

Spokes competition 2015, Entry 12

Figgate to Meadows – The Playground & Coffee Run

2. Who is it suitable for? [it doesn't need to suit everyone] *circle all that apply...*

This is a route I primarily use with my kids, but is suitable for anyone who likes playgrounds or coffee.

3. Where is the route located? *circle all that apply ...*

Ed south / Ed east

4. Brief description of route

a. Start: Figgate Park

b. End: East Meadows Playground (~6km)

c. Desc: From Figgate park to the Innocent Cycle Path at Jewel Park is around 1.5km of quiet residential streets - via Hamilton terrace, Durham Road, Durham Road South, Mountastle Drive South, Bingham Drive and Bingham Crescent). From Jewel Park follow The Innocent Path (NCR 1/76) west to The Meadows. This is well signed and almost entirely off road shared or cycle path, except for a few short sections on quiet streets between Parkside (north end of the tunnel) and Gifford Park. All the on road sections have pavements suitable for use by younger children if required.

5. Any interesting / useful / beautiful features / facilities en route ...

Very popular climbing frame in Jewel Park.

Great views of Arthur's seat with brambles and raspas in season.

The Innocent Tunnel – my kids never tire of that.

Toilets at east end of The Meadows.

Lots of good cafes nearby, with The Pavillion Café at the end of Jawbone Walk a particular favourite.

6. Why is this a favourite route of yours? [This question is very important in the judging. You can just write one or two sentences or up to **300 words maximum**].

This may be far from the most exciting cycle route in Edinburgh but it is, for me and my kids, one of the most enjoyable - an old favourite that has been part of so many memorable family days out. When I first started hauling our twins in a trailer this was one of the first 'real' journeys we tried and it was a real confidence boost in using the bike trailer as a way of getting around. The kids have since (thankfully) graduated to their own bikes and, while we're starting to explore further afield, this is still a very popular and regular haunt. The lure of the big Meadows playpark is always enough to spur on the most reluctant or tired young cyclist and the promise of a coffee and a bun at Victor Hugo enough to lighten the mood of even the most grumpy parent. The final bonus is that it's downhill pretty much all the way home.

As an aside, this is also the route we've used to join PoP. This year, 2015, the kids pedalled their own bikes for the first time and absolutely loved it.

