

Route Planner

1:30,000 (2 inches: 1 mile)

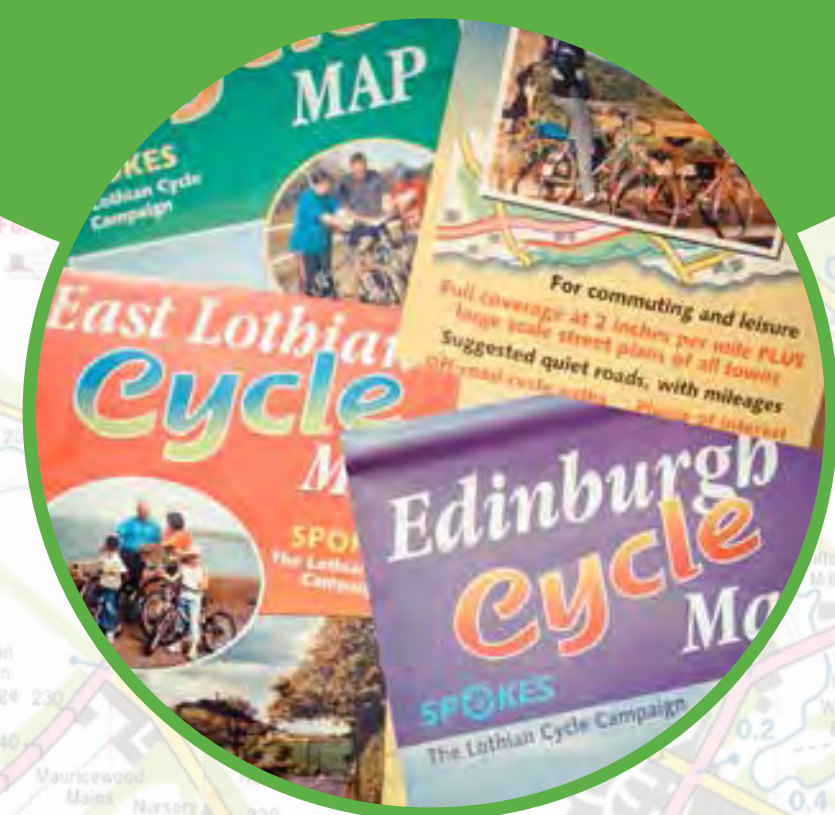
Midlothian is bounded by the Pentlands and the Moorfoot Hills, but the plain between is far from flat. The river valleys of the North and South Esk and the Tyne cut through the hills to north and south.

3 Mileage Distances are given between road junctions, and along cycle paths, rounded off to the nearest tenth of a mile.

1997 to 2006

“In later years the kids were cleared from the streets, our playground, like Highlanders cleared from their land to make way for sheep.”

— Jimmy Reid, Herald, 19.11.97



Maps

1998 - Midlothian

1999 - Edinburgh 5th Edition (full colour)

2000 - West Lothian

2003 - East Lothian

2004 - Edinburgh 7th edition

Spokes produces its first Lothian map, Midlothian, in 1998. The Lothians maps have several unique selling points, including showing gradients and distances.

By 1999 the Edinburgh map has sold 40,000 copies. By 2004 it is on its 7th edition.



Traffic count

2006 - On a dark showery day in November Spokes volunteers count the traffic. Cyclists make up 13.9% of all citybound Lothian Road vehicles from 8am-9am. 163 buses and commercial vehicles are clogged by 658 private cars, most with only one occupant. Spokes has carried out two counts per year ever since, at Lothian Road and Forrest Road in May and November.



Celebration of national network

2000 - The Spokes/Sustrans Bikefest fills Princes Street with bikes to mark the opening of Sustrans' 5000 mile UK wide network. Spokes says:- "It is hugely to Sustrans' credit that they have achieved so much, but it is crazy that government seeks to build a National Network through a charity without legal powers or national funds...." Spokes calls for a national "trunk" cycle network for which the government would have ultimate responsibility".



Coloured cycle lanes under threat

In **2004** the Council's then-powerful Streetscape Section decides that all World Heritage Area cycle facilities must be black. The red lanes have made the population more aware of the option of getting about by bike and are a likely cause for continuing growth in cycling. Many members contact their councillors, and after a long hard battle most of the coloured lanes are retained.

Other map features

- Woodland
- River, burn, pond, reservoir, etc
- Built-up area
- Cycle shop
- Selected leisure facilities and points of interest

Midlothian boundary

Where this follows a road or burn has been offset slightly to avoid confusion with other boundaries. This has been done at the 1996 OS Landranger and at time of publication (1998) is under review. Small sections at the north-east 'corners' have been left as they are for lack of space on the sheet. South and west 'corners' of those areas are visible to cyclists.



Off-road path bridged

Spokes campaigns against the North Edinburgh Path Network being cut by development at Ferry Road. We win a red metal bridge over the road.

Funding doubled

Spokes member Sarah Boyack, Scotland's Transport Minister, brings in new cycle funding mechanisms via the Public Transport and Cycling Walking Safer Streets (CWSS) funds, resulting in doubled investment by 2006. Sarah Boyack addresses a Spokes Public Meeting:- "I want to see a step-change in funding for walking / cycling projects... [so they] play a proper role in our fully integrated transport policy." Sadly she is sacked soon after.

The Bike Station

Spokes partly funds setting up the Castlecliff Bike Workshop. They collect and refurbish 100 cycles to give to pupils as part of the Safe Routes for Schools project. Later the workshop moves to Waverley Station and becomes The Bike Station.

Tram proposals

Trams are proposed for Edinburgh. Spokes supports trams but with strong reservations:- detailed design of tramlines must be totally bike-aware; offroad paths like the North Edinburgh Path Network must stay open to cyclists; there must be bike carriage on trams. The long campaign of integration of trams and bikes begins.

Funding removed

The Public Transport Fund is scrapped and cycle funds plunge, as Spokes had predicted.

Funding restored

After much Spokes campaigning the LibDem conference orders a rethink on cycle funding. LibDem Transport Minister Tavish Scott sets up the best Sustrans deal so far, £4m each for 06/07 and 07/08, also enabling better future planning.