

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<sup>to</sup>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](http://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:

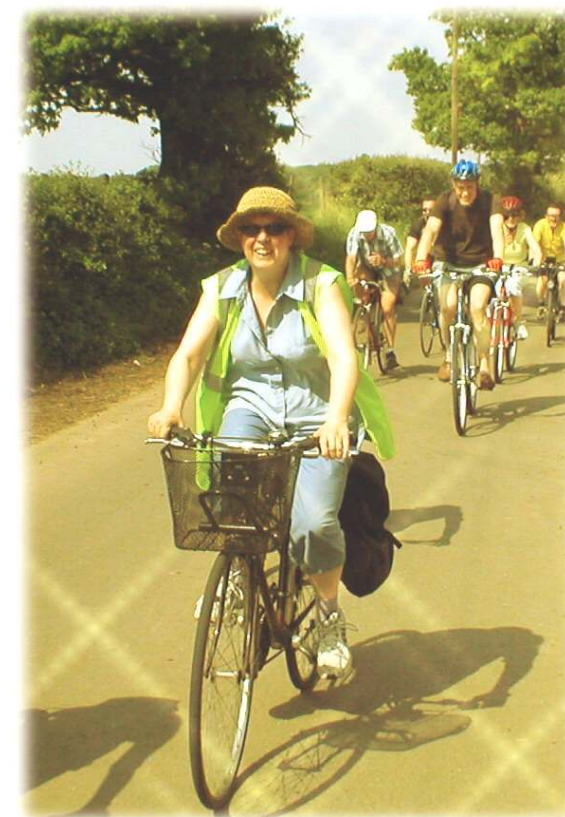
[www.cyclesolihull.org.uk](http://www.cyclesolihull.org.uk)

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

Route S6

# CycleSolihull

*Explore your borough by bike*



**Monkspath to Earlswood & Ilshaw Heath (8 or 10 miles)**

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

## Route S6

### Monkspath to Earlswood and Ilshaw

**Distance:** 8 miles (40 to 55 mins) or 10 miles (50 to 65 mins).

**Start:** Shelly Farm shops (ample parking available), Farmhouse Way, Monkspath, SP146771.

**Route Summary:** A varied route leaving suburban Solihull for the countryside of Ilshaw Heath and Earlswood Lakes.

**Refreshments:** Shops at Monkspath and Hockley Heath and a number of cafes, pubs and shops along the route.

### The Routes

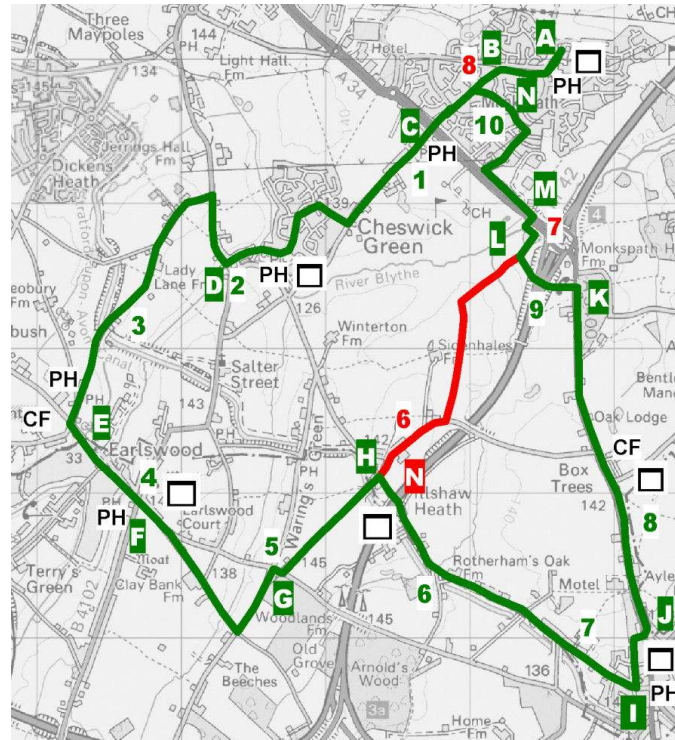
**A** From outside the Co-op go right onto the path on the opposite side of the car park. Follow this path turning left at the end and bearing right at the next path junction.

**B** Cross over Frankholmes Drive. Follow the signposted cycle route across Thornton Road to reach Stratford Road.

**C** Cross at the signals to Creynolds Lane. After 0.5 miles turn right into Cheswick Way towards Cheswick Green. At "The Saxon" pub go right into Coppice Walk.

**D** At the end of the road turn right and immediately right again into Tanworth Lane for 0.3 miles, and then left into Lady Lane. Follow the road for 1 mile across the Stratford Canal and past the Red Lion pub.

**E** To visit the cafe at Earlswood Craft Centre go straight on into Wood Lane for 200 yards. Otherwise turn left at the crossroads and then first right onto the Earlswood Lakes dam road. Go around the



barrier between the two lakes and straight on to rejoin the main road.

**F** At the crossroads go straight on passing the Reservoir pub. Go straight on at the next junction, passing the turning to Hockley Heath on the left. At the next crossroads with Tithe Barn Lane go left.

**G** At the next crossroads turn right into Cut Throat Lane and left into Dyers Lane. After 0.5 miles cross the canal.

#### **To continue with the shorter route**

**N** Go straight on at the crossroads. Before the motorway bridge turn left into the Blythe Valley Business Park. Follow the cycle paths turning right at the second roundabout. At the next roundabout go straight on. Follow the path bearing left to Stratford Road and rejoin the main route at point **M**.

#### **To continue the main route**

**H** Turn right at the next crossroads, passing the bakers and then under the motorway. Follow this road for 1.5

## Key to Map

- A** Reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start, red numbers indicate by the shorter route
- PH** Public house
- CF** Café or tea shop
- Shop selling drinks, sweets etc.
- Waterway with access point

### Doing the shorter rides?

Follow the red link route for a shorter ride via Earlswood Lakes and Ilshaw Heath

This map is based on Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or Civil proceedings.  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - 100023139 - 2008

miles to Hockley Heath.

**I** In Hockley Heath turn left into Orchard Road. Follow the road to reach Stratford Road.

**J** Cross the road and go left, dismounting for a short distance to join the service road opposite. At the end of the service road use the footpath for a short distance (please dismount) to join the cycle and pedestrian path along Stratford Road. Continue along the path for 1.5 miles to reach the traffic signals.

**K** Re-cross Stratford Road at the signals and use the cycle track across the motorway bridge. **L** At the roundabout turn right, following the cycle path, then bearing left back to Stratford Road.

**M** Cross Stratford Road at the Toucan. Follow the cycle path along Stratford Road past the petrol station and McDonald's. Take the first path on the right through the trees to Stanbrook Road. Turn right and follow this road to the end. Turn right and go down the path immediately to the left. At the end turn right on to Hay Lane. **N** Turn right and retrace the route back to Shelly Farm shops.