

General Wade's Military Road Ride

This leaflet is provided as a guide only. Please make sure that you have a map, suitable clothing and the equipment appropriate to your planned route, particularly in poor weather conditions.

Remember – the conditions in the can change quickly in the mountains.

Description

A relatively flat, 30km circular predominantly off-road route from Drumguish on the Speyside Way, along the historic General Wade's Military Road and the Newtonmore – Kingussie cycle path. The route is suitable for mountain bikes and gravel bikes and passes through some remote areas on rough paths.

The route crosses the A9 twice – take care.

Grade = Red (some challenging terrain)

Allow 2-3 hours

Starting point

Start at the Drumguish crossroads where the Speyside Way crosses the road through the village at NN 794480. There is very limited parking at Drumguish and you may need to park on the roadside in the forest.

The Ride

1. From the crossroads in Drumguish, head south-west along the track (signposted towards Kingussie), heading down the short hill to reach the track running up Glen Tromie.



2. Turn right and ride down the road to reach the road (B970), following the sign towards Kingussie.



3. Turn left to pass over the Tromie bridge and then turn immediately right through the metal pedestrian gate to join the Speyside Way (signposted towards Kingussie).



4. Follow the Speyside Way for about 2km. at the RSPB Insh marshes the route passes into the small carpark and down past the wooden gate at the lower end of the car park to regain the path. Continue on the Speyside Way, crossing the road downhill of the RPSB Insh Marshes, and continuing until you reach the 18th century Ruthven Barracks.



5. Near the barracks car park, join the road heading towards Kingussie for a short distance until you reach the sharp bend at Ruthven House. Leave the road and go straight ahead on the rough track, passing through the tunnel under the A9 and continuing until the track brings you out on the grass at the side of the A9.



6. Ride south along the wide grass verge for about 100m until you can see the track on the opposite side of the road leading into the trees (marked 'Public Footpath to Etteridge via Wade's Military Road'). **CROSS WITH CARE** and follow the gravel track.



7. After a short distance the route follows the left fork in the track. Continue straight ahead along the track (General Wade's Military Road). The path is rutted in places but there are fantastic views and the heather in late summer is amazing.



8. Continue straight ahead, passing through two gates, keeping left where the track forks after the second gate. After about 1.5km the track narrows and descends to a wooden footbridge across a stream. The short section of path on the other side can be boggy until it reaches a gravel track. Turn left to continue along the track.



9. Follow the main track through two more gates - after 2km the track passes over a very photogenic stone bridge.



10. Continue straight ahead on the track and go straight ahead at the fork in the track, ignoring the more travelled track heading off to your left.



11. Continue through the heather until you reach the gate at the edge of the silver birch woods. Pass through the gate and follow the path (with occasional wet sections) through the woods and out onto a grassy track. Continue until you reach Phoinés Lodge (with sculpted lapwings on the gateposts!). Bear right in front of the house to join the surfaced driveway.



12. Follow the driveway down to the A9 and cross the A9 to join the cycle path on the other side. Turn right to head north-east, joining a minor road and passing the visitor centre and café at Ralia. At the end of the minor road, join the B9150 and ride into and through Newtonmore.

13. Just after you pass the entrance to the Highland Folk Museum, turn right to join the cycle track that runs parallel to the road back to Kingussie.



14. Re-join the B9150 and ride into Kingussie until you reach the Duke of Gordon Hotel. Turn right opposite the hotel, riding towards the railway station and over the level crossing. Just after the entrance to Kingussie High School, turn on to the cycle path running parallel to the road and follow it until you rejoin the road.



15. Follow the road over the Spey Bridge and under the A9 until you reach the Speyside Way opposite the Ruthven Barracks. Retrace your outwards route back to Drumguish.

Map

