

# Cycling for All

Route  
1

in and around Dalbeattie



**Route 1** - Dalbeattie, Aucheninnes, Auchenskeoch, Old Southwick, Sandyhills, Colvend, Dalbeattie Forest.

18 miles (29km) approx. (4.2 miles (6.8km) off-tarmac), approx. 900 feet (275 metres) total climb. Allow 3 hours to complete the route. Suitable for mountain and regular (touring) bikes, not suitable for road bikes with 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.



Ver 1.1 June 2005

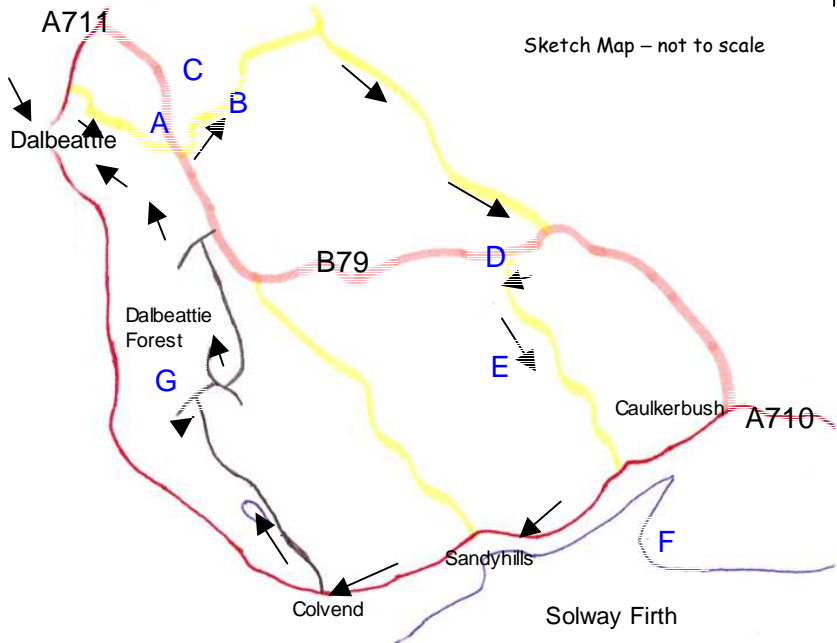
Dalbeattie - the natural place to cycle

©Copyright Dalbeattie Community Initiative 2005



Page 1

N



Miles (Km) from Start	Route Description
0	Leave the Coach parking, turning <b>Right</b> onto the main road. Take the first <b>Right</b> into Barhill Road and follow the road round to the T-junction at the Primary School.
0.6m (1.0km)	Turn <b>Left</b> , signposted Sandyhills and New Abbey.
1.2m (1.9km)	At the T-junction turn <b>Right</b> , then almost immediately <b>Left</b> signposted Sawmill. Watch out for timber trucks and the uneven road surface. Just before the entrance to the sawmill the road starts to climb steeply so get into low gear! ( <b>A</b> )
2.6m (4.2km)	At the top of the hill you might want to stop and look in the fields on the left and right. ( <b>B &amp; C</b> ) Enjoy a freewheel down the hill - the small loch on the right is Loch Fern fishery.
3.2m	At the next T-junction, turn <b>Right</b> , signposted Caulkerbush. After about half a



# Cycling for All in and around Dalbeattie

5.1km)	mile look out for gliders in the sky on the left, then you pass the entrance to the Gliding Club airfield.
6.5m (10.5km)	Mainly downhill for a couple of miles to another junction. On the right is an interesting water trough (D). Turn <b>Right</b> up the hill, with lovely trees on both sides of the road.
7.1m (11.4km)	Take the next turn on the <b>Left</b> , signposted Southwick Cemetery (E). After an initial climb the road is mainly downhill for about 2 miles, some parts quite steep and twisty with loose gravel on the surface so take care. At several points you get great views of the Solway, with the Lake District hills beyond.
9.5m (15.3km)	At the T-junction turn <b>Right</b> . This is the main coast road, the A710, so take care. The flat land below you through the trees is the RSPB Mersehead reserve (F). At Sandyhills there are toilets and a seasonal shop, with seats overlooking Sandyhills Bay, the Solway and beyond.
11.1m (17.9km)	From Sandyhills continue on the main road as far as Colvend.
12.7m (20.4km)	At Colvend turn <b>Right</b> with the Colvend Public Hall on your left onto an unmade road. Follow this past houses to the end, passing to the right of the last house, round the gate and into Dalbeattie Forest. Follow the track past Barean Loch on your left, up a short steep hill to join another track.
13.8m (22.2km)	Bear <b>Left</b> onto the main track and continue straight on ignoring any direction arrows for the Mountain Bike trails.
14.9m (24km)	Up a short hill to a T-junction, turn <b>Right</b> uphill. The road soon twists downhill and at the next T-junction, turn <b>Right</b> .
15.2m (24.5km)	Take the next turn <b>Left</b> , following the Green (easy) mountain bike route.(G) Recent forest operations in this area may have damaged the track surface so take care. Turn <b>Left</b> again, still following the Green route.
16.3m (26.2km)	At the next T-junction, turn <b>Right</b> .
16.9m (27.1km)	Stay on this track until you get to a cross roads, then turn <b>Right</b> . This takes you out of the forest onto the road. Turn <b>Left</b> (17.1m, 27.5km) and after less than a mile you will pass the turning to the sawmill.
17.9m (28.8km)	Take the next <b>Left</b> turn to Dalbeattie, then turn <b>Right</b> (18.6m, 29.9km) before the Primary School to retrace your route down Barhill Road.
18.5m (29.8km)	At the bottom of Barhill Road turn <b>Left</b> 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.



## Points of Interest

- A** Sawmill. Through the trees to your left you can see the huge area covered with stacks of logs waiting to go into the sawmill. The mill, one of the largest in the UK, processes some 270,000 tonnes of logs per year. Timber waste is burnt to produce heat for the timber drying kilns and the only true waste produced is 10 tonnes of boiler ash per week!
- B** On the right is a Shetland pony stud farm and there are usually ponies grazing in the fields.
- C** The fields on the left hand side often contain the distinctive Belted Galloway cattle. There are three colours of Belties, black, red and dun coloured, all with the trademark white middle.
- D** Water Trough commemorating the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902.
- E** The remains of old Southwick Church and the cemetery are on the right after about 1½ miles - you might want to stop and investigate.
- F** The RSPB's Mersehead reserve is open all year (free) with marked walks and hides from which to watch the birds and other wildlife. In winter it is home to thousands of Barnacle geese.
- G** If you look to the left, across the recently felled area, about half way up the far slope 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.



## 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](http://www.ctc.org.uk)

Published by Dalbeattie Community Initiative, 71 High Street, Dalbeattie, DG5 4HA.  
Tel. 01556 612518, email [grahamp@dcinitiative.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:grahamp@dcinitiative.fsnet.co.uk)

