

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.

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.



L8

long route from
Balsall Common

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**19 miles via Burton Green,
Kenilworth & Beausale**

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

Route L8

Balsall Common to Burton Green, Kenilworth & Beausale

Distance: 19 miles (115 to 140 mins)

Start: The Library, Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common CV7 7EL, SP238772.

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

Route Summary: A ride to historic Kenilworth Castle along mainly quiet lanes. The ride includes a short section on the busier A4177.

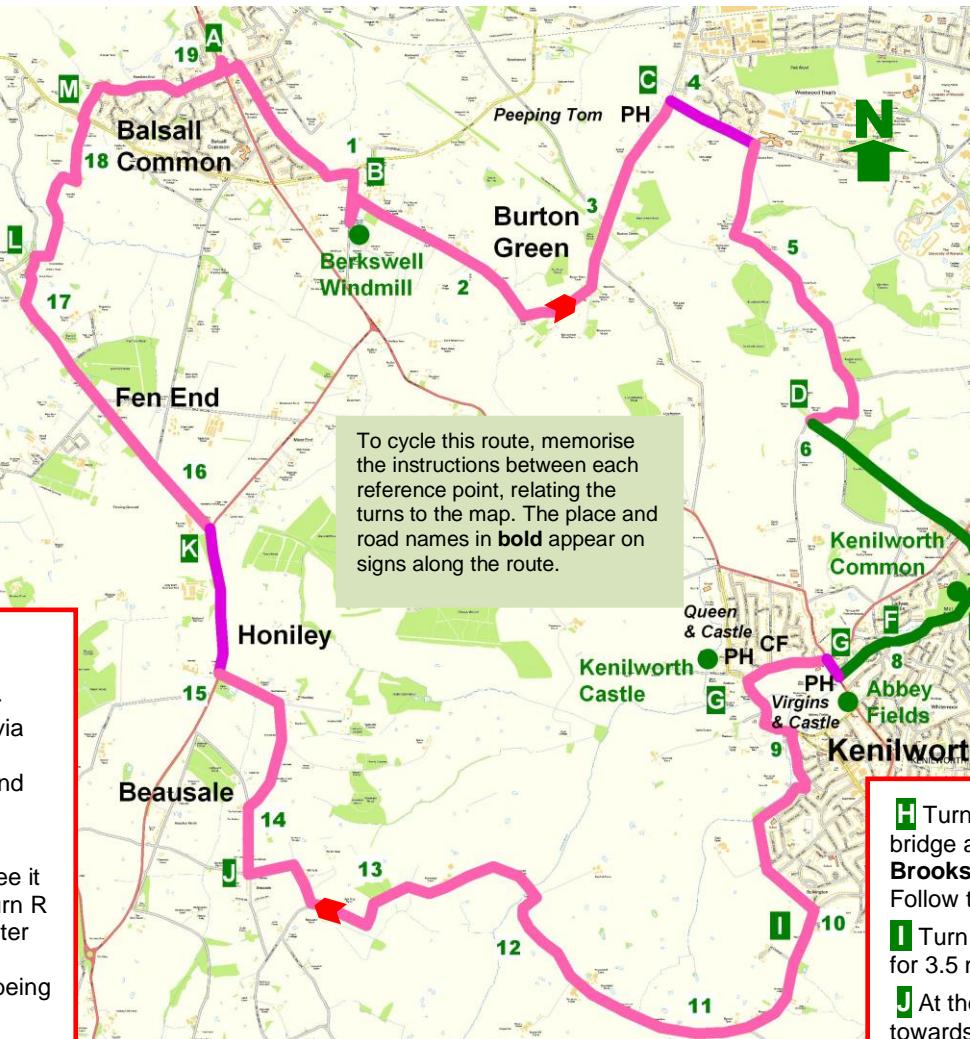
Refreshments: There is a pub in Burton Green and several pubs and a café in old Kenilworth.

The Route

A From outside the **library**, go L and through the cut-through to the car park at the rear. Leave the car park via the vehicle exit and turn L on to **Station Rd** and then immediately R into **Meeting House Lane**. Follow the end and turn L.

B Turn next R into **Windmill Lane**. To visit the historic **Berkswell Windmill** continue for 400 yards until you see it on your L. Then retrace your route for 200 yards and turn R down **Hob Lane**. Follow this lane for 3 miles. Shortly after passing **Red Lane** on the R you will cross over the **Berkswell & Kenilworth Greenway**. This walkway is being upgraded to a high quality cycleway but at present this section is rough and often muddy. Therefore continue through **Burton Green**.

C Turn first R into **Westwood Heath Rd** and then first right, at the hatched junction into Bockendon Rd. Follow this narrow lane for 1.5 miles. Ignore the L turn to **Cryfield Grange** and then turn first R into a very narrow lane. **D** Go under the former railway bridge and turn right up the ramp. **WARNING:** There is at present a cycle unfriendly gate at this point which is difficult to negotiate and you may need to lift your bike. Go R onto the **Kenilworth Greenway**. Follow the Greenway, eventually crossing the new bridge spanning the Coventry Rd. Continue along the path which becomes parallel to the rail line.



E At the path junction, bear R at the barrier and then follow the wide path, eventually going L across the green bridge into a residential road. At the end of **Forge Road** turn R on to a short cycle path on the nearside, and immediately R again to take the cycle path going away from the road.

F At the end of the path join the road for a short distance and at the crossroads go SO into School Lane, immediately turning R to rejoin the cycle path. Follow this path to the end, crossing the stream. At the main road turn R.

G Turn L at the traffic signals into the **High Street** and continue SO into **Castle Hill** which ends at **Kenilworth Castle**, opposite which there is a pub and tearoom.

Key to Map

A	Start and route reference point
B	Mileage from start point
1, 2	Quiet road
3	Busier road
4	Cycle path
5	Significant hill climb (in direction of travel)
6	Public House/café or tearoom
7	Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
8	Notable church
9	Place of interest

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

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H Turn L from **Castle Hill** into **Castle Rd**. Cross the bridge and after the zebra crossing turn first R into **Brookside Avenue** and then first R into **Fishponds Rd**. Follow this long residential road to the end.

I Turn R into **Rouncil Lane**. Follow this country lane for 3.5 miles and then turn first R towards **Beausale**.

J At the crossroads in **Beausale** turn R and then first R towards **Honiley**. At the end of the lane turn right on to the **A4177**. **Note:** *this short section can be busy, particularly on weekdays*.

K After 0.75 miles turn first L into **Honiley Lane** towards **Fen End**. Follow this road for over a mile, going SO at the crossroads. Then turn first R into the **Longbrook Lane**.

L At the isolated crossroads turn right into **Fernhill Lane** and follow this winding lane to the end.

M At the **B4101** go across L/R into **Needlers Lane** at the staggered junction. Follow this suburban road to the end and turn L. This road leads to a roundabout on the **A452** in Balsall Common and the library is across the road to your left (pelican crossing available).