

Cyclesolihull routes

Cycling is a great way to keep fit whilst at the same time getting from A to B or exploring your local area.

This series of routes developed by Cyclesolihull will take you along many of the quiet lanes and cycle paths 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 with their parents.

You can cycle the routes alone, with family and friends, or join other people on one of the regular Cyclesolihull rides.

Route Lengths and Route Numbers

There are over 50 routes in this series. They are grouped by distance using a route letter:

T (Taster) routes are about 5 miles.

S (Short) routes are about 10 miles.

M (Medium) routes are about 15 miles.

L (Long) routes are about 20 miles.

XL (Extra Long) routes are about 25 miles.

The route number indicates the starting point – for example routes S2, M2 and L2 all start from Knowle. There are over twenty different starting points. A full list is available at 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 cycle rides, promotes routes like this one and provides information about cycling.

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Cyclesolihull rides

Cyclesolihull offers regular opportunities to join with others to ride many of the routes in this series of leaflets. The rides are organised by volunteers and typically attract between 5 and 15 riders. To get involved, just turn up and ride!

Sunday Cycle Rides take place most Sunday afternoons at 2 pm from April to September and at 1.30 pm from October to March. One of the Cyclesolihull routes will be followed with a mixture of ride lengths during each month. In autumn and winter there are more shorter rides to reflect the reduced daylight hours. One Sunday of the month in spring and summer the ride 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.

Evening Explorer Rides are weekly on a midweek evening from early May to mid-August starting at 7 pm. These rides all follow the shorter 'S' routes so are about 10 miles long.

Saturday Stretcher Rides take place weekly on most Saturdays, starting at 9.30 am from a varying start point. The rides are about 30 miles long, are at a faster pace and do not follow a fixed route, so are suitable for more experienced cyclists.

Cyclesolihull rides have a refreshment stop for 20 to 30 minutes. We recommend you bring your own refreshments on our rides but where possible the stop is at a pub or cafe.

For the latest ride dates, routes and starting points download our current Ride Programme from:

cyclesolihull.org.uk



S1

short route from
Dorridge

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



11 miles via Packwood, Lapworth and Darley Green

Have fun and get fit exploring your local area with this self-guided cycle ride using cycle paths and quiet roads. This guide contains a map and detailed directions to enable you to easily follow the route.

Revised Route 2023

Route S1

Dorridge to Packwood & Lapworth

Distance: 11 miles (65-85 mins).

Start: Dorridge Railway Station B93 8JA SP169749
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Parking: Station car park (rail users), car park behind Sainsbury's filling station and on nearby streets.

Route Summary: A ride along narrow country lanes passing historic Packwood and Lapworth churches, the Stratford and Grand Union Canals and Packwood House.

Refreshments: In addition to the shops, pub and cafés in Dorridge, the ride passes two pubs.

The Route

A From **Dorridge rail station** entrance turn L down the **Station Approach**. At the bottom turn L under the railway bridge. After 0.5 miles you will pass the **Railway** pub on the L.

B Turn immediately L into **Windmill Lane**. Follow this narrow lane for 0.9 miles.

C At the end of the lane turn R into **Vicarage Lane** and then after 300 yards turn first L into **Glasshouse Lane**. **Packwood Church** is 200 yards on the L. St Giles' Church has a nave dating from the 1270s. It is also noted for being the church where the parents of Dr Samuel Johnson married in 1706.

D After 0.7 miles cross the **B4439** (turning R and then immediately L) into **Wharf Lane**. Go over the narrow bridge across the **Stratford Canal** which was opened in 1802.

E After 400 yards turn L into **Spring Lane** (the turn is easy to miss!). Follow the road for 1 mile to **Lapworth Church**. The Church of St Mary the Virgin has an unusual 15th century porch. The church also holds the tomb of Robert Catesby who was involved in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 and died in the final siege. Continue straight ahead to cross the **Stratford Canal** again and then cross

the **B4439** going SO into **Grove Lane**.

F At the end of the lane turn R. The road soon passes through the estate of **Packwood House**, dating from the 16th century and now owned by the National Trust. At the end of the lane turn L towards **Baddesley Clinton**.

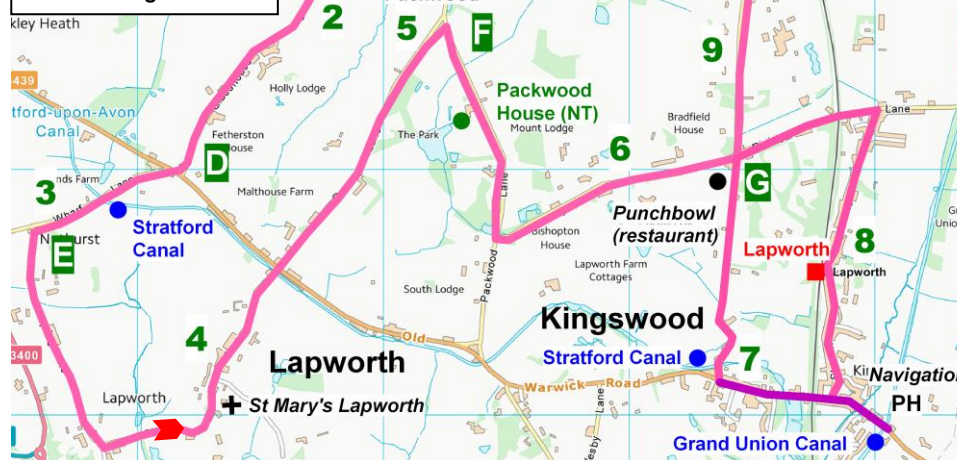
G To visit **The Navigation** canal-side pub turn R at the crossroads (by the **Punchbowl**) into Mill Lane (otherwise turn L into **Chessetts Wood Rd** and continue to **H**). Follow this road to the end and

turn L. The pub is 0.6 miles SO. Afterwards retrace your route and turn first R into **Station Rd**. At the end turn L to return to **G**. Turn R and go SO for 1.2 miles, passing **Chapel Lane** on the right, until you reach a crossroads.

H Turn R in to **Darley Green Rd** and follow the road under the railway bridge and around to the L.

I Take the next turn L into **Blue Lake Rd** and then first L into **Dorridge Rd** which is followed back to **Dorridge rail station**.

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Key to Map

- A B** Start and route reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start point
- Quiet road
- Busier Road
- Traffic-free path
- Significant hill climb (in direction of travel)
- PH/CF** Pub, café or tearoom
- SH** Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
- +** Notable church
- Water feature
- Place of interest
- Rail station

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.