

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**.

Cycle**to**Solihull 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.cyclesolihull.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 in the summer 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 10.00 am from different starting points. They are similar to the Sunday rides but about 25 miles long and follow the "XL" routes.

Saturday Stretcher rides are also monthly starting at 9.30 am from different starting points. They are faster rides of about 30 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.



XL4

extra long route from
Dickens Heath

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**26 miles via Weatheroak Hill,
Redditch & Ullenhall**

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

Route XL8

Dickens Heath to Weatheroak Hill, Redditch & Ullenhall

Distance: 26 miles (130-195 mins). **Start** The library, Dickens Heath village centre, B90 1SD SP112763.

Parking: There is a free car park behind the shops.

Route Summary: A ride which is mainly on quiet country lanes to and from Redditch where the route uses off-road paths forming part of NCN Route 5.

Refreshments: There is a café in **Arrow Valley Park** and a number of pubs en-route.

The Route

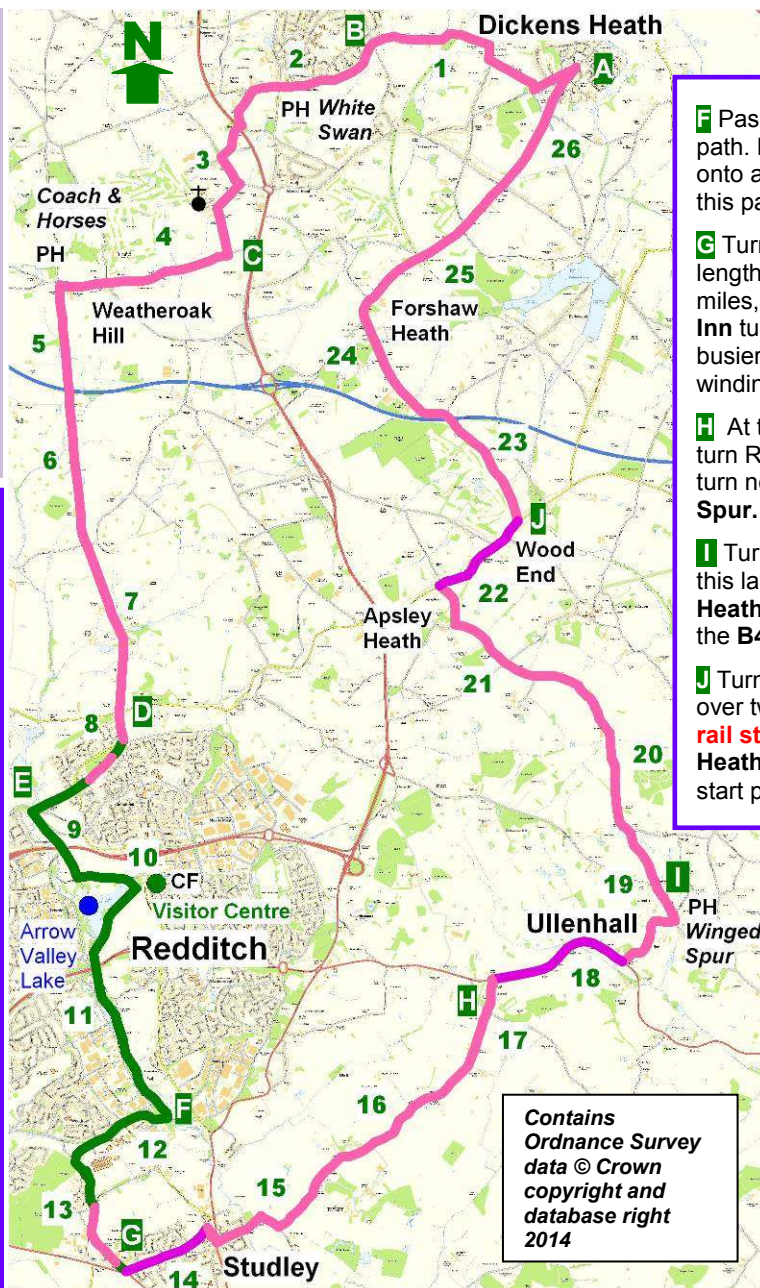
A From outside the **library** turn R past **Tesco** and go SO at the small roundabout. Turn first R into **Birchy Leasowes Lane**. At the end turn R into **Tilehouse Lane** and first L into **Houndsfield Lane**. Pass under the railway and cross the river at the ford (footbridge available).

B At the crossroads with **Lea Green Lane** go SO. At the next crossroads by the **White Swan** pub go SO into **Silver St**. Turn first L into **Wilmore Lane** and first R over the A435. At the roundabout turn L and after 300 yards R into **Chapel Lane** towards **Weatheroak**. Follow the road past the chapel with its unusual tower.

C At the end of the lane turn R and go SO for 1 mile (CAUTION - very steep hill down!). Turn L by the **Coach and Horses** on to the signed cycle route to **Redditch**. Follow the narrow lane for 1.75 miles, passing under the motorway. At the end turn L and immediately R following signs to **Redditch**. Go SO for just over 1 mile.

D At the crossroads with the **B4101** go SO along **Icknield St**. Just before the next junction turn R with care onto a cycle path which passes under the road ahead. Follow the path R to join a residential road. Turn next R towards the **town centre**. At the end follow the road L and turn immediately R onto the cycle path to the **town centre**. Follow this path for 0.5 miles, passing over a main road.

E At the path junction with **NCN Route 5** turn L. Follow NCN 5, passing under two bridges to reach **Arrow Valley Lake**. Bear L (lake on your R) to visit the **Arrow Valley Countryside Centre** (continue around the lake to the far side and turn L rejoin NCN 5). Otherwise continue along the NCN5 path for 1.25 miles.



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.

F Pass under the road and spiral L to join the roadside cycle path. Follow this signed cycle route for 0.75 miles and turn L onto another cycle path just before **Nine Days Lane**. Follow this path to eventually join a country lane, turning R onto it.

G Turn next L into **Brickyard Lane**. At the end use the short length of cycle path to turn L into **Station Rd**. Go SO for 0.6 miles, eventually leaving NCN Route 5. After passing the **Swan Inn** turn first R into **Marble Alley**. At the end go R (CAUTION busier road!) and after 100 yards L into **Castle Rd**. Follow this winding lane for over 2 miles.

H At the crossroads go SO towards **Henley** and at the **A4189** turn R, again to **Henley**. Follow the **A4189** for about 1 mile and turn next L to **Ullenhall**. At the end turn L passing the **Winged Spur**.

I Turn next R into **Forde Hall Lane** towards **Tanworth**. Follow this lane for over 2 miles going SO at the crossroads to **Apsley Heath**. Turn next R to **Hockley Heath**. At the end turn R onto the **B4101** (CAUTION busier road!).

J Turn second L towards **Forshaw Heath**. Follow this road for over two miles going under the motorway and past **Earlswood rail station**. Continue SO for a further 2 miles into **Dickens Heath**. Go past the road closure and bear R to return to the start point.

Key to Map

- A B** Start and route reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start point
- Quiet road
- Busier road
- Cycle path
- PH** Public House
- CF** 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.