



The Beatles Strawberry Field Trail

This walk explores the quiet suburban neighbourhood where the Beatles' story began. Visit Lennon and McCartney's childhood homes and more.

Distance 5.9 kilometers / 3.7 miles

Duration 1 hour and 40 minutes



Refreshments



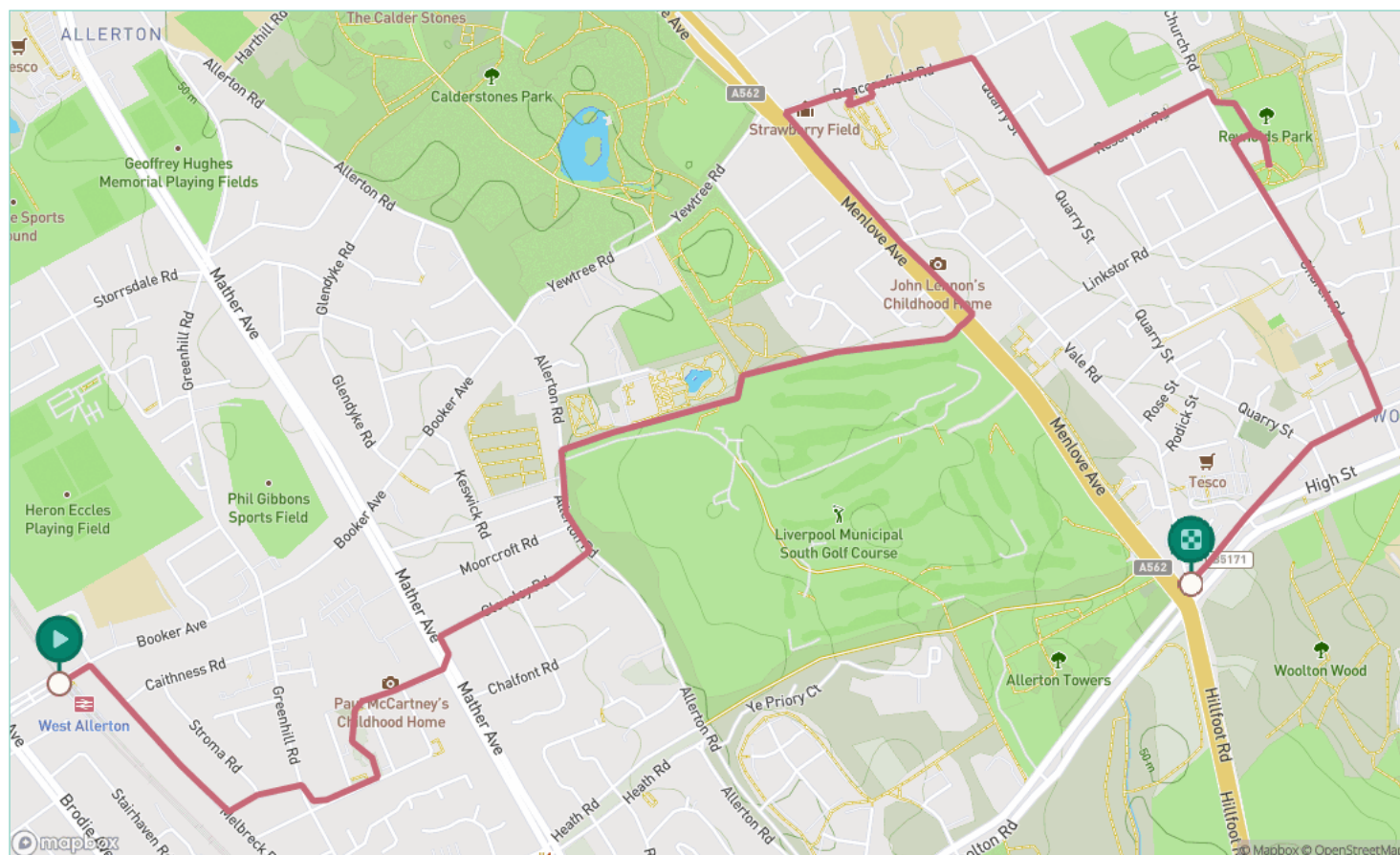
Public transport



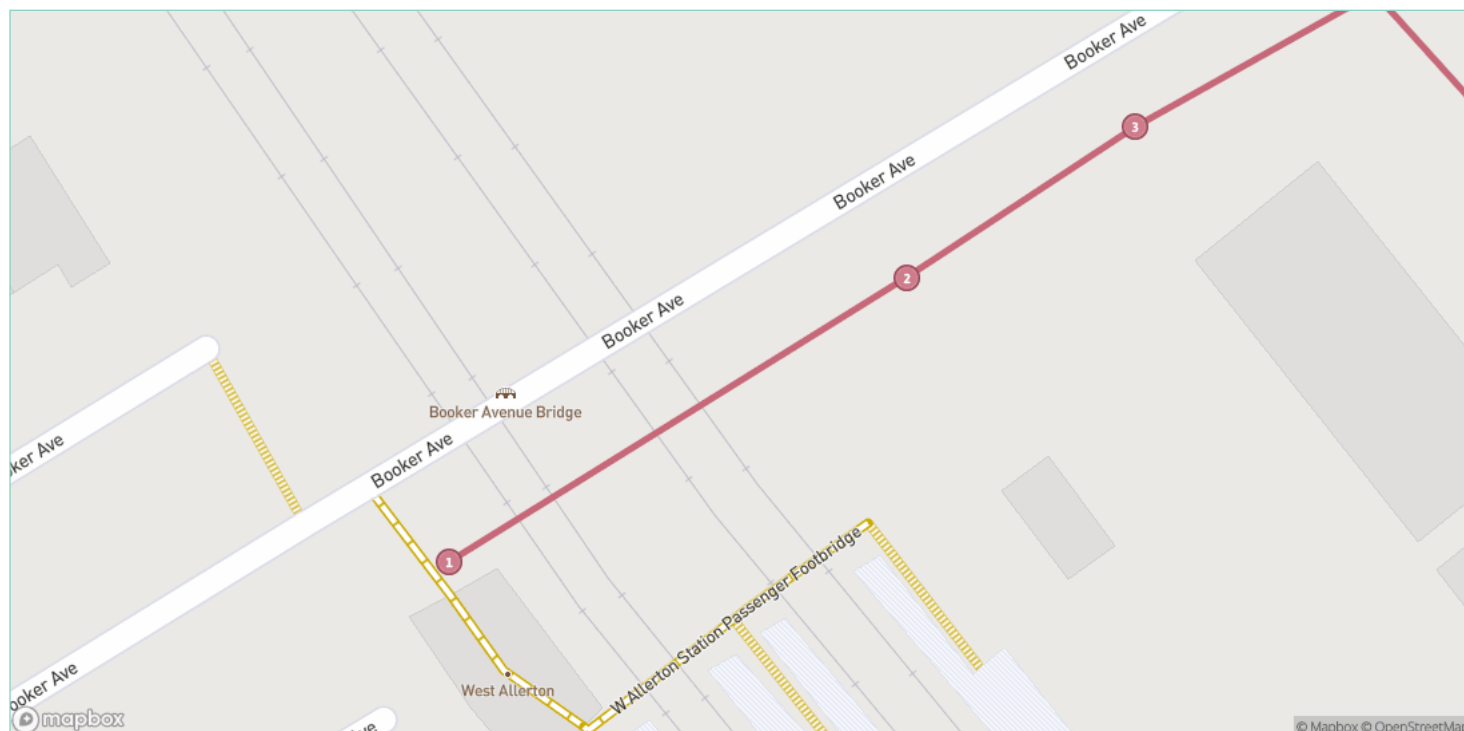
History



Hilly & steep



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: 28 August 2026.



Step 1: This linear walk starts at West Allerton Station on Booker Avenue. With your back to the station, turn right.

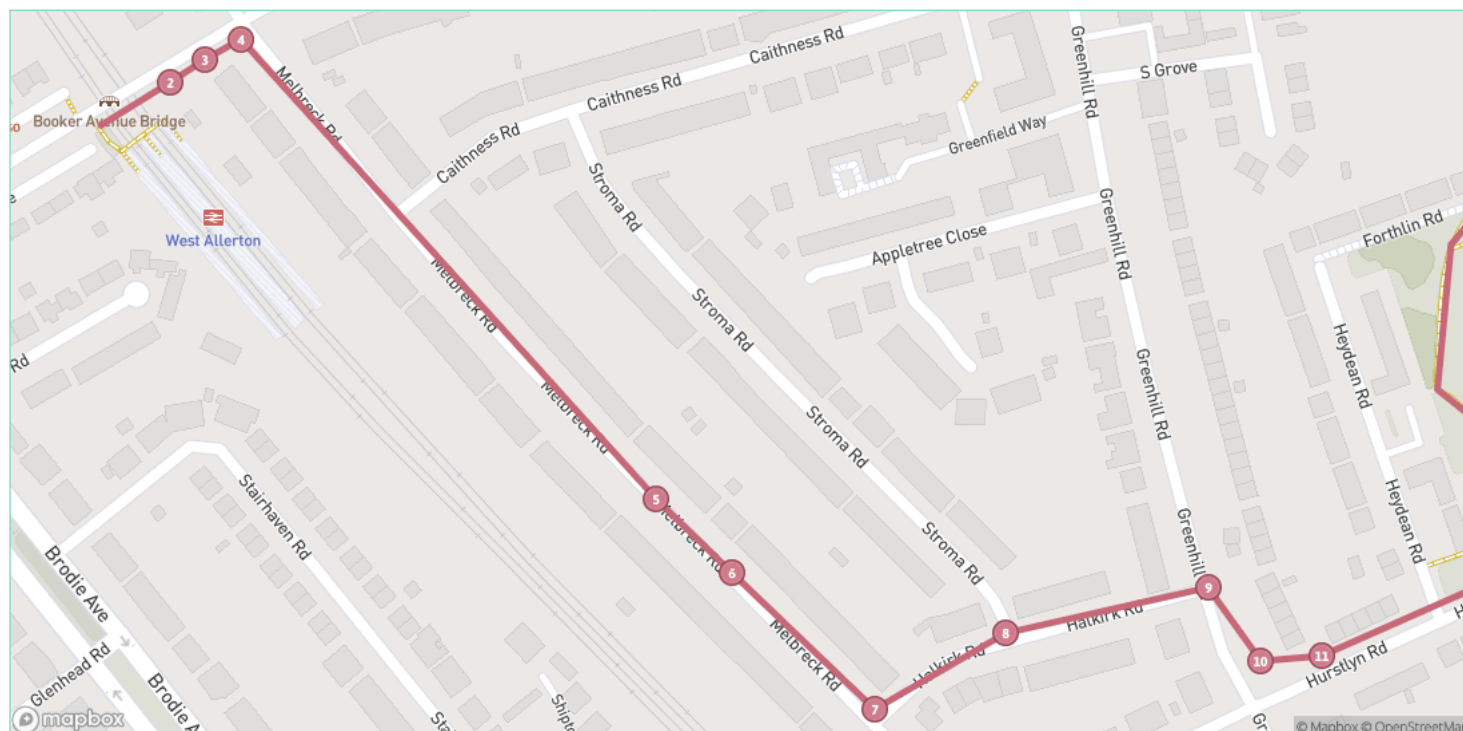
Step 2: The Beatles roots run deep here. Our walk explores the area where John Lennon's skiffle group the Quarrymen gradually evolved into the band we know as The Beatles today. Read more below. [↓](#)

About the Beatles

This walk explores the area where John Lennon's skiffle group the Quarrymen gradually evolved, gaining Paul McCartney in 1957. This is the neighbourhood where John Lennon grew up, where he met Paul McCartney at a church fete in 1957 and where, among a scatter of ordinary suburban houses, the Beatles' story began. Lennon and McCartney met George Harrison the following year. After several line-up changes and years playing Liverpool and Hamburg clubs, drummer Ringo Starr joined in August 1962, completing the four-piece who'd become the best-selling band in history.

Guided by manager Brian Epstein and producer George Martin, the group's early singles sparked "Beatlemania" in Britain before they conquered America in 1964, leading the era's "British Invasion".

Over the next six years they transformed popular music, from the tight pop of their early records



through the studio experimentation of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and "Abbey Road". The band split in 1970, but their songs, largely written by the Lennon-McCartney partnership that began right here in Liverpool, remain some of the most loved and covered in music history.

Step 3: Please note that this walk only visits the outsides of the childhood homes of Paul McCartney and John Lennon. Find out more about the National Trust tours below.

The National Trust

Tours inside the childhood homes of Paul McCartney and John Lennon home run in small groups of 15, depart by National Trust minibus from Liverpool South Parkway or Speke Hall and often sell out in summer, so you must book in advance to be able to visit inside.

Find out more

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/liverpool-lancas-hire/the-beatles-childhood-homes/booking-your-visit-to-the-beatles-childhood-homes>

Step 4: Continue along Booker Ave. Turn right down Melbreck Rd.

Step 5: Continue down the tree-lined street and safely cross over to walk down the other side of the road.

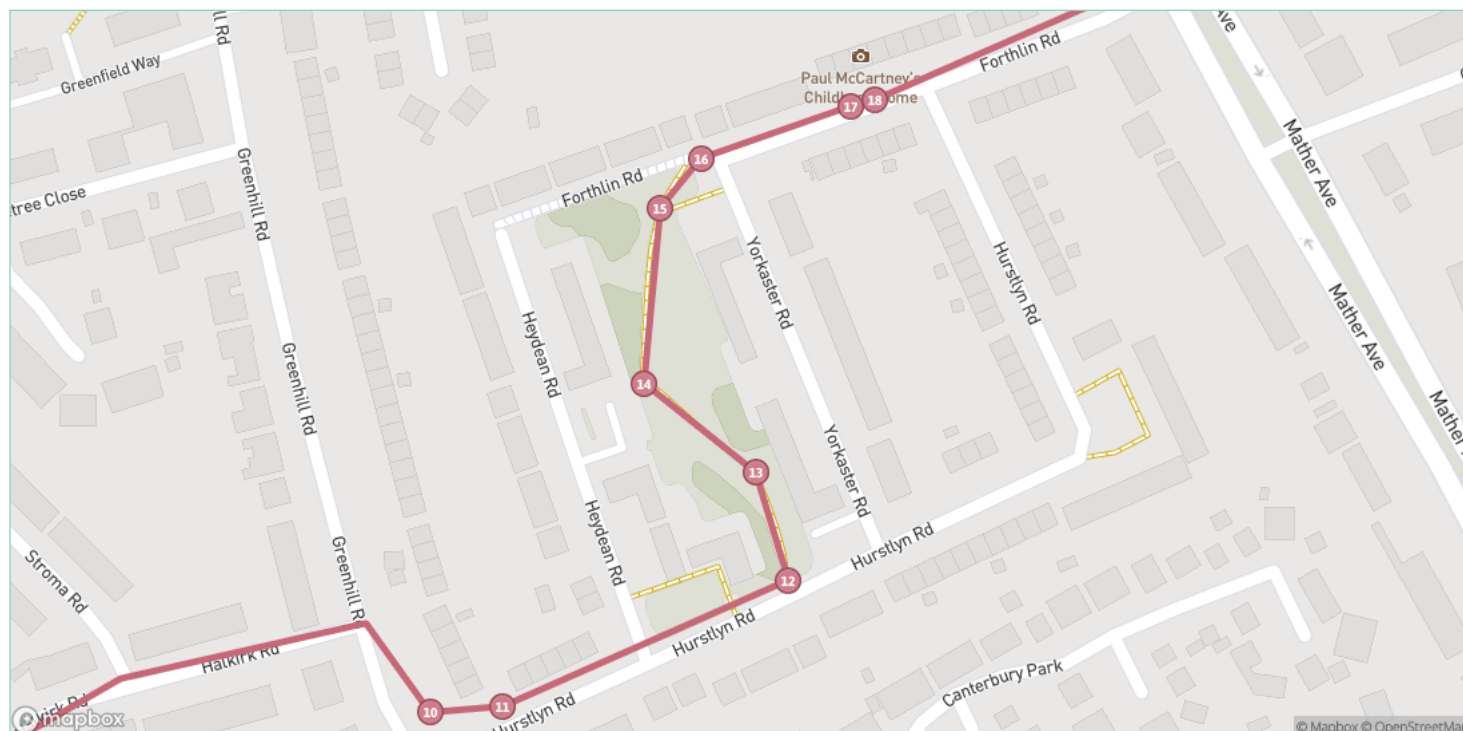
Step 6: Continue walking down the left hand side of Melbreck Rd. Get ready to turn left at the next road.

Step 7: Turn left onto Halkirk Rd.

Step 8: Continue to the end of the road.

Step 9: Cross over Greenhill Rd and continue right and then almost immediately left.

Step 10: Bear left onto Hurstlyn Rd.



Step 11: Continue ahead on Hurstlyn Rd.

Step 12: Look left for a small gap in-between the houses that leads you through a green.

Step 13: Follow the tree-lined path as it winds ahead.

Step 14: Stick to the path and walk all the way to the end and get ready to turn right.

Step 15: Walk through the barriers and follow the path onto Forthlin Rd.

Step 16: Continue ahead onto Forthlin Rd and look out for our first Beatles stop.

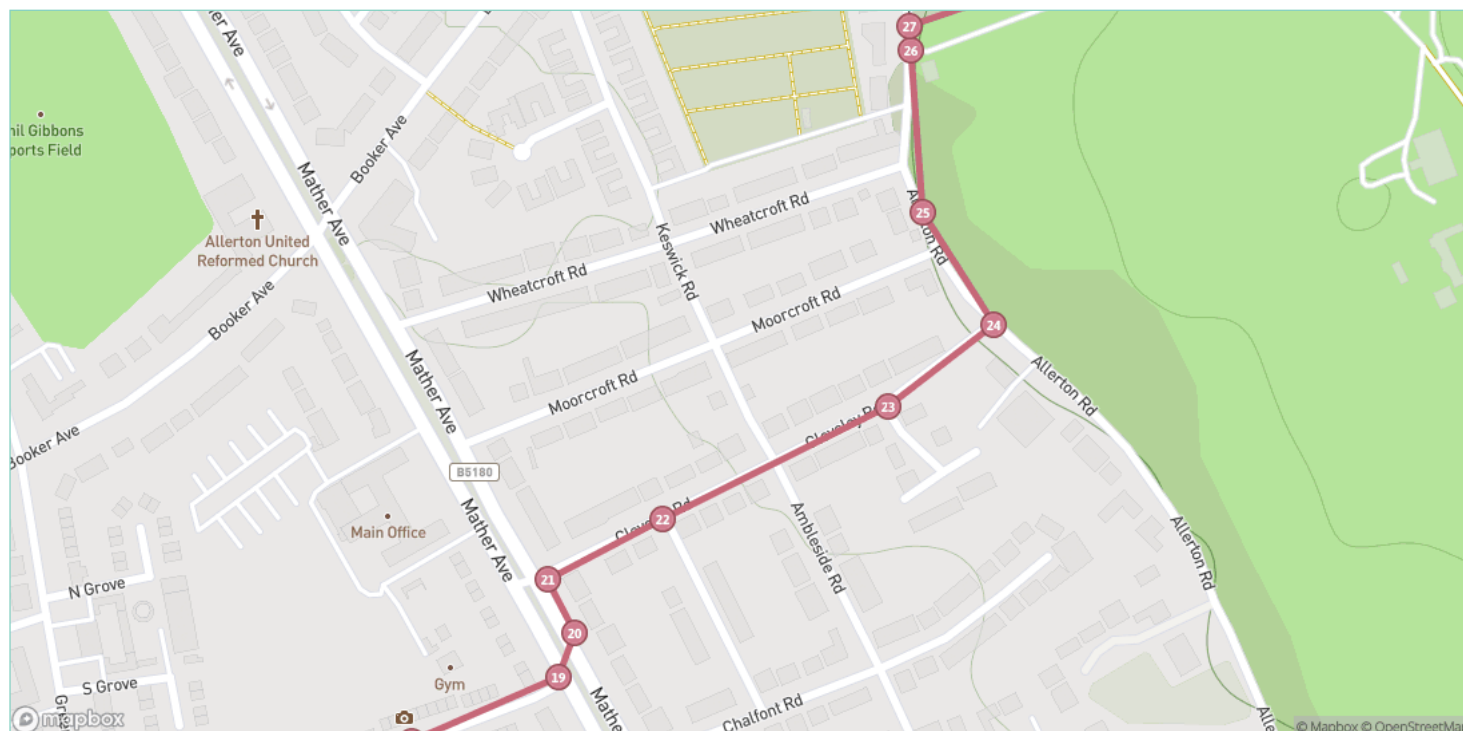
Step 17: Welcome to Paul McCartney's childhood home run by the National Trust. You can only visit inside if you pre-book a tour. Find out more below.

Paul McCartney's childhood home

Paul McCartney's family moved into 20 Forthlin Road in 1955, when Paul was a secondary school pupil. The house was built in 1949 as part of this council estate.

This modest terraced house is known as "the birthplace of the Beatles" as John Lennon and McCartney composed and rehearsed many of their earliest songs here, reportedly around 100 in total. By 1965, with Beatlemania in full swing, Paul bought his father Jim a new house in Heswall, a well-to-do part of the Wirral. Forthlin Road later passed to the National Trust in 1995. In February 2012, both this house and John Lennon's childhood home at 251 Menlove Avenue were Grade II listed by Historic England.

Step 18: Notice the windows and door which has been restored to what they would've originally looked like.



Step 19: Continue to the end of the road and when safe to do so, cross over Mather Ave. Turn left on the other side.

Step 20: Continue left as we head to our next stop. At the next road, turn right onto Clevely Rd.

Step 21: As you walk up the road, can you imagine a young Paul, walking around these streets?

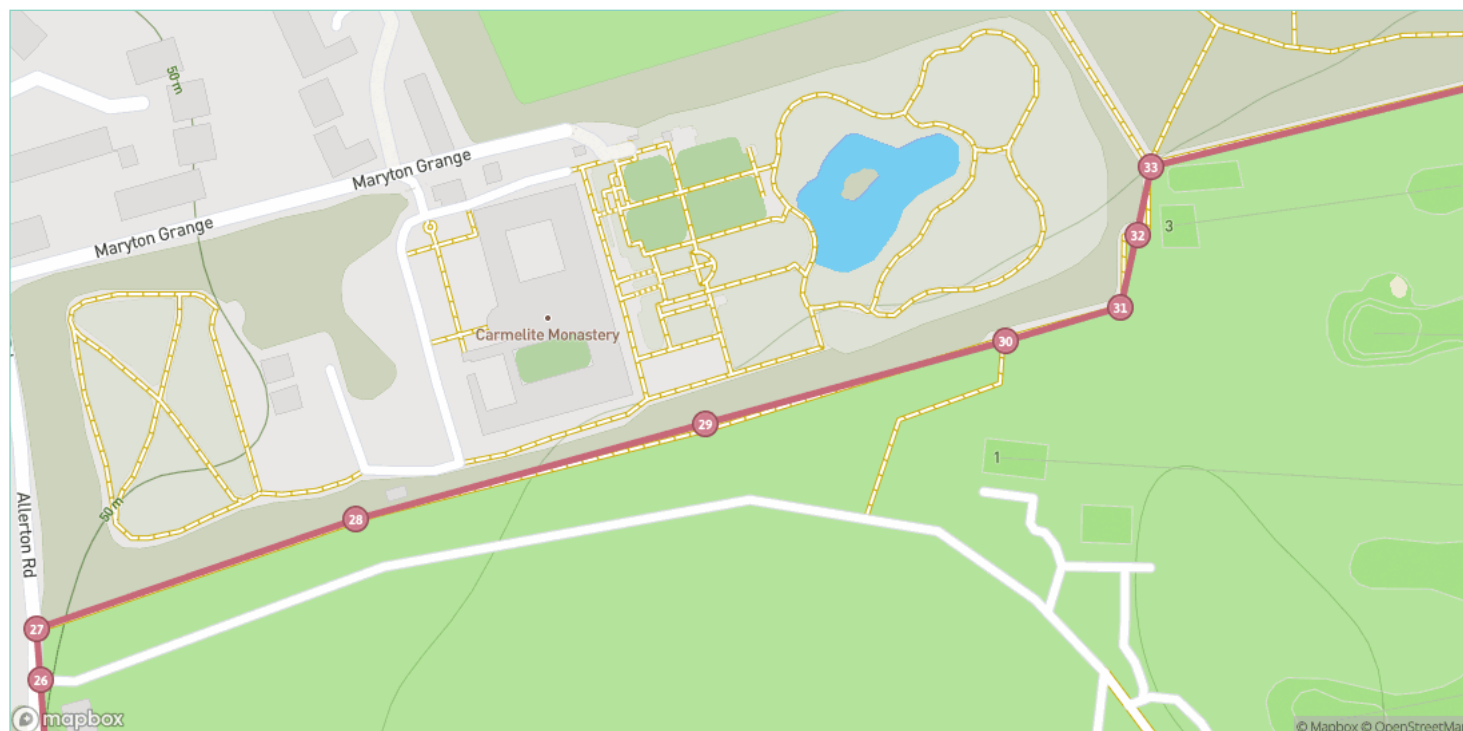
Step 22: Take a moment to notice the lampposts that look a bit like a person with a hat on! Or is it just us?

Step 23: Continue walking up the road and cross the side roads carefully.

Step 24: At the end of the road, cross over Allerton Road and turn left on the other side.

Step 25: Continue along the pavement. There is a golf course behind the wall on your right hand side.

Step 26: When you get to the entrance to the Golf Course get ready to turn right into it, to walk along the footpath on your left.



Step 27: Continue up the footpath, the golf course is on your right.

Step 28: Keep going straight. Enjoy the dappled light from the trees and the sounds of the leaves or branches rustling in the wind.

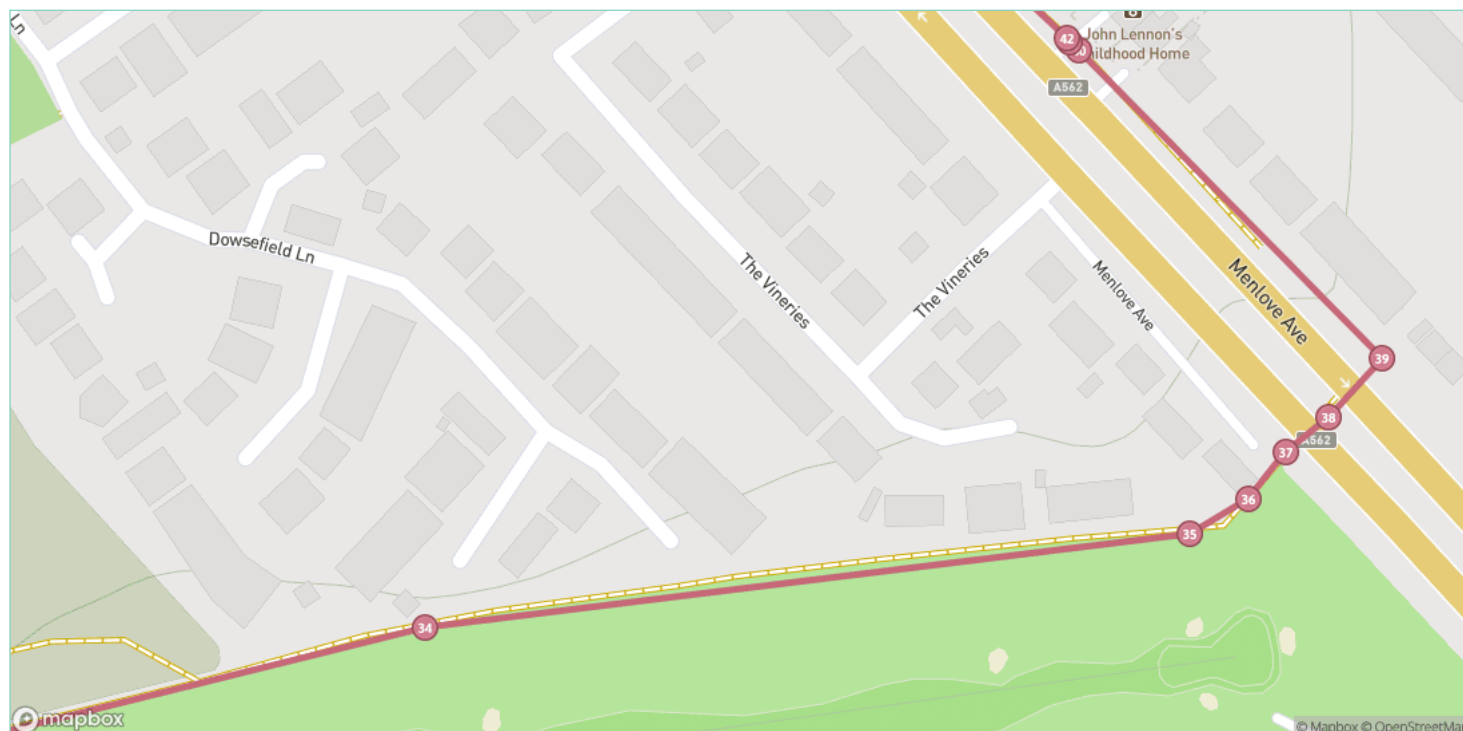
Step 29: Keep left at the fork.

Step 30: Continue as the path winds around the side of the wall.

Step 31: Keep left and follow the path. The woodland to your left takes you to Calderstones Park but we're continuing straight.

Step 32: John Lennon went to school near Calderstones Park. It was called Quarry Bank High School and where a 16-year-old John Lennon formed his first band, the Quarrymen, in 1956.

Step 33: Do you think Paul McCartney and his friend John Lennon walked along these paths too?



Step 34: Keep going straight with the wall on your left. The path becomes narrower here.

Step 35: The path opens up and leads to a busy main road.

Step 36: Follow the path as it declines towards Menlove Ave. John Lennon's childhood home is on this very road.

Step 37: Take the steps down to the side of the road and wait for a safe break in the traffic to cross.

Step 38: Use the island in the middle to pause before crossing the other lanes and turn left on the other side of the road.

Step 39: Continue left down Menlove Ave.

Step 40: Just up ahead is John Lennon's childhood home run by the National Trust. You must prebook a walking tour to visit inside.

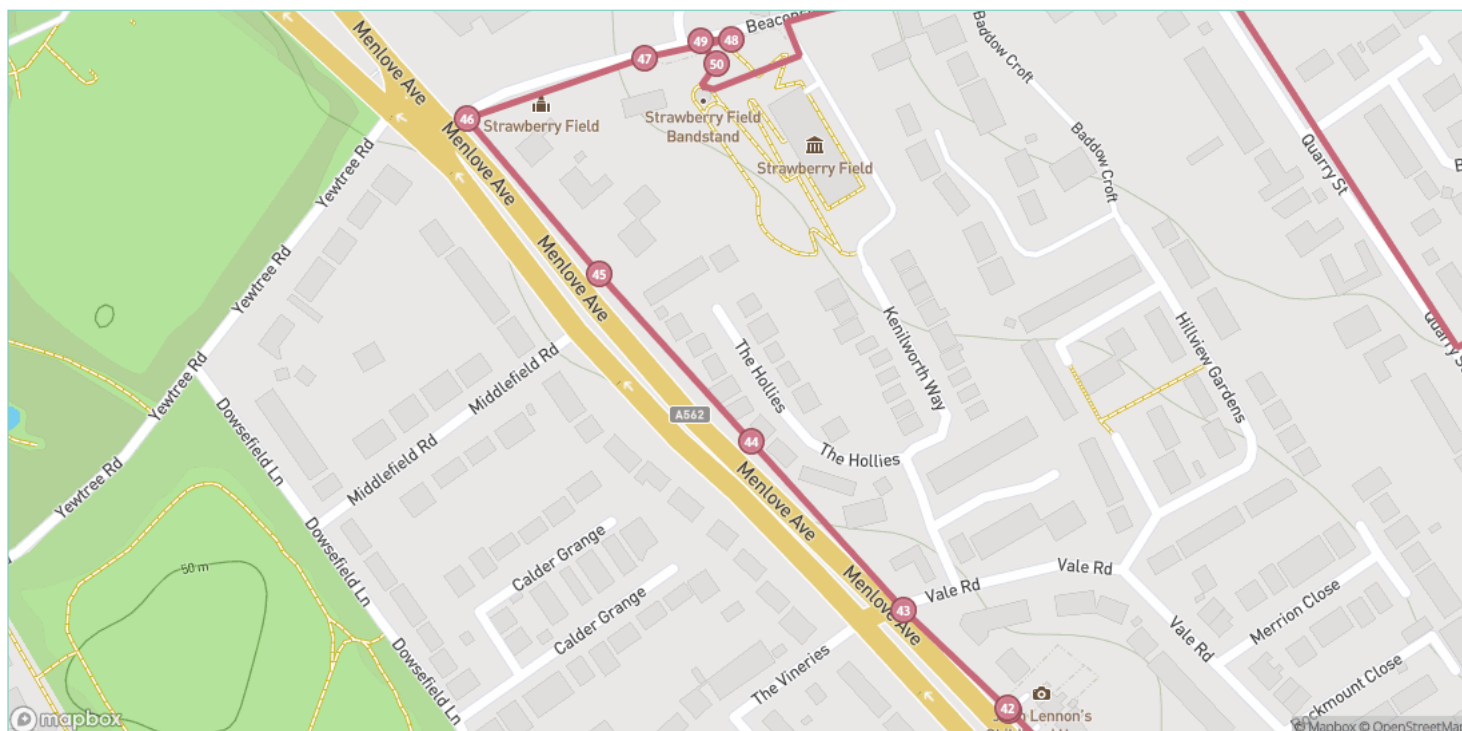
Step 41: John Lennon lived at this house, known as the Mendips, from 1946 until mid-1963. Read more below. ↓

John Lennon's childhood home

John Lennon lived at Mendips with his Aunt Mimi and Uncle George from 1946 until 1963. Built in 1933, the semi-detached house belonged to Mimi and George Smith; when Mimi sold it in 1965 she took some furnishings with her and gave others away.

In March 2002, John's widow Yoko Ono bought Mendips, keen to stop it falling into the wrong hands and donated it to the National Trust to preserve it for Beatles fans and the people of Liverpool.

It takes its name from the Mendip Hills in Somerset, and was restored to its 1950s appearance before opening to the public in March 2003. Along with 20 Forthlin Road, it was Grade II listed by Historic England in February 2012.



Step 42: Can you spot the blue plaque on the wall?

Step 43: Cross over Vale Rd and continue ahead.

Step 44: Pete Shotton, who co-founded the Quarrymen skiffle group with John Lennon lived on Vale Rd. Pete went to school with John at the Quarry Bank High School and it was at his house where they rehearsed for the first time.

Step 45: Continue walking up Menlove Ave.

Step 46: At the corner of Beaconsfield, turn right.

Step 47: Follow the road ahead towards the iconic Strawberry Fields. You may join other folk on their Beatles pilgrimage as you go.

Step 48: The gate to Strawberry Field is a popular photo stop. 📷

Step 49: Strawberry Field is now run by the Salvation Army and is a visitor centre and cafe open daily 10am-5pm. Find out more below.

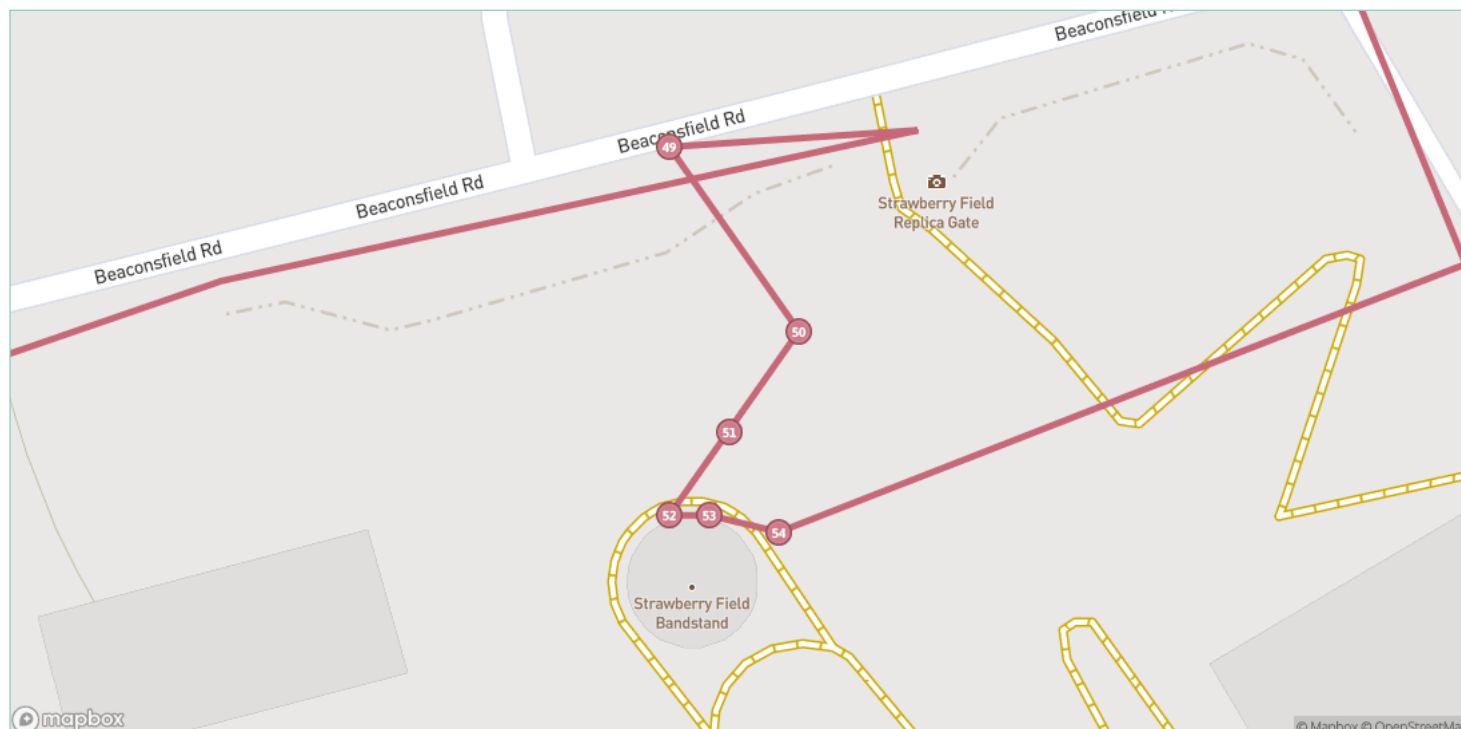
Strawberry Fields Visitor Centre

Strawberry Field's Victorian house and grounds were originally built as a private residence, before the Salvation Army acquired the site in the 1930s and opened it as a children's home in 1936. The home closed in 2005 and the original home was demolished in the 1970s. In September 2019 the Salvation Army reopened Strawberry Field to the public as a visitor centre, with an exhibition, gardens, café and gift shop.

Look out for one genuine piece of music history inside: John Lennon's own piano is on display in the pay-to-enter Visitor Centre.

Learn More

<https://www.strawberryfield.salvationarmy.org.uk/>



Step 50: The former Strawberry Field house and grounds was often visited by Lennon, he played in the grounds, an experience that later inspired the Beatles' song "Strawberry Fields Forever". More below. 

Strawberry Fields Forever

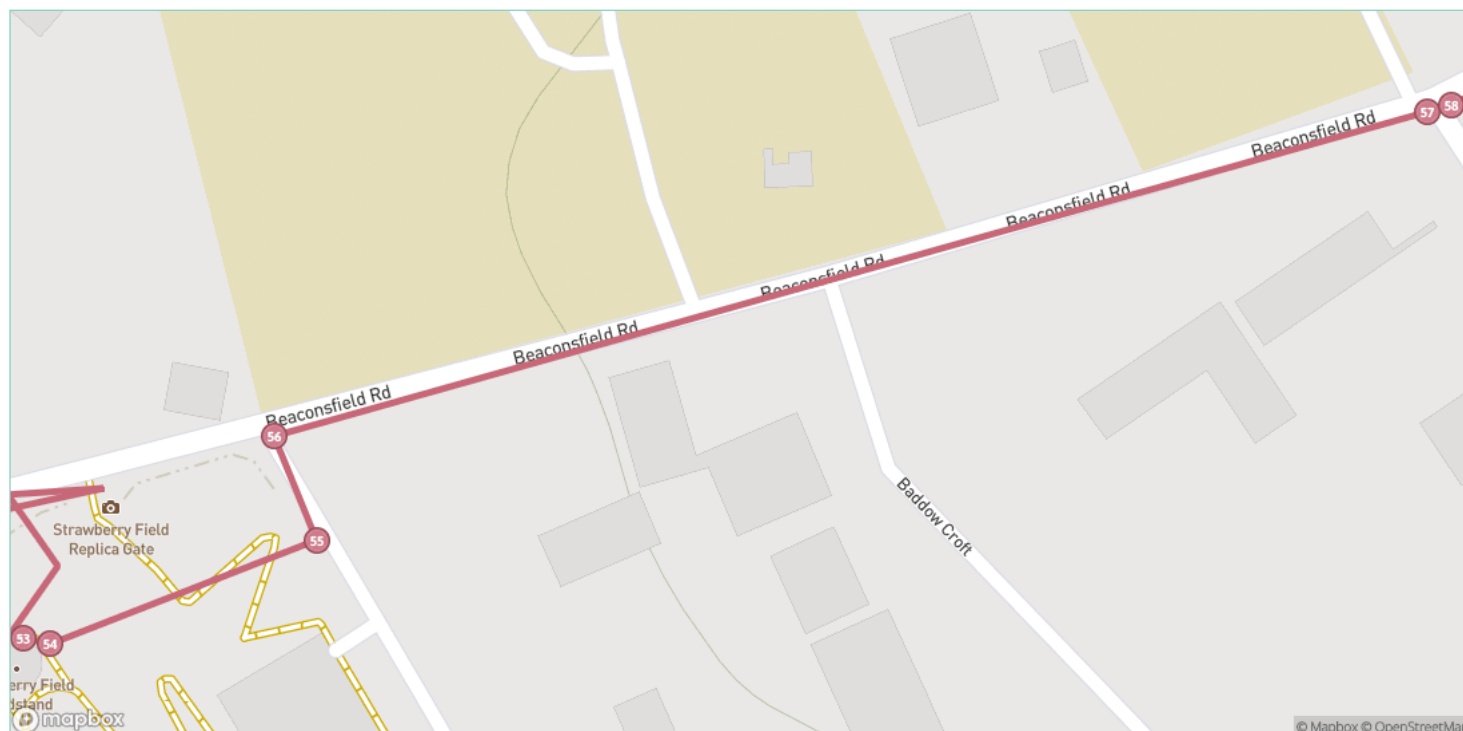
As a child, John Lennon loved playing in the grounds of Strawberry Field, the Salvation Army's Woolton children's home, memories he later drew on for the song, "Strawberry Fields Forever". The red gates on Beaconsfield Road are the site's most photographed feature. So many fans took pieces as souvenirs over the years that the originals were removed for safekeeping in 2011 and replaced with replicas; the real gates are preserved within the grounds.

As for the song itself: it took the Beatles an extraordinary 45 hours of studio time across five weeks to record, was the first pop single ever to fade out and then fade back in again (which reportedly drove radio DJs to distraction). Strawberry Fields Forever became the Beatles' first single in four years not to reach number one in the UK, held off by Engelbert Humperdinck's "Release Me" in February 1967.

Step 51: The cafe and grounds are free to enter so do take a look around. There's also toilets on site and a paid-for exhibition that is well worth a visit.

Step 52: Head into the garden to see the Sgt. Pepper Bandstand. Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band was their 8th studio album (released in 1967).

Step 53: You'll see a great mural at the back. Another good photo op here. 



Step 54: Don't miss the beautiful mosaic "Imagine". Read more below.

Imagine

The walnut-finish upright Steinway piano on display in the exhibition is the very one John Lennon composed and recorded "Imagine" on, in a bedroom at his Tittenhurst Park home in 1971. George Michael, a devoted Beatles fan, bought it at auction in 2000 for £1.45 million; his estate has loaned it to Strawberry Field since 2020, to mark what would have been Lennon's 80th birthday. Lennon drew on several poems from Yoko Ono's 1964 book "Grapefruit" while writing the song, including one that imagined clouds being dug into a hole in the garden.

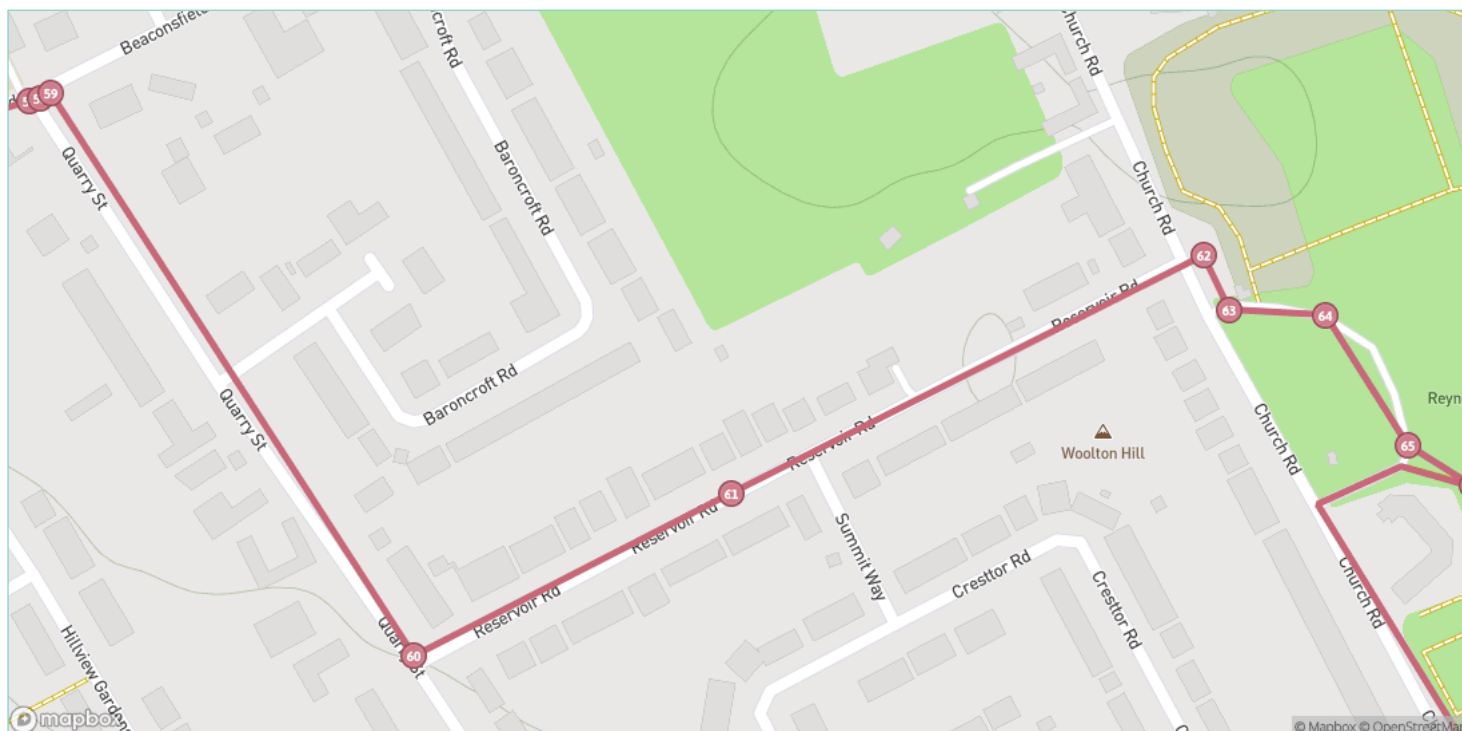
In a 1980 BBC interview, days before his death, Lennon said the song "should be credited as a Lennon/Ono song", explaining that much of the lyric and concept had come from Yoko. In 2017, the National Music Publishers' Association formally recognised this, adding Ono as co-writer. Released in the US in September 1971 and the UK that October, "Imagine" has since become one of the most covered songs in pop history, was played at the closing ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics, and remains a global symbol of the

pursuit of peace.

Step 55: When you're ready, exit the cafe and head to the car park exit.

Step 56: Turn right onto Beaconsfield Rd and continue straight.

Step 57: Turn right onto Quarry St and cross over. Did you know that this area was a home to major red sandstone quarries?



Step 58: The quarried stone was used for iconic local landmarks like the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral and also inspired John Lennon's first band, the Quarrymen. Read more below.

Quarrymen

John Lennon formed the skiffle group the Quarrymen in 1956, taking the name from a line in the school song of nearby Quarry Bank High School, which Lennon and most of the original members attended. It's a nice double meaning given Woolton's own quarrying history. Lennon's mother, Julia, taught him to play the banjo, then showed him and bandmate Eric Griffiths how to tune their guitars the same way, along with a handful of simple chords and songs, a debt the young group's sound owed largely to her. You could say that the band eventually evolved to become The Beatles.

Step 59: Continue walking down the left hand side of Quarry St.

Step 60: Turn left onto Reservoir Rd,

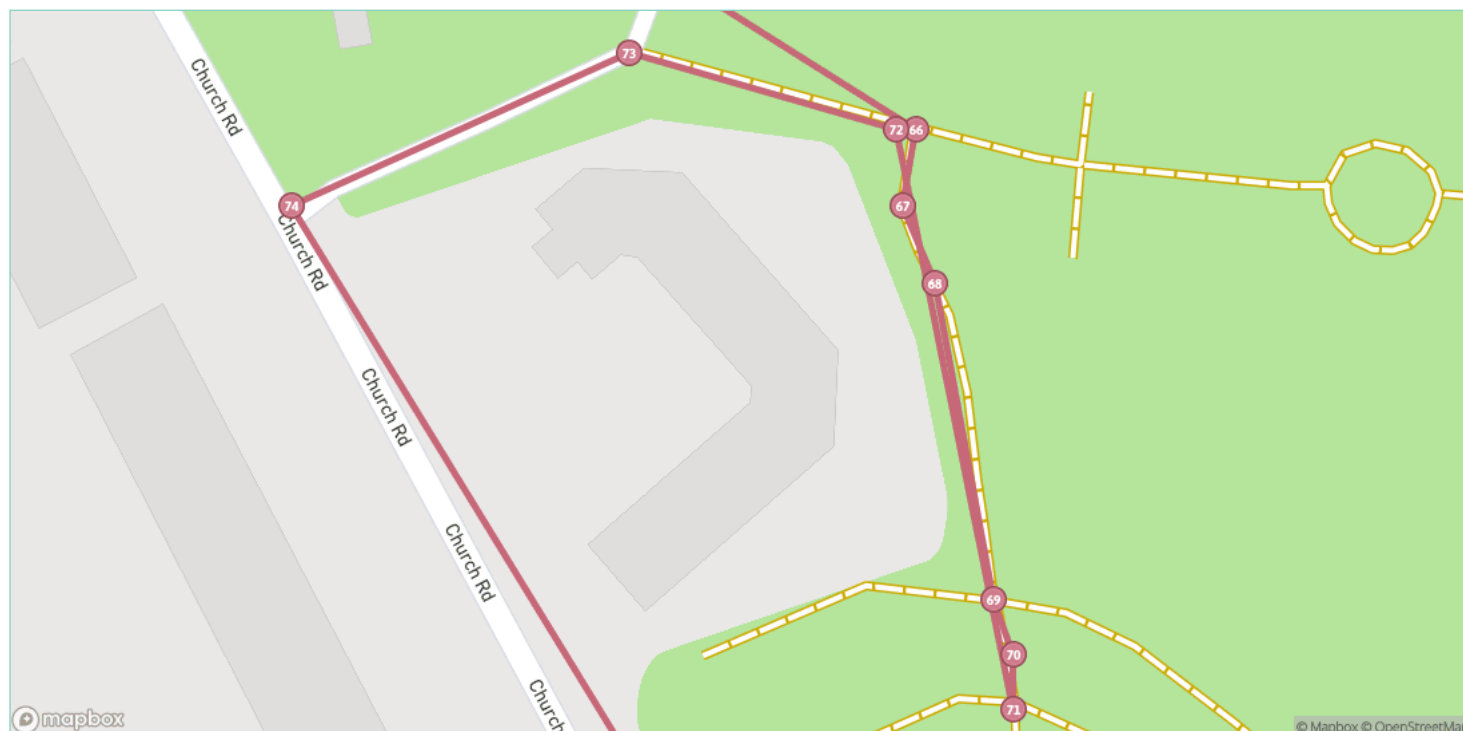
Step 61: Continue to the end of the road.

Step 62: Cross over Church Rd and turn right on the other side.

Step 63: Enter Reynolds Park via the park gate. It's usually open from 7am until dusk.

Step 64: Follow the main path to the right. There are benches here and a big open green.

Step 65: Follow the signs to the walled garden.



Step 66: At the sundial, follow the path around to the right.

Step 73: Follow the path left to exit Reynolds Park and turn left after the gate.

Step 67: Don't miss the fantastic monkey puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*) tree. It is a legacy of Victorian planting fashion.

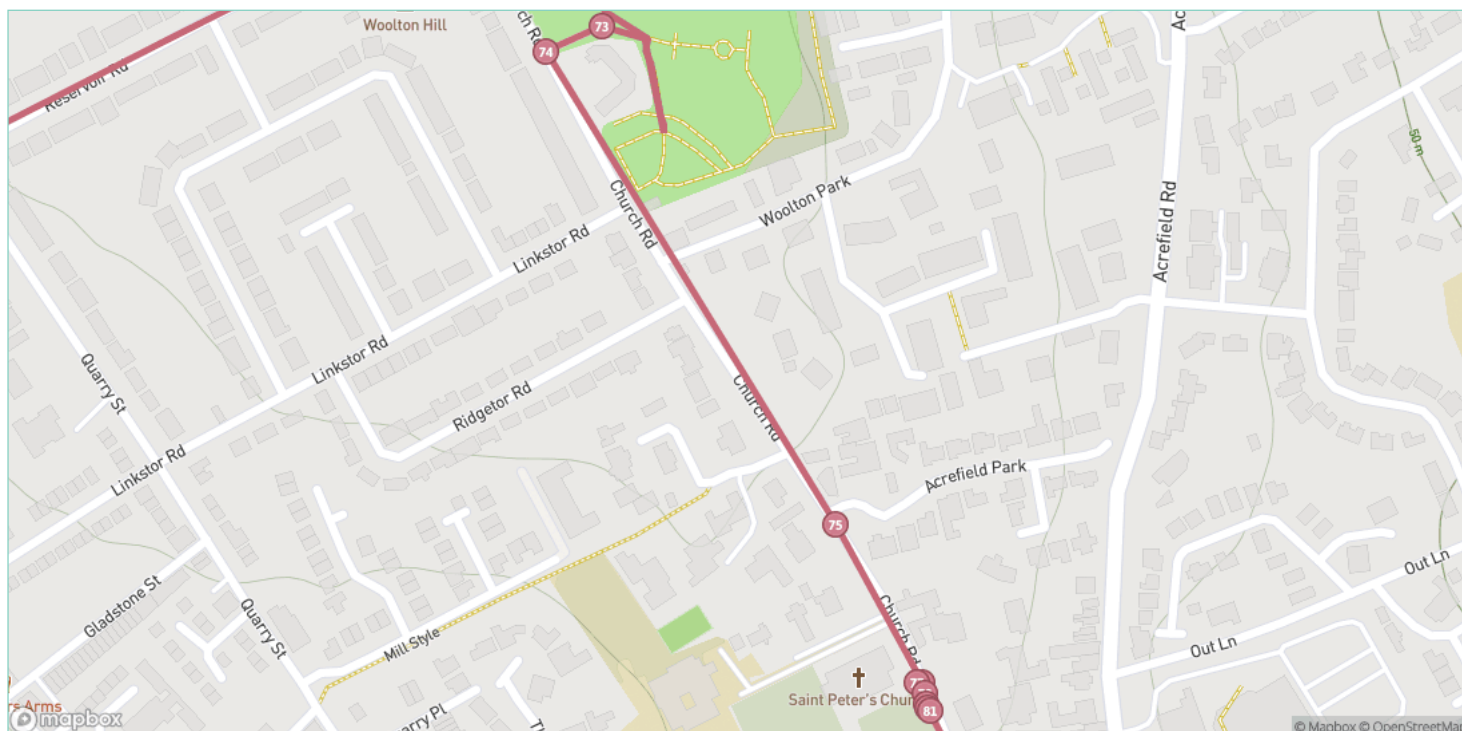
Step 68: Take a closer look at the branches. They are very spiky!

Step 69: Continue ahead towards the gap in the wall.

Step 70: In spring and summer you'll be greeted with a fantastic display of dahlias within the walled garden. It's breathtaking!

Step 71: Take a moment to admire, smell and gently feel the flowers!

Step 72: When you're ready, retrace your steps to exit the garden



Step 74: Continue down Church Road.

Step 75: Cross over the road before the church and head into the churchyard.

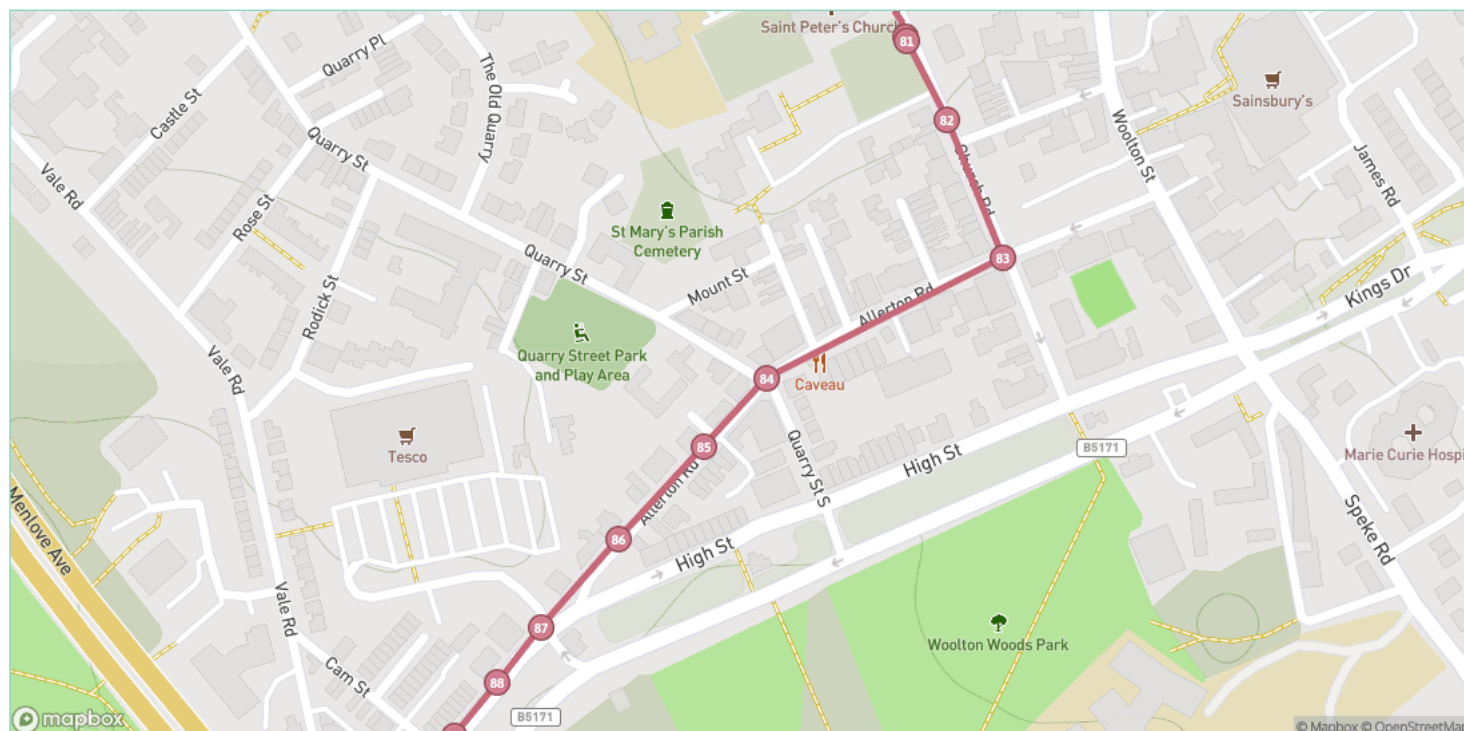
Step 76: On July 6, 1957, St Peter's Church hosted its annual fete. A young Ivan Vaughan decided that it was a good idea to introduce two of his...

Step 77: ...music-loving friends to each other, John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Turn left to head to the churchyard.

Step 78: Walk towards the graveyard area and walk past the big round bush as well as the exit on the right.

Step 79: Look right for the gravestone of John McKenzie. Could this be the Father McKenzie from the song "Eleanor Rigby"?

Step 80: Paul has acknowledged that the graveyard could have held some inspiration. Walk to the first path on the right and keep your eyes peeled for an interesting headstone, a few rows behind.



Step 81: Can you spot Eleanor Rigby's gravestone? Read more below.

Eleanor Rigby

"Eleanor Rigby" became the title of a hit song written primarily by Paul McCartney, released in 1966 as the double A-side of "Yellow Submarine" and on the album "Revolver".

McCartney has said he arrived at the name from a combination of actress Eleanor Bron, who starred alongside the Beatles in "Help!" and a Bristol wine merchant's shop, "Rigby & Evens Ltd, Wine & Spirit Shippers".

As you can see, there's a twist though: a real Eleanor Rigby is buried just here, in St Peter's Churchyard, the very graveyard John Lennon and Paul McCartney used to cut through as teenagers and where the pair first met at a church fete in July 1957.

McCartney has always maintained he wasn't consciously thinking of the grave, though he's conceded the name may have lodged in his memory. The song went on to win a Grammy Award and remains one of the most covered songs in the Beatles' catalogue.

Step 82: When you're ready, exit the church and head down Church Rd.

Step 83: Turn right down Allerton Rd and continue walking.

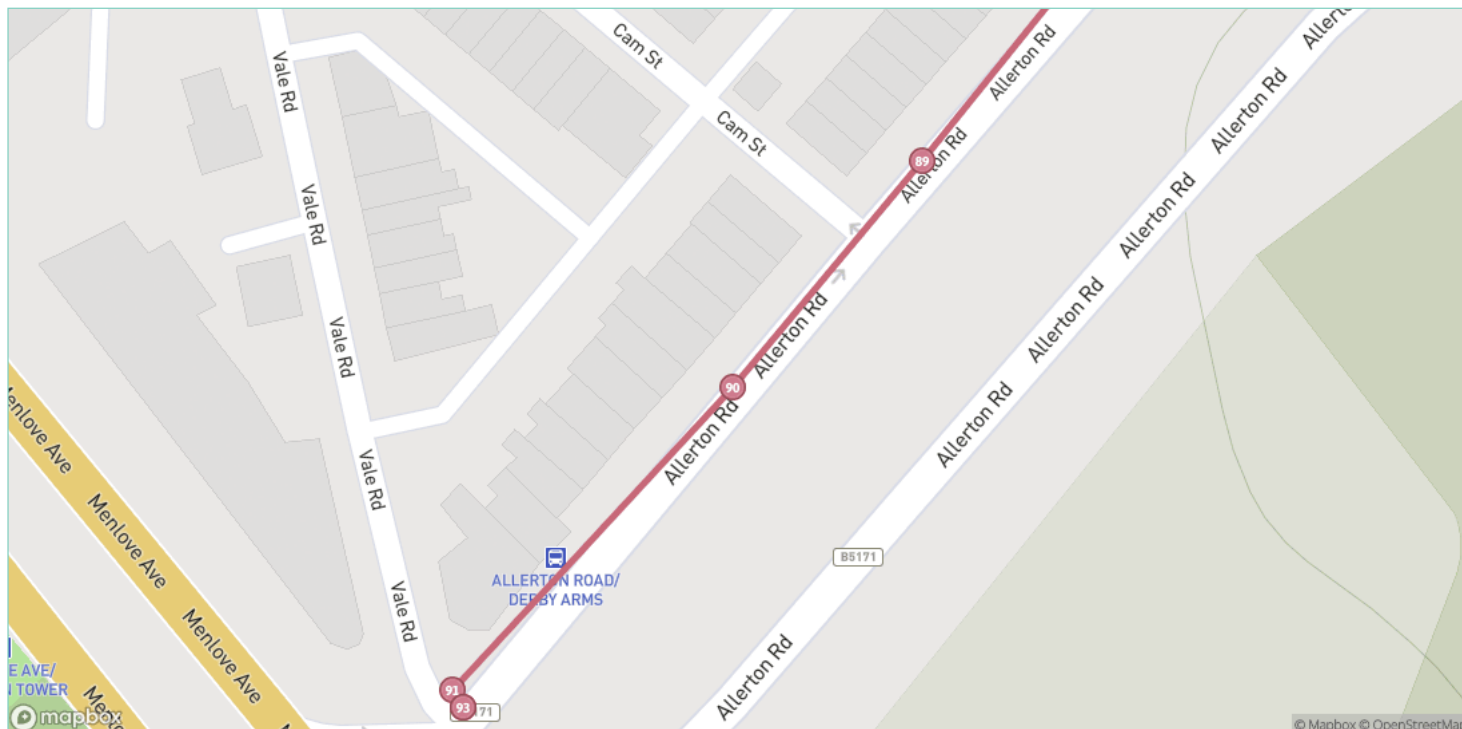
Step 84: On your left is the former Woolton Swimming Baths. Local community groups have worked to preserve this landmark.

Step 85: Could John and Paul have swam there? Up ahead on the right is the former Woolton library. Perhaps the boys visited here too?

Step 86: Continue to the end of the road.

Step 87: Cross over at the junction

Step 88: Look out for Dairy Cottage on your right. It is a Grade II listed building dating to 1839.



Step 89: It was once owned by John Lennon's uncle George Toogood Smith, who ran the family's dairy farm in Woolton. It is said that Lennon lived here for a few months when he was a baby.

Step 90: We're almost at the end of our walk now. Keep going, there's a pub just up ahead.

Step 91: Head into The Derby Arms for a well earned refreshment.

Step 92: The bus stop is right outside and there's more bus stops on Woolton Rd.

Step 93: We hope you enjoyed this walk! Please tap the 3 dots to share with friends and come and find your next walk with us soon.