The Purely Belter Walking Tour

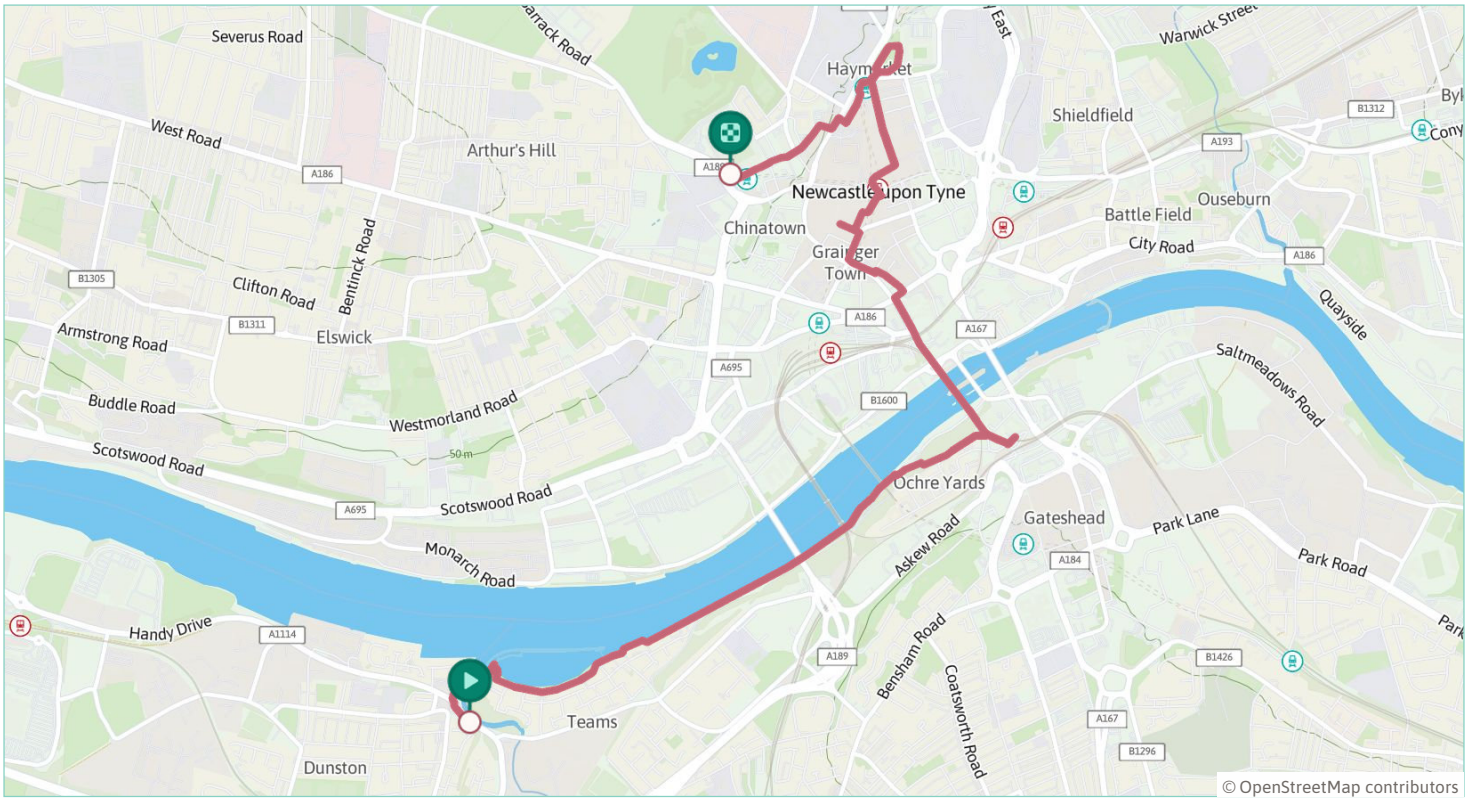
A purely belter walk around Gateshead and Newcastle featuring iconic film locations. Hear stories from a former cast member as you go.

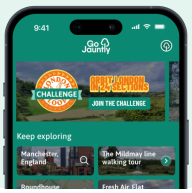
Distance 6 kilometres / 3.7 miles
Duration 2 hours

Water feature · Great views · Public transport · History · Hilly & steep

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

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Step 1: Welcome to the Purely Belter Walking Tour inspired by the hit cult film from 2000. Join us and visit the iconic locations featured in the film. This linear walk starts off Clockmill Road in Gateshead.

Step 2: Throughout the walk hear behind the scenes stories from original cast member Chris Beattie who plays Gerry and star of the unofficial sequel Chris Cross who plays Sewell in 'Purely Belter: 25 years later'.

Step 3: This walk starts at the bus stop on Railway St / Clockmill Road. Served by buses: 6, 10A, 10B, 47 and 67.

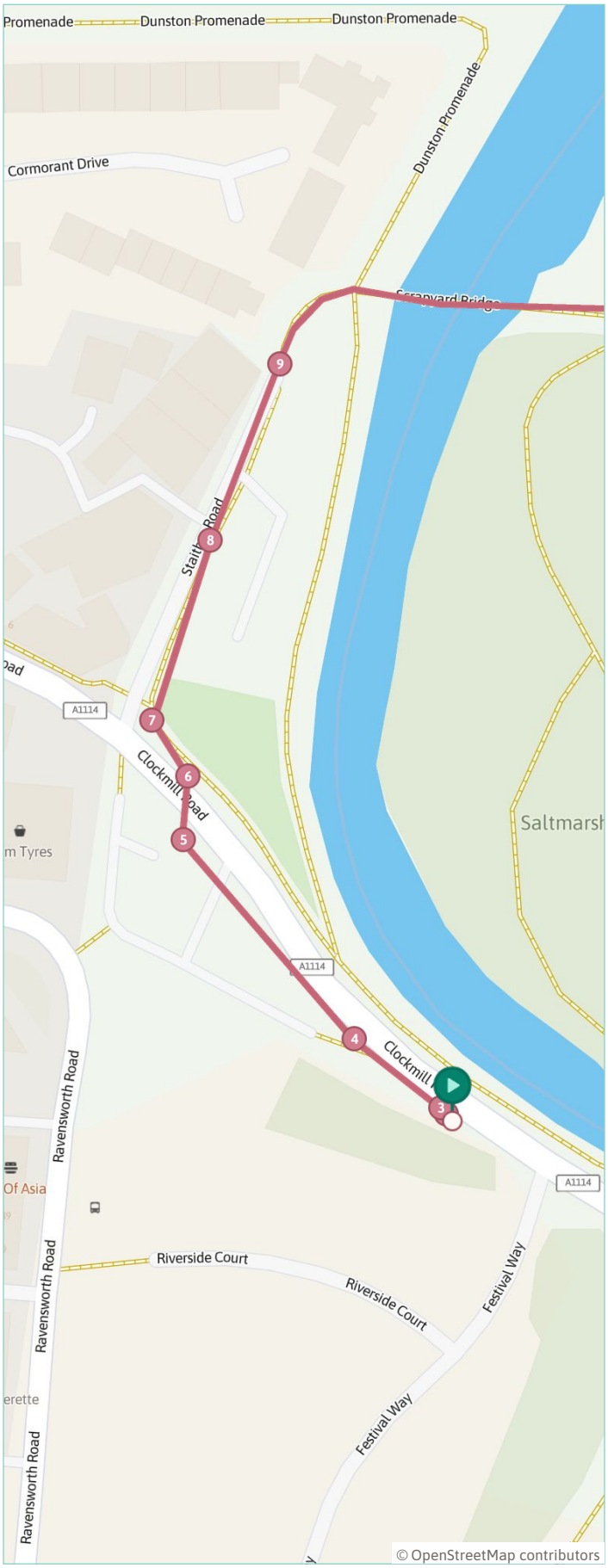
Step 4: With the bus stop behind you, turn left to walk up Railway St. Continue ahead towards the traffic island. Carefully cross side road.

Step 5: Cross over the road, using the traffic island and turn left on the other side.

Step 6: Continue left after the traffic island and get ready to turn right.

Step 7: Turn right up Staithes Road.

Step 8: After World Cup '90, its said that Gazza left his card behind this Working Men's Club on your right.



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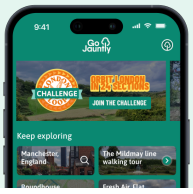


Step 9: Look for a footpath veering off to your right. Continue past the bollard, slightly uphill.

Step 10: Walk over the footbridge, mind the bollard in the middle.

Step 11: Chris Beattie (Gerry) is on the right and Chris Cross (new Sewell) is on the left. Tap 'Play' to listen to their walk and film intro.

Step 12: Welcome to Dunstan Staithes and the Riverside Park.



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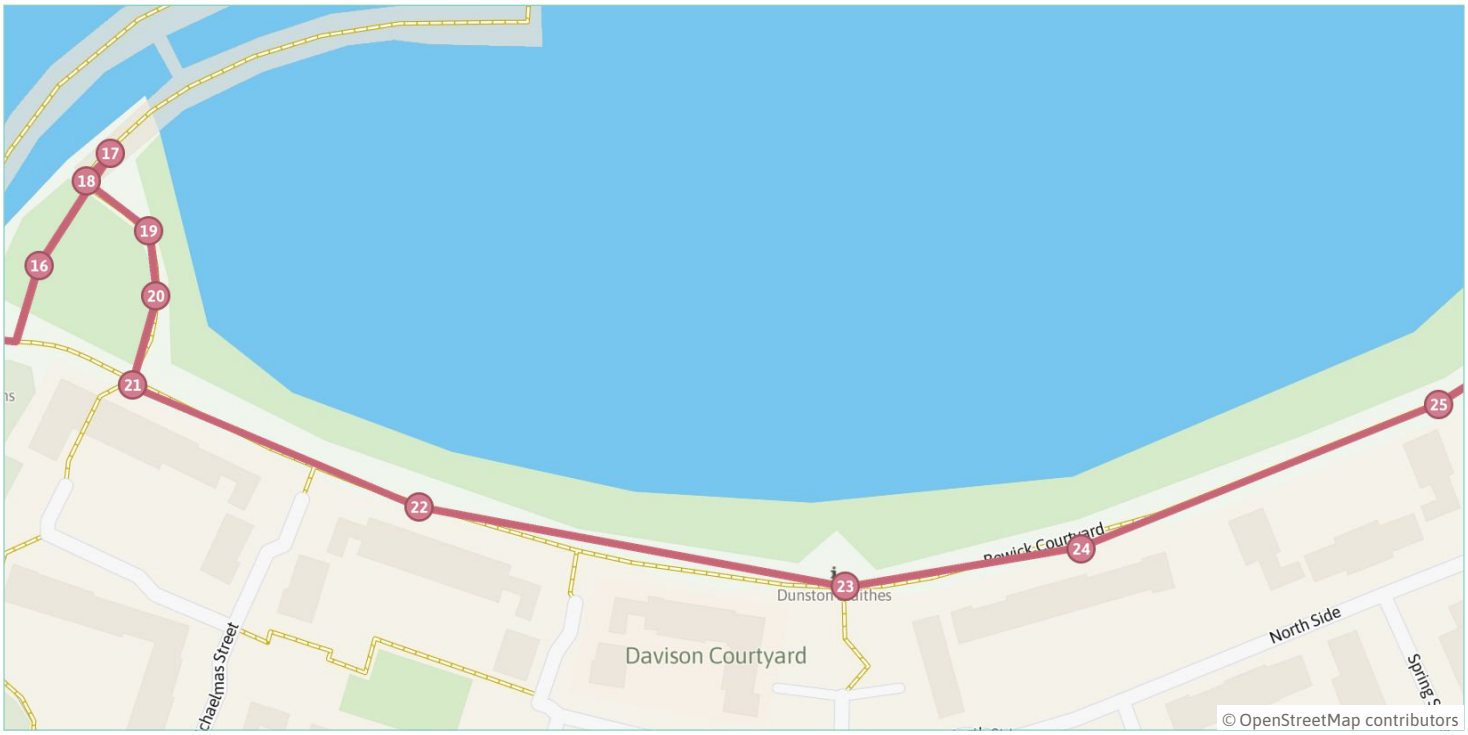
Step 13: Continue over the footbridge.

Step 14: Follow the footpath ahead. These Victorian coal staithes on the Tyne were built in the 1890s.

Step 15: After walking underneath the Staithes, you can cross over the grass on your left for a closer look.

Step 16: This was once one of the world's largest staithes, shipping Durham coal by rail straight onto waiting boats.

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Step 17: In Purely Belter, we see Gerry and Sewell go mudlarking here. Tap 'Play' to listen.

Step 18: Follow the footpath back to the main riverside path.

Step 19: Don't miss the bird hide as you go. Perhaps you can see or hear song thrushes like Sewell did and Gerry imagined in the film.

Step 20: Continue to the main path and turn left at the end.

Step 21: This is a shared path with cyclists.

Step 22: Continue ahead.

Step 23: Explore the notice board here for more information.

Step 24: There's a great view over the Tyne and the Staithes here.

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Step 25: The Tyne River shaped this whole region, from coal trade to shipbuilding to the town and city you're walking through today.

Step 26: Continue following the path ahead.

Step 27: The path soon bears left and then continues straight.

Step 28: The Staithes community cafe is a great spot to pick up refreshments or to use the loo.

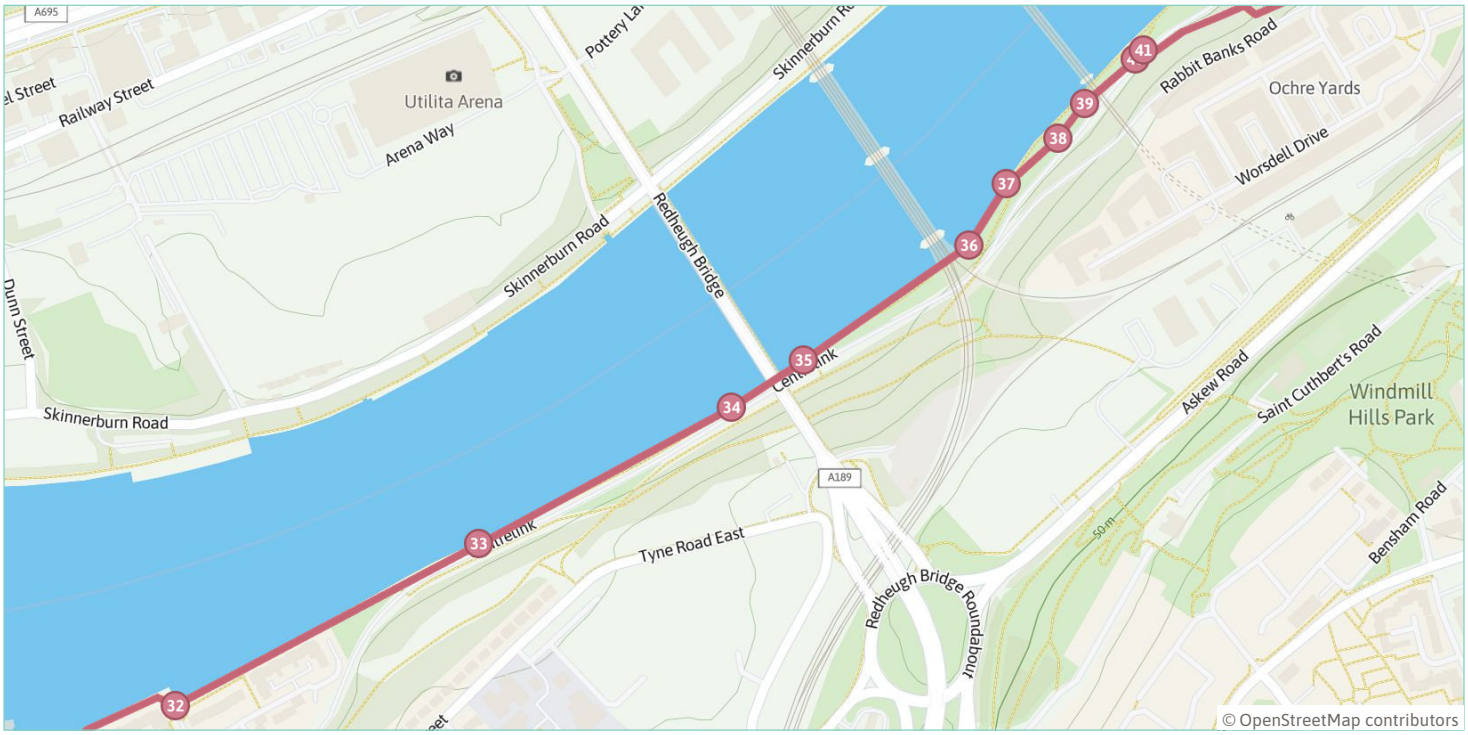
Step 29: When you're ready, keep following the path.

Step 30: What good things can you see from here?

Step 31: Follow the path as it winds onwards.

Step 32: You can see the seven bridges of Gateshead and the Toon up ahead.

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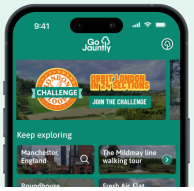


Step 33: Do you have a favourite bridge?

Step 34: First up is this road bridge linking Gateshead and Newcastle. It first opened in 1871 and has been rebuilt twice since.

Step 35: The Railway bridge opened in 1906 by King Edward VII. It's still carrying the East Coast Main Line trains across the Tyne.

Step 36: Why not stop and take a photo or three?



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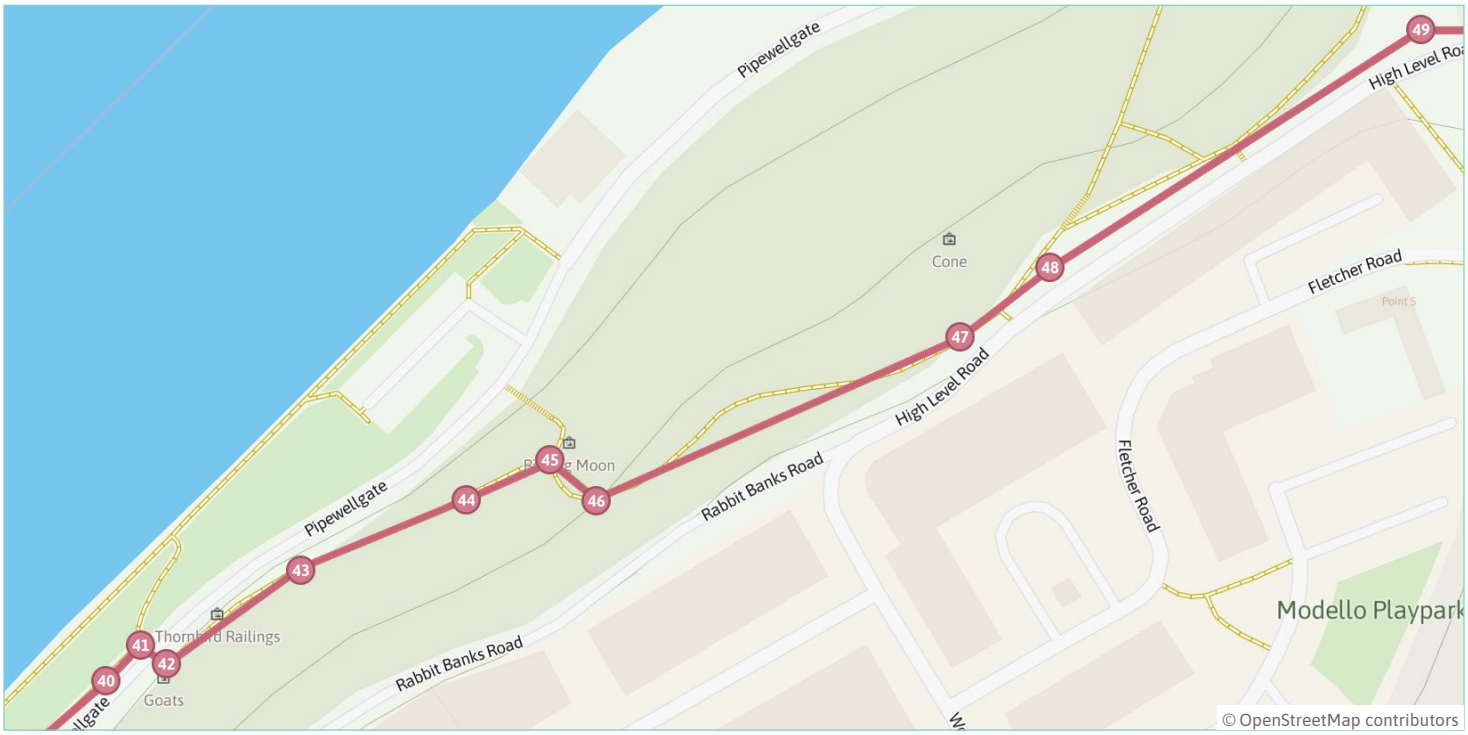
Step 37: Before the Queen Elizabeth II, Metro bridge, take the path uphill on your right.

Step 38: The Metro bridge opened in 1981. You'll spot Tyne and Wear Metro trains crossing it, just as they do in Purely Belter.

Step 39: Continue ahead as the path joins with another.

Step 40: Continue to the drop kerb to cross over Pipewellgate.

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Step 41: Cross and turn left on the other side.

Step 42: Follow the path on the right at it heads uphill.

Step 43: Enjoy the dappled light from the trees. Tune into the sights and sounds of nature.

Step 44: Take notice of the artwork as you go.

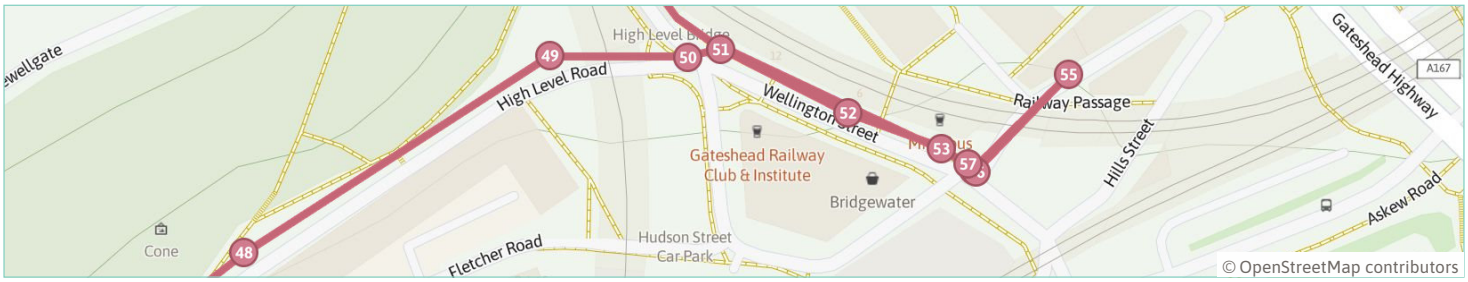
Step 45: Follow the path uphill.

Step 46: It gets quite steep here.

Step 47: The path meets High Level Road.

Step 48: Continue on the pavement to the end and head towards the tunnel arch.

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Step 49: Walk through the tunnel.

Step 50: Cross over the road to the left hand side.

Step 51: Keep left.

Step 52: Don't miss Bertie's Shirts for your next favourite vintage shirt. 💚♡

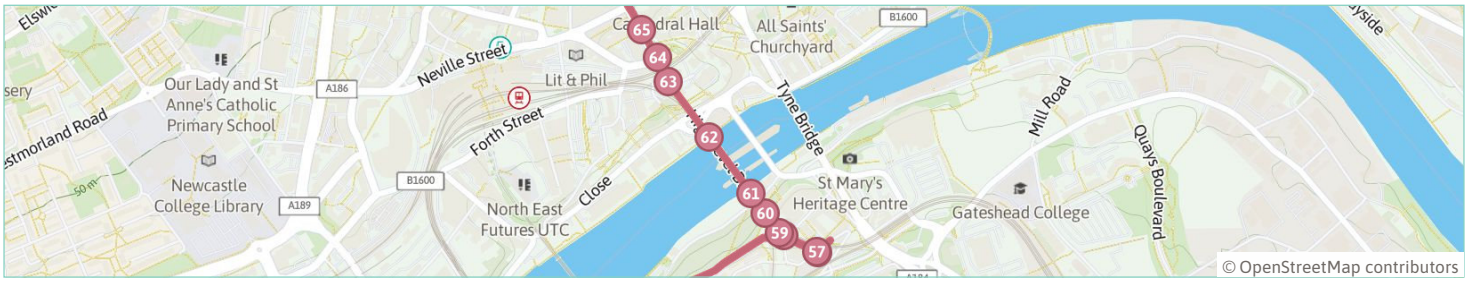
Step 53: There's another great cafe option just here.

Step 54: Turn left onto Half Moon Lane, walking under the bridge as you go.

Step 55: The Central pub features in Purely Belter. It's one of the local spots that gave the film its authentic Geordie backdrop. Tap 'Play' here.

Step 56: When you're ready, retrace your steps back towards Wellington Street as we're about to walk over High Level Bridge.

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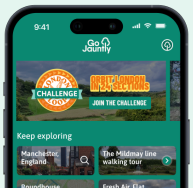


Step 57: Turn right to walk towards the bridge.

Step 58: Walk down the right hand side of the bridge.

Step 59: Walk on through and when you get a quiet moment, tap 'Play'.

Step 60: Robert Stephenson's 1849 double-decker bridge with a road below and rail above is one of the Tyne's most striking crossings and is the location of one of the films most iconic scenes.



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Step 61: Take a pause midway to admire the Swing Bridge, built in 1876 on the site of the old Roman bridge, it still swings open to let ships pass.

Step 62: When you're across the bridge continue straight. You'll be walking past some iconic Newcastle landmarks as you go.

Step 63: The 12th-century keep that gave Newcastle its name is on your right. It's been standing above the Tyne for over 800 years.

Step 64: Keep going, the Cathedral is right in front of you.

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Step 65: Newcastle cathedral's striking lantern tower has guided ships and travellers into the city since medieval times.

Step 66: Continue towards the pedestrian crossing ahead.

Step 67: Cross over St Nicolas Square and turn right on the other side.

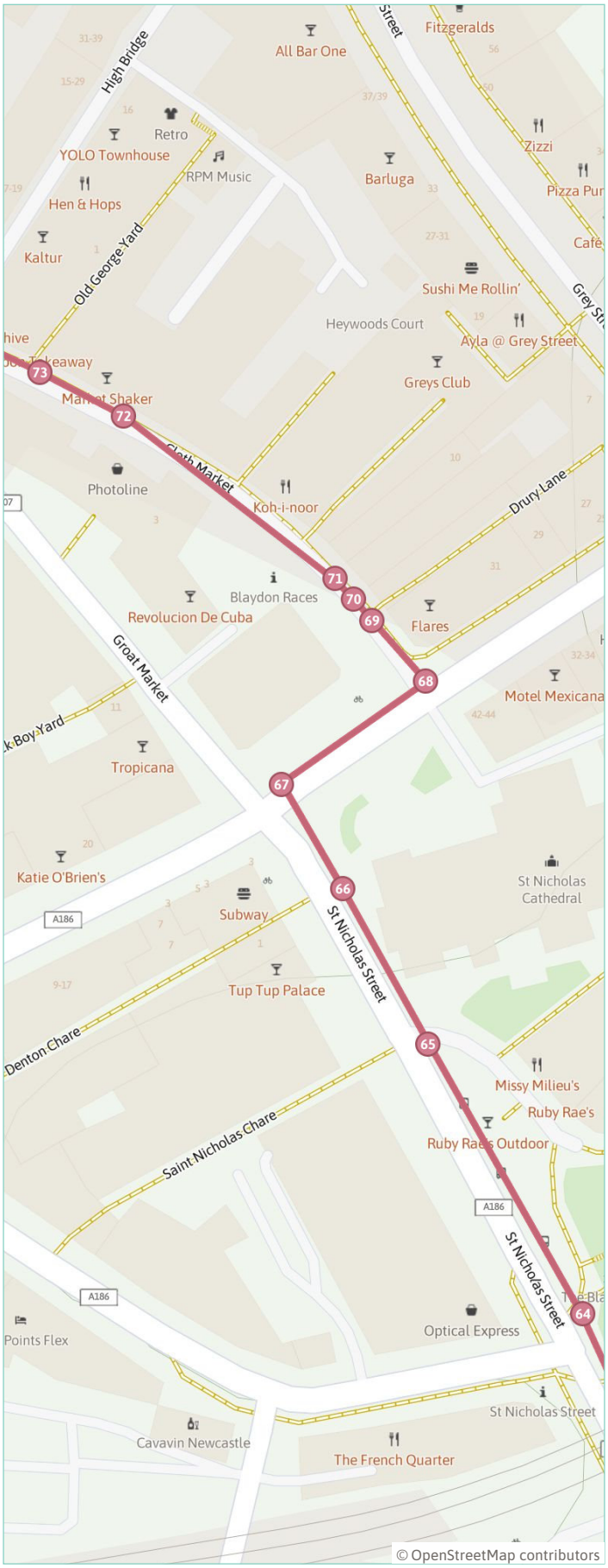
Step 68: Turn left at the next turn onto Cloth Market.

Step 69: Keep to the right hand side of the road and look for this plaque.

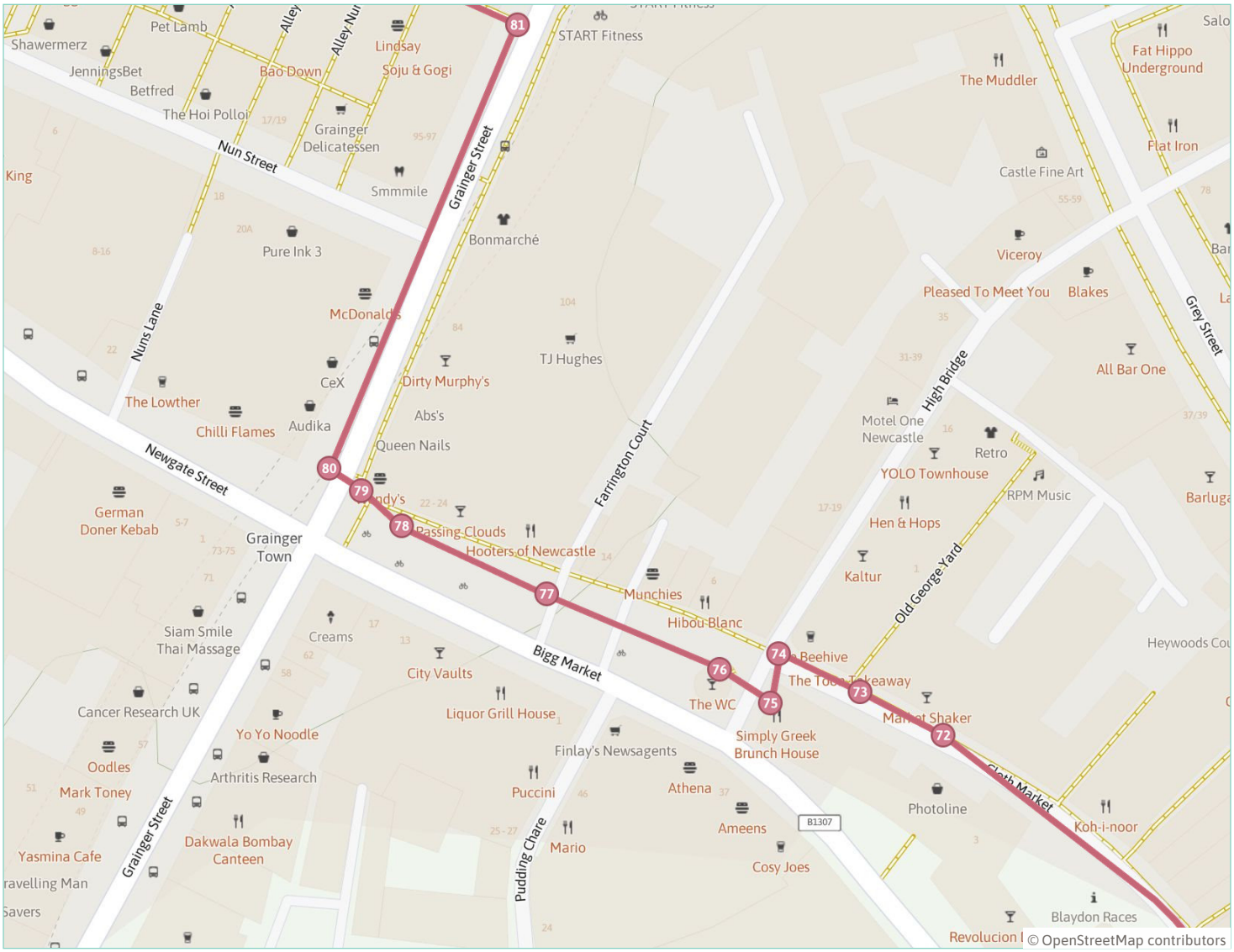
Step 70: It is the site of the 'Wheatsheaf' Public House and music room. It is named after the John Balmbra, the licencee in 1862 when George Ridley first performed his song 'The Blaydon Races'.

Step 71: Continue walking uphill on Cloth Market. This street also featured in the film. Tap 'Play'.

Step 72: First up Market Shaker is where the nightclub scene with Baby Shearer was filmed. Find out more below.



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Step 73: Further up is the Toon Takeaway which also featured in the film.

Step 74: Continue walking up ahead.

Step 75: Can you see the underground cocktail bar on your left hand side? It used to be public toilets!

Step 76: The old basement public toilets is also another film location. Can you spot this plaque?

Step 77: When you're ready, enjoy the magnificent trees found inside the square and confine up Bigg Market.

Step 78: The Rutherford Memorial Fountain is at the top.

Step 79: Cross over Grainger Street at the pedestrian crossing and turn right on the other side.

Step 80: Continue up Grainger Street.

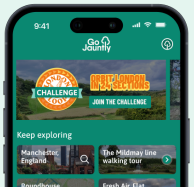
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Step 81: Soon you'll see Grainger Market on the left hand side. Head on in.

Step 82: This Grade I listed Victorian market hall, opened in 1835 and is still buzzing with independent traders today.

Step 83: It's the site of another iconic scene in the film. Tap 'Play'.

Step 84: When you're ready, head back to the first aisle of shops and stalls and turn left to exit Grainger Market.



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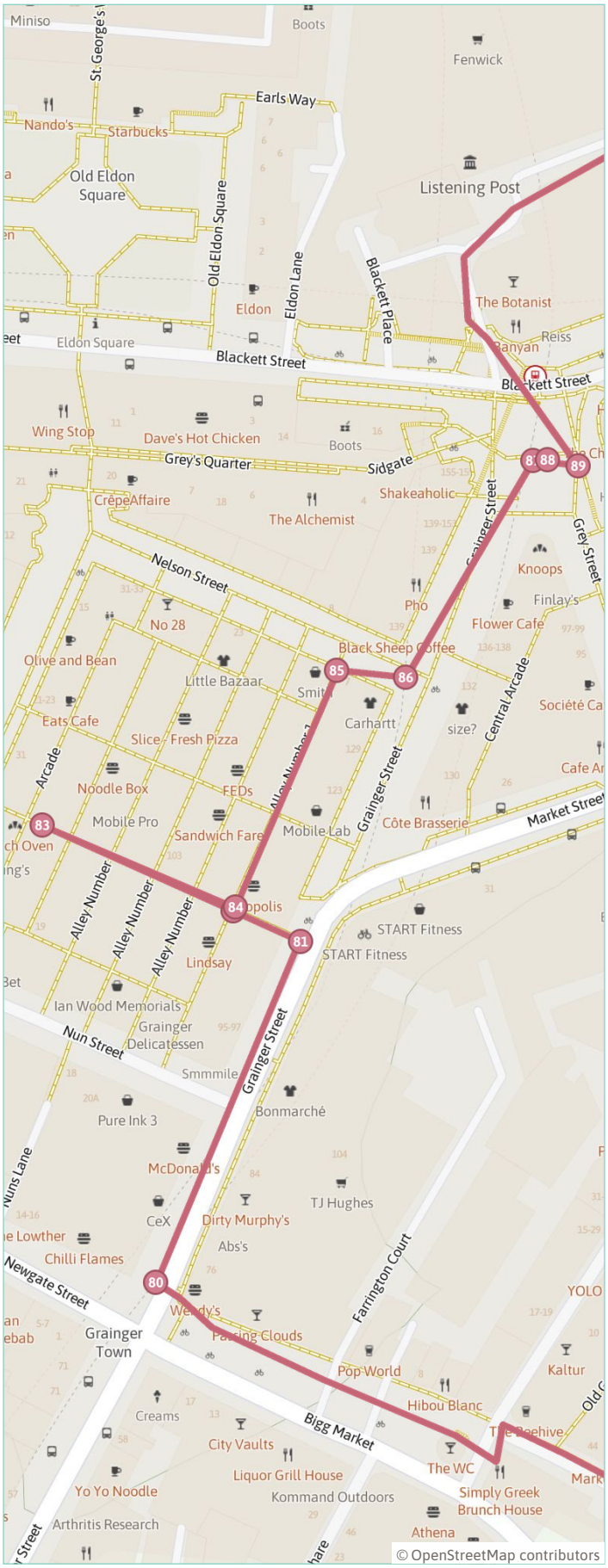
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Step 85: Exit the market and turn right to head back towards Grainger St.

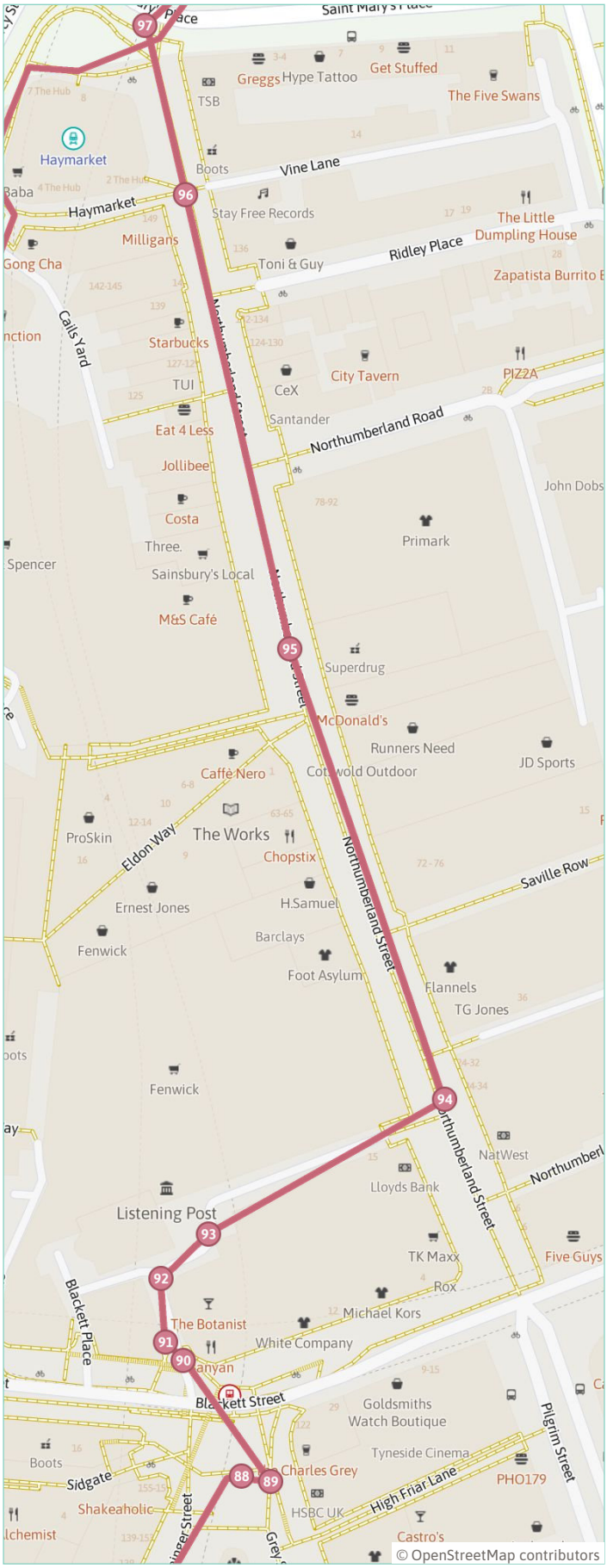
Step 86: Turn left up Grainger St. Grey's Monument is up ahead.

Step 87: Here's the site of another iconic moment in the film. Tap 'Play'.

Step 88: This column honours Earl Grey, former Prime Minister and Newcastle's own tea namesake, marking the top of Grey Street. Fancy a cuppa?



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Step 89: Just in front of Grey's Monument and down Grey St is the front of the bank that also featured in the film as one last mission. Tap 'Play'.

Step 90: Walk past the monument and towards Waterstones on Northumberland Ct, which is currently being renovated.

Step 91: Do you remember the twocking scene from the film?

Step 92: Walk past the bookshop and continue ahead on Northumberland Court.

Step 93: Walk past Newcastle institution, Fenwick, a department store on your right. At the end turn left onto Northumberland St.

Step 94: This is Newcastle's main shopping street, always busy, a modern contrast to some of the grittier scenes in the film. Tap 'Play' for more.

Step 95: Remember the lamppost scene in the film? It was shot here. Tap 'Play' to hear more.

Step 96: Continue all the way to the end.

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Step 97: Cross over at the pedestrian crossing

Step 98: On the other side, turn right to head into the green.

Step 99: The church should be on your left hand side. Follow the path.

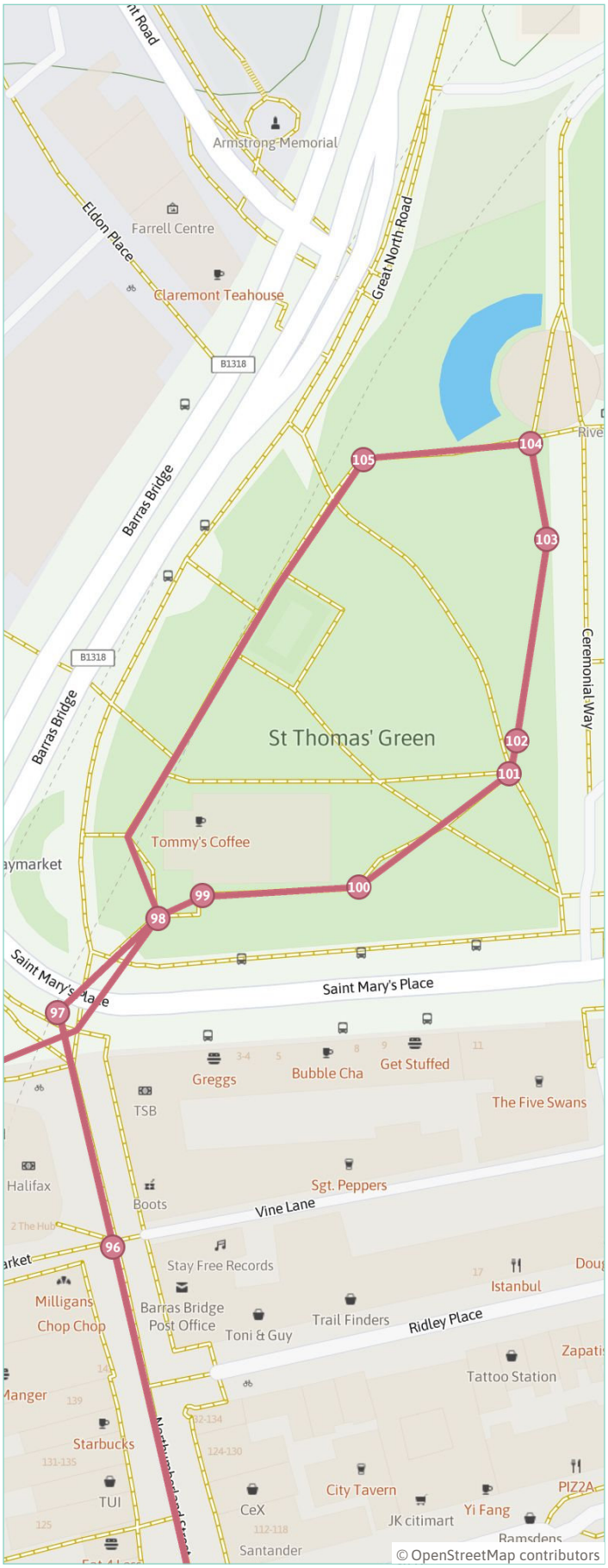
Step 100: Continue following the path and make you way towards the Civic Centre.

Step 101: Up ahead is a great place to have a rest.

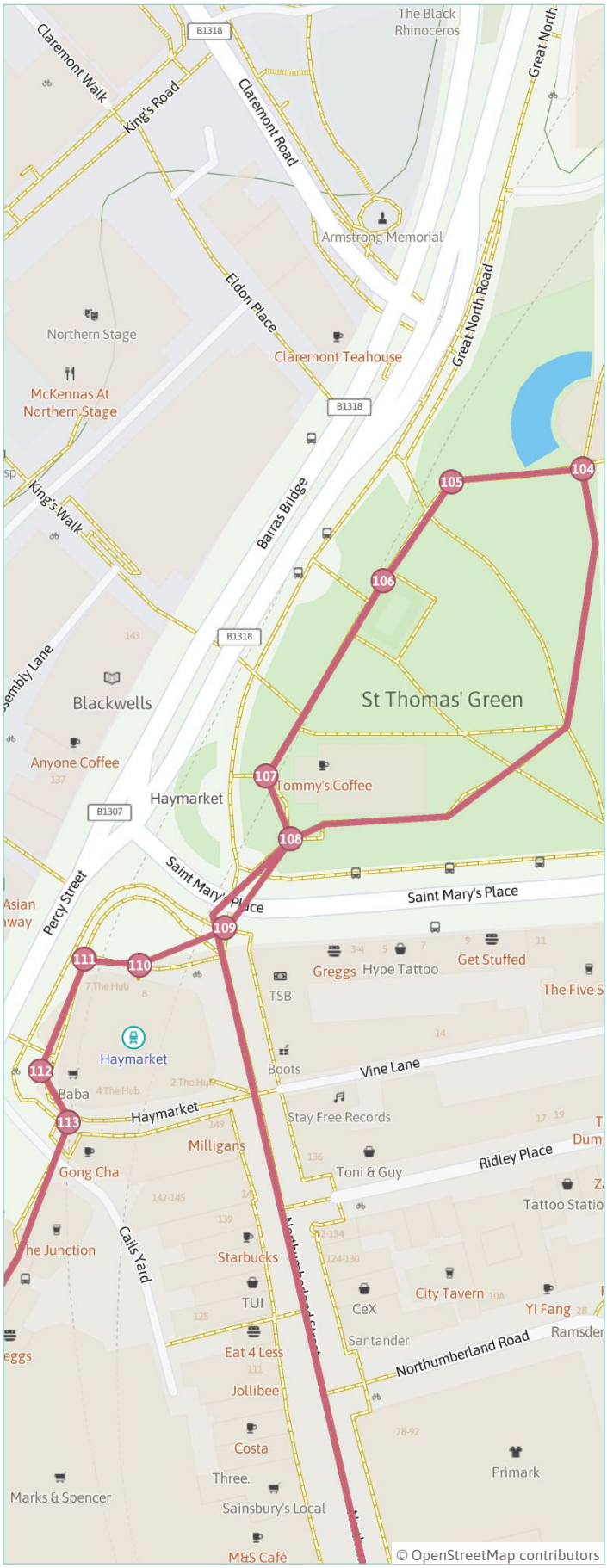
Step 102: Welcome to the Civic Centre. Tap ‘Play’ to hear more about this scene.

Step 103: This is Newcastle’s local government headquarters, opened in 1968 and known for its distinctive tower and gilded sea horses.

Step 104: It’s also the location of some of the scenes from the film.



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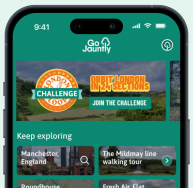


Step 105: When you're ready, walk around the outskirts of the park.

Step 106: Continue past the war memorial.

Step 107: Continue ahead to walk back towards the pedestrian crossing.

Step 108: We're headed back towards Haymarket station.



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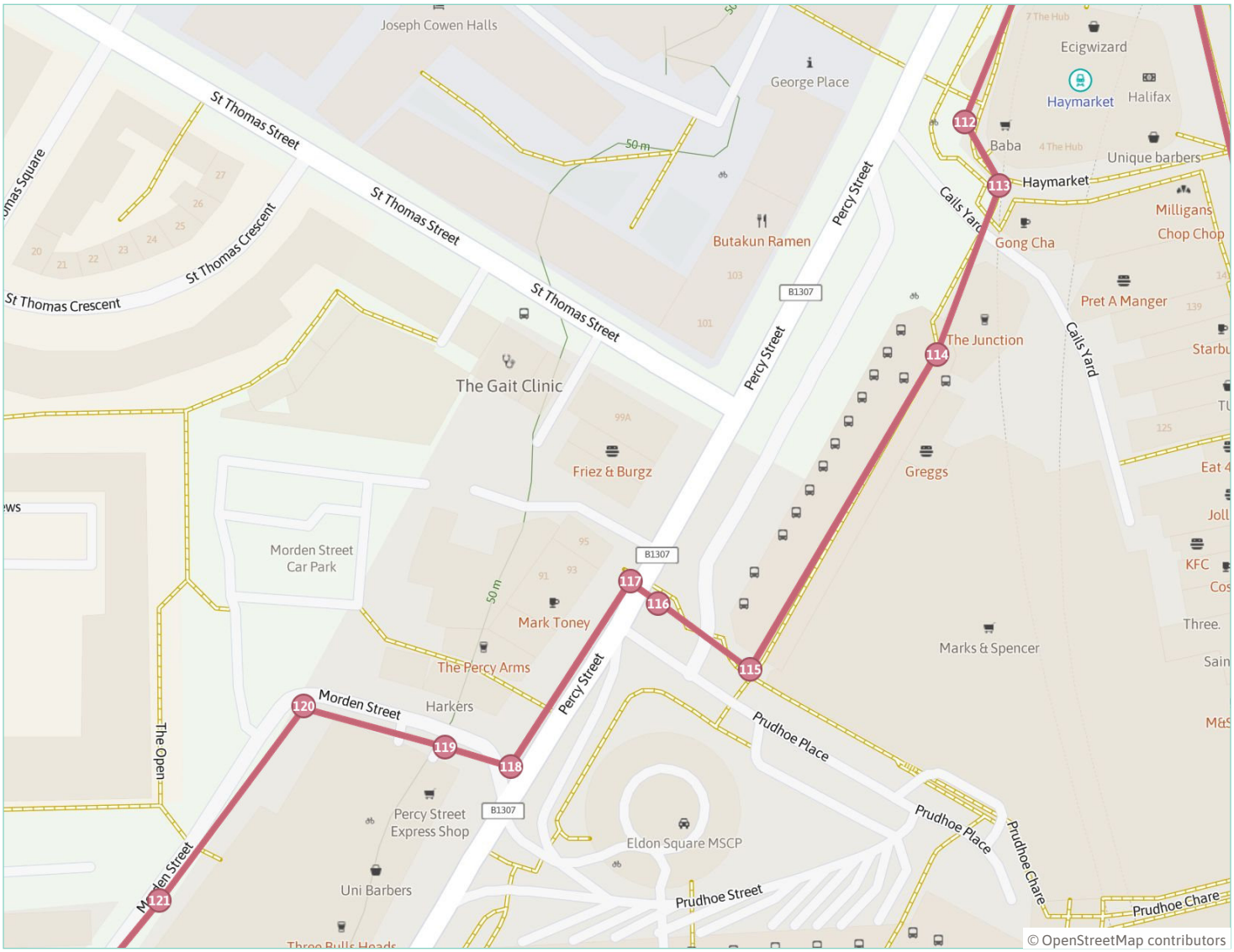
Step 109: Walk around the Boer War Memorial on your left.

Step 110: Continue right past Haymarket and then turn left.

Step 111: Continue left up Percy St.

Step 112: Keep left.

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Step 113: We're going to walk through the bus shelter. When you get the the bus station tap 'Play'.

Step 114: Continue all the way to the end.

Step 115: Once you're through the bus station, turn right and head towards the main road, Percy St to cross it.

Step 116: Cross over Percy St at the pedestrian crossings and turn left on the other side.

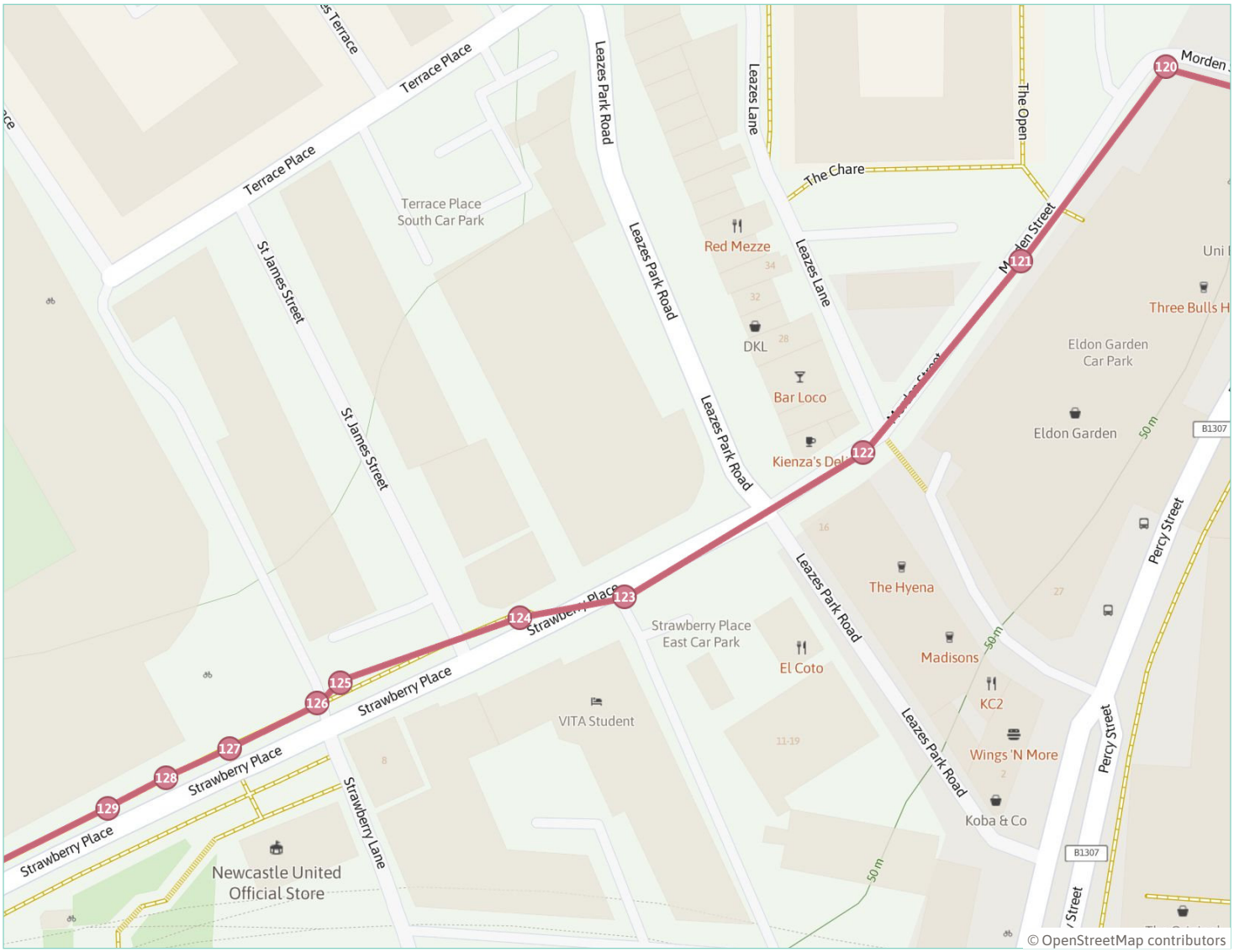
Step 117: Continue until the next road and turn right onto Morden St.

Step 118: Continue onto Morden St. Howays the lads! Can you guess where we are going next?

Step 119: The path is narrow here, a bollard in the middle and then the pavement disappears so you have to walk in the road. Be mindful of cars.

Step 120: Follow the road as it bears left, rejoin the pavement and continue uphill.

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Step 121: Keep going.

Step 122: You can see the Gallowgate end of St James Park up ahead.

Step 123: Cross over Strawberry Place so you're walking on the right hand side.

Step 124: Newcastle United's home ground is up ahead. It's a key setting in Purely Belter, where Gerry and Sewell's season ticket dream begins.

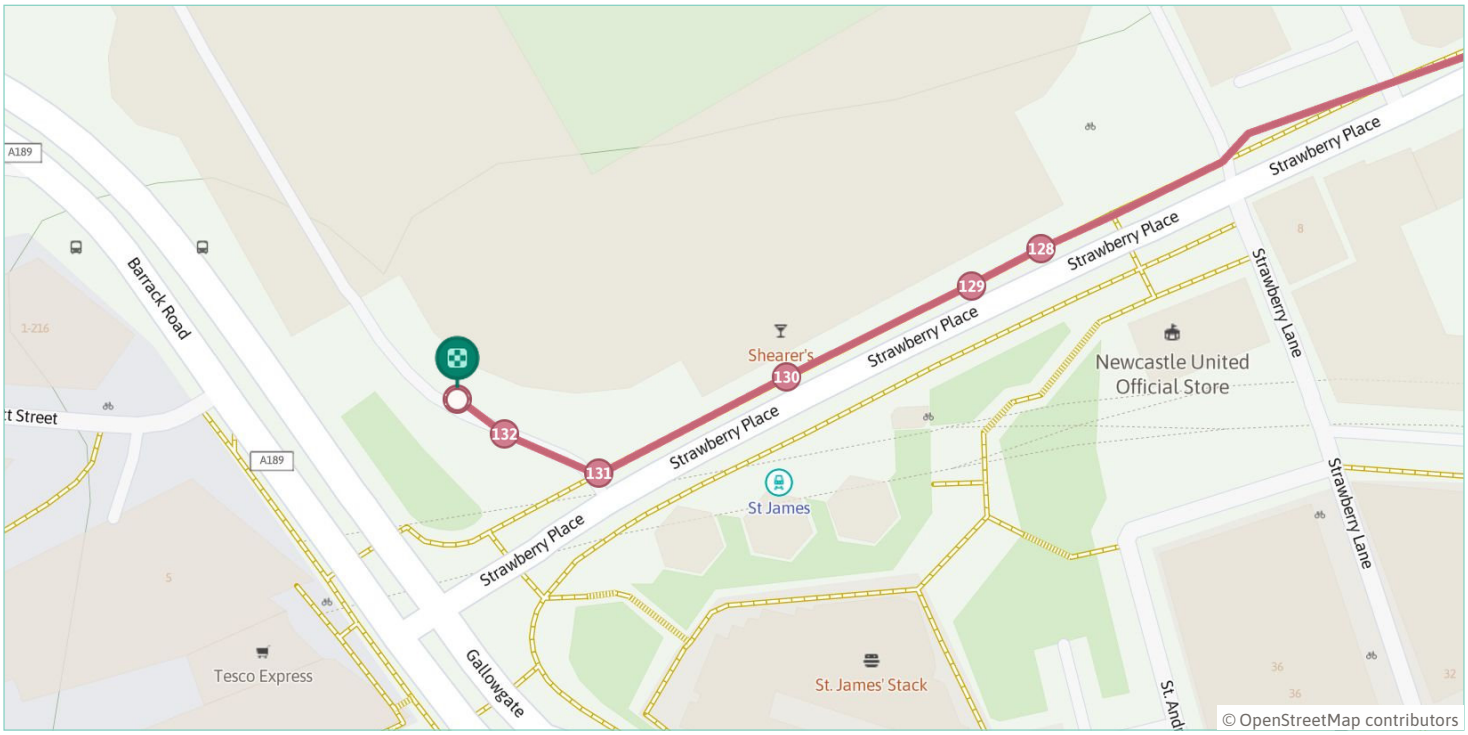
Step 125: On your left is The Strawberry, a local pub favoured by pre and post match Toon fans.

Step 126: This is the Gallowgate End, the stadium's famous fan end, named after the old road once used for public hangings nearby.

Step 127: Here's a statue of Jackie Milburn, Newcastle legend of the 1950s, celebrated by generations of fans outside the ground.

Step 128: Don't miss the plaque for Joe Harvey as you continue straight.

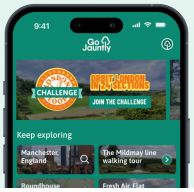
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Step 129: This was a famous location right at the start of the film. Tap 'Play' to hear more.

Step 130: Shearer's is the fan pub right here, named for the Newcastle legend and amother popular spot on match days.

Step 131: Continue all the way to the small car park at the side of the stadium where our final stop lies.



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Step 132: Honouring the club's record goalscorer, the very player Gerry and Sewell dream of meeting in the film. Say hello to Alan Shearer.

Step 133: He's right next to the statue honouring the beloved former Newcastle manager, Sir Bobby Robson.

Step 134: This is where the walk ends. The nearest station is St James' Metro station. We hope you enjoyed this purely belter walk! Tap the 3 dots to share the walk with a friend and come back for your next walk soon.

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