



Stockport Blooming Trail

A circular walk around Vernon Park and Woodbank Memorial Park. Expect cherry blossoms galore in spring and lovely views year-round.

Distance 2.8 kilometers / 1.7 miles

Duration 1 hour and 15 minutes



Refreshments



Parking



History



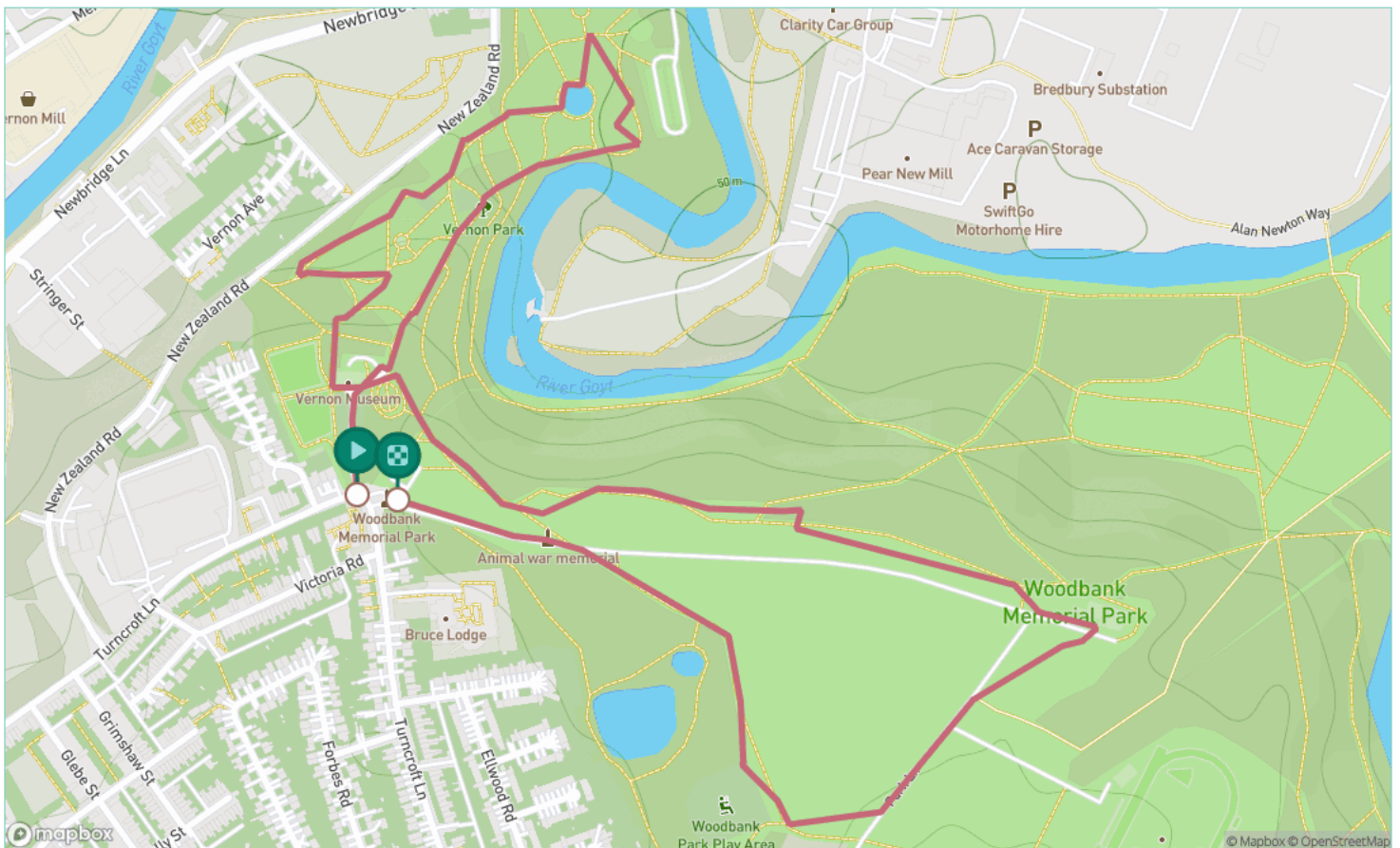
Hilly & steep



Dog friendly

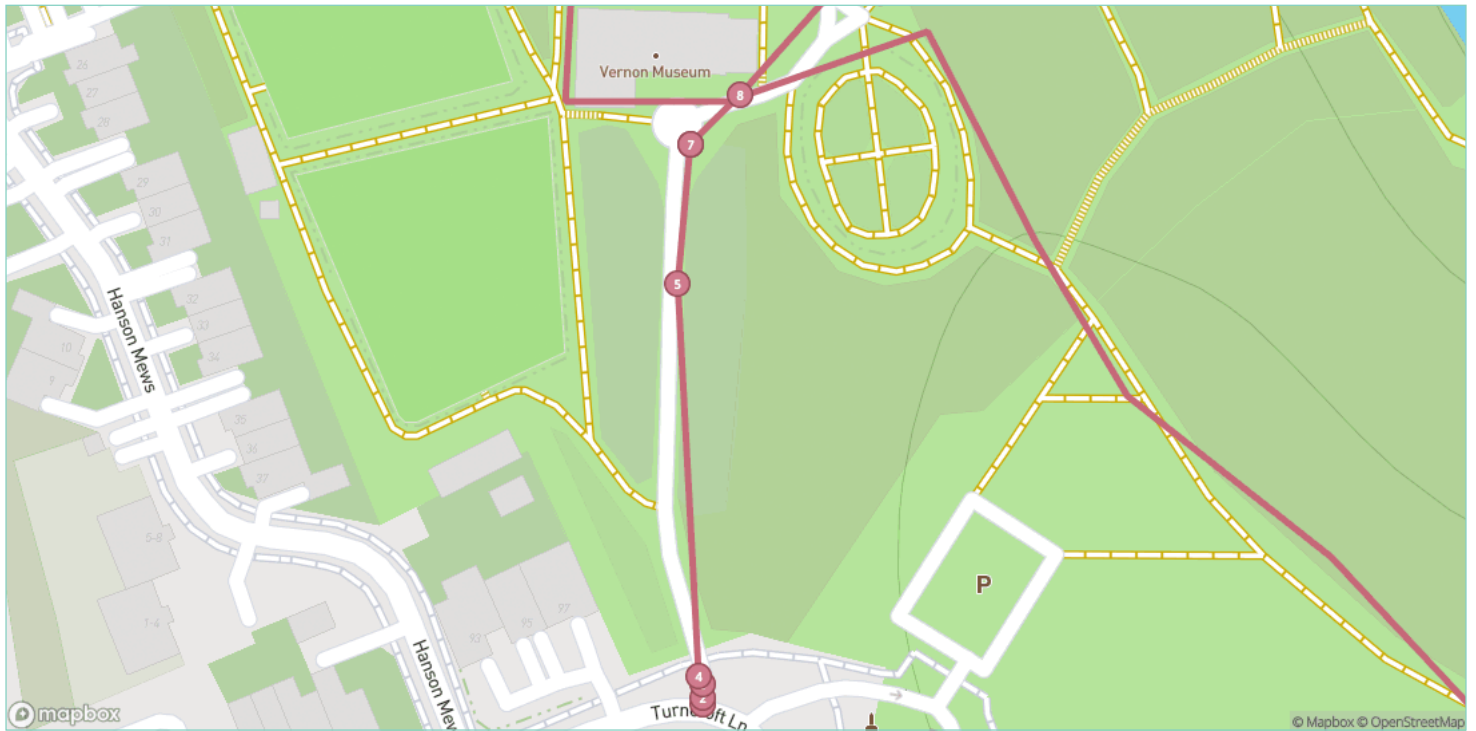


Child friendly



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: 10 April 2026.



Step 1: Welcome to the Big Blooming Walks. We've teamed up with the National Trust to bring you a series of special spring walks celebrating the most beautiful time of year. Get ready to stop and smell the blooms! Let's go.

Step 2: Please note that there are steps up and down to Vernon Park but the Memorial Park is flat and step-free.

Step 3: You'll begin your walk at the entrance to Vernon Park on Turncroft Lane. There's parking onsite and the entrance is served by the 364 bus.

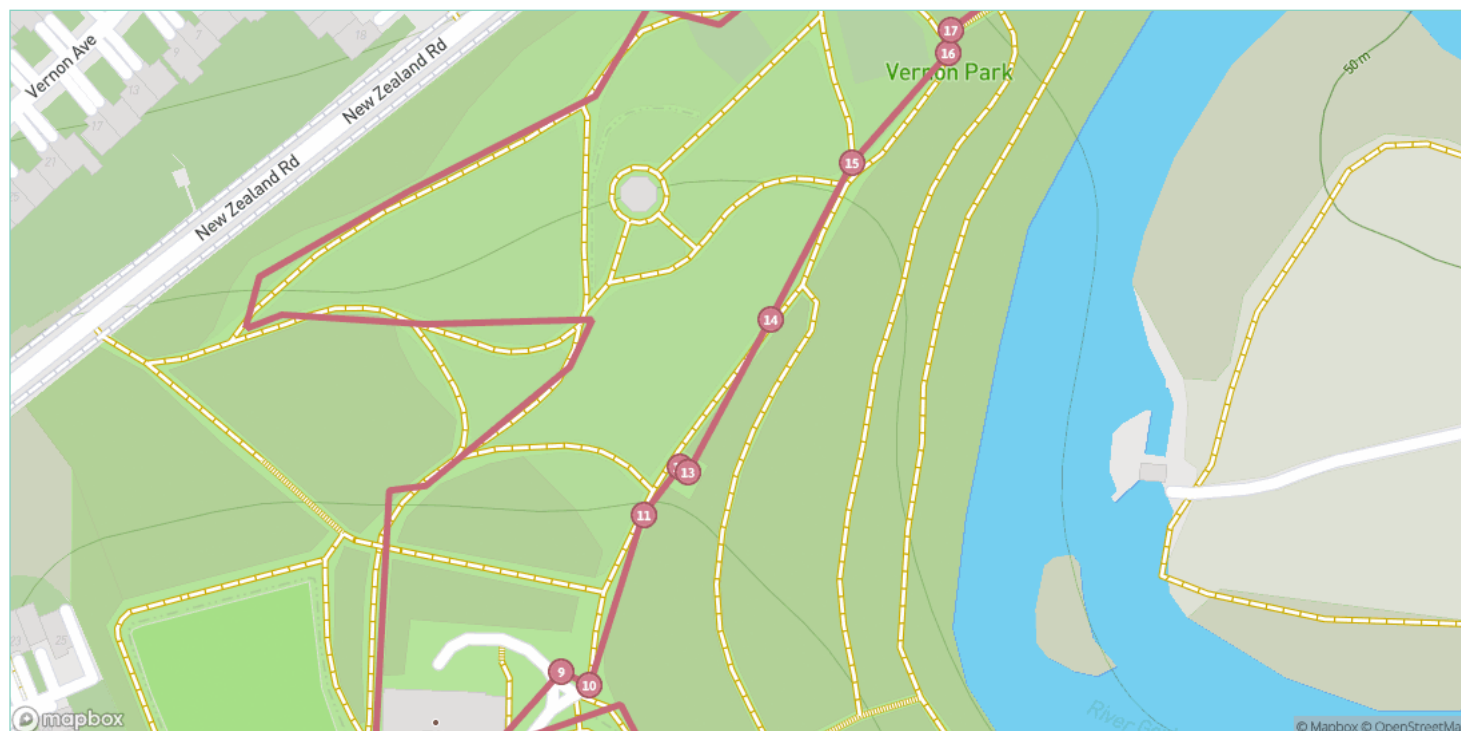
Step 4: Vernon Park opened in 1858 and is Stockport's oldest public park. It was developed for the purpose of public walks.

Step 5: You'll spot the lovely vibrant frog! He was one of 21 giant frogs as part of a trail in Stockport.

Step 6: The red brick hall is Vernon Hall. It was established and opened as a museum in 1860.

Step 7: It is now used as a community space for events, classes and activities.

Step 8: Turn right to follow the path along the side of the cafe.



Step 9: There are two cannons at Vernon Park. When the park was opened, a 21 gun salute was fired using cannons donated by the War Office.

Step 10: Take the path to the left beneath the cannon.

Step 11: As you make your way down the hill, you'll see the new shelter on the area of the original Victorian bandstand.

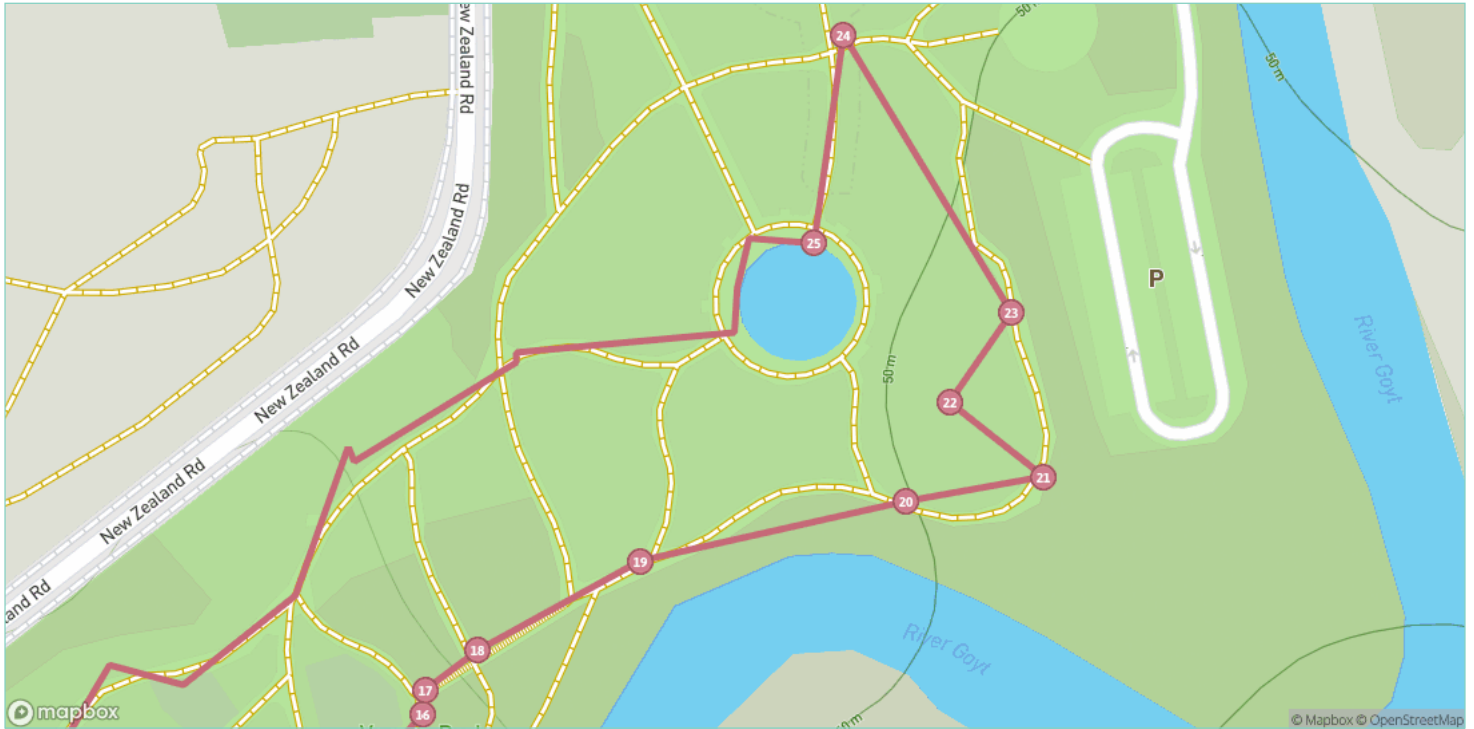
Step 12: Take a look at the water fountain. It's no longer running, but it is worth exploring the unusual design and features.

Step 13: Water fountains from the Victorian era were a lot more ornate than the ones we have now!

Step 14: The original band stand was erected in 1888 and demolished in 1963.

Step 15: Take the path to the right, by the large rock.

Step 16: You can get a fantastic view over the local fields, houses and waterways from up here.



Step 17: Carefully take the stairs down to the bottom.

Step 18: You can take a break to enjoy the planted pots and flowers in the borders along the way.

Step 19: At the bottom, take the path to the right and follow it along. Would you like to listen to a blossom meditation? Tap 'Read More' if so. 🌸

Take a breather in blossom

Take a seat on a bench or sit on the grass and enjoy a little breather amidst the blossom. Grab your headphones and try this short guided 5 minute blossom meditation.

If you've never tried meditation before, this is the perfect way to start. Adding just 5 minutes of mindfulness to your day can help slow things down and boost your mood.

Blossom Meditation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v;=fKmb7a4YNEU>

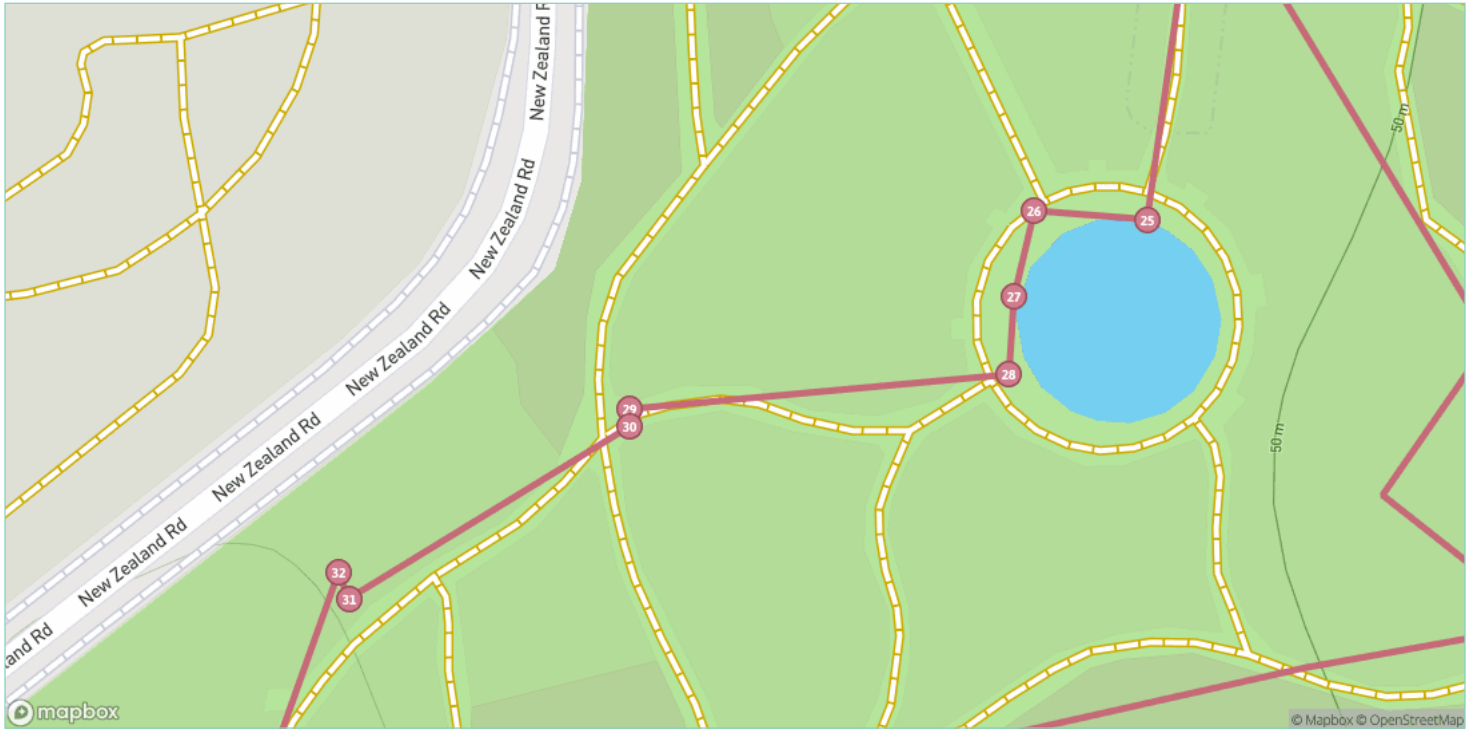
Step 20: There are plenty of places to sit and enjoy the park. Keep to the path or wander as you wish.

Step 21: You can just spot Pear Mill through the trees. It is a former Edwardian cotton-spinning mill and now home to antiques, shops and activities.

Step 22: This sculpture represents buddleia and was carved from a tree in Woodbank Park by environmental artist Kerry Morrison in 1998.

Step 23: Follow along the path around the edge of the park.

Step 24: Take the path to your left to head up to the pond.



Step 25: A tranquil spot in the middle of the park where you can often enjoy the ducks paddling around on the water.

Step 26: Wander around the pond and enjoy the park views. What good things in nature can you see today?

Step 27: Check out the planted border around the pond. How many different plants and flowers can you spot?

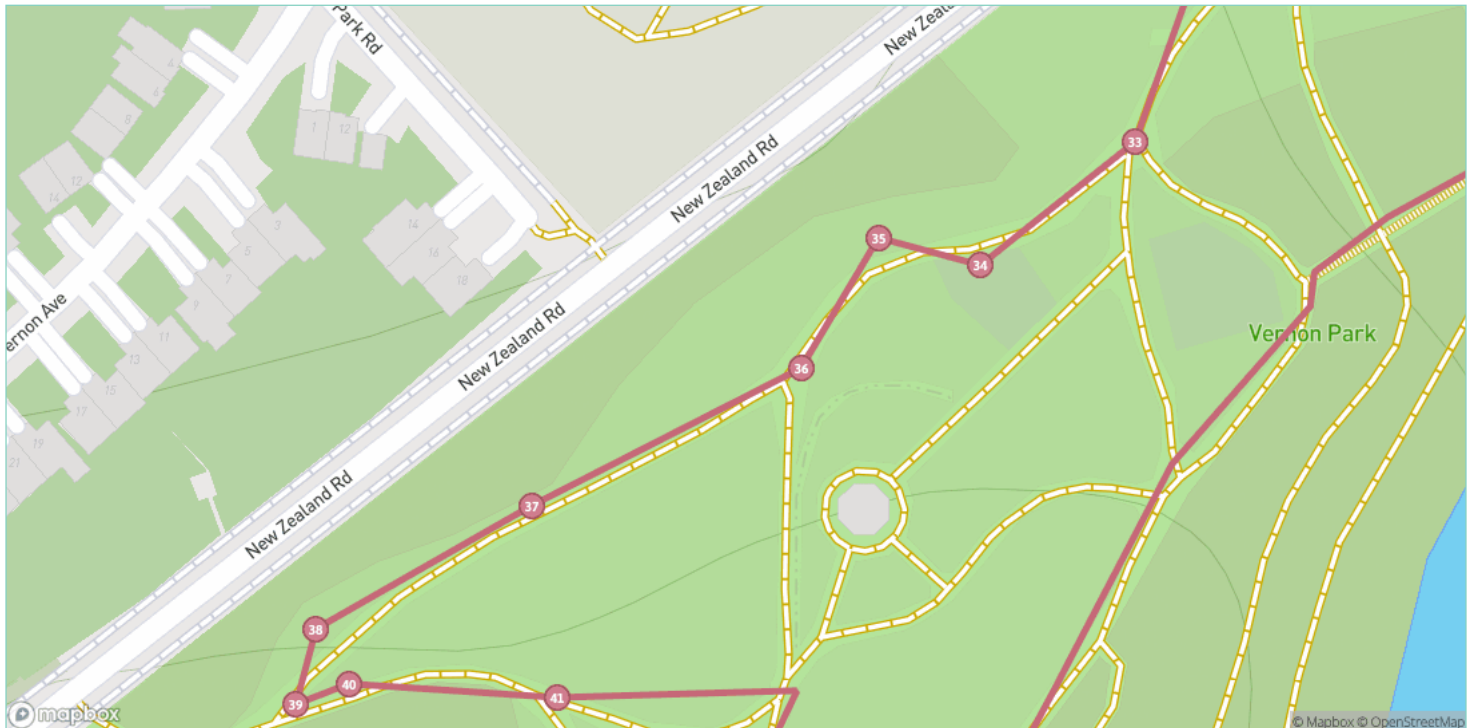
Step 28: Take the path out of the lake area towards the fork. Take the fork path to the right.

Step 29: Take the path beside the beautiful covered bench. A lovely shaded spot in the summer months.

Step 30: Follow the path up the hill.

Step 31: Take time to admire the blossom and trees along the way.

Step 32: Fun fact! Cherry blossom flowers naturally have five petals.



Step 33: Follow the path. Use all of your senses and breathe. Isn't it nice to be in the park in spring?

Step 40: Look out for the pine trees and their needles. Between September and December you will see their pinecones.

Step 34: Look out for Japanese skimmia. It has delicate white flowers in spring and vibrant red berries later in the year.

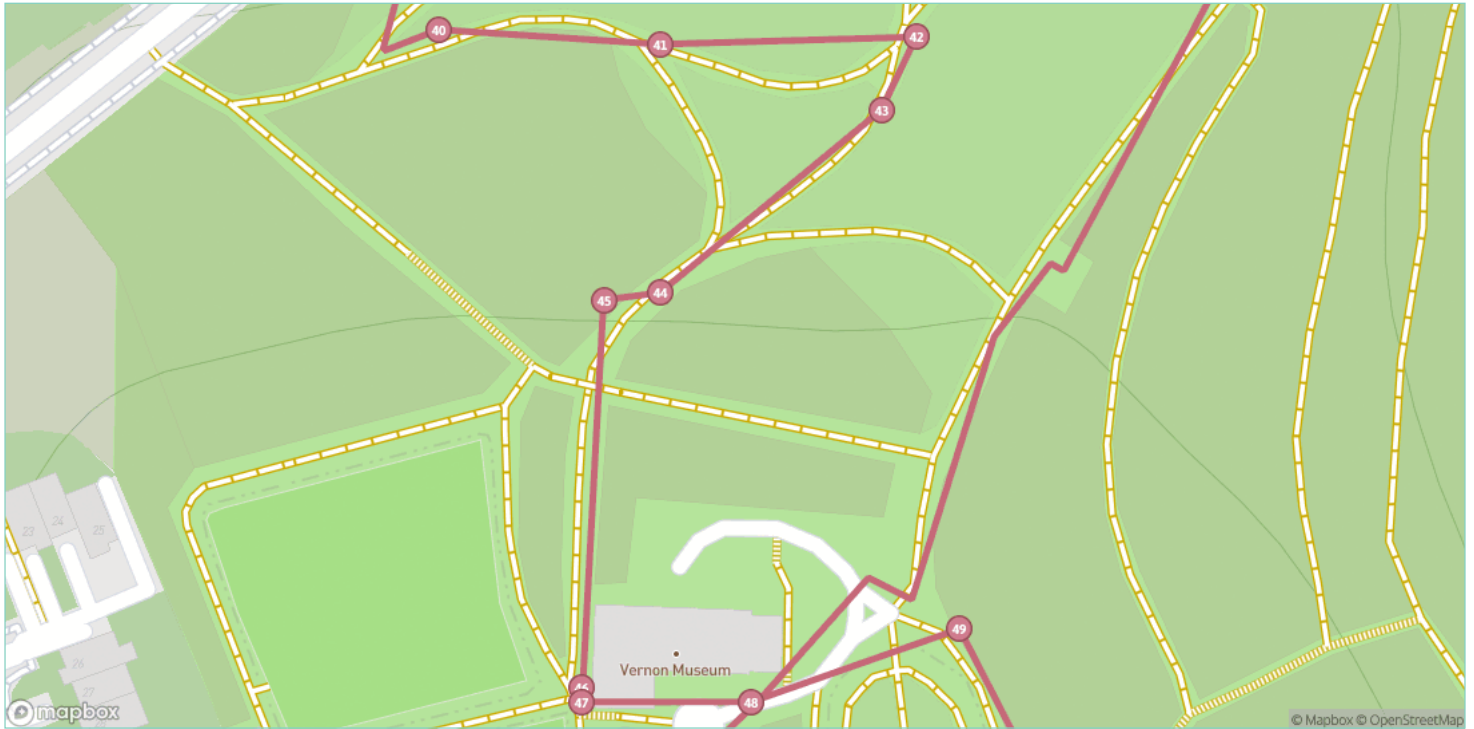
Step 35: Continue along the path looking out for seasonal flowers along the way. In spring you can see plenty of cheerful daffodils.

Step 36: Follow the path along and up the slope.

Step 37: Turn back to see how high you are.

Step 38: Follow along the path by the ivy coated trees.

Step 39: Take the path to your left so you're almost going back on yourself while heading up the hill.



Step 41: Continue along the path.

Step 42: You can get a closer look at the modern bandstand as you make your way back up to the hill.

Step 43: Follow the path to your right to take you up the hill again.

Step 44: The bridge is dated 1876 and provides a walkway beneath the New Zealand Road entrance to the park. We will walk beneath it.

Step 45: The old Stockport coat of arms.

Step 46: Follow the cobbled path up the hill.

Step 47: Keep an eye out for a gap in the wall. Take the steps back up to the front of Vernon Hall.

Step 48: Pass by the hall again, but take the right turn by the hedge after the cafe. We're heading to Woodbank Memorial Park.



Step 49: Continue along the path towards Woodbank Memorial Park.

Step 50: Woodbank Memorial Park was officially opened in 1921 featuring woodland, wildflowers and riverside paths.

Step 51: Follow along the path to enter the park.

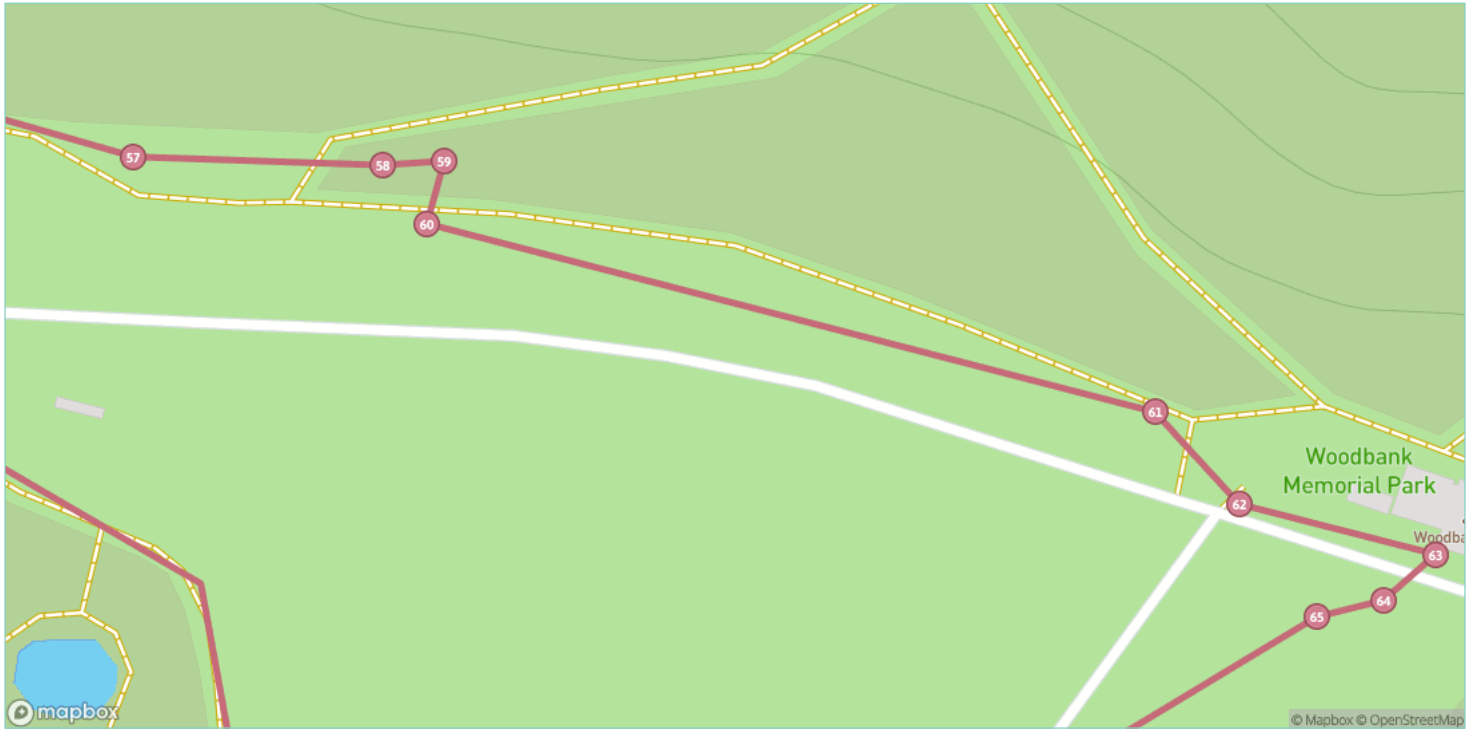
Step 52: Look through the trees to see how high you are now. You can see the Pear Mill pear in full glory from up here.

Step 53: Take the path between the trees, being careful of any roots sticking up into the path.

Step 54: Cross the wooden bridge.

Step 55: Looking down, you can see the River Goyt. It is a tributary of the River Mersey.

Step 56: Follow the path among the trees.



Step 57: Continue along the dirt path taking time to listen out for birds.

Step 58: If you listen carefully, you can sometimes hear the river rushing by at the bottom of the valley.

Step 59: Carry on along the path.

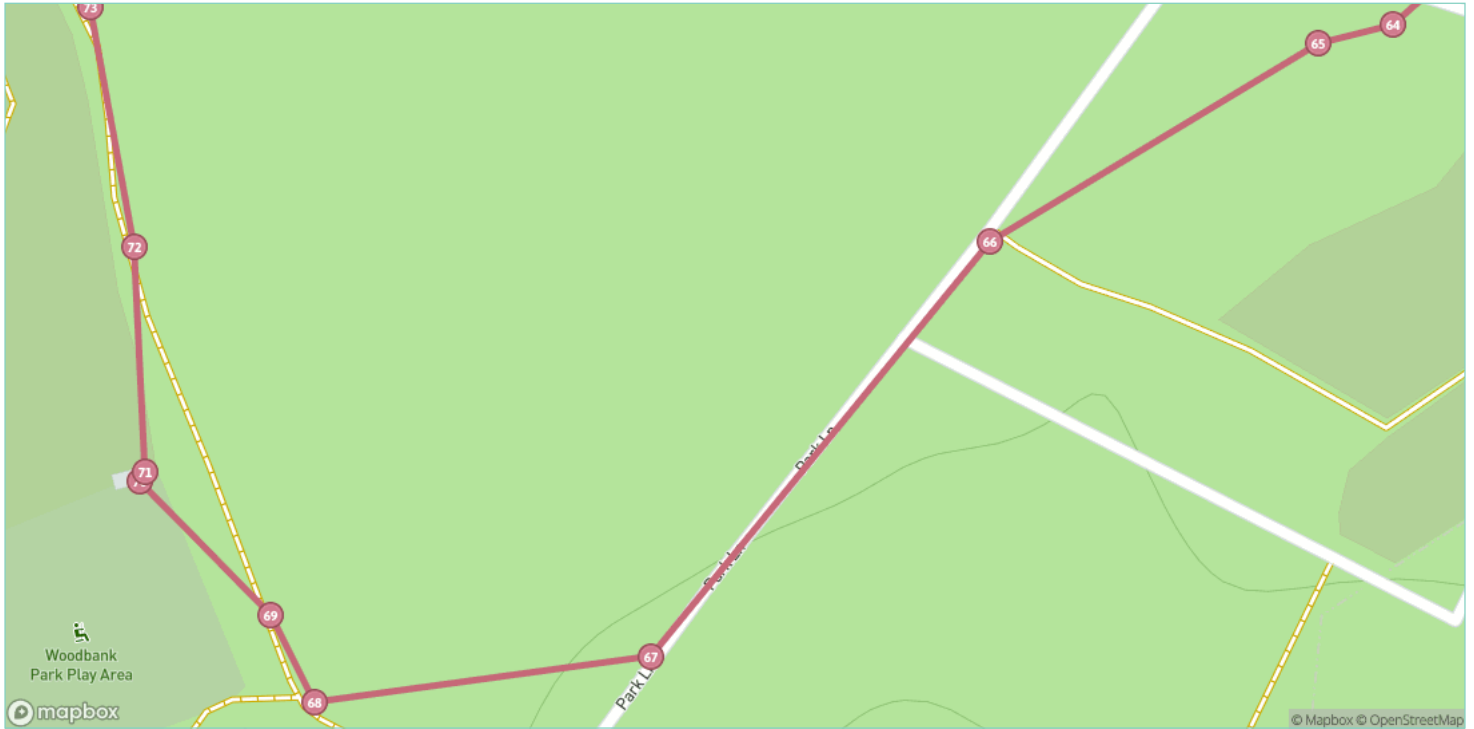
Step 60: Continue along the grass path.

Step 61: There are lots of spring bulbs planted in the Memorial Park. Some of them are scented.

Step 62: Head onto the main path and make your way towards the hall.

Step 63: This is Woodbank Hall. The former residence of local industrialist and philanthropist Peter Marsland from 1814-1829.

Step 64: Take the grass path to the side of the bench and follow it around the hedgerow.



Step 65: Follow the path past the trees to make your way back to the hard path.

Step 72: Back on the path, follow along by the side of the beautiful large trees.

Step 66: Turn left to rejoin the hard path.

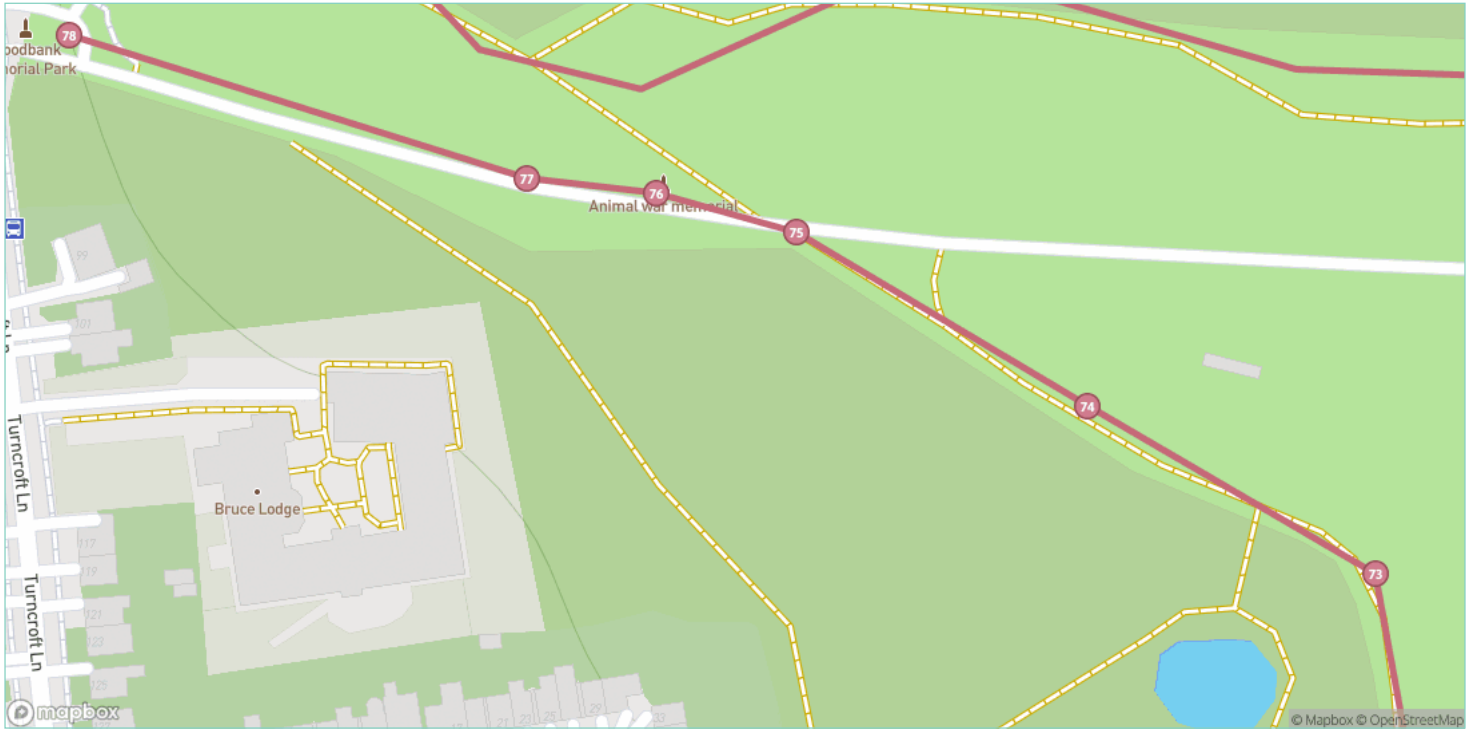
Step 67: You'll see some polythene tunnels in the distance. These are part of the Woodbank Park gardening projects and allotment.

Step 68: Follow the path to your right to continue around the perimeter of the park.

Step 69: Woodbank Park was gifted to the town in the 1920s in honour of WWII veterans.

Step 70: As you pass the playground, pop in to have a look at the bottle top artwork. It's part of a trail of bottle top artworks.

Step 71: It is part of an initiative by local community organisation Plastic Shed based in Stockport Town Centre.



Step 73: Follow the curve around the park.

Step 74: And take in the shapes and forms of some of the ancient trees that decorate the borders and grassy areas.

Step 75: Continue along the path.

Step 76: This is a memorial to all the animals who took part and lost their lives in wars. It was carved by local artist Andy Burgess.

Step 77: Head back onto the path and follow it along towards the car park.

Step 78: You end the walk at the entrance to the memorial park car park. We hope you enjoyed exploring and are ready for your next adventure.
