

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 **Cyclesolihull** 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.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* 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.



S17 short route from
Chelmsley Wood

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



10 miles via Babbs Mill, Old
Yardley & Sheldon Country Park

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

Route S17 Chemsley Wood to old Yardley and Sheldon Country Park

Distance: 10 miles (60-80 mins). **Start:** Banbury Club, Bosworth Drive (opposite Asda) B37 5EX SP175868.

Route Summary: A varied ride using mainly quiet urban roads, park paths and off-road cycle routes.

Refreshments: Sheldon Country Park Farm.

Parking: 3hrs free parking next to Asda.

The Route

A Facing the **Banbury Club** follow the path around the corner into **Bosworth Drive** and immediately bear R before the bridge to the lower path. Turn R on to the main cycle path and go under the next road bridge into **Meriden Park**. Take the next path L across the narrow bridge over the end of the lake (please give way to pedestrians).

B At the next path junction turn R and cross the bridge over the **River Cole**. Turn immediately L and follow the path onto Forth Drive. Turn L and at the end of the road go L to cross the road at the zebra into **Babbs Mill Park**. At the next path junction turn L and go SO for 1 mile, passing the playground and keeping the lake on your L.

C At the end of the lake, before reaching the buildings, turn R onto the main Cole Valley path. Follow the main path SO for 0.75 miles to reach Packington Avenue. Cross over to rejoin the path for a further 0.75 miles. Cross the main road at the toucan. Take the next path L across the **River Cole** and turn R alongside the recreation ground, eventually emerging in a residential area.

D At the end of **Vintage Close** turn R. Follow the road around to the L, past the playground and turn first L into **Bushbury Rd** and second R into **Tirley Rd**. Go L around the large grass circle and turn second L into **Peplow Rd**. At the roundabout take the third exit into **Kempe Rd**.

E At the end go L and third L into **Elmore Rd**. At the end turn R and at the crossroads turn L, crossing the railway. Go SO at the mini-roundabout, eventually reaching **Meadway**. Cross with care to the cycle 'gap' and continue along **Church Rd** (which becomes a 'no through road') through **old Yardley**,



grassed area to reach the main road. Cross over into **Fallindale Rd** passing **Sheldon Library**. Follow the road around to the R into **Stanville Rd**. Turn R into **Church Rd** for 250 yards. Immediately after passing historic **Sheldon Church** on your L, turn first L into **Ragley Drive** to reach **Sheldon Country Park and Visitor Centre**.

H Take the path to the L of the **Visitor Centre**. Where the path splits on the far side

of the open area, follow the path leading L. Continue SO along the main path which crosses the brook twice (this may be muddy in places).

I At the tarmac path turn L and next R onto the wide cycle path which passes the end of the runway at **Birmingham Airport**. At the next path junction bear L to go under the railway viaduct.

J Cross the road at the toucan and continue along the path opposite. At the end turn R onto the wide footway along Gloucester Rd for the short distance across the bridge then cross the road onto the path opposite which continues alongside the brook. After the next over bridge turn sharp R to return to the start point.

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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passing the historic **St Edburgha's church**.

F Go next R into **Blakesley Rd** and cross **Stoney Lane** to visit historic **Blakesley Hall** (150 yards). Afterwards return to this point and turn R. Turn second L into **Barrows Lane**.

At the end turn L and immediately L again into **Bilton Grange Rd**. At the end turn L onto **Garretts Green Lane** and first R, by the school, into **Horrell Rd**. Go L at the roundabout and first R into **Boyne Rd**. Follow the road for xx miles, going SO at the barriers.

G At the end of the road turn L and follow the road to the R, around the

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
	Water feature with access

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