



# Manchester Bloomtown Trail

Explore Manchester’s streets, buildings, parks and trees in this fun step-free bloomtown walk around the city.

**Distance** 8.4 kilometers / 5.2 miles

**Duration** 2 hours



Wildlife



Wheel friendly



Water feature



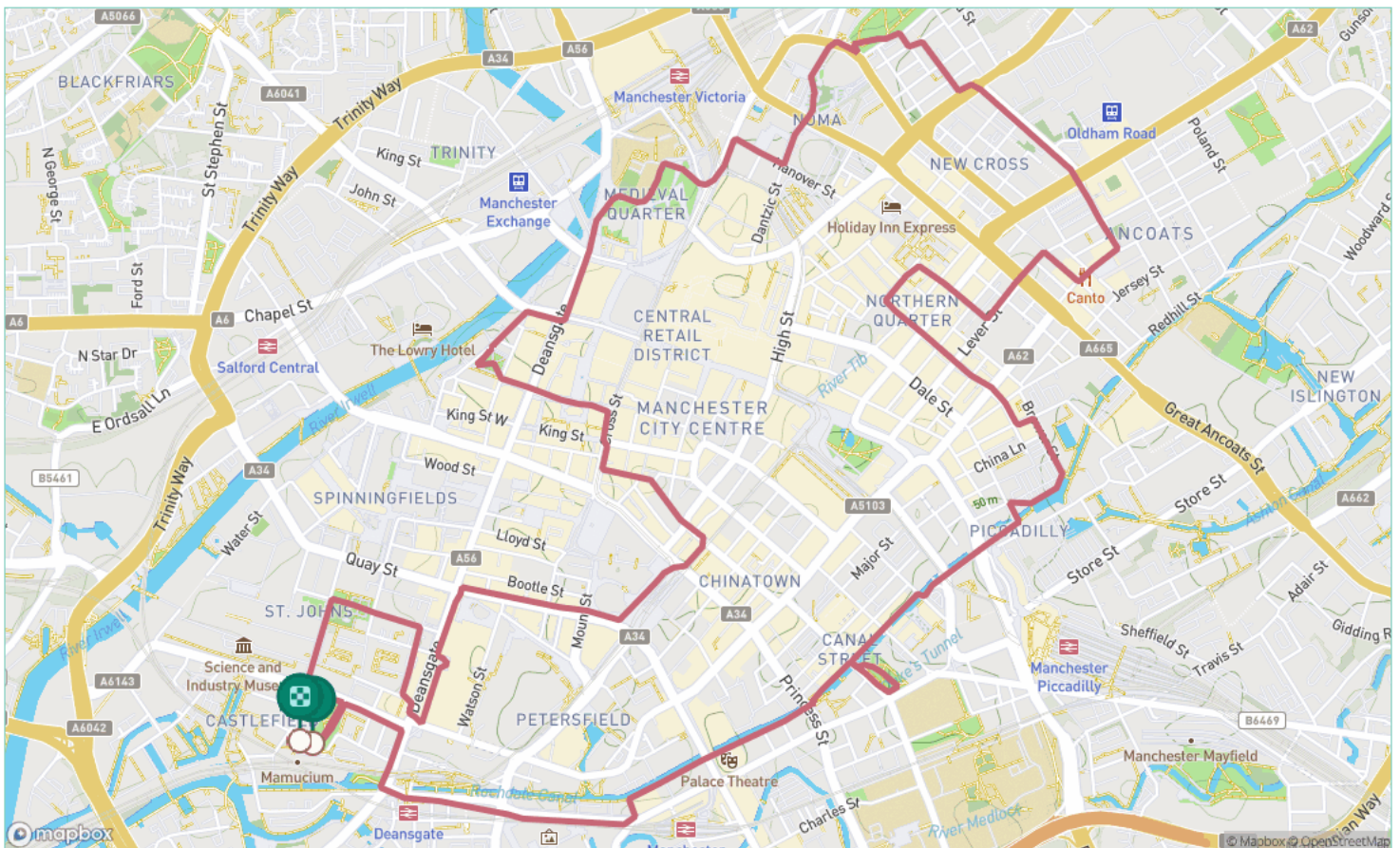
Refreshments



Picnic spot

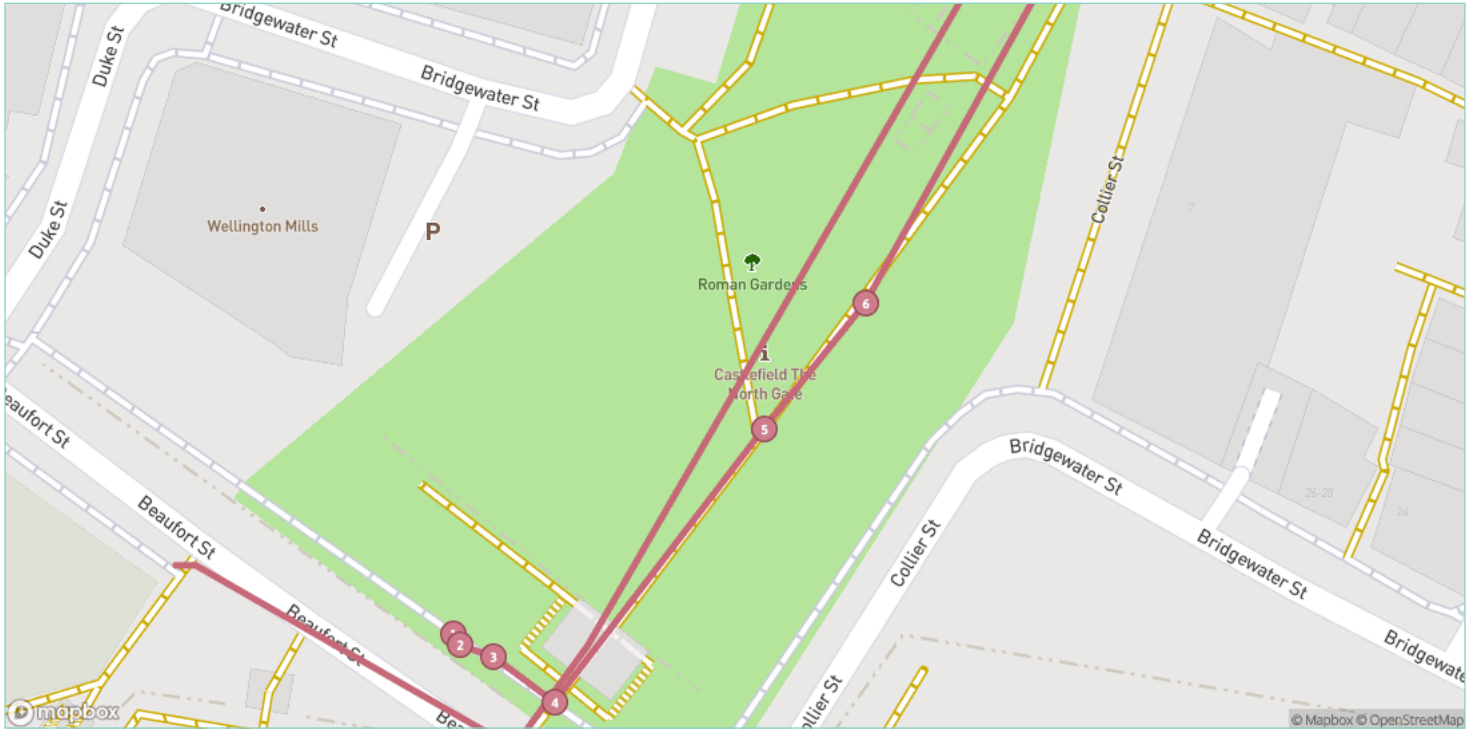


History



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 © 2026. Last Updated: 10 April 2026.



**Step 1:** Welcome to the Big Blooming Walks. We've teamed up with the National Trust to bring you a series of special spring walks celebrating the most beautiful time of year. Get ready to stop and smell the blooms! Let's go.

**Step 3:** Start the walk at Castlefield Roman Gardens at the fort building on Beaufort Street. Fun fact! The Roman name for Manchester was Mamucium.

### Find blossom near you

The National Trust's Blossom Watch campaign is all about getting outside and enjoying one of nature's most magical seasonal moments. As well as these blooming lovely walks, there are events happening across the country this spring. From guided bluebell walks to family trails, there's something for everyone. Find a blossom event near you and start planning your next adventure!

### Find an event

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/blossom#plan-your-day-out-in-blossom>

**Step 4:** Make your way through the arches into the gardens.

**Step 5:** Look up while wandering through the gardens to see Beetham Tower. In 2006, it was Manchester's tallest building at 169m. Read more. 

### Beetham Tower

Beetham Tower is now the second highest building, taking second place to Deansgate Square which towers over the city at 200m high. You'll spot them throughout the walk dominating the skyline.

**Step 2:** Deansgate Station is the nearest public transport hub and very close by. This walk is step-free and includes beautiful buildings and urban nature across the city. Enjoy!

**Step 6:** You'll see some sheep in the gardens. Created by Ted Roocroft in 1986, as a "Sculpture for Peace" to mark Manchester as a nuclear-free zone.



**Step 7:** Exit the park. Opposite you'll see Campfield Market, located in a pair of Grade II-listed Victorian iron-and-glass buildings from 1882.

### Campfield Market

Campfield Market is a weekly city market that brings together street food, local produce and artisanal makers every Saturday from 10am - 4pm. We'd recommend a visit if you have time on a Saturday!

**Step 8:** Turn right on Liverpool Road and walk towards Beetham Tower.

**Step 9:** Turn right onto Deansgate and head towards the bridge. You can see the towering buildings from Deansgate Square in front of you.

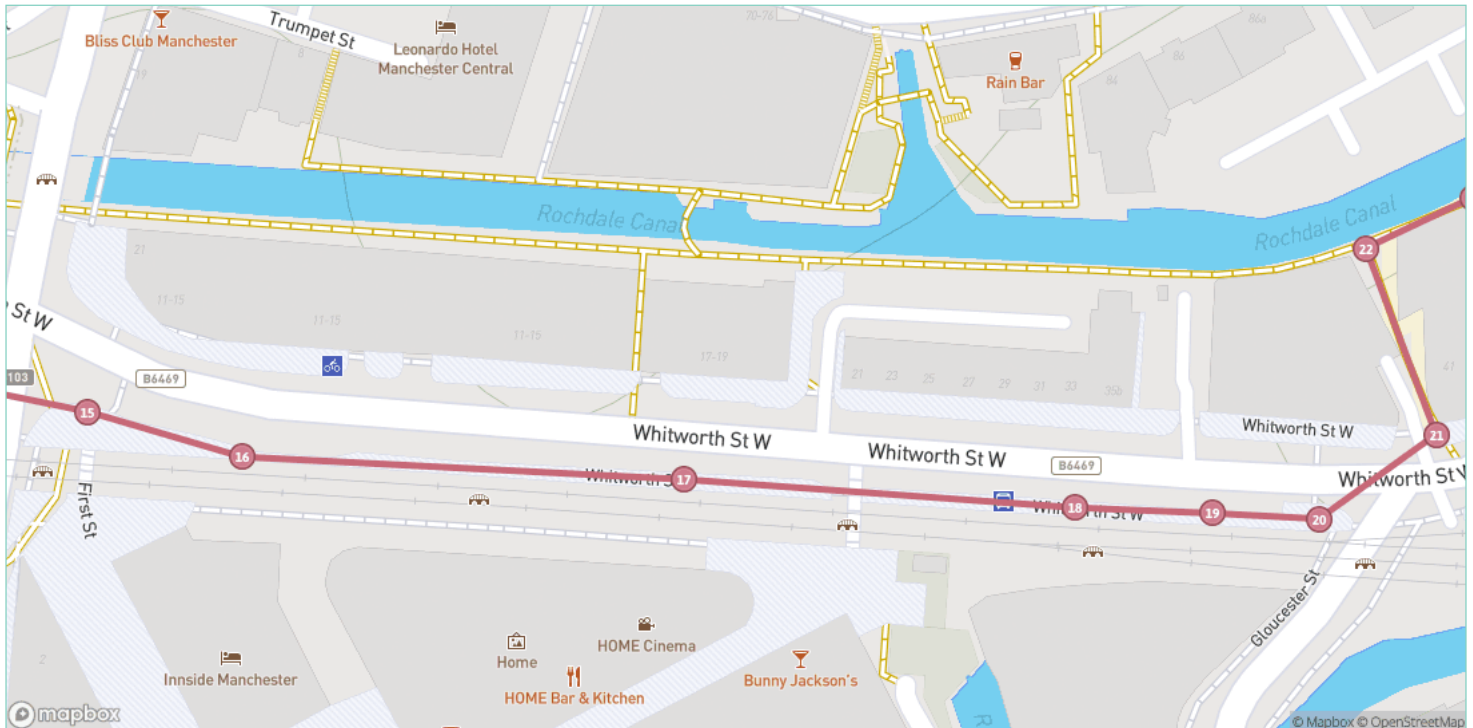
**Step 10:** Carry on under the bridge and head towards the pelican crossing to take you towards Deansgate train station.

**Step 11:** Turn left to cross the road at the pelican crossing towards Deansgate train station and continue up Whitworth Street West.

**Step 12:** Look up at the buildings as you make your way down Whitworth Street West to enjoy some historic elements like this lovely ornate window.

**Step 13:** You can also find plenty of urban nature by looking around you. The city has an abundance of Buddleia which is a favourite for butterflies.

**Step 14:** Cross Albion Street at the pelican crossing, taking you towards the arches to carry on along Whitworth Street West.



**Step 15:** For a quick detour, look right to see HOME and wander down the middle between the dancers and trees to a statue. Read more below.



**Step 19:** The impressive white brick building opposite is Barclay House 1914. Originally a warehouse, then offices, it is now becoming apartments.

### Friedrich Engels

Here you'll find the 12 foot statue of German philosopher, Friedrich Engels. Moved here from the Ukraine in 2017, he represents Manchester's industrial and political history having lived in the city between 1842 and 1844 when he wrote *The Condition of the Working Class in England*.

**Step 16:** Continue up the blossom tree-lined Whitworth Street West to enjoy the dancing shadows from the trees.

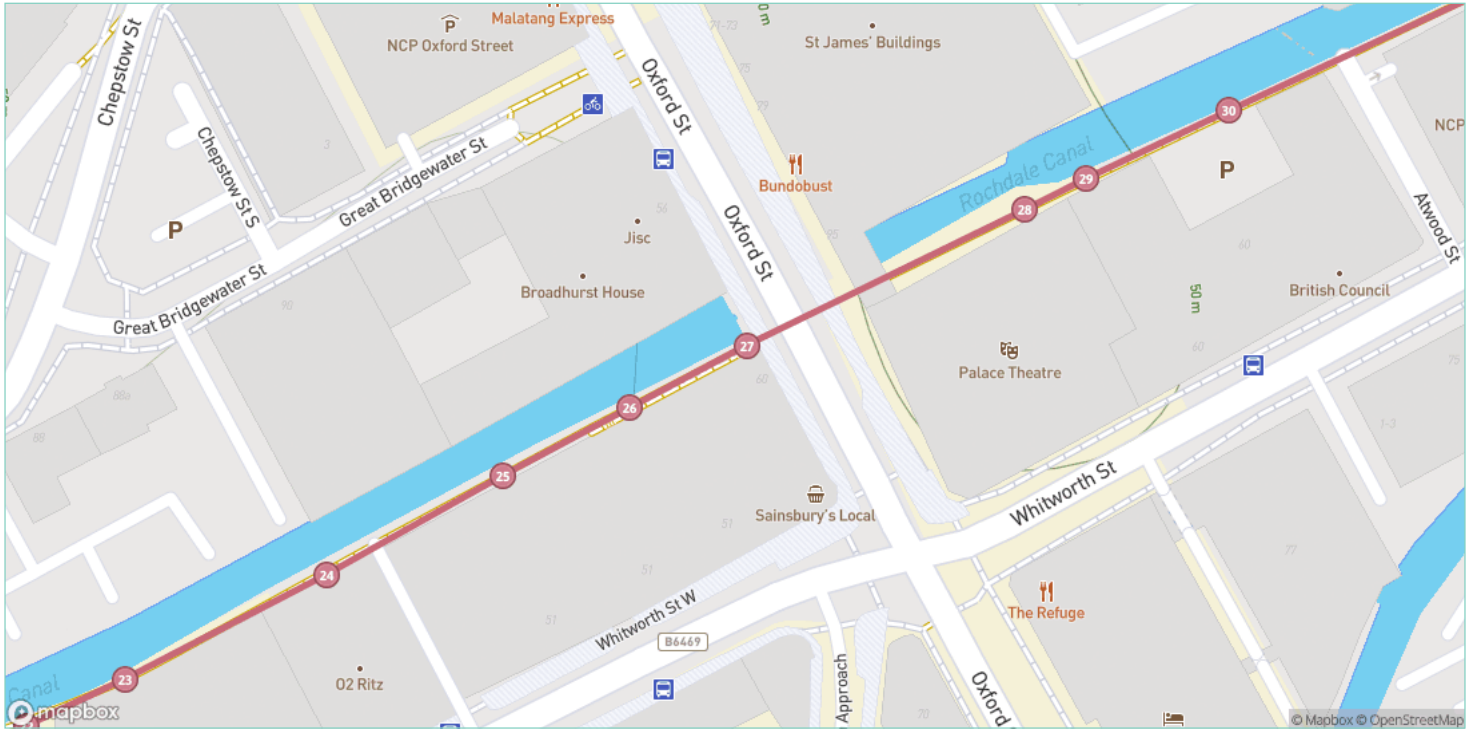
**Step 17:** You'll notice there are lots of red brick buildings in the city. This is because of the local geology (iron-rich clay used to make bricks).

**Step 18:** Make your way up towards the clock tower from the Kimpton Hotel.

**Step 20:** Cross Whitworth Street West at the crossing towards Barclay House and follow the pavement to your right. You will be taking a left to make your way onto the Rochdale Canal.

**Step 21:** Take the left up the footpath between the buildings (currently with work being carried out) and follow the path towards the canal towpath.

**Step 22:** Take some time to enjoy the view from the towpath. You might see some canal-dwelling birds like ducks, geese, moorhens or coots.



**Step 23:** Follow the towpath to the right and make your way towards the white building in the distance along Rochdale Canal.

**Step 24:** The canal network is host to a lot of interesting street art and graffiti. It's fun to spot it hidden amongst the plants and features.

**Step 25:** Continue along the towpath.

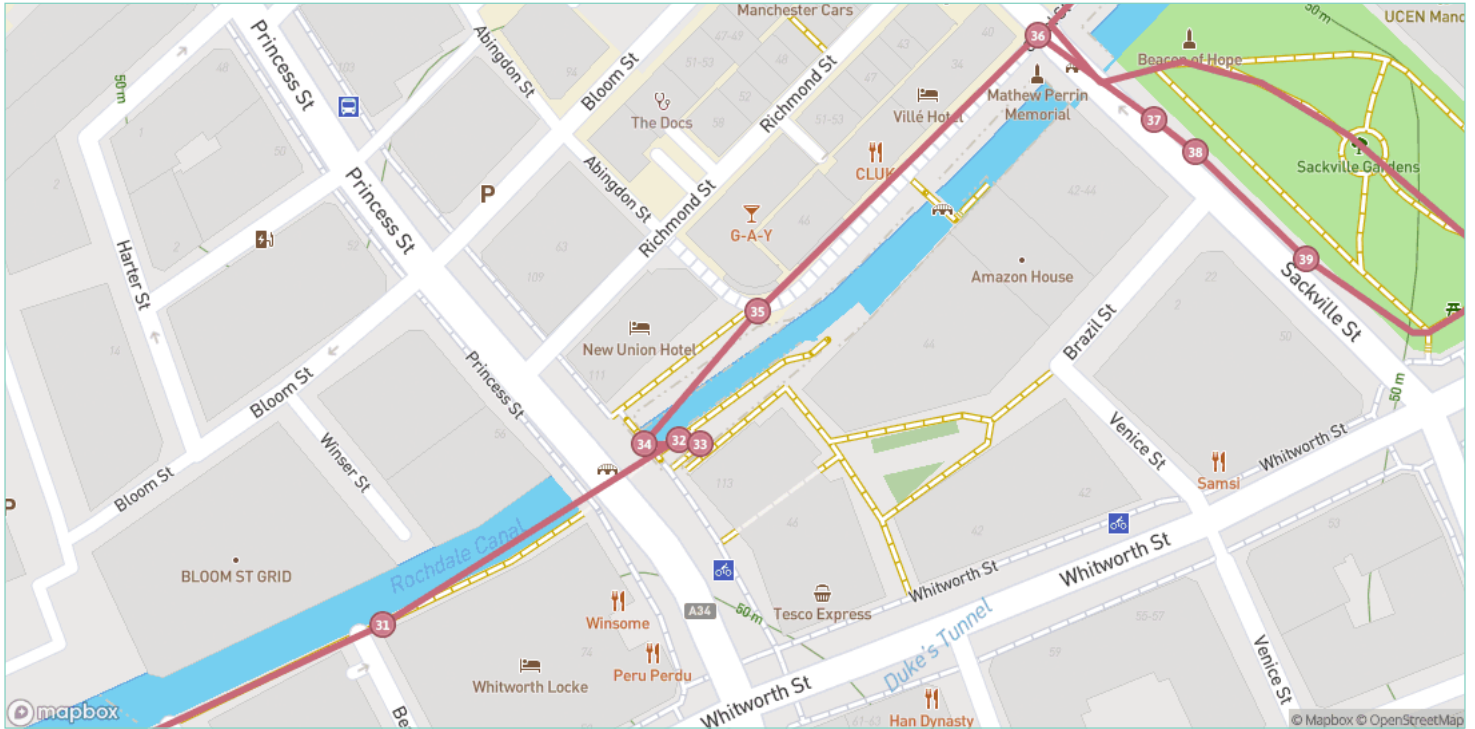
**Step 26:** Meet Bess the willow horse and a fox called Bailey. Made by artist Juliette Hamilton as part of a canal improvement project.

**Step 27:** Mind your head as you make your way under the arched bridge beneath Oxford Street.

**Step 28:** The volunteers caring for the local area always make sure there are some lovely flowers and plants to spot along the towpath.

**Step 29:** Continue along the towpath. Watch your footing as you enjoy looking around as there are no guard rails beside the water.

**Step 30:** See what flowers you can spot along the towpath. Some are natural and wild, some are planted to bring joy and cheer.



**Step 31:** You can also spot the urban wildlife enjoying some sunny spots along the way.

**Step 32:** The canal path will bring you up to Canal Street and their vibrant rainbow flags and planters. Just after the bridge, look for a ramp.

**Step 33:** Turn to your right to make your way up the ramp towards Princess Street and follow the walkway to your right.

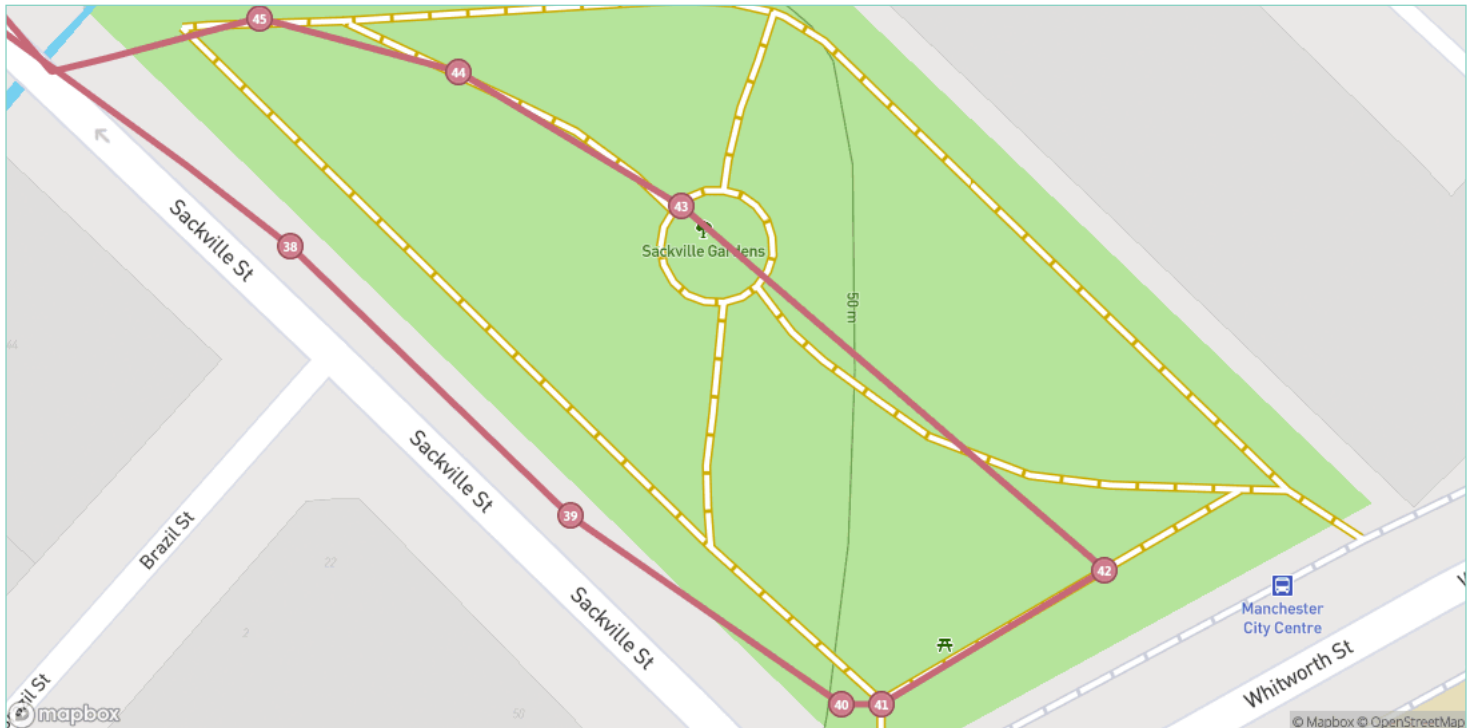
**Step 34:** Head towards the New Union Hotel. Then turn to your right to walk through Canal Street.

**Step 35:** Wander your way down Canal Street beneath the pride flag bunting and canal side trees.

**Step 36:** Carefully cross over Sackville Street.

**Step 37:** Turn right on the opposite side and follow the wall down to the end of the road.

**Step 38:** Turn left into the park now for step free access, and enjoy a circular walk around the paths. In spring, the park is in bloom with blossom trees. You can take a seat next to the sculpture of Alan Turing pioneering mathematician.



**Step 39:** Look up to enjoy the carved stone detailing on the buildings along Sackville Street. So much detail when you look at the world around you!

**Step 40:** At the end of the road, turn left and enter the park.

**Step 41:** When Dorothy is in the park, you know you'll find the yellow brick road of daffodils along the border. An artwork by Paul Magrs.

**Step 42:** Follow the paths around the park to enjoy the beautifully planted borders, blossom trees and take a seat to enjoy the peace in the city.

**Step 43:** Sackville Gardens is a historic park, established in the early 1900s. It is now also a memorial site and home to the Alan Turing statue.

**Step 44:** The park is particularly beautiful when the established blossom trees are in full bloom. Learn about blossom spotting below. 

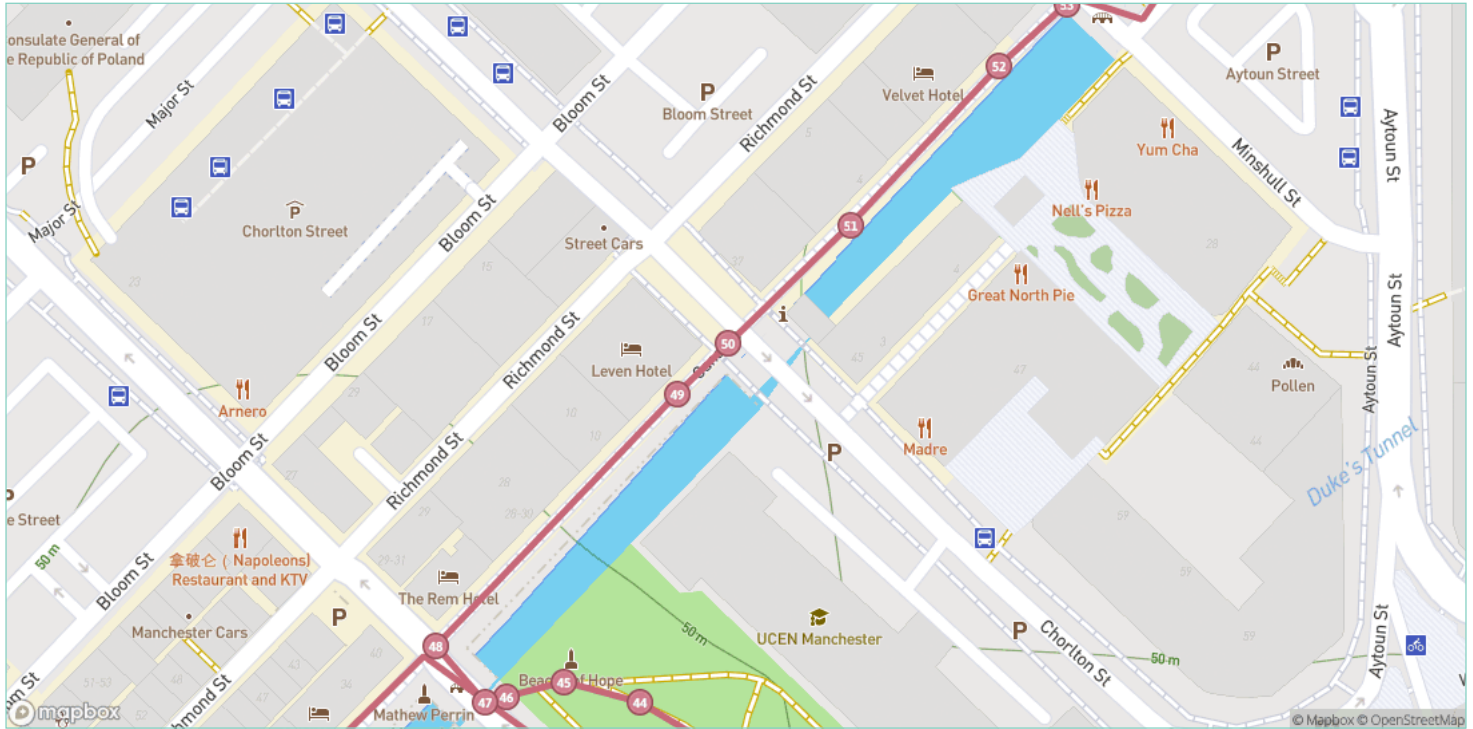
### Blossom spotting

Not all blossoms are the same. Once you start looking, you'll be amazed at the variety! Apple blossom is one of the easiest to identify, appearing from March to April in white with a hint of pink and a sweet fragrance. Cherry is another one to look out for, flowering in shades of pink or white, it hangs in umbrella-shaped clusters and appears before the leaves.

Later in spring, hawthorn takes over, usually flowering from late April into May with small rounded white petals around bright pink anthers. It's also known as the mayflower. Have a look around you, how many different types can you spot on this walk?

### Blossom types

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/nature/trees-plants/how-to-spot-different-types-of-blossom>



**Step 45:** The tall sculpture at the end of the park is the “Beacon of Light” which serves as a permanent memorial to people affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Step 46:** This is the LGBTQ+ Queen Bee from the 2018 Bee in the City trail. It represents pride and inclusivity.

**Step 47:** Step out of the park and turn to your right. Follow the pavement to make your way back to Canal Street.

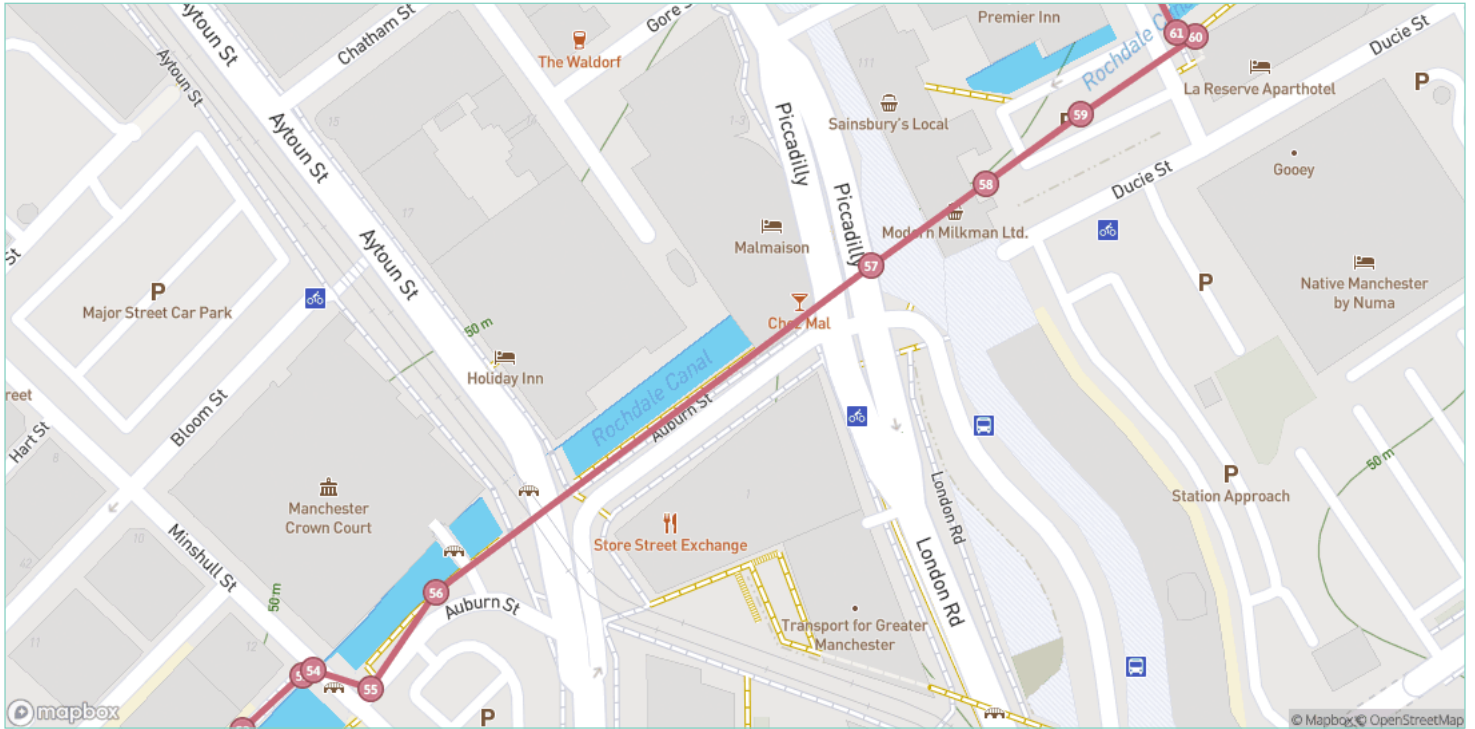
**Step 48:** Turn right to rejoin Canal Street.

**Step 49:** The flags are the Progress Pride flag and represent a commitment to intersectionality and transgender individuals as well as LGBTQIA+.

**Step 50:** Carefully cross Chorlton Street making sure to check for traffic then continue ahead.

**Step 51:** Enjoy the planted flower pots that surround Canal Street, adding even more colour and joy to the area.

**Step 52:** To the right, you can see Kampus. You can find plenty of independent food and drink venues if you're ready for a pit stop.



**Step 53:** To get to Kampus, take the right at the end of Canal Street onto Minshull Street. Then turn right onto Aytoun Street and follow the signs into Kampus.

**Step 54:** Turn right and carefully cross Minshull Street, using the bridge.

**Step 55:** Take the first left after crossing and follow the ramp down onto the canal.

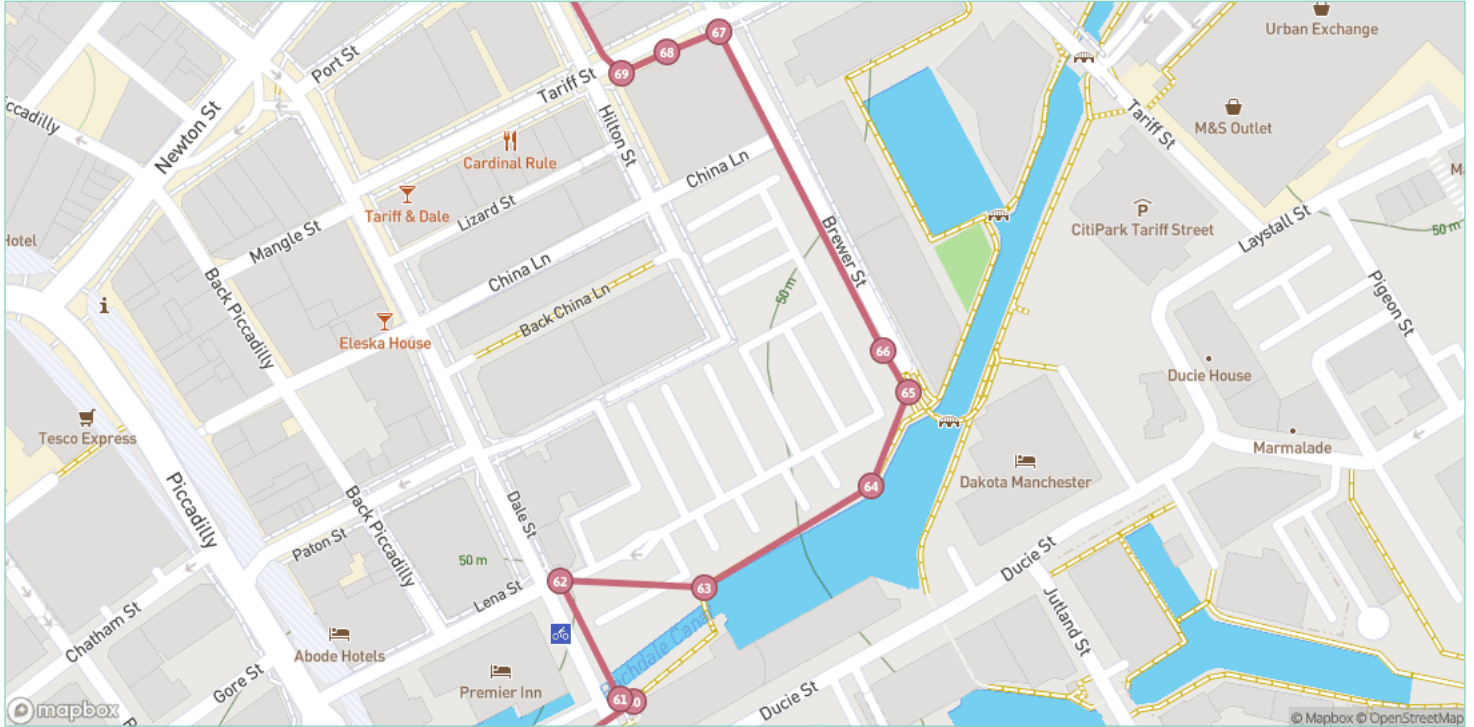
**Step 56:** Follow the brick canal towpath beneath the bridge and continue walking straight.

**Step 57:** You'll pass beneath Aytoun Street, where the canal runs underground. Watch your step here when it has been wet as it can get slippery.

**Step 58:** Take in the street art and graffiti that brightens the tunnel and underground locks.

**Step 59:** Continue along the path and over the wooden bridge.

**Step 60:** At the end of the path, turn back on yourself to the right to follow the path up towards Dale Street.



**Step 61:** Turn right onto Dale Street and go ahead until you reach the large brick arch to your right.

**Step 62:** Go through the arch onto the cobbles. Stay to the right and watch out for moving cars.

**Step 63:** Follow the path onto the gravel to get you back onto the other side of the Rochdale Canal.

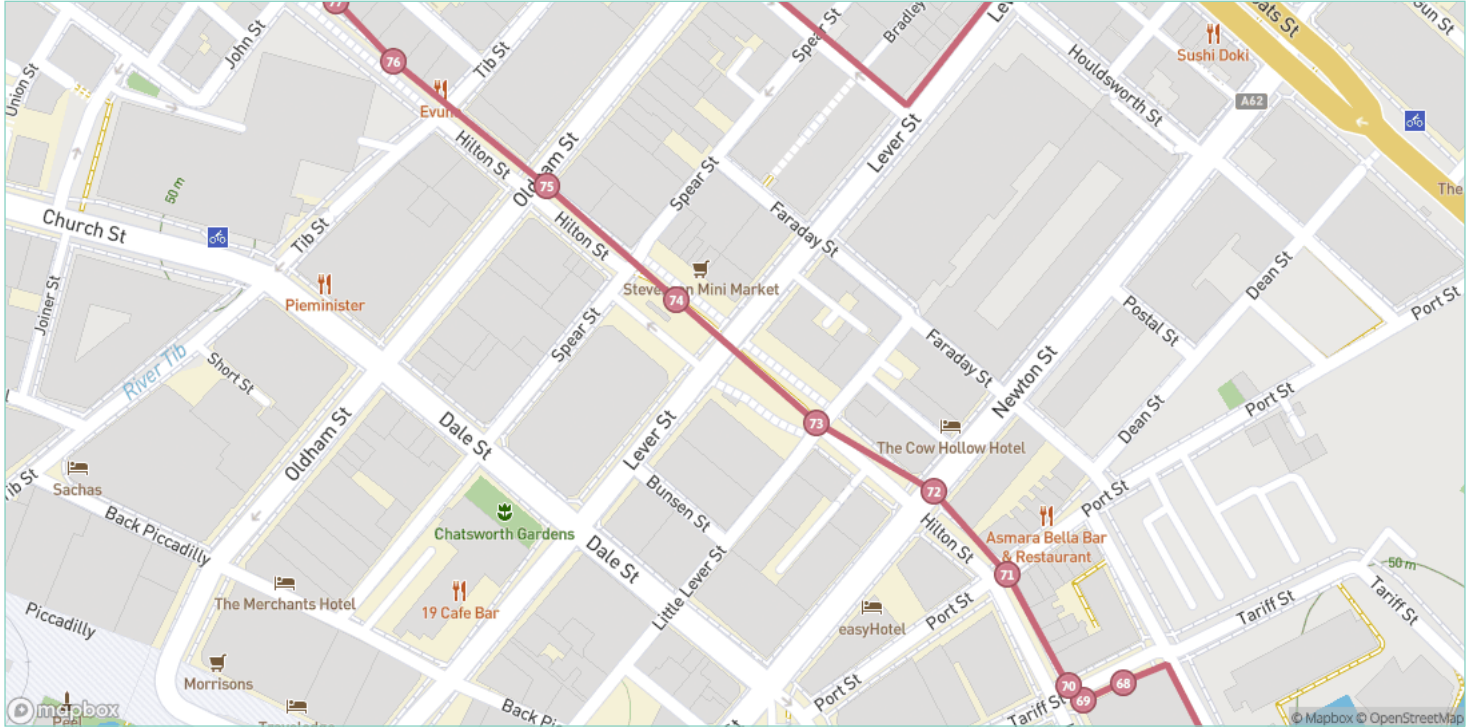
**Step 64:** Turn left to rejoin the canal towpath and follow along beneath the trees.

**Step 65:** At the bridge, turn left onto Brewer Street.

**Step 66:** If you look to your left, the smaller building is Dale Street Warehouse. Built in 1806 it is the oldest canal warehouse in Manchester.

**Step 67:** Turn left onto Tariff Street and wander your way to the end.

**Step 68:** Keep your eyes peeled for blossom and nature throughout the city.



**Step 69:** Look up to see the huge artwork on Hilton House. It's by Nevercrew as part of the Cities of Hope. It represents solidarity with refugees.

**Step 70:** Turn right onto Hilton Street and carefully cross the road.

**Step 71:** Cross Port Street by the Crown and Anchor pub and continue towards Stevenson Square.

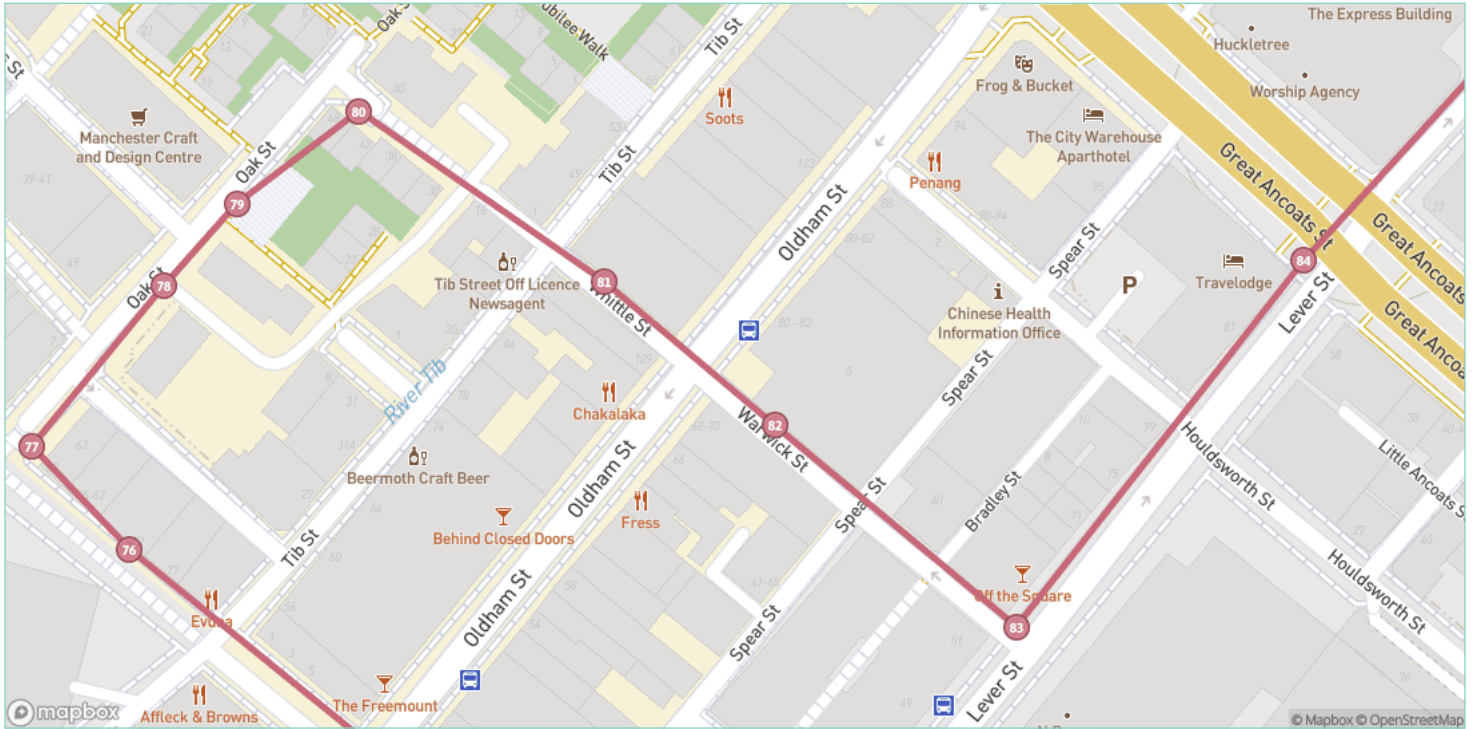
**Step 72:** Cross Newton Street to enter Stevenson Square. This is another perfect place to stop off if you're in need of some refreshments.

**Step 73:** The square used to be a busy junction but was mostly pedestrianised in 2023 making it a perfect hub for socialising.

**Step 74:** The vibrant artwork in the middle of the square is called Out House (it was once a public loo) and has a rotation of changing artworks.

**Step 75:** Follow the pavement to the end of Stevenson Square towards Oldham Street. Cross at the pelican crossing to continue onto Hilton Street.

**Step 76:** Follow the pavement along Hilton Street. You can spot more street art projects and some lovely old trees adding some greenery.



**Step 77:** Turn right onto Oak Street and continue along the pavement.

**Step 78:** Look right by the car park barrier to see the child soldier featured in the work of Hyuro as part of the Cities of Hope festival 2016.

**Step 79:** To your left you have the Manchester Craft and Design Centre.

### The Manchester Craft and Design Centre

The Manchester Craft and Design centre is home to regional designers and makers, artist studios and a cafe. A welcome stop for local shopping and a coffee stop. It's located in a converted Victorian fish market which was built in 1873.

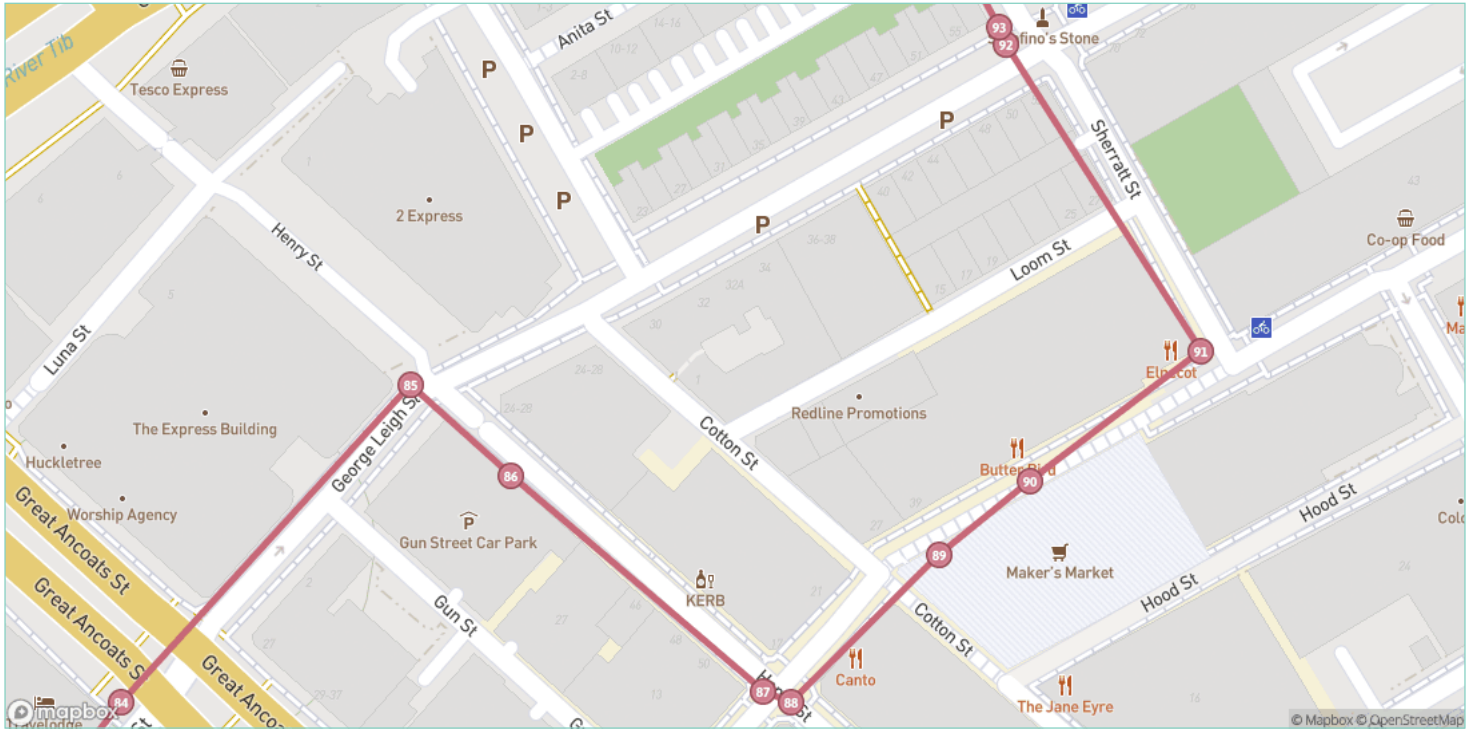
**Step 80:** Turn right onto Brightwell Walk and head to the end.

**Step 81:** Cross the street carefully and continue onto Whittle Street.

**Step 82:** Carefully cross over Oldham Street to join Warwick Street. There is a lot of graffiti and street art to brighten up these parts of town.

**Step 83:** Turn left onto Lever Street and walk up towards Great Ancoats Street.

**Step 84:** Walk up towards the 1939 curved glass Express Building which was the former home to the Daily Express printing works. Cross the main road.



**Step 85:** Follow George Leigh Street ahead and then turn right at the car park onto Henry Street.

**Step 86:** Look up at the windows on Saima House to see all the overgrown plants pressed against the windows of the fashion warehouse.

**Step 87:** Keep looking for nature all around. ♡

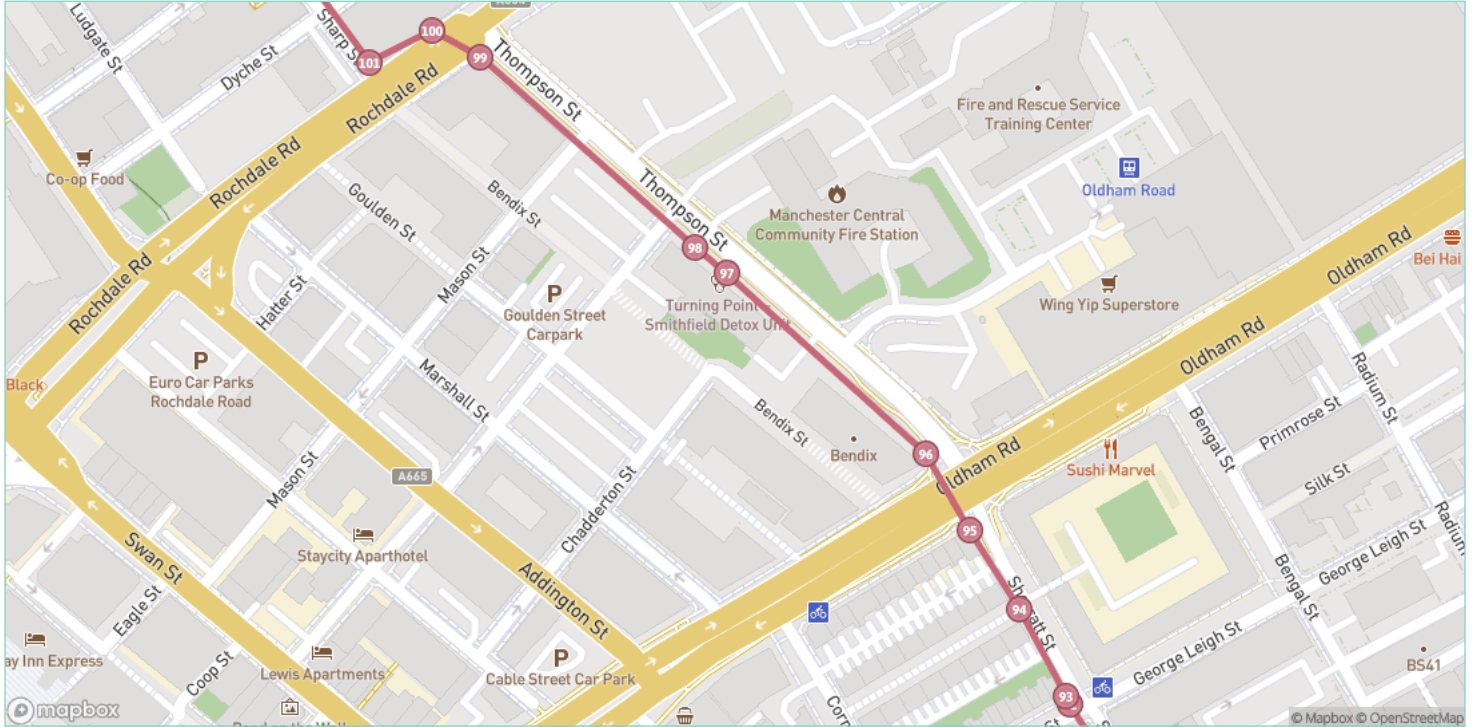
**Step 88:** Turn left onto Blossom Street and head towards Cutting Room Square.

**Step 89:** The building ahead is a 1859 Grade II listed church transformed to home the Hallé St Peter's choir and orchestra.

**Step 90:** It was extended to allow spaces for rehearsal, recording and performance, with modern architecture complimenting the 19th century church.

**Step 91:** Turn left onto Sherratt Street and follow the road to the end.

**Step 92:** To your left, you'll glimpse the industrial-era housing on George Leigh Street with the 1898 red brick terraces.



**Step 93:** The red brick block is Victoria Square. It was built in 1897 as the first municipal slum replacement housing with communal facilities.

**Step 94:** Anita Street to your left was originally named Sanitary Street in the 1890s as part of hygienic slum clearance and early social housing.

**Step 95:** Use the crossing to get to the other side of Oldham Road.

**Step 96:** On the opposite side go straight ahead on Thompson Street.

**Step 97:** There are some pretty plants and hedges dotted along this road. See what you can see when you visit.

**Step 98:** If you look up towards the roof of the flats, you can see some roof gardens bringing trees to the skyline.

**Step 99:** At the end of Thompson Street use the crossing to cross Rochdale Road.

**Step 100:** Then turn left to follow the road.



**Step 101:** Take the first right into Sharp Street and make your way to the end.

**Step 102:** This is the former CWS Tobacco Factory which is now city apartments.

**Step 103:** Turn left onto Naples Street.

**Step 104:** Take the first right to follow the road between the buildings and make your way to the park.

**Step 105:** St Michael's Flags and Angel Meadow used to be home to a notorious slum described as "Victorian Britain's most savage slum." Learn more. [👉](#)

**Step 106:** Head left to walk through the arch into St Michael's Flags. Head right at the fork towards an exit. Read more about the space below. [👉](#)

### St Michael's Flags

St Michael's Flags was formerly associated with St Michael's Church and was home to the city's largest pauper burial ground (c. 1788-1816) holding an estimated 40,000 burials. It was regenerated as a park in the 2000s.

**Step 107:** The towering glass building One Angel Square and is home to the Co-operative Group.

**Step 108:** At the end of the park, exit and turn left to follow the path up to the pavement.

### Angel Meadow

Once described as "Hell on Earth", Angel Meadow was originally a 1780s residential area. With over 30,000 residents, many of whom were Irish immigrants, the area was plagued by violence, crime and extreme poverty. Now it is a relaxing park and memorial.



**Step 109:** Turn back right and follow the pavement down the hill.

**Step 110:** Cross the road of St Michael's Square towards the big glass Co-op building at the designated crossing point.

**Step 111:** Turn right and then follow the pavement to your left on Dantzie Street.

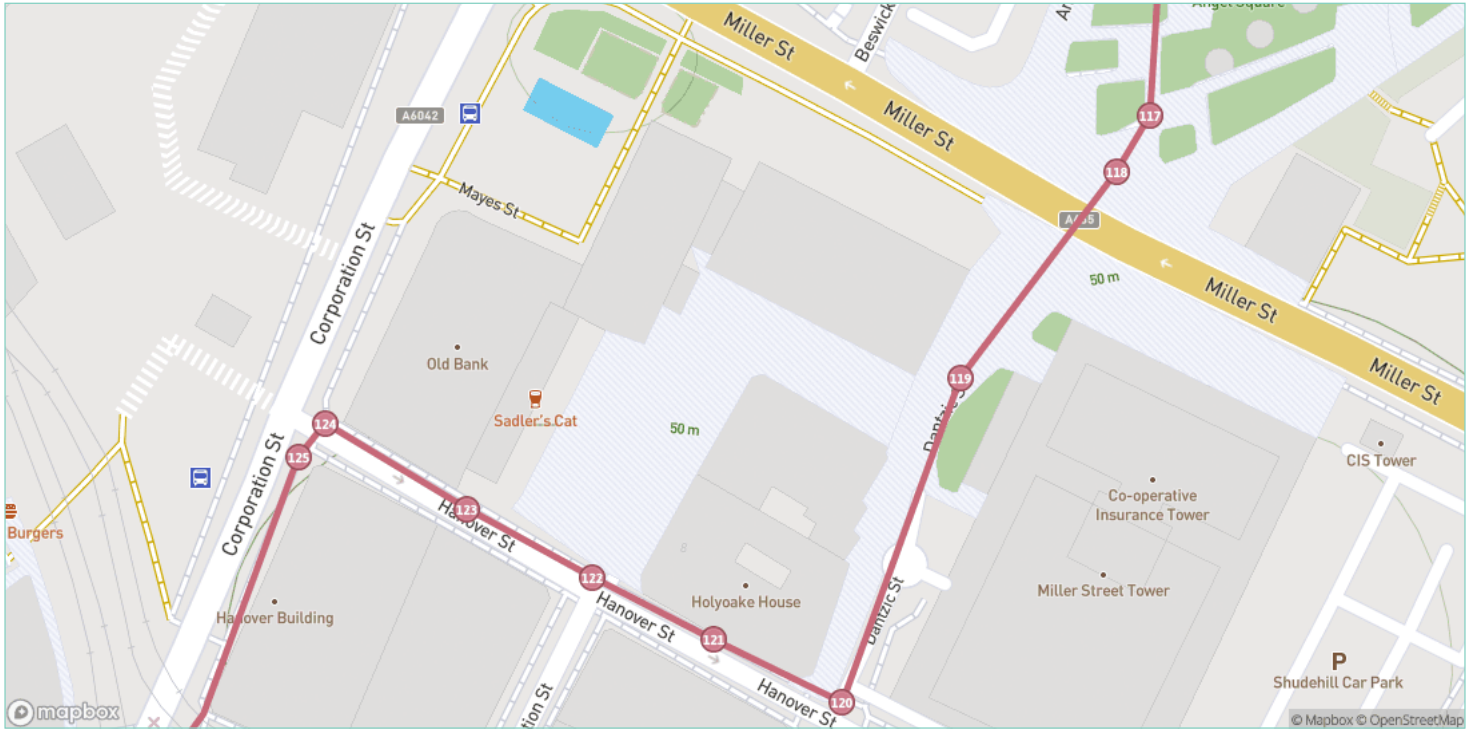
**Step 112:** You'll soon reach an open area with lots of lovely planters.

**Step 113:** These gardens are part of PLANT NOMA, a non-profit collective transforming spaces into sustainable, biodiversity-rich green spots.

**Step 114:** If you have time, it's a lovely space to wander and take a break.

**Step 115:** Continue ahead through Angel Square.

**Step 116:** Make your way to Miller Street.



**Step 117:** This is Grade II-listed CIS Tower and was the former home to the Co-operative group. Built in 1962 and latterly clad in 7,000 solar panels.

**Step 118:** Cross Miller Street at the crossing to reach Dantzic Street.

**Step 119:** Here you will find the Redfern and Dantzic buildings in beautiful Art Deco style of architecture from the 1930s. Continue along Dantzic St.

**Step 120:** Turn right onto Hanover Street.

**Step 121:** Holyoake House is another previous home of the Co-operatives. This one dates back to 1911 and is in the Neo-Baroque style.

**Step 122:** Hidden between the tall buildings is Sadler's Yard which is a public square and events space in the city.

**Step 123:** There are so many great signs adorning the heritage buildings around here.

**Step 124:** At the end of Hanover Street, turn left onto Corporation Street. Look down to see the mosaic street name in the floor.



**Step 125:** Follow Corporation Street.

**Step 126:** Look out for trams! Cross Balloon Street carefully looking out for bikes, trams and other traffic.


**Step 127:** Cross Corporation Street at the pelican crossing.

**Step 128:** Then carefully cross Todd Street towards the big glass building (the National Football Museum) and take a right on the other side.

**Step 129:** Follow the path around the Football Museum and take a left at the bottom to enter Cathedral Gardens.

**Step 130:** Make your way into the gardens.

**Step 131:** To the right, you'll see Chatham's Library. It's the oldest English-speaking library in the world. It is worth visiting to see inside!

**Step 132:** Follow the water feature around the gardens & head towards the cathedral. It's a great spot to learn about identifying trees. Read more. 

### Tree identification

Trees are a source of beauty and tranquility. They're also part of our natural heritage. So why not get to know them better? Tap below to learn how to identify common British trees.

### Learn more

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



**Step 133:** Cathedral Gardens forms part of the Medieval Quarter of Manchester and is a lovely place to enjoy some sunshine and tranquility in the city.

**Step 134:** Can you spot anything blooming?

**Step 135:** Turn right at the cathedral. Read more about it below. 

### Manchester Cathedral

Manchester Cathedral was founded as a collegiate church in 1421 and became a cathedral in 1847. It is known for its perpendicular Gothic architecture as well as surviving WWII and an IRA bomb blast.

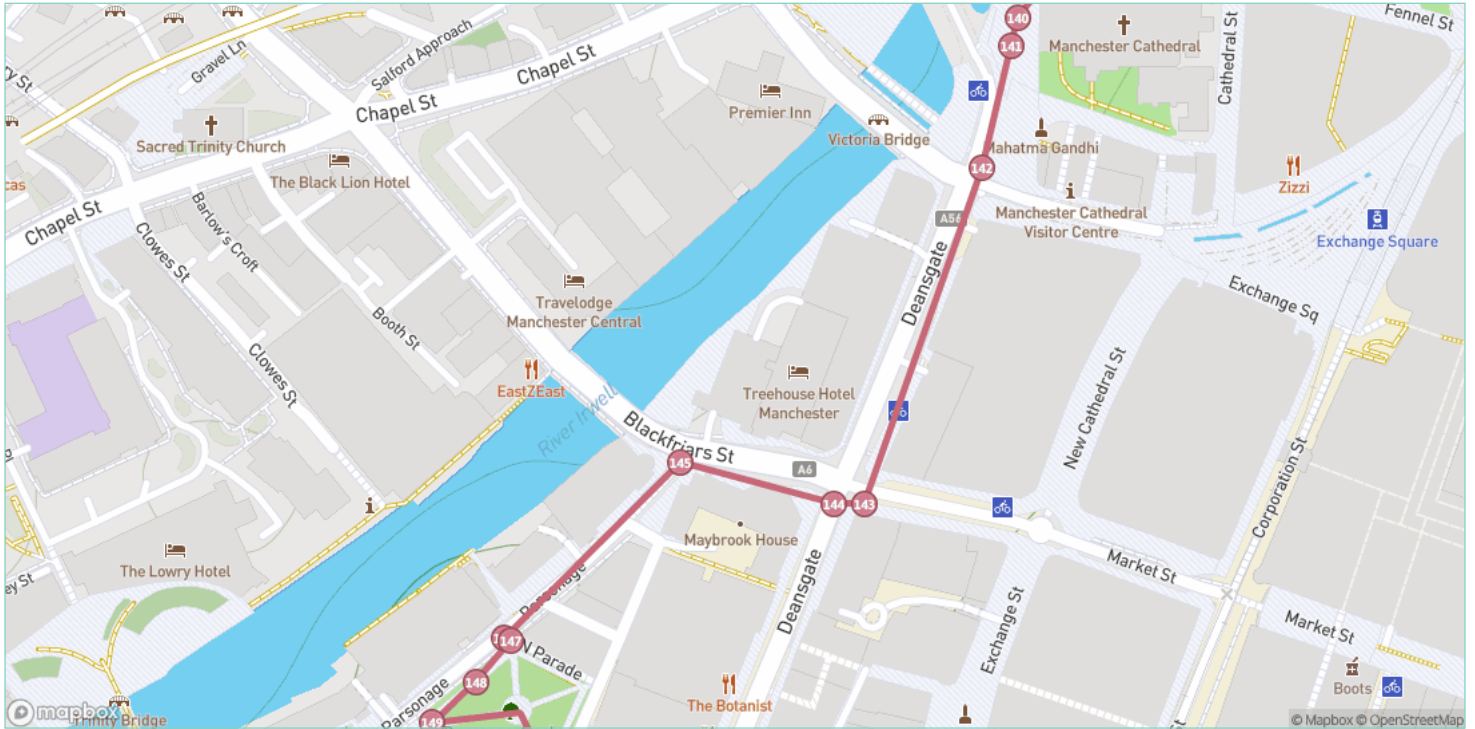
**Step 136:** Follow Fennel Street onto Long Millgate.

**Step 137:** You'll reach The Glade of Light Memorial for the 22 people whose lives were taken in the 2017 terrorist attack at Manchester Arena.

**Step 138:** It's a beautifully planted place of reflection. 

**Step 139:** Follow the path to the left along Long Millgate towards Deansgate.

**Step 140:** Follow along Victoria Street.



**Step 141:** Take the time to look up at the impressive architecture of the historic Manchester Cathedral.

**Step 148:** Formerly the site of St Mary's church, it has been a quiet garden spot since the 1890s, offering an escape from the urban bustle.

**Step 142:** Carefully cross the road towards Deansgate.

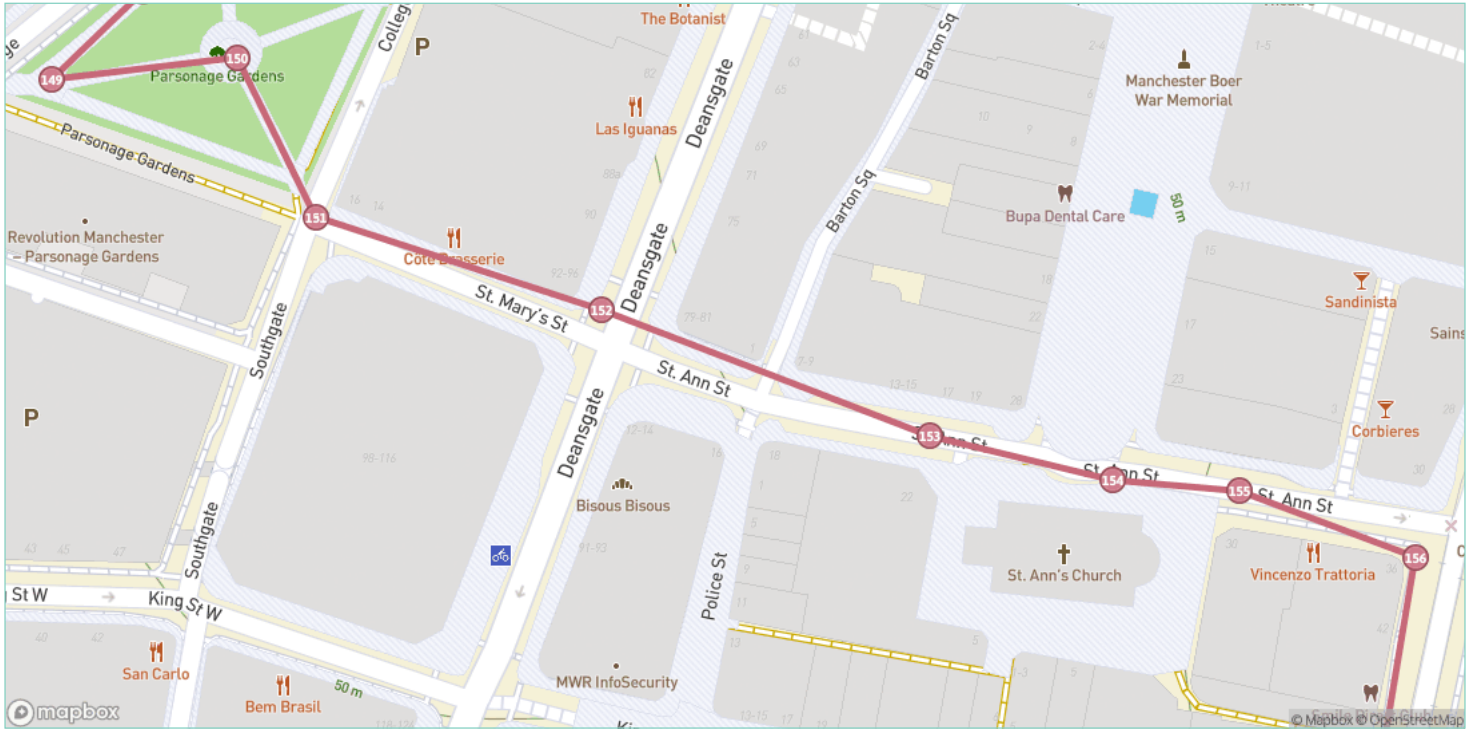
**Step 143:** Cross St Mary's Gate at the crossing and then turn right immediately to cross Deansgate.

**Step 144:** Use the pelican crossing.

**Step 145:** Follow Blackfriars Street then turn left onto Parsonage Street.

**Step 146:** Head up the steps to enter Parsonage Gardens.

**Step 147:** For step free access, follow the path to the left before the steps and access the park at the far side. Use the same corner to exit when you come to leave.



**Step 149:** It's got some lovely magnolia that you can see blooming in early-mid March.

**Step 150:** Head towards the Art Deco building on the far side of the park. This is the former Kendal, Milne and Falukner store.

**Step 151:** Follow along the side of the building along St Mary's Street to take you back to Deansgate.

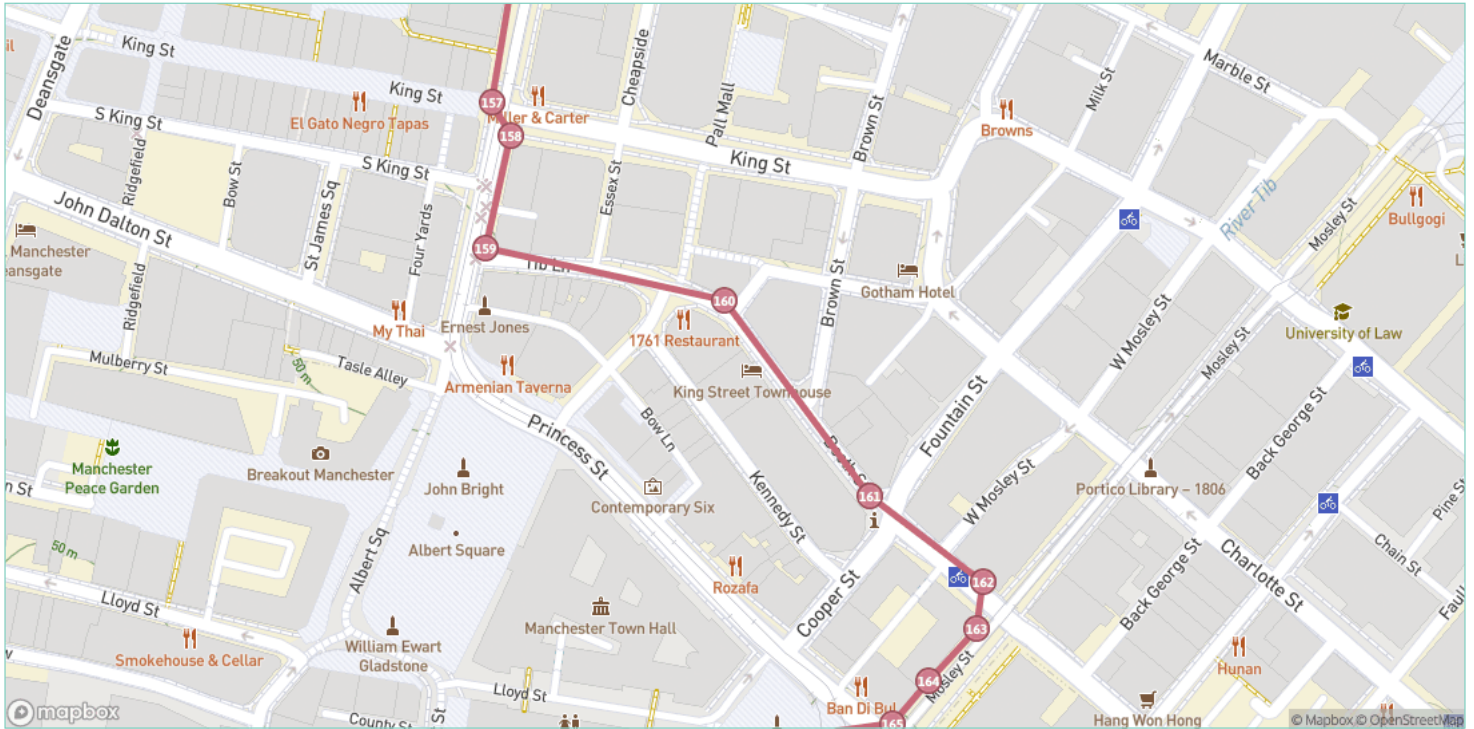
**Step 152:** Cross Deansgate at the crossing to make your way towards St Ann's Street ahead.

**Step 153:** In St Ann's Square, you'll see historic renaissance style Anglican St Ann's church from 1712. It is one of the city's oldest buildings.

**Step 154:** Walk past the cathedral and follow St Ann's Street towards Cross Street.

**Step 155:** In spring, you'll find plenty of blossom to enjoy on the way.

**Step 156:** Turn right onto Cross Street and follow the pavement.



**Step 157:** Cross over by King Street and continue right along Cross Street.

**Step 158:** Continue along Cross Street until you get to Tib Lane.

**Step 159:** Turn left onto Tib Lane.

**Step 160:** Follow the road around the curve to the right to join Booth Street.

**Step 161:** Cross Fountain Street, taking care to look out for cars and bikes.

**Step 162:** Follow Booth Street and turn right onto Moseley Street towards Manchester Art Gallery.

**Step 163:** Follow Moseley Street past the art gallery.

**Step 164:** Manchester Art Gallery was opened in 1835, designed in the Greek ionic-style. Entry is free and the outside is perfect for people watching.



**Step 165:** Continue along Moseley Street towards the intersection then cross Princess Street at the pelican crossing.

**Step 166:** Cross over the tram lines towards the cenotaph and enter into St Peter's Square.

**Step 167:** St Peter's Square is awash with colour in spring with the foxglove trees and their lilac flowers. It's also great for people watching.

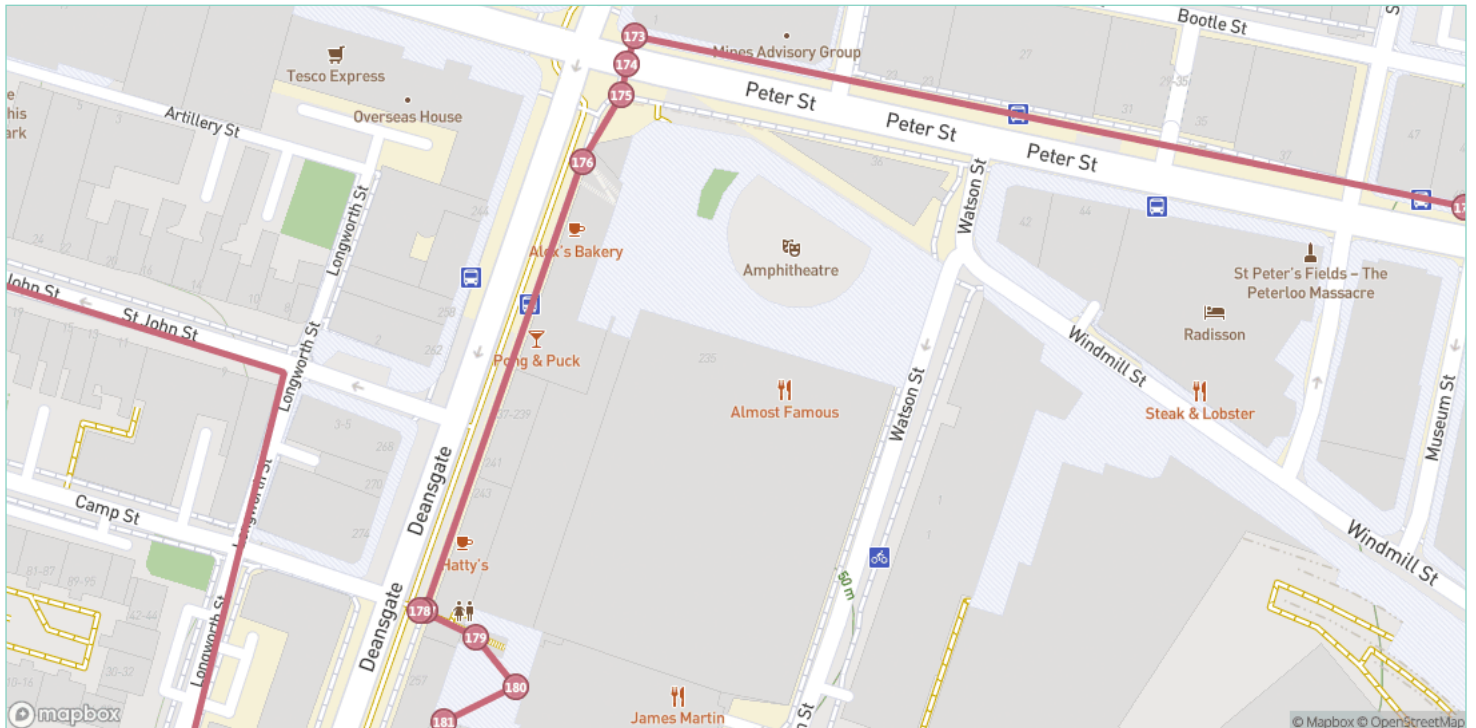
**Step 168:** Continue through St Peter's Square. You can see the Town Hall extension and the Central Library as you walk through.

**Step 169:** Central Library was designed to resemble a Roman Pantheon and is the second largest public library in Britain (Birmingham has gold!) 🏆

**Step 170:** After passing the library, turn right onto Peter Street.

**Step 171:** Continue along Peter Street.

**Step 172:** You'll spot the Theatre Royal which is the oldest surviving theatre here, built in 1845. It inspired the design of London Royal Opera House.



**Step 173:** Continue down to the end of Peter Street and turn left to cross the road towards Great Northern Warehouse.

**Step 174:** Great Northern Warehouse is a former railway goods warehouse from 1869-1899 which has been transformed into a vibrant leisure space.

**Step 175:** Take a moment to admire the grounds below the warehouse with their beautiful planters and blossom trees.

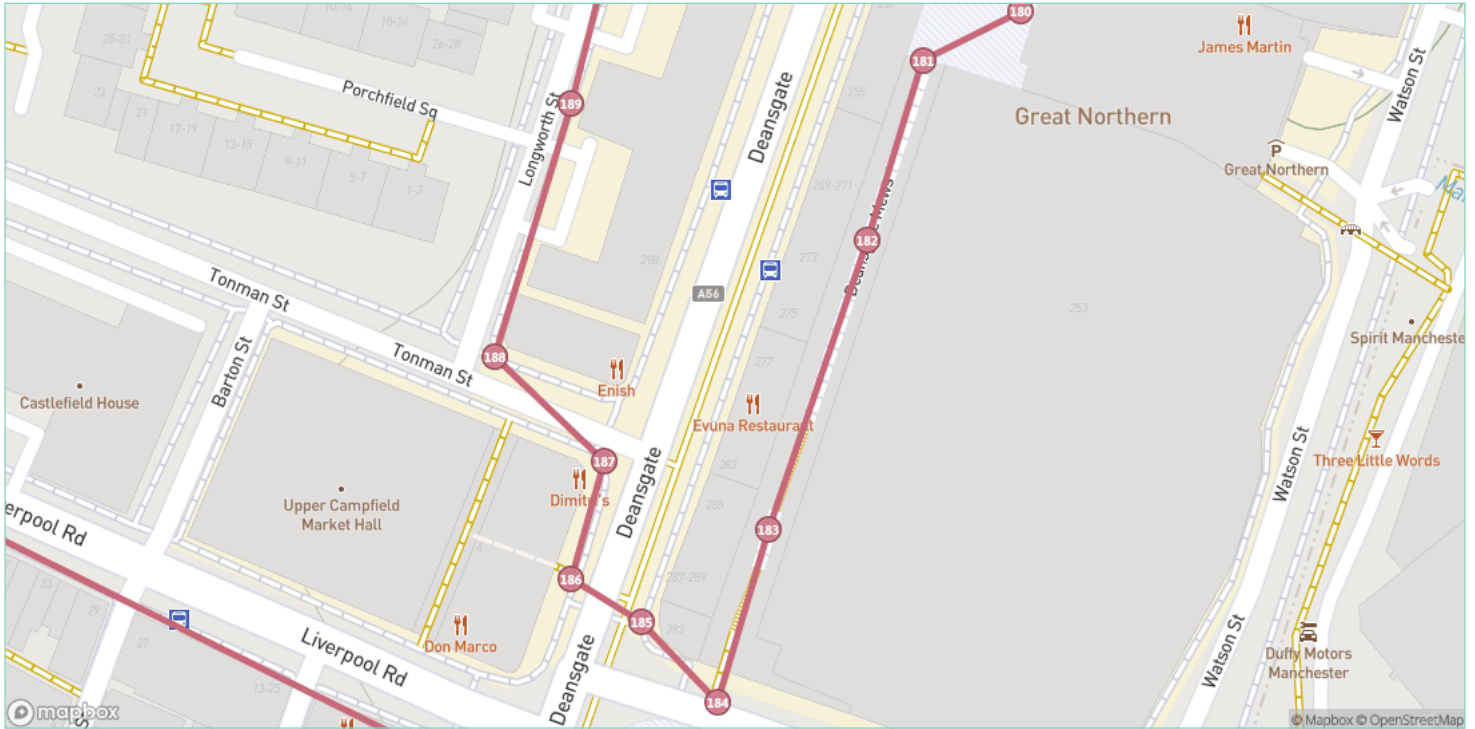
**Step 176:** Follow the road along Deansgate beside the warehouse to reach the access point for the upper level along this street.

**Step 177:** For step-free access to visit the upper level, use the lift in this area. (You can also skip it and carry on down Deansgate if you like)

**Step 178:** When you see the stairs, you need to take this entrance.

**Step 179:** Go up the rainbow stairs to the upper level to reach Deansgate Mews.

**Step 180:** Here you'll find what feels like a hidden garden with cafes and bars away from the bustle of Deansgate below.



**Step 181:** A lovely spot to relax and take in the sunshine.

**Step 188:** Turn right onto Longworth Street and follow the road down.

**Step 182:** Continue along the Mews to reach the stairs at the end of the street. For step free access, head back to the lift and rejoin Deansgate.

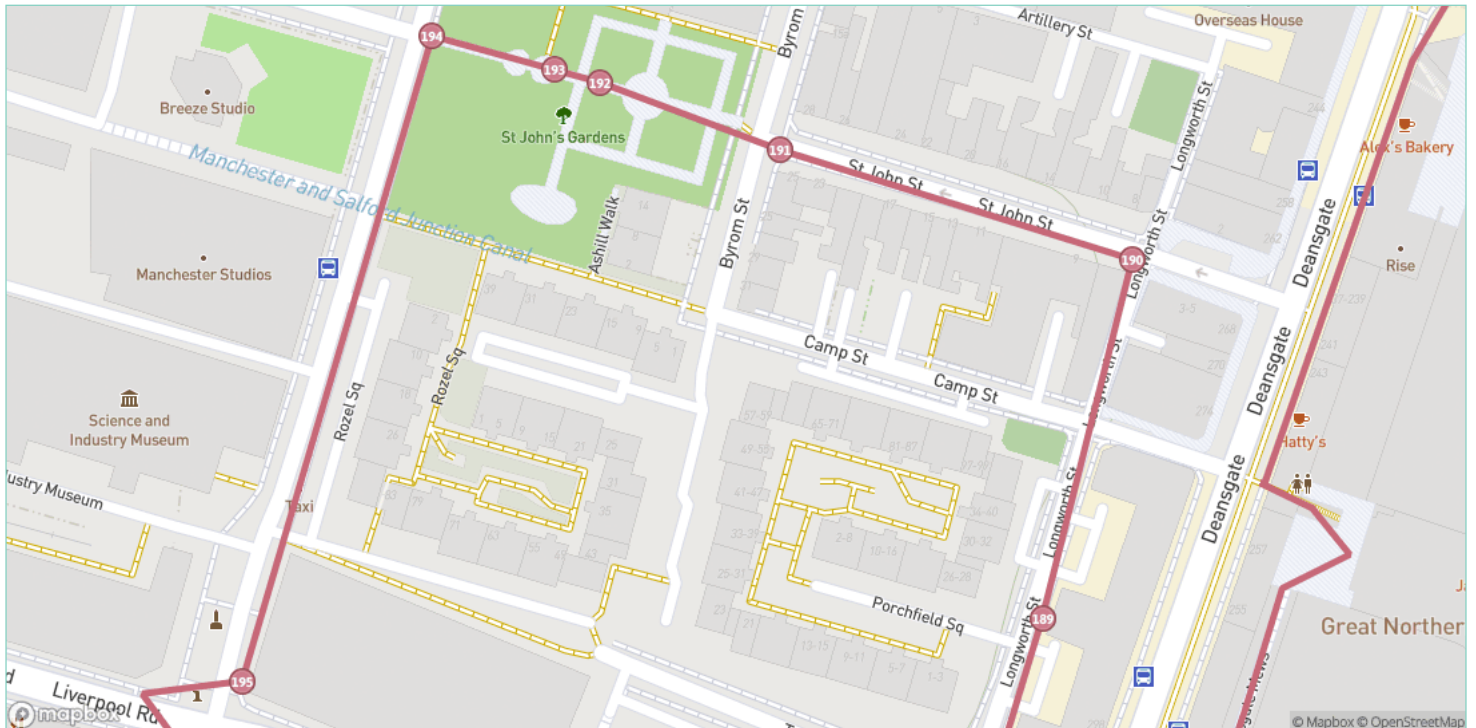
**Step 183:** Take the stairs and head down towards Beetham Tower.

**Step 184:** Turn right at the bottom of the stairs to get back onto Deansgate.

**Step 185:** Cross the road at the pelican crossing towards the Cervantes Institute.

**Step 186:** Turn right on Deansgate for a few steps.

**Step 187:** Turn left onto Tonman Street and continue walking to the next right turn.



**Step 189:** From this angle, you get to see the patchwork of styles and colours of buildings in the city. From Sunlight House (white) to modern offices.

**Step 190:** Turn left onto St John Street where you'll see a row of the city's only surviving Georgian terraces. It's a conservation area.

**Step 191:** Carefully cross Byrom Street to get to the park and head through the gate into St John's Gardens.

**Step 192:** Originally the site of St John's Church (1769) and churchyard. After demolition, it was turned into a public park in 1932.

**Step 193:** It is a popular park for finding some tranquility from the busy city streets. Take a seat and read below for a guided blossom meditation.



### Take a breather in blossom

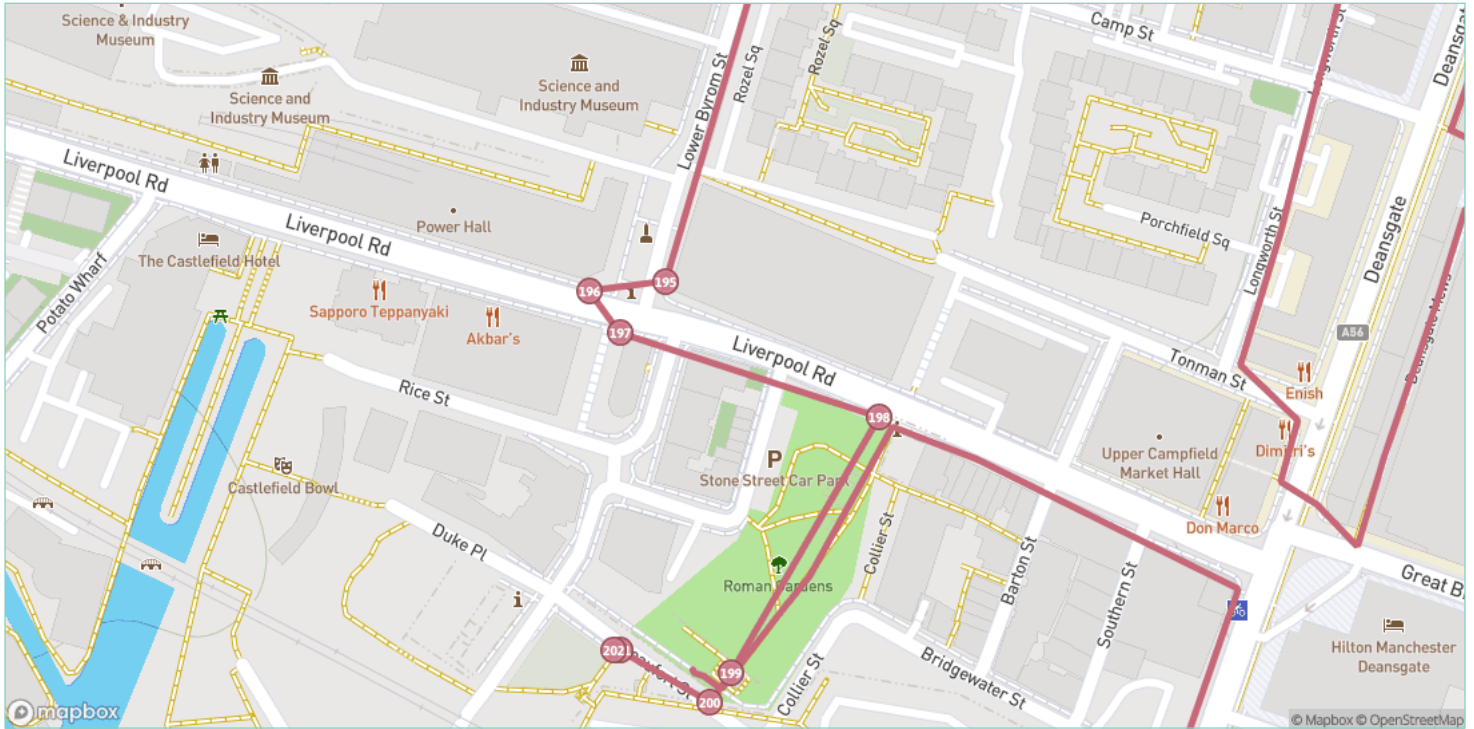
Take a seat on a bench or sit on the grass and enjoy a little breather amidst the blossom. Grab your headphones and try this short guided 5 minute blossom meditation.

If you've never tried meditation before, this is the perfect way to start. Adding just 5 minutes of mindfulness to your day can help slow things down and boost your mood.

#### Blossom Meditation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v=fKmb7a4YNEU>

**Step 194:** Exit the park onto Lower Byrom Street and turn left to follow the road to the end at the junction with Liverpool Road.



**Step 195:** Cross Lower Byrom at the zebra crossing towards the Science and Industry Museum sign.

**Step 196:** Turn left and cross Liverpool Road at the next zebra crossing immediately after.

**Step 197:** Turn left again to walk up Liverpool Road to reach a familiar spot from the start of the walk.

**Step 198:** You've reached the Roman Gardens where this walk started! To extend this route, Weds-Sun 10am - 5pm, why not visit NT's Castlefield Viaduct?

**Step 199:** It's a Victorian-era steel viaduct transformed into a green 'sky garden' and a real hidden gem. Just walk to the opposite end of the park.

**Step 200:** Simply walk to the end of Roman Gardens and turn right on Beaufort Street. On the left hand side, there are steps up to the viaduct at the corner with Duke Street. The lift here is currently out of service (April 2026) however...

**Step 201:** ...step-free access is available via Deansgate-Castlefield lift at corner of Deansgate & Whitworth Street. We hope you enjoyed the bloomtown...

**Step 202:** ...tour of Manchester and spotted some beautiful blooms (and buildings!) along way. If you enjoyed this walk, discover more in-app or tap the 3 dots below to share with friends. 🌸 🍷