



Woodland Walk in Childwall Woods

Take a walk in the old grounds of Childwall Hall. Explore the plants, animals and curving paths as you go.

Distance 1.7 kilometers / 1.1 miles

Duration 40 minutes



Wildlife



Public transport



History



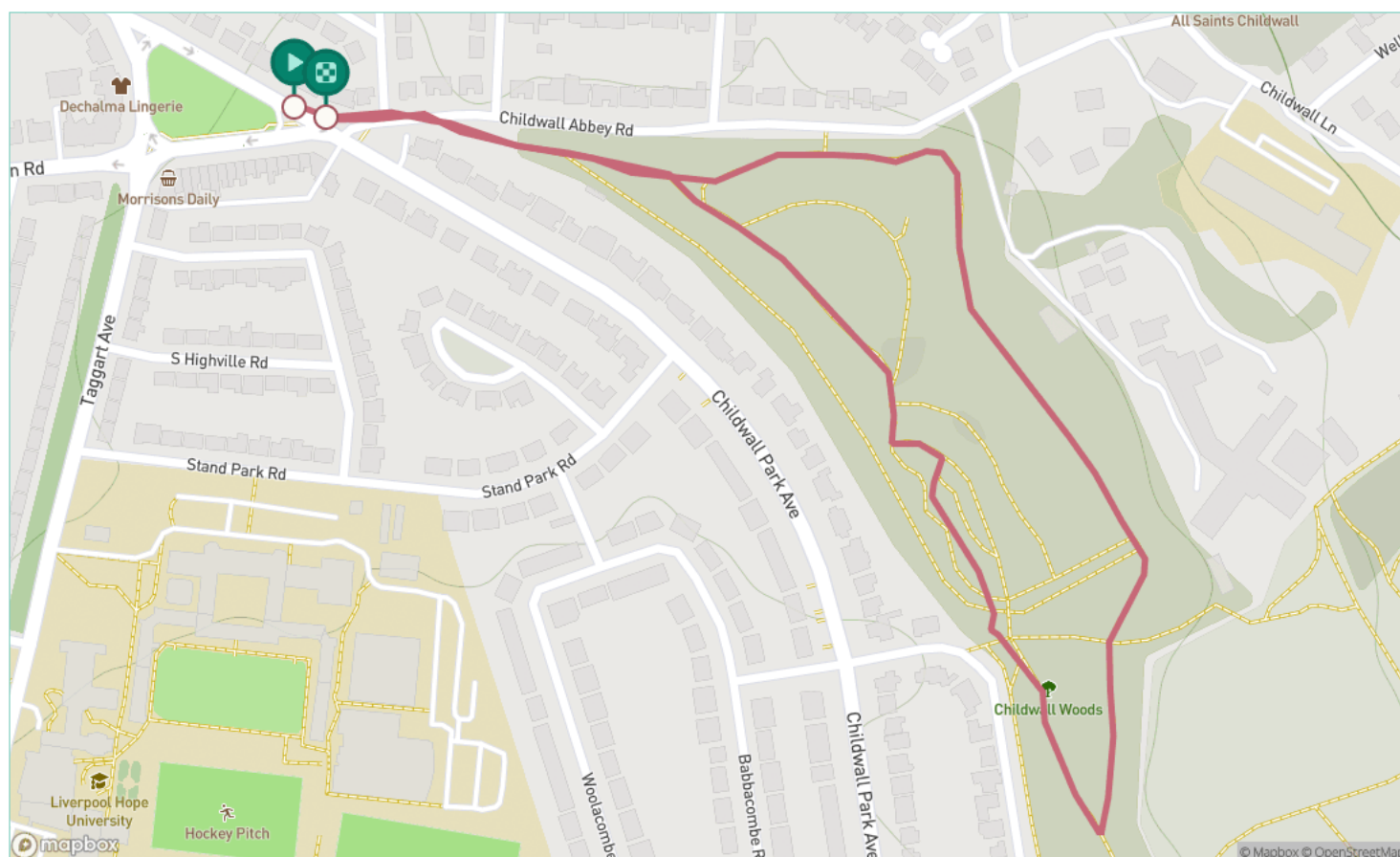
Dog friendly

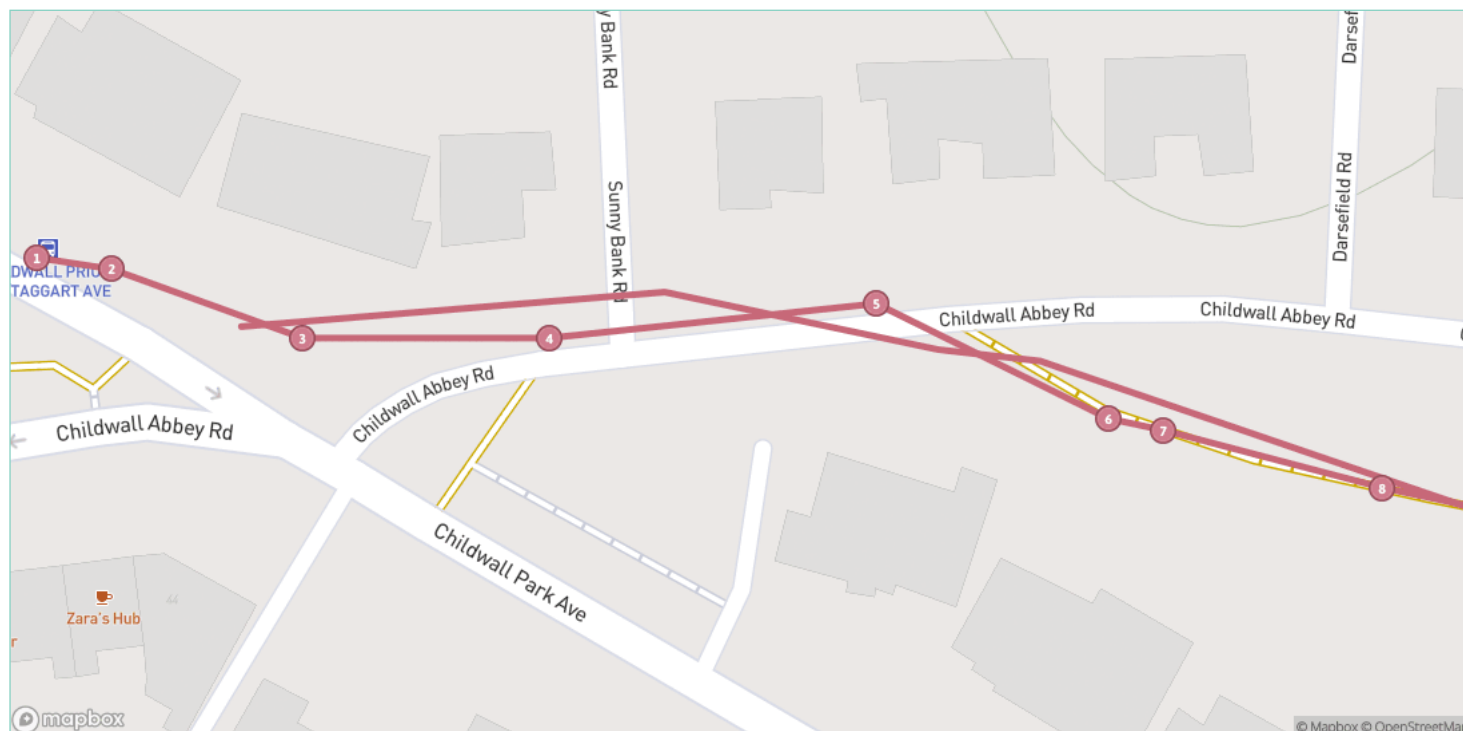


Child friendly



Botanics





Step 1: The walk begins at the Childwall Abbey Road bus stop on Childwall Priory Road. Served by buses: 81, 81A, 672 and 881.

Step 8: This grand looking building is Grade II listed Childwall Hall Lodge, the gatehouse for Childwall Hall (demolished in 1949).

Step 2: With the timetable in front of you, turn to your right and make your way to Childwall Abbey Road.

Step 3: At the corner of Childwall Abbey Road, turn to your left and follow the pavement.

Step 4: Use the dropped kerb to cross over Sunny Bank Road.

Step 5: Use the dropped kerb at the driveway to cross over the road to the small carpark at the entrance to the woods.

Step 6: Follow the path between the hedge and the wall to make your way into Childwall Woods.

Step 7: Head to towards the big stone gates.



Step 9: On your way into the woods, you'll start noticing lots of different woodland and native plants like these elderberries.

Step 16: Continue along the path beneath the tall and towering trees. Notice the textures of the bark and how different they can be.

Step 10: Follow the path straight on.

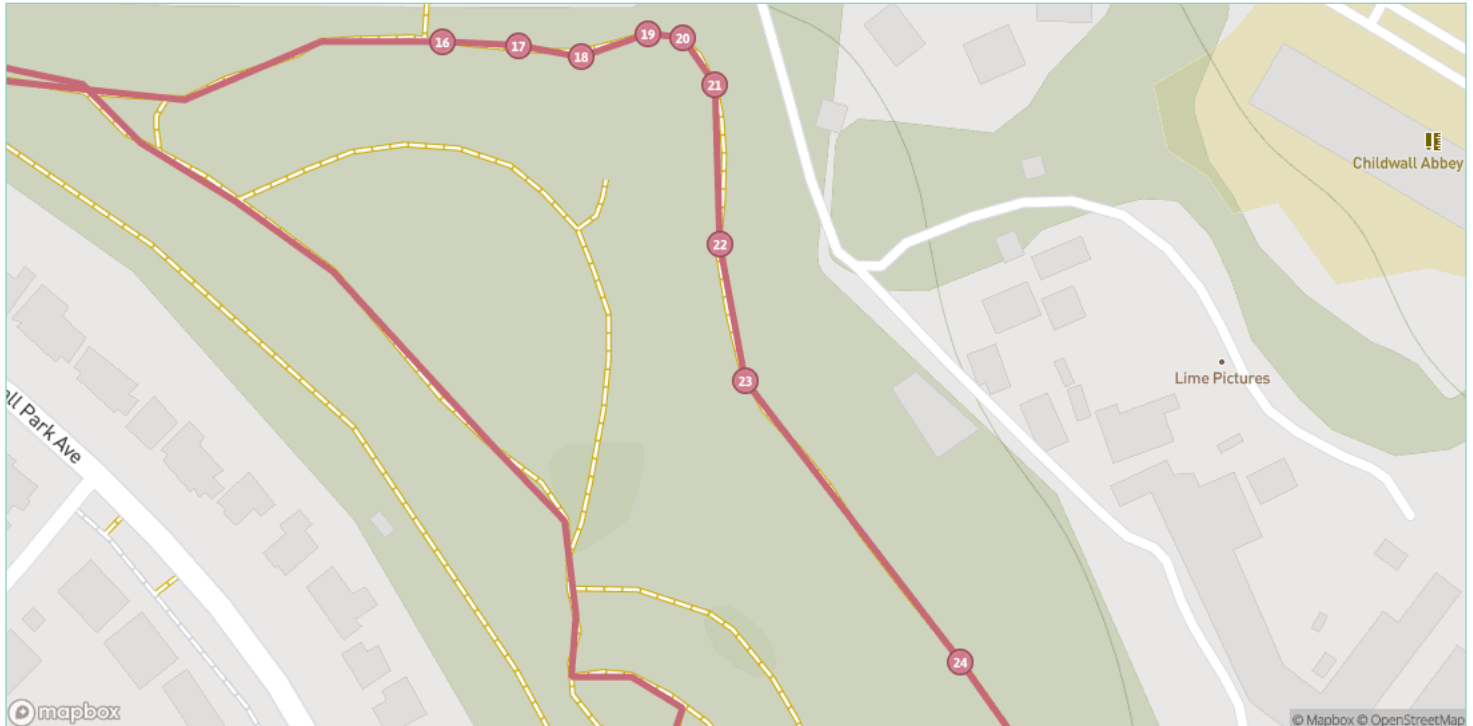
Step 11: Look up to take in the dense canopy of twisted and intertwined branches from the old and established trees in the woods.

Step 12: Continue forwards along the path.

Step 13: The land for Childwall Woods originates from the 1900s. Once part of ornamental gardens and hunting ground for Childwall Hall.

Step 14: Follow the path to make your way beside the hedges and trees.

Step 15: Did you know that birds love the fluffy seeds produced by thistles? They use them as padding for their nests.



Step 17: The cracked bark makes a perfect location for the moss to take hold. What a gorgeous combination of textures. Give them a feel!

Step 18: As you wander, you might spot piles of stones and rocks. These are remnants from the original gardens and ornamental walls.

Step 19: Keep to the path and follow it around.

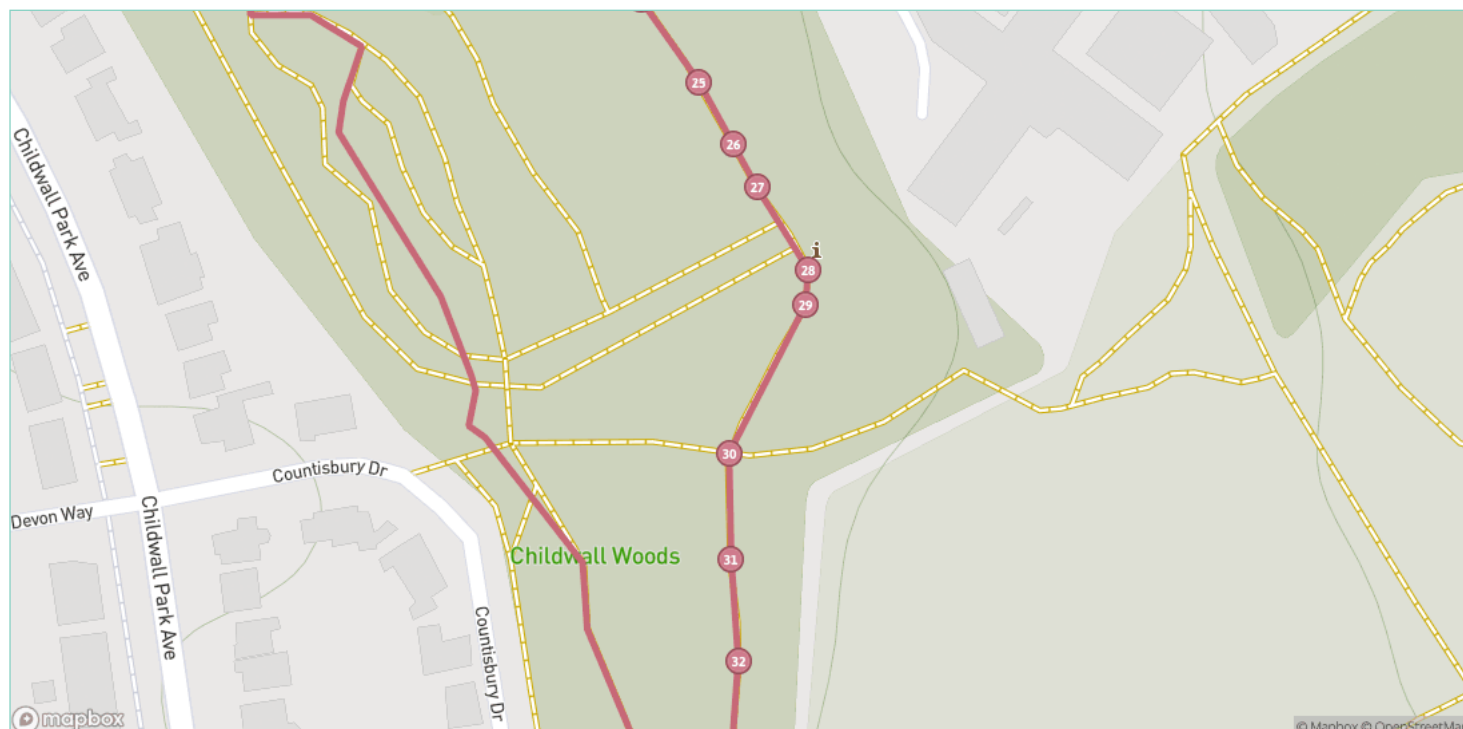
Step 20: You might notice that the Holly plants are still green despite the heatwaves. The glossy leaves act as sunscreen to protect them!

Step 21: Continue along the path. Look to the ground to see what you can see growing around the edges.

Step 22: Ferns appeared over 360 million years ago, long before flowering plants or dinosaurs existed! They love the damp and shade of the woodland.

Step 23: Continue straight along the path for a while. Take your time to listen out for birds, smell the damp woodland air, and see what you spot.

Step 24: Follow the route to the left of the tree. The path isn't always very visible, but you can see where it is slightly flatter.



Step 25: Make your way through the wooden retainers (these hold the soil back to make a flat pathway)

Step 32: The path clears a bit and becomes more visible. Keep to this path.

Step 26: If you look to your right, you'll see what would have been the grand driveway to get to Childwall Hall.

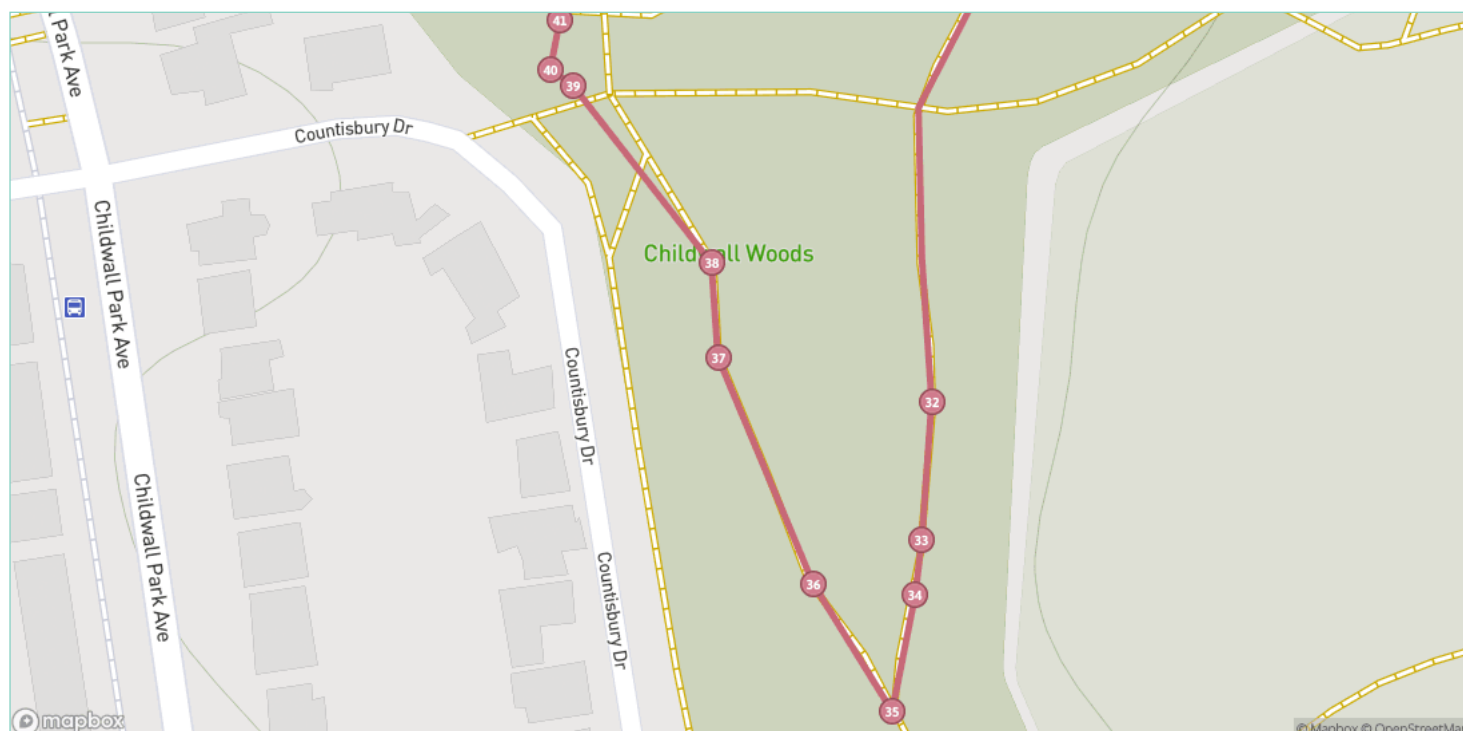
Step 27: Make your way along the winding woodland path.

Step 28: There is so much life in these dark corners of the wood. If you look closely, you can see tiny bugs living among the moss and fungi.

Step 29: Follow the path to your right to make your way deeper into the woodland.

Step 30: Follow the path up and over the hill. Be careful of exposed roots as you go.

Step 31: Continue following the woodland path between the trees.



Step 33: Some of the trees you can see in Childwall Woods are beech, sweet and horse chestnuts (conkers!), and English Oak.

Step 40: Can you imagine the sound of a horse and carriage making their way up here to the hall?

Step 34: It's amazing to see the networks of branches way above your head, and the sunlight from above dancing between the leaves.

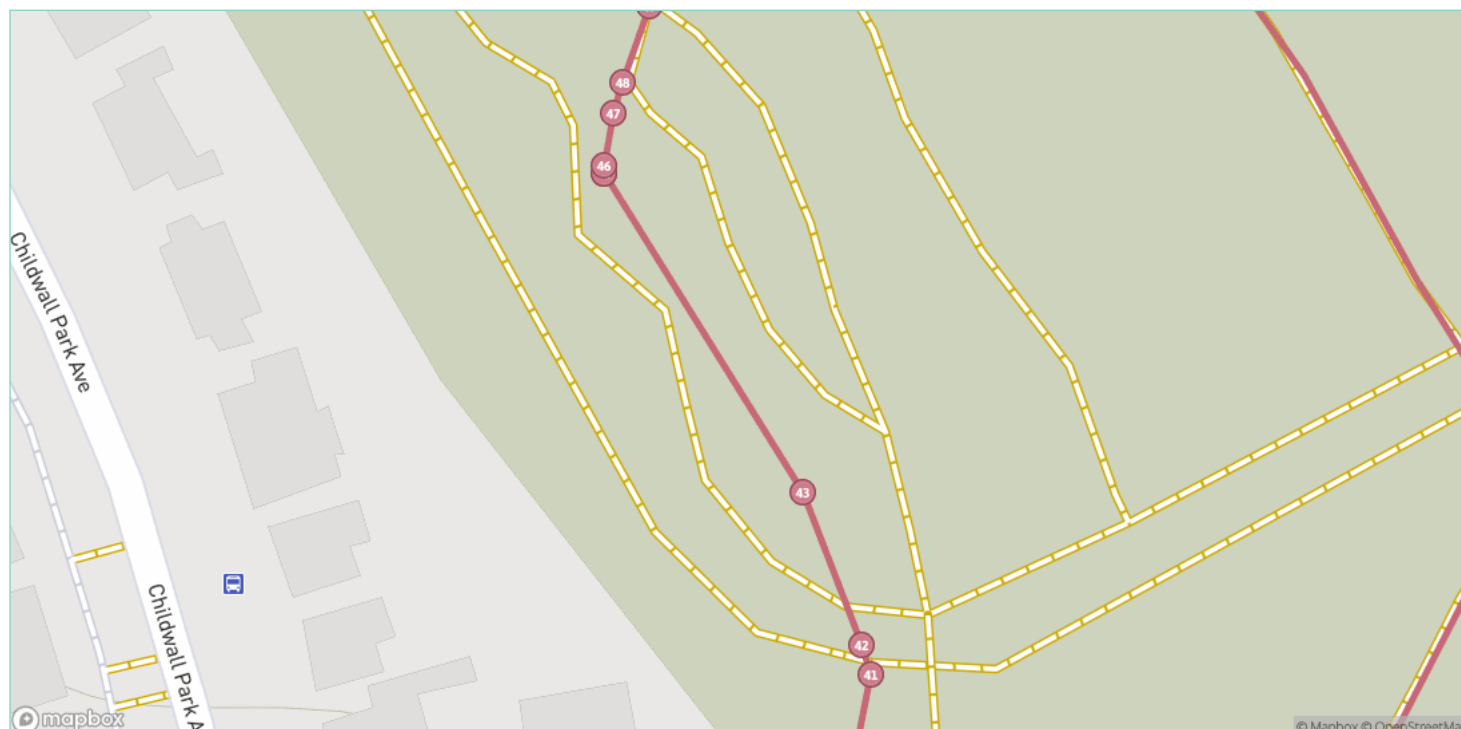
Step 35: At the end of the path, take a sharp turn to your right, almost like you're turning back on yourself. Take this path.

Step 36: Make your way along the path. Listen out for the birds. Can you hear a woodpecker?

Step 37: Keep your eyes out along the paths for more remnants of the woodland garden history, like this almost hidden wall.

Step 38: Keep going along the path.

Step 39: Cross over the bridge. This takes you over that impressive walled driveway again. Look to the sides to see how deep it is.



Step 41: On the other side, return to the path and follow it around the corner.

Step 48: Head up towards the bench to rejoin the path at the top.

Step 42: It's worth stopping for a moment to enjoy the carvings in the way marker posts. Which is your favourite?

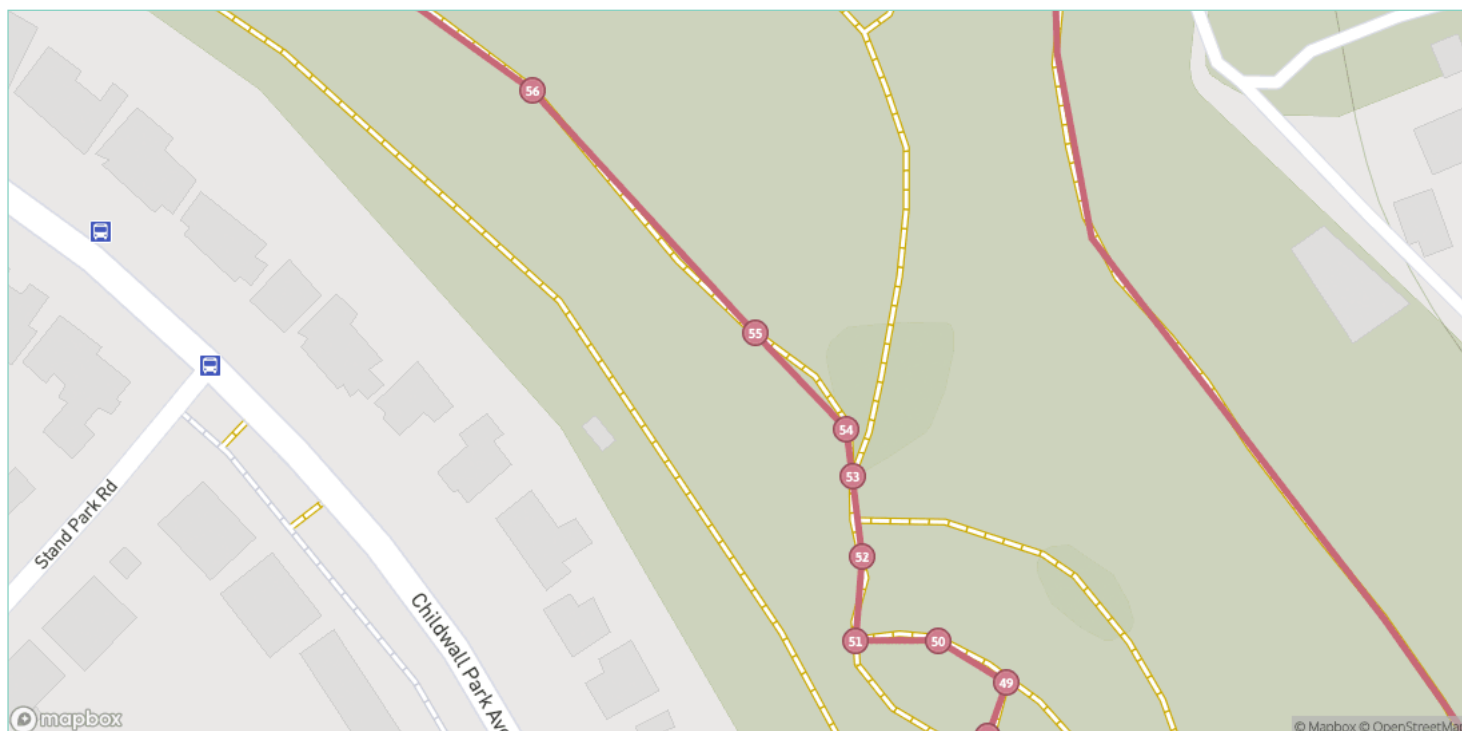
Step 43: Make your way into the small valley between the trees and walls.

Step 44: For a step-free option, keep to the path at step 45 and continue until you reach step 55. You can also visit the stepping stones and return to step 45.

Step 45: This is a perfect spot to leap along the stepping stones, or take it easy along the path.

Step 46: On the other side, take the steps to your right to head back to the main path.

Step 47: Head up the steps to rejoin the path.



Step 49: Follow the woodland path.

Step 50: You'll see the hard standing path appearing again. Join it.

Step 51: Turn to your right and join the main pathway.

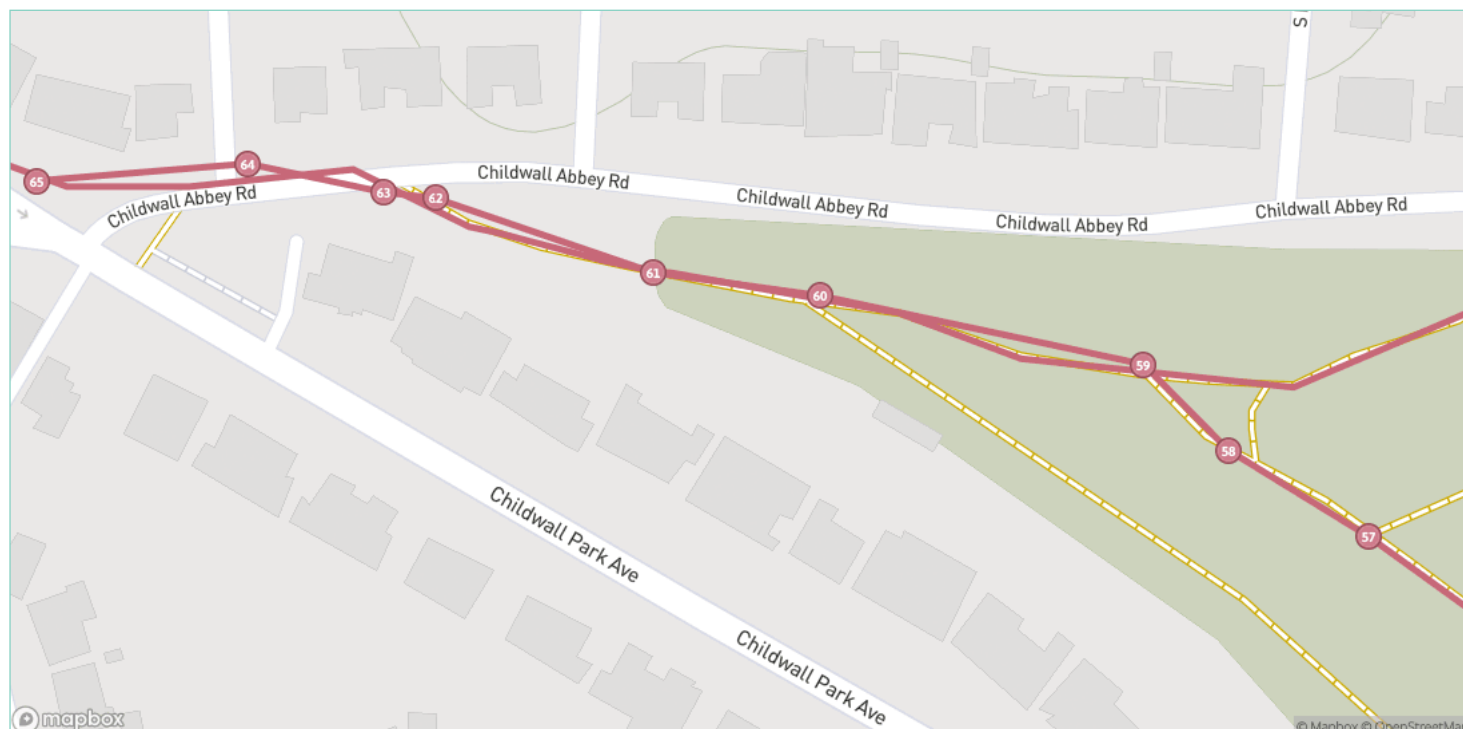
Step 52: There are lots of birds living in the woodland. Perhaps you'll be lucky to hear a tawny owl if you come around dusk!

Step 53: Take the path to the left of the fork and follow it around on the curving route.

Step 54: These big leaves belong to the horse chestnut tree. This is the tree that produces the spunky pods that contain conkers in the autumn.

Step 55: It's nice seeing the differently shaped leaves. These wiggly leaves are from the oak tree. They provide acorns in the autumn.

Step 56: Around the woodland, you'll find rhododendron plants. They have colourful flowers in the springtime and very gnarly old stems.



Step 57: Continue along the path between the trees.

Step 58: Keep to the left as you reach the opening and follow the path.

Step 59: You'll recognise the path again as we head towards the Lodge again.

Step 60: Return to the hard path and keep left as you make your way back to the entrance.

Step 61: You'll see Childwall Lodge again on your right. It's amazing to think that this is now somebody's home!

Step 62: Make your way past the cars in the small carpark.

Step 63: Cross over the road and use the dropped kerb of the driveway ahead to get into the pavement on the other side.

Step 64: Cross over Sunny Bank Road at the dropped kerb.

Step 65: At the end of the road, where it meets Childwall Priory Road, turn right. Make your way back to the bus stop.