

CYCLING AROUND EAGLESHAM AND WHITELEE

INTRODUCTION

Eaglesham is an excellent centre for cycle trips particularly in the area towards Strathaven and Darvel. The Whitelee wind farm offers off road opportunities both within the wind farm and for routes crossing the area. 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 generally very quiet. The main risk can be of punctures from thorns after autumn hedge cutting. Routes through the windfarm are on good off road surfaces.

This list 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. The best map for the Eaglesham area is Ordnance Survey Explorer no 334. OS Landranger 64 [Glasgow] covers Eaglesham but some routes extend on to 70 and 71. For detail of Whitelee it is best to use the windfarm leaflet/map available from the visitor centre. Whether creating your own route or following one of these suggestions get on your bike and enjoy the countryside. Other than no 1, all routes start from Eaglesham cross. Distances are approximate. Comments or suggestions welcome – Macintyre74@btinternet.com

THE ROUTES

1. Around Auldhouse. 10 miles
2. Auldhouse, Jackton, Waterfoot, and Bonnyton. 13 miles
3. Thorntonhall, Carmunnock, and Kittochside. 12 miles
4. Back of Ballageich. 9 miles
5. Williamwood and Mearns Castle. 8 miles
6. Mearns and moor. 13 miles
7. Strathaven. 22 miles
8. Strathaven – the long route. 34 miles
9. Windfarm Spine Road. 19 miles
10. Corse Hill. 15 miles
11. Over the windfarm and back by Auldhouse. 18 miles
12. Moor road and Loudon Valley. 34 miles
13. Waterside and back through Whitelee.

Route 1. Around Auldhouse.

This is an exploration of the lanes to the southeast of Eaglesham with the Auldhouse Arms as a refreshment option - catering varies, check the website. The route is described as a circuit from the pub but as a trip from Eaglesham can be varied depending on degree of thirst or hunger.

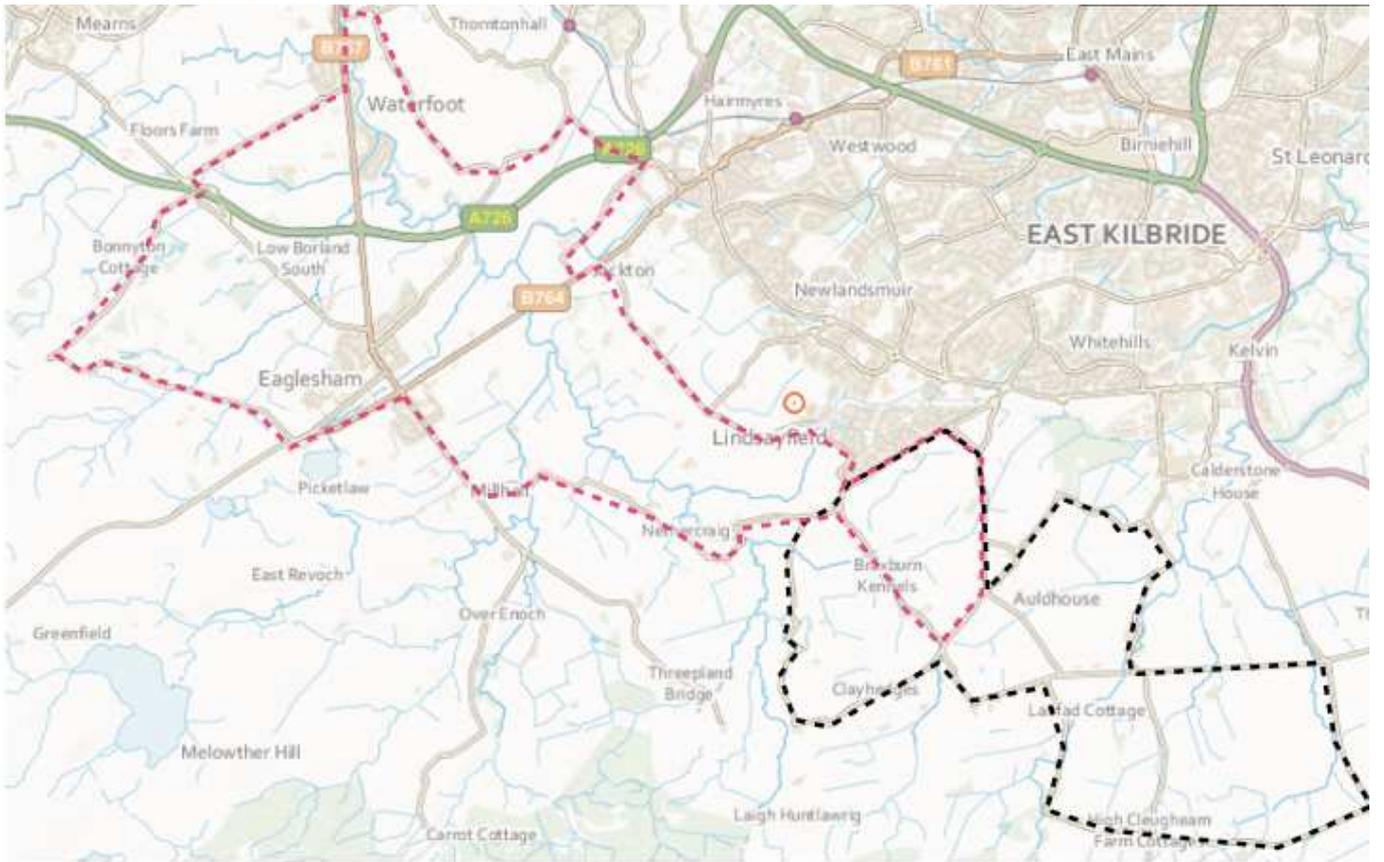
Take Auldhouse Rd from the Arms. First left before reaching East Kilbride then left again along the ever expanding border of EK. Second right towards Eaglesham then left into Craighend Rd. Follow it round to a sharp right turn uphill (signed Strathaven). Take next right after Laigh Cleughern farm. After High Cleughern the local cycle howf [meeting place] is in the wood on the left. Over cross-roads [can be muddy] then left at T-junction and left again at Millwell. Through Leaburn hamlet then first right which curves round Langlands golf course and up alongside the first hole. Left at the top past the clubhouse and back to Auldhouse.

Route 2. Auldhouse, Jackton, Waterfoot and Bonnyton.

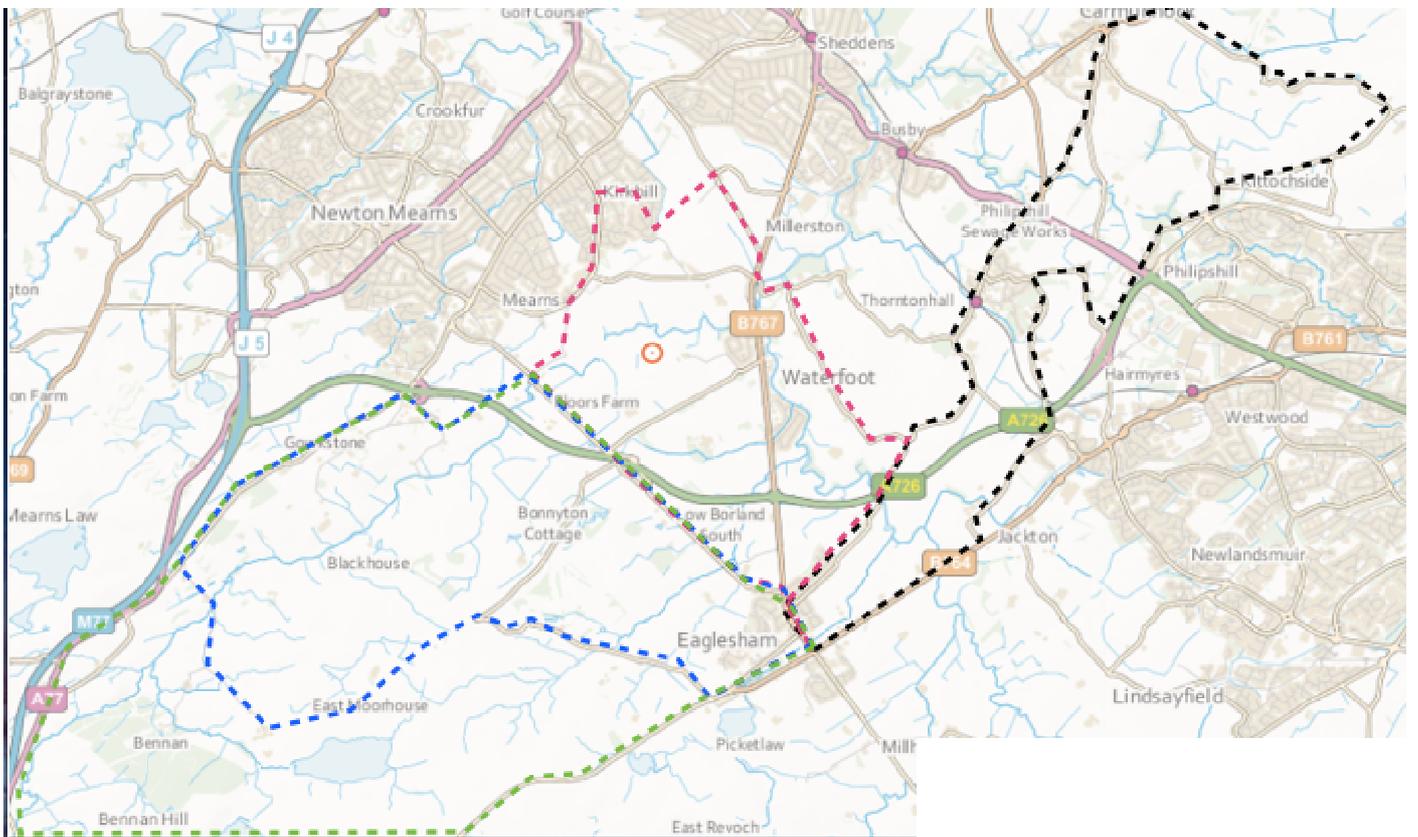
A trip round Eaglesham's neighbouring villages.

Head south out of Eaglesham and left following the road to Strathaven passing Millhall, previously site of Polnoon mill and dam. Right at the T-junction [2.5mi] and follow the signs to Auldhouse. Left after entering the village along Auldhouse Rd. 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. Then left into Peel Rd, under the Glasgow southern Orbital, and first left towards Eaglesham. Where the road forks bear right, then left at T-junction down across the White Cart to the crossroads. Turn left. The climb from here is 450ft – alternative route straight back to Eaglesham.

Otherwise right into Floors Rd past the rear entrance to Linn Products on left and the site of Rudolf Hess' 1941 landing on right. Left under Southern Orbital and follow sign to Bonnyton, uphill and eventually passing the long 5th hole of Bonnyton golf course. Enjoy the view at the top and then the run back down to Eaglesham.



----- Route 1 - - - - - Route 2



----- Route 3 - - - - - Route 4 - - - - - Route 5

Route 3. Thorntonhall, Carmunnock, and Kittochside

Another group of local villages and countryside close to Glasgow and East Kilbride. Not in wet weather when ford across White Cart may be flooded.

Clarkston direction from Eaglesham Cross and right down Holehouse Road just before the shops. Cross the ford [may not be passable even after moderate 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 bear 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 and left after the village, then right at the roundabout at Kittochside Country Life Museum. Use the pavement to follow the main road and then cycle signs across roads and towards Thorntonhall. 1/4 mile 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 4. Back of Ballageich and Humbie Road. [updated jan 13]

Explores the area between Eaglesham and Newton Mearns with short off-road sections which can be muddy and rough when wet.

Up Montgomery St then 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 passing a gas plant on right. The road becomes a track past East Moorhouse farm – bear right, 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, left past East Titwood farm and right at Humbie Rd.

Route 5. Williamwood and Mearns Castle schools

A local trip with short off road section.

Glasgow direction from the Cross. Right down Holehouse Rd and across the ford [impassable in wet weather]. Bear left at the first junction, then left at the T junction down to Waterfoot. Right along Eaglesham Rd until just before Williamwood school. Left up Low Flender Rd. Left at top of road then R after 100yds along track with hedge on left [can be rough / muddy]. The same point can be reached by turning up Flenders Rd rather than continuing to the school. This track leads to new housing. Right here along pathway and left at first opportunity into Gleneagles Dr. Left at T-junction into Broom

Rd and up past Mearns Castle school. Then first L into unsigned road which becomes a track leading to Humbie Rd and back to Eaglesham.

Route 6. Mearns and Moor

A pleasant evening cycle without much climbing

Head towards Glasgow from Eaglesham cross and left into Humbie Rd as you leave the village. Continue under Southern Orbital then left at bottom of hill - Earn water / cycle sign. Past Titwood farm and right at end of farm road to Mearns Rd. [Farm section can be muddy - alternative continue to end of Humbie Rd and left into Mearns Rd] Follow Mearns Rd to A77. Cycle lane for 2 miles in direction of Kilmarnock, then left on to road signed to 'Soames fly fishery'. This leads across the moor to B764. Left back to Eaglesham with possible diversion at the Windfarm along the start of Spine Rd and up to the visitor centre.

Route 7. Strathaven.

This is an good 2 – 3 hour round trip extended by a cafe stop or Strathaven Park – canteen, putting, boating pond etc.

Take the Strathaven direction out of Eaglesham. Follow the sign to left, then right at the T junction 2.5 miles on, right and immediately left uphill at junction after Braxburn kennels. Follow the road round to first right after Laigh Cleuchern farm and continue to crossroads, passing cycle howf on left. Right uphill passing windfarm entrance [500ft in all from Eaglesham] then 2.5mi down to crossroads, then left. This road joins the A71 approaching Strathaven. Alternatively take left signed to Strathaven Airfield shortly before A71 then right and either....

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

...straight on into Strathaven down Letham Rd. Left at Threestanes Rd to reach Strathaven Park, or right into town centre - Common Green.

To return to Eaglesham go up Threestanes Rd past the park on right. Straight ahead on the track as you leave the town and left at the top. The road back winds gradually uphill for 3 miles. Turn left at the first farm going downhill - Dykehead with green barns. Continue to junction at Millwell farm then follow signs to Auldhouse. Left at T-junction entering Auldhouse and back to Eaglesham.

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Route 8. Strathaven – the long route.

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

Follow route 7 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 7 again for the return to Eaglesham.

Route 9. Windfarm Spine Road

A cycle along the length of the windfarm.

Head up Montgomery St out of Eaglesham on the B764 Moor road. Spine Rd starts 1/2mile after the visitor centre and following this route passes the Covenanter memorial on the right with a small museum in the adjacent Lochgoin farmhouse. However entering the windfarm at the visitor centre provides a more interesting cycle with better views. At the first turbine[40] go left in the direction of Lochgoin circuit. Ignore footpath to right shortly after this, continuing straight past 53. Thereafter follow circuit signs passing the viewpoint with interesting direction finder on left. Straight on at crossroads at the end of the loch [Spine Rd 1.8km], right after 29, then left on to Spine Rd. The road is signed along its length past Corse Hill to the electricity sub station at Ardochrig. Left on reaching the road after the substation and downhill to Auldhouse or Eaglesham. Alternative direct route from Corse Hill down to Eaglesham via Carrot - see route 10.

Route 10. Corse Hill

A trip to the highest point of the Windfarm.

Cycle out beyond Auldhouse in the direction of Strathaven [route 7]. At the top of the hill enter the windfarm [Ardochrig]. Follow Spine Rd to Corse Hill. The summit at 1232ft. is marked by a trig point next to Turbine 104. 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. Retrace back down Spine Rd for 200yds then left along Myers Rd for approx 1/4 mile. Follow the downhill track to right opposite road to 103. This is slightly rough in parts. Right fork half way down and on to Carrot, then road back to Eaglesham.

Route 11. Over the windfarm and back by Auldhouse

This route crosses the windfarm via Corse Hill, with excellent views in all directions. It is accessed via Carrot.

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. Follow sign on the left across the field and walk up the first part of the track then bear left into the windfarm reaching Myres Rd opposite turbine 103. Left here and then right on to Spine Rd. The summit at 1232ft. is marked by a trig point next to Turbine 104. 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 Spine road until 6.7 mile sign. Left here on to Borrow Rd [not well signed]. Downhill and left at T-junction. Borrow Rd passes a quarry. Turn right in front of the quarry and follow this track down to Laigh Allerstocks farm then enjoy the ride back round to a crossroads(2 ½ mi). From here left towards Eaglesham, or straight on to extend the trip to Strathaven [route 6]. The road back is gradually uphill and then down to a T-junction(4mi). Left and second right for Auldhouse [refreshment]. Left on reaching the village for Eaglesham.

Route 12. Moor Road and Loudon Valley.

Exploring the area above Darvel – a fairly strenuous trip.

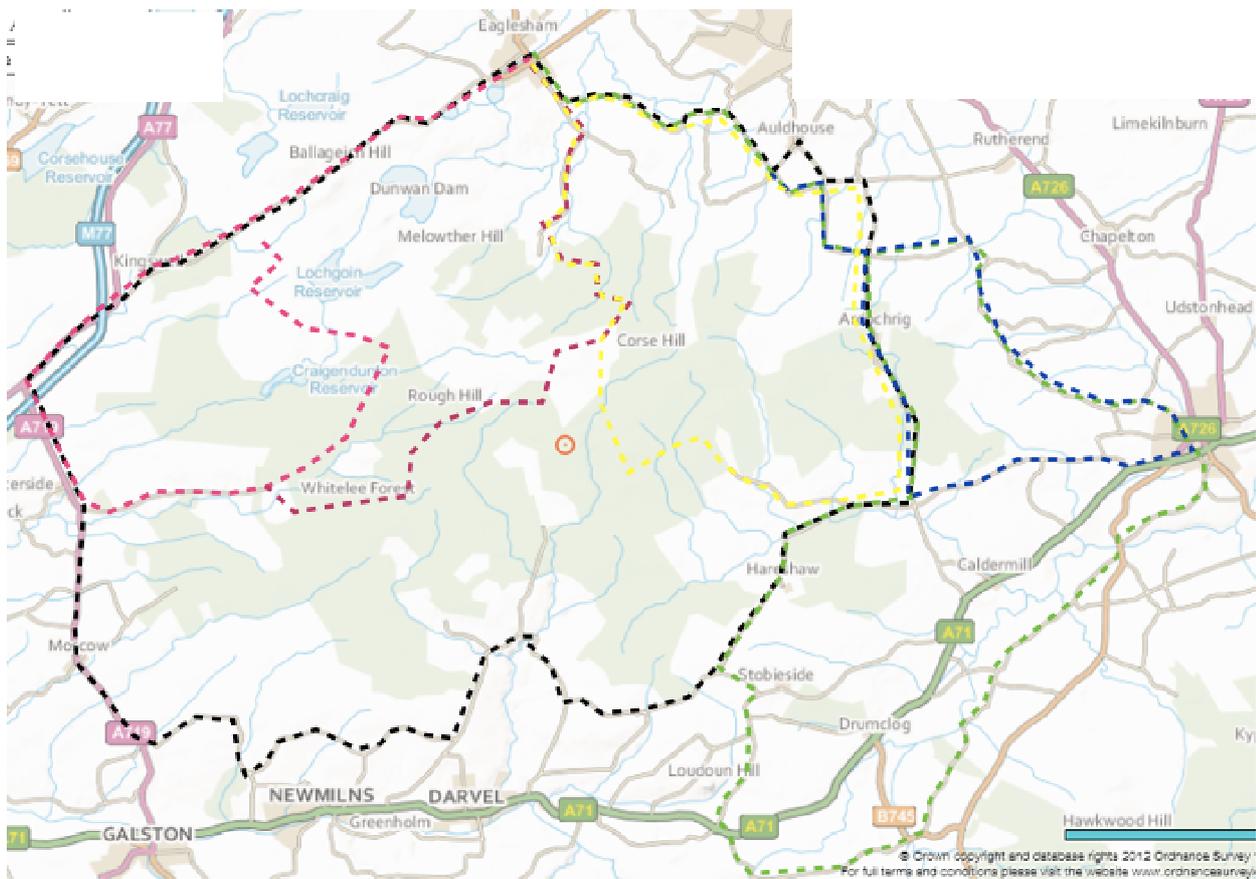
Head up Montgomery St and over the Moor road – 5.5mi to the A77. Left on to the cycle lane and take the A719 to Galston through Waterside and Moscow. On the road down towards Galston take a track on left signed to Howletburn [at Loudon Castle sign]. Follow for 1mi then right downhill at end of track. 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 avoiding the descent 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 13. Waterside and back through Whitelee

Head up Montgomery St and over the Moor road to the A77. Alternatively start from Windfarm visitor centre [option b]. Left on to the cycle lane and take the A719 [Galston]. After the rise coming out of Waterside take road to left opposite Hareshaw farm and continue approx 2.5 miles. Then..

[a] back to Eaglesham. Bear right past deserted white farm house [Craigends] and into windfarm. Left at crossroads. Follow this road, bearing left after 159, to join spine road immediately after 148. [Alternative left after 183 to visitor centre]. Right and approx 3 miles along Spine Rd up to Corse Hill at 104, then after 1/4 mile left into Myers Rd and take downhill track to right opposite road to 103. This is slightly rough in parts. Right fork half way down and on to Carrot, then road back to Eaglesham.

[b] back to visitor centre. Straight on at this junction past Croilburn - another deserted farm house - and into windfarm passing 196. Left at next T-junction and follow exit signs to Spine Road. Left at Spine Rd and back to visitor centre.



- Route 7 --- Route 8 --- Route 11
- Route 12 --- Route 13

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Routes within Windfarm

