



# RAIL Trails



## Whitlocks End to Shirley

Image by Dickens Heath MTB Club

This trail is a short walk between the stations of Shirley and Whitlock's End, passing by Dicken's Heath. The route takes you through farmland, a Christmas Tree plantation and crosses the **Stratford-upon-Avon Canal**.

Historically Shirley was very rural and it wasn't until the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the opening of the railway, that it started to grow rapidly as people moved out of Birmingham.

No visit to this area is complete without dropping in to shop, explore, eat and drink at the **Akamba Heritage Centre**. A beautiful African themed heritage and garden centre just a seven minute walk from Whitlock's End station. If needing a drink or bite to eat whilst passing by the village of Dickens Heath, you could take a short diversion to **Moretons Kitchen Bar & Deli** or the **Coffee Cloud**.

Alternatively keep your powder dry until you reach Shirley where you'll find a diverse mix of cuisines, bars and cafés. You can even eat like a gaucho at the **Fiesta del Asado!**

### Further Information:



Visit [www.visitsolihull.co.uk](http://www.visitsolihull.co.uk) for more information on where to visit and what to see in and around Shirley.



**Whitlocks End** is on the North Warwickshire Line running between Birmingham & Stratford-upon-Avon. Three trains run hourly to Birmingham Moor Street and Snow Hill and one train an hour runs southbound to Stratford-upon-Avon; the remaining two southbound trains terminate at Whitlocks End. Sundays see an hourly service to Worcester Foregate Street.

There are limited facilities available at this station.

### Want More?

This is just one of a range of 36 self-guided walks from railway stations in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.



Discover the Heart of England by rail at: [www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails](http://www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails)



Design by: [www.blackspiraldesign.co.uk](http://www.blackspiraldesign.co.uk)



Image by Colour Rail

# RAIL Trails



Discover The Heart of England by Rail



## Whitlocks End

Image by Real Christmas Trees

1 Hour

1.75 Miles Easy

Start: **Whitlocks End** Finish: **Shirley**

A short and sweet ramble across fields, through Christmas Trees(!) and over the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal to Shirley.

[www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails](http://www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails)



## Trail Highlights...



Image by Akamba Heritage Centre

### A. Akamba Heritage Centre

A beautiful African themed heritage and garden centre like no other in the UK, stocking exotic trees, palms, plants and shrubs. Akamba also has a bar, restaurant, cafe, reptile house and bird walk!

[www.akamba.co.uk](http://www.akamba.co.uk)



Image by Moreton's Kitchen

### B. Moreton's Kitchen

A café, bar and restaurant that's all chunky sofas, drift wood art and quirky modern style. Stop by anytime for their pizzas and sandwiches, or head there early for their famous brunch (we recommend the Shakshuka!).

[www.mortonskitchen.co.uk](http://www.mortonskitchen.co.uk)



Image by Nathan Dumlao

### C. Coffee Cloud

A family run, dog friendly, independent cafe in the heart of Dickens Heath, serving award winning coffee beans and specialised tea. You can order online to pick-up when you arrive too!

[www.coffeecloud.co.uk](http://www.coffeecloud.co.uk)



Image by Amirali Mirhashemian

### D. Frankie's Café

Reached Shirley with the tank empty? Fear not, just a 3 minute walk brings you to Frankie's café. Grab a breakfast baguette or any of their top notch sandwiches, bagels and more to eat in or take away.

[www.frankiescafeshirley.com](http://www.frankiescafeshirley.com)

### Did you know?



**Shirley** is the one of the largest (and greenest) areas within the Solihull Borough, and also named the second best place in the UK to live!

## Also recommended...



Image by Visit Solihull

### E. Shirley Park

A Green Flag Park in the centre of Shirley's busy shopping area, with formal walkways, ornamental gardens and a great programme of summer events. The perfect spot for a post walk relax!

[www.solihull.gov.uk/Parks-and-open-spaces/Shirley-Park](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Parks-and-open-spaces/Shirley-Park)



Image by Fiesta del Asado

### F. Fiesta del Asado

An Argentine bar and restaurant serving bar snacks and small plates, but famed for their steaks, using premium, naturally reared, ethically farmed meat. Your chance to eat like the gauchos!

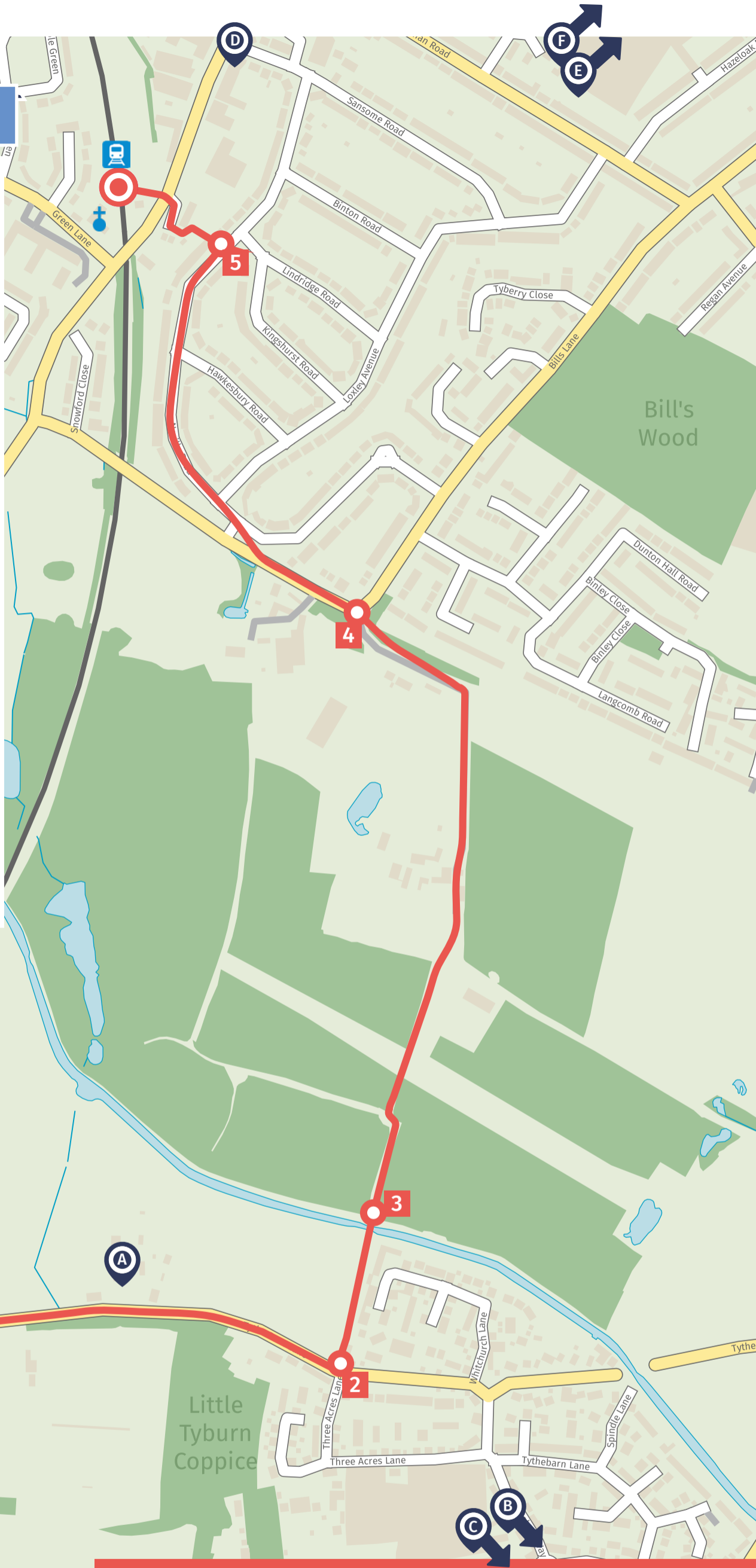
[www.fiestadelasado.co.uk](http://www.fiestadelasado.co.uk)



## Whitlocks End to Shirley

### Trail Directions

1. Turn right out of station car park, initially on right-hand pavement, then at bus stop, cross road and continue on left-hand pavement. At junction, turn left onto Tythe Barn Lane. Where left-hand pavement ends, cross road and continue on right-hand pavement.
2. In 700 yards, immediately before telegraph wire over road, cross road to go down path opposite, through small wooden gate to right of large metal gate, and ahead on track for 200 yards to reach and cross bridge over canal.
3. Follow same track for a further 400 yards, through plantation of Christmas trees, to gravelled area where another track joins from the right. Ahead on track, which becomes tarmac drive. Pass The Jinney Ring on left and The Cart House on right. When path starts on right-hand side of drive, join that rather than walking on drive. In 200 yards, drive and path bend left. Pass houses to reach farm entrance at road corner.
4. Through gate, turn left at gap in fence to cross farm entrance, and ahead initially on left-hand pavement. Cross road where safe to do so and continue on right-hand pavement. In 200 yards, cross short link road to height limit sign ahead, turn right then turn left on pavement of initially parallel road, which bends right then right again.
5. Opposite start of small grassy area on right, turn left through metal barriers and ahead on footpath which emerges at end of cul-de-sac with garages on left. Follow cul-de-sac to junction at top. Turn right to pedestrian crossing, cross road, on opposite side turn left then immediately turn right into station car park.



### Symbols Key

- Public Toilets
- Station
- Pub
- Information Centre
- Museum
- Castle

- Nature Reserve
- Gardens
- Church
- Historic Monument
- Route of trail
- Waypoint
- Point of interest

### Did you know?

Why is **Shirley** called **Shirley**? Since the 19th century Shirley has developed from predominantly a farming area to a prominent residential suburb of Solihull. According to Woodall and Varley the name Shirley was first recorded circa 1240 as "Syrlay"... which meant 'bright clearing'.

Want an online map?

Scan the QR code or [visit explore.osmaps.com](http://www.explore.osmaps.com)



Ready for another Trail?

Discover more at [www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails](http://www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails)

