

History Guide on the 35 Bus

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Route #35

A Route Rich in Historical Significance



Nottingham Canal at Wollaton, c. 1955



Canning Circus, c.1895

The number 35 is a special bus route from a history lover's perspective. It passes through, or near, nine of Nottingham's fifteen Domesday communities, the site of a Roman Fort and the world's first known railway built in 1603–4 to carry coal from Strelley to Wollaton.

The route is also rich in housing of historical significance, from almshouses and 'Garden City' council estates to a gated private estate. The countryside the 35 passes was once among the origins of the industrial revolution. The modern world began here.

The passenger with an active imagination might just glimpse the faces of 17th century pupils walking to school in Bulwell; miners going home after their shift down Cinderhill Colliery; Roman soldiers



Broxtowe Hall, c. 1930s



Old Bilborough village, c. 1933

in Broxtowe. A little further on, early Puritans on their way to Bilborough's parish church; 16th century hewers in Strelley loading coal into horse drawn wagons on the railway.

Climbing up towards Canning Circus, 18th century travellers would have passed through two toll gates and run the risk of being robbed by highwaymen or chased by dragoons defending the town.

For most of the 20th century, the 35's passengers would have been workers in the factories along the length of the Derby Road. Smokers upstairs and, for a while, riding on trams and trolleybuses. At night going to a pub or catching a film at the Savoy Cinema. Now the faces on the bus belong to students and nurses, patients and shoppers, workers and mums with buggies or pensioners like me with shopping trollies.

The 35's downhill dash to Nottingham skirts the city's General Cemetery, where gravestones evoke endless stories. Listen carefully to the mobiles on the bus and you will hear the living telling theirs too.

Robert Howard
www.historybybus.org.uk

Bulwell to Moor Road



Strelley House, Bulwell, c.1974



Broxtowe Hall, c.1835

Bulwell (1). Before boarding the bus at Bulwell Bus Station, be sure to have a look at Strelley House, within yards of the Market Place and dating from 1667. You can also pick up some provisions on market days: Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, and have a look at the (purported) site of the original Bulwell well inside the hardware shop near the bus station.

Headstocks (2). Sixty years ago, there were three working collieries: Babbington, Broxtowe and Cinderhill. You will pass Broxtowe Hall Close (3) off Broxtowe Lane, where Broxtowe Hall stood until its demolition in the 1930s. The subsequent building of Broxtowe housing estate uncovered Nottingham's first Roman Fort. More about this area can be found in Garden City, TravelRight's guide to Aspley, Broxtowe and Cinderhill www.travelright.org.uk/aspley

Coleby Road (4). Alight here for a walk around Broxtowe Country Park (5), the former site of Broxtowe Colliery. Today the park is comprised of 46 hectares of woodland and open green spaces.

Moor Road (6). Hop off here for a walk around Bilborough village (7) on the south side of Strelley Road. Look at St Martins Church, then head back over Wigman Road towards Strelley Village (8). Follow the Monks Way, a medieval path, from the Broad Oak pub up to the church. Take time to walk around the churchyard, which is overlooked by the Hall, which is said to be haunted!

From Strelley Village it's just a short walk to Oldmoor Wood (9), wonderful any time of the year, but particularly so during bluebell season.

Wigman Road Top to Wollaton Park Gates



Strelley Village, c.1910



Wollaton Hall, c.1858

Rejoin the bus at Wigman Road Top (10) for a panoramic view of the city as the 35 turns into Bracebridge Drive. As you pass Bracebridge Drive Shops (11) there is also a magnificent view of Wollaton Hall. Also see TravelRight's guide to this area, A New World www.travelright.org.uk/bilborough

Wollaton Vale (12). Just south of the railway was the Nottingham Canal. To the west, part of the old canal has become a nature reserve and makes for a fascinating historical walk. The full description of this walk, In Search of the Abandoned Nottingham Canal can be found on my blog www.parkviews.blogspot.co.uk

Bramcote Lane (13) leads to Wollaton Dovecote (former home to 4000 pigeons) and village and marks the beginning of an

enjoyable walk towards Derby Road through Martin's Pond nature reserve and Wollaton Park and Deer Park. Wollaton Hall (14) is one of England's finest Elizabethan buildings, now a museum.

As you leave the South Entrance of Wollaton Park the bus can be picked up again at Wollaton Park Gates (15). Alternatively, cross the road for a stroll around the grounds of Nottingham University. Enjoy its green spaces, walled and formal gardens and exotic plants. You can also visit Highfields Park (16), adjoining University Park. A 'Gardens Guide and Tree Walk' is available online at www.travelright.org.uk/gardens

Uni North Entrance to Lenton Boulevard



Lenton Lodge, c.1905

Back to the bus, and had you stayed on board for this section, you will have seen the Abel Collins Almshouses (17), tracing their origins back to 1704. In contrast, Adams Hill is the site of some of Nottingham's most expensive homes. Behind is a golf course. To have a look round, alight at Uni North Entrance (18).

Three stops along, alight at Hillside (19) for a walk around Lenton. Here, Lenton Lodge (20) once marked the edge of the Wollaton Hall Estate. Nottingham Canal passed under Derby Road (the bridge still exists) and the River Leen diverts into the course of the old canal.

Across the road and Hill Side road takes you along the Leen to the site of Lenton Priory (21), whose last Prior was executed for treason. The graves of 27 nuns can be found



A Norman font at Lenton St Anthony

here. After the Priory's dissolution in 1538 some its stones were used to build Wollaton Hall.

Back along the river and take the back streets to Lenton Recreation Ground (22). Opened in 1888, it is Nottingham's oldest municipal park.

On to Lenton Boulevard (23), where the street names, Cycle Road, Triumph Rd and Dunlop Avenue remind us of the Raleigh Cycle factory, one of Nottingham's major employers of days gone by. The old Head Office building, now better known as the Marcus Garvey Centre, is still standing, with its many fine friezes. A website about Raleigh featuring interviews with workers can be found at www.iworkedatraleigh.com

Where Lenton Blvd meets Derby Rd is the Savoy Cinema (24) opened in 1935 and featured in the film

Savoy Cinema to City Angel Row



General Cemetery, c. 1841

‘Saturday Night & Sunday Morning’, based on Alan Sillitoe’s novel of the same name about working class life in Nottingham. Behind are the Lenton Flats, built in the 1960s and now being demolished. Join the bus here for a lift up the hill.

Canning Circus (25) is where seven roads meet. On the north side is the entrance to the city’s General Cemetery (26) through the middle of almshouses erected by George Canning. The Cemetery offers a downhill walk into the City, coming out across from the main Nottingham Trent University Campus (27) and Shakespeare Street.

Alternatively, go southwards, crossing over Derby Road. This road was once notorious for highwaymen and Nottingham so riotous that dragoons were



Canning Circus, c.1895

garrisoned in the town. Garrison Lane, by Park Stores, is a reminder of this. Adjacent to it, the Park Estate (28) is well worth walking around. Just beyond, looking south, there is a panoramic view towards the countryside.

If you’re walking directly into town from Canning Circus you’ll find The Park Tunnel (29), a unique architectural feature connecting Derby Rd (by Budgens) to the Park. Also Nottingham Roman Catholic Cathedral (30) on your right (note that the 35 only stops here when leaving city.)

The final stop, for the purposes of this guide, is Nottingham Central Library (31), Angel Row. Head to the first floor, Nottingham Local Studies Library, where librarians with a wealth of knowledge will be happy to help you to keep exploring.

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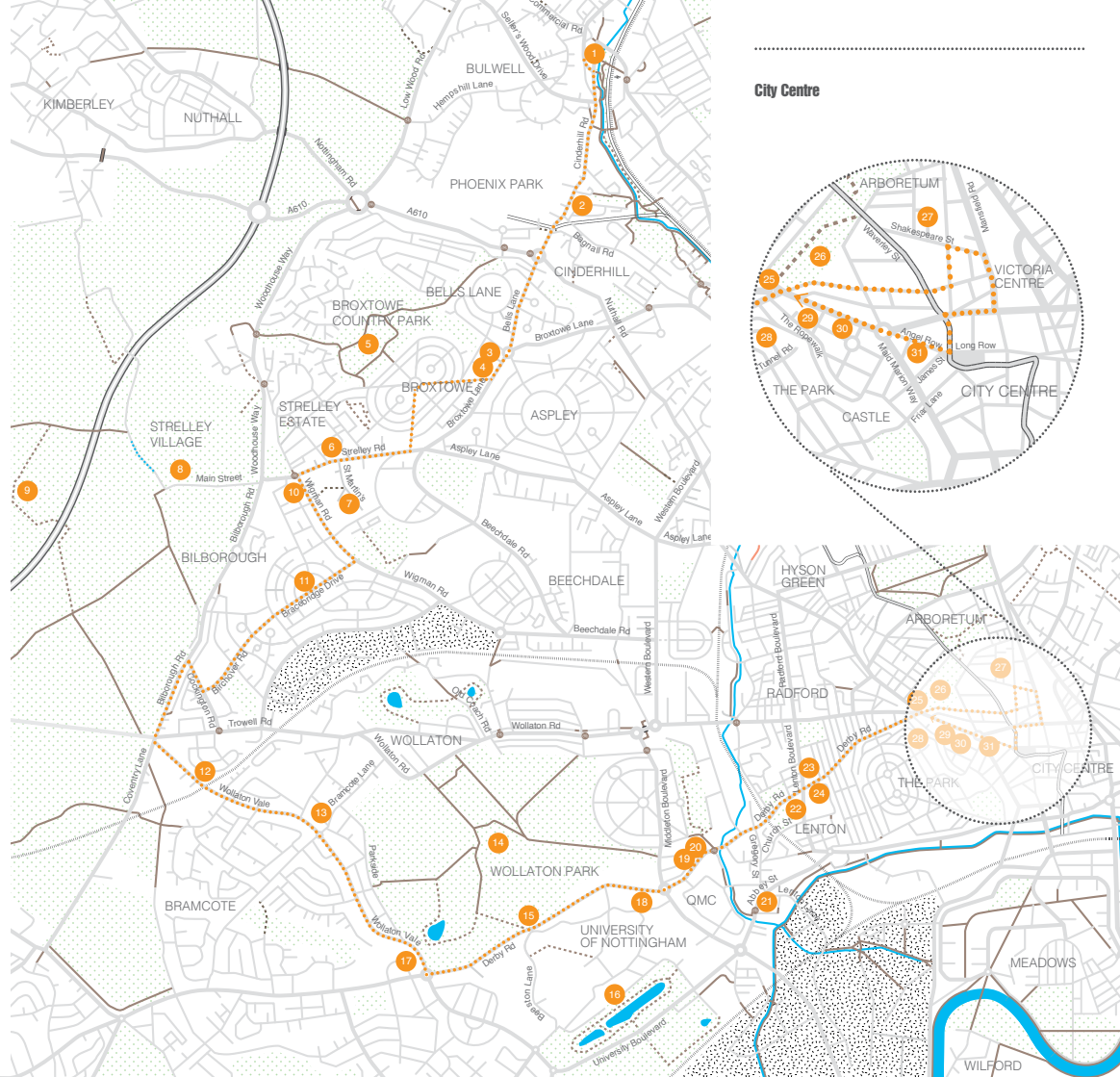
Key

- #35 Bus Route
- Walking or Cycling Route
- Walking Route only
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Motorway
- Rail Line
- Park / Countryside
- Industrial Estate
- Toucan Crossing
- Monks Way (remains of)

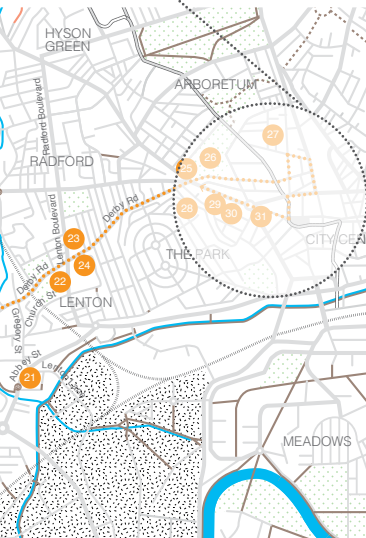


Route

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Bulwell | 19 Hillside |
| 2 Headstocks | 20 Lenton Lodge |
| 3 Broxtowe Hall Close | 21 Lenton Priory |
| 4 Coleby Road | 22 Lenton Recreation Ground |
| 5 Broxtowe Country Park | 23 Lenton Boulevard |
| 6 Moor Rd | 24 Savoy Cinema |
| 7 Bilborough Village | 25 Canning Circus |
| 8 Strelley Village | 26 General Cemetery |
| 9 Oldmoor Wood | 27 Trent University Campus |
| 10 Wigman Road Top | 28 Park Estate |
| 11 Bracebridge Drive Shops | 29 The Park Tunnel |
| 12 Wollaton Vale | 30 Roman Catholic Cathedral |
| 13 Bramcote Lane | 31 Nottingham Central Library |
| 14 Wollaton Hall | |
| 15 Wollaton Park Gates | |
| 16 Highfields Park | |
| 17 Abel Collins Almshouses | |
| 18 University North Entrance | |



City Centre



History Guide on the 35 Bus

Welcome to the history guide to the #35 bus route. We're delighted to bring you this unique insight into the history of this part of Nottingham. If you'd like to find out more about walking or cycling, organised rides and walks or how to plan your journey, then visit:
www.travelright.org.uk
or call 0115 883 3732.

You can download this map by visiting:
www.travelright.org.uk/35bus

We hope you enjoy using this guide. The 35 bus leaves every ten minutes for most of the day between Bulwell Bus Station and the Victoria Centre. With an all-day ticket for £3.50 you can get off, have a walk, then hop back on again further along the line, or back in the direction you came from! Pick up a timetable from your local library or Travel Centre.

Or why not plan a family day out with an NCT Grouprider ticket?

The Grouprider offers unlimited all day NCT City bus travel for up to 5 people (minimum 1, maximum 2 adults). Grouprider tickets can be bought direct from the driver and cost £9 on weekdays and £4.50 all day during school holidays and weekends and after 5pm weekdays.

www.nctx.co.uk

Written by Robert Howard and designed by Chris Matthews on behalf of TravelRight. TravelRight is being delivered as part of Nottingham City Council's successful Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme of activities.



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