



## CYCLING IN MIDLOTHIAN (2017 FACTSHEET)

Midlothian currently has 3 existing cycle routes that cross into adjoining local authority areas with planning permission for another cross-border route.

### **National Cycle Route 1 - Newcastle to Edinburgh (Coast to Castles Route) (25 km)**



*(Photo of Sustrans Rangers on NCR1 at the border between Midlothian and the Borders)*

The Coast to Castles cycle route (NCR1) passes through Midlothian on quiet roads from the Borders via the Granites, northwards towards Middleton, Temple, Carrington and Bonnyrigg. At Bonnyrigg the route changes to mainly off road towards Dalkeith via Dalkeith Campus. Continuing off road towards Whitecraig in East Lothian and continues onto Edinburgh.

### **Route 196 National Cycle Network - Penicuik to E. Lothian Boundary via Dalkeith (16 Km)**



*(Photos of cycleway through Roslin Glen, with Toptrec surfacing and at Harpers Brae, Penicuik)*

A 16km cycleway (mostly off road), that begins at Valleyfield in Penicuik and extends eastwards through Auchendinny, Roslin Glen, Rosewell, Bonnyrigg, Eskbank, and Dalkeith. The route also connects to Haddington via the Pencaitland cycleway. Part of the former route from Hardengreen to Sheriffhall has been severed by the opening of the Borders Railway but an alternative route via Eskbank/Newbattle is due to be completed in Spring 2017. A plan showing the diverted route is shown later in the factsheet. Additionally street lighting is to be extended on the section of path between Dalhousie Chesters, Bonnyrigg to Gorton Road, Rosewell during 2017.

## Roslin to Shawfair (7.5 Km)



*(Picture of cyclists crossing Bilston Glen Viaduct and construction of a cycleway over bridge at Roslin in 2007)*

In 2010, a 3.5 km off road cycleway that begins at Roslin and extends northwards via Loanhead to Straiton Pond at A720 City Bypass was completed. Following discussions with the City of Edinburgh Council and Sustrans an extension of the route to Lasswade Road was completed in 2016.

Currently Sustrans are in the process of planning the construction of the cycle route from Lasswade Road to Shawfair utilising the former railway line. It is anticipated that the route will be completed in 2018. This will provide an excellent commuter and leisure route that could provide the opportunity for a circular (mostly off road ) cycling route to/from Edinburgh connecting this route to Route 196 via Penicuik with Straiton Pond, Bilston Glen Viaduct, Roslin Chapel and Roslin Glen being some of the attractions along the route. Additionally the route will connect to Danderhall, Gilmerton, Burdiehouse, Loanhead, Roslin and Penicuik However there will eventually be connections to employment centres including 2 industrial estates in Loanhead, Straiton Retail Park and the Bush.

Midlothian Council is also in the process of connecting the route to Penicuik with a mixture of on and off road cycle facilities.

## Roslin via Route 196 to Peebles Cycleway

### Leadburn to Roslin cycle route

Part of the Peebles to Roslin cycle route



### Planning Application

*(Front cover of Leadburn to Roslin Cycle Route Planning Application)*

Midlothian and Borders Councils combined with Sustrans to facilitate a feasibility/ design report and planning permission was granted for the cycleway within both Planning Authorities. Midlothian Council has been in discussion with a developer to construct a section of the route.

## Future Connections to the Midlothian Cycle Network

Midlothian Council is actively progressing with the connection of the communities of Mayfield, Newtongrange and Gorebridge to the local and National Cycle Network with some sections already complete. It is planned to progress a “missing link” at Kippielaw during 2017 with a view to submitting a bid for funding from Sustrans Community Links 2018/19, if land agreements can be secured. If the missing section can be constructed it will mean that the communities of Newtongrange and Mayfield would have “off road” cycleway connections to Dalkeith and National Cycle Route 1

## Midlothian Cycle Tourism



**CYCLE MIDLOTHIAN!**

The businesses and organisations listed below are keen to welcome more visitors and customers who use bicycles. We look forward to seeing you!

**Cafes and restaurants**

Bonnyrigg	Orchard Cafe Maybatho Garden Cafe	Bonnyrigg Road	LH22 3LA	0131 663 1093
Dalkeith	Blacksmith's Forge The Riverside Justinos Inn	5 Newmill Road 96 High Street 1 Chalmers Road	EH22 1DH EH22 1JZ EH22 3AT	0131 561 5109 0131 563 4849 0131 563 2359
Howgate	Howgate Restaurant	Auldha	EH26 8PY	01968 670000
Lasswade	Dublin Restaurant	Forshaw Garden Wood, Gannan Road A772	EH18 1AZ	0131 663 1941
	Esk Valley Table Table	Manville Park Road	EH18 1AN	0131 561 9000
	The Land & Dog The Millville Inn	8 High Street Manville Nurseries Gannan Road A772	EH18 1NA LH18 1AR	0131 663 9219 0131 660 4525
Leadburn Loamhead	The Paper Mill The Loamhead Inn W&A cafe	2 Wood Mill Road A781/A705/A694 Craik's Way, Station Retail Park	EH18 1LX EH46 2DE EH20 9BY	0131 663 1412 01968 678777 0131 440 6609
Newton grange	Cafe Panna Pannal Planting National Mining Museum Cafe	Pannal Main Lilly Victoria Colony A7	EH20 9QS EH22 4QN	0131 440 0896 0131 663 7519
Penciluk Hosier	The Gallery Cafe The Original Penciluk Hotel Rough Chapel Guest House Tea Room	4 West Street Main Street 2 Penciluk Road	EH26 8DL EH26 8LL EH26 91H	01968 678864 0131 440 2384 0131 440 3328

Midlothian

*(Photo showing Ian Gardner, Director, Rosslyn Chapel Trust receiving Visit Scotland's “Cyclists Welcome” award and the front cover of the Cyclists Welcome! leaflet)*

Midlothian's Rosslyn Chapel and National Mining Museum Scotland become the first two visitor attractions in the Lothian's to achieve the *Cyclists Welcome* award from Visit Scotland. Recently the Paper Mill restaurant in Lasswade has become the first restaurant in the Edinburgh & Lothians area to gain the Cyclists Welcome Award from Visit Scotland.

Midlothian Tourism Forum has also recently published its third edition of *Cycle Midlothian!* leaflet, detailing cafes, restaurants, visitor attractions and cycle shops, cycle engineers and hirers who are keen to attract more visitors and customers who use bicycles.

The opening of the Borders Rail project saw 7 new stations opening in September 2015, with 4 in Midlothian and 3 in Scottish Borders, neither Council area having had any train service since the 1960s.

As a result of the opening of the railway, Midlothian Council have installed interactive touch screen consoles on each of the Midlothian stations and in Dalkeith town centre, with icons linking in to various maps, highlighting local cycling , walking routes and local public transport services. New signage from the stations to local facilities and town centres has also been installed.

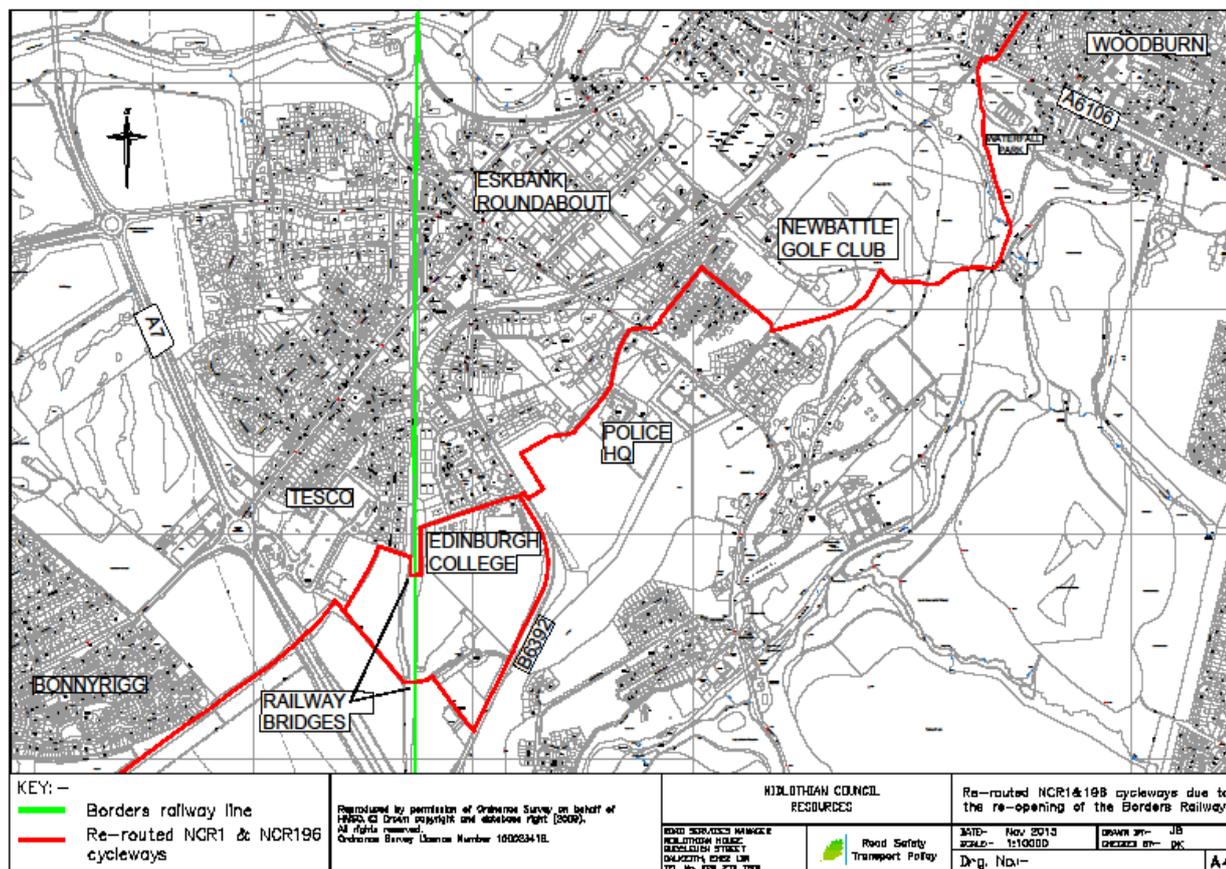
Midlothian Council has also produced free town centre maps for most of Midlothian's town centres showing local walking/cycling and bus routes and are available at all of Midlothian's railway stations.

Volunteers have also put together six cycle routes in Midlothian called “Out and About Midlothian” with the maps now available via the Council web pages and paper versions will be available at all of Midlothian's railway stations.

Midlothian Tourism Forum have also produced the “North Esk Cycle Loop” tourist route leaflet that is available at Midlothian Council offices and Midlothian railway stations.

### Cycling Accessibility to Borders Railway Stations in Midlothian

Since it was agreed to construct the Borders Railway, Midlothian Council has engaged with Sustrans and Network Rail to develop cycle access and cycling facilities at the new stations, with cycling improvements at Eskbank and Newtongrange Stations completed in 2015. The diversion route for NCR routes 1 and 196 at Eskbank is nearing completion and should be completed in the Spring of 2017.



### Shared use footpaths



*(Pictures during construction and post construction of a 1.9 kilometre shared use path at Easthouses Road)*

There are an increasing number of shared use paths within Midlothian with examples at Gilmerton Road, Cowden, Lugton Brae, the Bush, Milton Bridge, Easthouses Road, Dalhousie Road, Eskbank and Hopefield, Bonnyrigg. Many

larger new developments have shared use paths (Shawfair), increasing the overall length of “off road” cycling facilities as part of the cycle network.



*(Photos showing construction of “shared use” cycleway on Bogwood Road)*

### **On road cycle lanes**

There are currently about 15 kms of on road cycle lanes in Midlothian, including the A701 from Penicuik, the A7 from Sheriffhall Roundabout to the City of Edinburgh boundary and Eskbank Roundabout to Elginhaugh. In the future it is hoped to introduce cycle lanes from Bonnyrigg and Gorebridge.

### **Speed limit Reductions**

Midlothian Council has introduced several speed limit reductions for “on road” cycle commuter routes including A703 from Hillend, Lasswade Road, B6482 Dalhousie Road, Eskbank and A772 Gilmerton Road.

### **20mph speed limits**

Currently in Midlothian there are 20 mph speed limits on roads around schools and nursery schools. There are also 20 mph speed limits in Penicuik town centre, Bilston, Lasswade, Woodburn, sections of Kippielaw and on the access road to Rosslyn Chapel. There are also part time 20 mph speed limits on busy roads in the vicinity of schools.

### **Schools**



*(Photos show pupils from Bonnyrigg Primary School receiving their Cycle Friendly School Award and during Bike to School Week)*

Midlothian currently has 16 Cycle Friendly Primary Schools, 1 SEN Cycle Friendly School and 3 Friendly Secondary Schools with cycle clubs established at the 3 schools. Also in 2016, Midlothian achieved 87% on-road Bikeability training figures, compared to 63% in 2013. The on road training is carried out with primary 6 children and is normally undertaken by a member of staff or volunteer. The Scottish average is for this type of training is 38%.

There are currently 32 primary schools in Midlothian. During the 2016/17 session the aim was to ensure all schools were providing on-road training. To assist this, we looked at all our Schools and identified the ones where we felt they may be struggling to deliver the training. In most cases the reason was because they didn't currently have trained staff due to staff moves etc. To accommodate the pupils and to ensure they didn't miss out, Midlothian Council organised a Bikeability Day where we brought the pupils together at a central venue with a team of trainers to deliver in a concentrated day (approx. 100 pupils). This was all done in conjunction with Cycling Scotland and independently evaluated with very favourable feedback. In addition, we have offered mentoring to any other schools that may be struggling and are confident that we will have nearly every Midlothian school offering on-road training during 2017.

The new Newbattle High School is due to open in 2018 and will have extensive connecting cycle routes and cycle facilities at the new school.

### **Beeslack High School**

Beeslack High School in Penicuik had a successful bid for funding from the Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund for a cycle track and skills areas within its grounds. The work was completed earlier this year and was officially opened on 8 June 2015.

The track was used for the first Midlothian Primary School Bike Festival on 14 June 2016 and is for P6 and P7 pupils. The Festival will be repeated on 13 June 2017 but hopefully there will be better weather for the pupils involved!



*(Photos show official ribbon cutting of Beeslack Trail and pupil balancing at one of the skills areas on the Trail)*

### **IBike Officers in Midlothian**

In 2015 Midlothian Council successfully bid for an Ibike officer to be based at Newbattle High School for the 2015/16 school session. Since then an additional Ibike officer has been added and is based at Lasswade High Schools until June 2017. The two Ibike officers have been very effective and have integrated with the respective High Schools and with the surrounding primary schools to raise the profile of cycling in the schools. In 2017/18 the two Ibike officers will be retained, but will be relocated to Dalkeith Campus and Penicuik High School to provide a wider focus on cycling within Midlothian's Schools.

### **Active Travel Strategy**

Midlothian Council has begun the consultation process in developing the first Active Travel Strategy for Midlothian and it is anticipated the Strategy will be completed in Spring 2017. The Strategy will be effective from 2017 to 2020.

The Strategy will compliment the Midlothian Local Development Plan, the Midlothian Core Paths Plan and Midlothian's Green Network Plan

The strategy will also include the following outcomes:

1. an action plan;
2. walking and cycling infrastructure, including a local cycle network plan;

3. behaviour change, promotional and training activities;
4. and a monitoring plan.

## Midlothian Council



*(photo showing Midlothian Council 's electric cargo bike and Councillor Rosie receiving Cycling Scotland's Cycle Friendly Employer Award for Midlothian Council)*

Midlothian Council is a Cycle Friendly Employer awarded by Cycling Scotland and carries out in-house training with all Council HGV and PSV drivers to make them aware of cyclists whilst driving (Lothian Buses Training Video). Also all new large HGV fleet vehicles will be fitted with the appropriate cyclist detection systems.

The Council also currently has 2 pool bikes and an electric cargo bike available for use by staff. The Council have agreed a rate per mile for staff using their own bike for work purposes.

## Cyclist Safety

During 2016 there were 11 pedal cycle casualties as a result of road crashes, of which 3 caused serious injury and 8 caused slight injury. 2 of the crashes involved children with one causing serious injury and the other causing slight injury

The Council continues to monitor cycle related road crashes in Midlothian to determine if there are "clusters" and whether other interventions are required.

## Cycle Parking



*(Photo showing cycle parking in Penicuik Town Centre and at St Andrews Primary School in Gorebridge)*

Currently there is cycle parking at all of Midlothian's town centres, schools and leisure centres. It is the intention to increase the number of parking spaces in the town centres in the future and to add plans to the cycle pages of Midlothian Council's web site showing where the cycle parking is available in the town centres.

## Cycleway Signing



In recent years the signing of Midlothian's cycle routes including NCR1, Route 196, Dalkeith commuting route and Roslin/Loanhead cycleway has significantly improved, thanks to the assistance of local volunteers and Sustrans.

## Recent and upcoming Cycling Infrastructure Additions

Sustrans awarded matched funding from their Community Links Budget for the following projects:

- Extension of street lighting along Loanhead Railway Path between the between Bilston Glen Viaduct to cottage at Mount Marle (£60,000) now complete.
- Extension of street lighting on NCR Route 196 between Dalhousie Chesters, Bonnyrigg and Gorton Road, Rosewell (due to be completed by June 2017).



*(Route 196 street lighting)*

- Construction of Cycleway – Core Path S-17 (From B6482 Suttislea via Bryanswood). *Now complete (photos shown below).*



*(Bryanswood shared use path)*

- Construction of short section of cycleway at Gowkley Moss (completed March 2017).



*(Gowkley Moss shared use path)*

- Construction of shared use cycleway from new Bryanswood cycleway to new Newbattle High School entrance and conversion of existing crossing to a “toucan “ crossing. Due to be completed by June 2017.
- Traffic signal junction at Morris Road/ Suttislea Road, Newtongrange with “toucan crossing” for joint cyclist/pedestrian use and widened shared use path.



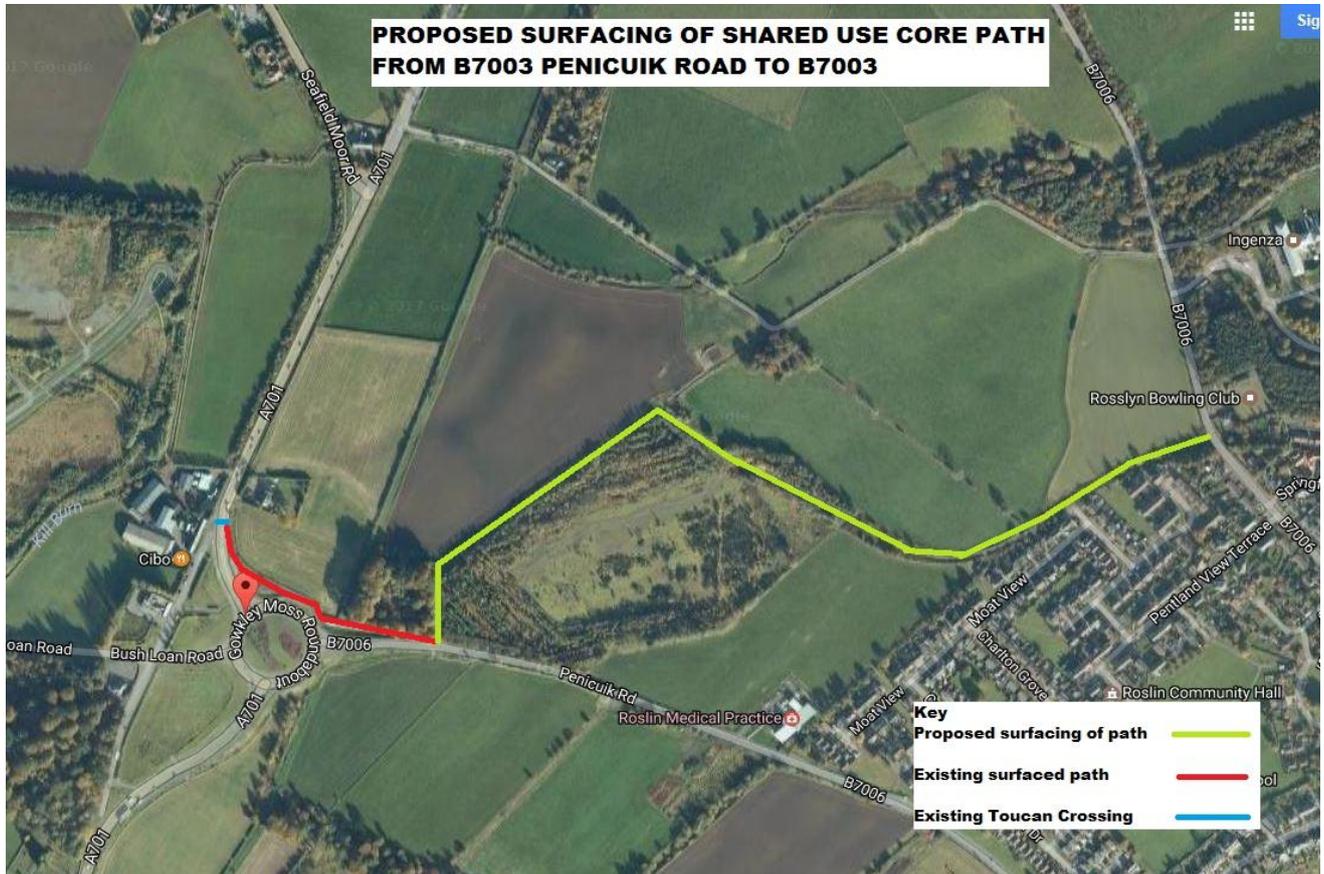
*(Morris Road/Suttislea Road, Newtongrange traffic signals with toucan crossing)*

- 2 new joint cycle/pedestrian zebra crossings at the new Gore Glen Primary School, Gorebridge.



*(Cycle/pedestrian zebra crossings at Gore Glen Primary School)*

- New traffic signals at A7/ Powdermill Brae junction, Gorebridge with two toucan crossings at the junction (due to be constructed in 2017 by housing developer).
- Cycle/ pedestrian access only at the junction of Engine Road at the A7, Gorebridge (due to constructed 2017/18 by housing developer)
- Recently Midlothian Council were awarded matched funding from Sustrans for the surfacing of the existing core path between Gowkley Moss and Roslin. The work is likely to begin in August 2017.



If you require any further information on cycling in Midlothian please contact Dave Kenny (Cycling Officer) on 0131 271 3398 or email him at [dave.kenny@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:dave.kenny@midlothian.gov.uk)