

The **3Parks Cycle Route** is a great place to go cycling alone, or with family and friends. This five mile long route is **traffic-free** for safe and pleasant cycling and connects **Elmdon and Meriden Parks in Solihull** via the more open countryside of **Sheldon Country Park in Birmingham**. The all-weather route follows the valley of the **Hatchford, Westley and Kingshurst Brooks** whilst passing through an attractive mixture of formal parkland, wooded areas and open grassland.

Whether you are interested in wildlife, history, farm animals or aircraft, there are things to see but above all it is a great place just to enjoy the pleasure of cycling away from traffic!

Six things to see and do along the route

- see aircraft close up at the Airport Viewing Area
- visit the children's playgrounds along the route
- see the animals at Old Rectory Farm
- explore the walled garden at Elmdon Manor Nature Reserve
- visit historic churches at Sheldon and Elmdon
- try the outdoor gyms at Meriden and Sheldon Country Parks

Getting There

Cycling. You can join the route at any point but the three 'end' points are conveniently located within Elmdon Park, Sheldon Country Park and Meriden Park.

By train. Marston Green station is only 400 yards from the route and connected to it by a traffic-free path. There are regular local trains to Birmingham and Coventry and bikes are carried free.

By Car There are car parks in Elmdon Park (B92 9EY or B92 9EJ), Sheldon Country Park B26 3TU) and Meriden Park (B37 5TB) if you bring your bike by car.

Following the Route

The 3Parks Route isn't signposted at present but is easy to follow using the map and directions in this guide

Further Information.

Our website **3parks.org.uk** contains much more information about the route and the various attractions along it to help you get the most out of your visit. You can also email us at **3parksbicycleroute@gmail.com**

The 3 Parks Cycle Route is being promoted by Cyclesolihull to encourage more people to cycle and explore the local area by bike. It consists of shared-use paths which have been upgraded and linked together in recent years.

Cyclesolihull was established by volunteers 15 years ago to encourage more cycling. Since then we have devised over 50 local cycle routes and organised over 1000 free rides. Find out more about the rides and routes at:

www.cyclesolihull.org.uk

Promoted by **CycleSolihull**

3Parks Cycle Route

a five mile traffic-free shared-use route connecting north and south Solihull



www.3parks.org.uk

Follow the Route with this Map and Guide

The route directions below describe a journey in sections going north from Elmdon Park to Meriden Park direct or via Old Rectory Farm.

(Lettered reference points are marked on the map. Abbreviations L= left, R=right, SO = straight on).

Route Section:

Elmdon Park to Old Rectory Farm (2.3 miles, 17 minutes) or the Airport Viewing Area (1.9 miles, 14 minutes)

A Starting from **Elmdon Park** lower car park (off Tanhouse Farm Road) Go on to the path at the far end of the car park. Follow the path past the lake and then SO beside the stream. Alternatively join the path near the playground, cross the bridge and turn L at the next junction.

B From the alternative upper car park by St Nicholas Church, follow the wide path down the hill bearing R at the bottom. Go SO at the next junction to join the route below.

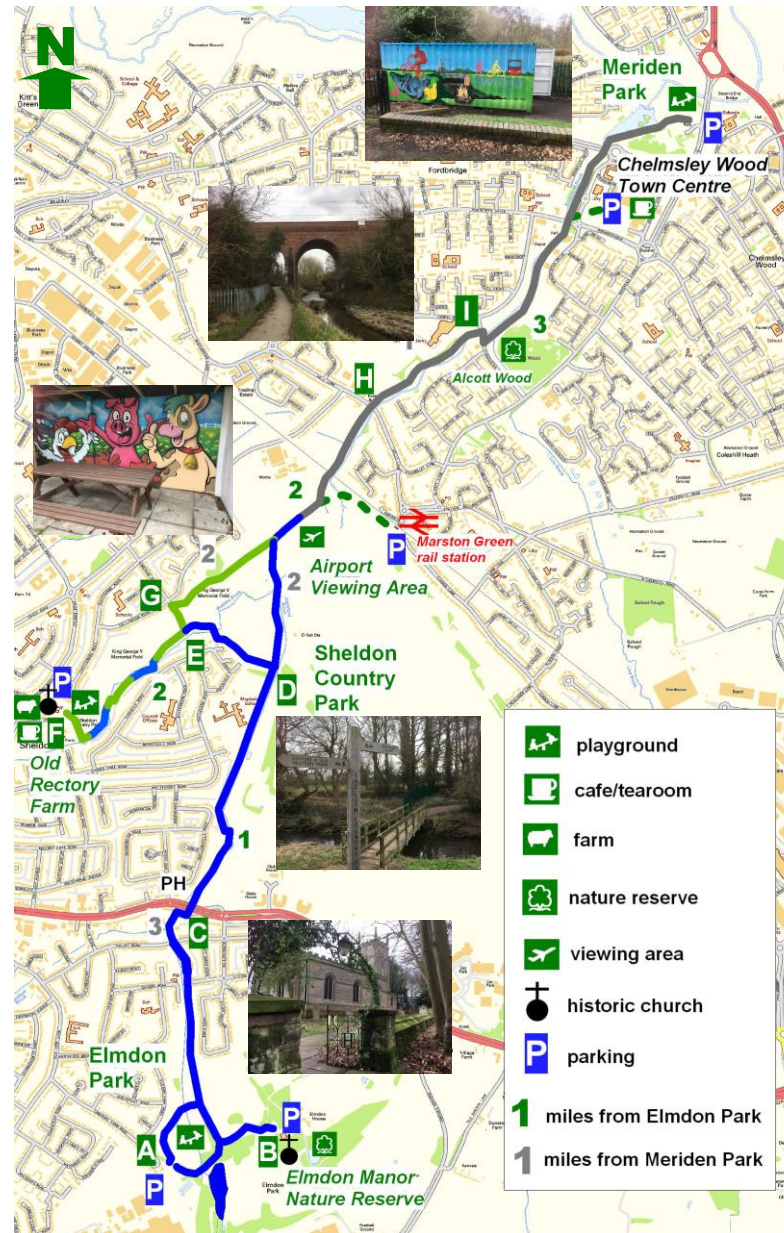
Follow the path for 0.5 miles eventually joining a quiet cul-de-sac (Streamside Way) for 100 yards. Cross, with care, the next road (Valley Road) and rejoin the path leading to the busy A45 (Coventry Road).

C. Bear R to cross Coventry Road at the toucan to re-join the path opposite. Follow this for 0.7 miles, crossing the Hatchford Brook and ignoring the triangular path junction on the L.

D. To Visit **Old Rectory Farm**, the playground, cafe and St Giles' Church, turn L at the next junction (to continue instead to the Airport Viewing Area go SO at this junction for 0.4 miles).

E At the end go L onto the path besides Westley Brook. Follow this path for 0.5 miles crossing the brook twice.

Turn next R to reach the playground, farm and church.



Route Section:

Old Rectory Farm (Ragley Drive, B26 3TU) to the Airport Viewing Area (1 mile, 7 minutes)

F From the car park take the path past the playground.

G At the end turn L and follow the path along Westley Brook, Crossing it twice. At the path crossroads take the segregated path L.

Turn next R towards the wooded area. Continue SO to the viewing area.

Route Section:

Airport Viewing Area to Meriden Park (1.7 miles, 13 minutes)

Follow the path (with the airport on your R) and at the next junction go L onto a narrower path to pass under the railway viaduct, eventually reaching a road (Bell Lane).

H Cross at the toucan and re-join the path opposite. Follow this wide path to the end.

I At the road (Gloucester Way) go R on to the path beside the road across the bridge. Cross Gloucester Way with care to re-join the route on the other side of Kingshurst Brook. Go SO following the main path for 0.7 miles, passing Alcott Wood and under two roads. The brook widens into the wetland area as you enter Meriden Park. Go straight on to reach the playground and Meriden Adventure Playground.

Share with Care

All the route is shared with pedestrians so please cycle considerately, keep your speed down and cycle on the left. When approaching pedestrians from behind a ring of your bell or a friendly 'hi' can help make people aware of your presence.