

B – Blackstone/Devils Spittleful Nature Reserve

Start Point: Blackstone Picnic Site Car Park (Free) DY12 1PU SO796744, off A456 Bewdley by-pass
Distance 1.5 miles

Description: Initially tarmac track, then stone and sandy sections.

Highlights: Devils Spittleful – climb and tell the fable (see below). Impressive heathland – one of the largest in Worcestershire

- 1 Cross the A456 at the Toucan Crossing, turn right and almost immediately left signposted *Sustrans Route 45 – Kidderminster 3 1/2 Stourport 3*. Follow the tarmac track slightly uphill to railway bridge.
- 2 Under railway bridge where the track divides, take left along stony vehicle track.
- 3 After around 500m, take next left (signpost Public Bridleway; Heathland and Heritage Trail)
- 4 Under next railway bridge pass through a gate into Nature Reserve. Route becomes sandy. Continue slightly uphill past Devil's Spittleful board describing the history – worth climbing Devil's Spittleful for the view.
- 5 Return by same route.

After finishing, why not walk into Bewdley along the River Severn (Ice Cream / Sweet Shops / Fish & Chips). Children confident on road could cycle into Bewdley, starting on footpath at Toucan Crossing and joining road by Sports Centre.

Devil's Spittleful – The Fable

Apparently the Devil considered the people of Bewdley were too religious and decided to dam the River Severn with a huge block of sandstone and so drown the local population. However, on the way he met a cobbler with very worn shoes and asked him how far it was to the river, to which the cobbler responded to just look at his shoes as that was what they were like having walked from Bewdley... The Devil then gave up and dropped the huge rock here.



C – Wyre Forest Nature Reserve using the old railway track

Start Point: Dry Mill Lane car park (free) DY12 2BL SO772762

Distance: 3.75 miles

Highlight: Wyre Forest is the largest native oak woodland in England.

Warning: car park towards the bottom of a steep hill has limited capacity.

- 1 Pedal or scoot along the route of the old railway track using *Sustrans Route 45*
- 2 After 0.75 miles tarmac surface ends
- 3 Continue under bridge on gravel track to T Junction. Signpost here says: Left uphill to Wyre Forest Visitors Centre – Right downhill to Dowles Brook.
- 4 Return by same route

This leaflet, and others in the series, have been produced by the Wyre Forest Cycle Forum with funding provided by Wyre Forest District Council. Find out more at:

www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/cycling



 **Wyre Forest**
District Council



Three Leisure Rides in the Wyre Forest District:

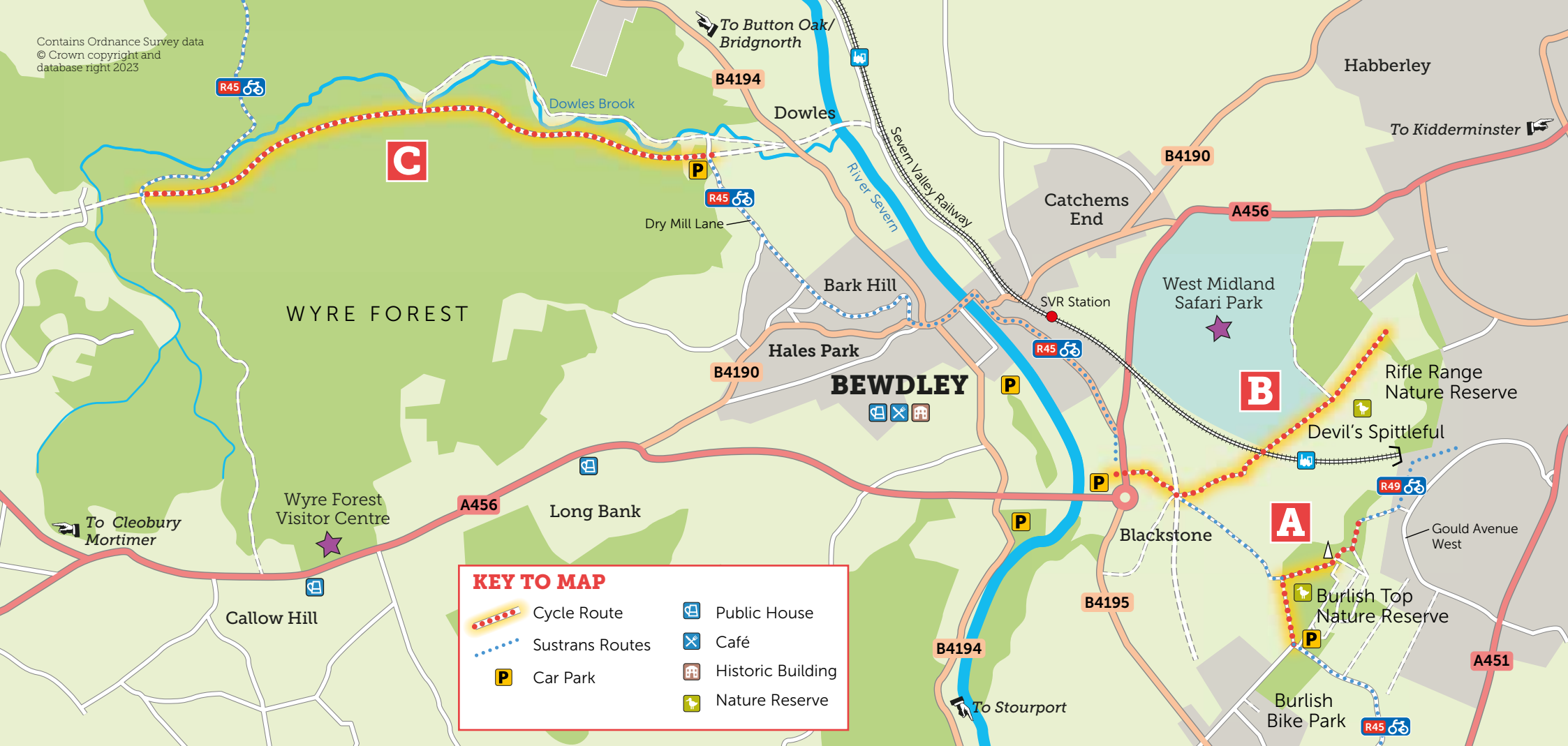
Suitable for children just started cycling

- A) Burlish Top Nature Reserve
- B) Devils Spittleful Nature Reserve
- C) Wyre Forest Old Railway Track



No traffic ! No steep hills!

A safe introduction to cycling and the wonderful nature around Wyre Forest District



A – Burlish Top Nature Reserve

Start Point: Kingsway Burlish Top Nature Reserve car park (free). DY13 8NA SO 8065573484

Distance: 1.25 miles

Highlight: Extensive views of Severn Valley Railway, West Midland Safari Park and beyond.

- 1 Take the tarmac path straight ahead northwards going slightly uphill (Sustrans Route 45 towards Bewdley).
- 2 After 500m – turn right at T junction signposted Route 49. Cycle on tarmac track towards radio/phone masts.

- 3 Continue on tarmac track to bench at bend with westward views over Severn Valley Railway, West Midland Safari Park and Clee Hills.
- 4 Return by the same route.

Alternatively this stretch could be used as a flat tarmac short scoot/pedal of just 300 metres on the flat each way.

Access with parking can be gained from Gould Avenue West, DY11 7HD.

