

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 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 9.30 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 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.



XL5

extra long route from
Meriden

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



26 miles via Old Arley,
Hartshill & Corley

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

Route XL5 Meriden to Old Arley, Hartshill & Corley

Distance: 26 miles (130 to 195 mins)

Start: Meriden Green (with the village cross marking the 'Centre of England' and the cyclists' war memorial) CV7 7LN SP239823.

Route Summary: A hilly ride to **Hartshill Country Park** passing through some attractive countryside with scattered former mining settlements.

Refreshments: There are a number of pubs en-route and a seasonal kiosk serving drinks at the country park. It is also possible to access the facilities at the M6 Corley Services.

The Route

A From **The Green** turn R towards the roundabout. Go SO towards **Maxstoke** and R at the next roundabout, again towards **Maxstoke**. Cross over the **A45** and after 1 mile turn R to **Green End**. Follow the lane for about 1 mile.

B Turn first L to **Green End**, passing under the M6. At the end of the lane turn L towards **Maxstoke**.

C Turn second R into **Hardingwood Lane**. At the end of the lane turn R towards **Fillongley**. After 0.8 miles, at the junction opposite a lodge, take the second lane on the L.

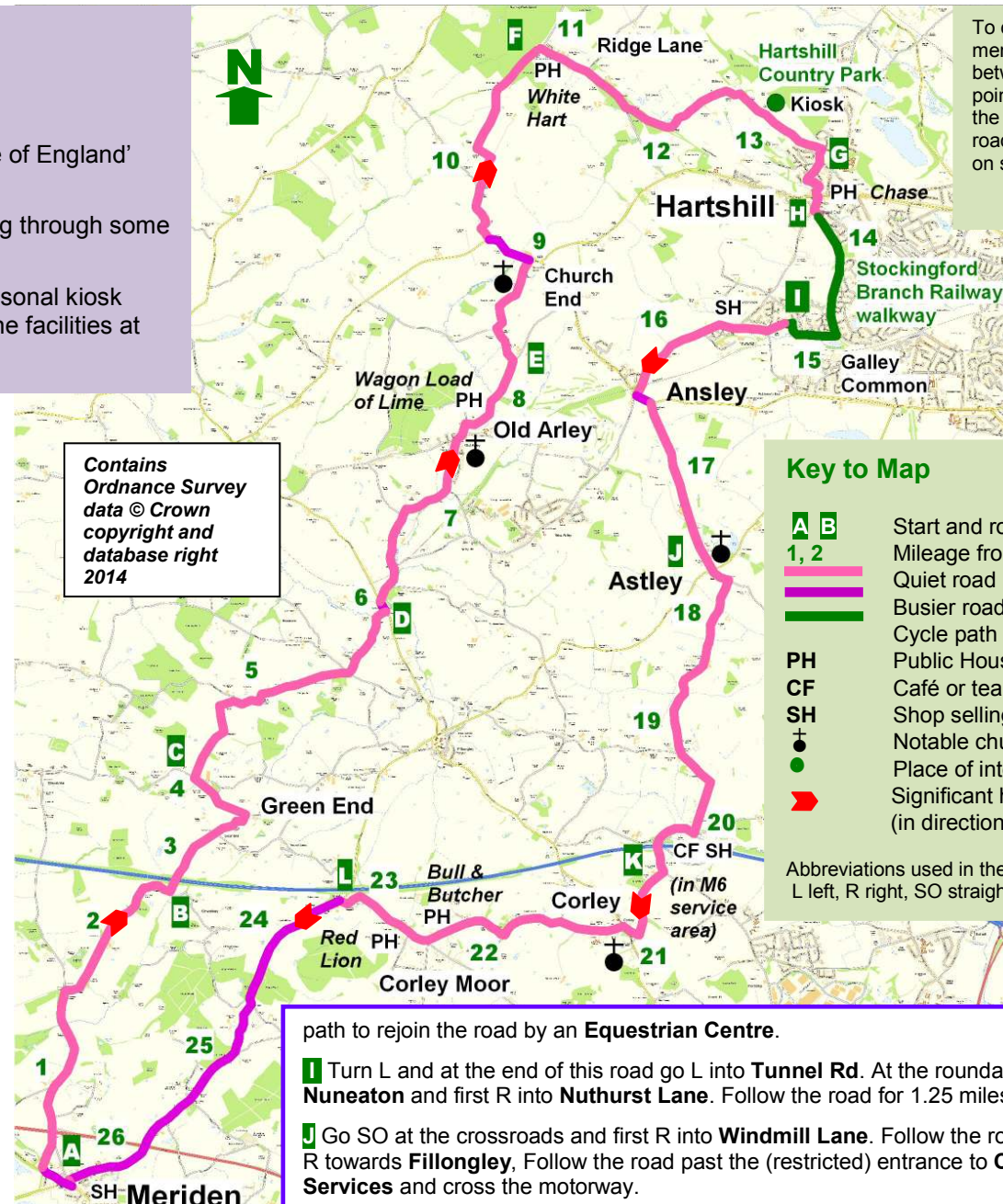
D At the main road turn L and immediately R to **Old Arley**. Follow the road under the railway and for about 1 mile into the village passing the church and **Wagon of Lime**.

E After 0.7 miles go first L into a narrow lane. At the triangular junction bear R, eventually reaching the main road by **St Lawrence's Church**. Turn L and, after 0.3 miles, R, towards **Birchley Heath**. Follow the road through the hamlet.

F Turn first R by the **White Hart** towards **Hartshill**. Turn second L towards **Hartshill Hayes Country Park**. The park entrance is 1 mile on the L. Go SO past the entrance.

G After 0.5 miles turn first R down **Moor Rd** and then second R (still Moor Rd). At the end turn L. At the main road turn L and immediately R by **The Chase** PH into **Plough Hill Rd**.

H Turn second L into **Waggstaff Drive**. After 50 yards turn L on to a narrow path between metal railings. Negotiate the gate (tip: lift the bike onto the rear wheel) to join the path along the former **Stockingford Branch Railway** which served local mines. Follow this path for about a mile passing under a high bridge. Turn next R to follow a path between the housing on your R and an open area. Go SO for 500 yards following the path around the housing and at the fork bear R to pass through a further gate. Turn L onto a further



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.

path to rejoin the road by an **Equestrian Centre**.

I Turn L and at the end of this road go L into **Tunnel Rd**. At the roundabout turn L to **Nuneaton** and first R into **Nuthurst Lane**. Follow the road for 1.25 miles.

J Go SO at the crossroads and first R into **Windmill Lane**. Follow the road until the end. Turn R towards **Fillongley**. Follow the road past the (restricted) entrance to **Corley Motorway Services** and cross the motorway.

K Turn first R into **Rock Lane**. Turn first R into the narrow lane and at the main road go R and immediately L to **Corley Moor**. Follow the road into the village and turn R by the **Bull & Butcher** towards **Fillongley**, passing the **Red Lion**.

L At the **B4102** turn L to **Meriden**. Go SO for 2.75 miles to return to **The Green** on the L.