

Seven cyclists turned up at Castle Semple Visitor Centre car park on a dry, if cool, Wednesday morning to follow the ride leader around a 30 mile route.

The initial climb out of Lochwinnoch along the B786 Kilmacolm road soon had everyone warmed up.

The route diverted left from the B786 at Burnbank on minor roads with less traffic, but also less space to avoid any that appeared!

Further on, the group rejoined the B788 Old Greenock road to pass the minor access road to Loch Thom before heading east to connect with the cycle track on the one time Kilmacolm – Greenock railway.

Heavy rain had been forecast by lunchtime and, this time, the weather forecast was spot on.

A picnic was originally planned for the ride with the option of a café break if wet.

Five took the café option at the Community Café in Kilmacolm while the other two had shelter under a road bridge, over the cycle track, adjacent to the old Kilmacolm station.

The return to Lochwinnoch was by way of the NCN75 cycle track to Linwood then onto the NCN7 cycle track.

This provided a nice and flat, if wet, return journey !

On arrival back at Castle Semple, with the majority of the riders' picnics not having been eaten, a large group of mallard ducks surrounded the group ever hopeful of a handout.

Wishes however, were not fulfilled.