A Mini Green Tour of Harlow

A mini loop around Harlow's green spaces. Explore Harlow Town Park, spot sculptures and connect with nature as you go.

Distance 1.6 kilometres / 1 mile
Duration 30 minutes

Water feature · Great views · Public loos · Public transport · History · Dog friendly

Use the QR code or link below to view this walk on our website or app.

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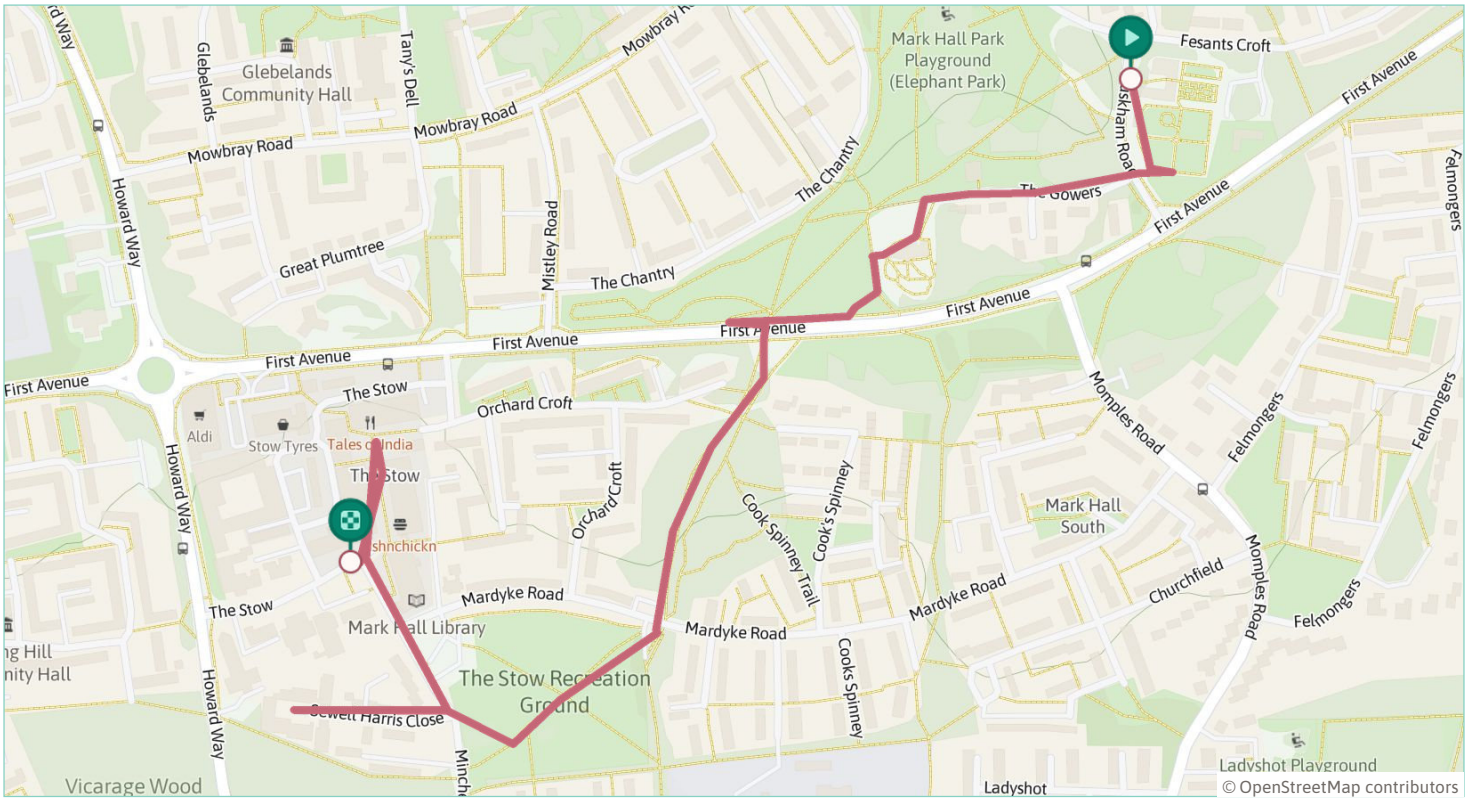

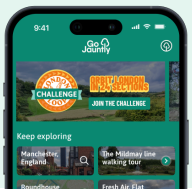

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Step 1: Welcome to this mini green tour around Harlow. We start here at Harlow Museum and Walled Gardens (CM20 2LF).

Step 2: The nearest bus stop is on First Avenue. Bus services available on this route are as follows: 59, 508, 509 and 510.

Step 3: Harlow Museum and Walled Gardens is free to enter and is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:30am to 3:30pm (last entry 3pm).

Harlow Museum

Harlow museum is an exploration of the history of the town, travelling through Iron Age times all the way to present day.

Find out more

https://www.harlowmuseum.com/

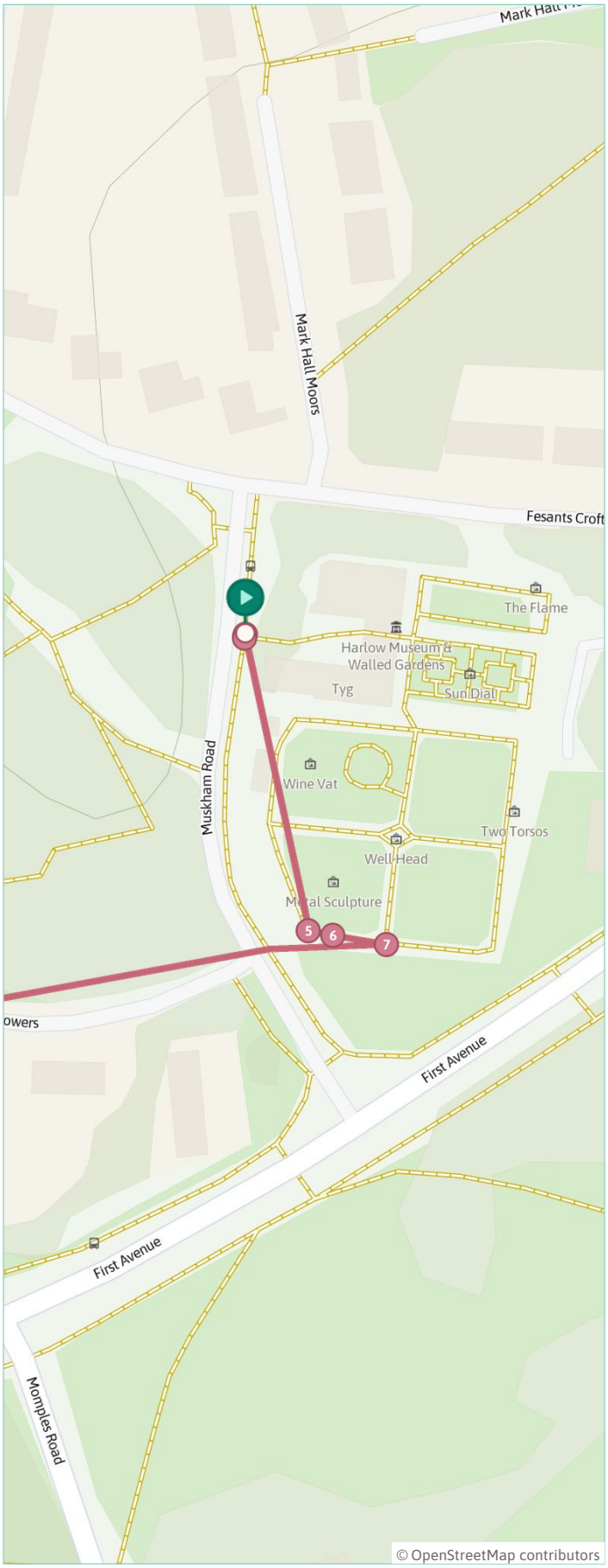
Step 4: With the museum behind you, turn left to follow Muskham Road.

Step 5: Turn left for another entrance to Harlow Museum and Walled Gardens. Dogs on leads are welcome in the gardens.

The Walled Gardens

The Walled Gardens are set in two acres of space and divided into historic gardens.
The first is the Unusual Fruit Garden, which is home to fruits such as quinces, medlars and figs, which are not commonly grown in public space.s
Then there is the 17th Century Garden, a parterre that can be seen from a viewing platform.
The final is the Peace Garden, divided into four main areas; a unique rose planting scheme, a modern cottage garden, a beautiful herbaceous border, full of stunning perennials, and a serene seating area.

Step 6: It's a lovely spot to connect with nature.



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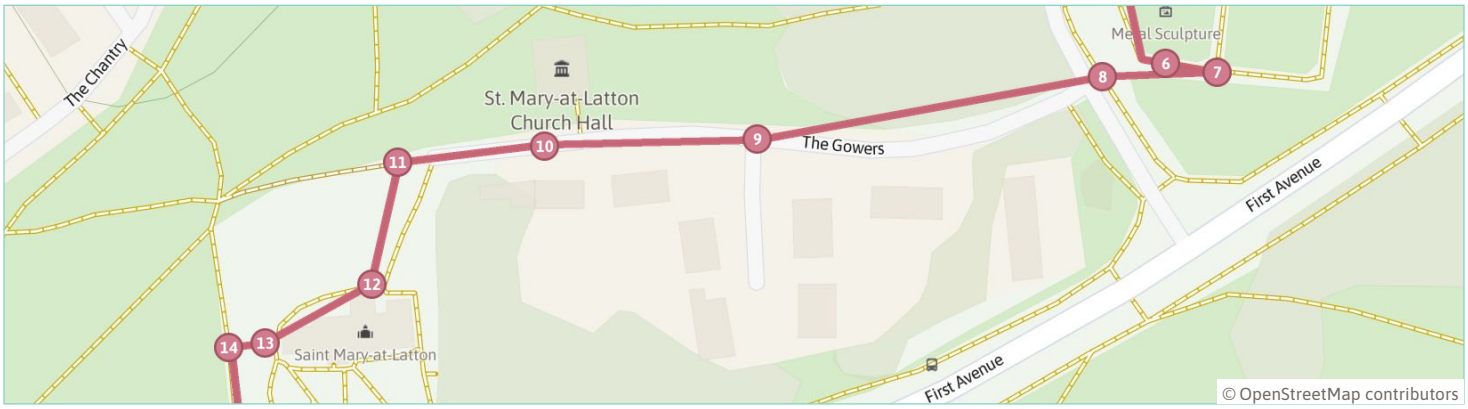


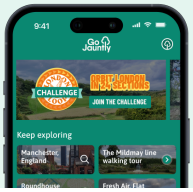
Step 7: Spend some time enjoying the gardens as you wish. Then when you're ready turn right out of the gates.

Step 8: Cross Muskham Road and then turn right onto The Gowers.

Step 9: Pass Mark Hall Park on the left.

Mark Hall Park

Mark Hall Park was once the site of Mark Hall Manor.
During it's lifetime there were three styles of houses built here, Medieval, Tudor and the final house built in 1777. This final version of Mark Hall Manor lasted until it was destroyed by fire in 1960.
Newman Gilby lived at Mark Hall and was from a Gin producing family. The large Copper Gin Still located in the museum gardens was once part of the Gilby Gin Distillery.



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Step 10: There is a bench here if you'd like to admire the view.

Step 11: Turn left into the churchyard of St Mary-at-Latton. The church dates from the 12th Century.

St Mary-at-Latton Church

Latton was an ancient parish bounded east by Harlow and west by Netteswell. Like Netteswell it was a long, narrow parish, extending south from the River Stort.
The church was damaged by a rocket bomb in 1945 but repairs during the 1950s revealed architectural features previously hidden under cement.
What's special about this church is that there five bells all from varied time periods; 1579, 1611, 1612, 1627, and 1728. The last, which is small, may be a recast sanctus bell.

Step 12: Follow the path ahead and then right, keeping the church on the left.

Step 13: Head down the steps and out of the churchyard. Then turn left.

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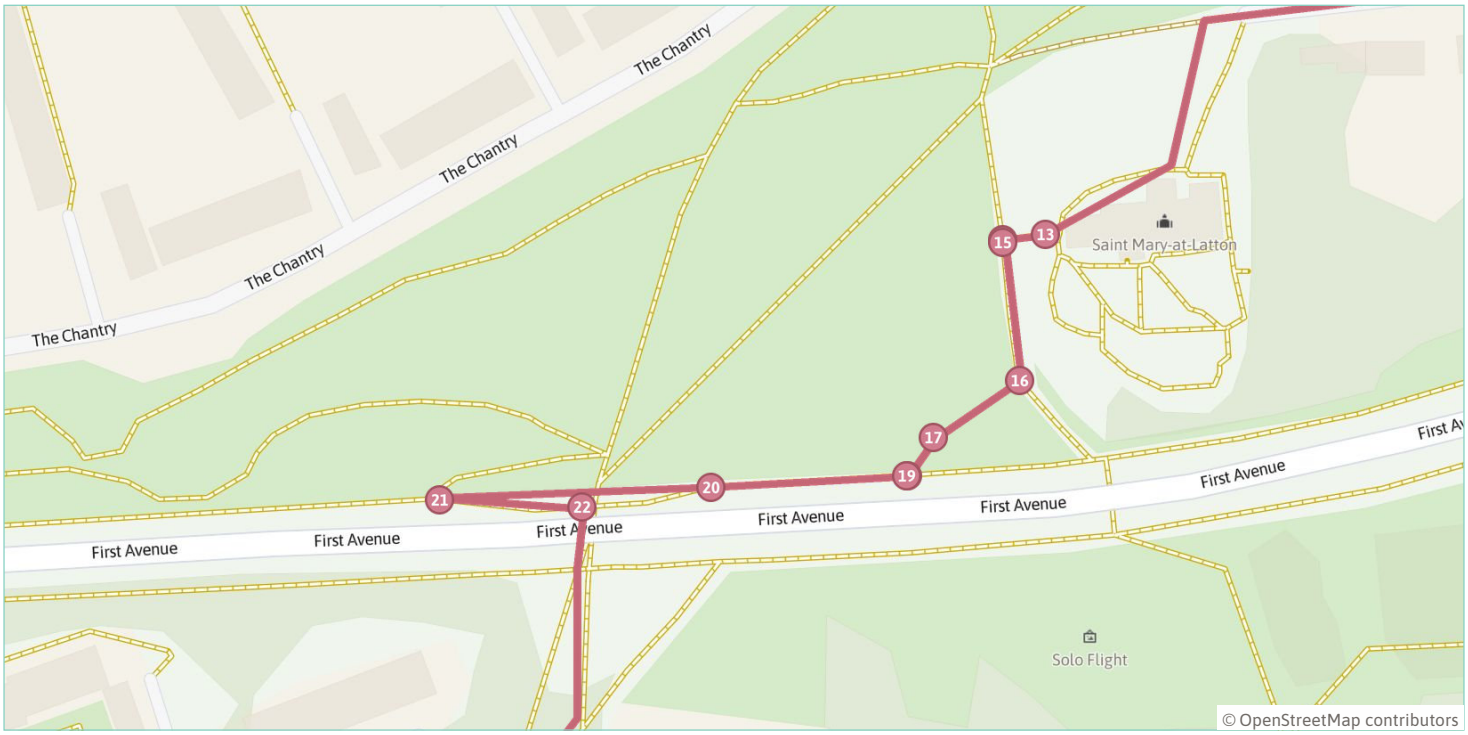

Step 14: To make use of a flatter surface and to avoid the grass verge at Step 21, turn right heading towards the Chantry. Once there turn left and follow the hard surfaces path to First Avenue, rejoining the main route at Step 22.

Step 15: Alternatively turn left. There are two wooden benches on the left here.

Step 16: During the spring and summer months beautiful floral verges will be in bloom along First Avenue.

Step 17: They're part of an initiative between Harlow Council and HTS to restore pride in the town, one of the Council's main priorities.

Step 18: Across First Avenue is a metal sculpture. This 8.5 metre stainless steel piece is Solo Flight by sculptor Antanas Braždys.

Harlow Sculpture Town

This sculpture is part of Harlow Sculpture Town's Hepworth Trail.
In 1953 Harlow Art Trust set out with a mission to beautify the post-war of Harlow by commissioning, purchasing and siting sculpture across its public spaces. There are now over 100 pieces of artwork across Harlow.

Step 19: Solo Flight was originally commissioned in 1982 for the Harvey Centre, the town's central shopping mall.

Step 20: Turn right onto First Avenue and continue for a short while.

Step 21: At the end of the metal barriers follow the grassy bank down to the right to join the hard surfaced path.

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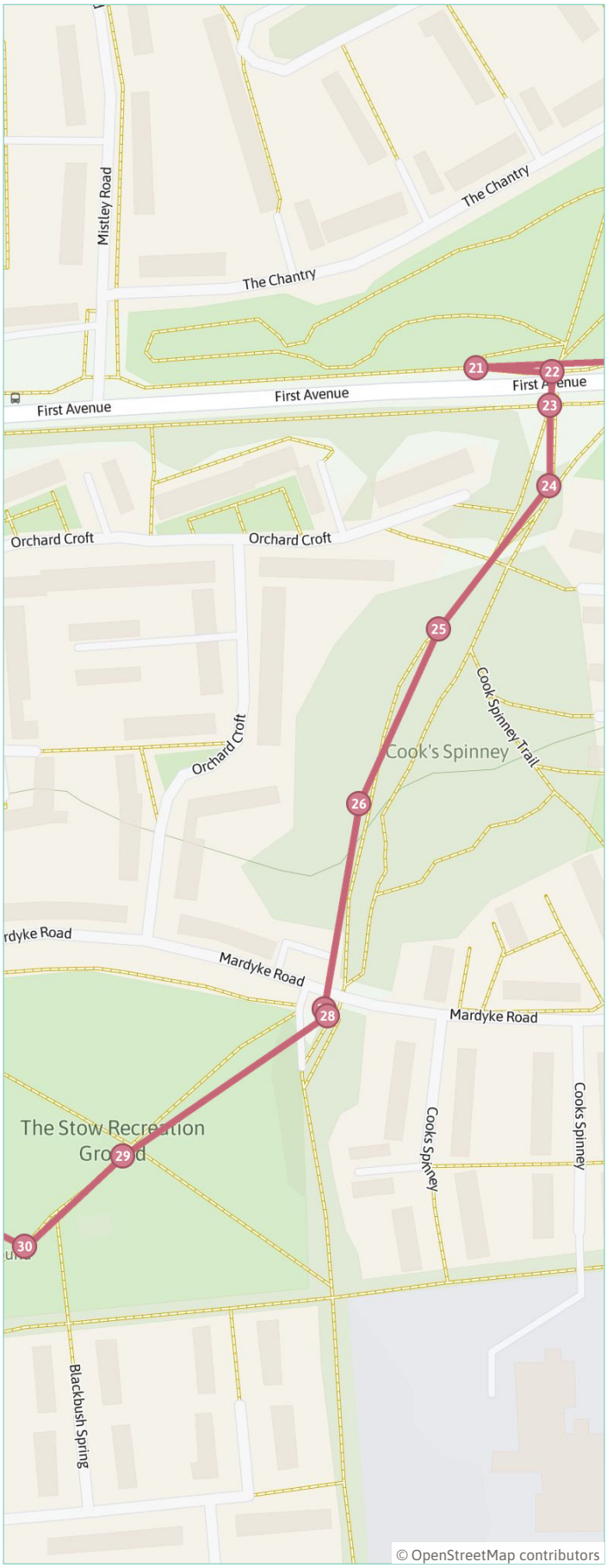

Step 22: Turn right and pass under First Avenue.

Step 23: For a short detour and a closer look at sculpture, turn left and follow First Avenue for a short while.

Step 24: Continue ahead. This is a shared path between pedestrians and cyclists so please be cautious.

Step 25: Pass through Cooks Spinney and admire the trees surrounding you.

Step 26: Cross Mardyke Road using the zebra crossing ahead of you.

Step 27: Cross to the right to enter The Stow Recreation Ground. There is a bench here if you'd like to take a break.

Step 28: Alternatively for an even hard surfaced path, turn left and follow the path around the recreation ground.

Step 29: Walk diagonally across the recreation ground towards the play park.

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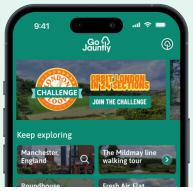
Step 30: The Stow Playground is on the right.

Step 31: Then turn left onto Sewell Harris Close, where you'll find a sculpture from the Hepworth Trail.

Step 32: This fibreglass resin sculpture is titled Julia and was created by Gerda Rubinstein in 1994.

Step 33: Now retrace the route and turn left onto Minchen Road.



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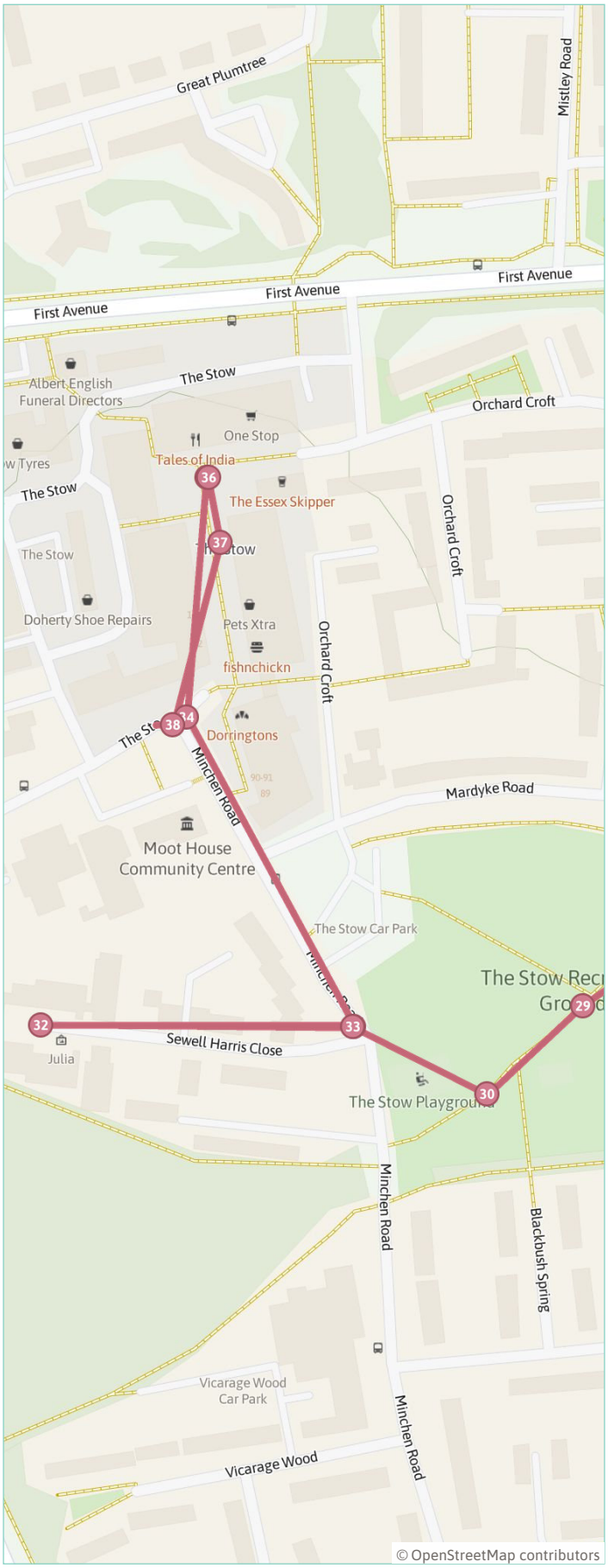
Step 34: Dorringtons bakery is on the right. It's a lovely local spot to grab some food before continuing ahead.

Step 35: This sculpture ahead of you is called Not in Anger and was created in 1925 by Leon Underwood.

Step 36: Underwood was a noted sculptor, painter, scholar, philosopher and a stained-glass and furniture craftsman.

Step 37: Retrace the route back towards the bakery. Continue to the corner of The Stow by Moot House.



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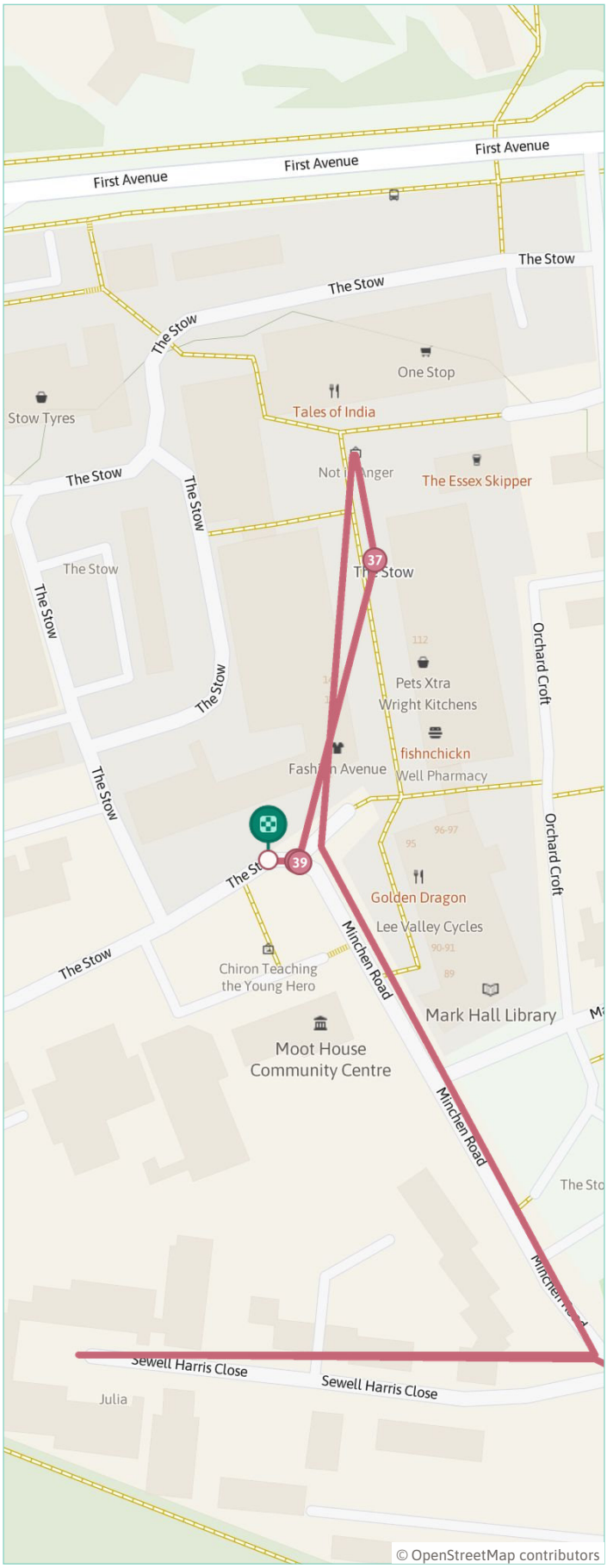
First Avenue
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The Stow
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