



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



Interdisciplinary Walks

LEICESTER INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES



The Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies delivers interdisciplinary excellence. Dedicated to creating a collaborative and inspiring environment, it brings together academics from across all disciplines to deliver ambitious, transformative, and impactful research.

“The amazing thing about interdisciplinary work is that we do create new knowledge.”

Zalfa Feghali, School of Arts

The three routes within this guide have been designed to encourage researchers to think outside their own disciplinary silos whilst getting familiar with University of Leicester surroundings, from the main campus, to the School of Business at Brookfield, and the Space Park. Each route reveals more about the interdisciplinary research and collaborations taking place across the University whilst promoting exploration of its unique architecture, alongside Leicester’s parks, waterways, and green spaces.

The benefits of interdisciplinary research are manifold; by breaking down the silos that have traditionally been a feature of higher education, academics can become more innovative, and bid for more ambitious research funding. The departments highlighted here have a rich history of collaboration and discovery and are leading examples of how researchers can work together and form a strong and supportive community.

To learn more about the interdisciplinary research taking place supported by the Leicester Institute of Advanced Studies and to listen to interviews with staff members visit our blog site at www.leicias.le.ac.uk or scan the QR code on the back page.

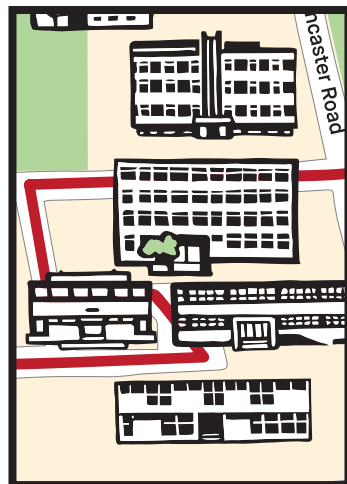
Safety and Accessibility: During term time, main campus can be loud and crowded. Each of the three walks take place outside. The routes are not always clearly signposted. Portions of the walks are along busy roads. Not all routes are suitable for disabled people: we recommend wheelchair users approach the Space Park (Route 3) via the city centre (avoiding the river and canal paths). Each walk should take place during daylight hours – some public spaces, particularly parks, river, and canal paths, are not well-lit at night.

Length guide: Individual times will vary depending on walking pace.

Short: Can be completed in less than 30 minutes.

Medium: Can be done during a lunch hour.

Long: Over one hour.



“We think a little bit differently, and by combining that way of thinking, you really come across different perspectives that would be completely unexplored otherwise.”

Chiara Batini, Department of Health Sciences

“My recommendation for starting is go and talk to people you wouldn’t normally talk to, go and listen to what other people are doing outside the silo that you’re usually in.”

Tim Coats, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences

“We’re not only thinking about academic disciplines and knowledges, but thinking about diverse knowledges beyond that, and the very critical aspects they bring to thinking through these issues is really important.”

Caroline Upton, School of Geography, Geology and the Environment

“You need to work with people who embrace interdisciplinarity, because it’s a tough journey, things may not translate from one field to the other, so you will have to come up with newer concepts, and that’s what’s exciting!”

Himanshu Kaul, School of Engineering

“We’re all coming at it from slightly different angles, but we realise that if we work together we can achieve some change in that common area we’re all interested in.”

Lisa Smith, School of Criminology

“Some of the best questions I have gotten have come from collaborators in social sciences, arts, humanities, they say ‘well, what’s the story here?’, ‘what’s the important thing?’”

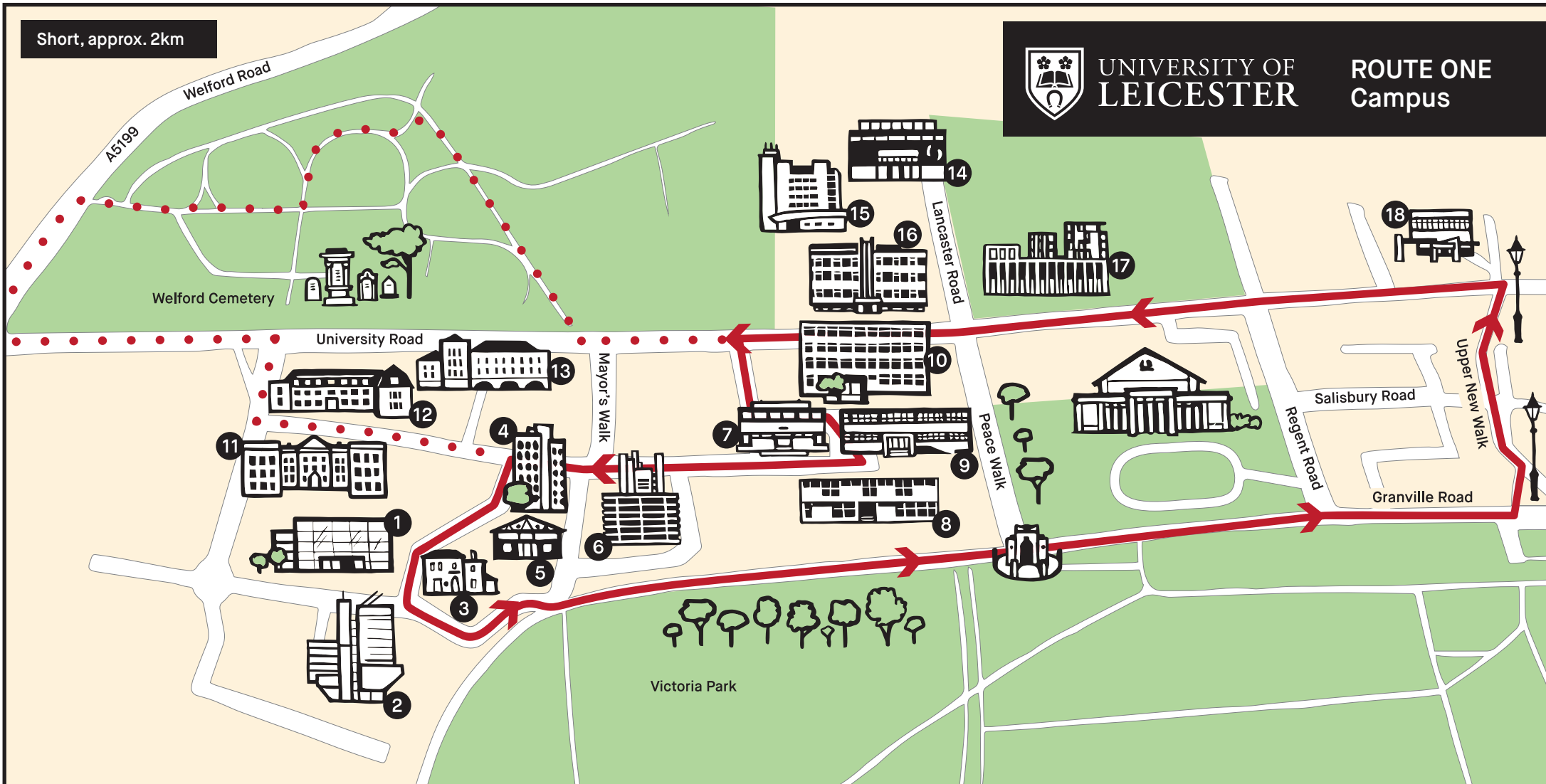
Josh Vande Hey, Centre for Environmental Health and Sustainability

Short, approx. 2km



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ROUTE ONE
Campus



Discover the historic architecture of the University of Leicester's main campus, including the distinctive **Attenborough Tower and Engineering Building**, and finish with a stroll through Victoria Park.

Start at the **David Wilson Library (1)** in Centenary Square, opposite the **Computer Science Building (5)**. Pass **College House (3)** and head into Victoria Park, along the tree-lined Knighton Way.

Continue through Victoria Park past the Arch of Remembrance, Peace Walk, and reach the entrance by De Montfort Hall.

Head along Granville Road past the car park, and cut down to the left along Upper New Walk. Turn left onto University Road, passing **Museum Studies (18)**.

Continue along University Road, crossing the junction at Regent Road to continue past the **George Davies Centre (17)** at

the base of Peace Walk. Opposite are the **Attenborough Arts Centre (14)**, **Henry Wellcome Building (15)** and **Maurice Shock Medical Sciences (16)**.

Cut back onto campus at the **Adrian Building (10)** and follow the stairs or ramp up past the **Bennett Building (9)** and the **Physics and Astronomy Building (8)**. Continue along past the **Archaeology and Ancient History Building (7)** and the **Charles Wilson Building (6)** to

finish back at the David Wilson Library.

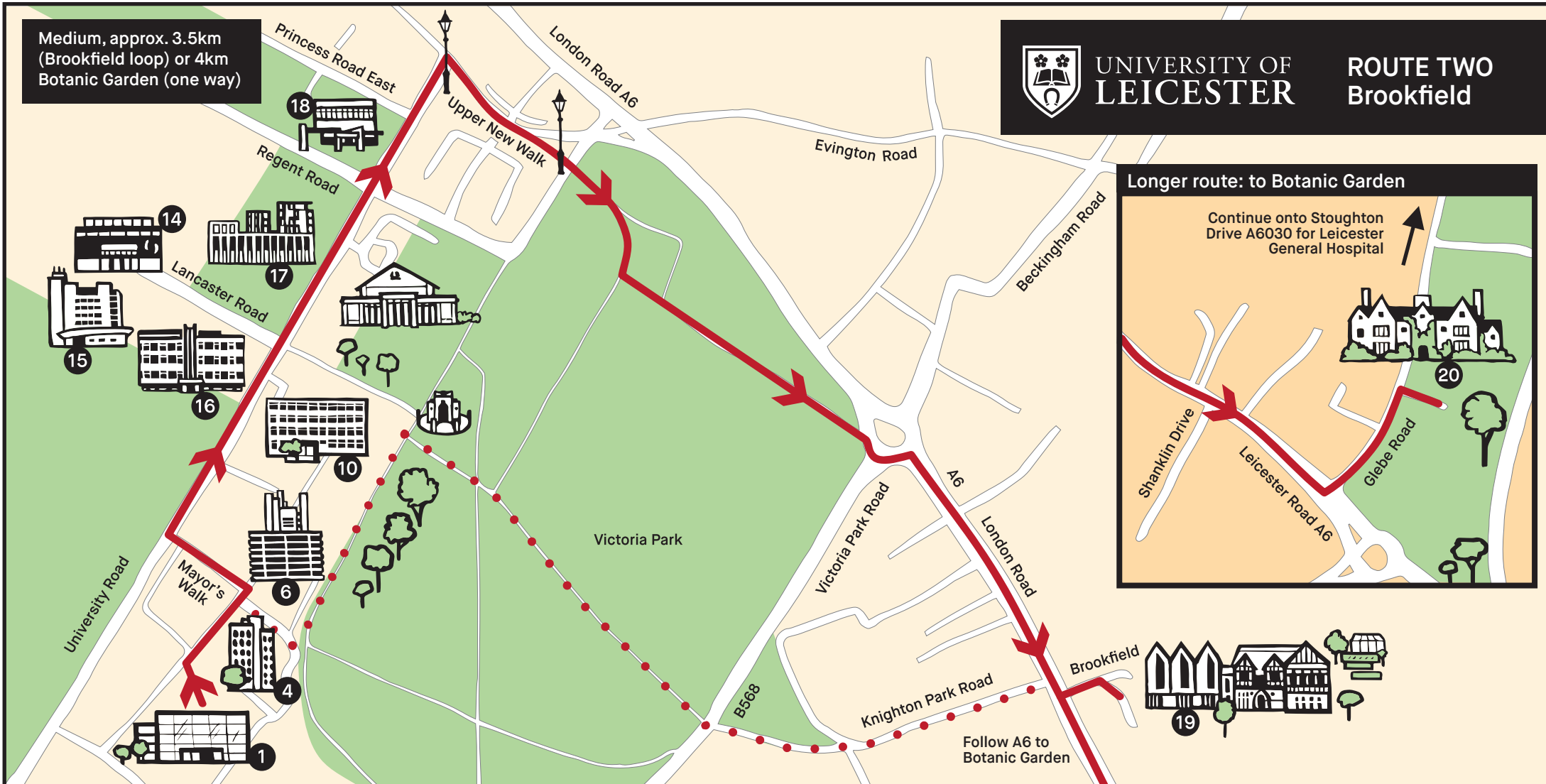
Longer route (dotted line): From the Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building and Adrian Building on University Road, continue further and turn right into Welford Cemetery. Return to campus via the **Astley Clarke Building (12)**, past the **Fielding Johnson Building (11)** and **Ken Edwards Building (13)** to return to Centenary Square.

Medium, approx. 3.5km
(Brookfield loop) or 4km
Botanic Garden (one way)

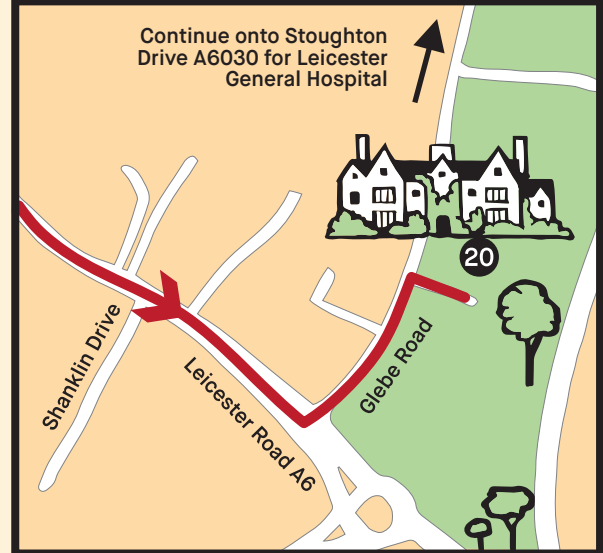


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ROUTE TWO
Brookfield



Longer route: to Botanic Garden



Walk along the perimeter of the campus and through leafy Victoria Park towards the peace and tranquility of Brookfield and the Botanic Garden.

Start at the **David Wilson Library (1)** on Centenary Square. Walk past the **Attenborough Building (4)** towards the **Charles Wilson Building (6)**. Turn left down Mayor's Walk, walking past the Archaeology and Ancient History Building to join University Road.

Continue along, passing underneath the **Adrian Building (10)** bridge. The **Maurice Shock Medical Sciences (16)**, **Henry Wellcome Building (15)** and **Attenborough Arts Centre (14)**, are found on your left. Continue past the **George Davies Centre (17)**, and cross the junction at Regent Road.

Keep walking, past Princess Road East and **Museum Studies (18)** on your left, until you reach Upper New Walk. Turn right onto

Upper New Walk, and cross the road to walk through Victoria Park, keeping the main road to your left. Reach the roundabout junction and cross to join London Road until you reach the **School of Business at Brookfield (19)**.

Return loop (dotted line): From the School of Business cut along Knighton Park Road to reach Victoria Park. Head along the central route to reach the Arch of Remembrance then continue along the

tree-lined Knighton Way to reach the Attenborough Building, heading through Centenary Square to finish at the David Wilson Library.

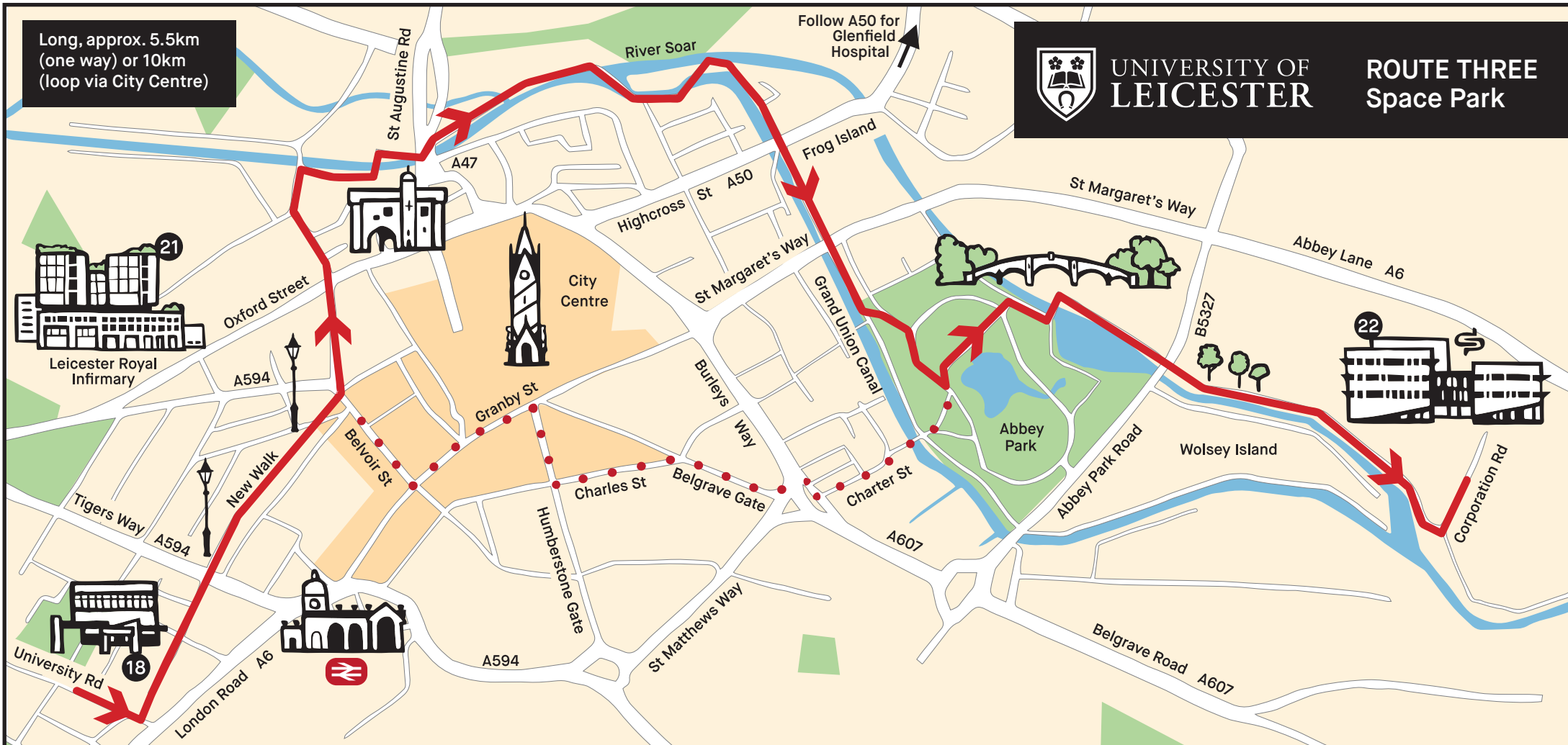
Longer route: From the School of Business continue for 1.2 miles down London Road. Soon after the petrol station turn left onto Glebe Road to reach the **Botanic Garden and Attenborough Arboretum (20)**.

Long, approx. 5.5km
(one way) or 10km
(loop via City Centre)



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ROUTE THREE
Space Park



Enjoy the Georgian splendour of New Walk before a waterside walk along Leicester's River Soar and Grand Union Canal, crossing through the formal gardens of Abbey Park towards Space Park Leicester.

Start at **Museum Studies (18)** on University Road, and join New Walk. Walk towards the City Centre, past the Oval and Leicester Museum and Art Gallery. Continue down to the junction at Welford Place. Head left onto Newarke Street until the Magazine, a 15th-century gateway.

If you are joining the walk from **Leicester Royal Infirmary (21)** head down Oxford Street, past the Jain Temple, until you reach the Magazine.

From the Magazine, cross under its arch and carry on past Newarke House Museum to the river. Cut through Castle Park until reaching a pedestrian bridge opposite Leicester Castle.

Cross the bridge to reach the river path and follow this along the River Soar. Keep walking, and cross the footbridge over the

weir, right onto the Grand Union Canal towpath. Cross a further weir and canal locks until reaching Abbey Park.

Walk through Abbey Park before cutting left, and over the bridge towards the café and toilets. Continue along the footpath adjacent to the River Soar, past the ruins of Leicester Abbey. Follow the river path under Abbey Park Road Bridge and walk the wooded footpath along to the National Space Centre, past the Abbey Pumping Station Museum. Turn left onto Corporation Road to reach the **Space Park (22)**.

City Centre return (dotted line): Retrace through Abbey Park, cutting down towards the canal. Cross the bridge, pass Morning-side Arena, and head down Charter Street and Archdeacon Lane. Cross the flyover to Belgrave Gate and continue along Charles Street at the back of the shopping centre. Turn right onto Humberstone Gate, until the Clock Tower. Turn on to Gallowtree Gate, which merges into Granby Street. Continue along, turning right onto Belvoir Street, and follow this until reaching the junction at Welford Place to re-join New Walk.



**David Wilson
Library**



**Astley Clarke
Building**



**Engineering
Building**



**Ken Edwards
Building**



**College
House**



**Attenborough
Arts Centre**



**Attenborough
Building**



**Henry Wellcome
Building**



**Computer
Science Building**



**Maurice Shock
Medical
Sciences**



**Charles Wilson
Building**



**George Davies
Centre**



**Archaeology and
Ancient History**



**Museum
Studies**



**Physics and
Astronomy
Building**



**School of
Business**



**Bennett
Building**



**Botanic
Garden**



**Adrian
Building**



**Leicester Royal
Infirmary**



**Fielding Johnson
Building**



**Space
Park**

"The great thing that's been happening in the last few years at the university is that we've had a lot of events that have been purposely designed to cross disciplines."

John Pearl, Department of Respiratory Sciences

"We're making lots of connections with different people, and producing some really quite novel research which we're working on at the moment."

Sarah Inskip, School of Archaeology and Ancient History

"I wouldn't even think of endeavouring on a research project now that wasn't multidisciplinary, because I can see it's a much better way of finding solutions to major problems."

Mark Williams, School of Geography, Geology and the Environment

"I think everybody's got their unique insights, and it's really such a stimulating environment being able to talk across different disciplines."

Eva Krockow, Department of Neuroscience Psychology & Behaviour

"We had all these academics... we had some chemists on board, we had computer scientists, we had designers, historians, we had literary people, we had experts on music, we had experts on visual culture, engineers – a whole range of people got involved."

Andrew Hugill, School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences

"I think it is actually important to know who you are and what discipline you sit within, and to bring that really quite explicitly – everyone makes the best contribution when it's really clear who they are and what they bring."

Carolyn Tarrant, Department of Health Sciences



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"My favourite walk is probably from the Henry Wellcome building on to New Walk, to stroll up and down between the Georgian and Victorian houses there, I really like that."

Richard Doveston, Leicester Institute of Structural and Chemical Biology

"The place I like is the Brookfield Campus, it's very beautiful – it's nice and green, and it's so lovely ... you get refreshed, time to really enjoy and appreciate nature – it's relaxing."

Winfred Onyas, School of Business

"I love Victoria Park itself - even though it's not formally part of the campus, it's still, for me it's very much an integral element of the university."

Prashant Kidambi, School of History, Politics and International Relations

"A really nice place to go for a walk and if you want some peace and quiet, is into the quads of the Fielding Johnson building, which I think are one of the best-kept secrets on campus."

Simon Dixon, David Wilson Library



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