



CYCLING IN MIDLOTHIAN (2016 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 Borders Railway but an alternative route via Eskbank/Newbattle is due to be completed in Autumn 2016.

Roslin to Straiton Pond (3.5Km)



(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 has recently been completed. Midlothian Council is in the long term process of connecting the route to Penicuik with a mixture of on and off road cycle facilities. ***Recently Sustrans agreed in principle to construct the cycle route from Lasswade Road to Shawfair utilising the former railway line, as 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.***

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 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.

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	Bonnyrigg Road	EH22 3LA	0131-663 1093
	Maybush Garden Centre			
Dalkeith	Buchanath's Forge	5 Newmillis Road	EH22 1DH	0131-561 5100
	The Buccleuch	90 High Street	EH22 1HZ	0131-660 4840
Eskbank	Andriens Inn	1 Dalrymple Road	EH22 3AT	0131-663 2166
Howgate	Howgate Restaurant	AG094	EH26 8PY	01968-670000
Lasswade	Dobbies	Dobbies Garden	EH18 1AZ	0131-663 1941
	Restaurant	Wings Ganneton Road A772		
	Esk Valley Table	Manville Dykes Road	EH18 1AN	0131-561 9090
	Table			
	The Lard & Dog	5 High Street	EH18 1NL	0131-663 9219
	The Melville Inn	Melville Nurseries Ganneton Road A772	EH18 1AR	0131-660 4925
	The Paper Mill	2 West Mill Road	EH18 1LX	0131-663 1412
Leadburn	The Leadburn Inn	A70 (A/03A)G094	EH46 7BE	01968-676077
Lothianhead	KEA cafe	Coobee Way, Strathairn Road	EH20 9BY	0131-440 6600
	Cafe Plancia	Plancia		
	Pentland Plants	Pentland Mains	EH20 9GS	0131-440 0895
	National Mining Museum Cafe	Lady Victoria Colliery, A7	EH22 4QN	0131-663 7519
Newtown-grange	The Gallery Cafe	4 West Street	EH26 8DL	01968-678804
Pensicuk	The Original Rosslyn Hotel	Main Street	EH25 9LE	0131-440 2384
Roslin	Roslin Chapel Guest House Tea Room	2 Pensicuk Road	EH25 9LH	0131-440 3326

Midlothian

(Photo showing Ian Gardner, Director, Rosslyn Chapel Trust receiving VisitScotland'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 second 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 with icons linking in to various maps, highlighting local cycling and walking routes, etc. To make it inclusive to the whole community, it is planned to have paper maps displayed in leaflet holders by the consoles at the stations. It is also planned to install new signage from the stations to local facilities and town centres.

Midlothian Council is in the process of providing mapping information showing these links and local walking/cycling and bus routes. These maps would be titled 'Out & About Midlothian' with future plans to cover further areas with similar map projects using the same title.

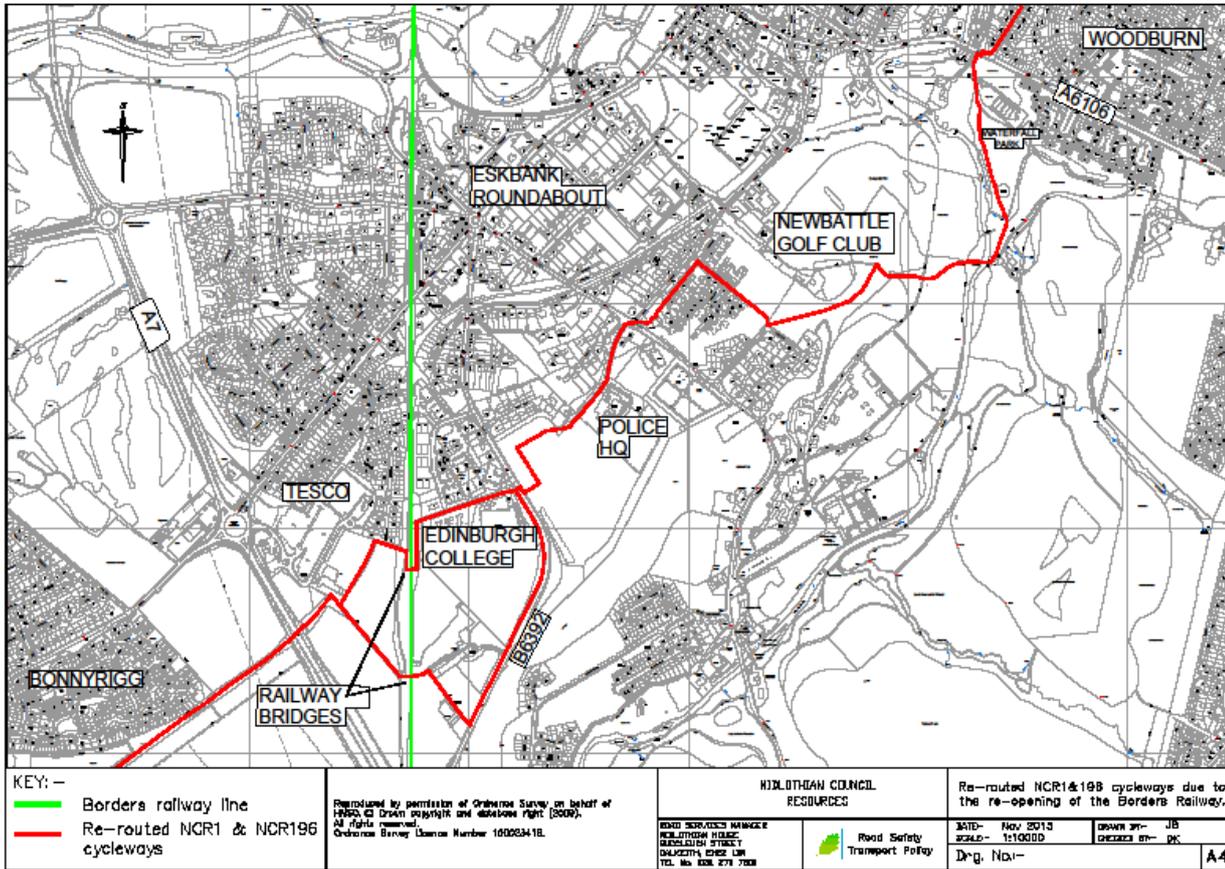
Volunteers have also put together six cycle routes in Midlothian called "Out and About Midlothian" with a view to making them into route maps that will be available via the Council web pages in 2016 and paper versions will be available at all of Midlothian's railway stations.

Midlothian Tourism Forum have also produced the "North Esk Cycle Loop" leaflet that will be available at Midlothian Council offices and Midlothian railway stations

The Council have also recently recruited an Active Travel Marketing Officer role for a 6 month period to promote all of the above; working with the Junior Rail Safety Officers in local schools, setting up information stands at local supermarkets etc, helping with project evaluation and taking led walks.

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 open in Autumn 2016. A map showing the diversion route is shown below.



Regrettably a proposed cycle/walking route to /from Newbattle Abbey Gardens to Eskbank Railway Station had to be abandoned as agreement to construct the path could not be agreed with the landowner.

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. Funding from Sustrans has recently been awarded for a 900m section of shared use footpath along Eskview Road and Bogwood Road.



(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 Redctions

Midlothian Council have introduced several speed limit reductions on cycle commuter routes including A703 from Hillend, Lasswade Road and A772 Gilmerton Road

Schools



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

Midlothian currently has 14 Cycle Friendly Primary Schools, 1 SEN Cycle Friendly School and 3 Friendly Secondary Schools with cycle clubs established at the 3 schools. Also in 2014, 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 undertaken by a member of staff or volunteer. The Scottish average is for this type of training is 38%.

The new Newbattle High School will have extensive connecting cycle routes and cycle facilities at the new school. Midlothian Council also successfully bid for Ibike officers based at Newbattle and Lasswade High Schools until June 2017. The Ibike officers will integrate with the High School and several surrounding primary schools to raise the profile of cycling in the schools.

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. There are plans to hold a Cycling Festival for Midlothian's Primary Schools on the cycle track in 2016.

The track is being used for the first Midlothian Primary School Bike Festival on 14 June 2016 and is for **P6 and P7** pupils and it is hoped this will become an annual event.



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

Policy

Midlothian Council has begun the consultation process in developing a Active Travel Strategy for Midlothian and it is anticipated the Strategy will be completed in 2016/early 2017.

Midlothian Council



(photo showing the Cyclecar system fitted to 4 refuse vehicles in Midlothian 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 the current fleet of HGV vehicles is due to be modified to include an audible warning with camera view when turning left and all new HGV and PSV vehicles will be fitted with radar to detect cyclists.

Cyclist Safety

During 2015 there was an overall reduction in road crashes that caused injury to cyclists in Midlothian compared with 2014. In 2015 there were 11 road crashes causing injury to cyclists with 1 fatal crash regrettably causing the death of a cyclist on the A68 Trunk Road and one crash causing serious 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



(Photo showing fingerpost signs on Roslin to Straiton Pond Cycleway)

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.

Cycling Improvements in 2015/16

- Localised flooding on Roslin to Lasswade Road cycleway at Edgefield Road- (Solution - Drainage improvement on Edgefield Road). Work complete but still some ongoing drainage issues.
- Localised flooding (icing during winter) and poor surface at Penicuik to Dalkeith cycleway between Harpers Brae car park and sewage works (Solution - instal filter drain and resurface road in partnership with Scottish Water). Work completed December 2015.
- Local carriageway widening with cycle lanes and advance stoplines on A703 at Seafield Moor Road/ Seafield Road traffic signals. Work is now complete.

Recent Cycling Infrastructure Additions

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

- Footpath widening, A701 at Milton Bridge as part of long term off road connection to the Roslin to Shawfair cycleway. Objections were received during its legal process to re-determine the public right of passage for cycling usage. A report will be submitted to the Scottish Government to decide on whether the objections should be upheld or not.
- Footpath widening on B6392 Dalhousie Road as part of diverted NCR Route 1 diversion resulting from the Borders Railway re-opening (£128,000). Completed March 2015.
- Installation of traffic signals, toucan crossings and footway widening at A7/Main Street, Newtongrange (£170,000). Improved pedestrian/cyclist access to the new Newtongrange Railway Station. Traffic signals switched on in July 2015.
- Footpath widening Bogwood Road/ Eskview Road and Eskview Road (£100,000). Completed June 2015. Currently undergoing legal re-determination of public right of passage process.
- Extension of street lighting along Loanhead Railway Path between the between Bilston Glen Viaduct to cottage at Mount Marle (£60,000) completed 2016.
- Construction of 1100 metres of foot/cycle path at former Dalkeith High School site (£140,000), connecting Newmills Road to Musselburgh Road, Dalkeith and connecting Musselburgh Road to James Lean Avenue, Dalkeith. Completed April 2015.

Sustrans Community Links Bids for 2016/17

Two funding bids were made to Sustrans Community Links 2016/17 and the outcome of both bids will be known in May 2016. The bids were as follows:-

- Phase 3 Penicuik to Roslin Institute – Gowkley Moss Footpath Widening including surfacing and street lighting along part of core path 27.

