

## 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](http://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.

© Cyclesolihull. The map and route descriptions are the copyright of Cyclesolihull. However, you may freely copy this leaflet for personal and non-commercial use.

## 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](http://cyclesolihull.org.uk)



**S18**

short route from  
**Castle Bromwich**

# CycleSolihull

*Explore your borough by bike*



**10 miles via Smith's Wood ,  
Meriden Park and the Cole  
Valley**

*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 2023



## Route S18 Castle Bromwich to Meriden Park & the Cole Valley

**Distance:** 9 miles (60-70 mins). **Start:** Castle Bromwich Parish Church, Chester Road B36 9DE. SP142899 //combining.maps.risky.

**Route Summary:** A varied ride using quiet suburban roads from historic Castle Bromwich, park paths and off-road cycle routes through the Cole valley.

**Refreshments:** The route passes two pubs near the end.

**Parking:** There is on-street parking at the start point.

### The Route

**A** From the church go left down **Kingsleigh Drive**. At the end turn L into **Beechcroft Rd** and at the end R into **Parkfield Drive**, eventually reaching the main Water Orton Rd.

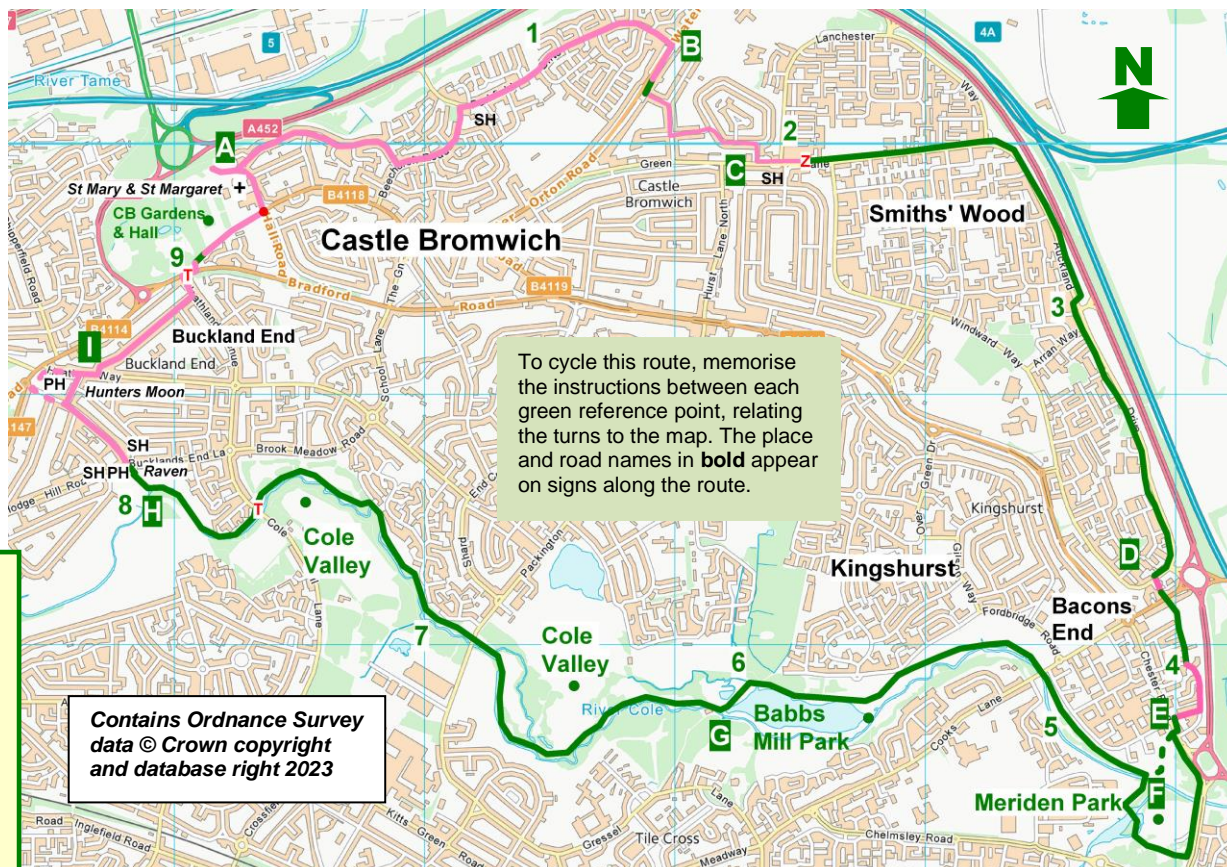
**B** Turn R and immediately L to join the service road opposite. Go through the road closure and L into **Tomlinson Rd** and second L into **Neville Rd**. At the end turn R into **Blandford Ave** and first R into **Clevedon Ave** to reach the main road.

**C** Turn L and after 100 yards (at the zebra crossing) join the roadside cycle path. Follow this SO for about 1.75 miles alongside **Auckland Drive**, climbing a grassy embankment before eventually crossing **Auckland Drive** and passing **Solihull College**.

**D** After the bend R, cross **Auckland Drive** again to enter **St Martins Close**. At the end bear R to join the cycle path which goes under the subway. Follow this path until the road and turn L. Turn second R into **Tay Croft**. At the end bear L to join the cycle path and cross the main (Chester Rd) road at the island.

**E** If you do not wish to visit **Meriden Park** continue SO along the main path through the green area and before the bridge over the **River Cole** turn R at **F**. Otherwise continue along the roadside path and go next R down the vehicle entrance into the **Meriden Park**. Follow the main path through the car park and turn R passing the playground. Take the next path L across the narrow bridge over the end of the lake (please give way to pedestrians). At the next path junction turn R and cross the bridge over the **River Cole**. Turn immediately L

**F** Follow the path SO to reach the main road (Cooks Lane). Cross the road at the zebra crossing into **Babbs Mill Park**.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023

At the next path junction turn L and go SO along the main path for 1 mile, passing the playground and keeping the lake on your L.

**G** At the far end of the lake, before reaching the bridge and buildings, turn R onto the **Cole Valley** path. Follow the main path SO for 0.75 miles to reach Packington Avenue. Cross the road at the island to rejoin the path for a further 0.75 miles.

**H** Cross the next main road at the toucan and follow the main path SO for a further 400 yards, turning next R to reach the road by the **Raven** pub. Go SO into **Bucklands End Rd**. Go next R into **Orkney Drive**. At the end turn R (to visit the **Hunters Moon** pub do not turn into **Orkney Drive** but go SO for 150 yards. To continue afterwards leave at the other side of the car park and turn R into the residential road)

**I** Turn first L into **Ashville Ave** and at the end turn L. At the main road use the toucan crossing to turn R and immediately L through the road closure passing **Castle Bromwich Hall**. At the mini-roundabout go L into **Chester Rd** and follow the road back to the church and starting point.

### Key to Map

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>A B</b>       | Start and route reference point                 |
| <b>1, 2</b>      | Mileage from start point                        |
|                  | Quiet road                                      |
|                  | Busier road                                     |
|                  | Traffic-free path                               |
|                  | Significant hill climb (in direction of travel) |
| <b>Z P T S</b> ● | Zebra/pelican/toucan/ signals/ roundabout       |
| <b>PH/CF</b>     | Public House/café or tearoom                    |
| <b>SH</b>        | Shop selling drinks, sweets etc                 |
| <b>+</b>         | Notable church                                  |
|                  | Place of interest/water feature                 |
|                  | Place of interest/water feature                 |
|                  | Rail station                                    |

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