



**BIRMINGHAM  
CYCLE REVOLUTION**

# Family friendly Cycle routes

DISCOVER ● EXPLORE ● ENJOY



**Birmingham  
Connected**



**@Bhamconnected**

**[www.birmingham.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cycling)**

**BIRMINGHAM  
CONNECTED**  
MOVING OUR CITY FORWARD

Birmingham Cycle Revolution is part of the Birmingham Connected vision to reinvent the way people and goods move across the city, find out more at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/connected](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/connected)



**Birmingham  
City Council**



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# Introduction

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## Want to get the family cycling more but not sure where to start?

The **Birmingham Cycle Revolution** team has selected our favourite traffic free city cycling routes to suit all ages and abilities. Many of the chosen paths and routes have benefited from improvements and developments made through the **Birmingham Cycle Revolution** project.

Have fun and explore some of the city's fantastic outdoor spaces right on your doorstep. These handy printable maps detail rides along a range of traffic free, clean and smooth green-space routes, perfect for spending family time together in the great outdoors.

Before you head out on your ride, visit our **Cycling in Birmingham** web page at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cycling) and take a look at our '**basic cycle maintenance**' page, giving you simple and easy guidance to ensure your bike is roadworthy and safe.

You'll also be able to find other useful guides too, including the '**Share with Care**' guide which gives advice on sharing space with pedestrians and other path users, and our '**Winter Cycling**' guide for riding during the Winter months.

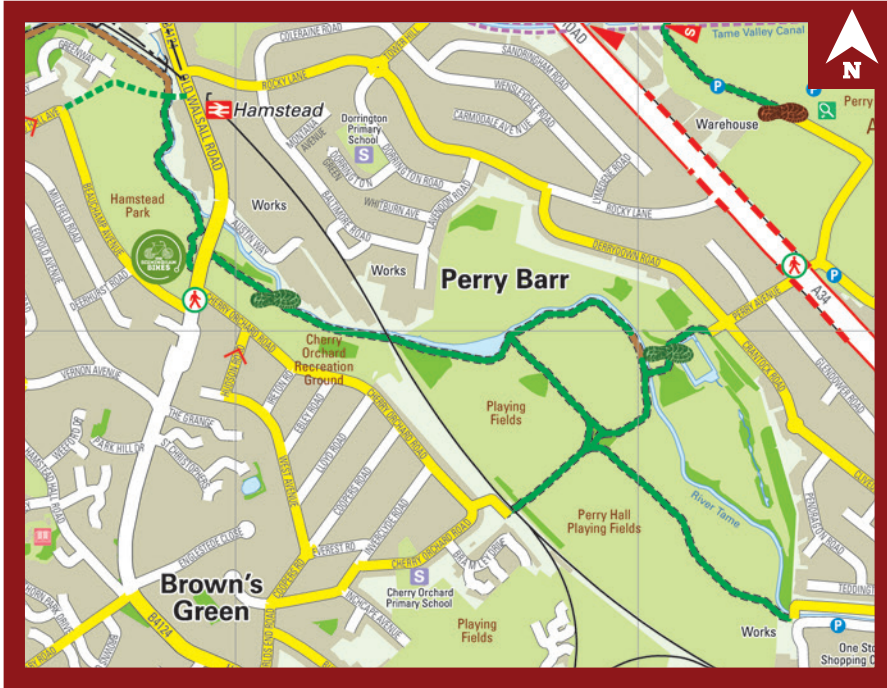
**PLEASE NOTE:** Not all the roads that these routes cross have formal crossings in place yet. Please take care and be patient when crossing. Look out for any signage that's in place on the route. If you find spots where the signage is not clear, use the map to work out where the route goes.

We strongly encourage all riders to wear a helmet, this is particularly important for children especially if they're new to cycling. Stay safe and most of all, have fun!





# 1. Perry Hall Playing Fields/ River Tame



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

A ride over Perry Hall's wide open playing fields and green spaces alongside Birmingham's largest river, the River Tame. Mind your head when you have to duck under the Walsall railway line! Short flights of steps take you down to water level.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





## 2. Bleak Hill, Brookvale Park & Witton Lakes



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

The long run of Bleak Hill Park now adds a useful link towards Erdington to the well established North Birmingham Route alongside Witton Lakes and Brookvale Park's boating pond. To the north this green corridor eventually takes you all the way to Sutton Park.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20

# 3. Cole Valley Route - Stechford to Shard End



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

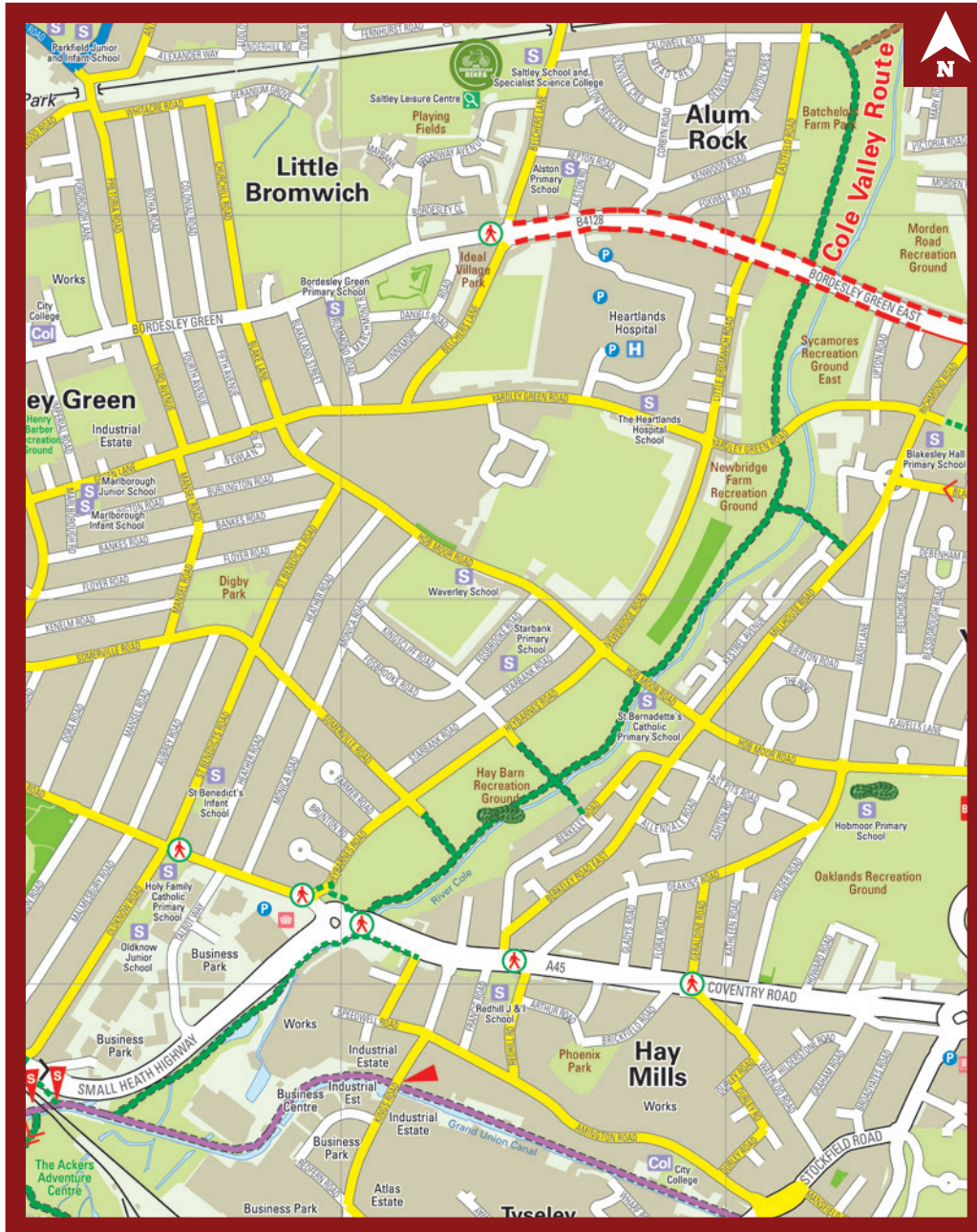
A great long run along the extensive River Cole valley winding through east Birmingham to Babb's Mill on the Solihull boundary. Look out for watery wildlife living amongst the willows lining the river.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key can be found on Page 20



# 4 ● Cole Valley Route - Stechford to The Ackers



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Follow the River Cole all the way to where it's crossed by the Grand Union Canal near Small Heath. Best to dismount alongside the Small Heath Highway over the road from Asda before the final section high above the river to the canal.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20



# 5. Cole Valley Route - The Ackers to Billesley



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Wind your way from the Ackers dry ski slope to the Shire Country Park with the River Cole right alongside. A highlight is the 250 year old Sarehole Mill - steeped in Tolkien mystery and working to this day.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20







# 6. Cole Valley Route - Chinn Brook to The Dingles



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

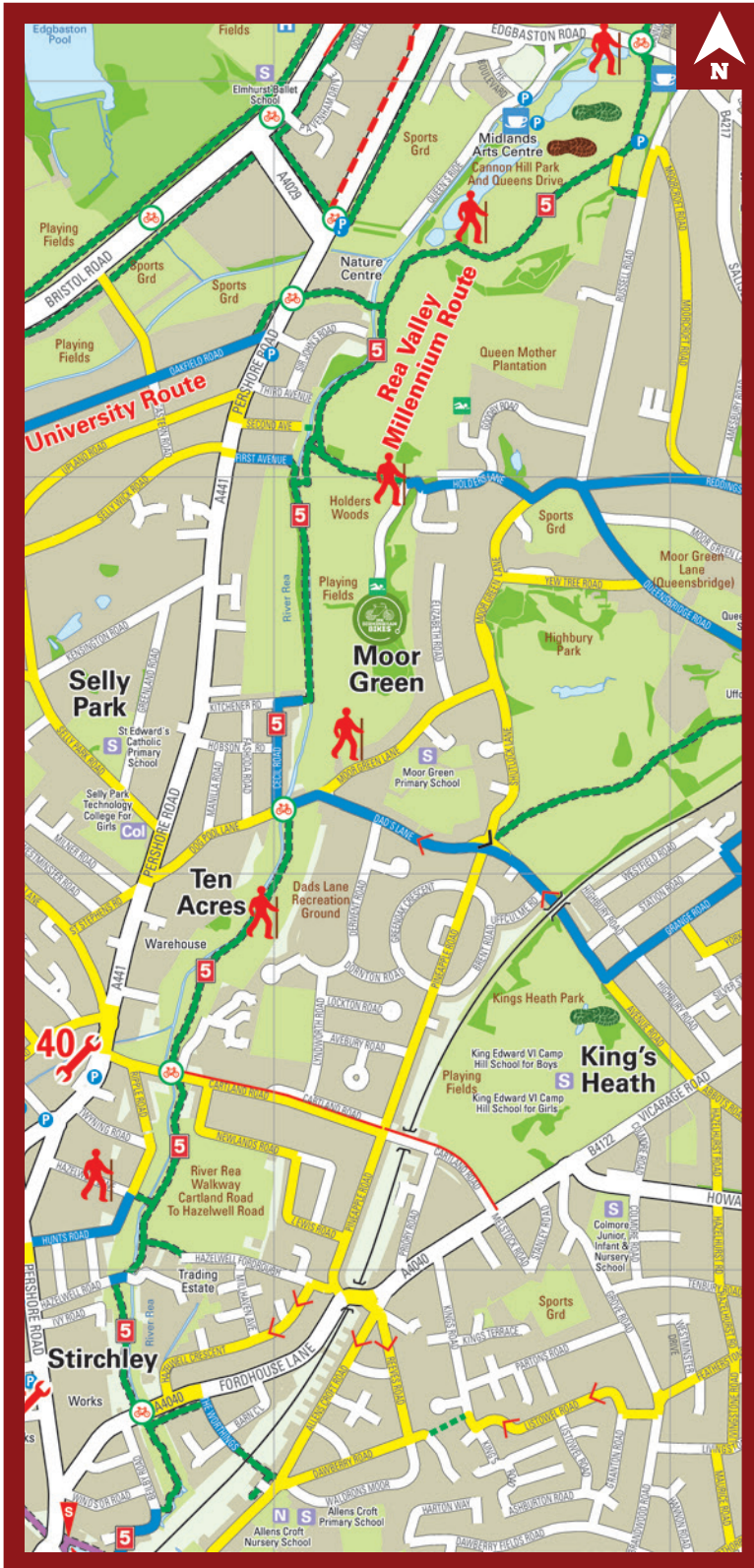
Link the Stratford-upon-Avon canal to the Cole Valley at The Dingles by descending the new Chinn Brook Route. Give the kids a break at the playground then go and search out the Dingles' strip lynchets (medieval field pattern).

### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20



# 7 ● Rea Valley Millennium Route - Cannon Hill Park to Cotteridge



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Ride part of the National Cycle Network along Birmingham's busiest cycle route. From natural river sections to the delights of Cannon Hill Park and the Midlands Arts Centre, this ride has it all - including a choice of two cafés back in the park!

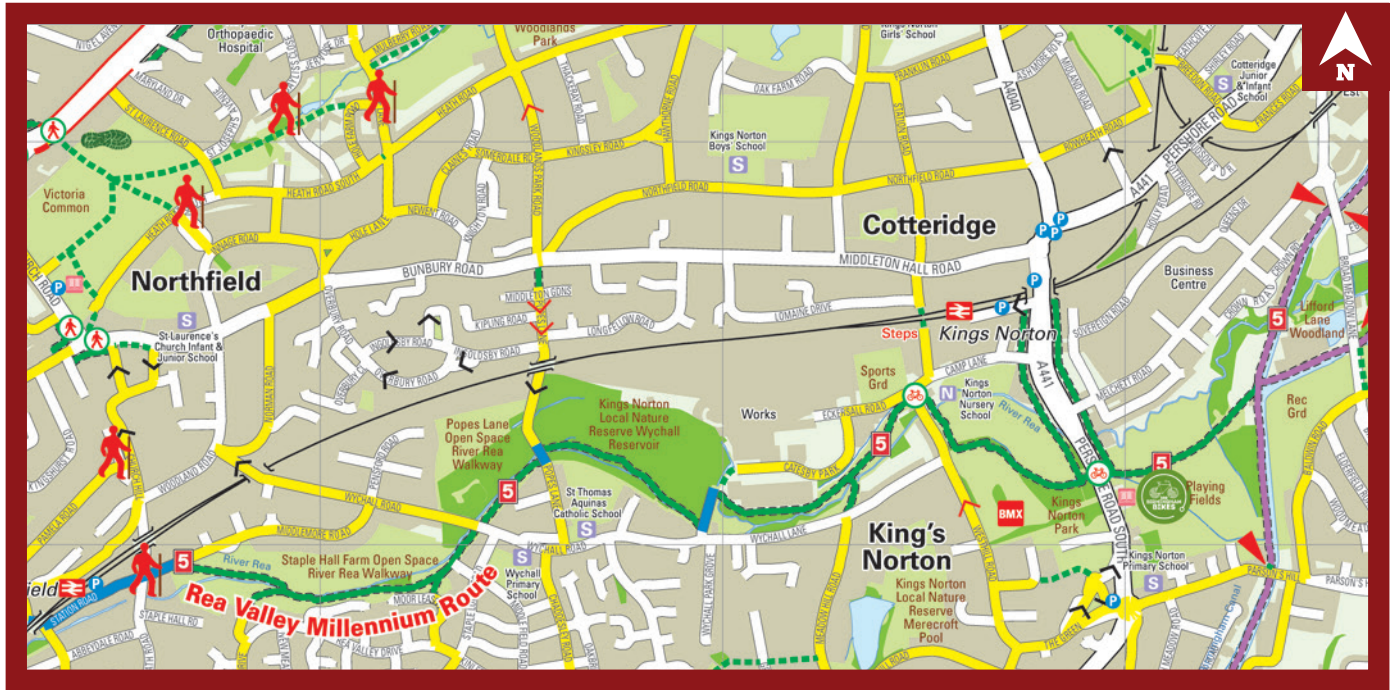
### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





# 8. Rea Valley Millennium Route - Cotteridge to Northfield



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

With Northfield station at one end and Kings Norton canal junction at the other, complete the transport theme and cycle alongside the winding River Rea. A ride with variety - pedal sedately through Kings Norton Park or discover the wildness of Wychall Reservoir.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





# 9. Rea Valley Millennium Route - Great Park



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Get around Birmingham's south west suburb and leisure park on a network of paths through established and more recently built estates. Look out for the former Hollymoor Hospital water tower and Ballam's Wood local nature reserve - but do take care on the bumpy path! (to be improved soon!).

### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





# 10. Merritts Brook Greenway - Bournville to Ley Hill



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Experience one of our newest rides, from the base of Ley Hill through Manor Farm park and towards Bournville. Take a saunter around the park pools. Wildlife and model yachts are on offer!

### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





# 11. Bournbrook Route - Selly Oak to Woodgate Valley



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

A tucked away route starting alongside the petrol station on Harborne Lane. Wind your way west to California! If you're feeling adventurous head onto the wilder Woodgate Valley.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





# 12. Harborne Walkway - Harborne to Summerfield Park & Edgbaston Reservoir



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Follow in the track of the former Harborne railway line – Birmingham’s only railpath. Down in cuttings or up on embankments, it’s a great run taking tunnels under roads above. Take a diversion for a loop of Edgbaston Reservoir and catch a sight of the nearby water tower and Perrott’s Folly.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20



# 13. Woodgate Valley Route - Quinton to Bartley Green



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

The route follows the Bourn Brook as it runs through Woodgate Valley. Cycle through an area of mixed mature hedgerows, meadows and woodland - over 250 species of plants have been found here.

Stop for a drink at the visitor centre which is open daily from 10.30 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. This route joins the Bournbrook Route which takes you to Selly Oak.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20







# 14. Sheldon Country Park and Hatchford Brook Routes - Coventry Road to Marston Green



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

There are two alternative routes from Coventry Road, which both skirt the boundary of Birmingham Airport.

Stop and watch planes taking off and landing from the end of the runway!  
Visit the animals at the country farm which is open daily from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





# 15. Yardley Cemetery and Lyndon Playing Fields Route - Acocks Green to Sheldon



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Skirt around the edge of Yardley Cemetery on a route above the Grand Union Canal before dropping down via multi-coloured steps (with wheeling ramp) by the side of a small play area. Follow the route through Lyndon Playing Fields, crossing the boundary into neighbouring Solihull!

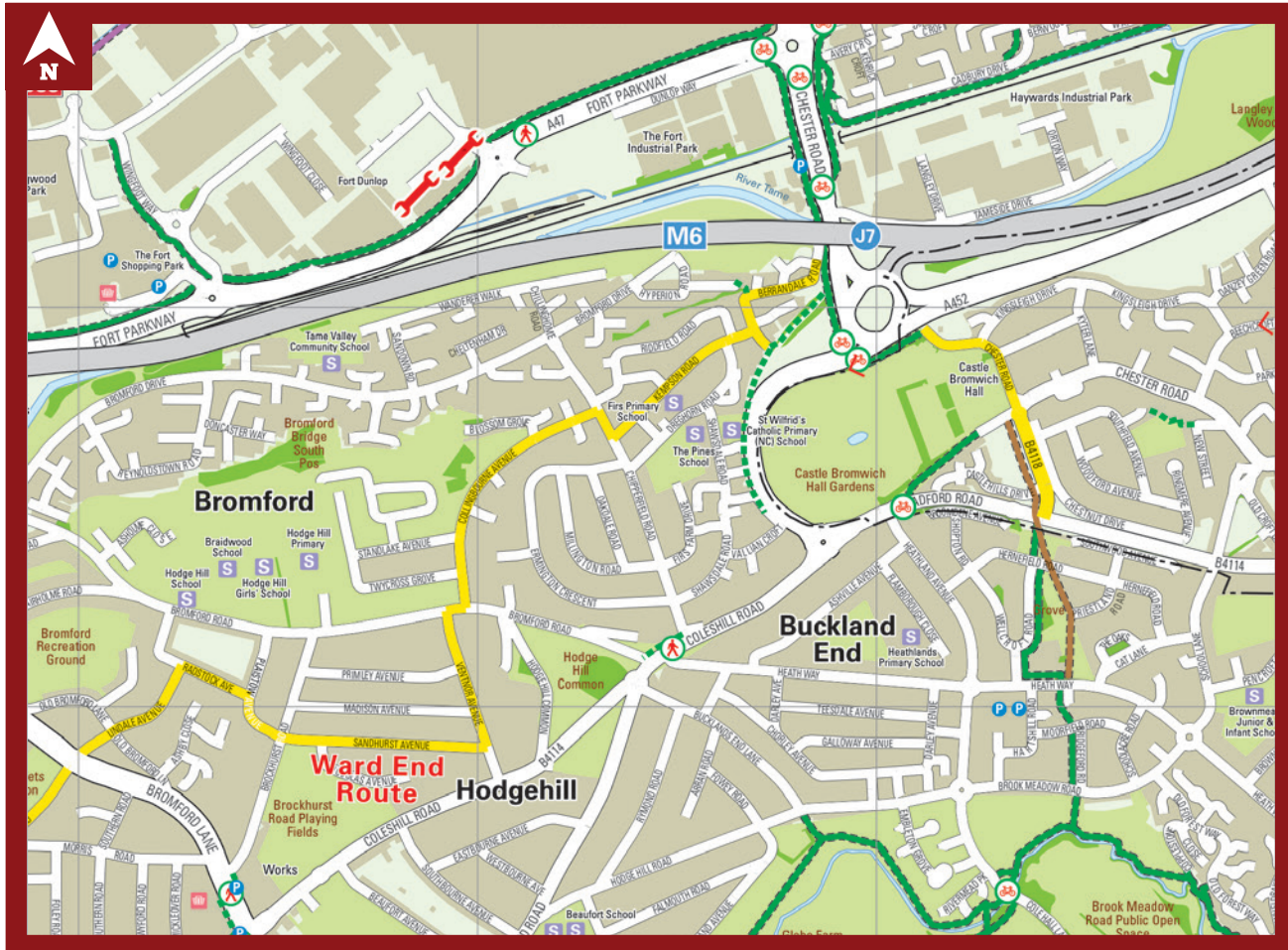
### PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





# 16. Castle Bromwich Route - Buckland End to Castle Bromwich



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Link the Cole Valley route to Castle Bromwich. Look out for the Jacobean mansion - Castle Bromwich Hall with its baroque gardens before heading down the hill towards Castle Vale.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Map Key & Scale can be found on Page 20





# Map Key

## On-Road cycling

- Signed cycle route
- Cycle lane (on road)
- Bus lane (Cyclists can use bus lanes)
- Toucan crossing / Pedestrian Crossing
- Steep hill (arrow pointing downhill)
- One-way street on cycle route

## Off-Road (traffic-free) cycling / walking routes

- Surfaced Routes**
  - Surfaced route with cycle, pedestrian, and wheelchair icons
  - Surfaced route with cycle, pedestrian, and wheelchair icons, but with a red X over the wheelchair icon
- Canal towpath**
  - Canal towpath with cycle, pedestrian, and wheelchair icons
  - Canal towpath with cycle, pedestrian, and wheelchair icons, but with a red X over the wheelchair icon
- Segregated cycle route
- Proposed segregated cycle route
- Cycle signal

## National Cycle Network

- National Route

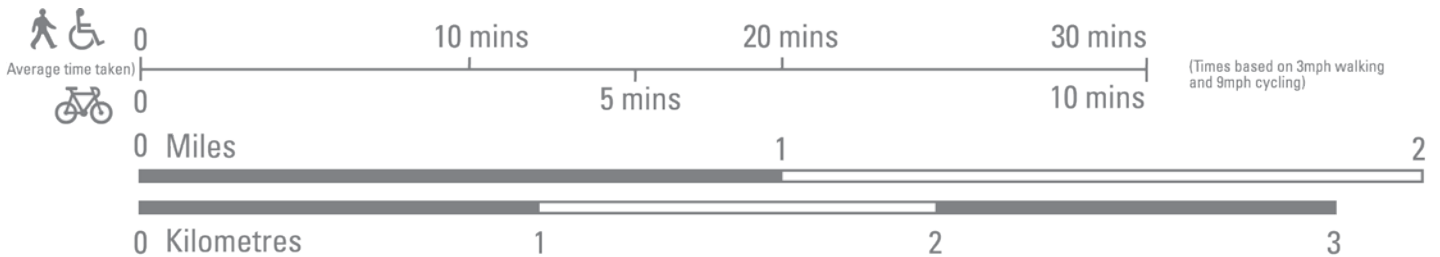
## Other information

- Canal access ramp / steps / wheeling ramp
- Birmingham Greenway
- 2km walking route / 5km walking route
- Cycle parking locations
- Bike shops
- Refreshments (Within Country Parks only)
- Railway with station / Metro (tramline) with halt
- Big Birmingham Bike Centre
- Cycle parking Hubs

## City Centre map additions

- Cycling allowed in pedestrianised areas
- Pedestrian only area (cyclists dismount)
- Tram line section no cycling
- Brompton Docks

# Scale



## PLEASE NOTE:

All the photos used in this guide were taken on off-road cycle routes in Birmingham, but not necessarily on the section of route described on the page where they appear.



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