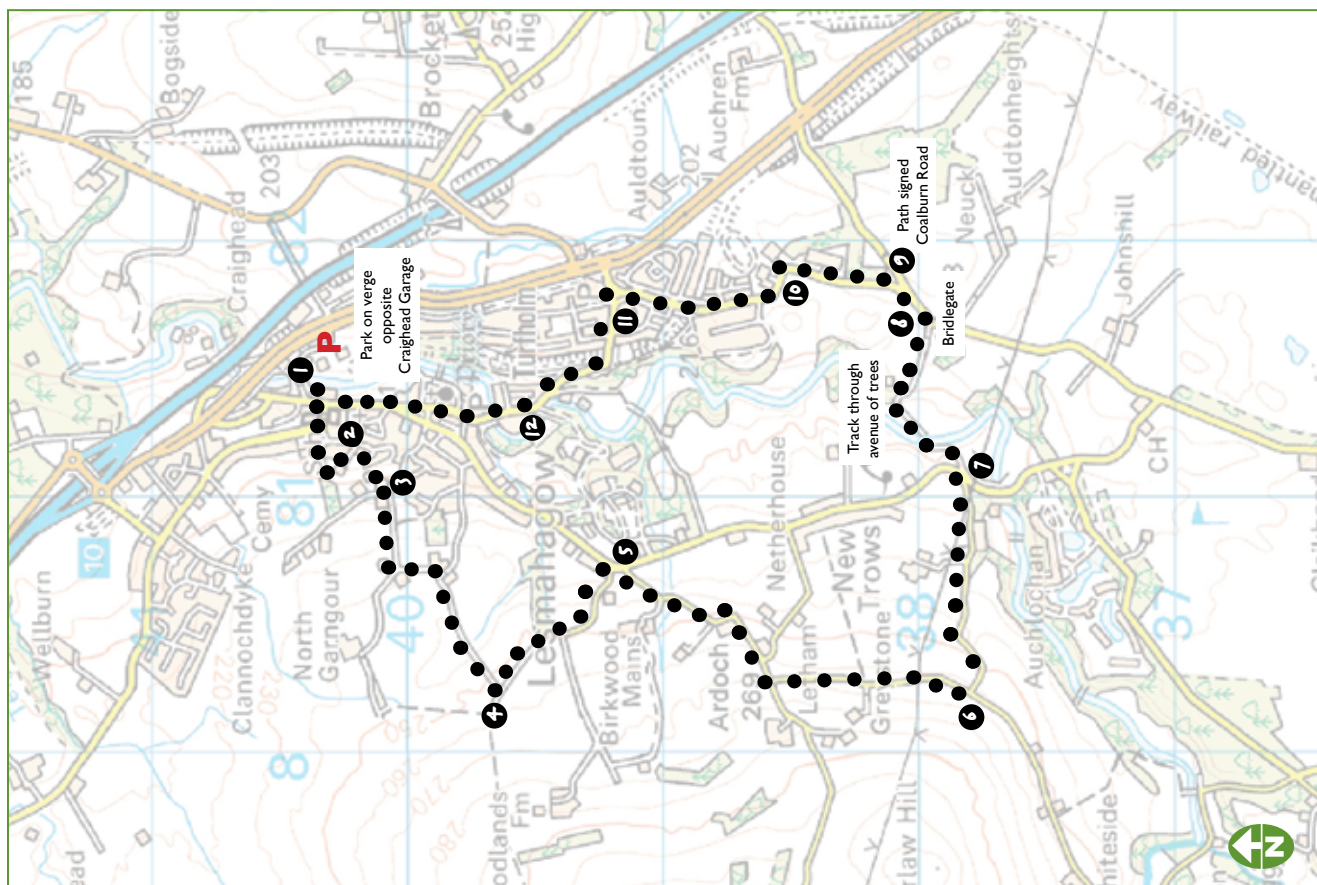


Route 4 - Lesmahagow Circular Ride

An enjoyable circular ride along quiet lanes, hard tracks and a disused railway, with some short sections on public road



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Description: A network of paths has been developed incorporating disused railway lines, forest tracks and other paths, which can be combined with local roads to create a circular route around Lesmahagow.

Distance: Approximately 10km (2 hours)

Location: Lesmahagow, 6 miles west of Lanark

Maps: OS Landranger no. 72 Upper Clyde Valley
OS Explorer no. OL335 Lanark and Tinto Hills

Parking: The wide grass verge opposite Craighead Garage at Lesmahagow (on the west side of the B7078 approximately 1km south of M74 Junction 10) signed 'Pathfoot Smiddy/ Craighead Football Stadium' will accommodate several

boxes/trailers. This area is used for football tournament parking on some weekends - so can be busy.

Facilities: Shops in Lesmahagow, supermarket and petrol station at M74, Junction 10.

Season: Year-round

Going: Mainly walk and trot, with some short sections on softer surfaces suitable for cantering.

Attractions: Very easily accessible from M74 Junction 10. Great views of Clydesdale.

Challenges: Ford across river. One bridlegate, easily opened without dismounting.

Route Description

- 1. From Craighead Garage, follow the track on the west side of the B7078 which leads down past some houses towards Craighead Football Stadium. Instead of turning left into the stadium, carry straight on over the bridge over the Nethan Water.
- 2. At the T-junction with the public road, turn left towards Lesmahagow. Turn first right up School Road, immediately after the newsagent and off licence. Fork left, signed a dead end road, rather than following the main road round past the school. At the T-junction soon afterwards with Broompark Drive, turn right. Turn left up the path which leads around the side of the garden of the last house. Follow this path up the hill, around sharp left and then right hand bends.
- 3. At the T-junction with the minor road, turn left. At the next T-junction (only some 50m further on), turn right heading uphill towards Garngour. Follow the road, which then becomes a track, round to the left (ignoring the track off to North Garngour) and continue along this same track as it swings right (west) around the wall at South Garngour.
- 4. Approximately 500m beyond South Garngour, turn left at the T-junction (the inviting looking grass track to the right is a dead end), following the main track south-east through the avenue of trees, which links onto the public road at the entrance to Woodlands Farm. Continue on down the road, past Birkdale.
- 5. At the T-junction, turn right (south) and immediately right again. Follow this quiet lane up the hill past Letham Mains and Ardoch, ignoring the turn to Netherhouse. Where the road bends sharp left before Latham, turn left, along the contour, heading south.
- 6. Approximately 200m beyond the pylons, turn left down the single track lane which leads down to Foulford.
- 7. After approximately 1km, at the T-junction at the bottom of the hill turn right and immediately left down the path to the river. Cross the ford and continue straight up the track opposite, between the trees, for approximately 0.5km.
- 8. At the T-junction with the public road, turn left. After approximately 150m, fork next right (north-east).
- 9. Approximately 300m from the last junction, turn left at the far side of a shelterbelt along the path signed Coalburn Road. Follow this narrow path along the shelterbelt, around the left side of barriers around newly built houses, to bring you back onto the public road on the corner immediately before the industrial estate.
- 10. Turn right, down the hill, passing a large new housing development on your left.
- 11. After approximately 500m, turn left opposite the shop on your right, following the informal path which skirts the edge of the playing fields, parallel to the south side of the disused railway.
- 12. After 400m, cross straight over the public road onto the grass verge (without crossing the bridge), from where the path leads down onto the disused railway. Continue north along the disused railway for approximately 1km until you reach the football ground, immediately before the river. Turn right through the gate onto the path which skirts around the north-west perimeter of the football ground. Turn right at the houses, back up the track to your starting point.