

Cycle Commuters

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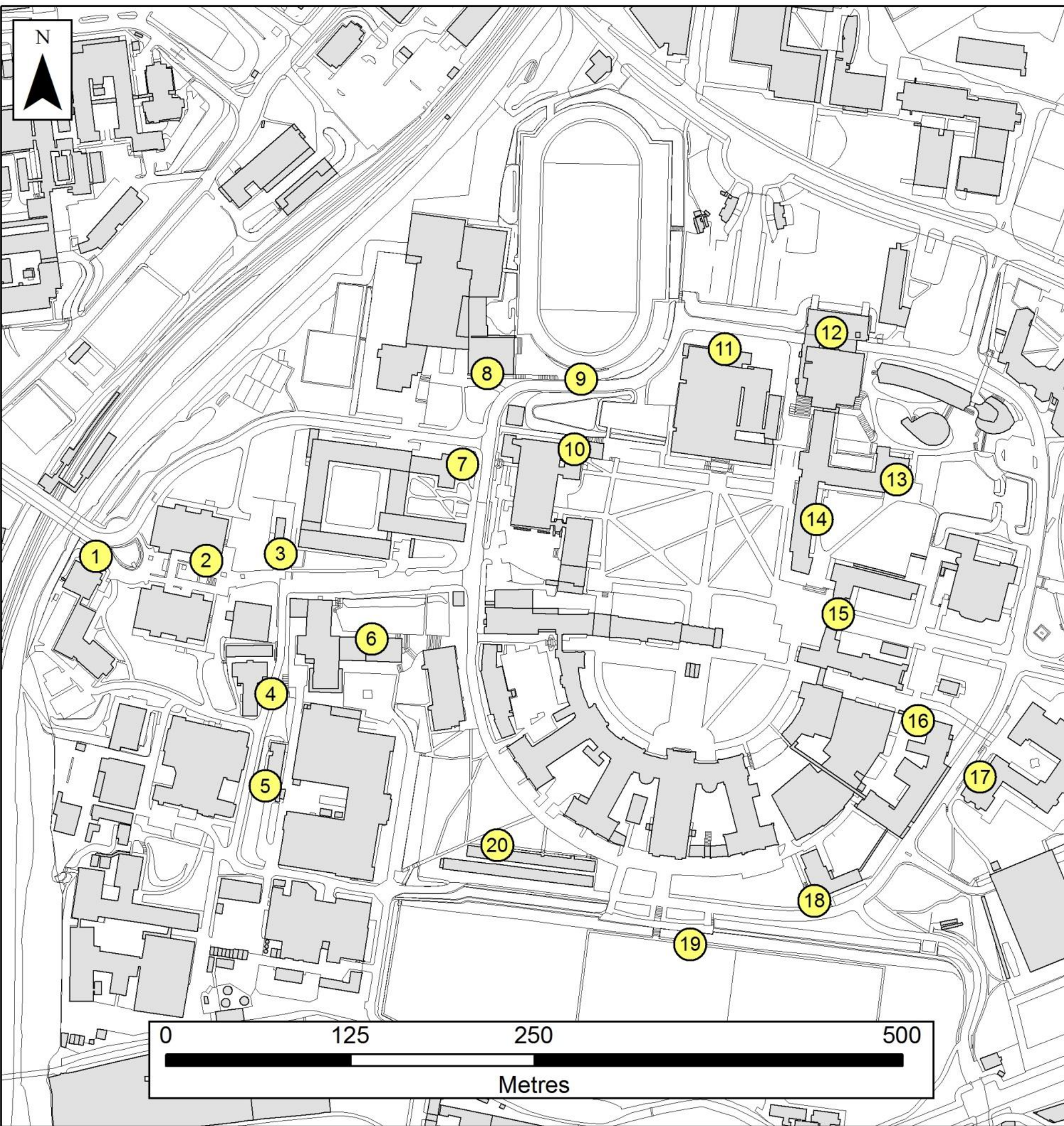
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- ### Key
- 1. Delphine
 - 2. All routes
 - 3. Dawn
 - 4. Jackie
 - 5. Pavements
 - 6. The ethics of GPS
 - 7. Gabriela
 - 8. Sounds and smells
 - 9. Rob
 - 10. Animals
 - 11. Gareth
 - 12. The longest ride
 - 13. Quiet route home
 - 14. Nick
 - 15. Simon H
 - 16. Accidents
 - 17. Simon B
 - 18. Bell ringing
 - 19. Dan
 - 20. Dagmar

Guide to exhibits



cycle commuters



1. Delphine, 3.7km, average 15.9kmh

2. General map showing routes cycled by all participants along with heart rate data

3. Dawn, 4.4km, average 13.8kmh



4. Jackie, 16.4km, average 21.1kmh
"I've been commuting to the University by bike for the past 14 years. I started off with an old second hand heavy bike but found that I enjoyed cycling so much that I now have 4 bikes, one of which is a light carbon road bike for Sunday rides. Cycling is a great way of getting exercise and relieving stress. I feel quite chilled by the time I get home whereas if I was in the car, I'd be wound up and really stressed."

5. Riding on pavements is illegal in the UK, but it is often a tactic adopted by cyclists. This map shows locations where participants noted that they were choosing to break the law.

6. There are many ethical concerns raised by the use of satellite tracking. This project, which follows people home, brings particular risks. Great care must be taken whenever using these technologies within research.



7. Gabriela, 4.8km, average 15.3kmh

8. Cycling is a multi-sensory experience and the act of riding can heighten people's awareness of the non-visual. These are some extracts from the commentaries reflecting on sensory stimulation.

stimulation.

9. Rob, 4.4km, average 16.0kmh

10. Wildlife often features in the commentaries, particularly waterfowl along the canal and dogs on the Rea Valley route. Cycling through locations can fold together present experience with past memories as participants recall things they have seen in previous journeys.



11. Gareth, 7.3km, average 14.9kmh

12. This 3D visualisation shows part of the longest ride undertaken by a participant in the study. A keen club cyclist, his chosen route takes him across steep hills to the south west of Birmingham.

13. There are many different styles of cycling. This route is not the most direct, but it is quiet, pleasant and safe, which suits this participant.

14. Nick, 19.8km, average 20.0kmh



15. Simon H, 4.6km, average 15.6kmh

16. Most of the literature on cycling focuses on 'barriers' to cycling, including its dangers. Nonetheless, only a few participants mentioned accidents.



17. Simon B, 11.1km, average 6.3kmh

18. Not every cyclist is comfortable ringing their bell to alert pedestrians of their presence, with some preferring to call out. Most interaction with pedestrians occurs, not surprisingly, on the shared cycle/walking routes along the canal and the Rea Valley.

19. Dan, 4.1km, average 16.1kmh

20. Dagmar, 3.2km, average 13.3kmh

This exhibition is based on journeys made by 28 employees of the University of Birmingham during summer 2009. Audio commentaries and GPS data were recorded by participants as they cycled home from work. These records were then used to produce maps examining cycling as an embodied practice, exploring issues of sustainable transport, fitness, sensory stimulation and what it means to be a cycle commuter.

Maps based on the data are being exhibited around campus for one week only alongside portraits of participants by documentary photographer Dan Burwood. The posters are unprotected and will weather during the course of the exhibition.

www.rescuegeography.org.uk/cycle
www.danburwood.co.uk

For more information about sustainable commuting options see www.bham.ac.uk/travel

