



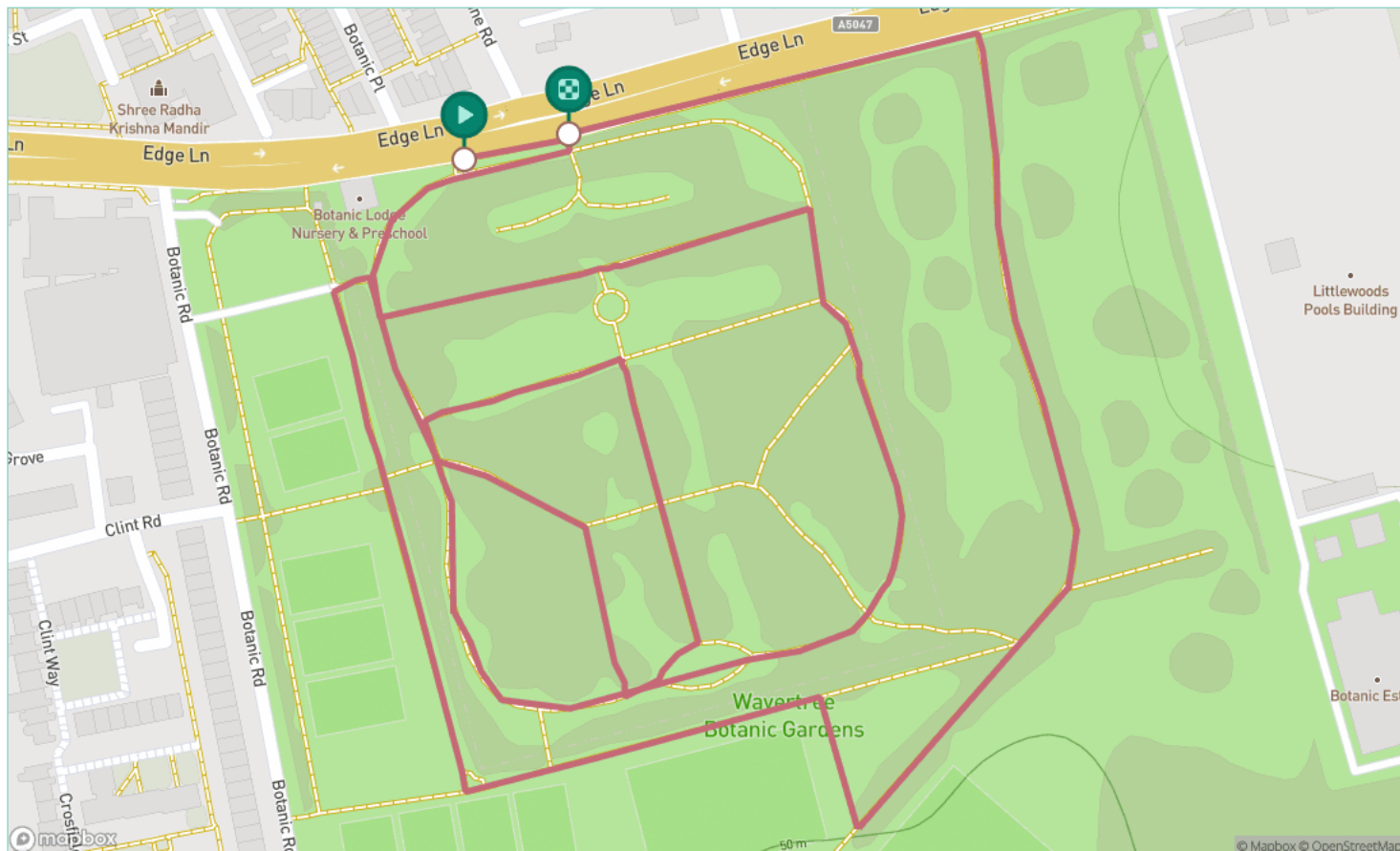
Wavertree Botanic Gardens Walk

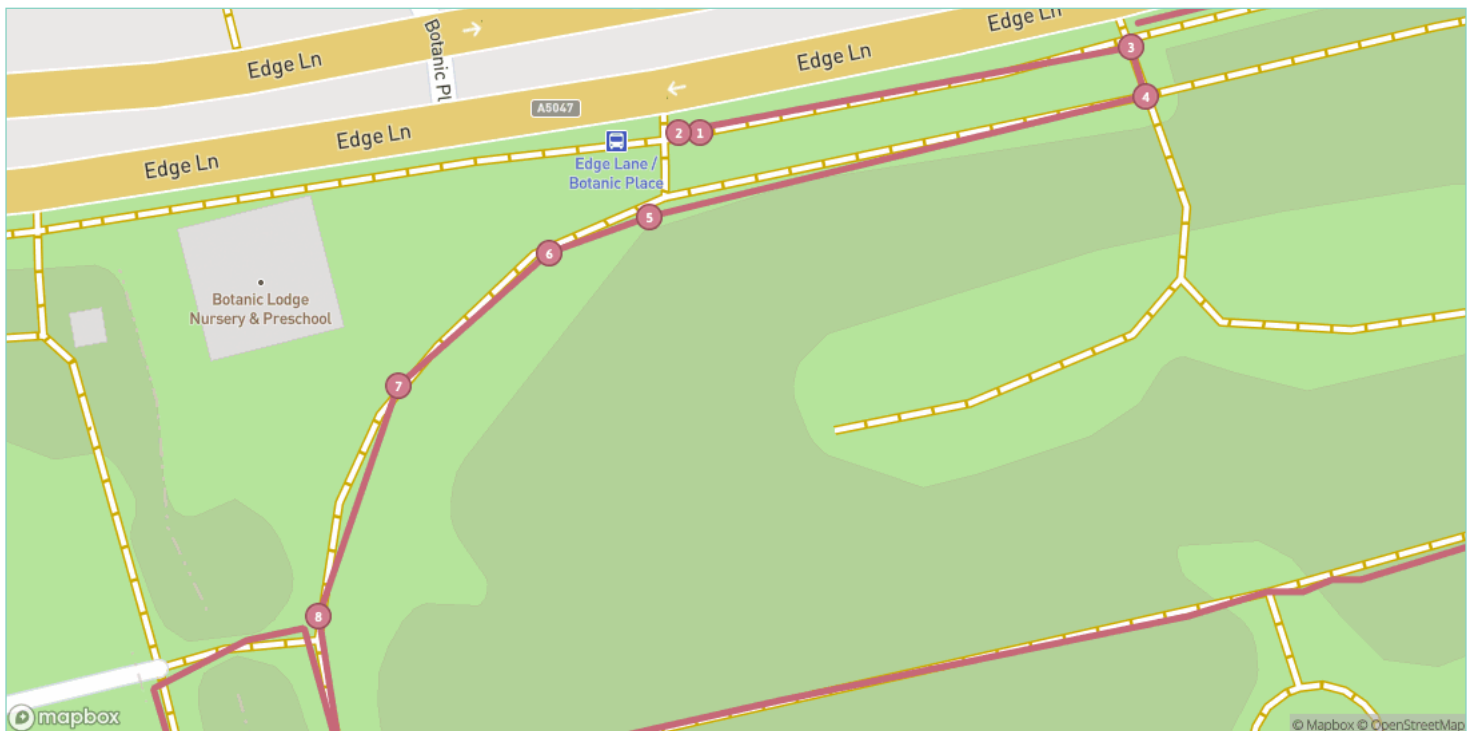
A gorgeous flower and nature-filled circular walk around the former historic Liverpool Botanic Gardens and Wavertree Park. A must-visit!

Distance 2.3 kilometers / 1.4 miles

Duration 1 hour and 25 minutes

- Wheel friendly
- Picnic spot
- Parking
- Dog friendly
- Child friendly
- Botanic





Step 1: Catch the bus to Edge Lane (Buses 6 & 7), and get off at Botanic Place. You'll start your walk around the oldest park in Liverpool.

Step 2: Turn away from the bus stop, so that the road is to your left. Walk along the pavement.

Step 3: You will find the garden entrance on your right. It is signed Wavertree Botanic Walled Garden.

Step 4: Take the path to the right and follow it around to begin your walk in the historic gardens.

Step 5: Wavertree Botanic Garden was opened in 1836, but isn't actually the original home of Liverpool's botanic gardens. Previously it was situated at Mount Pleasant but was relocated due to the city expanding close to the garden.

Step 6: One of the few surviving features of the garden is the 1836 Botanic Lodge. It has been Grade II listed and is used as a kids nursery.

Step 7: At the fork in the path, take the left fork to make your way into the garden.

Step 8: Carry on ahead and take the first path on the left.



Step 9: Continue along the path beneath the canopy of trees.

Step 10: While the garden is no longer managed as a botanical garden, you can still hunt out some of the features and plants from its past.

Step 11: As you look into the gardens, you can begin to imagine how ornate and special it must have been in the original years.

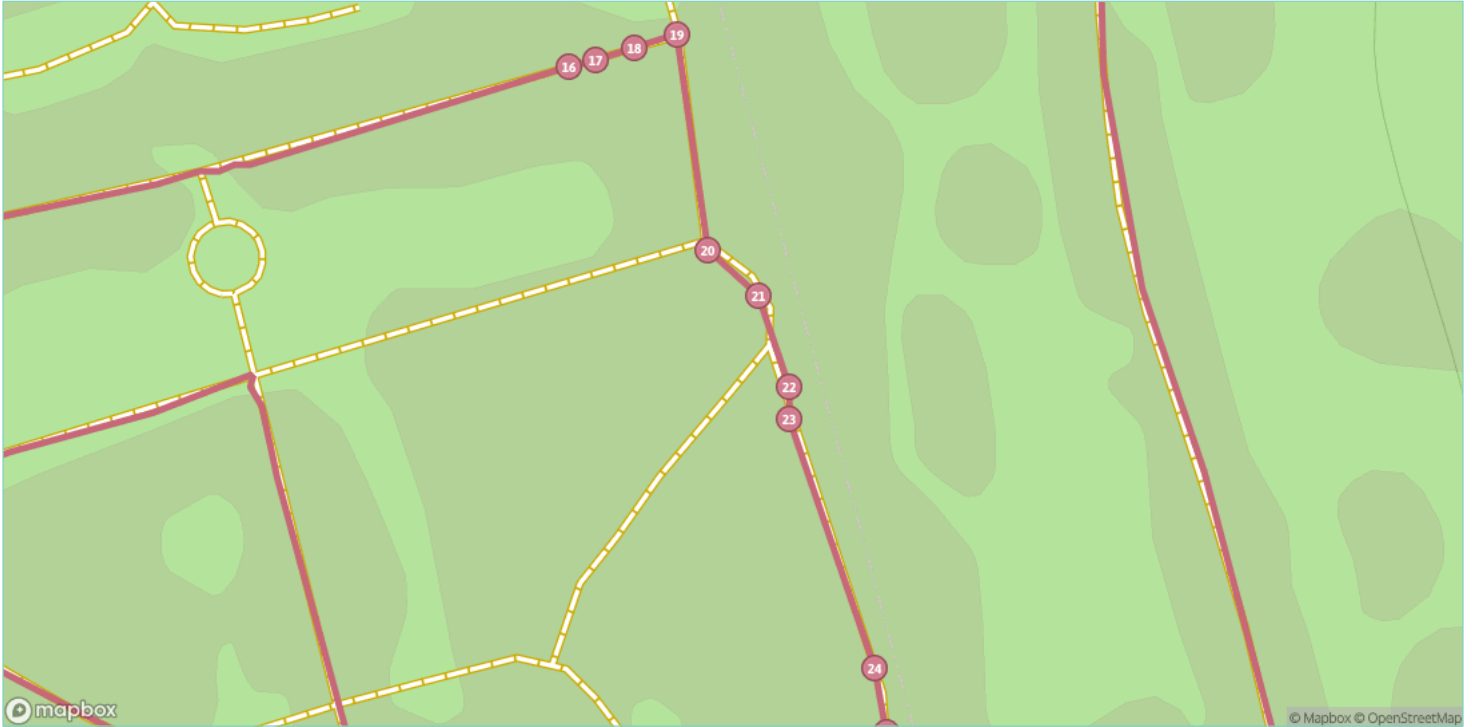
Step 12: That's not to say that we won't find some special things on this walk. Parks like this have so many hidden plants and features to hunt out and enjoy.

Step 13: Can you spot the Ginkgo tree with its fan shaped leaves? These special trees are known as "living fossils" that have outlived dinosaurs.

Step 14: The Ginkgo trees can be traced back over 200 million years. If you're in the park around Autumn, don't be surprised by the rancid aroma. The big seeds from the Ginkgo smell like gone-off butter or vomit when they rot. Eew!

Step 15: Looking up, you can see how tall they can get.

Step 16: Down on the ground, you will find plenty of other flowers and life. In the summer, the gardens are flooded with wild daisies.



Step 17: With so many ancient trees in the garden, it's fascinating to look at and feel the bark patters as you make your way around.

Step 18: Their twisted branches and towering structure create the perfect shade for a sunny day.

Step 19: After the gnarly tree, take the path to your right.

Step 20: As you wander, keep an eye out for some of the original garden plants like this pink rhododendron. These plants can live up to 100 years!

Step 21: Make your way down the path between the beautiful trees, keeping an eye out for nice flowers and plants as you go.

Step 22: Did you know that the privet hedge (the kind from your neighbourhood) has the most divine smelling flowers? In summer, they fill the air.

Step 23: Listen out for the birds high in the trees. From the common wood pigeon to blackbirds and robins filling the trees with song.

Step 24: Continue along the path.



Step 25: There are plenty of cheeky squirrels in the park too.

Step 26: When parks are allowed to flourish without too much human input, you get to see how nature would design the space. Like the ferns in trees.

Step 27: Follow the path along the curve to the right.

Step 28: In summer, you can look out for the beautiful blackberry flowers growing through the borders and along the walls of the garden.

Step 29: While we might see nettles as weeds, many botanic gardens allowed them for wildlife habitats. They are loved by butterflies.

Step 30: Continue straight to follow the path around the curve.

Step 31: Carry on along the path.

Step 32: Another lovely addition to the garden trees is the late bloomer, lime (or Tilia) tree which has a sweet floral fragrance in summer.



Step 33: Follow the path to your right and around the border. If you look carefully at the stones, you can see where the original railings were.

Step 34: Hidden in the planting are relics from the original garden, like this stone wall.

Step 35: Continue along the path.

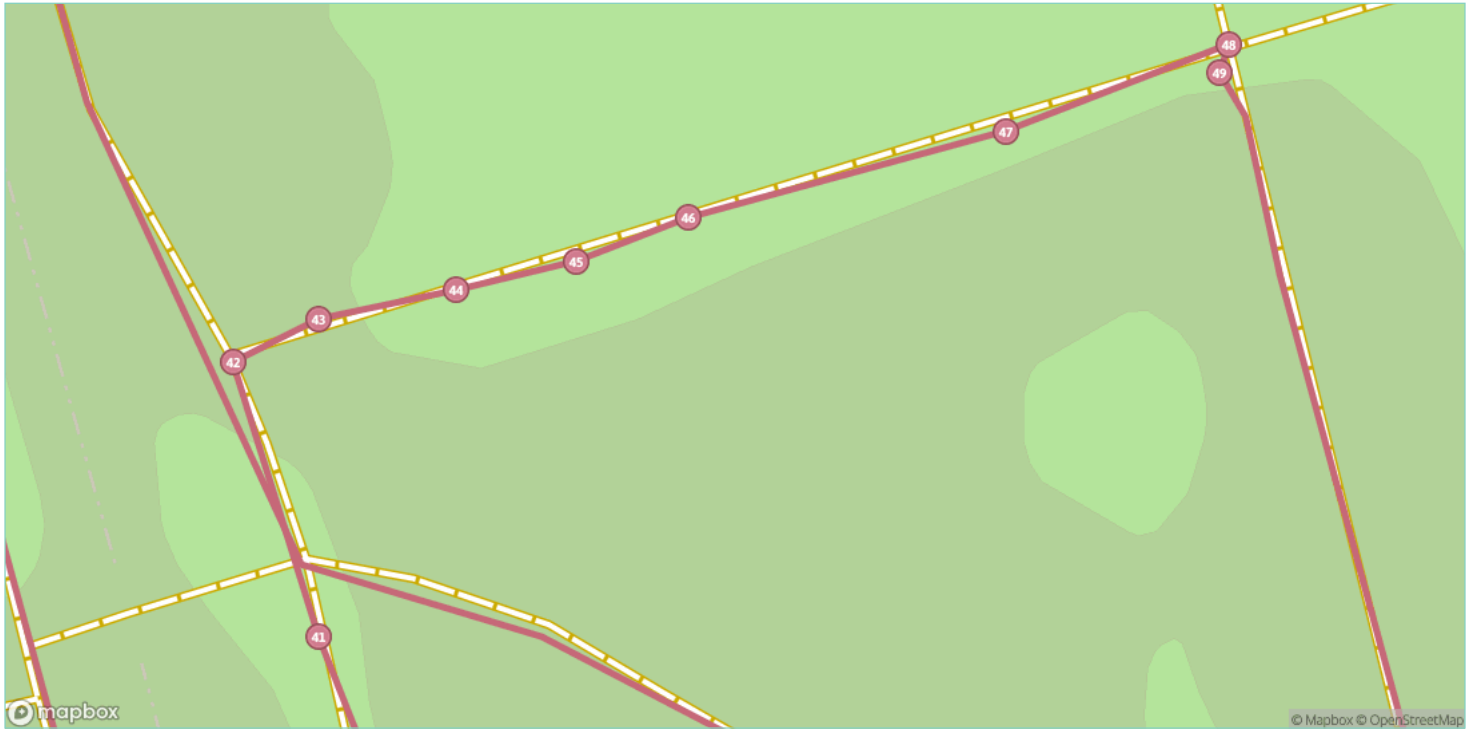
Step 36: Keep an eye out during summer for the floods of white elderberry (*Sambucus*) flowers and their deep purple berries in autumn.

Step 37: Look down to enjoy the simple plants that make up most UK gardens like this flatweed, which is often mistaken for dandelion.

Step 38: Continue along the path taking in the sights, sounds and smells as you make your way through the trees and plants.

Step 39: If you have time, take a seat to rest and take a moment out of your day.

Step 40: Follow the curve of the path.



Step 41: Look out for the cotoneaster with the huge clusters of small white flowers in summer, and vibrant red, orange or yellow berries in autumn.

Step 42: The old trees form a structure in the park with their interesting crooked and curved branches. Get ready to turn right here.

Step 43: Take the path to your right to head back into the gardens.

Step 44: In summer, there is a vibrant display of roses spreading through the border and showing off their beautiful pink petals.

Step 45: Within the grassy borders you can find other bug and butterfly favourites like this thistle.

Step 46: You can see where the form of the formal gardens used to be with the small steps and walls around the main part of the garden.

Step 47: Wavertree Botanic Garden is four times larger than the original gardens at Mount Pleasant. It was designed in a formal style (with symmetrical beds and paths). Many of the original plants and trees were brought by horse and cart!

Step 48: Take the grassy path to your right.



Step 49: Here you will find dandelions, daisies, wild geranium and a host of other colourful wild flowers in the summer months.

Step 50: Keep an eye out for the brilliantly purple cranesbill geranium brightening up the borders.

Step 51: Continue beneath the canopy of trees. Listen out for the whisper of the leaves moving above your head.

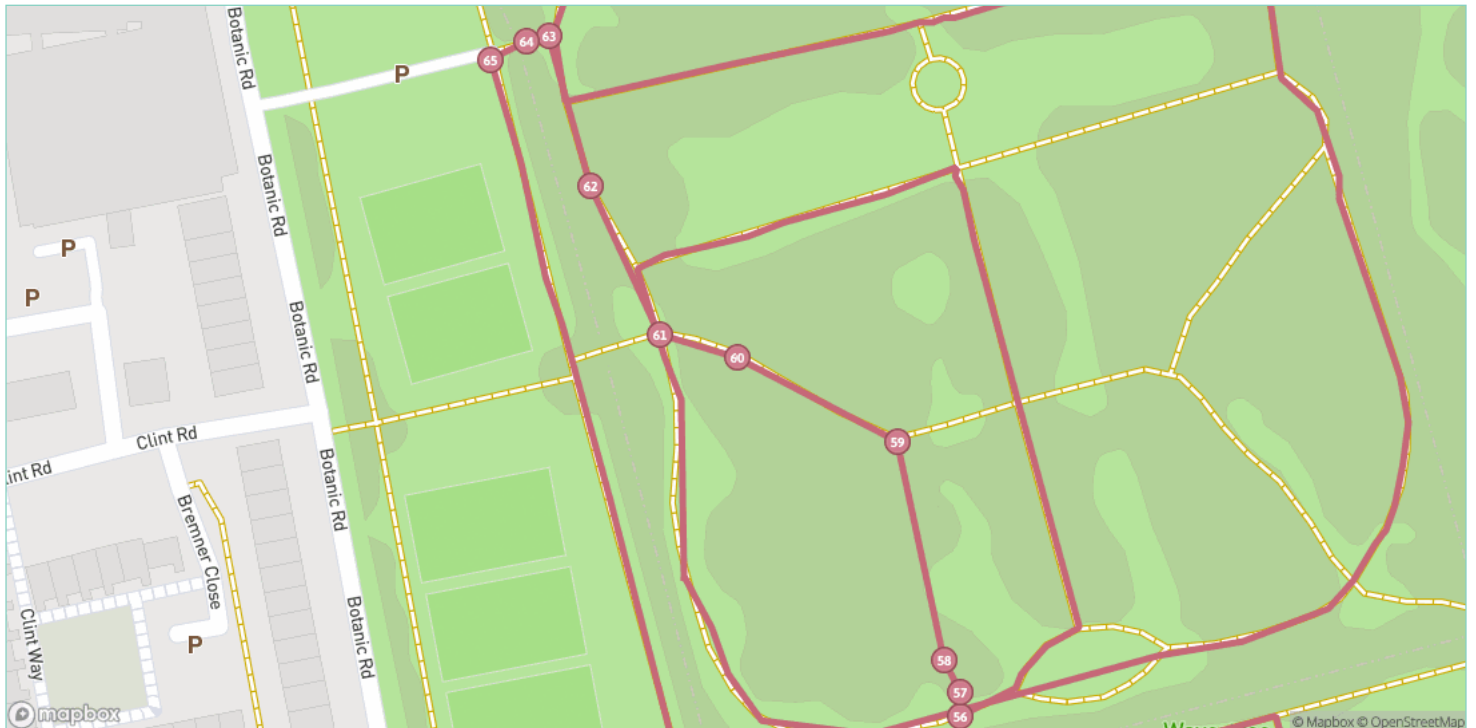
Step 52: If you missed them, look down to spot the remnants of the metal railings. Many railings were cut during the war to create munitions.

Step 53: Take the path to your right and follow it along to the main path.

Step 54: You'll meet more of the squirrels around this part as they enjoy the seasonal buds around this part of the garden.

Step 55: Carry on along the path.

Step 56: Take the path to your right.



Step 57: Keep an eye out for the bluey purple flowers and bristly leaves of the unusually named green alkanet.

Step 64: You might spot the globe thistle which is also called Echinops. It is favoured by bees and butterflies in the summer months.

Step 58: Continue along the path between the plants and trees.

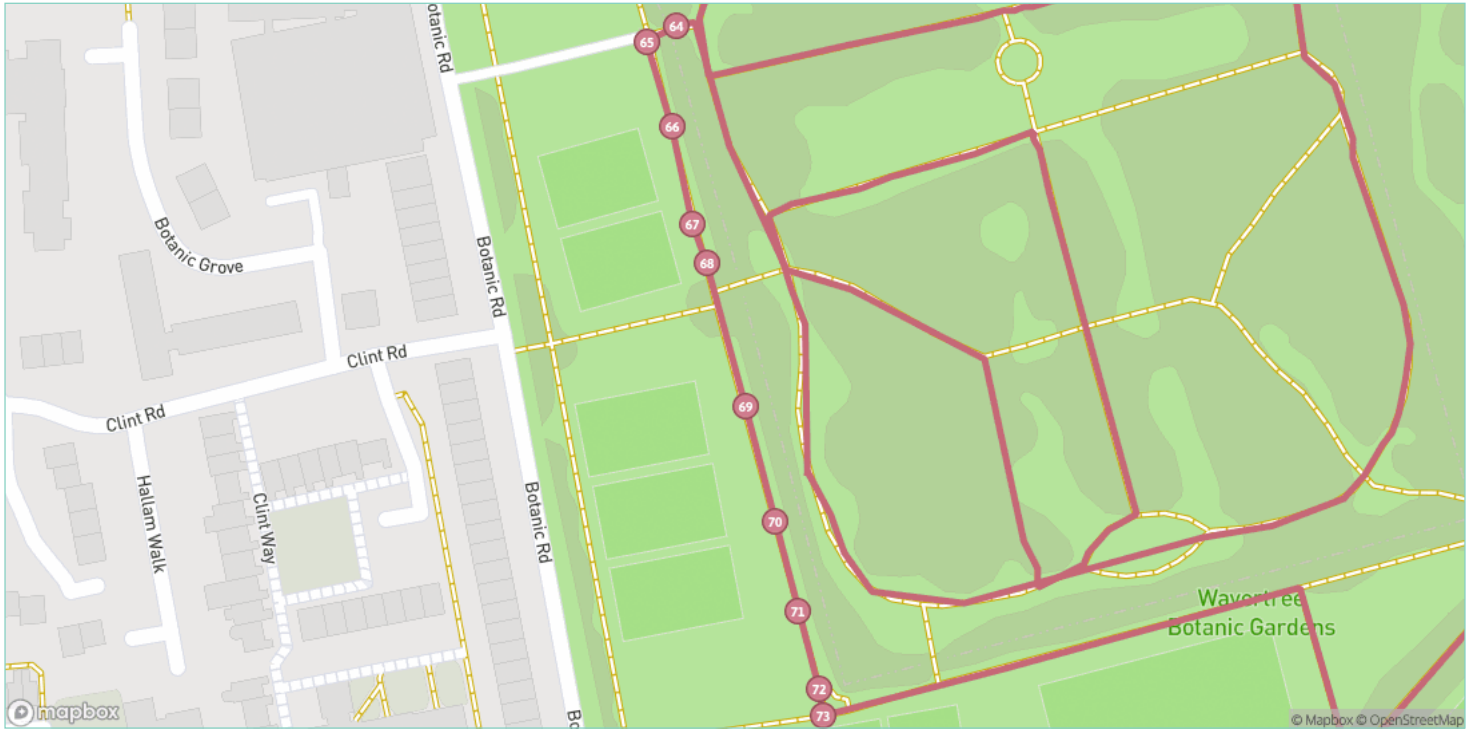
Step 59: Follow the curve to continue along the path.

Step 60: Take a moment to look up to the treetops along the crooked branches of the trees. What can you see or hear?

Step 61: Turn right at the path and follow it along.

Step 62: You'll spot the Botanic Lodge, also known as the Curator's Lodge. It was once the home to the park's superintendent.

Step 63: Take the path to your left through the gate beneath the wisteria.



Step 65: Take the left and follow the path through the entrance.

Step 66: You are now entering Wavertree Park which surrounds the Botanic Garden. It was one of the first purpose-built public playgrounds in the UK.

Step 67: Continue ahead.

Step 68: In summer you will smell the delicious scent of the mock orange plant which mimics the aroma of a real orange tree with a zesty quality.

Step 69: Continue on the path. At the weekend, the park will be a buzz with people playing football and enjoying the open space.

Step 70: You will find cherry trees along the path, along with other fruit trees in the borders.

Step 71: Carry on along the path, or take a seat on a bench to enjoy watching the world go by.

Step 72: If you have kids, head over the grass to the play area which is filled with something for every child.



Step 73: Otherwise, follow the path to your left.

Step 74: Continue along the path.

Step 75: Take the path to your right and head towards the trees.

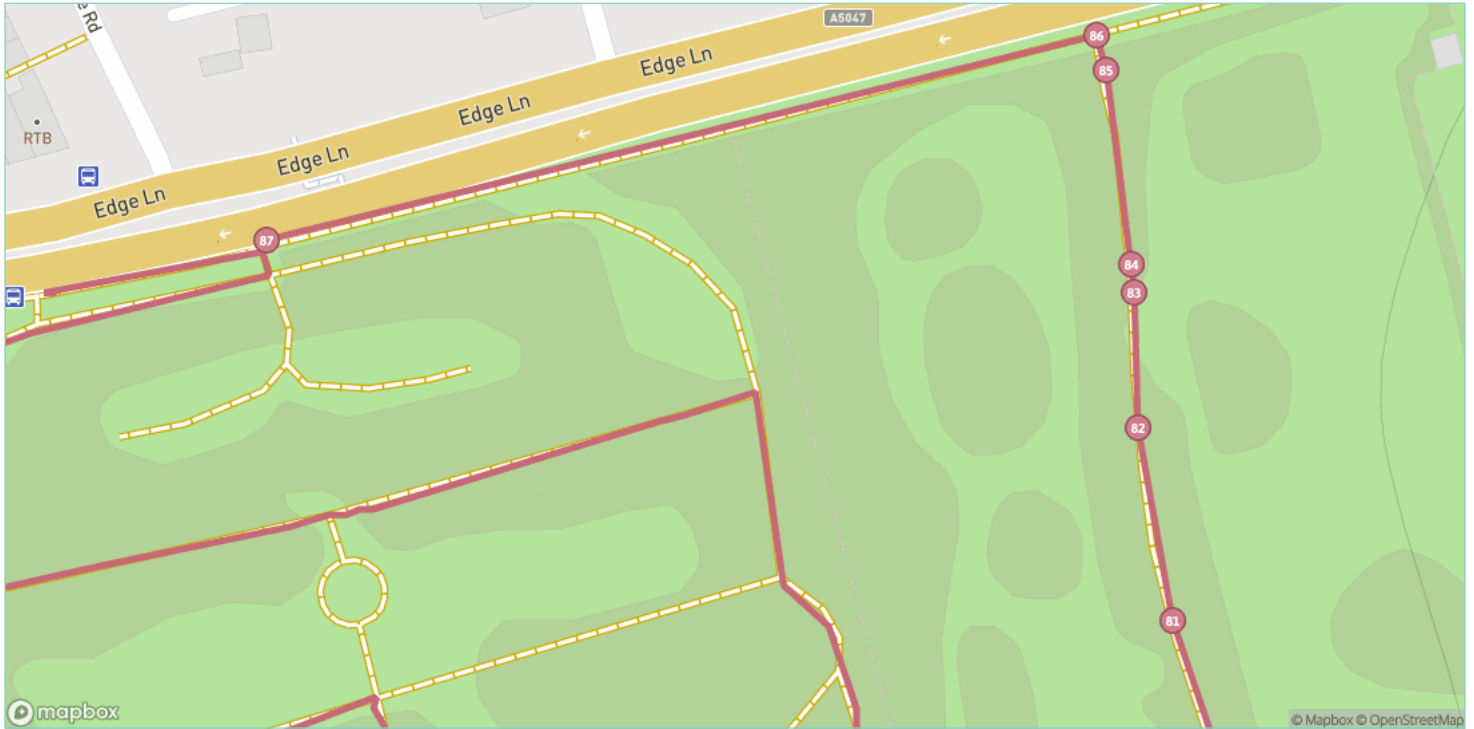
Step 76: Make your way down the path beneath the dense canopy of the lime trees from both sides of the path. You're turning left at the end.

Step 77: This is a perfect place for some dappled shade on a sunny day.

Step 78: At the end of the path, take the fork to your right and curve around to the left as you go around the border island.

Step 79: Continue straight along the path.

Step 80: You'll spot an imposing white building to your right. This is the famous Littlewoods Football Pools building which was built in 1938.



Step 81: The “football pools” was a betting pool based on the outcome of football matches. It was very popular in the UK from the 1940s to the 1980s. The building suffered a fire in 2018, but much of the art deco features were saved.

Step 87: We hope you enjoyed this nature-filled walk! When you’re ready for your next walk, come back and discover more local walks with us.

Step 82: Continue along the tree-lined path.

Step 83: If you look to your right, you can see just how big the building was. The site had over 10,000, mostly female staff at its peak!

Step 84: You can still see the ghost sign saying a Littlewoods between the scaffolding.

Step 85: Take the exit onto Edge Lane and turn left. We’ve almost finished our walk.

Step 86: Follow the park wall along Edge Lane to walk towards the bus stop from earlier.