BRADFORD STREET (AREA 3)

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Bradford Street is topped and tailed by views of churches. To the south, heading out of the city, is the Holy Trinity Church, Bordesley and, at the city end, we can see St Martin's in the Bull Ring. This path, like the Digbeth area in general, is undergoing a significant degree of regeneration. It lies on the edge of the 'creative quarter' of Birmingham, which is seeing a huge growth in residential city living in what was once primarily an industrial and commercial area. Bradford Street is now very much a 'work in progress', offering tantalising glimpses of both its future and its past.

At a time when Birmingham's trading was at its height, Bradford Street reputedly boasted over twenty pubs; only two active hostelries now survive. Aside from new housing (including the former Harrison Drape factory, renamed 'Fabrick Square'), the views are diverse and distinctive. On the approach to the city centre, there is the former Brylcreme factory (now derelict and unloved), startling street art (now very much a part of the area's DNA) and a welcoming vision of Birmingham Coach Station. Where the northern point of Bradford Street ends, the 'proper' city centre takes over. Visible here is the huge razed site of the former Wholesale Market, earmarked to become the destination Smithfield development; this will inevitably bring increased footfall and attention to this idiosyncratic Birmingham path.

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