

CYCLING FROM EAGLESHAM

INTRODUCTION

Eaglesham is an excellent centre for cycle trips particularly in the area towards Strathaven and Darvel. The opportunities have been further enhanced with the change in the Moor road B764 to a single lane route with cycle lanes. It is a pity there is no cycle lane out from Clarkston but once in Eaglesham there is a range of opportunities from short evening trips to a local pub to longer all day expeditions. The countryside is hilly and some routes can be a little challenging but the roads are very quiet and the area is ideal for cycling. This leaflet gives some ideas for enjoying the area by bike. Some routes are well signed and following these with a local map alternative trips can be devised. Whether creating your own route or following one of these suggestions get on your bike and enjoy the countryside. All routes start from Eaglesham cross.

THE ROUTES

1. The 'Golfball' – Corse Hill weather station. 18 miles
2. Evening trip to Auldhouse Arms. 15 miles – or less
3. Jackton, Waterfoot, and Bonnyton. 13 miles
4. Thorntonhall, Carmunnock, and Kittochside. 12 miles
5. Back of Ballageich. 9 miles
6. Strathaven. 22 miles
7. Moor road and Louden Valley. 34 miles
8. Moor road and Whitelee Forest. 28 miles
9. Strathaven – the long route. 34 miles

Route 1. The Golfball – Corse Hill weather station

The 'golfball' is a weather station visible on the skyline south of Eaglesham. From it there are excellent views in all directions. It is accessed by a forestry road from Carrot farm.

Head south out of Eaglesham. Don't take the Strathaven turnoff – bear right where the road forks, and then head uphill for approx 2 miles until just after the road to the National Wind Turbine Centre. Cross the access stile on the left and walk across the field and up the first part of the forestry road – remember to close the gates after you. The road winds up through the forest to reach the summit of the hill at the weather station(1232ft). On a good day there are views across Glasgow as far as Ben More to the north, of Arran west, south to Glen Trool, and east to Tinto hill. Follow the road downhill. ½ mile after the turnoff to Waterside on the right [route 7], the road turns left and uphill to an old quarry. This section can be muddy. Go to the right round the quarry to reach a gate below High

Allerstocks farm. Down to Laigh Allerstocks and enjoy the ride back round to a crossroads(2 ½ mi). From here left towards Eaglesham [signed to East Kilbride] – or straight on to extend the trip to Strathaven [route 5]. The road back is gradually uphill and then down towards Auldhouse. At the T-junction(4mi) turn left and follow signs back to Eaglesham – or via Auldhouse for local refreshment.

Route 2. Evening trip to Auldhouse Arms.

This is an exploration of the lanes immediately southeast of Eaglesham but has the added attraction of ending up at Auldhouse for a drink or meal. It follows a series of loops around Auldhouse and can be extended or shortened depending on the degree of thirst or hunger. Direct distance from Eaglesham to Auldhouse 4 miles. If eating in Auldhouse best to book.

Strathaven direction out of Eaglesham following the left turn ½ mile out of the village. Shortly before the T-junction (2½ mi) turn right into Craigend Rd and follow it round to a sharp right turn uphill (2mi) (signed Strathaven). Take next right after Laigh Cleughearn farm and follow round over cross-roads until T-junction(3mi). Left here and left again at Millwell. Through Leaburn hamlet and then first right which curves round Langlands golf course and up alongside the first hole. Right at the top past the clubhouse and on to Auldhouse. Continue past Auldhouse Arms to return to Eaglesham

Route 3. Auldhouse, Jackton, Waterfoot and Bonnyton.

A trip round Eaglesham's neighbouring villages.

Head south out of Eaglesham and left following the road to Strathaven. Right at the T-junction [2.5mi] and follow the signs to Auldhouse. Left after entering the village. After double bend in the road left and left again alongside the ever expanding boundary of east Kilbride. Follow the sign right to Jackton then left at the T junction and right shortly after into Hayhill Rd. Left at end of road, under the Glasgow southern Orbital, and first left towards Eaglesham. Where the road forks bear right to Waterfoot, following the signs down across the White Cart to the crossroads. The climb from here is 450ft – alternative route straight back to Eaglesham.

Left at the crossroads and then right into Floors Rd [cycle sign Newton Mearns].

Continue to roundabout then left under Southern Orbital and follow sign to Bonnyton.

Uphill climb past Bonnyton Moor Farm where Rudolf Hess landed in 1942, and the long 5th hole of Bonnyton golf course. Enjoy the view at the top and then the run back down to Eaglesham.

Route 4. Thorntonhall, Carmunnock, and Kittochside Approx 12 miles

Another group of local villages and countryside close to Glasgow and East Kilbride.

North – Clarkston direction – from Eaglesham Cross and right down Holehouse Road just before the shops. Cross the ford over the White Cart [may not be passable after heavy rain] then bear right at the first junction and left at T-junction following cycle signs to Thorntonhall. Through the village and cross the roundabout on the A726 – Glasgow direction. Just after the roundabout turn right into Waterside Road. In Carmunnock turn right into Cathkin Road [opposite Manse Rd]. There is a short cycle lane accessed via Gallowhill Rd on the left. At a z-bend after the cycle lane take the unmarked minor road to the right. After approx 2 miles turn right at T-junction opposite West Rogerton farm. Through Kittochside village and left at T to the roundabout at Kittochside Country Life Museum. Use the pavement to follow the main road and then cycle signs and lights to cross the A726 turning right and then left - signed as cycle route back to Eaglesham. ¼ mile on turn right towards Thorntonhall. In the village turn left out of Braehead Rd into Thornton Rd. This leads under GSO then left and immediately right into Hayhill Rd – right at the end and back into Eaglesham.

Route 5. Back of Ballageich and Humbie Road.

Explores the area between Eaglesham and Newton Mearns with a short off-road section

Start from the top of the village if you want to avoid the initial climb. Turn right off Moor Road as you leave the village and follow uphill past Bonnyton Golf Club. Where the road turns sharp right just before the top of the hill go left [worth going to the top for the view across Glasgow first]. The road becomes a track past East Moorhouse farm – straight on, not left – and can be wet.. At the end of the track there is the option of a detour left to the higher of the two dams [Bennan Loch]. Otherwise right and downhill to the T-junction at Eastwood Golf Club. Turn right towards Mearnskirk. At the Southern Orbital roundabout follow the cycle signs for Eaglesham – Titwood Rd, East Titwood farm and right at Humbie Rd.

Route 6. Strathaven.

This is an excellent 2 – 3 hour round trip with Strathaven Park a good half way stop – canteen, putting, boating pond etc. Needs care with directions / map first time as most of the road junctions have no signs.

Take the Strathaven direction out of Eaglesham following the sign to left, then right at the junction 2.5 miles on, right and left after Broxburn kennels. Follow the road round to a right turn after Laigh Cleuchern farm and right again at the next crossroads – the same point is reached by continuing straight on past the farm and taking the road signed to Darvel. Uphill [500ft in all from Eaglesham] then 2.5mi down to crossroads. Left to

Strathaven. Another 2.5mi then shortly before main A71 road turn up left – first left after cross-roads – then right and either....

...first left and left again to return to Eaglesham, or

...straight on into Strathaven, turning left into Letham Rd and Threestanes Rd to reach Strathaven Park

To return to Eaglesham continue up Threestanes Rd out of the town, then first left [at a right hand bend]. The road back winds gradually uphill for 3 miles. Turn left at the first farm going downhill [Dykehead] and left again at the next house. Follow this road over the crossroads and retrace back to Eaglesham.

Route 7. Moor Road and Loudon Valley.

Exploring the area above Darvel – a fairly strenuous trip.

Head up Montgomery St and over the Moor road – 5.5mi to the A77. Left on to the cycle lane and take the A719 to Galston. Through Waterside and Moscow. On the road down towards Galston take a track on left signed to Howletburn [at Loudon Castle sign].

Follow for 1mi then right downhill at end of track. Bear left uphill at next junction passing Loudon Mains Country Club. Continue on this road overlooking the valley to a crossroads. Left here and the route is up and down across Mucks Water and Glen water burns. Continue past Feoch farm and then an unsigned left before the road descends downhill to Darvel. Pass Highside and Windshields farms to confirm the route. Follow this road for 5mi eventually crossing and following Calder water to reach a crossroads. Left in direction of East Kilbride gradually uphill then down towards Glasgow. Left at the T-junction then follow signs back to Eaglesham.

Route 8. Moor Road and Whitelee forest.

An off road route through the forest – site of the propose wind farm so likely to change.

Follow route 7 to Waterside. After the rise coming out of the village take road to left opposite Hareshaw farm. Follow this road for 2.5 mi then right past Craigends farm, through the gate and on to the forestry road. After approx $\frac{3}{4}$ mi turn left for an 8mi route through the Whitelee forest. After approx 5mi turn right at T-junction and follow the main route until coming out of the forest with the view over Glasgow. Follow the road down to T-junction then left and follow signs back to Eaglesham.

Route 9. Strathaven – the long route.

An energetic morning or afternoon taking advantage of more quiet roads between Darvel and Strathaven.

Follow route 6 uphill and down to the crossroads. Turn right in the direction of Darvel and left 0.5mi on where the road forks. 3mi further on a short downhill section take a left turn immediately before Meikle Hareshaw farm. Then right at T-junction and bear right past Gillhall. Loudon Hill [316metres] is a striking landmark on the right. Turn left and immediately right across the A71 to follow a quiet road back to Strathaven. After 3mi the route goes over a crossroads and left uphill off the B745. Another 4mi then left at T-junction, over the Avon Water and immediately right uphill and down into Strathaven – via Main St [non-traffic], through the square and into Letham Rd and ThreestanesRd to reach the Park. Join route 6 again for the return to Eaglesham.

Compiled by Duncan McIntyre