

## 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.

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



S8

short route from  
**Balsall Common**

# CycleSolihull

*Explore your borough by bike*



**11 miles via Benton Green,  
Fints Green and Berkswell**

*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 S8

### Balsall Common to Benton Green and Berkswell

**Distance:** 9 miles (55 to 70 mins)

**Start:** Balsall Common library, Kenilworth Rd CV7 7EL SP238772 [///luck.chain.state](http://luck.chain.state).

**Parking:** There is a car park behind the library. The entrance is via a narrow entrance off Station Road.

**Route Summary:** A ride through the quiet lanes surrounding Balsall Common, including a visit to **historic Berkswell**.

**Refreshments** In addition to the facilities in Balsall Common there is a café and pub in Berkswell.

### The Routes

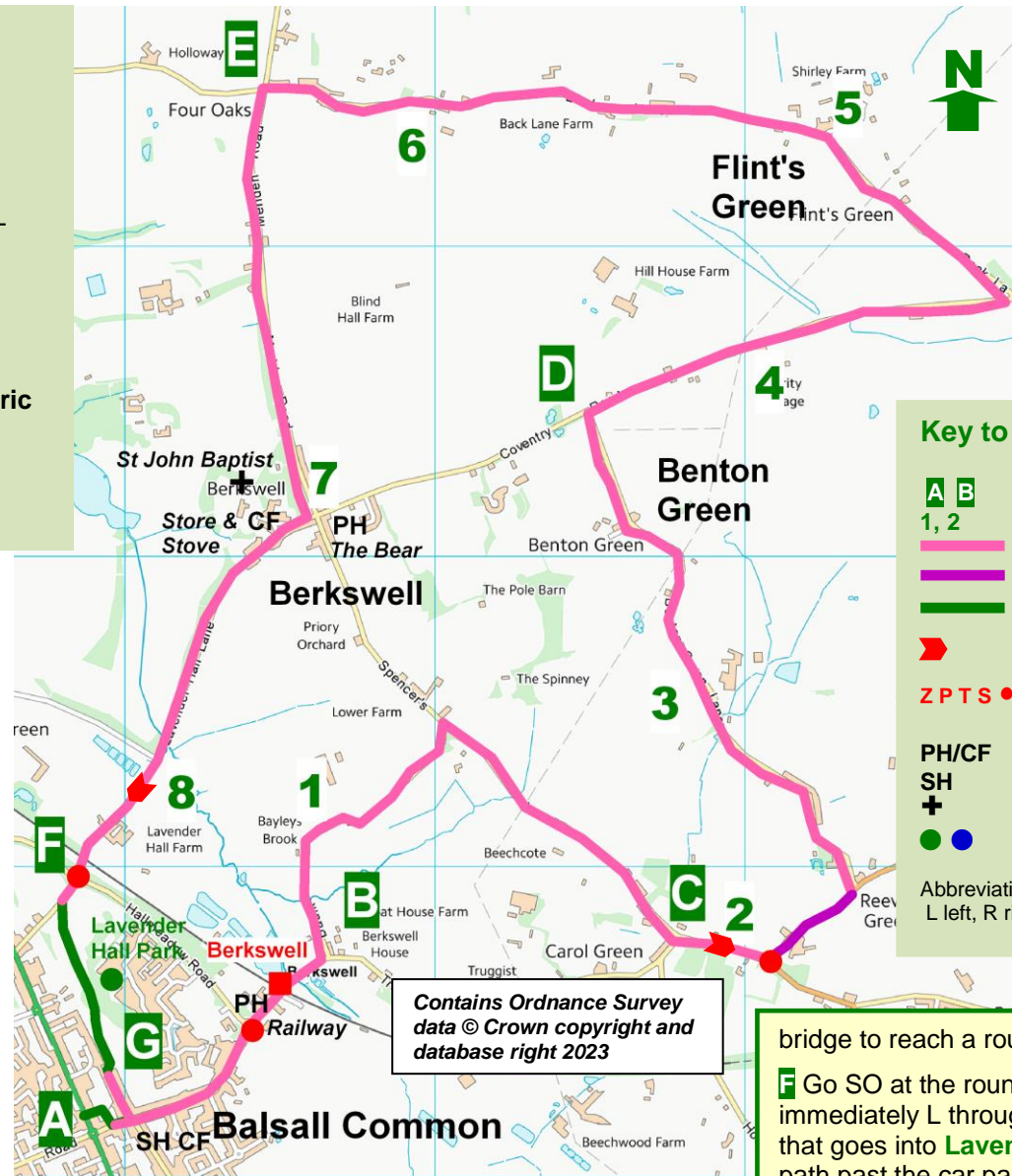
**A** From outside the **library** go L and turn immediately L through the cut-through into the car park at the rear. Leave the car park via the vehicle exit and turn L onto **Station Rd**. Follow this road, going SO at the small roundabout. At the rail overbridge pass **Berkswell rail station** using the "cycle subway" on the L.

**B** Turn first L into **Baulk Lane** and follow the lane to the end. Turn R into **Spencer Lane**.

**C** At the end of the lane turn L and L again at the roundabout towards **Tile Hill**. Turn first L into **Benton Green Lane**. Follow the lane for a mile.

**D** At the end of the lane turn R into **Coventry Road**. After 0.75 miles turn first L in to **Back Lane**. Follow this lane until you reach a crossroads.

**E** Turn L into **Meriden Road**. Pass **Berkswell Village Hall** on the L. At the next crossroads, by the **Bear Inn** turn R into **Lavender Hall Lane**. The **historic village green and nearby church** are on the R. Follow this road passing over a narrow



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
- 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

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

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bridge to reach a roundabout.

**F** Go SO at the roundabout and then turn immediately L through the barrier on to the path that goes into **Lavender Hall Park**. Follow the path past the car park and playground. Keep SO, passing the first path on the R.

**G** Take the next path on the R which immediately leads into a residential road (Green Lane). At the end, dismount and walk a very short distance R to return to the entrance to the car park behind the **library**.