

## Maryland Ride Route Feb 2012

Much of this route follows a new "Tread and Trot" route (TT). You will see the blue/green stickers as you ride around.

From the start, ride down the stoney forestry road towards Maryland. At the junction of tracks turn left down a resurfaced bridleway. (TT) The final 100 metres or so of this track has a stoney surface, so take care. Turn right at the end of this track, downhill, onto a forestry road. Turn left when you reach the lane and after a few meters, turn right across the road down a narrow track, muddy in places, with a very small stream to cross. Keep straight on through some rocks to a wide forestry track. (If your horse really won't cross the stream, backtrack to the road, continue uphill about 50m, then through the gate of the (TT) track which will rejoin our route.

LOOP A. Turn left onto this track, (TT) which gives you the opportunity for a good canter. Don't go through the barrier at the end of this track, but turn sharp right onto a bridleway (TT). Follow this bridleway downhill, crossing a forestry road, and a cross track. Straight on down hill onto a forestry road. Caution as this is a short 2-way section. (Turn right here if just riding loop A)

Where this track bends left, keep straight on to the road (TT). Cross the road with care and continue downhill on an unused road which has become rough and slippery in places (TT). Compulsory walking section here. Where this road reaches the Whitebrook lane, turn right along the road.

LOOP B. Follow this quiet country road for around 1 Km, then take a track on the left which crosses the stream. (TT) Continue on this by-way, alongside the Whitebrook, for around another 1 Km to the end. A compulsory walking section past the houses.

Follow the bridleway to the left uphill (TT). Then there is an option here to take a 1 km short cut straight on (keep to this track, stoney in places, until it reaches a forestry road then turn left uphill). The main route turns right down a steep slippery track to the river Wye. Turn left onto a disused railway track alongside the river (TT). Just past the fisherman's hut take the wide forestry road to the left uphill. New "leaping salmon" wooden bench on the junction. (Riders taking the short-cut will appear from the left half-way up this hill).

Just after a sharp right hand bend the track has been resurfaced with a horse unfriendly surface. It may have bedded in more by late February and riders may continue to use it if they wish as in previous years, but unless it has been very frosty, the ride will be routed to the right, steep uphill on a narrow track through the trees. At the top, turn left, and follow a track which winds along the ridge through the trees. Shortly before reaching the lane, take a left fork downhill to the forestry barrier at the end of the main "Colonels park" forest track.

Pass a farm entrance on your left, then turn right onto a bridleway. This effectively passes through someone's garden, so there is a strict compulsory walking section. Please keep to the left on the grass section. When you reach the Penalt lane turn left downhill to a cross roads with the Whitebrook lane. CP1

(Option here to turn left and repeat loop B for those wanting a longer distance. Tell steward at CP1.)

END OF LOOP B (9.5 Km).

At the CP1 road junction take the narrow track uphill between the trees. At the junction with a forestry road, turn Left. This track soon bends sharp right uphill (2 way section you came out on ) then sharp left. LOOP A. Continue straight on at a forestry barrier until you reach the road ( or repeat loop A- 3km by following the main forestry track to your right , going around a forestry barrier and riding the good canter track again)

Anyone wanting to finish at this point, can then cross the road into Maryland and follow this road back to the venue. (16 Km).

LOOP C. Turn left down the road to The Narth. (Don't ride on ANY of the grass verges ). At the corner road junction, just past the bus stop, with a turning signed Pen-y-Van, go straight ahead into the forestry (manor wood). Follow a windy track through the trees and cross a small stream where your horse might like to stop for a drink.(Horses that won't cross the stream can follow the road to the left into The Narth and turn onto the Forestry road directly). Turn right down the forestry road . Take the next right - track goes back over the top of the stream. On downhill for 1/2 Km then take the steep uphill on the right.

Near the top of the hill, take a narrow track to the right steep uphill and come out at a small car park at Pen-y-van. Turn left down a by-way. When you reach a lane turn right uphill. Take the left fork, uphill by a telephone kiosk. Continue to a Bridleway gate. (leave open) (Duchess Mile bridleway) (TT). Through another gate (leave open) then continue to a cross roads of forestry tracks. Turn right. After around 200m go around the forestry barrier onto the Venue parking track. Either turn right up the Cleddon/Maryland forestry road back to the finish (20 Km) or turn left for final loop D.

Final Loop D (4Km): Take the track to the right opposite Cleddon Hall. Shortly take a track to the left and follow to the Cleddon road. Turn right and follow the road for around 200 m and turn Left, go around the Forestry barrier onto a firm track that goes around Cleddon Bog. Continue to the end of this track. Go around another barrier, then turn Left onto a lane. Very shortly turn right onto narrow muddy track uphill through the trees (Nine wells wood). Turn left onto a forestry road with a good grass verge. Follow this to another barrier and the road at Cleddon. Turn left onto the road, then immediately right and follow the Cleddon/Maryland forestry road back to the venue. (24 Km)