

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



S4

short route from
Dickens Heath

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**10 miles via Forshaw Heath,
Tanworth and Earlswood
Lakes**

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 S4 Dickens Heath to Tanworth & Earlswood

Distance: 10 miles (60 to 75 mins).

Start: The library, Dickens Heath village centre, B90 1SD SP112763 [///lovely.busy.editor](https://lovely.busy.editor).

Parking: Behind the shops in Main Street.

Route Summary: A ride along narrow country lanes through Forshaw Heath to Tanworth-in-Arden, a pretty hill village, and **Earlswood Lakes** which were constructed by French POWs from the Napoleonic Wars in the 1820s for water supply to the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal.

Refreshments: In addition to shops and cafés in Dickens Heath there is a café at **Earlswood Lakes Craft Centre** and three pubs and a shop along the route.

The Route

A From outside the **library** turn R passing **Tesco** and bear first L, passing through the road closure. Continue SO for 1 mile.

B At the next crossroads carry SO on along **Rumbush Lane**. Continue for about 3 miles passing **Earlswood rail station** and crossing over the motorway.

C At the end of the road turn R onto the B4101 and after 200 yards L towards **Tanworth**. Follow the road, which becomes quite steep, up into **Tanworth-in-Arden**.

D Follow the main road to the village centre. At the **Bell** pub bear L past the church, eventually passing under the railway and up a steep hill.

E At the crossroads with the **B4101** go SO into **Tithe Barn Lane** and over the motorway.

F Turn first L towards **Earlswood**.

G At the crossroads go SO into **Valley Rd** towards **Wythall**, passing the **Reservoir** pub. Bear next L



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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 reference point, relating the turns to the map. The place and road names in **bold** appear on signs along the route.

to cross the dam of **Earlswood Lakes**. Go carefully past the chicane between the two lakes and continue SO going L at the end to reach a crossroads.

H To visit the café at **Earlswood Craft Centre**, turn L into **Wood Lane** for 200 yards. Otherwise turn R into **Lady Lane** and immediately L by the **Red Lion** pub into **Cleobury Lane**.

I At the crossroads go R into **Rumbush Lane** and follow the outbound route back into the centre of **Dickens Heath**.