

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

or pick up a copy of the **Cyclesolihull Ride Programme** on one of the rides.

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



S6

short route from  
**Monkspath**

# CycleSolihull

*Explore your borough by bike*



**10 miles via Earlswood,  
Ilshaw Heath & Hockley Heath**

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

## Route S6

### Monkspath to Earlswood and Hockley Heath

**Distance:** 10 miles (60 to 75 mins).

**Start:** Shelly Farm shops (ample parking available), Farmhouse Way, Monkspath, B90 4EH SP146771.

**Route Summary:** A varied route leaving suburban Solihull for the countryside of Ilshaw Heath and Earlswood Lakes.

**Refreshments:** Shops at Monkspath and a number of cafes, pubs and shops along the route.

### The Routes

**A** From outside the Co-op go R onto the path on the opposite side of the car park, passing the cycle stands. Follow this path turning L at the end and bearing R at the next path junction.

**B** Cross over **Frankholmes Drive**. Follow the signposted cycle route across **Thornton Rd** to reach Stratford Rd.

**C** Cross at the signals by the **The Plough** into **Creynolds Lane**. After 0.5 miles turn R into **Cheswick Way** towards **Cheswick Green**. At the **Saxon** pub go R into **Coppice Walk**.

**D** At the end of the road turn R and immediately R again into **Tanworth Lane** for 0.3 miles, and then L into **Lady Lane**. Follow the road for 1 mile across the **Stratford Canal** and past the **Red Lion** pub.

**E** To visit the cafe at **Earlswood Craft Centre** go SO into **Wood Lane** for 200 yards. Otherwise turn L at the crossroads and then first R onto the **Earlswood Lakes** dam road. Go around the barrier between the two lakes and SO to rejoin the main road.

**F** At the crossroads go SO passing the **Reservoir** pub. Go SO at the next junction, passing the turning to **Hockley Heath** on the L. At the next crossroads with **Tithe Barn Lane** go L.

**G** At the next crossroads turn R into **Cut Throat Lane** and immediately L into **Dyers Lane**. After 0.5 miles cross the **Stratford Canal**.

**H** Turn R at the next crossroads, passing the bakers and then under the motorway. Follow this road for 1.5 miles to **Hockley Heath**.

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**I** Approaching **Hockley Heath** turn L into **Orchard Rd**. Follow the road. Just before reaching Stratford Rd turn L into the service road.

**J** With care turn R and then immediately L and L again into the service road opposite (doubling back). At the end of the service road use the footpath for a short distance (please dismount) to join the cycle and pedestrian path along Stratford Road. Continue along the path for 1.5 miles, passing the service station and **Box Trees Craft Centre** to reach the traffic signals.

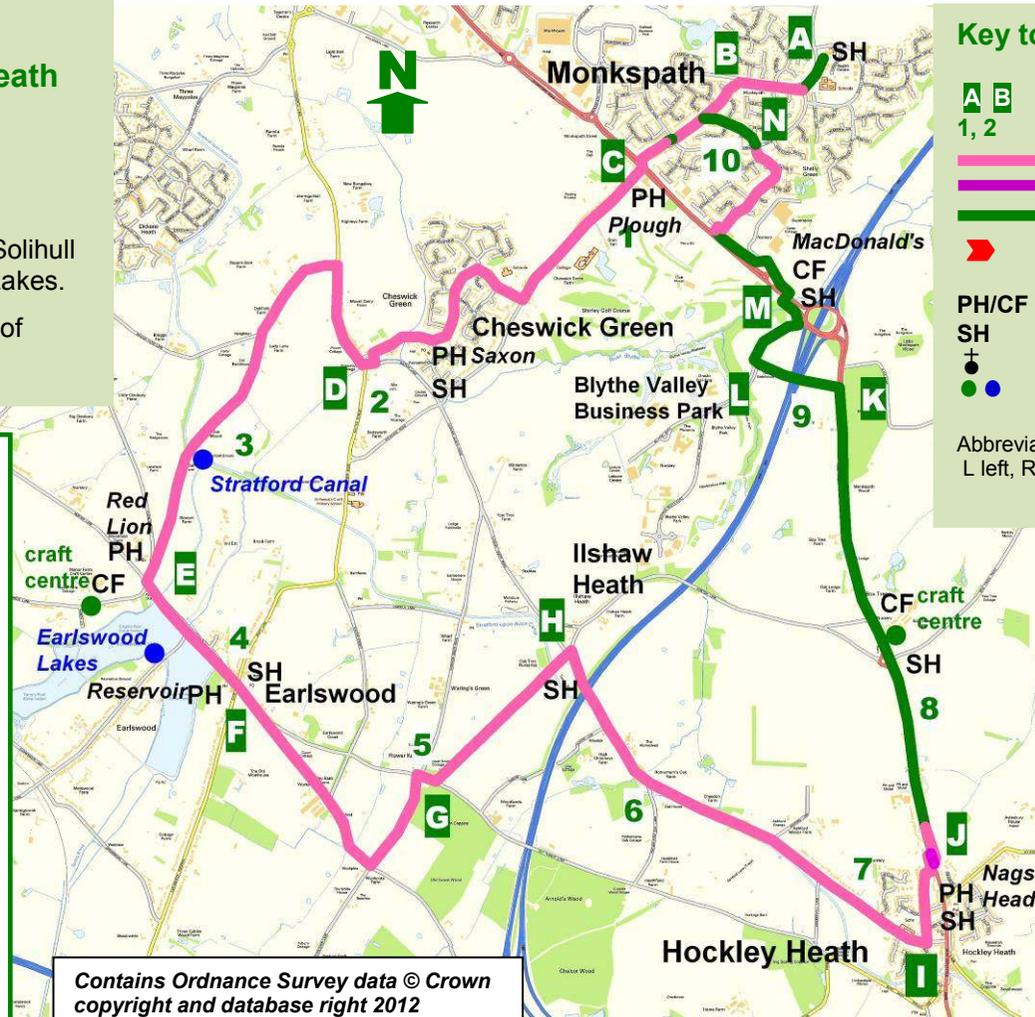
**K** Re-cross Stratford Rd at the signals and use the cycle

track across the motorway bridge.

**L** At the roundabout turn R, continuing to follow the cycle path, eventually bearing L back to the Stratford Rd.

**M** Cross Stratford Rd at the toucan. Follow the cycle path along Stratford Rd past the petrol station and **MacDonald's**. Take the first path on the R (*caution: this is easy to miss!*) through the trees to Stanbrook Rd. Turn R and follow this road to the end.

**N** Turn R and go down the historic '**Monkspath**' path immediately to the L. At the end turn R on to **Hay Lane** and retrace the outbound route back to Shelly Farm shops.



### 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/CF** Public House/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.

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.