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# Forth, Wilsontown & Braehead

■ Cyclists will enjoy a pleasant route that follows country lanes through a rolling rural landscape. There are plenty of interesting stopping points, such as Wilsontown and its iron foundry, the sleepy hamlet of Auchengray and quiet woodlands that are perfect for a picnic.

## Highlights

**Iron Foundry** Founded in 1812, the Wilsontown Iron Foundry is on the site of the first iron works in Lanarkshire, and only the second in Scotland. There are a series of walks that explore what remains of the foundry.

**Auchengray** The distinctive village church is modelled on a Coptic church in Alexandria, Egypt. (next to the primary school in Auchengray)

**West Forth Woodland** A forest located in gently rolling countryside around West Forth, near to Forth with a



good network of paths and tracks for walking, cycling or horse riding. [woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/west-forth-woodland](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/west-forth-woodland)

## Route

- ▶ From the St Paul's Parish Church in Wilsontown go to the left – downhill – and take the first left into Manse Road. This is 150m or so and after a road sign highlighting a main road turning right.
- ▶ Follow Manse Road out of Forth to a T-junction at a former church. Turn left, and then after 200m turn right (signed for Auchengray).





through Braehead and descend, ignoring the first left – Bog Road – and continue on the road following sign for Wilsons town.

- ▶ At bungalows (look for road on left with a sign warning of ford) and take that left for the ford.
- ▶ Descend to cross the ford or use a bridge in flood and continue on road to climb into Forth.
- ▶ At a T-junction, turn left into Manse Road and continue to the end of road and turn right on to main road to return to start.



- ▶ Follow road through Wilsontown and round to the left, heading into rolling farmland.
- ▶ Follow road through Haywood and at a left bend in road follow a sign for Auchengray.
- ▶ After crossing a railway bridge, there is a steep climb into Auchengray. Turn right at a T-junction and cycle through the hamlet.
- ▶ Leave Auchengray, heading downhill and follow the road round to the right and over a level crossing.
- ▶ Follow long straight road to a T-junction at Eastshield Farm.
- ▶ Turn right, signed for Forth.
- ▶ Climb into Braehead. Continue

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St Paul's Parish Church, Main Street, Forth. Note: There is limited on-street parking

Train: Lanark (8 miles) or Shotts (7 miles)

12.5 miles/20km

750ft/230m

1½ - 3 hours

Easy to moderate

Quiet back roads that are generally in good condition.

