

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](http://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](http://www.cyclesolihull.org.uk)

or pick up a copy of the **Cyclesolihull** ride programme on one of the rides.



**S18** short route from  
**Castle Bromwich**

# CycleSolihull

*Explore your borough by bike*



10 miles via Smith's Wood,  
Meriden Park & the Cole Valley

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

## Route S18 Castle Bromwich to Meriden Park & the Cole Valley

**Distance:** 9 miles (60-80 mins). **Start:** Castle Bromwich Parish Church, Chester Road B36 9DE. SP142899.

**Route Summary:** A varied ride using quiet suburban roads from historic Castle Bromwich, park paths and off-road cycle routes through the Cole valley.

**Refreshments:** The route passes two pubs near the end.

**Parking:** There is on-street parking at the start point.

### The Route

**A** From the church go left down **Kingsleigh Drive**. At the end turn L into **Beechcroft Rd** and at the end R into **Parkfield Drive**, eventually reaching the main Water Orton Rd.

**B** Turn R and immediately L to join the service road opposite. Go through the road closure and L into **Tomlinson Rd** and second L into **Neville Rd**. At the end turn R into **Blandford Ave** and first R into **Clevedon Ave** to reach the main road.

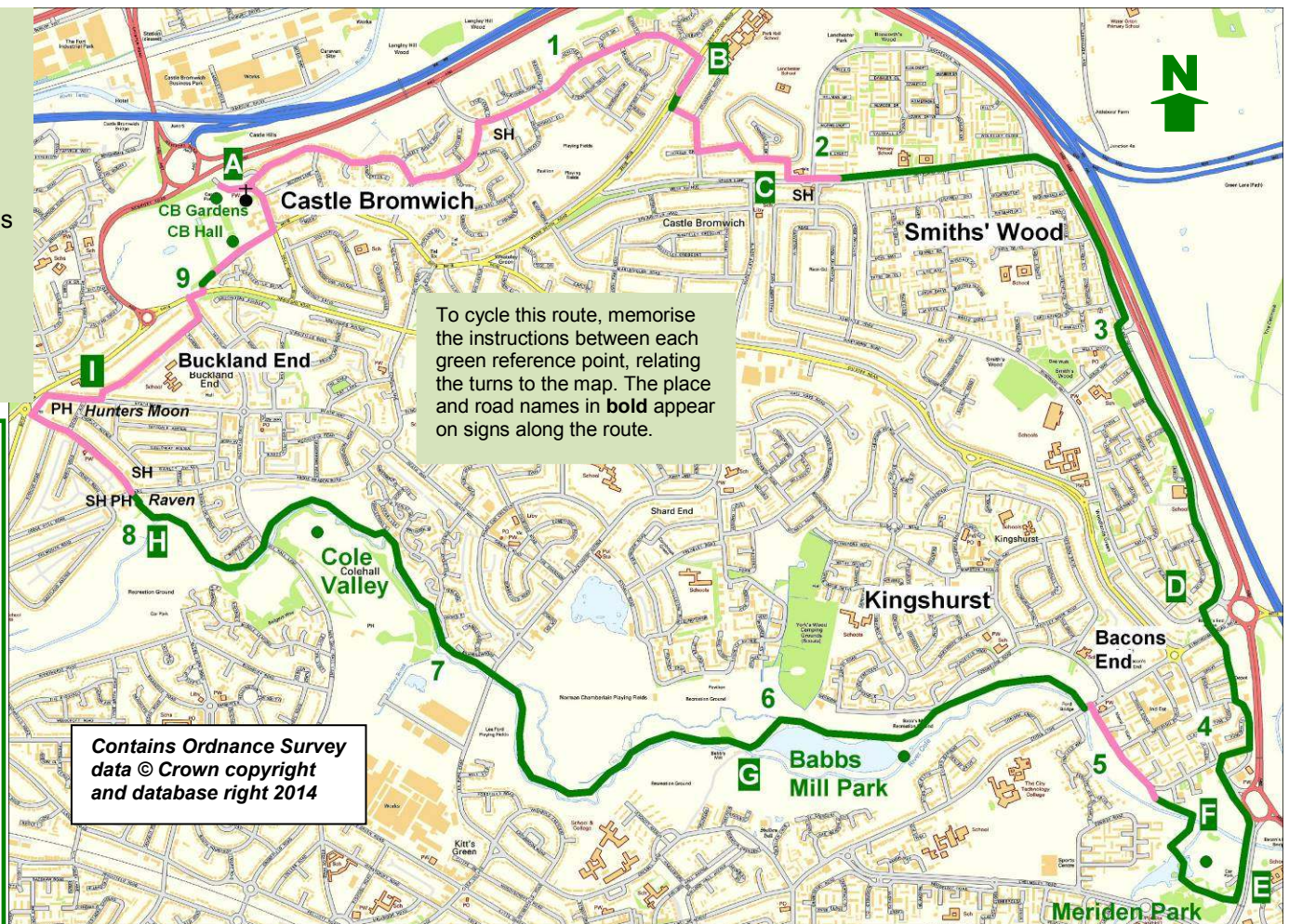
**C** Turn L and after 100 yards (at the zebra crossing) join the roadside cycle path. Follow this SO for about 1.75 miles alongside **Auckland Drive**, climbing a grassy embankment before eventually crossing Auckland Drive and passing **Solihull College**.

**D** After the bend R, cross Auckland Drive again to join the cycle path which goes under the subway opposite. Follow this to reach the road and turn L past the **British Legion**. Turn second R into **Tay Croft**. At the end join the cycle path and cross the main (Chester Rd) road and go L along the roadside cycle path opposite.

**E** Go next R down the vehicle entrance to **Meriden Park**. Follow the main path through the car park, bearing R. Take the next path L across the narrow bridge over the end of the lake (please give way to pedestrians).

**F** 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 crossing 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.

**G** At the far end of the lake, before reaching the bridge and buildings, turn R onto the **Cole Valley** path. Follow the main



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path SO for 0.75 miles to reach Packington Avenue. Cross over to rejoin the main path for a further 0.75 miles.

**H** Cross the main road at the toucan and follow the main path SO for a further 400 yards turning next R to reach the road by the **Raven** pub. Go SO into **Bucklands End Rd**. Go next R into **Orkney Drive**. At the end turn R (to visit the **Hunters Moon** pub do not turn into Orkney Drive but go SO 150 yards. To continue afterwards leave at the other side of the car park and turn R into the residential road)

**I** Turn first L into **Ashville Ave** and at the end turn L. At the main road use the toucan crossing to turn R and immediately L through the road closure passing **Castle Bromwich Hall**. At the mini-roundabout go L into **Chester Rd** and follow the road back to the church and starting point.

### Key to Map

- |              |                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>A B</b>   | Start and route reference point |
| <b>1, 2</b>  | Mileage from start point        |
|              | Quiet road                      |
|              | Busier road                     |
|              | Cycle path                      |
| <b>PH/CF</b> | Public House/café or tearoom    |
| <b>SH</b>    | 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.