Ward End Park Tree & Nature Walk

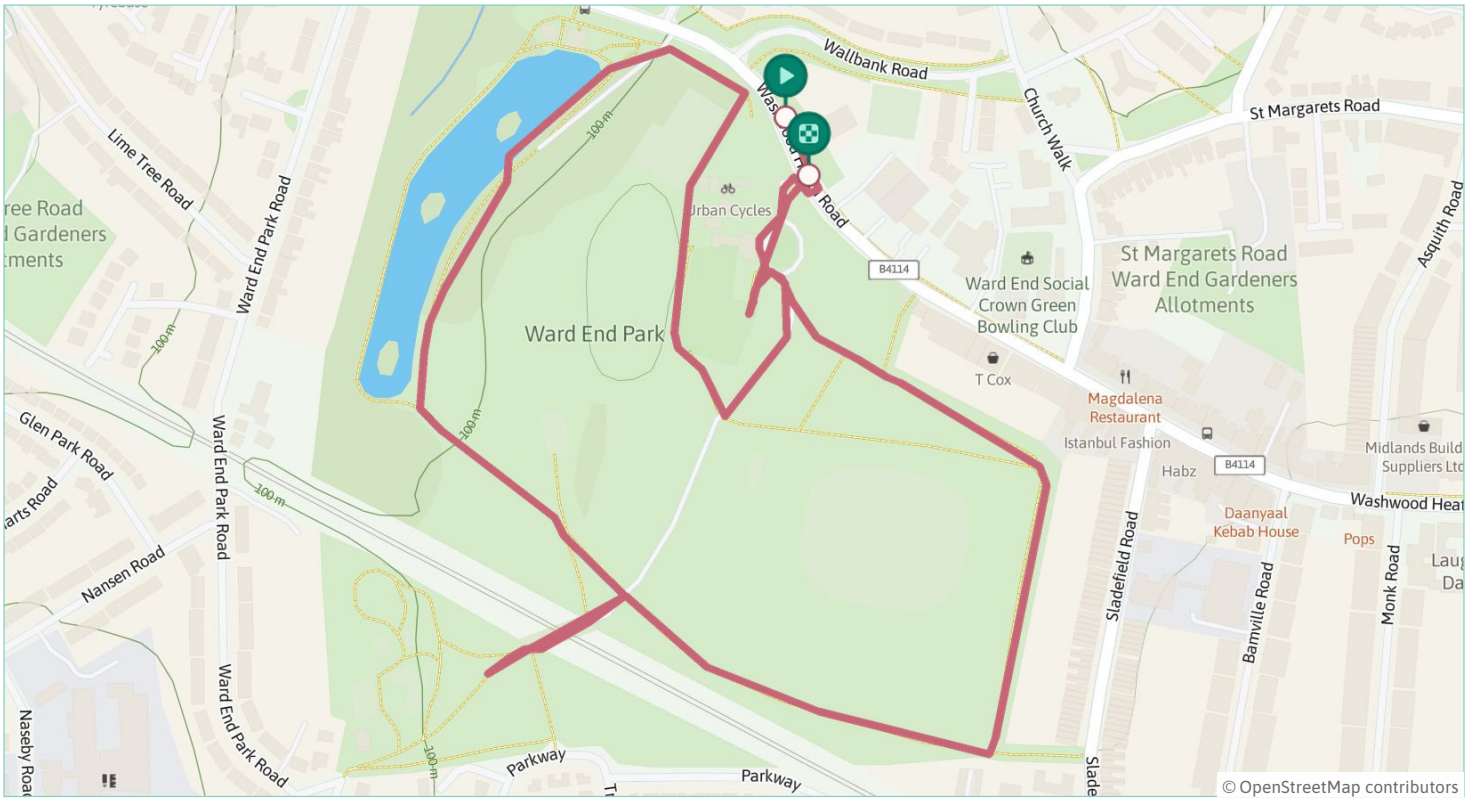
A tree spotting walk around Ward End Park. Featuring a lake, cafe and play areas.

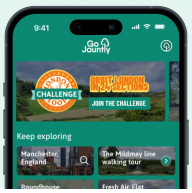
Distance 2.4 kilometres / 1.5 miles
Duration 1 hour and 45 minutes

Wildlife | Water feature | Refreshments | Public transport | Botanics

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 begins on Washwood Heath Road. Take the 94 or 95 bus to the stop named Washwood Heath Road Library.

Step 2: Jump off the bus and head towards the pedestrian lights on Washwood Heath Road.

Step 3: Cross over Washwood Heath Road at the crossing and turn right on the other side.

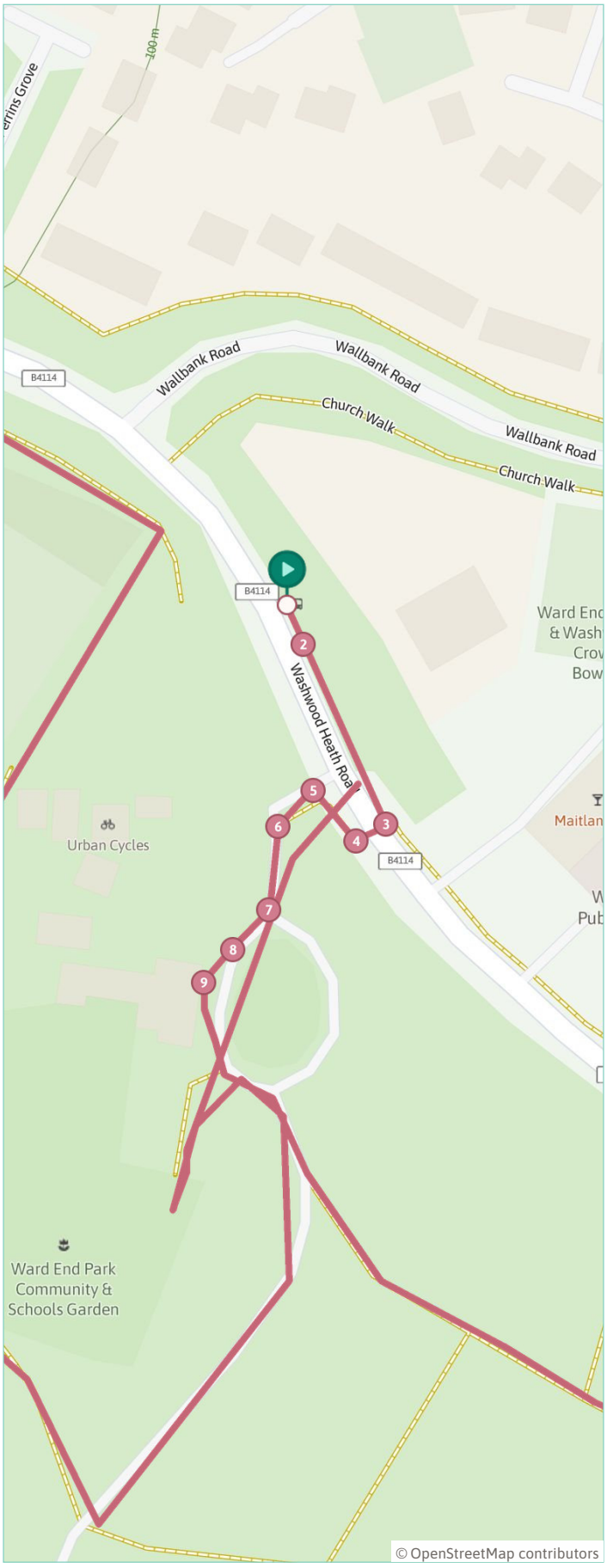
Step 4: Continue right after crossing the road. Head towards the entrance of Ward End Park.

Step 5: Turn left to enter the park.

Step 6: Welcome to Ward End Park, this 54-acre green space was once medieval open fields and then, later, formed the grounds of Ward End Park House, which dates back to 1759. There are lots of interesting trees in the park.

Step 7: Continue towards Ward End Park House to our first tree. The Copper beach is easily spotted by its purple leaves in summer.

Step 8: To the left of the copper beach, you'll see a bright green tree called a False acacia, commonly known as a Black Locust.



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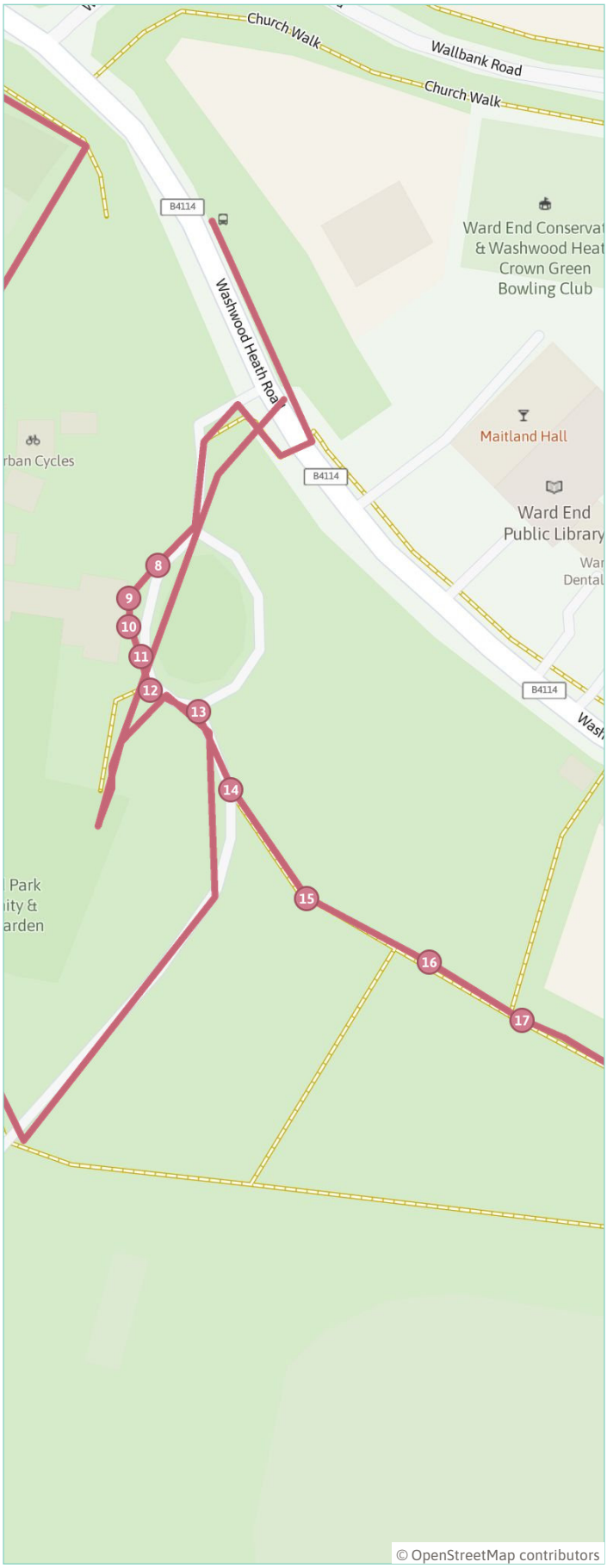
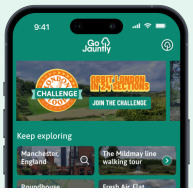


Step 9: Continue to Ward End Park House, a Grade II-listed two-storey, which is notable for its Stucco-style exterior.

Step 10: Read the plaque to learn more about the house.

Step 11: Continue around the curved path, there are plenty of benches here to sit and soak up the surrounding nature.

Step 12: Just after the house, you'll spot this Hornbeam, this tree is prized for its hardwood and used to make Roman chariots!



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Step 13: Now let's continue into the park.

Step 14: When you reach a fork in the path, take the left path.

Step 15: On your left is an oak tree with a holly bush growing at the foot. Holly shelters birds and gives hedgehogs a cosy place to hibernate.

Step 16: Contine along the tree-lined path, take a moment to notice the nature around you.

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Step 17: Look out for this little tree on your left. It's a Liquidambar tree or Sweetgum. In autumn it will have the most amazing colours!

Step 18: Continue ahead along this path.

Step 19: Follow the path as it turns right to stay on the outer edge of the park.

Step 20: This path is lined with Lime trees. Their late-blooming flowers attract lots of insects and its leaves are popular with caterpillars

Step 21: Contine along the path, look out for this Horse Chesnut tree, in spring it has the most beautiful flowers, and conkers in autumn!

Step 22: Turn right, you are now on Horse Chestnut Walk.

Step 23: Take a closer look at the trees. We saw some tiny conkers growing in late spring.

Step 24: Look to the left of the path and you'll see some Scots pines. This is the national tree of Scotland

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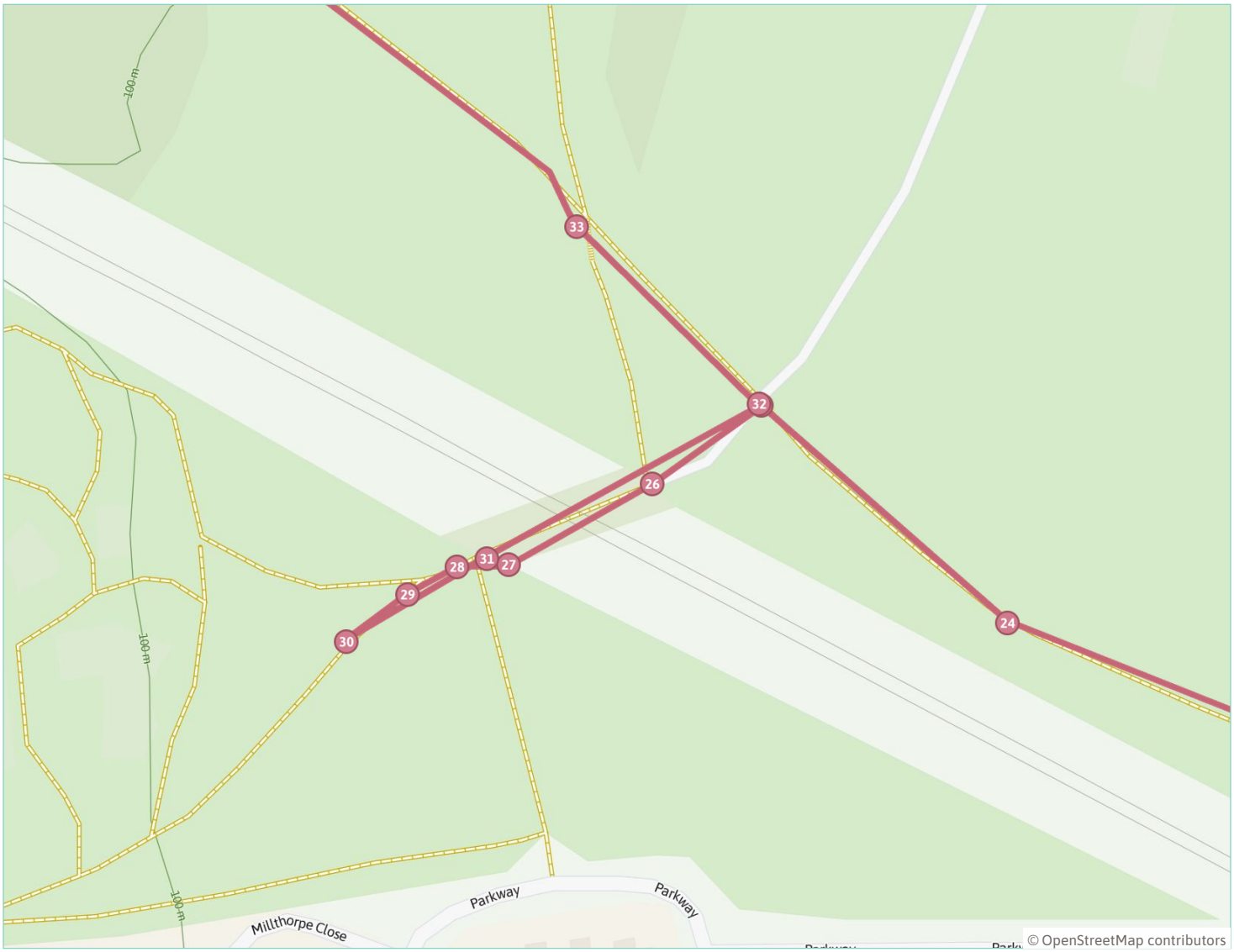

Step 25: Now take a left turn towards the railway bridge.

Step 26: Head over the railway bridge, and admire the skyline views ahead.

Step 27: After the bridge, look out for this small leaved lime. Lime flowers have been used in the past as treatment for insomnia as headaches.

Step 28: Contine on the path ahead, mind the bollards!

Step 29: Look out for this Black poplar tree with its distinctive knobbly bark. Why not have a feel of the bark?

Step 30: There's a play area here if you are with kids and have time for a fun stop 🙏

Step 31: After the play area, head back in the direction you came and go over the railway bridge again.

Step 32: At the signpost, take the left-hand path towards the lake.

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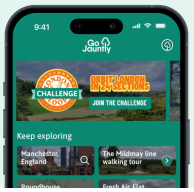
Step 33: We are now on Silverbirch walk. Silverbirch is Finland's national tree! Can you see why they are called silverbirch? F I

Step 34: There's another play area on the right, head there or continue straight.

Step 35: Admire the lovely silverbirch avenue.

Step 36: Continue ahead passing a post with an arrow forwards.



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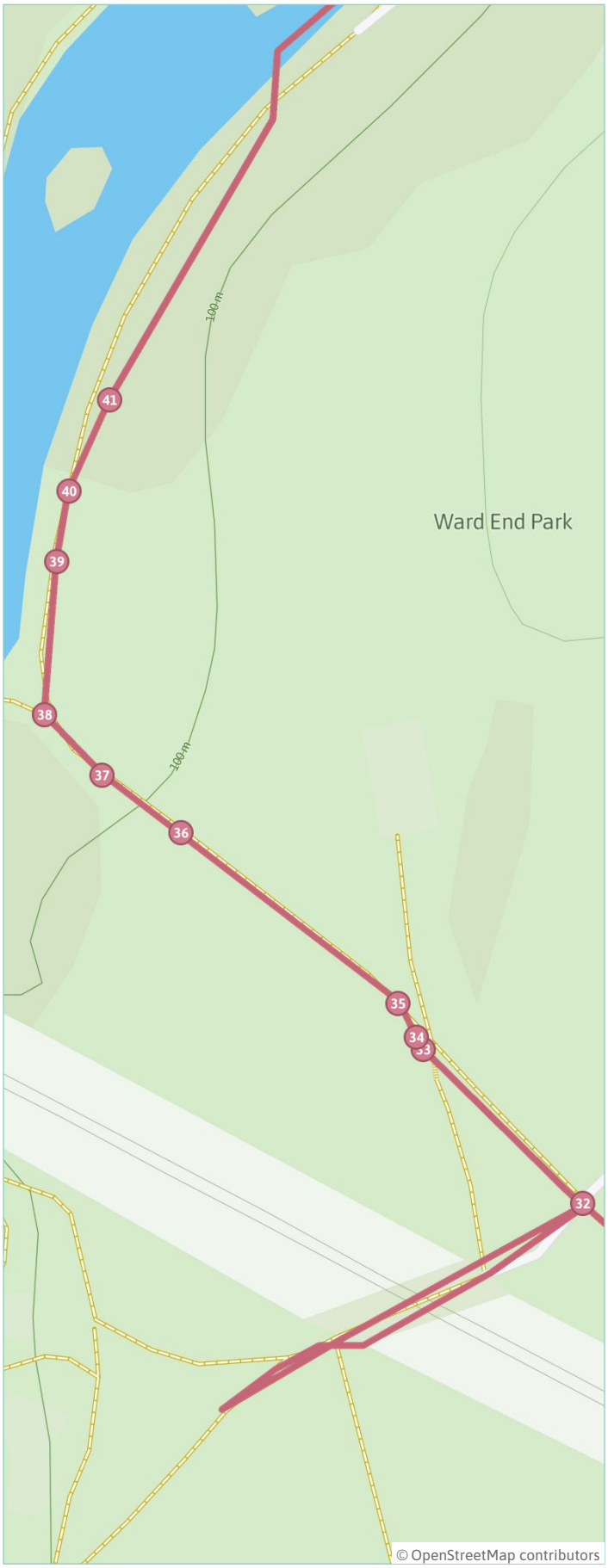
Step 37: Apart from trees, can you see any other plants growing here? Perhaps some blackberry bushes?

Step 38: Take the right at the path fork.

Step 39: Notice another majestic horse chesnut, it is said that name is because its seeds were once used to treat ailments in horses

Step 40: Now you'll get a first glimpse of the lake on your left. Can you see any wildlife?



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Step 41: Continue along with the lake on your left.

Step 42: There's a cafe ahead of you if you fancy some lunch or snacks?

Step 43: Keep an eye out for different birds, we saw a swan!

Step 44: After the cafe, take the stairs up.

Step 45: Follow the path, with Washwood Heath Road on your left.

Step 46: Turn right around the sports pitches.

Step 47: Continue along this path.

Step 48: Look out for this Red oak on the left of the path. Red oaks don't start producing acorns until they are about 20 years old!

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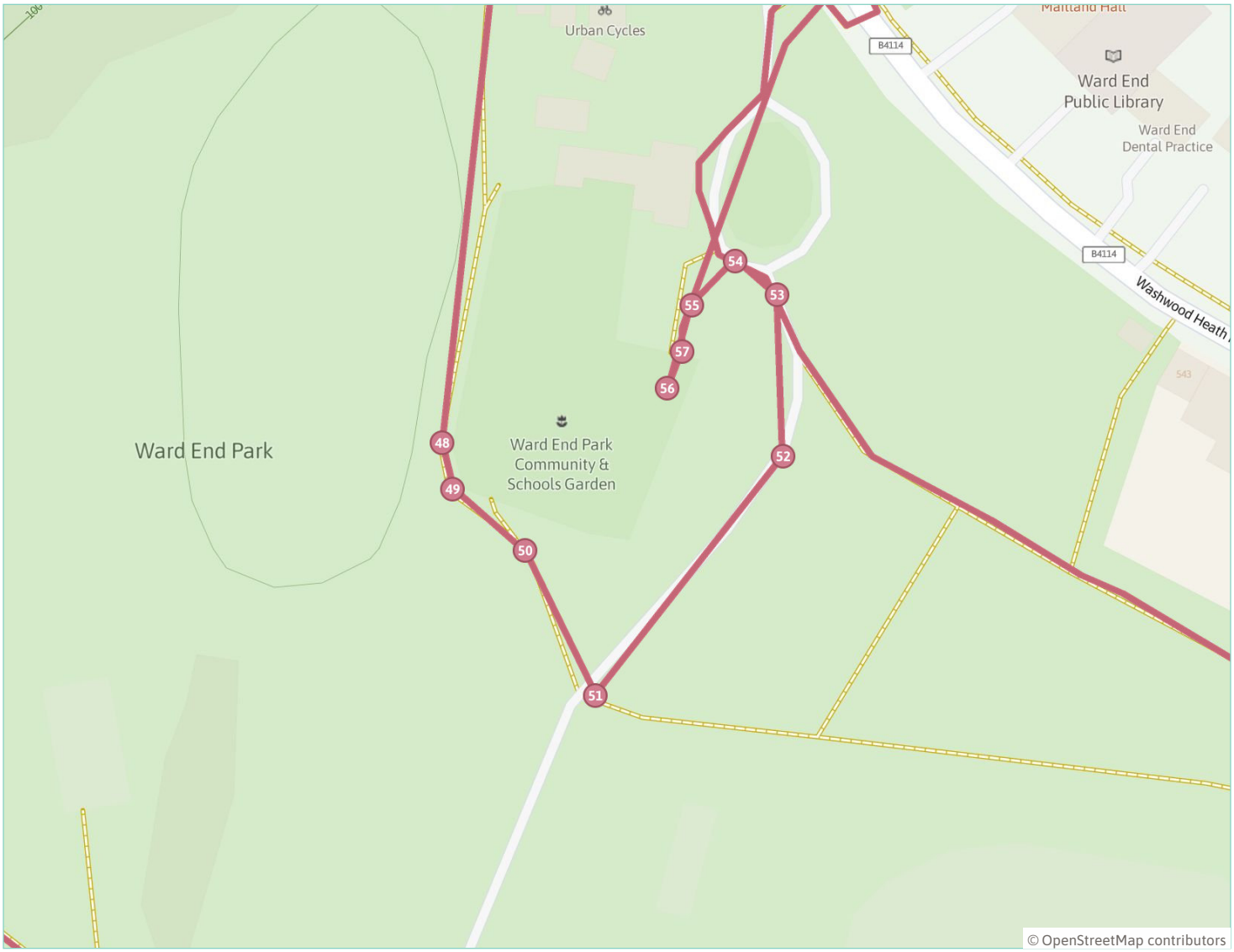

Step 49: Continue along the path ahead.

Step 50: Look out for this acorn sculpture carved out of wood. It's a real celebration of the trees around us.

Step 51: When you reach a crossroad, turn left.

Step 52: Keep walking along, heading back towards the house.

Step 53: Take the path going left just before the house.

Step 54: Continue ahead towards the mosaic.

Step 55: Take a look at the colourful round mosaic on the floor.

Step 56: Now head toward the metal gate and take a peek into the community garden. Or head in if it's open!

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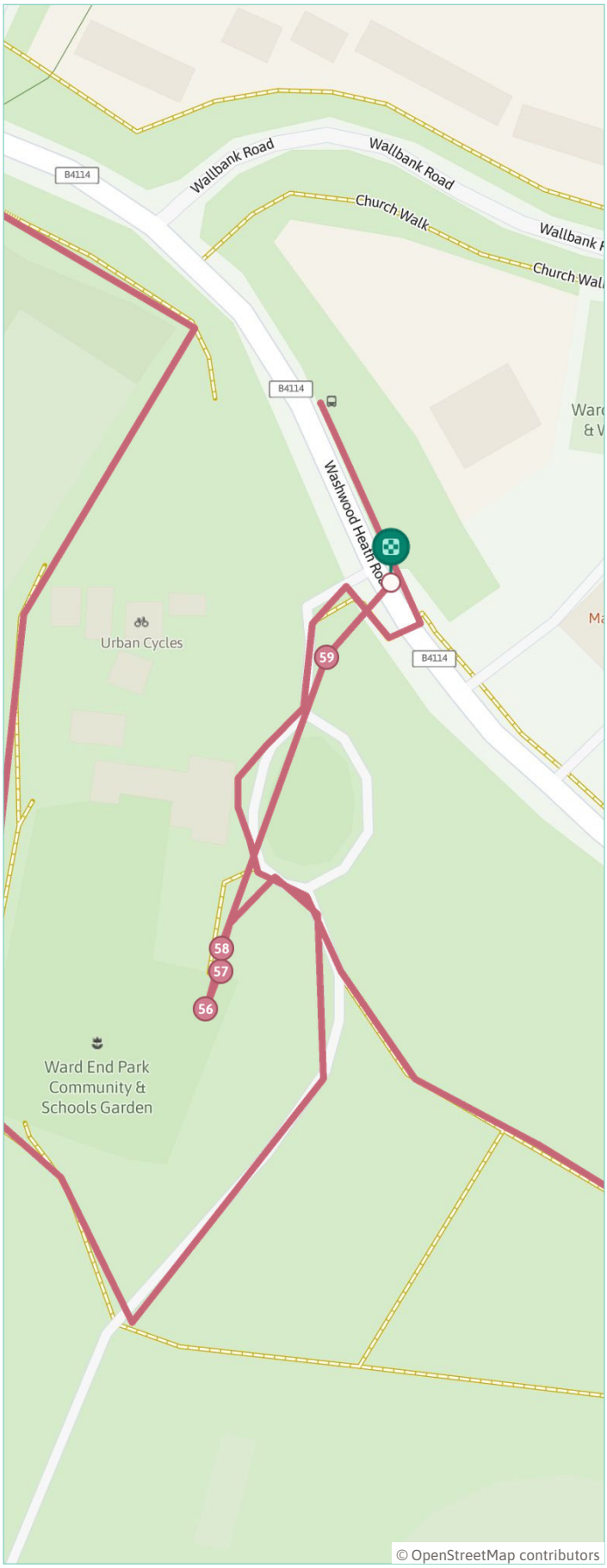
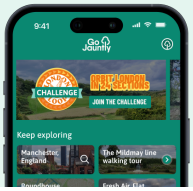


Step 57: Just next to the gate is a lovely magnolia tree. It will have beautiful flowers in early spring.

Step 58: Now head back towards the house as we're close to the end of the walk.



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Step 59: Exit the park to return to bus stop.

Step 60: Turn right to approach the bus stop. We hope you had a lovely walk. Come back another day to find your next walk in the app.

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