

FLEET VALLEY

START Gatehouse of Fleet Tourist Information Centre, in main car park

23km/14½ miles

Allow 2½ hours

A long, but not strenuous climb out and, on return a long downhill followed by gentle undulations

Miles	Route
0.0	Leave the car park and cross the road to the Mill on the Fleet entrance. Follow National Cycle Route 7 signs out of Gatehouse.
1.6	If you wish to visit Ornockenoch and view this quiet loch, turn left at the second junction (signposted to Ornockenoch) and climb steeply. Otherwise continue straight on, following Route 7 signs. Enjoy fabulous views to Cairnsmore of Fleet and the Clints of Dromore as you gain height. Also note the Big Water of Fleet viaduct in the valley.
6.2	Gatehouse Station. At the T-junction turn right and follow Route 7 signs.
7.2	Cairnsmore of Fleet visitor centre. After a well-deserved rest, return downhill by the same route.
11.5	Take the junction on your left (sign for 'Weak Bridge'). This is a very sharp bend with gravel. Cross Castramont bridge and turn right at the next junction, past Castramont wood. Continue straight on at the next junction, passing Barlae Mill, home of the artist family, the Faeds.
14.5	Gatehouse.

Fleet Valley more than lives up to its designation as a National Scenic Area, having a full spread of scenic elements from woodland and rivers to hills and moors.

Old railway line The railway that ran from Dumfries to Stranraer was closed in 1965. It was a lifeline in the two wars, particularly for bringing in American personnel and equipment, for which the Big Water of Fleet viaduct was strengthened. It is now a listed building.

Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve

There is a car park and visitor centre with information about the reserve and recent wildlife sightings.

There is also a waymarked circular walk. There are good views to the Fleet viaduct and to the Clints of Dromore.

Castramont Wood is a major RSPB reserve, as natural as any can be after so many centuries of man's use. In the past, charcoal burning platforms in the wood converted oak to charcoal for the smelting of iron, brass and copper. The wood was also used to supply timber for a bobbin mill in Gatehouse until 1931.



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ON SHARED USE PATHS • Please be courteous and be prepared to slow down or stop if necessary • Give way to pedestrians, horse-riders and wheelchair users, leaving them plenty of room • Carry a bell and use it - not all pedestrians can see you • Always follow the Highway Code • Be seen - most accidents to cyclists happen at junctions • Fit lights, wear a helmet and light and reflective clothing • Respect land management activities such as farming and forestry and take litter home • Be self-sufficient - in remote areas carry food, repair kit, map and waterproofs.

Bikes on Buses – the 500/X75 carries bikes along the A75 www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables