



Banbury Town Centre Art Walk

Come along on this public art walk in Banbury, incorporating Castle Quay, Market Square, Parsons Street, Horsefair, Butchers Row, and more!

Distance 2.2 kilometers / 1.4 miles

Duration 1 hour



Water feature



Public loos



Refreshments



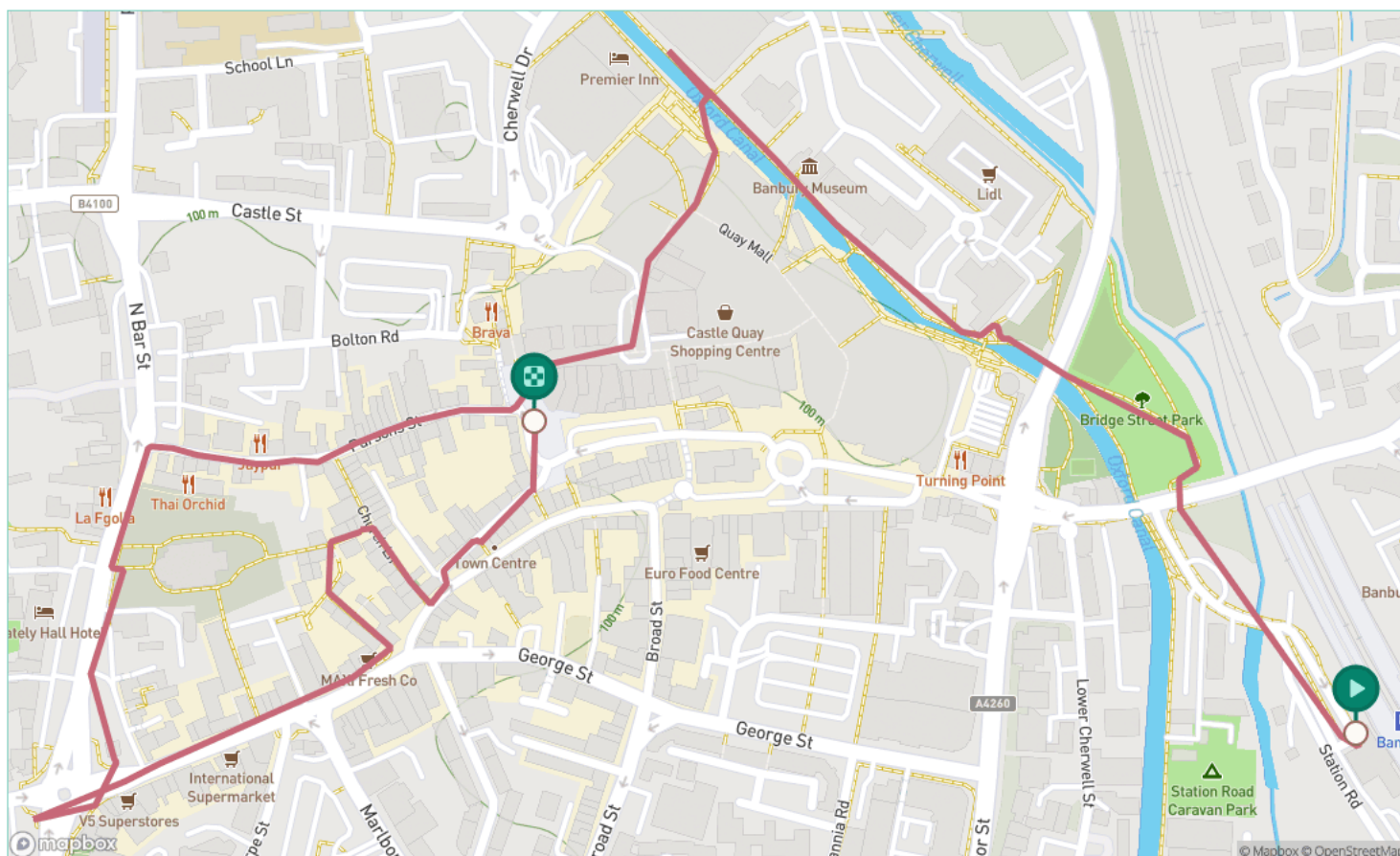
Public transport



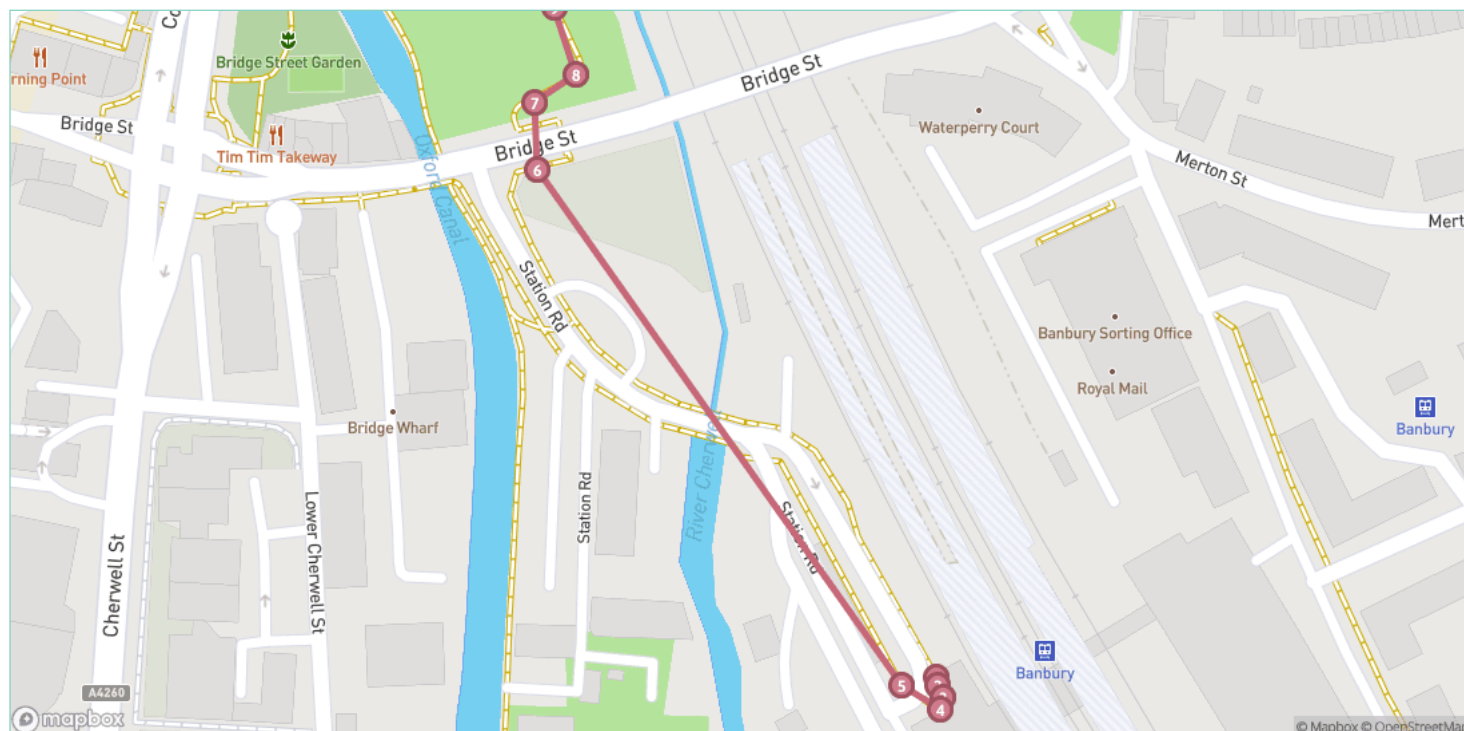
Parking



History



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 © 2023. Last Updated: 27 October 2023.



Step 1: This walk was created in partnership with Cherwell District Council. Enjoy over 30 walks across North Oxfordshire and experience the sights and sounds of nature as you go.

Step 2: Welcome to Banbury! On this walk, we'll show you a route to take in some of Banbury's incredible public art pieces in the town centre. The route begins at the train station.

Step 3: It is also possible to drive and park at the car park at Lidl (postcode OX16 2PA) and start the walk from the Mill Arts Centre.

Step 4: Before you leave the main exit of the train station, turn and look up at the mural of the town's heritage, by Nigel Fletcher from 2001.

Step 5: Exit the station and follow the access road past any waiting taxis towards the main road.

Step 6: Cross Bridge Street at the pedestrian crossing.

Step 7: To your left, there is an entrance and sloping path down into Bridge Street Park.

Step 8: If you're interested in checking out more of this park and others nearby, you can check out our walk around Spiceball Park. It's available in the Go Jauntly app for free!



Step 9: At the fork in the pavement, take the path to the left towards the canal.

Step 10: Turn right to go under the bridge, with the canal on your left.

Step 11: On your right, you will see four black iron mileposts.

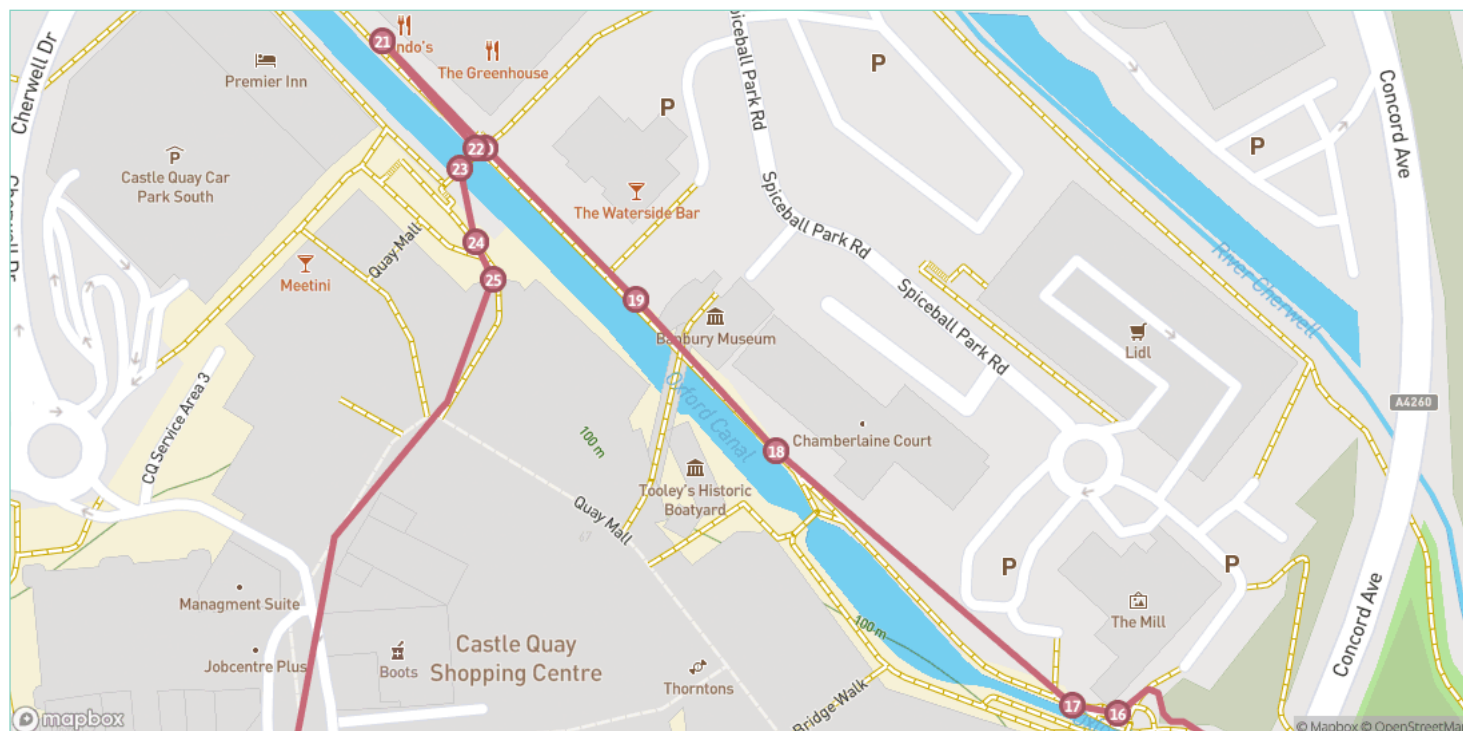
Step 12: This sculpture was by Michael Fairfax and was funded by Cherwell District Council and Southern Arts. It features the poem "Flow" by Jamie McKendrick. The two artists worked together on the beautiful canalside piece.

Step 13: See the tops of the posts, representing hump backed bridges, the middle representing lock gate cogs, and the bottom representing ripples on the surface of the water.

Step 14: Next, on your right is the Mill Arts Centre.

Step 15: The centre has an arts and crafts gallery and lovely café and is well worth a look inside. There's lots of events, classes, and activities going on every week here.

Step 16: When you're ready, come back to the canal and continue along, with the water to your left.



Step 17: This sculpture is "The Dancers," by students from learning disability arts classes in 1995, working with artist David Gosling.

Step 23: Our route leaves the canal here, so get one final last look at the views of the houseboats down below!

Step 18: Across the canal on your left, you'll see Tooleys Boatyard. Protected as an Ancient Monument it has been repairing narrow boats since 1790.

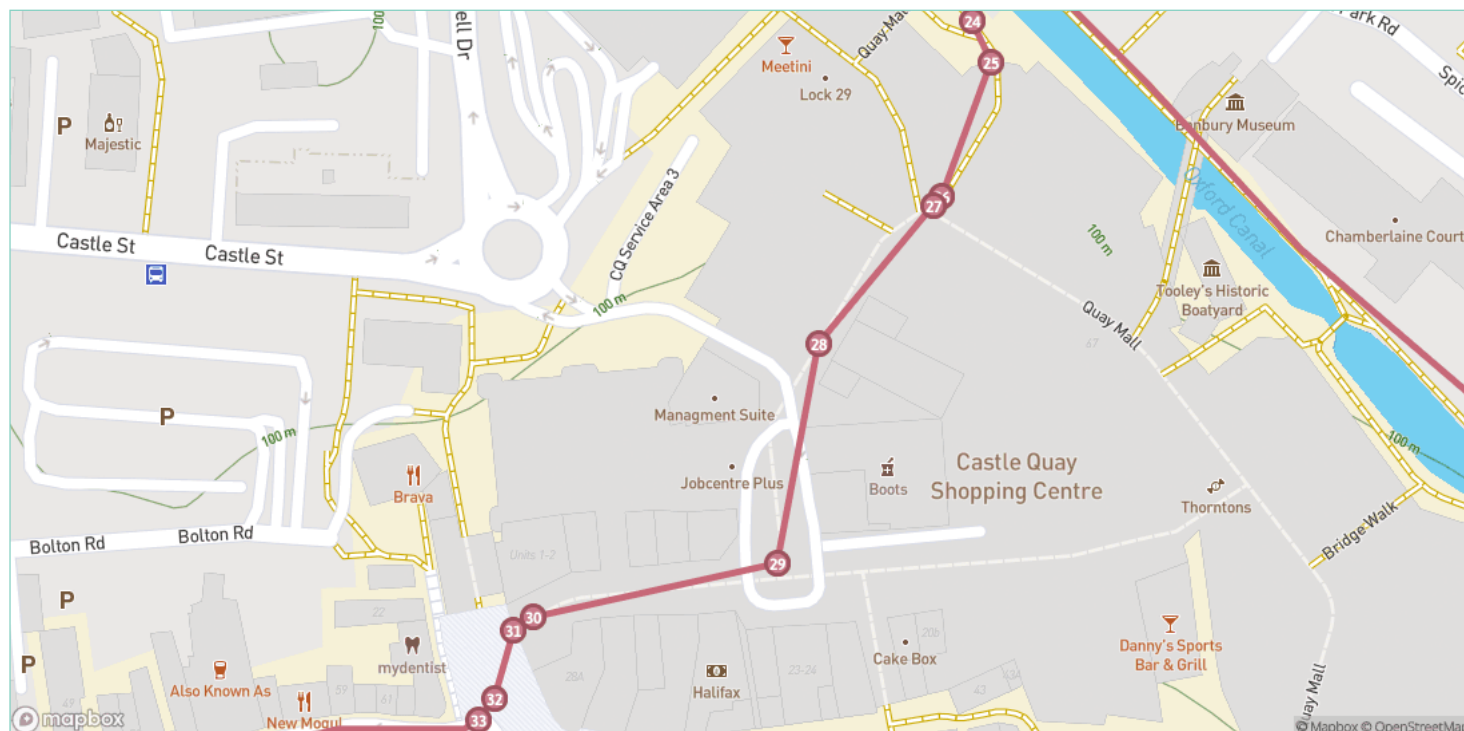
Step 24: On the other side of the canal, enter the Castle Quay shopping centre.

Step 19: A bit further along, on your right, is the Banbury Museum. The temporary art and permanent local history exhibitions are well worth a visit.

Step 20: Continue along past the houseboats and under the bridge, constructed as part of the Castle Quay waterfront development and opened in 2021.

Step 21: Make a U-turn to head up the ramp to your right, back towards the bridge.

Step 22: At the top of the ramp, take the short staircase up to the bridge.



Step 25: The Castle Quay shopping centre was opened in 2000. The ground on which it is built includes the site of Banbury Castle, which was the subject of two intense and bloody sieges during the English Civil War.

Step 32: The plaque was made by Hilary Cartmel. It denotes the site where Banbury High Cross once stood before it was destroyed by Puritans in 1600.

Step 26: Notice Lock 29 on your right...

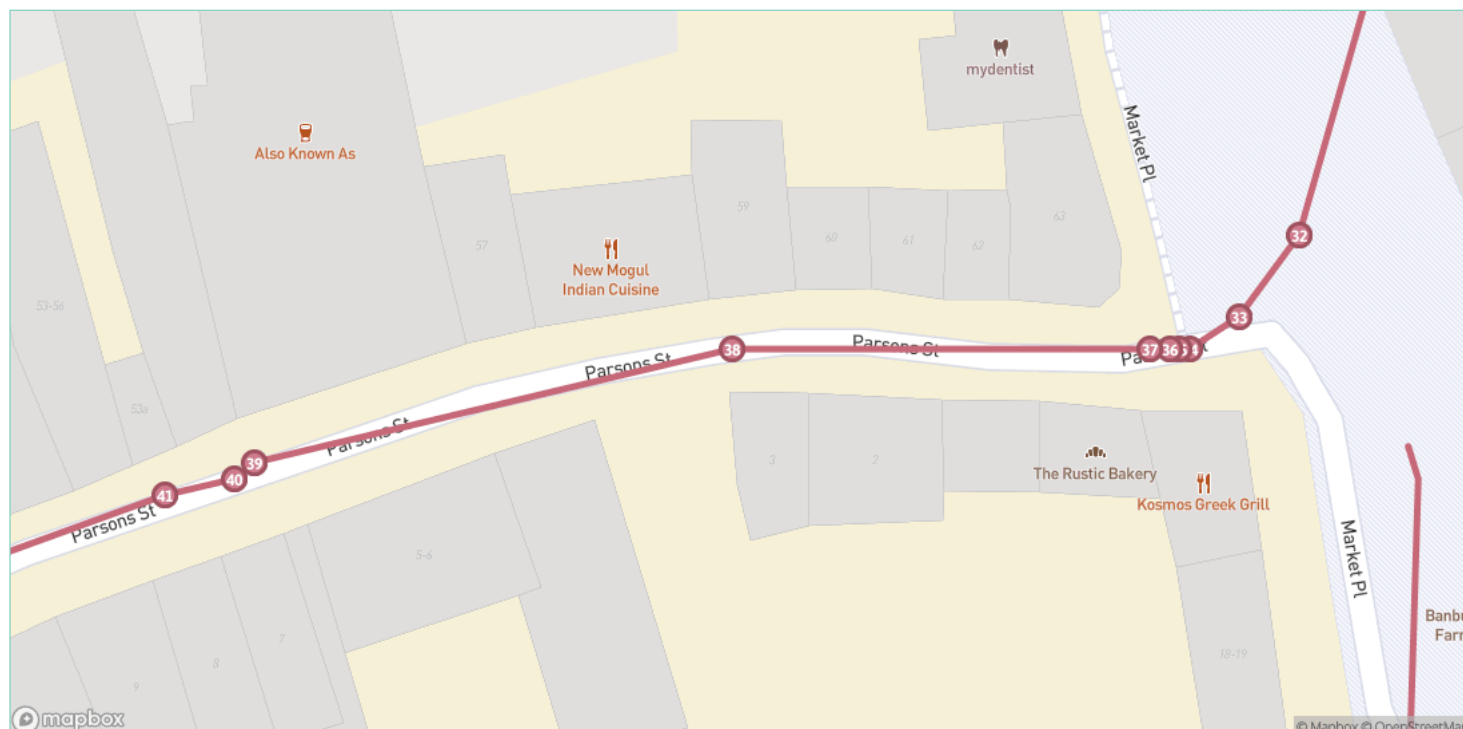
Step 27: A lovely community space with different and interesting food and drink outlets. Why not take a look!

Step 28: Carry straight on past Waterstones on your right and Boots on your left.

Step 29: Next, turn right towards the exit.

Step 30: Follow the long hallway all the way to the exit. Just before Market Square, see if you can spot this mural up above you!

Step 31: When you're ready, exit Castle Quay onto Market Square. There are open markets here on Thursdays and Saturdays.



Step 33: You might also find an inscription of the famous nursery rhyme about the Banbury Cross. We'll see the "fine lady upon a white horse" soon!

Step 34: With your back to the shopping centre, you will see the start of Parsons Street, one of the oldest in Banbury.

Step 35: Along Parsons Street, you'll find 14 brass inlays. These were created by artist Hilary Cartmel for the 2010 pedestrianisation, commissioned by Cherwell District Council.

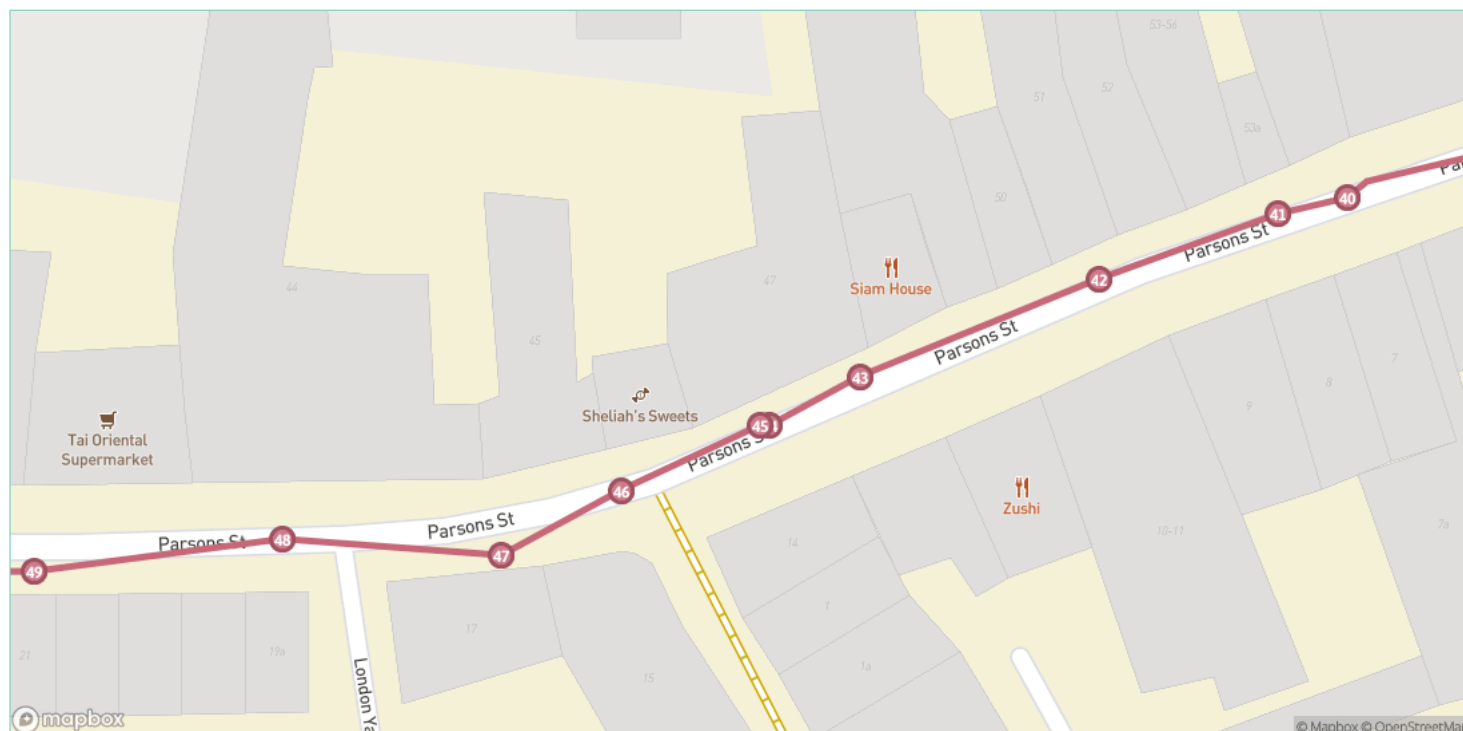
Step 36: Each is a memory of the shops and shopkeepers from Parsons Street in years gone by. Let's see what we can find along the street.

Step 37: "You could buy everything you need on Parsons Street" was a quote by one elderly resident from a reminiscence group in 2010.

Step 38: Continue walking along the street. This celebrates three drapers shops that used to be at 4, 10, 11, 49 and 50 Parsons Street.

Step 39: This inlay commemorates the J.L. Pilsworth department store at 53-56 and 13-14 Parsons Street. "It was a department store in the country on both sides of the street."

Step 40: "Pilsworth had little shops joined together by connecting doors."



Step 41: Continue down the street. This celebrates Brummit's Emporium.

Step 48: This is for Flying Horse. There's lots of history here, since it survived the fire of 1628!

Step 42: This recognises the Banbury Guardian, begun by William Potts in 1838.

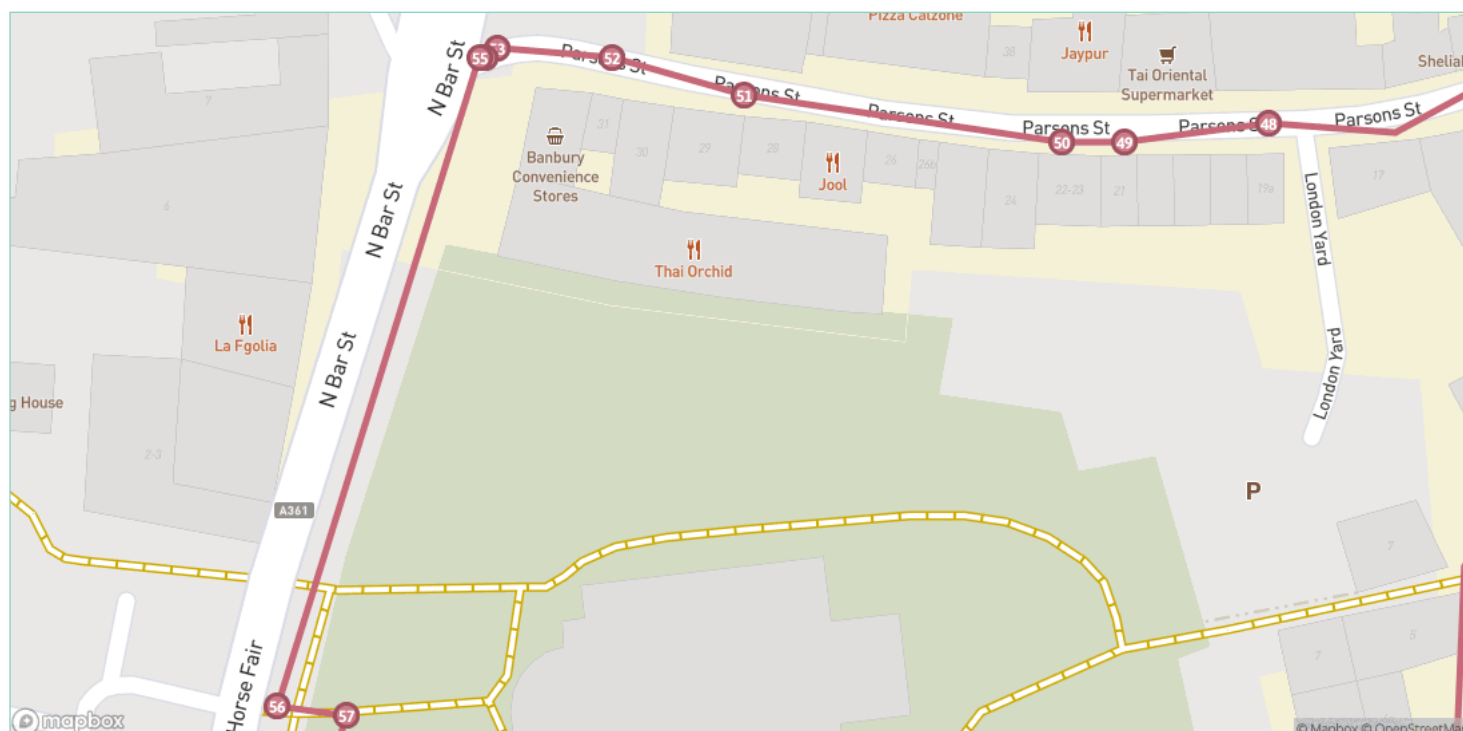
Step 43: Don't forget to look up and admire the view down the street in your hunt for all the inlays!

Step 44: If you can find 'Ye Olde Reine Deer Inn', you can find the next inlay. The pub was established in 1564 and still exists today!

Step 45: This illustrates the Original Cake Shop and Mural Room at 12/13 Parsons St, run by E.W. Brown.

Step 46: Continue on Parsons Street. This shows J.C. Gardner, General Ironmonger and Engineer.

Step 47: This one remembers Cycle Trader and Manufacturer George Lott Ginger.



Step 49: This illustrates the Fish Monger and Poulterer W.A. Truss.

Step 50: This inlay celebrates the Chemist Shop run by A.E. Fox, A. Deacon and G.V. Ball who gave £3,000 for the People's Park which opened in 1912.

Step 51: This is for tea dealer and wine and spirit merchant W.G. Dossett.

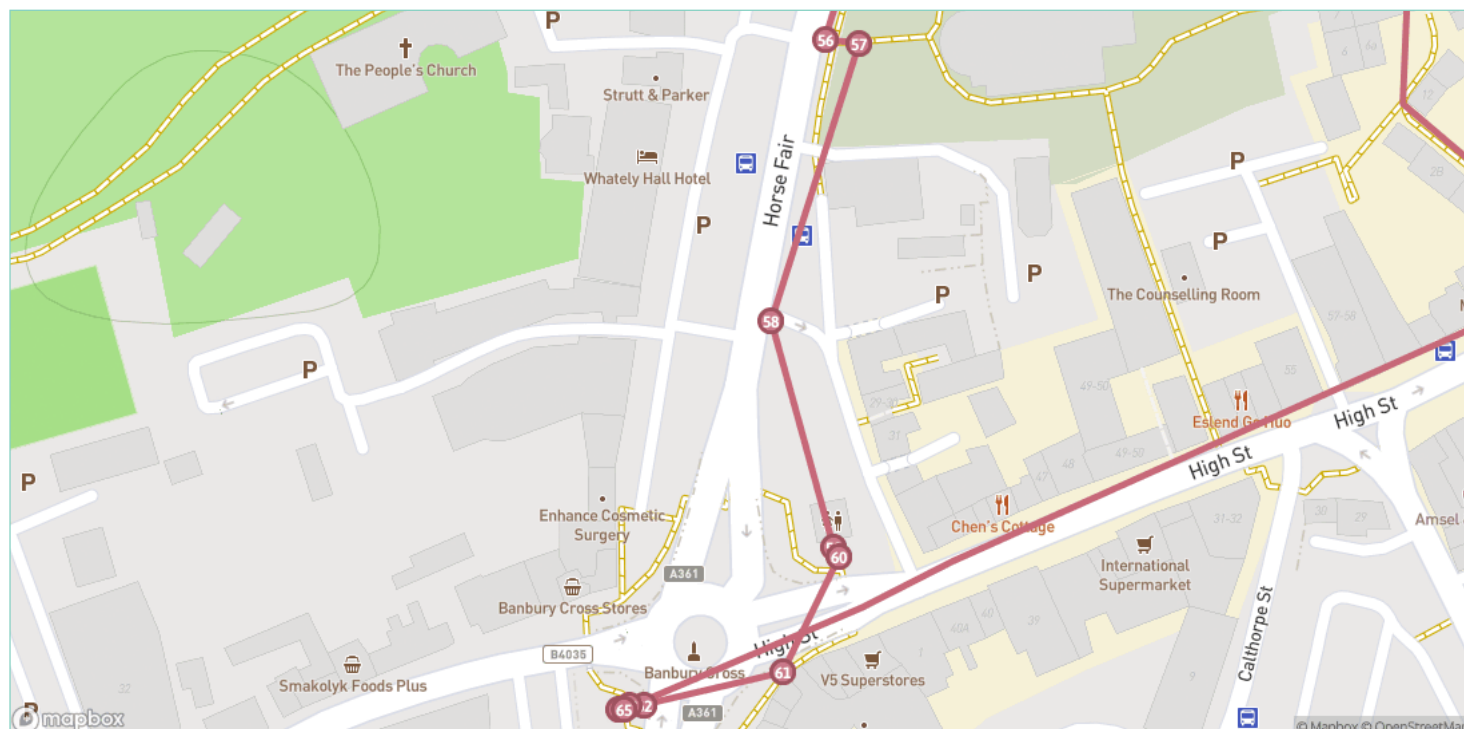
Step 52: And the final inlay is a repeat of the first one, but with the artist's signature. Did you find all of them? Which was your favourite?

Step 53: At the corner of Parsons Street and North Bar Street, you'll see a beautifully sculpted planter.

Step 54: 46 planters were commissioned by Cherwell District Council in 2007 from Oxfordshire Sculptor Pam Foley. There are 2 designs: the sun heraldic symbol of Banbury and a map of the town, both in bas relief. Can you find both designs?

Step 55: The best way to understand the sculptural method of bas relief (low raised work) is to look at a coin and see the raised images on it – they're all bas-reliefs.

Step 56: Next, turn left to walk down North Bar Street. You'll soon come to St Mary's on your left.



Step 57: Built in the 1790s and designed by Pepys Cockerell, it has a wonderfully renovated dome ceiling inside. Notice the plaque in the front left of the churchyard to commemorate Jonathan Swift writing *Gulliver's Travels* in Banbury.

Step 63: The sculpture, mounted on Hornton Stone, was designed by Denise Dutton for Artcycle. It was funded by the people of Banbury. There's a small information panel nearby to read more about it, too.

Step 58: Continue straight ahead on Horse Fair towards the small building, which houses the public toilets.

Step 64: The sculpture is oriented to look at the Banbury Cross monument, from 1859. It commemorates the wedding of Queen Victoria's eldest daughter.

Step 59: On the opposite side of the toilet block, you'll find old street names carved by Giles MacDonald into the Hornton stone wall.

Step 60: Take your time and look up close - you might recognise some of the places!

Step 61: Next, use the two zebra crossings to get to the opposite corner of the roundabout, across High Street and South Bar.

Step 62: This is the "fine lady" sculpture, honouring the town's place in the famous nursery rhyme.



Step 65: When you're ready, retrace your steps back to the public toilets. Cross here.

Step 72: Bear right and continue along White Lion Walk. Then turn right onto Church Walk

Step 66: On the other side, turn left and cross here.

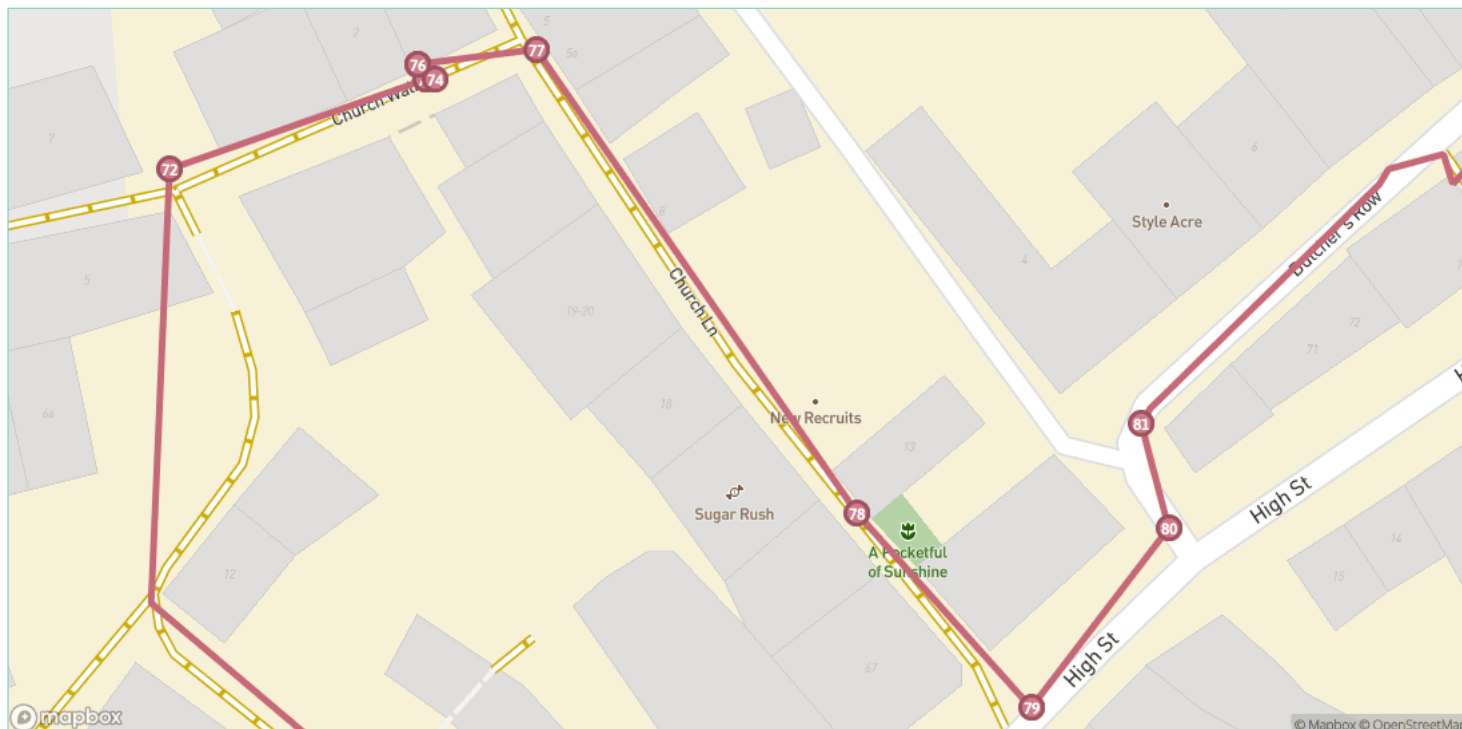
Step 67: Next, turn right to walk down the High Street.

Step 68: Continue down the High Street until you reach White Lion Walk on your left.

Step 69: Turn left and walk through the covered entrance.

Step 70: Continue ahead to the White Lion which commemorates one of Banbury's earliest inns.

Step 71: With its large courtyard and outbuildings, together with its position on the High Street, the White Lion was well placed to become one of the main coaching inns in the town.



Step 73: Looking to the wall on your right, there are 2 mystery street art pieces...

Step 74: ... of Charlie Chaplin, and...

Step 75: ... the Fine Lady.

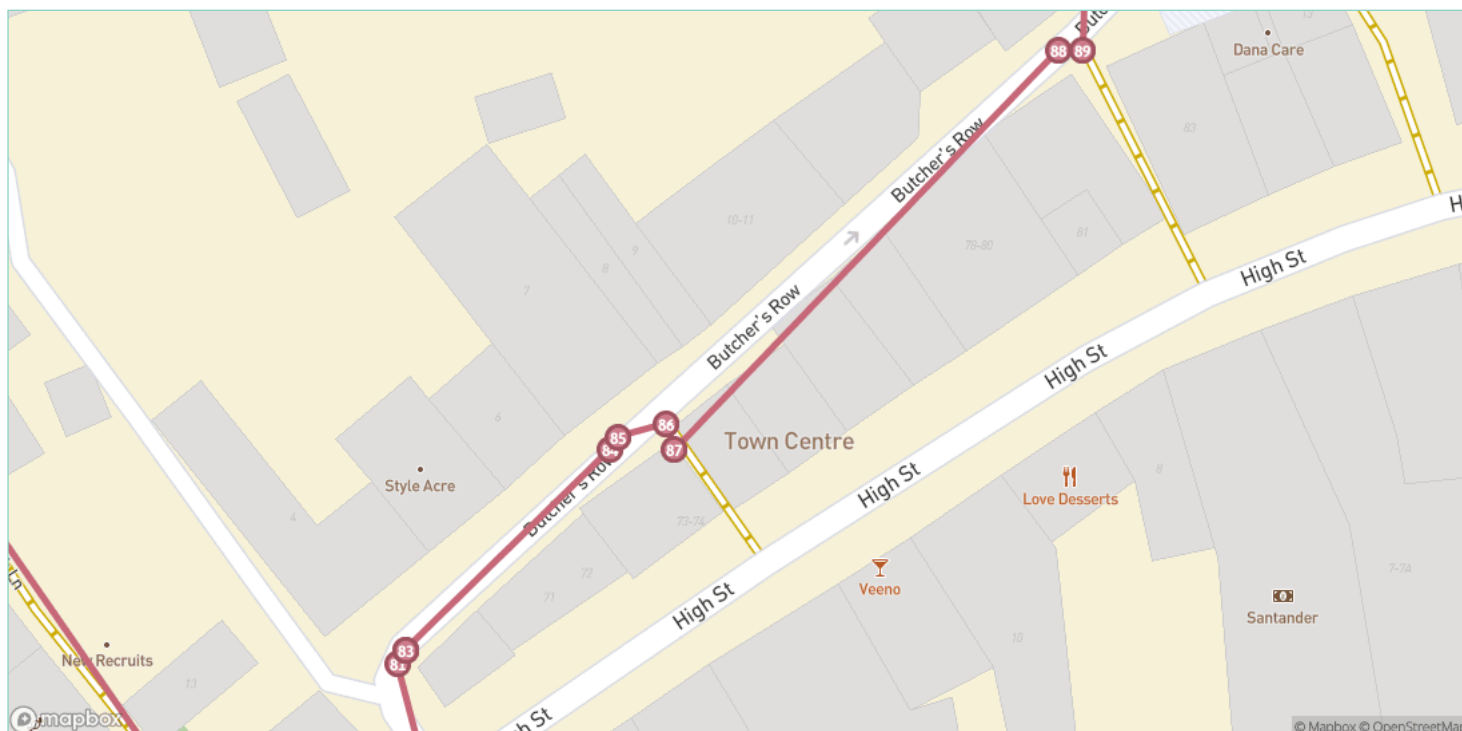
Step 76: They are signed "Villadean" but are said to be the work of Emma Wilkinson.

Step 77: Turn right onto Church Lane, passing a small art gallery, and continue back to the High Street.

Step 78: Pass the "pocketful of sunshine" corner, dedicated to local historian Brian Little on your left.

Step 79: Return back to High Street and turn left.

Step 80: Walk a few paces and stop by the entrance to Butchers Row on your left before you continue down this street.



Step 81: Look up and you'll see a stunning arching spandrel.

Step 82: The arch was commissioned by Cherwell District Council in 1994. On the wall, there is a plaque to read about the symbolism of the charms, root forms, and sun insignia depicted in the work.

Step 83: The arch is one of three works by Avril Williams we'll see on this walk.

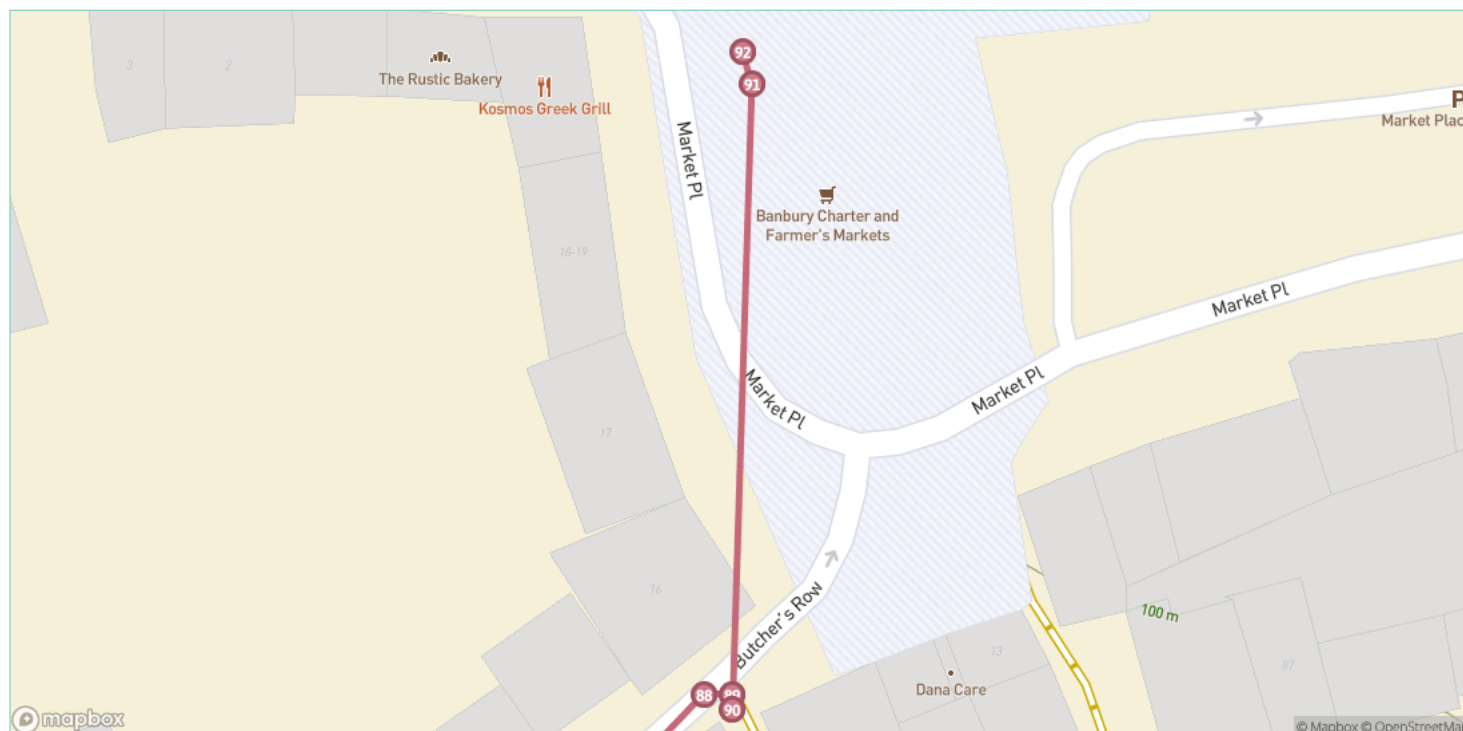
Step 84: Walk a few paces down to 10-11 Butchers Row and look out for a mural on the left at eye level.

Step 85: It's very Banksy-like! It's thought to have been done by the building owner, at least according to the Oxford Mail in 2015.

Step 86: Keep wandering down Butchers Row and look through to Lloyds Bank on the High Street to your right.

Step 87: Here, there's a group of smaller Spandrels by Avril Williams decorating the narrow passageway through to the High Street.

Step 88: If you wander just a bit further on Butchers Row, there's one more alleyway on your right.



Step 89: In this narrowest of passages, there is the last and smallest Spandrel by Williams.

Step 90: It looks lovely from the High Street with sunlight lighting up the charms.

Step 91: Continue to the end of Butchers Row. This brings you back to Market Square, decorated with some of the 46 planters by sculptor Pam Foley.

Step 92: We hope you enjoyed this public art walk through town. From here, you can return to the station or to Lidl to pay and pick up your car. You can also check out any of our other local walks. There are so many to choose from!