



Bristol Ring Section 4

The hilliest, most rural and view-filled section across fields, the Ashton Court Estate, the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Clifton Down.

Distance 7.6 kilometers / 4.7 miles

Duration 3 hours and 15 minutes



Wildlife



Water feature



Great views



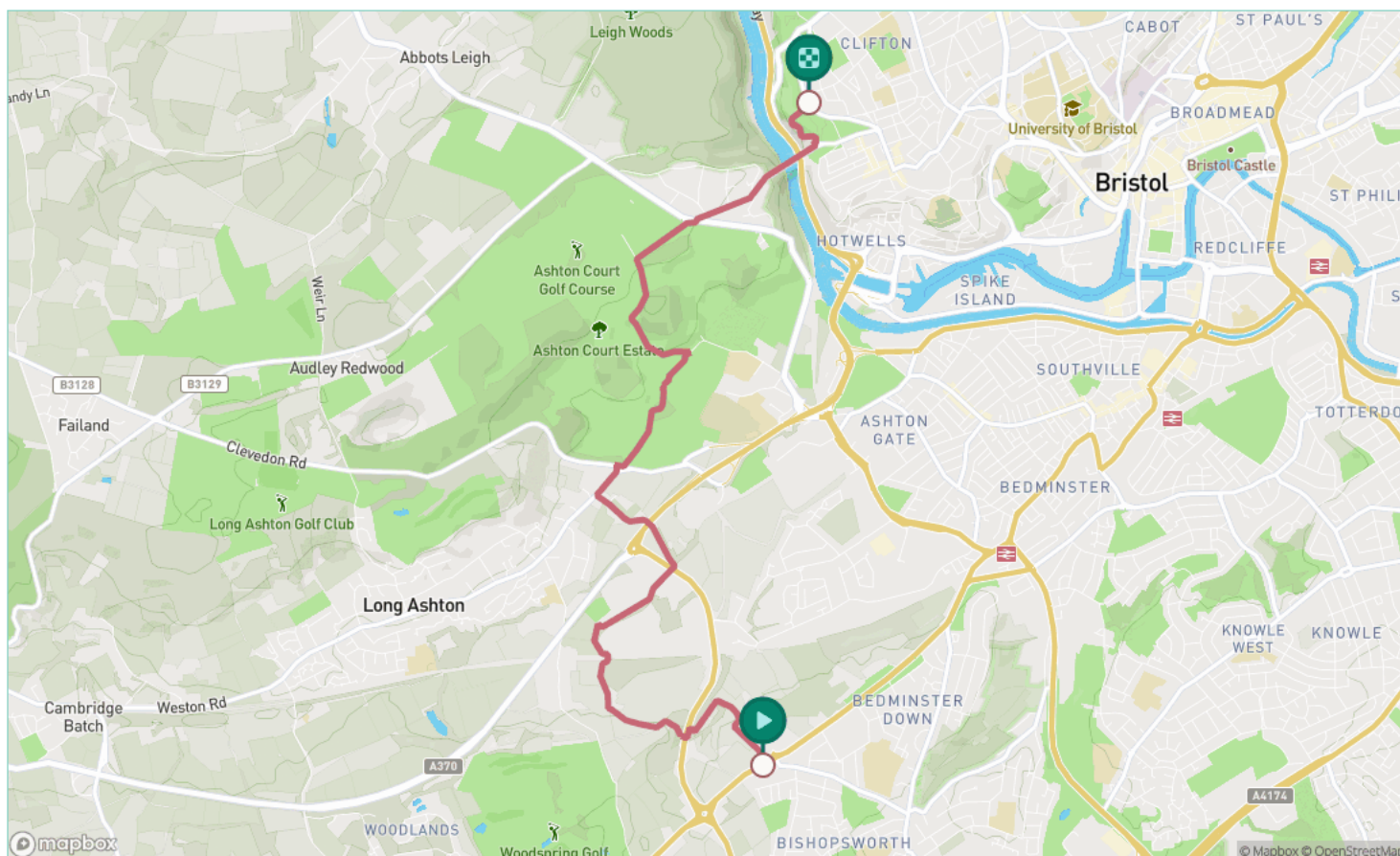
Public loos



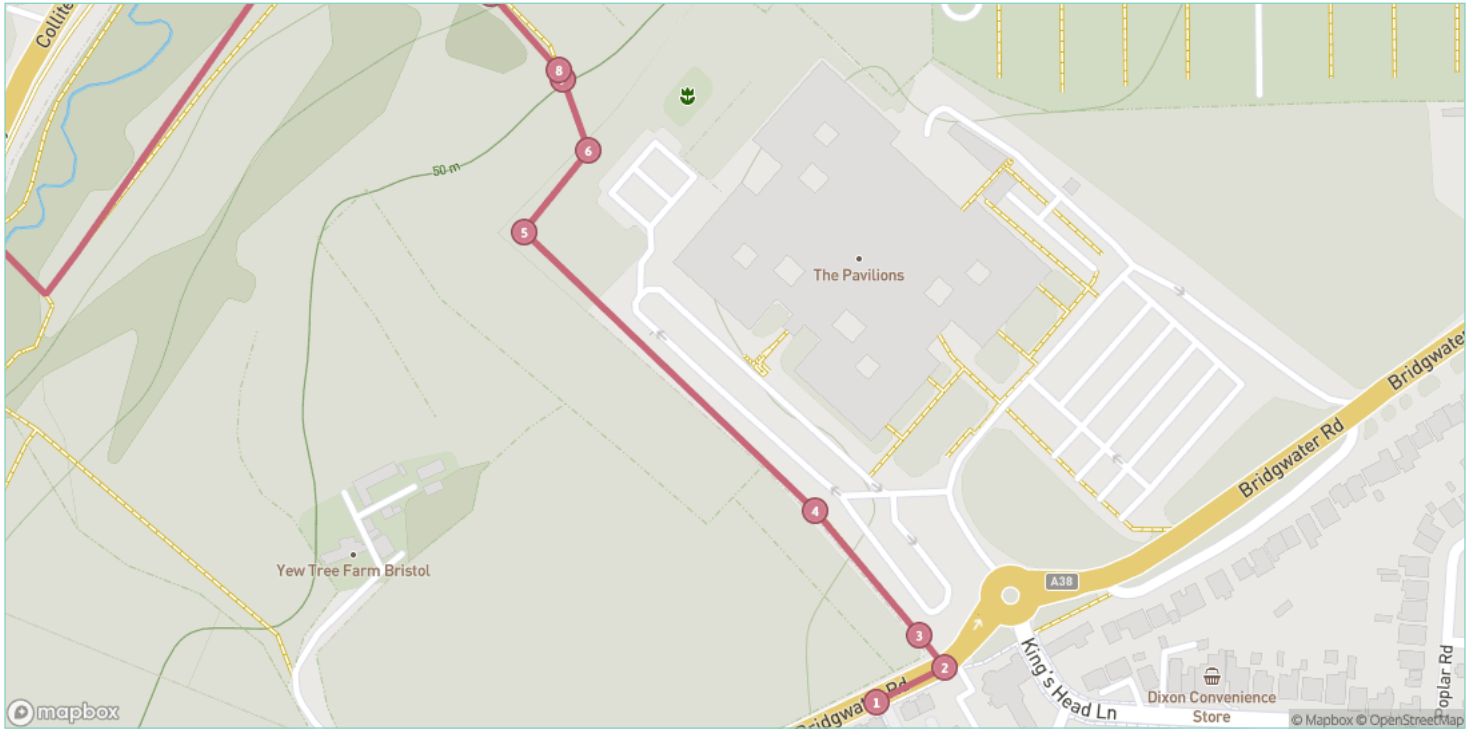
Public transport



Hilly & steep



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: 02 October 2026.



Step 1: Section 4 starts by The King's Head pub. You can catch the A1 bus from Bristol Temple Meads to Kings Head Lane stop.

Step 2: Take a few steps back towards the pub and then cross Bridgwater Road and go through the wooden gate to enter the footpath.

Step 3: Follow the narrow path ahead with the hedge on your right.

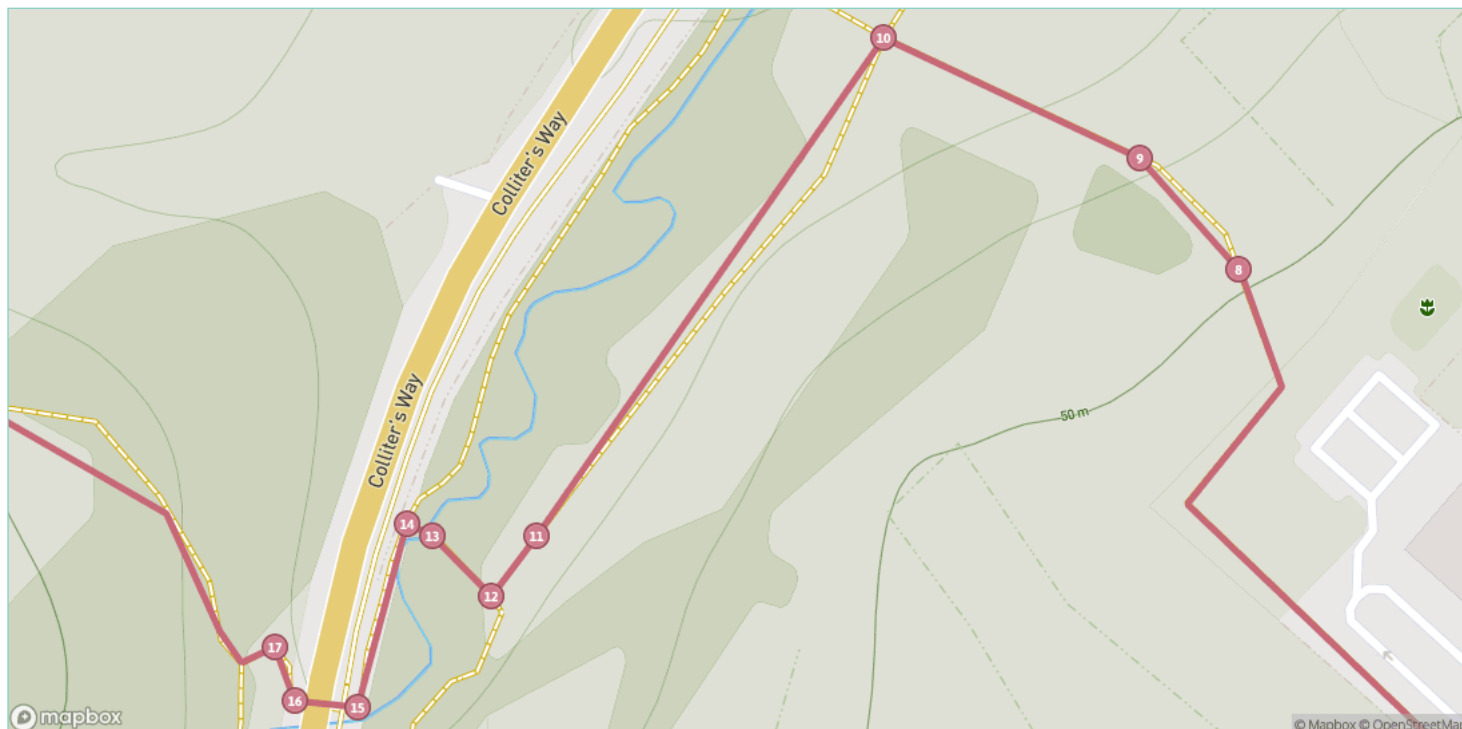
Step 4: This section is filled with gorgeous views and your first view to enjoy is across the fields to the left.

Step 5: Follow the path to the right through the trees.

Step 6: Then exit the trees through the wooden gate.

Step 7: Start to head downhill. Can you spot the iconic suspension bridge to the right? That's one of our last spots in this section.

Step 8: Go straight down the grass path ahead. It is quite steep so take your time.



Step 9: The path bends very slightly left to meet a crossing grass path.

Step 16: Follow the narrow earth path to the right.

Step 10: Turn left on the path and continue ahead. Look out for a wooden fence, on your right, as you walk.

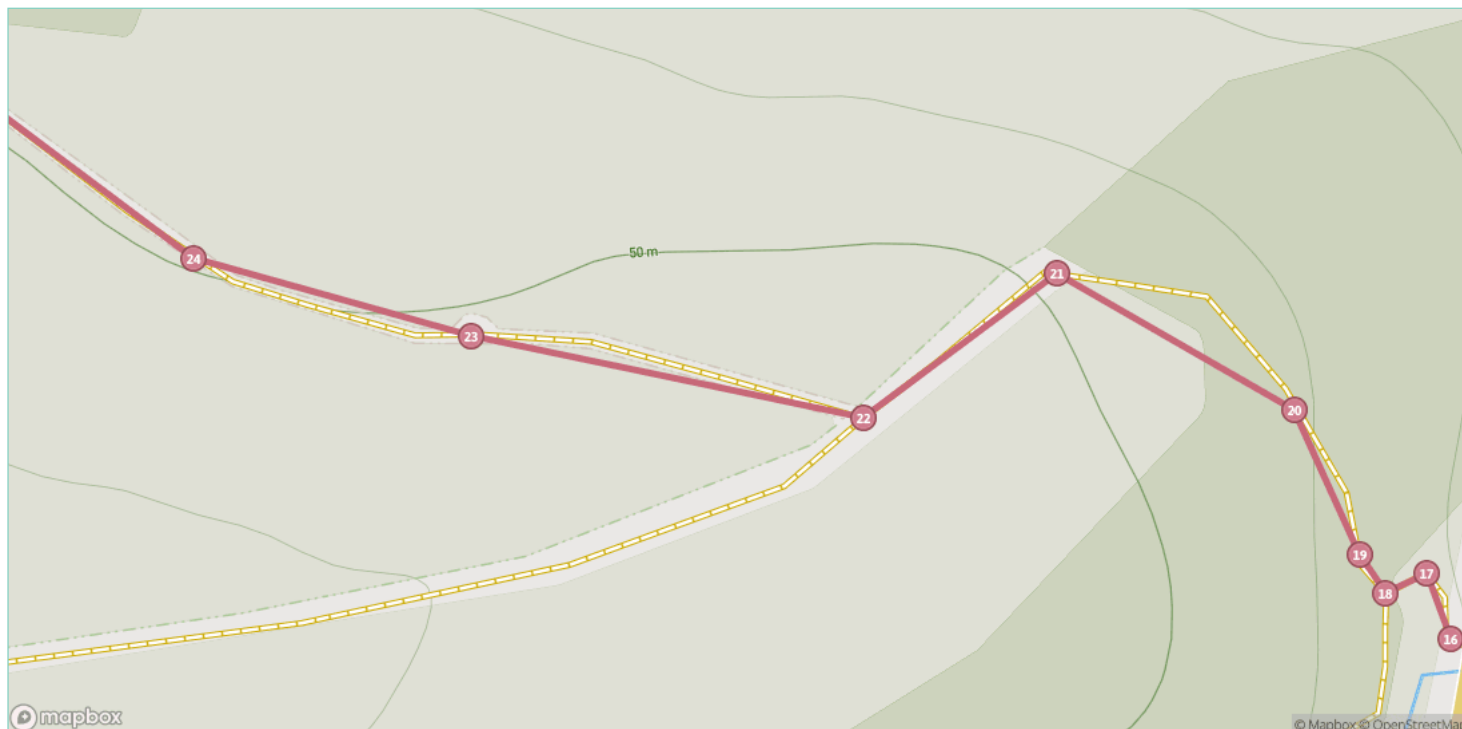
Step 11: You'll pass a broken wooden fence and if you carry on ahead for a few more steps...

Step 12: ...you'll see a gap in the foliage. Head through the gap in the trees to reach a bridge over the Colliter's Brook.

Step 13: Go through the gate and cross the footbridge.

Step 14: Turn left on the opposite side until you reach the tunnel under the A road.

Step 15: Go through the tunnel with the brook on your left.



Step 17: Then follow as the path winds left and then right uphill.

Step 18: Continue on the stone path. In spring this is a great place for wild garlic.

Step 19: -

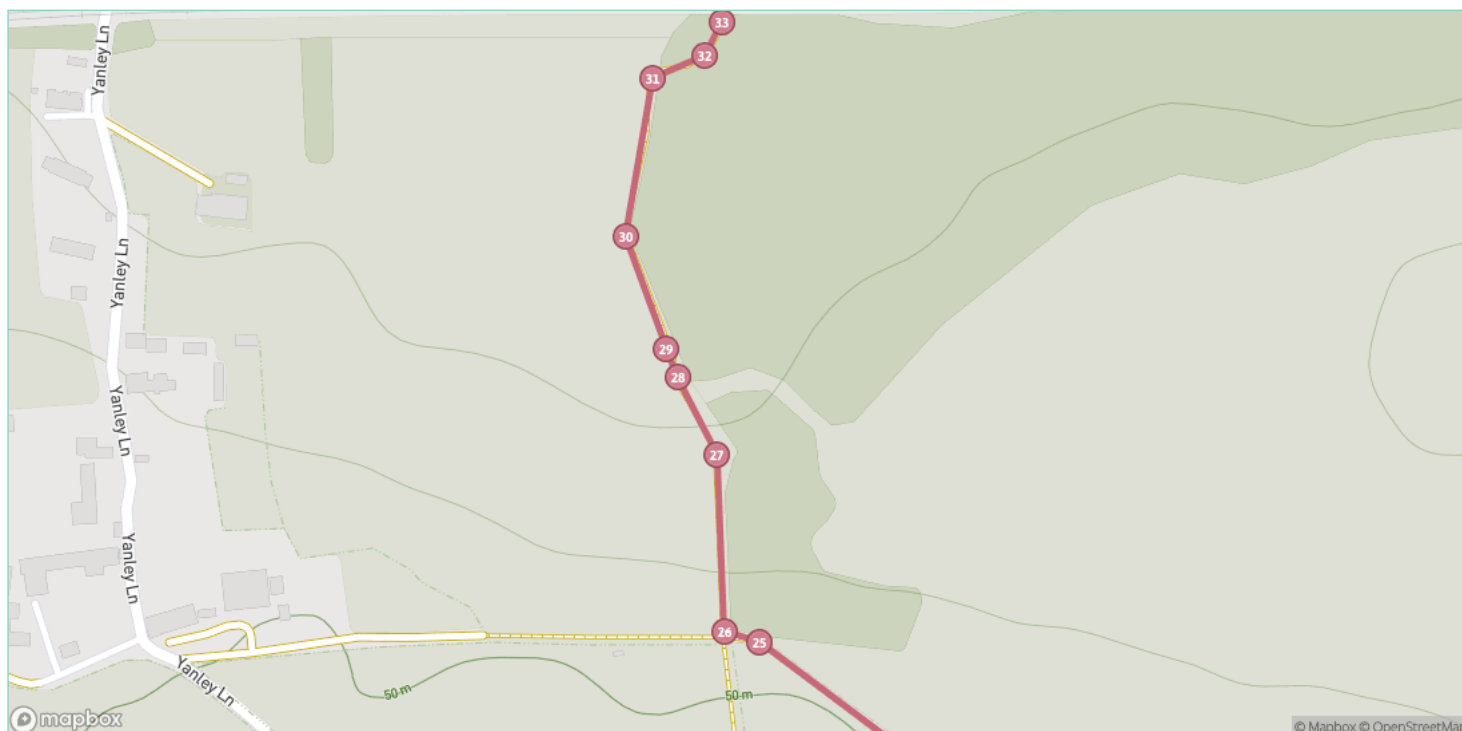
Step 20: As you head up through the trees there is a handrail in places if you need it.

Step 21: Follow the path until you reach a gate on the right.

Step 22: Turn right through the gate onto the next path.

Step 23: The path has sweeping views to the right and you'll soon reach a handy bench on which to sit and enjoy the city's skyline.

Step 24: Continue downhill until you reach a gate.



Step 25: Head around the gate and bear right.

Step 26: Pass a beautiful oak tree and keep to the right of this field as you go downhill on the grass.

Step 27: Follow the edge of the field until you reach an opening to a gate.

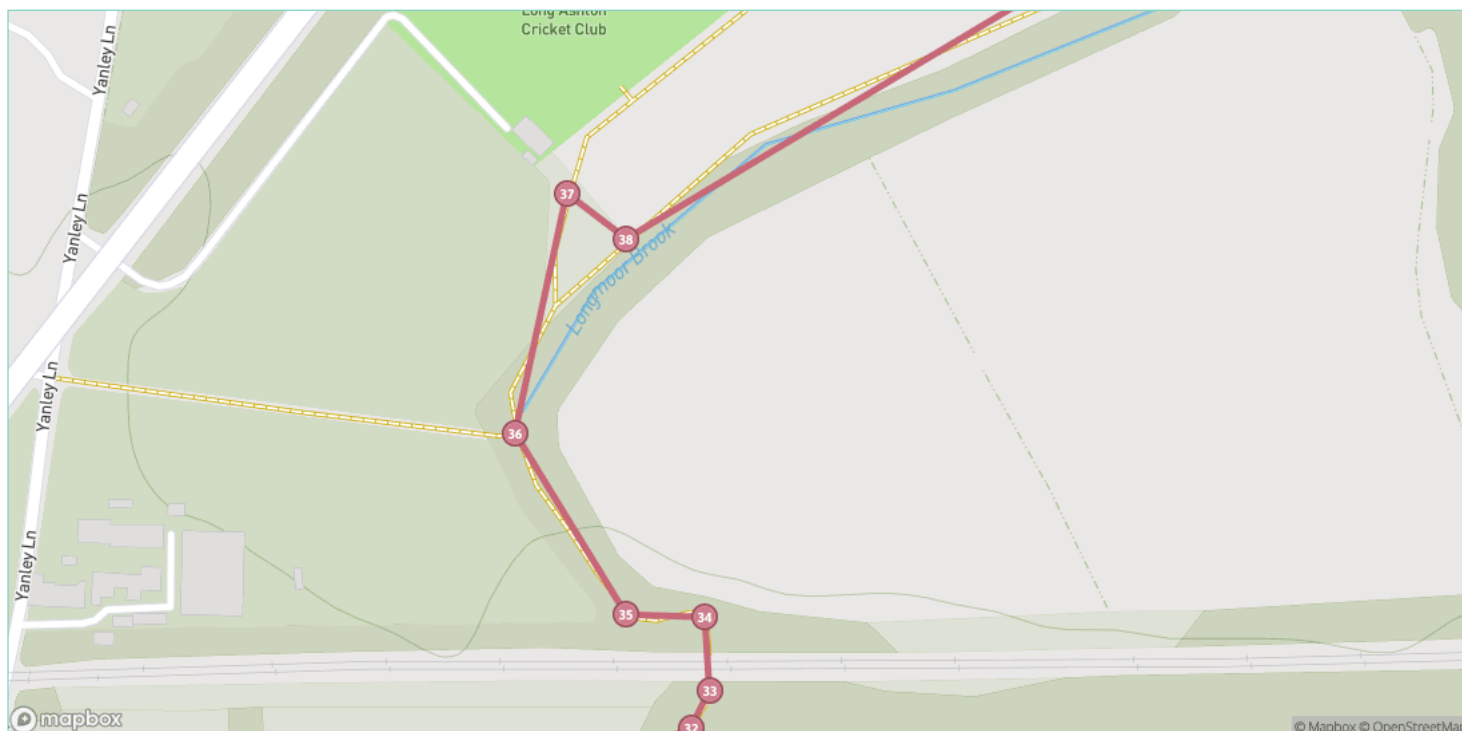
Step 28: Go right through the gate...

Step 29: ...and continue ahead with the woodland on your right.

Step 30: Keep going until you reach another gate on the right.

Step 31: Head right through the kissing gate.

Step 32: Follow to the left.



Step 33: Go under the railway bridge ahead.

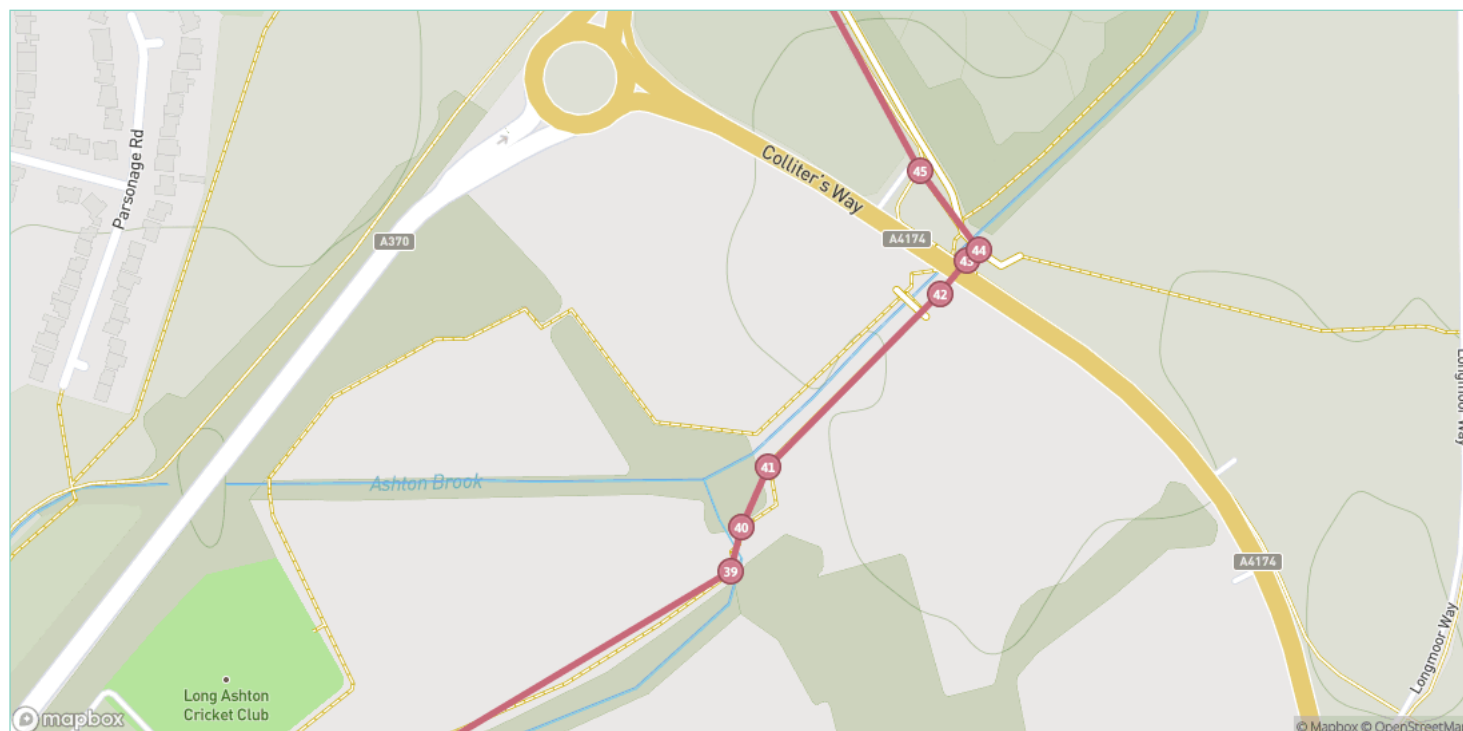
Step 34: Follow the track to the left on the opposite side.

Step 35: And follow it to the large path junction.

Step 36: In April 2026 there was development work going on here so take care around any vehicles moving. Go straight ahead.

Step 37: Head through the gate on the right of the field.

Step 38: Then follow to the end of the field by the hedge.



Step 39: Go through the metal gate and head right.

Step 40: Soon after, pass through the next metal gate and under the trees.

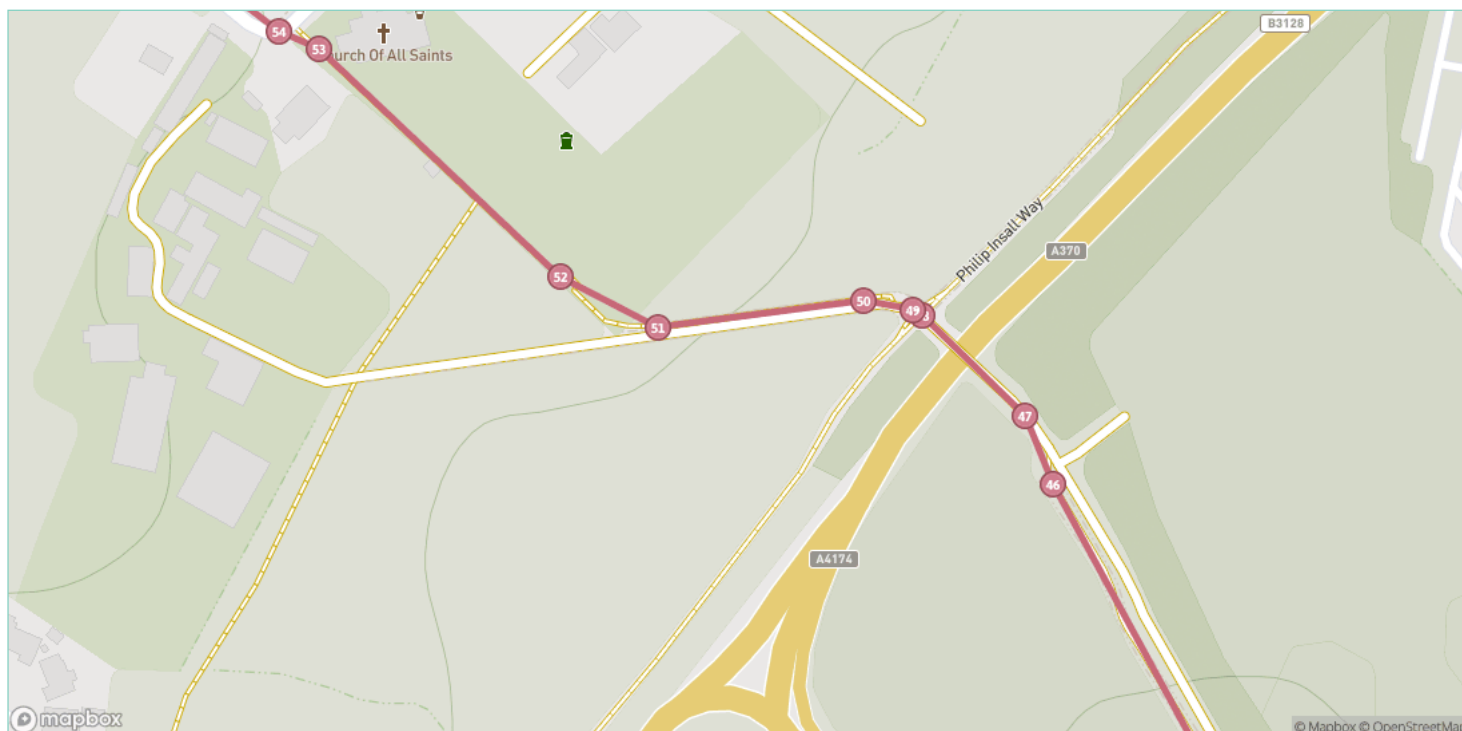
Step 41: Wind past the construction site and continue to the end of this field.

Step 42: Go through the gate and head under the A road.

Step 43: Turn right on the other side to reach the metal gate. Ensure dogs are on leads because you're now entering farm land with cattle.

Step 44: Now turn sharp left and follow the path next to the farm track until you reach a gate by the shared pedestrian and cycle path.

Step 45: Go through the gate and head right until you reach another gate.



Step 46: Pass through the next gate and join the farm track. There is a road bridge up ahead.

Step 47: Use this bridge to cross over the top of the busy road that you can hear humming.

Step 48: Exit through the farm gate and continue ahead towards another gate.

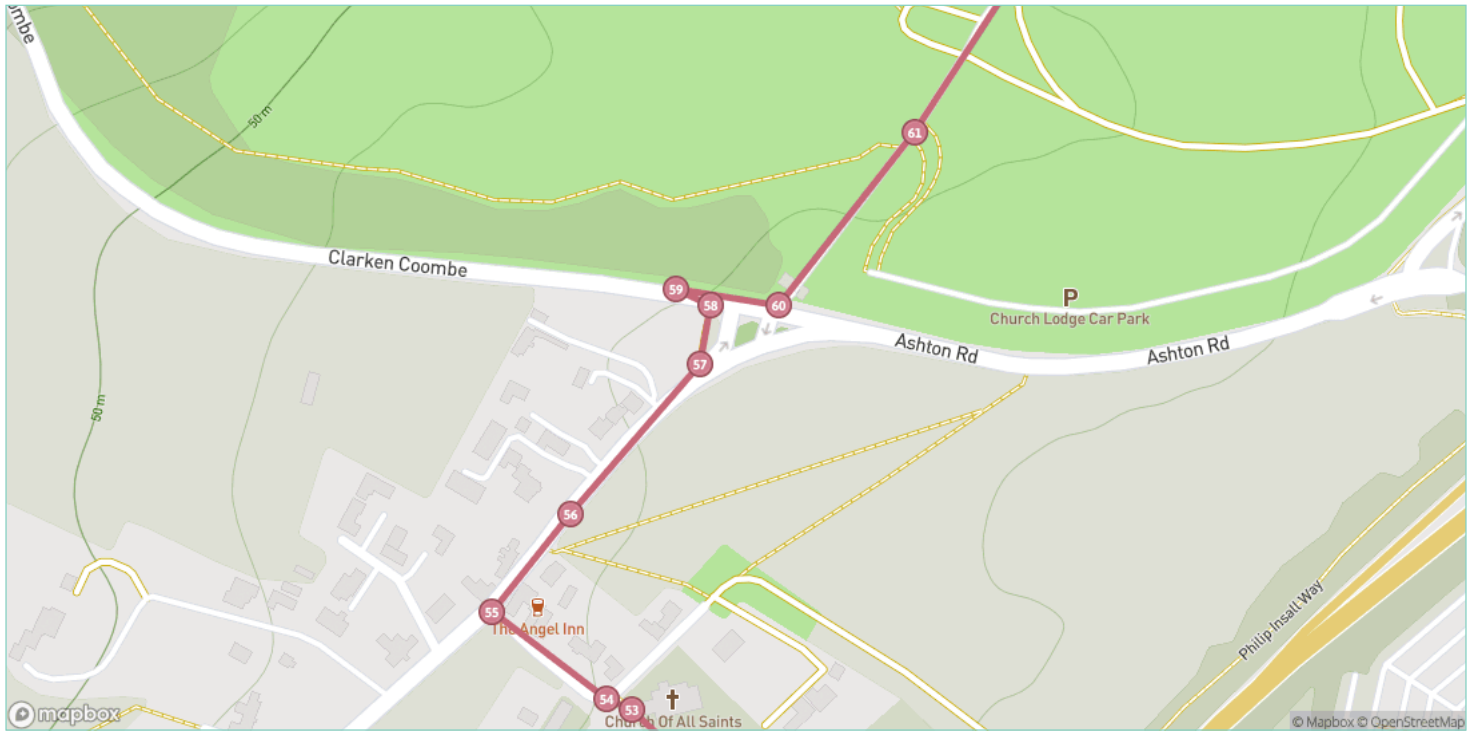
Step 49: On the opposite side, go through the metal gate which leads you towards a churchyard.

Step 50: This path between the fences leads you to the village of Long Ashton (part of North Somerset).

Step 51: At the end of the path, go through 2 more gates to enter the cemetery and churchyard. You may have to wait for the cow traffic to pass!

Step 52: Follow the tarmac path straight ahead, towards the church or wander around the cemetery as you wish.

Step 53: At the end you'll find the parish church of All Saints which dates from the 14th century.



Step 54: Exit the church grounds and walk straight ahead to the end of Church Lane. Be mindful of moving cars. There is no pavement here.

Step 55: Turn right on Long Ashton Road by The Angel Inn which has been here from the 15th century. The beer cools in the former dungeons!

Step 56: Cross over Long Ashton Road when safe to do so.

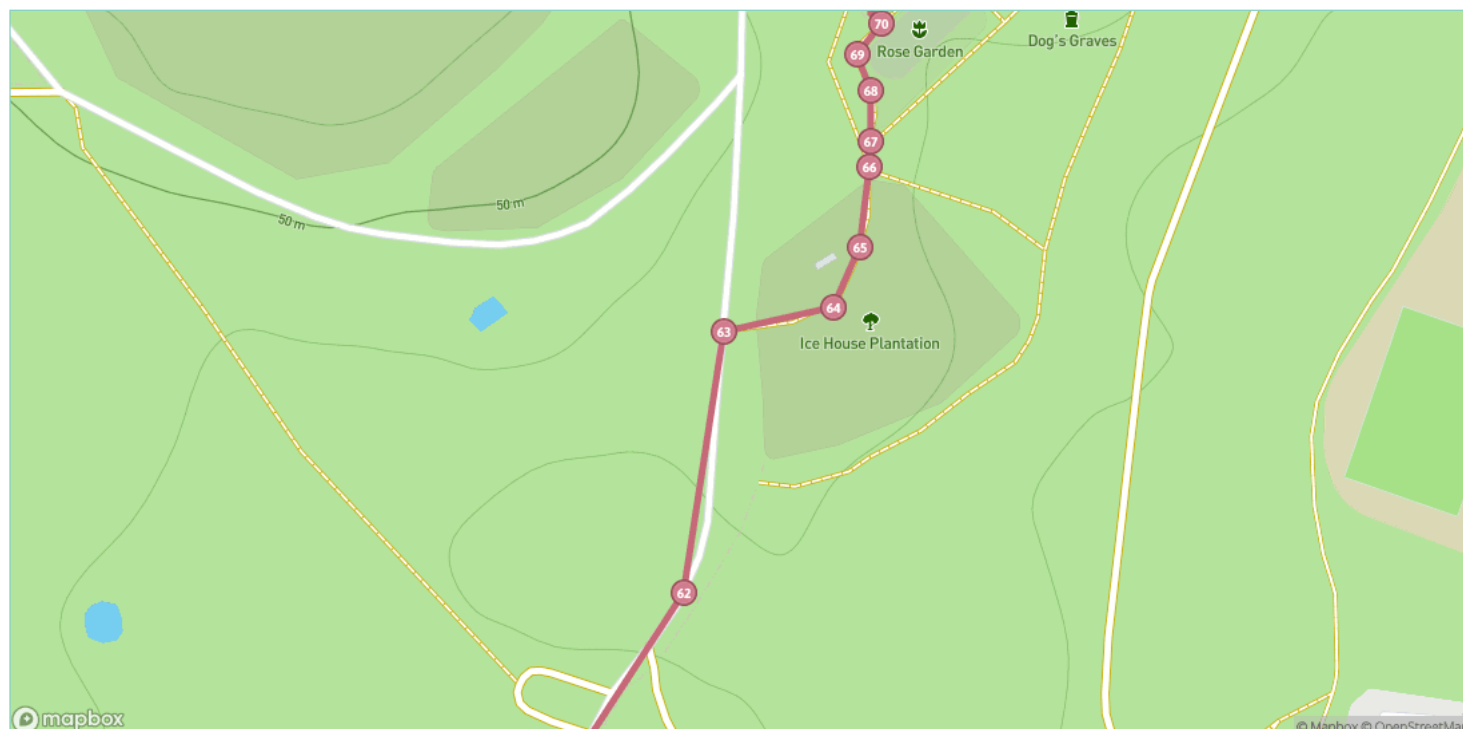
Step 57: Continue to the end of the road as it bears slight left.

Step 58: Head left towards a traffic island and cross over Clarcken Coombe safely here.

Step 59: On the opposite side of the road, turn right and go straight ahead towards Church Lodge. We're heading inside Ashton Court Estate here.

Step 60: Ashton Court Estate is a historic, 850-acre Grade I listed parkland and mansion. Head straight uphill on the main path.

Step 61: Look right for this sculpture by Ben Dearnley which commemorates James Starley (1831-1881) aka the father of British bicycle industry.



Step 62: Follow the undulating path until you reach a gravel path on the right hand side.

Step 63: Turn right on the gravel path into the trees.

Step 64: Follow as it curves left and look out for the ice house on the right hand side.

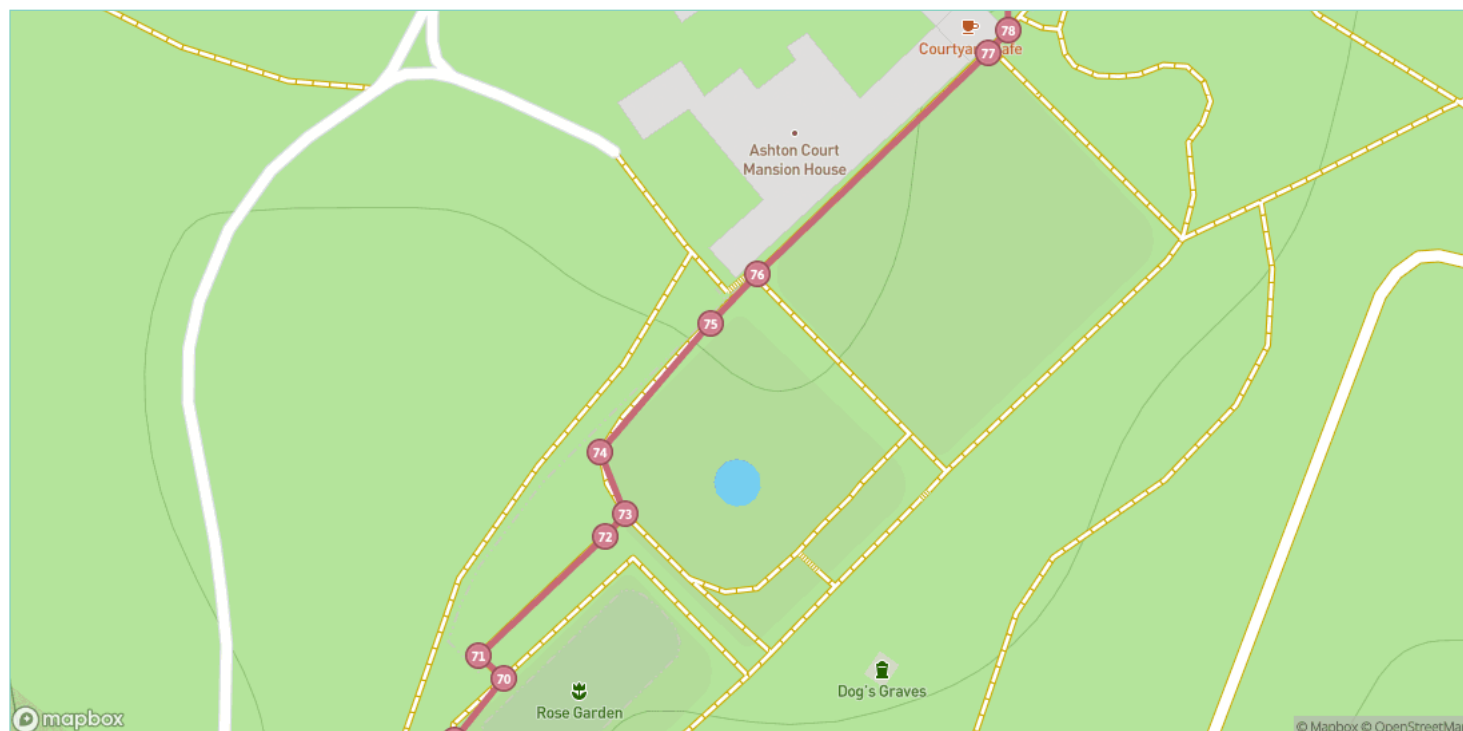
Step 65: Ice houses were often used by wealthy families. They were built before modern refrigeration and stored ice, collected in winter from ponds.

Step 66: Continue ahead and go through the metal gate to enter the formal gardens of the manor house.

Step 67: Turn left to skirt the perimeter of the rose garden or head on into the rose gardens to have a look.

Step 68: There are benches dotted around to help you enjoy some quiet time if you feel like a little break. There's also a cafe coming up soon.

Step 69: Follow to path around the rose the outside of the rose gardens until you reach stone steps on the left.



Step 70: Go up the steps, passing under the arch.

Step 71: Turn right to continue. Enjoy the flowers as you go.

Step 72: The gardens are wonderful and cared for by the council who have owned the estate since 1959.

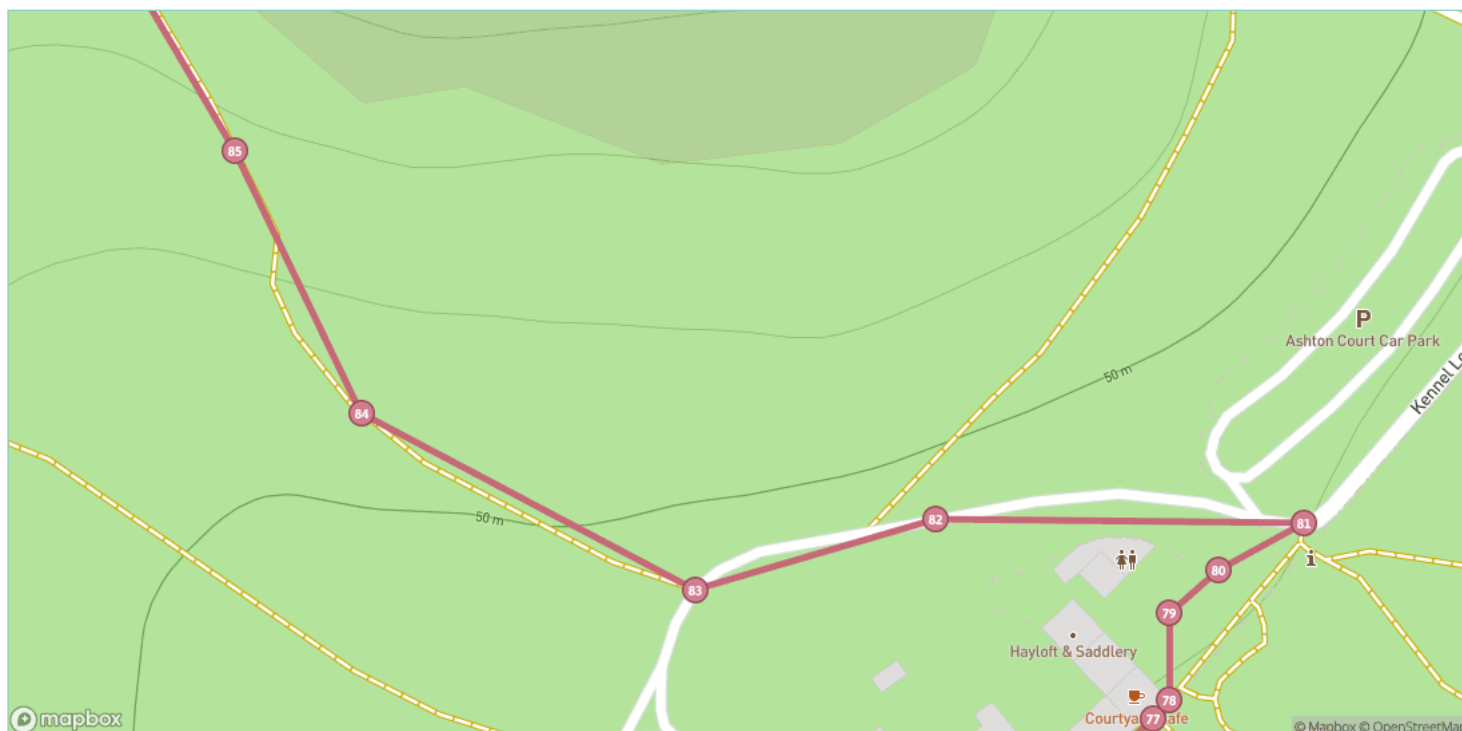
Step 73: Turn left along the path towards the wall.

Step 74: Admire the giant redwoods and then go straight ahead to the steps up to the manor house.

Step 75: Head up the steps. There has been a manor house here since the 11th century. A series of owners have remodelled and added to it since then.

Step 76: Walk alongside the house. Its architecture is complex due to successive changes. Styles include Tudor, gothic, and classical.

Step 77: If you look backwards to your right you can see all the way back to the start of the walk :)



Step 78: On the left, use the steps to access the cafe and toilets.

Step 79: The Courtyard Cafe is usually open Monday to Sunday, 9.30am to 4.40pm.

Step 80: When you're ready, go straight ahead, exit through the gate and turn left before the car park.

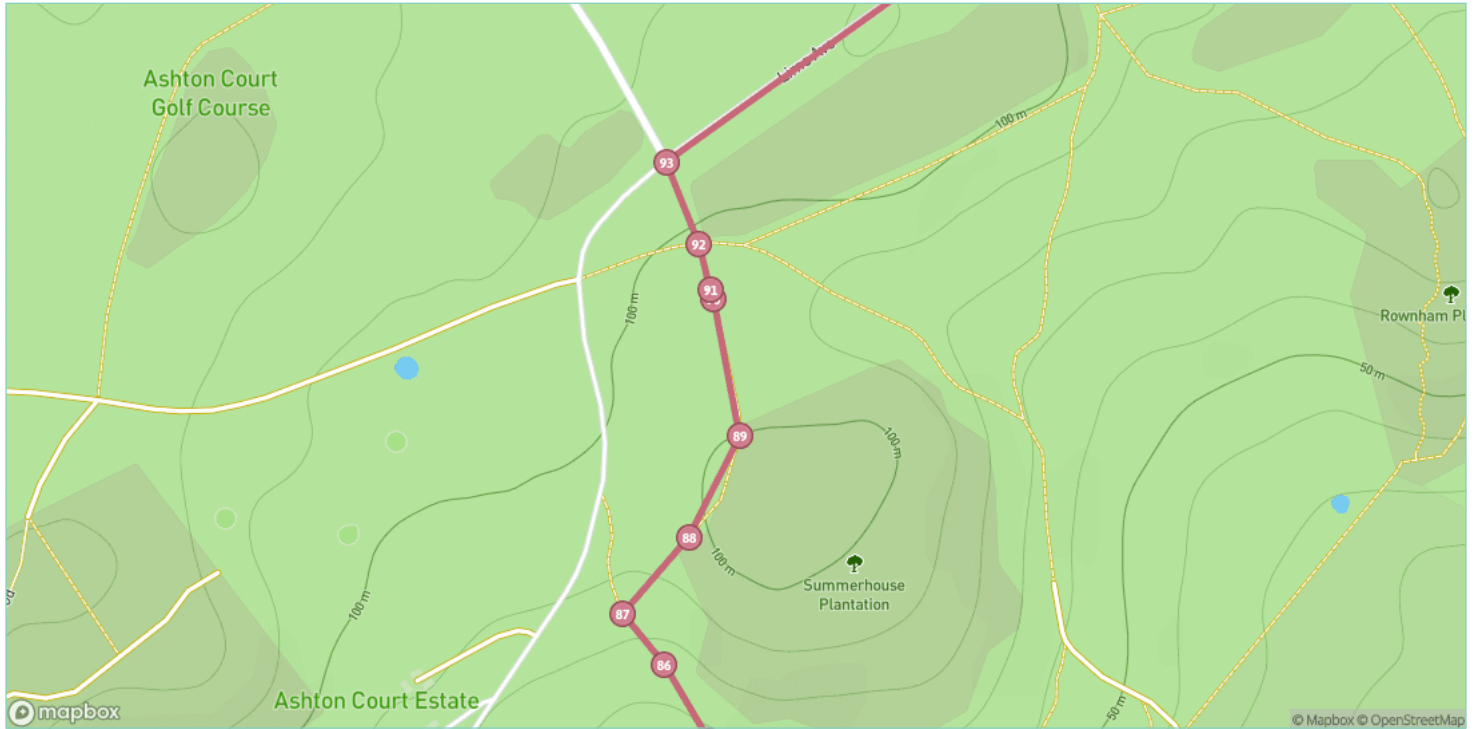
Step 81: Turn left to walk up an access road.

Step 82: Keep going uphill until you reach the barrier gate on the right.

Step 83: Walk past the gate and head on and up the path.

Step 84: Follow the path to the right admiring the trees as you go.

Step 85: There is an incredible conker tree as the path narrows and becomes steeper. Can you see it?



Step 86: You'll soon emerge into a grass area. Look out for a subtle path leading off to the right.

Step 87: Turn right onto a grass path, that runs between the woodland and small island of trees up ahead.

Step 88: Keep the woodland to your right as you continue ahead. You'll pass an entrance to a treetop adventure as you go.

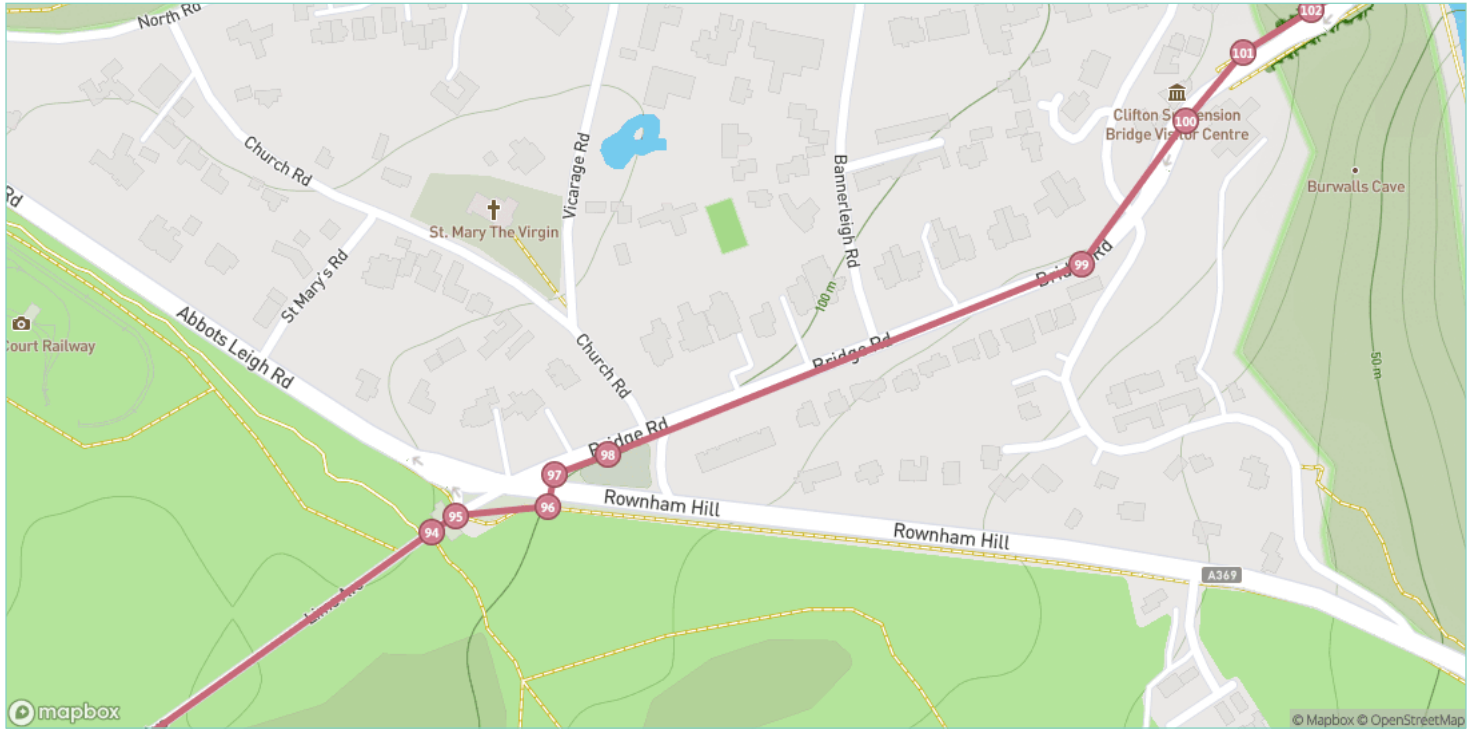
Step 89: When you reach the end of the woodland, bear slight left. There's now a deer park on your right.

Step 90: The Ashton Court Estate deer park is one of the oldest in England, with a history spanning over 600 years! You can see red and fallow deer.

Step 91: Why not take a short detour into the deer park? Dogs on leads and keep your distance. There's also great views over the city here.

Step 92: When you're ready, head back to the path, cross over a gravel path and continue ahead to reach an access road.

Step 93: Turn right alongside Lime Avenue, lined with (you guess it) majestic lime trees. Walk to the exit.



Step 94: Check for vehicles and then walk through Clifton Lodge gate to exit the estate.

Step 95: Bear right towards a pedestrian crossing.

Step 96: Cross Rownham Hill and go straight ahead.

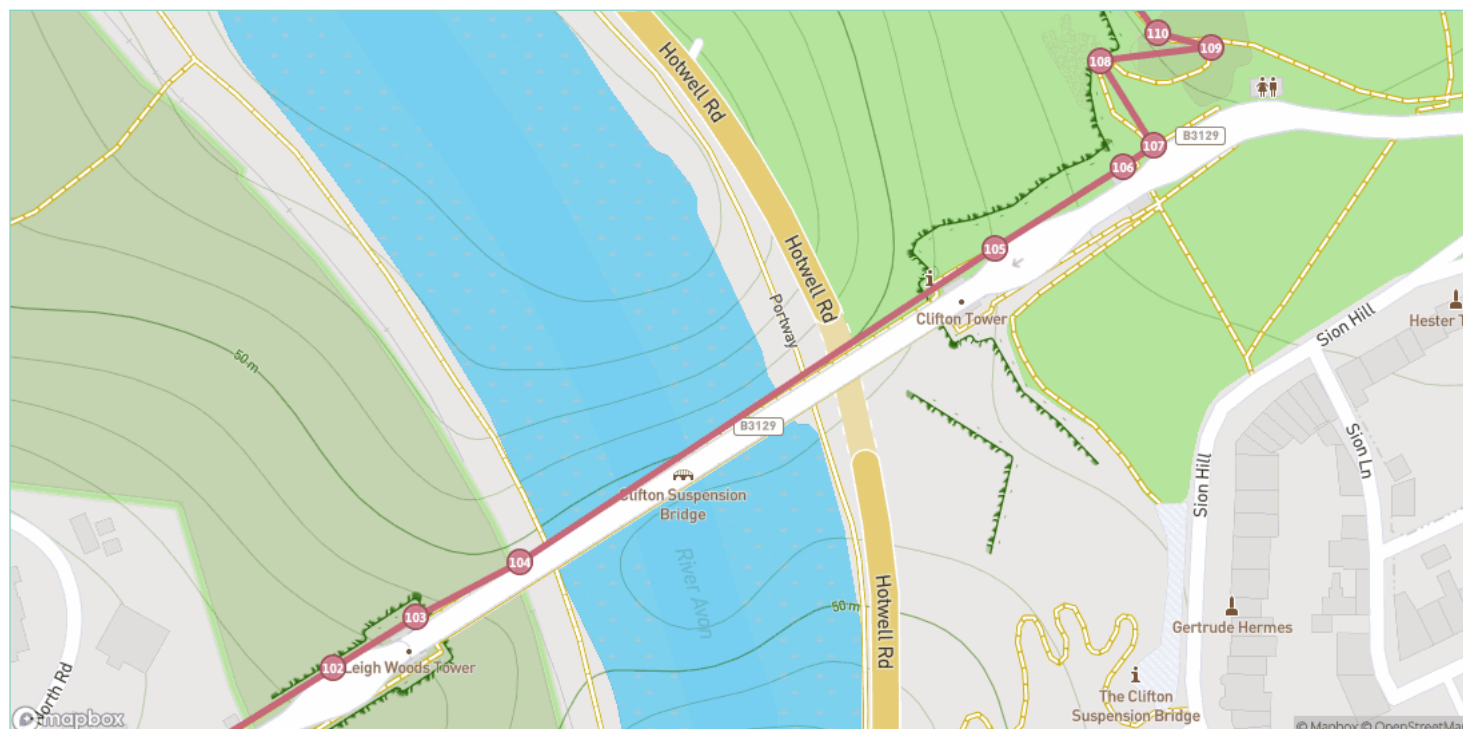
Step 97: Walk along Bridge Road with its large housing stock as we make our way to the suspension bridge.

Step 98: There is an optional short detour coming up if you'd like to enjoy another bench with a view. If so, turn left onto Church Rd, continue onto Vicarage Rd. At the end, turn right onto North Rd to enjoy the bench with gorge views! 😊

Step 99: If you're ready to carry on, follow the road ahead as it bends slight left and continue until you reach a zebra crossing.

Step 100: Cross the road to visit the brilliantly informative Clifton Suspension Bridge Visitor Centre. It's free to visit and open 10-5 daily.

Step 101: Continue ahead onto the Grade I listed bridge, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel who was just 24 when he was appointed to the project.



Step 102: Work began in 1836 but stopped and started due to issues with funding. It was completed and opened in 1864, 5 years after Brunel's death.

Step 103: From this left side there are breathtaking views down to the Avon Gorge. The gorge runs south to north through limestone for 1.5 miles.

Step 104: Continue across the iconic bridge. Can you spot any of the nesting peregrine falcons?

Step 105: As you reach the other side, you get a good view to St Vincent's Rocks which supports species that are unique to the gorge.

Step 106: We're about to turn left but if you need them, there are toilets just ahead in the single story building.

Step 107: Turn left onto the first footpath. The path is uphill and steep.

Step 108: Follow the winding steep path to the top.

Step 109: Then turn left.



Step 110: There are plenty of view points on this last stretch which make for great photo opportunities.

Step 117: Then head right into the trees.

Step 111: Continue on the left hand path. Ahead is the Clifton Observatory and access to the Giant's Cave, both fee-paying options.

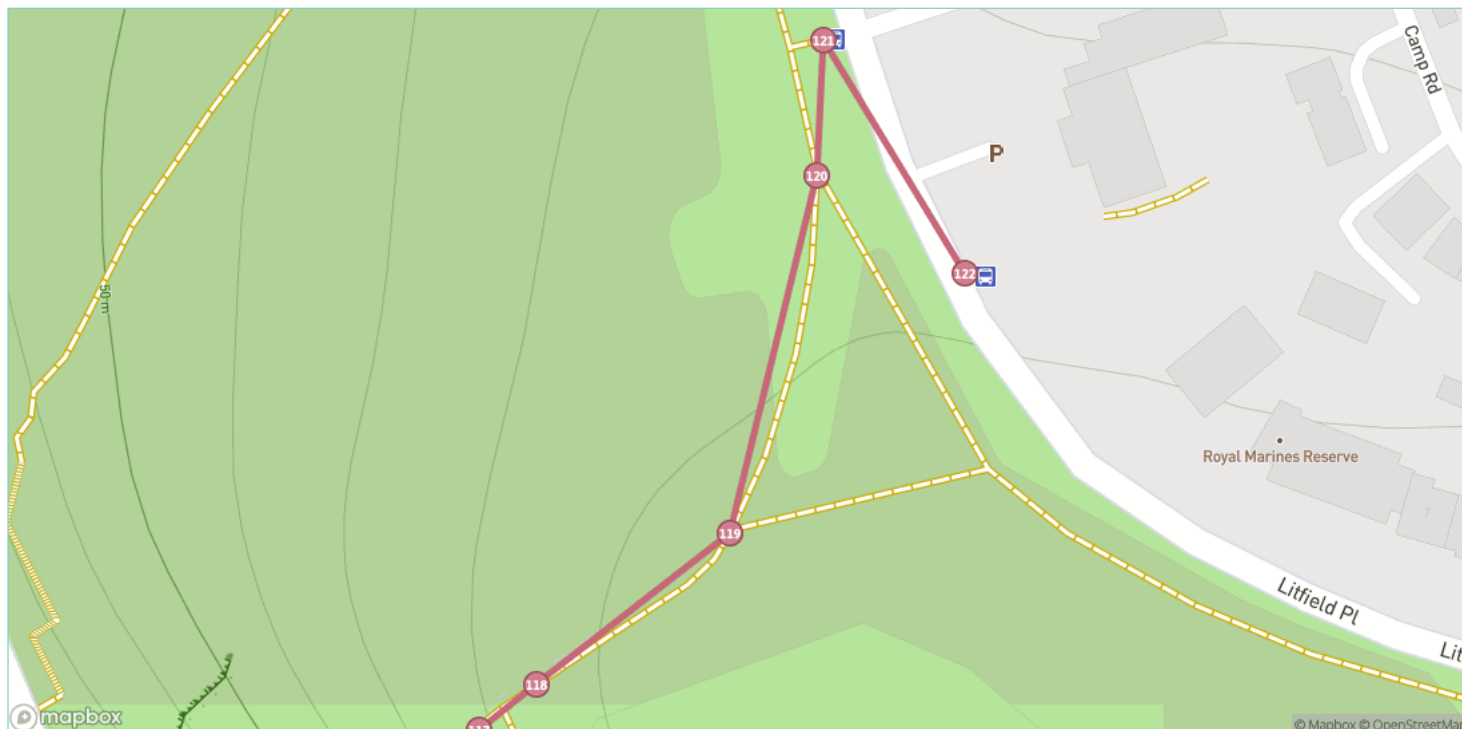
Step 112: Continue along the top of the gorge, soaking up the views some 60m up!

Step 113: The path bears right and you'll soon pass interpretation board with lots of detail on the remains of Clifton Camp's Iron Age hill fort.

Step 114: Further ahead, head left at the fork.

Step 115: Here you're around 90m up. Enjoy the last of the views back to Brunel, and Bristol's, iconic bridge.

Step 116: Follow the path to the final viewpoint.



Step 118: Say a final goodbye to the gorge, looking north-east here, before you go.

Step 119: Keep left at the fork.

Step 120: Join the main path to the bus stop where this section ends. Well done! We hope you enjoyed this view-laden section.

Step 121: For onward travel back to the centre, cross Clifton Down.

Step 122: Turn right on the opposite side to reach Percival Road bus stop where you can catch route 8 back to Bristol Temple Meads railway station.
