

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** 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 (1.30 pm and 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 in the summer there is a 5 or 6 mile **Taster Ride** along a "T" route like the one featured in this leaflet. A Taster Ride is an ideal introduction to Cyclesolihull rides, especially for new cyclists and children.

Saturday Xtra rides take place monthly starting at 10 am from different starting points. They are similar to the Sunday rides but about 25 miles long and follow the "XL" routes.

Saturday Stretcher rides are also monthly starting at 9.30 am from different starting points. They are faster rides of about 30 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 mid August starting at 7 pm and follow the shorter "S" routes so are about 10 miles long.

Refreshment Stops All Cyclesolihull rides have an en-route refreshment stop for 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.



T1

An easy 'Taster' route from
Dorridge Park

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



6 miles via Packwood &
Darley Green

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

Route T1 Dorridge Park to Packwood, Cheshetts Wood & Darley Green

Distance: 6 miles (50 to 60 mins)

Start: Dorridge Park, Arden Rd car park B93 8LJ SP169744.

Route Summary: An easy ride along park paths and quiet country lanes south of Dorridge with the opportunity to visit the historic Packwood House.

Refreshments: The Punch Bowl is a family-friendly pub with a large garden.

Parking: There is free parking at the start point in the park car park.

The Route

A From the park car park take the park path R, down towards the playground. Go SO across the stream to reach the main road. Turn L and follow this road for 300 yards. **CAUTION! This short section of road is the busiest section of the route.**

B Turn next L by **The Railway** pub into **Windmill Lane**. Follow this road for 0.75 miles. At the end turn L into **Vicarage Rd**.

C At the end of the lane turn R towards **Lapworth**. Follow the road, eventually passing historic **Packwood House**. Unusually the road goes right past the front of the house. At the end of the road turn L towards **Baddesley Clinton**. **CAUTION! There is a short uphill section around the corner!**

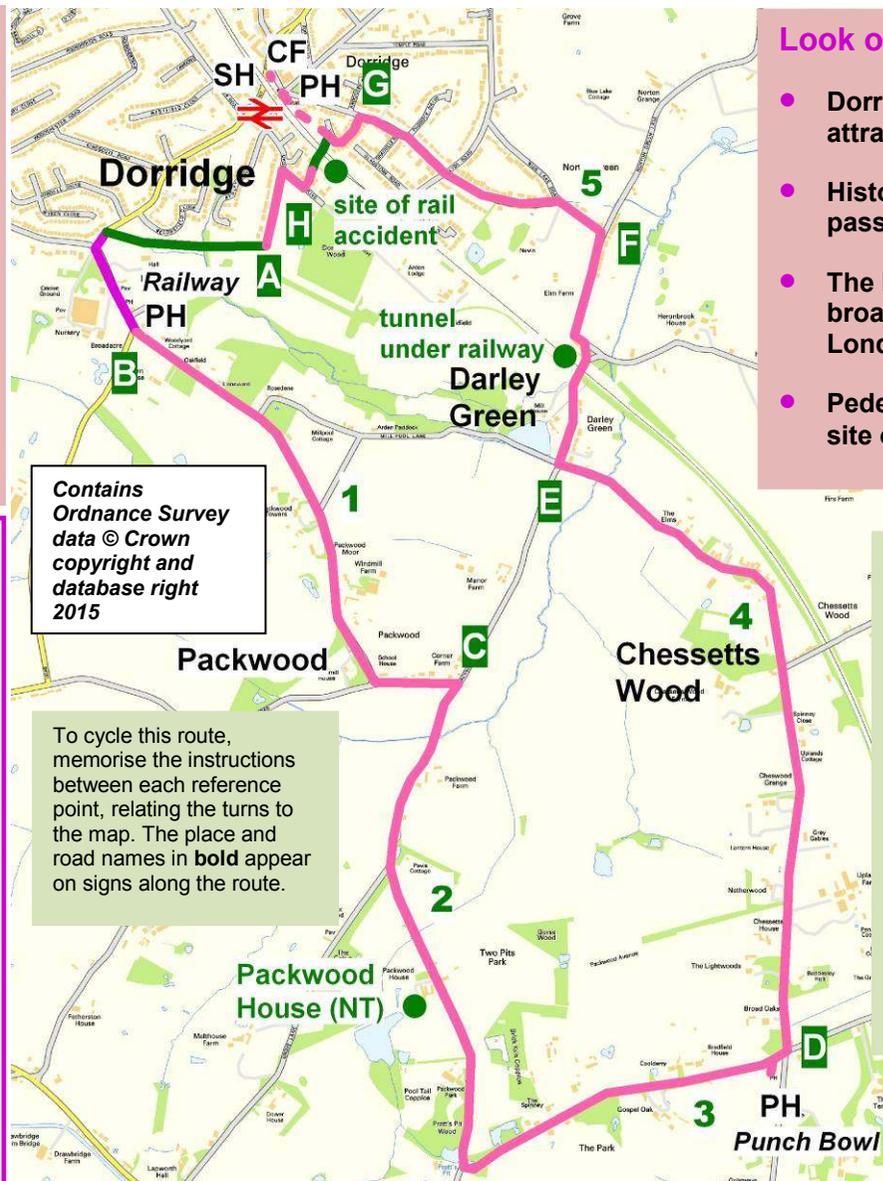
D At the next crossroads you can visit the **Punch Bowl** pub on the R. Otherwise turn L in to **Cheshetts Wood Road**.

E Follow the road for 1.5 miles to reach a crossroads. Turn R to go through the hamlet of **Darley Green** and under the railway 'tunnel'. Passing over you is the former Great Western main line to London built to Brunel's broad gauge.

F Turn next L into **Blue Lake Road** and immediately L again into **Dorridge Road**.

G Turn third L into **Weston Close** (or continue SO to reach the facilities in the village centre). Shortly, on the L, there is a steep narrow path to a bridge over the railway. **CAUTION! Please dismount and wheel your bike here.** This bridge was the site of a fatal rail accident in 1963 when an express train collided with a freight train. The path leads into a residential cul-de-sac (**Arden Drive**).

H At the end turn R and at the end of this lane turn L. This leads back to **Dorridge Park** and the starting point.



Look out for...

- Dorridge Park – an informal park with an attractive woodland area.
- Historic Packwood House – the road passes through the centre of the estate.
- The brick 'tunnel' under the 1852 former broad gauge Great Western main line to London.
- Pedestrian bridge over the railway – the site of a 1963 fatal rail accident.

Key to Map

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|--------------|---------------------------------|
| A B | Start and route reference point |
| 1, 2 | Mileage from start point |
| | Quiet road |
| | Busier road |
| | Cycle path |
| 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.

Want to go further?

There are over 50 Cyclesolihull routes for you to ride, with distances ranging from 5 to 25 miles. You can download free route leaflets like this from www.cyclesolihull.org.uk.

Cyclesolihull also organises regular free rides along many of these routes – download the latest Ride Programme from www.cyclesolihull.org.uk.