

Knowle & Solihull area guide

Postcode district: B92, B93, B94, B95 & B37 7.

Location

The Knowle & Solihull postcode districts lie within or include part of the following towns, counties, localities, electoral wards and stations: Aston Cantlow, Bentley Heath, Bickenhill, Blythe, Claverdon, Copt Green, Danzey Green, Dickens Heath, Dorridge, Earlswood Henley, Henley In Arden, Henley-In-Arden, Hockley Heath, Knowle, Lapworth, Little Alne, Lowsonford, Marston Green, Meriden, Newnham, Preston Bagot, Sambourne, Solihull, Tanworth, Tanworth In Arden, Ullenhall, Warwickshire and Wootton Wawen.

History:

Solihull probably came into being about a thousand years ago, as a clearing in the forest to which people would come to trade. The town is noted for its historic architecture, which includes surviving examples of timber framed Tudor style houses and shops. The historic Solihull School dates from 1560 (although not on its present site). The red sandstone parish church of St. Alphege dates from a similar period and is a large and handsome example of English Gothic church architecture, with a traditional spire 168 feet (51 metres) high, making it visible from a great distance. It is located at the head of High Street and is a Grade I listed building.



In 1901, the population of Solihull was just 7,500. However, by the 1960s, the population had grown to over 100,000. This growth was due to a number of factors including a large slum clearance programme in Birmingham, the development of the Rover car plant, the expansion of what was then Elmdon Airport into Birmingham International Airport and, perhaps most significantly, the release of large tracts of land for housing development attracting inward migration of new residents from across the UK.

Present day

In November 2013, the uSwitch Quality of Life Index named Solihull the "best place to live" in the United Kingdom.



Solihull offers a variety of shopping facilities. It has an open-air 1960s-style shopping centre called Mell Square which was constructed following the demolition of several terraces of Victorian houses and the original Solihull Congregational Church. In recent years, the town has undergone much development, and High Street has been pedestrianised since 1994. On 2 July 2002, a large new shopping centre, Touchwood, was opened by the Queen.

Knowle is near to the Grand Union Canal which links Birmingham to London. Knowle Locks are a flight of five locks (was originally six until around 1930) near the canal bridge on Kenilworth Road. Recreation areas include Jobs Close Park, which has a children's play area, tennis courts, football field and plenty of open space. There is also another children's playing field owned by the National Trust near Knowle Primary School, and in the smaller village of Bentley Heath, there is a newly refurbished park, near the highly rated school, of the same name.

Although building on the final stage of Dickens Heath is still yet to happen with the current housing slump and slow sales of current stock being blamed, the village has become a vibrant centre with a high population of youngsters making the village a fun place to live.

Solihull is the home of the four-wheel-drive car manufacturer Land Rover's main production plant and a range of other major companies. The suburb of Meriden was the famous home of the Triumph motorbike factory from 1942-1983. The former home of retail bakers Three Cooks, after it was brought out of administration in 2006, the new company Cooks the Bakery retains its HQ in Solihull. Other major companies headquartered in Solihull include pub company Enterprise Inns and mortgage and personal loan provider Paragon.

The National Exhibition Centre is within the borough of Solihull, as is almost all of Birmingham Airport and the ever-expanding Birmingham Business Park.

Amenities

Solihull has no universities, but there are five universities within 16 miles of the town; three in Birmingham and two in Coventry. However, Solihull College, formerly known as the Solihull College of Technology, offers several foundation degree and full degree courses, particularly in technical subject areas such as computer sciences and engineering.

There is also a sixth form college located on the outskirts of the town centre. This is known as the Sixth Form College, Solihull and is where students, mainly between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, complete their secondary education.

Solihull School is an independent school and is located on Warwick Road near the centre of the town. It was founded in 1560 and celebrated its 450th anniversary in 2010. Saint Martin's, an independent school for girls aged 2¾ to 18, is located in the historic Malvern Hall in Brueton Avenue. St. Martin's obtained the best GCSE and A-Level results in the borough for 2009.



Solihull has numerous leisure facilities including a public swimming pool on the edge of Tudor Grange Park. This pool replaced the old Tudor Grange Sports Centre, which was demolished in 2007, to make way for the brand new leisure centre (A combination of the old Norman Green Athletics Centre and Tudor Grange Sports Centre). This in turn had replaced the outdoor swimming pool - Malvern Park Lido - that had served Solihull from 1954 till its closure in 1982. At present there are two sports centres, the more modern Tudor Grange Sports Centre, and the older North Solihull Sports Centre.

Dickens Heath has attracted both criticism and praise in equal measure. With some traditional borough residents not liking the density of building in some elements of the development. In other areas, there has been a very positive response to aspects of the development, such as the broad range of housing styles and accommodation, as well as the new local primary school that is one of the only schools in the entire Solihull borough to be rated as 'outstanding' by the recent OFSTED inspection.



Knowle does not have its own railway station, but nearby Dorridge railway station, on the Chiltern Main Line. Another station lies a few miles north at Hampton-in-Arden on the Coventry-Birmingham (West Coast) line and Birmingham International railway station is nearby for express services to London Euston. Knowle is also close to Birmingham International Airport and is linked to Solihull by bus service S3. Junction 5 of the M42 motorway runs a little over a mile from the western edge of the village.

Knowle & Solihull average current values

	B93	B94	B95	B	National
1 Bedroom properties	£201,400	£211,600	£164,700	£90,500	£153,400
2 Bedroom properties	£234,400	£298,400	£224,200	£120,300	£169,700
3 Bedroom properties	£322,000	£350,300	£305,100	£149,700	£197,400
4 Bedroom properties	£481,600	£504,200	£503,600	£290,200	£355,600
5+ Bedroom properties	£691,800	£715,300	£795,800	£424,200	£608,100

Knowle & Solihull housing stock

	B93	B94	B95	B	National
Total Detached	4,476	1748	987	123,213	6,389,700
% Detached	53.63%	56.40%	32.76%	15.34%	23.08%
Semi-Detached	1,864	903	842	282,382	7,892,018
% Semi-Detached	22.34%	29.13%	27.94%	35.16%	28.50%
Terrace	1,076	330	796	289,495	8,653,422
% Terrace	12.90%	10.65%	26.40%	36.05%	31.25%
Flat	929	119	389	108,034	4,752,266
% Flat	11.14%	3.82%	12.90%	13.45%	17.16%

Home ownership

	B93	B94	B95	B	National
Owner Occupied	6,797	2,402	1973	471,993	14,911,858
% Owner Occupied	86.39%	82.26%	74.91%	58.77%	66.19%
Socially Rented	381	139	277	170,127	4,155,391
% Socially Rented	4.84%	4.76%	10.52%	21.18%	18.44%

House prices last updated 1st October 2013. Housing stock notes: The data above illustrates the relative proportions of the differing types of property. Based on information collected in the 2001 census, the percentages provide an indication of how common particular types of housing are within the postcode district. It is important to note that as homes are demolished and built, these percentages will fluctuate accordingly.