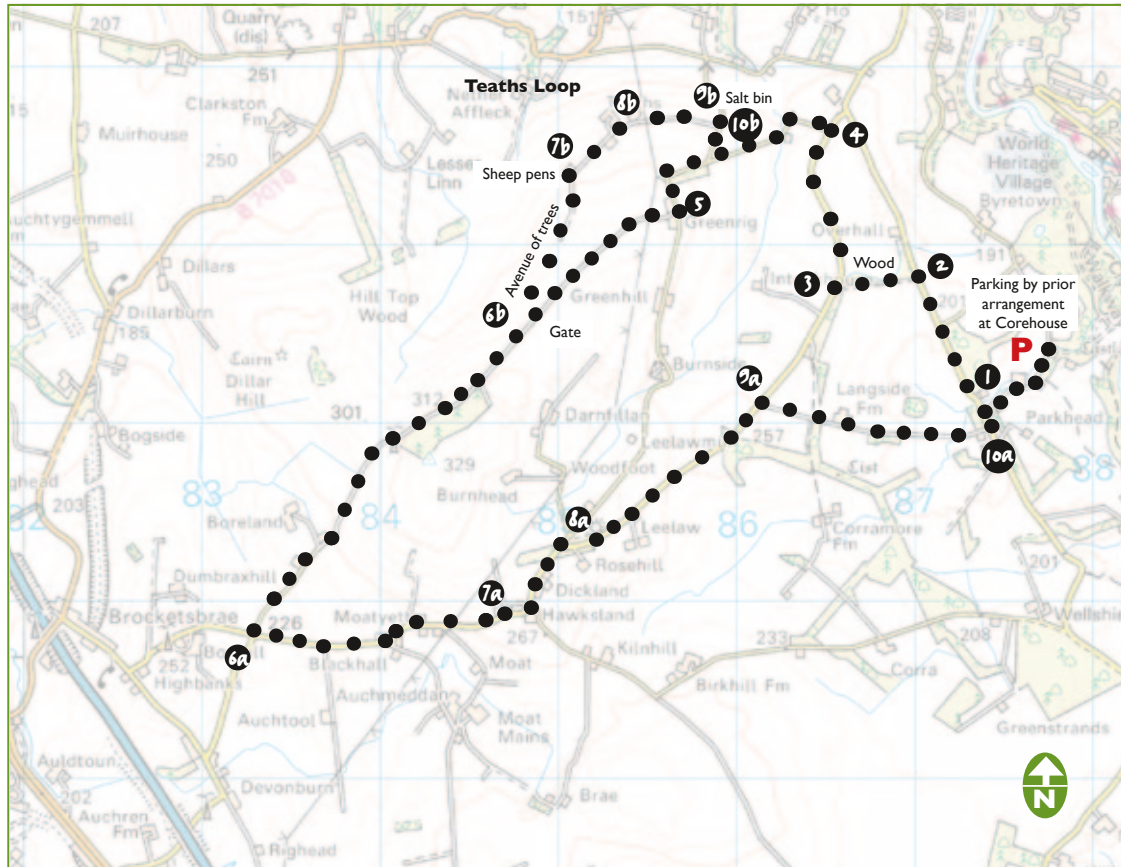


Route 2 - The Differick - A bird's eye view of Clydesdale

This route takes its name from the long grass track



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Description: This route takes its name from the long grass track which offers fantastic riding and forms the basis of a variety of circular routes.

Distance: Approximately 12-14km (1.5-2.5 hours depending how fast you go)

Location: Between Lanark and Lesmahagow

Maps: OS Landranger no. 72 Upper Clyde Valley
OS Explorer no. OL335 Lanark and Tinto Hills

Parking: Corehouse Farm Horses Welcome B&B and livery yard (OSGR NS875413) is happy to provide parking for visiting riders by prior arrangement phone 01555 661377.

Alternatively park in Lesmahagow at grass verge opposite Craighead Garage (on the west side of the B7078 approximately 1km south of M74 Junction 10) signed 'Pathfoot Smiddy/ Craighead Football Stadium'. Some weekends this can be busy due to football tournaments.

Facilities: Nearest in Lanark or Lesmahagow

Season: Year-round

Going: A combination of quiet country roads and a 3km gently sloping grassy track ideal for long canters.

Attractions: 360 degree views of Clyde Valley. Long canters on an enclosed track where you can be sure your horse will run out of steam before the top!

Route Description

From Corehouse Farm

- 1. Leaving Corehouse Farm by the main entrance drive, turn right (north) at the T-junction with the public road.
- 2. After 1km, just before the wood on your left, turn left (west) up a grassy track. Large stones have been placed across the end of the track to keep vehicles out, but there is plenty of space for horses to get through.
- 3. At the end of the track turn right along the public road.
- 4. After approximately 1km, turn first left up Greenrig Road, past Kirkfield Smiddy. Follow this single track road uphill for approximately 1km, around the sharp left-hand bend to Greenrig.
- 5. Turn right up the unsigned track which leads off the road between the cream bungalow and the third semi-detached house. You are now on the 'The Differick', a grassy track which is perfect for a good canter. The views are spectacular, with the whole of the Clyde Valley before you, and the Campsie Fells and Trossachs on the horizon. After approximately 2km, the track starts to descend, passing a large mast on your left and Boreland Farm on your right, and then through a tree-lined avenue. If you prefer you can retrace your steps back along the Differick and take in the Teaths Loop (see below).
- 6a. At the crossroads turn left along the public road to Hawksland. Take care around the bends. To link to the Broken Cross Muir ride, carry straight on at this crossroads down Bog Road. Turn left at the T-junction at Devonburn, and you will see the old drove road which carries straight on (south) where the road bends right under the motorway.
- 7a. At Hawksland Farm, bear left (north), following the sign to Burnside Nursery.
- 8a. After 400m fork right (north-east) past Rosehill and Leelaw.
- 9a. After 1.5km, turn right (east) down the clearly signed stony track to Langside Farm,
- 10a. At the junction with the public road, turn left and then first right to Corehouse Farm.

Alternative Teaths loop

- 6b. Heading east back along the Differick towards Lanark, as you are dropping down the hill approximately 1km past the mast, turn left just after a row of trees through a metal field gate. Head diagonally across the field until you reach the row of trees on your left, where you will join a track leading downhill through two gates and sheep pens, passing a white cottage on your left, and then follow the stony track down to Teaths. If there is a bull in the fields, give it a wide berth.
- 7b. Where the track comes to a T-junction with the public road, turn right.
- 8b. Turn left at the next T-junction, and follow the road downhill past Kirkfield Smiddy.
- 9b. Turn right again at the next T-junction.
- 10b. After 1km turn left down the track at the far end of the wood, and then right at the next T-junction, retracing your steps back to Corehouse.

Directions from Lesmahagow

- From Craighead Garage, head south on either of the wide grass verges alongside the B7078.
- After approximately 700m, just after the sign for Woodpark, turn left along the path which runs along the southern edge of the wood.
- At the end of the path, turn left along the B7018 to Brocketsbrae.
- After crossing the M74, turn first right up Eastwood Road, signed Hawksland.
- After 400m, turn left up Hawksland Road. Ride on past Boghill and Drumbraxhill.
- At the cross-roads with Bog Road, turn left (north) up the avenue of beech trees (or follow the directions above to Hawksland).
- Join route at point 6a.