

Cycling is a great way to keep fit whilst at the same time getting from A to B or exploring your local area.

The **Cyclesolihull** routes in this series of leaflets will take you along most of the network of quiet lanes in and around Solihull, introducing you to some places you probably didn't even know existed!

The routes have been carefully chosen to avoid busier roads so are ideal for new cyclists and children learning to cycle on the road.

You can cycle the routes alone or with family and friends, or join other people on one of the regular **Community Cycle Rides**.

## CycletoSolihull Day



A chance to join other cyclists in Solihull town centre for a cycling afternoon. Join one of the special rides or simply head to the town centre on your bike. For details of this year's event go to:

[www.cycletosolihullday.org.uk](http://www.cycletosolihullday.org.uk)

This is one of a series of cycle ride leaflets produced by **Cyclesolihull** which is a voluntary organisation which aims to encourage people in the Solihull area to cycle more. Cyclesolihull organises free community rides, publicises routes and provides information about cycling.

## Community Cycle Rides

**Cyclesolihull** offers regular opportunities to join with others to ride the routes in this series of leaflets. The rides are organised by volunteers and typically attract between 10 and 30 riders. To get involved, just turn up and ride!

**Sunday Cycle Rides** take place most Sunday afternoons at 2 pm throughout the summer\* starting from one of a number of different starting points. "S" (short) routes are about 10 miles long, "M" (medium) routes about 15 miles long and "L" (long) routes about 20 miles long. On the second Sunday of the month\* there is a 5 mile **Taster Ride**. This is an opportunity to try a Cyclesolihull ride without going very far and is an ideal introduction to the rides, especially for new cyclists and children.

**Saturday Stretcher Rides** take place twice-monthly\* on Saturdays, starting at 9.30 am from one of 6 different starting points. They are 25 to 35 miles long and do not follow a fixed route, so are suitable for more experienced cyclists.

**Evening Explorer Rides** are on a midweek evening from mid-May to early August starting at 7 pm from one of 12 different starting points. They follow the shorter "S" routes so are about 10 miles long.

**Refreshment Stops** All Cyclesolihull rides have an en-route refreshment stop of about 30 minutes at a family-friendly pub or tearoom.

For details of the current programme go to:

[www.cyclesolihull.org.uk](http://www.cyclesolihull.org.uk)

or pick up a copy of the **Cyclesolihull Ride Programme** on one of the rides.

\* There is a reduced programme rides from November to February with Sunday rides starting at 1.30 pm.



L4

long route from  
**Dickens Heath**

# CycleSolihull

*Explore your borough by bike*



**22 miles via Portway,  
Barnt Green & Forhill**

*Have fun and get fit exploring your local area with this self-guided cycle ride.*

## Route L4

### Dickens Heath to Barnt Green & Forhill

**Distance:** 22 miles (135 to 170 mins)

**Start:** The library, Dickens Heath village centre, B90 1SD SP112763.

**Route Summary:** A hilly ride into Worcestershire to the village of Barnt Green.

**Refreshments:** There are several pubs en-route and shops and pubs in Barnt Green village centre.

## The Route

**A** From outside the **library** turn R past Tesco and bear first L, passing through the road closure. Continue SO for 1 mile. At the crossroads continue SO along **Rumbush Lane**, eventually passing **Earlswood station** and crossing over the motorway.

**B** At the end of the lane turn R onto the **B4101** towards **Redditch**. After 300 yards, turn next R, with care, into **Penn Lane**. After 1.2 miles, pass over the A435 and at the end of the lane turn L and immediately R into **Whitepits Lane**.

**C** At the end of the lane turn R into **Seafield Lane**. At the end go L into **Billesley Lane** and then L again into **Lilley Green Lane** towards **Rowney Green**.

**D** After 1 mile, turn R towards **Rowney Green**, immediately bearing L at the next junction. Go SO for about 1.5 miles, eventually passing over the A441. At the end turn L towards **Redditch** and first R into **Grange Lane** towards **Cobley Hill**. Go SO for 1.2 miles, passing over a river, railway and the **Worcester and Birmingham Canal**.

**E** Turn next R into **Cobley Hill**. At the end of the lane turn R towards **Alvechurch** and then L into **Foxhill Lane** towards **Barnt Green**. At the end turn R into **Coopers Hill**.

**F** Go next L towards **Barnt Green**, passing over the motorway and under the railway. At the mini-roundabout bear L into **Sandhills Lane**. At the end turn R by **The Victoria pub** to visit the village shops. Otherwise turn L here and immediately after the railway bridge R into **Hewell Lane**.

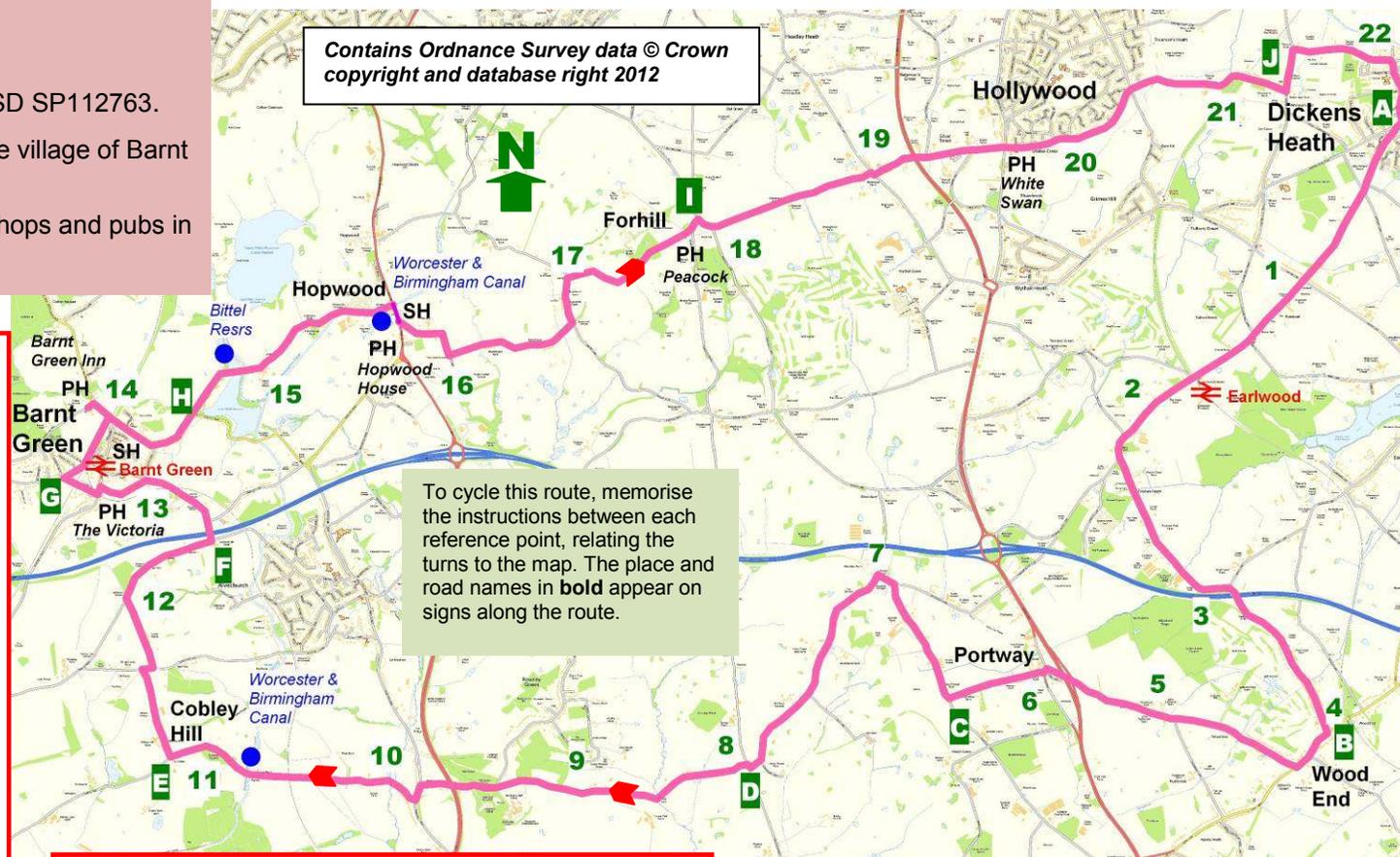
**G** At the end turn R, passing **Barnt Green station**. At the end turn L into **Kendal End Rd** to visit the **Barnt Green Inn** (200 yards). Otherwise turn R into **Bittell Rd** going SO at the mini-roundabout and following the road for 0.5 miles.

**H** At the sharp R bend go SO to **Hopwood**. At the end of the lane turn R, with care, onto the busy **A441** towards **Redditch**. After 150 yards turn first L into **Ash Lane**. Go next L into **Stonehouse Lane**. At the end of the lane turn L and next R towards **Forhill**.

**I** At the top of the hill, by the **Peacock** pub, turn L and then R onto **Clewshaw Lane** towards **Drakes Cross**. At the end turn R and immediately L to **Drakes Cross**. Continue SO for 2 miles, passing under the A435, through a ford (footbridge available) and under a railway.

**J** At the end of **Houndsfield Lane** turn L and after 500 yards, R into **Tythe Barn Lane**. After 0.5 miles, where the road bends sharply to the L, go SO into narrow **Calcutt Way** and through the road closure. At the roundabout go SO and then second L into **Hensborough** to return to the library.

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## Key to Map

- A B** Start and route reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start point
- Quiet road
- Busier road
- Cycle path
- Significant hill climb (in direction of travel)
- PH/CF** Public House/café or tearoom
- SH** Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
- Notable church
- Place of interest/water feature

Abbreviations used in the route description:  
L left, R right, SO straight on.