

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.

Cycle to Solihull 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.



T4

An easy 'Taster' route from
Dickens Heath

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



5 miles via Tidbury Green & Earlwood

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

Route T4 Dickens Heath to Tidbury Green & Earlswood

Distance: 6 miles (50 to 60 mins)

Start: Dickens Heath library, village centre B90 1SD SP112763.

Route Summary: An easy ride on country lanes to Earlswood Craft Centre and Earlswood Lakes.

Refreshments: Tea room at the craft centre or the Red Lion pub.

Parking: There is free parking in Dickens Heath behind the shops on Main Street.

The Route

A From the library go R past Tesco. Go SO at the small roundabout and, with care, turn next R into **Birchy Leasowes Lane**.

B At the end turn L into **Tilehouse Lane** and go SO at the next crossroads.

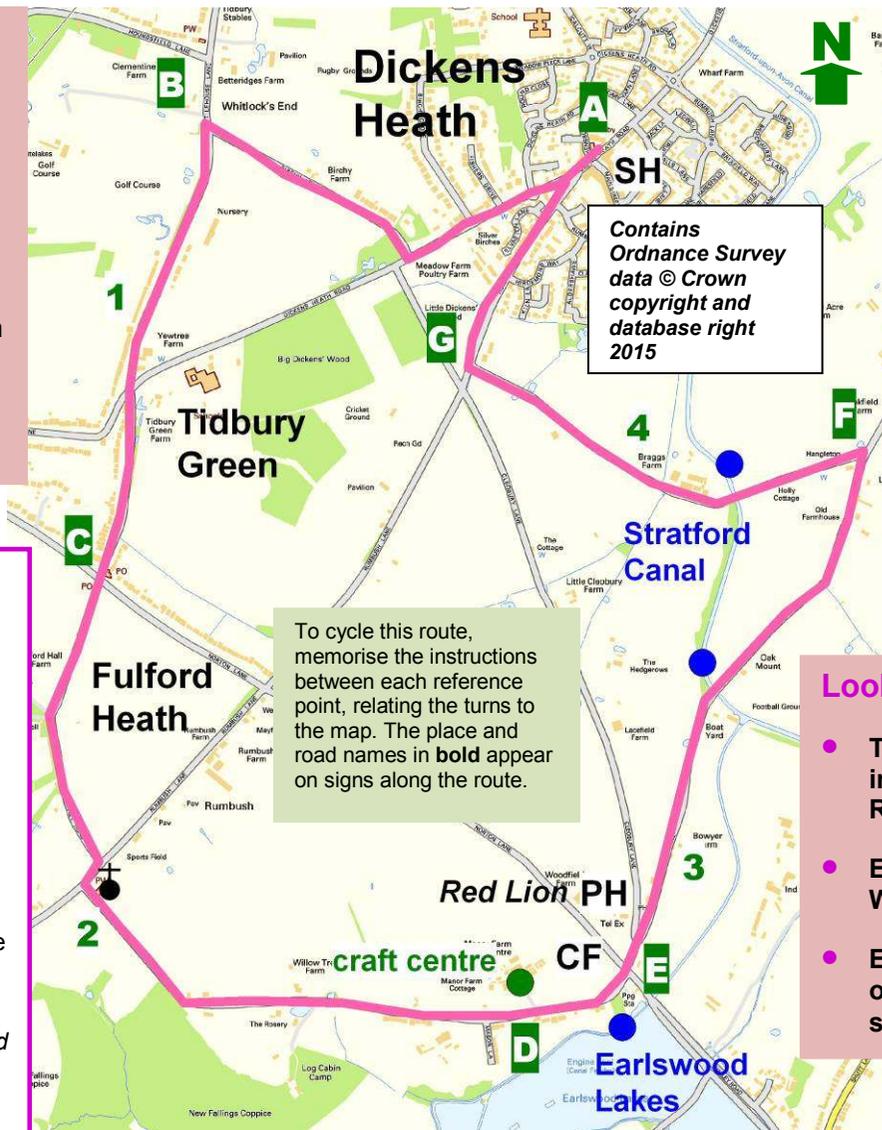
C Cross the busier road at the next crossroads into **Fulford Hall Road** heading towards **Earlswood**. At the end turn R into **Rumbush Lane** and then immediately L by the **Earlswood Methodist Church** into **Wood Lane**.

D Explore **Earlswood Lakes Craft Centre** which is passed on the L. **There** is also a car park with access to **Earlswood Lakes** on the R.

E At the crossroads go SO into **Lady Lane**. **CAUTION! Busier road to cross**. Follow the road, passing to the R of the **Red Lion pub**. Cross over the **Stratford Canal** (access available to the towpath)

F Turn next L into **Braggs Farm Lane** and cross over the canal again (access available to the towpath).

G At the end of the lane turn R into **Rumbush Lane**. Where the road bends to the R go SO. At the road closure go R to return to the library which is ahead.



Key to Map

- 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.

Look out for...

- **The Stratford-upon-Avon Canal opened in 1796 to connect Birmingham to the River Avon.**
- **Earlswood Lakes built in the Napoleonic Wars to provide water for the canal.**
- **Earlswood Lakes Craft Centre – a range of outlets including a tea room and sweet shop.**

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.