

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:

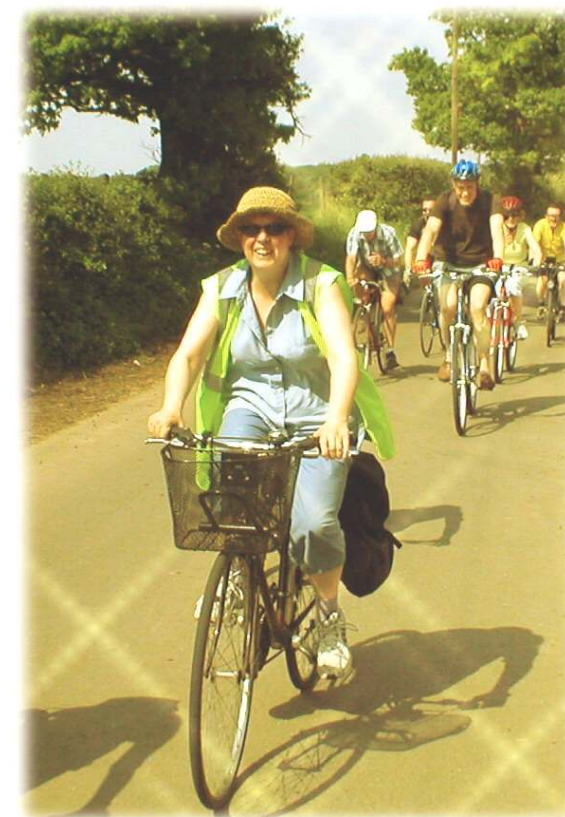
www.cyclesolihull.org.uk

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

Route S2

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



Knowle to Fen End & Temple Balsall (9 or 10 miles)

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

Route S2 Knowle to Fen End & Temple Balsall

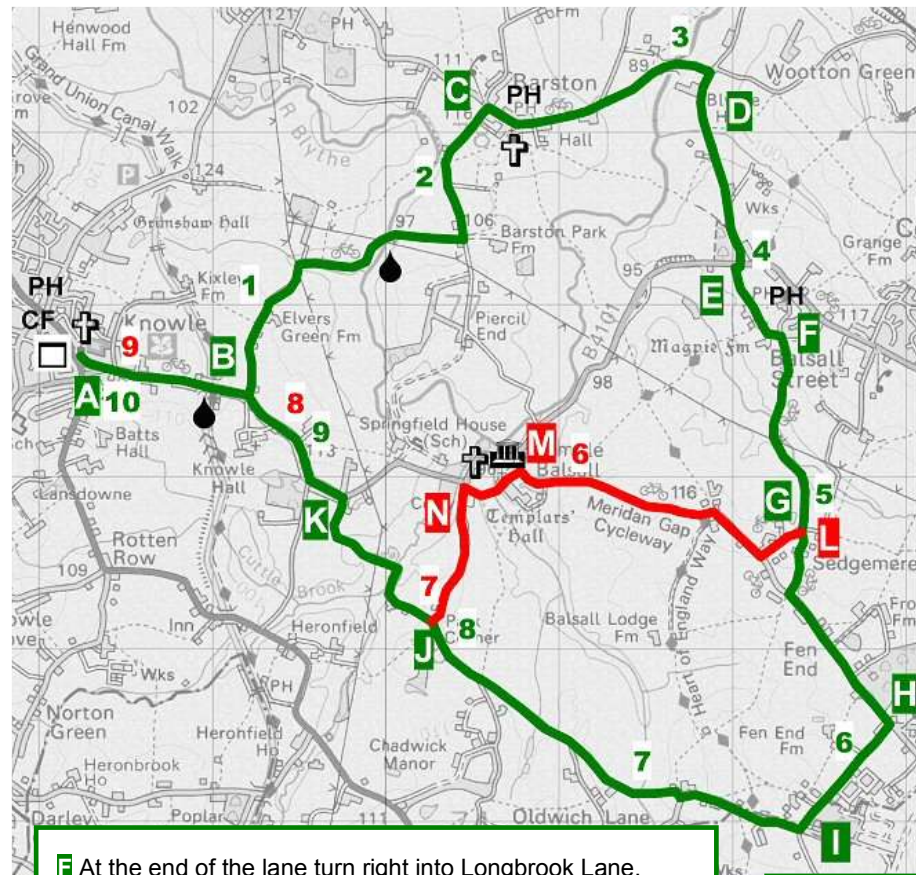
Distance: 9 miles (45-65 minutes) or
10 miles (50-70 minutes).

Start: Knowle Parish Church in the
centre of the village SP183767.





Parking: Village car park behind the
church (entrance at other end of High
Street).

Route Summary: A ride along some
very quiet and narrow lanes, crossing
the River Blythe and its tributaries at a
number of fords. *Note: there are
footbridges but the roads near the
fords are liable to be wet after rain.*

Refreshments: Pubs and a cafe in
Knowle, plus two pubs en-route and
summer Sunday teas at Temple Balsall



Key to Map

- A** Reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start, red numbers indicate by the shorter route
- PH** Public house
-  Shop selling drinks, sweets etc.
-  Historic church
-  Historic building
-  Waterway with access point

Doing the shorter ride?

Follow the red link route for a slightly shorter ride that visits historic Temple Balsall.

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A Start at the 15th century Knowle Parish Church. Turn left into Kenilworth Road crossing the Grand Union Canal at Knowle Locks.

B Take the next turn left into Elvers Green Lane towards Barston. Go through the ford (or use the footbridge) and after 400 yards follow the road left at the junction. Continue to follow the lane for a further 0.6 miles towards Barston.

C At the end of Hob Lane turn right towards Balsall Common. Follow the road through Barston past the Bulls Head (15th Century with real ale) and St Swithin's Church. The church dates from 1721. Cross over the river Blythe.

D At the crossroads turn right into Barston Lane. Follow the lane until you reach the B4101 (the sign still shows the old number A4023).

E Turn right towards Knowle then immediately left into Magpie Lane passing the attractive half-timbered Magpie Farm.

F At the end of the lane turn right into Longbrook Lane. (Turn left at this point to visit Ye Old Saracens Head pub). Cross the ford (beware of mud on the road).

To continue with the shorter route via Temple Balsall

L At the crossroads turn right and then at the end of the lane turn right again.

M After 1 mile you will come to the historic complex of buildings at Temple Balsall. Please dismount and go along the path on the left before the school. Pass St Mary's church and the Old Hall (teas are served on summer Sunday afternoons). Walk through the cemetery, (one of the first two graves is of Henry Williams who was one of the writers of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary").

N On reaching the lane turn left and after 0.5 miles turn right into Cuttle Pool Lane at **J** (signposted to Knowle). Continue with the main route at point **K**.

To continue the main route

G At the crossroads go straight on and at the end of the lane turn left passing a number of attractive old houses including Frogmore Lodge.

H At the next crossroads turn right into Oldwych Lane East. Pass the entrance to the vehicle test track which uses the former Honiley airfield.

I Where the road bends to the left take the right turn into Old Green Lane. Cross the ford, continuing along the lane and ignoring the turning to the left.

J At the end of the lane turn right into Chadwick Lane. At the next junction turn left into Cuttle Pool Lane towards Knowle. The narrow road descends through a "tunnel" formed by the trees.

K At the end of Cuttle Pool Lane turn left onto the B4101 towards Knowle. Follow the road back across the Grand Union Canal retracing the route back to Knowle Parish Church.