



Kingfisher Park Short Walk

A nature-filled short step-free stroll around Shard End Lake and the river Cole inside Kingfisher Country Park.

Distance 2.2 kilometers / 1.4 miles

Duration 30 minutes



Wildlife



Wheel friendly



Water feature



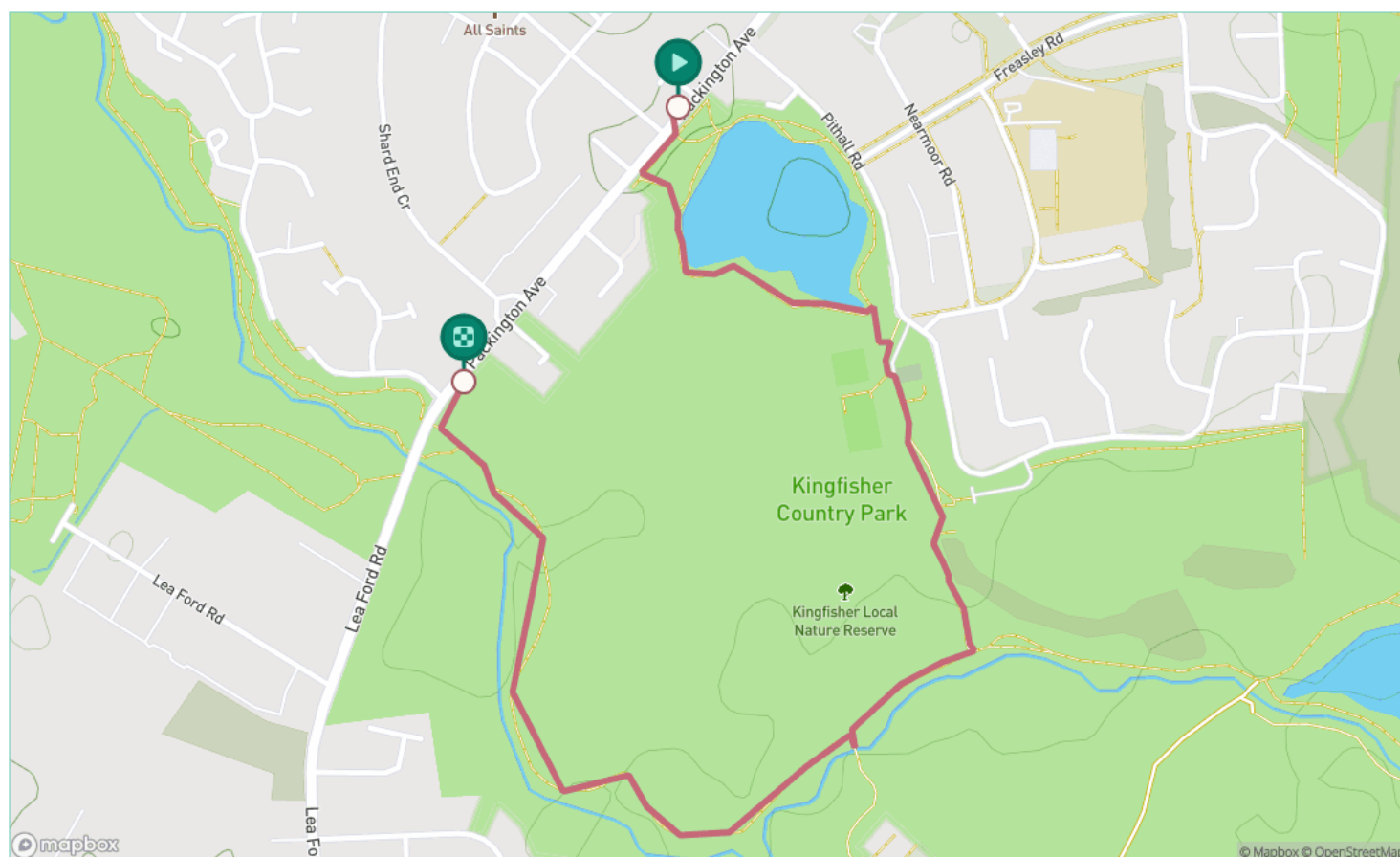
Public transport

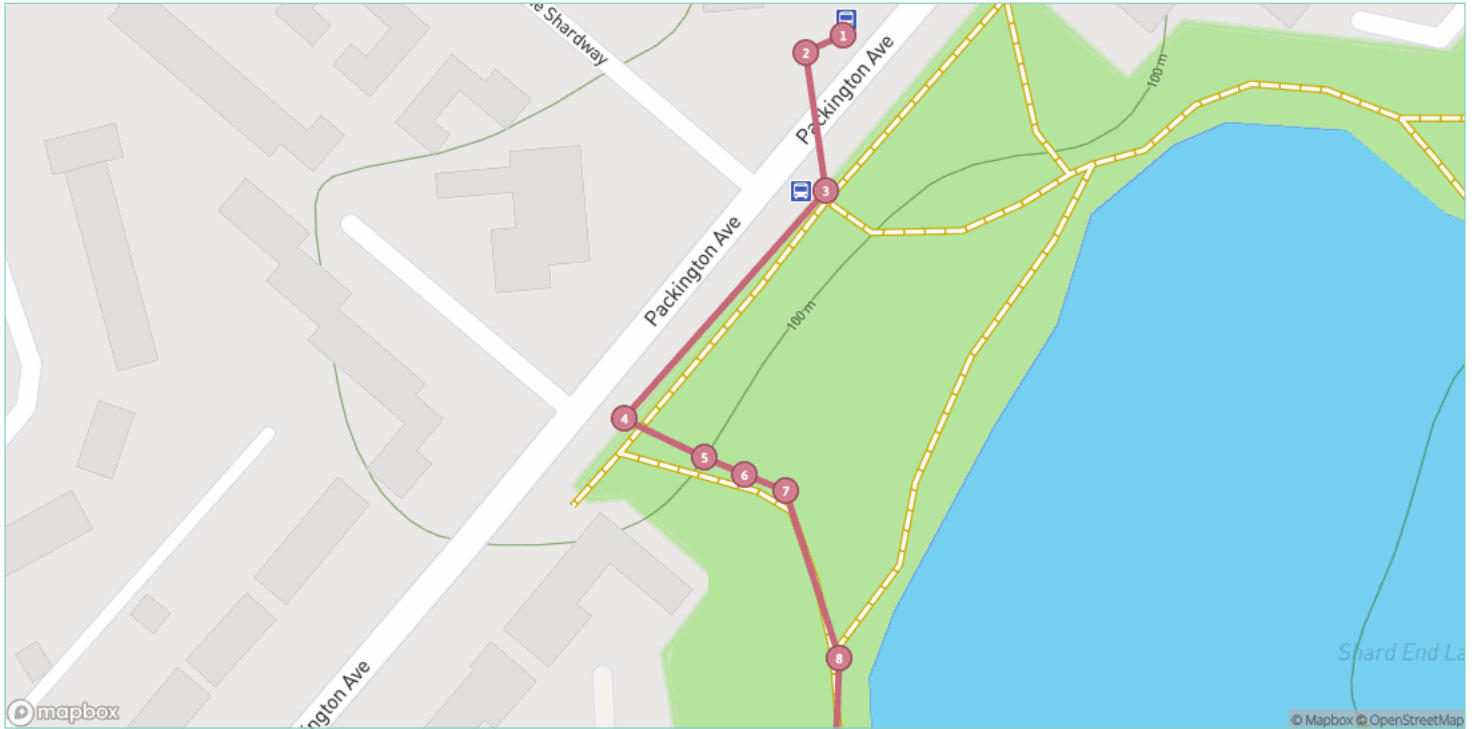


Dog friendly



Botanics





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.

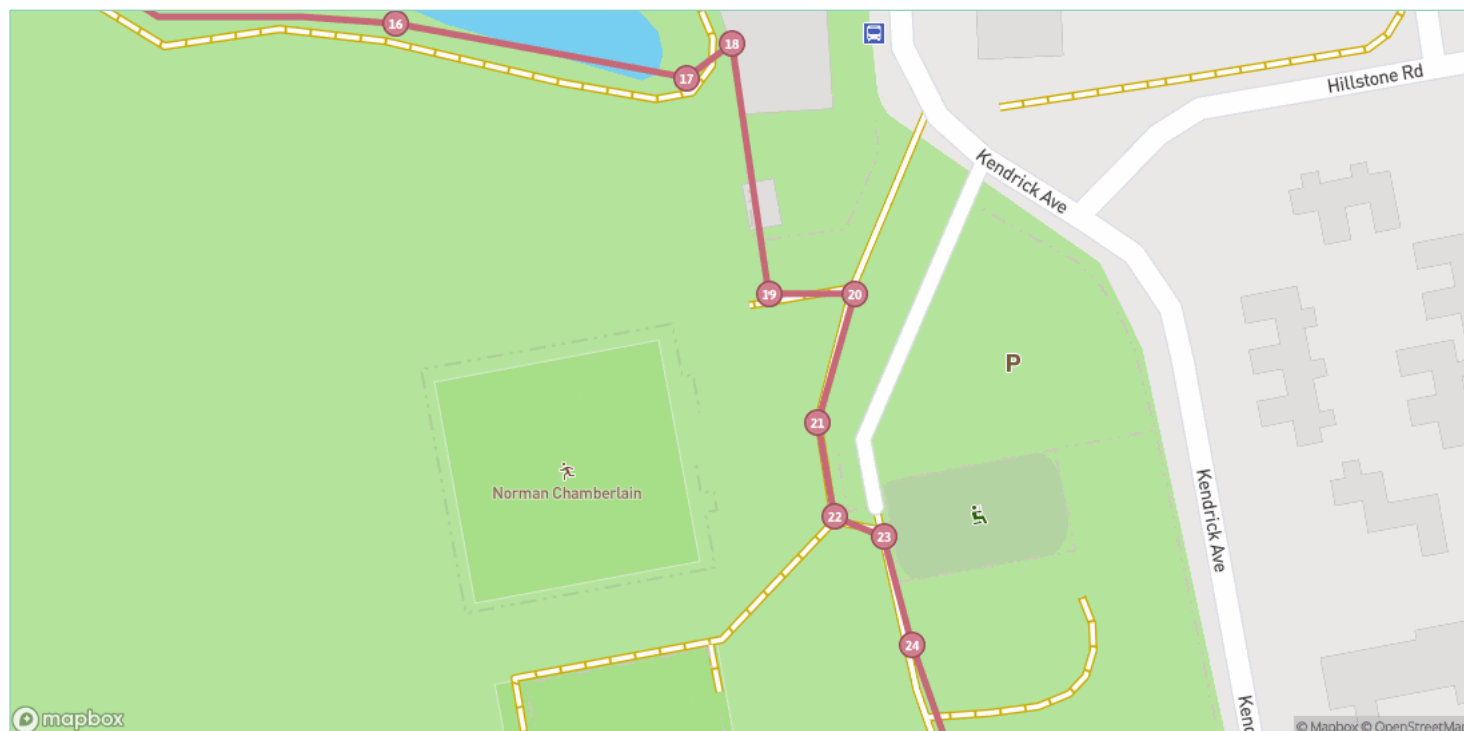
Step 12:  Can you spot any swans? Male swans are called cobs, females are pens, and babies are cygnets.

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.

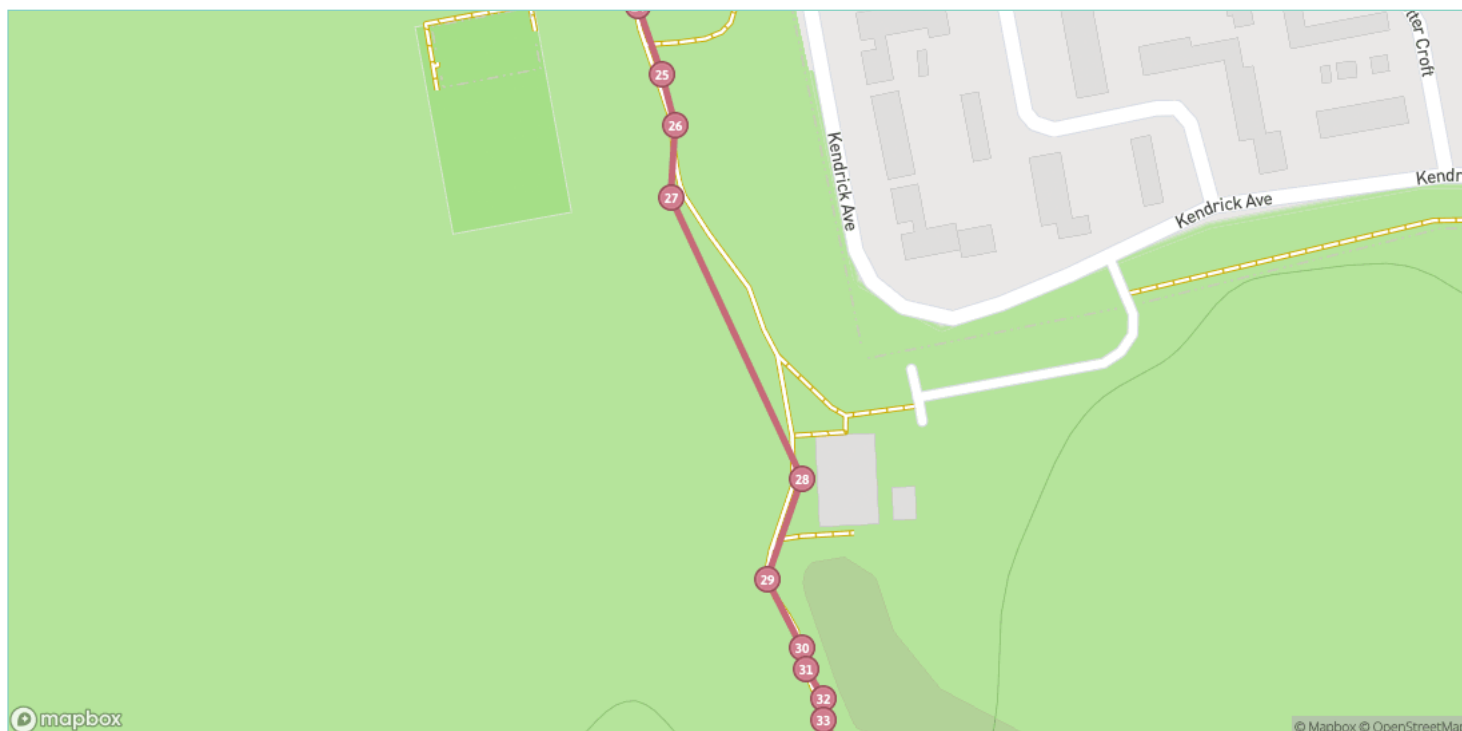
Step 20: Continue with the car park on your left.

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 attract huge numbers of bees and other pollinators. 🐝

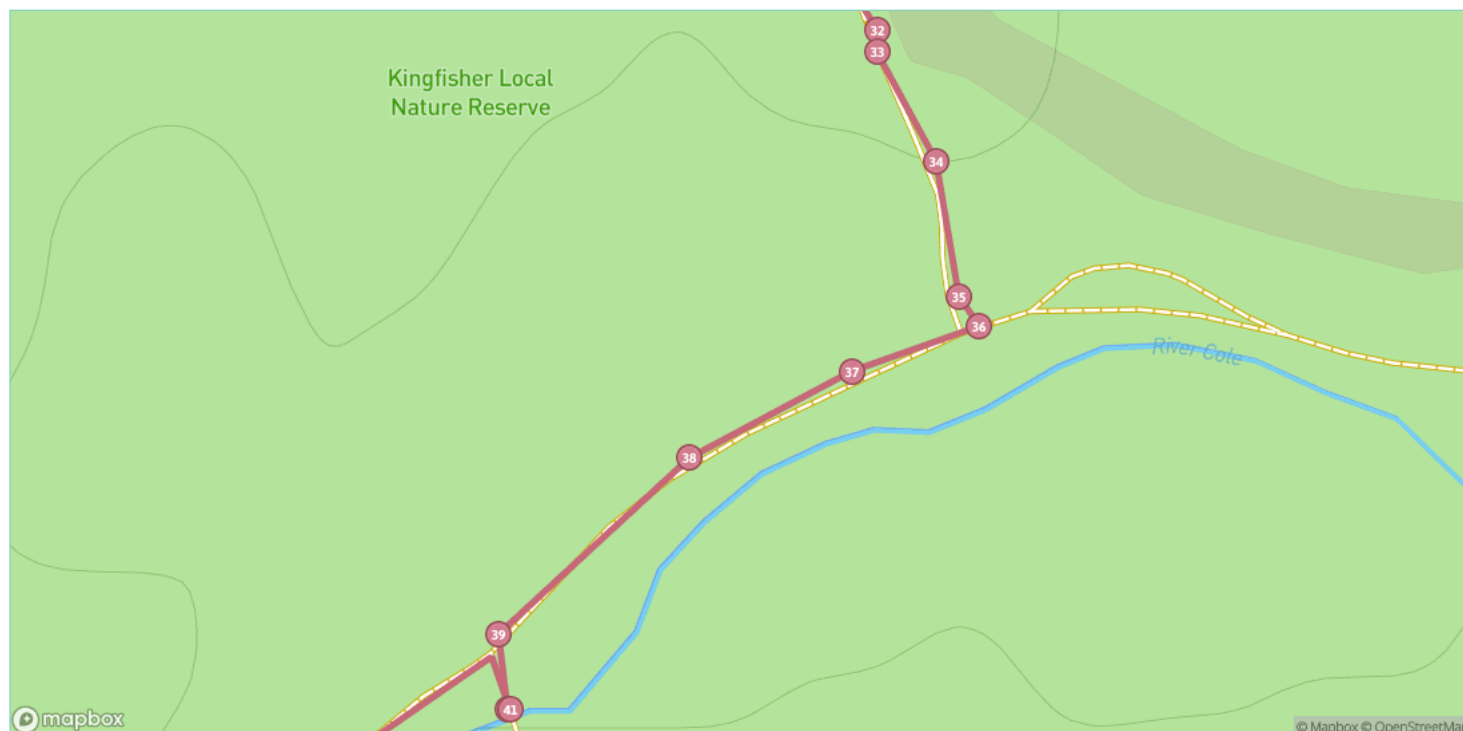
Step 28: Look out for silver birch, in folklore they are associated with new beginnings, protection, and spring celebrations.

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?

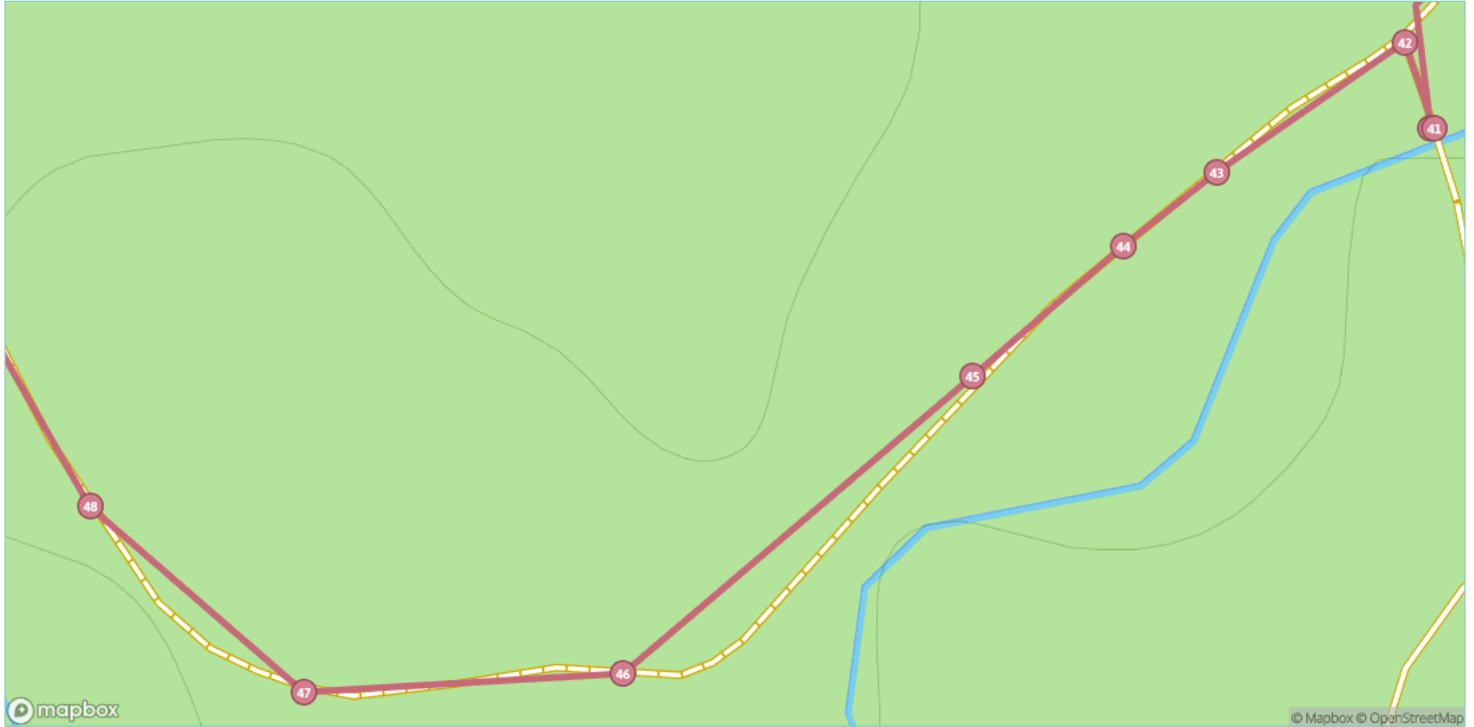
Step 35: Turn right when you reach the signpost.

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".

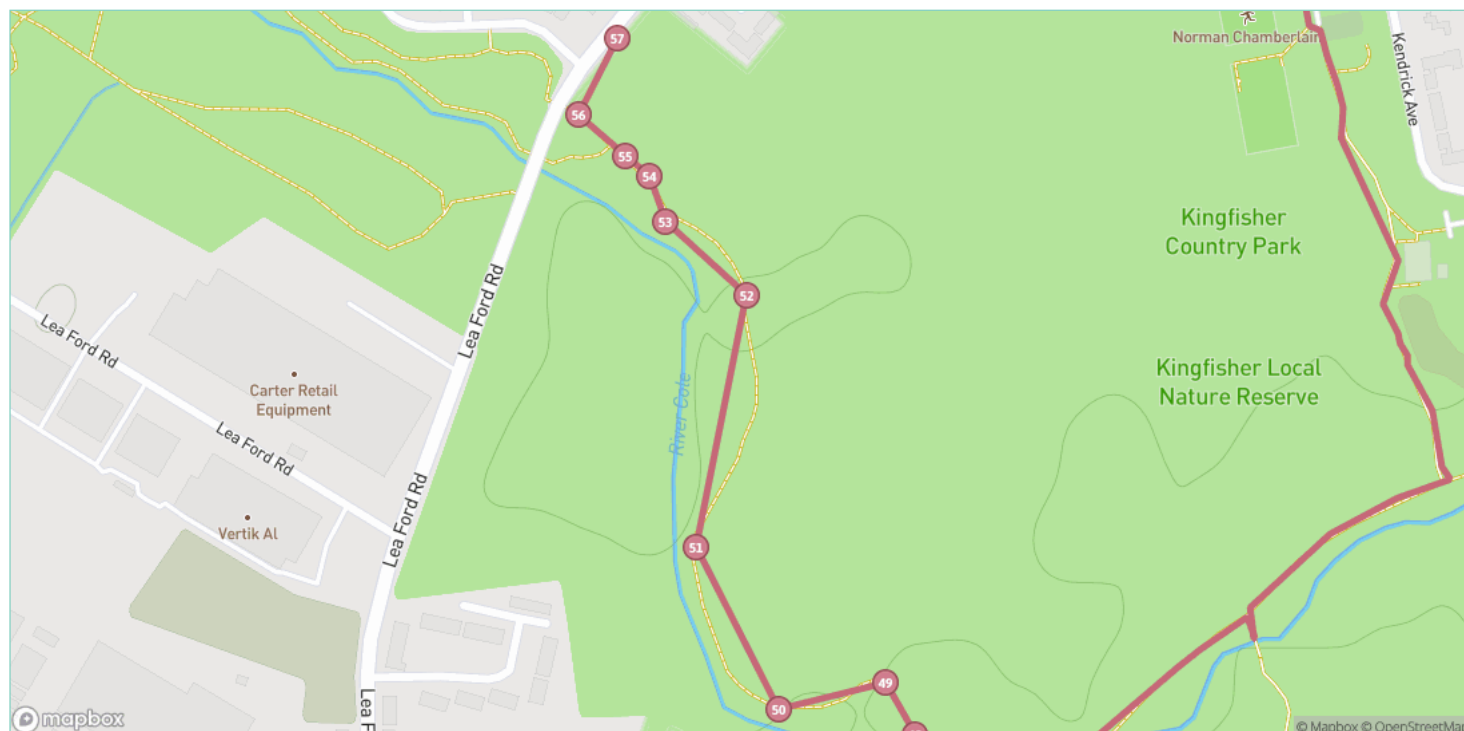
Step 44: Look and listen out for crack willow, its branches are very brittle and often make cracking sounds in the wind.

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

Step 52: Continue on the path, enjoying the fresh air and greenery around.

Step 53: Pass through lots more elder trees. Can you see flowers or berries?

Step 54: Blackthorn is famed for its purple fruits called sloes, often used to make a favourite wintry tippie – sloe gin.

Step 55: Continue towards the road ahead.

Step 56: Cross Packington Road and turn right towards the bus stop.

Step 57: You'll soon see the bus stop. You can get the 99 bus route from here. Or continue along Packington St to go back and the start of the walk.