

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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CSS6-1223

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



S6

short route from
Monkspath

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



10 miles via Earlwood, Illshaw Heath and Hockley 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.

Revised Route 2023

Route S6

Monkspath to Earlswood and Hockley Heath

Distance: 10 miles (60 to 75 mins).

Start: Shelly Farm shops (ample parking available), Farmhouse Way, Monkspath, B90 4EH SP146771 //blues.angel.target.

Route Summary: A varied route leaving suburban Solihull for the countryside of Ilshaw Heath and Earlswood Lakes.

Refreshments: Shops at Monkspath and a number of cafes, pubs and shops along the route.

The Routes

A From outside the Co-op go R onto the path on the opposite side of the car park, passing the cycle stands. Follow this path turning L at the end and bearing R at the next path junction.

B Cross over **Frankholmes Drive**. Follow the signposted cycle route across **Thornton Rd** to reach Stratford Rd.

C Cross at the signals by the **The Plough** into **Creynolds Lane**. After 0.5 miles turn R into **Cheswick Way** towards **Cheswick Green**. At the **Saxon** pub go R into **Coppice Walk**.

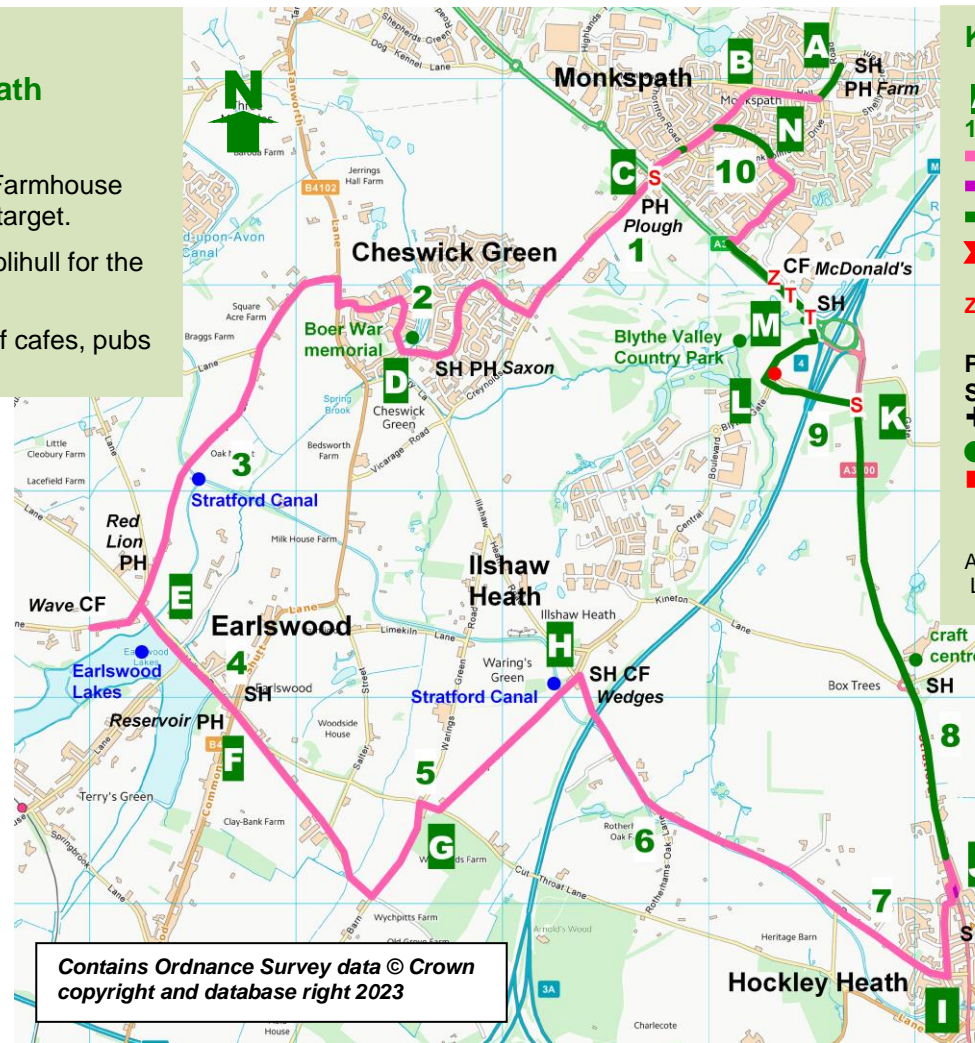
D Turn next R into **Noble Way**. Follow this winding road up through the housing. At the end of the road turn R into Tanworth Lane and then L into **Lady Lane**. Follow the road for 1 mile across the **Stratford Canal** and past the **Red Lion** pub.

E To visit the cafe at **Earlswood Craft Centre** go SO into **Wood Lane** for 200 yards. Otherwise turn L at the crossroads and then first R onto the **Earlswood Lakes** dam road. Go around the barrier between the two lakes and SO to rejoin the main road.

F At the crossroads go SO passing the **Reservoir** pub. Go SO at the next junction, passing the turning to **Hockley Heath** on the L. At the next crossroads with **Tithe Barn Lane** go L.

G At the next crossroads turn R into **Cut Throat Lane** and immediately L into **Dyers Lane**. After 0.5 miles cross the **Stratford Canal**.

H Turn R at the next crossroads, passing the bakers and then under the motorway. Follow this road for 1.5 miles to **Hockley Heath**.



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) |
| Z P T S ● | Zebra/pelican/toucan/ signals/ roundabout |
| PH/CF | Public House/café or tearoom |
| SH | Shop selling drinks, sweets etc |
| + | Notable church |
| ● | Place of interest/water feature |
| ■ | Rail station |

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

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.

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I Approaching **Hockley Heath** turn L into **Orchard Rd**. Follow the road. Just before reaching Stratford Rd turn L into the service road.

J With care turn R and then immediately L and L again into the service road opposite (doubling back). At the end of the service road use the footpath for a short distance (please dismount) to join the cycle and pedestrian path along Stratford Road. Continue along the path for 1.5 miles, passing the service station and **Box Trees Craft Centre** to reach the traffic signals.

K Re-cross Stratford Rd at the signals and use the cycle track across the motorway bridge.

L At the roundabout turn R, continuing to follow the cycle path, eventually bearing L back to the Stratford Rd.

M Cross Stratford Rd at the toucan. Follow the cycle path along Stratford Rd, crossing side roads at a toucan and zebra, passing **McDonald's**. Take the first path on the R (*caution: this is easy to miss!*) through the trees to Stanbrook Rd. Turn R and follow this road to the end.

N Turn R and go down the historic '**Monkspath**' path immediately to the L. At the end turn R on to **Hay Lane** and retrace the outbound route back to Shelly Farm shops.