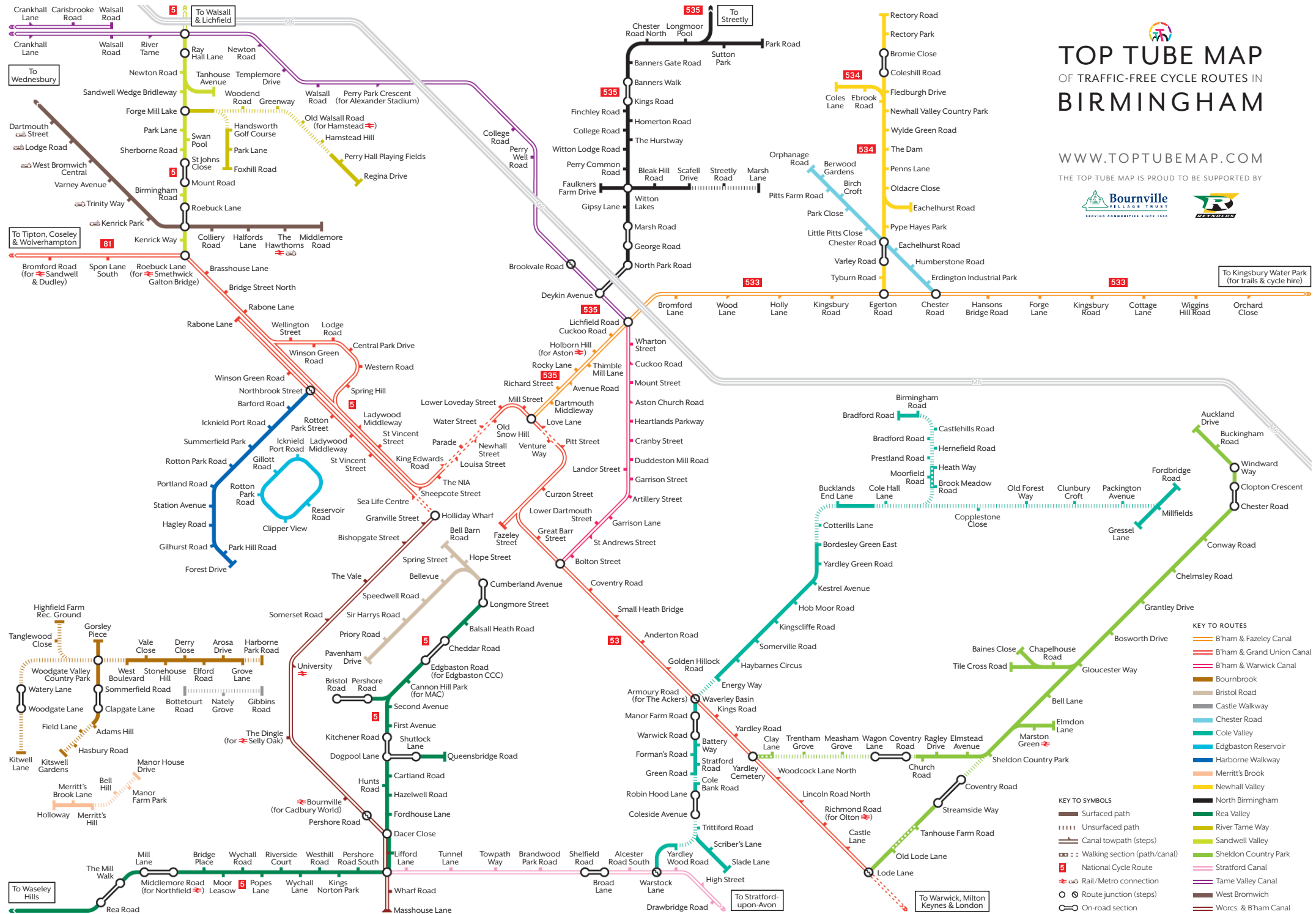


# TOP TUBE MAP


OF TRAFFIC-FREE CYCLE ROUTES IN  
BIRMINGHAM


WWW.TOPTUBEMAP.COM


THE TOP TUBE MAP IS PROUD TO BE SUPPORTED BY




## TYPES OF ROUTE

 SURFACED PATHS are suitable for any kind of bike and are usable in dry or wet weather.

 UNSURFACED PATHS don't have a hard covering and may not be well marked out. In winter or wet weather, they can become muddy so extra care should be taken when riding on them. These routes are best suited to bikes with wider tyres such as tourers, hybrids and mountain bikes.

 CANAL TOWPATHS have a variety of surfaces – gravel, brick-paving, concrete slabs, grass and earth. They can be bumpy and muddy, especially in winter or wet weather, and are best suited to bikes with wider tyres. British Waterways ask that you obtain a free cycling permit before riding on towpaths. You can download a permit from [www.waterscape.com/cycling/permit](http://www.waterscape.com/cycling/permit)

 ON-ROAD SECTIONS link the paths together on some routes. Usually, they only require you to ride on one or two quiet back streets away from traffic.

Most (if not all) of these routes are unlit at night. Take care when cycling after dark and ensure that your bike has suitable lights front and rear.

## EXPLORING FURTHER AFIELD

The National Cycle Network is a series of routes that span the UK. It's made up of 13,000 miles of traffic-free paths, quiet roads and signed on-road sections. National routes

     and  run through Birmingham.

These are ideal for heading out of the city and exploring the wider area. For more information about the network see [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

For detailed maps of all cycling provision in Birmingham try [www.cyclestreets.net](http://www.cyclestreets.net) or order the Council's free Cycling and Walking Map from [www.birmingham.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cycling)

## WELCOME TO THE TOP TUBE MAP

It's a new way of showing Birmingham's excellent traffic-free cycle network. For the first time, you can see all of the major routes and how they're connected clearly on a single page. Enjoy exploring and using them.

## TIPS FOR CYCLING ON THE TOP TUBE

All of the traffic-free routes in the Top Tube Map are shared with pedestrians. When cycling on these paths you **must be considerate** of other users.

- Allow plenty of room when passing pedestrians.
- Ride at a safe speed and be prepared to slow down and stop if necessary.
- Let other users know you're there by using a bell or a polite 'excuse me'. Thank people when they move aside.

Where routes use short on-road sections, you will need to:

- Ride with confidence, not too close to the gutter.
- Look all around you, especially over your shoulder, before you make any manoeuvre, start, stop or turn.
- Use hand signals when stopping or manoeuvring.
- Cycle at least 1 metre away from parked cars and watch for doors opening and pedestrians crossing.
- Obey all traffic lights and signs.

For information about local cycle training courses visit [www.bikeability.org.uk](http://www.bikeability.org.uk)

## GET IN TOUCH

[www.toptubemap.com](http://www.toptubemap.com)

[hello@toptubemap.com](mailto:hello@toptubemap.com)

[t@toptubemap](#)

[f/toptubemap](#)

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and the contributors to [BirminghamCyclist.com](http://BirminghamCyclist.com)

**THE TOP TUBE MAP: FORWARD, BY BIKE**

# TOP TUBE MAP

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