

WL4 Linlithgow to Beecraigs Link

Start, route and finish

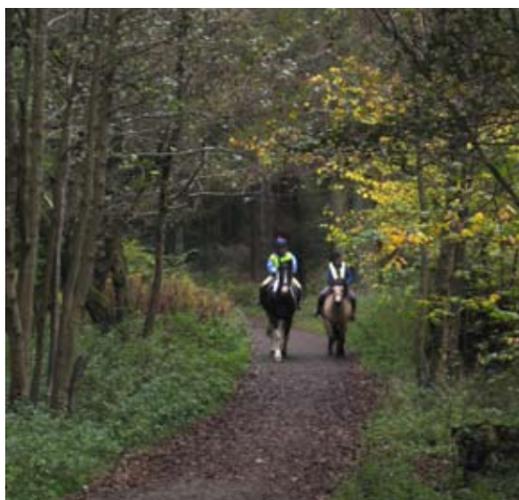
This is a 2.7 mile (4.3km) path that starts from the Linlithgow Basin on the Union Canal following the pavement beside Manse Road. At the top of the hill, where the pavement ends, it turns right to follow the Dark Entry, a former road. At the end the path turns left at Preston Road where there is a whindust path and a parallel bridle path to the east of the road. As the path climbs southward to Hillhouse Wood it becomes a grass path to the summit, close to the Beecraigs Restaurant. The descent to Beecraigs Loch can be made on the minor road or on the parallel path to the west of the road. After the loch the road climbs again to the Bathgate Hills ridgeline. Tracks to the west lead into the coniferous woodland of the Country Park and to the east there is Riccarton Hill.

Surfaces and features

This route is a sequence of pavement, former road, whindust and grass paths and finally a minor road. It is generally barrier free apart from a series of hunting gates to accommodate horse riders on the whindust path beside Preston Road. The path is well signposted.

The experience

The walk through the upper part of Linlithgow is attractive. As the path climbs up towards the Country Park the views to the north over the loch and Firth of Forth are spectacular. Dropping into the Beecraigs woodland is a different experience again with a good choice of circular walks. The final push to the ridgeline brings views to the south and east.



Opportunities and constraints

The section of grass path within Hillhouse Wood can be muddy in places and may need upgrading if the path becomes more popular. No upgrading work is proposed, however, during the period of this first plan. Use of pavements and minor roads is not ideal. The former are often narrow the latter busy at certain times. Care should always be taken when walking, cycling and horse riding on such routes.



WL5 Beecraigs East/West Path

Start, route and finish

This is a 1.1 mile (1.8km) path that starts opposite the Cockleroy car park, on the eastern side of the road, following woodland paths and tracks to join WL4 on the minor road across the Bathgate Hills.

Surfaces and features

The section between the car park and Beecraigs Country Park Balvormie play area is quite narrow and can be wet in places although there are some sections of timber boardwalk. East from Balvormie the path follows a forest track. There is a kissing gate at the western end of the path.

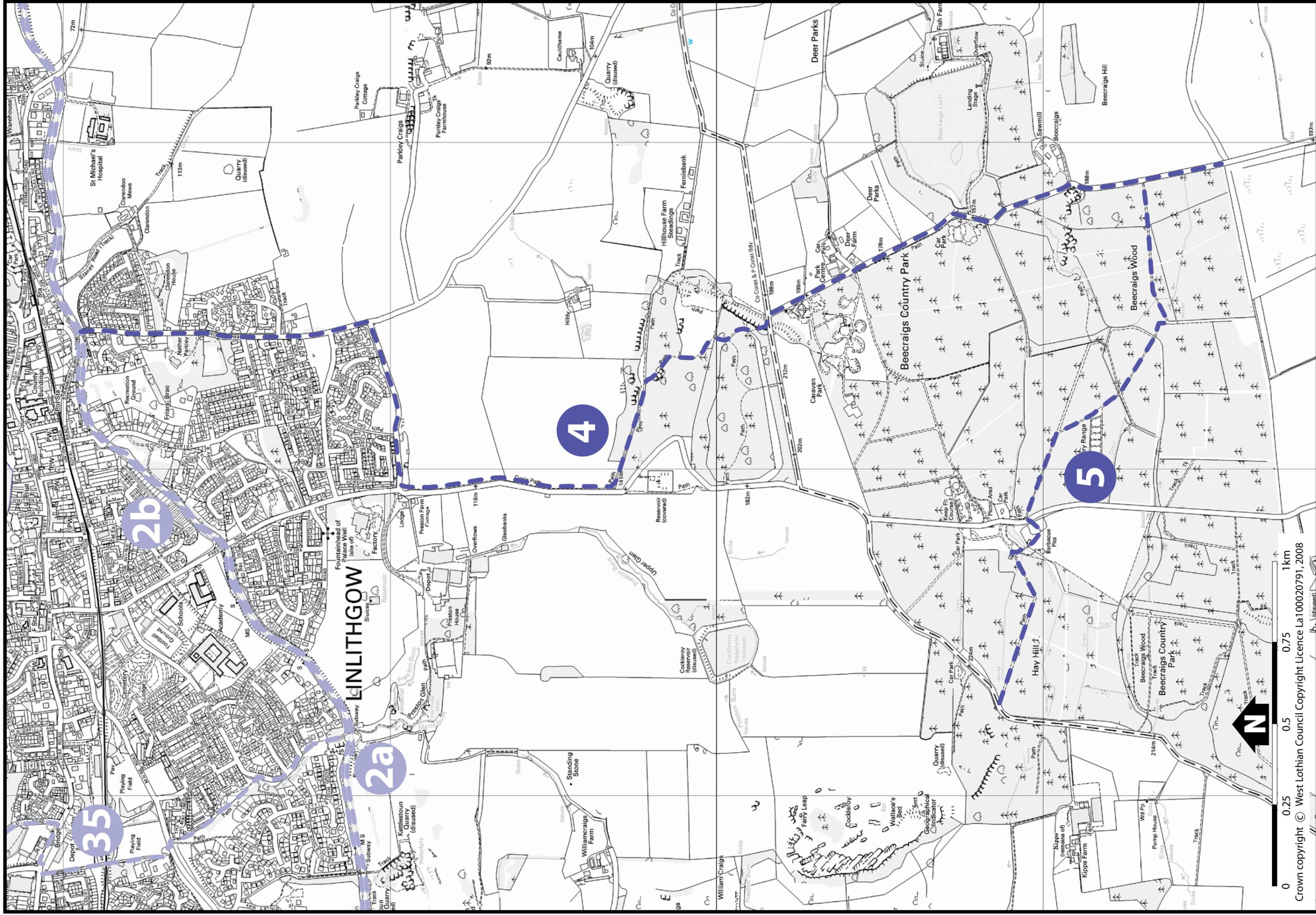
The experience

The path passes through a variety of coniferous plantations of different ages.

Opportunities and constraints

This path is seen as a small section of a future path along the ridgeline of the Bathgate Hills which will run from Cockleroy to the shale bings south of Winchburgh. The alignment of this path may change in the future as path links to the west and east of the Country Park are negotiated. There is also major restructuring of the woodland which may lead to diversions and some disruption.





0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1km
 Crown copyright © West Lothian Council Copyright Licence La100020791, 2008

