



Bristol Ring Section 1

Loop through local nature reserves and along a tranquil section of the River Avon, finishing with great views and history on Troopers Hill.

Distance 12.1 kilometers / 7.5 miles

Duration 4 hours and 30 minutes



Wildlife



Water feature



Great views



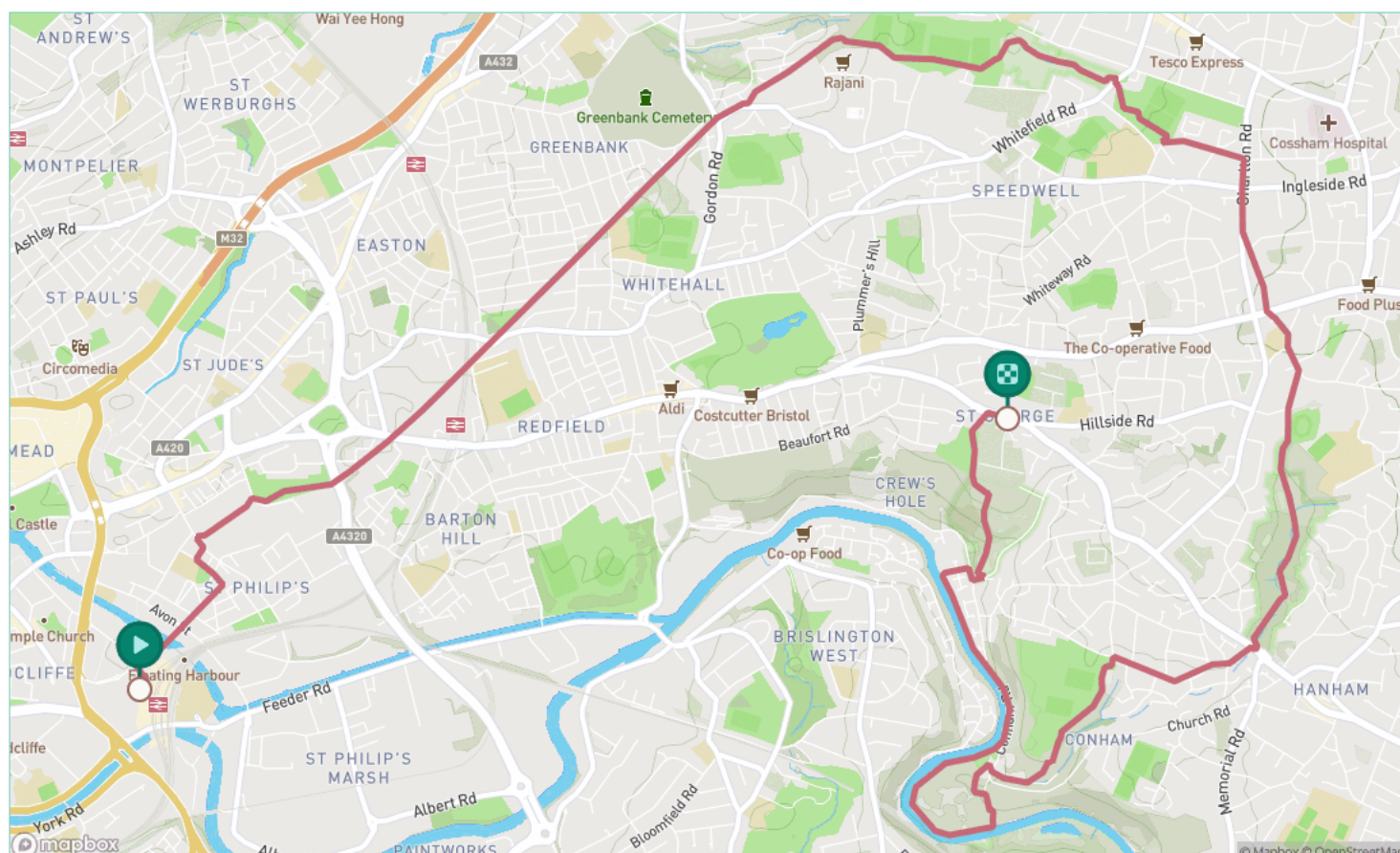
Public transport



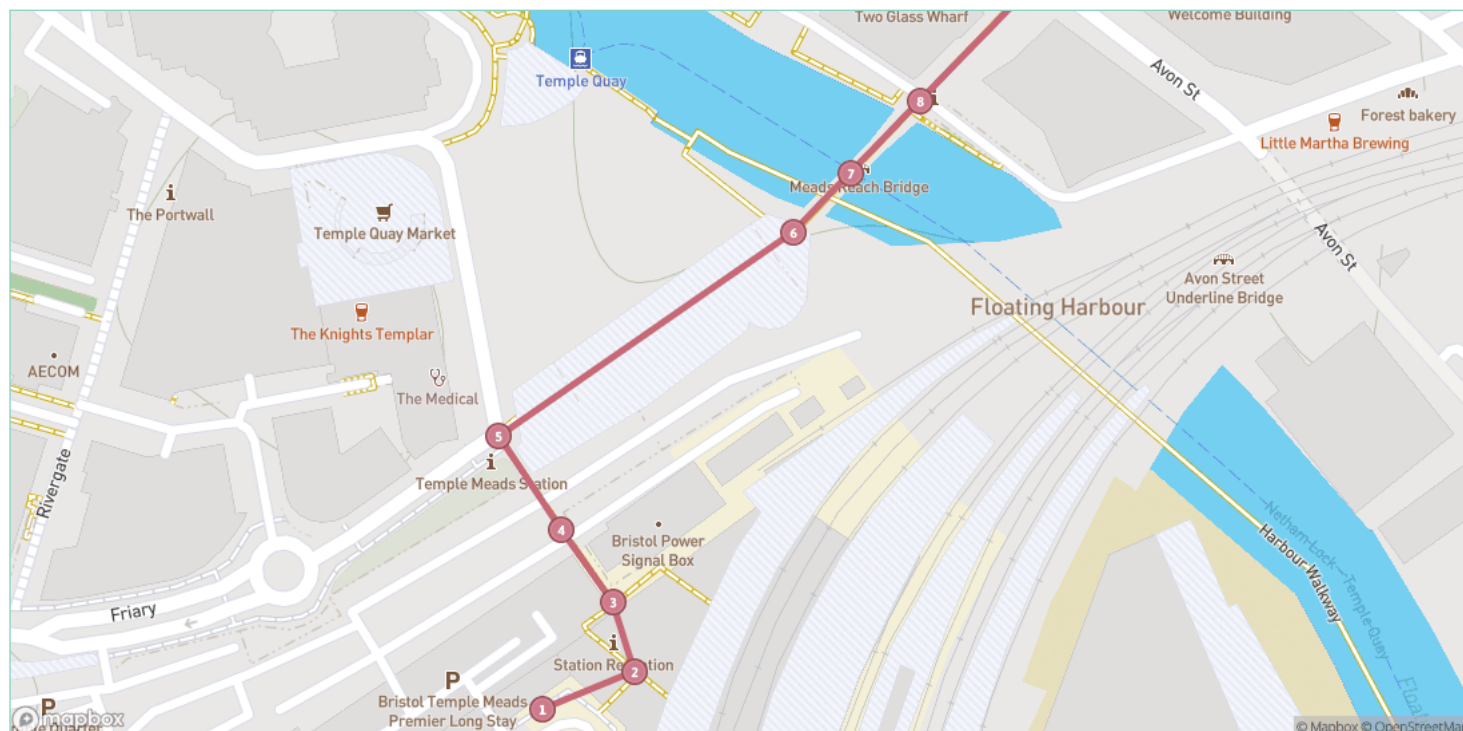
History



Hilly & steep



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Step 1: Welcome to the Bristol Ring! See below for options for where to start. This route starts at Bristol Temple Meads railway station.

Start Options

You can start from Temple Meads and follow the route up the Bristol & Bath Railway Path to start Section 1 at step 41.

Alternatively, you can reach step 41 via bus from Alcove Road bus stop on Fishponds Road. Follow steps 103-112 on Section 6 in-app for directions from there.

There are toilets and food options here at the railway station.

Step 2: Exit Bristol Temple Meads station following the Temple Quay and Ferry signs.

Step 3: You'll see signs to follow to the Bristol & Bath Railway Path (BBRP). Head down the ramp towards a small car park.

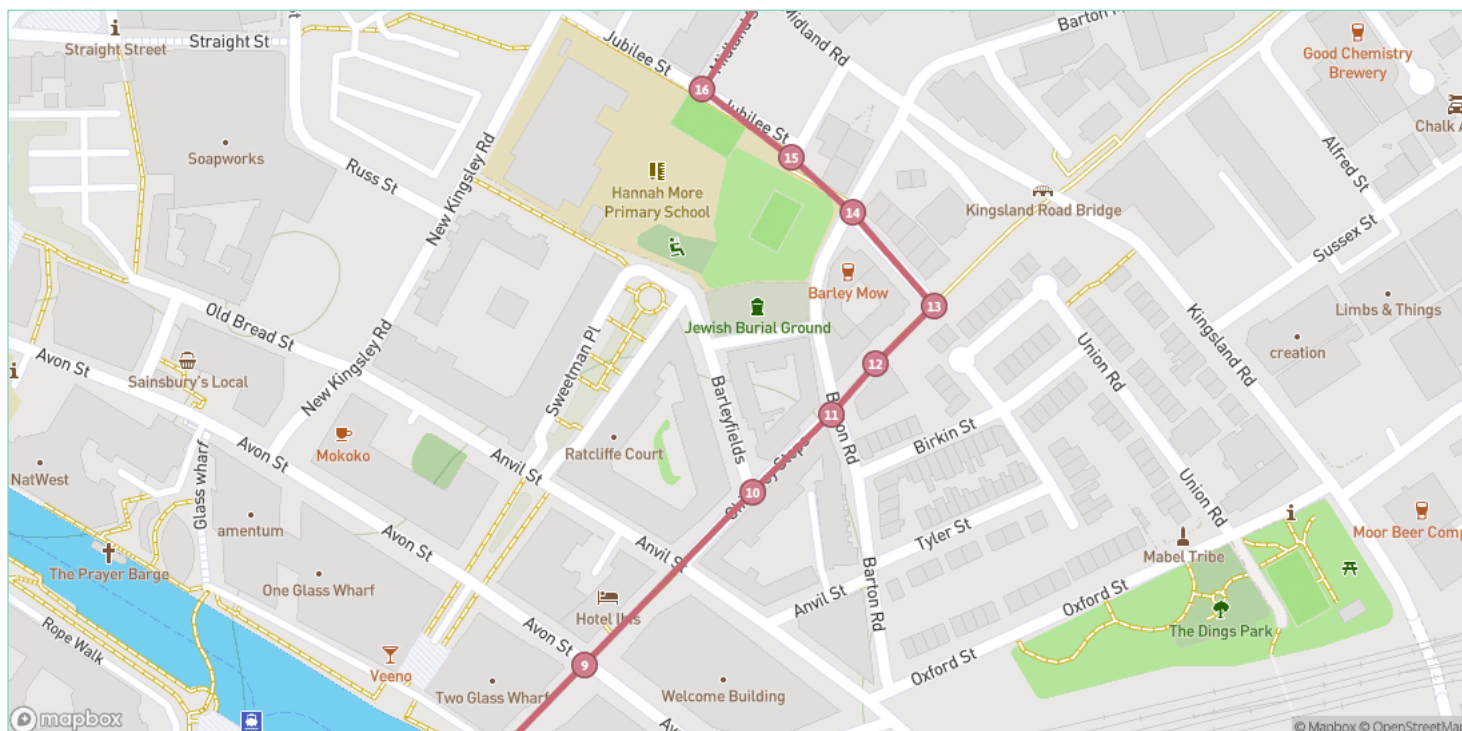
Step 4: Cross the car park with care.

Step 5: Turn right onto a shared path towards a wide metal bridge known locally as the Cheese Grater Bridge.

Step 6: Use Meads Reach Bridge to cross the Floating Harbour. The bridge was opened in 2008 and won an award from RIBA.

Step 7: Look left for views across the Floating Harbour. From 1809, the tide has been prevented from going out, creating the harbour from the Avon.

Step 8: On the opposite side of the bridge, continue straight ahead between tall office buildings and hotels.



Step 9: Cross two roads, still sharing the route with cyclists.

Step 10: Stay ahead on Chimney Steps. In winter 25/26 there was lots of construction work along here and no distinct pavement.

Step 11: Cross Barton Road onto the shared pedestrian and cycle path. This area is known as The Dings, the name is derived from farmland in C16th.

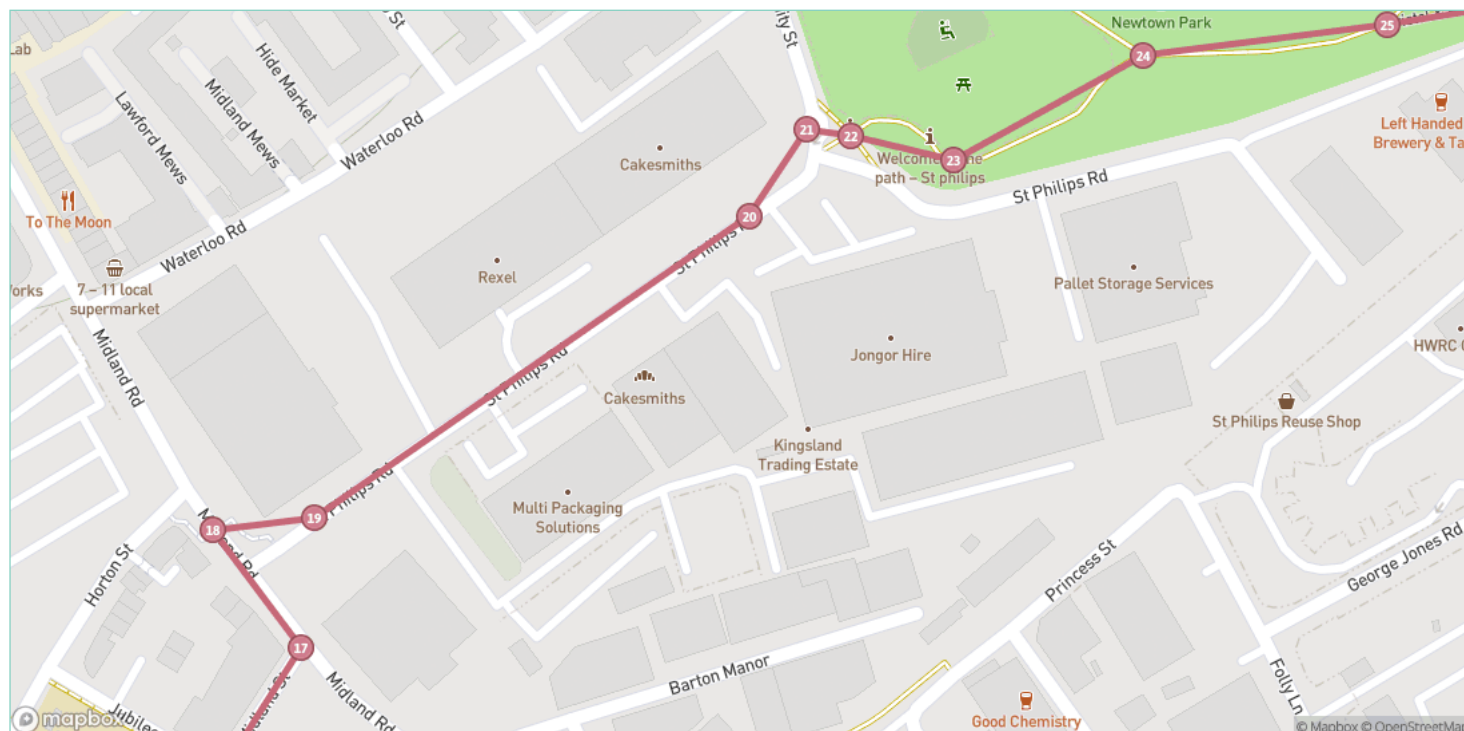
Step 12: Go straight and look out for a small street coming up on the left.

Step 13: Head left onto Barton Vale.

Step 14: Cross Barton Road and go straight onto a shared path alongside a school.

Step 15: As the path joins a road, keep left.

Step 16: Turn right to walk down Midland Street.



Step 17: Turn left on Midland Road and head to the pedestrian crossing.

Step 18: Use the pedestrian crossing to cross Midland Road and then head along St Philips Road.

Step 19: This is an industrial area but you'll likely spot many cyclists heading to the same path that we're walking towards.

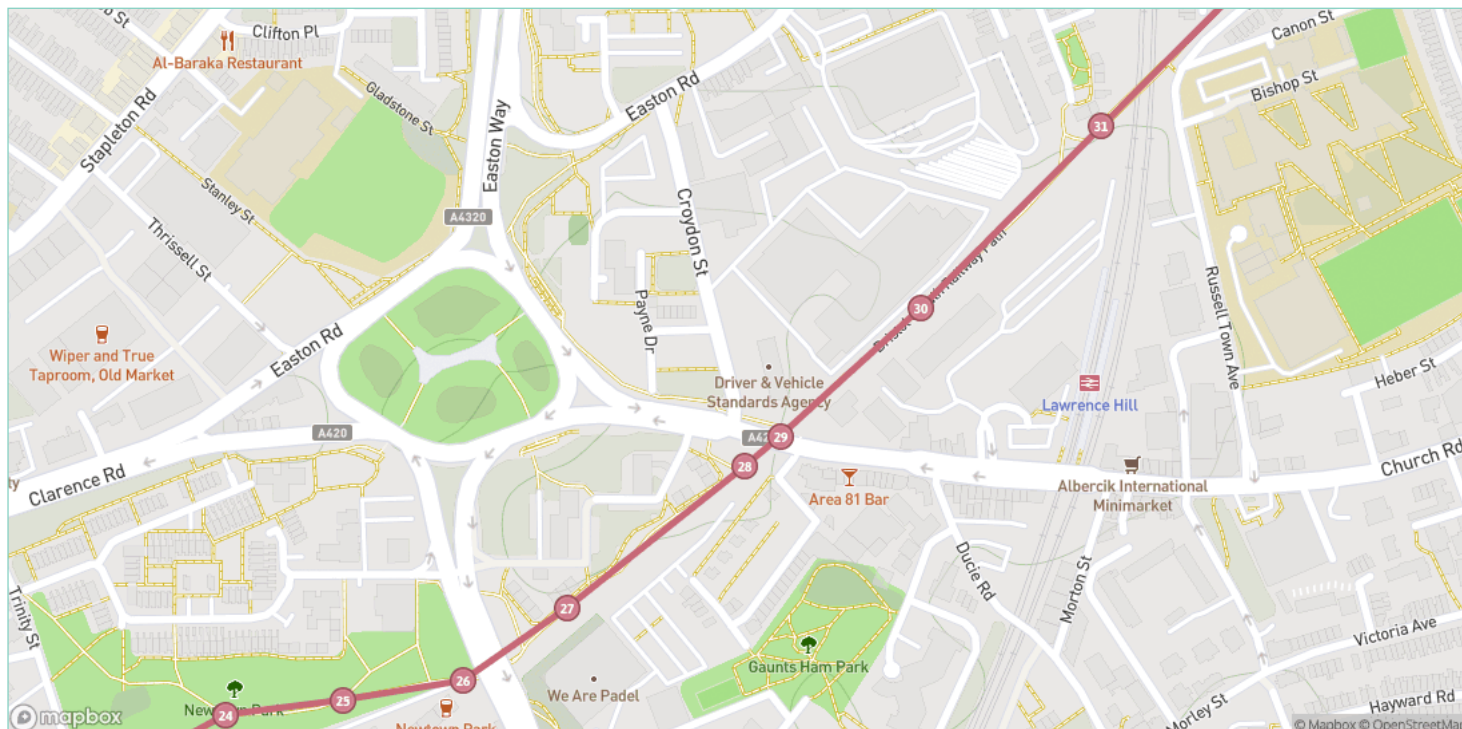
Step 20: If you fancy grabbing some refreshments, Bakehouse is on the left serving drinks, cakes and toasties.

Step 21: At the junction, cross Trinity Street at the traffic island and then head slightly right, passing the bollards, and head into Newtown Park.

Step 22: Pass under the ornate Twisted Arch by local model making company Cod Steaks. It was created to celebrate the Bristol & Bath Railway Path.

Step 23: Follow the shared path around the perimeter of the park. Keep left for the next few steps as we share the path with cyclists and scooters.

Step 24: Keep right at the path junction. The BBRP follows the route of the former Midland Railway which was closed in the 1960s.



Step 25: And then head right at the fork to stay on the railway path.

Step 26: Keep to the pavement as we head through the tunnel.

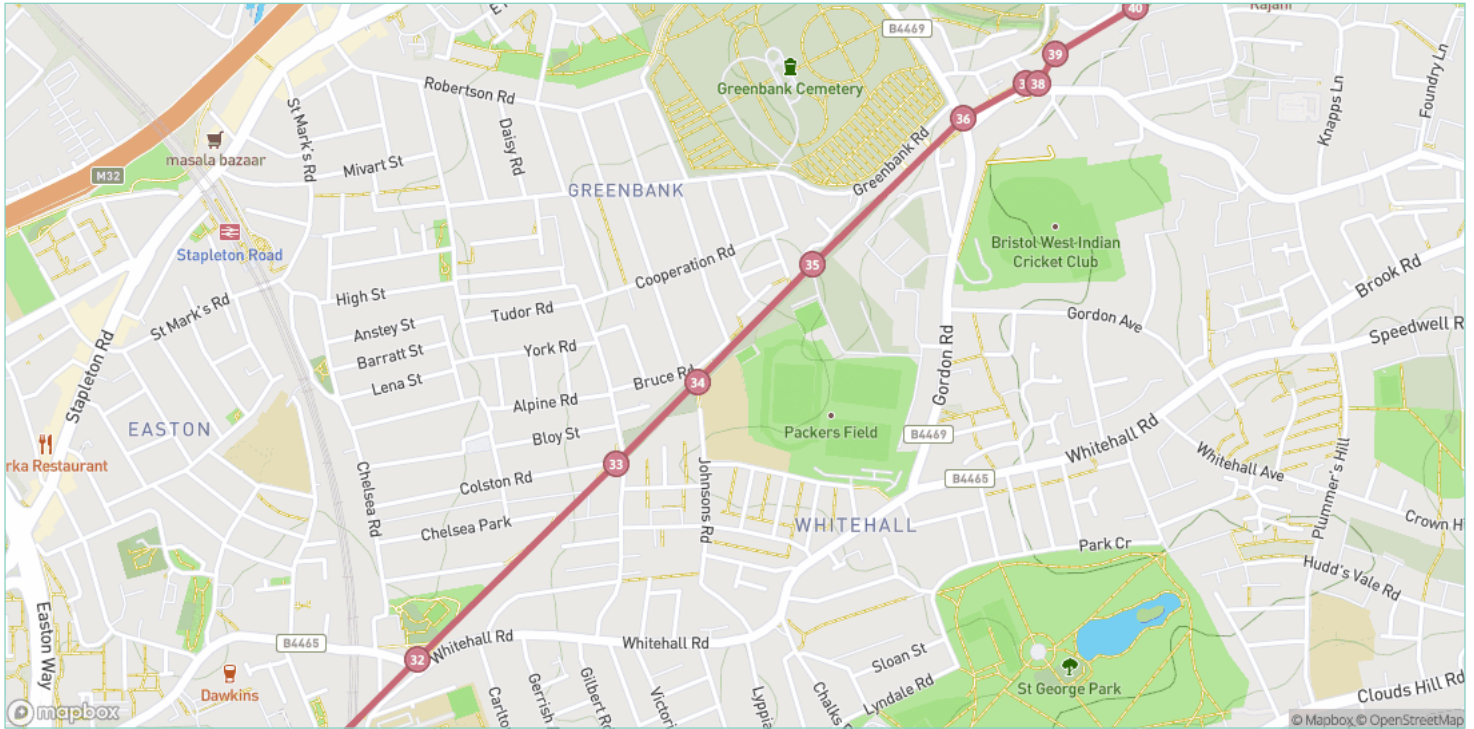
Step 27: Continue ahead. There is seating dotted along the whole BBRP if you need a rest.

Step 28: Head down through another tunnel.

Step 29: If you look right when going through the tunnel you may be able to see some of the old railway track.

Step 30: From this point the BBRP starts to become more enclosed and more tranquil. Make use of the many benches if you need a water break.

Step 31: Follow on either side as this old railway bridge crosses the line that heads into Lawrence Hill.



Step 32: Pass the benches, planters and Owen Square park. The Easton Community Centre is to the left which has toilets and an Ethiopian cafe.

Step 33: Continue on the BBRP through the tunnel.

Step 34: Head across the junction where those crossing take priority. Up to the left you can find a South American cafe on Bruce Road.

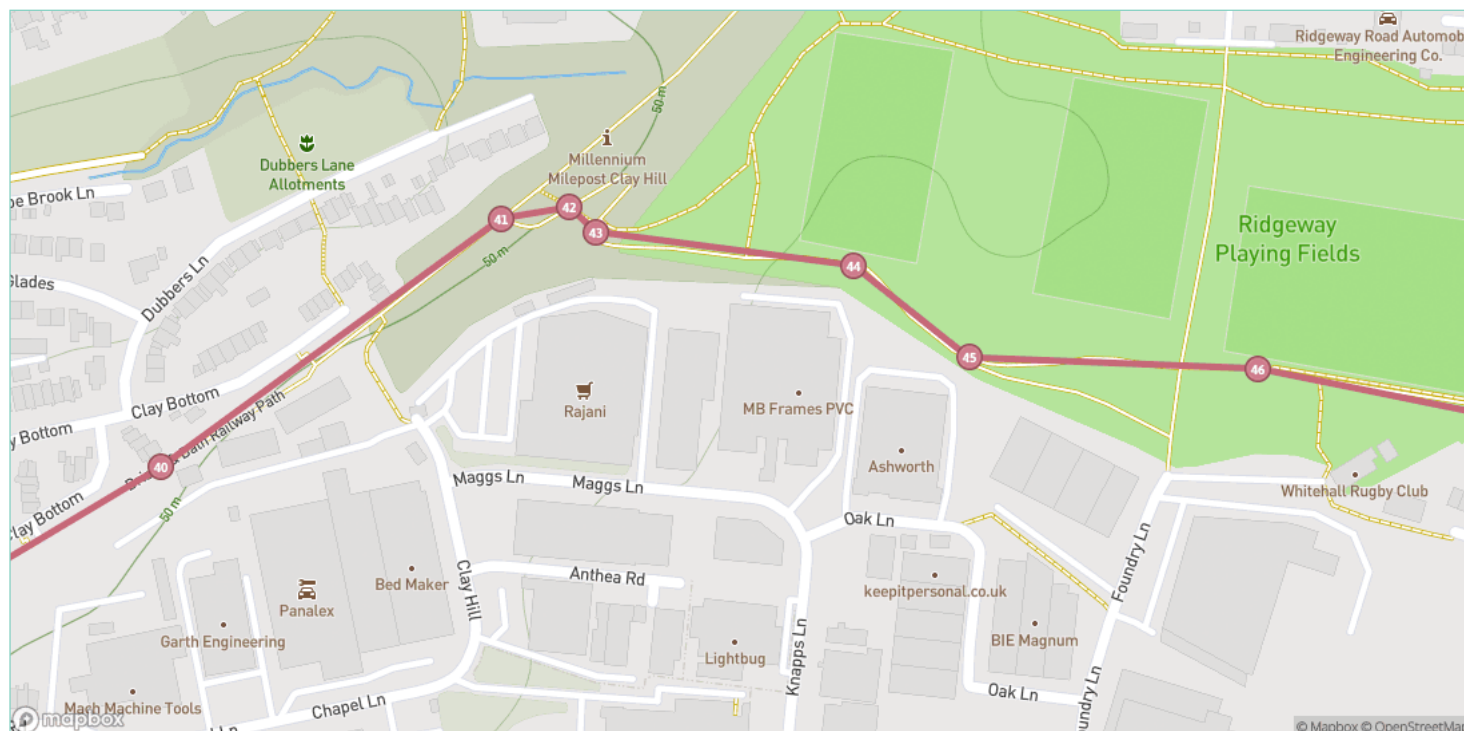
Step 35: Pass new developments on the left and a bench with a view over Packers Allotments to the right.

Step 36: The path will take you over another of the old train bridges.

Step 37: As you approach a bend to the left, look out for the beautiful woodland animal mural on the wall to the right by local artist Sophie Long.

Step 38: Follow the path around the bend. Keep right here. There are benches made from some of the old railway sleepers.

Step 39: Continue ahead as the shared path straightens out once again.



Step 40: Enjoy the outdoor art exhibition on this stretch. Which is your favourite?

Step 41: To the right is the ramp, slightly further ahead on the right are steps. Head up whichever way you like. Bristol Ring Section 1 starts here.

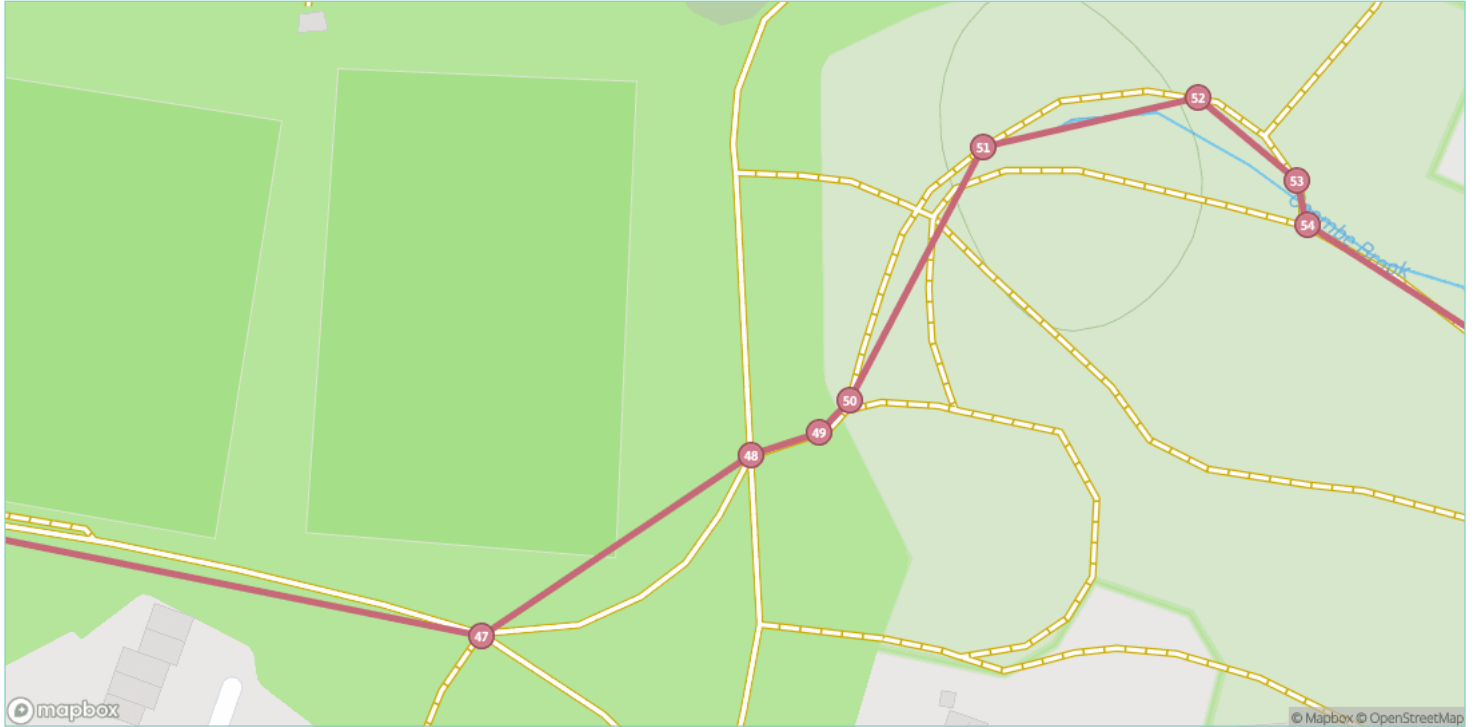
Step 42: Keep going to the top to reach Ridgeway Playing Fields.

Step 43: Follow the tarmac path straight ahead.

Step 44: Enjoy the open skies after being on the more enclosed BBRP for a while. ☁

Step 45: At the fork, keep left.

Step 46: Go straight over at the path junction.



Step 47: Take the path on the left at the next junction as you head towards the woodland.

Step 48: Look out for a small path across the grass as you meet the woodland and turn right onto it.

Step 49: Pass through the gap in the metal fencing.

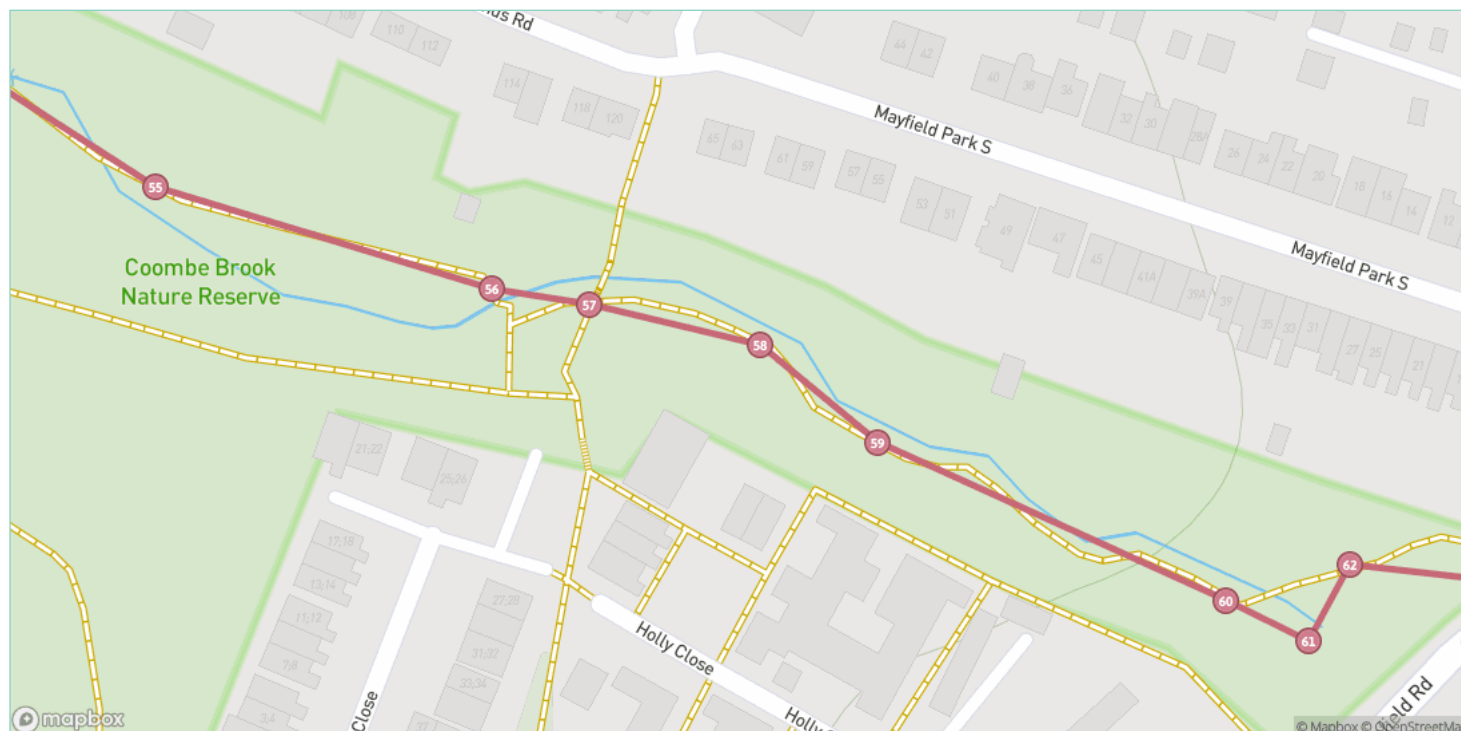
Step 50: Follow the earth path to the left to enter Coombe Brook Nature Reserve. You'll be heading downhill.

Step 51: Follow the bend in the path as it takes you right, down towards the stream.

Step 52: In spring, you can find cow parsley, bluebells and wild garlic on the woodland floor. Listen out for great spotted woodpeckers too!

Step 53: The path will take you across a small bridge.

Step 54: Cross Coombe Brook and then head left on the opposite side to continue through this peaceful valley.



Step 55: What does it look like in the season you're walking in today?

Step 62: Once on the other side, head uphill on the path by the garden fences.

Step 56: Go straight ahead at the junction. If the path ahead is too slippery, you may need to exit right here and take the first path on the left

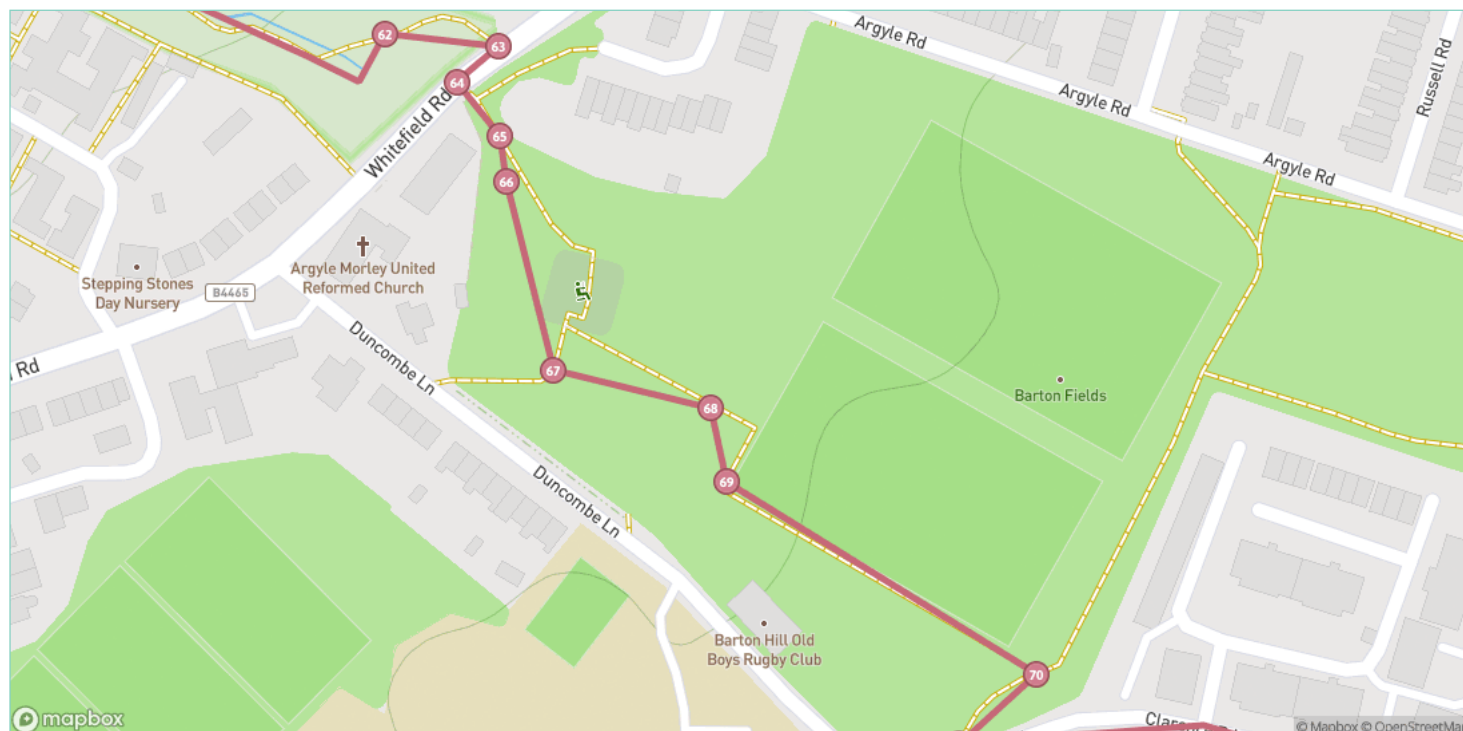
Step 57: Pass a bridge to the left as you continue straight.

Step 58: The path ahead narrows as you walk on the bank next to Coombe Brook.

Step 59: Take care over exposed tree roots.

Step 60: As you reach the end of the small nature reserve, if water levels allow, you can head left across the stepping stones.

Step 61: Or you can continue ahead uphill and walk around the culvert where the brook enters here.



Step 63: Turn right onto Whitefield Road towards the traffic island.

Step 64: Cross at the traffic island and enter Barton Fields on the opposite side.

Step 65: Bear right on the grass path to walk around the playground.

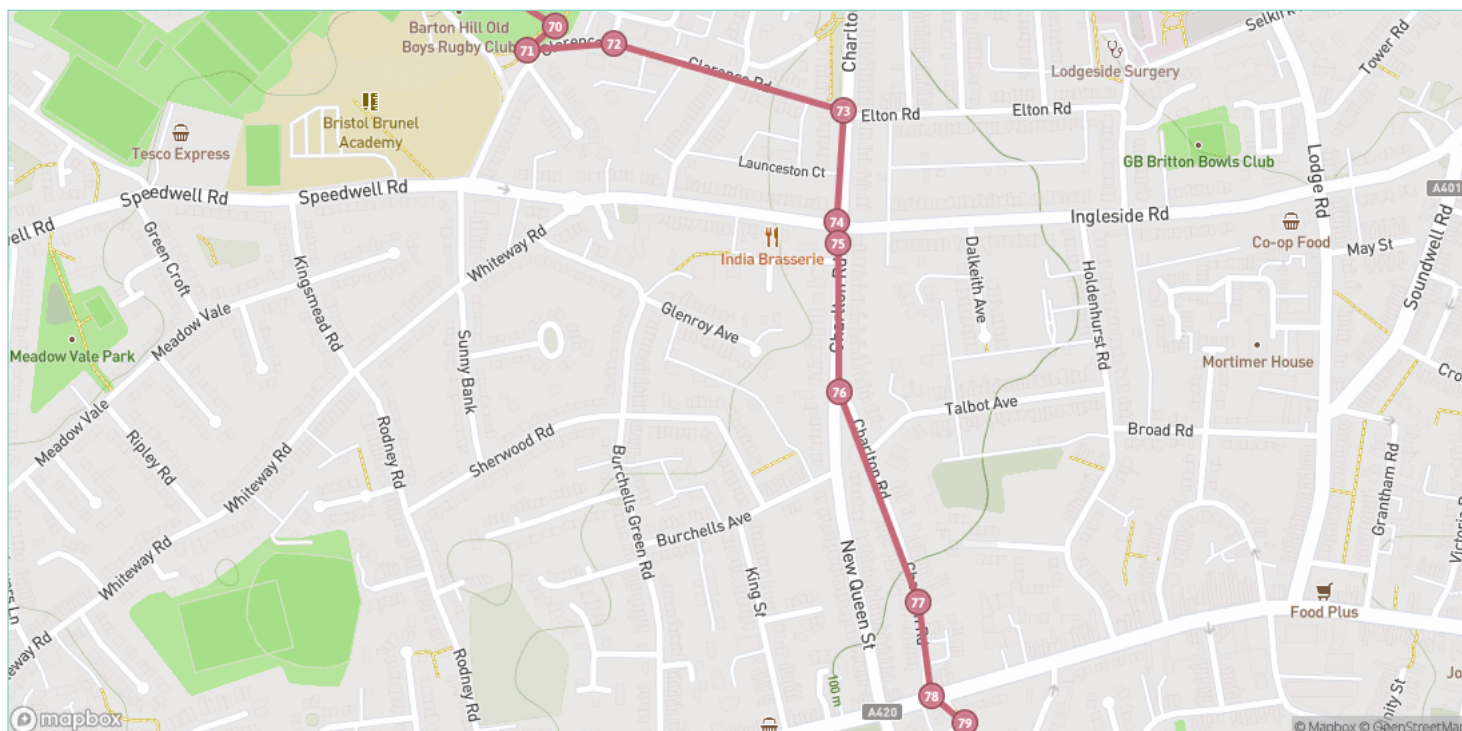
Step 66: You can use the surfaced path that cuts through the playground if you prefer.

Step 67: Head left past a picnic bench to join a tarmac path.

Step 68: You may meet the resident goats, part of the Street Goat project. Please heed the signs and don't feed them.

Step 69: Follow the path past the rugby club towards the end of the park.

Step 70: Turn right towards Clarence Road.



Step 71: Turn left onto Clarence Road.

Step 72: Follow the pavement around the bend and then uphill to the end of the road.

Step 73: Turn right on Charlton Road.

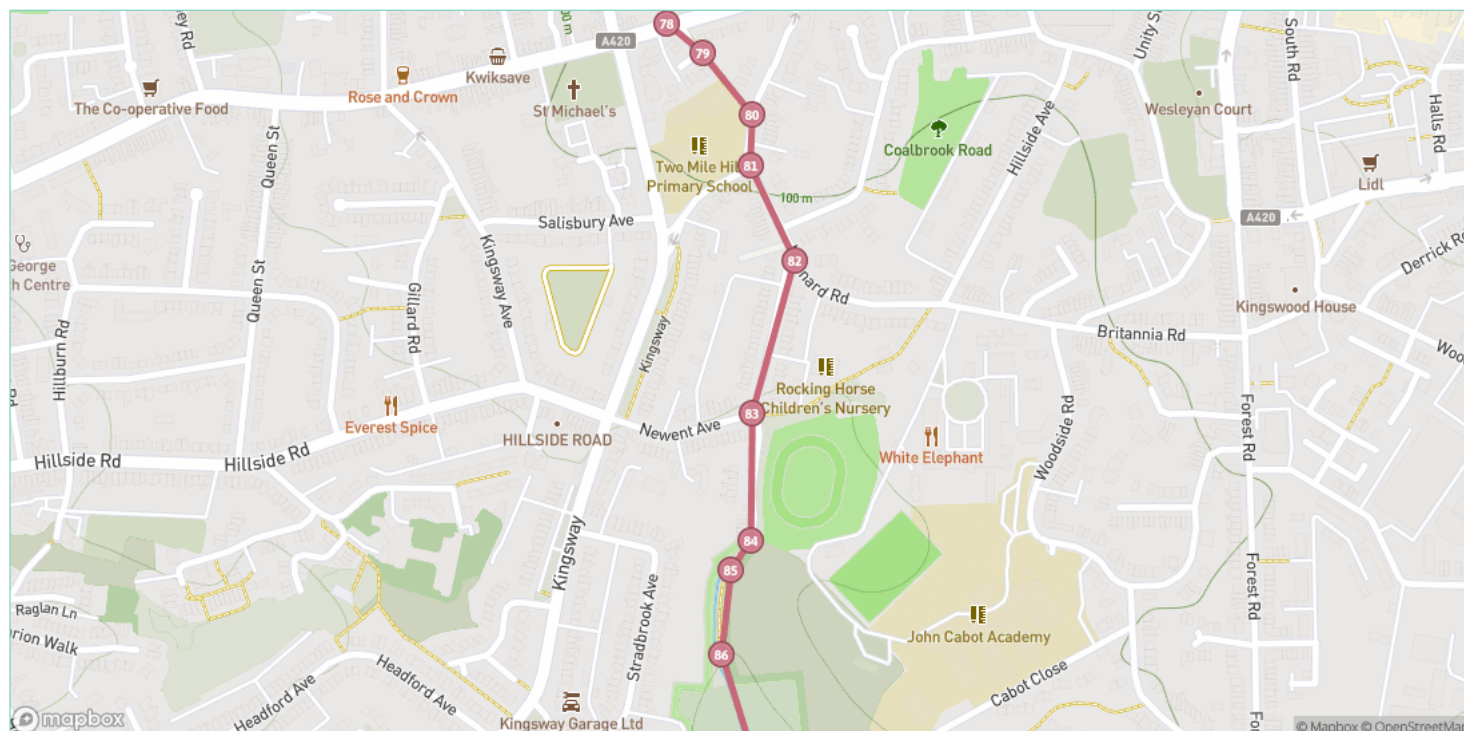
Step 74: At the crossroads, use the pedestrian crossings to cross Ingleside Road...

Step 75: ...then turn left to cross Charlton Road. Turn right on the opposite side.

Step 76: At the road junction, keep left on Charlton Road, heading uphill.

Step 77: Continue ahead to the end of the road.

Step 78: Use the pedestrian crossing to the right to cross Two Mile Hill Road and go straight over into Two Mile Court, marked as a private road.



Step 79: Follow the tarmac path to the left of the houses.

Step 80: Turn right on Kennard Road, passing a school.

Step 81: Cross Kingsway Crescent and continue downhill.

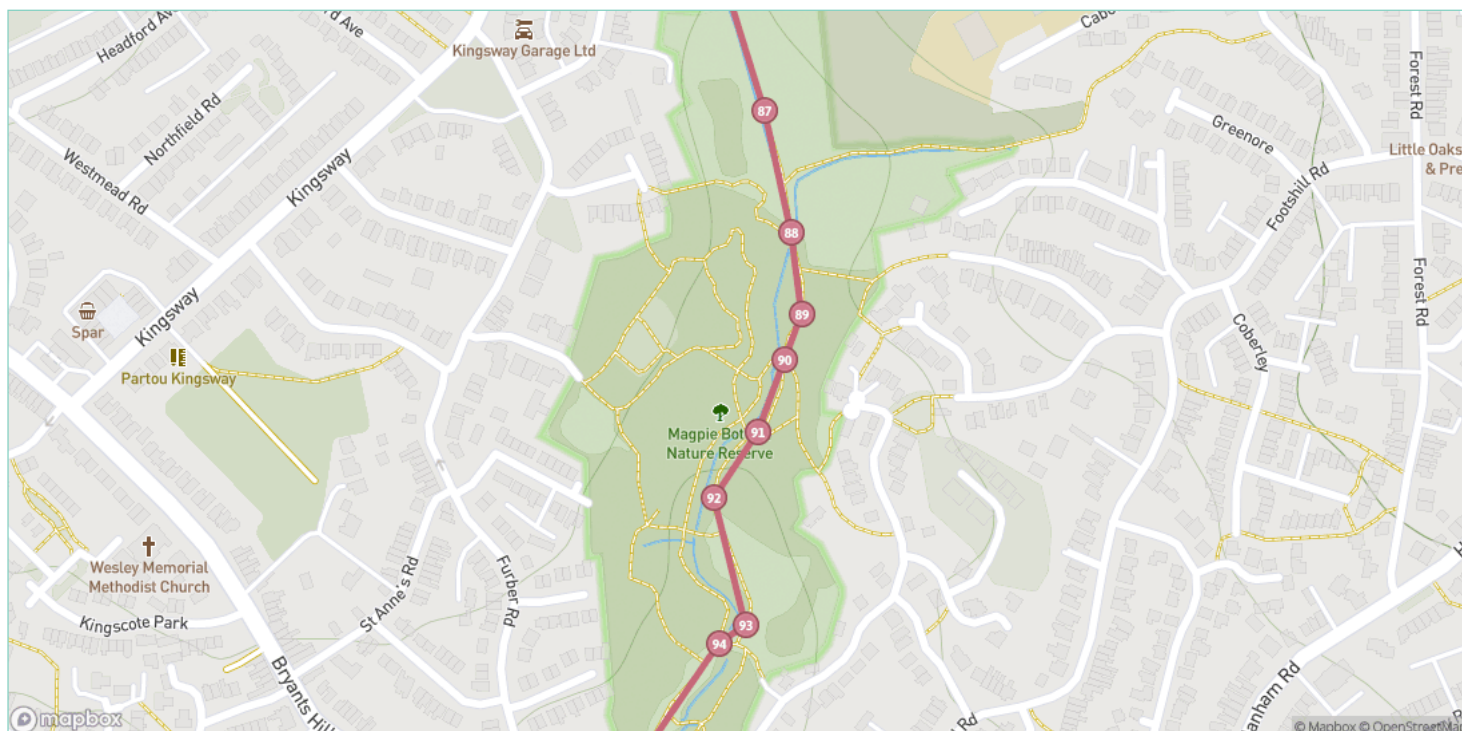
Step 82: Turn right onto Kennard Rise and walk to the end of the road.

Step 83: As the road bends right, cross over and continue straight onto Kennard Close. There is no pavement here.

Step 84: At the end of the road, pass around a gate and enter Magpie Bottom Nature Reserve.

Step 85: Back to nature! There is one main path which takes you all the way from the north to the south of the reserve. Stradbroke is on your right.

Step 86: The valley has been home to coal mines, market gardens, orchards and nurseries over the years. It is now an important home to wildlife.



Step 87: Keep going straight, passing a path junction ahead. If you'd like to explore, you can head right to see some of the remaining orchard trees.

Step 88: The path will take you into the trees.

Step 89: And around to the right towards a path junction.

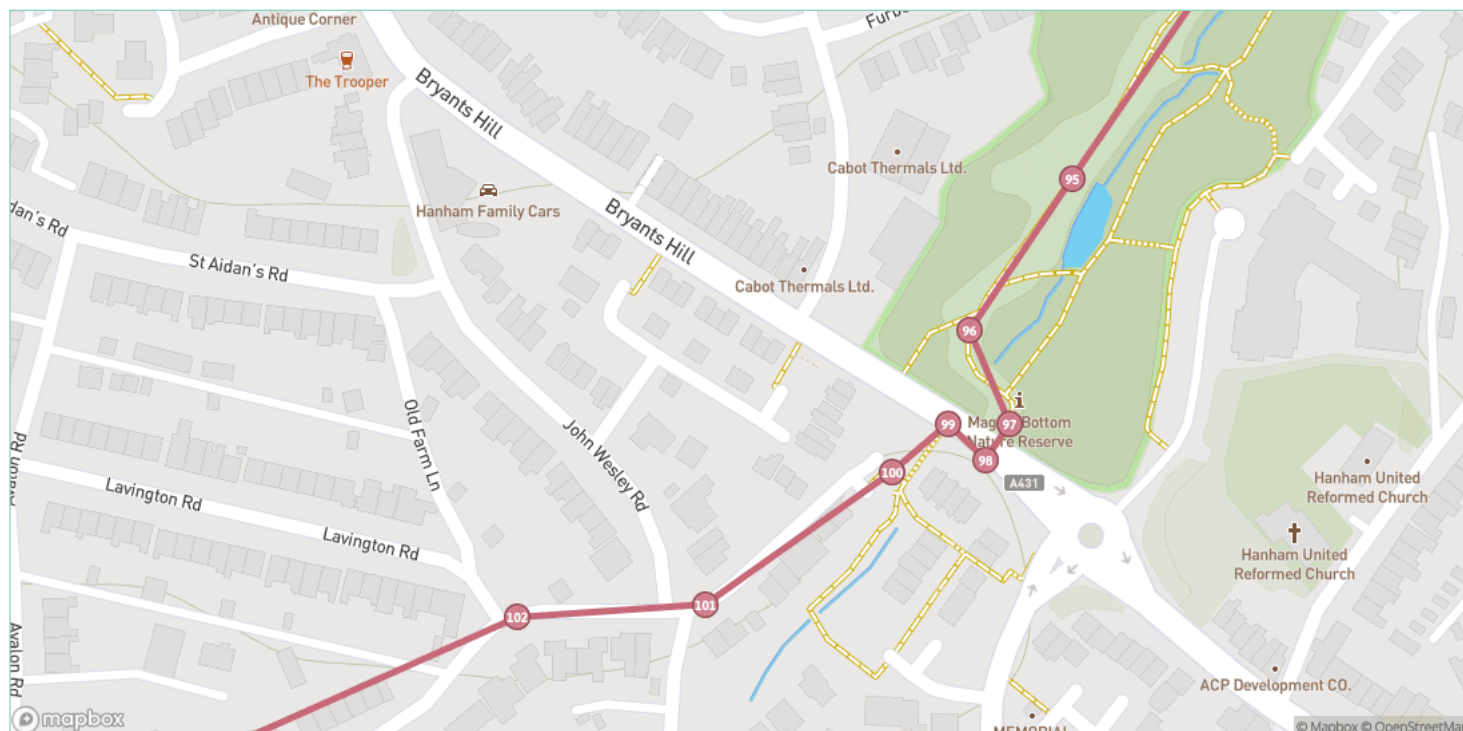
Step 90: Bear slight left to walk alongside the brook.

Step 91: Continue straight.

Step 92: Follow the path through a grass area with benches dotted here and there.

Step 93: At the path junction, follow the path to the right...

Step 94: ...and then immediately left to carry on through the reserve.



Step 95: Past the pond on your left. Or take a seat and enjoy the sights and sounds for a tad longer.

Step 96: As you reach the end of the nature reserve, follow the path to the left.

Step 97: Exit the reserve by the gates and use the traffic island to cross Bryants Hill.

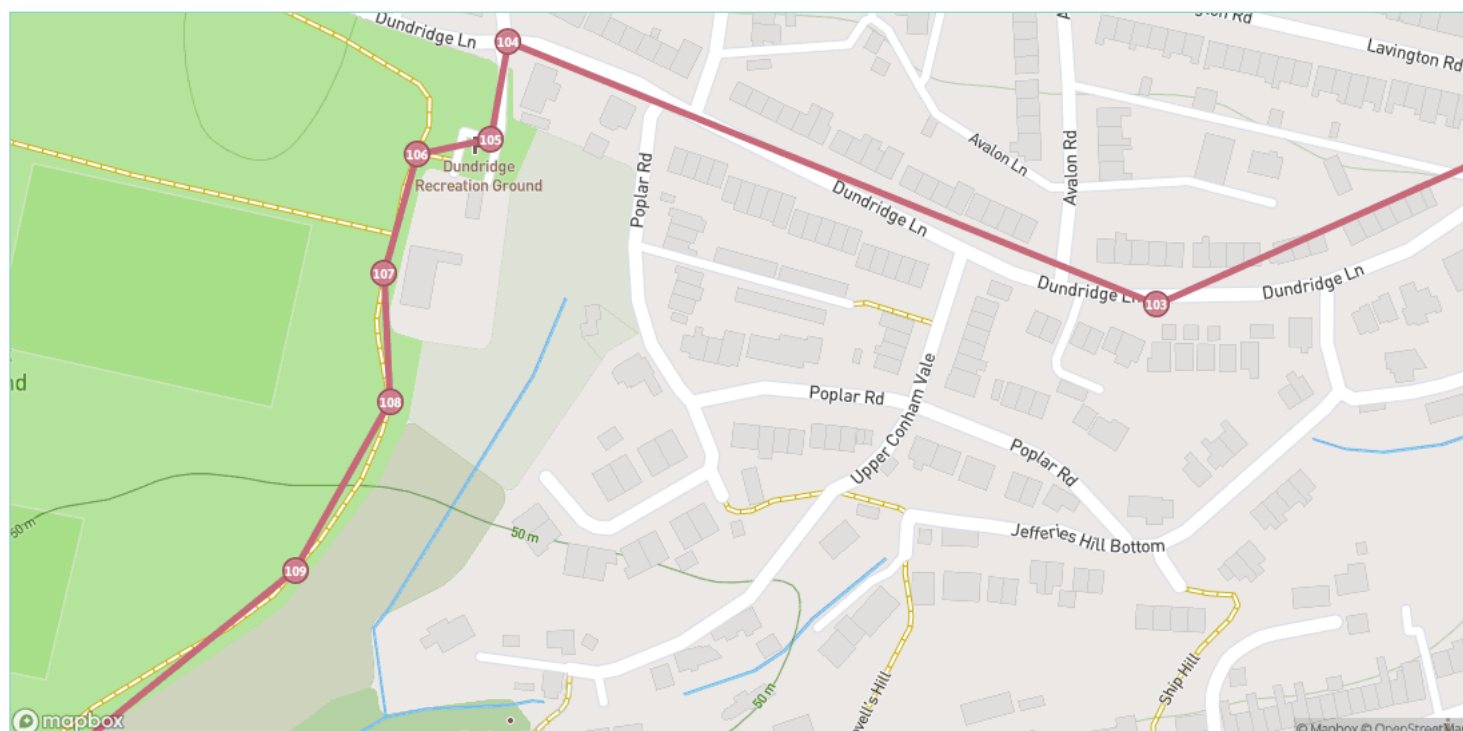
Step 98: Turn right on the opposite side and look for steps on the left.

Step 99: Head down the steps.

Step 100: Head right then left to follow the path round and then walk ahead on Dundridge Lane.

Step 101: At the junction, continue ahead. Stick to the left side of the road.

Step 102: Continue along Dundridge Lane.



Step 103: Keep going until you reach a public footpath sign. You will have to cross the road further ahead when the pavement ends on this side.

Step 104: Cross the road and head carefully into the car park of Dundridge Park.

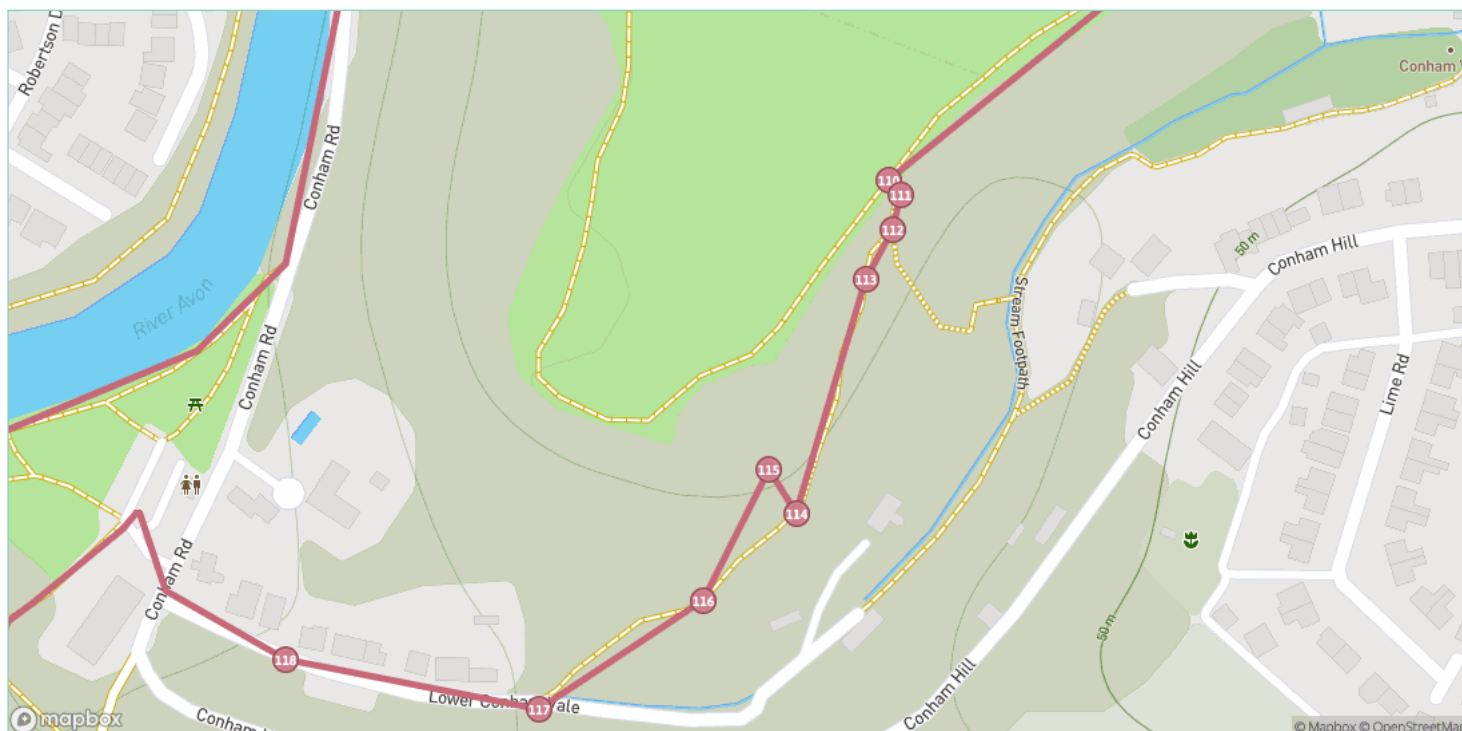
Step 105: Head right and walk around the gate to access the footpath.

Step 106: Turn left onto the tarmac path.

Step 107: There is a coffee shop here on the left and toilets for customers too.

Step 108: Continue down the path or take a rest on a bench. This area was once part of Kingswood Forest and then later, a farm.

Step 109: The land was used for food production in WWII and has been used for recreation since then.



Step 110: Where the tarmac path ends, head left down some steps into Conham Vale.

Step 111: Follow the earth path to the right, heading downhill.

Step 112: At the fork, keep right. If you fancy a detour, head left down the steep steps to a small nature wetland habitat.

Step 113: Enjoy being under the tree canopy here. Can you hear or see any birds? Why not take a moment to pause?

Step 114: Pass some fencing for a residence on the left.

Step 115: Soon after the fencing, you can head right to explore a little open area with a rope swing if you fancy.

Step 116: Otherwise continue down steps through the vale.

Step 117: Turn right along Lower Conham Vale and walk to the end of the road. It is quiet but look and listen for vehicles.



Step 118: If you're walking in autumn, you may be able to scrump for apples and pears as you near the end of the street.

Step 119: Cross Conham Hill and head into the car park opposite.

Step 120: There are toilets here and you'll often find a coffee truck too.

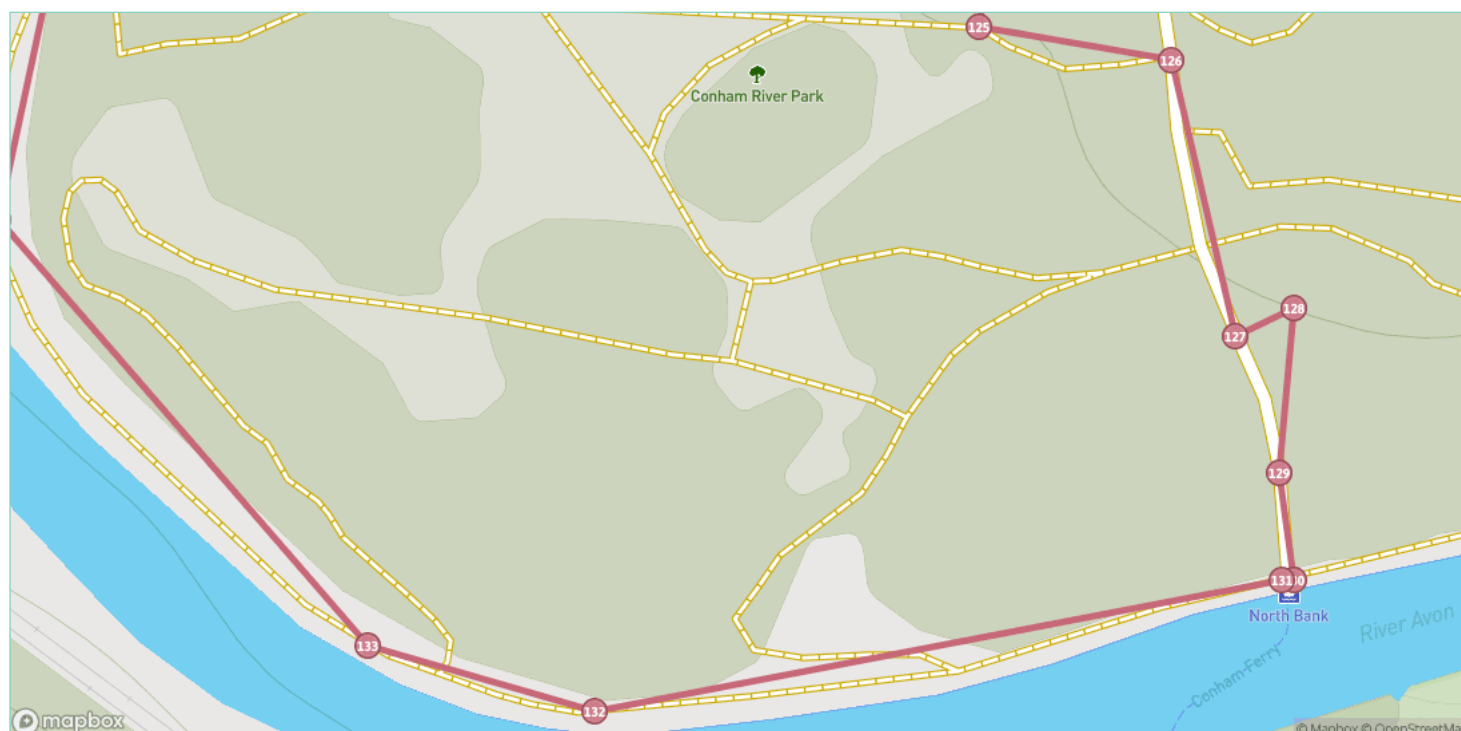
Step 121: Head left through the wooden gate to explore Avon Valley Woodlands Local Nature Reserve.

Step 122: Pass the Conham Inn bug hotel.

Step 123: Head uphill on the wide earth path.

Step 124: Continue straight.

Step 125: When you reach a more open area, turn left by a bench.



Step 126: Turn right onto a main track, flanked by stone walls.

Step 127: About halfway down to the river, look left for a gap in the wall and head up the small path.

Step 128: You'll find the entrance to a man-made cave, created to provide a roost for the lesser horseshoe bat, one of the UK's rarest bats.

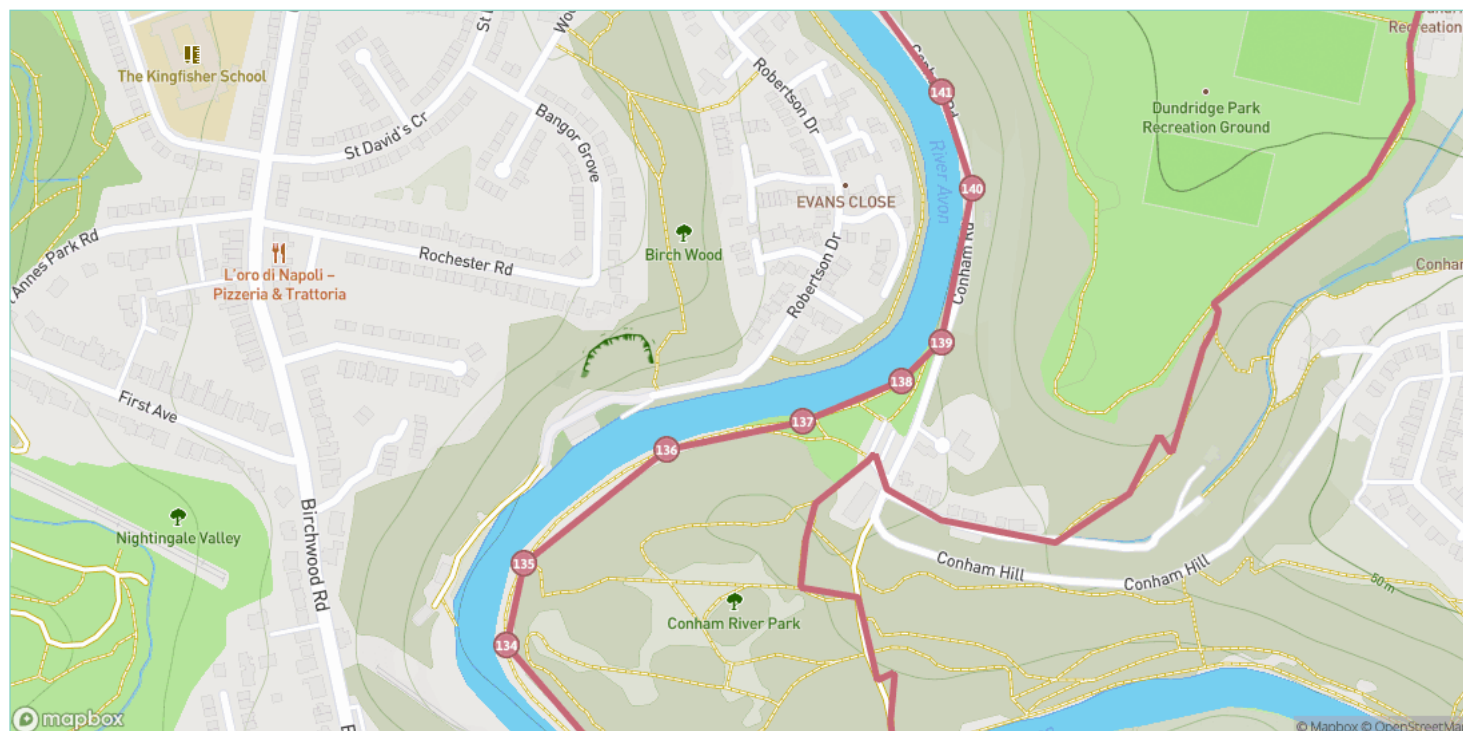
Step 129: Back on the path, continue straight ahead towards the River Avon. If the weather is good, you may hear music ahead.

Step 130: There are some steps down to the river. A ferry sometimes operates here to cross to the pub, usually in summer months.

Step 131: Turn right by a swimming post with a table and coat hooks.

Step 132: This is a lovely section of the walk with a perfect blend of green and blue space. And breathe! ❤️❤️

Step 133: Keep following the riverside path. Look out for trains on the opposite side on the railway viaduct, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.



Step 134: Continue past the rowing club on the opposite side.

Step 141: Continue ahead until you see bollards on the opposite side.

Step 135: This area has an industrial past, with copper smelting in what is now the woodlands and tallow candles being created here.

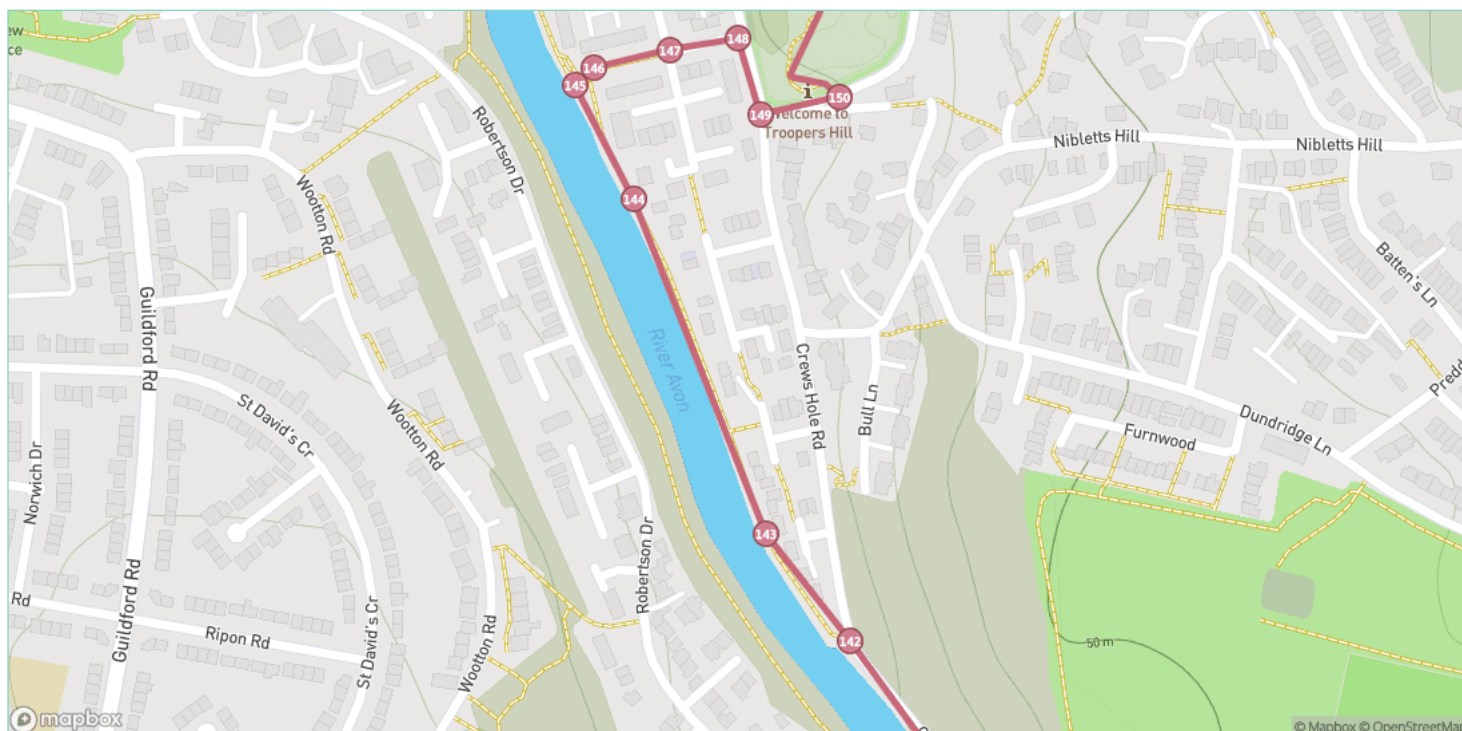
Step 136: What sights and sounds are you enjoying along the river? Kingfishers, herons, swans and even otters have been spotted along the Avon.

Step 137: You'll soon be close to the toilets and coffee truck from earlier. There are picnic benches along here.

Step 138: Continue on the riverside path until you reach the road.

Step 139: Cross Conham Road and turn left along the pavement.

Step 140: You might still be able to see the river through the trees.



Step 142: Cross the road, pass the bollards and head onto the riverside path.

Step 143: Enjoy the final stretch of river for Section 1 of the Bristol Ring.

Step 144: Continue ahead until you reach a white bench and a turning on the right.

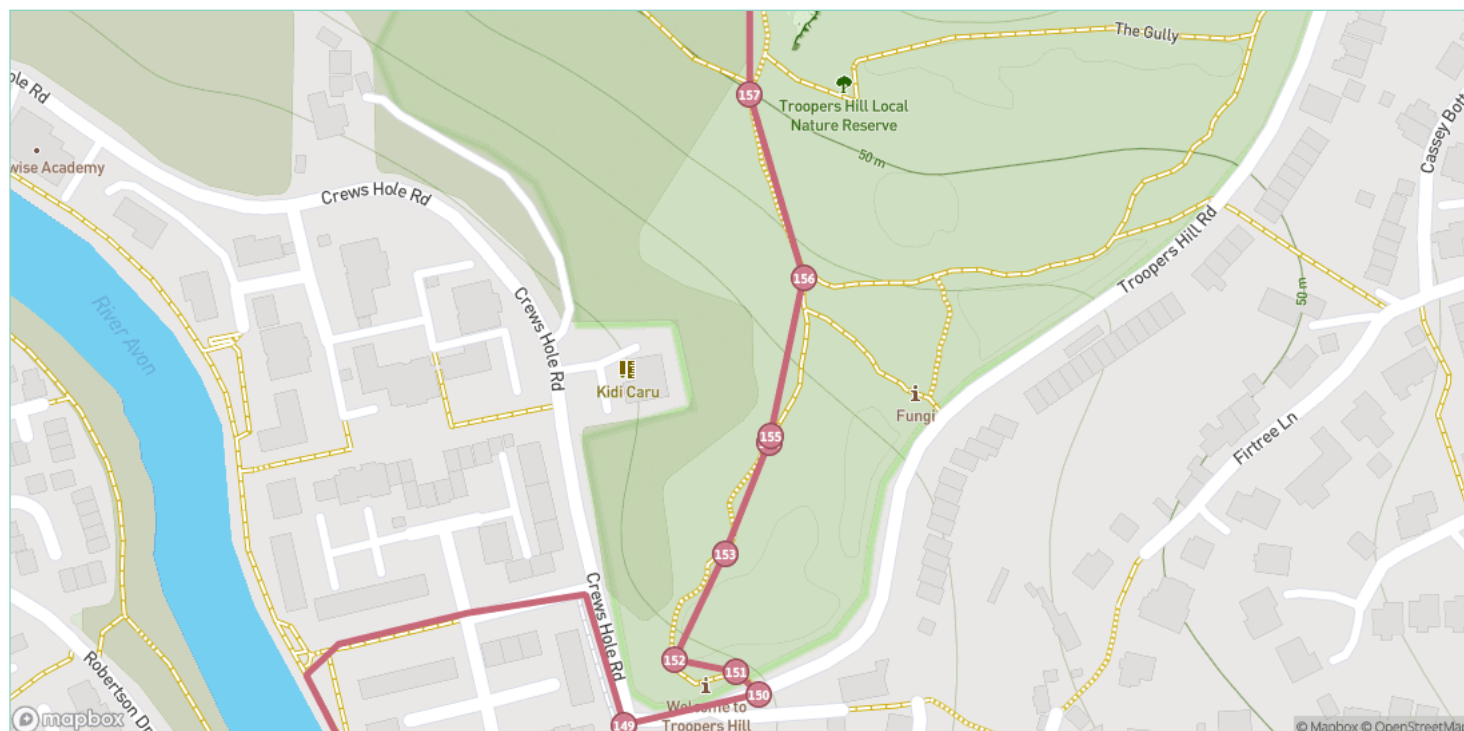
Step 145: Just after a white bench by a wooden finger post signed 'Troopers Hill', turn right and go up the steps.

Step 146: Then follow the path to the road.

Step 147: Cross the road onto the pavement on the right side. Continue ahead to the main road.

Step 148: Turn right on Crews Hole Road until you reach the first turning on the left.

Step 149: When safe to do so, cross Crews Hole Road and head up Troopers Hill Road towards the chimney.



Step 150: Cross when you see the steps and head up to enter Troopers Hill Park.

Step 151: Head through the gate. The chimney here is the remains of the Troopers Hill Colliery.

Step 152: Follow the path around and start heading up the many steps to explore this local haven for wildlife.

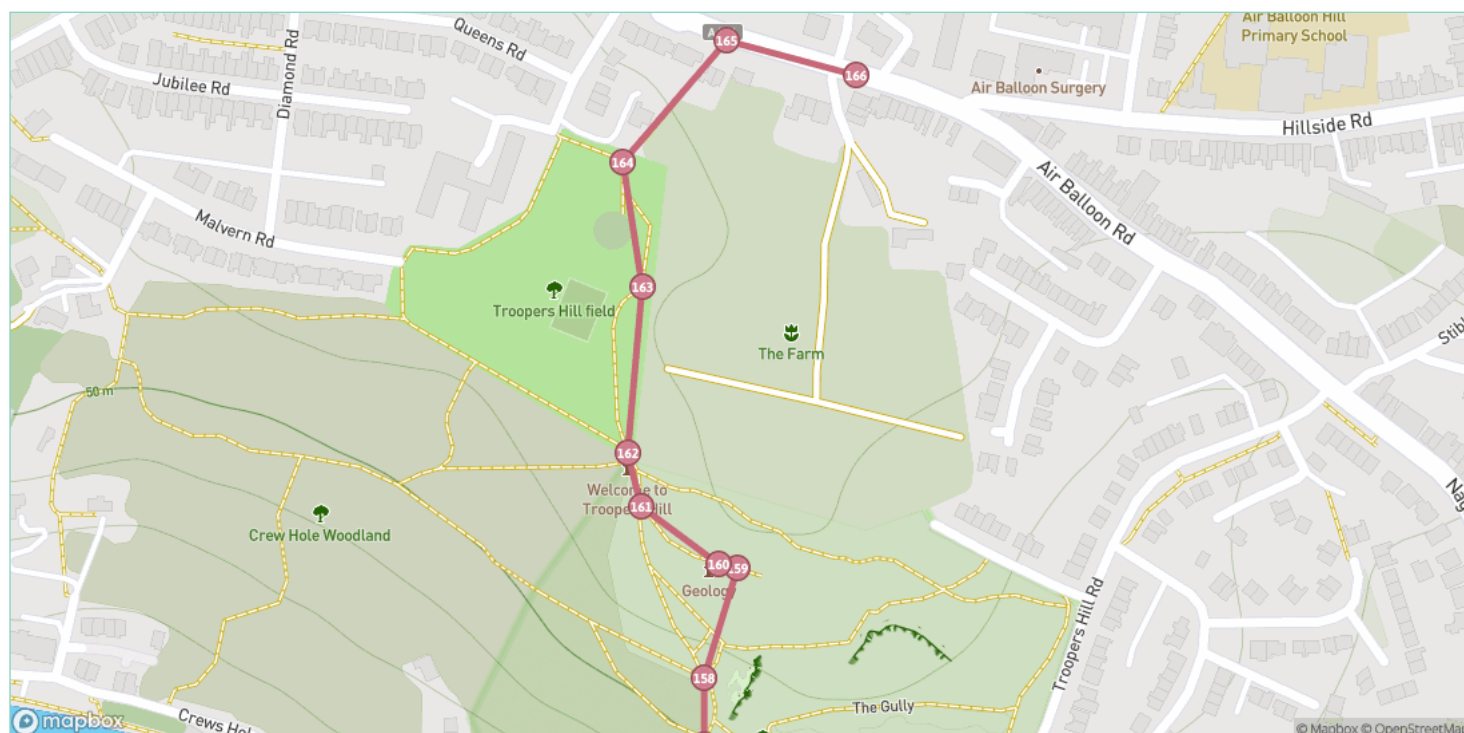
Step 153: Take a break when you need to.

Step 154: You'll soon reach a beautiful view across the nature reserve. The purple heather and yellow broom give it its distinctive hue.

Step 155: Look behind you for more awesome views!

Step 156: Take the undulating path ahead towards the chimney. The hill was extensively quarried for local sandstone as well as coal and fireclay.

Step 157: Keep going! The heathland and acid grassland are unique in Bristol so take your time and enjoy exploring the habitats.



Step 158: Continue straight ahead on the wide path or, if you've still got some energy left, head right up a desire path towards the chimney.

Step 159: You made it! The chimney here is from the copper smelting industry and made from the local Pennant sandstone.

Step 160: When looking at the view, head right past interpretation boards and a bench - a great place to soak up the views and more local information.

Step 161: Head right toward the path junction and well done...

Step 162: ... you've completed Section 1! Section 2 starts on the left, heading down into Crew's Hole. To head back into the city, continue straight.

Bristol Ring Section 2

To start section 2 please tap below to head to the walk in-app.

Section 2

<https://walks.gojauntly.com/walks/bristol-ring-section-2-5625766973994897904>

Step 163: Follow the tarmac path on the right hand side of Troopers Hill field and pass the playground.

Step 164: Head right past a large boulder onto a path heading uphill between gardens.

Step 165: Turn right onto Summerhill Road.

Step 166: Here you'll find Marling Road bus stop. Routes 44 & 45 will take you back to the city centre.