

Route 8 Castle Vale to Pype Hayes and Over Green

Distance: 6 miles (45 to 60 mins) or 11 miles (80-110 minutes).

Start: Castle Vale Retail Park (Sainsbury's), Chester Rd, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6HB. OSGR SP139911.

Route Summary: A varied ride which uses cycle paths, park paths, quiet roads and a canal towpath to explore **Castle Vale**, visit **Pype Hayes Park** and countryside near **Over Green**.

Refreshments: There is a pub in Over Green and cafés on the Kingsbury Rd, in Asda (Minworth) and at Sainsbury's (Castle Vale).

Parking: There is free parking at Castle Vale retail park at the start of the ride.

Alternative Start Points: The route may be started at various locations in Castle Vale and at Pype Hayes Park where there is parking.

Access by Train: ➔ There are no stations very convenient for this route. Erdington station is 1.3 miles from Pype Hayes.

Key to Map

A B	Start and route reference point
1, 2	Mileage from start point
PH/CF	Public House/Café
SH	Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
V	Visitor Centre
+	Notable church
P	Start points with free parking
P	Start points with pay parking
	Off-road path – good surface
	Off-road path – rough/very rough surface
	Canal towpath
	Quiet road
	Busier road

Abbreviations used in the route description:
L left, R right, SO straight on.

Push Bikes, the Birmingham Cycling Campaign, aims to influence local authorities, employers, health service providers, public companies (rail, road, water) in providing improved journey facilities (including bike storage and parking) for cyclists.

We are eager for more members - come and join us! Visit www.pushbikes.org.uk, phone 0121 632 6909, or write to 54 Allison St, Birmingham B5 5TH, for a membership form.

Birmingham Urban Explorer Cycle

Routes are a great way to see your city in a new way – on two wheels! This is one of 9 self-guided cycle rides using quiet paths and roads to link places of interest, providing the ideal healthy and environmentally-friendly half-day out. Cycle them alone or with family and friends. The emphasis is on exploration so don't expect to cycle fast and please give way to pedestrians on shared paths. Please push your bike on any paths where cycling is prohibited, including pavements alongside roads unless signs indicate that cycling is allowed.

Keeping Safe Urban Explorer cycle routes use a combination of off-road paths and quiet roads. Short sections of the route may need to be on busier roads but very busy roads are avoided. Please ensure your bike is roadworthy and that you are comfortable riding on roads of this type. If in doubt consider having some cycle training which will improve your on-road confidence. Details of CTC approved trainers are available at www.ctc.org.uk.

Want to cycle the route with others? Push Bikes organises occasional rides along the routes in these leaflets. To join in, simply turn up at the ride start point with a roadworthy bike. For details of ride dates go to: www.pushbikes.org.uk.

Published by Push Bikes and funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

Designed and produced by Cycling Horizons for Push Bikes. www.cyclinghorizons.co.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED



Birmingham Urban Explorer Cycle Route

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Castle Vale, Pype Hayes and Over Green Circular via Birmingham & Fazeley Canal, Sorrel Park and Castle Vale Centre Park (6 or 11 miles)

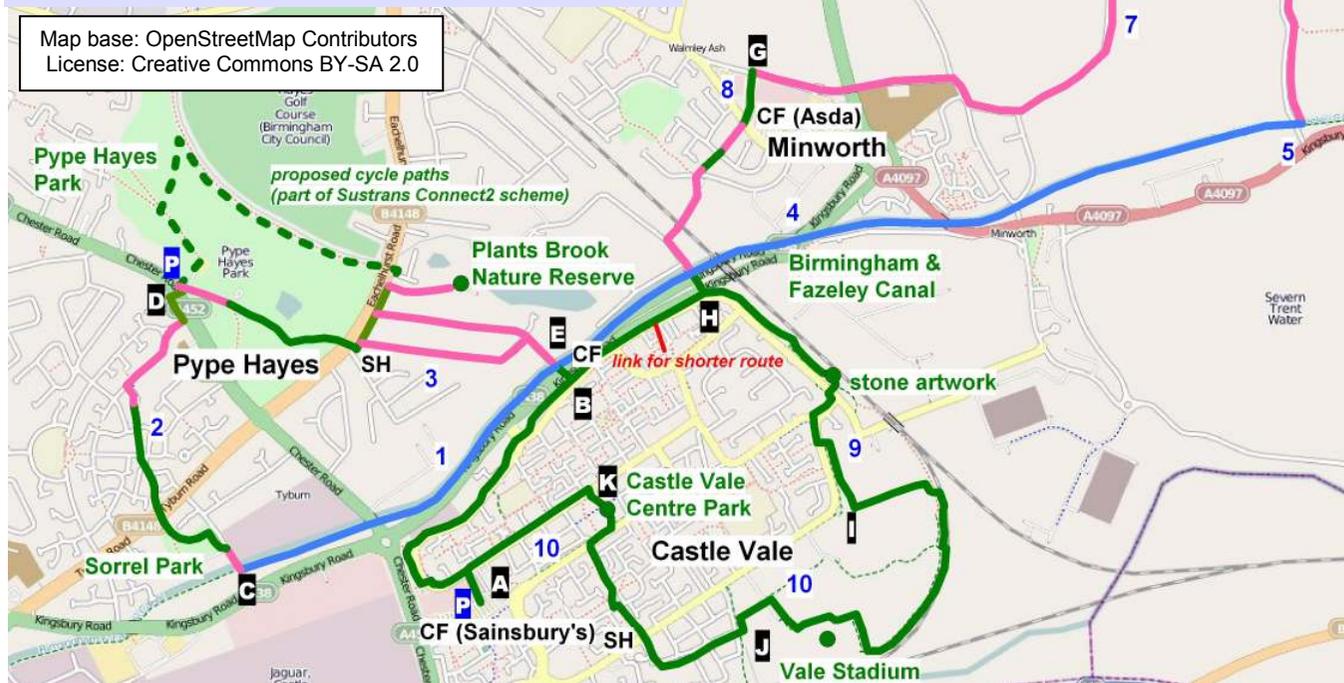
Explore your City with this self-guided cycle ride

Route 8 Castle Vale, Pype Hayes and Over Green Circular via the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal, Sorrell Park, Pype Hayes Park and Minworth

Distance: 6 miles (45 to 60 mins) or 11 miles (80-110 minutes).

Start: Castle Vale Retail Park (Sainsbury's), Chester Rd, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6HB.OSGR SP139911.

Map base: OpenStreetMap Contributors
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The Route

A Go through the alley between **Sainsbury's** and the post office to **Yatesbury Ave**. Turn L and join the cycle lane. Where the road bends right, either join the path left at the central island and follow it up into the grassed landscaped area, or continue along the cycle lane. Both routes continue to a small roundabout. Join the path SO through the grassed area parallel to **Manby Rd**.

B At the next path junction turn L to reach the main **Kingsbury Rd**, crossing at the pelican. Take the path to the left of the café and join the towpath of the **Birmingham & Fazeley Canal** going L (canal on your R).

C After 0.9 miles leave the canal using the ramp at the far

side of **Berwood Bridge**. Go L at the top along the industrial access road and L into **Sorrell Park**, passing the playground. Cross the main road (**Tyburn Rd**) with care via the grass central reservation. Join the path SO (behind the bus stop) and follow this through the housing until you reach **Varley Vale**, turning L onto the road. At the end of **Varley Vale** turn R into **Pype Hayes Rd**. Follow the road to the end.

D At the main road (**Chester Rd**) walk L to the pelican and cross into **Pype Hayes Park**. Follow the park access road, going SO on where it bends to the L. Go SO at the barrier and continue to the main road (**Eachelhurst Rd**). Cross at the pelican. **To visit Plants Brook Community Nature Park:** Walk L along the pavement for 200 yards to the entrance. Afterwards retrace your steps but turn first L into **Hanson's Bridge Rd**. Where the road bends R, go SO to

the canal bridge. Continue at **E**. **To continue with the main route:** Go up **Woodlands Farm Rd** and first R into **Hanson's Bridge Rd** to reach the canal bridge.

E **To follow the shorter route:** Go SO to return to point **B** and turn L. Follow the path and continue at point **H**.

To follow the longer route: Turn L to rejoin the canal towpath (canal on your L). Continue for 1.7 miles, leaving the canal at **Wiggins Hill bridge** (via six shallow steps). Turn L and follow the narrow lane for 1 mile, turning L into **Curdworth Lane** towards **Over Green**.

F At The Cock Inn turn L and then first L into **Wishaw Lane**. After 1 mile the road enters a residential area. At the end turn R into **Walmley Ash Lane** and follow this road around to the L, crossing over the A38 on a bridge.

G Opposite Ash Cottage turn L onto a path alongside **Asda**. At the end cross the main road (**Walmley Ash Rd**) at the pelican. Go SO, using a short path to reach **Forge Croft**. At the end cross **Cheswood Drive** onto the path straight ahead. On reaching **Forge Lane** turn R and then immediately L passing under the railway. At the end of the road turn L and go over the canal. Cross the busy **Kingsbury Rd** using the pelican to your L. Bear L onto the path straight ahead. At the path junction go L.

H Follow the path on the L side of the road, eventually going up into a landscaped area passing a distinctive **stone artwork**. Go down the hill to the R and cross the road. Turn L to follow the cycle path R into **Farnborough Rd**. Continue along the path crossing **Turnhouse Rd** and after 100 yards cross **Farnborough Rd** to join the path through the landscaped area, following the path until the road bends to the R.

I Take the path L at the **equestrian centre**. Follow this path around to the right until the major path junction and go left, following the path around the large open area keeping the railway always on your L. Go R at the sports field passing in front of the **Vale Stadium**. Follow the path to the R of the access road and then cross L to join the path next to the skateboard park. At the road go left and then cross the road into **Trident Boulevard**.

J Follow the path SO in the centre of the road. At the park follow the path as it bends R alongside Wellington Way. Cross the road and follow the path SO. Follow the widest path (marked by black bollards) generally straight ahead through the housing, emerging at **Tangmere Drive**. Cross over and go R, following the path to the entrance of **Castle Vale Centre Park**. Go into the park.

K Leave the park at the exit opposite. Cross **Yatesbury Rd** and turn L along the parallel path. After 400 yards cross **Brabazon Grove** and then cross over **Yatesbury Drive** to go down the cut-through on your R to return to the start point.