

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.

CSS2-0519

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.



S2

short route from
Knowle

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



9 or 10 miles via Barston,
Temple Balsall or Fen End

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

Route S2 Knowle to Fen End & Temple Balsall

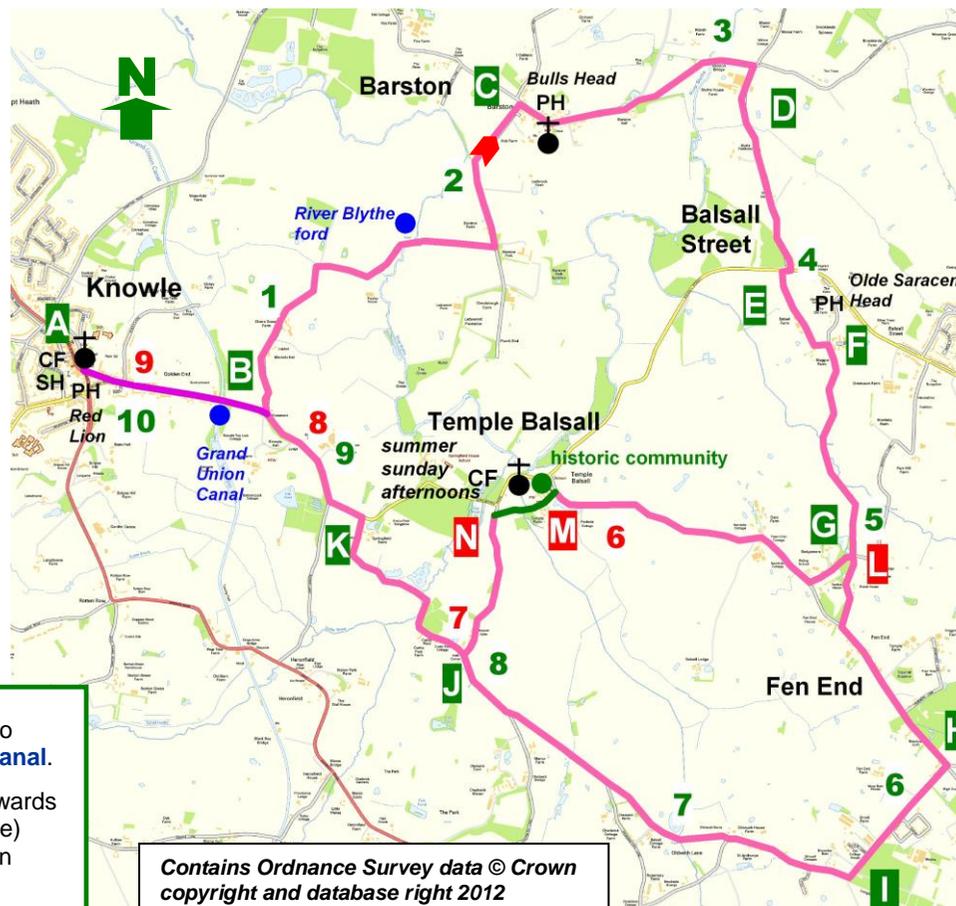
Distance: 9 miles (55-70 minutes) or 10 miles (60-75 minutes).

Start: Knowle Parish Church in the centre of the village B 93 0LN SP183767.

Parking: Village car park behind the church (entrance at other end of High Street next to the Greswolde).

Route Summary: A ride along some very quiet and narrow lanes, crossing the River Blythe and its tributaries at a number of fords. *Note: there are footbridges but the roads nearby are liable to be wet after rain.*

Refreshments: Pubs and a cafe in Knowle, plus two pubs en-route and summer Sunday teas at Temple Balsall.



Key to Map

- A B** Start and route reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start point
-  Quiet road
-  Busier road
-  Significant hill climb (in direction of travel)
- PH/CF** Public House/café or tearoom
- SH** Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
-  Notable church
-  Access to canal or river
-  Place of interest

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

To cycle this route, memorise the instructions between each reference point, relating the turns to the map. The place and road names in **bold** appear on signs along the route.

Doing the shorter ride?
Follow the red reference points for a slightly shorter ride that visits historic **Temple Balsall**.

A From outside **Knowle Parish Church**, turn L into **Kenilworth Rd** soon crossing the **Grand Union Canal**.

B Take the next turn L into **Elvers Green Lane** towards **Barston**. Go through the ford (or use the footbridge) and after 400 yards follow the road L at the junction towards **Barston**.

C At the end of **Hob Lane** turn R towards **Balsall Common**. Follow the road through **Barston** past the **Bulls Head** (15th century) and **St Swithin's Church**. Cross over the **River Blythe**.

D At the crossroads turn R into **Barston Lane**. Follow the lane until you reach the **B4101**.

E Turn R towards **Knowle** then immediately L into **Magpie Lane** passing the attractive half-timbered Magpie Farm.

F At the end of the lane turn R into **Longbrook Lane**. (Turn L at this point to visit **Ye Old Saracens Head pub**). Cross the ford (beware of mud and stones).

To continue with the 9 mile route via Temple Balsall

I At the crossroads turn R and then at the end of the lane turn R again.

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M After 1 mile you will come to the historic complex of buildings at **Temple Balsall**. Please dismount and go along the path on the left before the school. Pass **St Mary's church** and the **Old Hall** (teas are served on summer Sunday afternoons). Walk through the cemetery, (one of the first two graves is of Henry Williams who was one of the writers of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary").

N On reaching the lane turn L and after 0.5 miles turn right into **Cuttle Pool Lane**. Continue with the main route at point **K**.

To continue the 10 mile route via Fen End

G At the crossroads go straight on and at the end of the lane turn L passing a number of attractive old houses.

H At the next crossroads turn R into **Oldwych Lane East**. Pass the entrance to the vehicle test track which uses the former Honiley airfield.

I Where the road bends to the L take the R turn into **Old Green Lane**. Cross the ford, continuing along the lane and ignoring the turning to the L.

J At the end of the lane turn R into **Chadwick Lane**. At the next junction turn L into **Cuttle Pool Lane**. The narrow road descends through a "tunnel" formed by the trees.

K At the end of **Cuttle Pool Lane** turn L onto the **B4101** towards **Knowle**. Follow the road back across the **Grand Union Canal**, retracing the route back to **Knowle Parish Church**.