

Route 5 Marston Green to Yardley

Distance: 10 miles (60-100 minutes)

Start: Marston Green (Elmdon Lane car park, west of Marston Green station) B37 7AE. OSGR SP167854.

Route Summary: A varied circular ride which uses park paths and quiet roads to visit historic **Blakesley Hall** and two of the city's ancient parish churches at **Yardley** and at **Sheldon**.

Refreshments: There are seasonal tearooms at Blakesley Hall and Sheldon Country Park.

Parking: There is a free car park at the start of the ride.

Alternative Start Points: Meriden Park, Babbs Mill Park and Sheldon Country Park have free parking.

Access by Train:  Marston Green and Lea Hall stations are both on the route.

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

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Marston Green to Yardley Circular
via Meriden Park, Blakesley Hall and
Sheldon Country Park (10 miles)

Explore your City with this self-guided cycle ride

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The Route

A From **Elmdon Lane** follow the cycle path into the country park. Cross the brook and take the first path R towards the railway.

B At the end of the path, cross the road at the toucan. Follow the path SO keeping the brook on your R. At the end of the path, turn R onto the path alongside **Gloucester Way**. After the bridge, cross the road and follow the path ahead. Follow the path SO, eventually reaching **Meriden Park**.

C Follow the path L around the end of the lake, crossing over the stone footbridge. Turn R, following the path and crossing a further footbridge. Then take the first path L which leads to the road. Go L and follow this road until the end.

D Turn L and cross the road into the park. Follow the path L keeping **Babbs Mill Lake** on the L. There are some barriers on the path which may cause a problem with larger cycles. Alternatively follow the parallel **Fordbridge Rd** until the end and then continue past the gate and the Lakeside Club to join the lakeside path going R.

E After crossing the second bridge and passing through the barrier, turn R alongside the cottage fencing and follow the lane ahead. At the end of the lane turn R. Pass the school on the R, turning third L into **Heynesfield Rd**. Go SO at the mini-roundabout and SO at **Kitts Green Rd** into **Yockleton Rd**.

F At the end turn L and at the roundabout go SO, crossing the railway bridge (closed to motor vehicles). At the main road turn R, immediately passing **Lea Hall Station**.

G Go first L into **Latelow Rd** and first L again into **Fell Meadow Rd**. At the end of the road turn R and go SO at the wide road. At the end turn L into **Wheatcroft Rd** and cross busy **Meadway** at the traffic signals.

H Take the second of the two R turns, both of which go



into **Garwood Rd** (you may find it easier to use the service road on the left to go straight across this busy road). At the bend to the R, join the unmade path for a short distance across the grass. On reaching the road turn R and L, heading towards historic **Yardley Church**. Follow **Church Rd** passing the church and the old school.

I Go next R into **Blakesley Rd** and cross **Stoney Lane** to visit historic **Blakesley Hall** (150 yards). Afterwards return to this point and turn R. Turn second L into **Barrows Lane**.

J At the end turn L and immediately L again into **Bilton Grange Rd**. At the end turn L onto **Garretts Green Lane** and first R, by the school, into **Horrell Rd**. Go L at the roundabout and first R into **Boyne Rd**. Follow the road, going SO at the barriers.

K At the end of the road turn L and follow the road to the R, around the grassed area to reach the main road. Cross over into **Fallingdale Rd** passing **Sheldon Library**. Follow the road around to the R into **Stanville Rd**. Turn R into **Church Rd** for 250 yards. Immediately after passing historic **Sheldon Church** on your L, turn first L into **Ragley Drive** to reach **Sheldon Country Park and Visitor Centre**.

L Take the path to the L of the **Visitor Centre**. Where the path splits on the far side of the open area, follow the path leading L. At the next path junction turn R, going SO between the houses onto **Parkdale Rd**. Turn L and follow the road.

M Opposite **Mapledene Rd** (second road on R), turn L onto the cycle path and then first R, passing the end of the runway at **Birmingham Airport**. Follow the wide path back to **A**.