

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 most of the network of quiet lanes, roads 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 which 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 from 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.

CSS17-0519

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 10 and 20 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 routes will be followed with a mixture of route lengths ridden during each month. In autumn and winter there are more shorter rides to reflect 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 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 points. They are about 30 long, are at a faster pace and do not follow a fixed route, so are suitable for more experienced cyclists.

All Cyclesolihull rides have an en-route refreshment stop of about 30 minutes at a family-friendly pub or tearoom.

For ride date, routes and starting points download our current Ride Programme from:

www.cyclesolihull.org.uk

or pick up a copy on one of the rides.



S17 short route from
Chelmsley Wood

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**10 miles via Babbs Mill, Old
Yardley & Sheldon Country Park**

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

Route S17 Chemsley Wood to old Yardley and Sheldon Country Park

Distance: 10 miles (60-80 mins). **Start:** Banbury Club, Bosworth Drive (opposite Asda) B37 5EX SP175868.

Route Summary: A varied ride using mainly quiet urban roads, park paths and off-road cycle routes.

Refreshments: Sheldon Country Park Farm.

Parking: 3hrs free parking next to Asda.

The Route

A Facing the **Banbury Club** follow the path around the corner into **Bosworth Drive** and immediately bear R before the bridge to the lower path. Turn R on to the main cycle path and go under the next road bridge into **Meriden Park**. Take the next path L across the narrow bridge over the end of the lake (please give way to pedestrians).

B At the next path junction turn R and cross the bridge over the **River Cole**. Turn immediately L and follow the path onto Forth Drive. Turn L and at the end of the road go L to cross the road at the zebra into **Babbs Mill Park**. At the next path junction turn L and go SO for 1 mile, passing the playground and keeping the lake on your L.

C At the end of the lake, before reaching the buildings, turn R onto the main Cole Valley path. Follow the main path SO for 0.75 miles to reach Packington Avenue. Cross over to rejoin the path for a further 0.75 miles. Cross the main road at the toucan. Take the next path L across the **River Cole** and turn R alongside the recreation ground, eventually emerging in a residential area.

D At the end of **Vintage Close** turn R. Follow the road around to the L, past the playground and turn first L into **Bushbury Rd** and second R into **Tirley Rd**. Go L around the large grass circle and turn second L into **Peplow Rd**. At the roundabout take the third exit into **Kempe Rd**.

E At the end go L and third L into **Elmore Rd**. At the end turn R and at the crossroads turn L, crossing the railway. Go SO at the mini-roundabout, eventually reaching **Meadway**. Cross with care to the cycle 'gap' and continue along **Church Rd** (which becomes a 'no through road') through **old Yardley**,

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passing the historic **St Edburgha's church**.

F Go next R into **Blakesley Rd** and cross **Stoney Lane** to visit historic **Blakesley Hall** (150 yards). Afterwards return to this point and turn R. Turn second L into **Barrows Lane**.

At the end turn L and immediately L again into **Bilton Grange Rd**. At the end turn L onto **Garretts Green Lane** and first R, by the school, into **Horrell Rd**. Go L at the roundabout and first R into **Boyne Rd**. Follow the road for xx miles, going SO at the barriers.

G At the end of the road turn L and follow the road to the R, around the

grassed area to reach the main road. Cross over into **Fallindale Rd** passing **Sheldon Library**. Follow the road around to the R into **Stanville Rd**. Turn R into **Church Rd** for 250 yards. Immediately after passing historic **Sheldon Church** on your L, turn first L into **Ragley Drive** to reach **Sheldon Country Park and Visitor Centre**.

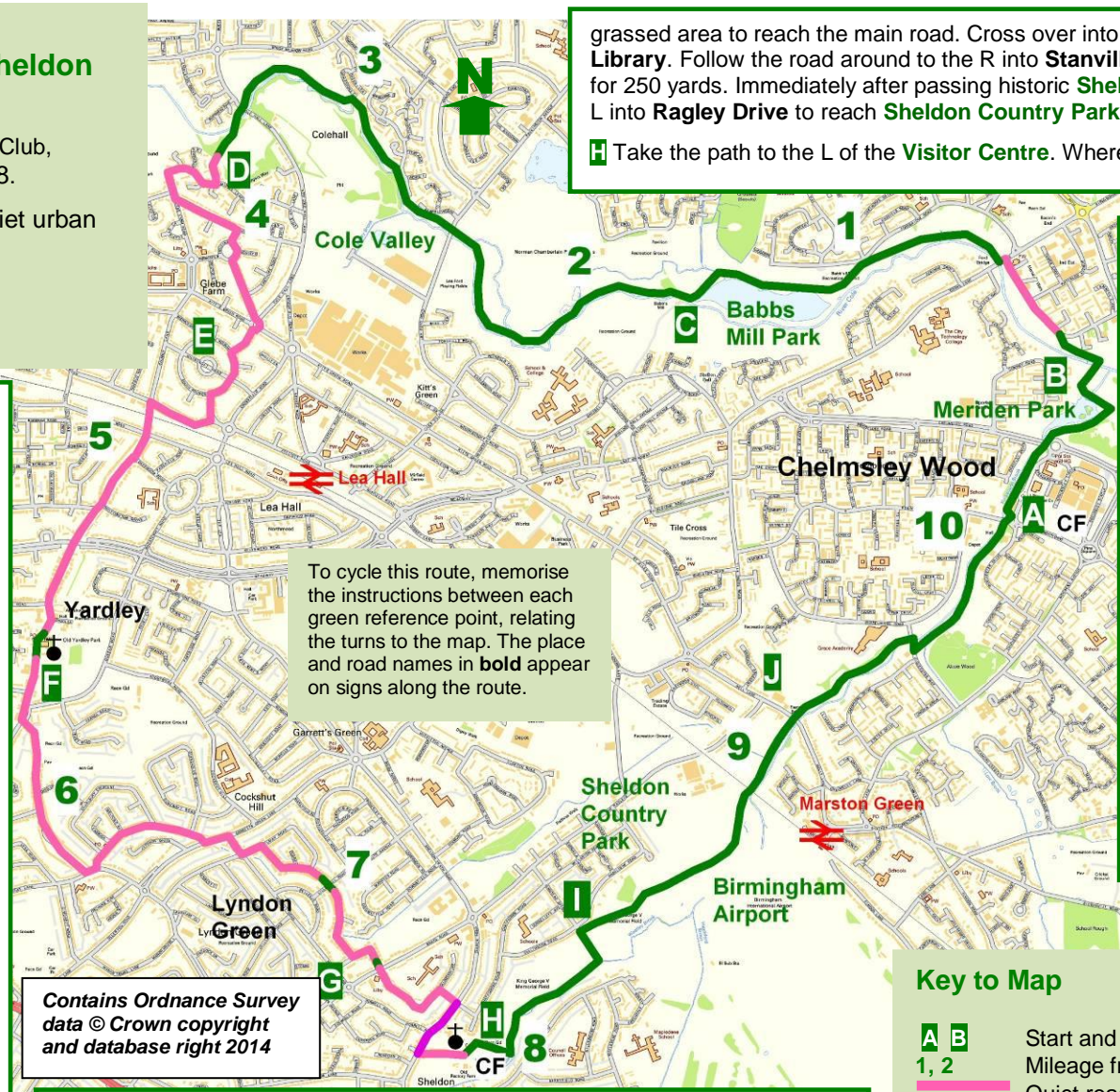
H Take the path to the L of the **Visitor Centre**. Where the path splits on the far side

of the open area, follow the path leading L. Continue SO along the main path which crosses the brook twice (this may be muddy in places).

I At the tarmac path turn L and next R onto the wide cycle path which passes the end of the runway at **Birmingham Airport**. At the next path junction bear L to go under the railway viaduct.

J Cross the road at the toucan and continue along the path opposite. At the end turn R onto the wide footway along Gloucester Rd for the short distance across the bridge then cross the road onto the path opposite which continues alongside the brook. After the next over bridge turn sharp R to return to the start point.

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
- Cycle path
- Significant hill climb (in direction of travel)
- PH Public House
- CF Café or tearoom
- SH Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
- Notable church
- Water feature with access

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