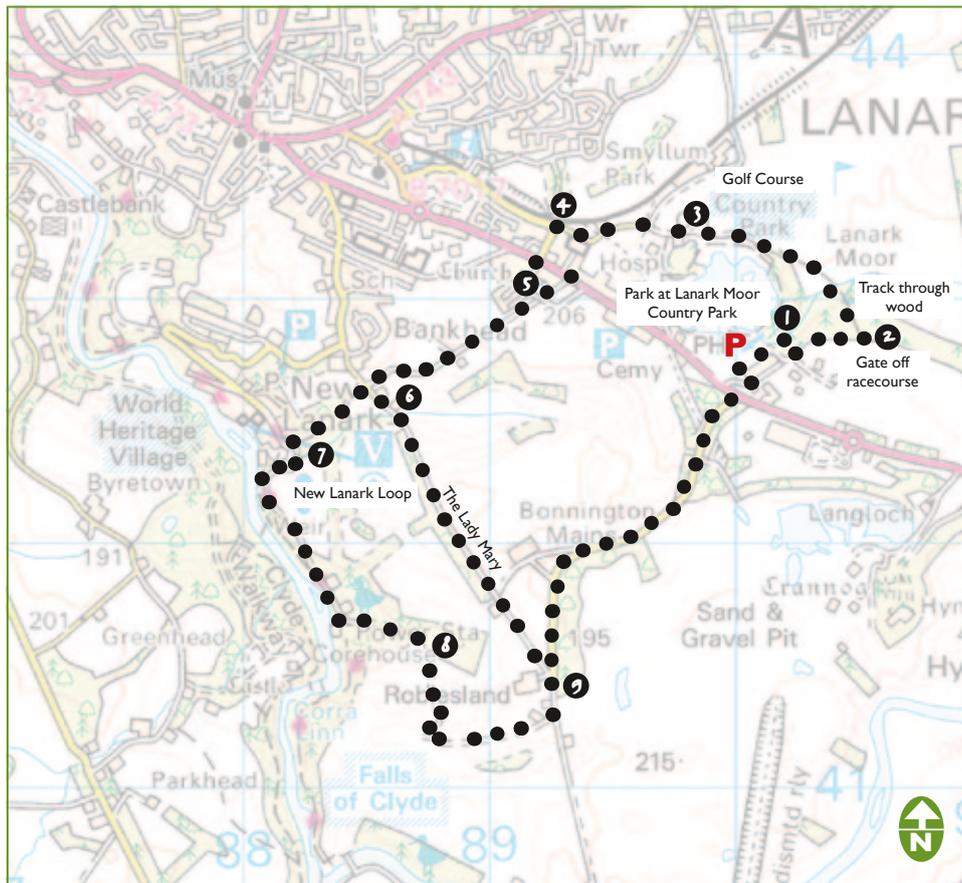


Route 7 - The Beeches, Lanark

One of the routes used in the Riding of the Marches during Lanark Lanimers



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Description: One of the routes used in the Riding of the Marches during Lanark Lanimers, this circular ride starts next to the former racecourse and then follows historic tracks on the eastern edge of Lanark. Although never far from civilisation, the western sections enable you to feel as though you've got away from it all, with tantalising glimpses of the Clyde in the valley below.

Distance: 6.5-8km (1-2 hours), depending which route you choose.

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

Parking: Lanark Moor public car park, adjacent to Lanark EquiCentre on A73 0.5km south of Lanark (OSGR NS900428). Please note that the public car park at Lanark Loch is unsuitable for boxes or trailers.

Facilities: The Stables Bistro at Lanark Equicentre serves drinks, snacks and food on weekday lunchtimes and all day at the weekend. Fuel and shops in Lanark.

Season: Year-round

Going: Mainly informally surfaced paths and quiet tracks, short sections on tarmac road.

Attractions: Easily accessible and easy parking.
Great views of Tinto and Clyde Valley.

Route Description

1. Head toward the wood at the eastern end of Lanark Moor car park. Look out for the 'Slow Horse and Rider' and 'Lanark Racecourse Football Facility' signs. Follow the tarmac track as it swings right onto the former racecourse, ignoring the footpath on your left to Lanark Loch. Ignore the sign which says no unauthorised horses – you have every right to follow the route described below, provided you are riding responsibly. As you cross the former racecourse, turn left through a wide gateway (the gate is usually open).
2. Follow the race track east around the edge of the wood to a gate parallel with the last football pitch, adjacent to a large metal sign. Once through the gate, follow the clearly defined main path heading north down through the wood. Please respect others enjoying the woods, particularly if you choose to explore any of the other narrower paths.
3. Continue along the main path across the golf course. Please keep to the path and restrict your pace to walk to avoid causing any damage. If you see someone about to take a shot, it is polite to wait. Continue on the path, passing Lanark Loch to your left, straight on past the golf club house and through the car park to join a quiet public road. Carry straight on along this road, heading west towards Lanark, past a row of new houses on your right.
4. At the road junction immediately past Lockhart Hospital, with the railway line immediately on your right, turn left along Home Street, passing the postal sorting office and then Hozier House (at one time the Lady Hozier Convalescent Home) to your right, and Crosslaw House Care Home to your left.
5. At the T-junction with the A73, turn left (i.e. south-east, away from Lanark). Take care: this road can be busy, but visibility is good and the road is wide. After approximately 100m, immediately after the last house on your right ('The Neuk'), turn right before the new road, following the Scottish Rights of Way Society fingerpost along The Beeches to New Lanark, crossing straight over two tarmac access roads, continuing along the avenue of beech trees down towards the Clyde Valley.
6. After approximately 1km, with a house on your left, turn left along the clearly defined track known as 'The Lady Mary'. Take time to enjoy the fantastic views of Tinto rising up on the horizon in front of you, and the Clyde Valley to your right. Carry straight on along this track, passing Robiesland Cottage on your right and Bonnington Mains on your left, for approximately 1.5km until you reach Robiesland Farm.

Can be ridden in conjunction with The Lady Mary as a circular off-road route from Lanark Moor car park.

New Lanark loop

6. Carry straight over at the cross-roads, signed towards New Lanark, heading west down an attractive path towards the Clyde, with a burn on your left.
 7. After approximately 500m, turn left (south) over the bridge, admiring the view through the trees to Robert Owen's famous mills at New Lanark. Follow the track parallel to but high above the river, signed to the Falls of Clyde, ignoring any minor paths which turn off. (From the opposite direction, follow the main track towards New Lanark.)
 8. At Bonnington Power Station, follow the main tarmac road round to the left (east), through the bridlegate adjacent to the first cattle grid, and through the main gate at the next cattle grid - the padlocked chain lifts easily over the post. Climb up the track through former parkland, to another gate alongside a cattle grid - the padlock does not interfere with the catch. Continue along the tarmac track through the next gate to East Lodge. If you are coming from the other direction, don't be put off by signs on the gate: responsible horse riders have every right to use this route.
- Robiesland – Lanark Moor car park**
9. Coming from New Lanark/East Lodge, pass Robiesland Farm to your left and carry straight on (north) up the tarmac road between the beech avenue, which leads back to the A73. From the Lady Mary, turn left at Robiesland onto the tarmac road.
 10. After approximately 1.7km, you will reach the T-junction with the A73. Cross with care. Lanark Moor car park is diagonally opposite to your left.