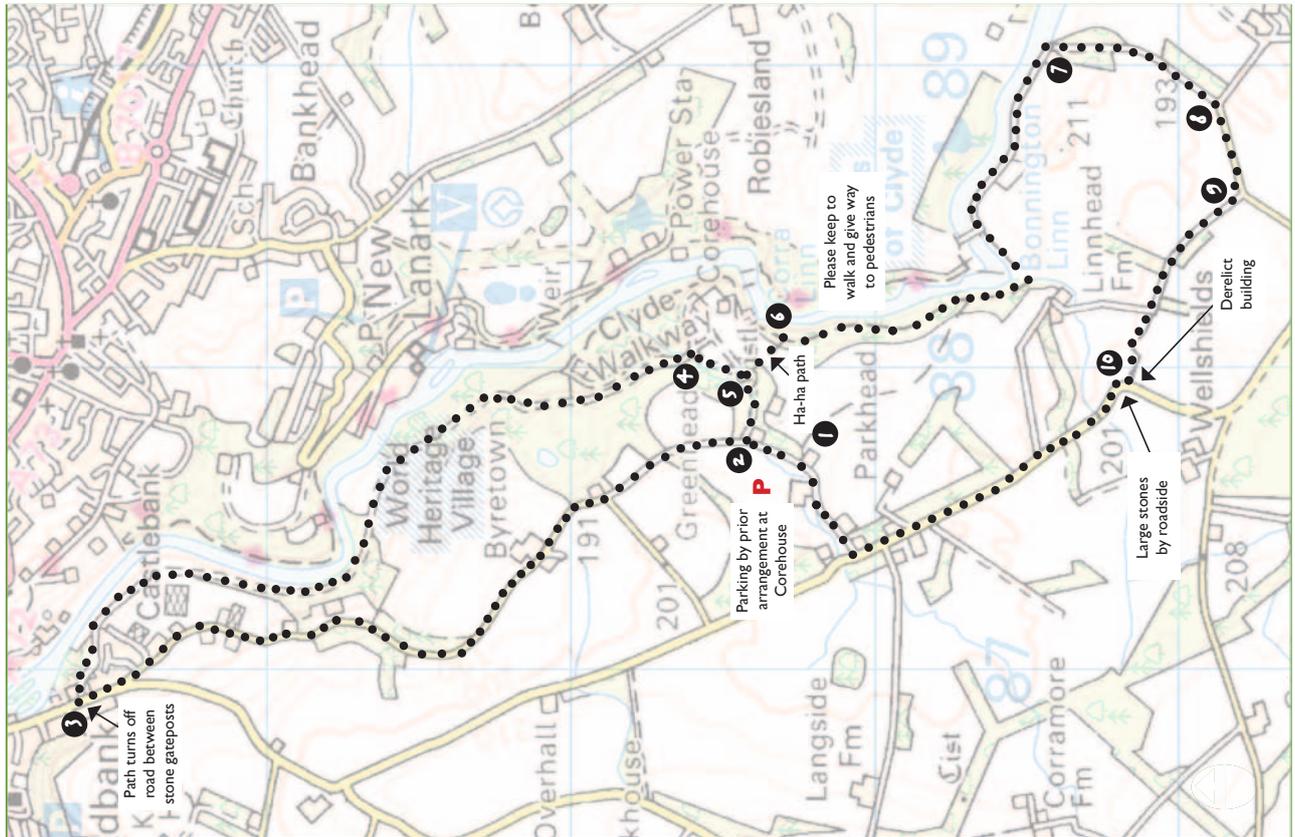


Route 1 - Falls of Clyde, Lanark

A figure of eight loop along the Clyde Valley



© Crown copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100020730 Not to scale. Indicative only.



Description: A figure-of-eight loop along the Clyde Valley easily split into two shorter rides, or combined with The Differick for a longer ride.

Distance: Each loop will take you 1-2 hours, depending how fast you go.

North loop – approximately 6.5km

South loop – approximately 6km

Location: Kirkfieldbank, Lanark (west side of the River Clyde)

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

Parking: Corehouse Farm Horses Welcome B&B and livery yard (OSGR NS875413) is happy to provide parking for visiting riders by prior arrangement telephone 01555 661377.

Facilities: Fuel, food and shops in Lanark, horse and rider accommodation at Corehouse.

Season: Year-round

Going: Mainly informally surfaced or grass paths and quiet tracks, remainder on tarmac roads.

Attractions: Great views of Falls of Clyde and New Lanark. Enjoyable riding on historic estate paths.

Route Description

Northern loop

- 1. From Corehouse Farm, head north to West Lodge on the track which continues on from the main farm access, with a block of trees on your right (east).
- 2. At West Lodge, keep heading north on the same track, which now runs between open fields bordered either side by hedges, until you reach the tarmac public road at Greenhead Gate with a house on your right. Continue straight on (north), past Byretown, following the road as it winds downhill, past commercial greenhouses and then a new housing development on your right, until you reach the T-junction with Kirkfield Road.
- 3. Turn right, downhill, passing three or four houses on your right. After approximately 100m, turn right between stone gateposts, opposite a tenement block. The start of the path looks rather unpromising but soon broadens out into a lovely old estate track through woodland, running parallel to the Clyde.

Continue along this track, enjoying views of the river and across to New Lanark, a World Heritage Site renowned for the mills set up by Robert Owen. After approximately 2km, the track turns slightly further away from the river as it re-enters the woodland of Falls of Clyde Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve. Carry on through the wood for another 1km.

- 4. At the T-junction immediately after crossing a bridge over a burn, turn right (south) on the main stoned track, ignoring the private road to the left towards the river.
- 5. To link directly onto the southern loop, after approximately 200m, turn left at the end of the field between the wooden posts, following the path signed towards Falls of Clyde. Alternatively, to return to Corehouse Farm, carry straight on along the main stoned track instead of turning off at the wooden posts, passing The Stables on your left, and at West Lodge turn left back down the track to Corehouse.

Southern Loop

From Corehouse Farm, set off as described at point 1 on the track which heads north to West Lodge, and then turn right along the track through the wood, past The Stables, until approximately 200m beyond West Lodge you see the fingerpost indicating the path towards the Falls of Clyde between wooden posts.

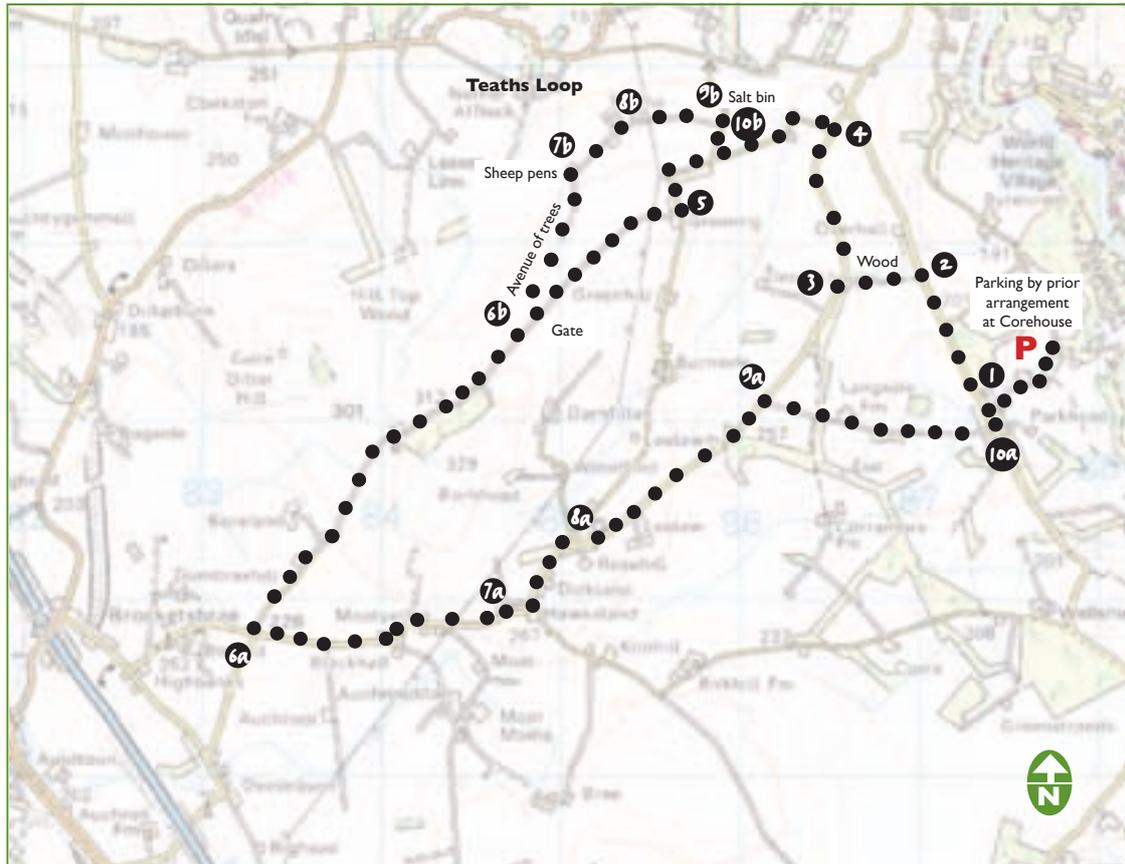
- 5. Follow the “ha-ha path” south-east along the sunken wall from which this path takes its name. Please do not go faster than a walk on this relatively narrow section of path and give way to walkers and others you meet.
- 6. At the T-junction just before the electricity pylons, turn right, heading south along the inviting woodland track which runs parallel to the west bank of the river down to the Falls of Clyde. Ignore the steps and any minor paths you see leading off the main track.

Carry on past the waterfalls and the weir, upstream of which the valley opens out and the informal track becomes a tarmac lane through farmland.

- 7. Approximately 0.7km from the weir, opposite the remains of an old building on the opposite river bank, follow the track around a right angle bend as it turns south, away from the river. You may prefer to dismount to pass through the gap in the metal fence, but there is ample room for most horses.
- 8. Turn right (west) at the T-junction at the top of the hill where the lane meets the public road to Harperfield and follow the road for approximately 0.3km.
- 9. Where the road turns the corner, turn right (north-west) along the clearly defined track which runs for approximately 0.8km between hedges and dykes, through a metal gate, and alongside a shelterbelt.
- 10. Turn right at the public road. Continue north-west along this road for approximately 1.1km until you see the B&B sign on your right immediately before a bridge directing you to Corehouse Farm. If riding this route in the opposite direction, look out for three large stones by the side of the road on a sharp right-angled bend in the road, and go through the gate which clearly leads onto a track, between the remains of a beech hedge and a derelict building.

Route 2 - The Differick - A bird's eye view of Clydesdale

This route takes its name from the long grass track



© Crown copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100020730 Not to scale. Indicative only.



Description: This route takes its name from the long grass track which offers fantastic riding and forms the basis of a variety of circular routes.

Distance: Approximately 12-14km (1.5-2.5 hours depending how fast you go)

Location: Between Lanark and Lesmahagow

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

Parking: Corehouse Farm Horses Welcome B&B and livery yard (OSGR NS875413) is happy to provide parking for visiting riders by prior arrangement phone 01555 661377.

Alternatively park in Lesmahagow at grass verge opposite Craighead Garage (on the west side of the B7078 approximately 1km south of M74 Junction 10) signed Pathfoot Smiddy/Craighead Football Stadium. Some weekends this can be busy due to football tournaments.

Facilities: Nearest in Lanark or Lesmahagow

Season: Year-round

Going: A combination of quiet country roads and a 3km gently sloping grassy track ideal for long canters.

Attractions: 360 degree views of Clyde Valley. Long canters on an enclosed track where you can be sure your horse will run out of steam before the top!

Route Description

From Corehouse Farm

- 1. Leaving Corehouse Farm by the main entrance drive, turn right (north) at the T-junction with the public road.
- 2. After 1km, just before the wood on your left, turn left (west) up a grassy track. Large stones have been placed across the end of the track to keep vehicles out, but there is plenty of space for horses to get through.
- 3. At the end of the track turn right along the public road.
- 4. After approximately 1km, turn first left up Greenrig Road, past Kirkfield Smiddy. Follow this single track road uphill for approximately 1km, around the sharp left-hand bend to Greenrig.
- 5. Turn right up the unsigned track which leads off the road between the cream bungalow and the third semi-detached house. You are now on the 'The Differick', a grassy track which is perfect for a good canter. The views are spectacular, with the whole of the Clyde Valley before you, and the Campsie Fells and Trossachs on the horizon. After approximately 2km, the track starts to descend, passing a large mast on your left and Boreland Farm on your right, and then through a tree-lined avenue. If you prefer you can retrace your steps back along the Differick and take in the Teaths Loop (see below).
- 6a. At the crossroads turn left along the public road to Hawksland. Take care around the bends. To link to the Broken Cross Muir ride, carry straight on at this crossroads down Bog Road. Turn left at the T-junction at Devonburn, and you will see the old drove road which carries straight on (south) where the road bends right under the motorway.
- 7a. At Hawksland Farm, bear left (north), following the sign to Burnside Nursery.
- 8a. After 400m fork right (north-east) past Rosehill and Leelaw.
- 9a. After 1.5km, turn right (east) down the clearly signed stony track to Langside Farm,
- 10a. At the junction with the public road, turn left and then first right to Corehouse Farm.

Alternative Teaths loop

- 6b. Heading east back along the Differick towards Lanark, as you are dropping down the hill approximately 1km past the mast, turn left just after a row of trees through a metal field gate. Head diagonally across the field until you reach the row of trees on your left, where you will join a track leading downhill through two gates and sheep pens, passing a white cottage on your left, and then follow the stony track down to Teaths. If there is a bull in the fields, give it a wide berth.
- 7b. Where the track comes to a T-junction with the public road, turn right.
- 8b. Turn left at the next T-junction, and follow the road downhill past Kirkfield Smiddy.
- 9b. Turn right again at the next T-junction.
- 10b. After 1km turn left down the track at the far end of the wood, and then right at the next T-junction, retracing your steps back to Corehouse.

Directions from Lesmahagow

- From Craighead Garage, head south on either of the wide grass verges alongside the B7078.
- After approximately 700m, just after the sign for Woodpark, turn left along the path which runs along the southern edge of the wood.
- At the end of the path, turn left along the B7018 to Brocketsbrae.
- After crossing the M74, turn first right up Eastwood Road, signed Hawksland.
- After 400m, turn left up Hawksland Road. Ride on past Boghill and Drumbraxhill.
- At the cross-roads with Bog Road, turn left (north) up the avenue of beech trees (or follow the directions above to Hawksland).
- Join route at point 6a.

Route 3 - Broken Cross Muir

The old drove road on which this route is based has been in use for centuries.



© Crown copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100020730 Not to scale. Indicative only.



Description: The old drove road on which this route is based has been in use for centuries. Don't be put off by the motorway which runs parallel, which has superseded the original track. You can easily extend this route by linking it with The Differick.

Distance: Approximately 15-21km (2.5-4 hours) depending where you park and which option you choose

Location: Between Lesmahagow, Lanark and Douglas Water

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. Or park at the wide roadside verge immediately west of M74 on minor road between Devonburn and B7078 or at Corehouse Farm (ideal if you are linking this route with The Differick) telephone 01555 661377.

Facilities: Happendon Services (on B7078 between Junctions 12 and 13 of M74); Tesco with petrol station at Junction 10; Shops in Lesmahagow.

Season: Year-round

Going: Grass track and quiet tarmac road.

Attractions: Easily accessible just off M74. Scope for long uphill canters, ideal for fitness training.

Challenges: A few of the gates at the Toftsgate end require dismounting.

Route Description

From Lesmahagow

- From Craighead Garage, head south on either of the wide grass verges alongside the B7078.
- After approximately 700m, just after the sign for Woodpark, turn left along the path which runs along the southern edge of the wood.
- At the end of the path, turn left along the B7018 to Brocketsbrae.
- After crossing the M74, turn first right up Eastwood Road, signed Hawksland.
- Follow this road straight ahead to the small hamlet of Devonburn, ignoring the next left up to Hawksland.

The Old Drove Road

- 1. From Devonburn, the drove road starts at the 'No through road' sign on the bend where the public road turns west under the motorway (OSGR NS832388). Initially stoned, the track soon becomes grassy, enclosed for most of the way between twin fences or dykes which once helped contain cattle as they were driven to market. Continue south along the drove road for 5.5km.
- 2. At the access road to Broken Cross Muir opencast site, with the site security office on the opposite left corner, continue south through the wide gap alongside the gate across the drove road, between the twin dykes/fence. Visibility is good so you have plenty of warning of any traffic, but take care at this crossing.
- 3. Go straight over at the junction with the next minor public road, continuing south along the old drove road downhill through a wide gate. The top latch on the double gates just before the old stone bridge can be stiff, so you may need to dismount.

Carry on over the bridge, through the next gate, along the grassy track of the drove road which now runs through a lovely birch wood to the cottage at Toftsgate.

- 4. The stile adjacent to Toftsgate is impassable by horses. Bypass the gate by turning right between two trees into rough ground approximately 50m before the gate, emerging onto the tarmac road some 20m to the west of the gate.

From Toftsgate, turn left (north-east) along the quiet country lane, following the cycle route sign.

Toftsgate Loop

(to return along the old drove road) (Total ride approximately 14.5km from Devonburn, 18.5km from Lesmahagow)

- 5. After 2km, shortly after a bridge over a burn, turn left at the T-junction at the brow of the hill. Follow this road for 2km passing Tower Farm and Folkerton Mill.

When you reach the old drove road (marked 3 on map), turn right and retrace your steps back to Devonburn and Lesmahagow.

Circular route via Easterton and Hawksland

(Total ride approximately 16km from Devonburn, 21km from Lesmahagow)

- 5. For a circular ride which does not involve retracing your steps, turn right (i.e. north-east) at the T-junction and follow this road for approximately 1.5km to Eastertown, the large farm on your left as you come up the hill.
- 6. At Eastertown, turn left (north-west) up the old road by the large 'Scotts UK' sign. If the main gate is locked, there is a bridlegate alongside. Follow this old road for approximately 2.8km. The gate towards the top of the hill is locked to restrict vehicular access after some problems with sheep rustling, but there is a bridlegate alongside. Carry on down the avenue of beech trees.
- 7. At the junction with the public road, carry straight on (north-west) for approximately 0.9km past Kilnhill, to Hawksland.
- 8. To return to Devonburn or Lesmahagow, turn left at Hawksland Farm and follow the road west for 1.6km to the cross roads.

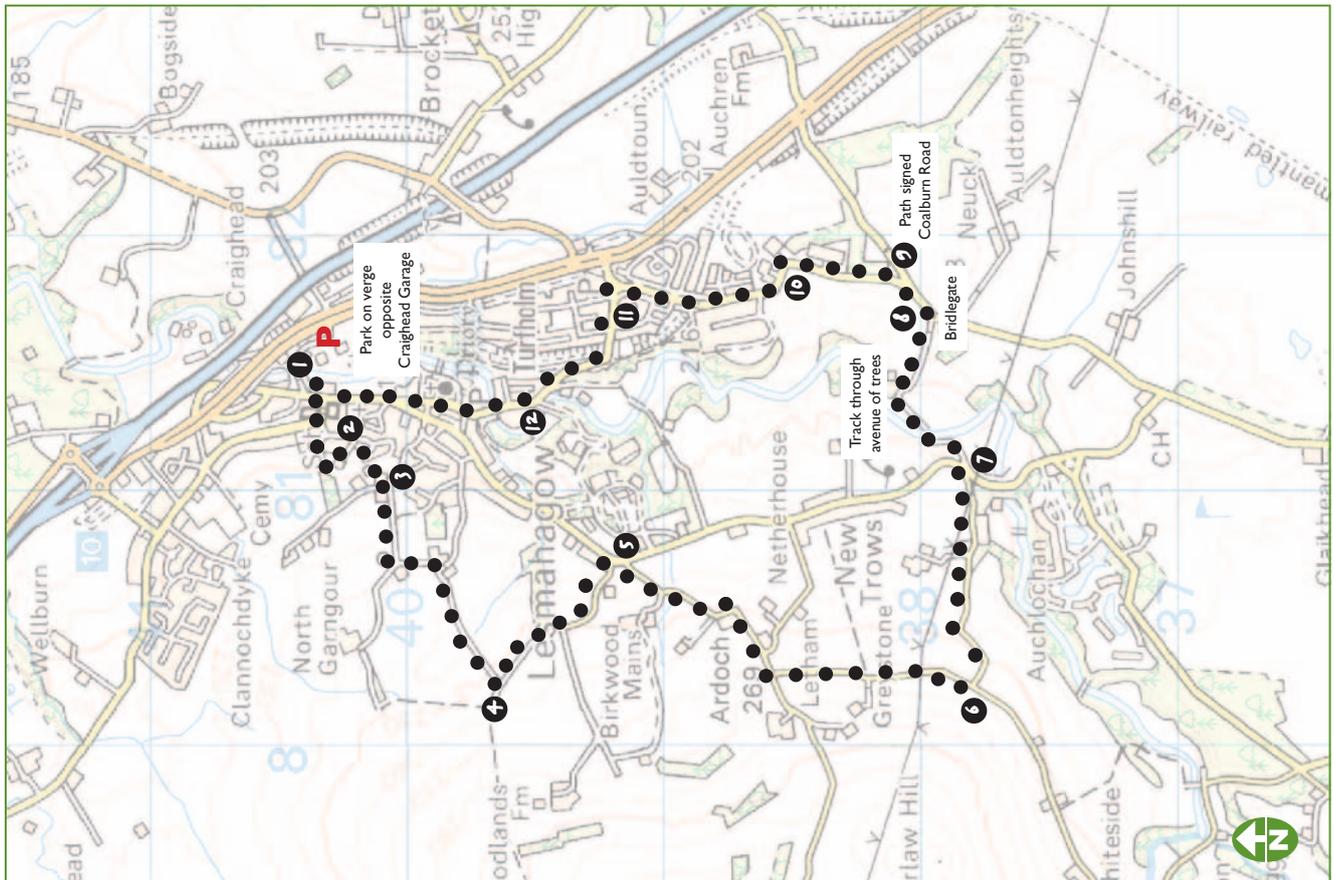
To return to Corehouse, turn right at Hawksland Farm, fork right at the next junction and then right again after 1.5km on the track past Langside Farm, left at the T-junction and you will see the entrance to Corehouse shortly on your right.

- 9. Turn left at the cross roads down Bog Road to return to Devonburn.

To return to Lesmahagow, carry straight on at the cross roads, down the hill past Dumbraxhill and Boghill to the T-junction with Devonburn Road. Turn right (north-west) to Brocketsbrae, and then left at the next junction on the B7018 over the motorway to retrace your steps back to Craighead Garage.

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



© Crown copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100020730 Not to scale. Indicative only.



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.

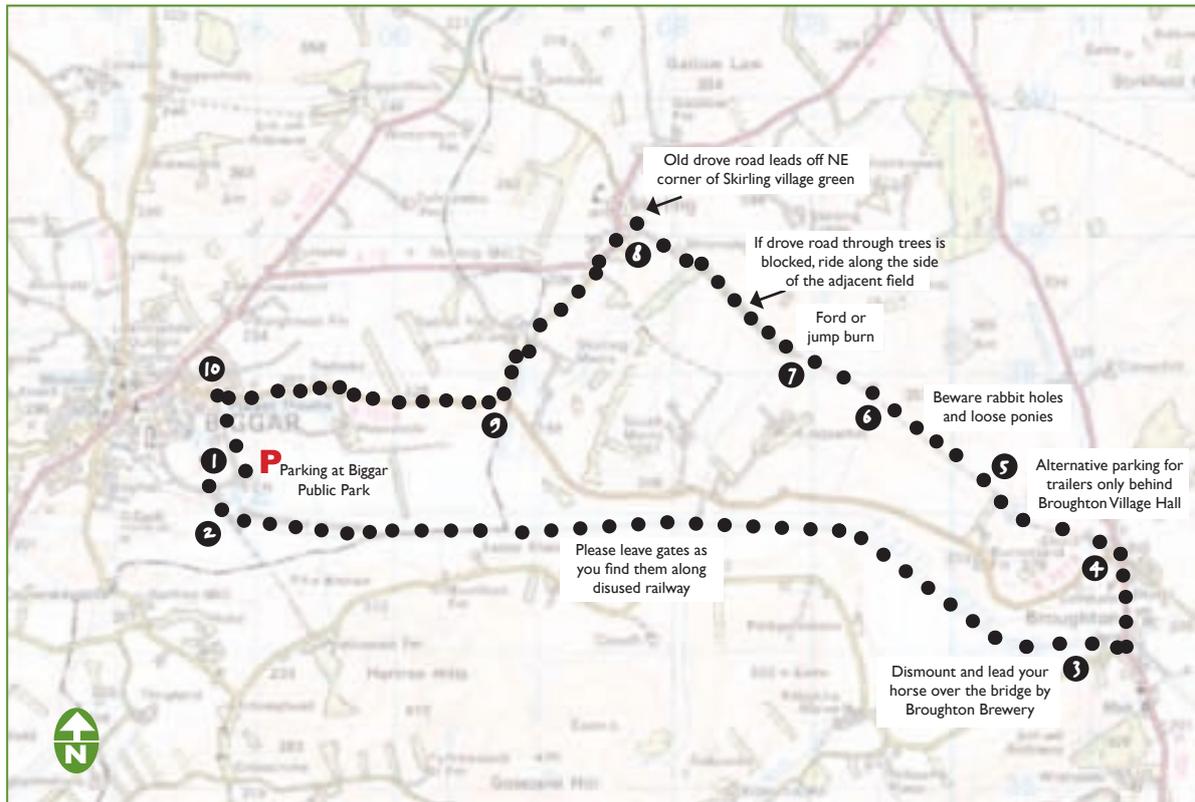
Challenges: Ford across river. One bridlegate, easily opened without dismounting.

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.

Route 5 - Biggar-Broughton-Skirling Circular Route

Attractive circular route with two-thirds off road



© Crown copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100020730
Not to scale. Indicative only.



Description: Attractive circular route with two-thirds off-road, half of which is on disused railway and the remainder along an old drove road. Ideal half-day or summer evening ride, or link this route with the John Buchan Way to make a full-day ride (see www.southofscotlandcountrysidetrails.co.uk).

Distance: Approximately 17km (2-4 hours, depending how fast you go).

Location: Between Biggar in South Lanarkshire and Broughton in the Scottish Borders, south of the Pentland Hills.

Maps: OS Landranger no. 72 Upper Clyde Valley
OS Explorer no. OL 336 Broughton and Biggar

Access and Parking: No formally agreed parking arrangements but there is normally ample space at Biggar Public Park (OSGR NT050373). Follow the signs off B7016 for Biggar Little Theatre and carry on down to the end of the road. You are advised to turn your trailer/box when you arrive in case the car park fills up while you are out riding, and if you are meeting with friends and are looking for parking for several boxes/trailers, please ring in advance. Please respect other users and clear

up dung. Limited parking in Broughton village other than the car park behind the village hall, which is across a narrow bridge unsuitable for lorries. Please make sure that you do not block access for other people, and avoid parking in the small lay-by outside the school opposite the brewery during term-time.

Facilities: Local shop, garage and tea-room/bistro/bar in Broughton. Petrol station, numerous cafes, food shops and supermarket in Biggar.

Season: Accessible all year, particularly disused railway - if it is really wet and you want a blast, ride to Broughton and retrace your steps. The highest point of the drove road is fairly exposed in wet weather and may be wet underfoot, but no serious bogs.

Going: Firm grass turf and level gradient of disused railway allows you to go as fast as you want (remember to stop at the gates!) Old drove road through undulating wood and fields, with scope for a good gallop up the steepest climb

Attractions: Great canters/gallops, fantastic views from old drove road, disused railway ideal all year.

Route Description

- 1. From the car park next to the golf club house, take the red stoned track between the golf course and the boating lake. Where the track meets the burn, turn left.
- 2. Before the sewage works, turn left through a self-closing gate onto the disused railway which continues for 7km right the way through to Broughton. All of the gates along the route have been replaced so that you should be able to open them without dismounting. Wooden railings have been erected across the culverts and burn crossings but please take extra care when negotiating gates next to the railings. Parts of the disused railway are sometimes grazed by cattle and sheep.
- 3. At the Broughton end of the disused railway, immediately past the service centre on your right, you will reach a gate which restricts access to the coal yard. Follow the rather unpromising but clearly waymarked path around to the left (i.e. north) of the coal yard fence, across the wooden bridge over the Biggar Water to Broughton Brewery. This bridge has recently been rebuilt specifically to accommodate walkers, cyclists and horse-riders and most horses will cross it without any difficulty but if in doubt, please dismount and lead your horse over the bridge. (The brewery is on the site of the former slaughterhouse, sheep were downloaded from trains across the former bridge.) On the brewery side of the bridge, turn right along the tarmac brewery access road to the A701. Turn left (north) onto the A701 through Broughton.
- 4. Just after the village shop, turn left at Laurel Bank Tea Rooms on the B7016 towards Biggar. Almost immediately turn first right, just before a new house with a turret, following the track uphill past an old house and the remains of a church on the right, to the grass drove road which is enclosed by parallel dykes/hedges on either side as it climbs up the hill in front of you. Take care to close the gate or fence which is usually fastened across the lower end of the track.
- 5. Beware of rabbit holes and occasionally loose horses grazing through the next section. Once through the gorse, carry on around the contour of Corstane Hill to a gate across the track which you pass straight through - watch out for live electric wire adjacent to this gate.
- 6. Go straight ahead through the gate in the fence at the southernmost corner of a small shelterbelt, to carry on in the same direction you were going (north-west). Keep parallel to the fence on your right as you head downhill, through another gate, to Kirklawhill Burn.
- 7. Ford or jump the burn, and go straight through the gate at the top of the opposite bank, to climb up the hill through the shelterbelt following the old drove road through to Skirling. (If the drove road through the trees is blocked by vegetation, branches or cattle, you can divert into the fields adjacent and continue parallel to the old drove road until the next gate allows access back onto it.) You will come out in the north-east corner of the village green in Skirling.
- 8. Turn left, around the village green, and then left again along the A72 for a short distance before branching off to the left on a minor road past Skirling Mains and Spittal Farm.
- 9. At the T-junction with B7016, turn right (west) and follow this road back into Biggar.
- 10. Turn left signed to the puppet theatre, which takes you back down to the golf course.

Carry on along the track north-west towards Skirling, with the dyke on your left, through another gate onto rough grazing. Keep heading in the same direction with Burnetland Hill on your right. Depending on the weather and time of year, there may be some damp patches on this section or shallow ditches to ford (or jump) but it is usually quite easy to pick your way through without any problems.

Accessing the disused railway from Broughton:

To get onto the disused railway from Broughton, turn off the A701 along the tarmac access road to Broughton Brewery which is parallel to and immediately north of the road bridge over the Biggar Water, just south of the school. Follow the path around the left side of the brewery buildings across the wooden bridge over Biggar Water, continuing right over the bridge around the coal yard fence onto the disused railway which leads you to Biggar.

Route Description

The routes described below follow formally waymarked paths which are suitable for use by horses most of the year. There are any number of other paths through the forest around Wilsontown which you may be tempted to explore, but the condition of these cannot be guaranteed, and you are advised to keep to the path to avoid former mine workings. Remember that you only have a right of access on these informal paths provided you are not causing any damage.

Most of the time the paths around Forth are quiet but some are popular with local people, particularly dog-walkers who may be frightened by horses at speed. Please respect other people who may be using the paths by reducing your pace to a walk when you meet or pass people on foot or cycle, and unless you can see clearly ahead.

Signs and access controls have been erected to try and stop motorbikes which have no legal right of access on the Forth access network but occasionally you may still meet scrambling bikes.

Wilsontown Ironworks

1. From the car park at The Glen, turn right up the minor public road towards Tashieburn and Auchengray. After 200m turn left through the wooden bridlegate under what was previously a bridge along the disused railway. Follow the main track ahead at 11 o'clock (north). Ignore the informal path on your right which follows the fenceline.
2. After approximately 100m turn right at the wooden waymark post up a level clearly defined firm grass track between an area of recently felled timber. At the next waymark post after approximately 100m, turn left along the disused railway. The bed of the disused railway is in places corrugated where the old sleepers have been removed - good for teaching horses balance and even strides at canter, but please respect other people enjoying this path.
3. At the T-junction at the end of the disused railway, turn left towards the old mine buildings. To continue on a circular route around Forth, ignore the bridge and turn left at the buildings, and then right before the trees, through the gate, past the houses on your left, to the main road. Turning right over the bridge will lead you along a track to the forest road network. Watch out for timber wagons and quarry traffic.

Heathfield

4. Cross directly over the main road onto the hard track to the right of the gardens and sheds at Pleasance Row. Immediately beyond the storeyard for Forth Roofing, pass around the right hand end of the barrier across the track. Follow the track/disused railway on through the trees, enjoying a good canter where visibility is clear ahead, continuing on the main track as it skirts left in front of the bing (spoil heap), and looping back along the track through the trees around to the main road.

5. For a shorter ride, cross directly over the A706, walk over the horse-stile on the opposite side and head east on the disused railway for approximately 300m. The path leads down off the railway immediately before the missing bridge. Turn right through the bridlegate under the bridge, and right again to bring you back to The Glen.

5. To continue on a longer ride, at the A706 turn immediately right around the side of the barrier, onto the disused railway which runs around the north-east side of Forth. Follow the disused railway for approximately 1.2km until you see a fence across the track.

6. Shortly before the fence, turn left on the clearly defined path which leads off the disused railway along the side of the forest to join the public road at Climpy. If you are worried about traffic, retrace your steps back along the disused railway.

7. Turn left along the B715 into Forth, passing Climpy Industrial Estate and the police station on your left.

Horse stiles and horse-friendly gates have been installed around Forth and Wilsontown to allow riders to enjoy the route network.

Forth

8. At the junction with the A706 in the village of Forth, cross straight over. Follow this road past the bowling club.

9. Shortly after the Gospel Hall on your right, and immediately after the swingpark on your left, take the first public road to the right, and follow this road downhill.

10. About half-way down the hill, just before the mature trees, you can add in an extra loop by turning right around the right-hand end of a padlocked gate across a clearly defined stoned track. Carry along this track, past the waterworks on your right. Turn left just before you reach the semi-mature forest ahead (a kissing gate restricts access ahead through this forest because the ground is very wet and unsuitable for other than pedestrian use). Follow the path around the right hand-side of the reedbed (if you take the path to the left of the reedbed you will have to cross a grid at the far end to rejoin the main path, which some horses may not like). When you reach the fence enclosing the settling pond, look out for the information finger post which explains the filtration system being used to remove the iron from the water. Take care crossing the following bridge - a sign suggests you dismount - and follow the path to join the road just above the ford.

11. At the T-junction with the public road, turn left, over the bridge, and climb up the hill passing the opencast site on your right.

12. At the end of the segregated footpath, turn right between the white bollards to cross over the bridge onto the Tashieburn road. Turn left on the public road to return to your starting point at The Glen.

Route 7 - The Beeches, Lanark

One of the routes used in the Riding of the Marches during Lanark Lanimers



© Crown copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100020730 Not to scale. Indicative only.



Description: One of the routes used in the Riding of the Marches during Lanark Lanimers, this circular ride starts next to the former racecourse and then follows historic tracks on the eastern edge of Lanark. Although never far from civilisation, the western sections enable you to feel as though you've got away from it all, with tantalising glimpses of the Clyde in the valley below.

Distance: 6.5-8km (1-2 hours), depending which route you choose.

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

Parking: Lanark Moor public car park, adjacent to Lanark EquiCentre on A73 0.5km south of Lanark (OSGR NS900428). Please note that the public car park at Lanark Loch is unsuitable for boxes or trailers.

Facilities: The Stables Bistro at Lanark Equicentre serves drinks, snacks and food on weekday lunchtimes and all day at the weekend. Fuel and shops in Lanark.

Season: Year-round

Going: Mainly informally surfaced paths and quiet tracks, short sections on tarmac road.

Attractions: Easily accessible and easy parking.
Great views of Tinto and Clyde Valley.

Route Description

1. Head toward the wood at the eastern end of Lanark Moor car park. Look out for the 'Slow Horse and Rider' and 'Lanark Racecourse Football Facility' signs. Follow the tarmac track as it swings right onto the former racecourse, ignoring the footpath on your left to Lanark Loch. Ignore the sign which says no unauthorised horses – you have every right to follow the route described below, provided you are riding responsibly. As you cross the former racecourse, turn left through a wide gateway (the gate is usually open).
2. Follow the race track east around the edge of the wood to a gate parallel with the last football pitch, adjacent to a large metal sign. Once through the gate, follow the clearly defined main path heading north down through the wood. Please respect others enjoying the woods, particularly if you choose to explore any of the other narrower paths.
3. Continue along the main path across the golf course. Please keep to the path and restrict your pace to walk to avoid causing any damage. If you see someone about to take a shot, it is polite to wait. Continue on the path, passing Lanark Loch to your left, straight on past the golf club house and through the car park to join a quiet public road. Carry straight on along this road, heading west towards Lanark, past a row of new houses on your right.
4. At the road junction immediately past Lockhart Hospital, with the railway line immediately on your right, turn left along Home Street, passing the postal sorting office and then Hozier House (at one time the Lady Hozier Convalescent Home) to your right, and Crosslaw House Care Home to your left.
5. At the T-junction with the A73, turn left (i.e. south-east, away from Lanark). Take care: this road can be busy, but visibility is good and the road is wide. After approximately 100m, immediately after the last house on your right ('The Neuk'), turn right before the new road, following the Scottish Rights of Way Society fingerpost along The Beeches to New Lanark, crossing straight over two tarmac access roads, continuing along the avenue of beech trees down towards the Clyde Valley.
6. After approximately 1km, with a house on your left, turn left along the clearly defined track known as 'The Lady Mary'. Take time to enjoy the fantastic views of Tinto rising up on the horizon in front of you, and the Clyde Valley to your right. Carry straight on along this track, passing Robiesland Cottage on your right and Bonnington Mains on your left, for approximately 1.5km until you reach Robiesland Farm.

Can be ridden in conjunction with The Lady Mary as a circular off-road route from Lanark Moor car park.

New Lanark loop

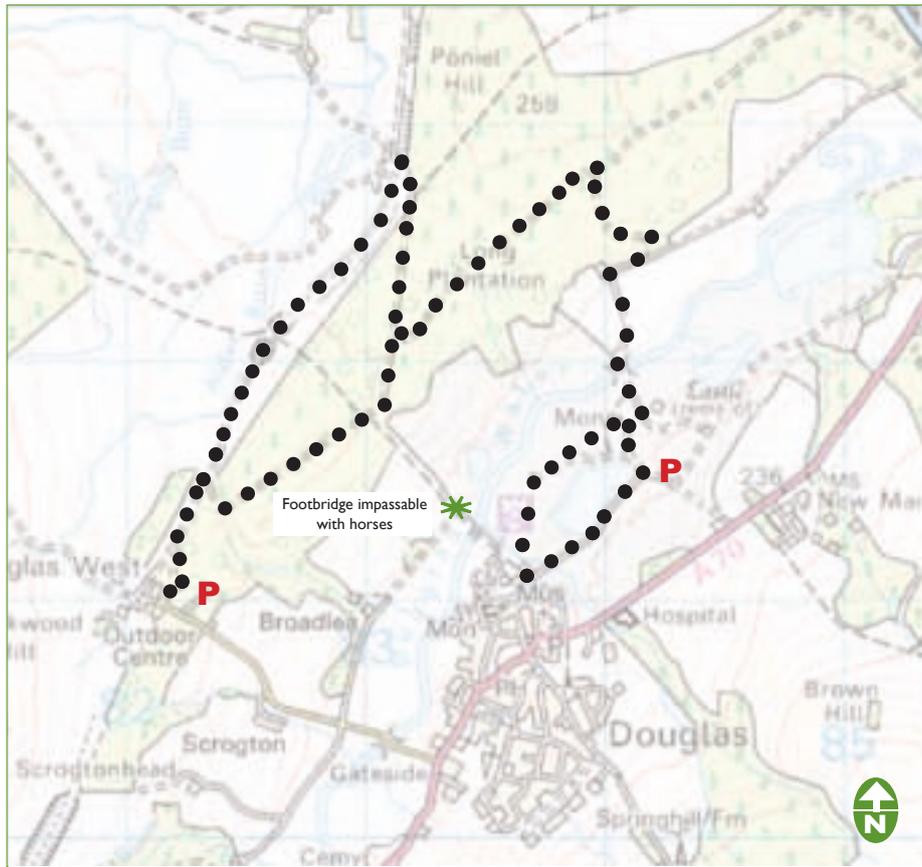
6. Carry straight over at the cross-roads, signed towards New Lanark, heading west down an attractive path towards the Clyde, with a burn on your left.
7. After approximately 500m, turn left (south) over the bridge, admiring the view through the trees to Robert Owen's famous mills at New Lanark. Follow the track parallel to but high above the river, signed to the Falls of Clyde, ignoring any minor paths which turn off. (From the opposite direction, follow the main track towards New Lanark.)
8. At Bonnington Power Station, follow the main tarmac road round to the left (east), through the bridlegate adjacent to the first cattle grid, and through the main gate at the next cattle grid - the padlocked chain lifts easily over the post. Climb up the track through former parkland, to another gate alongside a cattle grid - the padlock does not interfere with the catch. Continue along the tarmac track through the next gate to East Lodge. If you are coming from the other direction, don't be put off by signs on the gate: responsible horse riders have every right to use this route.

Robiesland – Lanark Moor car park

9. Coming from New Lanark/East Lodge, pass Robiesland Farm to your left and carry straight on (north) up the tarmac road between the beech avenue, which leads back to the A73. From the Lady Mary, turn left at Robiesland onto the tarmac road.
10. After approximately 1.7km, you will reach the T-junction with the A73. Cross with care. Lanark Moor car park is diagonally opposite to your left.

Other off-road riding opportunities in South Lanarkshire

Douglas



© Crown copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100020730 Not to scale. Indicative only.



Douglas is very easily accessible just a few miles west of M74 Junction 12, Douglas and Angus Estate offers a variety of tracks and woodland walks.

Parking for trailers/horse boxes is available at Douglas West (OSGR NS821310), or east of the loch at OSGR NS842315, from either of which you can follow any of the tracks through Long Plantation.

South of the wood, past Gardens House, there is a good loop past the remains of the old castle and around the lochan.

The A70 can be busy, so it is recommended that you return through Long Plantation rather than through Douglas village.

Alternatively you could head west up Arkney Hill into the forestry behind Henry's Hill and the windfarm.

Opencast mining currently restricts some of the other routes previously enjoyed by riders between Douglas and Lesmahagow, but it is hoped to develop new routes following restoration on completion of mining.

Other off-road riding opportunities in South Lanarkshire

Whitelee Wind Farm



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and data-base right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100023382 2010. East Renfrewshire Council



Whitelee Wind Farm, on the border between South Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire and East Ayrshire, has over 90km of paths and trails, many of which are suitable for year-round horse riding, particularly forest and windfarm roads.

The circular route shown is one of a number of possible routes at Whitelee. The existing network of off-road surface routes is being extended as part of a windfarm extension, with a further expansion of recreational routes and facilities also expected soon. This will include a new car park at the Ardochrig entrance with facilities for horse boxes.

Note that some construction activity will be taking place until May 2012, and temporary restrictions or diversions will be necessary in the interests of public safety. Much of the site remains a working forest and like all forests periodic restrictions will also be required during harvesting and other management activities.

In all cases visitors are asked to follow any signage or diversions which may be in place.

Full maps of Whitelee windfarm can be downloaded from the website www.whitelee.org.uk. The Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service can be contacted for up to date access information on 0141 577 3662/3169.