

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 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

or pick up a copy of the **Cyclesolihull 'Ride Together'** leaflet on one of the rides.

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



S12 short route from
Marston Green

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



11 miles via Sheldon, Elmdon & Bickenhill

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

Route S12 Marston Green to Elmdon and Bickenhill

Distance: 11 miles (65-85 mins). **Start:** Marston Green (Centro car park off Elmdon Lane) B37 7DL SP167854. **Route Summary:** A varied, partly urban, ride using mainly quiet roads, park paths and off-road cycle routes.

Refreshments: There are a number of pubs and shops along the route and a tearoom at the garden centre in Bickenhill.

Parking: There is a free car park at the start. If full with rail users (mainly an issue Monday-Friday), further on-street parking is available in Elmdon Lane.

The Route

A From the car park follow the wide cycle path down into **Sheldon Country Park**, passing the end of the runway of Birmingham Airport.

B At the end of the path turn L on to a further cycle path. On reaching the road go SO into **Mapledene Rd**. Follow the road past the Cranes Park shops and then turn first L into **Shepherd Rd**.

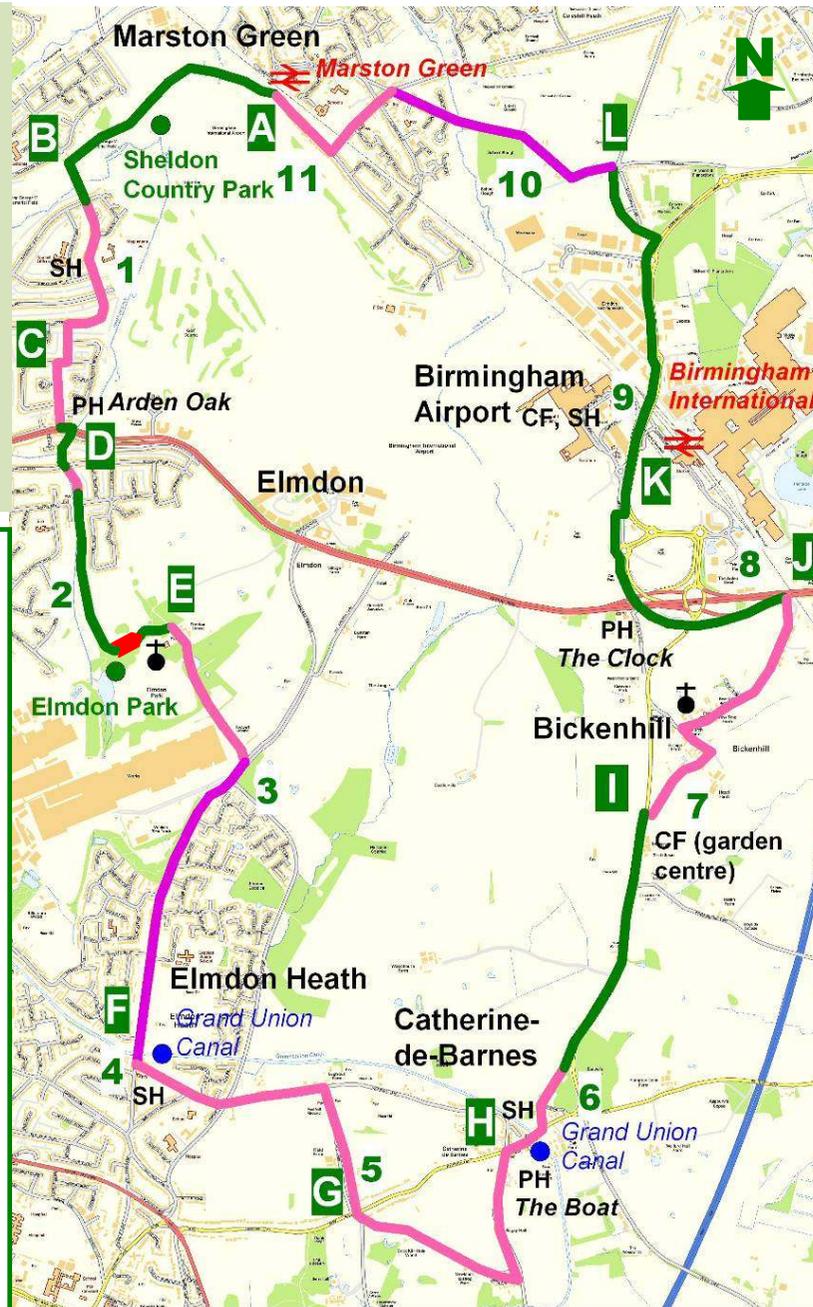
C At the end, turn R and then first L into **Arden Oak Rd**. Just before reaching the A45 Coventry Road join the footway L to reach the toucan crossing. Cross the A45.

D Go R into the service road and after 50 yards go L down the narrow footpath. At the end go SO into **Streamside Way**. At the end of the road join the path into **Elmdon Park**. Follow this path SO keeping the stream on your R. After 0.5 miles take the second path L, up the steep hill to the upper park car park.

E From the car park turn R, passing **Elmdon Church**. At the end of the lane turn R to reach the traffic signals at the exit to **Land Rover**. With care go R and then immediately SO at the roundabout into **Damson Lane**. Continue SO for 0.9 miles.

F Go SO at the mini-roundabout, cross the **Grand Union Canal** and turn first L into **Lugtrout Lane**. Go through the road closure at the end of the road and, with care, cross **Damson Parkway**, continuing along **Lugtrout Lane**. Go first R into **Field Lane**.

G At the main road go SO into **Ravenshaw Lane** and turn



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

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first L into a narrow lane. At the end of **Berry Hall Lane** turn L.

H At the crossroads turn R, passing the **Boat Inn**. Cross the **canal** and turn immediately L into **Bickenhill Lane**. At the end join the cycle path L and continue SO alongside the road for 0.9 miles.

I Turn second R into St Peter's Lane to enter **Bickenhill** (Go SO, passing the garden centre and tearoom on your R). At the next junction turn L and then first R into **Church Lane**, passing **Bickenhill Church**.

J At the end of the road bear L through the road closure to reach the Coventry Road. Turn L to join the cycle path which follows the road into **Birmingham Airport**. At the roundabout go SO on the cycle path, alongside the airport car park.

K After 100 yards cross the dual carriageway and follow the cycle path through the trees to emerge alongside another dual carriageway (Bickenhill Lane). Follow the cycle path for 1 mile, passing two roundabouts. At the traffic signals go L, still on the cycle path into **Coleshill Heath Rd**.

L At the next roundabout turn L into **Bickenhill Rd** towards **Marston Green** and rejoin the main carriageway. After 0.75 miles, turn L at the crossroads into **Land Lane**. Go SO at the crossroads, passing over the railway. At the end, turn R into **Elmdon Lane** to return to the car park on your L.

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** Public House
- CF** 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.