Bury to Burrs step-free jaunt

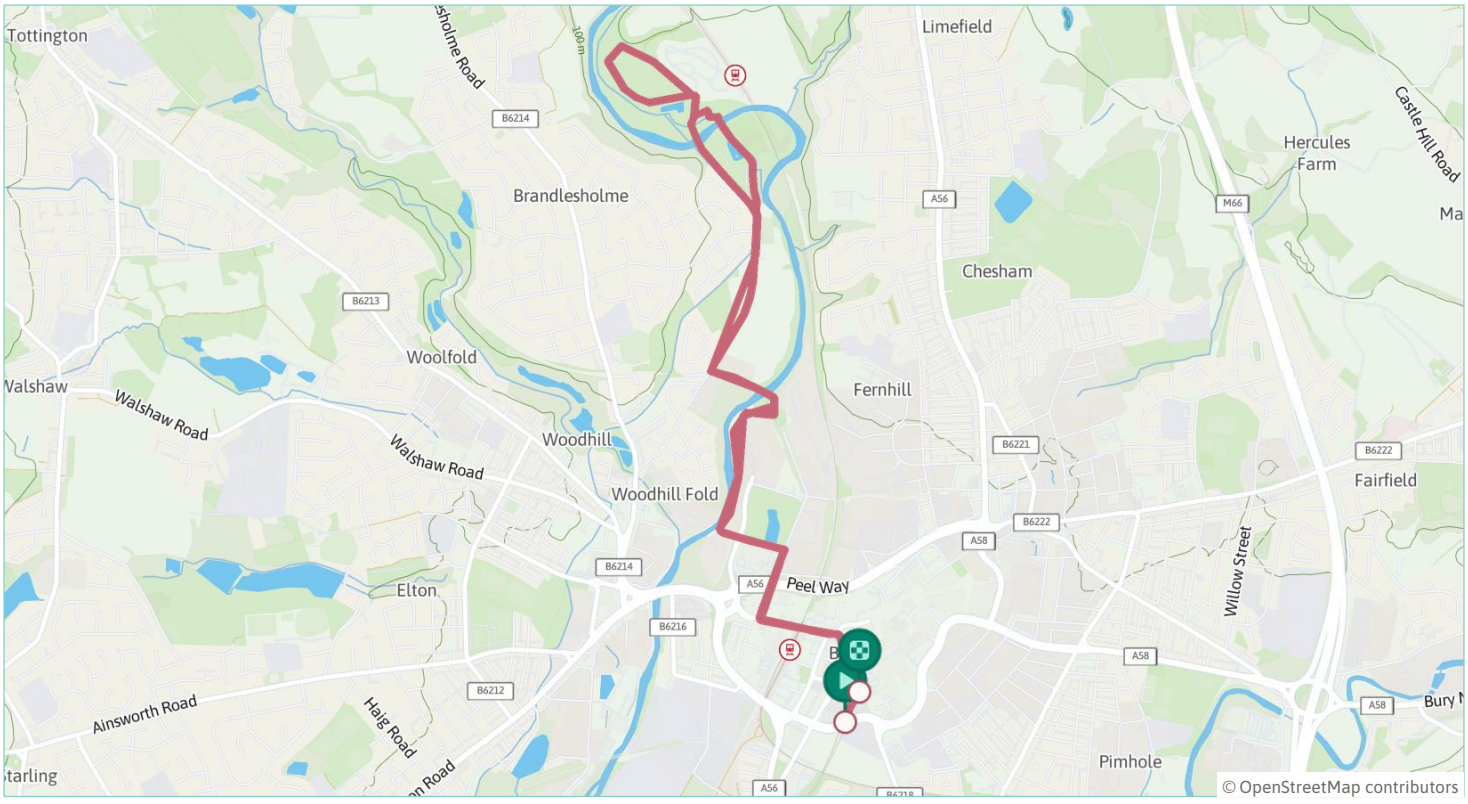
A step-free there-and-back route from Bury town centre with an exploration of Burrs Country Park.

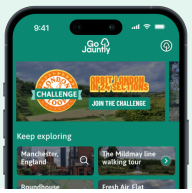
Distance 7.1 kilometres / 4.4 miles
Duration 2 hours and 20 minutes

Wheel friendly | Water feature | Refreshments | Public transport | Dog friendly | Child friendly

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

View the walk here





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Step 1: The walk starts at Bury Metrolink station, served by trams from Manchester and elsewhere. Exit via the stairs or escalator.

Step 2: Please note that parts of this walk may be damp, muddy and slippery at any time of year and especially after periods of wet weather. Please bear this in mind when planning your trip.

Step 3: At the top, payable public toilets are to your left. Otherwise, walk straight ahead to the exit signposted for the town centre.

Step 4: Pass through Bury Interchange, served by buses from many locations, via four zebra crossings with tactile paving.

Step 5: On leaving the bus station, turn left along pedestrianised Market Street, passing shops and cafes to your right.

Step 6: Look to the left for the monument to John Kay, inventor of the fly shuttle which was so important for the growth of the textile industry.

Step 7: Cross Mill Gate via tactile paving and continue along the pavement of Market Street.

Step 8: Before the roundabout, cross Market Street via the zebra crossing and go left along the left-hand pavement of Bolton Street.

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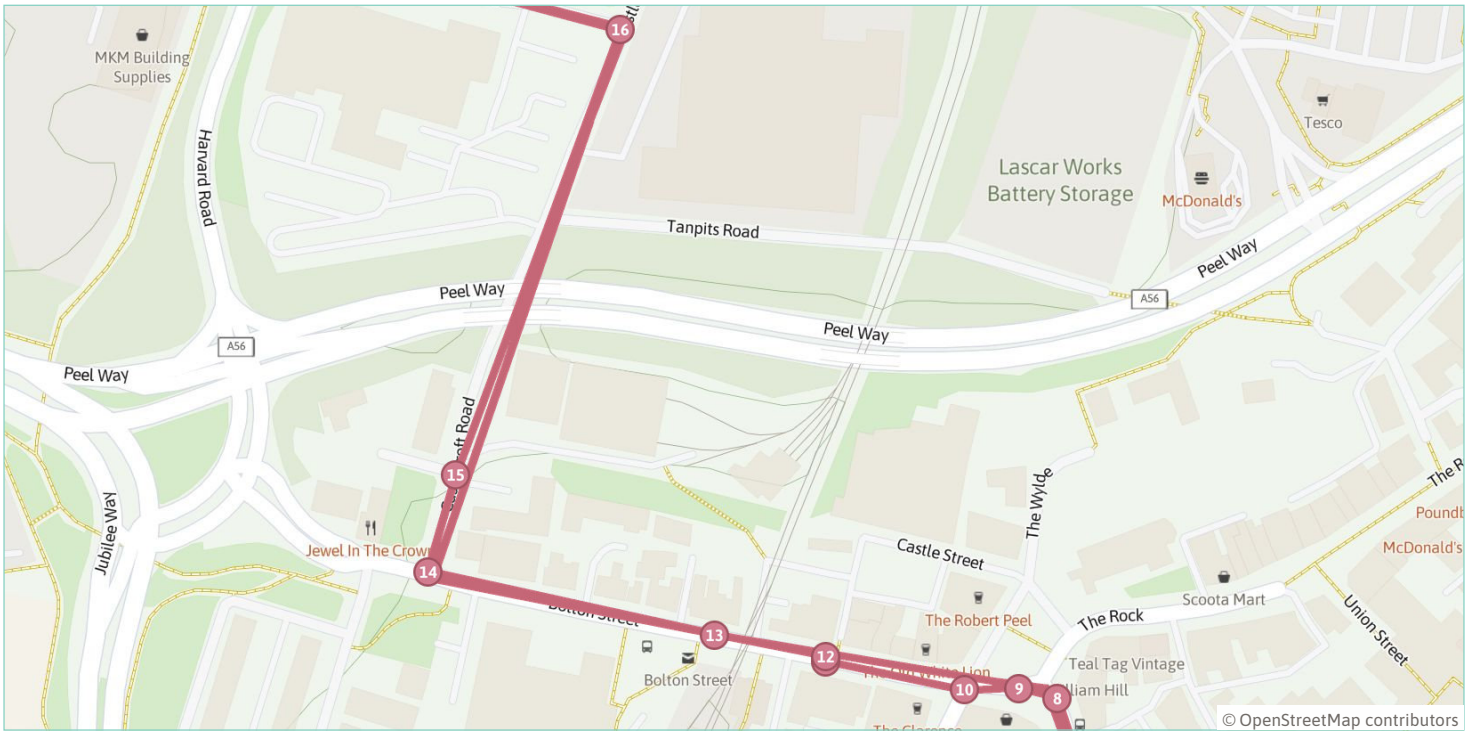
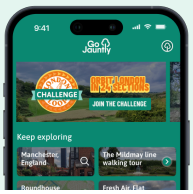


Step 9: On the square to your right is a monument to Sir Robert Peel, founder of the police force. We will see another of his monuments later!

Step 10: Cross Silver Street, level with the pavement.

Step 11: Soon cross to the right-hand side of Bolton Street via a push-button crossing.



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Step 12: Turn left along the pavement on the opposite side, crossing three side roads via tactile paving.

Step 13: Over to the left is the main station for East Lancashire Railway.

Step 14: Just after passing the leisure centre to your left, cross Castlecroft Road and turn right along its pavement.

Step 15: Cross a side road via dropped kerbs and continue to pass under the A59 road bridge, past encroaching and overhanging vegetation.

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Step 16: Soon, cross Dunster Road via tactile paving and turn left along its right-hand pavement past the police headquarters opposite.

Step 17: Cross Harvard Road, again via tactile paving, and continue in the same direction as before.

Step 18: Cross an access road via a zebra crossing and follow the tarmac path between bollards towards the river.

Step 19: At the T-Junction, turn right as signposted for Ramsbottom past an information panel. Watch out for bikes here!

Step 20: The tarmac path runs between a fence on your right and overhanging trees, with the River Irwell beyond, to your left.

Step 21: Look left for a fine view of a large weir on the river.

Step 22: By a bench, the path and river curve to the right.

Step 23: The path bends right again, slightly uphill, by another bench.

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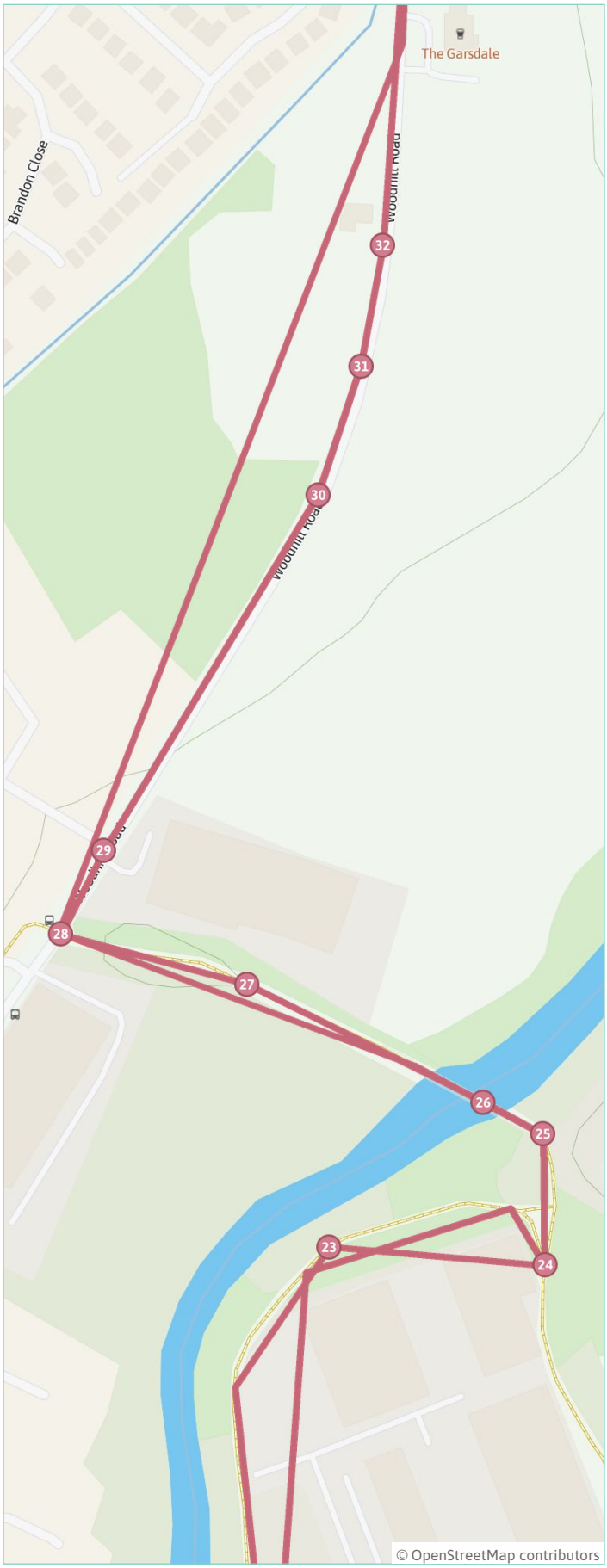

Step 24: Follow the tarmac slope around to the right. At the end of this section, turn sharp left towards the bridge over the river.

Step 25: Cross a wide stone bridge across the Irwell.

Step 26: There are great views from the bridge across the river, which will be our companion for the next section.

Step 27: The multi-user path descends beneath low-hanging branches.

Step 28: Emerge onto Woodhill Road via a metal barrier. Cross the road via tactile paving and turn right towards Burrs Country Park.

Step 29: Cross Canterbury Drive and two car park access roads via tactile paving and proceed along the pavement of Woodhill Road.

Step 30: Cross a stony and uneven access drive via dropped kerbs and continue towards the farm café.

Step 31: Coffees, cakes and ice cream are available from the Jersey Girls farm outlet. You know you are getting into the countryside now!

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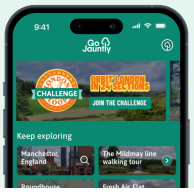
Step 32: You'll soon pass a beautiful old cottage on the left and the Garsdale pub on the right.

Step 33: Cross Hunstanton Drive via dropped kerbs opposite a play area. Proceed on the raised pavement with an unfenced drop to water to the left.

Step 34: You are now in Burrs Country Park. Over to your right is the first of several large sculptures forming part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail.

Step 35: Leave the pavement and continue along the now cobbled Woodhill Road, watching out for traffic. Head to its right-hand side.



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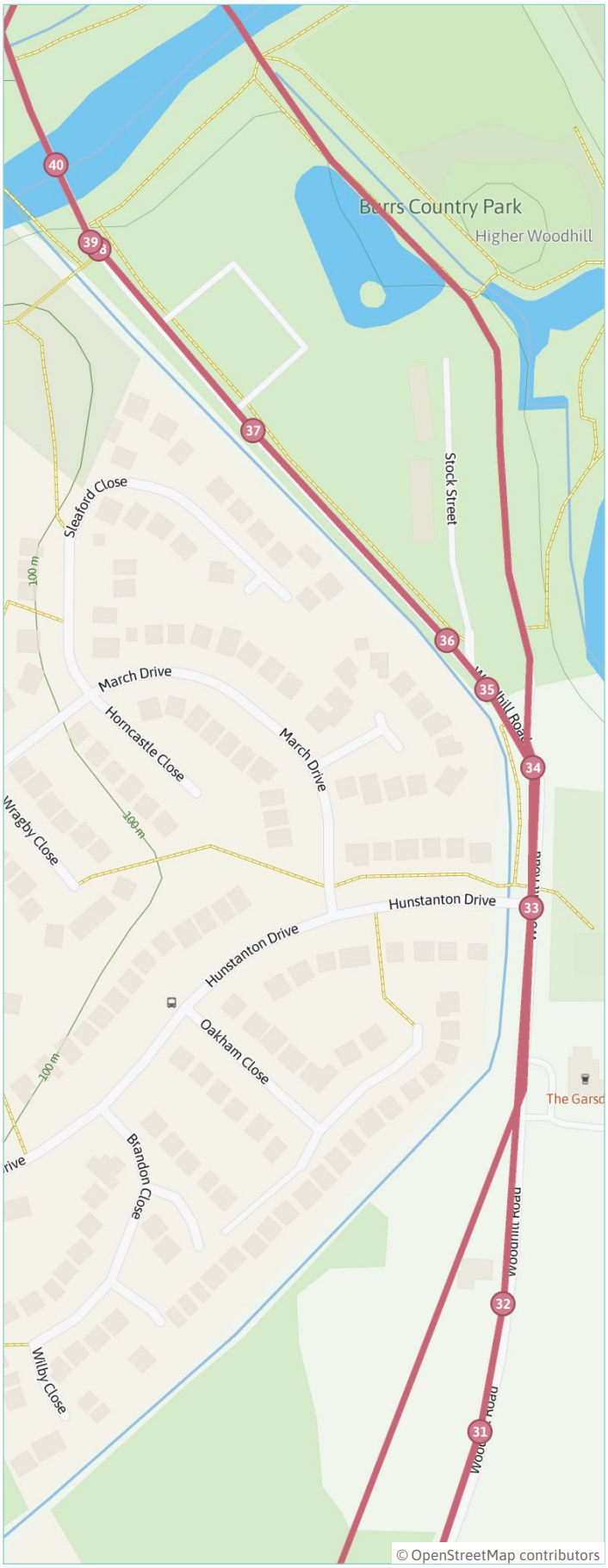
Step 36: Keep to the right of a hedge to follow a gravel path, which soon becomes the pavement of Woodhill Road.

Step 37: Go through the entrance to the car park and keep straight ahead along a path with a rubber matting surface.

Step 38: At the end of the path, pass a wooden post and turn left to cross the road via slightly uneven dropped kerbs.

Step 39: Turn right along the pavement to cross the bridge. Alternatively, stay on the roadway, watching out for traffic, to avoid steps later.



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Step 40: Look left for a view of the Manchester Canal aqueduct.

Step 41: There are picnic benches over to the right if you need a break.

Step 42: As the track bends right, pass a car park to your left and then the old chimney and one of the sculptures along the Irwell sculpture trail.

Step 43: Turn left up a rise onto a tarmac road, past an information sign, towards the Brown Cow pub.

Step 44: The pub, with a nice beer garden, can be reached to your right across cobbles.

Step 45: At the end of the pub car park, turn left to pass to the right of a metal gate and join a wide but sometimes damp dirt track.

Step 46: At the fork, keep left, with a fence to your left and a grassy field to your right. There may be some puddles along the way.

Step 47: Where a path comes in from the left, keep right. There are a series of benches to the left.

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Step 48: There is a good view ahead to the right of Peel Tower on the top of Holcombe Hill.

Step 49: At a junction, continue straight ahead keeping the field to your right.

Step 50: The path curves around to the right. The trees here are very colourful in autumn.

Step 51: Ignore a narrow path off to the left and remain on the main path as it descends a slope. You're heading around clockwise on the path.

Step 52: Continue past benches and a children's activity course.

Step 53: On reaching the metal gate you passed earlier, walk past it again.

Step 54: Turn right through the pub car park and down the access road. Keep right, with the pub over to your left.

Step 55: At the T-junction, turn left across the cobbles past the Lamppost ice cream parlour and cafe.

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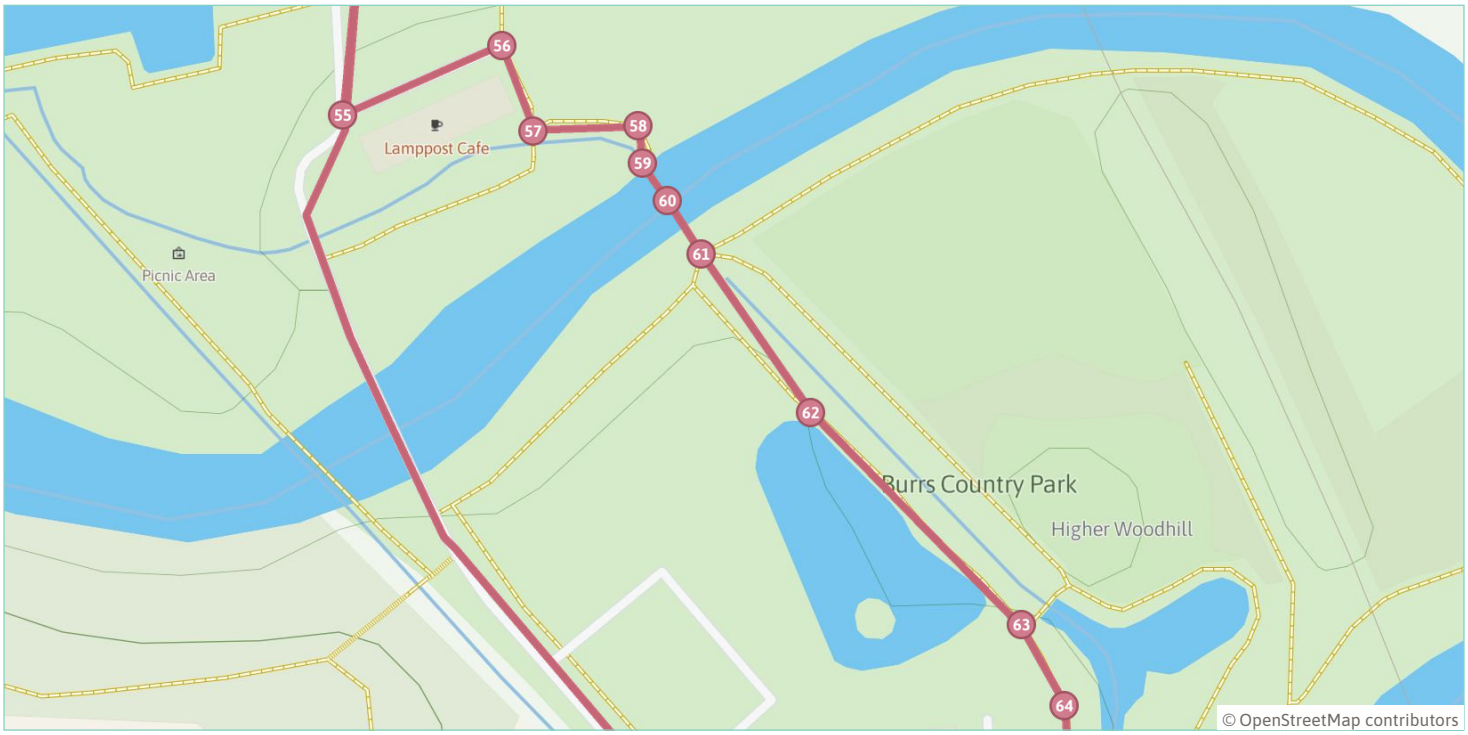
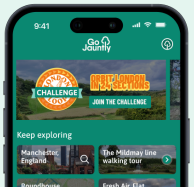


Step 56: At the end of the long stone building, turn right towards a metal bridge.

Step 57: Just before the bridge, turn left onto a tarmac path.

Step 58: Follow the path between railings as it turns right over a paved area.

Step 59: Now cross the wooden bridge ahead.



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Step 60: There are great views of the rushing River Irwell below you.

Step 61: At the junction of paths, bear right and then go immediately left on the tarmac path at the next junction.

Step 62: There are views to the right over a lovely fishing pond.

Step 63: Pass a wooden bridge to your left and keep ahead along the slightly rising tarmac path.

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Step 64: Pass a bench to your left.

Step 65: Walk ahead across paving stones, keeping wooden planters to your left. This is the site of Higher Woodhill Mill.

Step 66: Follow the smoother path between cobbles on your left and trees on your right towards a car park.

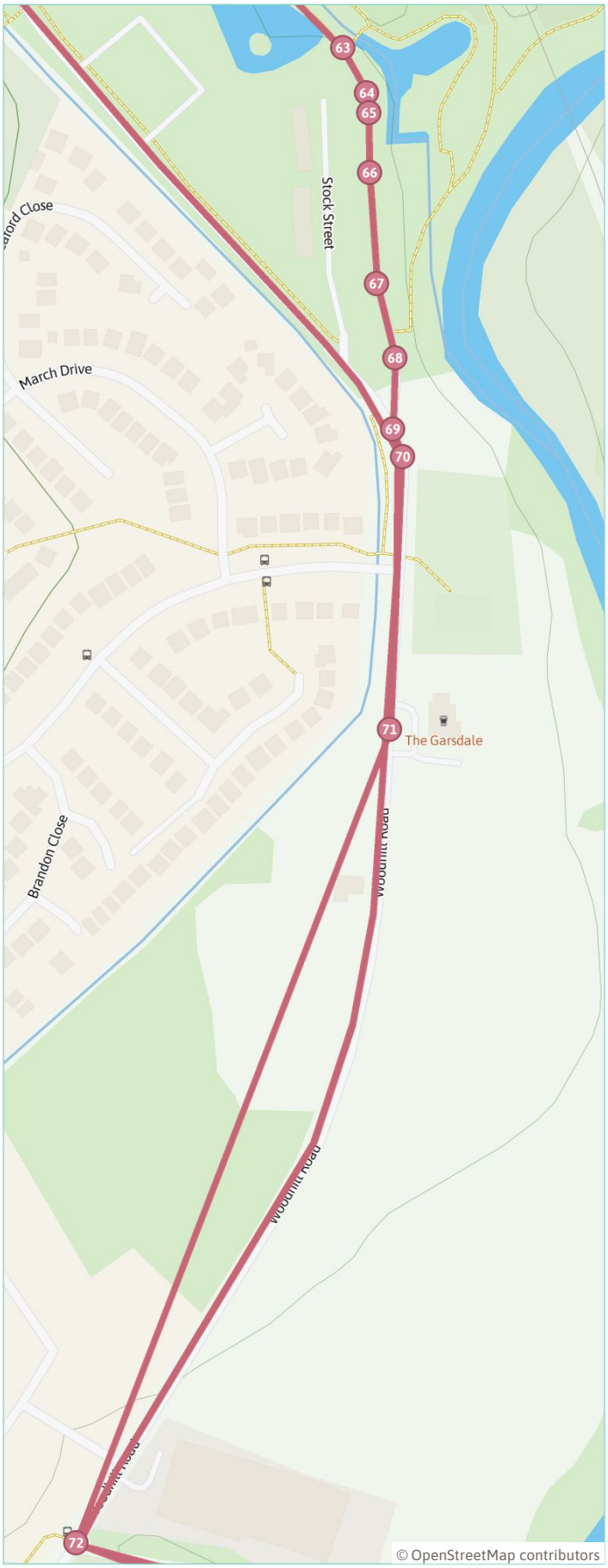
Step 67: Walk straight ahead through the car park, watching out for vehicles.

Step 68: Exit the car park past the water wheel sculpture, the symbol of Burrs Country Park.

Step 69: Cross the cobbled Woodhill Road and, via a dropped kerb, ascend onto the pavement. Turn left to retrace your steps to Bury town centre.

Step 70: Continue on Woodhill Road.

Step 71: You'll soon pass The Garsdale again, a great spot for a well earned refreshment before the final section of the walk.



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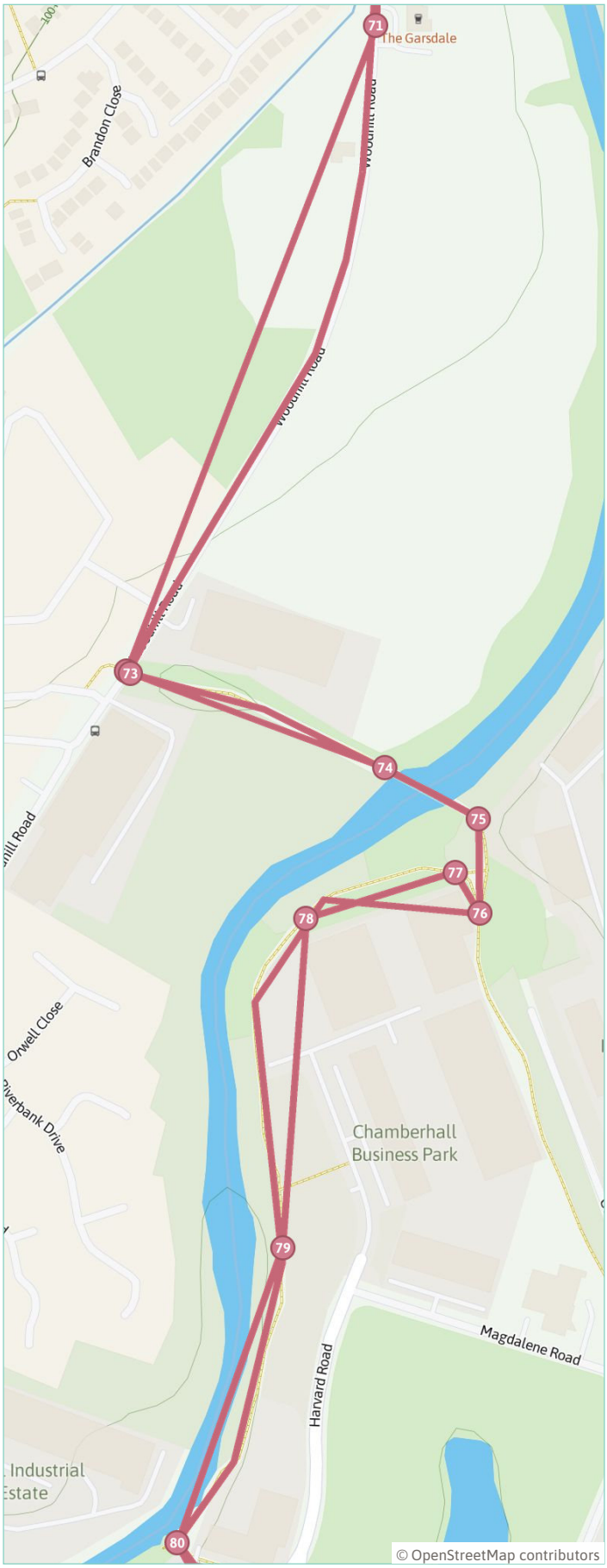

Step 72: Cross Woodhill Road using the pedestrian crossing.

Step 73: Head straight onto the footpath through the wooded area that turns off Woodhill Road at the same point as the pedestrian crossing.

Step 74: Cross the metal fence lined bridge over the River Irwell.

Step 75: The path bends right after the bridge.

Step 76: At the path junction, turn sharp right onto the sloped tarmac path down to the riverside.

Step 77: Continue on the footpath as it runs next to the River Irwell that you have just crossed using the bridge.

Step 78: The river runs on your left as you walk on the tarmac path, see if you can spot the wildlife that call the bank their home.

Step 79: Enjoy the rushing River Irwell that widens and runs through the centre of Manchester.

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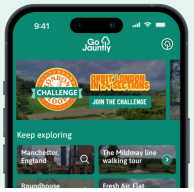
Step 80: As you reach the end of the Riverside footpath turn up into the carpark.

Step 81: Turn left on Dunster Road and walk towards the roundabout.

Step 82: Cross Harvard Road to continue on Dunster Road.



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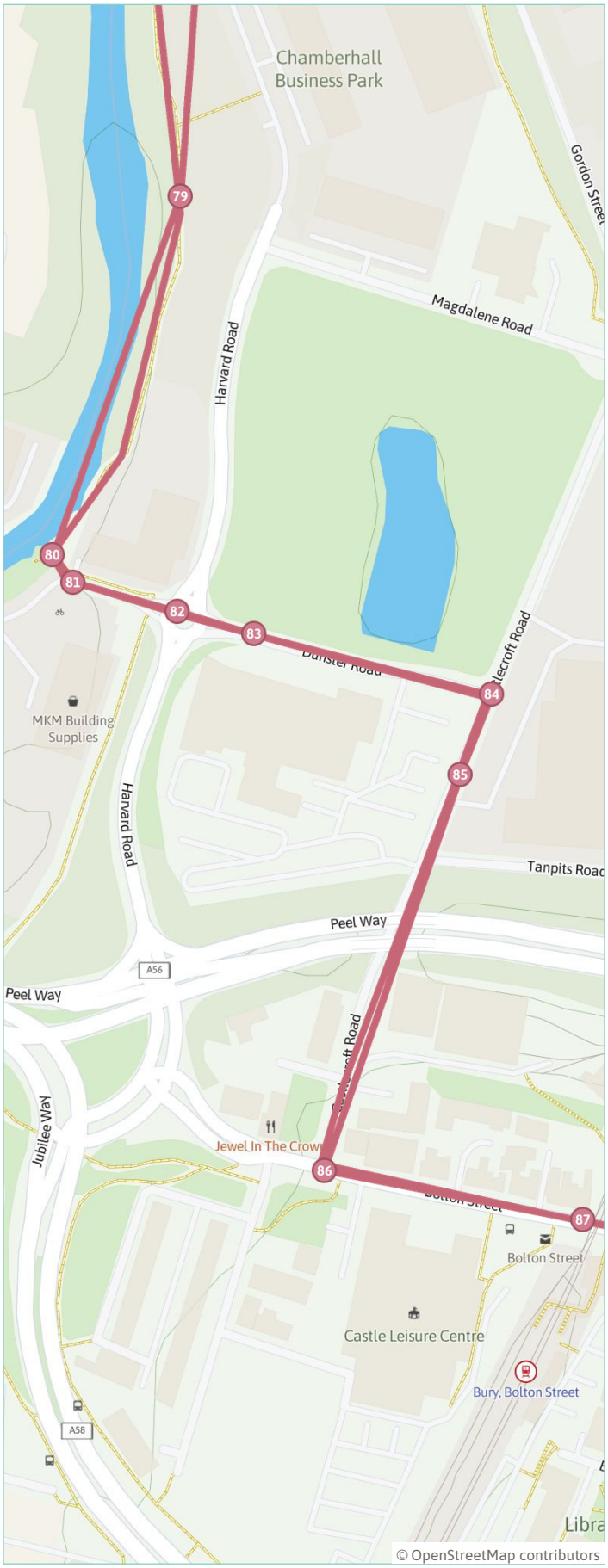
Step 83: Follow Dunster Road past Bury Police Divisional Headquarters.

Step 84: At the junction with Castlecroft Road, turn right and cross the road onto the lefthand side.

Step 85: Follow Castlecroft Road as it passes under the road bridge.

Step 86: As Castlecroft Road ends at the junction, turn left onto Bolton Street



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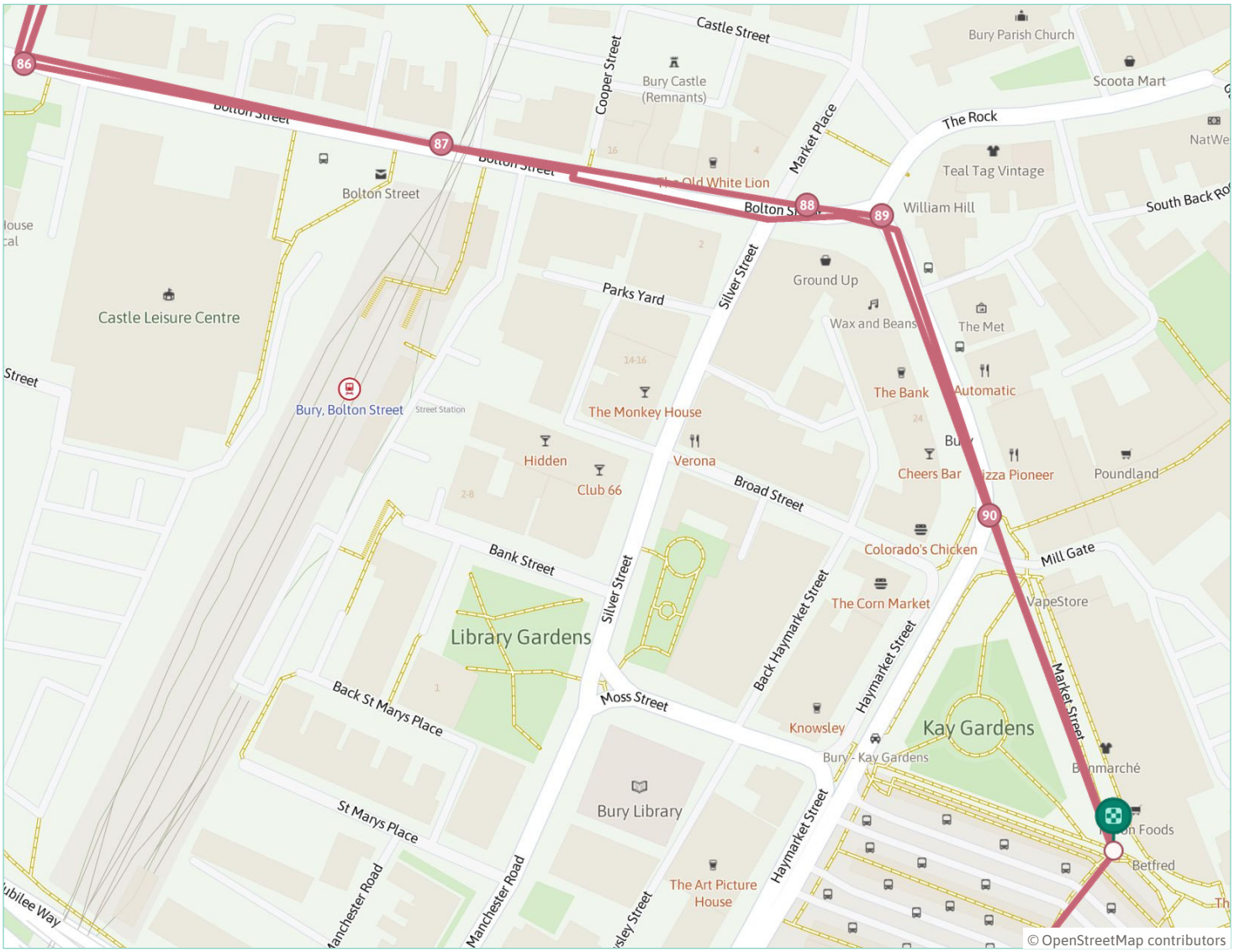

Step 87: Continue through Bury Town centre past East Lancashire historic railway station.

Step 88: Cross Bolton Street at the zebra crossing

Step 89: Take an immediate right turn onto Market Street.

Step 90: Cross the service road off Market Street to continue through the small green space towards the bus terminal.

Step 91: You're now back at Bury Interchange where this walk finishes!

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