

Route 4 Billesley & Shire Country Park Circular

Distance: 7 miles (50-70 minutes)

Start: Car park near Moseley RFC, Yardley Wood Rd B13 0PT. OSGR SP088810.

Route Summary: A circular ride using a mixture of quiet roads and paths in **Shire Country Park**. There is an opportunity to visit **Sarehole Mill** and **Moseley Bog** which have associations with Tolkien, plus an optional section along the **Stratford Canal**. Please note that the canal towpath and some of the paths in Shire Country Park may be muddy, especially after wet weather.

Refreshments: Café at Sarehole Mill and a number of convenience stores along the route.

Parking: There is a free car park at the start of the ride.

Alternative Start Points: The route may be started at numerous locations. There are free car parks at Sarehole Mill, Moseley Bog and Trittiford Mill Park.

Access by Train: ➔ Yardley Wood and Hall Green stations are near the route.

Key to Map

A B	Start and route reference point
1, 2	Mileage from start point
PH/CF	Public House/Café
SH	Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
V	Visitor Centre
+	Notable church
P	Start points with free parking
P	Start points with pay parking
	Off-road path – good surface
	Off-road path – rough/very rough surface
	Canal towpath
	Quiet road
	Busier road

Abbreviations used in the route description:
L left, R right, SO straight on.

Push Bikes, the Birmingham Cycling Campaign, aims to influence local authorities, employers, health service providers, public companies (rail, road, water) in providing improved journey facilities (including bike storage and parking) for cyclists.

We are eager for more members - come and join us! Visit www.pushbikes.org.uk, phone 0121 632 6909, or write to 54 Allison St, Birmingham B5 5TH, for a membership form.

Birmingham Urban Explorer Cycle

Routes are a great way to see your city in a new way – on two wheels! This is one of 9 self-guided cycle rides using quiet paths and roads to link places of interest, providing the ideal healthy and environmentally-friendly half-day out. Cycle them alone or with family and friends. The emphasis is on exploration so don't expect to cycle fast and please give way to pedestrians on shared paths. Please push your bike on any paths where cycling is prohibited, including pavements alongside roads unless signs indicate that cycling is allowed.

Keeping Safe Urban Explorer cycle routes use a combination of off-road paths and quiet roads. Short sections of the route may need to be on busier roads but very busy roads are avoided. Please ensure your bike is roadworthy and that you are comfortable riding on roads of this type. If in doubt consider having some cycle training which will improve your on-road confidence. Details of CTC approved trainers are available at www.ctc.org.uk.

Want to cycle the route with others? Push Bikes organises occasional rides along the routes in these leaflets. To join in, simply turn up at the ride start point with a roadworthy bike. For details of ride dates go to: www.pushbikes.org.uk.

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Birmingham Urban Explorer Cycle Route

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Billesley & Shire Country Park
Circular via Sarehole Mill and the Cole Valley (7 miles)

Explore your City with this self-guided cycle ride

Route 4 Billesley to Sarehole Mill via Wake Green, Shire Country Park and the Stratford Canal

Distance: 7 miles (50-70 minutes)

Start: Car park near Moseley RFC, Yardley Wood Rd/Trittiford Rd junction B13 0PT. OSGR SP088810.

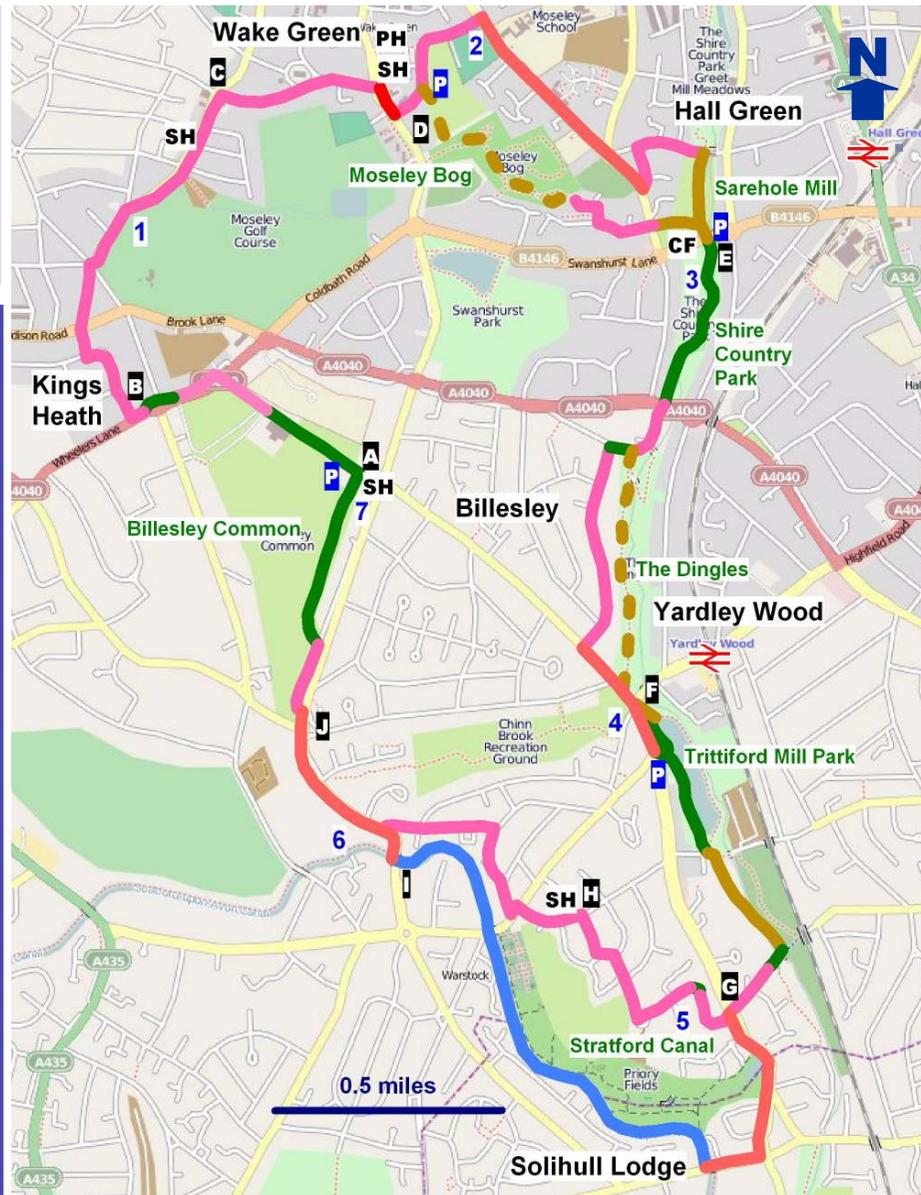
The Route

A Take the path running alongside the car park towards the rugby ground. Go SO to the sport centre access road which eventually leads to a main road (**Wheeler's Lane**). Cross with care into the service road opposite and turn L. At the end of the service road, walk along a short length of footpath and cross **Barn Lane** near the roundabout. Continue to a short length of driveway which leads to **Portman Rd**.

B Turn R into **Portman Rd** and turn first R to continue along **Portman Rd**. At the crossroads go SO into **Gaddesby Rd**. At the roundabout take the third exit into **Billesley Lane**.

C After 0.5 miles turn R at the crossroads into **Dyott Rd**. Pass **St Agnes Church** (an impressive late Victorian church) and continue to the end of the road. Bear L to cross the dual carriageway and turn R down the hill for a short distance, passing the **Covered Wagon** pub. Turn first L into **Windermere Rd**.

D At the left-hand bend in the road there is a choice of routes: **Main route:** Continue to the end of **Windermere Rd** which becomes a narrow lane. At the end turn R down **Wake Green Rd**. After 0.3 miles there is a zebra crossing – after this turn second (sharp) L up very narrow **Gracewell Rd**. At the end turn R. Just before the ford turn R heading along a rough path towards the chimney of **Sarehole Mill**. Continue at **E**. **Route for mountain bikes & the very adventurous only:** Go through the car park and R across the grassy area towards the trees. Go down to the lower level and follow the paths through **Moseley Bog**. The paths are muddy, ill defined and confusing but by going SO you should eventually come out at the end of



Pensby Close. At the end turn L and at the main road go SO to join the path through the field, bearing R towards the chimney of **Sarehole Mill**.

E The path leads into a car park and the main road. The entrance to **Sarehole Mill** (including the tearoom) is to your R. To continue, cross the road at the pelican and join the footpath opposite through the trees. This section of path may be muddy in parts. At the main road, cross

with care and cycle to the end of **Coleside Avenue**. There is then a choice of routes. **Main all-weather route:** Go SO to a footpath between the houses to **Colebourne Rd**. Turn L and follow the road to the main road. Turn L at Trittiford Rd onto a wide footpath set back from the road. At the mini-roundabout bear R, leaving the road on the L to enter **Trittiford Mill Park**. **Route for mountain bikes in dry weather only:** Go through the wooden fence at the end of **Coleside Avenue** onto a rough path running through **The Dingles** near the stream. There are a number of parallel paths and grass tracks which eventually comes out onto **Highfield Rd**. Cross the road and enter **Trittiford Mill Park** on your L.

F Follow the path SO beside the pool. At the end of this path go SO across the lane. On reaching the next lane (unsigned **Slade Lane**) turn R to reach **Priory Rd**.

G There is a choice of routes: **Main route on quiet roads:** Cross over into **Willson Croft** and follow to the R. At the end of the cul-de-sac take the path on L and turn L into **Riversdale Rd**. Go R around the grassed circle into **Greenaleigh Rd**.

H At the end turn L into **Ravenshill Rd** and then SO at the crossroads into **Cleeve Rd**. Turn second L into **Pendeen Rd**. At the end turn R. **Continue at I**.

Canal route (towpath rough and muddy in places): Turn L into **Priory Rd**. Follow this busier road with care to the mini-roundabout. Turn R and after 200 yards go L to join the towpath of the **Stratford Canal** via some shallow steps. Turn R (canal on L). Follow the towpath for 1 mile.

I Just after passing under the second over-bridge leave the canal and turn L. **Continue at J**.

J At the double mini-roundabouts, at the staggered crossroads, go SO at both roundabouts and then first L into the parallel service road. After 300 yards, turn L onto a path across **Billesley Common**. Bear R following the path which runs parallel to the housing on **Yardley Wood Rd** and leads back to the car park at **Moseley RFC**.