

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 20 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.



S8

short route from  
**Balsall Common**

# CycleSolihull

*Explore your borough by bike*



**9 miles via Benton Green,  
Flint's Green & Berkswell**

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

## Route S8

### Balsall Common to Berkswell & Wootton Green

**Distance:** 9 miles (55 to 65 mins)

**Start:** Balsall Common library, Kenilworth Rd CV7 7EL SP238772.

**Parking:** There is a car park behind the library. The entrance is via a narrow entrance off Station Road.

**Route Summary:** A ride through the quiet lanes surrounding Balsall Common, including a visit to historic Berkswell.

**Refreshments:** Teas are served in the village hall at Berkswell on summer Sundays (Spring Bank Holiday to end of September). There are also pubs in near Berkswell rail station and in Berkswell village.

### The Routes

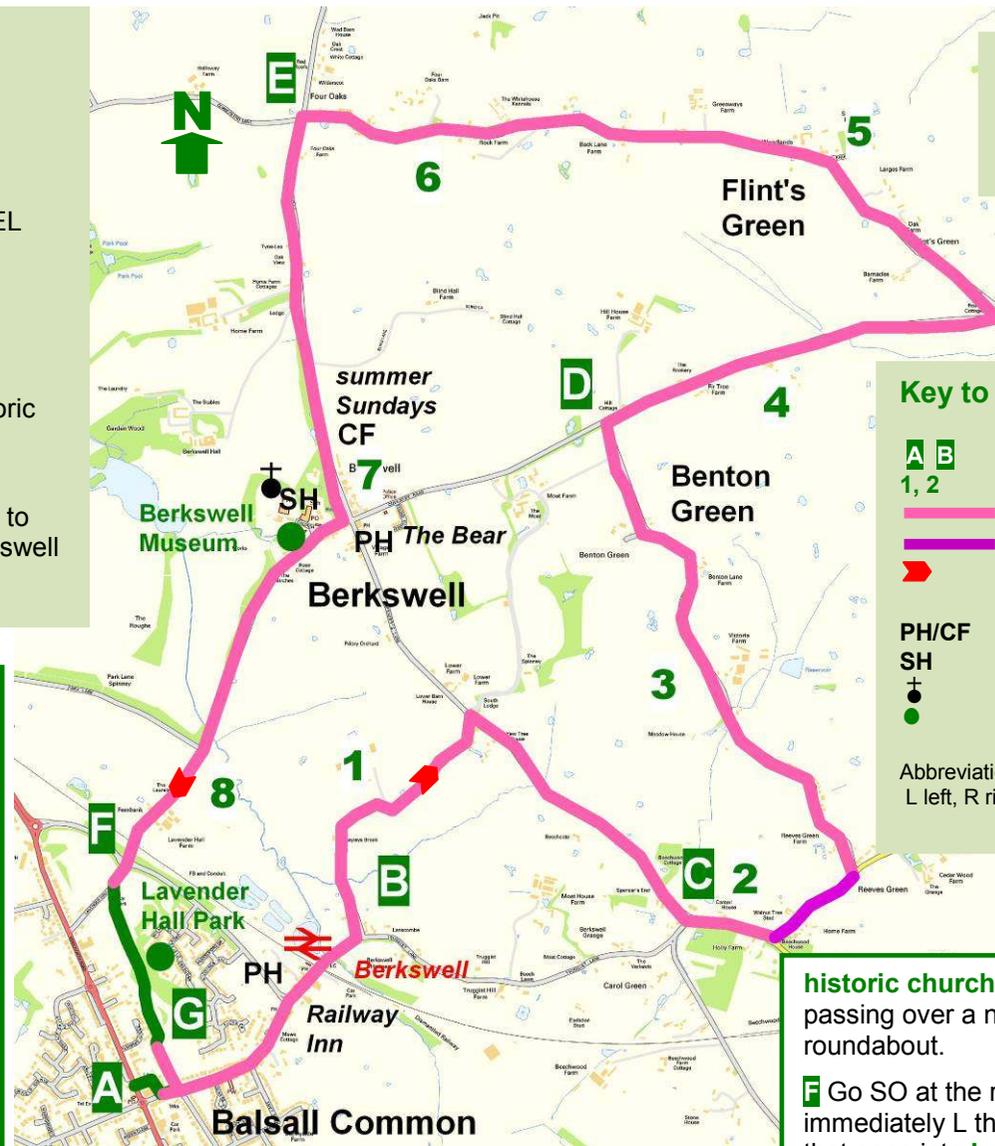
**A** From outside the **library** go L and turn immediately L through the cut-through into the car park at the rear. Leave the car park via the vehicle exit and turn L onto **Station Rd**. Follow this road, going SO at the small roundabout. At the rail bridge pass **Berkswell rail station** using the "cycle subway" on the L.

**B** Turn first L into **Baulk Lane** and follow the lane to the end. Turn R into **Spencer Lane**.

**C** At the end of the lane turn L and L again at the roundabout towards **Tile Hill**. Turn first L into **Benton Green Lane**. Follow the lane for a mile.

**D** At the end of the lane turn R into **Coventry Road**. After 0.75 miles turn first L in to **Back Lane**. Follow this lane until you reach a crossroads.

**E** Turn L into **Meriden Road**. Pass **Berkswell Village Hall** (refreshments served on summer Sunday afternoons) on the L. At the next crossroads, by the **Bear Inn** turn R into **Lavender Hall Lane**. The **village green, museum and**



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.

### Key to Map

- A B** Start and route reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start point
-  Quiet road
-  Busier road
-  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

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

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**historic church** are on the R. Follow this road passing over a narrow bridge to reach a roundabout.

**F** Go SO at the roundabout and then turn immediately L through the barrier on to the path that goes into **Lavender Hall Park**. Follow the path past the car park and playground. Keep SO, passing the first path on the R.

**G** Take the next path on the R which immediately leads into a residential road (Green Lane). At the end, dismount and walk a very short distance R to return to the entrance to the car park behind the **library**.