

## A38 CYCLE PATH (AREA 5)

**ED BROWN**

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Opened in June 2019, the A38 cycle route runs from Selly Oak into the City Centre. It's a relatively flat route and seems well used: 167 cyclists had been down the route before us on the day we chose to pedal our way in to the city.

We set off at around 10:30 am, from a pedestrian crossing on the Selly Oak Bypass, about 500 metres from the junction of Edgbaston Park Road and the A38 Bristol Road South. At this time of day there was hardly anyone about, maybe two or three other cyclists.

From Selly Oak, we set off down the left-hand side of the A38. At Edgbaston Park Road you are guided into the middle of the road, in the central reservation. This is by far the nicest section of the route and runs all the way to the Priory Road crossroads. At Priory Road the route crosses the A38 to the left-hand side where it runs alongside the pavement and the pedestrians.

The route doesn't take space away from motorised road users, so space can be tight with two-way bike traffic, pedestrians and street furniture (signs, bus stops etc). I wonder if this will change with greater attention being placed on the climate and air quality.

At the Junction with Wellington Road the route switches to the right-hand side of the road and takes you to the major junction where the Bristol Road meets Belgrave Middleway and on to Bristol Street. It's here that you really start to see the size of the buildings that have popped up in the city centre – a view that hadn't been given to cyclists, unless they'd dared brave the A38 prior to the cycle route being built.

Over the Middleway, on to Bristol Street and you're taken past what was McClaren House and off to the right onto Kent Street.

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