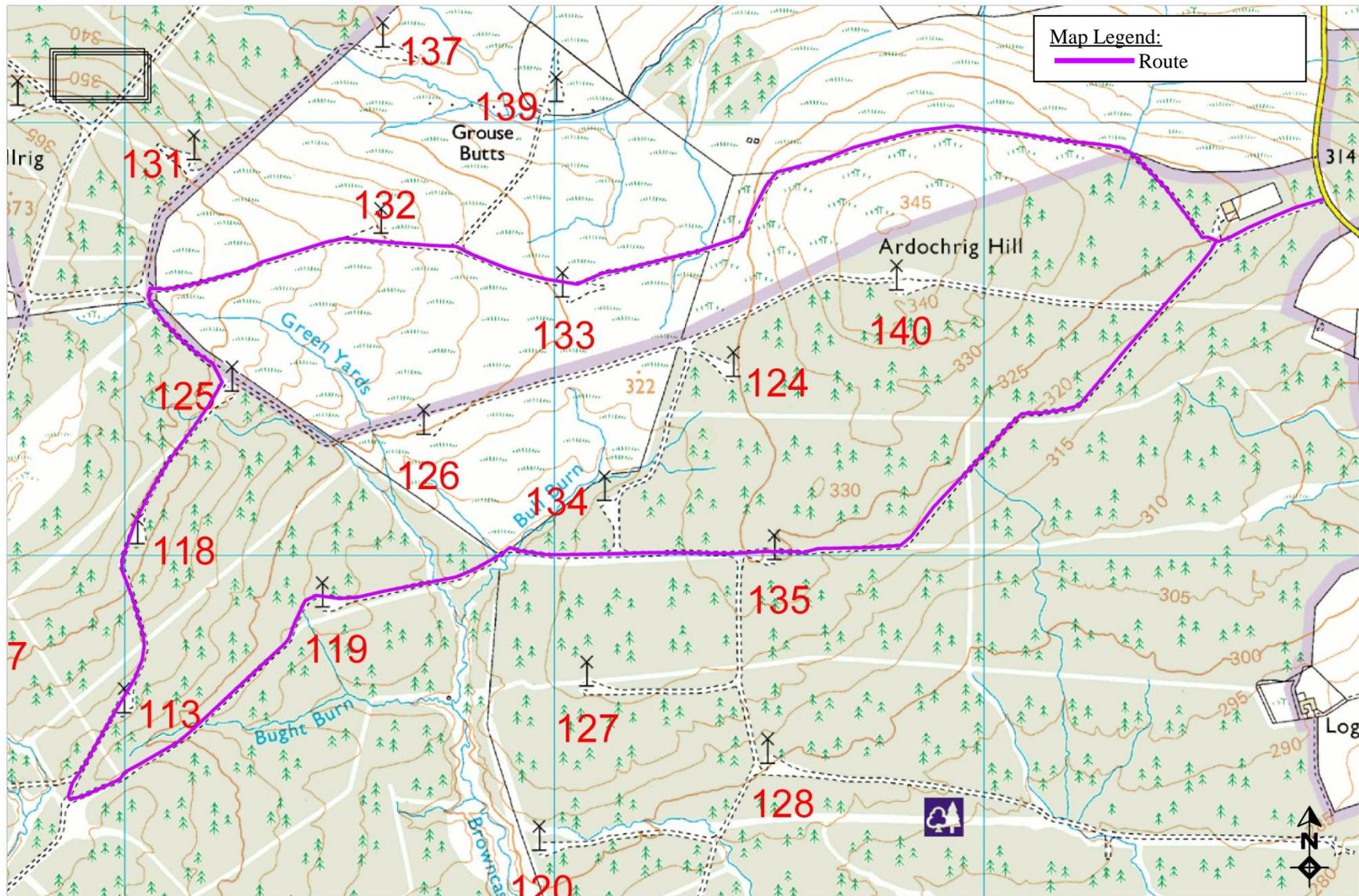


Ardochrig Short Circular – Walk & Cycle Route



DATE: 21/01/2014 SCALE: 1:11000

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Ardochrig 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 that's ideal for short health walks, walking your dog, bird watching or taking a cycle and differs from the northern end of the windfarm in that large sections of the route are within planted forestry – increasing opportunities for spotting woodland birds and other wildlife. For information on what wildlife might be encountered or for additional route suggestions, please contact the Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service or visit their website.

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 although there is loose stone on the first stretch from the Ardochrig entrance around and over Ardochrig Hill that cyclists should be aware of. A clear desire line can be seen and followed through this section. Regular maintenance of the windfarm tracks and roads takes place annually but access users are asked to observe for potholes when on windfarm tracks – again this is particularly true for cyclists.

A number of small ponds can be found along the route and these can be excellent for wildlife watching. Dragonflies and damselflies are a feature of this area as are small birds such as Willow and Grasshopper Warbler. Cuckoo, Raven and birds of prey also frequent the area and woodland mammals can also be spotted.

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, access users 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 access users 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. All access users are therefore requested to be considerate of other visitors and observe for horse riders, dog walkers, runners, cyclists etc. If horse riders, dog walkers are encountered when cycling for example, where a fast moving bicycle has the potential to unsettle animals, please consider slowing down and allow them to pass. Dog walkers should consider other access users and keep dogs under close control - if allowing dogs off the lead, they should respond to commands and should not cause concern to cyclists, horse riders and other access users. 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]

No farm animals/livestock should be present along the route but occasionally sheep can breach boundary fences and get into the area and visitors should avoid them if seen and report the location to the Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service.

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

WCRS

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Web: www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/whitelee