



Ouseburn Blooming Trail

A lovely linear from Ouseburn to Gateshead. Enjoy bridges, urban nature and public art galore. A really fantastic walk with everything!

Distance 5.7 kilometers / 3.5 miles

Duration 2 hours and 15 minutes



Wildlife



Water feature



Public transport



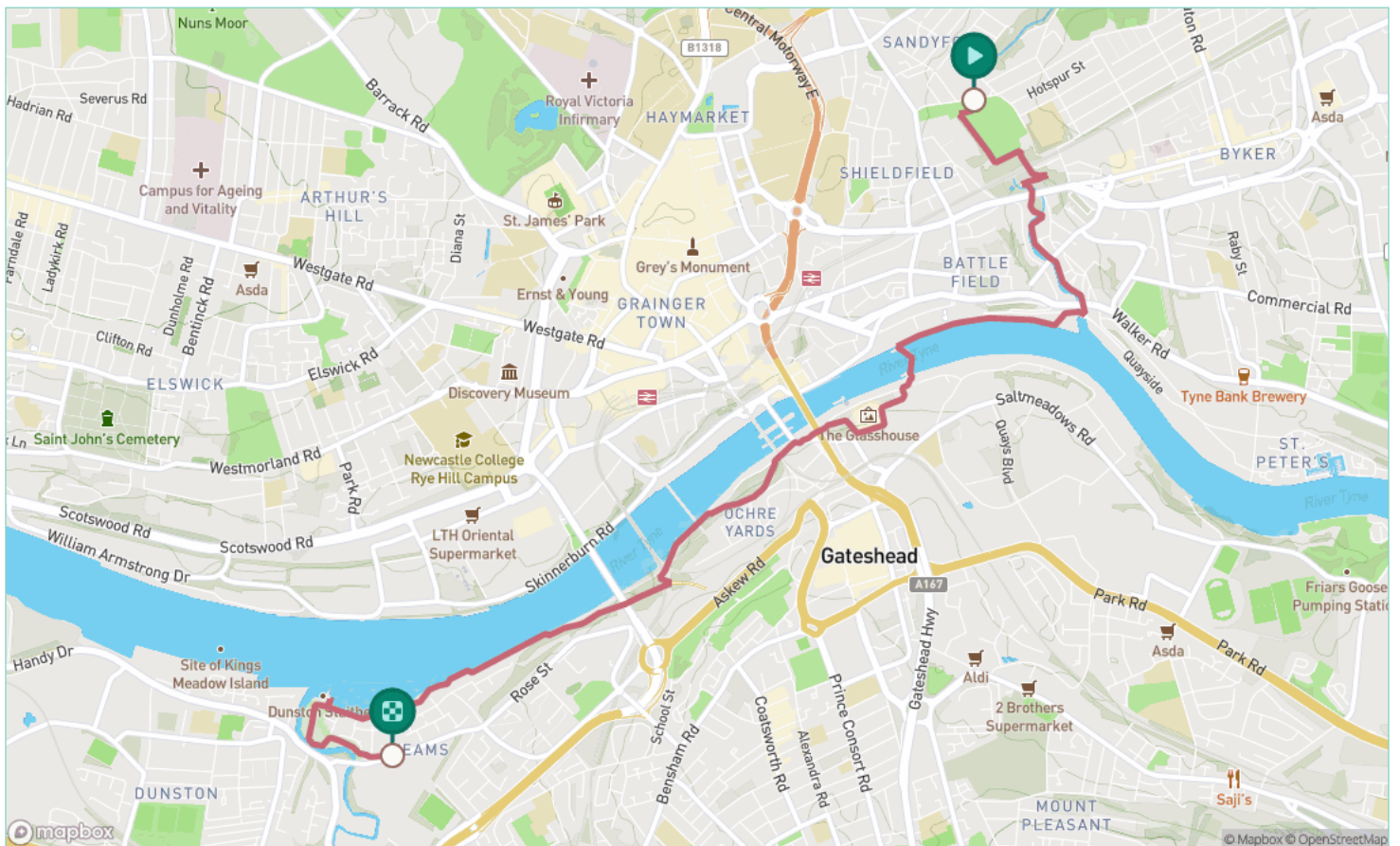
History



Dog friendly

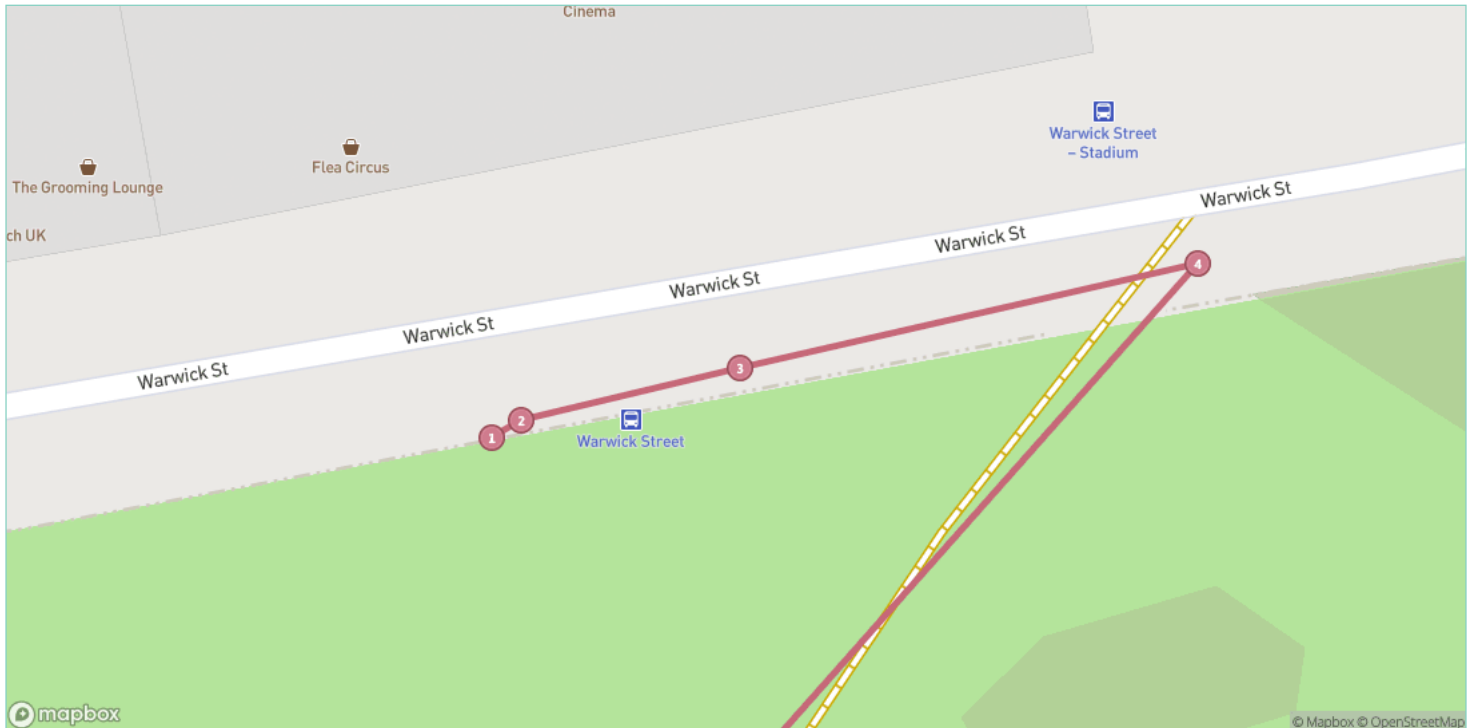


Child friendly




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 © 2026. Last Updated: 03 April 2026.



Step 1: Welcome to the Big Blooming Walks. We've teamed up with the National Trust to bring you a series of special spring walks celebrating the most beautiful time of year. Get ready to stop and smell the blooms! Let's go.

Step 2: This linear walk starts next to the bus stops on Warwick Street served by bus 1, 32, 32A and LS3.

Step 3: Opposite the road you'll spot Star and Shadow Cinema. It's a really special place. Find out more by tapping 'Read More' below. 

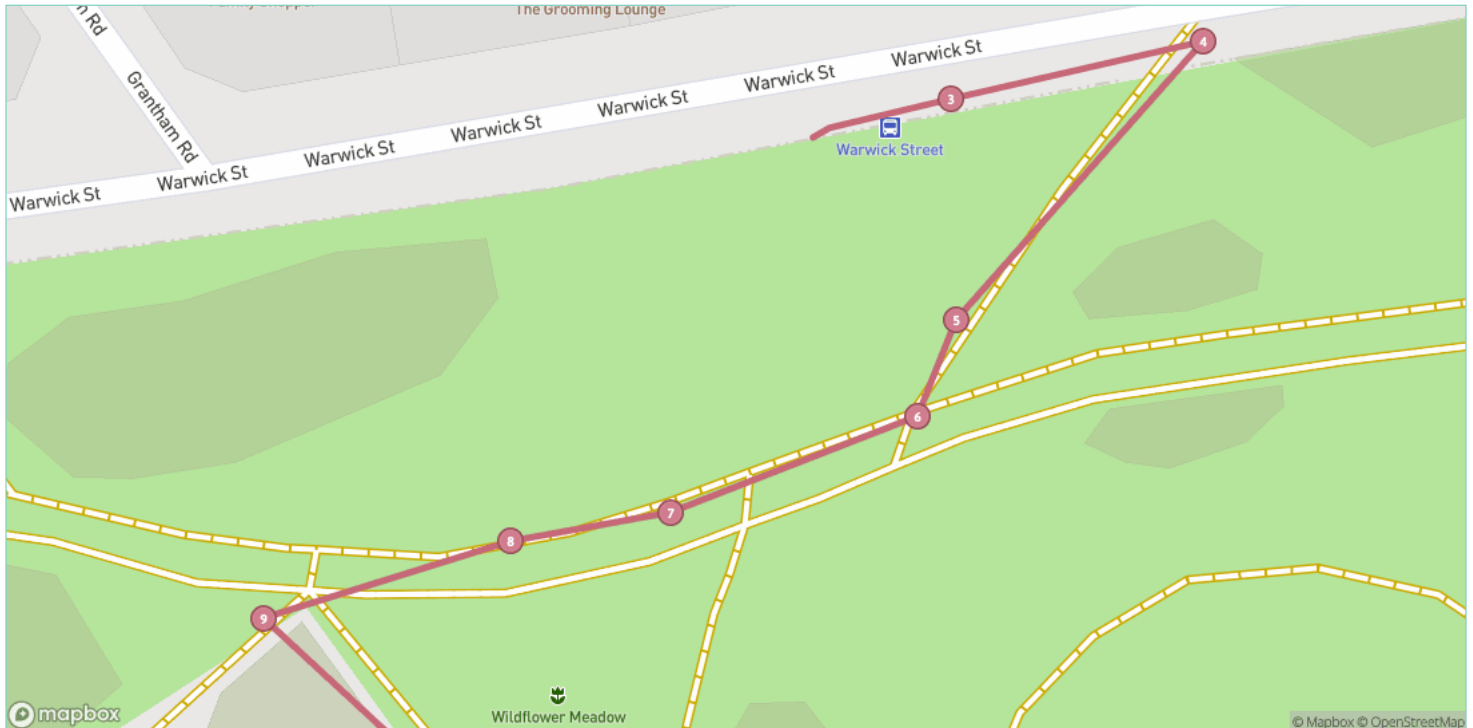
Star and Shadow Cinema

The Star and Shadow started life in the early 2000s as a loose collective of film enthusiasts screening independent, LGBTQ+ and activist cinema around Newcastle. When their Ouseburn home was lost to gentrification in 2014, volunteers bought a derelict furniture warehouse, taught themselves building skills, and built the cinema from scratch.


Today it's far more than a cinema. On any given week you might find world cinema, live music, craft fairs or a board game afternoon alongside the films. The pay-what-you-can model means no one is turned away for lack of money, and many volunteers have gone on to careers in film and the arts following skills they first picked up here. One of the other cool things is that anyone can programme a film here. It's run on radical DIY principles with no hierarchy and no paid staff.

Visit Website

<https://www.starandshadow.org.uk/>



Step 4: Continue ahead along the path and look right for an entrance past the barriers into City Stadium park.

Step 5: Follow the path into the park, then turn right. Find out more about this park's origins below. 

City Stadium Park

City Stadium Park has one of Newcastle's more unlikely backstories. For nearly fifty years this was known as the Ouseburn Tip, a vast landfill built over the culverted River Ouseburn. The land couldn't support the housing originally planned for it, so in 1950 the city had grander ideas such as a stadium bigger than St James' Park, with cycling tracks, an ice rink and stands for tens of thousands. The first phase opened in 1955 with a cinder track and a small wooden pavilion. Then the money ran out and the grand plans were quietly shelved. Today the park is well loved by runners, dog walkers and families, with the gravel track still tracing the outline of what might have been. Somewhere beneath your feet, the Ouseburn is still flowing.


Step 6: Head past the outside gym equipment (or have a go if you like!)

Step 7: Look out for the blossom on the trees in spring or enjoy them whatever the season.

Step 8: You might be lucky enough to catch the mobile coffee shop.

Step 9: Turn left just after the outside gym, and head down this smaller dirt path.



Step 10: This path is lined with trees on the right hand side. Would you like to identify any of the blossom? Read more below. 

Blossom spotting

Not all blossom is the same. Once you start looking, you'll be amazed at the variety! Apple blossom is one of the easiest to identify, appearing from March to April in white with a hint of pink and a sweet fragrance. Cherry is another one to look out for, flowering in shades of pink or white, it hangs in umbrella-shaped clusters and appears before the leaves.

Later in spring, hawthorn takes over, usually flowering from late April into May with small rounded white petals around bright pink anthers. It's also known as the mayflower. Have a look around you, how many different types can you spot on this walk?

Blossom Types

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/nature/trees-plants/how-to-spot-different-types-of-blossom>

Step 11: Continue as the hard path starts to decline.

Step 12: At the bottom, turn left.

Step 13: Keep to the right and continue along the path.

Step 14: Look for the steps on the right, that take you down the hill into Ouseburn Valley.

Step 15: Check out the view of the bridges at the bottom of the steps.

Step 16: Turn left and then right and head along the path towards the bridges.

Step 17: Head under the Ouseburn Viaduct. A railway bridge that takes trains up and down to Edinburgh and beyond.



Step 18: Continue along the path as it bends around to the left.

Step 19: Don't forget to look out for flora & fauna as you go.

Step 20: At this junction, with these steps, turn sharp right.

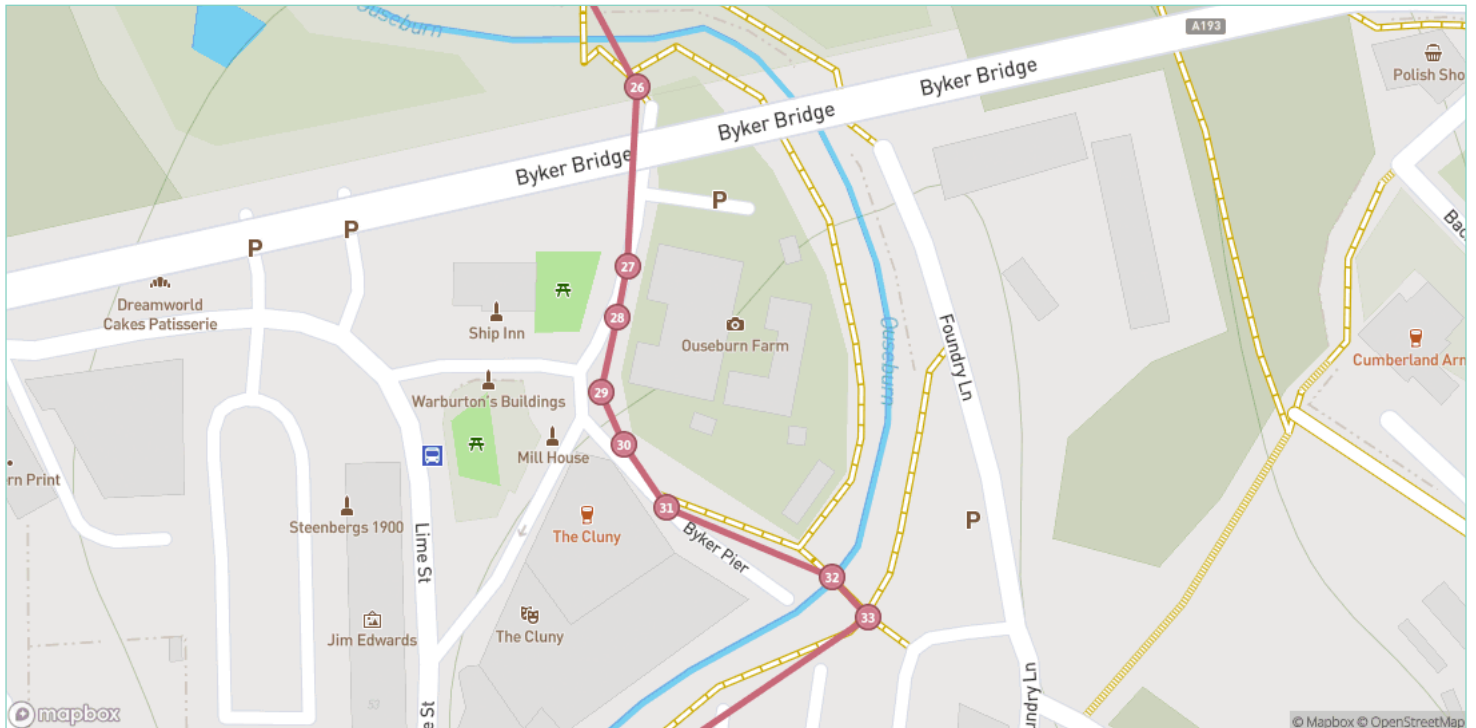
Step 21: And head down under the beautiful S-shaped Byker Metro Bridge by Ove Arup. It carries Britain's first modern light railway system!

Step 22: Continue ahead and look out for some farm animals in the fields.

Step 23: At the bottom of the path, turn left and head along the cobbled path.

Step 24: Find more very friendly farm animals on the right. Say hello to the goats!

Step 25: Just after the goats, turn right and head over the Ouseburn and under the third Ouseburn Valley bridge.



Step 26: Keep to the pavement on the left hand side.

Step 27: Look for this mural by The London Police on the side of The Ship Inn pub on the right.

Step 28: Pick up refreshments at the Ouseburn Farm and cafe on the left and continue ahead.

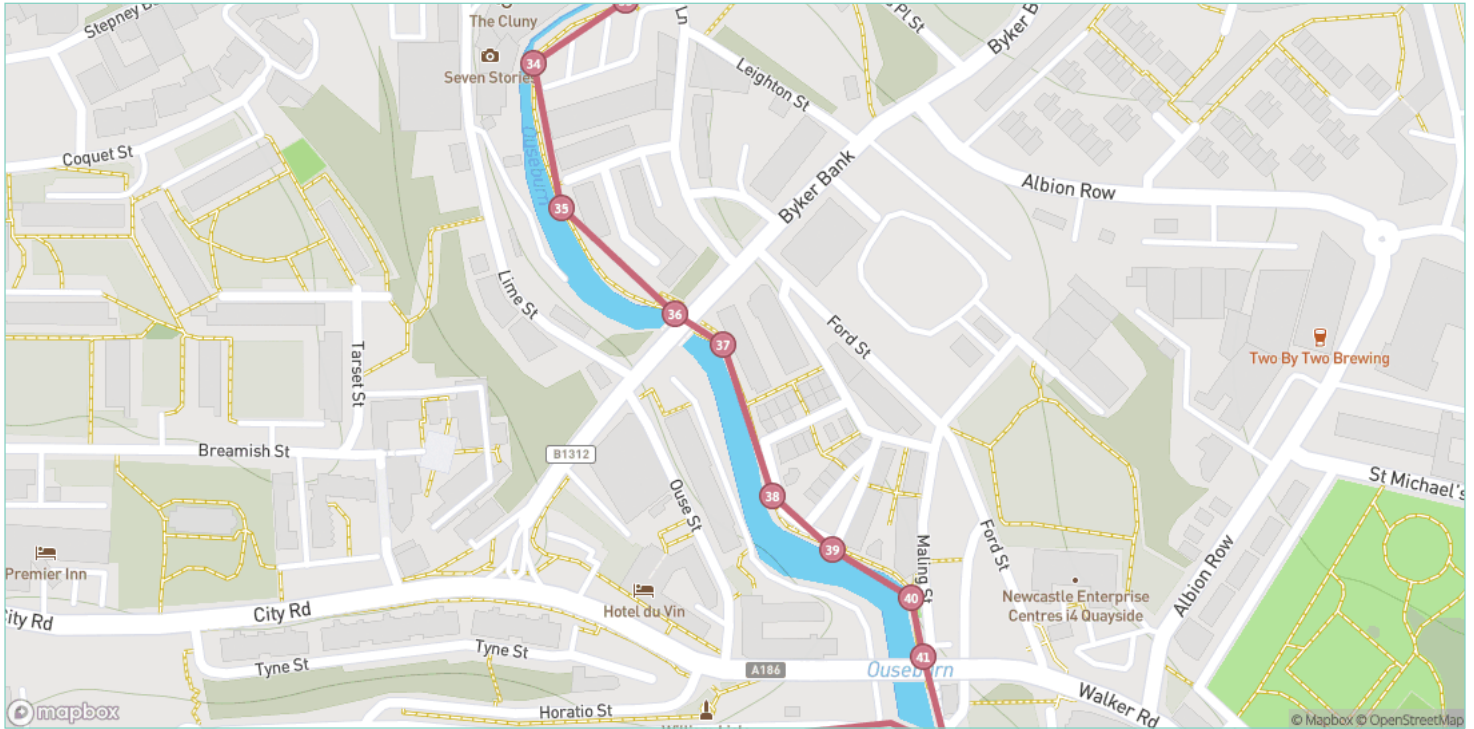
Step 29: Continue past the farm, with the Mill House in front.

Step 30: Now turn left and head down this side street called Byker Pier.

Step 31: Continue towards the small path and bridge on the left at the bottom of the road.

Step 32: Go over the bridge with the Ouseburn below and views of this areas industrial past in front.

Step 33: After crossing the bridge, turn right and head along the Riverside Walk with the burn on the right.



Step 34: Continue along this path as it bends around to the left.

Step 35: The Ouseburn was the cradle of Newcastle's Industrial Revolution. Coal was brought down from the Town Moor via the Victoria Tunnel and loaded onto barges at low tide. Keep wandering ahead.

Step 36: Head under Byker Bank bridge.

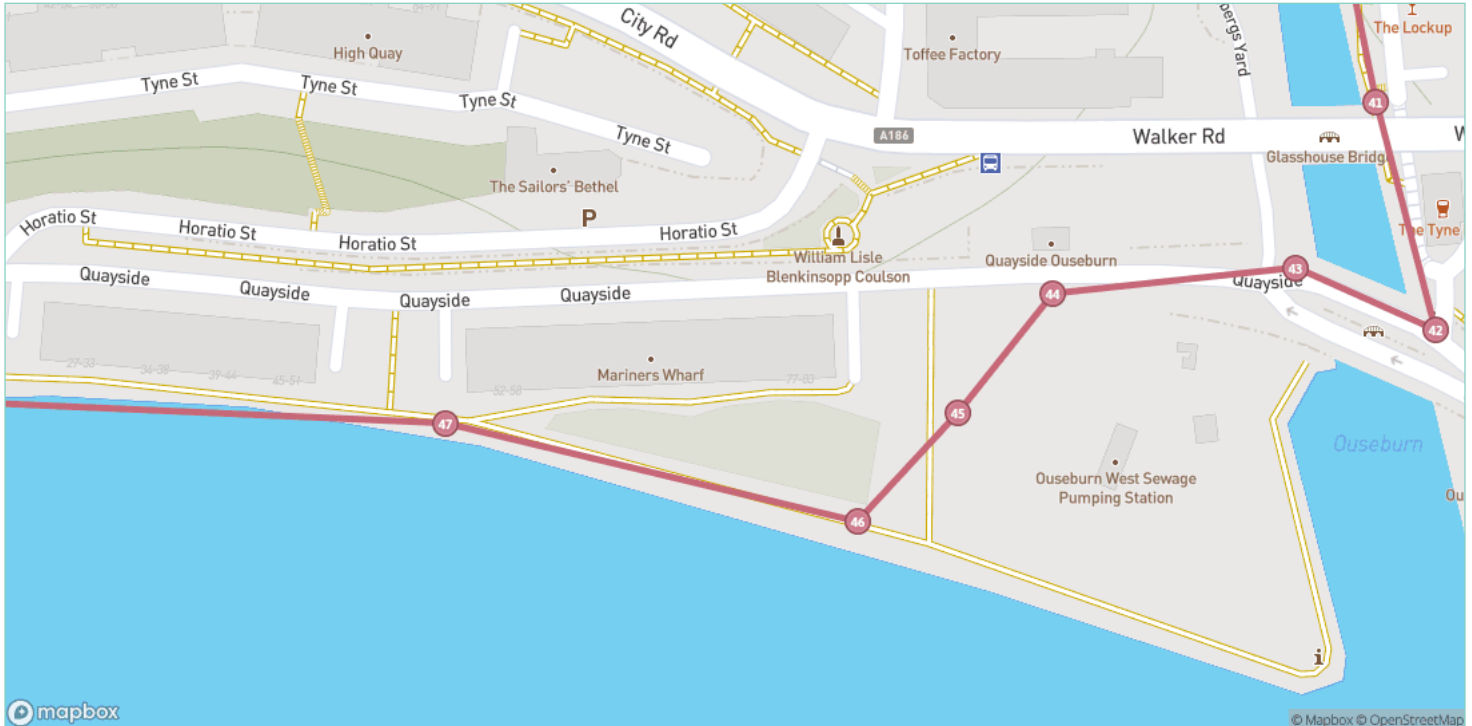
Step 37: On the other side of the bridge, walk straight ahead towards the residential apartments.

Step 38: Continue along the Riverside Walk, this area includes cafes and shops and nice places to sit and enjoy the surroundings.

Step 39: There's also lots of nice trees and flowers planted all around this section of the walkway.

Step 40: Continue under Glasshouse Bridge which has crossed the Ouseburn since at least 1619 when there was a little wooden bridge.

Step 41: It takes its name from the glassworks that once lined this stretch of the river, now the Tyne Bar is on the left of the pavement.




Step 42: Turn right and walk over the road bridge, over the Ouseburn.

Step 43: After crossing the bridge, carefully cross over the road on the left and head onto the pavement on the other side.

Step 44: Once over the road, bear left to continue along the pavement and head across the clearing on the left.

Step 45: Turn left and head along the path towards the river.

Step 46: We have made it to the River Tyne, with a great view over the famous Newcastle bridges to the right.

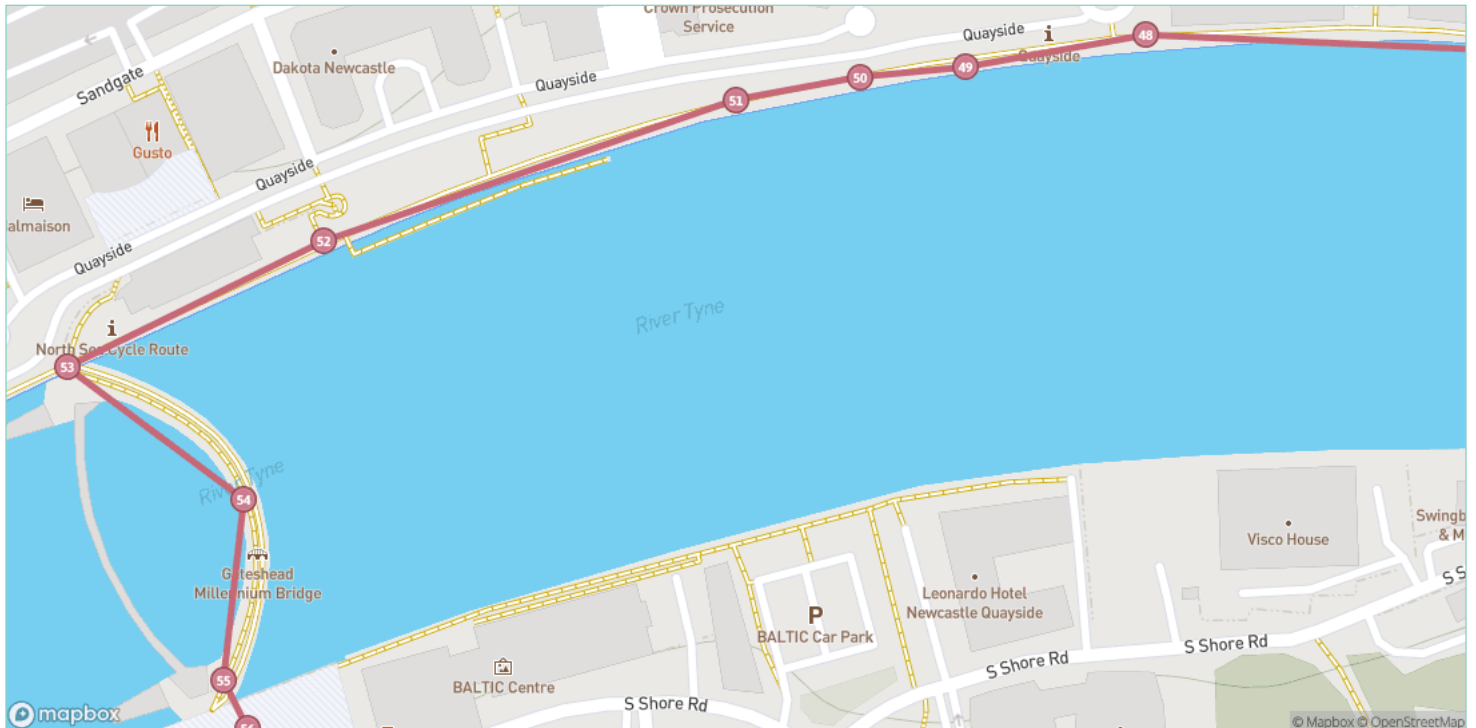
Step 47: Continue right along side the river, heading towards the Quayside. Find out more about the Tyne river below. 

Tyne River

The River Tyne has shaped this city for almost two thousand years. The Romans built the first bridge here in AD 122, calling it Pons Aelius, the Bridge of Hadrian and the settlement that grew around that crossing eventually became Newcastle. For centuries after, the Tyne was one of the most important commercial rivers in England, shipping coal to the rest of the country and beyond.

By the 20th century decades of heavy industry had left the river severely polluted, and salmon had all but disappeared. The clean-up that followed is one of Britain's great environmental success stories. Salmon have returned in significant numbers and the Tyne is now considered one of the finest salmon rivers in the country.

Standing here on the waterfront, with all the bridges stretching in both directions and the water flowing beneath them, it's worth taking a moment to appreciate just how much this river has carried and survived.



Step 48: The closest bridge is the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, the first tilting bridge ever to be constructed.

Step 55: Once over the bridge, the Glasshouse is to the right.

Step 49: To the left of the bridge is the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

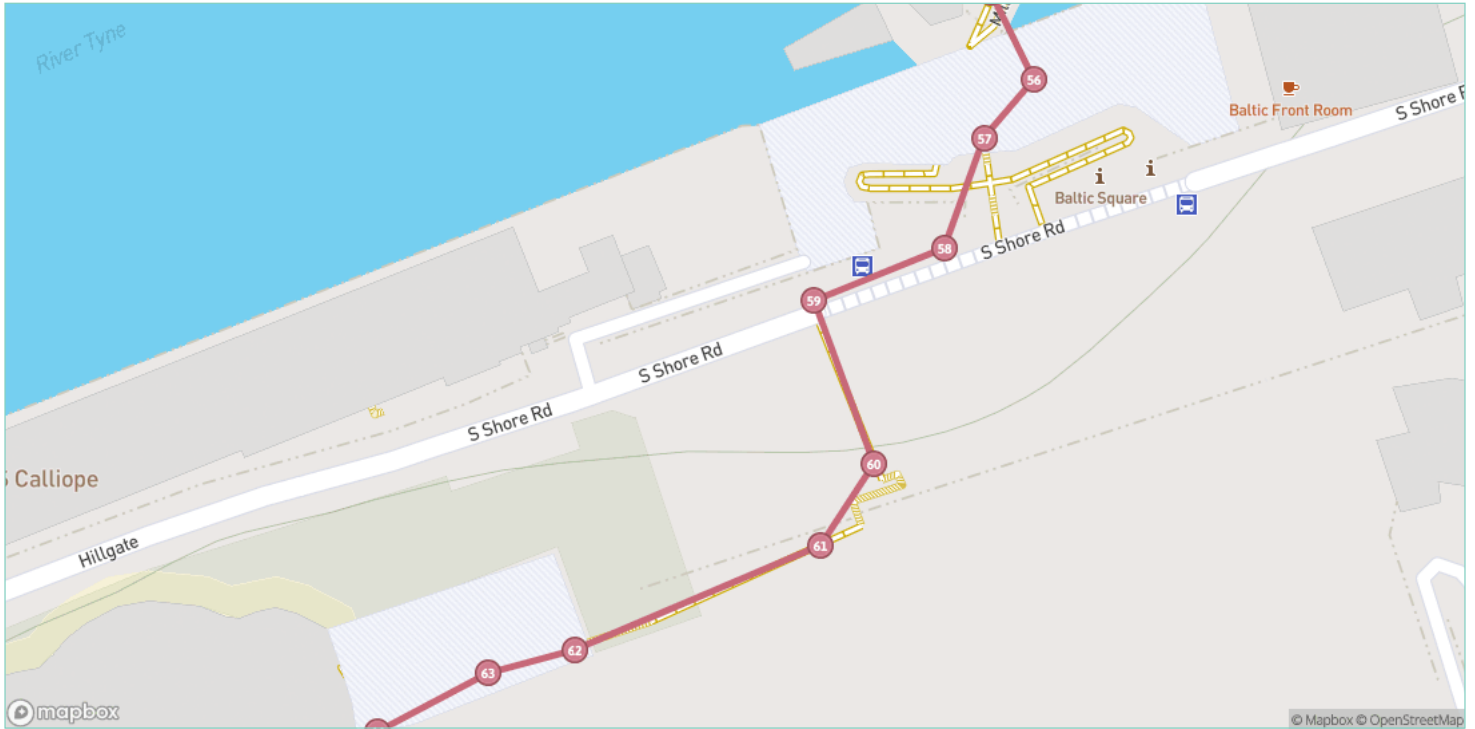
Step 50: Continue along the river, heading towards the bridges.

Step 51: This area has some nice places to sit down, or lie back and take in the views.

Step 52: Views of the river, the bridges and the spectacular Glasshouse International Centre for Music on the other side of the river.

Step 53: Cross over the Gateshead Millennium Bridge on the left. Use the path on the right hand side as the left path is shared with cyclists.

Step 54: There are seats half way across the bridge, another great spot to sit and enjoy the views.



Step 56: The Baltic is on the left. Please note this gallery is free to enter and includes a shop, cafe and toilets.

Step 57: Take the steps directly in front.

Step 58: Once up, turn right and head towards the Glasshouse.

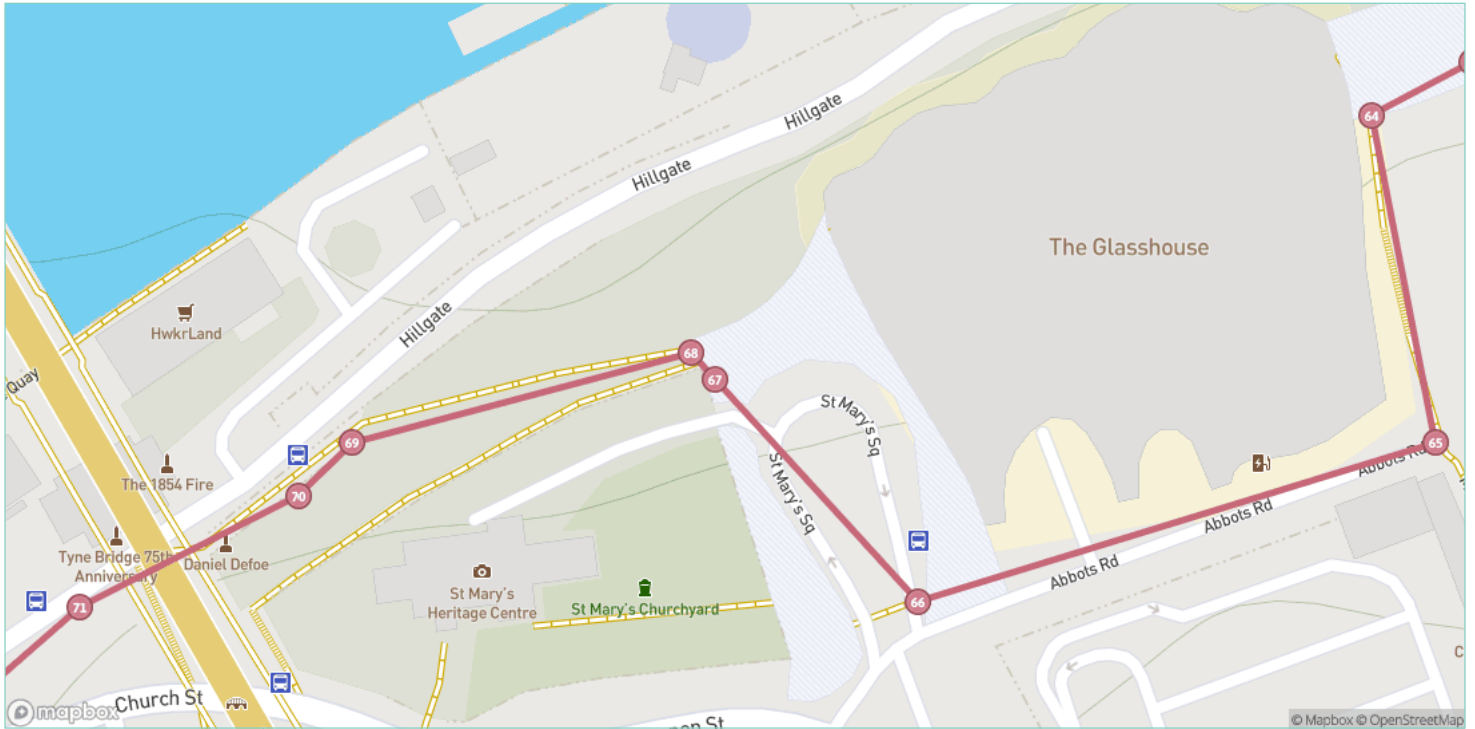
Step 59: Cross over the road and walk along the pathway and steps on the left.

Step 60: Once up the first set of steps, continue up the second set. Take your time.

Step 61: At the top, turn right and walk towards The Glasshouse via another set of steps.

Step 62: Head towards The Glasshouse entrance, it's free to enter and has a cafe and public toilets.

Step 63: To the right, there are great views over the river towards the centre of Newcastle and St James' Park Stadium.



Step 64: Turn left and walk up beside The Glasshouse.

Step 71: Once under the bridge, continue along the pavement, towards the traffic lights.

Step 65: At the top, turn right.

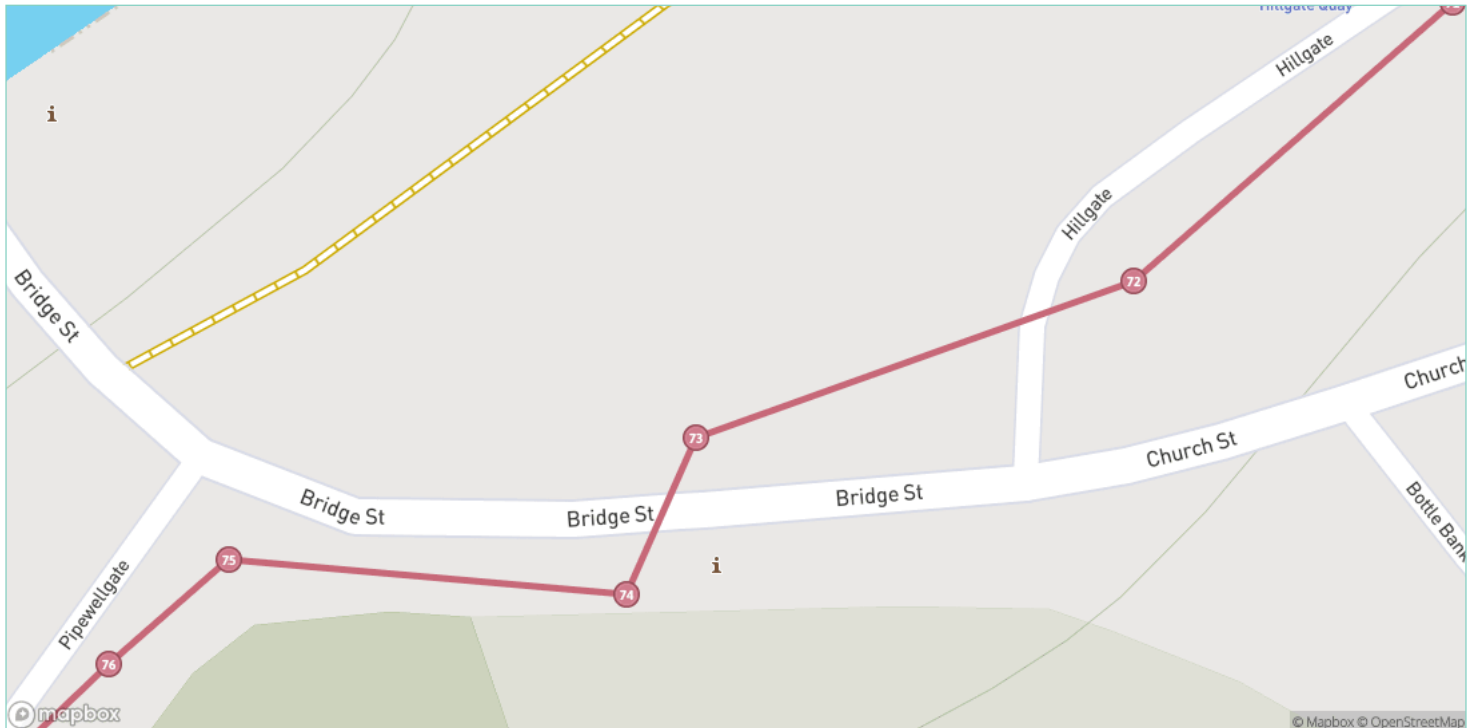
Step 66: After passing the back of The Glasshouse, cross over the road towards St. Mary's Heritage Centre, with the Tyne Bridge in the background.

Step 67: Once over the road, turn right and walk down the path, with the church on the left.

Step 68: At the bottom, turn left and walk down this path, towards the Tyne Bridge.

Step 69: Enjoy spectacular views of the Grade II listed bridge.

Step 70: Continue under the bridge, as they are currently going under a major restoration programme, there was an extra tunnel to walk through.



Step 72: At the lights, cross over Hillgate road on the right.

Step 73: Then cross over Church Street at the lights on the left.

Step 74: Continue down Church Street on the left hand side.

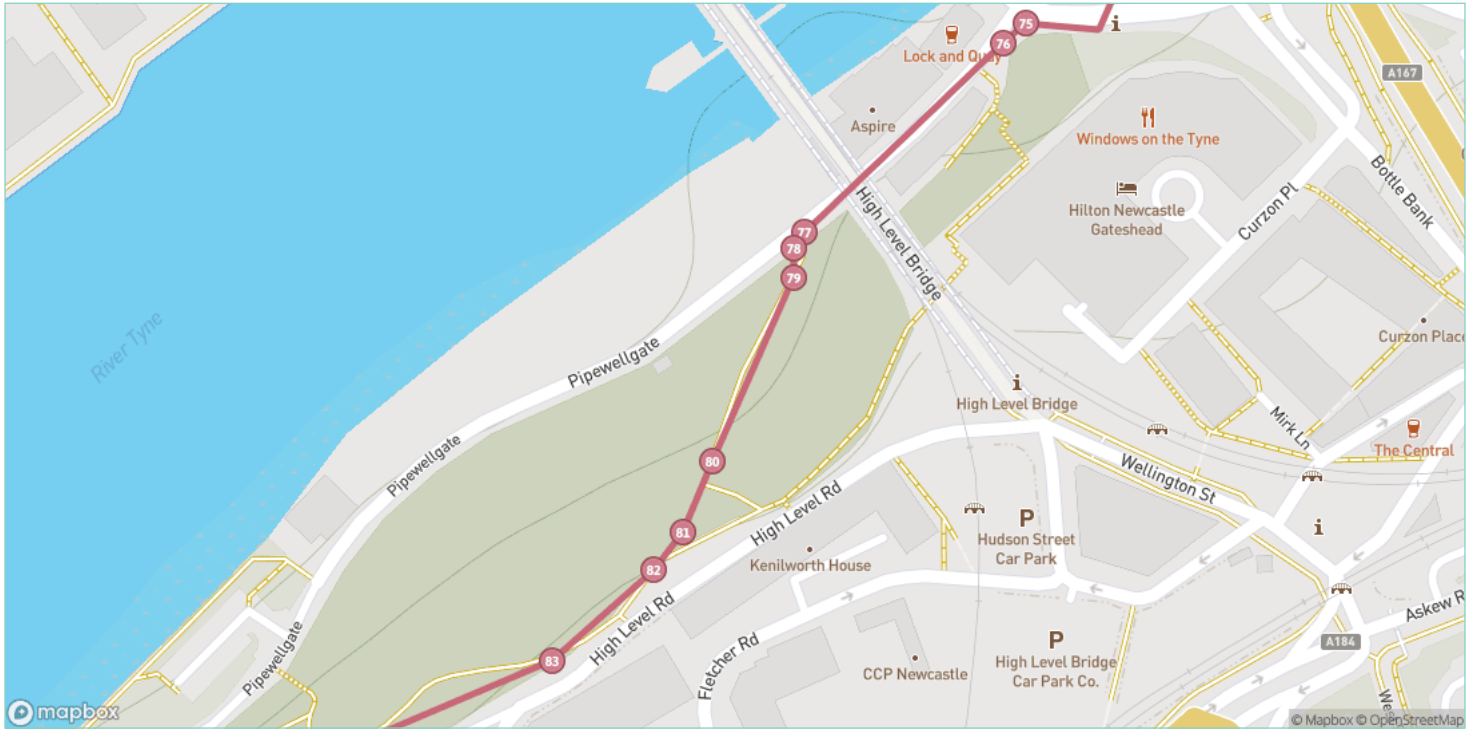
Step 75: The Swing Bridge to the right, also Grade II listed is a historical and iconic bridge. Find out more below. [👉](#)

The Swing Bridge and the Tyne Bridge

Designed by Lord Armstrong and opened in 1876, the Swing Bridge was the largest of its kind in the world. Armstrong had the previous bridge demolished specifically so that larger ships could reach his own weapons factory upstream at Elswick (a fine example of Victorian self-interest driving public infrastructure). The bridge still rotates on the same hydraulic machinery Armstrong installed, and has opened over 280,000 times to let ships pass.

Earlier, we walked past the Tyne Bridge which was opened by King George V in 1928 and is still the symbol of the city. What many visitors don't realise is that it was designed by the same company as the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge and work began on both at almost the same time. Newcastle's bridge finished first.

Taken together, these two bridges tell the story of the Tyne in miniature; one built to move coal and warships upstream, the other to announce a city confident in its own identity, looking outward to the world.



Step 76: At the bottom of the hill, turn left and walk along Pipewellgate on the left hand side.

Step 77: Further along Pipewellgate, look for the start of the Gateshead Riverside Sculpture Trail.

Step 78: It's hard to miss the first piece called Rise and Fall by Artist Lulu Quinn.

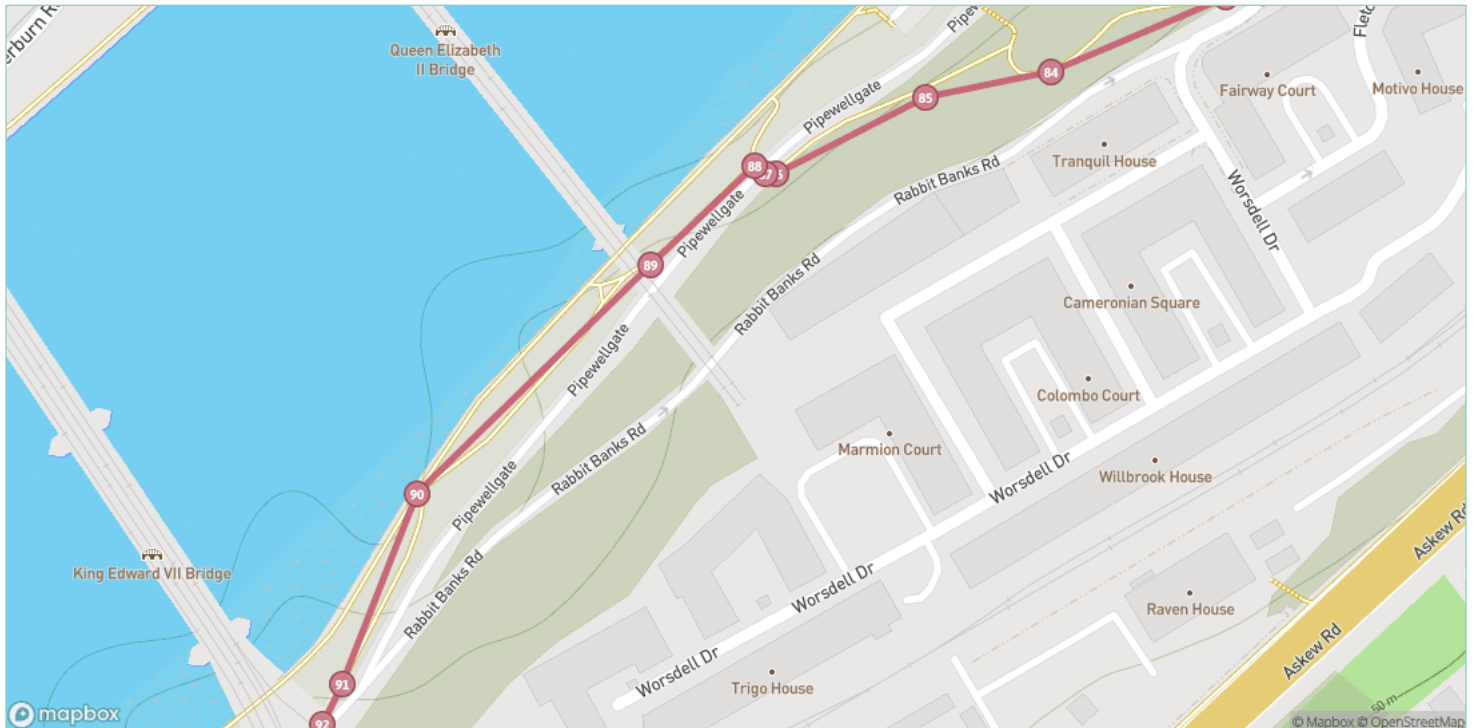
Step 79: Head up the path on the left hand side of the road.

Step 80: At this fork, take the path on the right.

Step 81: Continue up the steps.

Step 82: At the top of the steps, continue to the right.

Step 83: Look for the next sculpture down to the right. Cone by Andy Goldworthy.



Step 84: Continue down the hill towards this large archway called Rolling Moon, by Colin Rose.

Step 91: Head towards the King Edward VII Bridge.

Step 85: Go past the archway and continue along the path on the left. Pass these Thornbird Railings on the right, by Artist Marcela Livingston.

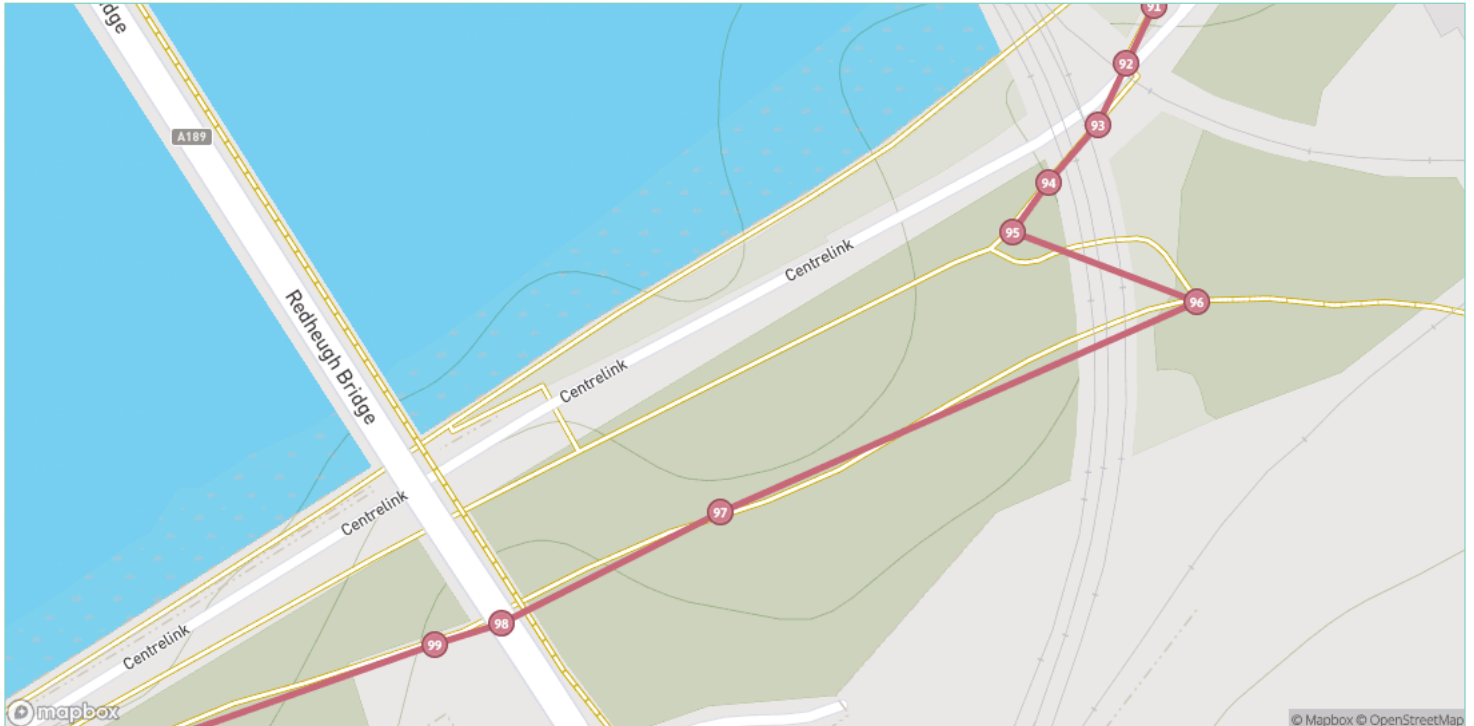
Step 86: At the bottom of the path, look for the steel goats on the bank on the left. Created by Sally Matthews.

Step 87: Carefully cross over Pipewellgate on the right.

Step 88: And continue left along the pavement on the right hand side, going under Queen Elizabeth II Bridge, used by the Metro trains.

Step 89: Keep left and head along the path at the top of the hill.

Step 90: Take the left again and walk up the hill back towards the road.



Step 92: Carefully cross over Centrelink road on the left.

Step 93: Go under the bridge, yet another Grade II listed bridge, this one used by mainline rail services.

Step 94: Just after the bridge take the path on the left, look for these Riverside Rivets by Andrew McKeown.

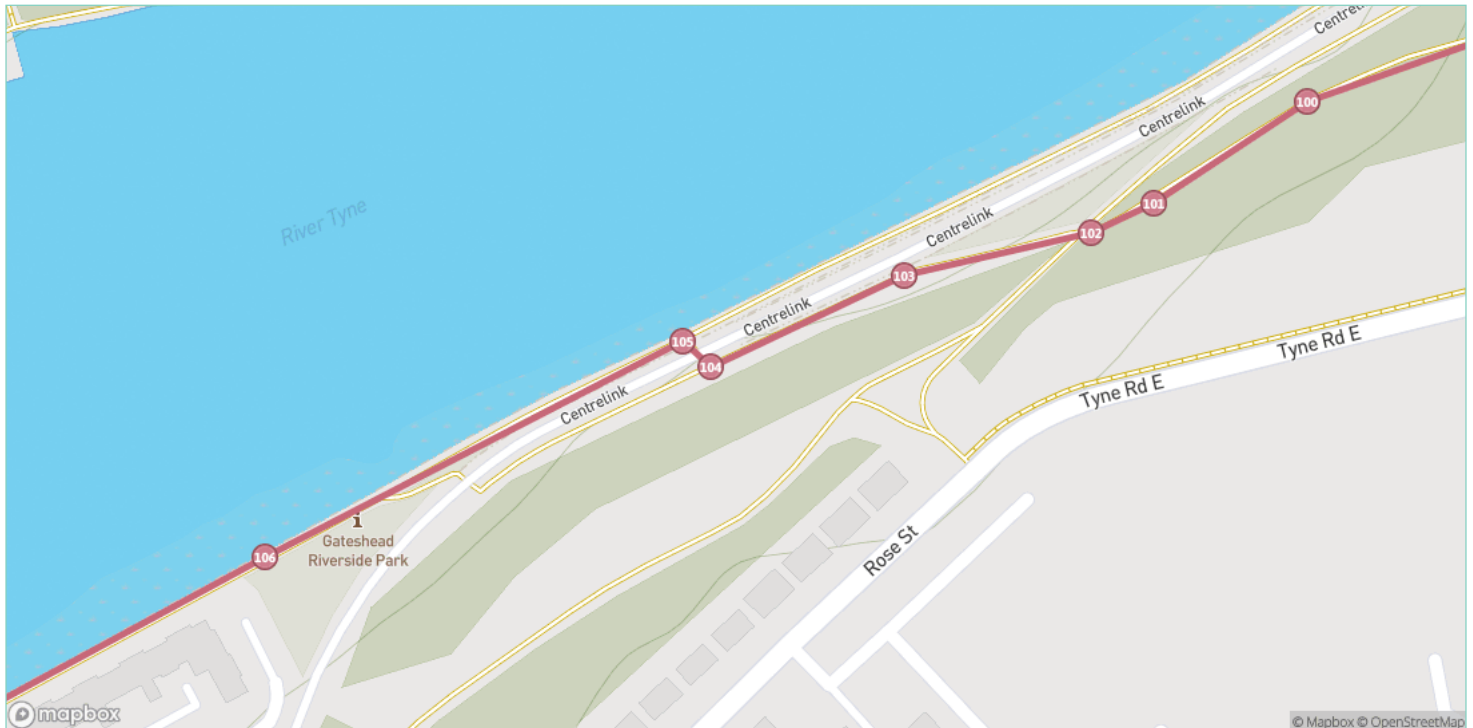
Step 95: Continue along the path and take the path on the left at this fork.

Step 96: Head towards our next bridge.

Step 97: Passing more rivets, turn right.

Step 98: Go under Redheugh Bridge.

Step 99: On the side of the building on the left is this piece called Once Upon a Time by Richard Deacon.



Step 100: Continue down the path, back towards the Tyne.

Step 101: Take note of this stone sculpture Foliate Form by the artist Gilbert Ward on the right.

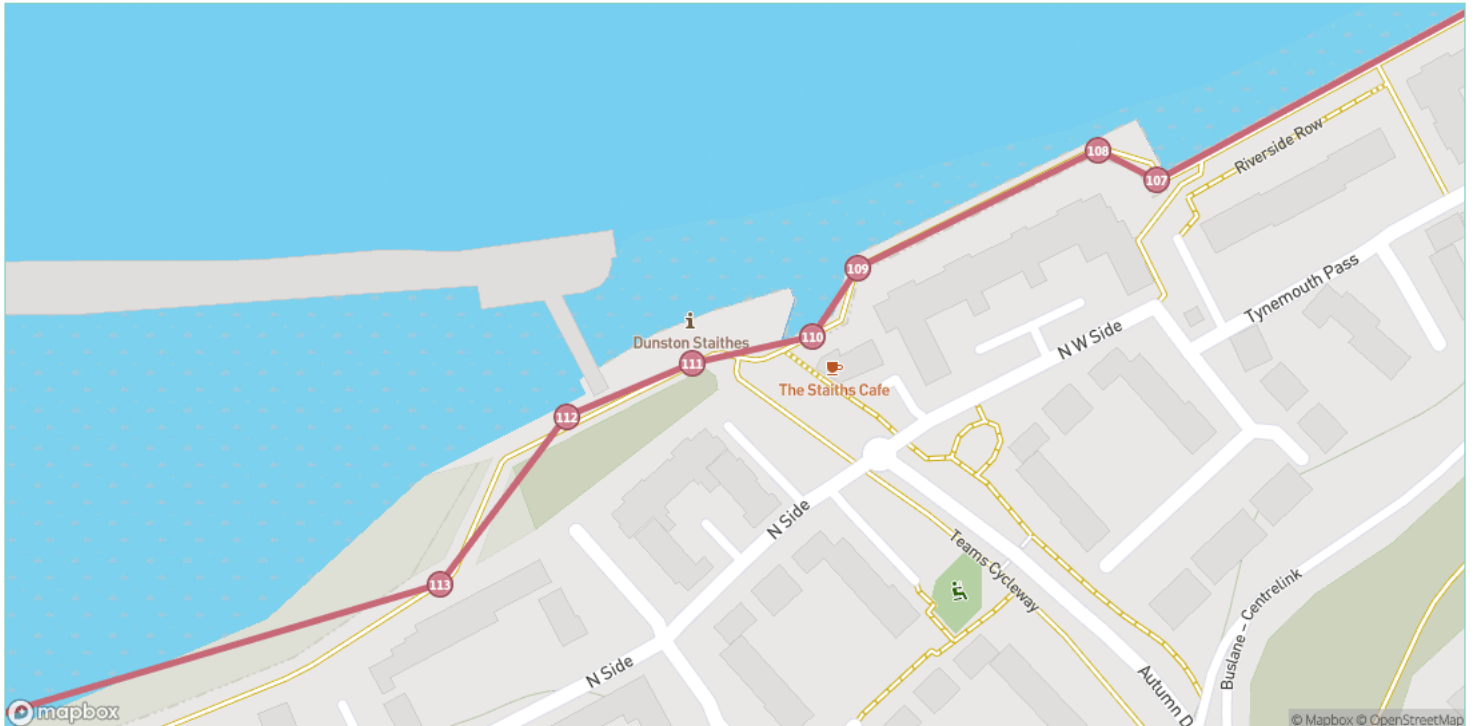
Step 102: Cross over the path and continue down towards the river.

Step 103: Continue along the path as it turns to the left, with these railings on the right.

Step 104: At the bottom of this path, carefully cross back over Centrelink on the right hand side.

Step 105: Then turn left and continue alongside the river on the right.

Step 106: This is a great spot to look back at all of the bridges we have passed over and under.



Step 107: The path continues beside the river, with residential buildings on the left, turn left and follow the path.


Step 108: Then left, with the Dunston Staiths on the right.

Step 109: Continuing along the path, as it turns left again.

Step 110: Visit or pass by The Staiths Cafe on the left.

Step 111: Continue left, along the riverside path, past the sitting area on the right.

Step 112: With the Dunston Staiths and Tidal Basin to the right. These staiths were originally built to load coal from the coalfields onto ships.

Step 113: Continue along the path as it follows around the basin. Would you like to try out a blossom meditation here? Tap the button below. 

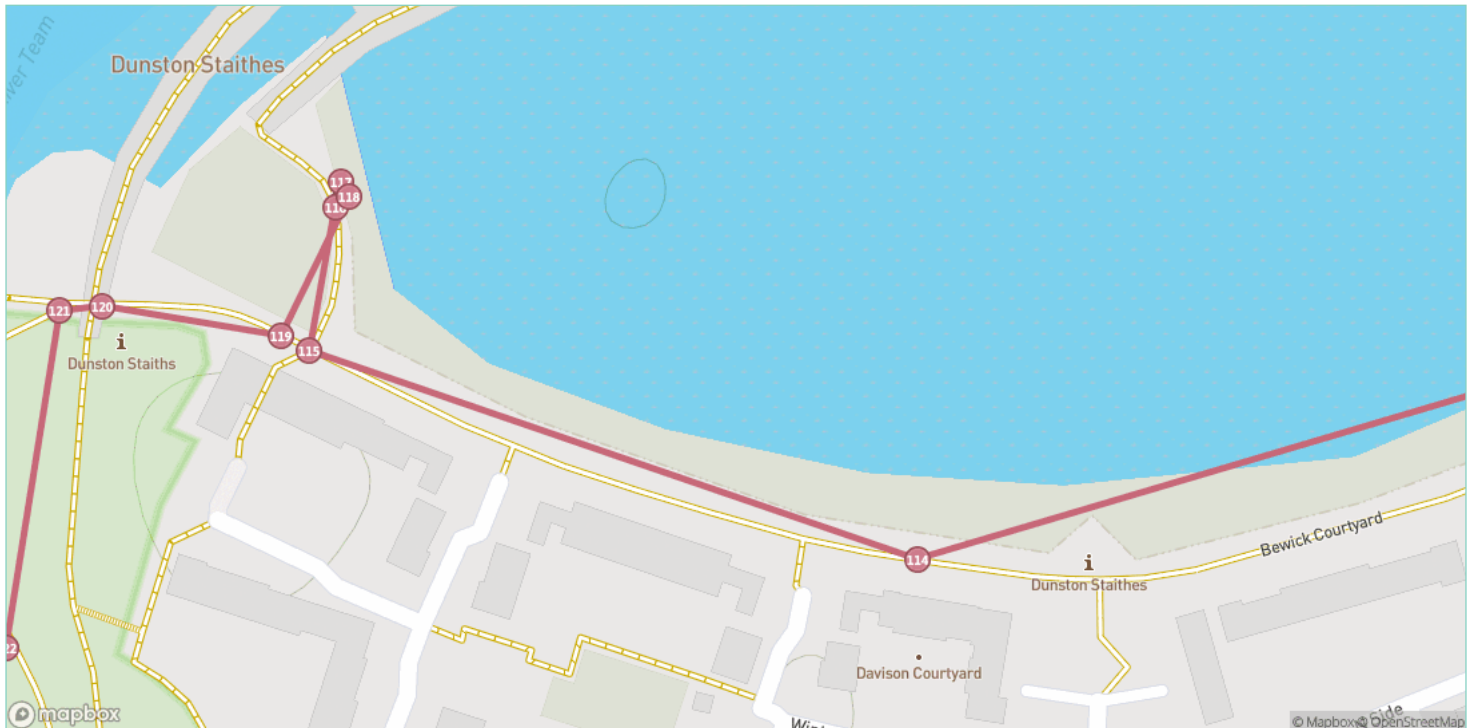
Take a breather in blossom

Take a seat on a bench or sit on the grass and enjoy a little breather amidst the blossom. Grab your headphones and try this short guided 5 minute blossom meditation.

If you've never tried meditation before, this is the perfect way to start. Adding just 5 minutes of mindfulness to your day can help slow things down and boost your mood.

Blossom Meditation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v=fKmb7a4YNEU>



Step 114: The path is surrounded by wildlife and lots of blossom trees.

Step 115: Turn right and walk down this small side path.

Step 116: At the bottom is this small screen bird hide.

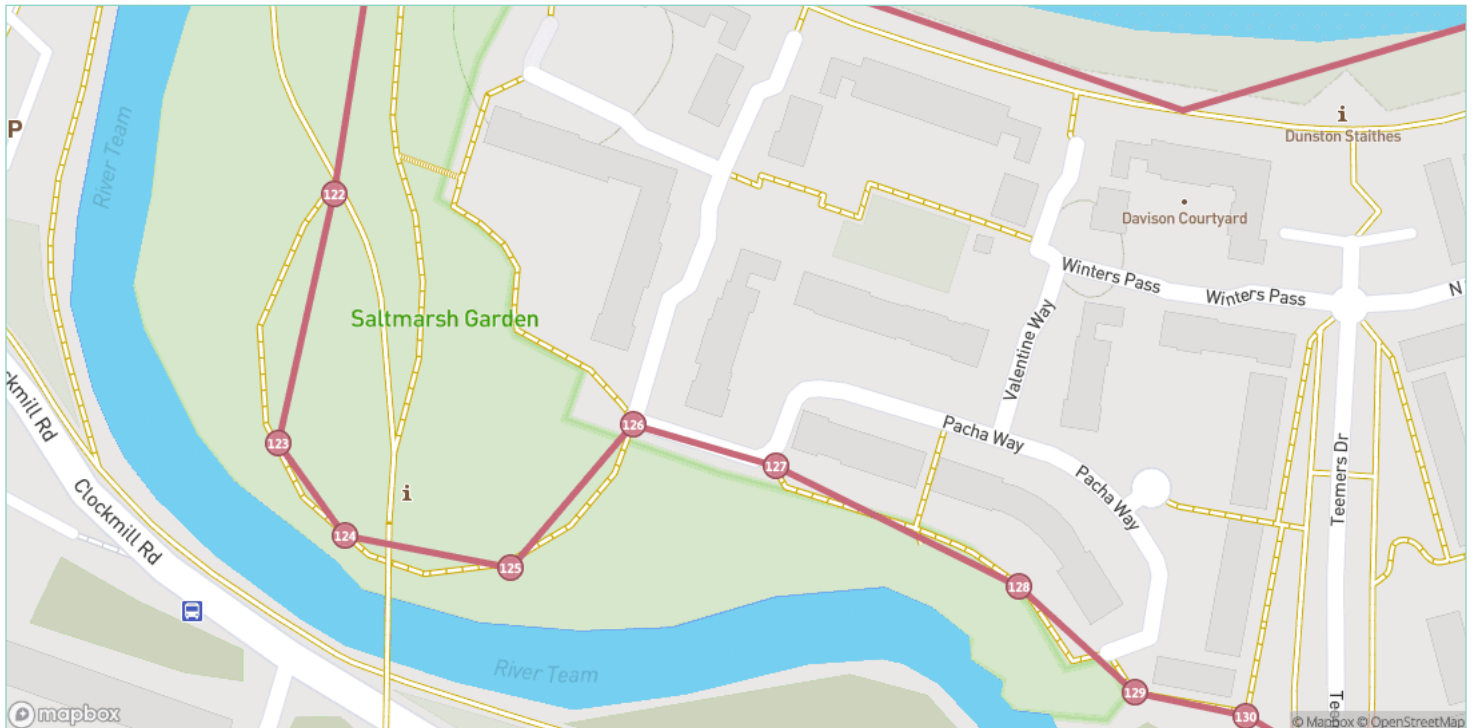
Step 117: Take a look to see what birds are out on the basin, there is often terns, grey herons, curlews and many other wading birds.

Step 118: Today we saw two geese feeding in the mud.

Step 119: Head back up the path and turn right.

Step 120: Head underneath the Staiths themselves.

Step 121: Then immediately turn left.



Step 122: A little further along the path, turn right and head down this small side path.

Step 123: At the bottom of this path, at the side of the River Team, you'll find this reed bank.

Step 124: To the left, the path continues under this pedestrian bridge.

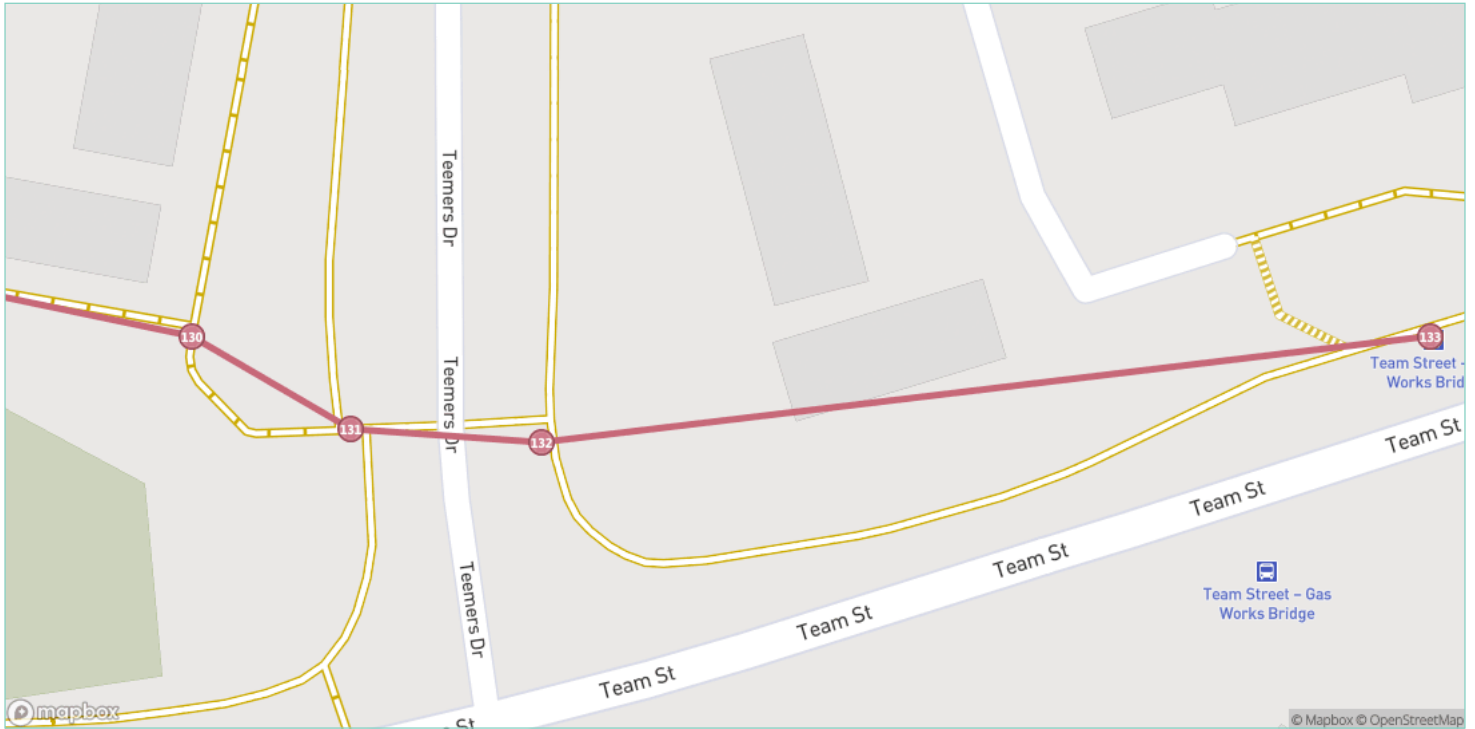
Step 125: Continue along this path as it follows the river on the right.

Step 126: The path ends at this cul de sac. Turn right and carefully head through the car park.

Step 127: Then go along this path on the right.

Step 128: This path follows the river again, with garden fences on the left.

Step 129: Continue along the path as it opens up.



Step 130: Head down these steps.

Step 131: Then carefully cross over the road at these lights. We're almost at the end of this walk.

Step 132: Turn right and follow the pavement as it curves to the left towards the main road where you'll find buses that take you back to town.

Step 133: This is where our walk ends. The stop is served by 6, 47, 10 and X66 bus. We hope you enjoyed this walk! Discover your next walk in-app. 🌸