

## 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](http://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.

CSXL4-0519

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

or pick up a copy on one of the rides.



**XL4**

extra long route from  
**Dickens Heath**

# CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**26 miles via Weatheroak Hill,  
Redditch & Ullenhall**

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

## Route XL4

### Dickens Heath to Weatheroak Hill, Redditch & Ullenhall

**Distance:** 26 miles (130-195 mins). **Start** The library, Dickens Heath village centre, B90 1SD SP112763.

**Parking:** There is a car park behind the shops.

**Route Summary:** A ride which is mainly on quiet country lanes to Redditch where the route uses off-road paths forming part of NCN Route 5.

**Refreshments:** There is a café in **Arrow Valley Park** and a number of pubs en-route.

## The Route

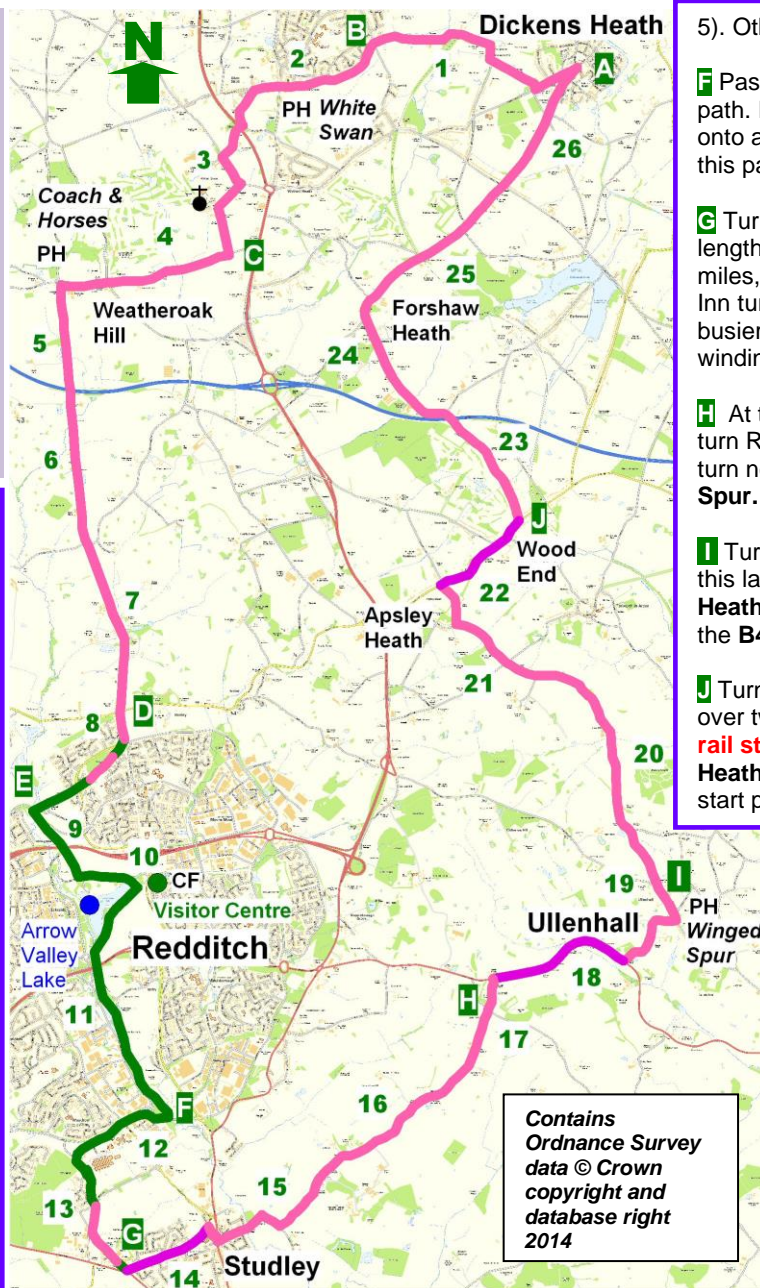
**A** From outside the **library** turn R past **Tesco** and go SO at the small roundabout. Turn first R into **Birchy Leasowes Lane**. At the end turn R into **Tilehouse Lane** and turn first L into **Houndsfield Lane** (6 Pass under the railway and cross the river at the ford (footbridge available).

**B** At the crossroads with **Lea Green Lane** go SO. At the next crossroads by the **White Swan** pub go SO into **Silver St.** Turn first L into **Wilmore Lane** and first R over the A435. At the roundabout turn L and after 300 yards R into **Chapel Lane** towards **Weatheroak**. Follow the road past the chapel with its unusual tower.

**C** At the end of the lane turn R and go SO for 1 mile (CAUTION - very steep hill down!). Turn L by the **Coach and Horses** on to the cycle route to **Redditch**. Follow the narrow lane for 1.75 miles, passing under the motorway. At the end turn L and immediately R following signs to **Redditch**. GO SO for just over 1 mile.

**D** At the crossroads with the **B4101** go SO along **Icknield St.** Just before the next junction turn R with care on to a cycle path which goes under the road ahead. Follow the path R to join a residential road. Turn next R towards the **town centre**. At the end follow the road L and turn immediately R onto the cycle path to the **town centre**. Follow this path for 0.5 miles, passing over a main road.

**E** At the path junction with NCN Route 5 turn L. Follow NCN 5, passing under two bridges to reach Arrow Valley Lake. Bear L (lake on your R) to visit the **Arrow Valley Countryside Centre** (continue around the lake to the far side and turn L rejoin NCN



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.

5). Otherwise continue along the NCN5 path for 1.25 miles.

**F** Pass under the road and spiral L to join the roadside cycle path. Follow this signed cycle route for 0.75 miles and turn L onto another cycle path just before **Nine Days Lane**. Follow this path to eventually join a country lane, turning R.

**G** Turn next L into **Brickyard Lane**. At the end use the short length of cycle path to turn L into **Station Rd.** Go SO for 0.6 miles, eventually leaving NCN Route 5. After passing the Swan Inn turn first R into Marble Alley. At the end go R (CAUTION busier road!) and after 100 yards L into Castle Rd. Follow this winding lane for over 2 miles.

**H** At the crossroads go SO towards Henley and at the A4189 turn R, again to Henley. Follow the **A4189** for about 1 mile and turn next L to **Ullenhall**. At the end turn L passing the **Winged Spur**.

**I** Turn next R into **Forde Hall Lane** towards **Tanworth**. Follow this lane for over 2 miles going SO at the crossroads to **Apsley Heath**. Turn next R to **Hockley Heath**. At the end turn R onto the **B4101** (CAUTION busier road!).

**J** Turn second L towards **Forshaw Heath**. Follow this road for over two miles passing under the motorway and **Earlswood rail station**. Continue SO for a further 2 miles into **Dickens Heath**. Go past the road closure and bear R to return to the start point.

## Key to Map

- A B** Start and route reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start point
- Quiet road
- Busier road
- Cycle path
- Canal towpath
- Significant hill climb (in direction of travel)
- PH** Public House
- CF** 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.