

Cycling for All

Route
2

In and around Dalbeattie



Route 2 - Dalbeattie, Dalbeattie Forest, Colvend, Rockcliffe, Mark Hill, Dalbeattie Forest (Barnbarroch).

16 miles (26km) approx., 12.2 miles (19.6km) off-tarmac, approx. 740 feet (225 metres) total climb. Allow 3 hours to complete the route. Suitable for mountain and regular (touring) bikes, not suitable for road bikes with very narrow tyres.

Starting from the Coach Parking on the main road to Dumfries (A711) adjacent to Colliston Park.

This is one of a series of circular cycle routes, centred on Dalbeattie, devised by CTC Dumfries and Galloway and published by Dalbeattie Community Initiative.



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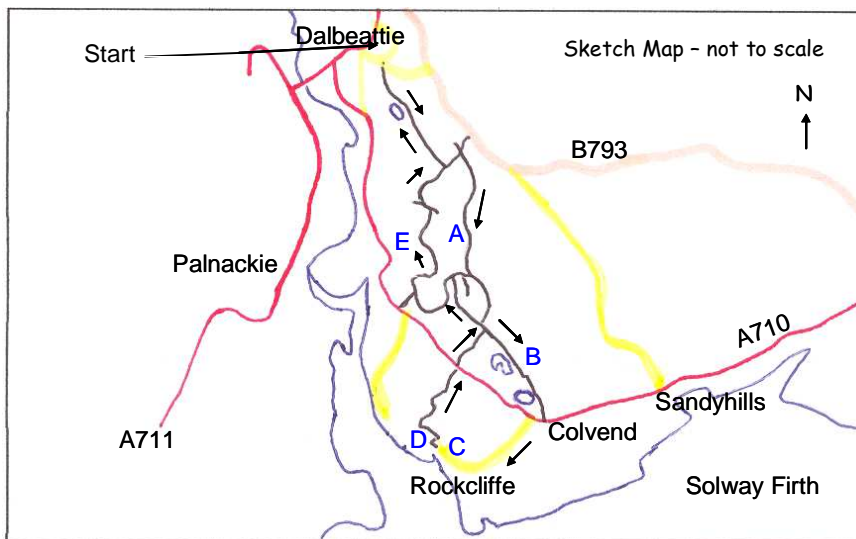
Dalbeattie - the natural place to cycle

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Miles (Km) from Start	Route Description
0	Leave the Coach Parking, turning Right onto the main road. Take the first Right into Barhill Road and follow the road round to the T-junction at the Primary School.
0.6m (1.0km)	Turn Right then take the second road on the Left - William Street. Continue to the end of the street and straight ahead into the forest.
1.2m (1.9km)	Follow the path, turn Left at the junction and head uphill to a T-junction.
1.3m (2.0km)	Turn Right at the T-junction and follow the track. On your right, through the trees and below you is Plantain Loch. At the next junction bear Left uphill and follow the track.
2.4m (3.9km)	Turn Left at the T-junction, then turn Right uphill (2.7m, 4.3km) at the crossroads.
	(A) Continue on this same track until you reach a T-junction at the bottom of a hill.
5.1m (8.2km)	Turn Left , then bear Right (5.4m, 8.7km) downhill along the side of Barean Loch (B) .
	Stay on the track along the lochside, round the gate and out of the forest onto an unmade road past houses to Colvend where there is a restaurant and shop if you need refreshment by now !



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6.5m (10.5km)	Turn Right onto the main road (take care), then take the next Left turn signposted Rockcliffe. After a few ups and downs there is a long freewheel downhill to Rockcliffe where there is another tea-room, hotel and toilets.
8.1m (13.0km)	At the end of the road before the car park, turn Right signed Baron's Craig Hotel, then Left at the T-junction (C). Follow the road to the end and continue straight ahead past the hotel entrance.
8.4m (13.5km)	(D) At a small clearing where there is a gate, go round the gate then bear slightly Right into the Mark Hill forest, past the large signboard onto the start of the Muckle Walk. At the first junction bear Right on the level track. Some parts are steep with a rough and loose surface so take care.
8.9m (14.3km)	Turn Right , following small sign 'A710 →', then Left at the next A710 sign.
9.4m (15.1km)	When you reach the main road, watch for traffic then turn Left and immediately Right , almost straight across the main road, down a road marked as 'Private Road'.
9.9m (15.9km)	Follow this road (careful on the steep downhill section) almost to the end. Turn Left through a gate signed 'Access to Forest', proceed diagonally to the Right across the small paddock to another gate. Through this gate then bear Right to join the path beside a wall. Follow this path straight ahead and through another gate back into Dalbeattie Forest.
10.1m (16.2km)	When you reach the T-junction with the forest track, turn Left .
10.9m (17.5km)	At the next T-junction, turn Left again. The track winds up and down a bit with some nice views to the left during the first section, then it's into the woods.
11.9m (19.1km)	Turn Right uphill, signposted Dalbeattie. The track climbs quite steeply but gives you a couple of breathers as well. (E)
12.7m (20.4km)	Continue on this track then at the next junction, continue straight ahead uphill.
13.8m (22.2km)	Turn Left at the next junction. When the track drops downhill to join another track, continue straight ahead, this time with Plantain Loch on your left.
14.8 m (23.8km)	Turn Right uphill at the next junction. A path joins from the left, then another from the right, but we keep to the main path and join an unmade road which emerges opposite Dalbeattie Primary School.
15.5m (24.9km)	Turn Right , then almost immediately Left onto Barhill Road.
16.0m (25.7km)	At the bottom of Barhill Road turn Left back to the Coach Parking
	Well Done !!!!

Capital letters in the Route Description refer to the Points of Interest noted on the back page and marked on the map opposite.



Points of Interest

A As you coast down the next big hill, about half way up the slope on your right you may spot some brave (foolish) MTB'er attempting the (in)famous Slab which is on the Red (expert) mountain bike route. Dalbeattie Forest is one of the 7Stanes locations in Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders where new mountain bike routes have been built.

B Borean Loch has a couple of seats on the shore if you fancy a break. There is a lot of wildlife to observe. The loch also contains a crannog, a sort of man-made island dating from the Iron Age and used as a living platform.

C In the grounds of the Baron's Craig Hotel is the Rockcliffe Gallery which hosts exhibitions of work by professional artists specialising in landscape and wildlife subjects.

D As a digression, you may fancy a quick trip back in time. One of the signs by the gate shows the way to the Mote of Mark. Leave the bikes by the gate, then a short, steep climb leads to the summit, giving superb views over the estuary. This the site of 5th - 7th Century AD hill fort, once of some importance in the British Kingdom of Rheged. Finds from archaeological excavations of the site are in the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.

E A welcome seat at the top gives a superb view South West across the Urr estuary to Palnackie with Screel hill beyond. There is a way marked path up Screel starting at a Forestry Commission car park just off the A711 coast road. If coming from Dalbeattie, turn Right just before the big pine tree (a Corsican pine).



For Your Safety

- Be aware that your safety and that of anyone in your charge is your responsibility.
- Always observe the provisions of the Highway Code when on the road.
- Show consideration for other road users and pedestrians.
- Ensure that your bike is roadworthy.
- Cycle within your capabilities and those of others in your group.

Route devised by members of Dumfries and Galloway CTC. The CTC, which was originally founded as the Cyclist's Touring Club in 1878, is the UK's largest and oldest cycling organisation with over 70,000 members and associates. CTC campaigns for the benefit of all cyclists and provides a comprehensive range of services for members. Web address: www.ctc.org.uk

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