



Banbury North-East Circular Walk

This circular walk starts in the town centre and follows a stretch of the Banbury Fringe Walk. Features the Oxford Canal and lovely parks.

Distance 6.2 kilometers / 3.8 miles

Duration 2 hours and 15 minutes



Wildlife



Water feature



Great views



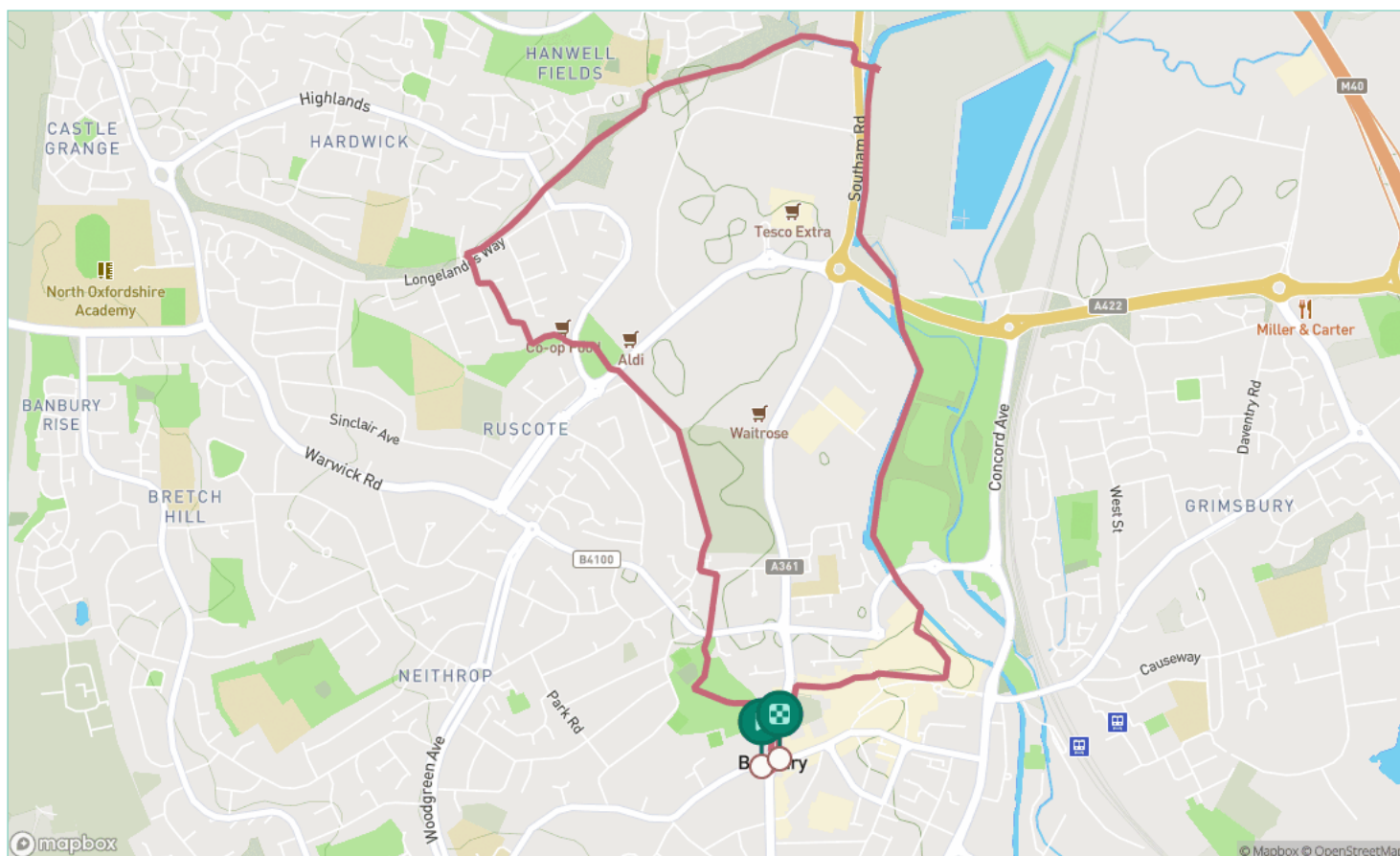
Public transport

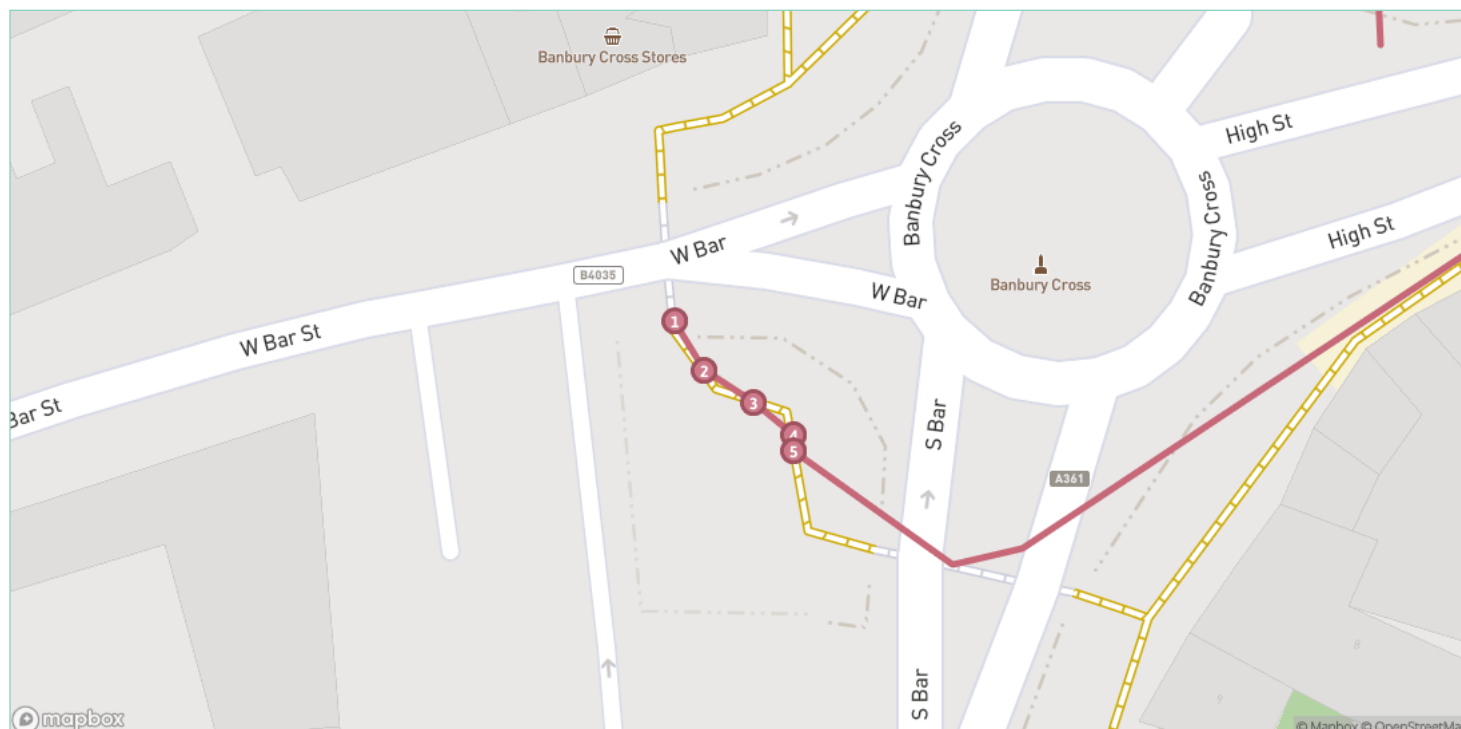


Parking



Botanics





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 the north east Banbury Circular walk. This walk starts and ends at the Banbury Cross (OX16 9AA) and includes a segment of the circular Banbury Fringe route.

Step 3: The Banbury Fringe Walk Challenge is a 16km route around the edge of Banbury which is also available in this app.

Step 4: You are advised to wear stout, waterproof footwear as walking in the countryside can be muddy and wet, even in the summer months. For advice on best ways to walk in the countryside check out the read more panel below.

North Oxfordshire

Best Ways to Walk

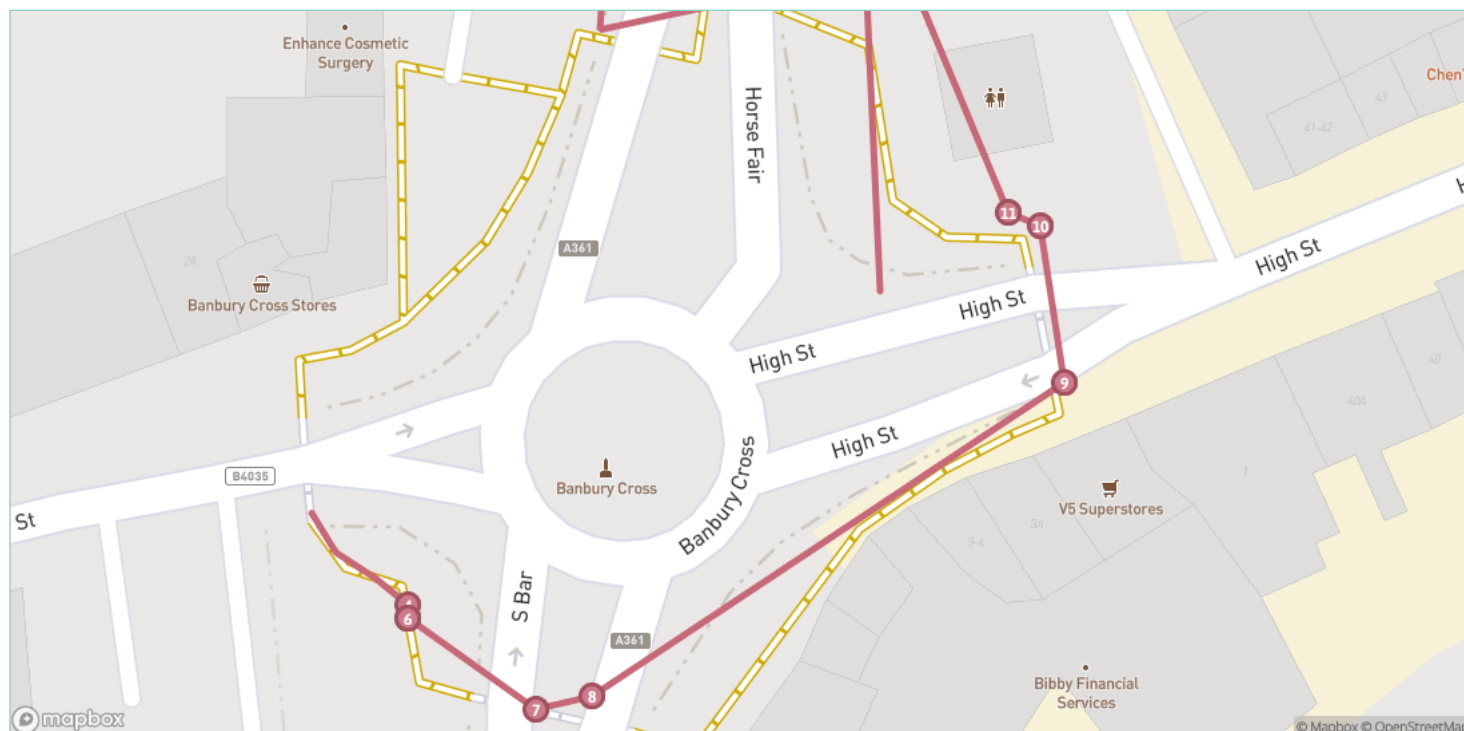
We want you to have fun outdoors, whilst looking after yourself, those around you and the natural environment. So here's some guidance to help you prepare for and enjoy your walk.

Check the weather. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear as walking can be wet and muddy.

Trousers are recommended as parts of the route can be overgrown with vegetation and nettles. Charge your phone. Take a mobile phone battery pack if you have one. Bear in mind that coverage can be patchy in rural areas so download this walk for offline mode in advance if you can.

Take water. If you're walking alone it's sensible, as a simple precaution, to let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.

Respect landowners. Remember that the countryside is a working place so leave crops, buildings, machinery and livestock well alone. Leave gates as you find them and please keep to the line of the path.



Respect local people. Park your car responsibly. Do not obstruct gateways, narrow lanes and village facilities. Consider leaving valuables at home.

Respect nature. Pick up any litter you see and never leave your own. Ground nesting birds can be disturbed by dogs, particularly in the Spring. Their poo can be bad for the environment so please keep them close by and clean up after them.

Look after your dogs. Dogs should be kept under your control and on a lead if animals are in the fields. Current advice recommends you should not walk between a cow and her calf and, if you are threatened by cattle, you should let the dog off the lead.

Stay safe. Take great care when crossing or walking along roads and narrow paths.

More guidance for users of the countryside - follow the Countryside Code using the link below.

Step 5: All of the circular segments begin at the Banbury Cross, at the statue of the "fine lady."

Step 6: This references the famous nursery rhyme: "Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross / To see a fine lady upon a white horse / Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes / And she shall have music wherever she goes."

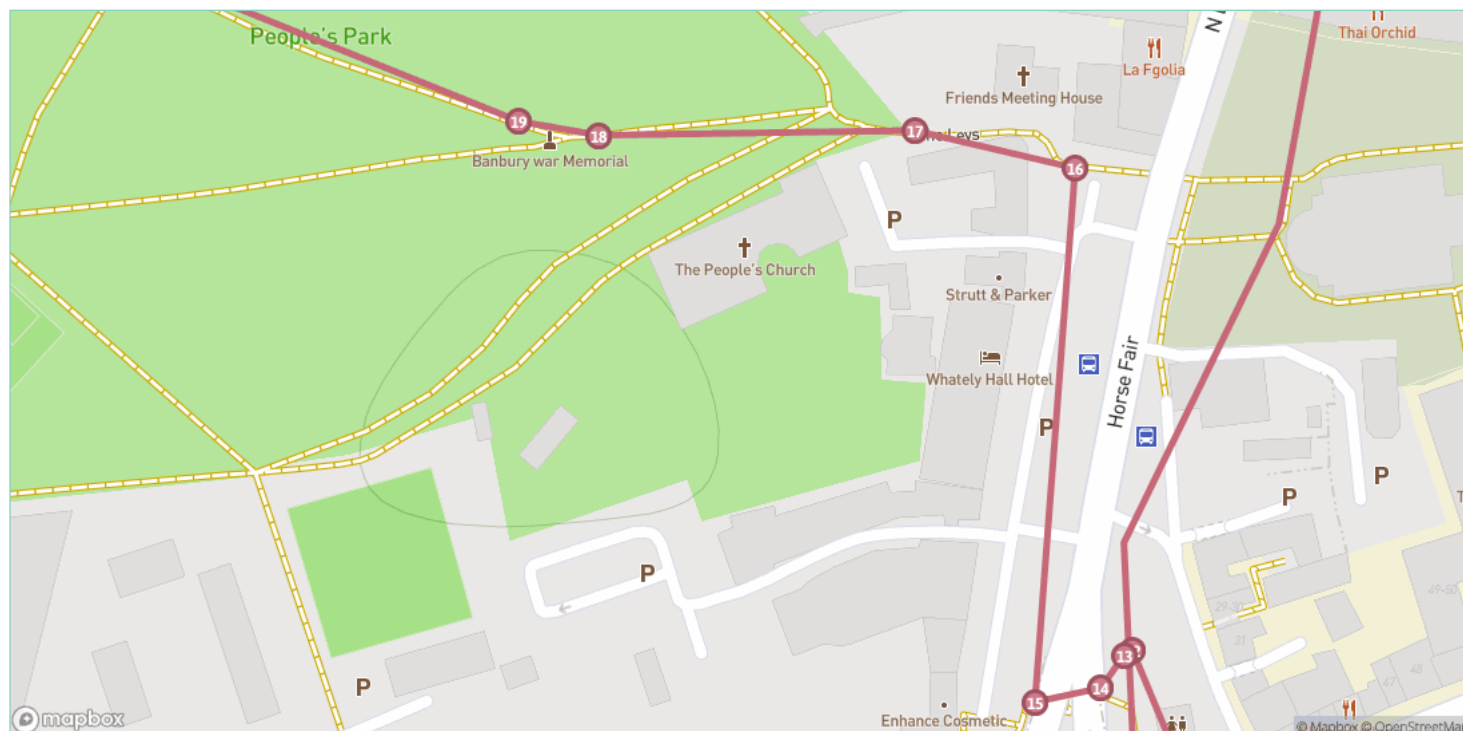
Step 7: The Banbury Cross monument commemorates the wedding of Queen Victoria's eldest daughter in 1859.

Step 8: When you're ready, let's head out! Cross the street in front of you, with the Banbury Cross to your left.

Step 9: On the other side, turn left and use the next zebra crossing.

Step 10: Letter carver Giles McDonald shaped old Banbury street names into the wall of the public toilets here.

Step 11: Feel free to stop and take a look - you might recognise some of the place names!



Step 12: If you walk past the toilets a little bit, you'll come to some of the sculpted planters with sun and map motifs.

Step 13: There are 46 of these around Banbury. They were commissioned by Cherwell District Council in 2007 and designed by Oxfordshire sculptor Pam Foley.

Step 14: The route continues on the other corner of the roundabout. Use the light controlled pedestrian crossing.

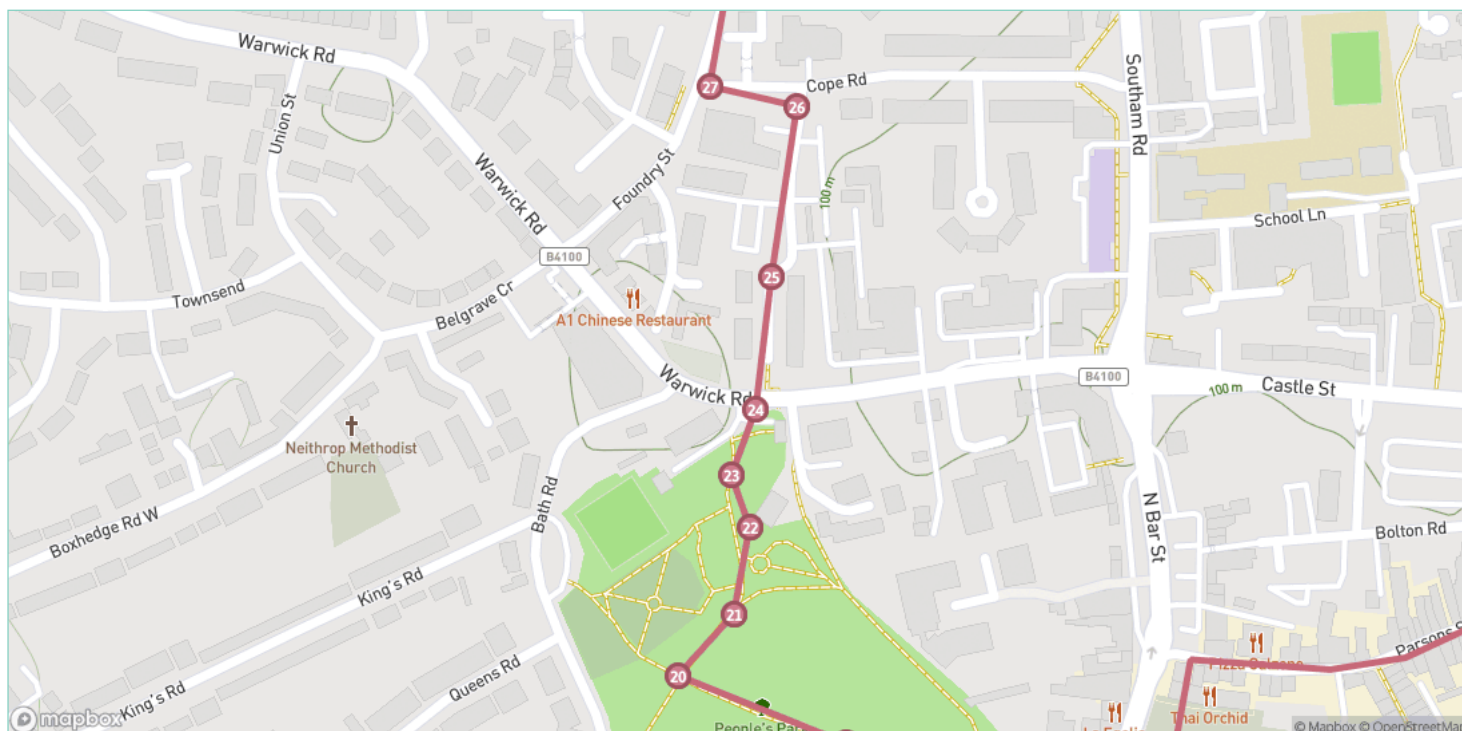
Step 15: Let's leave the roundabout! Turn right to walk along the buildings. You'll pass an Odeon theatre on your left.

Step 16: It might look like there's no way out from the wall up ahead, but a small alleyway appears to the left. Let's go down there.

Step 17: The passage whisks you away to the People's Park, the first true public park in Banbury.

Step 18: Pass the stone gate towers. Veer left, but then take the path on the right. You might see the war memorial up ahead. Walk towards that.

Step 19: At the war memorial, take the path to the right that leads down a slight downhill.



Step 20: At the four-way path junction, turn right.

Step 21: Veer left towards the bird house.

Step 22: Walk past the Jubilee Aviary towards the gate to exit the park up ahead.

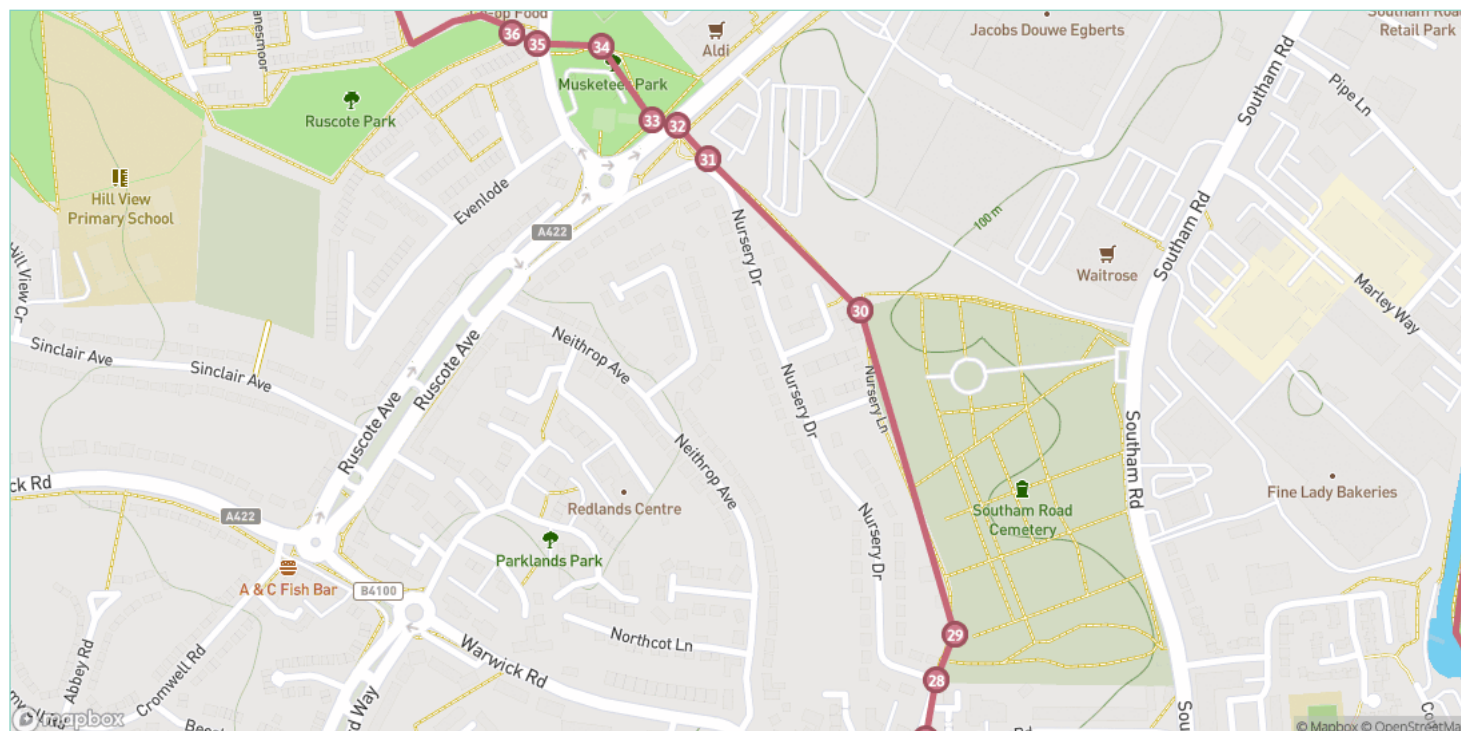
Step 23: Pass by the wooden fence.

Step 24: And use the pedestrian crossing to cross Warwick Road.

Step 25: Walk through the car park. Follow the brick paved street as it bends slightly to the right and left, towards the Orchard Health Centre.

Step 26: Continue straight towards Cope Road, then turn left.

Step 27: At the next junction, turn right.



Step 28: Continue straight ahead as Nursery Drive bears left. The road turns into a quiet paved path along the Southam Road Cemetery.

Step 35: After crossing Longelandes Way, head into Ruscot Park. Walk towards the map on display up ahead.

Step 29: If you'd like to pop in to explore a bit, feel free. Our route continues straight ahead on the path along the cemetery boundary wall.

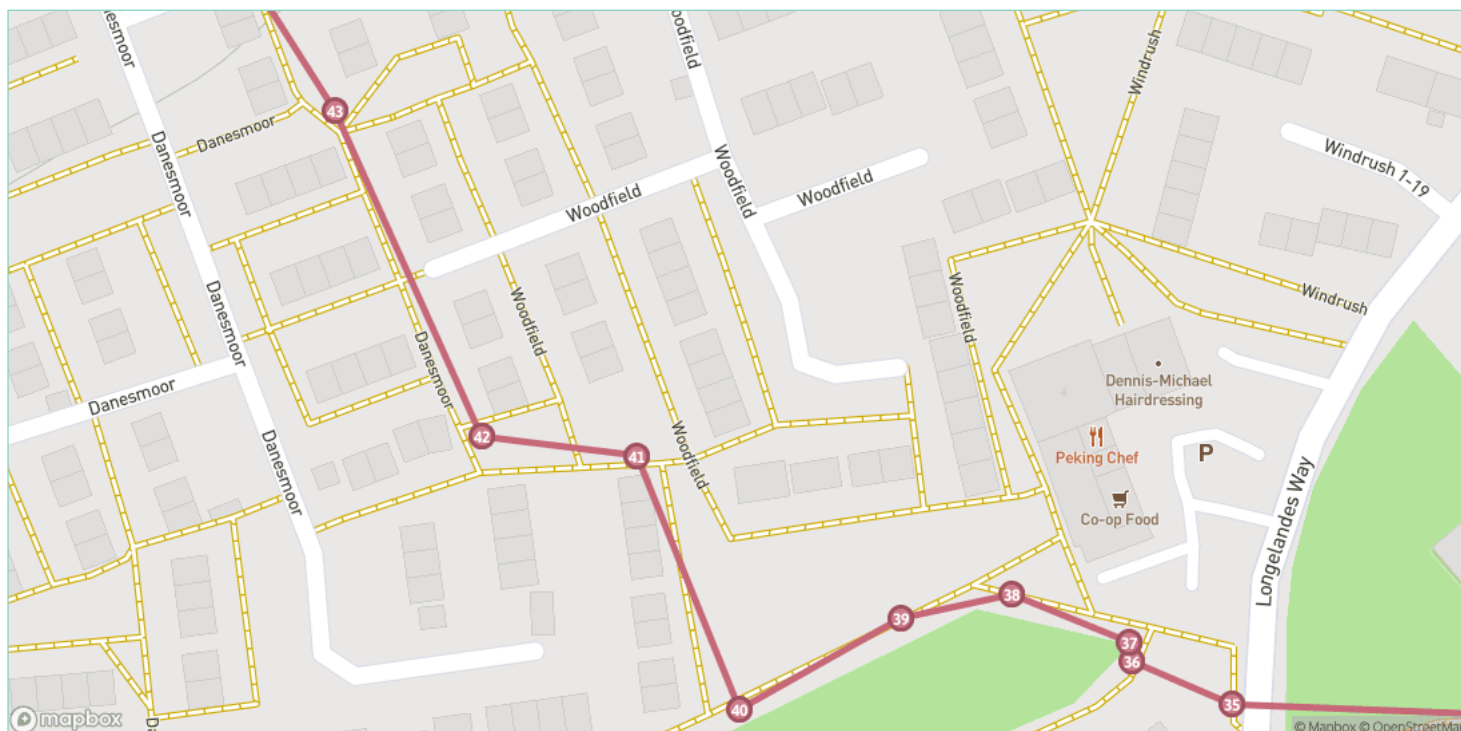
Step 30: Stay left here, heading towards the green fence up ahead.

Step 31: Continue as the pavement brings you back to Nursery Drive just briefly. Turn right here towards the traffic signal.

Step 32: Wait for the green walking sign to cross Ruscot Ave.

Step 33: The route continues straight through Musketeer Park, just to your left.

Step 34: At the centre of the park, follow the pavement to the left towards the next traffic signal.



Step 36: Pass the map on your left. This shows the local health walks, specially curated routes to encourage people to discover their local areas.

Step 43: Continue straight ahead. The path bends slightly to the left to continue past the stone wall here.

Step 37: All three of the Banbury health routes are in the Go Jauntly app, if you're interested in checking them out.

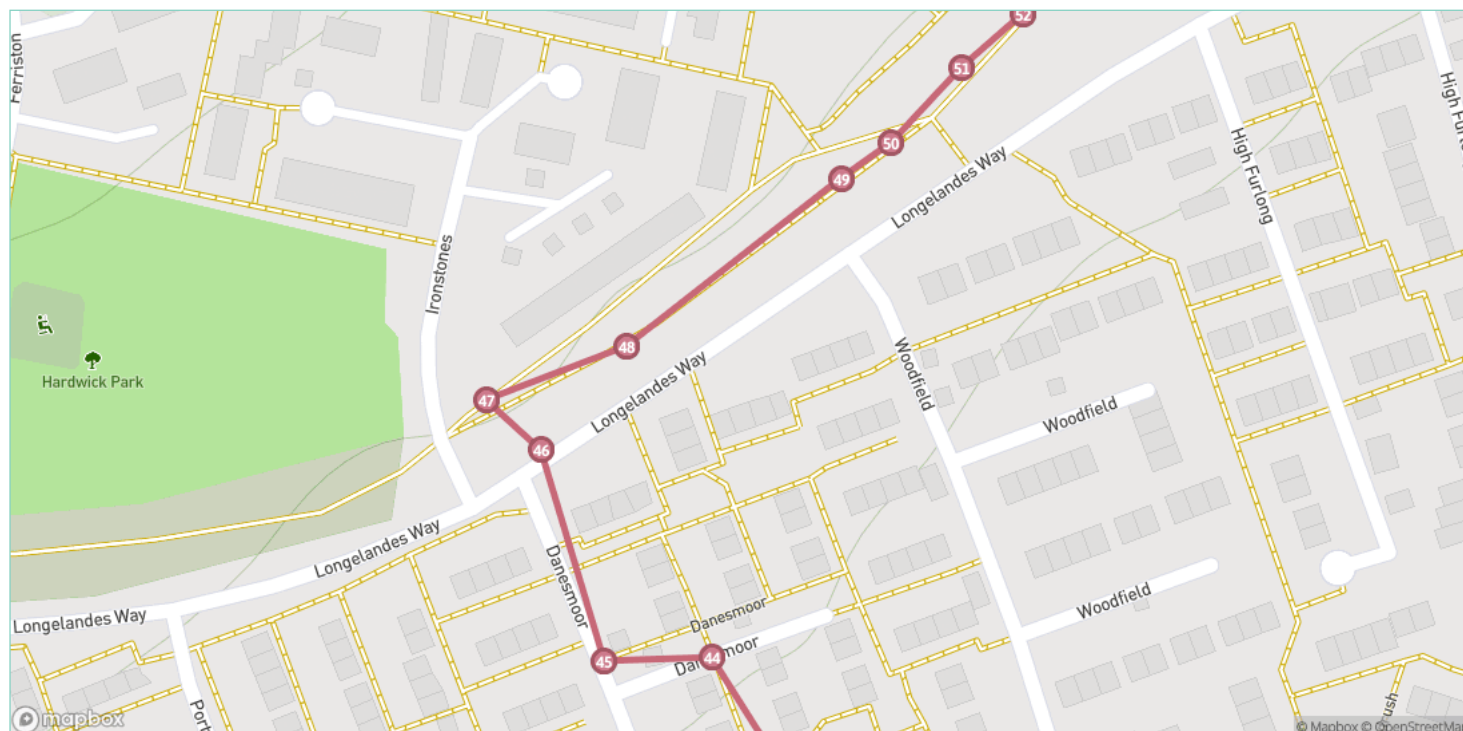
Step 38: Follow the blue footprint markers to the left.

Step 39: Ruscote Park is very lovely. Feel free to stick around and take it all in before continuing on!

Step 40: When you're ready, continue ahead, then turn right to follow the pavement into the estate.

Step 41: Next, take your first left...

Step 42: ... and your second right, to follow the path along the stone wall.



Step 44: At the quiet street, turn left.

Step 45: Just before the road ahead, turn right to walk on the footpath along Danesmoor. Continue to Longelandes.

Step 46: Cross to the opposite side of Longelandes Way. Turn left, and follow the pavement round to the right till you find a set of dropped kerbs.

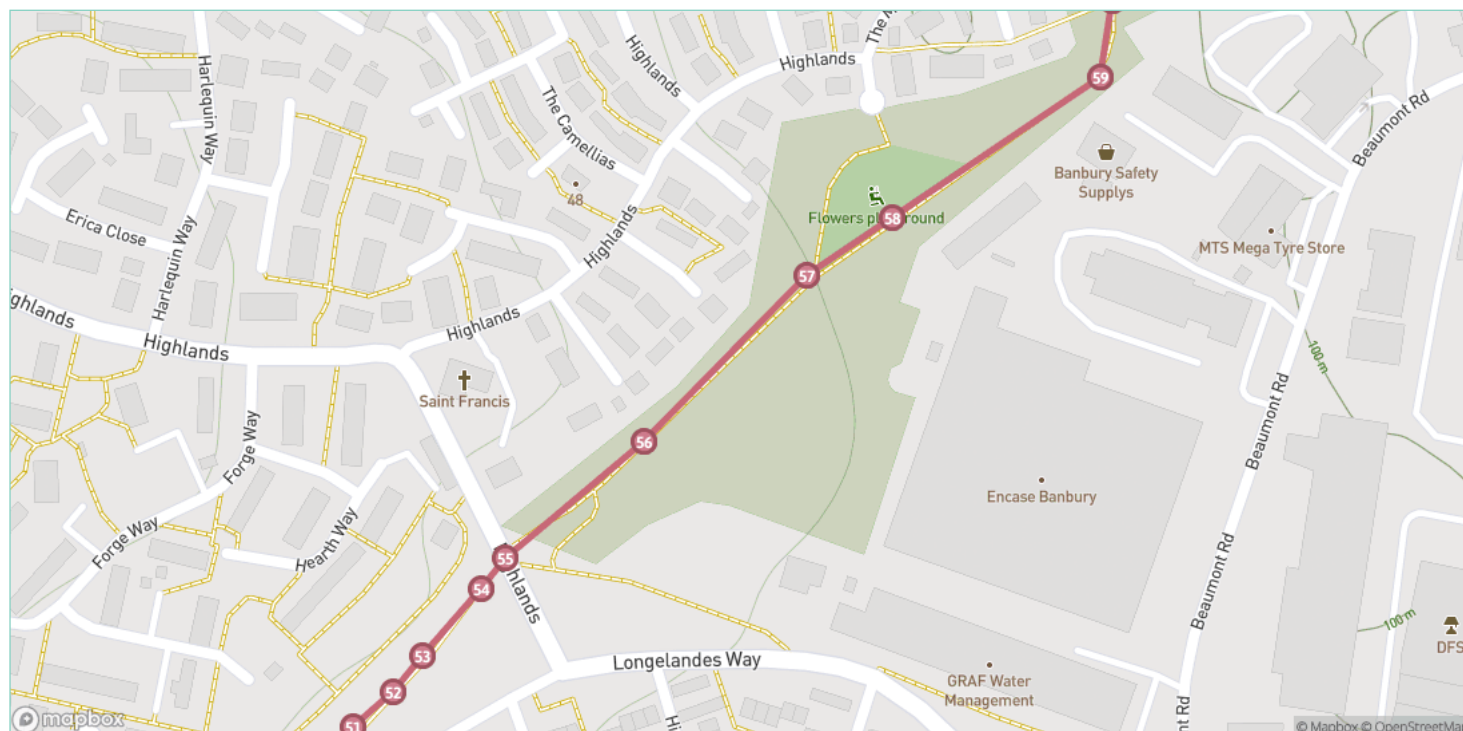
Step 47: At the dropped kerbs, turn right and immediately bear right off the path onto a grass track and continue straight ahead.

Step 48: The path can a bit hard to make out exactly, but you're heading straight on.

Step 49: Rejoin the tarmac path.

Step 50: This is the Mineral Railway path. When operational, the Mineral Railway line formed part of the route serving ironstone quarries in the Wroxton area.

Step 51: It was constructed in 1917 by German prisoners of war to carry the ironstone to the main Great Western Railway line east of the Southam Road.



Step 52: Operations ceased in 1967 when rail transport became too costly, but ironstone is still quarried in the area and transported by lorry.

Step 53: A little further on, the route passes through a tunnel under Highlands.

Step 54: The corrugated metal tube was so cool to walk through.

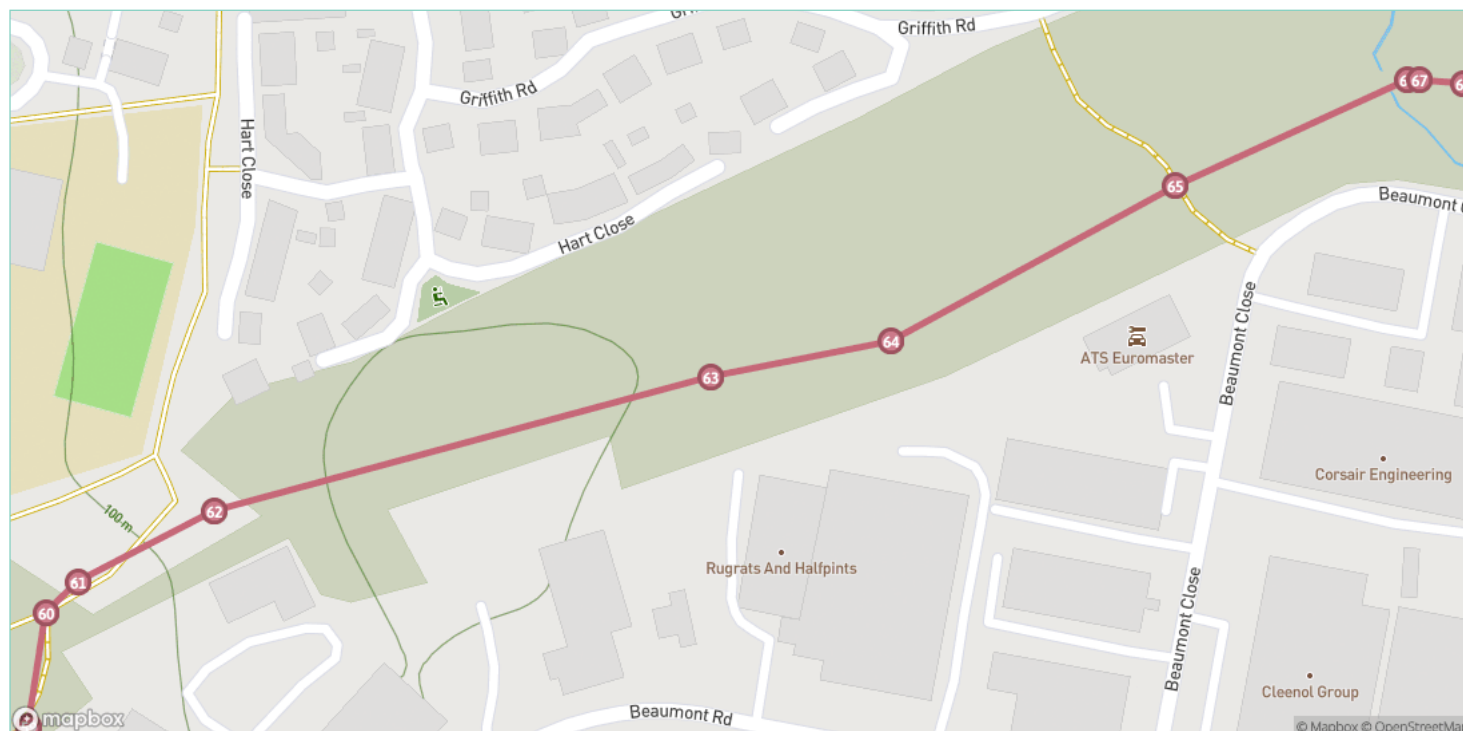
Step 55: If you prefer not to use the tunnel you can come up to the road and cross over with care, rejoining the Mineral Railway path on the other side.

Step 56: The Banbury Fringe walk is a 12.5 mile route that goes round the outskirts of Banbury. Along the way, you can take in countryside views where you feel miles from built-up areas. The full route is in the app, if you're interested.

Step 57: Where the route reaches a fork, follow the pavement to the right.

Step 58: Try to resist the urge to hopscotch - or don't!

Step 59: The pavement curves round to the left...



Step 60: ... and then to the right, following the footsteps!

Step 61: At the fork, take the right path.

Step 62: You know you're going the right direction as you'll see Banbury Fringe arrows. Head up the short hill straight ahead.

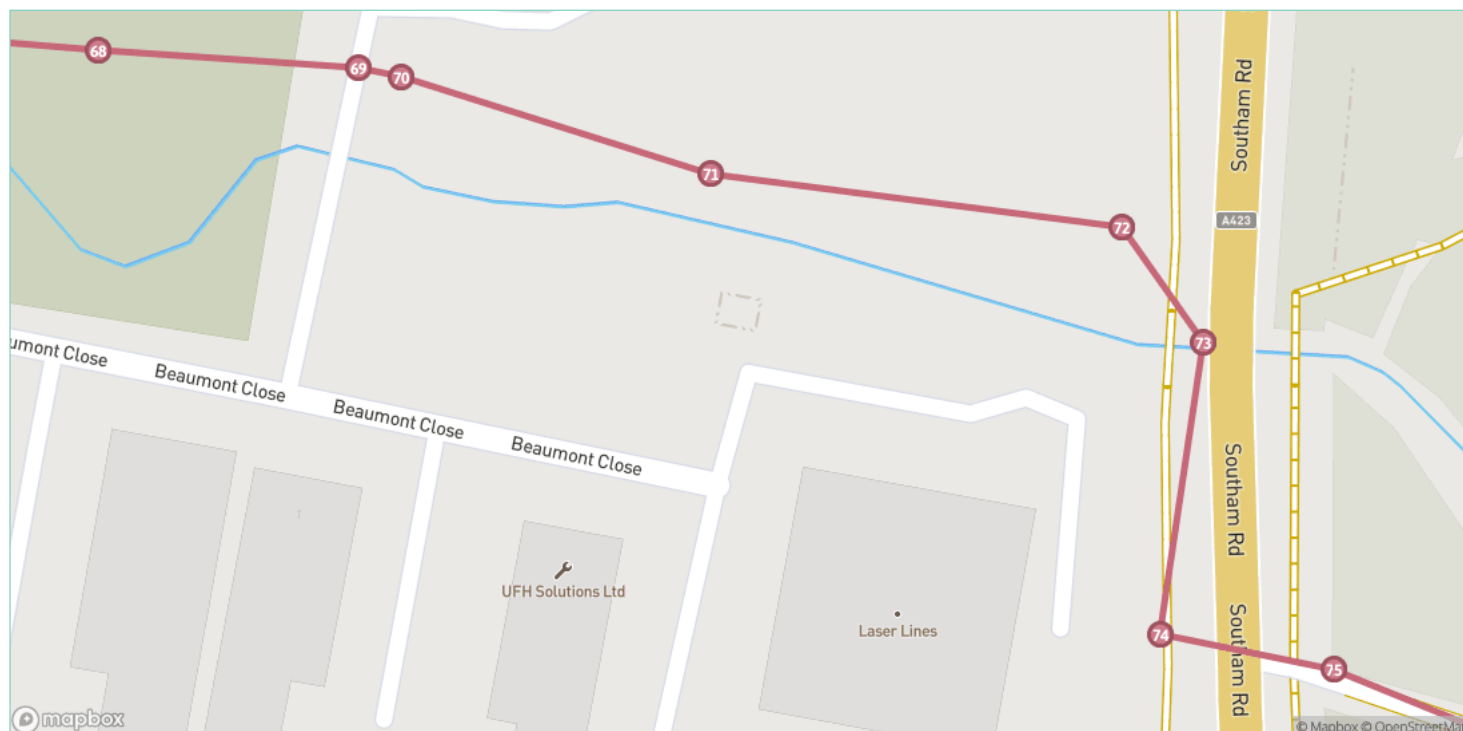
Step 63: On your left, you might see this unnatural looking rock and concrete formation. What do you think this was?

Step 64: Here's a great view of the built up areas you're avoiding by sticking to this route along the top of the embankment.

Step 65: Carry straight on until the embankment ends.

Step 66: The path turns right and takes you steeply downhill.

Step 67: Take great care at this point as the path is very steep, although it is zig zagged to reduce the slope.



Step 68: Turn left at the bottom onto the path which runs alongside a stream.

Step 69: Cross the paved access road.

Step 70: Take the staircase down on the other side.

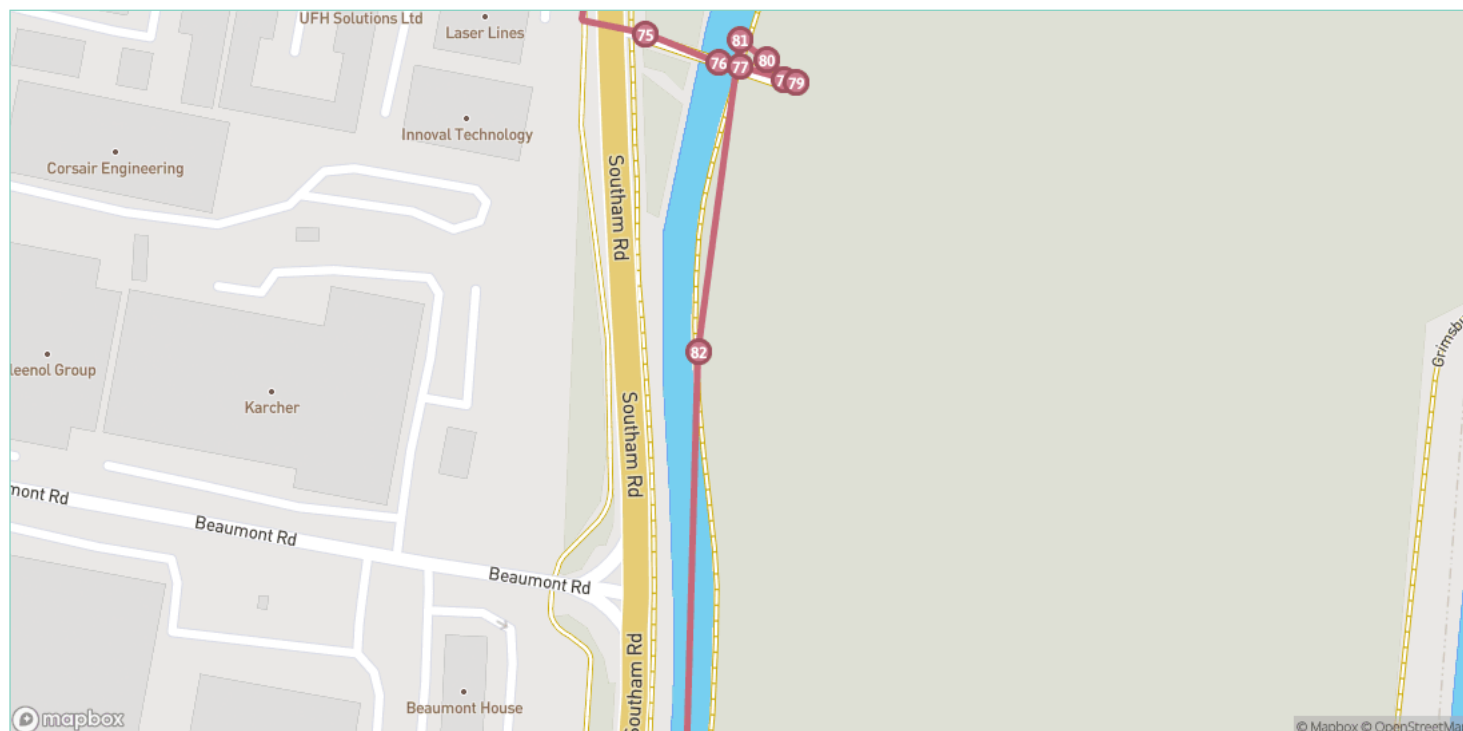
Step 71: This little stream will lead you back to the Oxford Canal.

Step 72: Southam Road can have lots of traffic. Turn right to walk along the pavement.

Step 73: You're headed for the canal bridge across the road. You'll see it shortly after you get to Southam Rd. Don't cross the road straight away.

Step 74: There is no controlled crossing point here and it's a busy road so take care. Cross quickly opposite the canal bridge only when it's clear.

Step 75: Walk up the ramp to cross the canal.



Step 76: Here we are along the lovely canal!

Step 77: Head down the ramp on the other side.

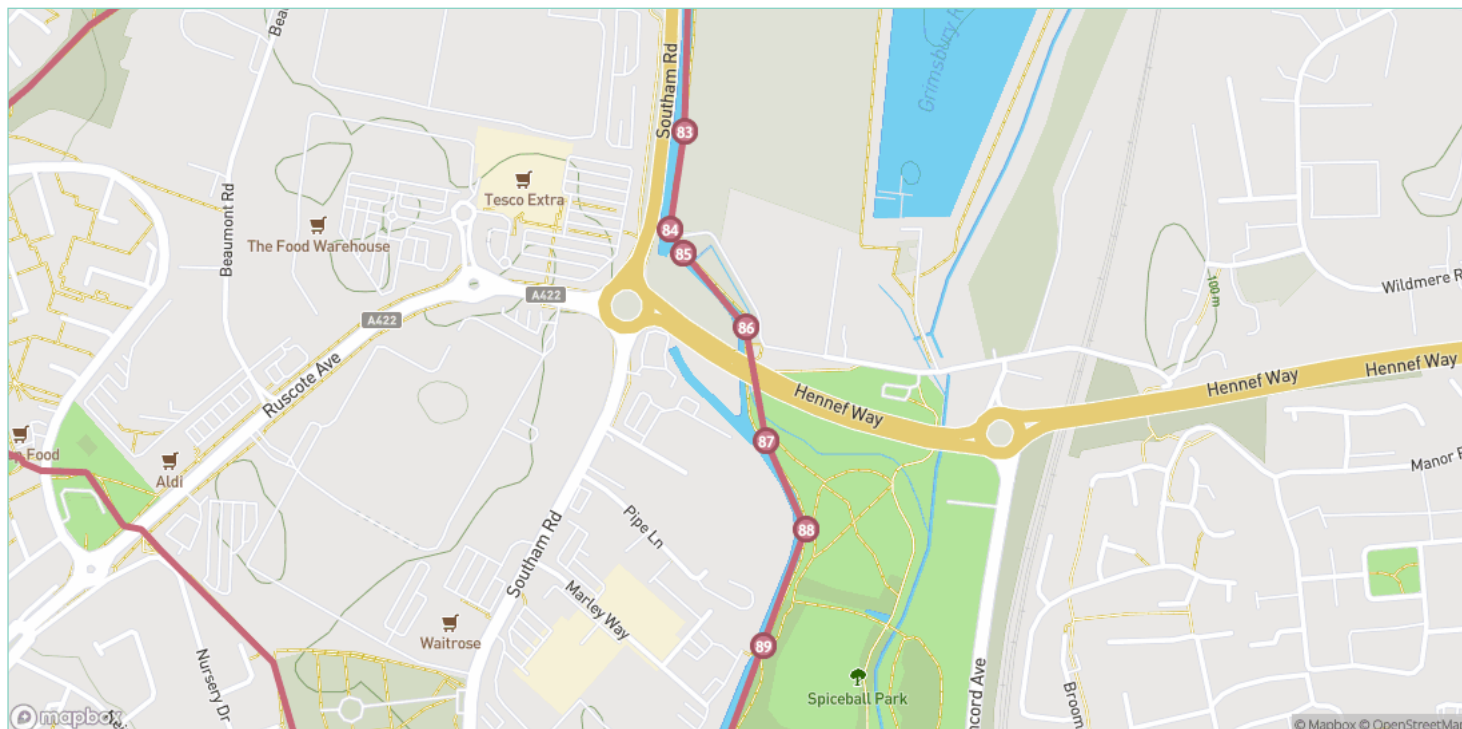
Step 78: Use caution - especially watching out for this hole in the concrete!

Step 79: At the bottom, follow the fenced walkway round to the left.

Step 80: Head back to the canal towpath, and turn left.

Step 81: This is bridge 161. We're walking to number 164, if you'd like to keep track of your progress.

Step 82: On the towpath, you're headed south back towards town.



Step 83: Through the fence on your left are some gorgeous green fields!

Step 84: The canal twists and turns, but navigation is simple - stick to the towpath!

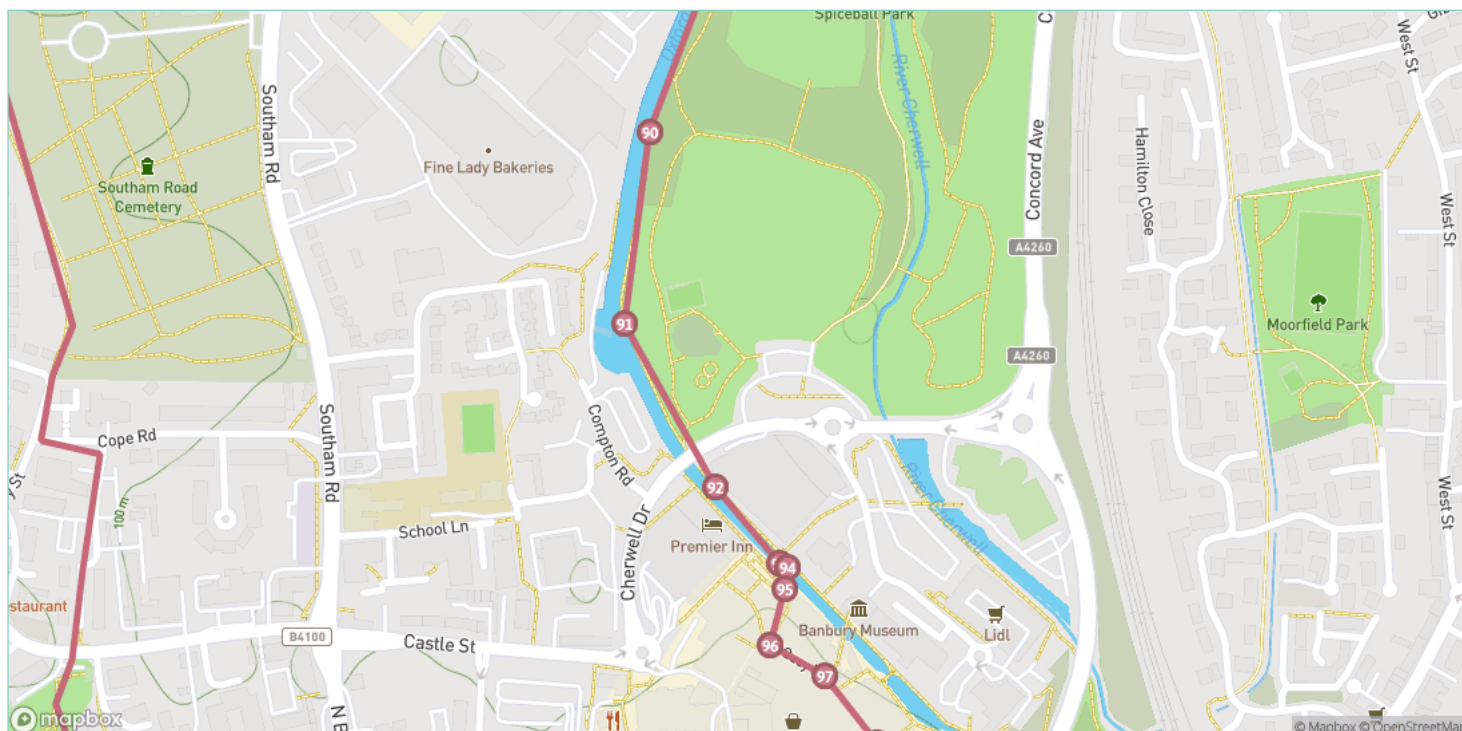
Step 85: This is one of a series of water connections between the Oxford Canal and the River Cherwell, a few hundred metres to the east.

Step 86: Even with traffic passing overhead, the canal path can be quite peaceful and pleasant.

Step 87: Spotted any birds along this stretch of the canal??

Step 88: Check out the lovely tree decorations by local houseboat residents on your left.

Step 89: Bridge 163 - you're making your way.



Step 90: On your right is a food plant - can you smell the scent of baked goods?

Step 91: The Premier Inn building in the distance is your symbol that you're nearly back.

Step 92: After a short while, you'll come to a set of new development buildings on the canal. Take the ramp up to your left.

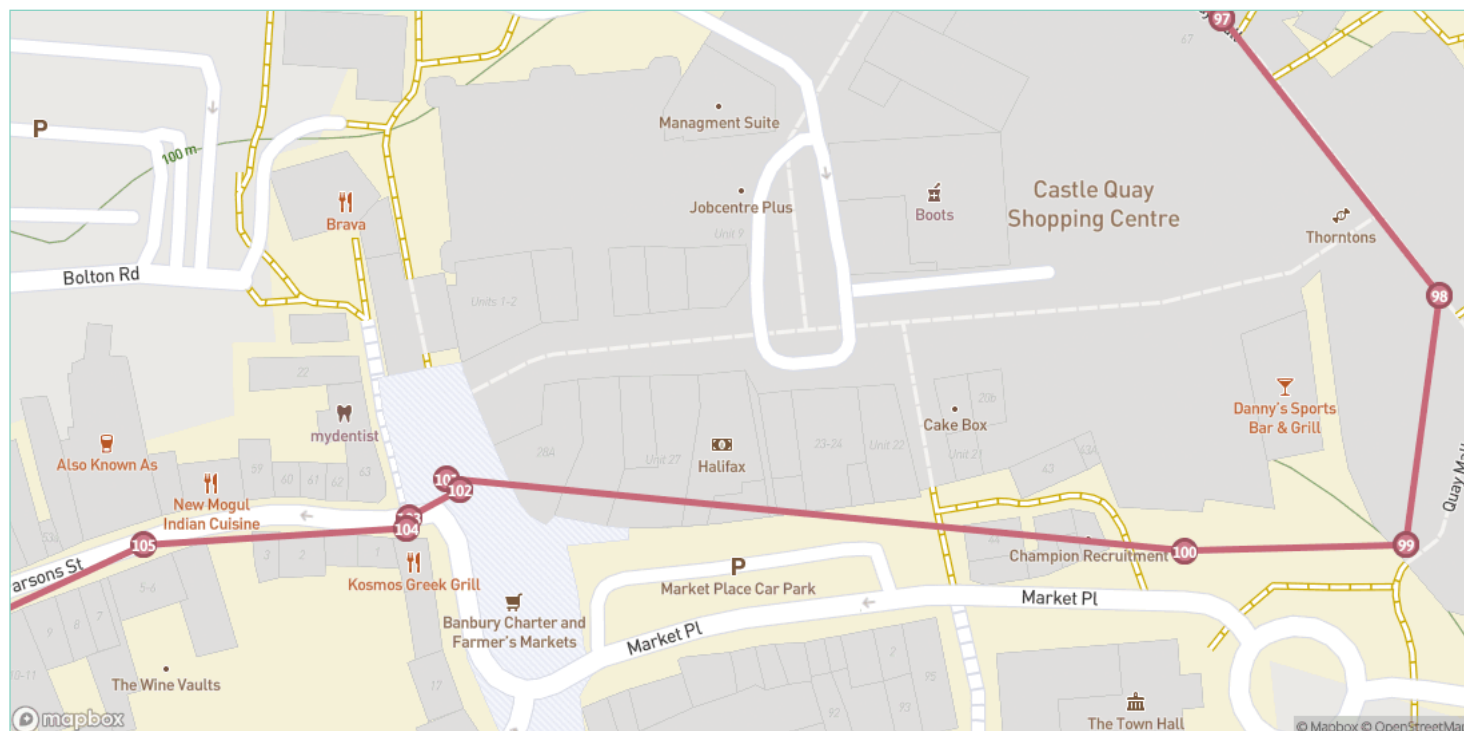
Step 93: At the end of the ramp, take the short staircase up to the bridge.

Step 94: We're now leaving the Banbury Fringe route, as it continues down the canal towpath.

Step 95: Our route continues through the Castle Quay shopping centre.

Step 96: Head straight inside, then turn left.

Step 97: Walk down the main corridor. Try not to get too distracted by all the shopping available!



Step 98: You'll pass the new Cherwell District Council community space on your way towards the exit.

Step 99: Exit out into the square in front of the historic Banbury Town Hall.

Step 100: Turn right to pass by this gorgeous historic building with heritage advertising.

Step 101: Continue along the building to Market Square. At the main entrance to Castle Quay, you'll find a plaque on the ground by Hilary Cartmel.

Step 102: This marks the site of the first Banbury Cross, which was destroyed by Puritans in 1600.

Step 103: Next, turn around and walk down Parsons Street, directly opposite the main entrance to Castle Quay.

Step 104: Along Parsons Street, you'll find a series of brass inlays by artist Hilary Cartmel. These show some shops that used to be here years ago.

Step 105: We won't point all of them out to you on this walk, but we have another route in the app that takes you round some notable pieces of public art in Banbury town centre, if you're interested in learning more.



Step 106: Parsons Street is charming and lined with historic buildings and lovely shops.

Step 107: Are you still looking for the brass inlays? Have you been able to read some of the memories from elderly residents?

Step 108: At the junction with North Bar, you'll find some more of Pam Foley's planters.

Step 109: Turn left. On your left, you'll pass the lovely and historic St Mary's Church.

Step 110: Before long, you're back at the public toilets and the Banbury Cross monument.

Step 111: That's it for this circular walk! We hope you enjoyed it. Why not try out the other ones that start and end here? Each one is different, so there's always more to discover.