

## The route

5.5 miles  
1 hour  
570 kcal



### Start at The Roundhouse

- 1 [what3words/// rising.lift.demand](#)  
From the Roundhouse courtyard head onto the canal towpath and turn left. After passing under the brick bridge, go over the first metal bridge, cross the canal and continue to the left, passing the Sea Life Centre on your right.
- 2 [///noon.windy.star](#)  
Heading through Gas Street Basin and turning right at The Cube, enjoy the journey along the canal quickly escaping the city. Pause to learn about the canal at the suggested stops on the map overleaf. Continue following the canal until you reach the Cadbury's factory and then Bournville train station.
- 3 [///cattle.coach.loses](#)  
Follow the upward exit slope at the station and turn right onto Mary Vale Road, taking the first right on Franklin Way. In front of the Cadbury's factory, turn left until you reach the second pedestrian crossing. From here take the narrow track down to the side of the sports field, signposted to Cadbury World.
- 4 [///desks.drag.museum](#)  
Follow this path as it filters around the staff car parks and over the Bourn brook. Head across the pedestrian crossing and through one final car park before reaching the village green. Perhaps enjoy a hot chocolate or a Dairy Milk, you've earned it!

### End at Bournville Village Green



## A 'glass and a half' in each bar, but where are the cows in Birmingham?

Two milk processing factories were established at Frampton and Knighton, areas rich in dairy cows. Using narrowboats, milk from the surrounding dairy farms along the nearby canals was collected and transported to the two factories. The water content is so high in milk that they didn't want to transport the extra volume and weight of water to the main factory in Birmingham. To solve this, they condensed the milk at the processing factories to remove much of the water content. Solid blocks of ground cocoa, shipped along the canal from Bournville, were then mixed with the condensed milk and sugar before being dried in ovens to remove nearly all remaining moisture; this chocolate 'crumb' was then transported back to Bournville for making into chocolate.

Cadbury's international trade took off and soon it needed a source of timber to make packing crates for its export business. In 1922 they established a factory at Blackpole, just north of Worcester, to process wood that was shipped from the Baltics

## RÖUNDHOUSE

BIRMINGHAM

Roundhouse Birmingham is an independent charity created by the National Trust and Canal & River Trust to find a new, sustainable purpose for one of Birmingham's hidden gems; the Roundhouse.

Drop into our free-to-enter Visitor Centre and say hi. Why not enjoy a picnic in our courtyard, find out about our building and city in our exhibitions or take a tour to find out more about the city?

- Kayak Tours
- Walking Tours
- Cycling Tours
- Free Audio Tours

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Email: [hello@roundhousebirmingham.org.uk](mailto:hello@roundhousebirmingham.org.uk)

RÖUNDHOUSE  
BIRMINGHAM

## Cocoa Canal



A cycling tour to Bournville from the Roundhouse exploring the link between the canal and chocolate.



Made possible with

Heritage Fund

# Cycling Route

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## Old Joe

The World's tallest freestanding clocktower at 100m, Old Joe was built in 1906 using funds acquired by Joseph Chamberlain (local politician and the university's first chancellor).

## Lapal Canal - A canal rediscovered

Outside Sainsbury's you'll see the newly restored winding hole, this wider section of canal allows narrowboats to enter the Worcester and Birmingham canal from Dudley Canal No. 2. The Lapal arm of the Dudley No. 2 once joined the Worcester & Birmingham canal along a now overgrown and partly filled in route which goes underneath the Sainsbury's car park. The 12-mile long Lapal arm of the canal was started in 1794 and took just 4 years to construct; a remarkable achievement which included a 60-ft-high embankment and 2.2-mile-long tunnel!

In 1917 the tunnel collapsed and was uneconomical to repair. From here it became overgrown and fell into disrepair. Now, thanks to a hardy group of enthusiasts, the section from Selly Oak to the existing Dudley Canal no.2 is being restored for recreation and public benefit.



Scan the code to view this map on your device

## Creatures of the canal

Herons aren't the only nature you will see in this green and blue corridor. Keep an eye out for the ripples of fish beneath the surface, a coot skiing across the water surface, or a Canada goose making itself known.



**FUN FACT:**  
Old Joe was built from the inside out WITHOUT scaffolding!



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## Bridge Street

The site of Cadbury's second dedicated factory between 1847-1878 (now the site of the HSBC building seen from Gas Street Basin), here they really refined their chocolate manufacturing skills, making 16 different types of drinking chocolate and 11 types of cocoas.



## Edgbaston Tunnel

Blasted through a sandstone ridge on land owned by the Calthorpes, the building of the canal was only granted permission through this section of land on the condition that there were no access points, wharves or commercial buildings on their land.

## Cadbury's Factory

When Cadbury began outgrowing their city centre Bridge Street site, they started planning and building a new factory. Away from the regular industrial areas, they chose a 14.5 acre greenfield site which comprised of a meadow, a cottage and brook. The new site also had canal, train and road links, and a good water supply.



## Bournville Village

Built by the Cadbury family in 1879, their ideal was a garden (or model) village. The Cadbury's believed that 'no man ought to be condemned to live in a place where a rose cannot grow', and as such began building accommodation for senior workers. They then continued to build a village for the whole of the workforce, Bournville was born. Cadbury's built an indoor swimming pool, a lido, sports facilities, and a fishing lake. Due to the Cadbury's quaker beliefs, no public houses were built in the village. In total, 314 homes were built by Cadbury up until 1900.



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