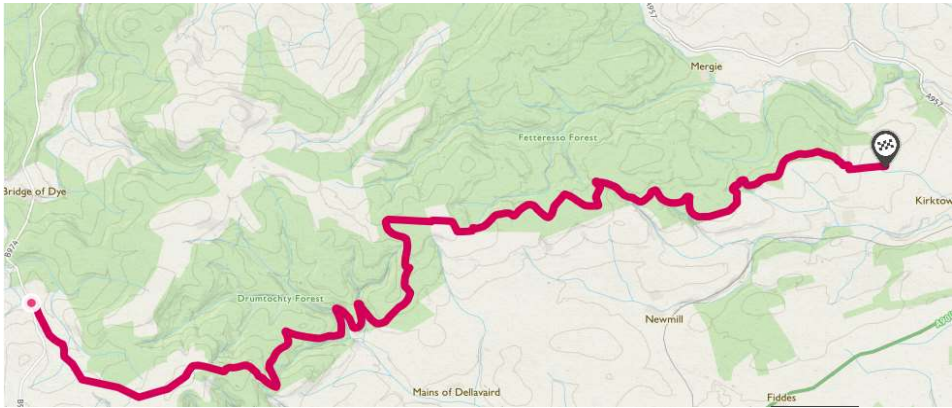
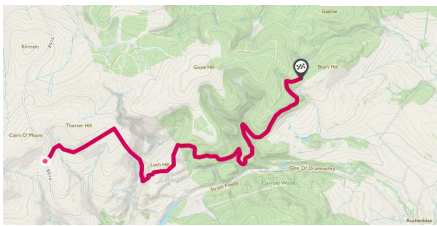
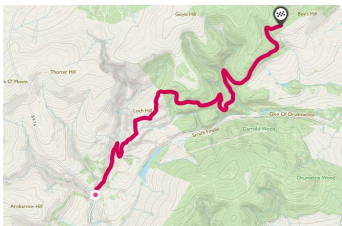


Suggested TGOC route across Fetteresso Forest.



Routemap visible at <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/1760528/Fetteresso-West-to-East>

Alternative starting points from the Cairn O' Mount area or Clatterin' Brig are detailed in <https://kvisit.com/PA/6a1B>



The various starting options converge at waypoint 86 on this route.

For waypoint numbers select the "Show" "All Waypoints" option on the route card section of the map.

Waypoint No		
1	NO 65072 83670	Small gate off the Cairn O' Mount Road. The rough track soon stops, take your own route across trackless heather moor. The going is difficult and may be avoided to some extent by walking up the Cairn O' Mount road until you come to a small layby at NO 6537 8268 and then take a direct line across the heather towards waypoint 16. This option is highly recommended if visibility is poor or there has been recent heavy rain.
14	NO 657824	The burn is easily crossed, even after snowmelt. Continue up the far bank and cross the peaty heather moorland to the corner of the forest.
16	NO 661819	Corner of forest marking the corridor between an electrified deer fence and the edge of the forest. There is no fence around the forest but a small ditch running parallel to the edge. The deer fence is new, high and protected by three strands of electrified wire, like something out of a POW camp. Finding the corridor in bad visibility should be easy, if you find trees turn right and follow the trees, if you find the deer fence turn left and follow the fence.
		
17	NO 669817	Fence crossing the corridor marked on the map does not exist on the ground. The corridor between the deer fence and trees continues. Difficult taxing terrain, allow good time to reach summit. I took over 2 hours to get up the corridor towards Goyle Hill after crossing the burn while carrying a day sack. Do not be deceived by what looks like tyre tracks running along the forest edge, they are parallel drainage ditches. If the ground is frozen or very dry they may help crossing the moor. Note the firebreak at NO 66724 81821 is passable and connects up with the logging road which leads to the more traditional route past the windfarm.
18	NO 673815	To avoid seeing the windfarm stay close to the forest edge rather than the deer fence, the route following the fence is shorter however and slightly easier terrain. The fence is essentially following the watershed. The Mid Hill windfarm is unavoidable while approaching the summit, just avert your eyes as much as possible and keep them on your target, the summit. There is a very vague track following the route of a derelict deer fence passing through NO 6826 8207
21	NO 683819	Summit of Goyle Hill with trig point. Marks the end of trackless moorland and the start of FC estate and logging roads. Good views back towards Clachnaben and beyond. The wind farm is all too visible for a short distance until you get into the trees. The good news is that after the slog up to the summit you now have a long gentle downhill section along a pleasant track.



Clachnaben and the snowy hills beyond



Backpacker's dream?

73 NO 699819

After passing through a stand of young Scots Pine the sea will become visible again and you will be able to see the rest of the route through Fetteresso over Leachie Hill towards the notch in the skyline beyond,



The route, Leachie Hill is left centre and continues towards the notch in the skyline. Note the Larch, conifers that turn brown and shed their leaves in winter.

86 NO 703817

The online OS map shows a track leading to the edge of the forest, the track doesn't exist on the ground but it is possible to cross the clearing and climb a barbed wire fence to get down to Bogburn Farm and the tarmac road which eventually leads to the Auchenblae-Stonehaven road. Make sure to turn left at this junction and left again at the next one a few metres away. The right hand option at this one (waypoint 88) appears to head towards your destination but is a dead end.

173 NO 716834

Bridge over the Bervie, you can get fresh water here but there aren't any obvious camping areas near the bridge. See waypoint 177

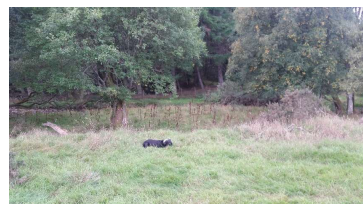
177 NO 716834

Lookout for a Scotways marker post at end of a rough but usable, track along the banks of Bervie Water. This is the old Bulig drover's trail.

This short diversion off route provides a good area for wild camping next to Bervie Water. There is an unlocked gate at the forest boundary. Camping is possible on the meadows alongside the Bervie either on FC land or on pasture below the gate. The FC area is more bracken and long grass whereas below the gate it has been grazed by sheep and is short grass. If you come down towards Corsebauld to camp, it is possible to return to the forest using the track up Maxie Burn to waypoint 220.



Red = main route Blue = detour to camping area or access to main road.



220 NO 722834

Banks of the Bervie Water, bracken above the gate

grassy below the gate

A poorly defined junction where a rough trail leads down to an unlocked gate above Corsebauld. The track below the gate is blocked and it is necessary to either cross the burn and pass behind a cottage to get to a gate at NO 72203 82758 or use a different gate at the top of the field to the east of the track and descend through the field to a gate near the derelict steading.

252 NO 732838

Junction of logging road, the route climbs steeply northwards, along the waymarked Stockmount Drover's trail. Turning right at this junction allows descent out of forest to the Auchenblae-Stonehaven public road.



Navigating in the Fetteresso is easy

299 NO 727852

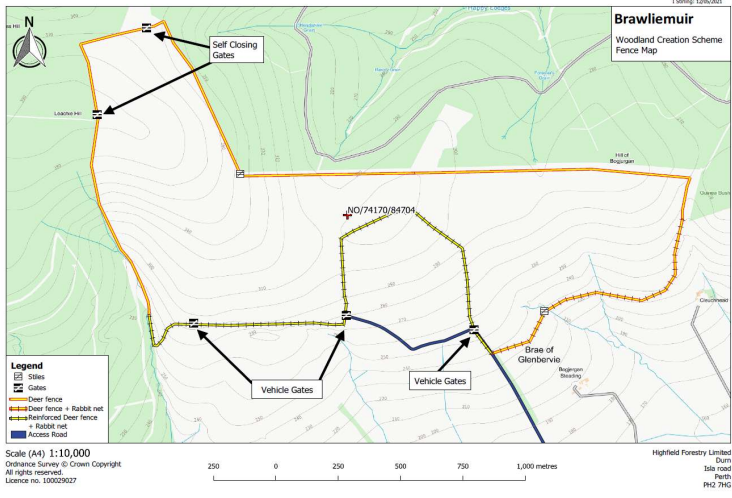
Mid Hill windfarm visible for 100m. Avert your eyes and jog on, soon you will be turning your back on it.

- 301 NO 727853 Do not use this pipeline route, the fence at the end, at the forest edge, does not have a stile and would be very difficult to climb safely.
- 304 NO 727854 Turnoff from logging road to a landrover track following a second underground gas pipeline and underground cable. Continuing straight on instead, following the posted windfarm exit route, brings you out at the Cowie crossing, frequently used as a TGO campsite. Following the logging road southwards from Cowie crossing allows re-joining this route at waypoint 416. Using this landrover track reduces exposure to the windfarm and allows you to travel along the southern edge of the forest.



Landrover track along the gas pipeline towards Leachie Hill

- 320 NO 737854 Since 2020 a new deer fence has been erected in the area. gates and stiles maintain access.



- 322 NO 737854 Follow the muddy, peaty track along the route of the underground cable or take a direct route across the heather past Leachie Hill trig point.



Northwest towards Benachie

East towards Stonehaven past Leachie Hill

- 324 NO 737854 Good views across the forest and Deeside towards Bennachie
- 338 NO 741854 Views towards the North Sea and Stonehaven
- 341 NO 745852 Decision point: either continue to follow cable route along the edge of the forest, muddy and peaty, or climb wooden stile and cross over to the logging road. The edge of the forest option is more direct but more difficult terrain, the logging road option is further but faster. Using the logging road also allows you to descend through the forest to Finnglennie burn at waypoint 350 which provides usable camping locations. If following the edge of the forest, make sure to re-enter the forest at a stile at NO 76120 85225 and follow the track northwards where it re-joins this route.



Choice of routes, logging road on the left or stay on the cable route along the edge of the forest



350 NO 747852

Decision point: continue along the logging road or descend down through the trees, there is no marked track, until you reach a pleasant disused landrover track following Rashy Grain and Finglennie Burn .There are areas suitable for single tent wild camping along this track. Look for flat areas next to the track, they look a bit lumpy but often they are covered in very soft mossy heather. This is not the spikey, woody heather that you get on managed grouse moors. The track follows a terrace high above the broad flat Finglennie Burn valley, water can be obtained from the feeder burns crossing the track . Note the road marked on OS maps between the track and the logging road (NO 75500 85775) does not exist on the ground. The track eventually reaches the main logging road at NO 76393 86127. A short diversion allows you to look out for an interesting feature in an old tree nearby at NO 76382 86152 next to the road and a small burn. This is presumably related to the fact that this route is part of the old Cryne Corse drover's trail. A nearby sand quarry slightly back along the Cryne Corse road would provide camping but no running water.



Looking back along the Finglennie valley, track is to the left side

417 NO 766860

There is quite a long steep climb here but the good news is that it is the last one of the route, there are uphill stretches to come but none as steep as this section.

427 NO 773857

Junction of logging road. Route turns left at SSE sign past a recently felled area. Turning right leads to the Quithel car park and access to the road to Stonehaven. There is a flat grassy area near the road and near the car park, but no nearby running water.

473 NO 784859

Junction of logging road, turning right allows overgrown difficult exit from forest past Elfhill, not recommended.

480 NO 785860

Junction of logging road, turning right at the *Site Office* sign passes the, less intrusive, southern side of electricity interconnect, straight on gives an alternative route past the north side of it. This is where output from the windfarm is connected to the national grid.

545 NO 802861

Freshwater burn for water if you will need to camp at waypoint 568

568 NO 808863

It is unlikely that anyone would need a camping site here with the bars and fleshpots of Stonehaven being so close, but if anyone is running out of daylight or something, a firebreak marking the route of yet another gas pipeline has a rough fairly flat grassy bit which could be used in an emergency. You would need to bring water from the burn a few hundred metres further back.

593 NO 816868

Make sure to go straight on at this junction. Turning left will lead you to the Swanley-Rickarton road which can be used to reach Stonehaven but you would be added unnecessary miles and traffic dodging.

612 NO 82404 86810

Turnoff from logging road to a track exiting the forest towards Stonehaven.

623 NO 827865

Alternative routes to public road, left through the farmyard or straight on to Hindwells, both work and are opposite sides of a rectangle.

To get to Stonehaven, follow the single track road down to the Stonehaven to Auchenblae road at NO 84189 86187, turn left towards Stonehaven and right at the single track road at NO 84783 86352. Turn right at the cemetery towards Stonehaven. To take the backroads to Dunnotar Castle turn right just before the veterinary surgery and walk through Kirkton of Fetteresso village towards Touks. To walk into Stonehaven stay on the main road past the garden centre (cafe) and follow it into the town centre.