



Blaby District Heritage Walk 10

Take a jaunt through history on this circular walk. Learn history as you go, passing Victorian Manor Houses & exploring green spaces.

Distance 14 kilometers / 8.7 miles

Duration 2 hours and 54 minutes



Parking



Picnic spot



Dog friendly



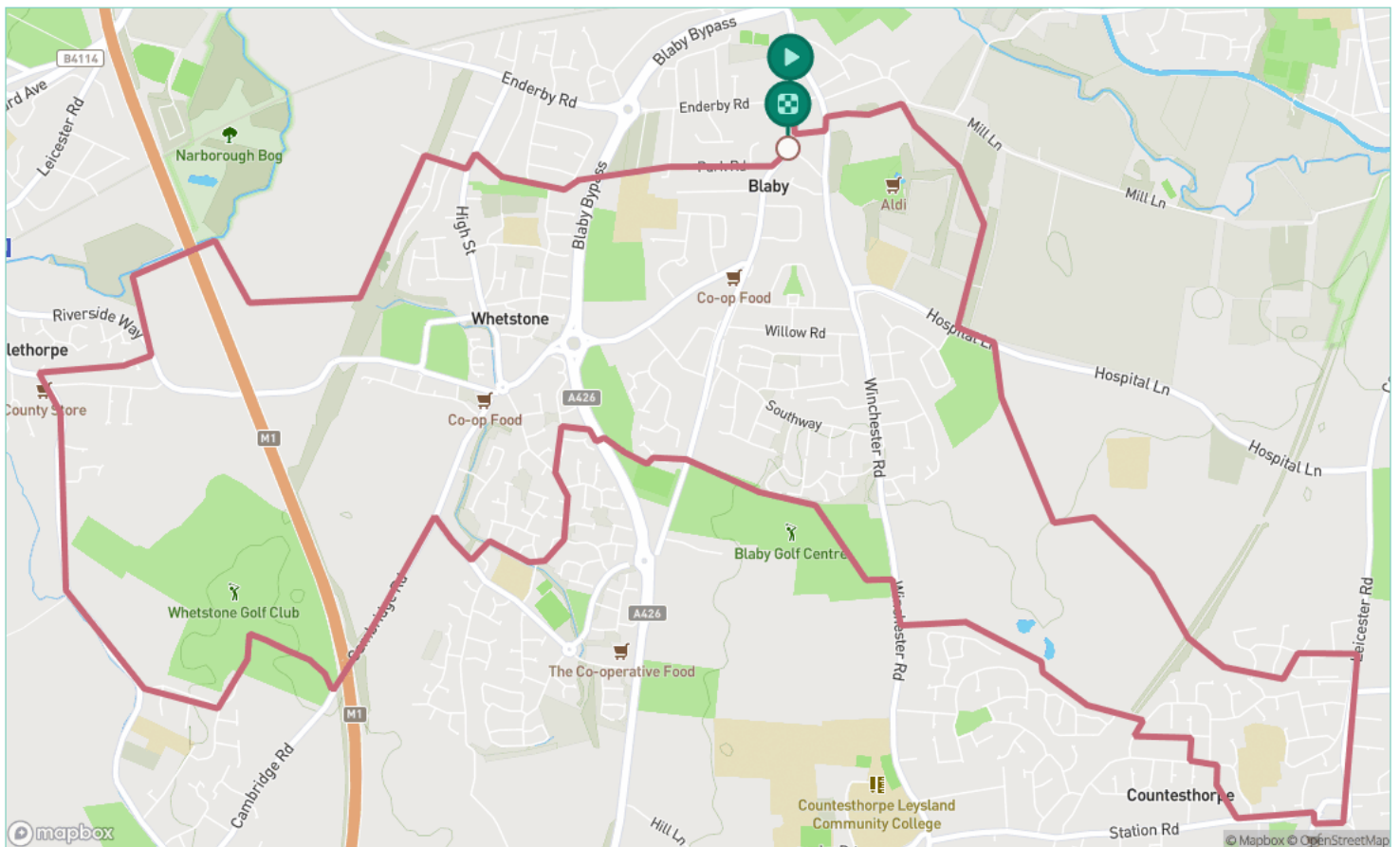
Public transport



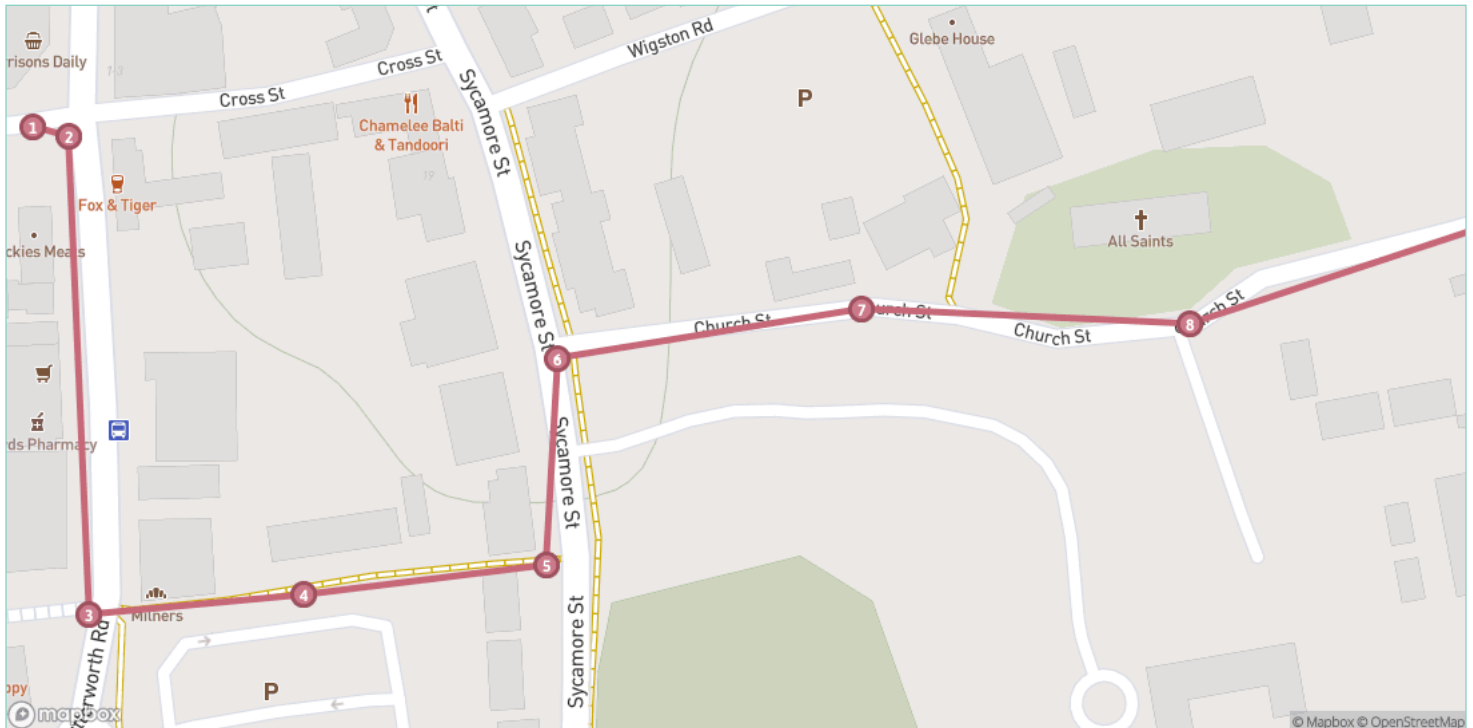
History



Wildlife



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 © 2024. Last Updated: 30 January 2024.



Step 1: Welcome to Walk 10 of the 12 Blaby District Heritage Walks brought to you by Blaby District Council!

Step 2: We will start our walk on the corner of Enderby Road and Lutterworth Road, opposite the Fox and Tiger pub. A great spot to grab some food.

Step 3: Turn right to walk down Lutterworth Road for a short distance. You're heading towards Aldi.

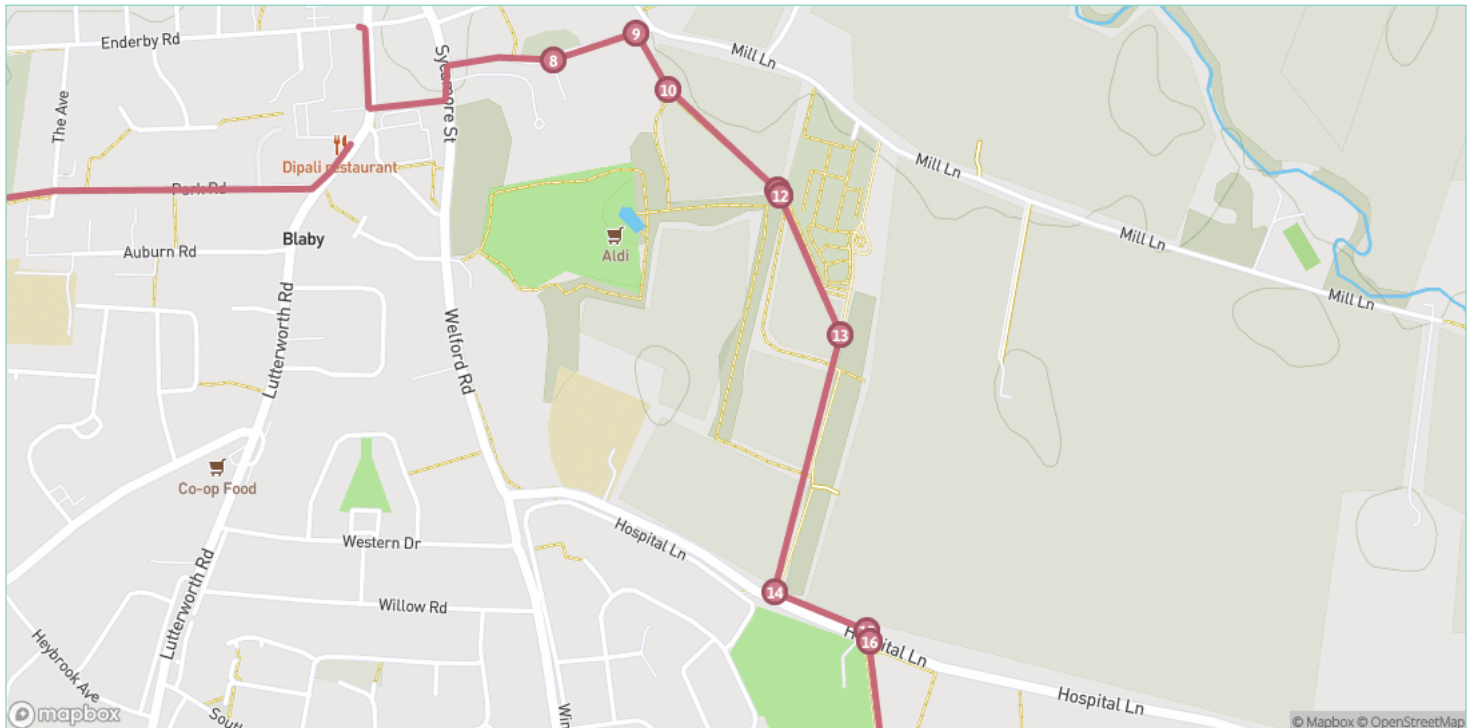
Step 4: Cross at the pedestrian crossing and head left down Church Walk.

Step 5: Blaby was originally a viking settlement, with the -by-portion meaning farmsteads. The rest of the word derives from a name of a viking, Blár. It is thus Blár's farmstead.

Step 6: Turn left onto Sycamore Street and then take the first right onto Church Street.

Step 7: Blaby has a long history of colourful characters including the 18th century Rector of Blaby, the Reverend Edward Stokes. In 1714 he was blinded while at school by his own brother who he dared to shoot him with a (loaded) pistol.

Step 8: The pistol was used by the boys of the school as a plaything. Being blind didn't deprive Stokes from a long, active life, including horse riding! He had an assistant ride with him who rang a bell when it was time to jump.



Step 9: Turn right onto the signed footpath through a gate by some houses.

Step 10: After a short distance on this footpath, for a detour, you can enter Bouskell Park. Here you will see a Victorian Manor House and ice house.

Step 11: To continue, keep left on the footpath opposite the sign for Bouskell Park and then enter the wooded area.

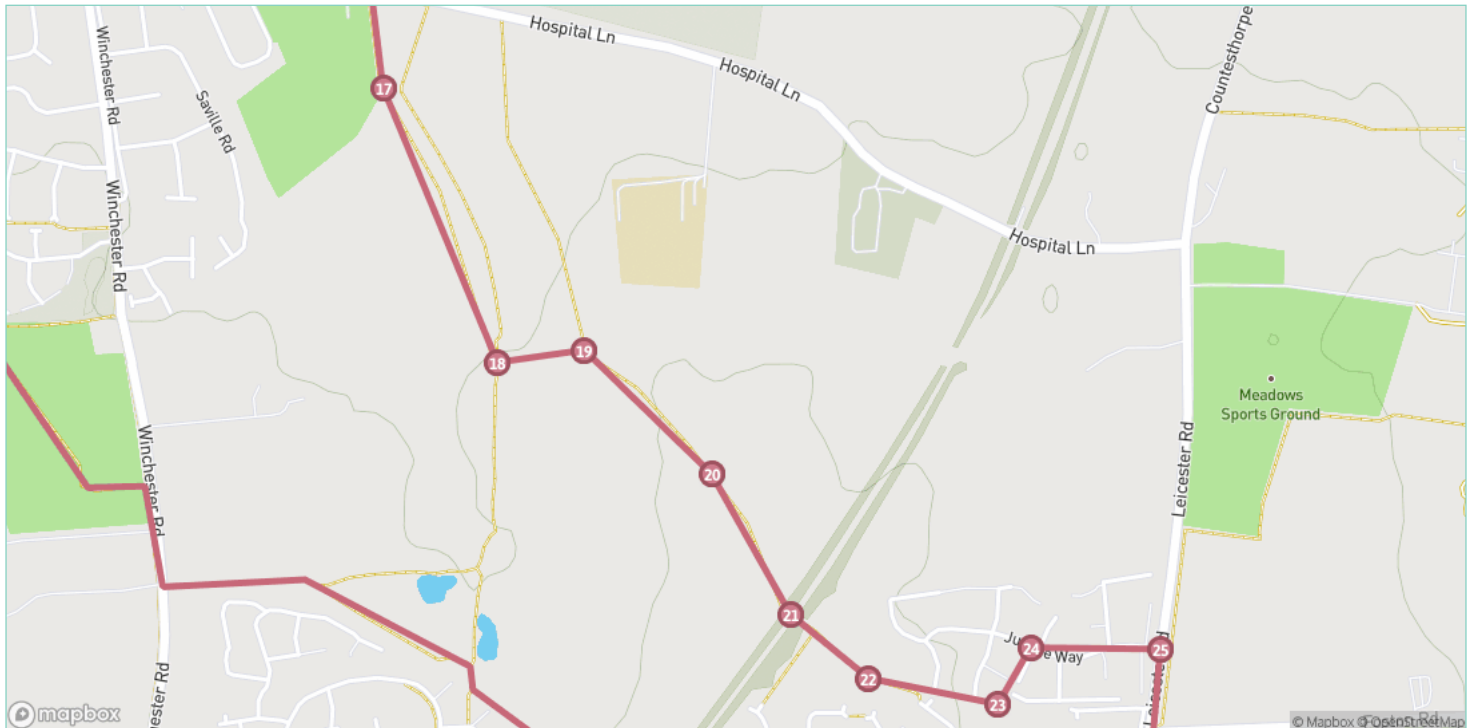
Step 12: At the tall pine trees the path forks. Go straight/ slight right & pick up the footpath. There will be a cemetery on your left.

Step 13: You'll then meet a T-junction of paths. Go right and continue on the paved path. If you wish, turn left to sit in the Peace Garden.

Step 14: Where the path exits onto Hospital Lane, turn left onto the bridle path. You will walk with the road on your right and field on your left.

Step 15: You will then leave the footpath after a short while. Heading through a wooden gate.

Step 16: Cross the road and pick up the footpath directly opposite called Blaby Oaks. Again passing through gates.



Step 17: Continue straight on the footpath, continuing through the wooded area.

Step 18: Once you leave the wooded area you will come to two footpaths through gates. Take the path to the left through the wooden gate.

Step 19: Walk with the hedgerow on your right.

Step 20: Keep right and then left to stay on the footpath towards Countesthorpe. You will now walk with a hedge on your left and fields to the right

Step 21: Next you will come to a gate and the footpath will cross a disused railway line bed. Continue on, crossing the play park.

Step 22: After the play area continue ahead and then bear left onto a joining path. Continue ahead on a grassy path between houses.

Step 23: Take the grassy path between some houses on your left.

Step 24: Turn right onto Jubilee Way.



Step 25: Turn right onto Leicester Road

Step 26: Continue on Leicester Road and then keep right after some shops to exit onto The Square. We will next walk up Station Road.

Step 27: Countesthorpe during the 11th century was tiny. Indeed the word "Thorpe" means a farmstead that is reliant on another (Blaby). The "Countes" element comes from a real Countess, Judith, neice of William I.

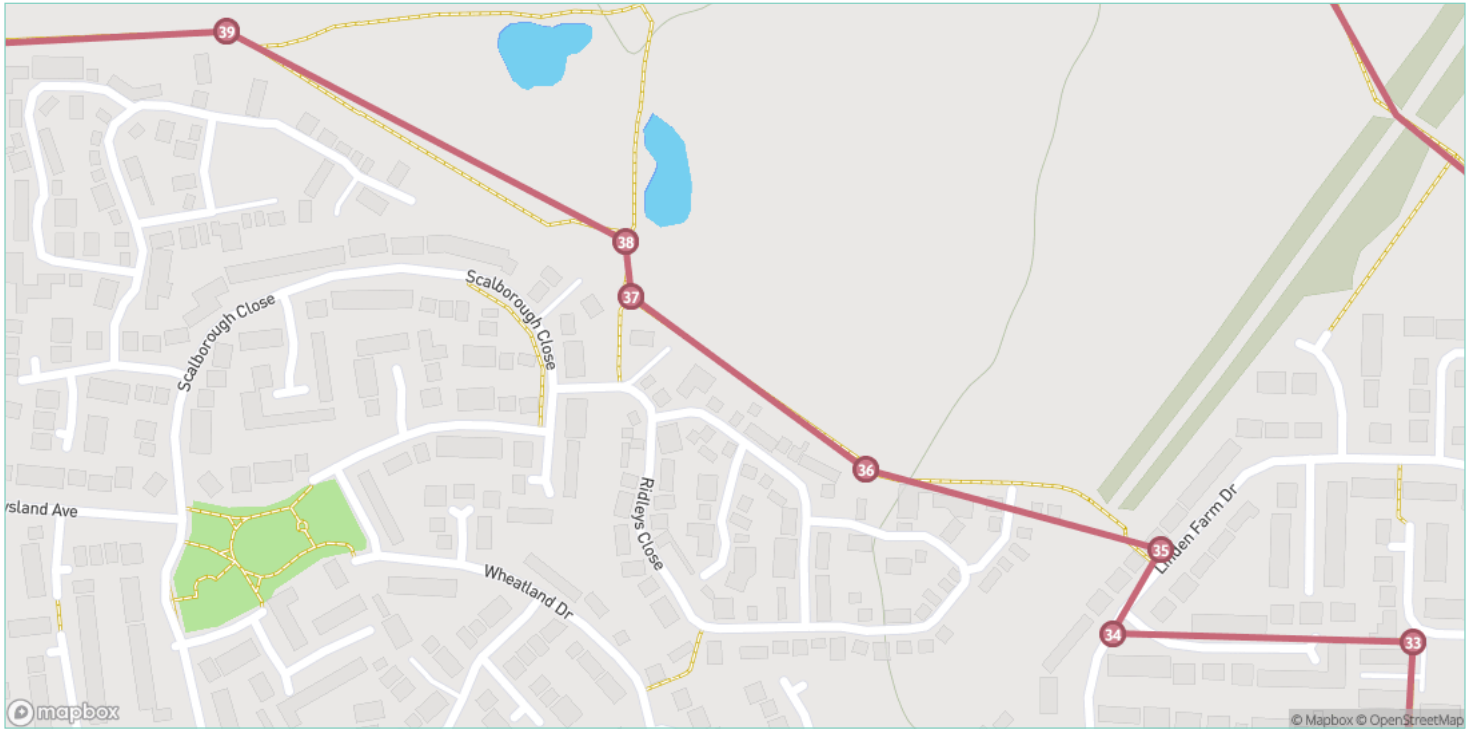
Step 28: From the square turn onto Station Road.

Step 29: After a short distance, take the footpath to the right just after Gwendoline Drive.

Step 30: Turn right when you exit onto The Plantation.

Step 31: Turn left at the bottom of this street.

Step 32: Turn right onto the small footpath after a very short distance.



Step 33: Shortly after exiting this footpath, take the 'No Cycling' path to your left.

Step 34: Exit onto Cherrytree Close and continue straight to exit onto Linden Farm Drive.

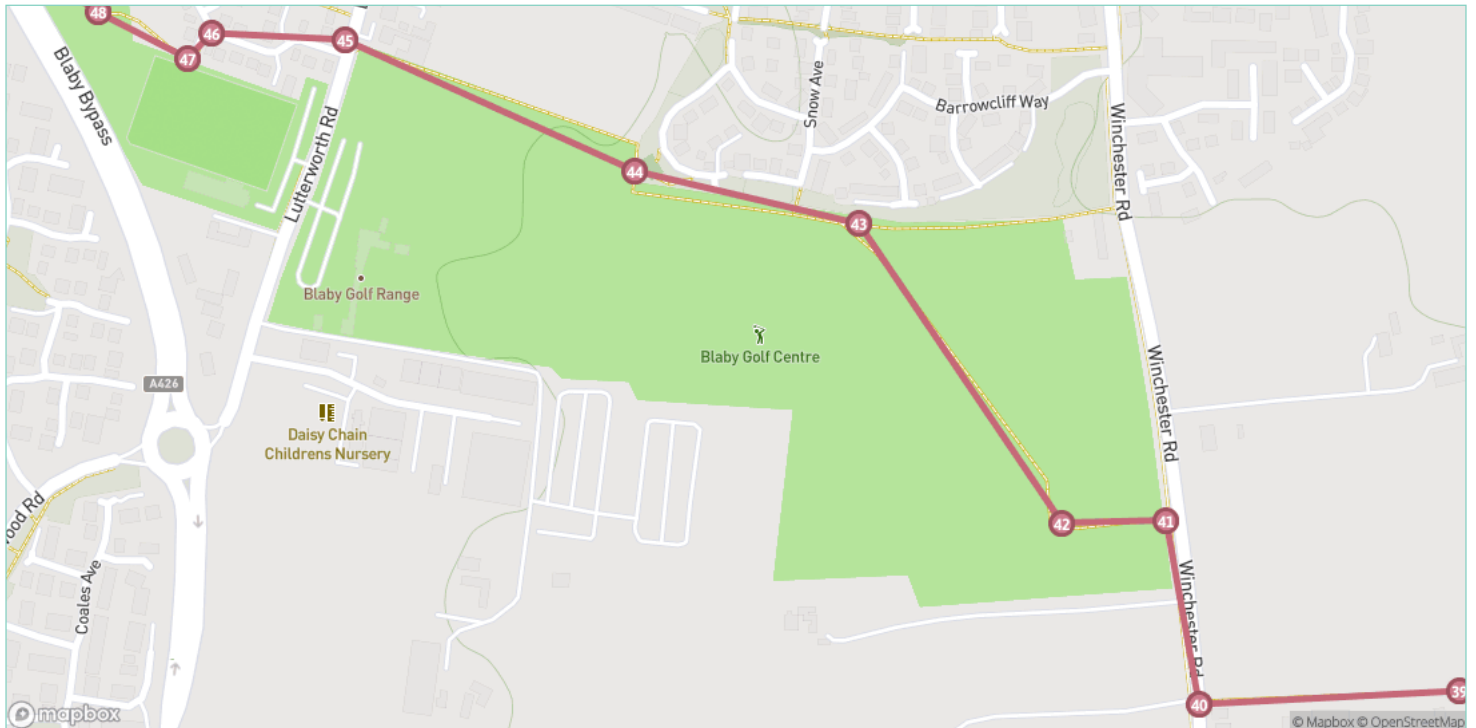
Step 35: Turn right onto Linden Farm Drive then take the footpath immediately left.

Step 36: Follow the signs for Blaby. Walk with the houses on your left.

Step 37: Keep right at the T-junction.

Step 38: Immediately after there will be a signpost. Turn left & follow the sign for Winchester Road.

Step 39: Continue straight on the footpath.



Step 40: The path eventually exits onto Winchester Road. Turn right onto Winchester Road in the direction of Blaby.

Step 47: Turn left onto the footpath by some fenced-off rugby pitches.

Step 41: Just before the village sign, take the footpath over the stepped gate to your left.

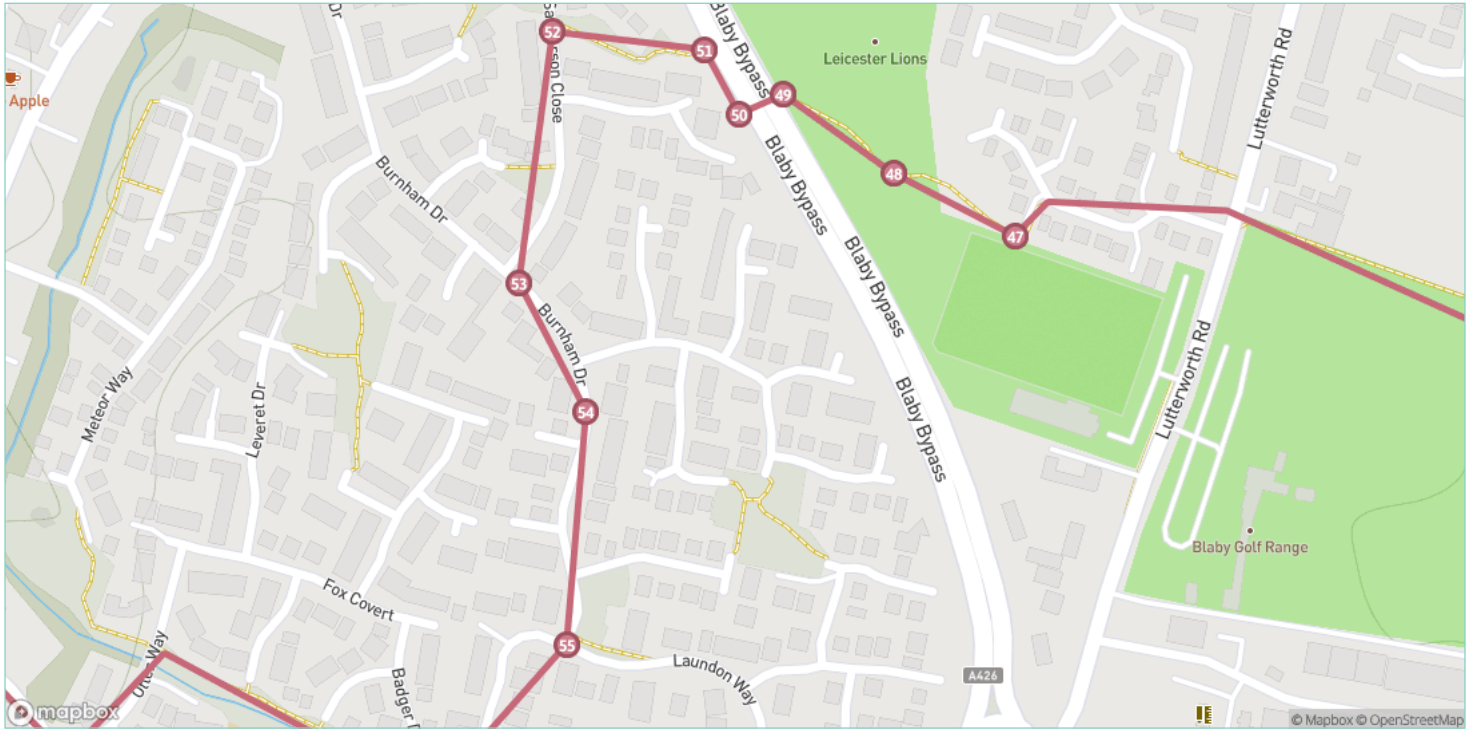
Step 42: Follow the yellow tipped waymarkers through the golf course. Be careful of flying golf balls.

Step 43: Once you reach a T-junction with a paved path, go left onto the path.

Step 44: Keep following the footpath.

Step 45: Eventually you will exit onto Lutterworth Road.

Step 46: Cross Lutterworth Road and pick up the road directly opposite, Westfield Close.



Step 48: Follow the footpath signs.

Step 49: Exit the footpath down the ramp, onto the dual carriageway.

Step 50: Cross the dual carriageway at the designated crossing. Be cautious due to fast-moving traffic.

Step 51: Pick up the footpath.

Step 52: When you exit onto the residential street Sanderson Close, turn left.

Step 53: You will now exit onto Burnham Drive opposite a bus stop, turn left onto Burnham Drive.

Step 54: Continue down Burnham Drive for a short while.

Step 55: Turn right at the T-junction down Bodicoat Close.



Step 56: Keep right on the footpath at the end of Bodicoat Close and go up the small ramp to the road.

Step 57: Cross the road and pick up the footpath directly opposite, walking with the brook and the school on your left.

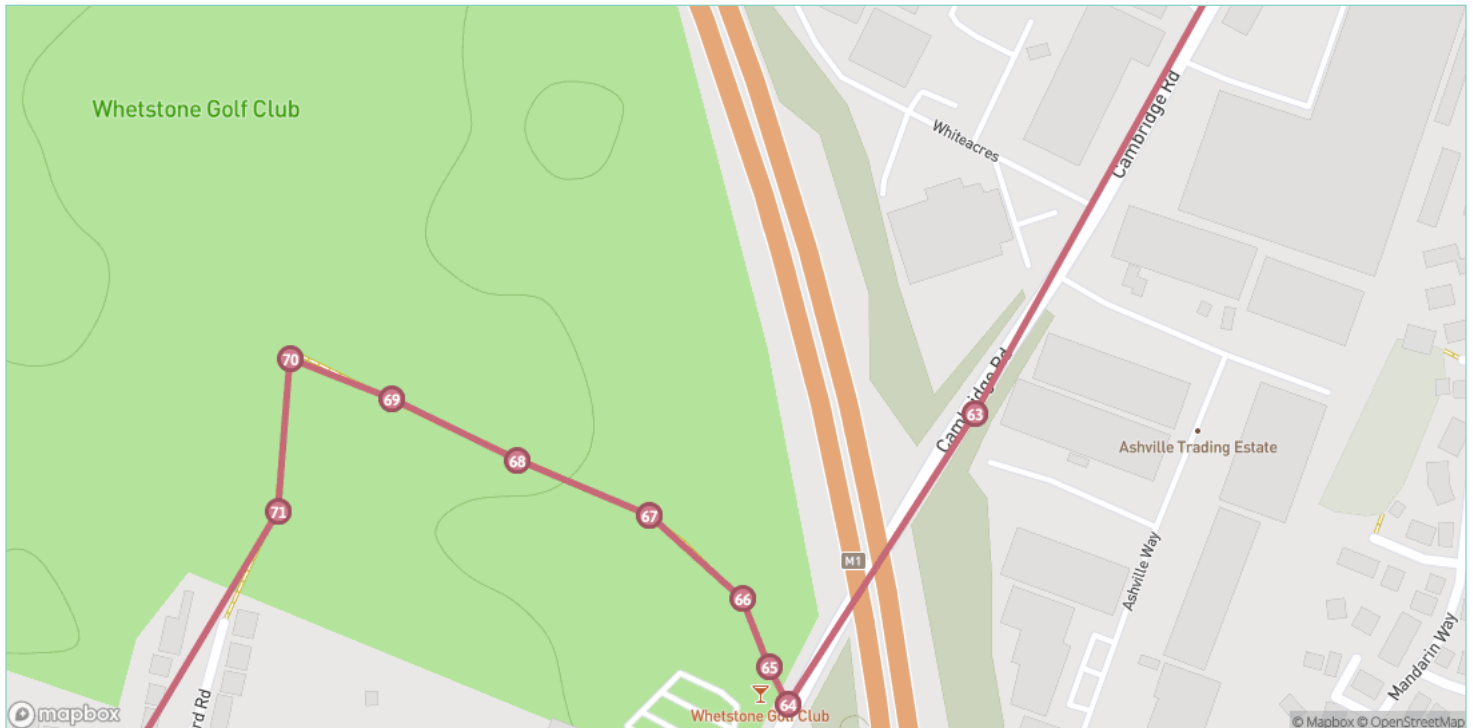
Step 58: Whetstone has always been a big village. In the 1086 Domesday Book there is a record of 43 households. This puts Whetstone in the largest 20% of settlements in England at the time!

Step 59: Exit left onto Otter Way at the next bridge.

Step 60: Turn right onto Dog and Gun Lane at the T-junction.

Step 61: In front of you, is a number of large factory buildings. This industrial estate is called The Whittle Estate. Why? Sir Frank Whittle, the inventor of the Jet Engine, first set up a factory here for his company Power Jets Ltd.

Step 62: Turn left onto Cambridge Road. The massive factory was approved by the Air Ministry in 1941 to support the production of the engines. It later became the English Electric factory. The work done here and in Lutterworth changed the world.



Step 63: Continue down Cambridge Rd. As a dedication to the work done at Frank Whittle's factory here, an air raid siren used to sound each morning at 08.00AM until 2002. Anti aircraft guns were placed in Whetstone during the war too to protect it.

Step 64: Just after passing under the motorway, take the footpath to your right.

Step 65: Follow the footpath markers and the path through the golf course. There was another famous visitor to Whetstone. He was George Fox, the founder of the quaker movement. In 1654, Fox was moving around the area holding meetings.

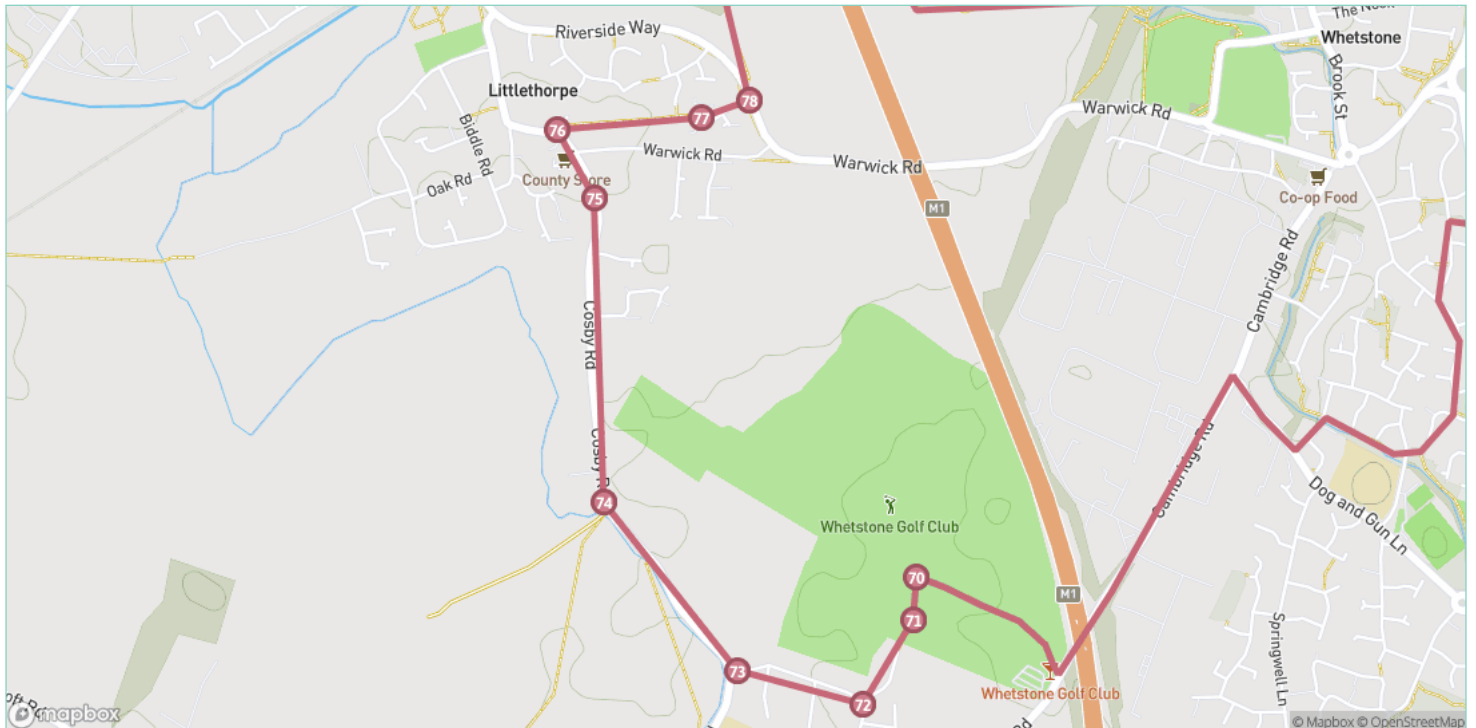
Step 66: These meetings often ended with the quakers being assaulted. In 1654 he attended the village to hold a meeting. However, just before it started, George was arrested by seventeen soldiers from Colonel Hackers Parliamentary regiment.

Step 67: He came back the next year despite being warned he would be imprisoned. However, instead of being taken into custody, Colonel Hacker's wife and his Marshall even attended the meeting and were supposedly 'convinced'.

Step 68: Although George continued preaching, Colonel Hacker, a signatory to the death warrant of King Charles I, was executed for regicide at the restoration of the monarchy. Colonel Hacker was not Hung, Drawn and Quartered like the others though.

Step 69: When he stated he was proud of his service to Parliament and forgave the jury, witnesses and judges, the King allowed him to just be hung instead. Continue on the footpath through the golf course.

Step 70: You will pass under a disused railway bridge. Continue following the footpath markers towards some houses. Keep as far left as possible.



Step 71: If you keep left after passing under the railway line then you will pick up a small marked footpath that runs down the back of houses.

Step 72: You will exit onto Cromford Road. Turn right onto Brooklands Road

Step 73: Turn right at the T-junction with Narborough Road towards Littlethorpe.

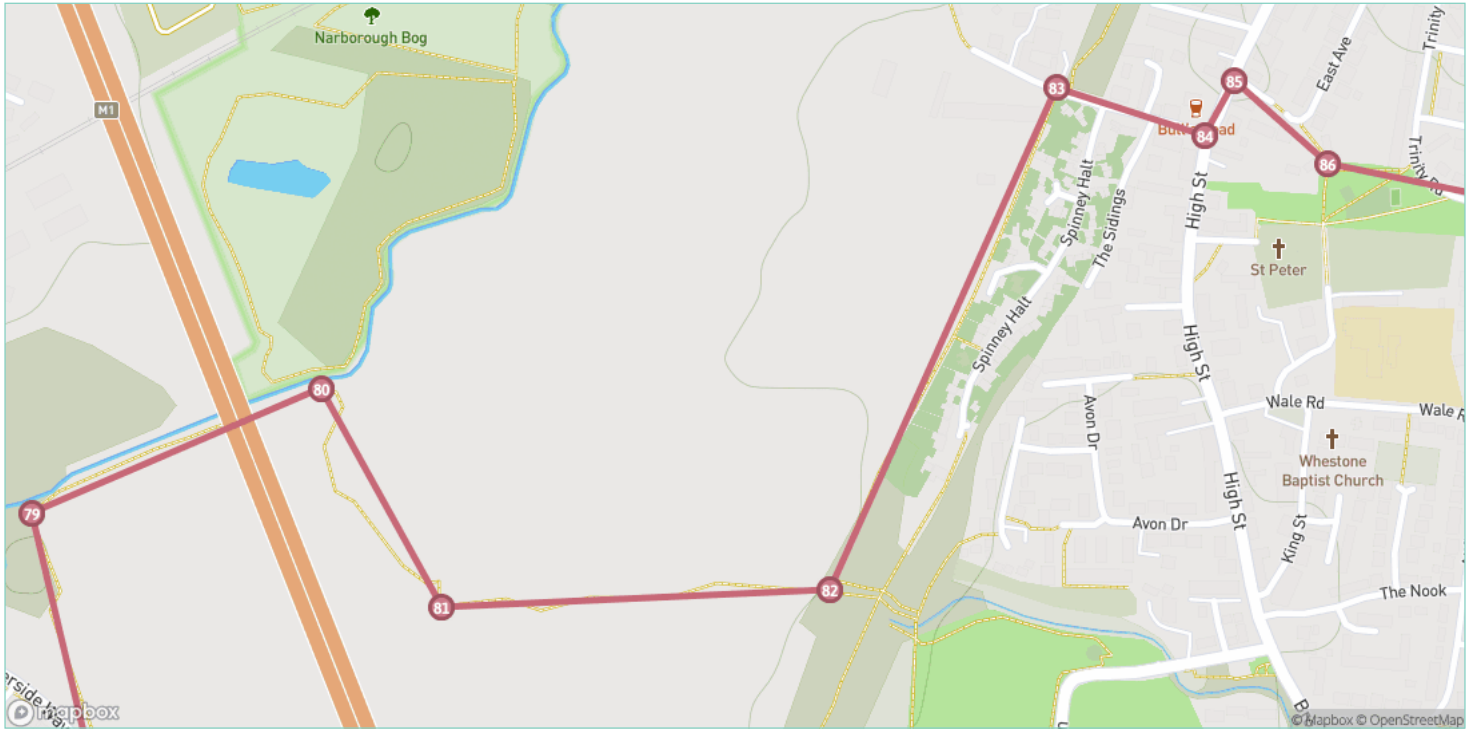
Step 74: Continue up Narborough Road. Littlethorpe is a small village as it was a thousand years ago. 'thorpe' is an old Norse word meaning outlying farmstead reliant on another (Narborough). Little outlying farmstead. Cute.

Step 75: Continue on what is now Cosby Road through Littlethorpe.

Step 76: Continue until you pass Warwick Road on your right. Take the next right afterwards, Waudby Close.

Step 77: Take the footpath immediately off to the right. You will exit onto Haybarn Close.

Step 78: Continue straight until you exit at a T-junction. Turn left.



Step 79: Take the footpath immediately on the right across the road.

Step 80: Follow the footpath markers around the edge of the field towards the motorway bridge. Pass under the motorway bridge and bare right.

Step 81: Go through the gap in the hedge into the next field and walk along the path with the river on your right

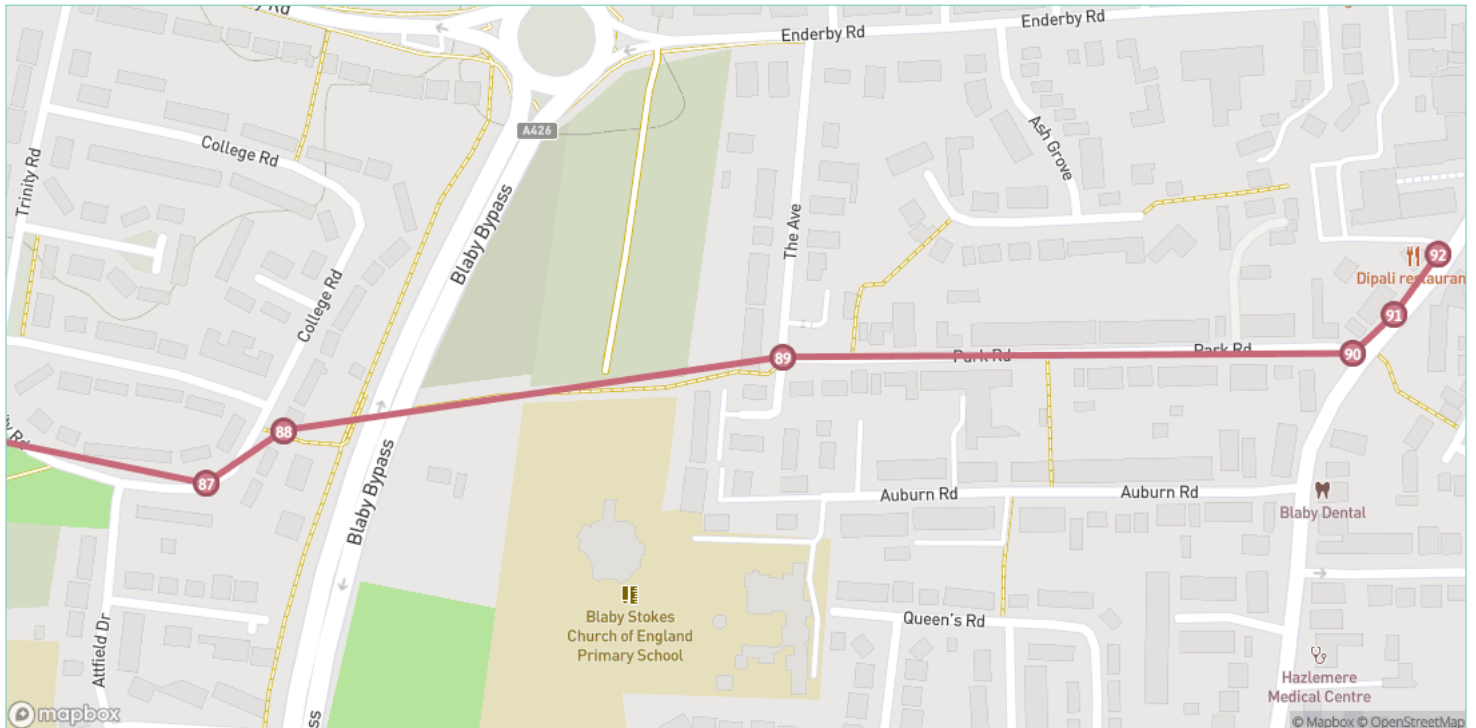
Step 82: Continue until you come to another footpath at a T-junction by a three-arched railway bridge. Turn left onto the gravelled path.

Step 83: Continue until you reach Station Road. Turn right onto Station Road at a T-junction in the path.

Step 84: Turn left at the mini roundabout by the Bulls Head pub at the main street in Whetstone.

Step 85: Take the first right onto Albert Court.

Step 86: Continue straight using the two small footpaths to enter a play park.



Step 87: Keep left through the park and exit onto Trinity Road. Continue straight up the road.

Step 88: As the road bends left, take the path to the right marked 'Blaby via subway'.

Step 89: Go down the ramp to the left and use the underpass. Continue ahead on the footpath until you exit onto Park Road.

Step 90: As you exit the footpath, continue down the road that proceeds directly opposite.

Step 91: This will take you a T-junction with Lutterworth Road where you will turn left to return to our start and end point.

Step 92: Congratulations 🎉 and thank you for completing Route 10 of the Blaby District Heritage Walks. All other routes can be found in-app for you to enjoy too.