

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 route 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.

CSL4-0519

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 being ridden during each month. In autumn and winter there are more shorter rides to reflect the reduced daylight hours. One Sunday each 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. 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 20-30 minutes at a family-friendly pub or tearoom.

For ride dates, routes and starting points download the current Ride Programme from:

www.cyclesolihull.org.uk

or pick up a copy on one of the rides.



L4

long route from
Dickens Heath

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**22 miles via Portway,
Barnt Green & Forhill**

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

Route L4

Dickens Heath to Barnt Green & Forhill

Distance: 22 miles (135 to 170 mins)

Start: The library, Dickens Heath village centre, B90 1SD SP112763.

Route Summary: A hilly ride into Worcestershire to the village of Barnt Green.

Refreshments: There are several pubs en-route and shops and pubs in Barnt Green village centre.

The Route

A From outside the **library** turn R past Tesco and bear first L, passing through the road closure. Continue SO for 1 mile. At the crossroads continue SO along **Rumbush Lane**, eventually passing **Earlswood station** and crossing over the motorway.

B At the end of the lane turn R onto the **B4101** towards **Redditch**. After 300 yards, turn next R, with care, into **Penn Lane**. After 1.2 miles, pass over the A435 and at the end of the lane turn L and immediately R into **Whitepits Lane**.

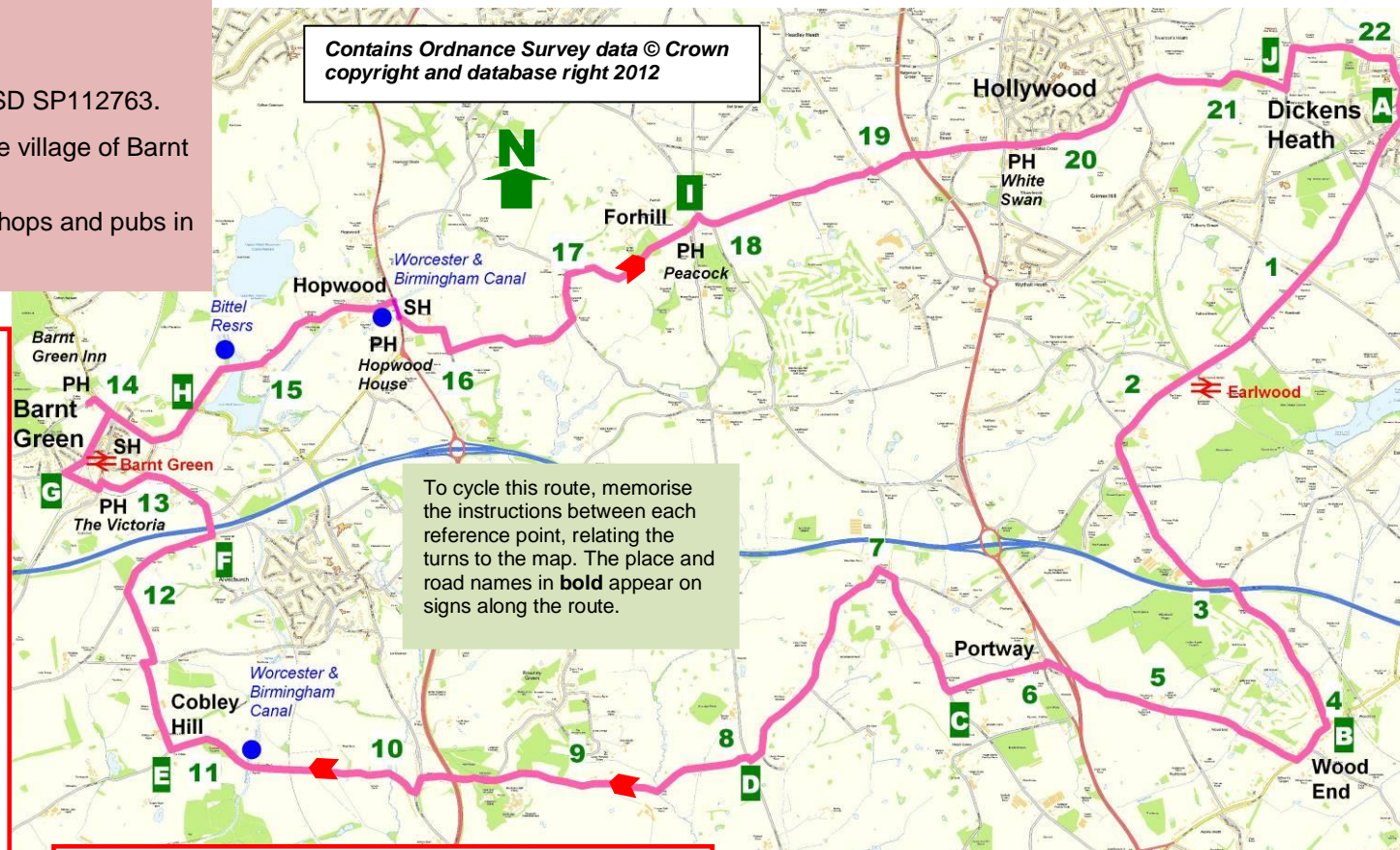
C At the end of the lane turn R into **Seafield Lane**. At the end go L into **Billesley Lane** and then L again into **Lilley Green Lane** towards **Rowney Green**.

D After 1 mile, turn R towards **Rowney Green**, immediately bearing L at the next junction. Go SO for about 1.5 miles, eventually passing over the A441. At the end turn L towards **Redditch** and first R into **Grange Lane** towards **Cobley Hill**. Go SO for 1.2 miles, passing over a river, railway and the **Worcester and Birmingham Canal**.

E Turn next R into **Cobley Hill**. At the end of the lane turn R towards **Alvechurch** and then L into **Foxhill Lane** towards **Barnt Green**. At the end turn R into **Coopers Hill**.

F Go next L towards **Barnt Green**, passing over the motorway and under the railway. At the mini-roundabout bear L into **Sandhills Lane**. *At the end turn R by **The Victoria** pub to visit the village shops.* Otherwise turn L here and immediately after the railway bridge R into **Hewell Lane**.

G At the end turn R, passing **Barnt Green station**. At the end turn L into **Kendal End Rd** to visit the **Barnt Green Inn** (200 yards). Otherwise turn R into **Bittell Rd** going SO at the mini-roundabout and following the road for 0.5 miles.



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.

H At the sharp R bend go SO to **Hopwood**. At the end of the lane turn R, with care, onto the busy **A441** towards **Redditch**. After 150 yards turn first L into **Ash Lane**. Go next L into **Stonehouse Lane**. At the end of the lane turn L and next R towards **Forhill**.

I At the top of the hill, by the **Peacock** pub, turn L and then R onto **Clewshaw Lane** towards **Drakes Cross**. At the end turn R and immediately L to **Drakes Cross**. Continue SO for 2 miles, passing under the A435, through a ford (footbridge available) and under a railway.

J At the end of **Houndsfield Lane** turn L and after 500 yards, R into **Tythe Barn Lane**. After 0.5 miles, where the road bends sharply to the L, go SO into narrow **Calcutt Way** and through the road closure. At the roundabout go SO and then second L into **Hensborough** to return to the library.

Key to Map

A B	Start and route reference point
1, 2	Mileage from start point
	Quiet road
	Busier road
	Cycle path
	Significant hill climb (in direction of travel)
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.