

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.

© Cyclesolihull. The map and route descriptions are the copyright of Cyclesolihull. However, you may freely copy this leaflet for personal and non-commercial use.

CSM4-0823

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 children and new cyclists.

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.

All 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 café.

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

cyclesolihull.org.uk



M4

medium route from
Dickens Heath

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**14 miles via Earlswood,
Dorridge & Blythe Valley Park**

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.

New Route for 2023

Route M4 Dickens Heath to Earlswood, Dorridge & Blythe Valley Business Park

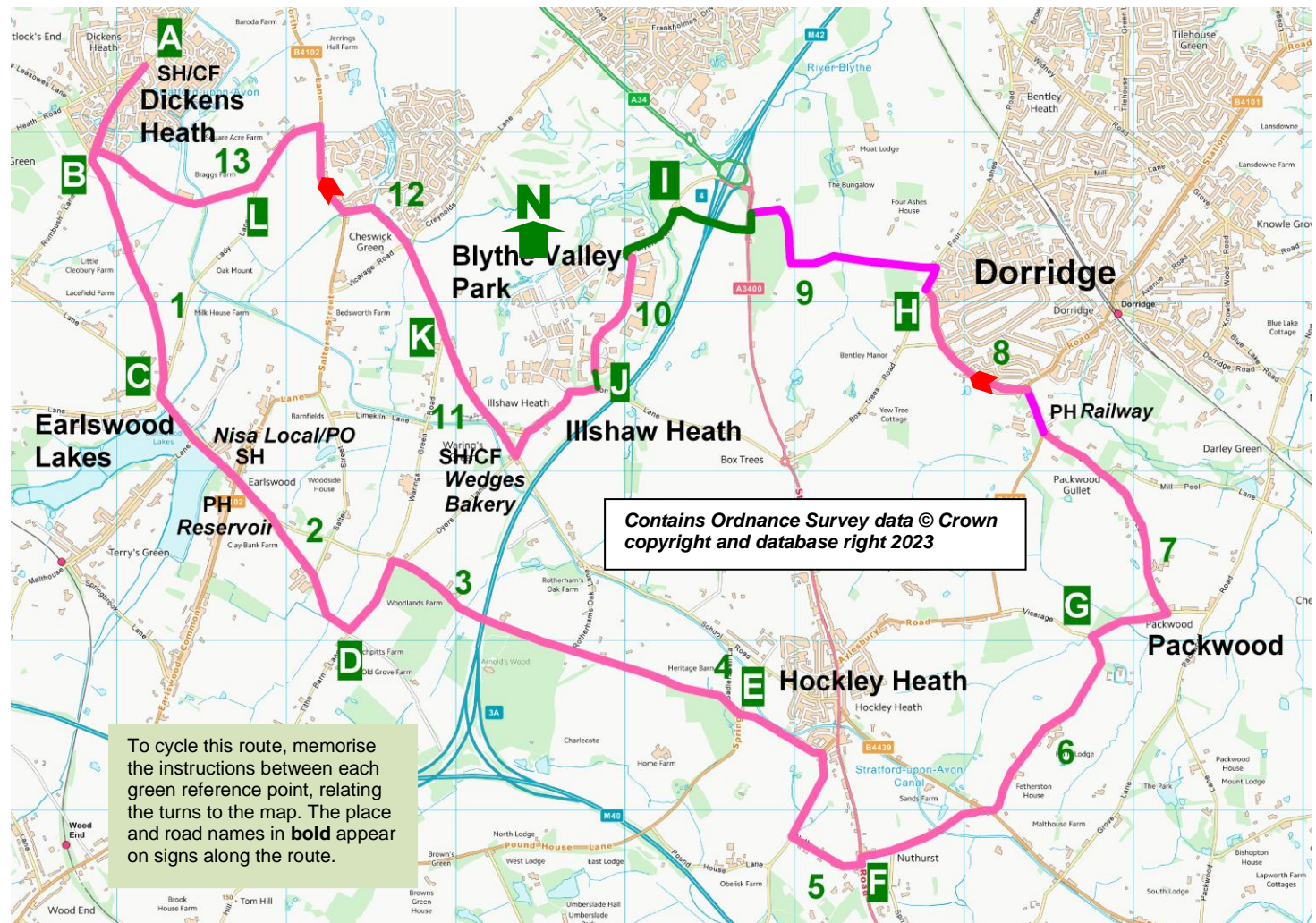
Distance: 14 miles (100-125 mins). **Start:** The library, Dickens Heath village centre, B90 1SD SP112763.

Route Summary: A route mainly along country lanes via Earlswood to Dorridge returning via Blythe Valley Business Park

Refreshments: There pubs, shops and a cafe en-route.

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.
- B** At the crossroads turn L into **Cleobury Lane**. Continue SO to the end of the road next to the **Red Lion** pub. Turn R
- C** At the crossroads turn L and then bear R onto the Earlswood Lakes dam road. Go around the barrier to continue SO along the dam. At the end turn R. At the crossroads go SO passing the **Reservoir** pub. Carry SO, passing the turning to **Hockley Heath** on the L
- D** At the crossroads with **Tithe Barn Lane** go L and at the next crossroads turn R into **Cut Throat Lane** and continue SO for 1.5 miles passing over the motorway.
- E** At the end turn L towards **Hockley Heath**. After 600 yards turn R by the church (caution – the turn is on a bend with poor visibility). Turn first L to reach the A3400.
- F** Turn L and immediately R into **Wharf Lane**. (CAUTION – fast and busy road). At the end of the road turn R on to the **B4439** and immediately L towards **Packwood**, eventually passing **Packwood Church** in the trees on the R.
- G** At the end turn R and first L into **Windmill Lane**. Follow the road for 0.9 miles to the end. Turn R passing the **Railway Inn** and turn first L into **Earlswood Rd**. Continue SO to the end.
- H** Turn R (CAUTION BUSIER ROADS!) and turn first L in to **Gate Lane** and follow the road for 0.8 miles. At the end turn L onto the shared footway for 100 yards and cross at the traffic signals to join the cycle path opposite into **Blythe Valley Business Park**.
- I** At the roundabout go left and rejoin the carriageway. (CAUTION! At busy times it may be more pleasant to cross







the road and use the cycle path opposite). At the next roundabout go L into Central Boulevard). Continue SO until the end and avoid bus gate using the path on the R to reach the lane.

J Turn R and first L into **Kineton Lane**. At the crossroads in **Illshaw Heath** next to **Wedges Bakery** turn R into **Illshaw Heath Lane**. **Follow the road to the end.**

K Turn R and follow the road until the end, passing a crossroads, Turn R into **Tanworth Lane** for 0.3 miles, and then L into **Lady Lane**.

L Turn next R into **Braggs Farm Lane** and cross over the canal. At the end of the lane turn R into **Rumbush Lane**. At the road closure go R to return to the library which is straight ahead.

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

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