



Kingfisher Park & River Cole Trail

A nature-filled step-free stroll through Kingfisher Country Park. With a lake, meadows, the river Cole and a pub to finish.

Distance 4.2 kilometers / 2.6 miles

Duration 1 hour



Wildlife



Wheel friendly



Water feature



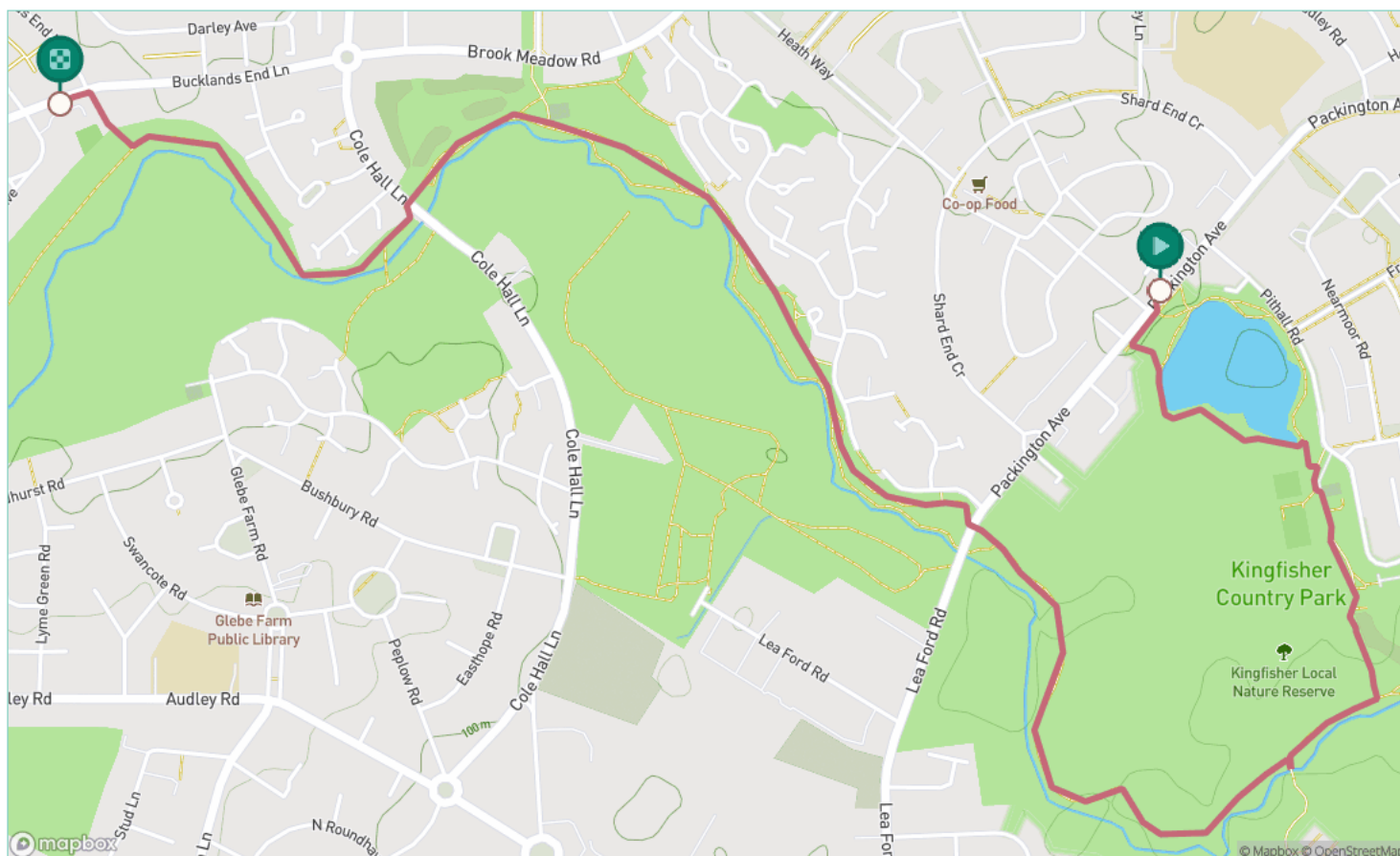
Refreshments

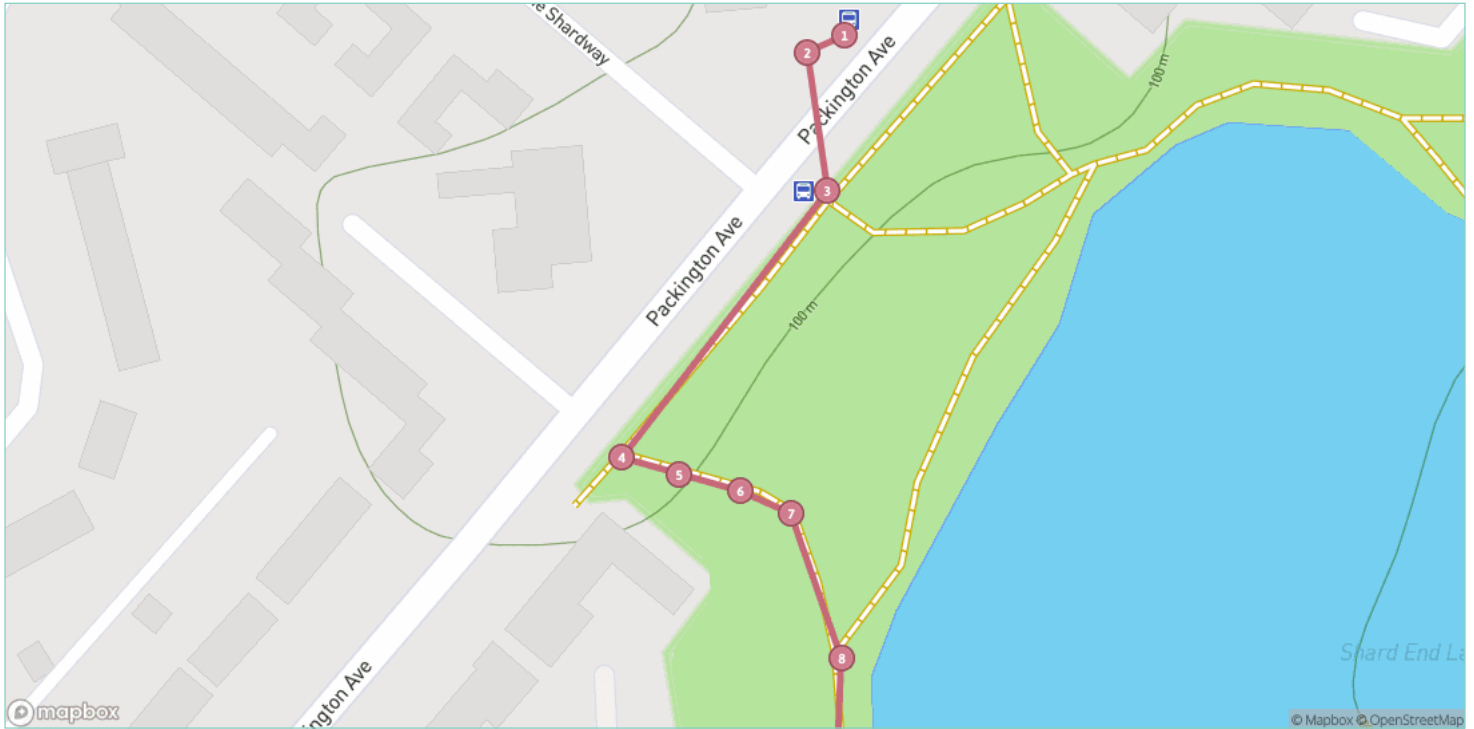


Public transport



Dog friendly





Step 1: The walk begins on Packington Avenue. You can jump on the 95 bus to 'The Shardway' stop to begin.

Step 2: Carefully cross Packington Avenue and turn right after crossing.

Step 3: Continue for a few metres with Kingfisher park on your left and the road on your right. Get ready to turn left into the park.

Step 4: Turn left into Kingfisher Park, heading towards Shard End Lake.

Step 5: Welcome to Kingfisher Country Park. A green corridor along the River Cole valley, featuring wetlands, lakes, and walking paths, spanning 11km. It's home to wildlife like herons, otters and, of course, kingfishers!

Step 6: We mapped this walk during the drought of summer 2026, you may notice the grass looks very dry but hopefully it will soon be green and lush again for your jaunt 🍄

Step 7: Follow the path downhill as it bends right.

Step 8: Continue along this path with the lake on your left.



Step 9: On your left is Shard End Lake, a man-made lake created in an old gravel quarry. It's a fishing lake with fish such as carp and pike



Step 10: Depending on the season you might find some juicy blackberries around.

Step 11: Continue on the path as it bends left around the lake. Enjoy the dappled light from the trees.

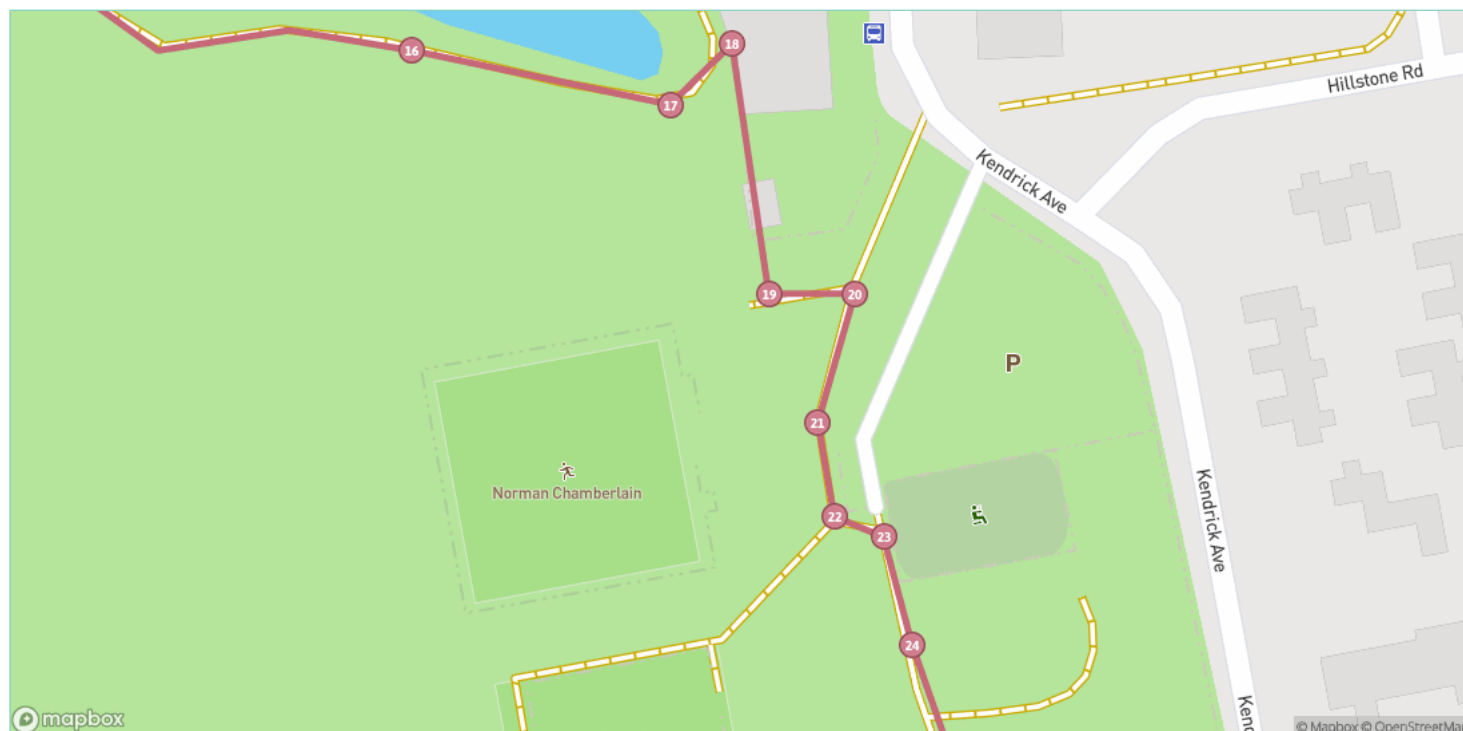
Step 12: Can you spot any swans? Male swans are called cobs, females are pens, and babies are cygnets.

Step 13: In winter, this lake has special bird visitors from afar such as teals and widgeons.

Step 14: Continue on the same path with the lake to your left.

Step 15: Enjoy the shade of the trees as you continue through.

Step 16: Take a last peak of the lake here.



Step 17: Head towards the sea cadets building with a metal fence.

Step 18: Turn right with the fence on your left.

Step 19: Follow the path left.

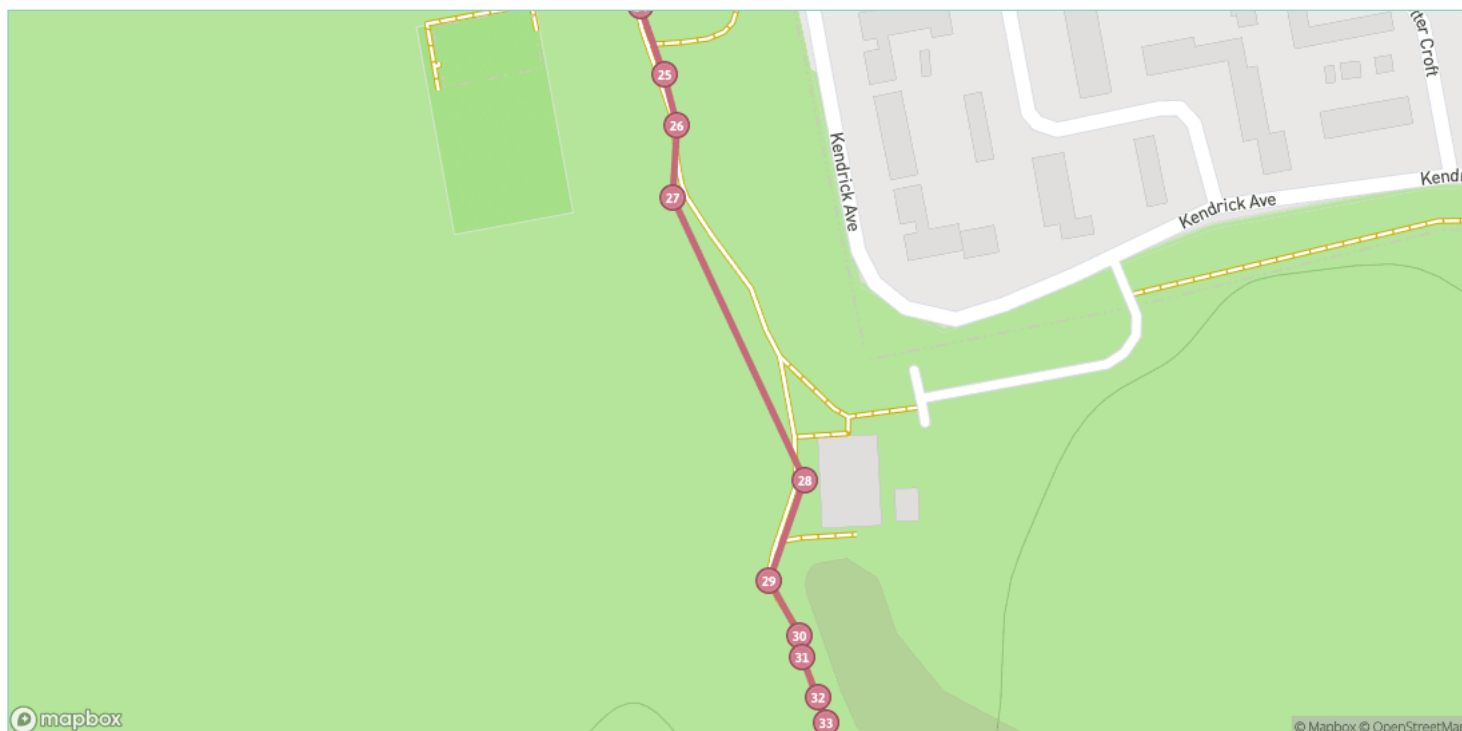
Step 20: Continue with the car park on your left.

Step 21: If you're with kids there's a play area here for a fun stop. 🧒

Step 22: You'll pass some basketball courts on the right too. 🏀

Step 23: Continue straight ahead on the path.

Step 24: Keep an eye out for this Caucasian wingnut tree (*Pterocarya fraxinifolia*) it is related to the walnut and has long hanging seeds.



Step 25: Continue on the path ahead.

Step 26: Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) the Greek hero Achilles supposedly used the plant on battlefields, millefolium means "thousand leaves". 🌿

Step 27: You'll pass some Lime trees on the left. Their nectar-rich flowers in summer attract huge numbers of bees and other pollinators. 🐝

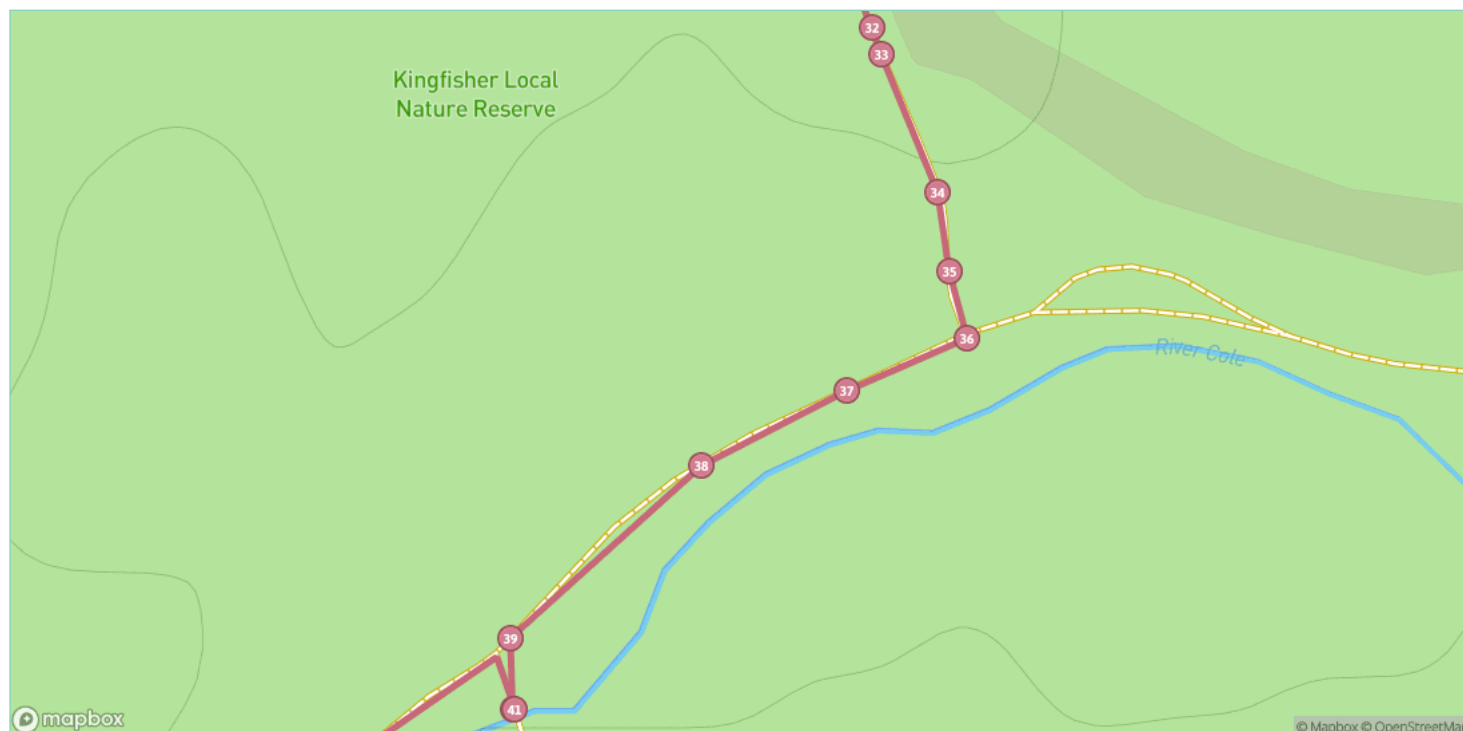
Step 28: Look out for silver birch, in folklore they are associated with new beginnings, protection, and spring celebrations.

Step 29: Continue on the same path.

Step 30: Rowan tree berries are rich in vitamin C and a favorite autumn food for migrating and resident birds.

Step 31: Continue through a metal gate which is a bridge over a small brook.

Step 32: Look over the side. It was dry on this day but maybe you'll see some water here.



Step 33: Himalayan Balsam, native to the Himalayas, it was introduced as a garden ornamental in 1839 before escaping into the wild.

Step 40: This could be a great place to spot a kingfisher. 🦉

Step 34: Can you see any butterflies or dragonflies in the meadow?

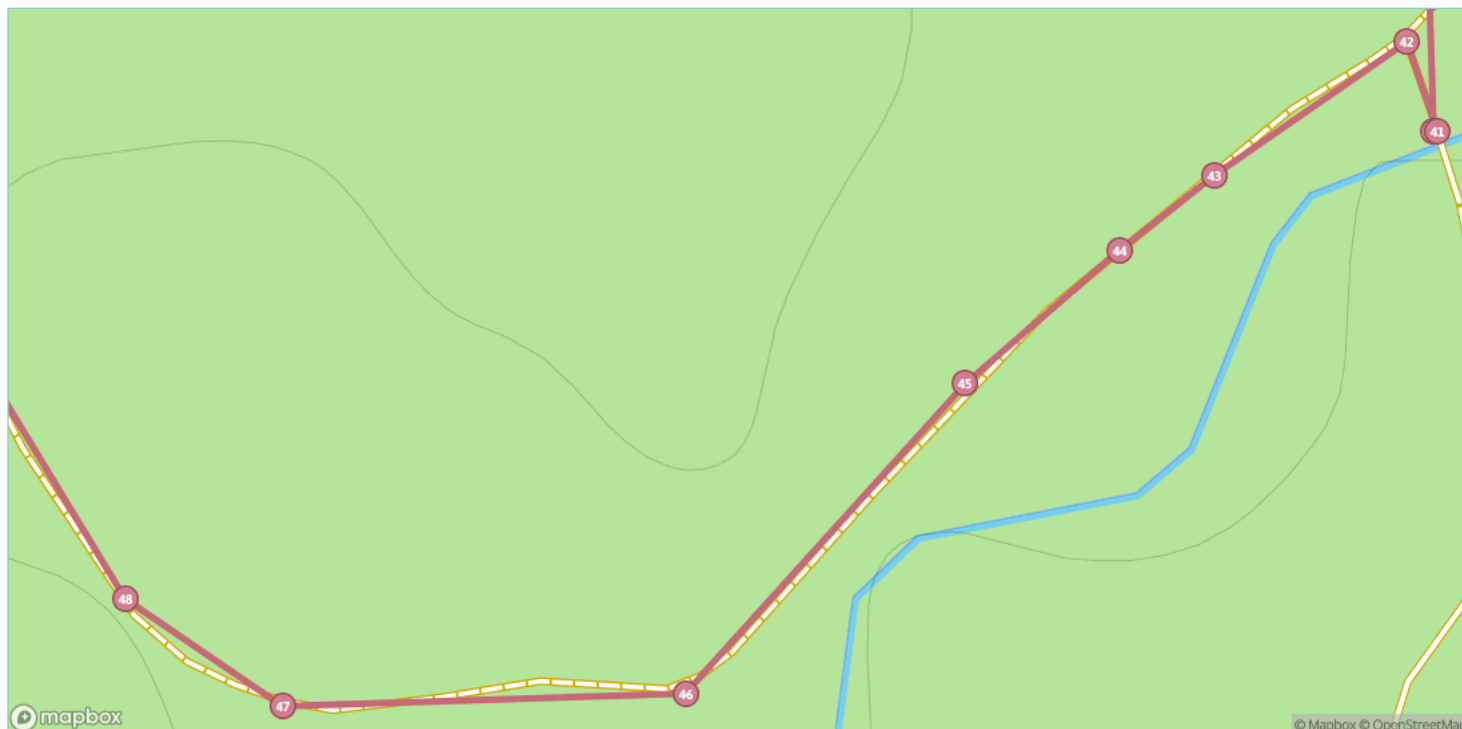
Step 35: Turn right when you reach the signpost.

Step 36: The River Cole is now on your left.

Step 37: Look out for stripy cinnabar moth caterpillars in early summer. They feed almost exclusively on the leaves and flowers of common ragwort. 🐛

Step 38: Continue ahead on the path.

Step 39: Let's go to the bridge to get a close look at the river Cole.



Step 41: Head back towards the path you came from and turn left to continue.

Step 42: Continue with the river Cole still on your left.

Step 43: Hawthorn is associated with May Day celebrations and ancient spring festivals like Beltane, earning it the name "Mayflower".

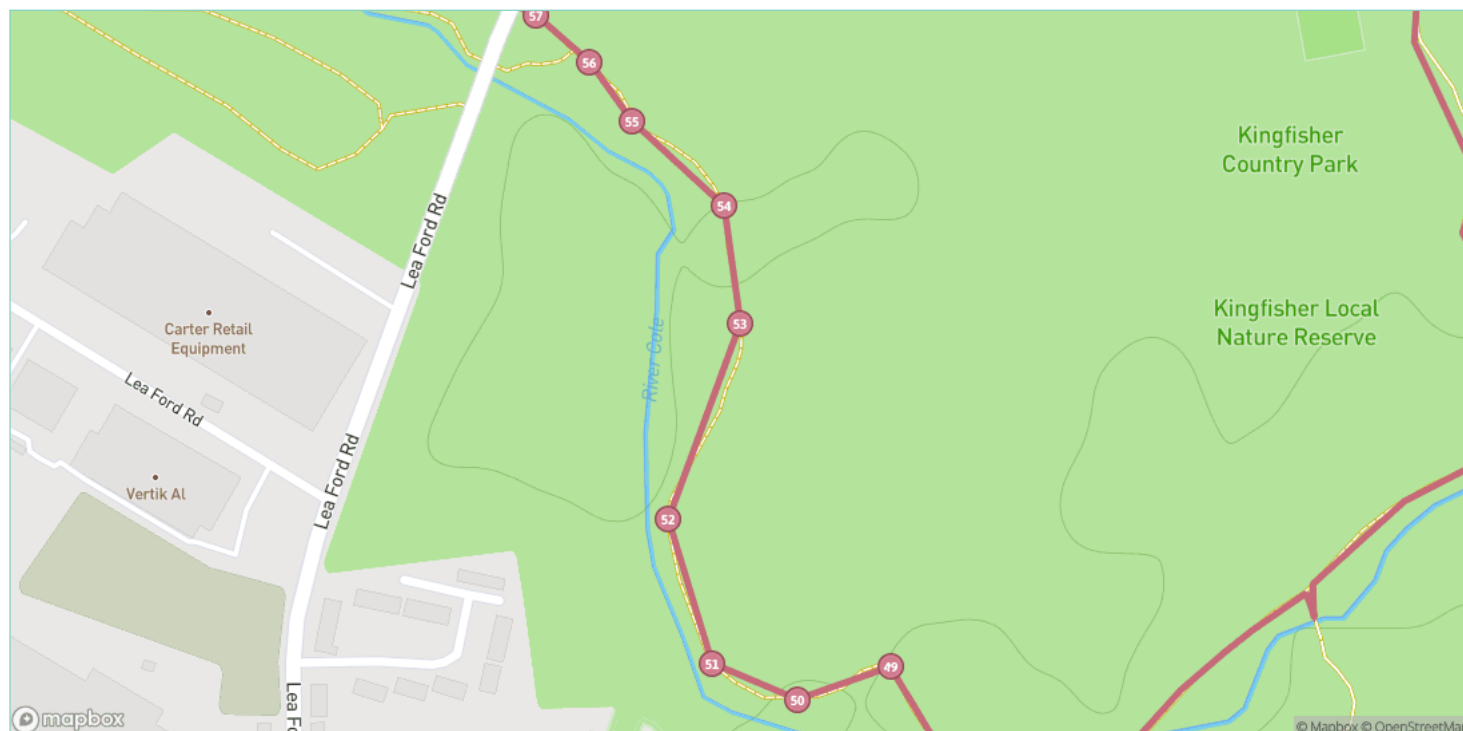
Step 44: Look and listen out for crack willow trees, its branches are very brittle and often make cracking sounds in the wind.

Step 45: We're very close to Birmingham International Airport so you might spot planes flying overhead. ✈

Step 46: Elder trees grow abundantly here. With white elderflower blossoms in spring and berries in summer.

Step 47: Continue on the path as it meanders alongside the river.

Step 48: Continue through this tunnel of trees.



Step 49: Turn left to stay on the path.

Step 50: Keep on the path as it bears right.

Step 51: What good things in nature can you spot today? Tune in with your senses.

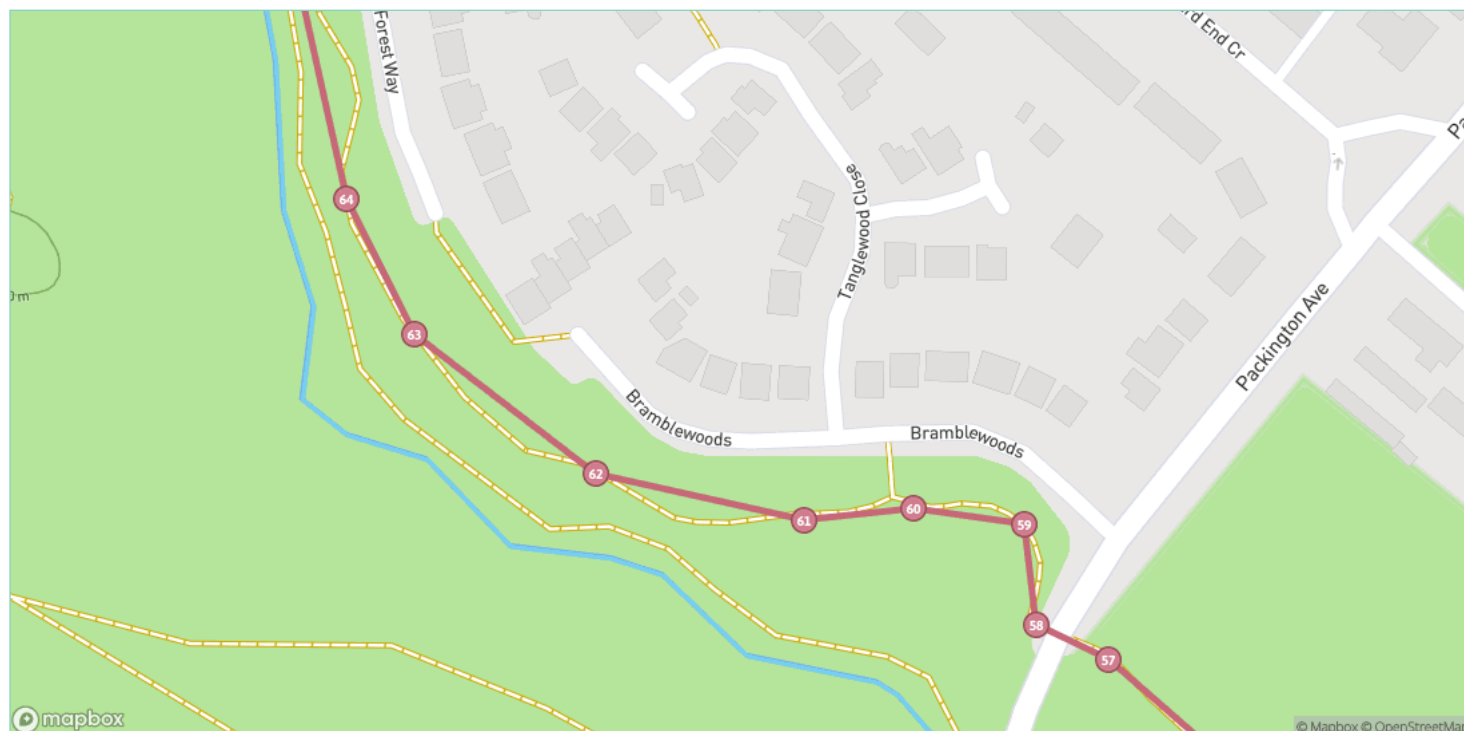
Step 52: Oak trees are very special. No other tree species in the UK supports a greater diversity of life than an ancient oak.

Step 53: Continue on the path, enjoying the fresh air and greenery around.

Step 54: Soon you'll pass through lots more elder trees. Can you see flowers or berries?

Step 55: Blackthorn is famed for its purple fruits called sloes, often used to make a favourite wintry tippie – sloe gin.

Step 56: Continue towards the road ahead.



Step 57: Carefully cross Packington Avenue and enter the park on the other side of the road.

Step 58: Enter the park and turn right towards follow the path.

Step 59: Follow the path through trees, enjoy the shade of the trees.

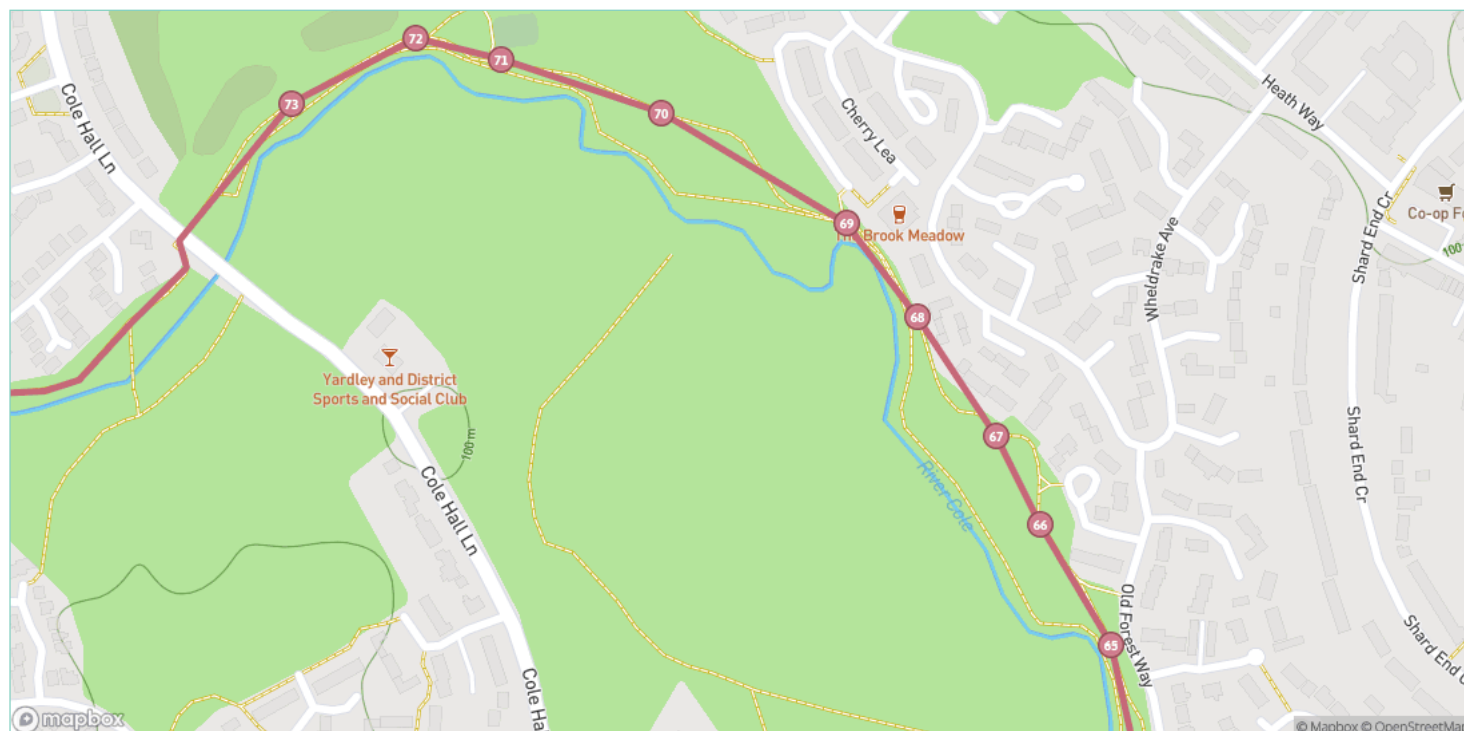
Step 60: Continue on the path, the river Cole is on the left.

Step 61: Keep an eye out for more planes ✈

Step 62: Follow the path as it meanders through trees and grassy areas.

Step 63: You'll go past a bench on the left if you want a rest or somewhere to eat a picnic. 🧺

Step 64: You'll go past some houses on the right.



Step 65: Can you spot any interesting trees or wildlife?

Step 66: You can take a shortcut over the grass here or bear right to stay on the path.

Step 67: Continue ahead.

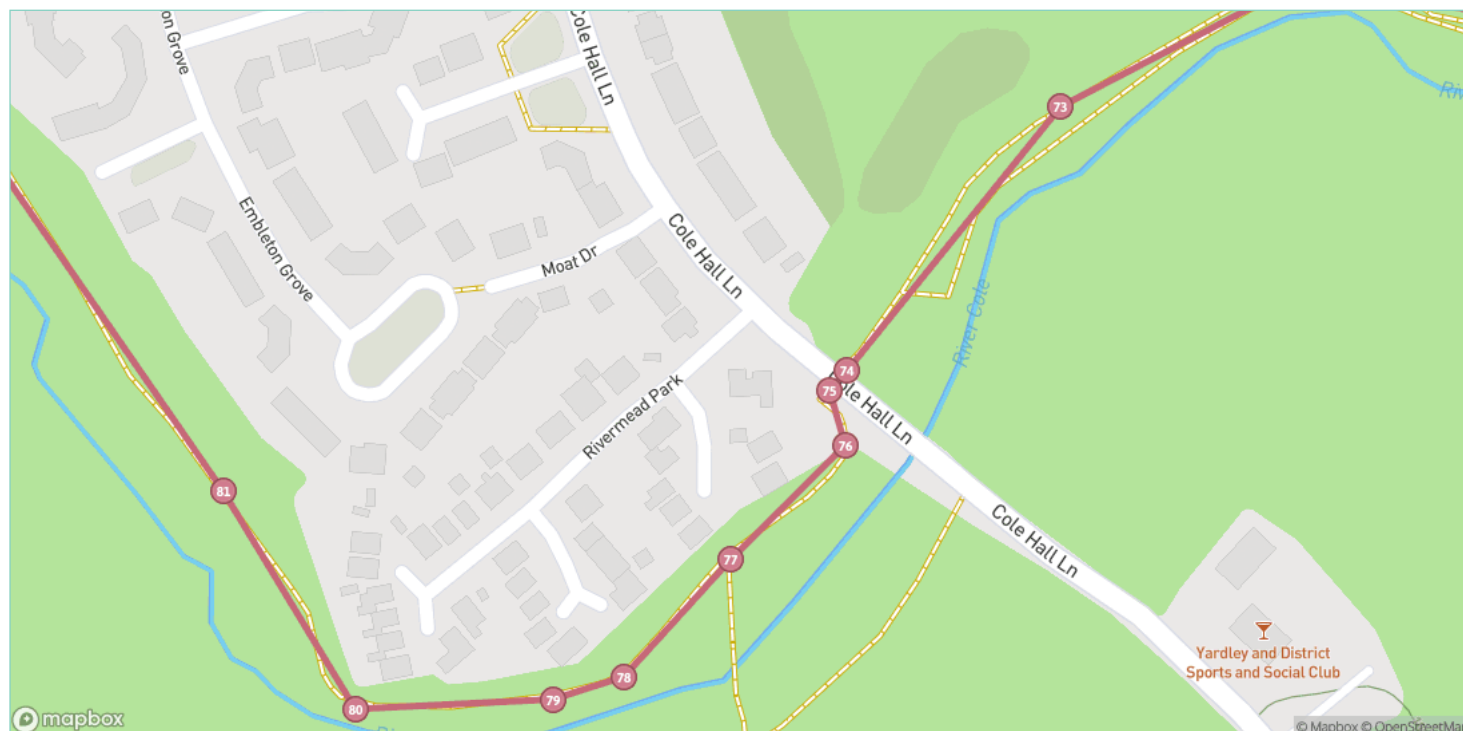
Step 68: Take the left fork to stay in the park.

Step 69: Fork left again to stay in the park.

Step 70: Continue straight, you'll see a play area up ahead.

Step 71: There's a play area on the right if you are with kids.

Step 72: Continue on the same path as it bears left.



Step 73: Can you see or hear any birds? Look around and up in the sky.

Step 74: The footpath reaches Cole Hall Lane. Use the traffic lights to cross.

Step 75: Enter the park on the other side and turn left.

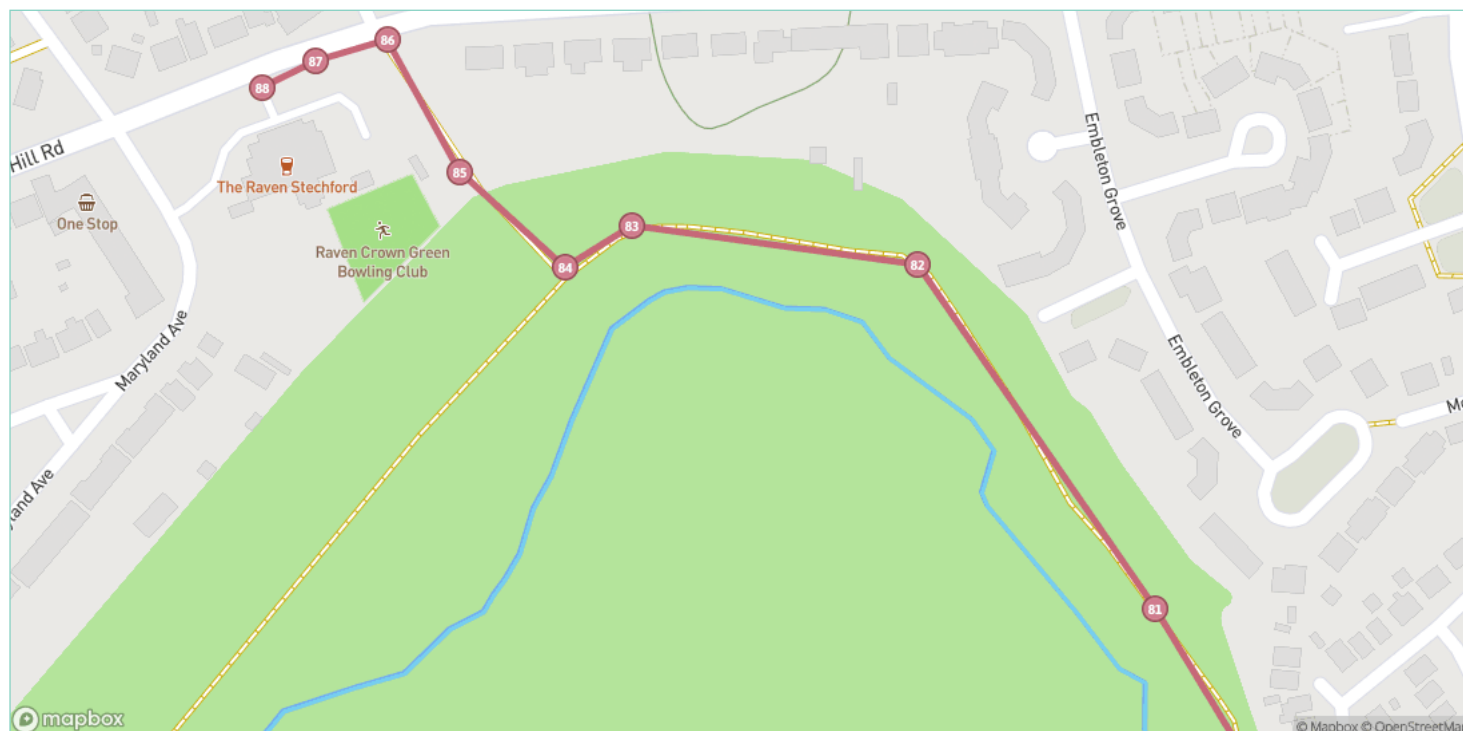
Step 76: Turn right to stay on the path.

Step 77: Continue straight, ignore a left turn.

Step 78: Can you see any juicy blackberries growing?

Step 79: Continue as the path follows the River Cole.

Step 80: Take a peak through the trees to see the river. This small river eventually joins the mighty river Trent.



Step 81: Continue to notice the nature around you as we continue along this path.

Step 82: Follow the path as it bears left.

Step 83: Get ready to turn right here to leave the park.

Step 84: Follow the path towards Bucklands End Lane.

Step 85: Head out of the gate onto the road.

Step 86: Turn left onto Hodge Hill Road.

Step 87: There's a pub and a shop here if you fancy a rest or refreshments.

Step 88: The bus stop is just after the pub. Where this walk ends. We hope you enjoyed this walk! Tap the 3 dots to share with friends if so.
