



The Dicken Loop

A walk around Whetstone, Leicestershire including The Old Railway & Backlane Meadows. Steps en route.

Distance 2.2 kilometers / 1.4 miles

Duration 40 minutes



Wildlife



Picnic spot



Parking



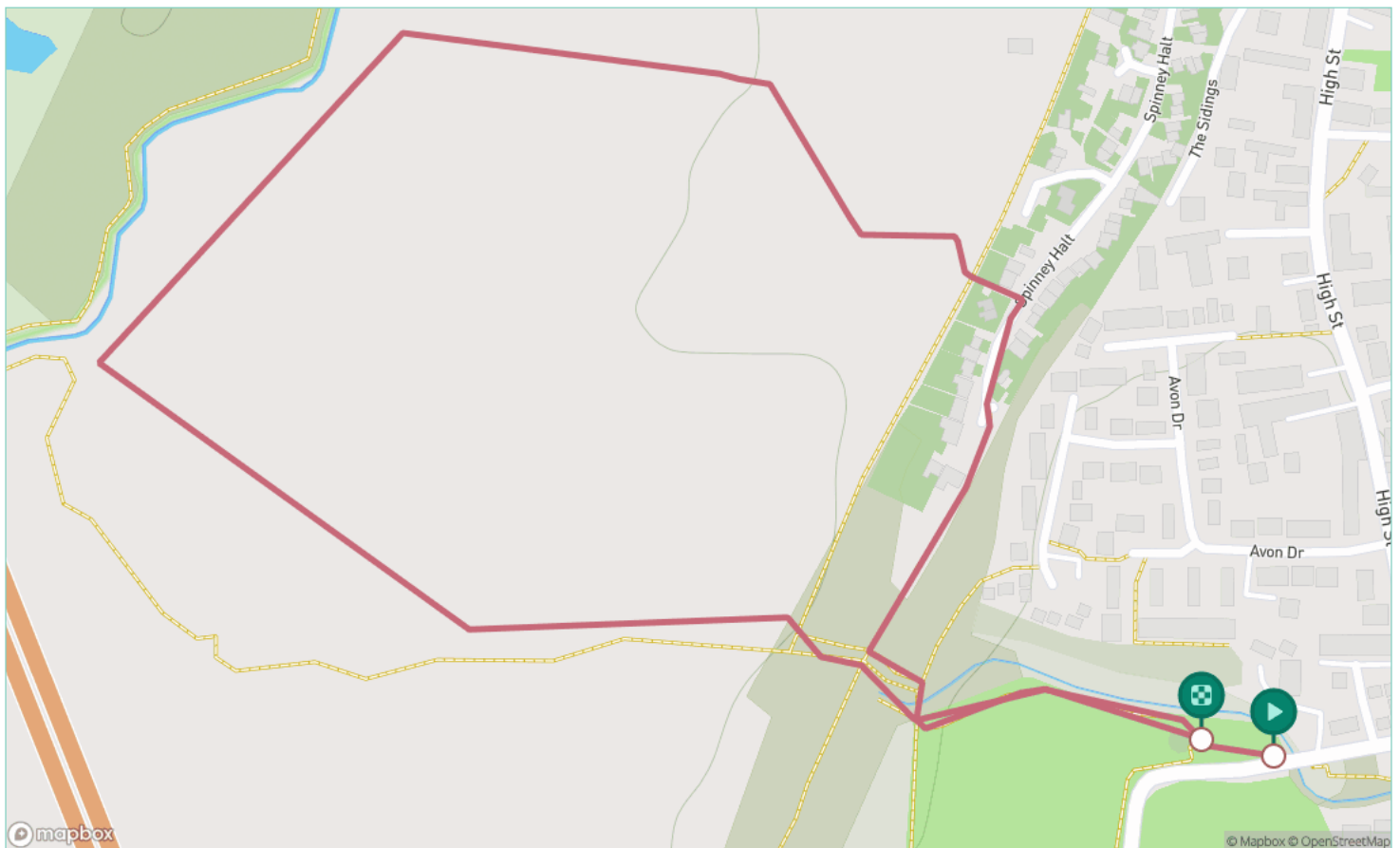
History



Hilly & steep

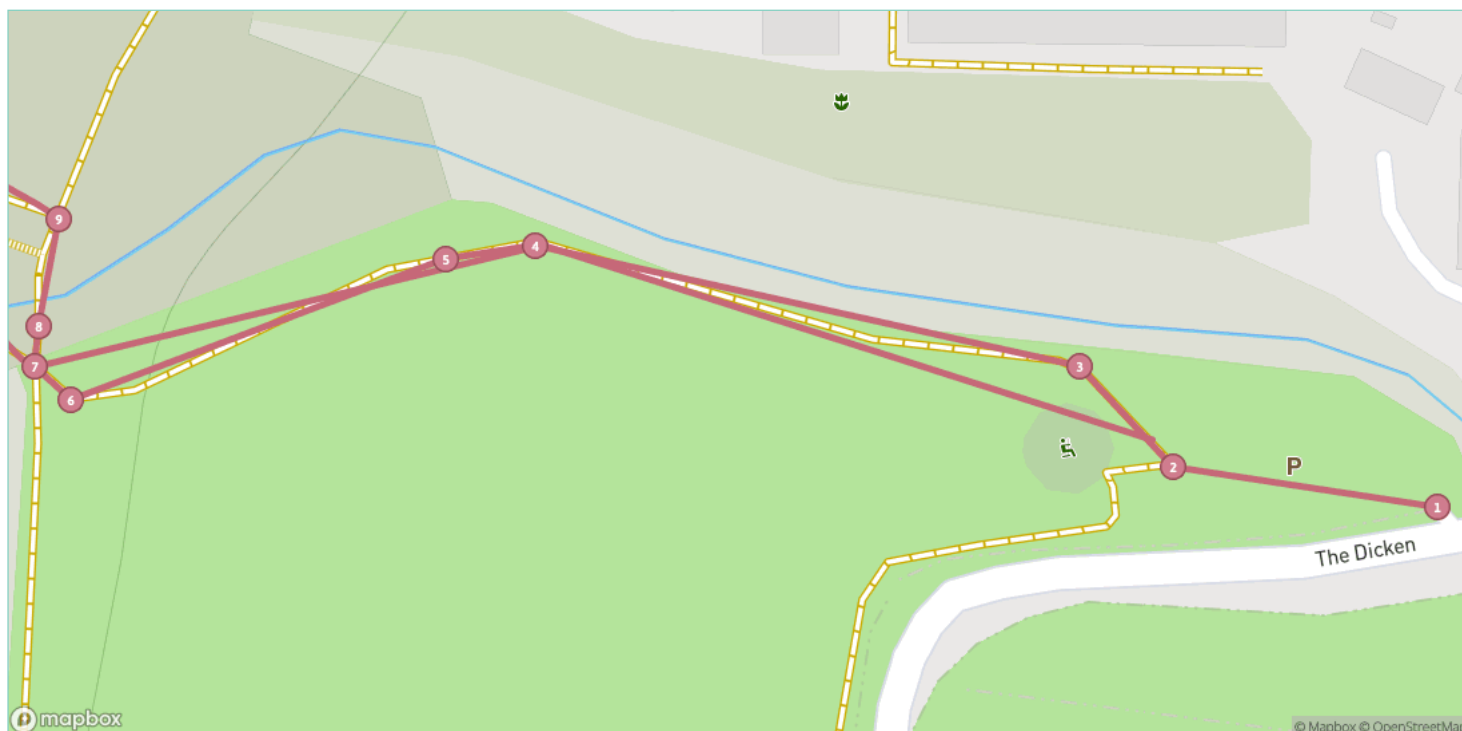


Dog friendly



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.

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Step 1: The nearest bus stop is on Avon Drive or Bridge Way, both served by the 84. Alternatively there is ample parking here.

Step 2: Enter the park through the gate. Please note this may be difficult for those with mobility aids.

Step 3: Walk along the gravel footpath on the outskirts of the park with the brook to your right. Take a peek at the community allotments!

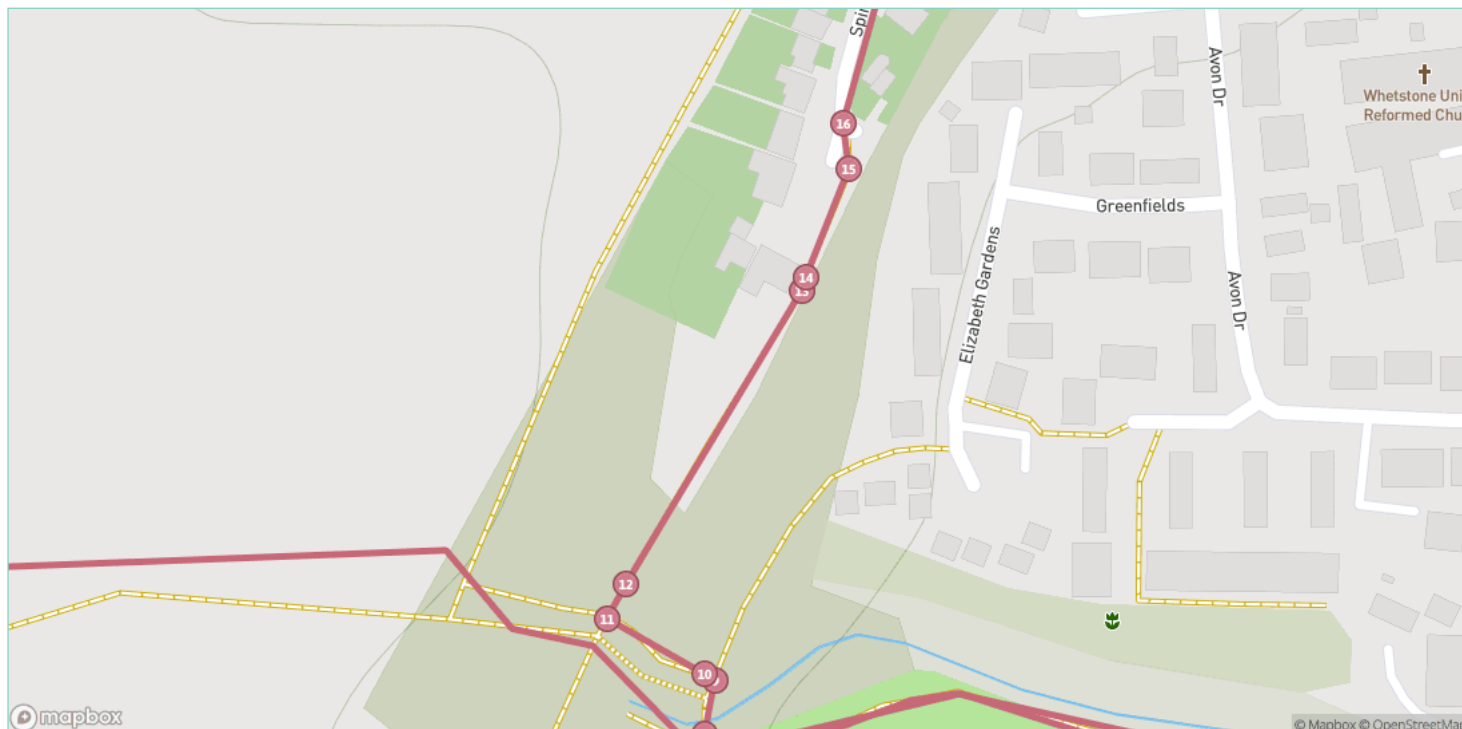
Step 4: If you need a little rest, there is a bench that looks across the whole park.

Step 5: This is the view, soak up the sunshine (hopefully) before moving on.

Step 6: Go through these gates at the rear of the park. Again, mobility aids may struggle to get through here.

Step 7: Head right after the gates so the bridge is in front of you.

Step 8: Head over the bridge. Note this is a narrow wooden crossing that could be slippery when wet so hold on if you need more stability!



Step 9: Go towards the left and in the direction of the sign to Whetstone way, you're headed for a bit of a climb.

Step 10: Head up these stairs they are nice and wide and not too deep.

Step 11: That's right, you just climbed 56 stairs! Now turn right and follow the fine gravel path.

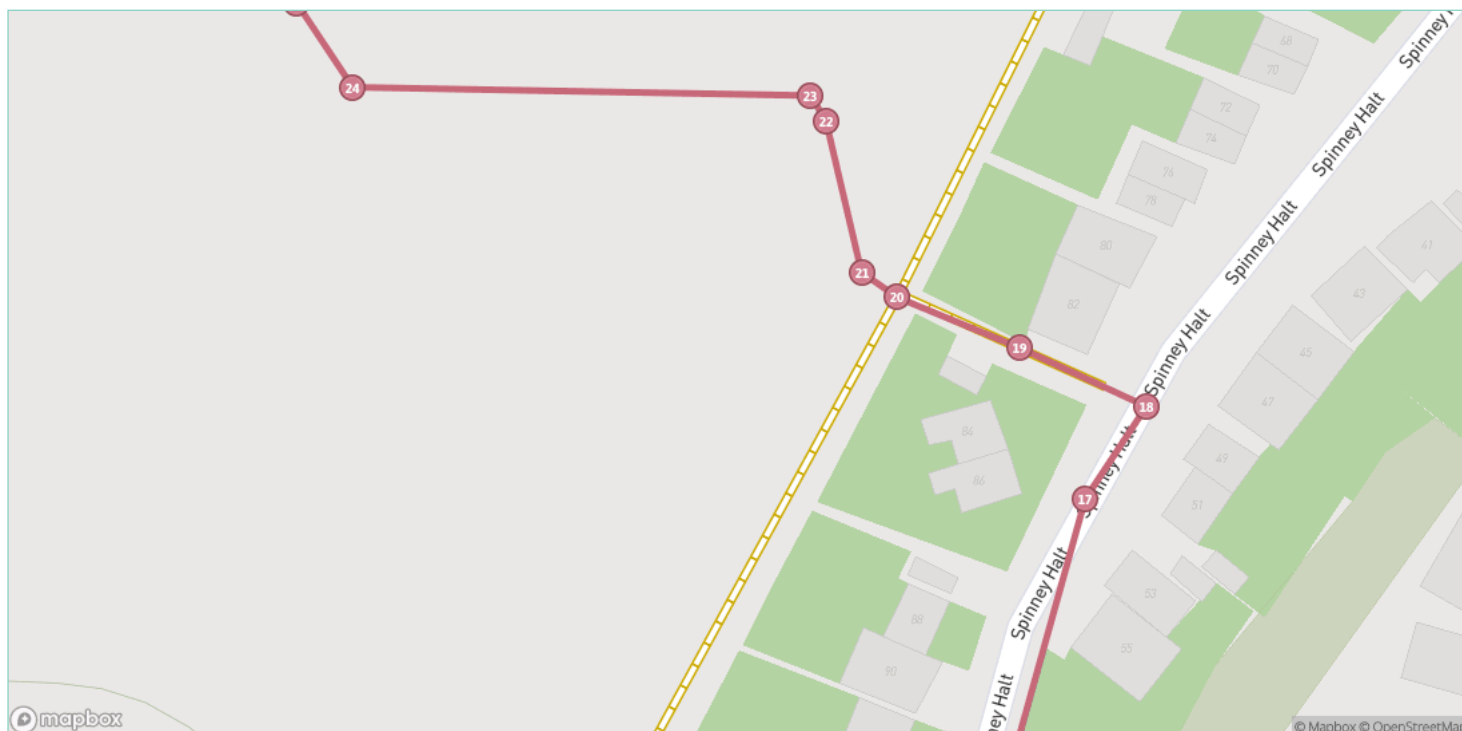
Step 12: Follow the tree lined path.

Step 13: Until you get to this gate, go through the gate on the left.

Step 14: This one!

Step 15: There is a bench at the end of this section of path to take a rest if you need to, watch the birds and chat to the neighbours if you fancy.

Step 16: Follow the road straight ahead onto Spinney Halt.



Step 17: On the left you will see a little gap between houses (number 84 & 82) you are going to go down here.

Step 18: Turn left into the cut through and head for the steps.

Step 19: Go down the steps, don't worry, there aren't 56 of these...

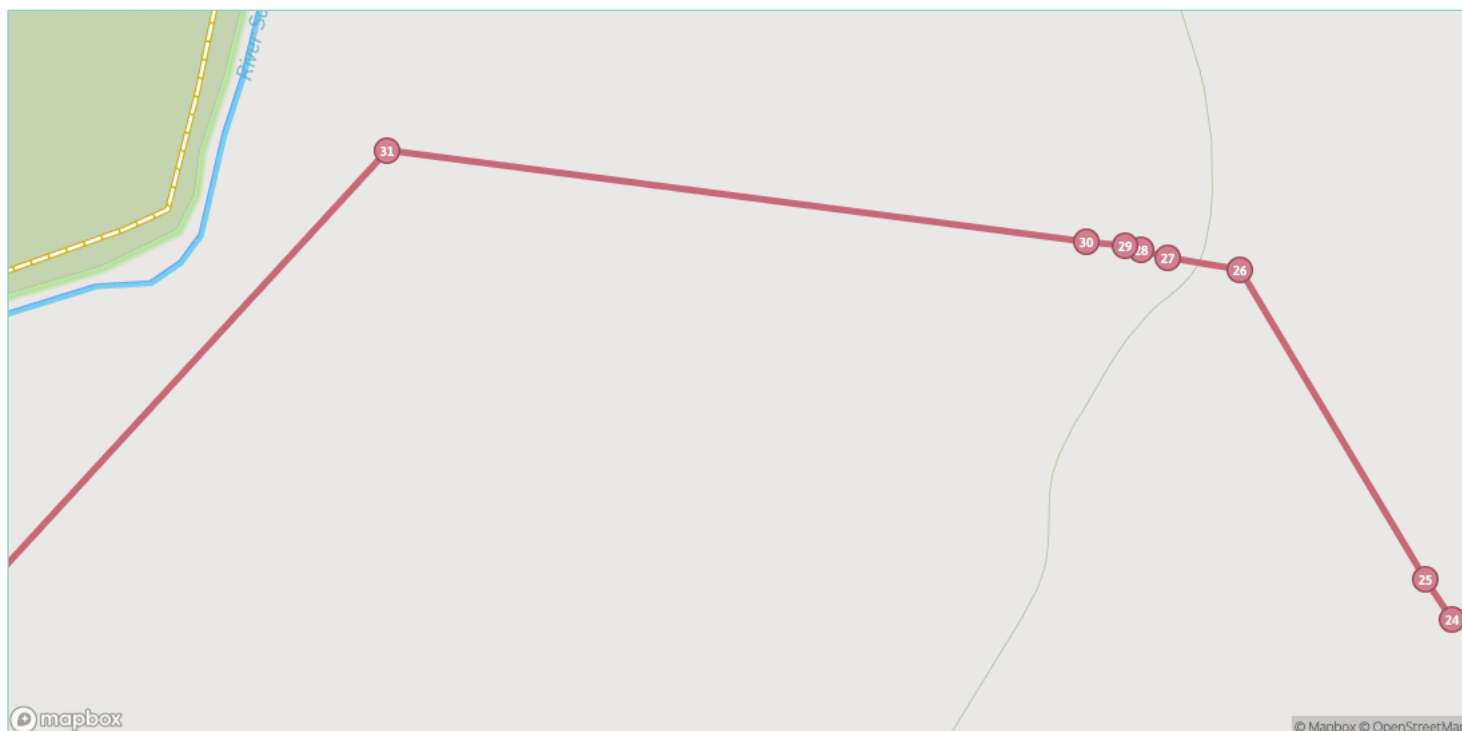
Step 20: You will pop out onto the old railway line. Go straight over (maybe a slight left if we are being really exact) and go through this gate.

Step 21: Turn right about 45 degrees, and walk ahead towards the orchard. There are picnic tables here for a rest or a little snack.

Step 22: When you get into the orchard turn left and follow the well trodden path to the back of the field.

Step 23: There are some beautiful flowers and wildlife to take a look at on the way.

Step 24: At the gap in the fence take a right turn.



Step 25: Take a left through this gap into the next field.

Step 26: Turn right after the fence gap and walk the perimeter of the field towards the back right.

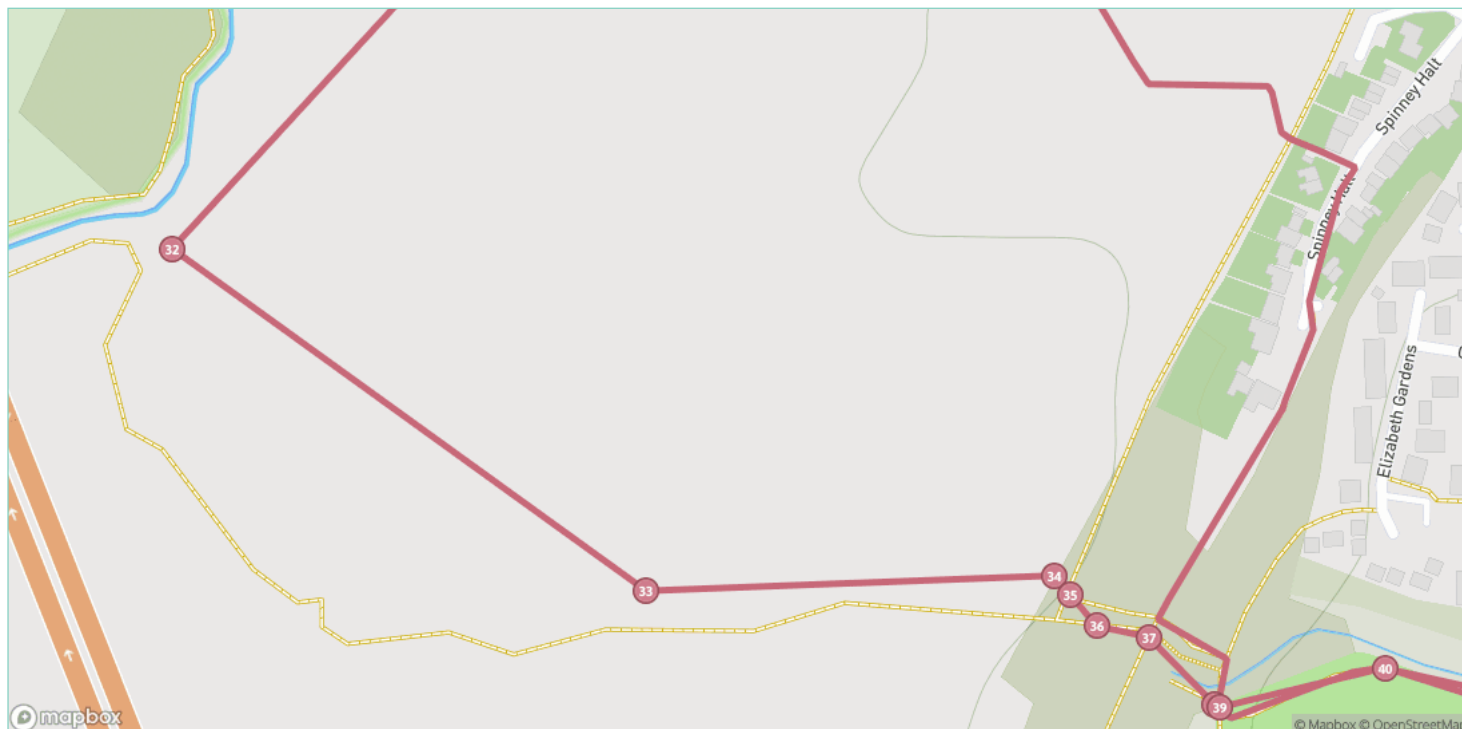
Step 27: Be careful when you get to the gap in the trees at the back of this field as the roots have made the ground uneven under foot.

Step 28: Yes you do have to go over that pallet! Helpful when it's slippery and muddy in wet weather.

Step 29: And yes this is the right way to go, enter the next large field through this gap - mind your head!

Step 30: Follow the path all the way around the perimeter of this field. Enjoy the sights and sounds of natural and urban life.

Step 31: Follow the path to the left now as it snakes next to the River Soar.



Step 32: Continue around the perimeter of this field. Can you see how close you are to the M1 and the contrast between modern life and the natural world?

Step 33: If you look to your right you might be able to see some horses grazing in the stables located on Warwick Road.

Step 34: You have done a semi circle loop. Look out for a small gap in the trees and exit the area back onto the old railway and turn right.

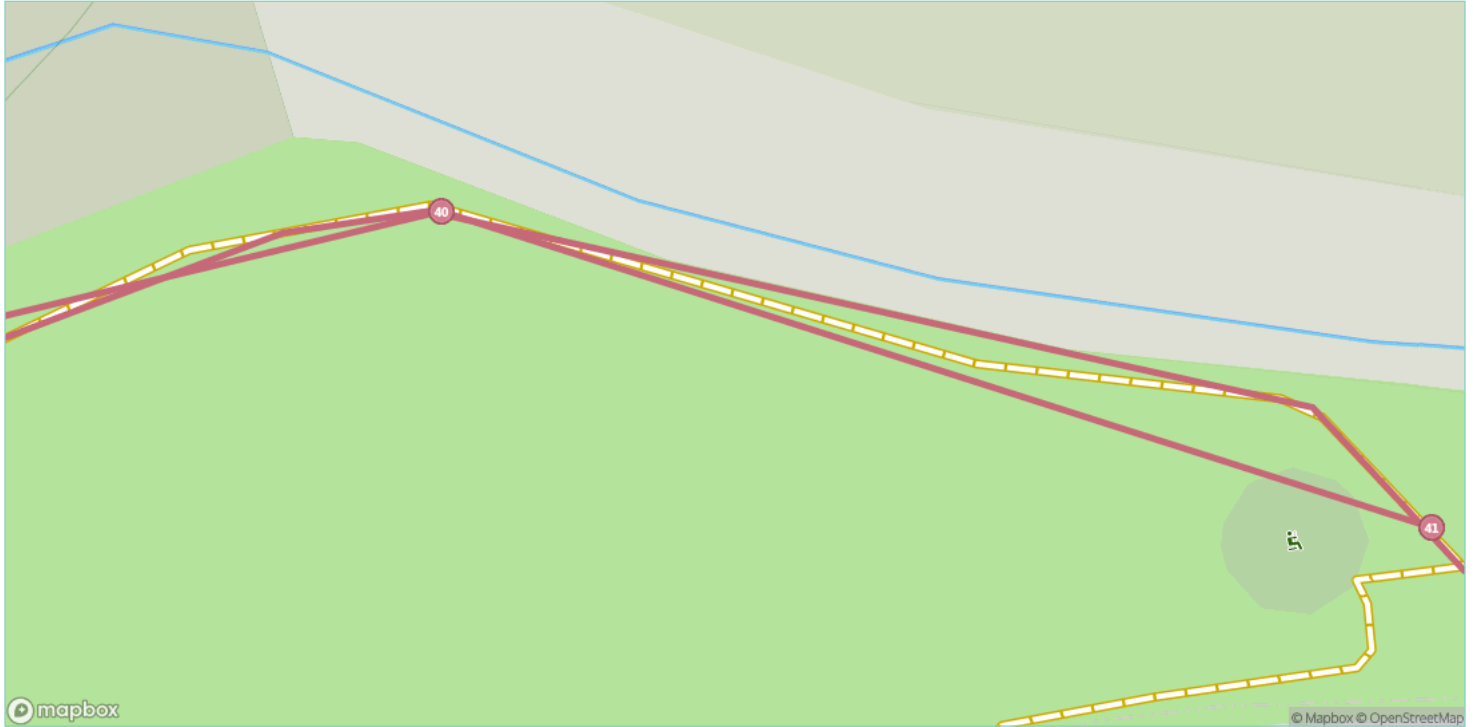
Step 35: Go across the wide bridge.

Step 36: Then turn left and go through the tunnel to get back to the park where you started.

Step 37: Keep going through!

Step 38: Tada, you are back at the gate to Warwick Road Sports Ground and Park. Go through the gate and follow the path straight on.

Step 39: Follow the gravel path with the brook on your left.



Step 40: Here are the allotments we spoke about earlier.

Step 41: And there you are, safely back to the start after a jaunt around the houses, old railway and a smattering of fields. Hope you enjoyed it!
