

SANDWELL VALLEY POR LEVEL 2 DEBRIEF

The OS map of Sandwell valley can be quite hard to read as it has too much information on it

The route started at the sailing club , crossed the road and turned north down a tarmac path , it then crossed the river tame and carried on between the river and forge mill lake , under the railway bridge then up to meet a dirt path going east , you then rode parallel with the railway for 200m before turning up a small grassy path to the first ticket , everyone got this ticket correctly

Shortly after the first ticket the route went behind a club and the first checkpoint was there, after leaving this checkpoint you went over the railway bridge towards the RSPB , this is where most people got lost . I have attached an aerial photo of the area to make things clearer , most people followed the driveway into the RSPB car park then couldn't find a route out , if you look closely at the map it shows two paths running parallel with the railway and a track leading up to a building , this track is the tarmac road leading up to the building in the car park , you should of stayed to the right of the car park and taken the left hand path out of the two parallel paths shown on the map , once on this path the turning into the large field was approx 150m down the track , the path across this field curved round a small plantation of trees that is not shown on the map , as you rode down the hill back towards the pond the power lines are visible in front of you , these would tell you that you are going in the right direction

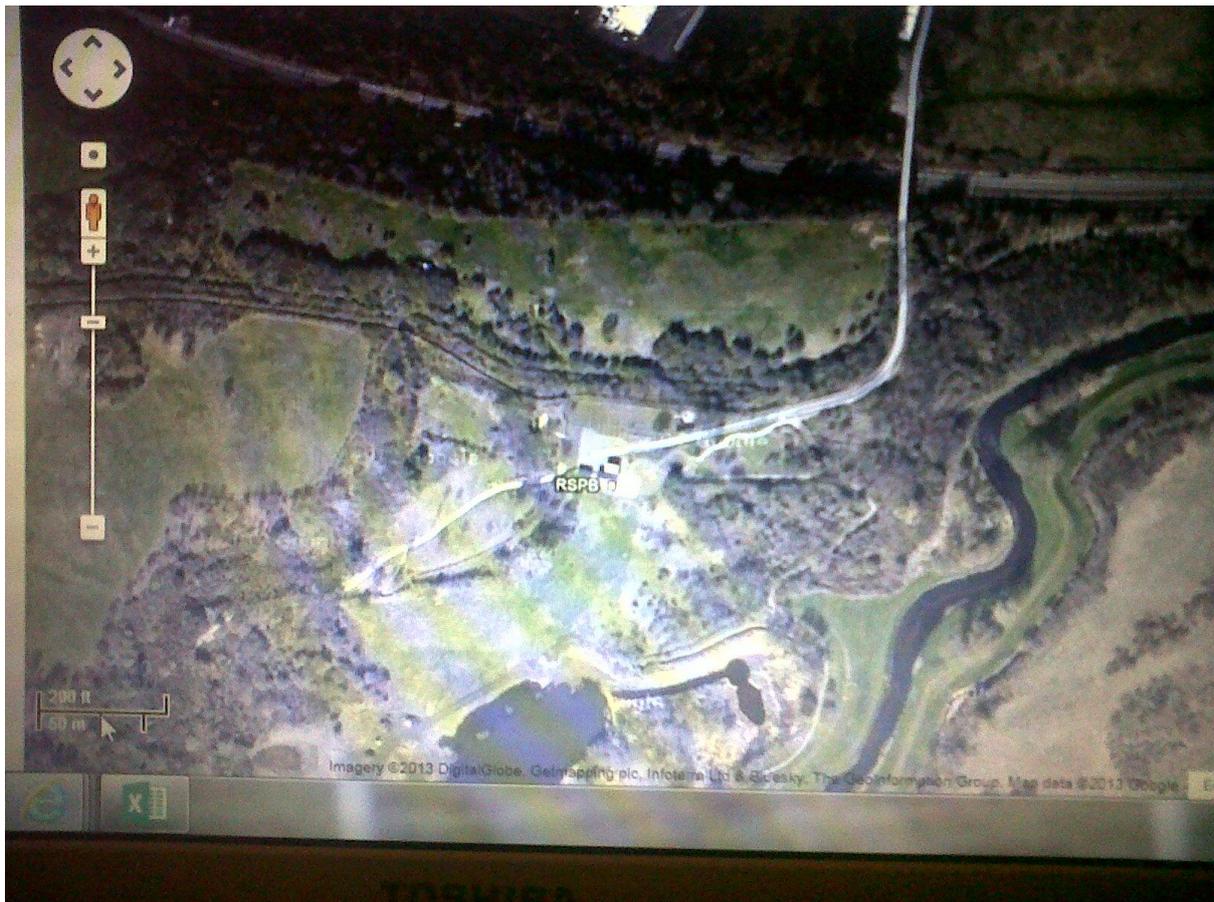
The route then went back along the dyke and over the river bridge, following the river till you reached a turning up between golf courses , this path is straightforward until you reach the small buildings at the end of the path , the route went round the back of these and out into the fields of 'hill top' , as you turned into the fields you can see the field boundary in front which you had to travel parallel with , through one field boundary then turned south into another field . a lot of the boundaries in hill top are ditches or tree lines , not the usual walls or fences . after following the field round you then turned east into silvercroft ave which is a very old track , nearly at the bottom you then turned west into a field next to allotments , the route went up the hill (we enjoy a nice gallop up it usually) over a small track known as 'devils lane' then across another field heading towards a ruin which is a WW2 gun emplacement , on the map it looks like you reach a field boundary but on the ground this is just a rough area of trees and grass , you had to turn south onto the concrete path in front of you then go clockwise round the southern most emplacement and into the next checkpoint , I have attached another aerial photo as only 3 people got this correct , most people turned in to soon , approaching the checkpoint from the wrong direction

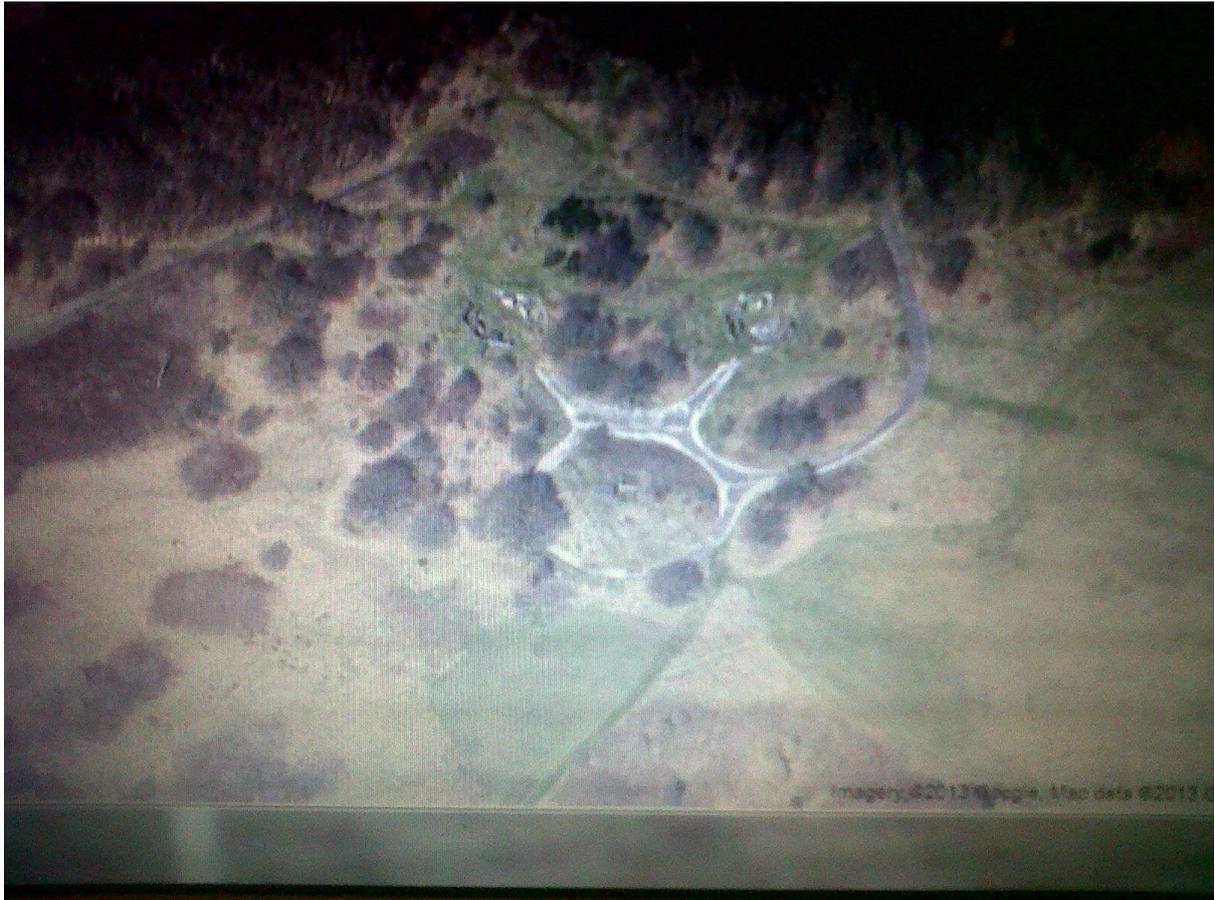
After leaving the gun emplacements the route went downhill , along a path and across the road then along 'tree avenue' , the small kink half way along tree ave goes around the ruins of Sandwell priory on your right and the 'sand well' which is on the left , then up towards the motorway , turning right just before it , down a straight path to the next motorway bridge , over that than up salters lane , just before the top the route turned north into 'hill house' , you followed the field boundary , the fence on your right is new and not on the map , you followed the path along to a junction then took the right hand track , round a corner to the next checkpoint

The route carried on from the checkpoint down the track , over a ditch then turned parallel with the M5 , back up over the motorway then turned east down a small path that you followed parallel again with the M5 , the track crossed a stream then turned south , just before reaching swan pool there was another ticket , this was to make sure you went the correct way round this track , only 1 person missed it

You then followed swan pool along and round to the east staying on a track , up towards park lane m turning north at the top onto a path that led straight towards the finish

First picture is the RSPB , you can see the two paths running parallel with the train line and the tarmac path that goes into the car park which most people took





The gun emplacements , you should of come across the field on the right straight towards one emplacement then turn left onto the path and round the large emplacement to the south , most people cut into the path before the large emplacement , coming towards the checkpoint anti clockwise

I hope everyone enjoyed the level 2 route , we had no special permission to ride anywhere , this is our normal riding which as townies we are very lucky to have