

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.

CST1-0519

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.



T1

An easy 'Taster' route from
Dorridge Park

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



6 miles via Packwood &
Darley Green

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

Route T1

Dorridge Park to Packwood, Chessetts Wood & Darley Green

Distance: 6 miles (50 to 60 mins)

Start: Dorridge Park, Arden Rd car park B93 8LJ SP169744.

Route Summary: An easy ride along park paths and quiet country lanes south of Dorridge with the opportunity to visit the historic Packwood House.

Refreshments: The Punch Bowl is a family-friendly pub with a large garden.

Parking: There is free parking at the start point in the park car park.

The Route

A From the park car park take the park path R, down towards the playground. Go SO across the stream to reach the main road. Turn L and follow this road for 300 yards. **CAUTION!** This short section of road is the busiest section of the route.

B Turn next L by **The Railway** pub into **Windmill Lane**. Follow this road for 0.75 miles. At the end turn L into **Vicarage Rd**.

C At the end of the lane turn R towards **Lapworth**. Follow the road, eventually passing historic **Packwood House**. Unusually the road goes right past the front of the house. At the end of the road turn L towards **Baddesley Clinton**. **CAUTION!** There is a short uphill section around the corner!

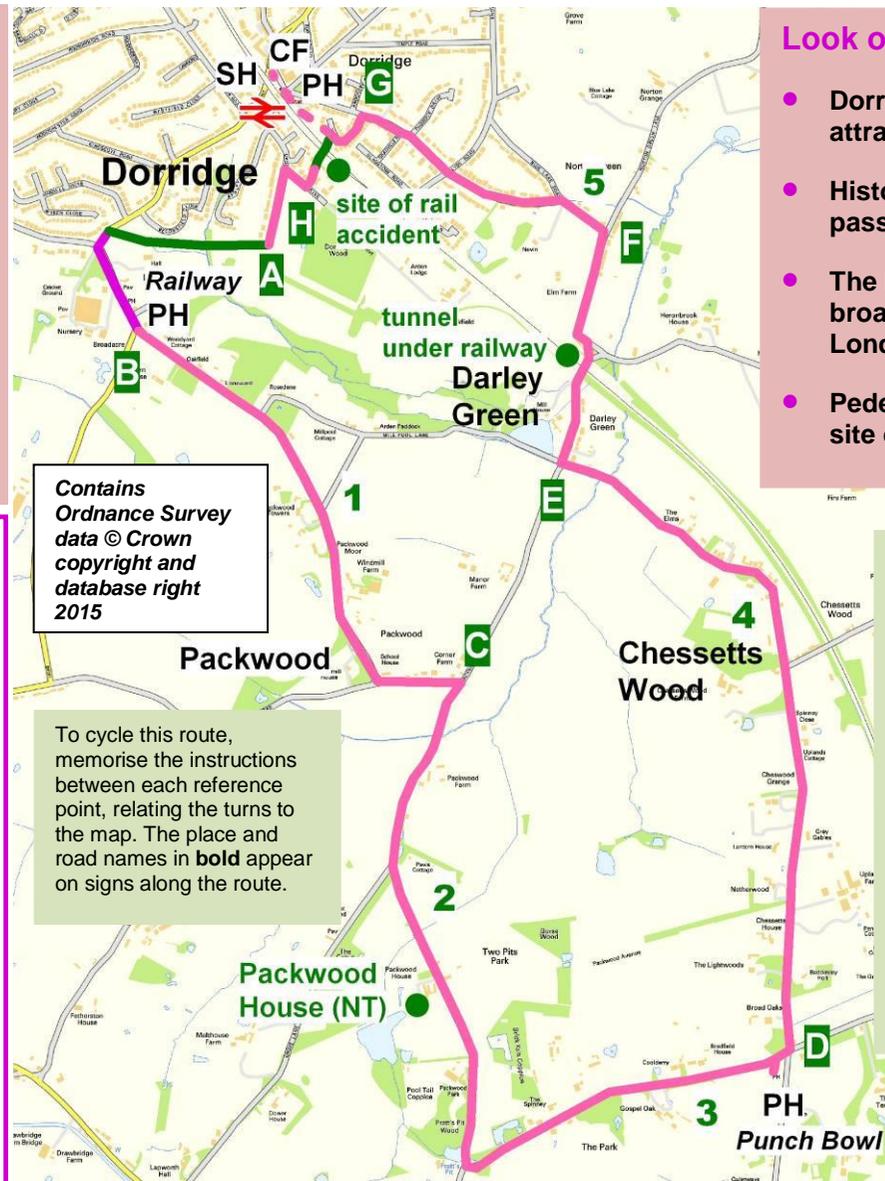
D At the next crossroads you can visit the **Punch Bowl** pub on the R. Otherwise turn L in to **Chessetts Wood Road**.

E Follow the road for 1.5 miles to reach a crossroads. Turn R to go through the hamlet of **Darley Green** and under the railway 'tunnel'. Passing over you is the former Great Western main line to London built to Brunel's broad gauge.

F Turn next L into **Blue Lake Road** and immediately L again into **Dorridge Road**.

G Turn third L into **Weston Close** (or continue SO to reach the facilities in the village centre). Shortly, on the L, there is a steep narrow path to a bridge over the railway. **CAUTION!** Please *dismount and wheel your bike here*. This bridge was the site of a fatal rail accident in 1963 when an express train collided with a freight train. The path leads into a residential cul-de-sac (**Arden Drive**).

H At the end turn R and at the end of this lane turn L. This leads back to **Dorridge Park** and the starting point.



Look out for...

- Dorridge Park – an informal park with an attractive woodland area.
- Historic Packwood House – the road passes through the centre of the estate.
- The brick 'tunnel' under the 1852 former broad gauge Great Western main line to London.
- Pedestrian bridge over the railway – the site of a 1963 fatal rail accident.

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.

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.