

• Distance 3km/2 miles • Time 1hr • Type Short, canal-side city walk

1 NAVIGATION LEVEL 1 1 FITNESS LEVEL 1



Plan your walk



**WHERE:** Circular walk around Selly Oak, along Birmingham Canal and through the University of Birmingham campus.

**START/END:** Selly Oak Library (SP044829).

**TERRAIN:** Pavements, towpaths and parkland paths.

**MAPS:** OS Explorer 220; Landranger 139.

**GETTING THERE:** Trains run every 10 minutes from Birmingham New Street to Selly Oak (© 0121 634 2040, www.londonmidland.com) or take the 61 bus (© 0121 254 7272, www.travelwm.co.uk).

**EATING & DRINKING:** There are several takeaways and cafés along Bristol Road. The Goose at the OVT (a favourite with students) serves budget food and real ale (© 0121 472 3186).

**SLEEPING:** There are lots of budget guesthouses in the local area and mid-price hotels nearer Birmingham city centre (© 0844 888 3883, www.visitbirmingham.com/accommodation).

PHOTOGRAPHY: ALAMY



This short walk around the leafy suburb of Selly Oak - home to the University of Birmingham's campus - will take you under an hour and visits some of the area's most recognisable landmarks. The university's clock tower is clearly visible as you follow a stretch of the Birmingham Canal, before heading over the green-lawned campus, past the large bronze sculpture that honours the famous scientist Michael Faraday. The route finishes by exploring some quieter pathways and recreation grounds, passing the historic Westley Richards & Co Gunmakers shop.

**1. START** Coming out of Selly Oak Library (SP044829), turn R towards a pedestrian crossing. Cross over the main Bristol Road using the crossing and turn R, along Bristol Road until you reach the car park of a Vauxhall car showroom over the road. Pass the car park and, before reaching the Vauxhall dealership, turn L into a small avenue called The Dingle.

**2.** Walk along The Dingle, crossing a small road as you go and passing a Hazelnut tree on your L. When you reach the canal at the end of The Dingle, turn L and walk along the canal towpath. As you go, you'll pass under a bridge carrying the Bristol Road overhead. At this point, notice on your R the very clear view of the University of Birmingham Clock Tower. Affectionately known as 'Old Joe', after the university's first chancellor Joseph Chamberlain, the 100m/328ft building is the world's tallest freestanding clock tower. Keep walking along the towpath until you reach the bridge directly under the university railway station.

**3.** Go under the bridge and then up the metal staircase directly to your L. Once at the top, turn L and then R at West Gate to walk past the large bronze figure on your L. The sculpture of the 18th-century scientist Michael Faraday was created by the celebrated artist Sir Eduardo Paolozzi to commemorate the university's centenary. The inscription around the base of the

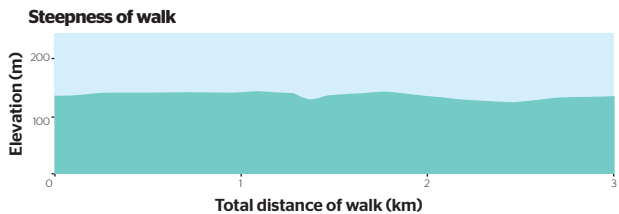
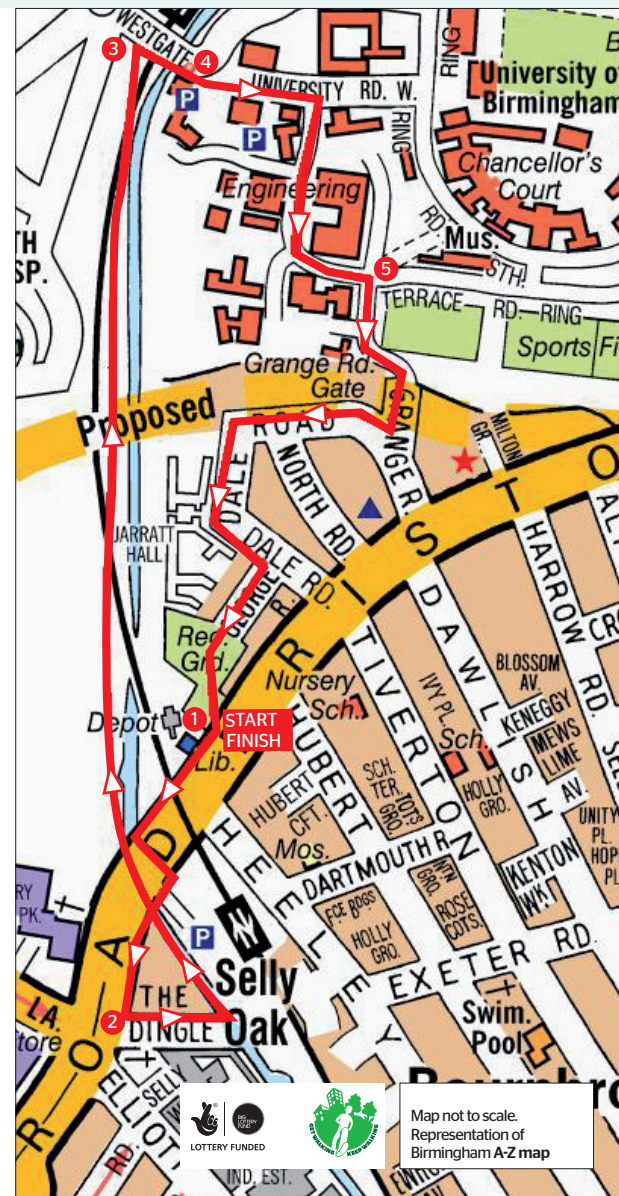
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**VISITOR INFORMATION:** Visit Birmingham (© 0844 888 3883, www.visitbirmingham.com).  
**GUIDEBOOKS:** *Waterside Walks in the Midlands* by Birmingham Ramblers, (£4.95 + £1 P&P, Meridian Books, ISBN 1 869922 09 3).  
**LOCAL RAMBLERS AREA/ GROUP:** South Birmingham Ramblers (© 0121 624 2533, www.sbramblers.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk).

sculpture are lines from TS Eliot's *The Dry Salvages*, chosen by the artist to reflect on the reasons young people come to university: to travel, listen, think and change.

**4.** Follow the path towards the Public Health building along the signposted footpath and cycle route. At the end, turn L following signposts on your L to Grange Road Gates. Cross over to the same side of the road as the Chemical Engineering building so it's on your R-hand side. At the end of this road, cross over and turn R, to walk towards an old tower with a large weeping willow tree on your L and the Estates West building on your R. Continue to follow this road around to the L. Cross a road and keep walking until you reach a pedestrian zebra crossing.

**5.** Take the zebra crossing and walk past a recreational ground on your L, along a beautiful tree-lined pathway. Follow this path round to the L, towards Grange Road Gate, and cross the bridge over Bourne Brook. Entering Grange Road, you'll notice the famous Westley Richards & Co Gunmakers on your L, established in 1812. Turn R along Dale Road, past Jarratt Hall on your R. Carry on round and turn R into George Road. At the end of George Road, enter a small recreational playground and follow the path around to the L. At the gate, turn R on to the main Bristol Road and return to the library.  
*Route devised by Get Walking Keep Walking Birmingham*



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