

Route 1 Harborne - City Centre Circular

Distance: 9 miles (70-90 minutes) **Start:** Harborne Village, St Johns Road B17 9LD OSGR SP037847.

Route Summary: A varied circular ride which takes you right into the City Centre via the **Harborne Cycle/Walkway**, **Edgbaston Reservoir** and the **Birmingham Canal**. The return route is via the **Worcester and Birmingham Canal** towpath and mainly quiet roads around Harborne.






Refreshments: There are town centre facilities in Harborne High Street and pubs and cafes near the canal at Brindley Place.

Parking: There are two pay car parks in St John's Road but please note one is limited to 2 hours. There are larger pay car parks across the High Street in York Street.

Alternative Start Points: The City Centre, Edgbaston Reservoir (free parking is available at the end of Reservoir Rd).

Access by Train: ➔ Birmingham New Street station is 0.5 miles from point **H** and University station 0.5 miles from point **U**.

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.

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LOTTERY FUNDED



Birmingham Urban Explorer Cycle Route

1



Harborne to City Centre Circular
via the Harborne Cycle/Walkway,
Edgbaston Reservoir and Worcester &
Birmingham Canal (9 miles)

Explore your City with this self-guided cycle ride

Route 1 Harborne to City Centre Circular via the Harborne Cycle/Walkway, Edgbaston Reservoir and the Worcester & Birmingham Canal.

Distance: 9 miles (70-90 minutes)

Start: Harborne Village (St Johns Road) B17 9LD
OSGR SP037847.

The Route

A Go down **St John's Rd** away from the **High St**. At the end of the road turn R into **Clarence Rd** and at the end of this road turn L into **North Rd**.

B At the end of **North Rd** turn L into **Park Hill Rd**. Pass under the bridge and turn immediately L (this is still **Park Hill Rd**). Turn first L into **Forest Drive**.

C At the end, and to the L of the buildings, there is a narrow path leading to the **Harborne Cycle/Walkway**. Follow the path for about 1.5 miles until you emerge in **Summerhill Park**.

D Do a clockwise circuit of the park, turning L towards the playground, then R and R again before the courts. Then go SO to reach **Gillott Rd** at **East Gate**. Turn R.

E Turn L through a metal gate (opposite number 155) to reach **Edgbaston Reservoir** and follow the path R around the reservoir. Cross the dam and bear R up the access road going away from the reservoir.

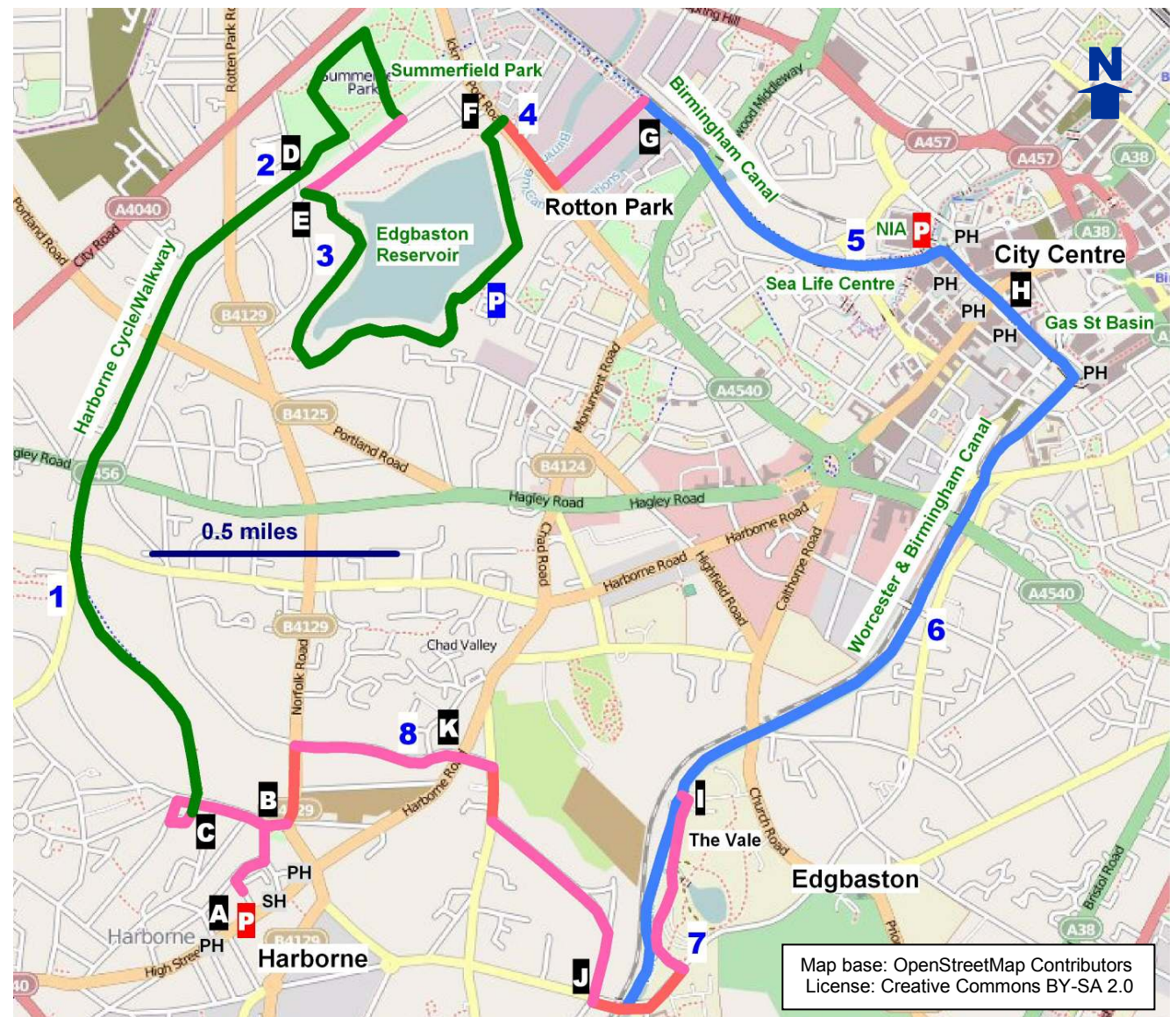
F Turn R at the main road (there is a pelican crossing on your left if required). After 250 yards turn (third) left into **Rotton Park St**. Follow the street to the end to get onto the **Birmingham to Wolverhampton Canal** towpath. Turn R

G Follow the canal towpath for 0.5 miles. Pass under the **Vincent St bridge** and continue along the canal towpath ignoring the canal on your R. Pass between the **National Indoor Arena** and the **Sea Life Centre**, eventually arriving at **Gas St Basin**. This area is a good place to leave the canal if you wish to explore the City Centre or seek refreshments. This section of the canal towpath may be busy so push your bike if necessary and please be considerate to pedestrians.

H To continue, follow the canal towpath, turning sharp right at the **Mailbox**. Continue to follow the canal towpath for about 1.5 miles with the canal on your L.

I At bridge **84a (The Vale)** there is a choice of routes of similar length:

Option 1: Carry on along the canal for a further 300 yards



and leave at the next bridge. However, there are **25 steps to climb** with your bike to reach the road. At the top of the steps turn L. **Option 2:** To avoid the steps, go over the bridge passing through a small car park to reach the road. Turn R and follow this road through the University Halls of Residence. At the end of this road turn R and after 200 yards turn R again into **Somerset Rd**, passing over the canal.

J After 200 yards turn first R into **Farquhar Rd**. Follow the road around to the L eventually reaching **Richmond Hill Rd**.

Turn R and then second L into **Brook Rd**.

K Cross the busy **Harborne Rd** into **Westfield Rd** (there is a pelican crossing on your right if required). Go up the hill to the next crossroads (with **Norfolk Rd**) and turn left down the hill. At the next crossroads turn, with care, R into **North Rd**. *You may wish to avoid this right turn by crossing the road at the zebra crossing before the crossroads and walking the short distance to North Rd.* Turn first L (still **North Rd**) and then first R (**Clarence Rd**) and first L to return to **St John's Rd**.