

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. Our shorter 'S' routes are an opportunity to try a Cyclesolihull ride without going very far and are 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



S14

short route from
Shirley

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



9 miles via Earwood and Dickens Heath

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.

New Route for 2024

Route S14

Shirley to Earlswood and Dickens Heath

Distance: 9 miles (60 to 75 mins).

Start: Shirley Park (park car park behind Aldi supermarket) B90 3AG. SP118792.

Route Summary: A varied route leaving suburban Solihull for the countryside around Earlswood Lakes.

Refreshments: There are a number of cafes, pubs and shops along the route including those in Dickens Heath village.

The Route

A Start in the car park behind **Aldi**. Go through the gap in the hedge and follow the cycle path to the L through the park. At the end of the path turn right on to the residential road (Grenville Rd). Follow the road to the end and turn L then first R into **Hazeloak Rd**.

B At end of the road turn R and first L into **Loxley Avenue**. Follow the road to the end. Turn L into **Neville Rd** and follow the road L around the bend. At the end turn R into Bills Lane.

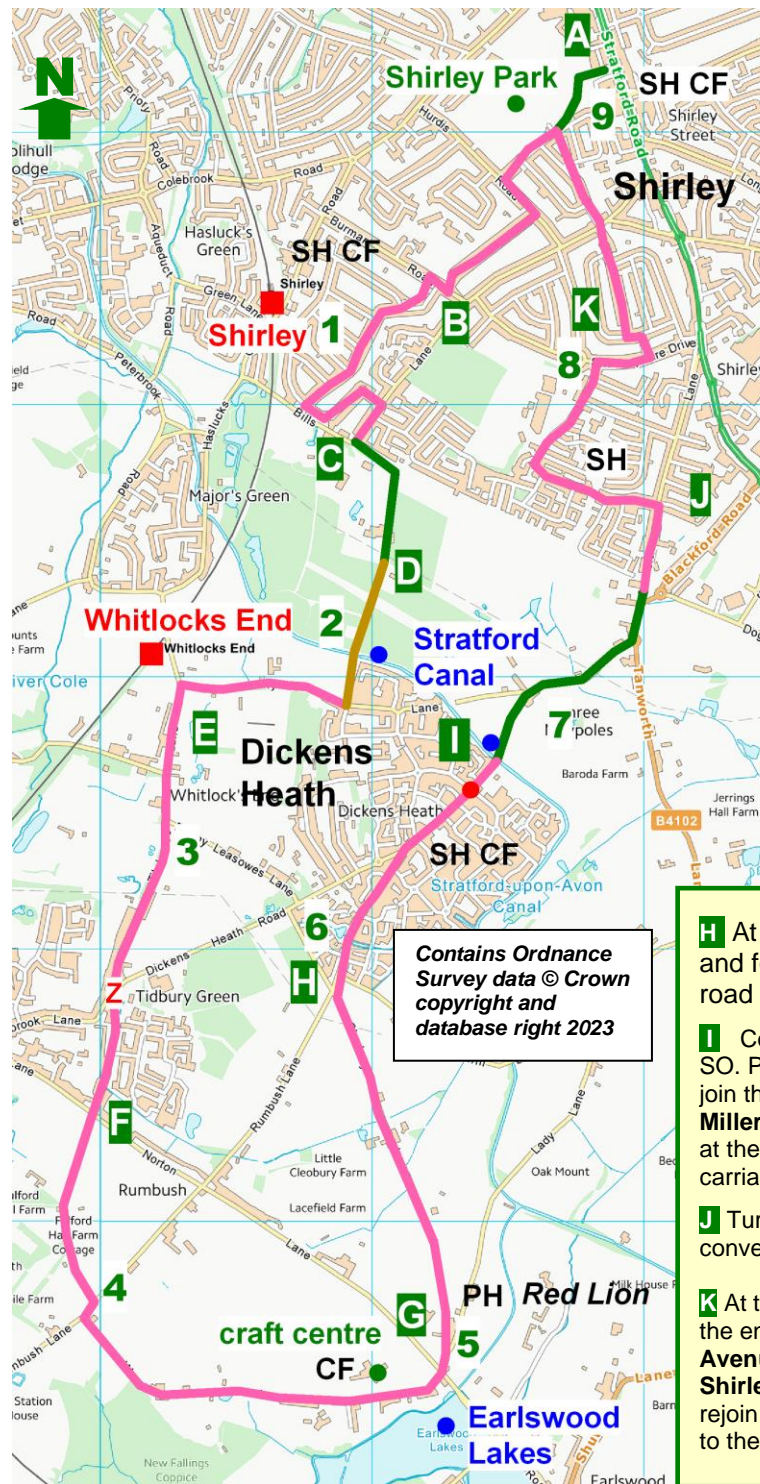
C Where the road bends R, go L through the wooden gate to join the access road beyond the metal gate. Follow this path SO until it becomes an unsurfaced (it may be muddy in places after wet weather).

D At the path junction go SO eventually passing over the **Stratford Canal**. At the end turn R onto Tythe Barn Lane.

E At the end of the road turn L towards **Tidbury Green**. Go SO at the next crossroads.

F Cross the busier road at the next crossroads into **Fulford Hall Rd** heading towards **Earlswood**. At the end turn R into **Rumbush Lane** and then immediately L by **Earlswood Methodist Church** into **Wood Lane**. Follow this road for 1 mile passing the **Earlswood Lakes Craft Centre**.

G At the crossroads go SO into **Lady Lane**. Turn immediately L into **Cleobury Lane** passing the **Red Lion** pub. Continue SO for 0.9 miles.



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.

H At the crossroads go R into **Rumbush Lane** and follow the road into **Dickens Heath**. After the road closure go R, passing the shops.

I Continue SO past the bollards. At the roundabout go SO. Pass over the **Stratford Canal** and immediately join the cycle path L. Follow this path, turning L past the **Miller and Carter** pub into **Tanworth Lane** and then L at the next junctions (still **Tanworth Lane**), rejoining the carriageway.

J Turn first L into **Stretton Rd**. Follow the road past the convenience store

K At the end turn R and then first L into **Shottery Rd**. At the end turn L and then immediately R into **Portia Avenue**. At the main road turn R and immediately L into **Shirley Park Rd**. At the end of the road turn R and rejoin the outward cycle path through **Shirley Park** back to the car park.