

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.

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 20 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

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.



L8

long route from
Balsall Common

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**19 miles via Burton Green,
Kenilworth & Beausale**

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

Route L8

Balsall Common to Burton Green, Kenilworth & Beausale

Distance: 19 miles (115 to 140 mins)

Start: The Library, Kenilworth Road. Balsall Common CV7 7EL, SP238772.

Parking: There is a car park behind the library. The entrance is via a narrow entrance off Station Road.

Route Summary: A ride to historic Kenilworth Castle along mainly quiet lanes. The ride includes a short section on the busier A4177.

Refreshments: There is a pub in Burton Green and several pubs and a café in old Kenilworth.

The Route

A From outside the **library**, go L and through the cut-through to the car park at the rear. Leave the car park via the vehicle exit and turn L on to **Station Rd** and then immediately R into **Meeting House Lane**. Follow the end and turn L.

B Turn next R into **Windmill Lane**. To visit the historic **Berkswell Windmill** continue for 400 yards until you see it on your L. Then retrace your route for 200 yards and turn R down **Hob Lane**. Follow this lane for 3 miles. Shortly after passing **Red Lane** on the R you will cross over the **Berkswell & Kenilworth Greenway**. This walkway is being upgraded to a high quality cycleway but at present this section is rough and often muddy. Therefore continue through **Burton Green**.

C Turn first R into **Westwood Heath Rd** and then first right, at the hatched junction into Bockendon Rd. Follow this narrow lane for 1.5 miles. Ignore the L turn to **Cryfield Grange** and then turn first R into a very narrow lane. **D** Go under the former railway bridge and turn right up the ramp. WARNING: There is at present a cycle unfriendly gate at this point which is difficult to negotiate and you may need to lift your bike. Go R onto the **Kenilworth Greenway**. Follow the Greenway, eventually crossing the new bridge spanning the Coventry Rd. Continue along the path which becomes parallel to the rail line.

E At the path junction, bear R at the barrier and then follow the wide path, eventually going L across the green bridge into a residential road. At the end of **Forge Road** turn R on to a short cycle path on the nearside, and immediately R again to take the cycle path going away from the road.

F At the end of the path join the road for a short distance and at the crossroads go SO into School Lane, immediately turning R to rejoin the cycle path. Follow this path to the end, crossing the stream. At the main road turn R.

G Turn L at the traffic signals into the **High Street** and continue SO into **Castle Hill** which ends at **Kenilworth Castle**, opposite which there is a pub and tearoom.

H Turn L from **Castle Hill** into **Castle Rd**. Cross the bridge and after the zebra crossing turn first R into **Brookside Avenue** and then first R into **Fishponds Rd**. Follow this long residential road to the end.

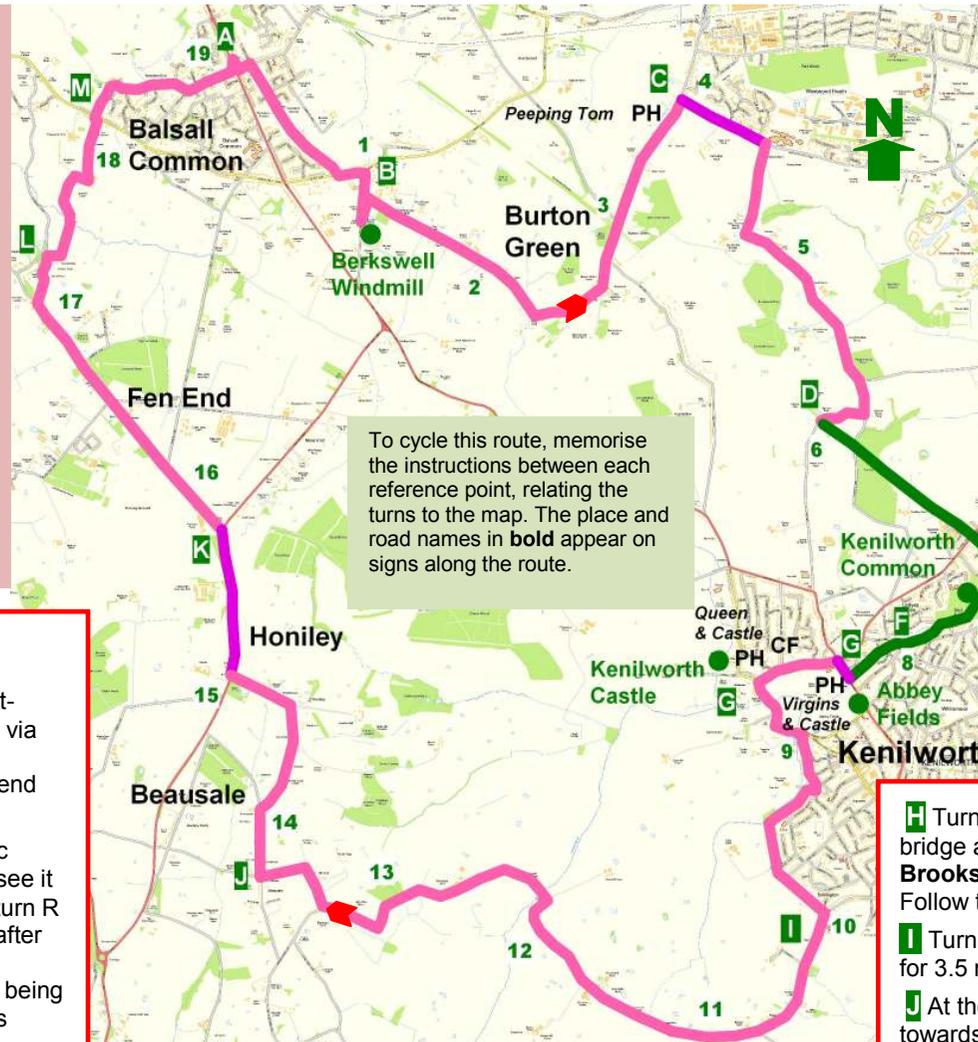
I Turn R into **Rouncil Lane**. Follow this country lane for 3.5 miles and then turn first R towards **Beausale**.

J At the crossroads in **Beausale** turn R and then first R towards **Honiley**. At the end of the lane turn right on to the **A4177**. **Note: this short section can be busy, particularly on weekdays.**

K After 0.75 miles turn first L into **Honiley Lane** towards **Fen End**. Follow this road for over a mile, going SO at the crossroads. Then turn first R into the **Longbrook Lane**.

L At the isolated crossroads turn right into **Fernhill Lane** and follow this winding lane to the end.

M At the **B4101** go across L/R into **Needlers Lane** at the staggered junction. Follow this suburban road to the end and turn L. This road leads to a roundabout on the **A452** in Balsall Common and the library is across the road to your left (pelican crossing available).



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.

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

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

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