

WL1 National Cycle Path 75

Start, route and finish

National Cycle Path 75 stretches from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Within West Lothian it runs from Raiziehill, where the A89 enters the district, eastwards through Armadale, between Bathgate and Blackburn, through Livingston and leaves the district on the minor road to Balerno near Haggs Farm. This path is 23 miles (37km) long within West Lothian.

Surfaces and features

The western section of path, from Raiziehill to Paulville on the south side of Bathgate, is on a disused railway line where a three metre wide tarmac track has been constructed. Plans are now well advanced to develop this as a new rail link between Glasgow and Edinburgh. West Lothian and North Lanarkshire Councils and others have been negotiating with Network Rail and their consultants to secure a satisfactory alternative cyclepath route. For the moment both councils have decided to designate the existing alignment on their DCPPs, as there are still some matters to agree.

From Paulville eastwards there is a purpose built cyclepath to the west side of Livingston. It passes through Livingston on a route developed as part of the Greenways path network. On the eastern side of Livingston it emerges from Almondell Country Park onto an ash track that takes it beyond East Calder. Thereafter it uses minor roads and goes through Kirknewton on the B7031 before reaching Haggs Farm.

The experience

The route drops eastwards from the exposed moorland at Blackridge down through the newly developed areas on the south side of Bathgate to the lowland moor of Easter Inch Moss Local Nature Reserve to the east of Blackburn. After negotiating its way through the Livingston conurbation, it passes through the attractive wooded gorge of Almondell Country Park before heading on towards Edinburgh.

Opportunities and constraints

Between Blackridge and Livingston the council has upgraded links to National Cycle Path 75 such as at Hunter Grove in Bathgate and the path from the east side of Blackburn across Easter Inch Moss. This process will continue with communities in Whitburn and Seafeld seeking new and better links.

Both West Lothian and City of Edinburgh Councils have been exploring the provision of an off road cycleway to link East Calder with Balerno where National Cycle Path 75 then follows the Water of Leith path. This is an ongoing process that will take many years to secure.



