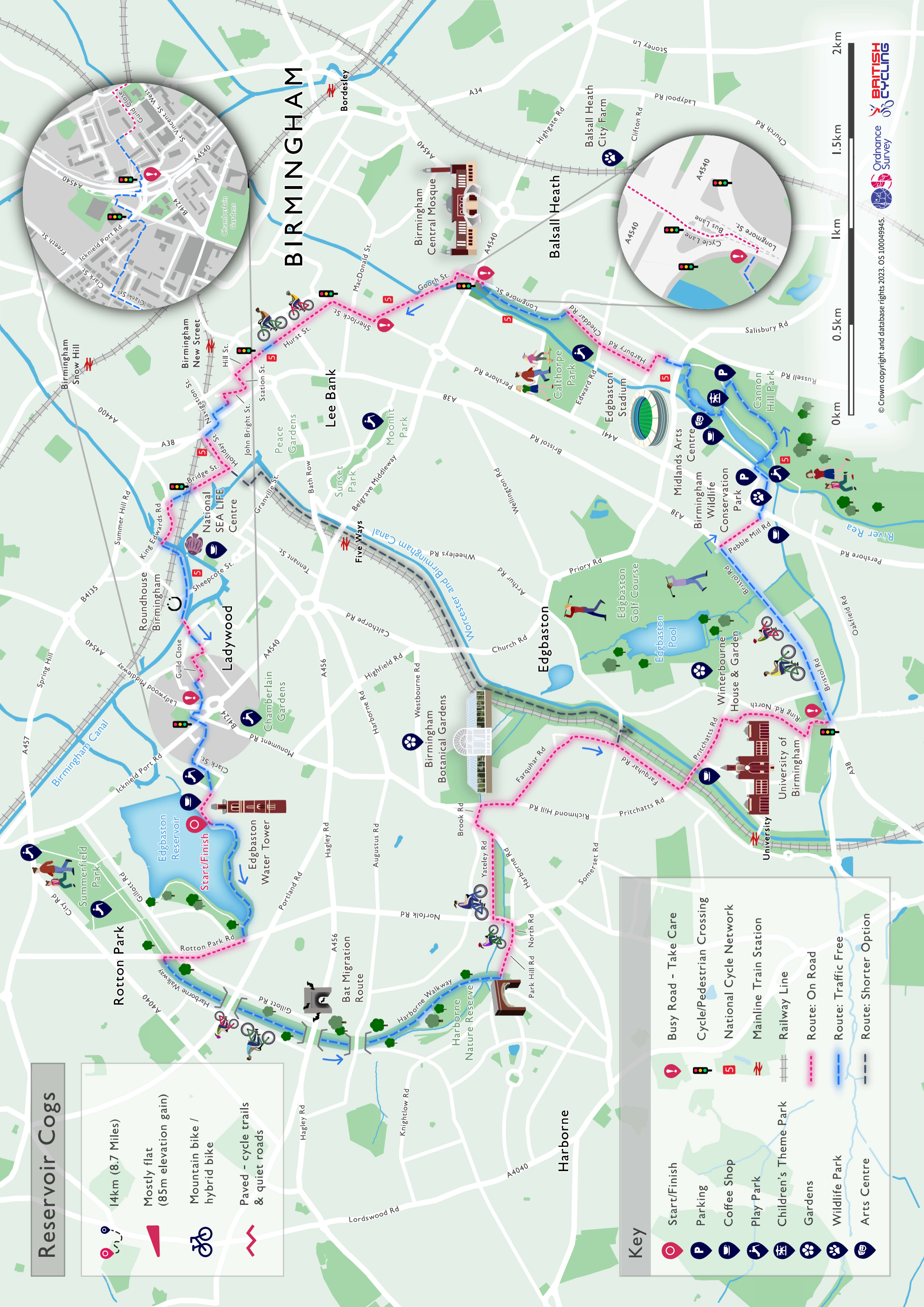


Reservoir Cogs

- 14km (8.7 Miles)
- Mostly flat (85m elevation gain)
- Mountain bike / hybrid bike
- Paved - cycle trails & quiet roads

Key

	Start/Finish		Busy Road - Take Care
	Parking		Cycle/Pedestrian Crossing
	Coffee Shop		National Cycle Network
	Play Park		Mainline Train Station
	Children's Theme Park		Railway Line
	Gardens		Route: On Road
	Wildlife Park		Route: Traffic Free
	Arts Centre		Route: Shorter Option





POINTS OF INTEREST

- 01** Walk across the reservoir?² Perhaps not somewhere you would instantly think of to show off your world leading tightrope skills, but in 1873 Charles Blondin made the crossing across the reservoir. The rope is said to have been stretched from the gate house across the reservoir to the other side; nowhere near as scary as his 1859 journey across Niagara Falls.
- 02** Tolkien's Two Towers Eagle-eyed people may be able to spot two towers located on the hill above the reservoir, which are said to have influenced J.R.R. Tolkien's creation of 'Minas Morgul' and 'Minas Tirith', the Two Towers of Gondor in his Lord of the Rings stories.
- 03** Roach pool Originally a very small fishing pond in the middle of the manor's hunting grounds, Roach Pool was considerably enlarged by Thomas Telford between 1824 and 1829 to provide water to the city's busy canal system, and at this point it became known as Edgbaston Reservoir.
- 04** Harborne railway The Harborne railway opened in 1874, with three stations: Icknield Street, Rotton Park Road, and Harborne. Originally built through countryside, the surrounding areas quickly developed into housing that kept this commuter line busy with, in its hey day, up to thirty trains each way. The railway closed in 1963 due to a lack of use and later found new life as a walkway.
- 05** Harborne Walkway This 3.5 mile linear park is a green corridor and high-speed safe network for wildlife; there is a large bat population that use it to access their feeding grounds at the reservoir. Other wildlife residents along the walkway are foxes, badgers, and other various birds and animals.
- 06** Toys One of the main businesses that took advantage of the railway to Harborne was Chad Valley toys. Still operating today, they began by manufacturing



Scan to follow the route digitally with OS Maps

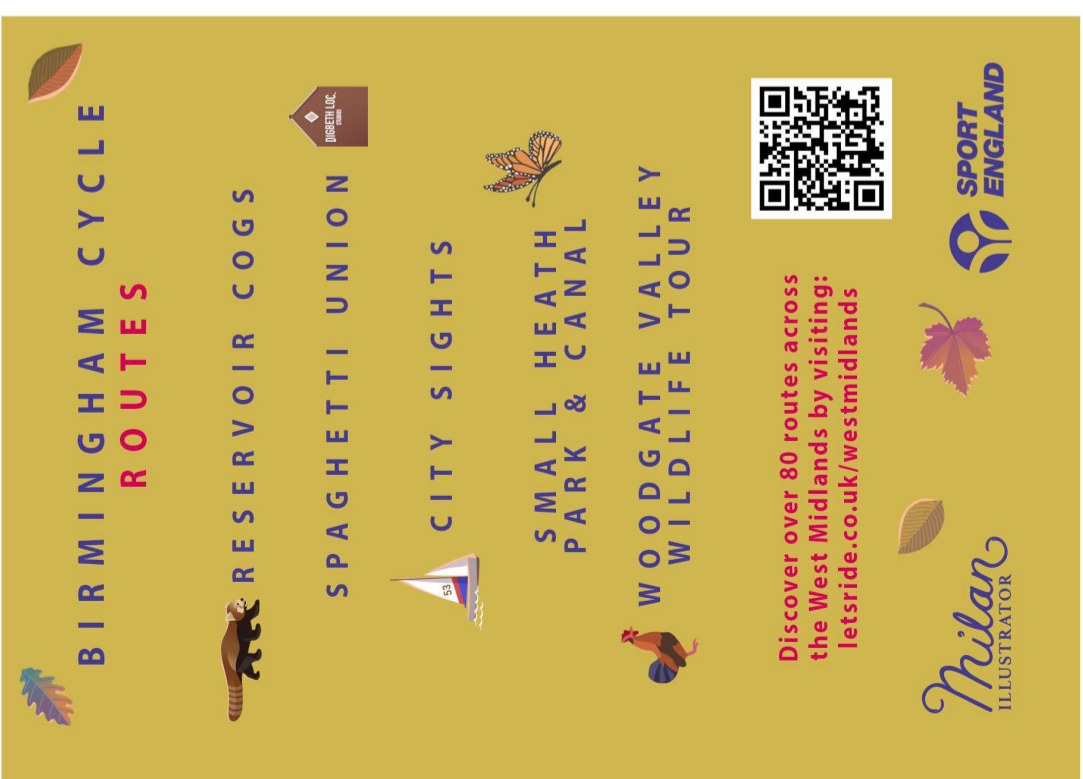
- 07** Harborne, a name possibly derived from 'dirty brook', 'high brow', or 'boundary brook', was home to a roman villa located near to where the Queen Elizabeth hospital is today. Populated as early as the Anglo-Saxon period when St Chad preached at St Peters Church, the village saw huge growth during the Victorian era partially due to the arrival of the railway from the city.
- 08** Old Joe Officially known as the Joseph Chamberlain Memorial Clock Tower, the clock tower is the tallest free standing clock tower in the world at 100 metres high. The clock faces are 5.2 metres in diameter and the bell weighs over 5 tonnes. Due to the immense height of the tower, it was built from the inside without any scaffolding on the outside.
- The tower is said to have been another influence for Tolkien, this time for the tower of Orthanc, the black tower of Isengard.
- 09** Pebble Mill Shows based here included Top Gear, The Clothes Show and the long running 'Archers' radio play. The "cavernous" colour-enabled studios produced many household-name dramas such as Doctors, All Creatures Great and Small, Howards Way and Dalziel and Pascoe.
- 10** Cannon Hill Park The park was created on land gifted to the city by a wealthy heiress, Louisa Ryland. Louisa is responsible for many of the city's parks after becoming a millionaire upon her father's death. On many occasions it is known that Louisa refused to be associated with the donations and either gave anonymously or as a 'friend of the city'.
- 11** Erratics Located halfway along the lake is a large boulder, known as an erratic. This boulder started its life in mid-Wales not far from Bala and is formed of compressed ash from a now extinct volcano in the Arenig range.
- 08** Come off the road at the Hippodrome into the car-free zone. Cycle straight ahead, under the building and straight over the junction passing the conference centre. Opposite the mirrored entrance to Grand Central station, turn left towards the NCP car park, and follow this road round to your right and into the welcoming food square. Turn left onto Lower Severn St, keep right, and turn right alongside the dual carriageway, making your way underneath the road above. Turn right alongside the car park, taking the footpath upwards and following it left onto Holliday St. On Holliday St, turn right onto Bridge St.
- 09** Continue up Bridge, until you reach Centenary Square. Keeping the ICC on your left and the Rep theatre on your right, head through the gap between the two buildings taking the first exit at the roundabout. Just after the canal bridge and before the Arena, take the slope down onto the canal towpath.
- 10** Follow the canal past the Lego giraffe, under the bridge and the Roundhouse will be on your right. After visiting the Roundhouse, continue along the towpath a short distance taking the first slope up to the road.
- 11** From here turn left and then follow the shared path sign towards St Vincent St. Turn right onto Ledsam St and then first left onto Guild Close. The blue cycle path signs to take you through the housing estate. Eventually crossing the ring road, follow the blue cycle path signs towards Edgbaston Reservoir. This route will again take you through a housing estate so keep scanning ahead for the familiar blue signs. Just after the small park you'll return to the start point by the café.

ROUTE DIRECTION

- 01** From the café begin the path up to the left through the wooded area to the road. After 400m take the path up to the left through the wooded area to the road.
- 02** Turn right onto Rotton Park Rd and ride to the top of the hill. At the bridge turn left through the fencing onto the Harborne Walkway. Turn right and ride for approx. 1 mile until a steep slope descends left to the road. If you go over a bridge, you've gone too far!
- 03** Turn left onto Park Hill Rd, turning left at the crossroads and then the first right along Yateley Rd. At the junction, turn left onto Harborne Rd and then take the first right before turning right again onto Richmond Hill Rd. Take the first left onto Farquhar Rd, straight over the crossroads. Turn left at the mini roundabout, cross over the narrow canal bridge; you're now within the university campus.
- 04** Just after the Margery Fry Building turn right onto Spur Rd then left onto the campus Ring Rd. As the road bends to the right, take the cycle lane left where you'll pass sports pitches to the gates of the university. Turn left onto the blue cycle lane on Bristol Rd towards the city centre, eventually crossing to the central reservation.
- 05** At the next junction turn right down Pebble Mill Rd. At the end of the road turn left and immediately turn right into Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park.
- 06** From here you will follow the NCN 5 signage all the way back to the reservoir. Follow the path down the left side of the Conservation Park building to get into Cannon Hill Park. Cycle over the bridge linking the two lakes, and then straight ahead along the main path as it goes away from the lake and up to the left. After the bandstand, turn left past the crazy golf towards the Mac building before turning right along the left-hand side of the second lake.
- 07** Exit the park and cross over the junction onto Cannon Hill Rd. Take the first left onto Willows Crescent, then first right onto Harbury Rd. Cross straight
- 12** Golden Lion Not in its original position, or condition, the Golden Lion Inn is a Grade II listed building that was originally built in 1520 in Digbeth. The building, at risk from demolition, was dismantled and moved to its current location in 1911 by the Birmingham Archaeology Society. Ever since being listed in 1952, the council have been assessing how best to preserve it but no work has ever been done to ensure its future.
- 13** Edgbaston stadium Leased to Warwickshire Cricket for £5 an acre in 1885, the 12-acre meadow of rough grazing land became home to cricket in Birmingham. Building one permanent and two temporary stands, the site hosted it's first test match in 1902 and has gone on to see many records set including Brian Lara's 501 innings in 1994.
- 14** Central Mosque Built in 1969, Birmingham Central Mosque was the second purpose-built mosque in the UK, and when it opened in the early 1970's, it was the largest mosque in Western Europe. Regularly catering for 4,500 worshippers, amazingly on special occasions such as Eid celebrations, they can utilise extra space so up to 8000 people can worship at once.
- 15** Beorningham On the bridge over the River Rea, there is a piece of art that says, 'Near this river crossing an Anglia tribe led by Beorna founded Birmingham'. Birmingham has grown to become the city it is today. Along the way it's been known by a few different names: Brumnamagum, Bromichan, Brennicham, Brum, amongst others.
- However, evidence of the first visitors have been found in Salfrey, just on the city centre outskirts, which are dated to 500,000 years ago; much older than Beorma's tribe at a mere 1900 years ago.
- 16** Birmingham Gay Village Located in the heart of Birmingham's Gay Village, Hurst Street is the epicentre of Birmingham's Pride celebrations. Originally the village was little



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- more than two nightclubs and has grown into a bustling part of the city's nightlife.
- 17** National Trust Back to Backs Back-to-backs are houses that were literally built back-to-back, quickly and cheaply, with outer houses facing onto the street and inner houses facing into a shared courtyard. The Birmingham Back to Backs, once known as Court 15, were built in the 1830s, and are the last surviving court of houses that once dominated cities in the Midlands. People from around the world came to live and work side-by-side in these houses, which reveal the history of the working classes of the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 18** Chocolate Bridge Street is the site of Cadbury's second dedicated factory between 1847-1878 (now the site of the HSBC building seen from Gas Street Basin). It was here that they really refined their chocolate manufacturing skills, making 16 different types of drinking chocolate and 11 types of cocoas.
- 19** More canals than Venice Every proud Brummie (someone from Birmingham) will tell you that Birmingham has more canals than Venice. In its peak period there were over 100 miles of canals within the Birmingham network, but there are just 35-miles in use today. Many lost sections of canal are either built over, blocked off or, as in one case, used for a fish pond!!
- 20** The Roundhouse Originally built in 1874 as stores and stables for the Birmingham Corporation, the building struggled to find its place in today's world. Throughout its life it's seen several periods of near dereliction, but this latest reincarnation opened in 2021 through a pioneering partnership between the Canal & River Trust and the National Trust. The building has undergone extensive renovations and refurbishment to bring it back to life.
- Now a peaceful courtyard haven in the city, the Roundhouse is an independent charity, where visitors can use the building as a base to explore the city by foot, by bike or on water. There are a range of tours that visitors can participate in including, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, walking and, of course, cycling.