

LOCH ROMACH THROUGH NEWTYLE FOREST AND ALTRE ESTATE

Views of the loch are limited until the half way spot (where there is a good, flat area beside the Dam to corral horses for a lunch stop and a swim in the loch !) Views across the Cromarty Firth are magnificent from the High Drive on Altyre Estate. Some of this route follows the Dava Way which is way-marked but much is on private land. There is no way-marking on the private land and the routes described are not specifically maintained for public access.

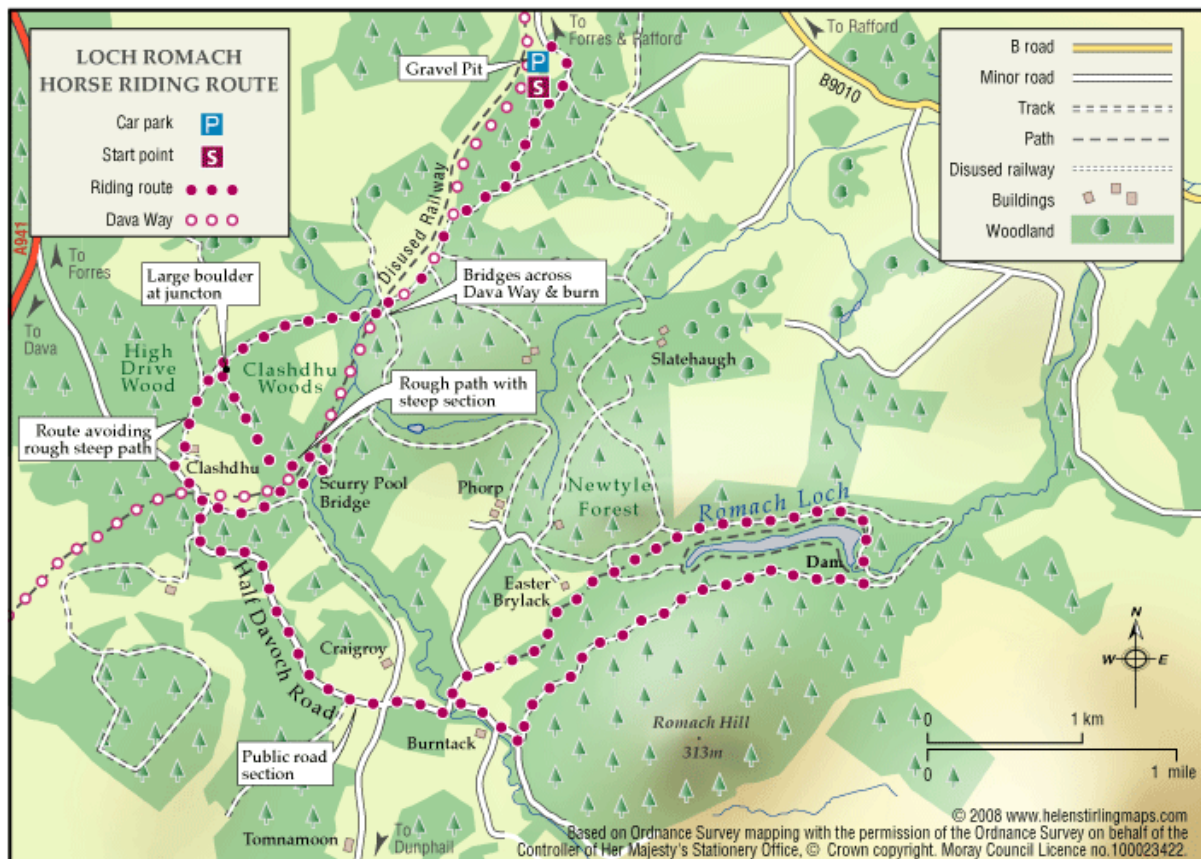
Location. Forestry land and estate tracks south of Forres.

Map : OS Explorer Series 423

Distance : approx 7 miles out and back.

Going : Takes approx. 3 hours out and 3 hours back, so a long day in the summer. Beautiful mixed forest, mostly flat with a few steep but short slopes down onto the old railway which is now the Dava Way and up from it again. The ground is for the most part soft forest track but with a quiet road section of a mile and a half or so and the final track beside the loch which is more stony.

Access and Parking : Park at the gravel pit in Newtyle forest (map ref :NJ 053 552)



Follow the forestry tracks to “forestry cottages” (NJ 051 542) and on to Scurry Pool bridge (NJ 043 535).

Cross bridge and head up along “High Drive Wood” look for tracks leading off to the left and take the second track (large boulder on the left as you turn left) into Clashdhu Wood and at the end of the track wind your way down onto the old railway line (there is a rough and overgrown path which leads down a steep slope onto the railway line)

Turn left along the old railway, then take a right up track which turns uphill and back on itself, running parallel to the old railway, a good track for a long canter through Annie Paul’s Wood, it ends at the Half Davoch Road, just where the railway meets it (NJ 031 525) from here turn left and ride up the Half Davoch Road until the fork to the left at Craigroy Cottage (just off the map)

Continue past Craigroy Cottage and on to Brylack (NJ 052 513) and from here follow the forestry paths (Newtyle Forest again) around the north side of the loch, stopping at the Dam, before continuing around the south side of the loch and back to the Half Davoch Road. The route home can be shortened slightly by continuing along the Half Davoch Road, past the railway junction until the right turn, up towards Clashdhu house. This continues onto High Drive Wood and from here follow the same route home.

Beach and Pub Ride.

From Burghead to Findhorn, tie up at the Kimberley Inn for pub grub (and a complementary bucket of water from the landlord) and back to Burghead.

Map : OS Explorer Series 423

Going : Fabulous open beach (if you checked the tide times) and a very hospitable pub for horse and rider with tying up posts opposite on grassland.

Distance : approx 6 miles one way. Takes about 2 hours to ride the beach stretch and as long as your horse will permit for lunch !

Access and Parking : Park at Burghead Beach Parking, just off the B9089, (map ref : 311689) There is ample room for parking and turning, and no charges. Having checked tide times you should have wide, open stretches of sand all the way along the Coast to Findhorn (you could

of course, park at Rosisle Forest, half way along the coast and have some forest riding onto the beach from there. Parking is equally as good. There is a small fee for using the Forestry Commission Parking area and there are BBQ areas onsite to use for free.)

Having reached Findhorn, the Kimberley pub is around the headland, past the yacht club and harbour but should be accessed on horseback through the village (best to dismount and lead your horse) because the path along the harbour front is so narrow. There are other pubs and a harbour front café but the Kimberley Inn owner is very happy to have horses visit and has tying up posts opposite the pub on a flat area of grass in front of the beach (bring your own bailer twine !) he will also be happy to provide a bucket of water for your horse as he does for dogs. A word of caution however about the numerous tourists and their small children who are bound to approach your horse to say hello.