



Blyth at War Walk

Discover the interesting Naval history around Blyth on this brilliant walk. Expect sea views and refreshments along the way.

Distance 4.4 kilometers / 2.7 miles

Duration 1 hour and 30 minutes



Water feature



Great views



Public loos



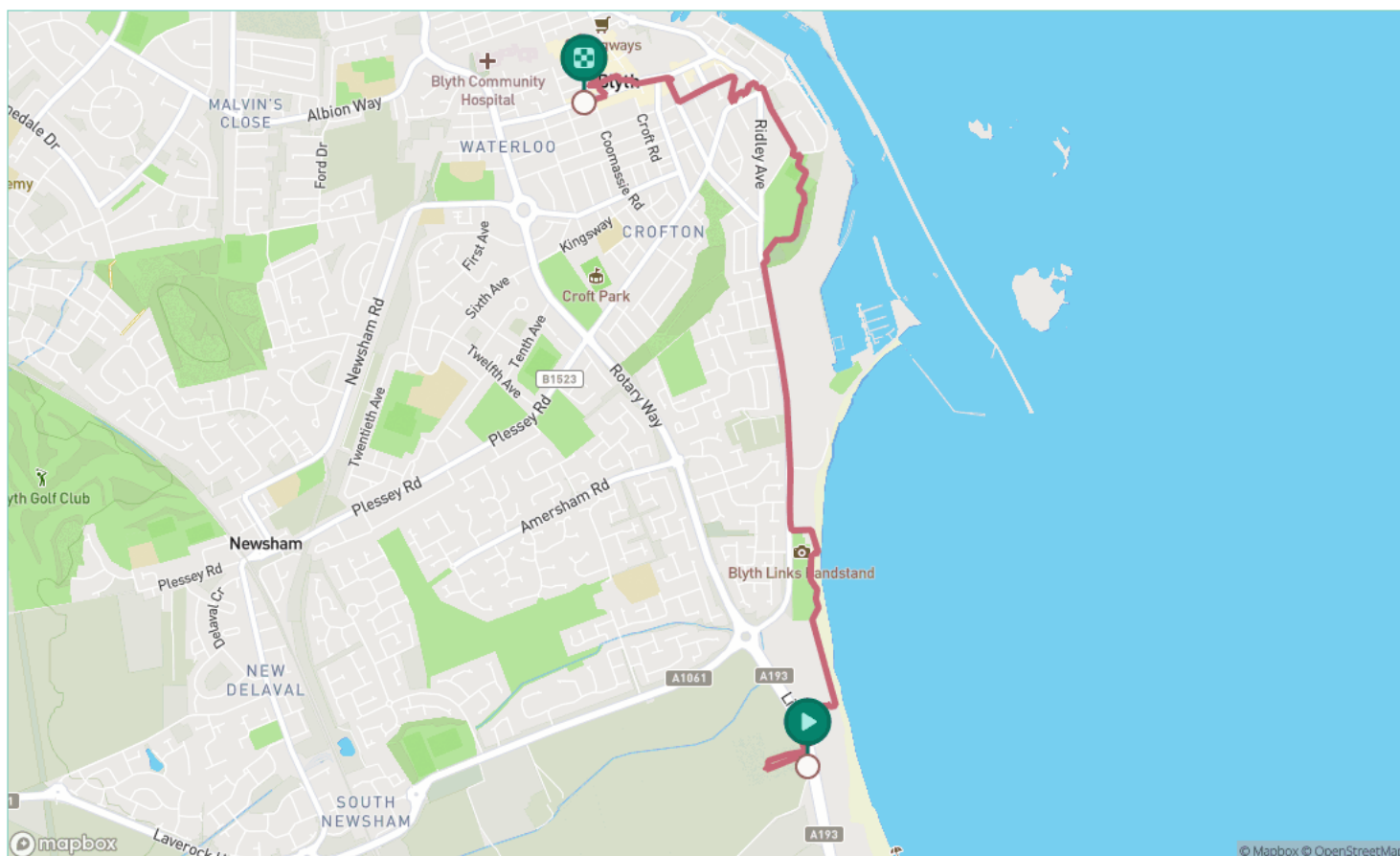
Public transport



History



Dog friendly



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: 14 July 2026.



Step 1: This walk was created by Northumberland Archives as part of their Heritage Lottery Funded project, 'At War & In Peace', which focused on the Home Front and post-war reconstruction in Northumberland.

Step 2: Start this walk at the bus stop for the 308 and X7 buses from the center of Newcastle on Links Road.

Step 3: Continue along the path to the entrance to Blyth Links Cemetery .

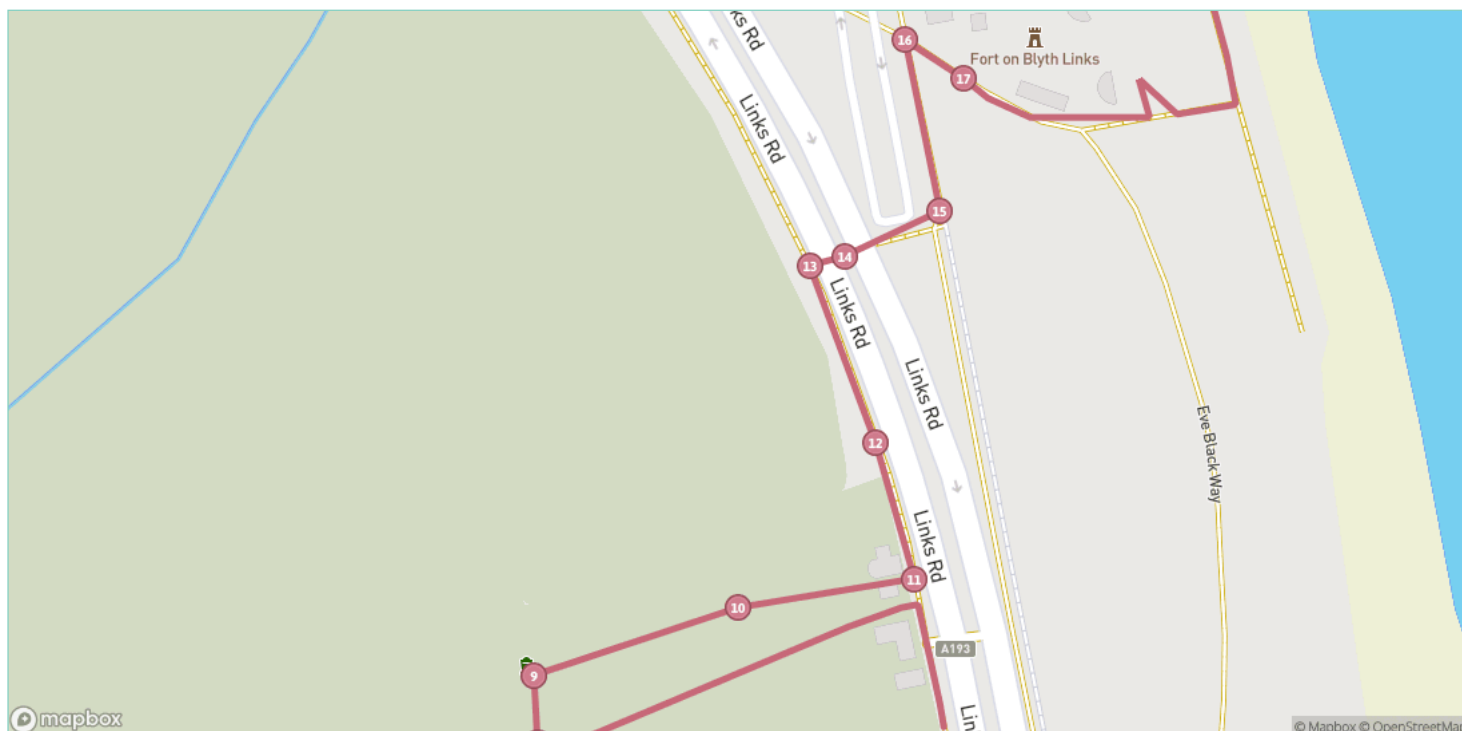
Step 4: This cemetery includes Commonwealth War Graves from WWII and gravestones for women who served in the Women's Royal Naval Service and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from Blyth.

Step 5: Go through the gates to enter the cemetery along the central path.

Step 6: The cemetery also includes many gravestones for seamen from WWII.

Step 7: Head back down the central path.

Step 8: Then immediately turn left.



Step 9: Turn right to head down the path parallel to the central path.

Step 10: Continue down the path, back towards the church.

Step 11: Exit the cemetery and turn left.

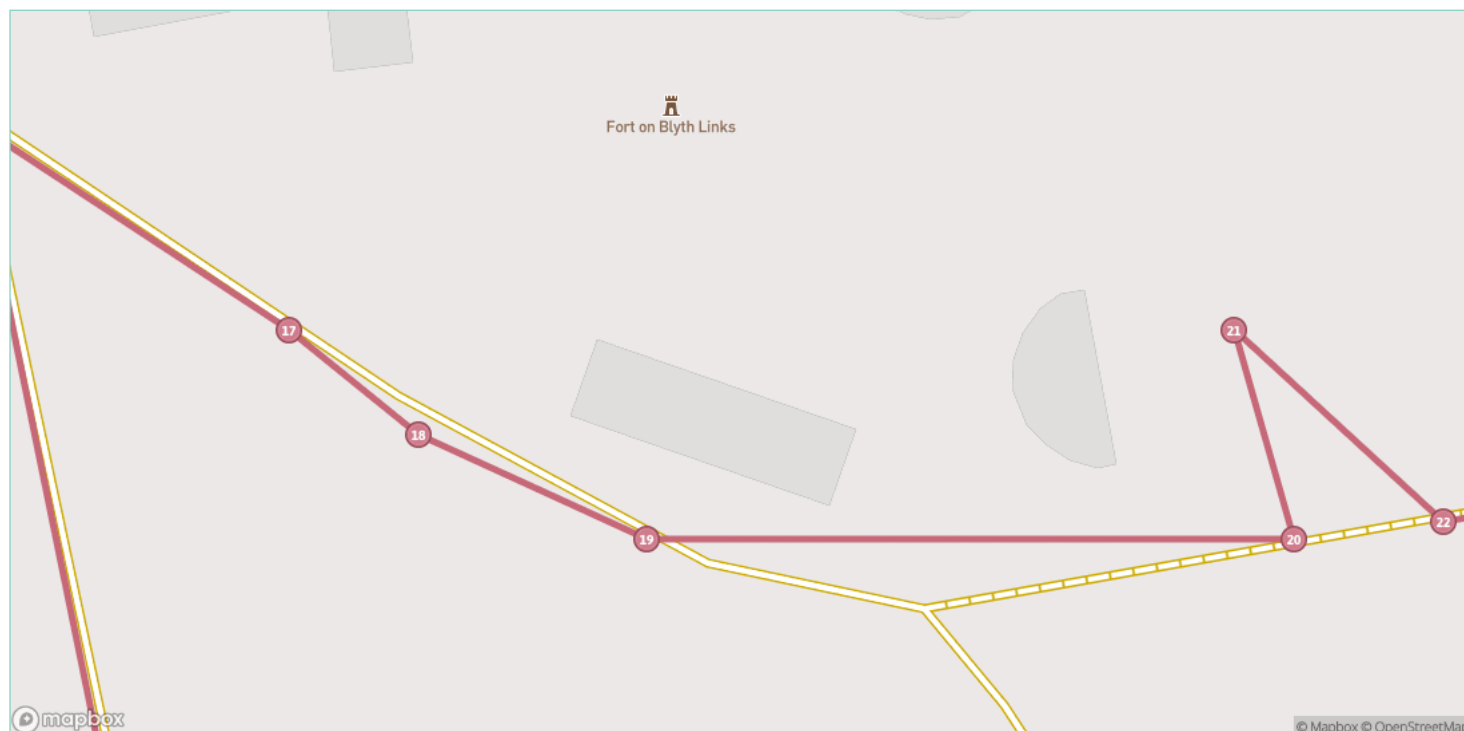
Step 12: Walk along the path beside Links Road.

Step 13: ⚠ Very carefully cross this very fast road to the central reservation, at this small gap on the right.

Step 14: ⚠ Once at the centre of the road, carefully cross the other side of the road. Again cars go very fast along here so please be very careful!

Step 15: Once over the road, turn left and continue along the pavement. Be aware this is a shared path with cyclists.

Step 16: A little further along the path, turn right and go down side road.



Step 17: Look for Blyth Battery on the left. It was built to defend the port and the submarine base in 1916 and is now open to the public.

Step 18: It is free to enter and open on Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30am to 4:00pm from 1st May to 30th Sept. It is also open at additional times throughout the year.

Step 19: Continue along the main path. You'll happen across more battery buildings on the left.

Step 20: Look for these small steps uphill on the left.

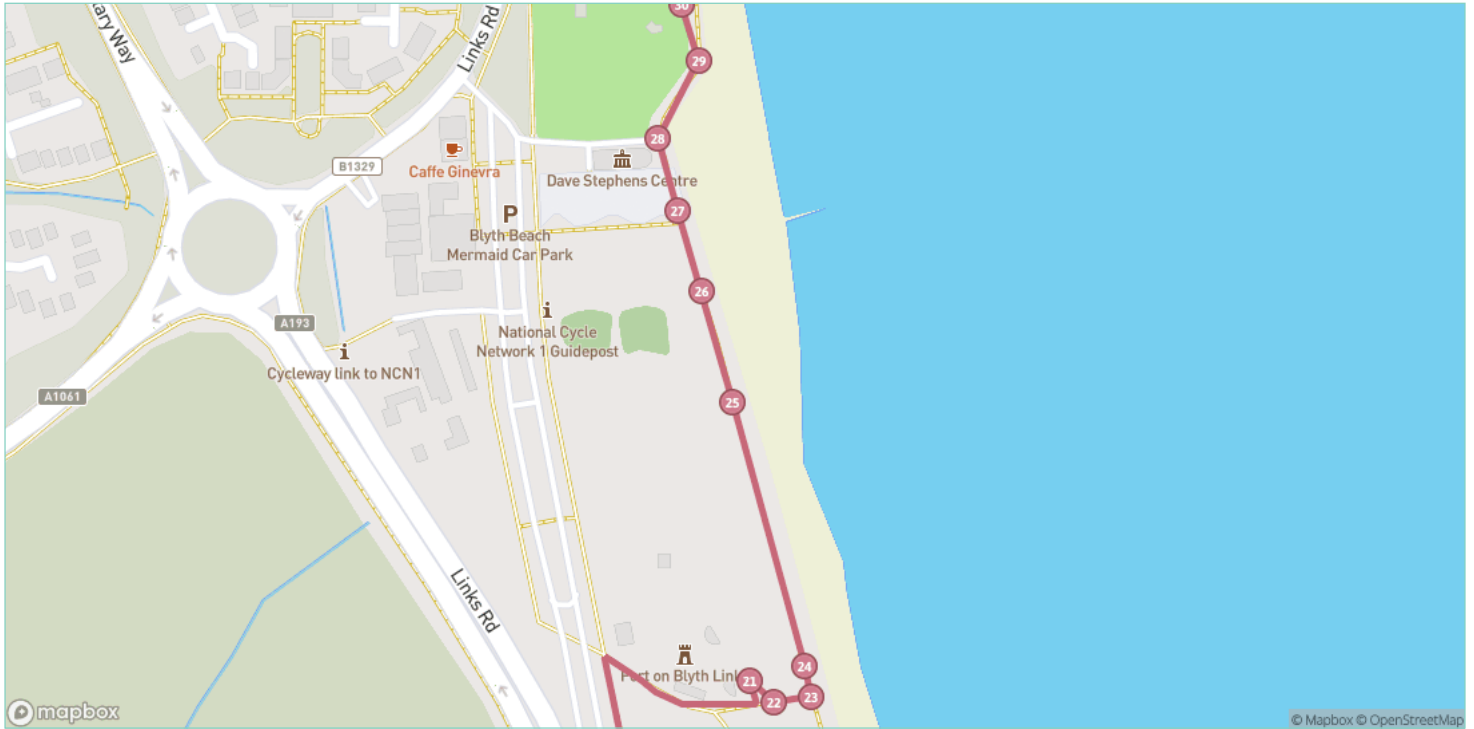
Step 21: At the top of the hill, you'll find 6-inch guns. Read more info below.

Blyth Battery

An important coastal defence for Blyth and for the country during both world wars, Blyth Battery protected the coastline, the port, and nearby naval assets, making it one of the most intact and significant surviving coastal batteries in the North East. Multiple coastal defence systems still visible and there is a museum open select days of the year. The magazine building is where shells for the guns were stored.



Photograph showing Outside Magazine, Blyth Battery, 2009. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.



Learn more

<https://www.blythbattery.org.uk/>

Step 22: When you're ready, head back down the steps and continue towards the sea front.

Step 23: At the bottom of the path, enjoy this stunning view of the North Sea coast and Blyth South Pier.

Step 24: Turn left and head along the seafront promenade on the King Charles III England Coast Path.

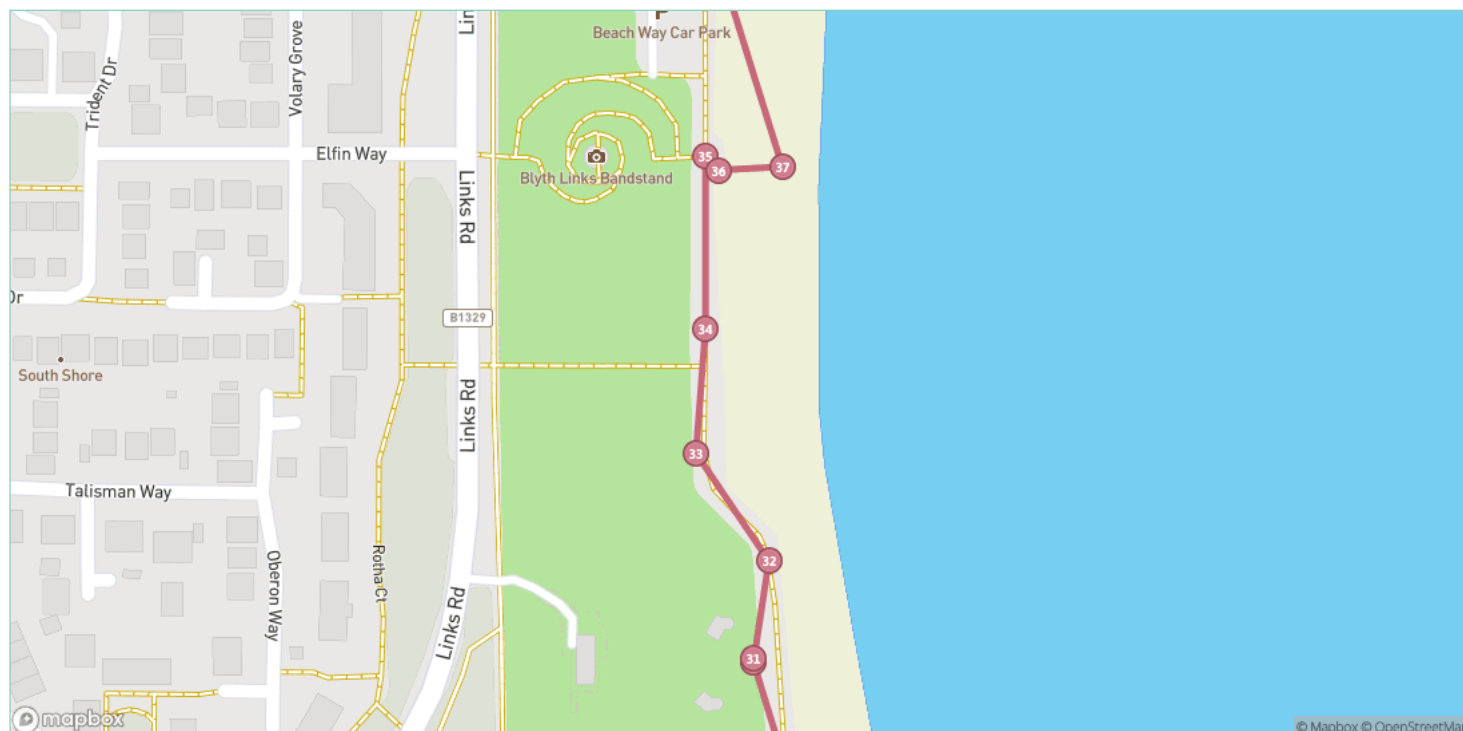
Step 25: Enjoy these lovely beach huts on the left.

Step 26: Behind the beach huts you'll find a kids playground.

Step 27: Up ahead is the Dave Stephens Centre, which includes the Sea View Café and public toilets.

Step 28: Continue along the coastal path as it bends around the centre.

Step 29: Follow the path around to the right with the grass area on the left.



Step 30: Look for the stone on the left with a plaque on it. It commemorates the Blyth searchlight placements.

Step 31: These Grade II listed structures, including two searchlight buildings, housed American troops during WWII.

Former Searchlight Placements

During the Second World War, powerful searchlights along this coast scanned the night sky for enemy aircraft. Working with anti-aircraft guns, they helped defend Blyth's docks and industries from attack. In 1944, American troops trained here, learning to track aircraft using these beams before leaving for the D-Day landings.

Step 32: After visiting the stone, continue along the path as it bends around to the left.

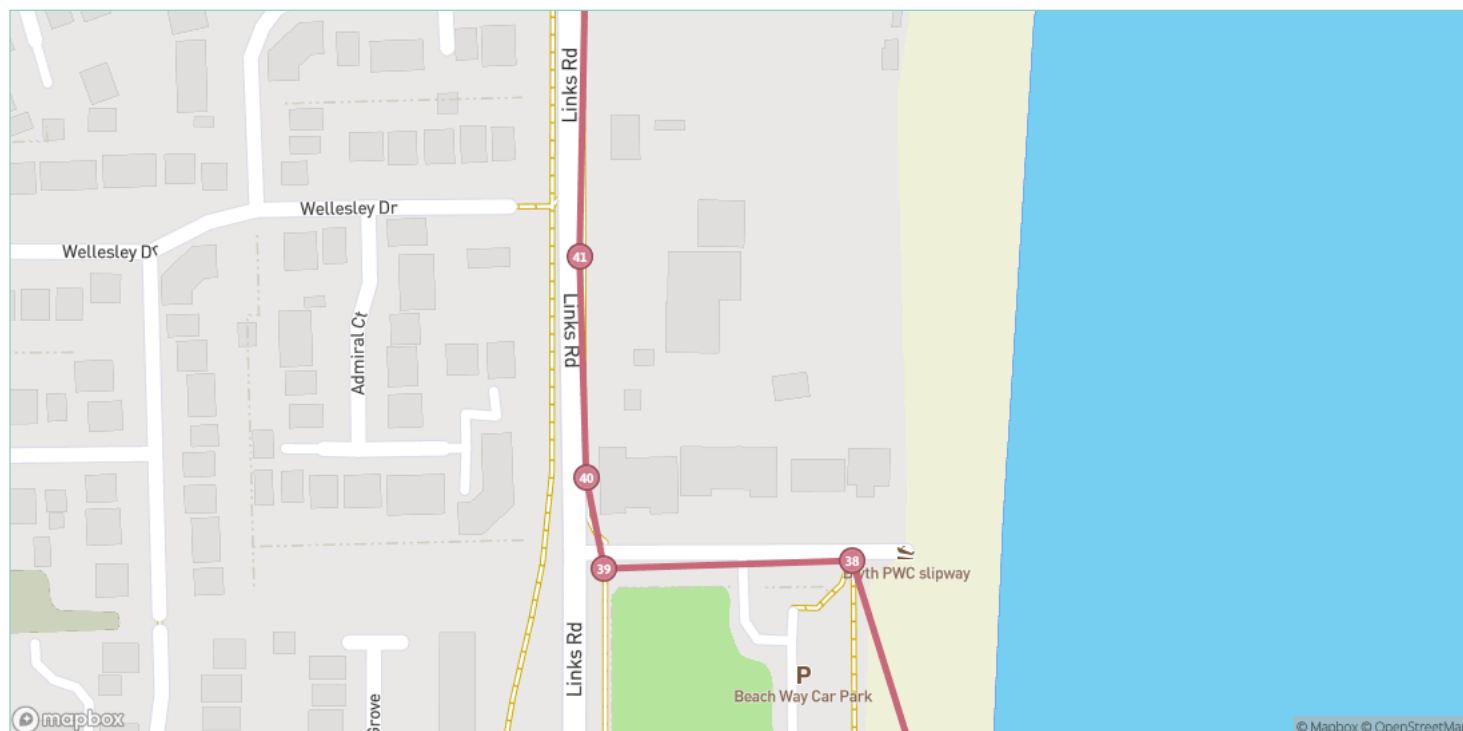
Step 33: Head along the path towards the houses up ahead.

Step 34: To the right, there are more great views of the pier.

Step 35: On the left, look out for a bandstand. It's a popular local landmark and a regular host for live music.

Step 36: If you like, head down the steps on the right and onto the beach.

Step 37: You'll enjoy stunning views and soft sand under your toes. When you're ready head back to the path.



Step 38: Turn left at the houses and carry on down the pavement.

Step 39: At the bottom of the road, turn right and carefully cross the road.

Step 40: Continue on the pavement on the right hand side of the road.

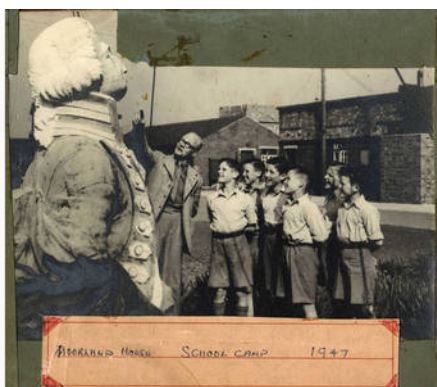
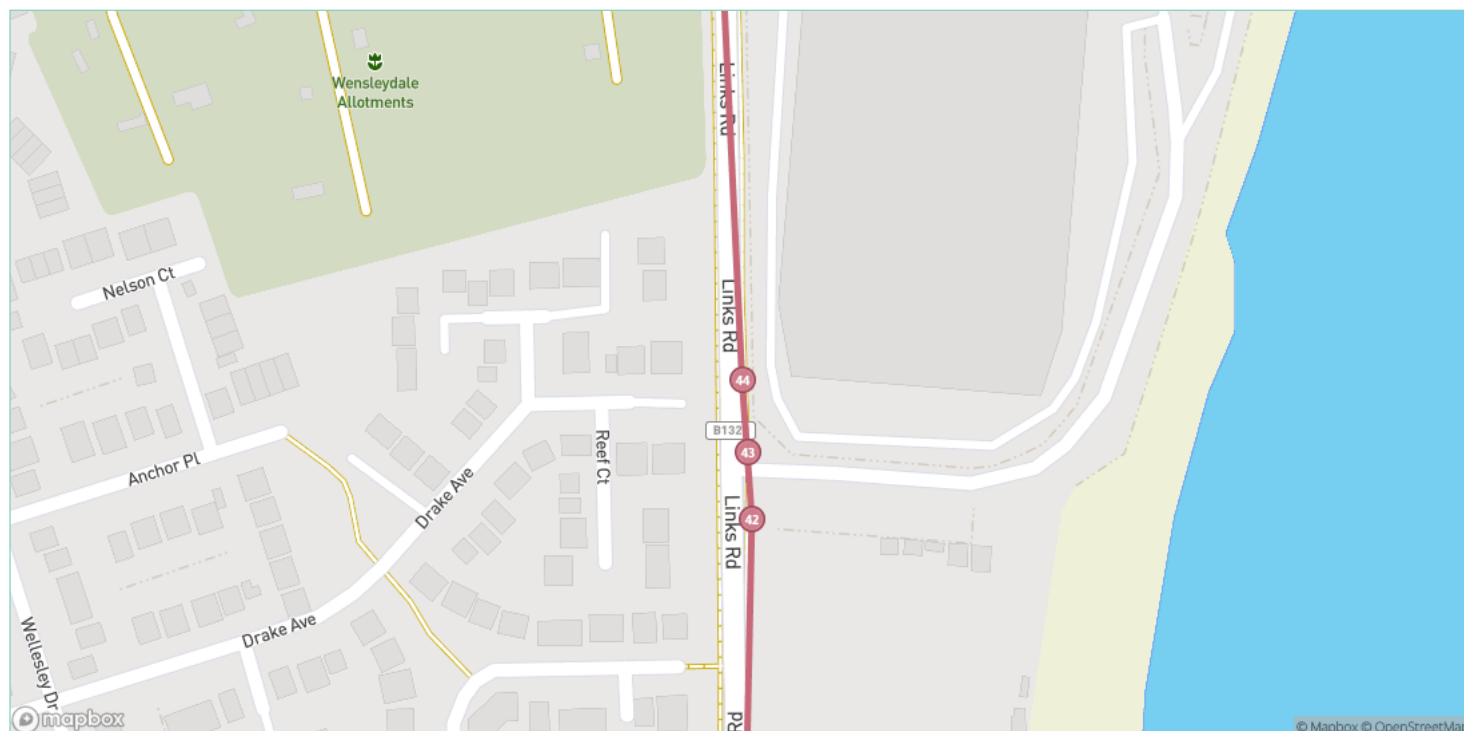
Step 41: On the other side of the road is Wellesley Drive, the site of a former school called The Wellesley Nautical School. See below for more info.

The Wellesley School



Captain J de Winton Kitcat and staff - HMS Wellesley Training School. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.

The Wellesley School in Blyth also supported the war effort as a Royal Navy training base, with Women's Royal Naval Service personnel stationed there and the nearby HMS Elfin serving as their training ship. Although there is nothing present to mark the site the housing estate is named after the school and ship.



Group of boys with teacher with HMS Wellesley figurehead c1947. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.

Step 42: Carefully cross over this side road which is the main access to the port.

Step 43: The port used to be an important shipyard for building naval vessels before, during and after the war. See below for more info.

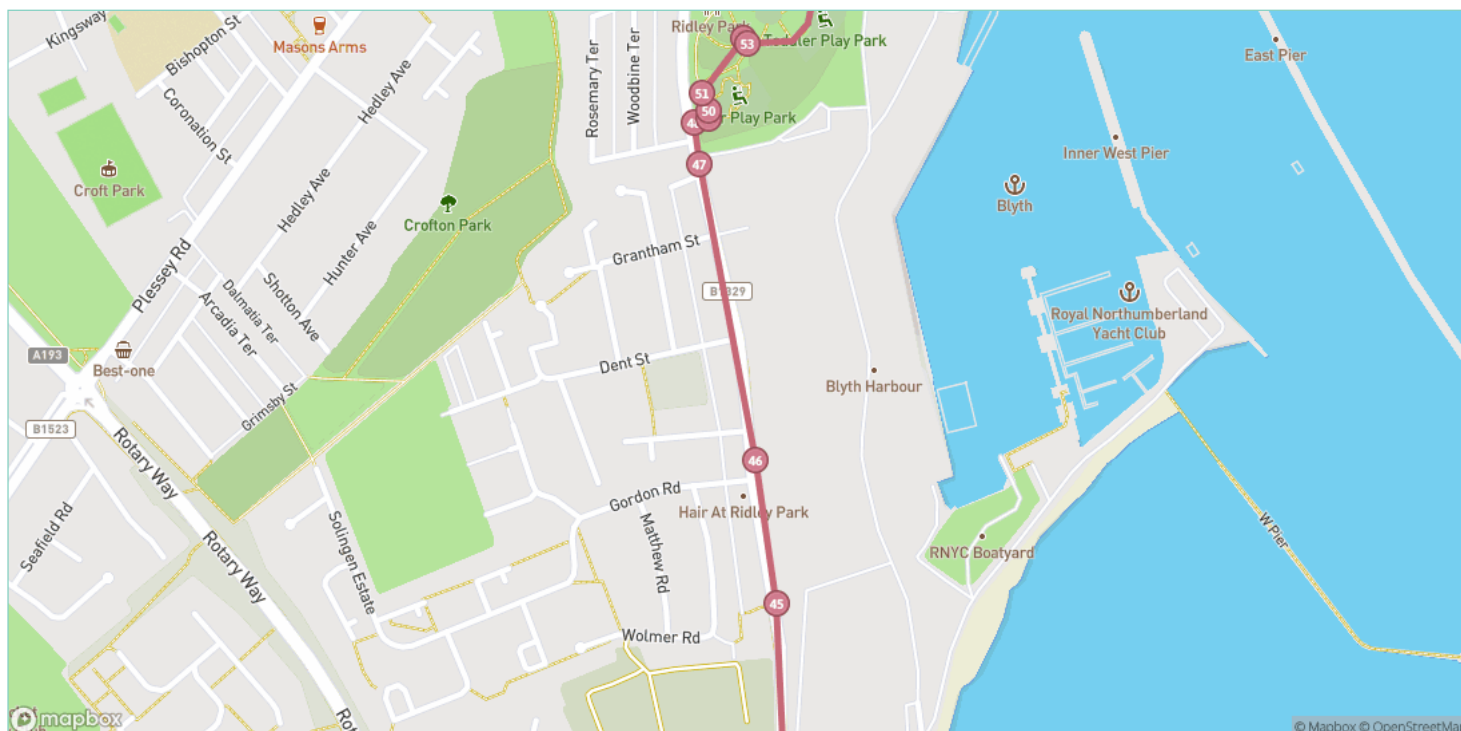
The Port of Blyth

Ariel view of Blyth Harbour Port.



Aerial view of Blyth Harbour and Port, c.1940-1950. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.

Step 44: Continue along the main road.



Step 45: Please be aware this pavement is shared with cyclists.

Step 52: To the left of this fork is the public toilets.

Step 46: Continue along the road, look through the fences on the right to see some of the interesting equipment inside the port.

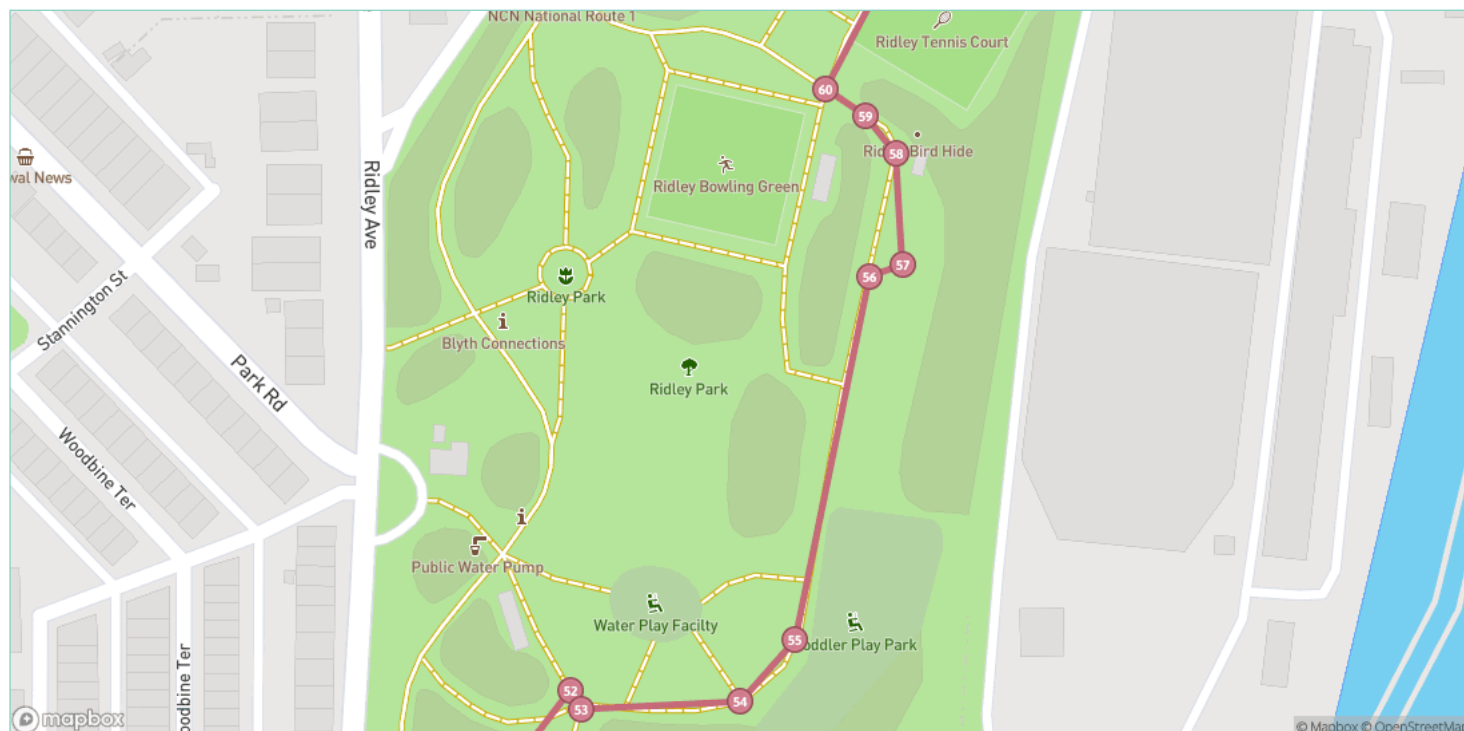
Step 47: Cross another side road and get ready to turn right.

Step 48: Turn right and go into Ridley Park. A busy site during wartime, with air raid shelters and training activities.

Step 49: Today it's a stunning park filled with facilities like this junior play park on the right.

Step 50: Continue on the path on the left and get ready to take the path fork on the right.

Step 51: At the fork turn to the right.



Step 53: Turn right and continue around the outside of the park.

Step 60: You'll pass tennis courts on your right.

Step 54: Continue around to the right, past the Toddler Play Park.

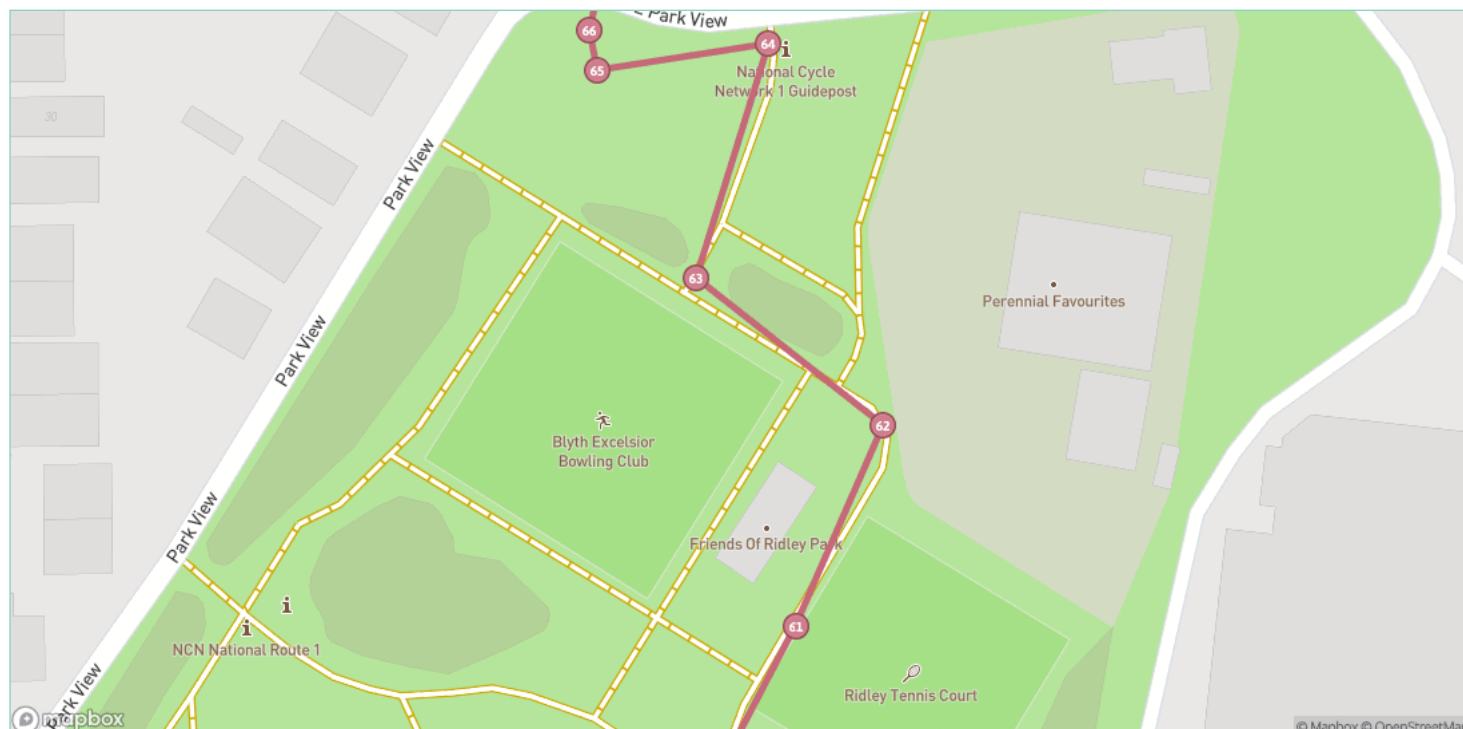
Step 55: Continue around the park as it bears left.

Step 56: To the right, outside the park is the site of former Blyth Submarine Base.

Step 57: Blyth served as an important Royal Navy submarine base during WWII, supporting submarine training and North Sea operations. There is a plaque to mark the site but it's not accessible to the public.

Step 58: At the end of this path, look right for the Ridley Bird Hide. It's a great place to stop and watch small birds feeding. 🐦 🏠

Step 59: After your bird watching continue left and then right.



Step 61: Go past this lovely painted building on the left. Can you recognise the animals?

Step 62: Continue left along this path and then turn to exit this park.

Step 63: Head towards the exit and turn left.

Step 64: Continue left to walk along the pavement.

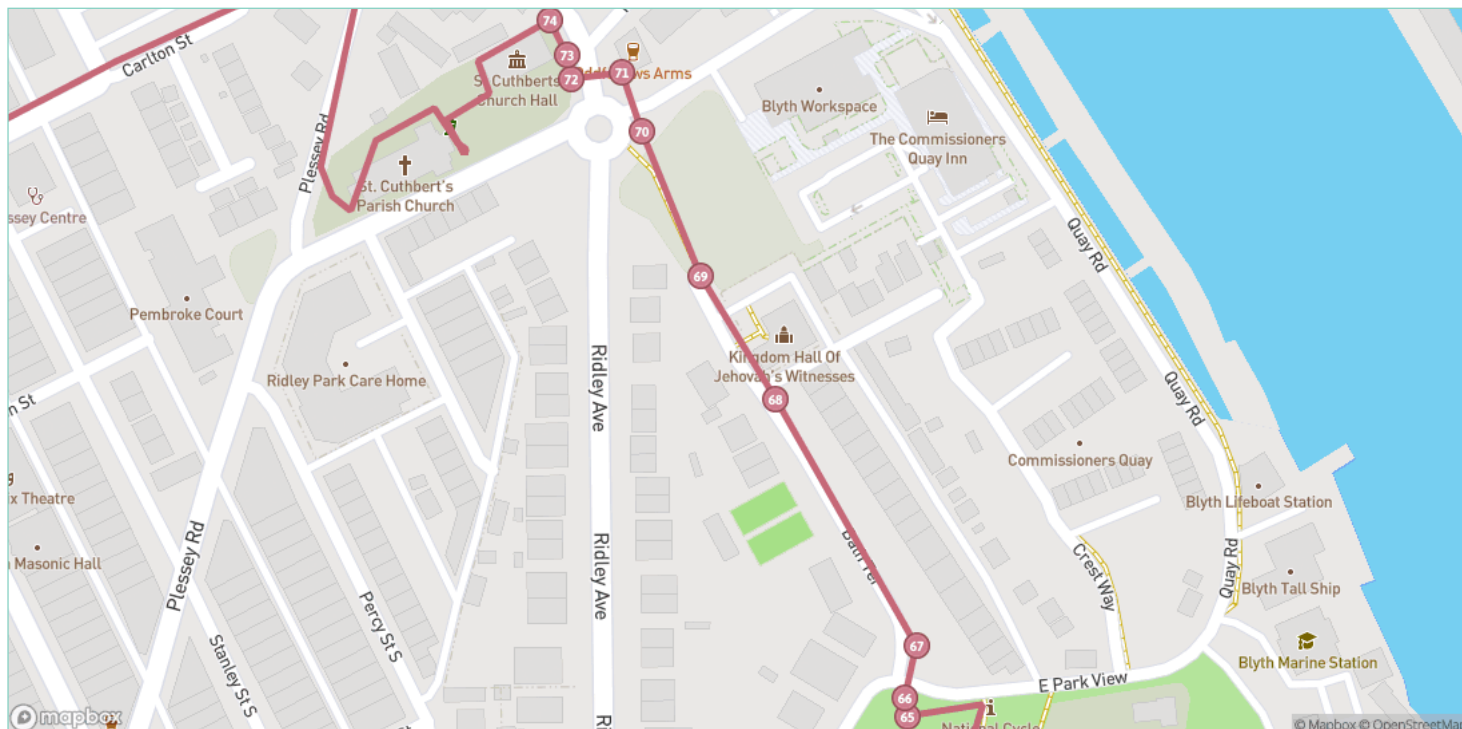
Step 65: To the left is the Blyth Cenotaph, please read more about this prominent memorial below.

Blyth Cenotaph

Ridley Park, long a feature of Blyth, became a busy wartime site with air raid shelters, training activities and even an unexploded mine, and today it includes a Cenotaph honouring those lost in WWI, WWII and other conflicts. The Cenotaph stands as a prominent memorial with space to stop, rest and reflect.



Photograph of Blyth War Memorial, Blyth c.1920. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.



Step 66: Cross over East Park View Road opposite the memorial.

Step 67: Then head along Bath Terrace.

Step 68: Continue along the road, passing this no through road sign.

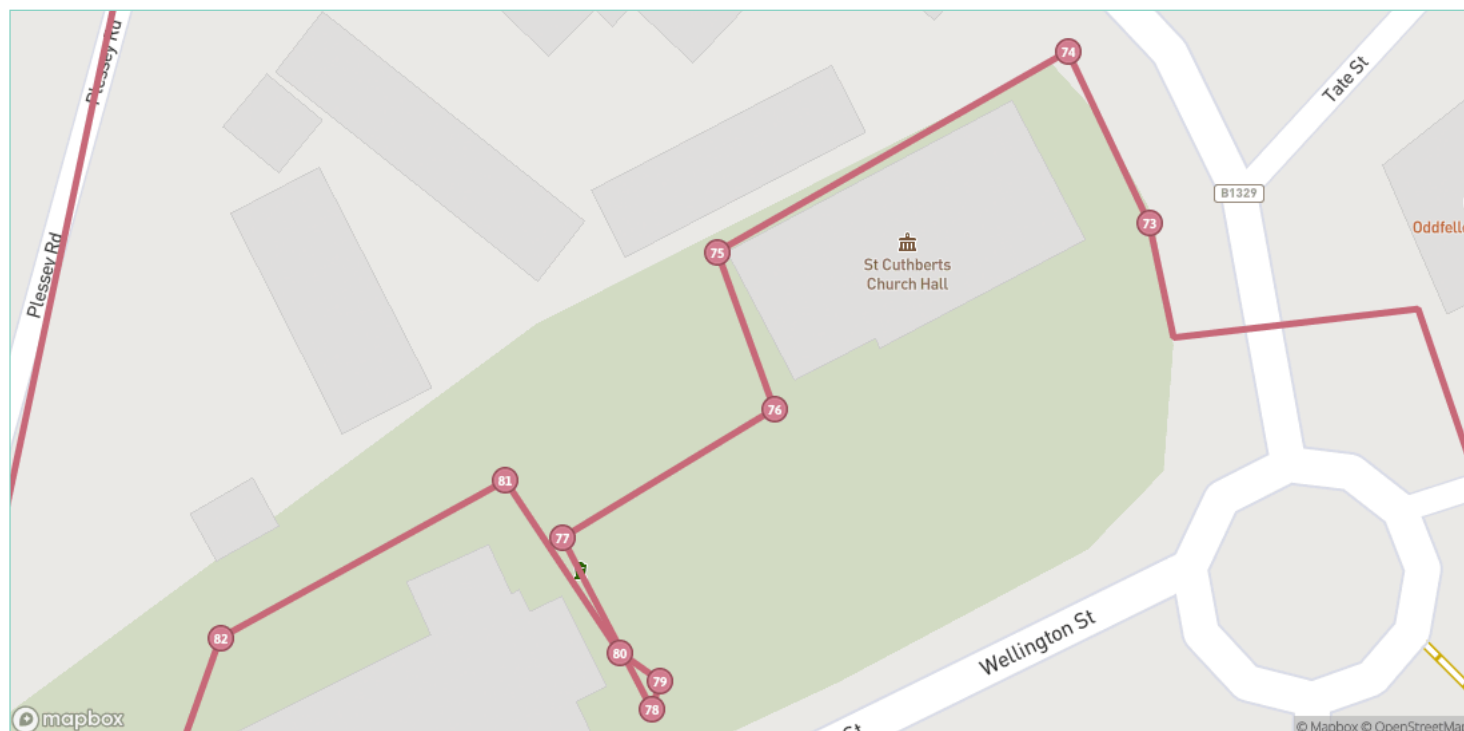
Step 69: Then go along this small path that cuts through the grass area.

Step 70: At the end of the path, cross over the roundabout at this central island.

Step 71: Then cross at the next central island on the left and turn right on the other side of the road.

Step 72: Continue right along the pavement.

Step 73: St Cuthberts Church Hall is on the left.



Step 74: Just after the hall, look left for these metal gates to access the church grounds.

Step 75: Continue to the end of the side path, until it opens up to the graveyard. Turn left here.

Step 76: Then turn right and continue towards the church.

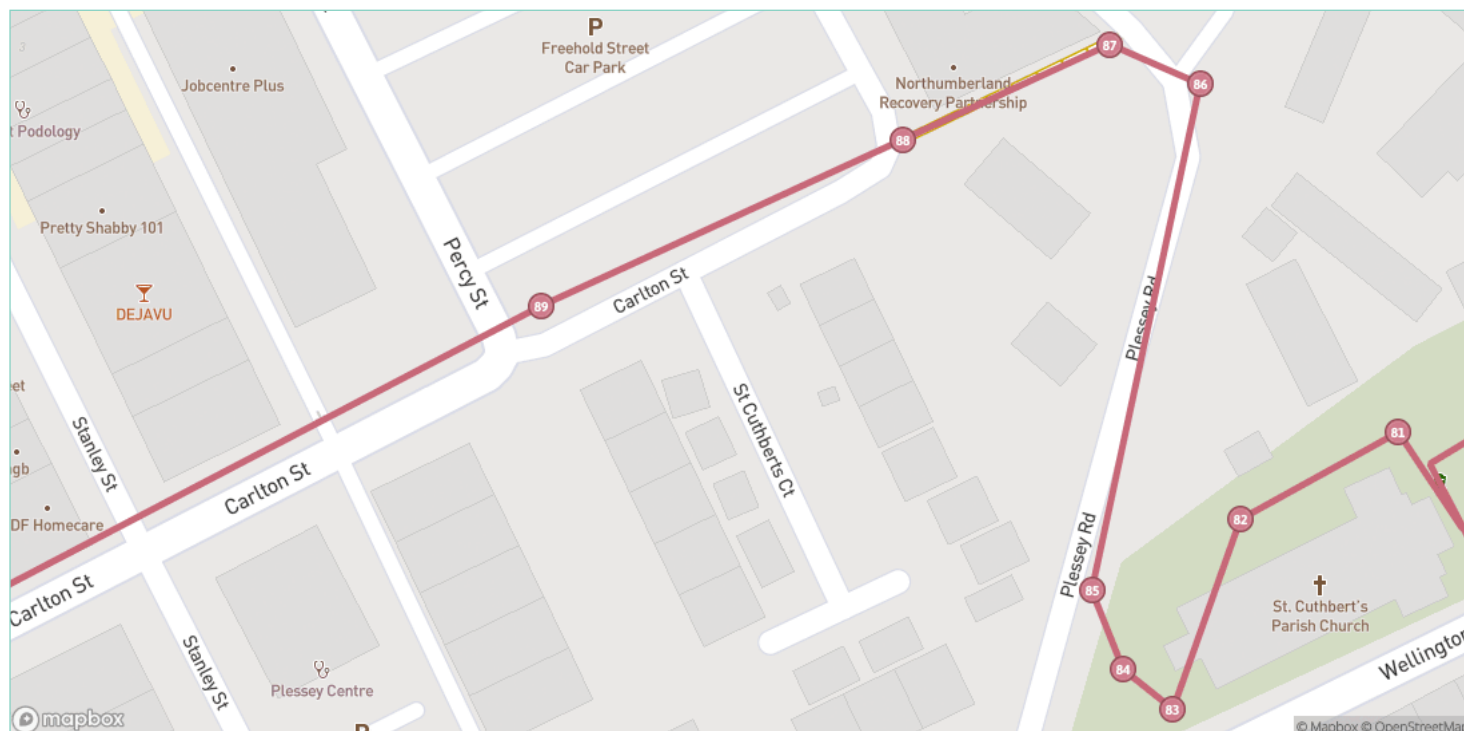
Step 77: Beside the church, turn left.

Step 78: Around the side of the church you'll find this memorial bench dedicated to the WWII fallen.

Step 79: Don't miss this ammunition box which includes a poem by Laurence Binyon.

Step 80: Go back along the path.

Step 81: The turn left and head along the side of the church.



Step 82: At the front of the church, turn left.

Step 83: To the right, there is a memorial to those who trained at The Wellesley Nautical School and lost their lives at war. More info below.

St Cuthberts Church

Inside St Cuthbert's there are war memorials. Outside there is a memorial to those who trained at the Wellesley Naval School and lost their lives at war.



St Cuthbert's Church, Blyth, c.1906. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.

Step 84: Opposite the front of the church, exit the grounds through these gates and turn right.

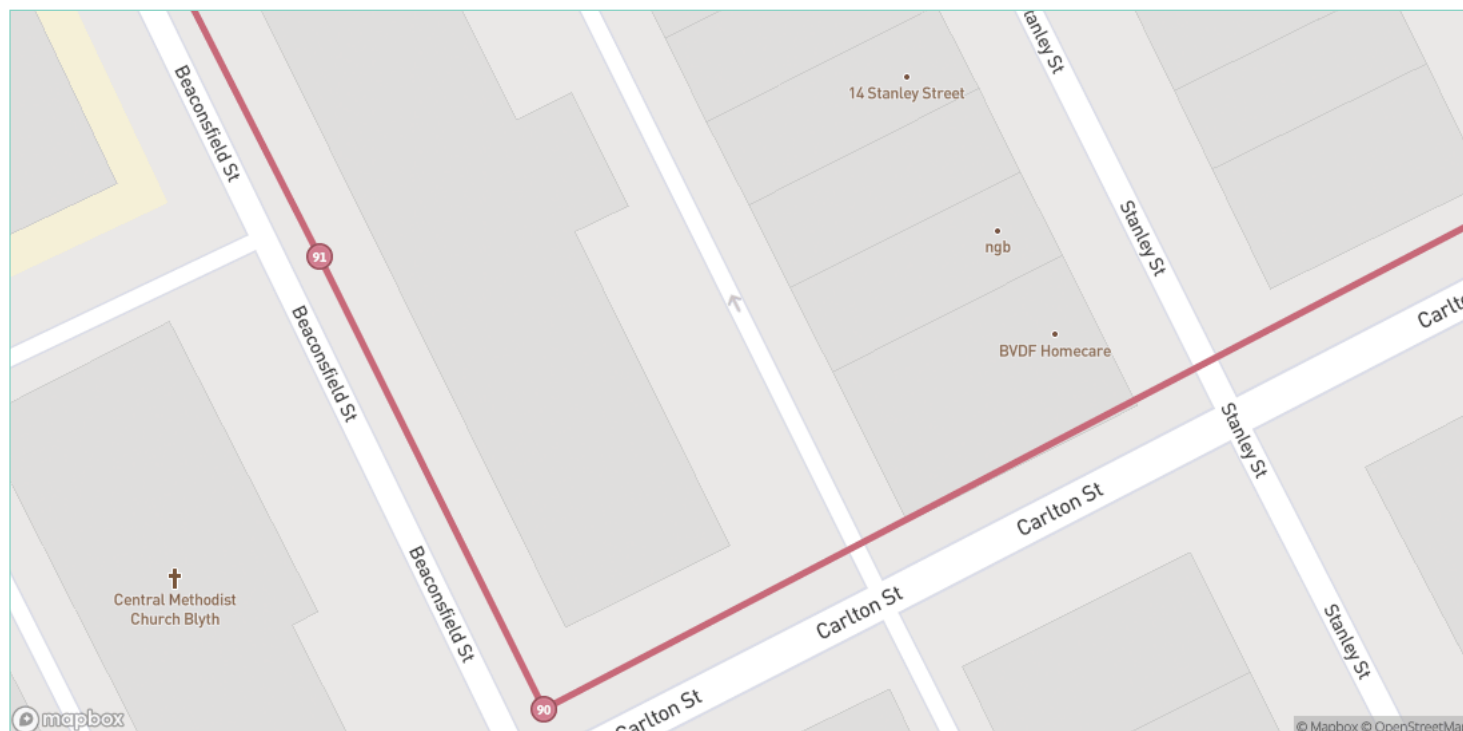
Step 85: Continue right to walk along Plessey Road.

Step 86: At these offices, turn left and carefully cross the road.

Step 87: Head down this side alley alongside the Citizens Advice building on the right.

Step 88: At the end of the alley, carefully cross over Carlton Street and continue along the pavement with the car park on the right.

Step 89: Continue along Carlton Street, carefully crossing the side roads.



Step 90: Turn right onto Beaconsfield Street.

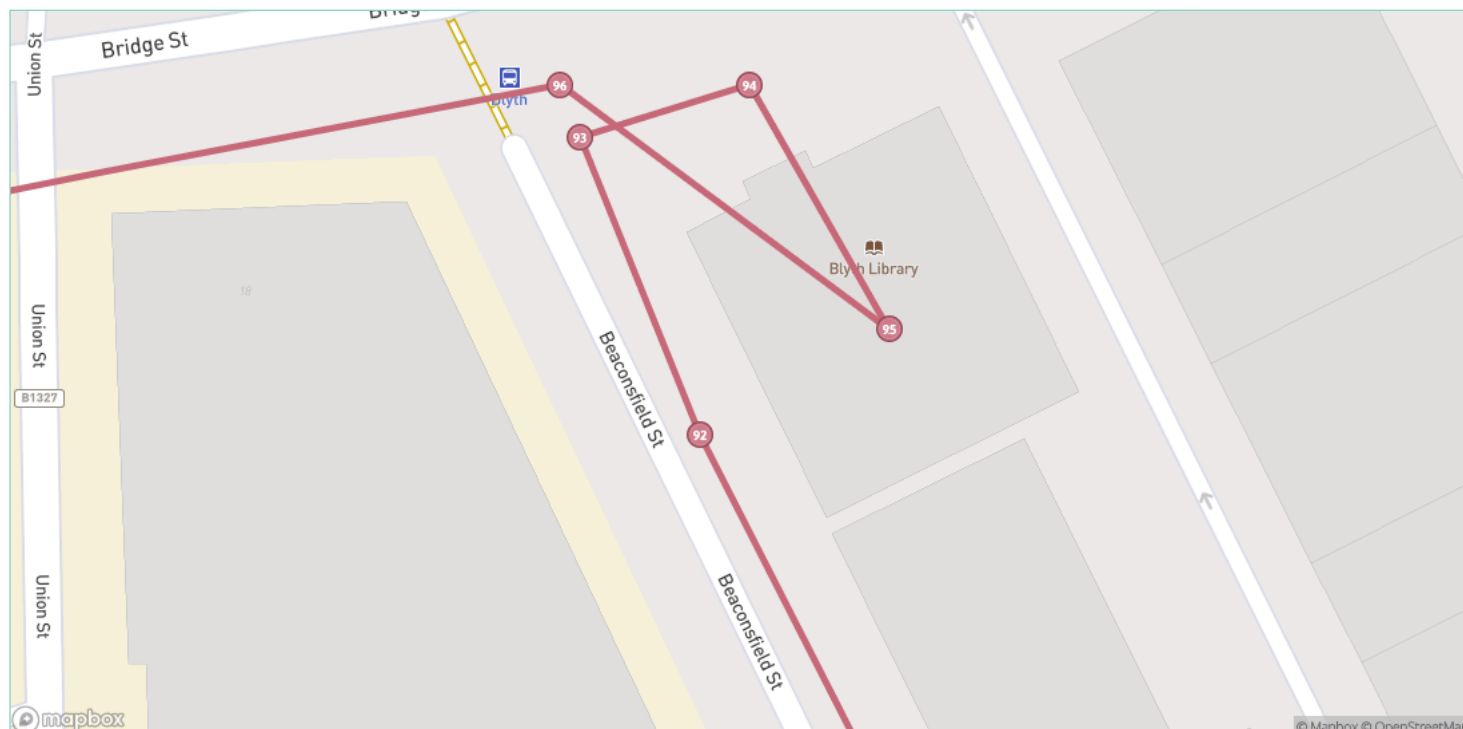
Step 91: To the right is this nursing home, which used to be the site of former Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital. More info below.

Thomas Knight Hospital

Originally opened in 1887, it became an emergency wartime hospital treating mainly naval personnel as well as other servicemen brought in by ship and took in local air raid casualties.



Postcard of the Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital, Blyth, c.1930. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.



Step 92: Continue along Beaconsfield Street.

Step 93: At the end on the street you'll find the wonderful Blyth Library on the right.

Step 94: Enter the Library which is open 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri and 9:30am - 12:30pm Saturday.

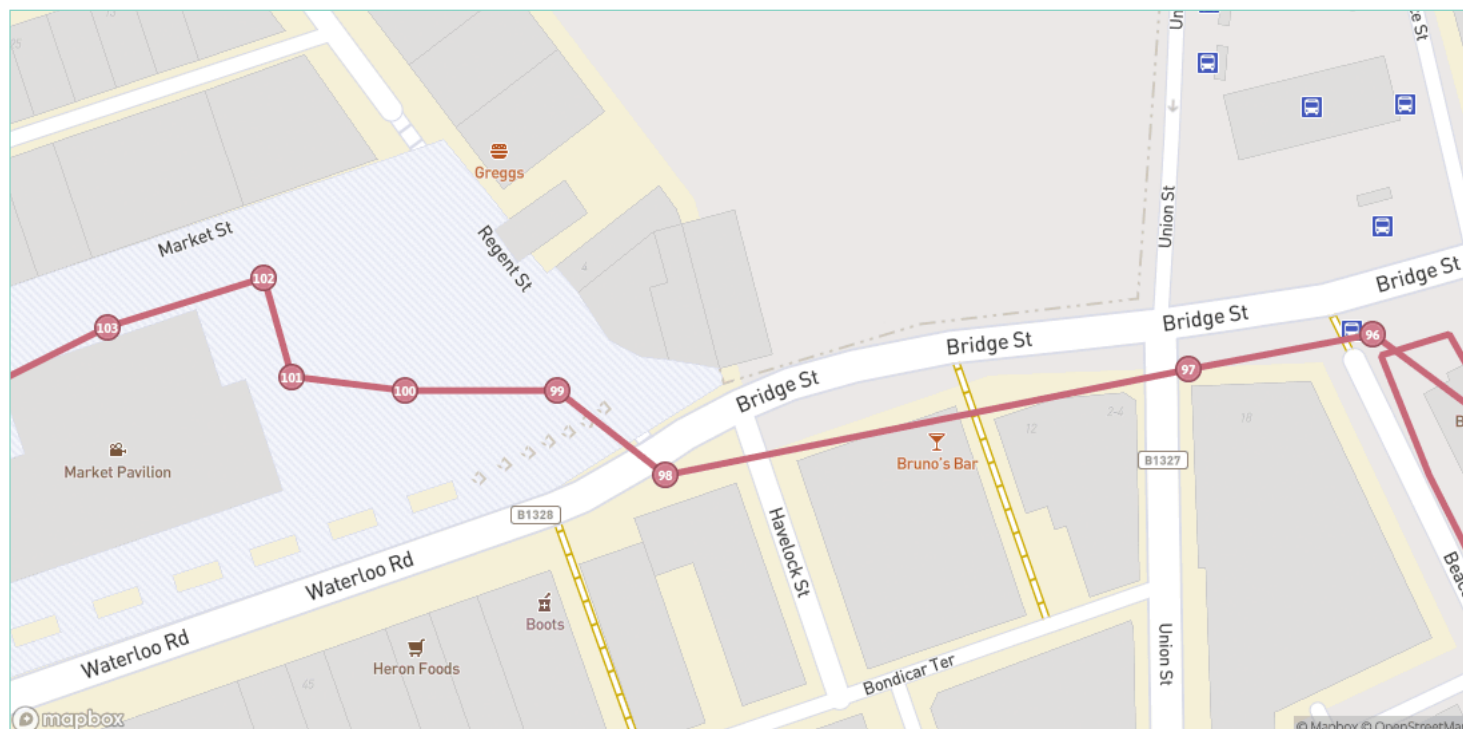
Step 95: Go to the back of the ground floor, and look for this wall which contains a memorial to some of the men lost during WWII. More info below.

Blyth Library

Blyth Library contains a memorial to some of the men lost during WWII and even research has been done on these individuals by family members who visit the library to do their family history.



Fr Bridge St, Bridge, Blyth Library/Thomas Knight Hos watercolour 1956. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.



Step 96: Exit the library and turn left to head along Bridge Street.

Step 97: Cross Union Street at the pedestrian crossing.

Step 98: Then cross over Waterloo Road at this zebra crossing.

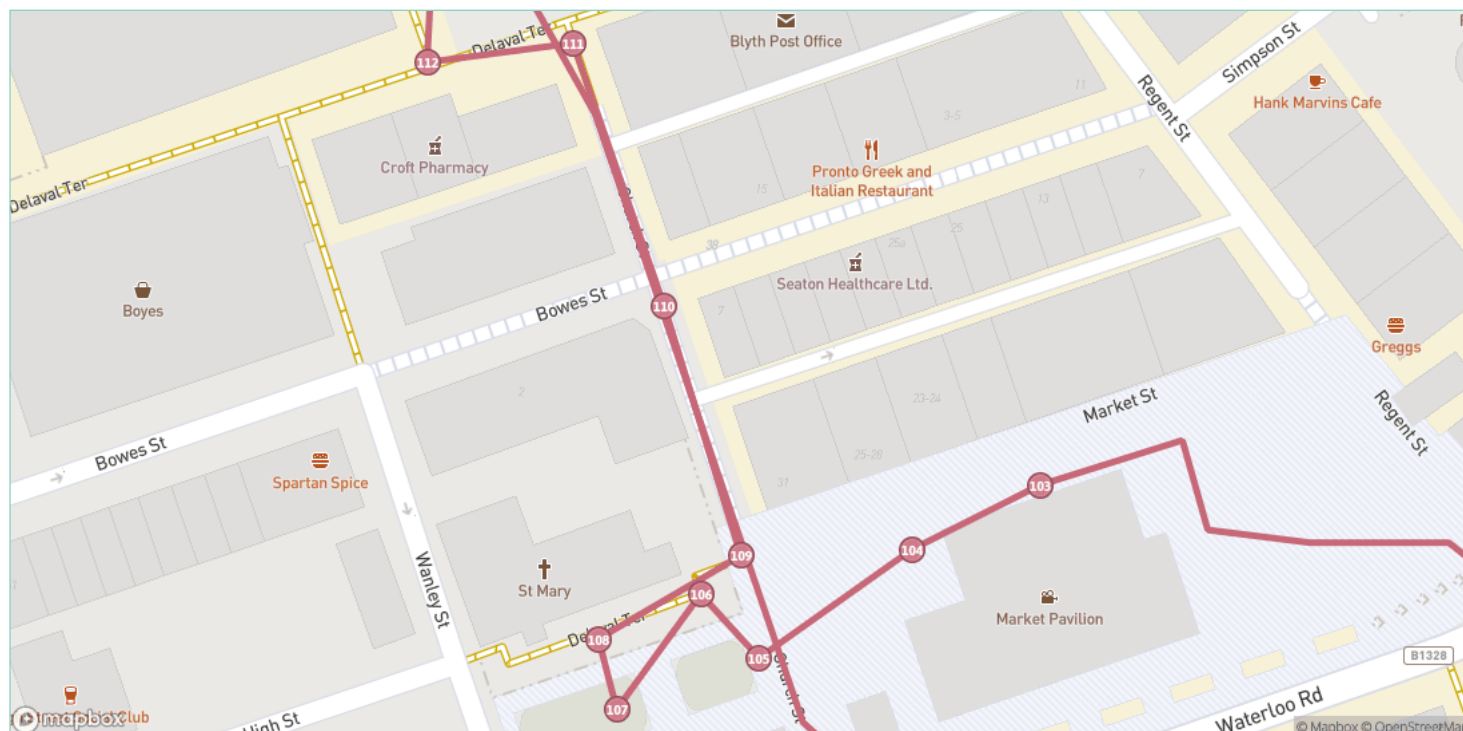
Step 99: Once over, turn left and go towards the square.

Step 100: You can't miss the impressive Market Pavilion in front.

Step 101: Market Pavillon includes a three-screen cinema, cafe, creative space and public toilets.

Step 102: Head right towards Market Street.

Step 103: Continue along the pavement with the Pavilion on the left.



Step 104: At the end of the Pavilion, continue ahead through these gardens.

Step 105: This memorial is a sculpture created to celebrate Blyth's proud heritage. Find out more below.

Elfin Walk Sculpture

The memorial is a sculpture created to celebrate Blyth's proud heritage, symbolising the town's shipbuilding and ship breaking industries, coal mining & its wartime submarine base at HMS Elfin.

Step 106: Now continue through the gardens with St Mary's church on the right.

Step 107: A little further along on the left you'll find this anchor memorial which honours Blyth's role as a major submarine base. Read more below.

Submariners Memorial

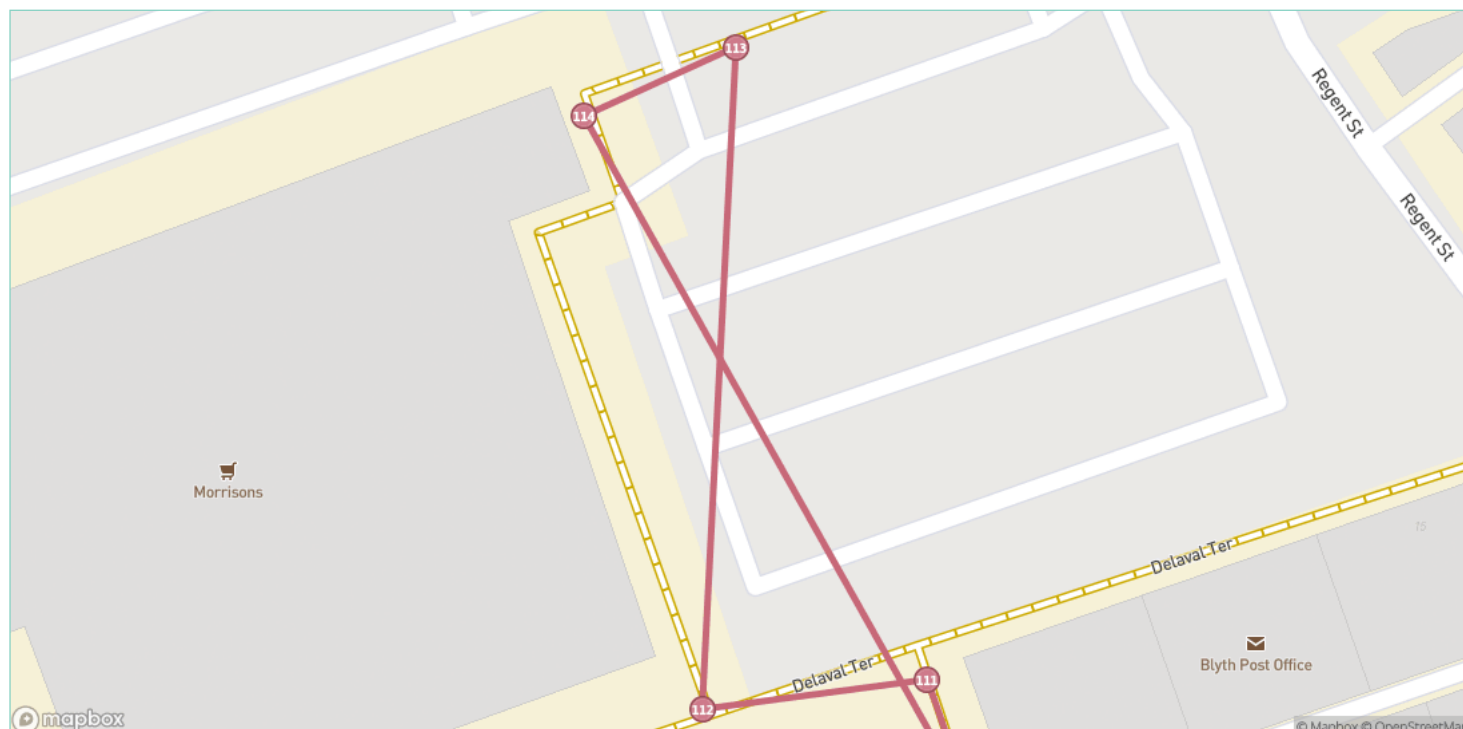
This memorial honours Blyth's role as a major submarine base, which housed crews, training, and operational submarines during wartime. The Admiralty donated the anchor, showing official recognition of Blyth's importance.

Step 108: Now head back towards Market Street.

Step 109: Then turn left onto Church Street.

Step 110: Cross over Bowes Street.

Step 111: At the end of Church Street, head up the ramp towards the supermarket.



Step 112: At the top of the ramp, turn right and head along the pavement.

Step 113: This supermarket used to be the site of former Blyth Railway Station, which was a targeted by the Germans in WWII. Read more below.

Blyth Railway Station

Blyth's railway station became a wartime air raid target, and when the Germans successfully bombed the site they hit the signal box, tragically killing the signalman and a nearby resident. Nothing remains apart from the 'Railway Medical Group Building' which lends its name to the former station.



NRO 1215/25 - Blyth Railway Station, c.1920. Reproduced with kind permission of Northumberland Archives.



Step 114: The supermarket includes toilets and a cafe and is our last stop before we head to the bus stop.

Step 115: To make your way back to a bus stop, head back along Church Street.

Step 116: Walk past the Pavilion on the left.

Step 117: Cross over Waterloo Road at the pedestrian crossing, turn right and continue along the road.

Step 118: Look for the bus stop, with buses back to Newcastle city centre. We hope you enjoyed this walk! Tap the 3 dots to share with friends.