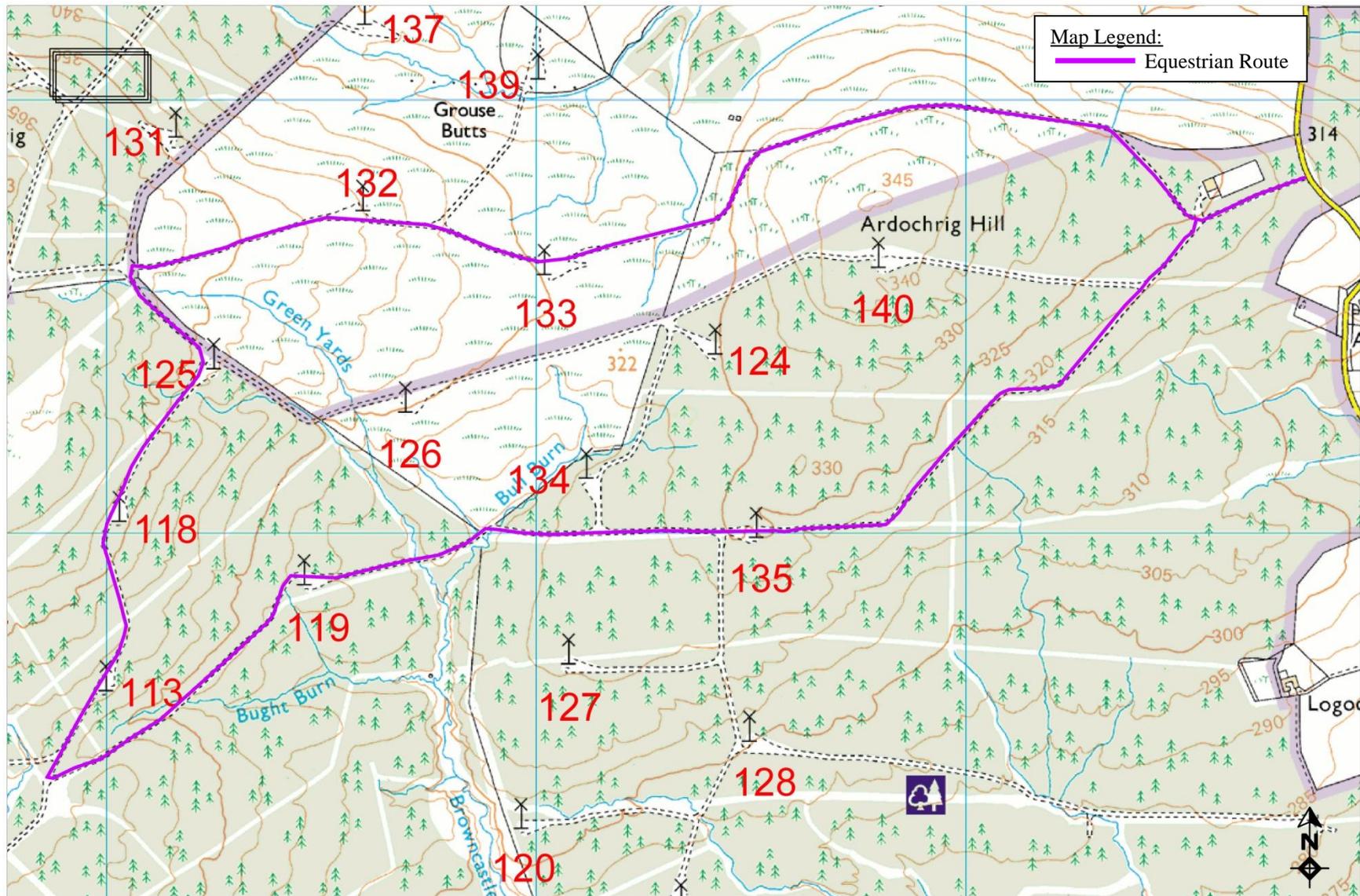


Ardochrig Short Circular Route for Horse Riders



DATE: 17/02/2014 SCALE: 1:11000

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Equestrian Access Advice

Length: 4.1 miles / 7.8 kilometres

Parking at the Ardochrig entrance is limited and the entrance is a main access point for windfarm vehicles as well as forestry operators and hauliers. Access users are therefore requested to park carefully to avoid blocking access through the entrance gate.

This is a relatively short route for horse riding but is a good introduction if you have never visited a windfarm with your horse and familiarised it around wind turbines. For those that have visited a windfarm before, the route provides an introductory route to Whitelee as well as a gateway to longer trail options at the eastern end of the site. For information on additional routes please contact the Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service or visit their website.

The route is only suitable for riders and horses at this time. Access for horse and trap (carriage) drivers is not possible unless through prior contact to gain access to the site through the main entrance gate. A bridal gate will be installed in due course allowing access for horse and carriage drivers. [Please note access for horse and trap/carriage drivers is possible via the main entrance from the Whitelee Visitor Centre.]

The route is on gently undulating ground with a short descent from Ardochrig Hill down to turbine 133 and a climb up from turbine 119 towards the start of the route (when travelling in an anticlockwise direction). Underfoot conditions are generally good for horses although there is loose stone on the first stretch from the Ardochrig entrance around and over Ardochrig Hill. A clear desire line can be seen and followed through this section. Regular maintenance of the windfarm tracks and roads takes place annually but riders are asked to observe for potholes when on windfarm tracks.

The route goes through areas of Whitelee forest as well as over open moorland, utilising the windfarm tracks. In wooded areas, for your own safety, riders are requested to observe for warning notices concerning felling work and/or temporary access restrictions related to forest harvesting.

Although the windfarm is largely traffic free there will always be some movements of maintenance vehicles and/or timber haulage wagons. All vehicles on site should be adhering to the 19mph speed limit but riders should exercise caution regardless, particularly on blind bends, rises etc.

Please be aware that the tracks and roads within Whitelee are multi-use and popular with various access users. Riders are therefore requested to be considerate of other access users and observe for walkers, dog walkers, runners, cyclists etc. Where necessary please guide your horse to the side of the track and allow cyclists/dog walkers etc to pass. All access users to Whitelee are asked to abide by the spirit of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and carry out their activity responsibly. [For further information on your access rights please see: www.outdooraccess-scotland.com]

Due to the presence of site vehicles and other access users, horse riders are requested to wear fluorescent clothing so that they are easily spotted on tracks in any weather/time of day.

No farm animals/livestock should be present along the route but occasionally sheep can breach boundary fences and get into the area and riders are advised to observe for them and where necessary, avoid any livestock encountered and report them to the Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service.

There are 2 field gates with bridal gates to the side on the route – please always leave gates as you find them.

WCRS

January 2014

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Web: www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/whitelee