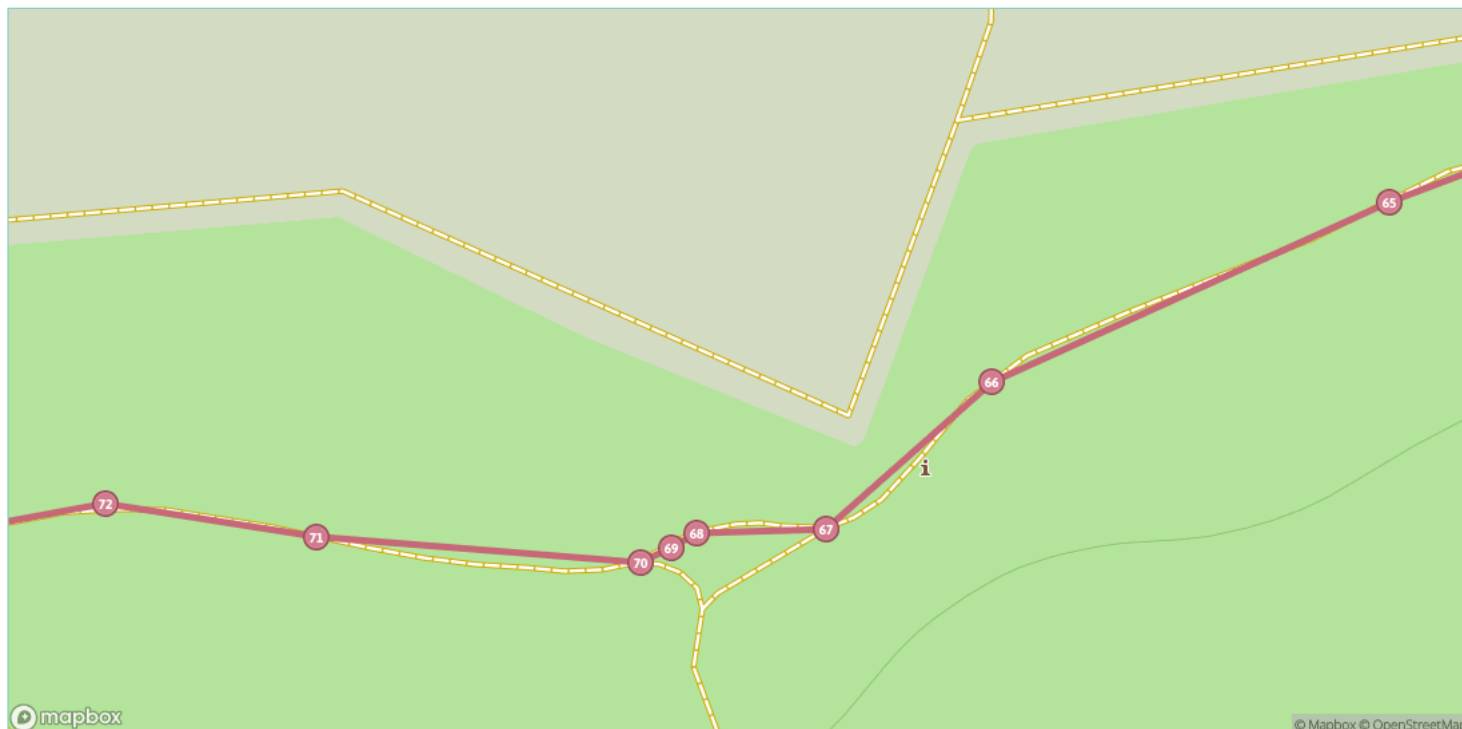
Step 60: You'll find a small lake. There are plenty of ducks, grebe and other water birds that visit here.

Step 61: Continue along the path. Watch your footing as it is uneven in places.

Step 62: Continue to follow the path around the bend to your right.

Step 63: As you go, keep an eye out for the different textures of bark on the trees. Some are very smooth and others very rough like this one.

Step 64: Continue along the path.



Step 65: If you look down, you can notice all kinds of other things growing. Perhaps you'll spot some fungi, some bugs or small plants.

Step 72: The park is a great local place for families, dog walkers, runners and solo wanderers.

Step 66: Carry on along the path taking in the sounds and textures along the way.

Step 67: Continue along the path to your right.

Step 68: You'll spot another of the wave sculptures. There are six to be discovered and can be found on the many paths weaving through the park.

Step 69: The poems share the experiences of miners that worked in the collieries.

Step 70: Continue along the path to your right.

Step 71: Follow the path.



Step 73: As the path widens, you might notice some different plants growing in the grass and edges like this pretty pink willowherb.

Step 74: Keep going along the path. Bear right to follow the path back to the start.

Step 75: Continue along the path as we make our way to the exit.

Step 76: Leave the park onto Jubits Lane and take the pavement to your right.

Step 77: Follow the pavement along and use the island crossing for the car park or continue ahead to return to the bus stop.

Step 78: We hope you enjoyed this walk! Discover your next walk in the app, we have lots to choose from. You can also tap the 3 dots below to share with friends.