



Craigendunton – Walk & Cycle Route

Walk length: 2 miles / 3 kilometres
Fitness level: medium

Running from Hareshaw Lodge up to the Scottish Water reservoir of Craigendunton this is an enjoyable route, passing through farmland and forestry and on into the *windfarm.

The walk / cycle to Craigendunton starts off uphill from Haresdhaw Lodge and passes through the farmyard at Airtnoch Farm where visitors are requested to give consideration to the occupants and pass by quietly and without causing any annoyance. (e.g. Please be careful not to disturb farm animals or drop litter and always leave gates as they are found etc.)

At the farm there is a locked gate that has to be climbed over to access the track up to the windfarm. (To prevent damage to the gate / gate hinges please climb over the timber fence to the side of the gate rather than the gate itself.) Cyclists should bare this in mind as bicycles need to be lifted over the fence / gate.

While climbing towards the windfarm there are wonderful panoramic views out over the Clyde valley and numerous landmarks can be recognised.

From the farm onwards the climb is very gradual passing through arable fields, often with livestock so please adhere to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), and keep dog's under close control and if cycling, give livestock time to move and do not ride towards them at speed, potentially causing them to panic. In one of the fields, the track passes Dunton Cove on the north-west side where the 'Covenanters Cave' can be found. (Visiting the cave requires leaving the track and scrambling down some steep ground on foot. Please use caution if doing this.) This is sometimes signposted but not always. For further information please see the history section of the Whitelee pages on the East Renfrewshire Council website.

After here the track enters an area of plantation spruce woodland and leads visitors up past the Craigendunton house and on to the reservoir. (Again, please be conscientious when passing the house and do not disturb the occupants.) The next stop after passing the house is the reservoir itself, after passing over then travelling alongside the Dunton Water, the source of which is the reservoir.

Craigendunton reservoir is roughly 24 acres in size and is a drinking water catchment as well as a fishery run by the Kilmarnock Angling Association. On reaching the reservoir and taking in the views, visitors have 3 options – to return the way they came, to take the path on the south-east side to the end of the waterbody or to follow a slender (fishermans), desire line path eroded into the ground on the northern side that leads to the other end of the reservoir. From the fishermans path it is possible to cross the fenceline and make a short trip 'off-piste' over the peatbog to the windfarm track to turbine 5 (from where the rest of the windfarm can be accessed). There is currently no surfaced path in place to take visitors from the reservoir into the windfarm but it is a relatively short walk (just over 200meters / 650 feet) over the moor. (Cyclists are not advised to try and cycle over the peatbog.) If planning to travel on from here to the visitor centre, please note that it is approximately 3 miles / 5 kilometres to the centre.

If taking the path on the south-east side of the reservoir, please note that there are earthworks along its length – the mounded earth / mud along here is very soft underfoot and visitors should not step / cycle off the path onto the mud. At the end of the path the reservoir opens out to an area of more natural habitat with reed beds and emergent plants. This is a good area for water birds and wildlife watching. It is possible to access the windfarm from here but it is not advised due to soft ground conditions.)

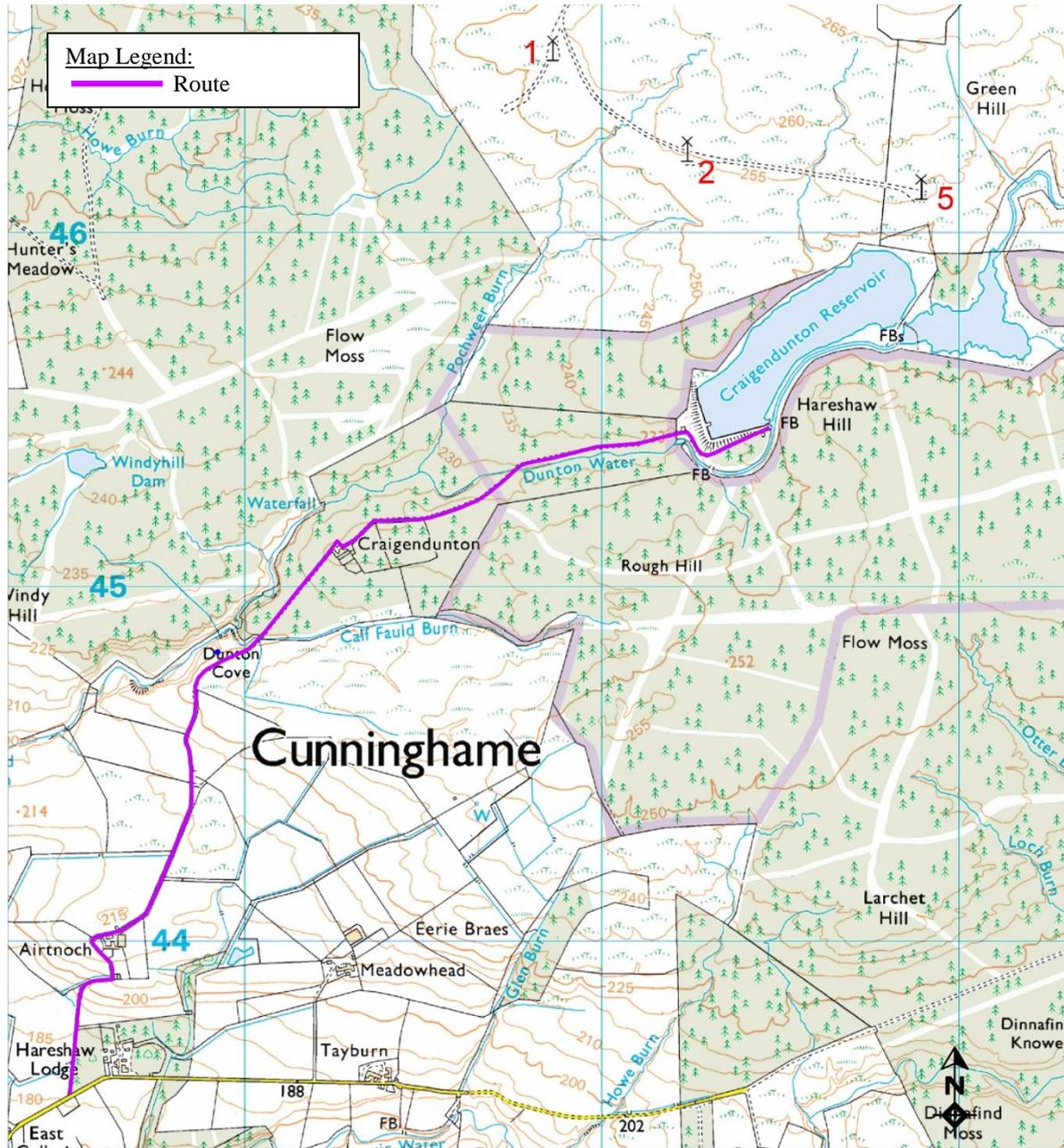
If returning along the same route please note it is possible to enter the windfarm from an adjoining track that links into the site in the area where the bridge crosses the Dunton Water (see insert). This route takes visitors into the extension area of the windfarm, at turbine H213 (on the Whitelee Access Project site map), and from where the wider windfarm can be accessed.



* Please note it is only possible to enter the windfarm via Craigendunton by either crossing a short section of unsurfaced peatbog or by going back down the track from the reservoir and entering near the bridge over Dunton Water.

WCRS
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<p>Craigendunton Right of Way Route Card</p>	<p>Key</p> <p>----- Route</p>	
<p>MAP REFERENCE: NS5144</p>	<p>DATE: 21/10/2011</p>	<p>SCALE: 1:15000</p>