



Castlefield Naturehood Trail

Circular step-free nature walk starting at Castlefield Viaduct. Expect a walk steeped in history with amazing views and more.

Distance 4.4 kilometers / 2.7 miles

Duration 2 hours and 10 minutes



Wildlife



Wheel friendly



Water feature



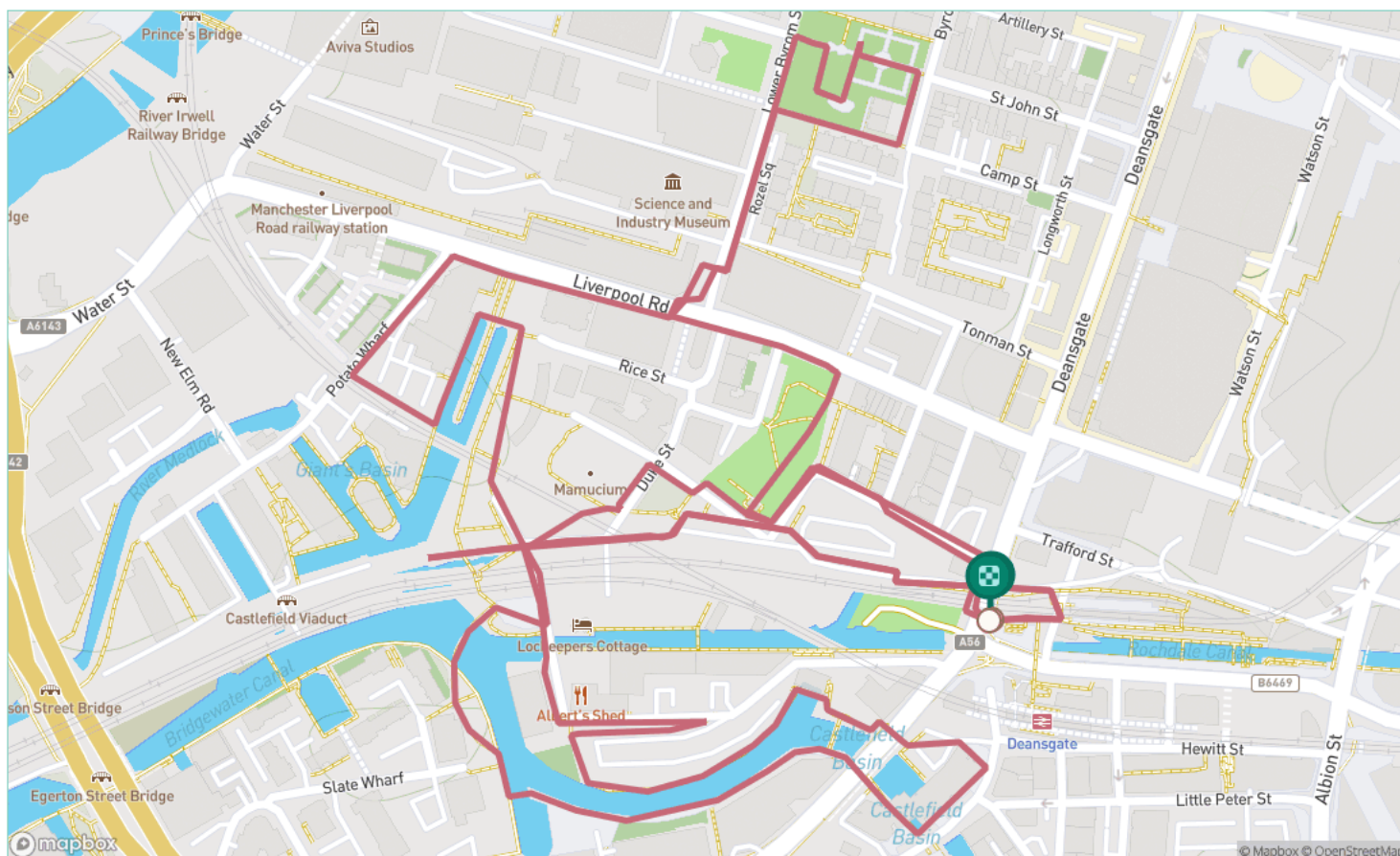
Public transport



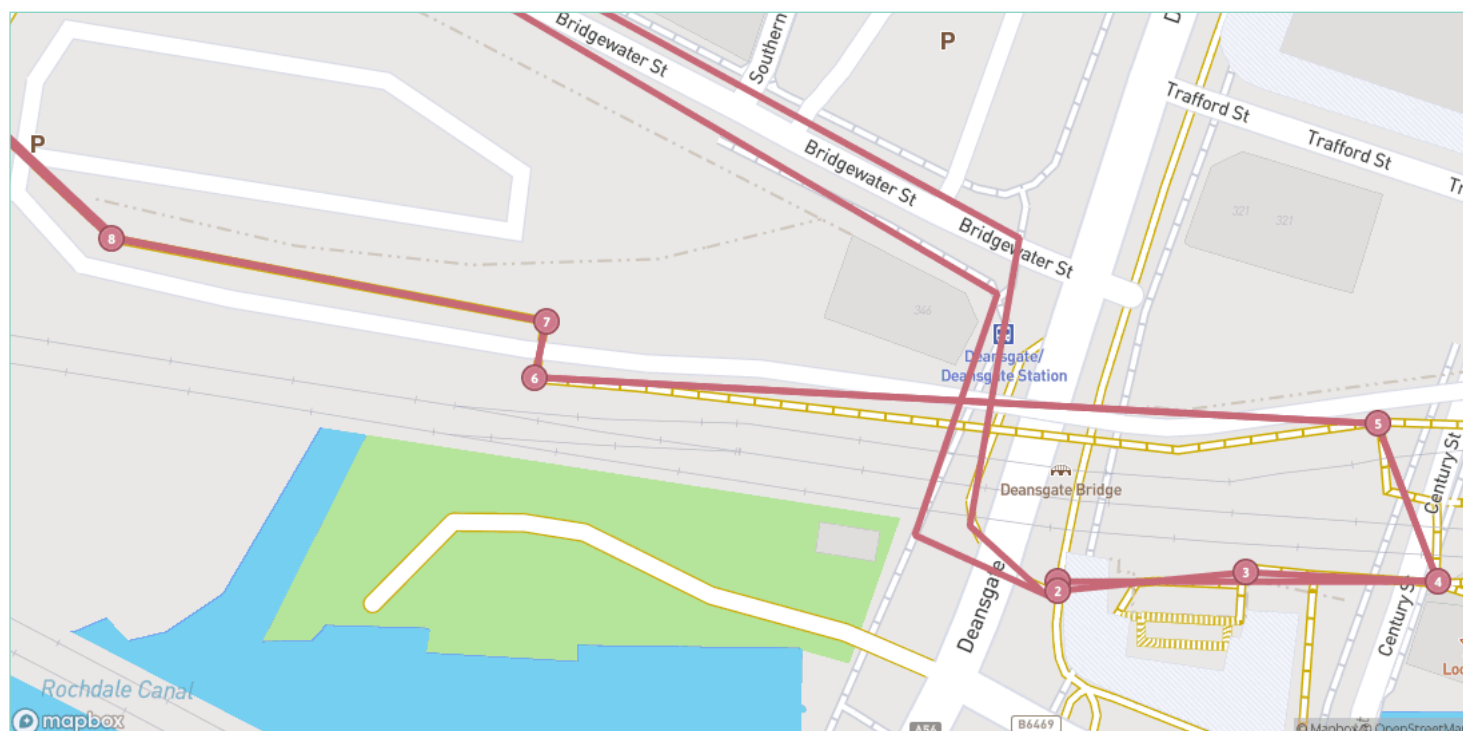
Picnic spot



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 © 2025. Last Updated: 08 October 2025.



Step 1: Welcome to our Castlefield Naturehood Trail brought to you in collaboration with the National Trust. Join us to discover all of the wild neighbours and hidden nature right here. Tap the 'Read More' button for visitor information.

Transport & Visitor Information

This walk starts at the corner of Deansgate and Whitworth Street (Postcode: M3 4LY). The nearest tram station is Deansgate-Castlefield.

Please note that the National Trust's Castlefield Viaduct is usually open Weds-Sun 10am-5pm. If you're doing the walk at other times, skip to step 35 to enjoy the rest of the walk.

Step 2: Start at the Deansgate-Castlefield lift on Deansgate road for the step-free option to get to the National Trust's Castlefield Viaduct.

Step 3: Turn left out of the lift.

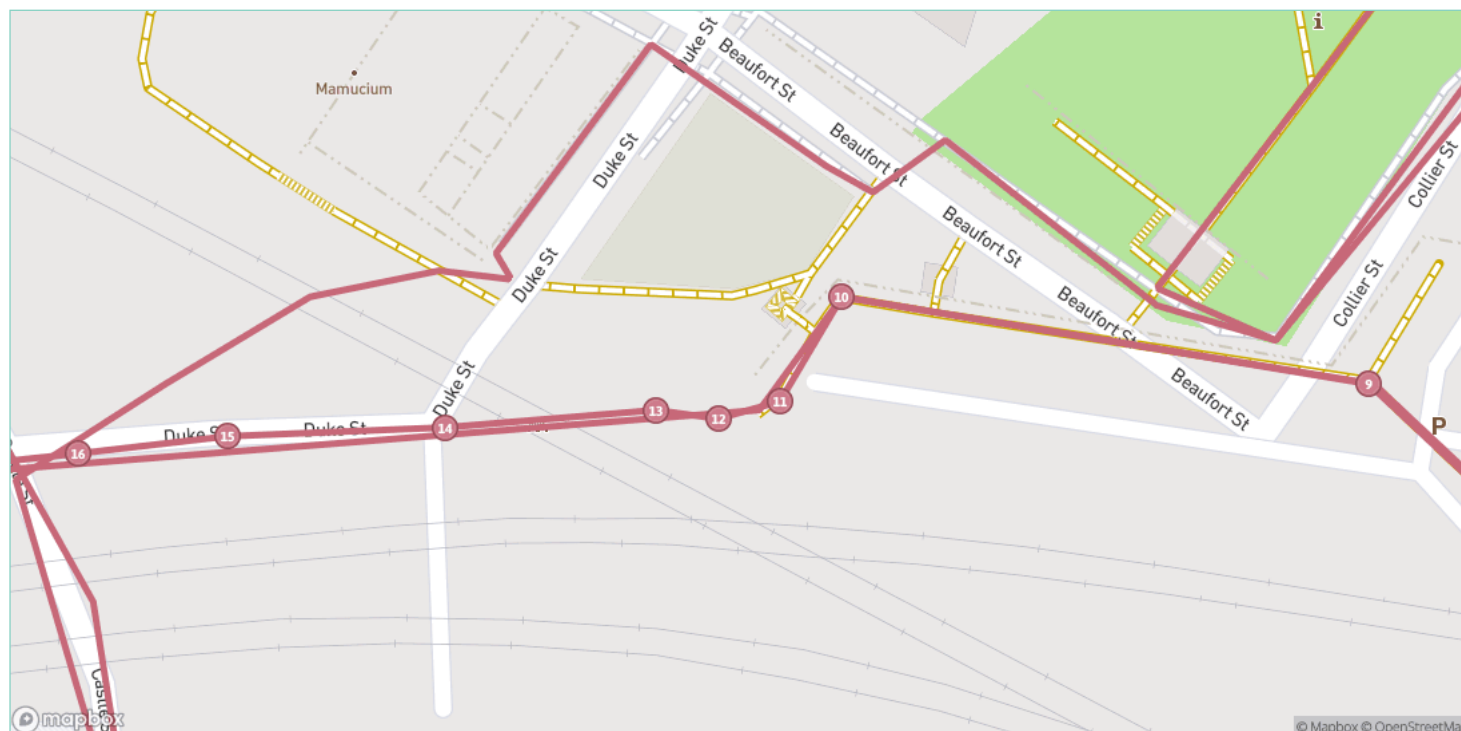
Step 4: Cross over the tramway. Check both ways! Turn left on the other side to continue across the next tramway.

Step 5: After the tramway crossing, turn left to follow the footway up to the pedestrian crossing on your right hand side.

Step 6: Cross over the road at the pedestrian crossing and turn left on the other side.

Step 7: Continue straight. You need to walk through the car park to get to Castlefield Viaduct.

Step 8: Use the outlined pedestrian path to walk through the car park and turn left when you're back on the pavement.



Step 9: Continue straight to the end. The lift here was broken in September 2025.

Step 10: Turn left at the end, you'll pass a staircase along the way.

Step 11: Head into Castlefield Viaduct, the city's hidden gem. It's usually open Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm. Find out more below. 🖱️

About Castlefield Viaduct

Castlefield Viaduct is a Victorian-era steel viaduct transformed into a green 'sky garden' in the heart of Manchester. Pop in and discover this urban garden.

Learn more

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cheshire-greater-manchester/castlefield-viaduct>

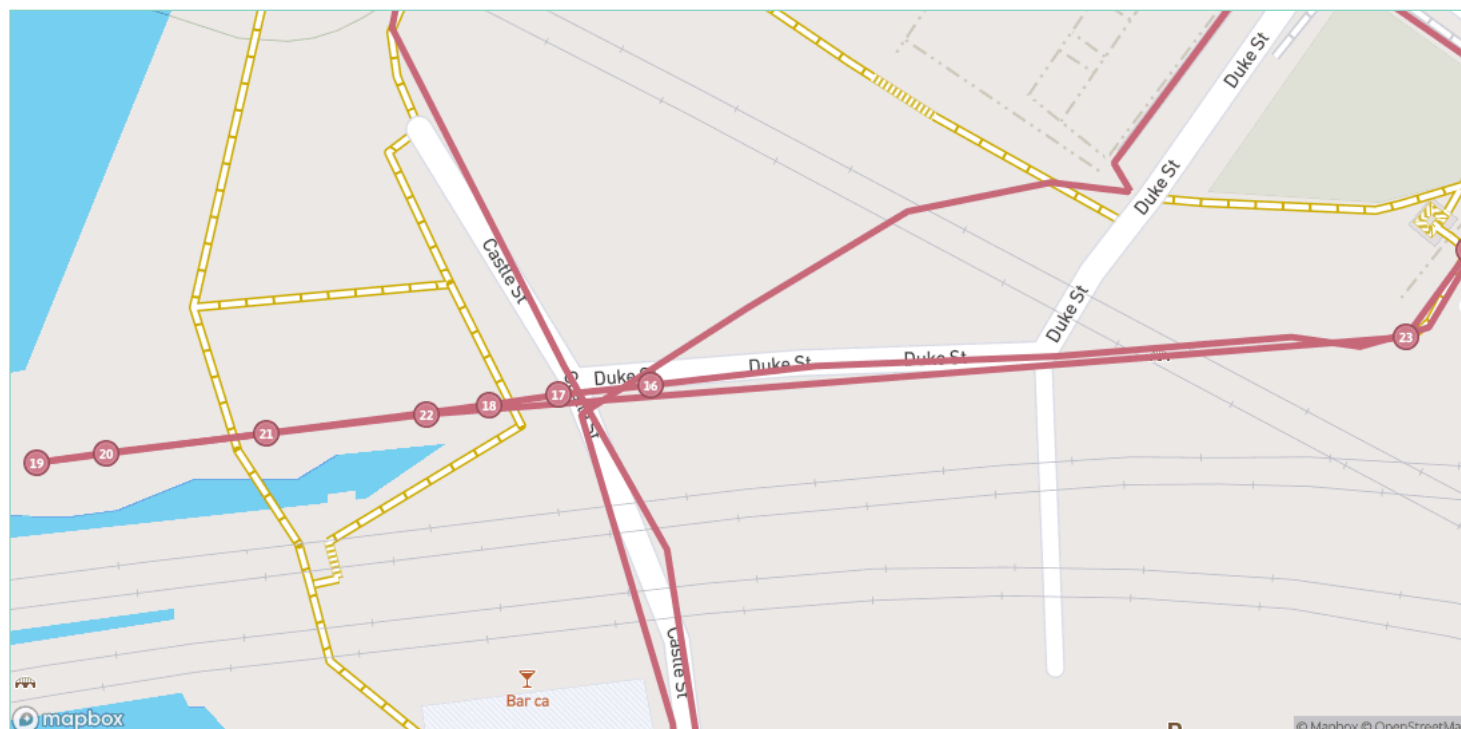
Step 12: Castlefield Viaduct is a part of your Naturehood. A place to relax, immerse in nature and importantly, a place to have fun!

Step 13: Follow your way into the oasis. And breathe!

Step 14: It's really hard to get lost, it's just one long path for you to explore. You can wander as you wish if you like? Or follow us for prompts.

Step 15: Continue straight. Look out for Vole-ville. A super cute home created for the resident voles. All made with upcycled materials!

Step 16: Castlefield is a fantastic place to go on a colour walk. Do you know what colour walk is? Tap the "play" button to find out more. 🖱️



Step 17: Can you find a little pond? In spring, you might see frogspawn or pond skaters. What can you see today?

Step 18: Maybe you can spot a bee? Or another buzzing insect? Can you follow it, where does it go? Find out more about our incredible bees below. 🐝👉

Information about Bees

Bees are an important sign of a healthy ecology. Check below for a fun crafting activity to give them a home.

Learn more

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/crafts/how-to-build-a-bee-box>

Step 19: Once you've made it to the end, turn around and enjoy it all again!

Step 20: Did you try the colour walk idea earlier? If not, you could try now. Tap the "Play" button for a reminder.

Step 21: It's amazing to think that all these trees are so high up off the ground. You can learn about tree identification below! 🌳

National Trust Tree Identification

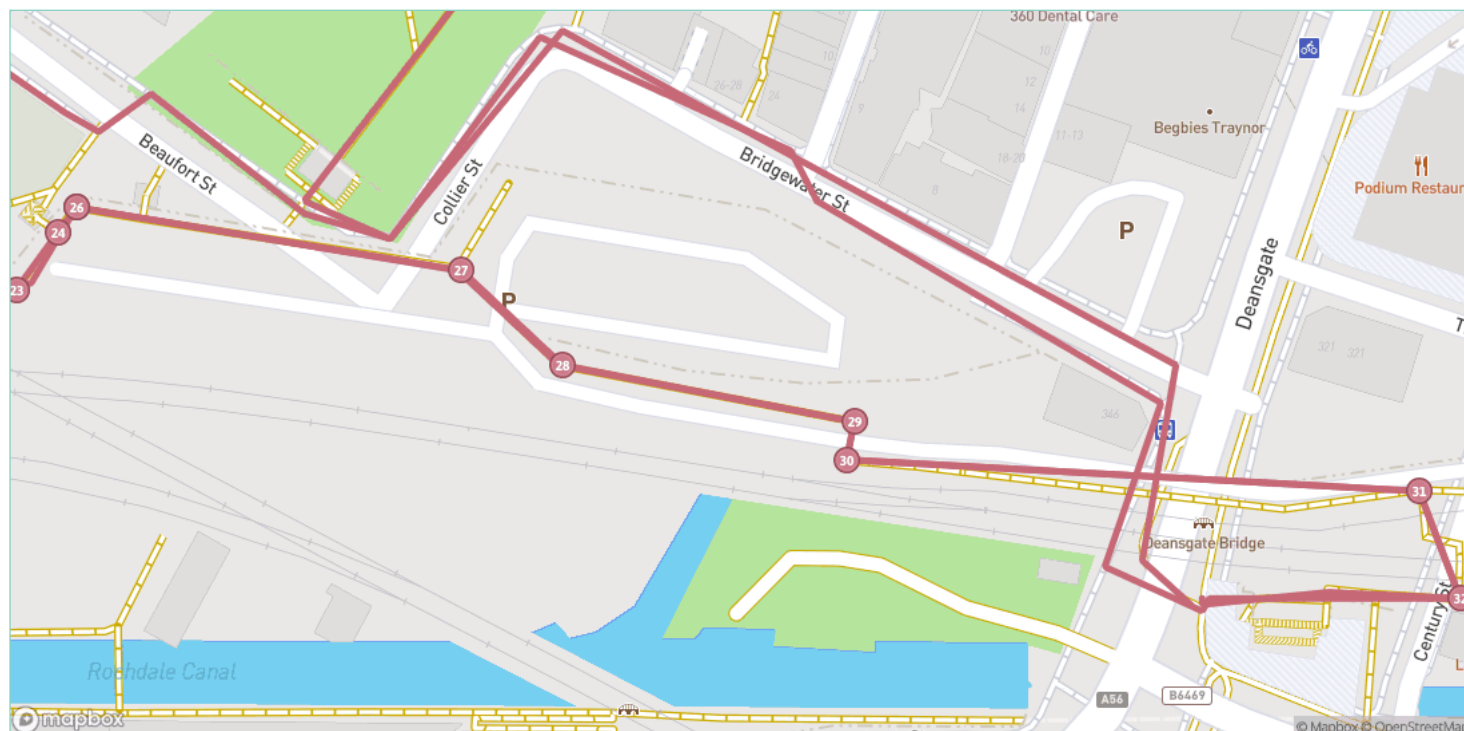
Discover how to identify trees from their leaves, bark and shape, how to tell similar species apart and how they change as they get older.

Find out more

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/nature/trees-plants/guide-identifying-trees>

Step 22: Isn't this a wonderful space? Next time, why not bring a friend along? Every season the garden will change and you can enjoy it then too.

Step 23: Don't worry, this isn't the end of our walking trail, we've got so much more to show you! We can't wait to lead you around this Naturehood. Ready to continue? Let's go!



Step 24: Exit Castlefield Viaduct where you came in and continue straight ahead. If you don't need a step free option, you can use the steps here and skip to step 42 to follow the route.

Step 31: Remember to look both ways. The trams go in both directions.

Step 25: For the step-free route, we need to retrace our steps back down the lift at Deansgate-Castlefield tram station.

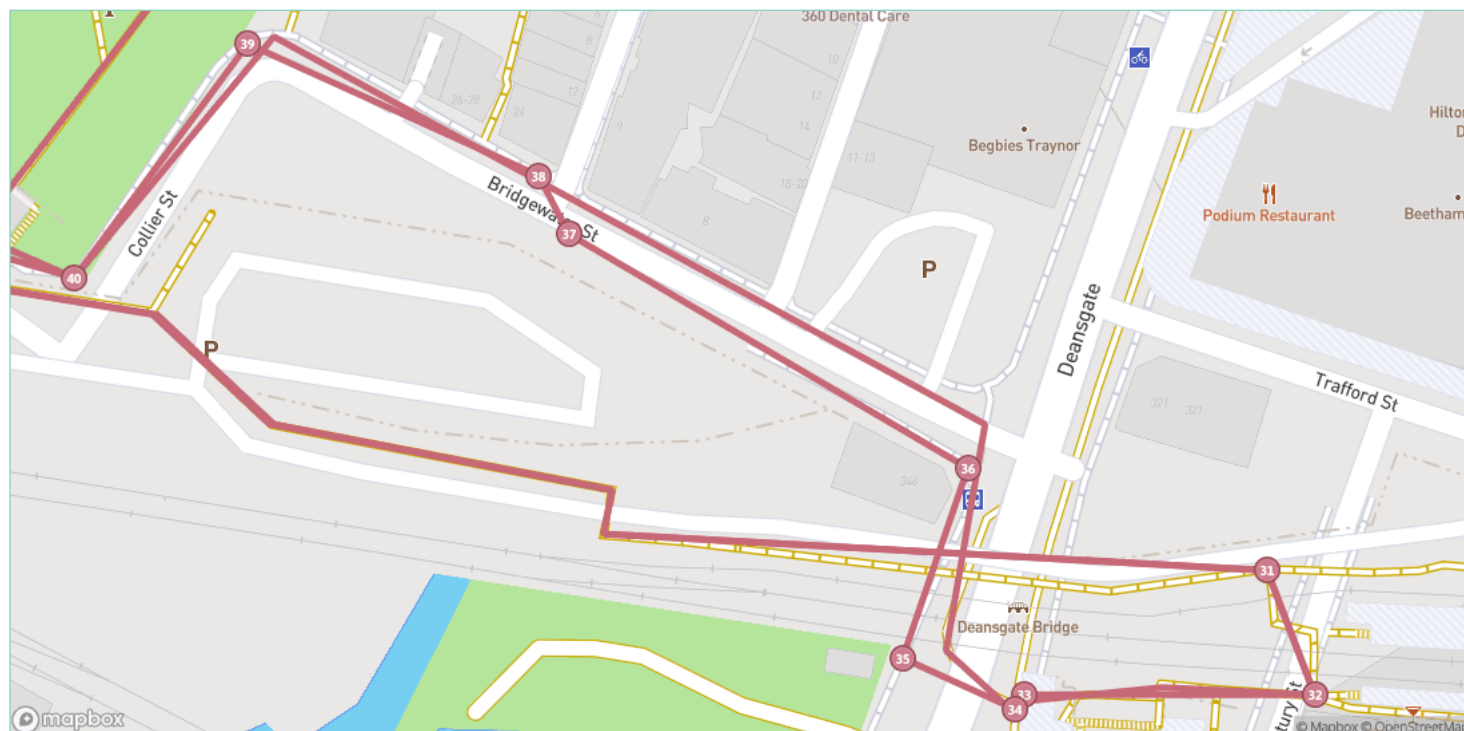
Step 26: Let's continue towards the car park.

Step 27: Cross back through the car park and walk towards the tram station.

Step 28: Keep left until the pedestrian crossing on your right hand side.

Step 29: Wait for the green light to cross over, and then continue ahead.

Step 30: Make your way back to the tramway crossing coming up on the right hand side.



Step 32: On the other side, turn right to continue. Head to the lift.

Step 33: Use the lift to make your way back down to street level.

Step 34: At the bottom of the lift, you're on the corner of Deansgate, cross over the main road via the pedestrian crossing and turn right.

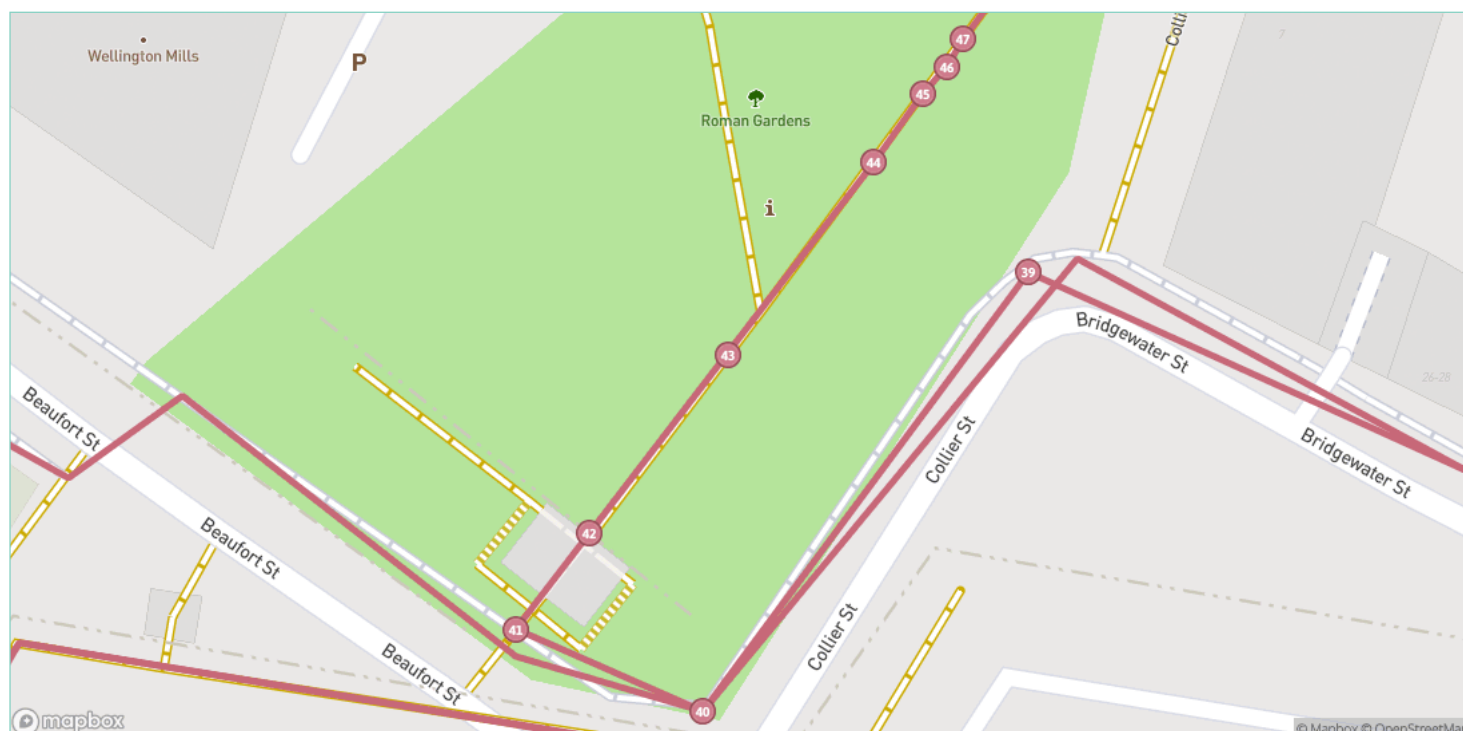
Step 35: Continue right to walk under Castlefield Viaduct. Get ready to turn left at the upcoming road.

Step 36: Turn left at Bridgewater Street and continue straight.

Step 37: About halfway along you'll find a drop kerb, cross over to the other side and turn left to continue in the same direction of travel.

Step 38: Continue up Bridgewater Street. We are heading to another park soon. Hooray!

Step 39: Follow the path as it bends left towards the viaduct and then follow the road as it bears right.



Step 40: The road turns into Beaufort Street. On your right, will be in entrance into the Roman Gardens, where we're headed next.

Step 41: Head through the arches and make your way into the park.

Step 42: Welcome to the Roman Gardens which is steeped in history. Tap the "Play" button below to hear more about this park.

Step 43: Can you see the ditches in the ground? If you head onto the grass please watch your step.

Step 44: Look for the beautiful trees on your right hand side? Can you spot anything interesting?

Step 45: Take a closer look! In late summer and autumn you might see little furry chestnuts growing on the trees. They can be quite prickly.

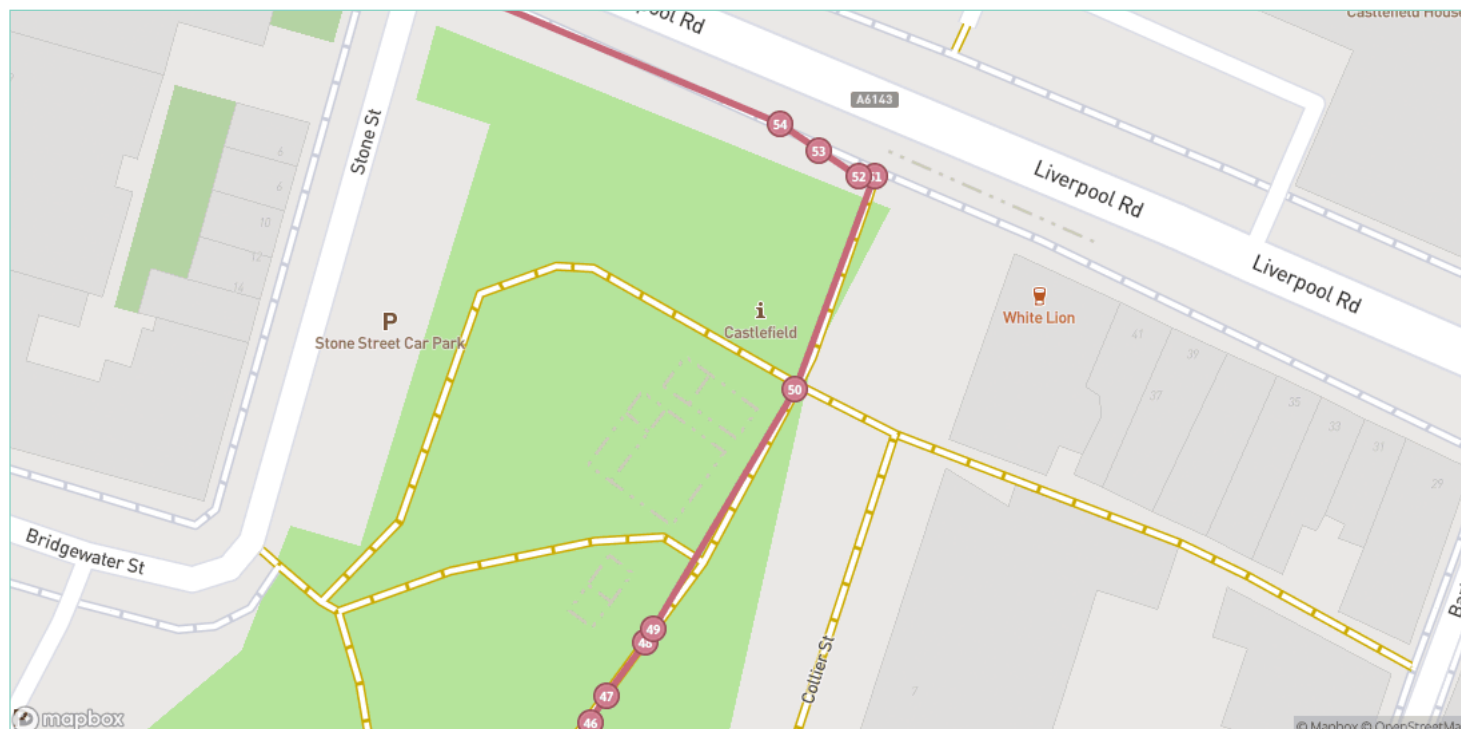
Step 46: The fruits look quite similar to conkers and are from the same family. In spring, the chestnut blossom shoots up from the branches like mini fireworks. Learn more about chestnut trees by tapping the 'Read More' button below.

Chestnut Trees



Image Credit: Sweet chestnut trees at Sheffield Park and Garden in East Sussex, by Andrew Butler.

Struggle to tell your sweet chestnut from your horse chestnut tree? With sweet chestnut trees, look out for prickly cases that encase several small, edible chestnuts. Long, pointed leaves have toothed edges and turn golden in autumn. Horse chestnuts have shells with spaced-out spikes that house just one conker (which you won't want to



eat). Hand-shaped leaves turn reddish-brown in autumn.

Step 47: Parks are like the green lungs of the city. They help keep the air clean and provide habitats for wildlife, big and small.

Step 48: At the bottom of these trees, you can find small bushes with bright green leaves.

Step 49: Why not give them a little stroke. How do they feel? Soft or smooth?

Step 50: Once you've finished exploring the park, let's head towards the exit. But before we leave...

Step 51: ...you'll see some more tall trees on your left hand side. Can you see them? The tree pit has a step-up.

Step 52: Let's take a closer look at the bark on the tree. Can you see all the layers and different colours? Can you give the bark a feel?

Step 53: These are plane trees and are very popular in our cities. The bark sheds regularly to get rid of pollutants like soot, fungi and parasites.

Step 54: Ok let's exit the park and turn left to continue down Liverpool Road. You'll pass the plane trees as you go.



Step 55: Use the drop kerbs to cross over side roads and continue straight. The pavement is a little uneven here.

Step 62: Have you spotted the entrance on the right? Pass the bollard and head up the ramp and into the park.

Step 56: Keep going until you reach the zebra crossing on your right. Use it to cross over Liverpool Road and turn right on the opposite side.

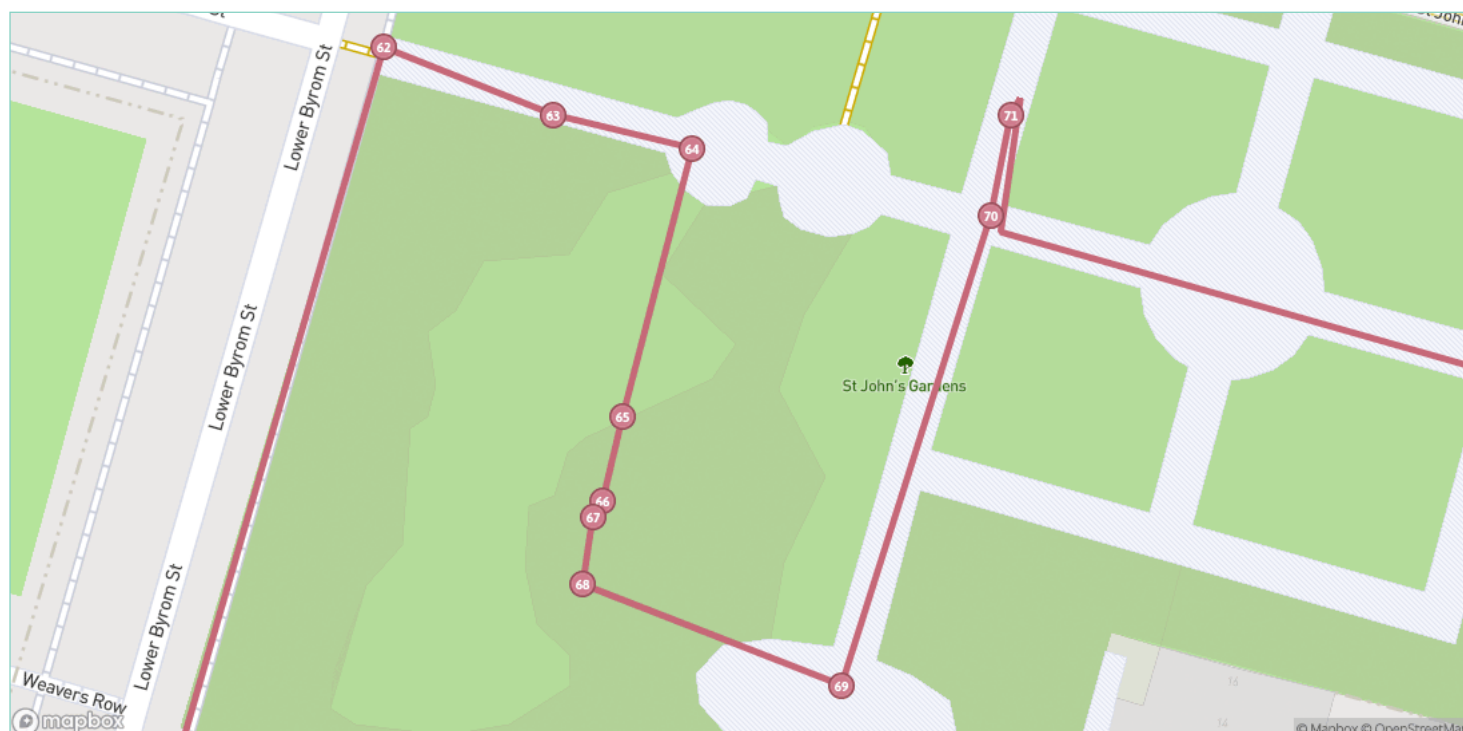
Step 57: On your left is the Science & Industry Museum.

Step 58: Continue ahead on Lower Byrom Street to the next zebra crossing.

Step 59: Use the zebra crossing to cross over and turn left on the other side.

Step 60: Continue up Lower Byrom Street.

Step 61: We're heading to our next urban green space. Continue past Culvercliff Walkway. The entrance is slightly hidden by the giant hedge.



Step 63: Welcome to St John's Gardens. Some of the paths are uneven or on grass. Feel free to stick to the paved paths or explore as you wish. To learn more about the park tap the 'Play' button below.

Step 64: On your right hand side is a shaded garden with benches and a mix of fruit trees. Let's explore.

Step 65: This is a perfect spot to sit down and tune into the sights and sounds around you. What can you hear? Leaves rustling? Bird calls? People?

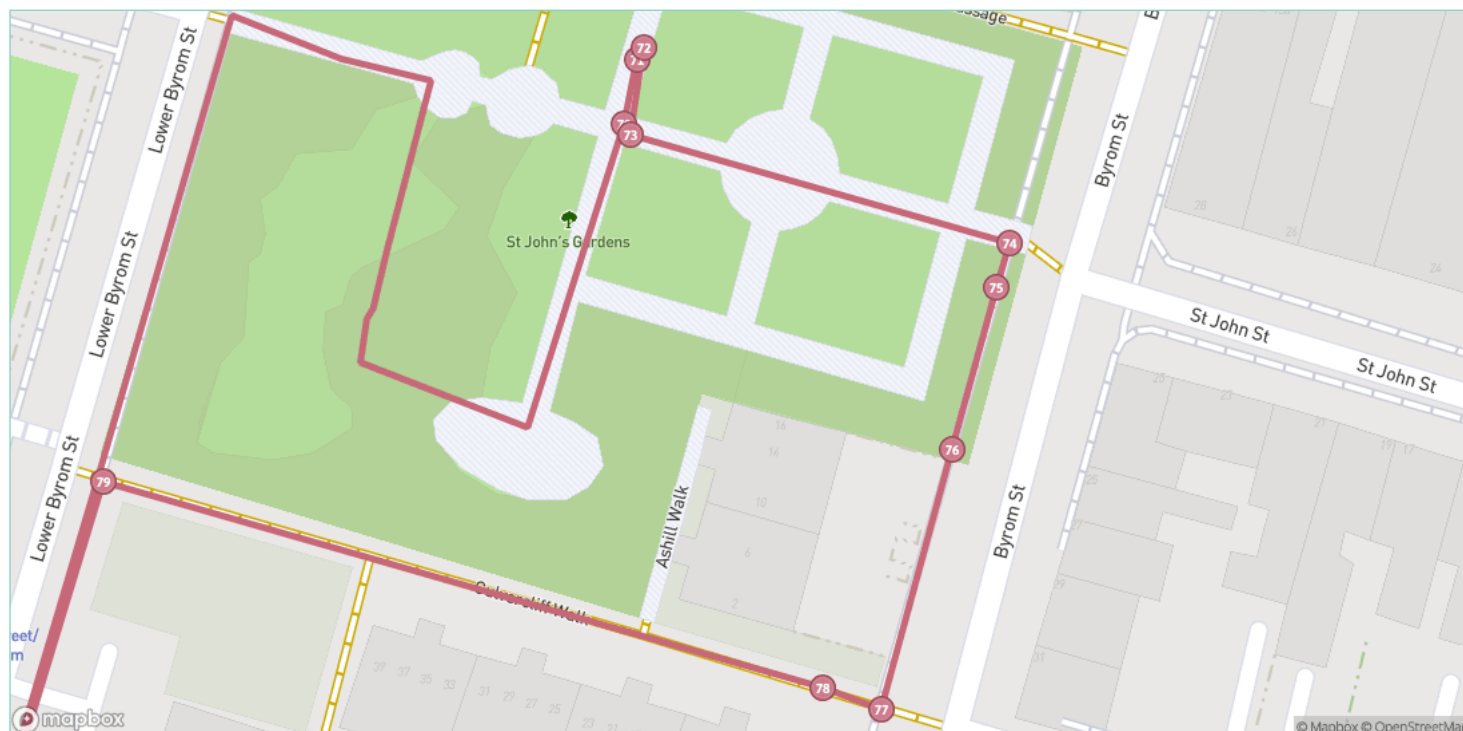
Step 66: When you're ready, take your time to admire the trees. Perhaps there's fruit growing? Or blossom blooming? Or leaves turning?

Step 67: At the end of this mini tree garden, turn left to walk around the park. Have you ever gone on a Texture Hunt? Tap 'Play' to find out more.

Step 68: Take notice of the trees around you. Some trunks are tall and slim and others are a little gnarly and bulbous!

Step 69: Head onto the tarmac footpath ahead and continue past benches.

Step 70: You could walk the memorial cross to head to the wild flower garden to the left hand side.



Step 71: In summer you might find pretty flowers to enjoy.

Step 72: Take a sniff or a picture if you like? How do they smell? Hopefully good! When you're ready, let's walk past the memorial cross.

Step 73: Continue past the monument to exit the park at the opposite end to where you entered.

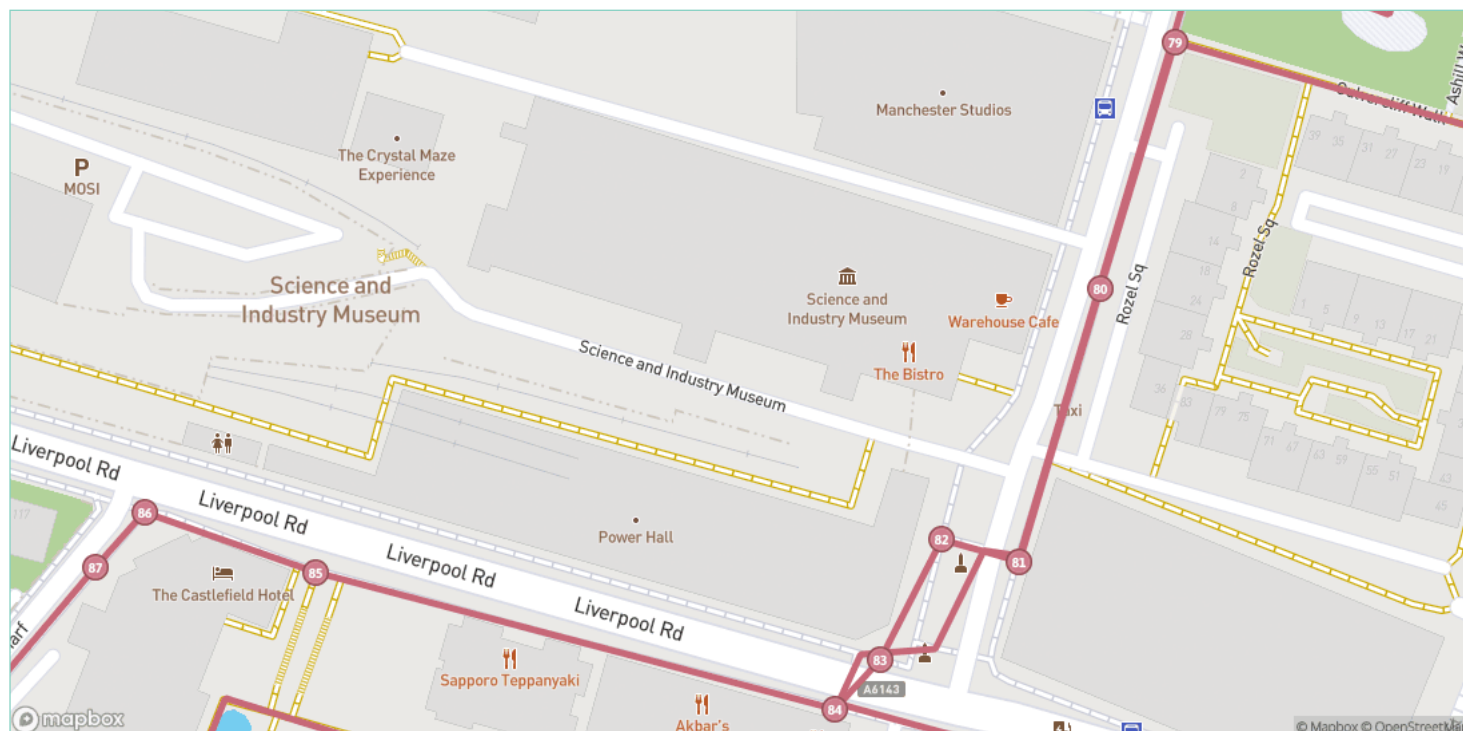
Step 74: Exit the park through the metal gate and turn right onto Byrom Street.

Step 75: We love how nature is bursting at its seams in summer, spilling right out of the park. How does it look to you today?

Step 76: Cross over the side road carefully and get ready to take the next right.

Step 77: Turn right onto Culvercliff Walk.

Step 78: The path is lined with apple trees and wild grasses with bushes and all shades of green either side.



Step 79: Continue to the end, walk past the bollard and turn left back onto Lower Byrom Street.

Step 86: Otherwise, at the next turning, turn left onto Potato Wharf road.

Step 80: Continue ahead. We need to cross the zebra crossing from earlier.

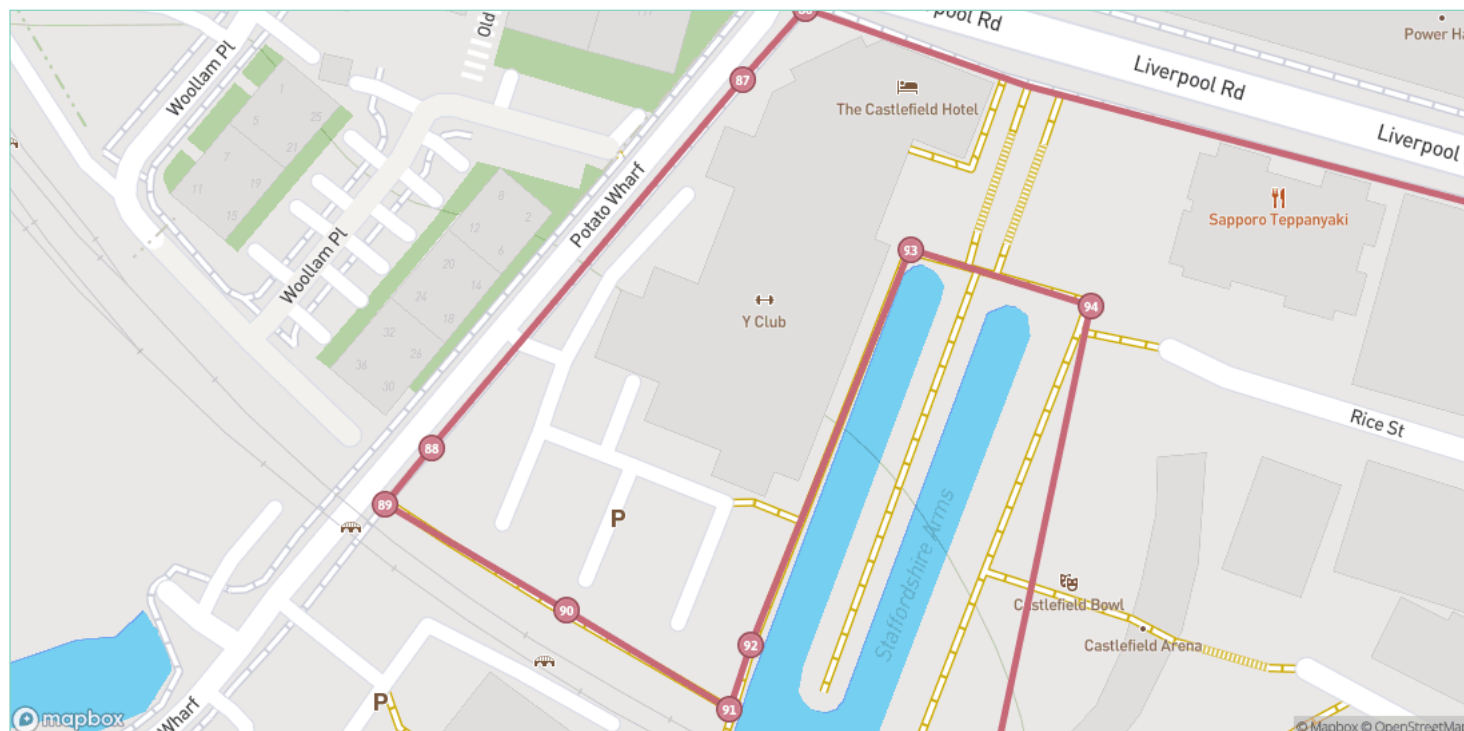
Step 81: Cross over Lower Byrom Street via the zebra crossing and turn left on the other side.

Step 82: Turn right at the junction with Liverpool Road.

Step 83: Use the zebra crossing to cross over Liverpool Road and turn right on the other side.

Step 84: Continue ahead until you get to the Castlefield Hotel on your left.

Step 85: If steps aren't a problem for you, you can take a short cut here - head down the steps and skip to Step 95 on this walk to continue.



Step 87: Take note of the bush-lined streets. In late summer and autumn you'll spot berries brightening up the footway.

Step 94: Mind the bollards as you go. The path will soon turn from paved into cobblestone.

Step 88: Continue towards the bridge and just before it, turn left into an alleyway.

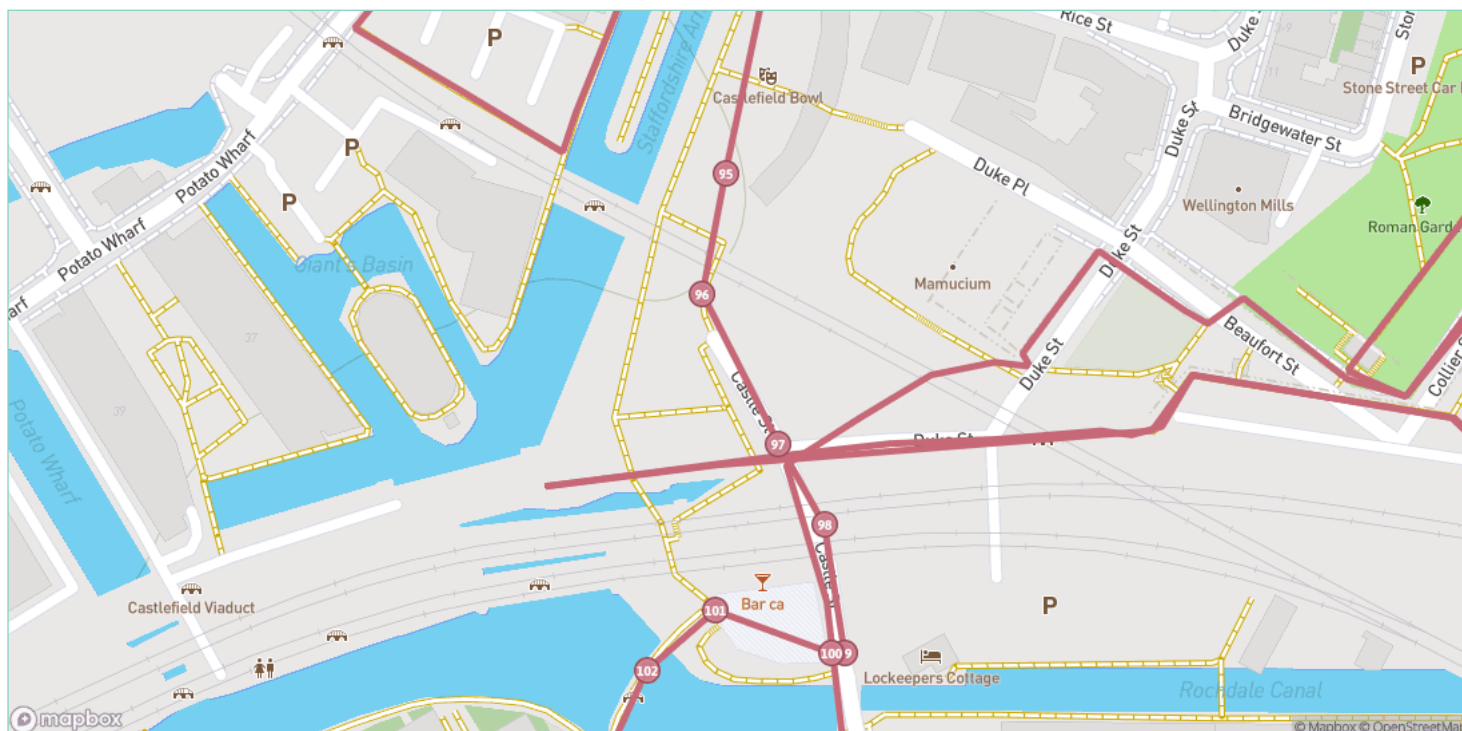
Step 89: Continue past the bollard and walk alongside the edge of the railway bridge.

Step 90: What good things in nature can you spot here? An interesting flower or leaf perhaps?

Step 91: At the end of the alleyway, walk past the bollard and turn left.

Step 92: Continue ahead, the canal and canal boats will be on your right hand side. There are benches here if you need a break.

Step 93: At the end of the path, turn right and then get ready to turn right again.



Step 95: Head towards the railway bridge arches to continue.

Step 102: Enjoy the views across the basin as you go. The bridge feels quite wobbly as you walk.

Step 96: The footway becomes narrower here and turns into Castle Street.

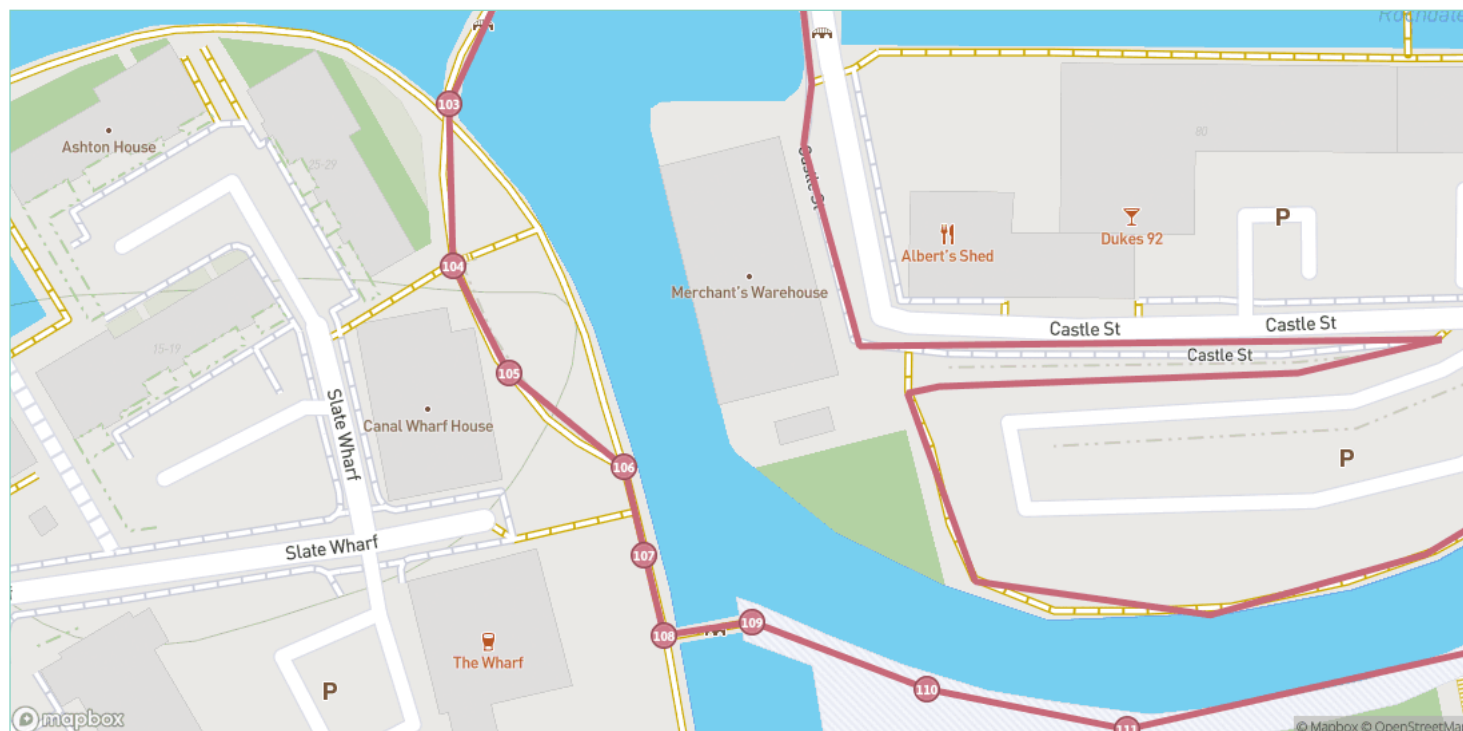
Step 97: You're walking under Castlefield Viaduct again. Use the drop kerbs to cross over the side roads and continue up Castle Street.

Step 98: Walk through the next railway arch. If steps aren't a problem for you, after the arch, cross over the road here. Or...

Step 99: ...continue to the end of the pavement to use the drop kerb to cross over to the right side of Castle Street where you'll find a walkway.

Step 100: Follow the walkway past the blue hoarding panels to head to the bridge. We're off to walk around Castlefield Basin now.

Step 101: Follow the ramp up Merchant's Bridge.



Step 103: On the other side, follow the path back to ground level.

Step 104: Enjoy the mix of old buildings, new high rises and urban nature as you go.

Step 105: Turn right when you meet the basin towpath. Find out more about the history of this area by tapping “play” below. 🖱️

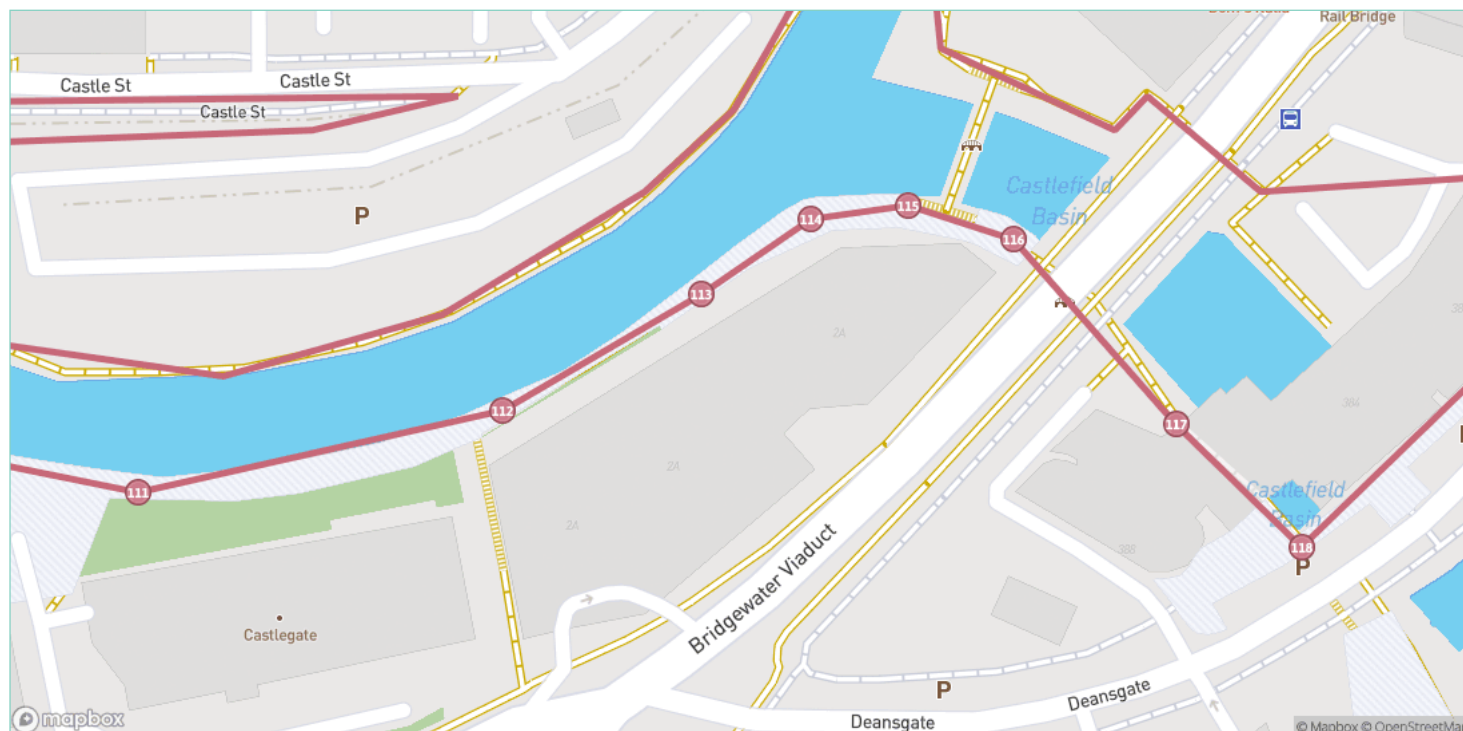
Step 106: Can you spot the big willow tree on the other side? Willow trees thrive beside water because their root systems can absorb a lot of water.

Step 107: Continue until the wooden footbridge up ahead.

Step 108: Turn left to use the footbridge to cross over the basin. Turn right on the other side.

Step 109: Follow the footpath ahead. Enjoy the colours and shapes of the canal boats on your left hand side.

Step 110: Here you’ll also find plane trees lining the path. We learnt about them earlier. Can you spot them from the bark?



Step 111: You might even notice the tree roots pushing their way through the cobblestones.

Step 112: What other good things can you spot today?

Step 113: There are benches here. Time for a pause? When you're ready, let's keep going.

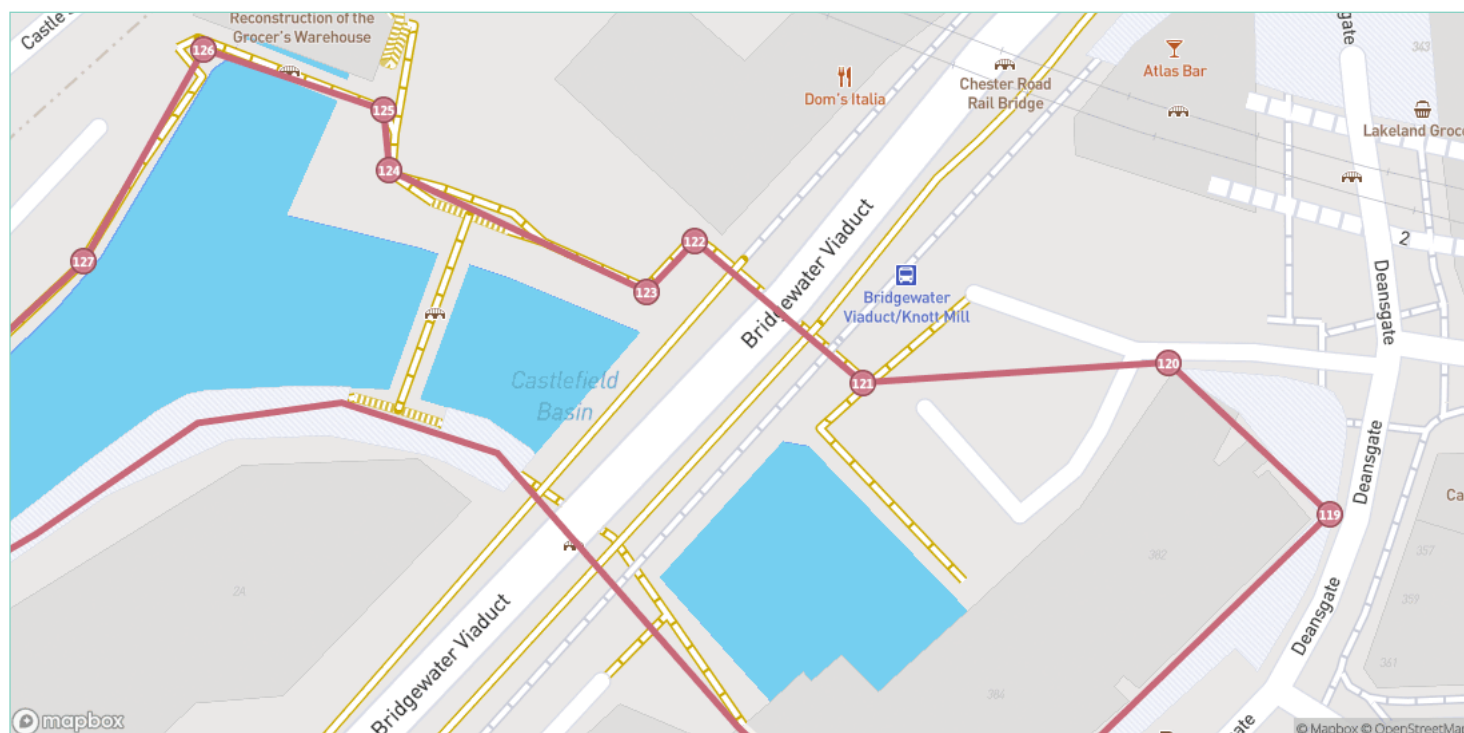
Step 114: Keep right to continue ahead safely.

Step 115: If steps are not a problem for you, head up this bridge for a short cut and skip to step 125 to continue.

Step 116: Otherwise, continue ahead through the tunnel, past the bollards.

Step 117: Follow the ramp to head through the building.

Step 118: Turn left to continue to the next side road.



Step 119: At the next left turning, use the drop kerb to turn left and walk through the car park.

Step 120: You'll see a tunnel archway up ahead. That's where we're headed.

Step 121: Continue through to the other side.

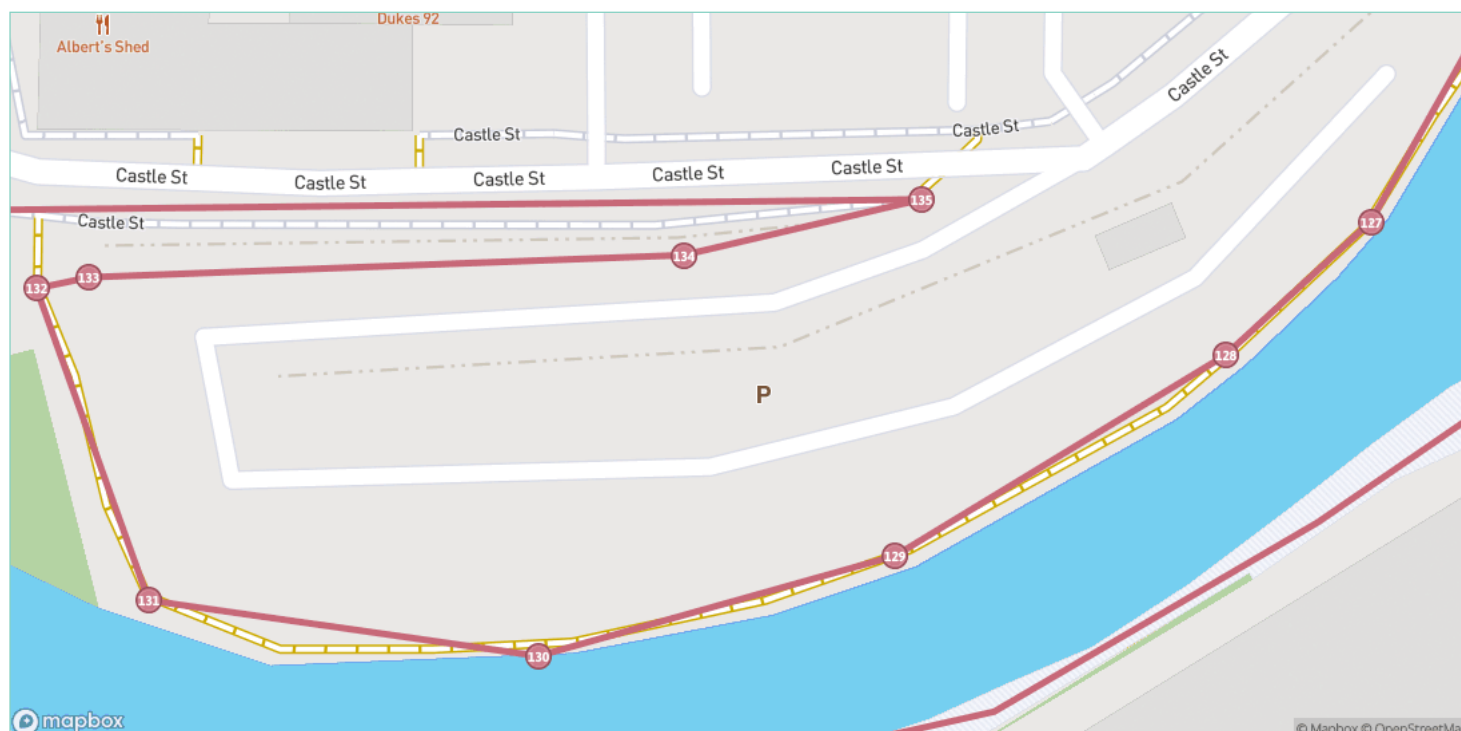
Step 122: You're back to the basin now!

Step 123: Keep to the right of the footbridge from earlier for the step free route.

Step 124: Turn right to continue, you'll see some picnic benches here.

Step 125: On the left is a footbridge. Walk past the bollards to cross and bear left on the other side.

Step 126: Mind the bollards as you bear left and then right to continue along the waters edge.



Step 127: This is a good place to spot water birds. Can you spot any ducks, geese or moorhens? What sounds are they making today?

Step 128: Enjoy the dappled light of the trees as you walk alongside the water.

Step 129: Do you have a favourite canal boat?

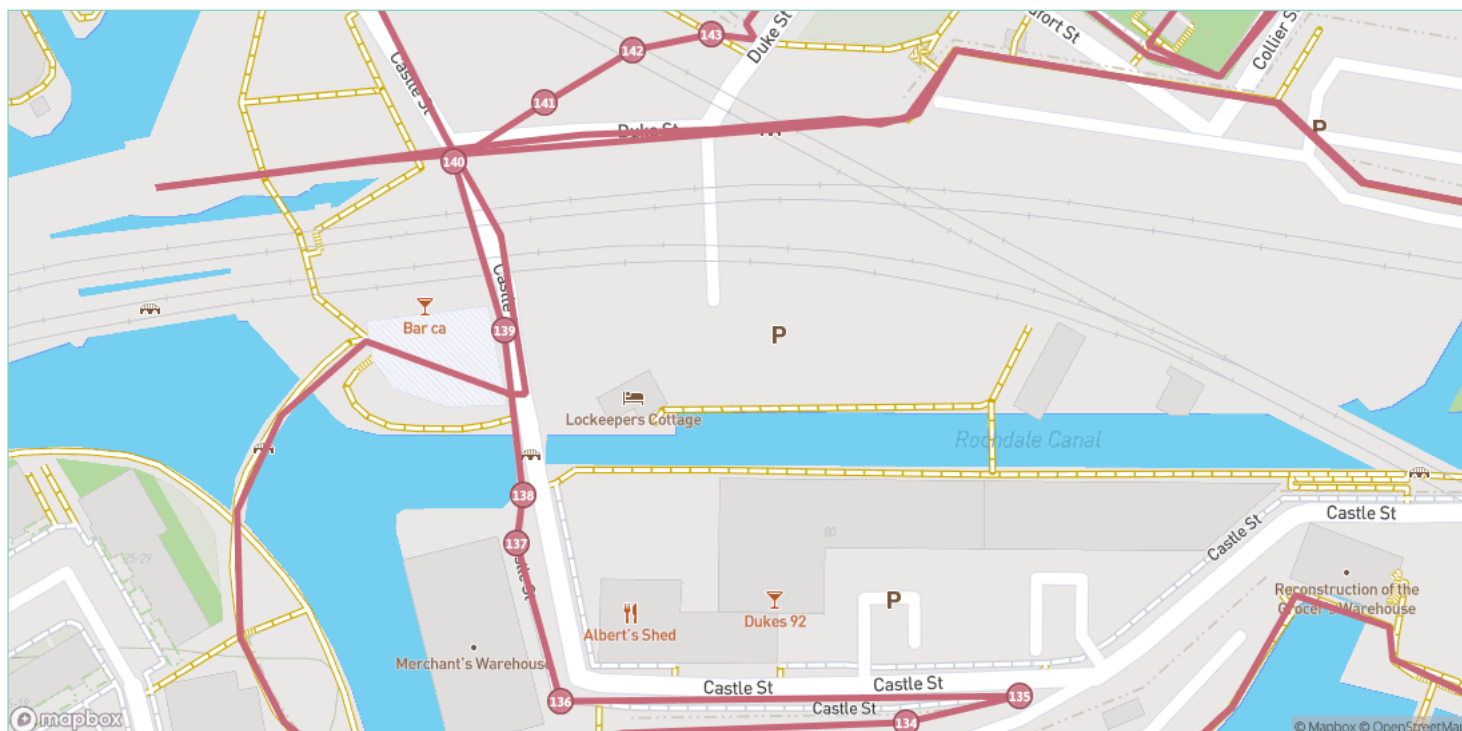
Step 130: Soon you'll reach the gorgeous willow tree from earlier.

Step 131: Follow the path as it bears right.

Step 132: You can use these steps to skip to step 137 of this walk. Turn right here for the step free route.

Step 133: Continue slightly uphill.

Step 134: At the top of the ramp, turn left.



Step 135: Enjoy the new vantage point! Continue to the end of the road.

Step 136: Turn right to continue along Castle Street and over the bridge.

Step 137: The footway is quite narrow here.

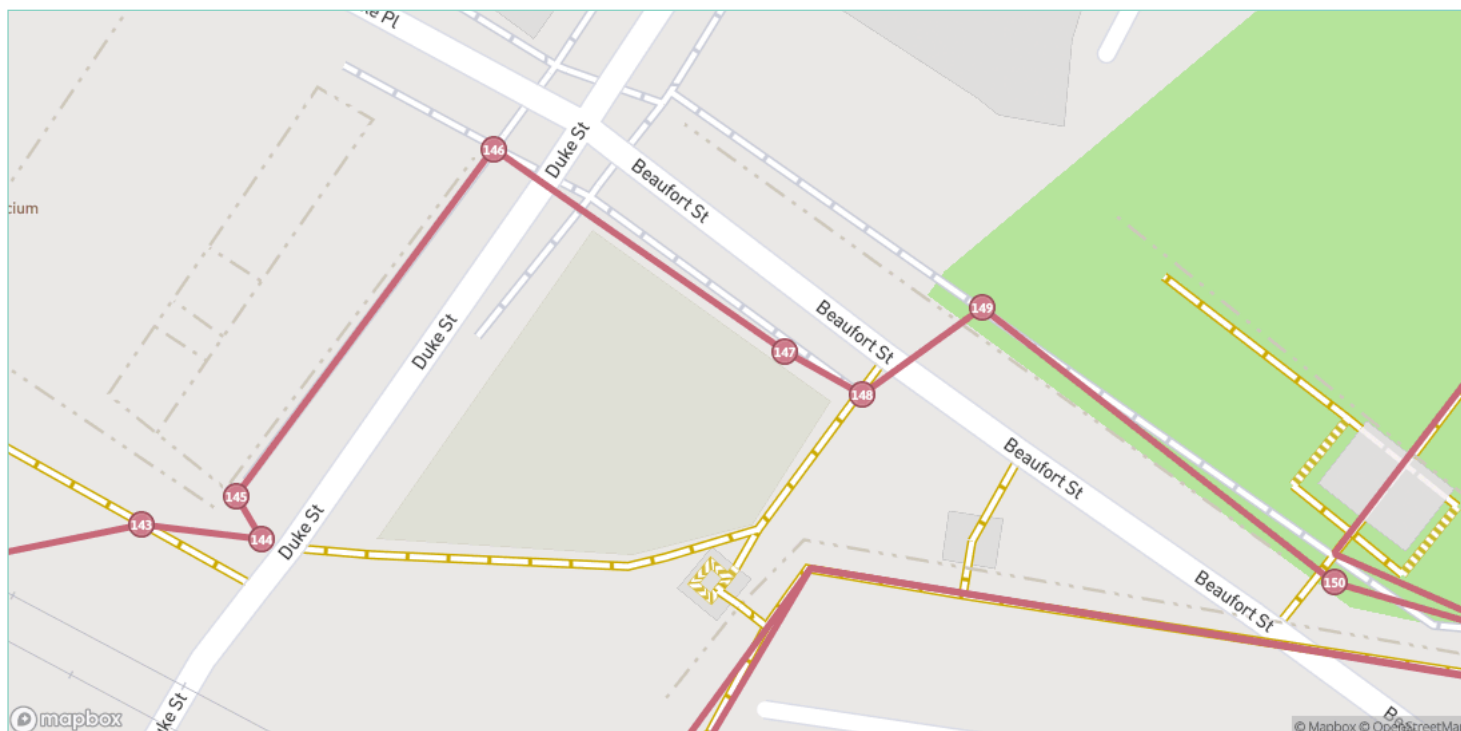
Step 138: There are epic views across to Merchant's Bridge - the same one you walked over earlier.

Step 139: Continue ahead and walk under Castlefield Viaduct.

Step 140: Use the drop kerbs to diagonally cross over Castle Street and Duke Street.

Step 141: Continue past the bollards and around to the left of the bridge infrastructure.

Step 142: Walk through the next brick archway and towards the big planters in the distance.



Step 143: Admire the flowers as you head to the pavement beside the road on your right.

Step 144: Just up these steps on the left is Mamucium. Do you know what that is? Tap the 'Play' button to find out more.

Step 145: If steps aren't a problem, you can head to the top to see more. Or continue walking alongside the brick wall on Duke Street.

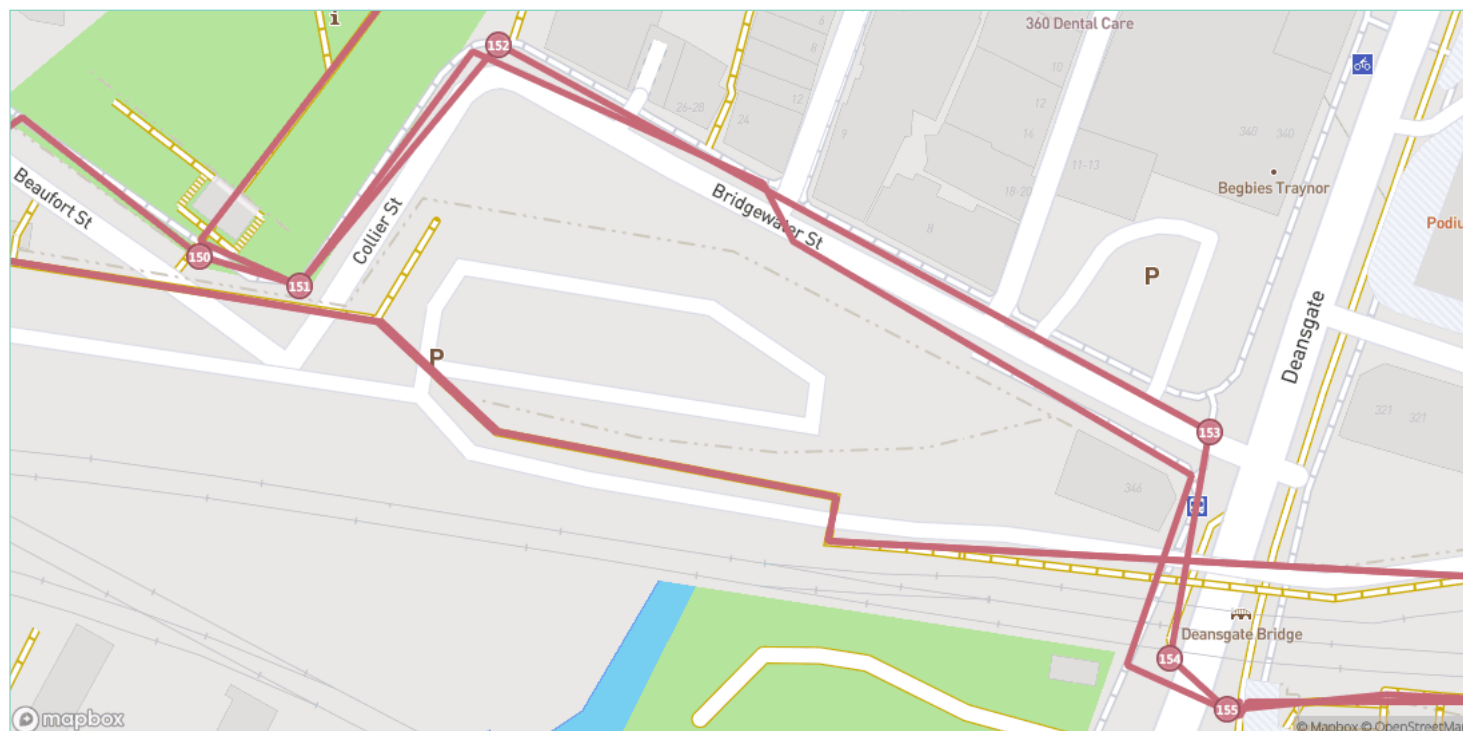
Step 146: At the end of Duke Street there's step free access to the ruins. Turn right to cross over Duke Street.

Step 147: You're back on Beaufort Street and the step entrance to Castlefield Viaduct will be on your right hand side.

Step 148: Continue ahead past the lift (closed in September 2025).

Step 149: Cross over Beaufort Street at the drop kerb to walk alongside the Roman Gardens from earlier.

Step 150: We've completed a big loop now and hope you've had a lovely day so far. The next set of steps take us the step free way back to the tram.



Step 151: Walk past the Roman Gardens and turn left. Continue up Collier Street to the end and follow as the pavement bears right.

Step 152: Bear right to continue. Walk to the end of the Bridgewater Road.

Step 153: At the junction, turn right to cross over Bridgewater St and continue right on Deansgate.

Step 154: At the upcoming pedestrian crossing on the left hand side. Use the crossing to make your way back to Deansgate-Castlefield lift.

Step 155: We hope you enjoyed this jaunt around your Naturehood? If you did, we'd love you to share the walk with friends who might enjoy it too. Just tap the 3 dots to share. Thank you! 🍷