

Cycling for All

Route
5



In and around Dalbeattie

Route 5 - Dalbeattie, Palnackie, Orchardton Tower, Gelston, Nether Linkins, Auchencairn, Dalbeattie

25 miles (40 km) approx., 2.5 miles (4km) off-tarmac, approx. 550 feet (167 metres) total climb. Allow 4 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.



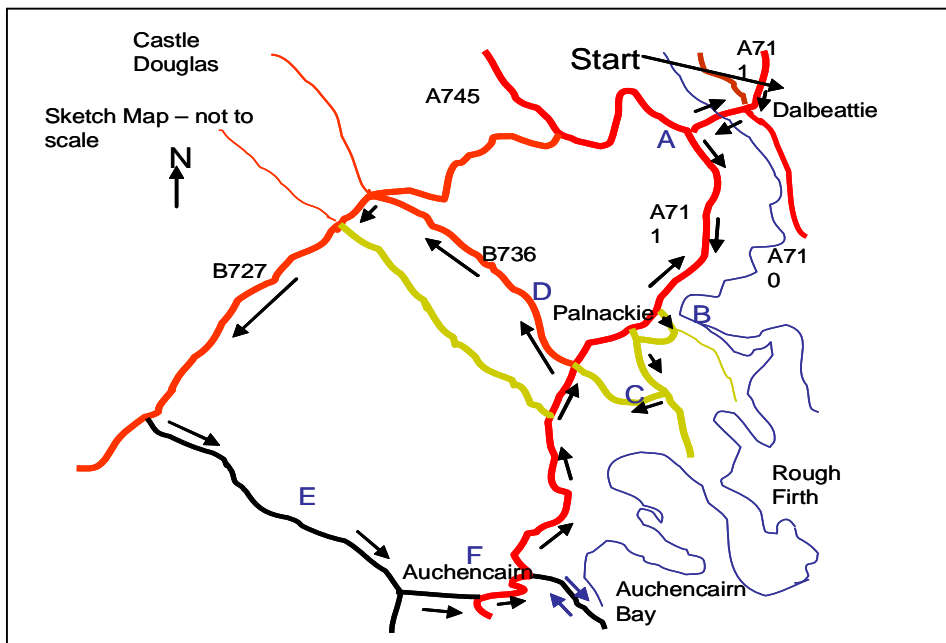
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Dalbeattie - the natural place to cycle

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Miles (Km) from Start	Route Description
0	Leave the Coach Parking, turning Left onto the main road (A711) towards Castle Douglas. Continue past the petrol station and out of town towards the quarry (A).
1.0m (1.6km)	Turn Left immediately after the traffic lights which control the bridge over the River Urr, signposted Palnackie, Auchencairn etc.
	Continue on the main road (A711) to Palnackie.
3.5m (5.6km)	Soon after the Palnackie name board, turn Left into the village, then Left again at the cross roads, down to the harbour (B).
3.8m (6.1km)	Return to the cross road and continue straight ahead. If you want to visit North Glen Gallery, turn Left at the cross roads, signposted Glassworks. Even if you are not interested in the Gallery, it is in a lovely spot and worth a visit for the views. After your visit, retrace the route back to the cross roads, and turn Left .
3.9m (6.3km)	Continue straight on, signposted School, do not re-join the main road. There is a bit of a hill up, then a nice downhill section on the other side.
5.0m	Turn Right to Orchardton Tower (C)



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(8.0km)	
5.2m (8.4km)	When you can drag yourself away from the Tower, continue on in the same direction.
6.1m (9.8km)	At the cross roads with the main road (A711), go carefully straight across, signposted Gelston .
7.6m (12.2km)	Look out for the car park for the Doach Wood on your right (D) and stop if you wish. In either case, continue on in the same direction (Gelston).
9.1m (14.6km)	Follow the road round to the Left , signposted Kirkcudbright B727.
9.5m (15.3km)	At the cross roads in Gelston , continue straight on, signposted Kirkcudbright. Along this stretch of road, on your left hand side, there are views of the 'back' of Screel and Bengairn hills.
12.7m (20.2km)	After climbing up a twisty section, turn Left , signposted Nether Linkins.
13.4m (21.5km)	Follow this road to the end, through the gate at Nether Linkins farm. Then where the road bends round to the right to enter the farm yard, turn Left onto an unmade track down to a gate. Go through the gate and bear slightly right to follow the main track.
	The track climbs gradually through young forestry plantations, past a couple of lochans (E), then it's downhill most of the way to Auchencairn. If there are sheep or cattle on the track, slow down and approach them slowly and let them move out of the way. Leave all gates as you find them.
16.1m (25.9km)	Safely back on the tarmac road, bear Left at the Y-junction (no signpost).
17.2m (27.7km)	When you reach the main road by Auchencairn Primary School, turn Left onto the main road. Take care down the steep hill through Auchencairn (F).
	Option The minor road down to Balcary Bay and back is delightful. Turn Right just before the bridge, by the War Memorial, and follow the road to the Car Park at the end. Leave your bikes here and walk round the corner, down the hill to the beach. Return to the War Memorial and turn Right . This adds about 3.5miles (5.6km) to the ride.
	Now simply follow the main road (A711) back to Dalbeattie.
24.4m (39.3km)	Turn Right at the traffic lights back over the River Urr, signposted Dalbeattie.
25.4m (40.9km)	Turn Right into 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 Craignair Quarry is a source of the famous Dalbeattie granite which was used in the building of many famous landmarks, including the Mersey Docks, the Thames Embankment, and the renowned Eddystone Lighthouse, as the granite is resistant to salt water. First opened in about 1810 the quarry is still active, mainly for various grades of crushed granite.

B Palnackie harbour is not much to look at now but was once a thriving port, as was Dalbeattie! A visit to North Glen Gallery is an experience with project ranging from jewellery to oil lamps, by way of mushrooms, and furniture to chandeliers, with free philosophy available on request.

C Orchardton Tower. This is the only **round** tower house in Scotland, a style usually associated with Ireland. It was built by John Cairns in about 1450 and is now in the care of Historic Scotland. The site is usually open and a climb to the parapet is a delight for children of all ages.

D Doach Wood. A Forestry Commission woodland with a waymarked walk (or ride if you are up to the challenge !) up to a lovely viewpoint. The wood contains some very fine Douglas Fir trees.

E At the highest point on the track, the bare hill on your left is the site of an ancient hill fort. Just past Glenhead Farm, views of the Solway Firth and beyond can be seen straight ahead.

F Auchencairn is identified by name in a document dated 1305. In the 18th Century it was known as a smugglers' haunt, and would have been familiar to the poet Robert Burns who was a Customs Officer in the area.



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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