

Points of Interest

Coleshill - The main town in the western part of North Warwickshire. It retains its original character and has a steep main street. The town's skyline can be seen for miles around. On Church Hill, you can still see the town stocks, which are unique in Warwickshire because they also combine a pillory and whipping post. In 1980, a Roman temple complex was discovered in Coleshill. It is one of only 40 or so sites in Britain and has been extensively excavated.

Meriden - A popular venue for cyclists due to the Cyclist Memorial situated on The Green. Also reputed to be the centre of England, the village is an ideal stopping place for refreshments.

Astley Castle - Once a fortified manor house and still surrounded by a moat, Astley Castle was built during the reign of Edward I, but was later dismantled by the Duke of Suffolk. It was rebuilt in 1620. Both Astley Church and Castle feature in the novels of George Eliot.

Fillongley - A village which is popular with cyclists because its fields and tracks offer wide open views over undulating countryside. At one time Fillongley boasted two castles and two churches. Both castles were said to be demolished by Oliver Cromwell's men, although some traces remain. The Parish Church still stands in the middle of the village. There is also Fillongley Hall, built in the 19th Century.

Cycle Shops

Atherstone Cycle Shop

Long Street, Atherstone 01827 716504

Pedal Pushers

Market Street, Atherstone 01827 720406

Gascoigne Brothers

122 High Street, Coleshill 01675 463586

Safety

- Wear something bright and, if you might not make it home before dark, carry lights.
- On main roads cycle about 2ft or 600mm from the kerb.
- Look behind you and signal before making a manoeuvre. Be aware and be alert.
- On country roads, keep to your own side and don't cycle too fast around bends.
- Put young children in front where you can keep an eye on them.
- Cycle helmets are recommended.
- Make sure your bike is well maintained, with sound tyres and efficient brakes.
- Carry a cycle repair kit at all times
- Carry a first aid kit, identification and loose change in case you need to use a public telephone.
- Ride in single file, particularly on busy roads.
- Let somebody know your planned route and when you expect to be home.

Cycle training is available from Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Section

Tel: 01926 413419

Other Rides

This is the second in a series of leisure cycle routes. Once you are used to cycling you can use local maps to explore the area and create your own rides.

The Northern Warwickshire Cycleway is a 35 mile signposted route around the Borough. Contact 01827 872660 for further information.

Cyclists Touring Clubs

Birmingham & Midland District Association

H. Child: 0121 353 5814

Coventry & Warwickshire District Cycle Association

Bob Tinley: 01203 542676

Cycling in North Warwickshire

Coleshill Cycle Route

