


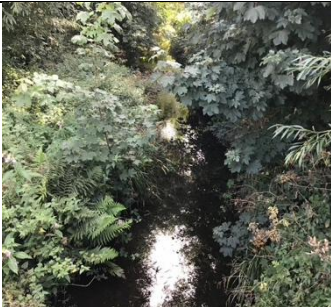









HIDDEN NATURE IN STIRCHLEY WARD

	<p>This sign is near what is known locally as 'Breedon Bridge' on the Pershore Road. Which canal is it very close to?</p>	<p>We may not transport goods along canals now, so how might we use them?</p> <p>As you walk or cycle along the towpath look out for house & holiday barges, people fishing, people taking exercise. What wildlife is there?</p>
<p>Access the canal towpath from Lifford Lane & the road to the industrial estate. Use the pedestrian bridge to cross over the canal and continue along path towards Dacer Close where you can pick up National Cycle route No.5. Fordhouse Lane.</p>		<p>Follow this route - going behind Windsor Road - to Fordhouse Lane. What might the name of the road tell you?</p> <p>Before any bridges were built in this spot, do you think that there was a ford here that people had to go through in order to continue their journey?</p>
<p>Pedestrian crossings are named after birds – pelican or toucan - do you know what type this one is?</p>		<p>Clue: there are two symbols that light up to tell you when you can cross the road.</p> <p>Follow the shared path for cyclists and pedestrians.</p>
<p>Heritage is not only what has been left for us but what we leave for future generations.</p> <p>After passing the houses on your left, look out for a community orchard...</p>	<p>...it has been planted during the last few years by local residents and will continue to grow and develop through years to come for future generations.</p>	
<p>Continue to follow the shared path through to Hazelwell Park. Look out for Heritage Trail signposts and boards along the route.</p>		<p>Find the name of the main river that flows through Stirchley (after it has left Kings Norton & Cotteridge).</p> <p>Why was this river so important to the area?</p>

<p>Share with Care! If you are cycling watch out for pedestrians, if you are a pedestrian, watch out for cyclists.</p>	<p>Just as you enter the park, look to your right through the gateway to the Alottments. There used to be a brickworks here. What are bricks made from? As you travel around the area look for different coloured bricks</p>	
<p>What features in the park are made of brick? Look at the narrow path that leads up the slope and the bridge on your left.</p>		
<p>This photo was taken in Hazelwell Park. There are lots of willow trees growing along the riverbanks.</p>	<p>The flexible stems of crack willow have been used for many years to make baskets and 'cribs' for animal feed.</p>	
<p>Continue on the shared path until you come to Cartland Road, cross over at the pedestrian crossing. (At this point you will need to leave Cycle Route 5.) Turn left, walk down to the end of the road.</p>	<p>Just before you turn right, can you see a small river hiding behind lots of foliage? The Bourn is one of the many tributaries that feed the R. Rea.</p>	
<p>Cross over the road safely by using the pedestrian crossing, is this one pelican or toucan? Listen for the sound it makes as you cross the road!</p>		<p>At this point the Bourn makes up part of the Ward boundary. Turn left and walk up Pershore Road.</p>

On the way, note a micro-park on your righthand side. This is one of the improvements that has been made to this area; we are using it now and leaving it for the future		As you pass restaurants and take-aways – can you smell food being cooked?
Continue until you come to a Public House (on the corner of Umberslade Road) that takes its new name from the Bourn that flows behind it.		
Use yet another pedestrian crossing in order to cross over Umberslade Road. Continue going forward until you come to a driveway on the right that leads into park which is hiding behind the supermarkets.	Walk down the drive and into Stirchley Park. Take a look at the murals that are part of Stirchley's heritage. What things from nature can you see 'hiding' in these pictures?	
Look over or through the fence - you can see The Bourn again. You might see or hear some wildlife such as ducks or moorhens. How fast is it flowing today?		What are the park benches made from?
Follow the path around the park until you find a bench that is very different to the others		When Stirchley Baths Community Hub was renovated this piece of marble was found and then recycled to make a park bench. What does it feel like? Rough or smooth, warm or cold
Go up into the car park, look at the buildings. What are they made of, Note how bricks and stone have been used to make patterns on the walls.		Look at the glass roof. Two of the ingredients that go to make glass are sand and limestone – both natural products.

<p>Walk up the ramp, look at the metal door at the bottom of the chimney</p>		
<p>Look across Hazelwell Street to what is now, Stirchley Community Church.</p>		<p>Terracotta is clay that has undergone a slightly different process to that of bricks - and was often used on Victorian buildings to provide some decoration.</p>
	<p>Make your way to the other side of this building - which is on Pershore Road. Look up – can you see the words ‘Society of Friends’ and ‘Stirchley Institute’ and the date ‘1891’?</p>	 <p>More terracotta decoration.</p>
<p>Turn around and look across the road to the Public House – can you see more ‘nature hiding’? Also note the decorative blue-brickwork.</p>		<p>Now, continue to walk up Pershore Road – here, it is often known locally as Stirchley High Street - towards the junction with Mary Vale Road.</p>
<p>Turn right and walk up to the bridge that is over the canal and railway. What do you think influenced the design of the railings?</p>		
<p>Can you see how the designs represent different modes of travel. Local residents helped design these.</p>		<p>Go down the slope to the towpath and turn right to access the towpath. Continue along the towpath adjacent to the railway line and industrial estate.</p>

<p>Not far from the finish point, look across the canal to this Lookout Post from World War 2. What is it made of?</p>		<p>Concrete is made up water, aggregate (rock, sand or gravel) and Portland cement (which in turn is made from natural products). So nature is really hidden here!</p>
<p>Continue going forward to the bridge, when you are underneath it note the raised bricks on the ground.</p>		<p>Return to the Lifford Lane/Pershore Road junction where this trail began.</p>

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