

## South Birmingham area guide

Postcode district: B38, B45 & B47

### Location

South Birmingham lies within or includes part of the following towns, counties, localities, electoral wards and stations: Alvechurch, Barnt Green, Beacon, Billesley, Birmingham, Bournville, Drakes Cross and Walkers Heath, Hillcrest Park, Hillside, Hollywood, Hollywood and Majors Green, Kings Norton, Lickey, Linthurst, Longbridge, Marlbrook, Northfield, Rednal, Rubery, Tanners Green, Tanworth, Uffdown, Warwickshire, Waseley, Worcestershire & Wythall.



### History

The first evidence of people settling in the area date back to the Stone age when a Neolithic hunter lost a flint arrow head on Rednal Hill. The arrow head is leaf-shaped and made of flint and is certainly over 4000 years old. A flint scraping tool was found in the area near the Earl of Plymouth monument. The artefacts are on display at the Birmingham Museum.

In preparation for the Second World War deep shelter tunnels were dug alongside Rednal in 1936 to accommodate up to 15,000 people. The main tunnels were under the South Works and were also driven under the Flying Ground through the sandstone towards the Cofton Hackett aircraft factory, a task undertaken by an army of mining engineers. The tunnels under the South Works were mainly intended to be used as air raid shelters although some machine tools were installed, allowing work to continue. Used in later years for moving partially completed cars around the site, the tunnels still exist under the demolished factories and many photographs taken by explorers have surfaced on the Internet.

During World War II Wythall was home to a Royal Air Force station housing a barrage balloon facility. Part of the site is now occupied by The Transport Museum, Wythall, which has a collection of historic buses and battery electric vehicles.

Major housing development in Rednal only began after World War II with the construction of the Rednal Hall council estate where over 600 houses were added. Until the 1950s, Hollywood was a rural area with many fields and farms. Extensive postwar development saw these fields and farms give way to housing estates, shops and schools.



A centre of the Midlands nail making industry during the 19th century and home to both the Kalamazoo paper factory and the Austin motor company's Longbridge factory in the 20th century, today Northfield is predominantly a residential and dormitory suburb for metropolitan Birmingham. Northfield stands on either side of the main A38, heading south from the centre of Birmingham to Bromsgrove and onwards all the way to Cornwall.

### Present day

A major development aimed to improve the Longbridge ward was the Great Park development in Rubery by Corporate Land Developments Ltd. The 200-acre (0.81 km<sup>2</sup>) site just off junction 4 on the M5 Motorway has been developed into a community with offices, houses, industrial units, Empire Cinemas, Hollywood Bowl, Premier Inn, Brewers Fayre, Morrisons, Gala Bingo, Greens Fitness and an area of public open space.



Hollywood is home to the Gay Hill Golf Club, which has existed since 1921, and a family owned and managed packaging company, Kilby Packaging, which has existed since 1946.

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The former Grosvenor shopping center, has been renamed 'Northfield Shopping Centre' and contains several leading retail stores including Wilkinson, WH Smiths, Greggs, Dorothy Perkins, New Look and Holland & Barrett.

### Amenities

Younger children attend Rednal Hill Junior School on Irwin Avenue or the nearby Lickey Hills Primary School on the Old Birmingham Road, with its teaching staff of 40. The school provides nursery and primary facilities for approximately 440 children aged between 3 to 11

There is no secondary school in Rednal and older children attend either Colmers Farm School and Sports College or Waseley Hills High School in adjacent Rubery. Waseley Hills High School has around 970 pupils including 123 in its sixth form college. The school has specialist Business and Enterprise College status.

Kings Norton, along with many of the small towns near Birmingham, expanded considerably in the 19th century with a railway link into Birmingham passing by the new Bourneville factory just to the north.



### Average current values

	B38	B45	B47	B	National
1 Bedroom properties	£ 73,300	£81,600	£150,500	£92,700	£160,400
2 Bedroom properties	£94,900	£112,300	£185,400	£119,600	£166,000
3 Bedroom properties	£123,900	£144,800	£226,100	£145,700	£190,300
4 Bedroom properties	£236,600	£360,000	£325,700	£285,700	£344,800
5+ Bedroom properties	£412,000	£636,600	£393,800	£412,000	£584,400

### Housing stock

	B38	B45	B47	B	National
Total Detached	1,009	2,724	1,669	122,993	6,380,563
% Detached	10.98%	20.40%	39.38%	15.31%	23.05%
2,859	6,389	4,911	4,456	282,652	7,900,324
% Semi-Detached	31.13%	36.78%	34.36%	40.70%	28.53%
Terrace	3,796	4,035	898	289,466	8,665,051
% Terrace	41.33%	30.22%	21.20%	36.04%	31.30%
Flat	1,520	1,682	214	108,023	4,741,468
% Flat	16.55%	12.60%	5.06%	13.45%	17.13%

## Home ownership

	B38	B45	B47	B	National
Owner Occupied	5,029	8,522	3,368	471,993	14,911,858
% Owner Occupied	53.83%	66.87%	83.89%	58.77%	66.19%
Socially Rented	3,363	3,139	363	170,127	4,155,391
% Socially Rented	36.00%	24.63%	9.04%	21.18%	18.44%

House prices last updated 1st March 2013. Housing stock notes: The data above illustrates the relative proportions of the differing types of property. Based on information collected in the 2001 census, the percentages provide an indication of how common particular types of housing are within the postcode district. It is important to note that as homes are demolished and built these percentages will fluctuate accordingly.