

Whitelee Windfarm - Recommended Camping Locations

Visitors to Whitelee can 'wild camp' under the rights granted by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), if done responsibly.

The majority of Whitelee windfarm is built on an area of blanket (peat) bog, and as such, good camping locations are limited. It's not advisable to camp on the peatbog as it's composed of up to 90% water (& 10% plant matter), making it extremely soft and wet in places, meaning that pitched tents can sink into the peat when in use.

Fires - we would advise the use of stoves is best but a small campfire is permitted under SOAC if managed responsibly. If you light a small open fire, keep it manageable, under control, and supervised at all times - uncontrolled fires can cause major damage, that you might be liable for. Never light an open fire during prolonged dry periods or in areas such as forests, woods, farmland or on peaty ground, near to buildings, cultural heritage sites, turbines, HV cables or site infrastructure where damage can easily be caused. Please follow all advice at times of high risk. Remove all traces of an open fire before you leave.

When wild camping please abide by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and:

- Avoid overcrowding by moving onto another location
- Carry a trowel to bury toilet waste and urinate well away from water courses
- Use a stove or leave no trace of any camp fire. Never cut down or damage trees
- Take away your rubbish and consider picking up other litter as well

The Countryside Rangers monitor the recommended camping locations and anyone found to have left litter, waste etc., will be requested to clear up before leaving - or to return if via an organised group/expedition etc.

Please report any litter, damage or issues at camping locations to the Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service

Camping Locations (please see corresponding map on the back page):

 1. Southwest of Knockenbeg Hill
 Ground conditions – soft, wet after rain; Tents – 6+; Water – stream
 Peat area but drier to the west and south sides of the hill. Should not be used after periods of heavy rainfall. Whitelee visitor centre - approximately 25 minute walk away. Water available from various local burns and streams - must be treated before consumption. Area is exposed and privacy for toilets can be problematic as the site is within a popular area of the windfarm.

2. Melowther Hill

Ground conditions - soft; Tents - 12+

Drier areas can be found on the slopes of this low hill. Approximately 1-1½ hours walk from Whitelee visitor centre. Water is available from various local burns and streams - must be treated before consumption. The area is exposed to the wind and is within a popular area of the site so toileting can be problematic.

Ground conditions – variable but dry; Tents – 12+

No parking near the entrance and a rural clearway is in place meaning that parking fines can be issued for inconsiderate parking. We recommend only using this site if walking in (from another entrance and parking there) or cycling in. Approximately 20 minutes' walk from the Carrot entrance but please note, there is a steep initial climb up from the entrance. The camping spot is in a former quarry area surrounded by conifer plantation and is therefore nicely secluded. Water is available from a burn that's passed on the walk in - must be treated before consumption.

4. High Overmuir/Weavers Trail

Ground conditions – variable but dry; Tents – 3+
Accessed via the gate to the Weavers Trail next to High Overmuir Farm, the wider windfarm and from Darvel. Camping is just inside the gate on a rough grassland area on the west side. Water is available from a burn close by - must be treated before consumption. Please note - the farm buildings are unsafe and should not be approached. They also act as a wildlife refuge (birds), and disturbance should therefore be minimised, particularly during the breeding season (Mar – Aug), to avoid breaking the law.

5. High Alderstocks Farm

Ground conditions – variable but dry; Tents – 12+

Accessible from the Ardochrig entrance, approximately 1 hours walk away, and from the East Ayrshire side of the windfarm. Camping is in old fields within the grounds of the now demolished farm but please note that tall weeds can reduce camping space during the summer months. Water is available from burns and streams further into the windfarm - must be treated before consumption.

6. Croilburn

Ground conditions - good; Tents - 12+

Accessible via the Whitelee II extension and via Hareshawmuir Road - please note parking at this entrance is limited and visitors must not obstruct the entrance gates. From the visitor centre the site is approximately 1½ hour walk. Camping is in fields surrounding the old farmstead. Water is available from a small burn close by – must be treated before consumption. The area is enclosed by woodland and is relatively sheltered. Please note - the farm buildings are unsafe and should not be approached. They also act as a wildlife refuge (birds), and disturbance should therefore be minimised, particularly during the breeding season (Mar - Aug).

Please pass on any problems or concerns with the campsites to the Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service: whitelee-crs@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk / 0141 614 0962

