

Cycling in Midlothian

Midlothian currently has three existing cycle routes that cross into adjoining local authority areas, with planning permission for a fourth.

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

The Coast and 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.

National Cycle Network Route 196 - Penicuik to East Lothian Boundary via Dalkeith (16 Km)

A 16km, mostly off road cycleway that begins at Valleyfield in Penicuik and extends eastwards through Auchendinny, Roslin Glen, Rosewell, Bonnyrigg, Eskbank and Dalkeith.



Roslin Glen path

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 almost complete.

Roslin to Straiton Pond (3.5Km)

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.

It is hoped the City of Edinburgh will extend the route to Shawfair 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 Leadburn Cycleway (9 km)

Midlothian and Borders Councils combined with Sustrans to facilitate a feasibility/ design report for a cycleway between Roslin and Peebles. Planning permission was granted for the cycleway within both Planning Authorities and Midlothian is currently 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 and some sections due to be constructed in the next few years.

Cycle Tourism

In April Midlothian Council, Midlothian Tourism Forum and Visit Scotland held an "Increasing business from leisure cyclists" event to attract Midlothian businesses keen to welcome more visitors and customers who use bicycles.

A database of cafes, restaurants, visitor attractions and cycle shops/cycle engineers has now been established and will be on the Council's cycling web pages in the near future.

Recently Rosslyn Chapel and the National Mining Museum Scotland at Newtongrange became the first two Lothians visitor attractions to achieve the Visit Scotland Cyclists Welcome award.

For more information about cycling in Midlothian go to www.midlothian.gov.uk/cycling or contact Dave Kenny, Cycling Officer dave.kenny@midlothian.gov.uk 0131 271 3398

