

ED BROWN

Kings Heath to Yardley (Anticlockwise)

If you're from Birmingham or have lived in Birmingham, you'll know about the number 11 route. At 26 miles long it's the longest urban route in Europe. It was first operated as a complete circuit on 26 April 1926 (sections ran as early as 1923) with the idea of better linking the suburbs of Birmingham. Most bus routes at that time travelled in and out of the city. You could argue that nearly 100 years later our bus routes haven't progressed much: it's often still quicker to head in and out of the city if you want to get somewhere "quickly" on the bus. You can travel the route in two directions, Clockwise and Anticlockwise, hence the 11C and 11A numbering on the buses.

Sections - Clockwise

1. Perry Barr to Erdington
2. Erdington to Stetchford
3. Stetchford to Acocks Green
4. Acocks Green to Kings Heath
5. Kings Heath to Selly Oak
6. Selly Oak to Bearwood
7. Bearwood to Handsworth
8. Handsworth to Perry Barr

Sections - Anticlockwise

1. Perry Barr to Handsworth
2. Handsworth to Bearwood
3. Bearwood to Selly Oak
4. Selly Oak to Kings Heath
5. Kings Heath to Acocks Green
6. Acocks Green to Stetchford
7. Stetchford to Erdington
8. Erdington to Perry Barr

I followed the route from Kings Heath at All Saints Church) to Acocks Green and then on to Yardley ending just before the Swan Centre, a section of just over 8 miles. There's huge variation along the route, from the tightly pack terraces along Addison Road, to the grand

town houses of Swanshurst Lane, the high-rise blocks on Fox Hollies Road (built on the site of Fox Hollies Hall) and back to terraced housing in Acocks Green and towards Yardley.

- Part 1 -Kings Heath to Swanshurst Lane
- Part 2 - Sarehole Mill to Acocks Green
- Part 3 - Acocks Green to Yardley

I've yet to ride the full 26 miles of the Number 11 route in one go, but I may do one day if I have a rare afternoon free. There's a wonderful tour which you can follow (free of charge) [The Tour! | Outer Circle Bus – Take your own Guided Tour.](#)

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