



## Blaby District Heritage Walk 8

Take a walk around Enderby, learning about the Roman and Medieval history of the area.

**Distance** 12 kilometers / 7.4 miles

**Duration** 3 hours



Parking



Picnic spot



Refreshments



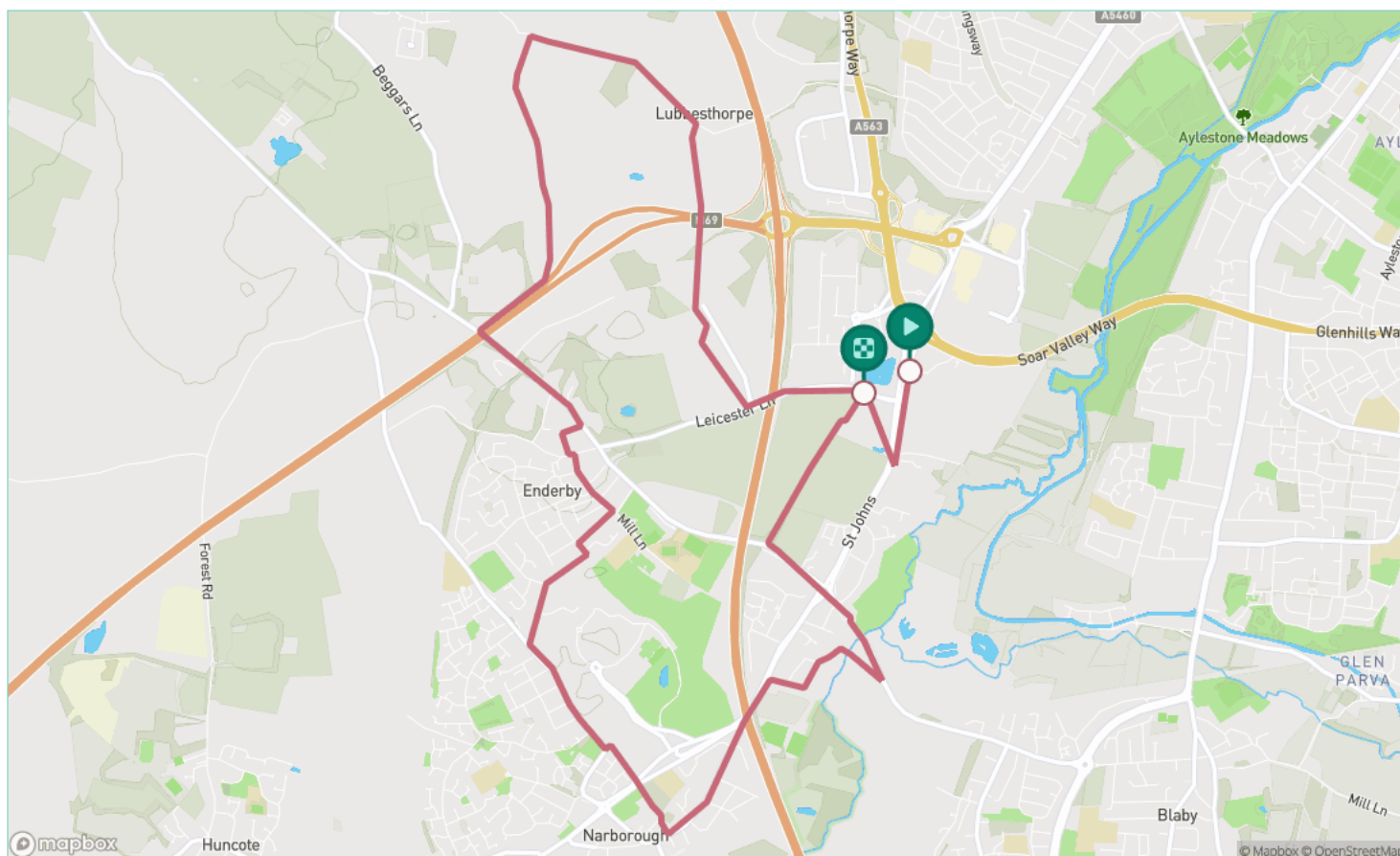
Dog friendly

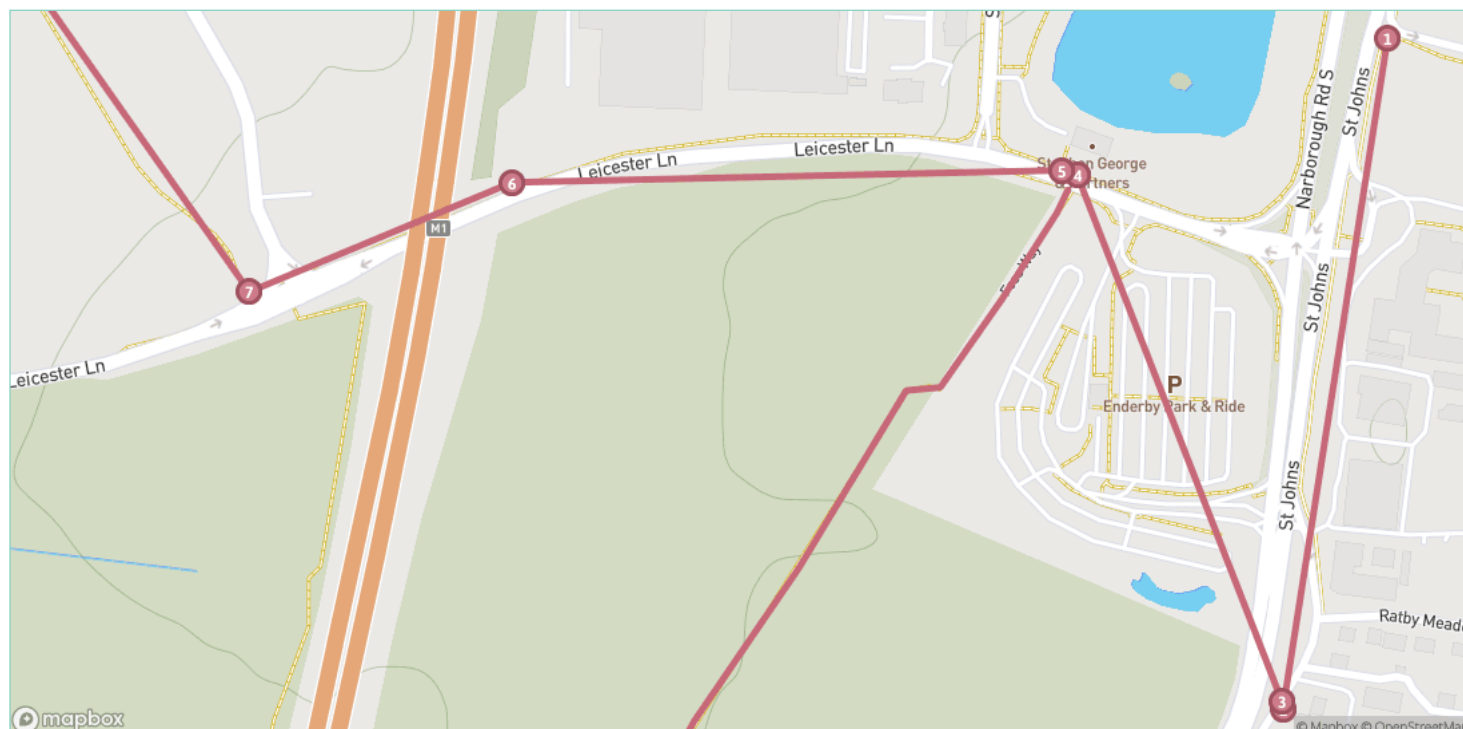


History



Public transport





**Step 1:** Should you need a coffee or breakfast before starting, consider Jenno's at Everard's Meadows - it's highly rated by locals!

**Step 2:** Alternatively, start your walk at Palmer's Garden Centre. A family-run business for over 100 years, now in its fourth generation!

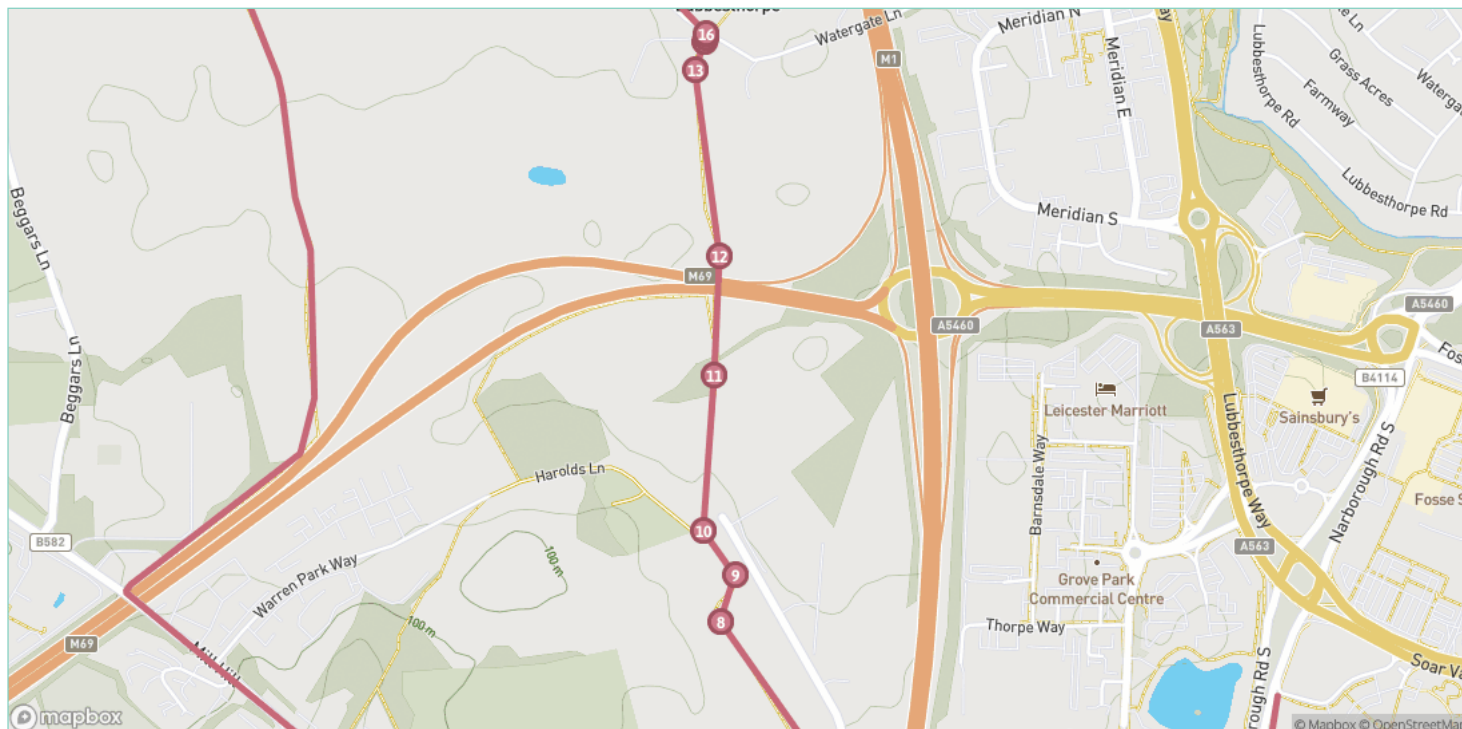
**Step 3:** Head down the pavement until you're outside Leicestershire Police HQ. Cross the road using the light controlled crossings.

**Step 4:** Walk down Leicester Lane towards Enderby. You'll pass the Park and Ride on your left and Grove Park on your right.

**Step 5:** Enderby P&R; was once the site of a Roman burial ground, discovered during its construction. This is no surprise, the route of the major Roman road, the Fosse Way, passes right by here.

**Step 6:** Continue down Leicester Lane on the pavement. Pass under the road bridge.

**Step 7:** Just after you cross under the road bridge and over a crossing at Leicester Commercial Centre, turn right onto the gated footpath



**Step 8:** Continue along the firm footpath

**Step 9:** Continue following the footpath as it kinks right and left and the ground becomes less even

**Step 10:** Passing the house on your right, continue straight downhill on the firm soil footpath

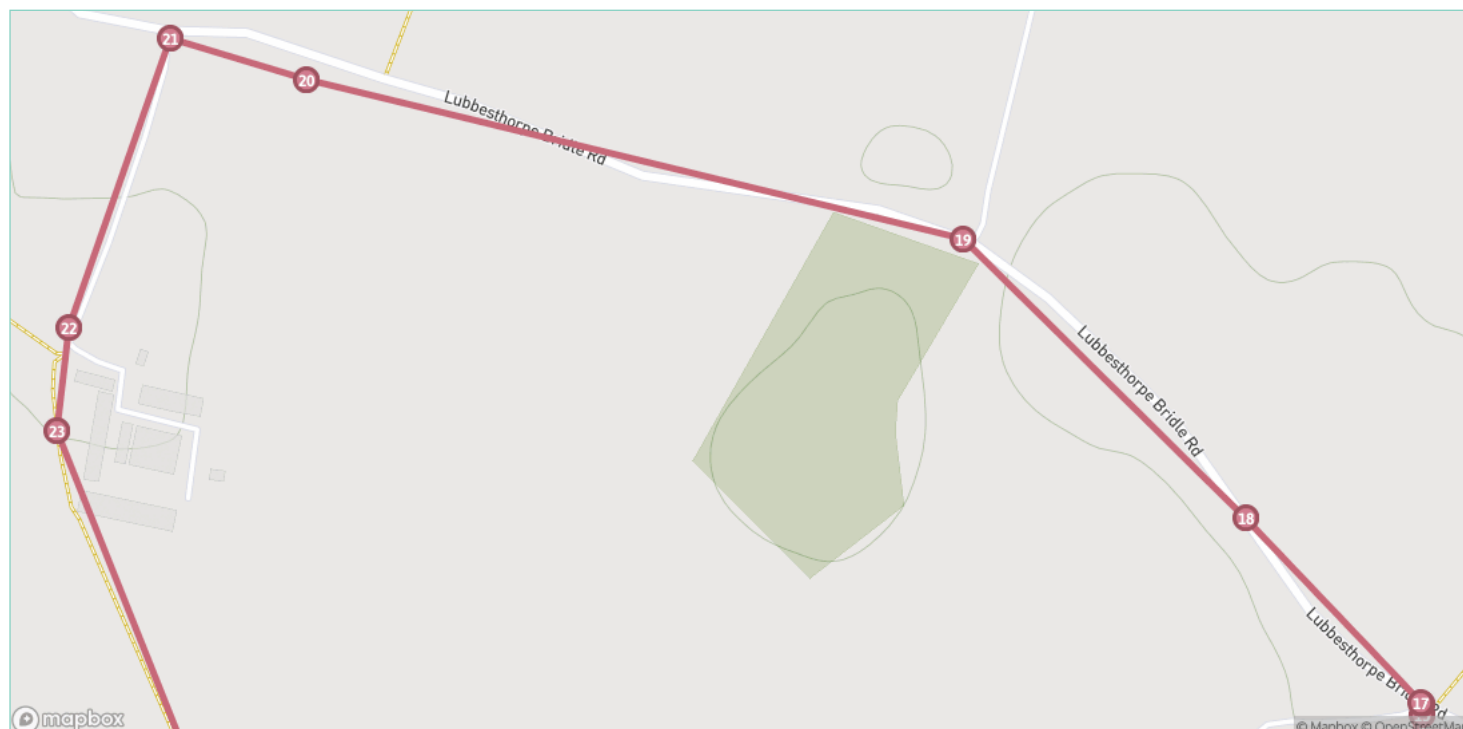
**Step 11:** Even on this pleasant country track, modern industry is within eyeline. But back in Medieval times this whole area would have been forested, part of the huge Leicester Forest.

**Step 12:** Continue over a footbridge. You are crossing over the M69 Motorway.

**Step 13:** Continue to follow the footpath past this gate and some farm buildings on your right.

**Step 14:** On reaching the junction with a bridle road, you have reached Abbey Farm. Abbey Farm is the site of the old Medieval village of Lubbesthorpe

**Step 15:** Archaeological research has found here post holes and foundations for houses from the Medieval village as well as pottery - all dating back to the 13th Century!



**Step 16:** The footpath that continues in front of you through a kissing gate originally went to a Hat Farm. Do not continue on the footpath.

**Step 17:** Hat Farm was named so when King Edward gave one of his Knights the 25-acre plot as compensation after the Knight had lost his hat while out hunting with the King. Although gone now it did survive into the 1800s.

**Step 18:** To continue on route, turn left and follow the paved Bridle Road. This road is used by farm vehicles so please be cautious and vigilant.

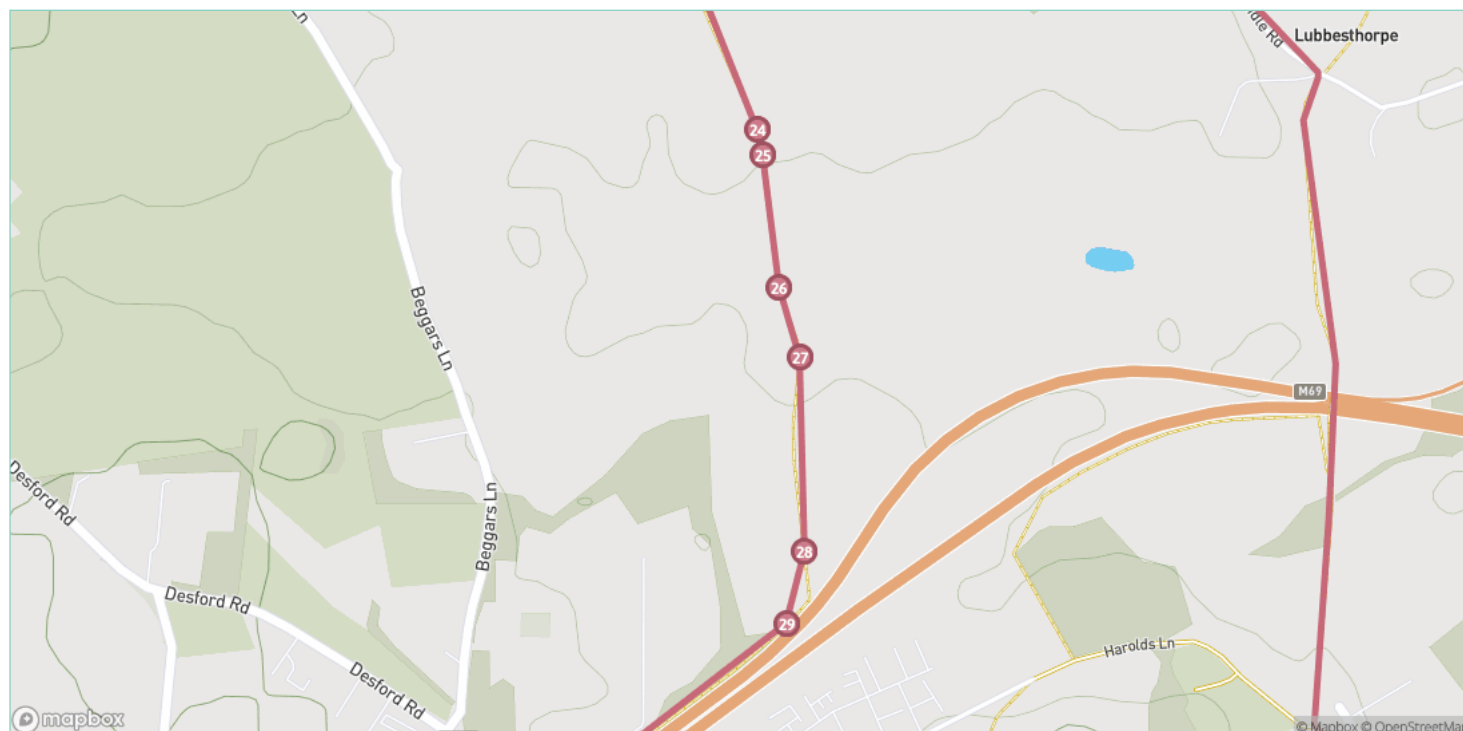
**Step 19:** Continue down the well-surfaced bridle track.

**Step 20:** Keep going!

**Step 21:** You will reach a junction with a surfaced farm track that leads to New House Farm (look for the sign). Turn left down this farm track.

**Step 22:** As you approach the farm go over this barrier on the right and then another immediately to the left. Continue across the small field (muddy)

**Step 23:** In the corner of this small field (keeping left with the farm buildings on your left) you will reach a kissing gate. Go through the gate. Please be respectful as we are on someone's farm.



**Step 24:** Cross the open field straight across to the opposite hedgerow. You will reach this gate with a footpath sign. Go through the gate.

**Step 25:** After passing the gate and footpath marker. Head straight across the next field. (Long grass)

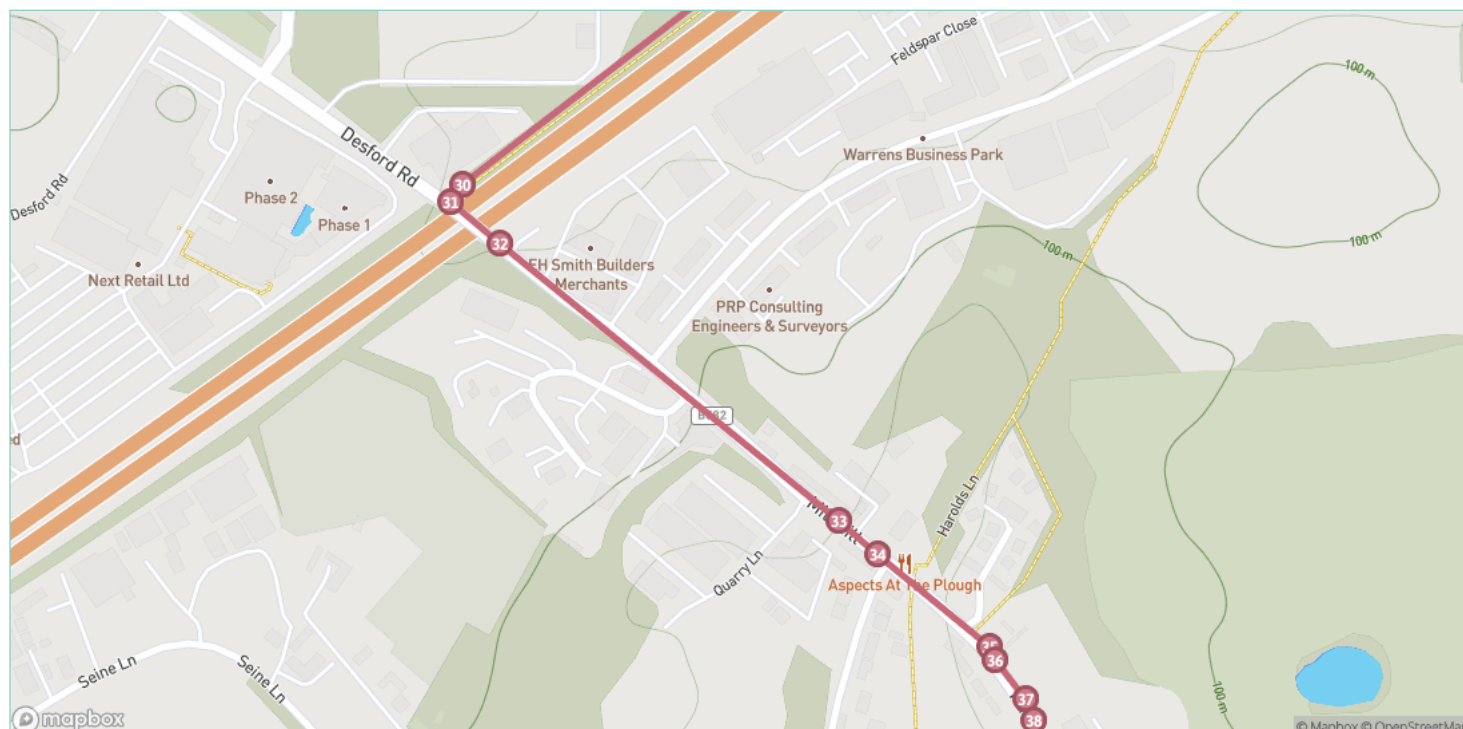
**Step 26:** Next you will reach a small gated footbridge across a small stream with a footpath marker. Cross.

**Step 27:** After crossing another small field you will see this footpath marker and gate. Continue along the footpath with the hedge on your left.

**Step 28:** Continue with the hedgerow on you left across two fields. You will see a grouping of pylons and transformers on your right.

**Step 29:** When you reach the end of the field with the motorway Infront of you, turn right and continue along the path adjacent to the motorway





**Step 30:** Continue along the footpath adjacent the motorway until you reach the gap in the hedge up to the B582

**Step 31:** Here you will see the Next head office Infront of you. Next was set up in Leeds in 1864 but now runs most of its operations from Leicester.

**Step 32:** Turn left onto the B582 and continue along the pavement up the hill towards Enderby

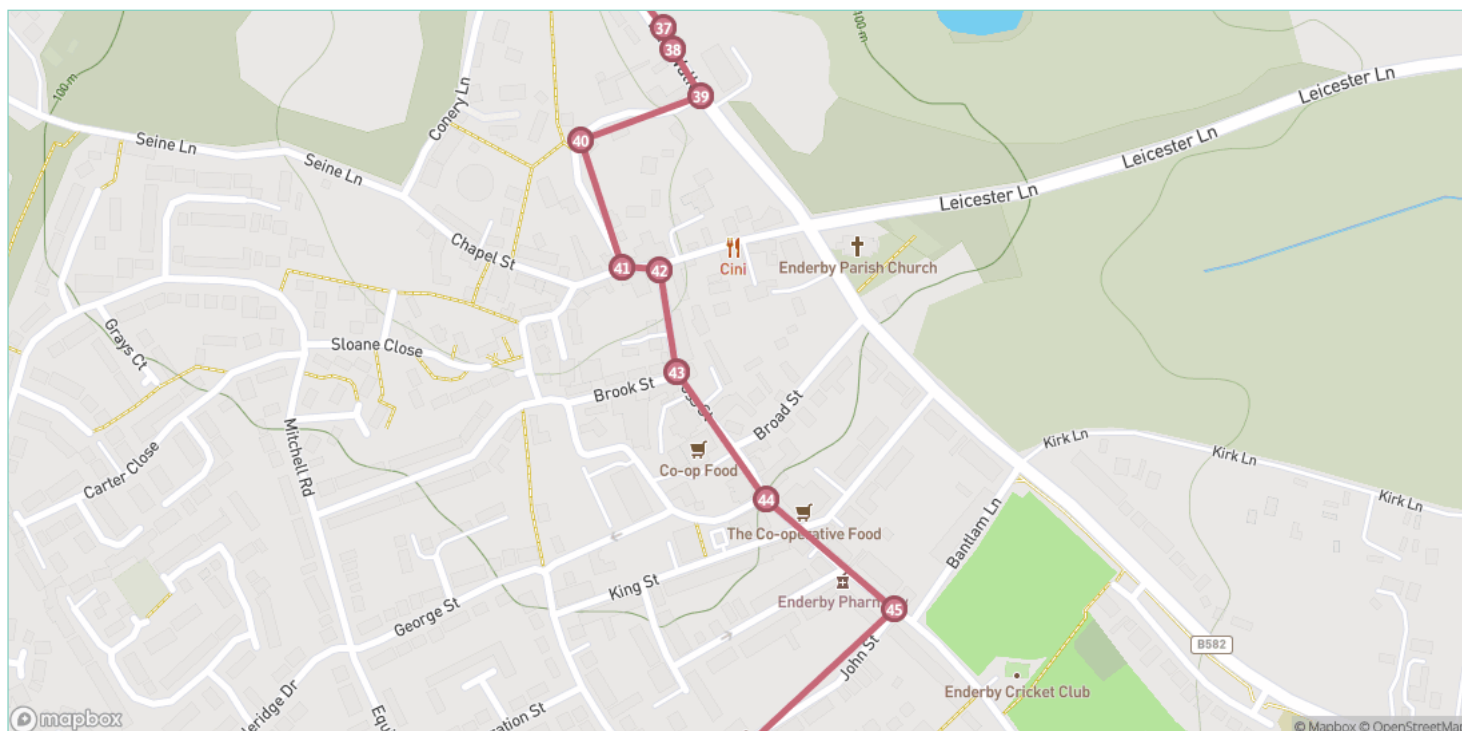
**Step 33:** Continue along the B582 on the pavement (caution: busy road!!)

**Step 34:** If you need a break or any refreshments before continuing, head into Mill Hill Cask and Coffee - a highly rated microbrewery and cafe/bistro

**Step 35:** Continue down the B582. You will walk with this brick wall on your left. Behind this wall is Enderby Hall dating back to the 16th Century.

**Step 36:** Charles Lorraine Smith once lived here. Smith was a famous artist, poet and renowned fox-hunter. He was Lord of Enderby Hall, the High Sheriff of Leicester and a one-time MP.

**Step 37:** The painting depicts the men on the hunt smoking, despite the fact this impairs the hounds' sense of smell and could derail the whole hunt. Lorraine was clearly a humourous man. In a poem he wrote, he writes of his poor skills as a rider.



**Step 38:** The poem reads: "And at the same place, jumps Smith of Lorraine: He's off! - No! He's not! - He hangs by the mane!"

**Step 45:** Continue along Cross Street until you reach John Street on your right.

**Step 39:** Across the road from the Hall, on the corner of Moores Lane is the old stables where Lorraine's horses were kept.

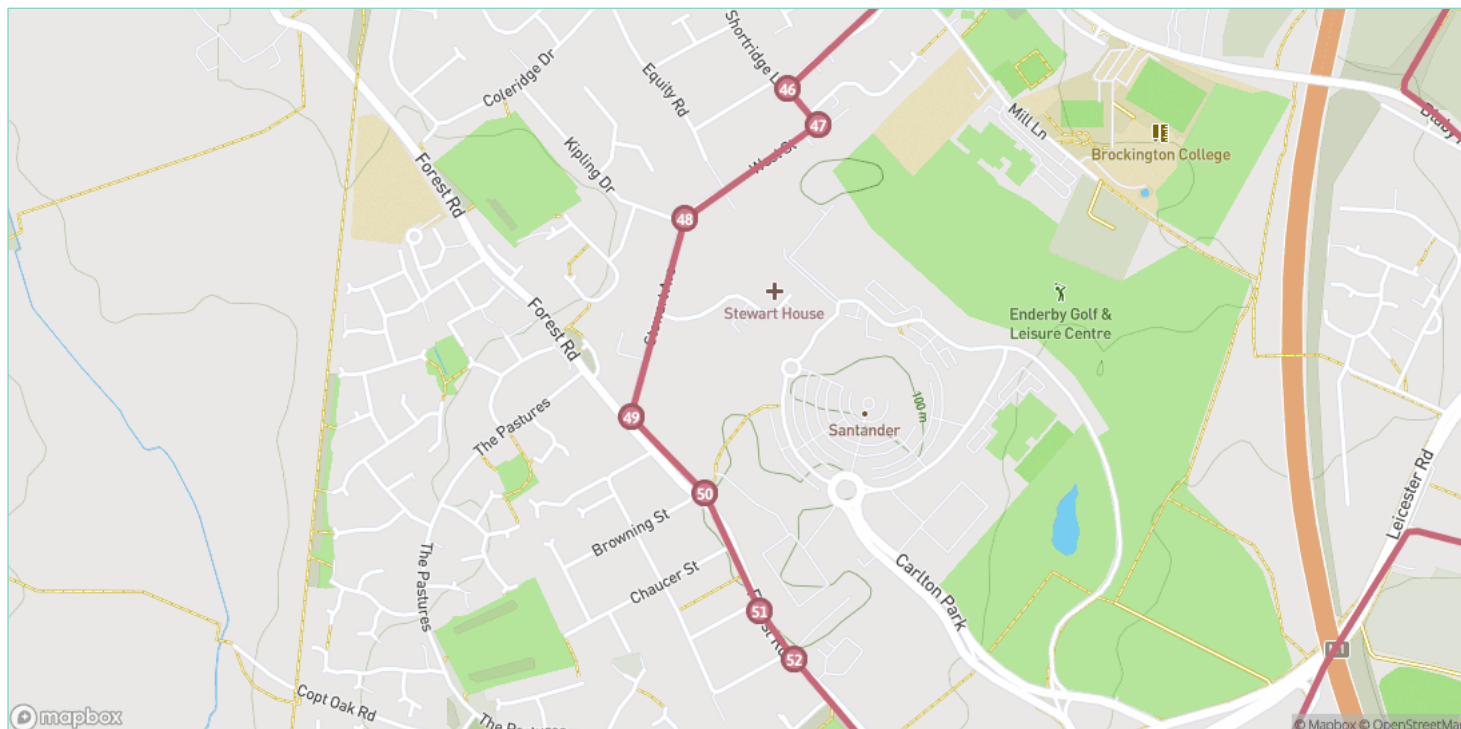
**Step 40:** Turn right down Moores Lane (with the old stable building on your right). Continue down the lane until you reach Enderby's main street

**Step 41:** Emerge onto High Street in Enderby

**Step 42:** Turn left then right onto Cross Street. If you fancy a sit down meal now, head to Cini's on High Street - a highly rated Italian restaurant.

**Step 43:** Enderby has numerous old buildings, many of which are Grade II listed. Take some time to admire this charming village.

**Step 44:** Continue down Cross Street.



**Step 46:** Turn right and head down John Street

**Step 47:** Turn left into Shortridge Lane for a short distance.

**Step 48:** Turn right onto West Street and continue

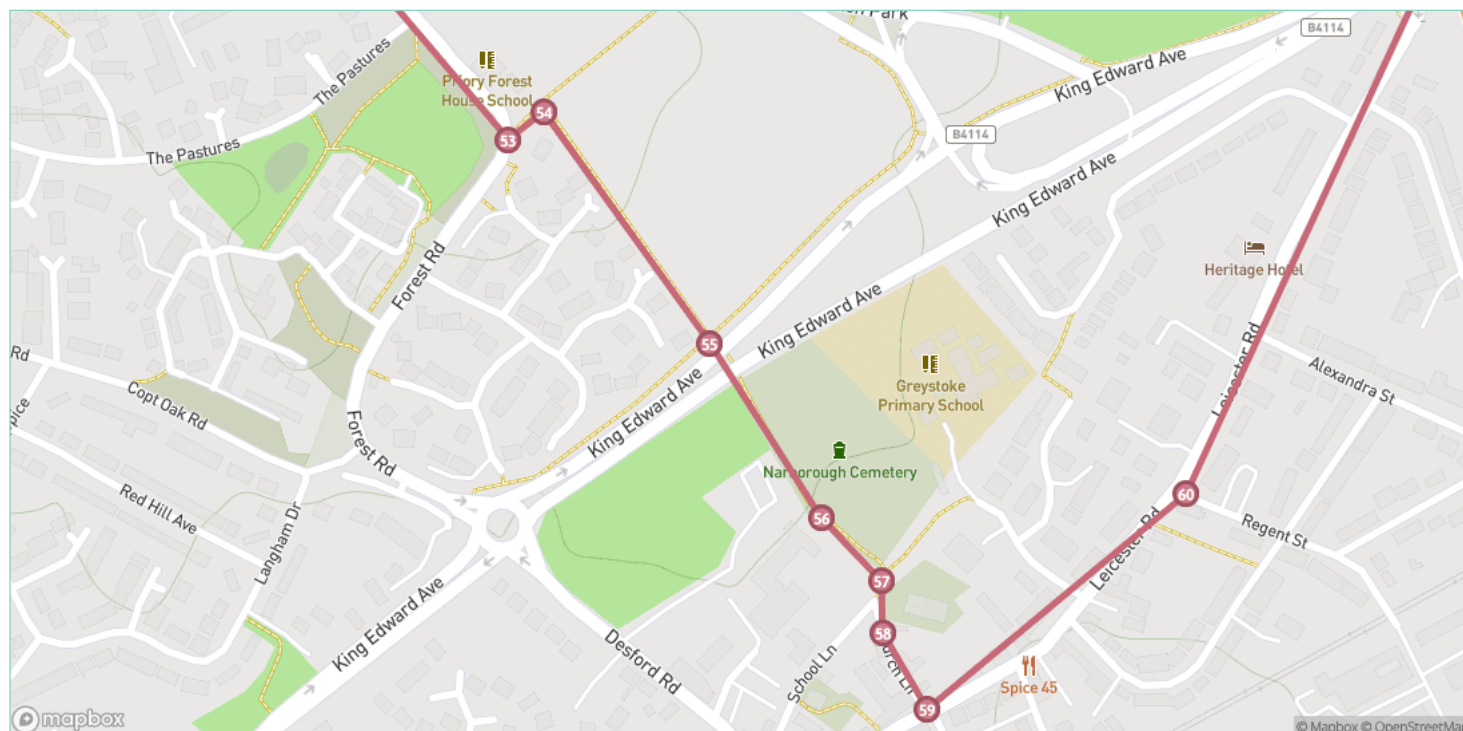
**Step 49:** Continue along this road as it becomes Stewart Avenue. Continue until you reach Forest Road

**Step 50:** Bare left and continue down Forest Road. The industrial park on your left is called Carlton Hayes.

**Step 51:** Carlton Hayes gets its name from the former Carlton Hayes Hospital which once stood on the site. It opened in 1907 as the Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum.

**Step 52:** The name was then changed to the Leicestershire and Rutland Mental Hospital and then finally Carlton Hayes. It could house nearly 900 patients and police were often there to guard some of the more violent patients.





**Step 53:** As Forest Road bends right, take the footpath on your left

**Step 54:** After a very short distance turn right onto another footpath leading towards a dual carriageway

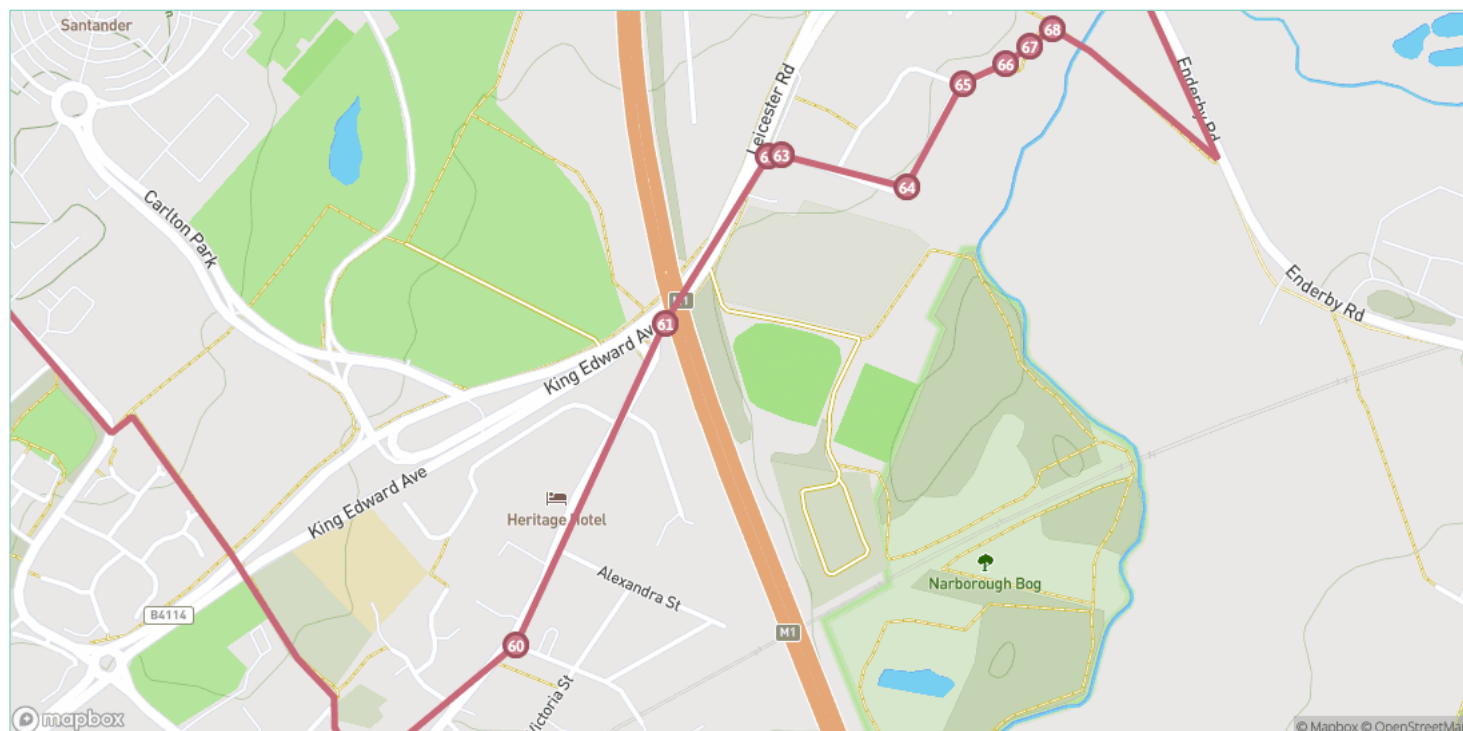
**Step 55:** At the end of this short footpath, cross the dual carriageway at the light-controlled crossing. (Caution: busy road)

**Step 56:** After crossing the dual carriageway, continue along the footpath ahead passing between the Blaby District Council offices and a cemetery.

**Step 57:** You will emerge at a road below All Saint's Church. Turn left down Church Lane down to Leicester Road.

**Step 58:** As you walk down Church Lane there is a beautiful thatched roof on your left.

**Step 59:** TURN LEFT onto Leicester Road. If you wish to do some shopping then you can turn right when emerging onto Leicester Road and follow along until you reach the award-winning Narborough Hall Gift Shop "More Than Just a Gift."



**Step 60:** Continue up Leicester Road towards the road bridge in the distance

**Step 61:** Continue up Leicester Road as it becomes a dual carriageway and passes under the M1 motorway. Continue up the hill

**Step 62:** Turn right onto a road adjacent to the Dual Carriageway also called Leicester Road. (Look for the bus stop sign)

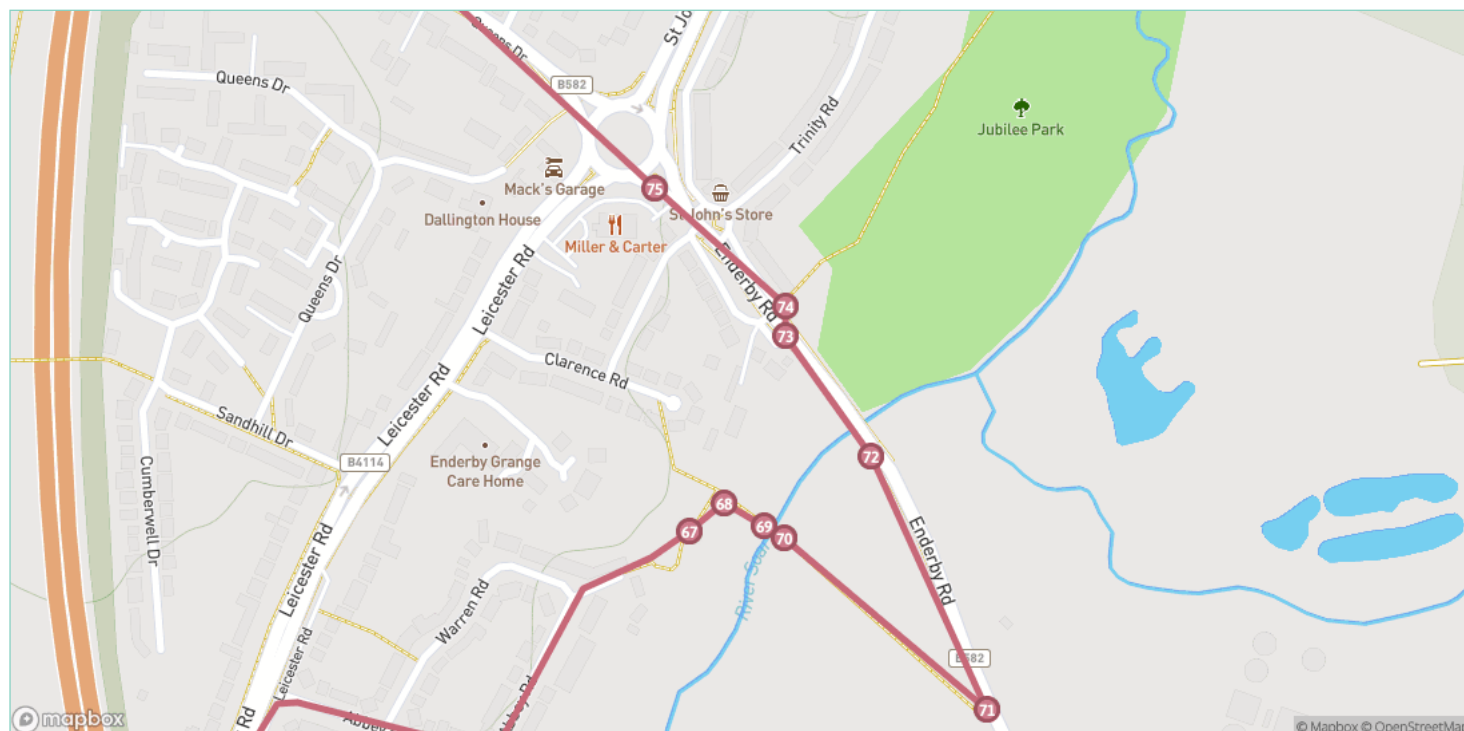
**Step 63:** Take an almost immediate right onto Abbey Road.

**Step 64:** Follow Abbey Road as it bears left.

**Step 65:** Bare right now as Abbey Road becomes a cul-de-sac

**Step 66:** Follow the marked footpath at the end of the cul-de-sac.

**Step 67:** As you walk along the footpath by the edge of a green area, the houses on the other side are built on the former site of the Blaby Union Workhouse. Built in 1837, it could house up to 300 people who did brutal labour just to earn a living.



**Step 68:** Cross over the stepped barrier onto the footpath leading to a pair of bridges

**Step 69:** You will now cross over two bridges. One wood, one stone. You are passing over the River Soar.

**Step 70:** The stone bridge dates to the 15th Century. It's a Medieval stone packhorse bridge. These were vital routes connecting Medieval villages

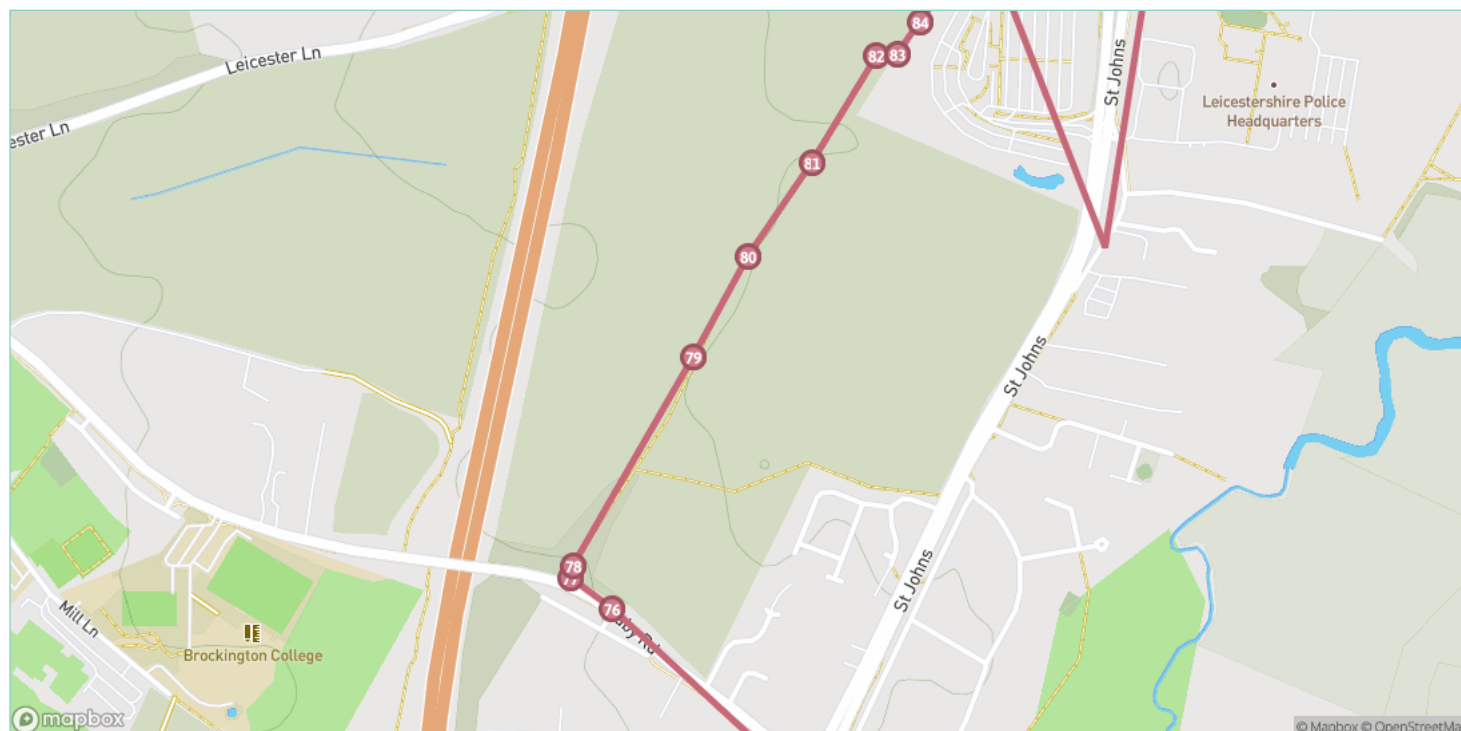
**Step 71:** Continue along the footpath until it emerges onto the pavement next to the dual carriageway. (Careful as you pass through the field as it can get flooded.)

**Step 72:** Turn left on the pavement and follow alongside the dual carriageway

**Step 73:** Continue alongside the dual carriageway until you reach a large roundabout. You will pass over the River Soar again and also a sign for Enderby.

**Step 74:** After the Enderby sign, on your right, is Jubilee Park where there's a granite stone from what some believe to be a lost Medieval village.

**Step 75:** On the left of the large roundabout is a Miller and Carter Steakhouse. We're not far from the start/end point now so it's a good time to eat



**Step 76:** Cross the dual carriageway and continue down the B582 towards Enderby and Brockington College. You will pass two small drives on your left.

**Step 77:** After a short while you will reach a footpath sign marked "Fosse Way." Turn right onto the footpath

**Step 78:** You are now on the major Roman Road, Fosse Way. Read the info board on your right to find out more.

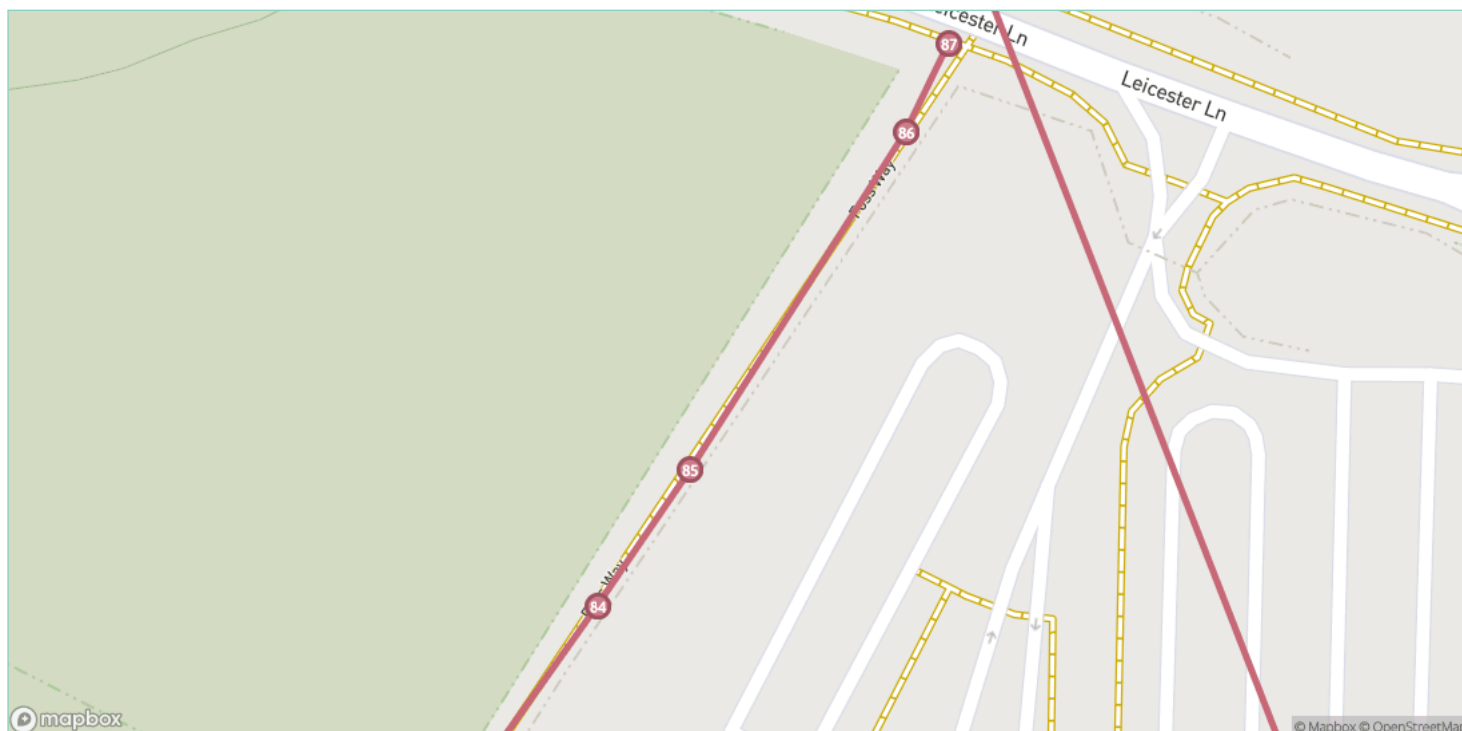
**Step 79:** Continue straight along the footpath (Fosse Way). Excavations of this area have turned up numerous Roman finds are numerous in this area and it's no surprise. The Fosse Way is one of two major Roman roads spanning the country.

**Step 80:** The Fosse Way crosses the country South-West to North-East, starting down in Exeter and ending at Lincoln (two major Roman settlements). Leicester with its strategic position centrally and along two rivers also had a Roman garrison.

**Step 81:** Leicester in Roman times was called Ratae Corieltavorum. The name derives from the Celtic word for "ramparts," and was probably the inspiration for many village names across Leicestershire such as Ratby and Ratcliffe.

**Step 82:** The Romans arrived in England in the area in around the year 47 A.D. and remained until the 4th Century whereby they withdrew from the British Isles due to internal and external crisis. The Roman Empire would not last much longer.

**Step 83:** Rome's collapse coincided with the migration of European tribes into their borders causing massive conflict. Two of these tribes, the Angles and the Saxons migrated from Northern Germany and Denmark to England.



**Step 84:** The Angles and the Saxons thus became known as the Anglo-Saxons and set up various successful kingdoms across England, including Wessex and Mercia (of which Leicester was a part of). They would later face an onslaught of Viking invasions.

**Step 85:** Villages ending in -thorpe- such as Countesthorpe have Anglo-Saxon origins while villages ending in -by- such as Blaby have Viking origins. After the Norman Conquest in 1066, all three cultures would mix to create the English language.

**Step 86:** At the end of the Fosse Way footpath, where it reaches Leicester Lane, turn right to return to the start/end point. Thank you for walking Route 8!

**Step 87:** Congratulations 🎉 and thank you for completing Route 8 of the Blaby District Heritage Walks. All other routes can be found in-app for you to enjoy too.