

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

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.

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 25 riders. To get involved, just turn up and ride!

Sunday Cycle Rides take place most Sunday afternoons at 2 pm throughout the summer (less frequently in winter) 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 or 6 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 Xtra rides take place monthly starting at 9.30 am from different starting points. They are similar to the Sunday rides but about 25 miles long. **Saturday Stretcher rides** are also monthly starting at 9.30 am from different starting points. They are faster rides of about 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 early May to late August starting at 7 pm and following 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

or pick up a copy of the **Cyclesolihull** ride programme on one of the rides.



L7

long route from
Brueton Park

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



21 miles via Illshaw Heath,
Packwood & Barston

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

Route L7 Brueton Park to Ilshaw Heath and Packwood

Distance: 21 miles (130 to 170 mins)

Start: Brueton Park car park B91 3HW, SP163790

Route Summary: A ride from the heart of Solihull to explore the quiet countryside to the south.

Refreshments: There are several pubs en-route.

Parking: There is free parking for 3 hours at the park (no restriction on Sundays) and on-street along Warwick Rd south of the park.

The Route

A Take the cycle path through **Brueton Park** passing the **Parkridge Centre**. At the path junction by the tennis courts go L. Follow the path, crossing a narrow bridge to reach the access road to the **Solihull Sixth Form College**. Turn R.

B At the main road turn L and after 100 yards turn L into **Hillfield Rd**, passing under the railway. Follow this closed road (which becomes **Fielding Lane**) going SO across two residential roads. At the end of the path turn R into Libbards Way, eventually reaching a roundabout.

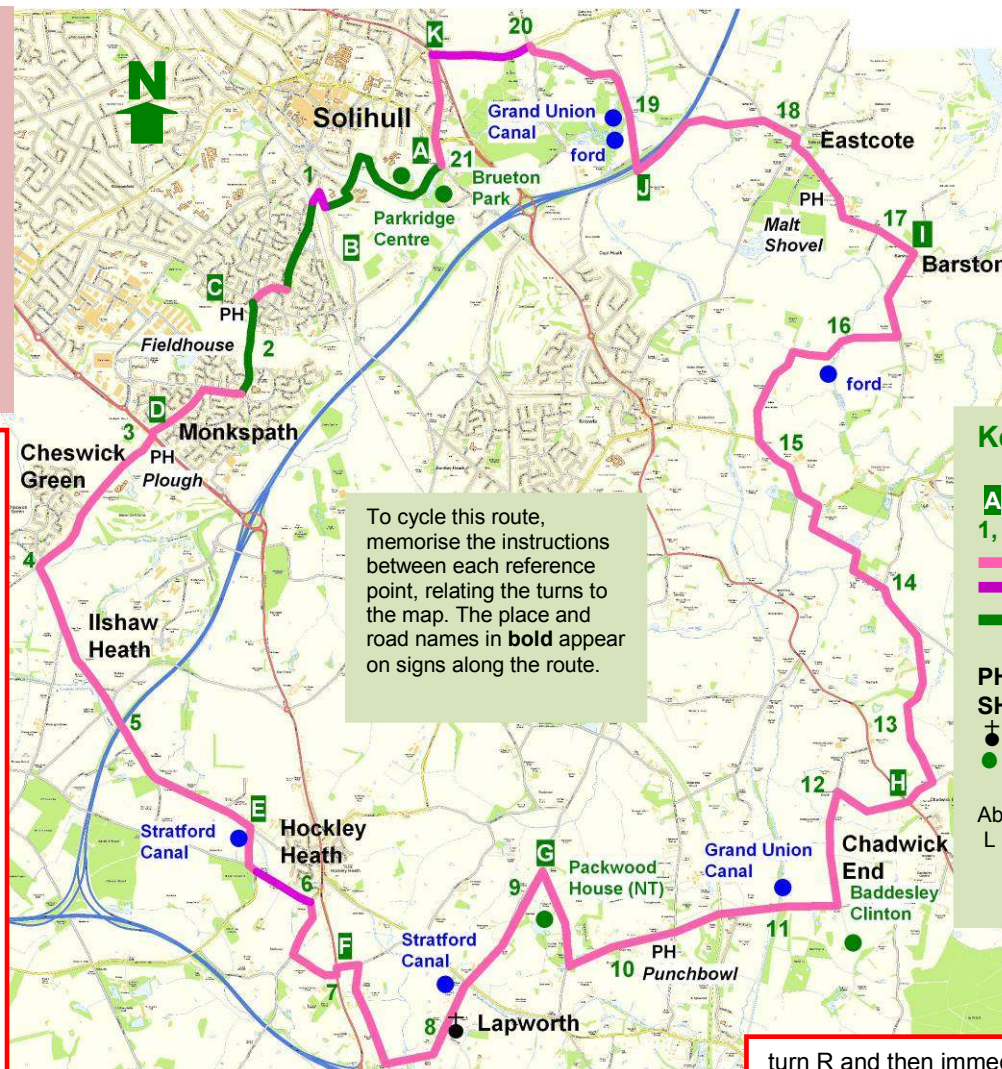
C Follow the cycle path across two arms of the junction and go left past the **Fieldhouse** pub. Follow the roadside cycle path crossing the road at the second toucan crossing. Bear R to cross **Frankhomes Drive**, following the cycle route signposted to **Monkspath**. At the end of **Hay Lane** turn L. At the crossroads follow the cycle route SO, eventually reaching the busy Stratford Road.

D Cross via the toucan crossing into **Creynolds Lane** opposite passing **The Plough** pub. At the next crossroads turn L into **Ilshaw Heath Rd**. At the next junction bear L towards **Ilshaw Heath**. Go SO at the crossroads and under the motorway.

E Turn second R into **Sadlerswell Lane**, passing over the **Stratford Canal**. At the end turn L and L again towards **Hockley Heath**. After 400 yards turn R by the church (caution – the turn is on a bend with poor visibility). Turn first L to reach the A3400.

F Turn L and immediately R (CAUTION – fast and busy road) and first R into **Spring Lane**. Follow the road for 1 mile to **Lapworth Church**. Continue straight ahead to cross the **Stratford canal** again and then cross the **B4439** going SO into **Grove Lane**.

G At the end of the lane turn R. Pass **Packwood House (NT)**, and at the end of the lane turn L towards **Baddesley Clinton**.



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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
- 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.

To cycle this route, memorise the instructions between each reference point, relating the turns to the map. The place and road names in **bold** appear on signs along the route.

At the crossroads next to the **Punchbowl** pub. Go SO for 1 mile passing over the railway and canal and turn first L into **Netherwood Lane** (opposite **Baddesley Clinton (NT)**). Go first R to reach the **A4141**.

H Go SO with care and turn first L towards **Temple Balsall**. After about 1 mile turn L towards **Knowle**. At the **B4101**, again turn L towards **Knowle**. Turn first R with care into **Elvers Green Lane** towards **Barston**. Go through the ford (or use the footbridge) and after 400 yards follow the road L at the junction towards **Barston**.

I At the end of **Hob Lane** turn L towards **Hampton in Arden** passing the **Malt Shovel** pub. At the staggered crossroads

turn R and then immediately L, continuing along **Barston Lane**. Follow the road round to the L, ignoring the R turn into **Friday Lane**, until the road runs alongside the M42 motorway.

J Take the next R turn under the motorway (still **Barston Lane** but becoming **Henwood Lane**). Cross the **River Blythe** ford (a footbridge is available) and then the **Grand Union Canal**. Turn second L into **Berry Hall Lane**. At the end go R and L on to the main road (Hampton Lane). CAUTION! This section can be busy.

K Go SO at the traffic lights into **Marsh Lane**, continuing SO at the small roundabout. Close to the end of the road, bear L and join the short length of cycle path to reach Warwick Rd. Cross Warwick Rd with care and join the short length of cycle path into the road which leads back to the car park.