

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.

CST6-0519

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.



T6

An easy 'Taster' route from **Monkspath**

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



6 miles via Ilshaw Heath & Blythe Valley Park

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

Route T6 Monkspath to Ishaw Heath and Blythe Valley Park

Distance: 6 miles (50 to 60 mins)

Start: Shelly Farm shops, Farmhouse Way, Monkspath B90 4EH, SP146771.

Route Summary: A varied ride to a country pub along cycle paths, quiet suburban roads and country lanes.

Refreshments: The Bluebell Cider House with a canalside garden is halfway. En-route there is also a café at a local bakery and a McDonalds.

Parking: There is ample free parking opposite the shops.

The Route

A From outside the **Coop** store go R on to the path on the opposite side of the car park, next to the cycle stands. Follow this path, turning L at the end and bearing R at the next path junction.

B Cross over the road (Frankholmes Drive), following the signposted cycle route to the end of **Hay Lane**. Turn L and continue to follow the cycle route across **Thornton Rd** to reach the busy Stratford Road.

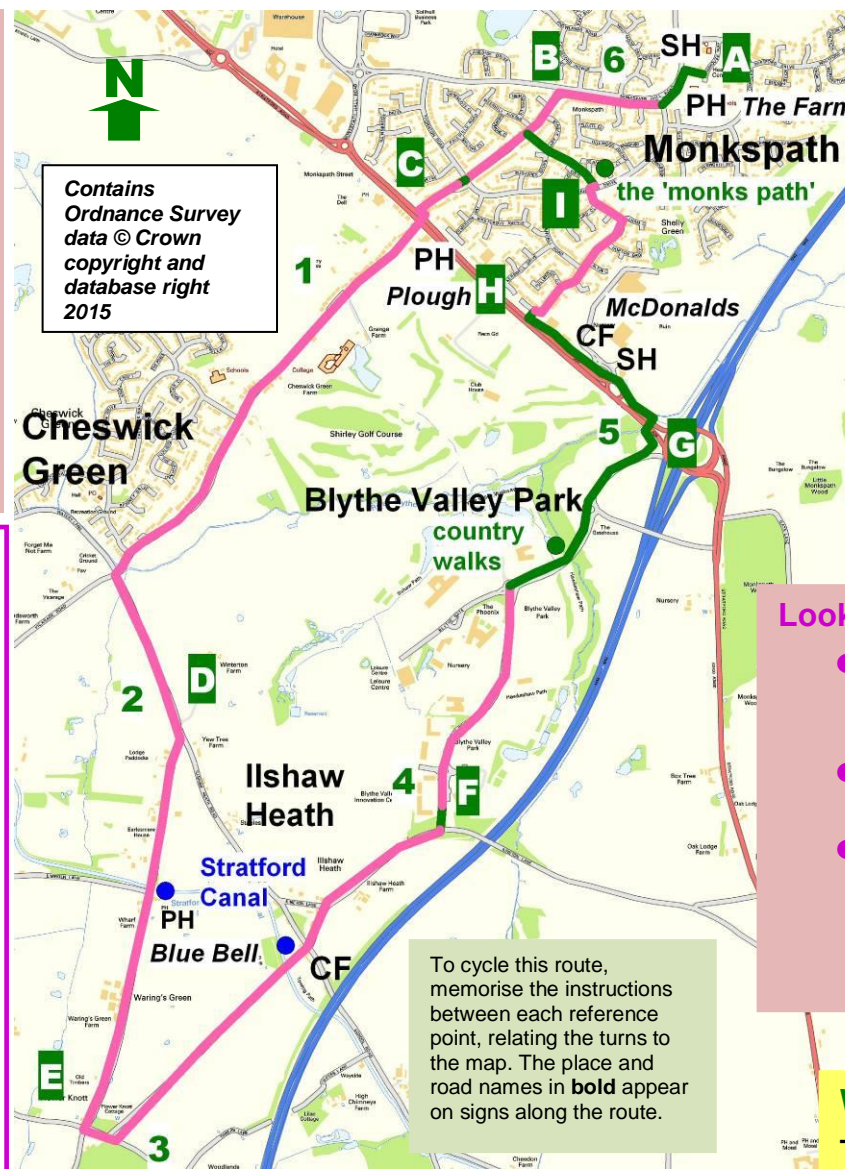
C Cross at the signals by **The Plough** and go SO into **Creynolds Lane**. After 1 mile turn L at the crossroads into **Ishaw Heath Road**.

D Follow the road, bearing right at the next junction, eventually crossing the **Stratford Canal** (step access available to the towpath) next to the **Blue Bell Cider House**.

E At the crossroads turn L towards **Ishaw Heath** and first L into **Dyers Lane**. Cross the **Stratford Canal** again (step access available to the towpath) and go SO at the crossroads by the bakery and cafe.

F After 0.5 miles turn L on to the path leading into **Blythe Valley (Business) Park**. Go SO along the road. Approaching the second roundabout use the path on the L to cross the L arm of the roundabout and join the wide cycle path on the far side of the roundabout, going R. Follow this path past the next roundabout and keep SO alongside the entry road.

G Cross Stratford Rd at the toucan. Follow the cycle path L alongside the main road, passing the petrol station and **McDonald's**. **CAUTION!** Take extra care crossing the road to the supermarket which can be very busy at times.



Key to Map

- A B** Start and route reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start point
- Quiet road
- Busier road
- Cycle path
- 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.

Look out for...

- The Stratford-upon-Avon Canal opened in 1796 to connect Birmingham to the River Avon.
- Modern buildings and country walks in Blythe Valley Park.
- The 'Monkspath' – one of a number of ancient routes passing through this area including Shelley Lane known as 'the Kings Highway' near the end of the ride.

Want to go further?

There are over 50 Cyclesolihull routes for you to ride, with distances ranging from 5 to 25 miles. You can download free route leaflets like this from www.cyclesolihull.org.uk.

Cyclesolihull also organises regular free rides along many of these routes – download the latest Ride Programme from www.cyclesolihull.org.uk.

H Take the first path on the R (this is easy to miss!) through the trees into Stanbrook Rd. Turn R and follow this road to the end.

I 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 for a short distance back to Shelly Farm shops.