

Cycling is a great way to keep fit whilst at the same time getting from A to B or exploring your local area.

The 19 **Cyclesolihull** routes in this series of leaflets will take you along most of the network of quiet lanes 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.

You can cycle the routes alone or with family and friends, or join one of the regular **Community Cycle Rides**.

Cycle^{to}Solihull Day

Sunday 13 September 2009



A chance to join other cyclists in Solihull town centre for a cycling afternoon. Join one of the special rides or simply head to the town centre on your bike. More details at: www.cycletosolihullday.org.uk

This is one of a series of ride leaflets devised by Solihull Cycling Steering Group which is helping Solihull Council to increase the amount of cycling in the area and consists of representatives from: Birmingham International Airport, Cyclists Touring Club, Pushbikes, Solihull Cycling Club, Solihull Care Trust, Solihull Residents Association and Sustrans.

Community Cycle Rides

Cyclesolihull offers regular opportunities to join with others to ride the routes in this series of leaflets. The rides are organised by volunteers, and during 2008 nearly 900 people (including over 100 children) took part in over 40 rides. To get involved, just turn up and ride!

Sunday Cycle Rides take place most Sundays* throughout the summer starting at 2 pm from one of 13 different starting points. "S" (short) routes are about 10 miles long, "M" (medium) routes are about 15 miles long and "L" (long) routes about 20 miles long.

Evening Explorer Rides are on alternate Wednesdays from mid-May to mid-August starting at 7 pm from one of 8 different starting points. They follow the short "S" routes so are about 10 miles long.

Saturday Stretcher Rides take place on the first Saturday of every month at 10 am from one of 4 different starting points. They are 20 to 25 miles long and do not follow a fixed route, so are suitable for more experienced cyclists.

Taster Rides are an occasional opportunity to try a Cyclesolihull ride without going very far. They are about 5 miles long starting at 2 pm from one of 3 different starting points – an ideal introduction to the rides for new cyclists and small children.

Refreshment Stops All Cyclesolihull rides have an en-route refreshment stop of about 30 minutes, either at a pub or a tearoom.

** all except those weekends when there is a Saturday Stretcher or Taster Ride.*

For full details of current rides go to:

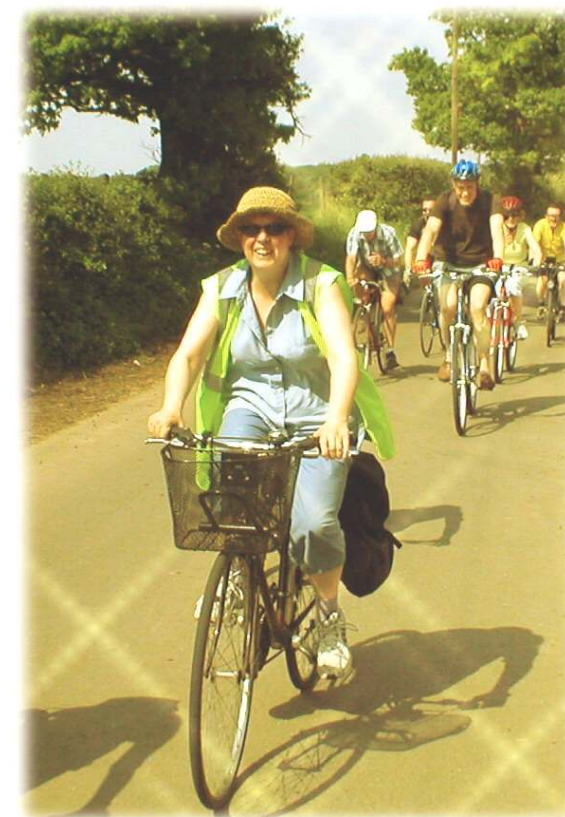
www.cyclesolihull.org.uk

or pick up a copy of the **Cyclesolihull 'Ride Together'** leaflet on one of the rides or at local libraries and cycle shops.

Route M4

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



Marston Green to Chelmsley Wood & Yardley (15 miles)

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

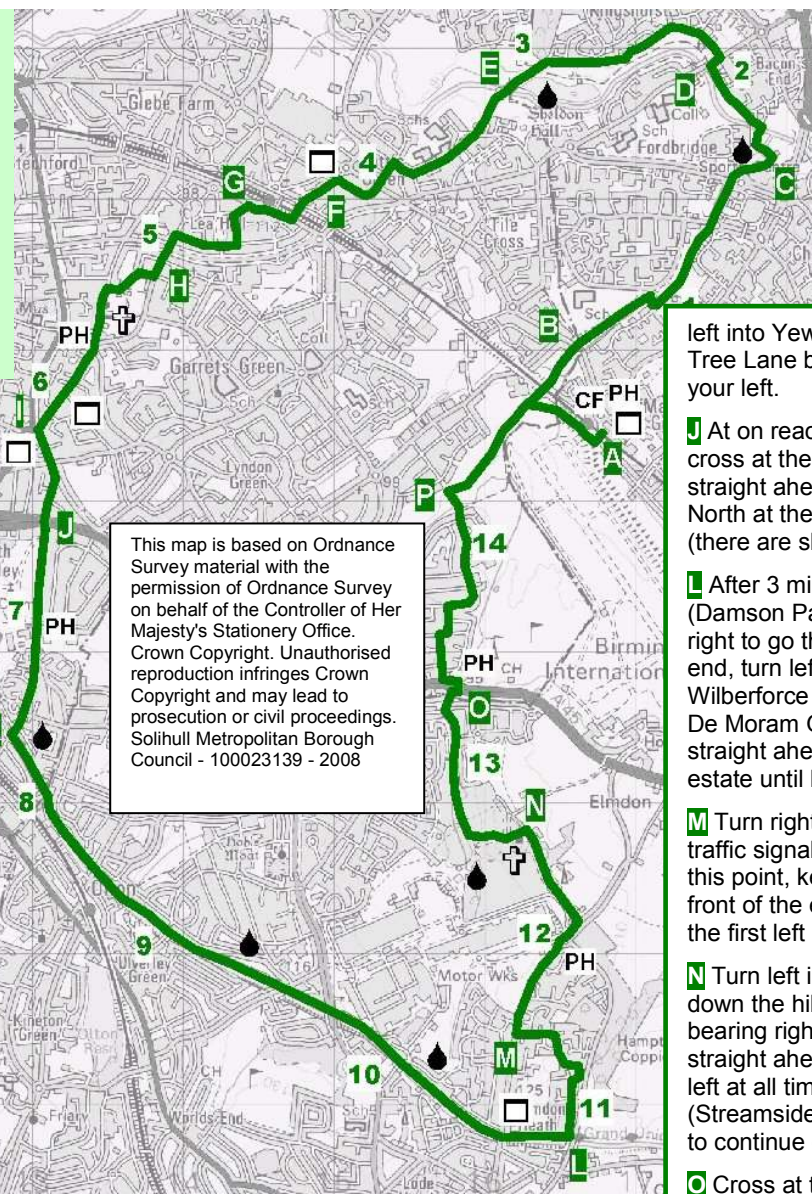
Route M4 Marston Green to Chelmsley Wood & Yardley

Distance: 15 miles (90-120 mins). **Start:** Marston Green (car park off Elmdon Lane SP167854. There are other starting points along the route including Elmdon Park and Meriden Park.

Route Summary: An interesting ride exploring a varied area using cycle paths, suburban roads and a canal towpath. Some of the roads will be considerably quieter on Sundays. Take extra care on the canal towpath and give way to pedestrians.

The Route

- A** Follow the cycle path into the Country Park. Cross the brook and take the first path right towards the railway.
- B** At the end of the path cross the road at the Toucan Crossing. Follow the path straight on keeping the brook to your right. At the end of the path, turn right into Gloucester Way and then take the first turn left to rejoin the path on the other side of the brook. Follow the path, keeping the brook on your left, eventually reaching Meriden Park
- C** Follow the path around to the right hand side of the lake and cross over the stone footbridge. Turn right, following the path to the left of the stream and crossing a further footbridge. Then take the first path left which leads to Forth Drive. Go left and follow this road until the end.
- D** Turn right and first left into Fordbridge Road. Follow the road until the end and then continue past the gate and the Lakeside Club, keeping Babb's Mill Lake on the left.
- E** At the end of the lake go across the bridge, around the barrier to the left and straight ahead keeping Babbs Mill cottage right. Follow the (muddy) Lane until the end and turn right. Pass the schools and turn left into Heynesfield Road. Go straight across at the mini-roundabout and straight across at Kitts Green Road into Yockleton Road.
- F** At the end turn left and at the roundabout go straight on, crossing the railway bridge (closed to other traffic). At the main road turn right, passing Lea Hall Station.
- G** Go first left into Latelow Road and first left again into Fell Meadow Road. At the end turn right and follow this road right until the end. Turn left into Wheatcroft Road and cross Meadoway at the traffic signals.
- H** Take the second of turnings right into Garwood Road



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Key to Map

- A** Reference point
- 1, 2** Miles from the start.
- PH, CF** Public House / Cafe
- Shop selling drinks, sweets etc.
- +** Historic church
- Water feature with access point

left into Yew Tree Lane. At the church, continue along Yew Tree Lane by making a right turn so you pass the church on your left.

J At on reaching the busy Coventry Road, dismount and cross at the pelican to the right of the junction. Then continue straight ahead into Clay Lane. This becomes Woodcock Lane North at the shops. **K** At the canal bridge join the towpath (there are shallow steps) and turn left.

L After 3 miles leave the canal just before bridge No. 78A (Damson Parkway). Turn left along the path and immediately right to go through a narrow opening. Follow the road to the end, turn left and then right to go across the grass into Wilberforce Way. Go right into Cloudbridge Drive and left into De Moram Grove. Follow this to the end and join the footpath straight ahead. On re-joining the road follow it through the estate until brings you to the main road (Damson Lane).

M Turn right. At the end of the road there is a roundabout and traffic signals. You may find it easiest to use the footway at this point, keeping left through these junctions, crossing in front of the entrance to the Landrover works, and then taking the first left into the narrow lane to Elmdon Church.

N Turn left into Elmdon Park car park and join the path going down the hill. At the bottom turn right. Follow the path, bearing right at the next path junction. Following the path straight ahead, through the park, keeping the stream on your left at all times. Eventually this joins a residential road (Streamside Way). Follow this and at the end cross the road to continue on the narrow path to reach the Coventry Road.

O Cross at the Toucan on your right. Follow the path left into Arden Oak Road. At the end go right, then first left into Shephard Road. At the end go right into Mapledene Road. Follow this road until the end to join the cycle path ahead.

P Take the first path on the right into Sheldon Country Park. Follow the path past the end of the Airport runway. Take the first path right to return to the start point.

(you may find it easier to use the service road on the left to go straight across this busy road. At the bend to the right, join the unmade path for a short distance across the grass. On reaching the road turn right and left, heading towards Yardley Church. Follow Church Road passing the historic church and the old school.

I Just before the traffic signals in Yardley centre, bear