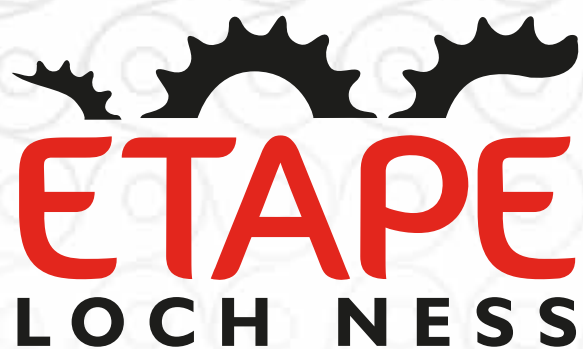


All you need to
know about the
Etape Loch Ness
is here



ETAPE LOCH NESS

27 APRIL 2025 | EVENT GUIDE



www.etapelochness.com

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Welcome



We look forward to welcoming you to the Etape Loch Ness. We have riders from all over the UK taking part and we hope you enjoy your visit to this stunning part of the country.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Highland Council, Police Scotland, Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Alba Traffic Management, MERT and other agencies and organisations who have provided invaluable support and advice with the planning of the event.

We are delighted to be partnered with Macmillan Cancer Support for the 11th year running; over the last decade Etape riders have raised a phenomenal £2.18m for people living with cancer across Scotland and the UK.

A huge thank you is extended to the local residents, communities and businesses along the route for their support and cooperation; and a special mention for the many individuals, charities and organisations who volunteer over the event weekend for their invaluable support.

Finally, thank you to our sponsors & partners: High5, Erdinger Alkoholfrei, Harry Gow Bakery, Caledonian Logistics, Yellow Jersey and Scottish Canals and our mechanical partners: 42Cycling, Bikes of Inverness, Dryburgh Cycles, LC24 Bike Repair and Race Craft Bikes.

Everything you need to know about the event is here, so please take time to read these important instructions carefully to ensure you have an enjoyable and safe event experience. Please also refer to the **event website**, **Facebook**, **Instagram** to keep up to date.

We would like to wish you all good luck with your final preparation and look forward to seeing you all at Registration on Saturday 26 April.

Malcolm Sutherland
CEO



Team Macmillan at Etape Loch Ness: You're Making the Miles Count!

To our incredible 600+ Team Macmillan riders tackling Etape Loch Ness:

Every turn of your wheels makes a difference. As you prepare to take on the breathtaking route around Loch Ness, remember this: your determination will directly support people when they need it most.

Your impact is real. In 2023, our services reached an estimated 2.3 million people living with cancer across the UK. With 98% of our income coming from amazing fundraisers like you, your efforts truly transform lives.

Join us at the Event Hub:

Saturday: Collect your exclusive Team Macmillan jersey, specially designed tartan buff, and fuel up with complimentary snacks

Sunday: Celebrate your achievement with a well-deserved complimentary post-race massage



Sponsors & Partners

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

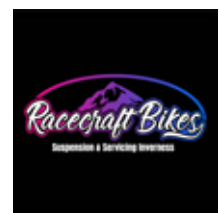


YellowJersey
Insurance for cycling

**Scottish
Canals**



JustGiving™



Read more about our Sponsors & Partners [here](#).

Timings & Planning your Trip

KEY EVENT TIMINGS

SATURDAY 26 APRIL

10.00-19.00 Registration for all participants at the Event Hub, Eden Court Theatre, Bishops Road, Inverness IV3 5SA.

SUNDAY 27 APRIL

06.00 - 06.50 Start of the Etape Loch Ness at Bught Park, Bught Road, Inverness, IV3 5SQ. Riders must arrive at their start holding area within their allocated arrival time (see page 9). Please note the start is 1 km from the Event Hub.

08.45 - 13.00 Participants expected to cross the finish line on Bishops Road.

10.30 Presentation at Event Hub

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

The Event Hub is at Eden Court, Bishops Road, Inverness IV3 5SA, 0.6 mile from Inverness city centre, bus and train stations, and 11 miles from Inverness airport.

The start is at Bught Park, Bught Road, Inverness IV3 5SQ, which is approx. 1 km from the Event and the finish is on the riverside on Bishops Road, Inverness.

TRAVEL TO INVERNESS

Please visit our website for information on getting to Inverness and www.trafficscotland.org for travel updates.

WHERE TO STAY, WHAT TO SEE & DO



Cycling around Loch Ness is enough of a challenge without having to worry about how to get there, where to stay and what to do after. Make sure that your weekend all goes to plan! For accommodation, where to eat and what to see and do, visit www.visitinvernesslochness.com



CAR HIRE

Our official car hire partner Arnold Clark is offering all participants and supporters a **20% discount** off their best web rate on car rental. To book, visit arnoldclarkrental.com quoting promotional code **BAXT** or call **0141 567 0561**. Terms and conditions apply.



BIKE HIRE

Cycle Hire Scotland can take away the hassle of bringing your own bike to the event. They have both hybrids and road bikes from a range of quality brands in a variety of sizes available to hire for the Etape Loch Ness. Book online today, then all you need to do is turn up at registration, ride the event and hand the bike back. Book by 14 April. www.cyclehirescotland.co.uk/book

Share your Etape Loch Ness stories & photos with us
@etapelochness #etapelochness #ridelochness



Parking

PARKING

Parking is available at the following public car parks over event weekend, see parking map below. Parking charges will apply and traffic wardens will be in operation, park in marked bays only. Where possible we recommend car sharing, using public transport or cycling / walking to the Event Hub.

Disabled parking spaces are available at Eden Court Theatre and Highland Council car parks.

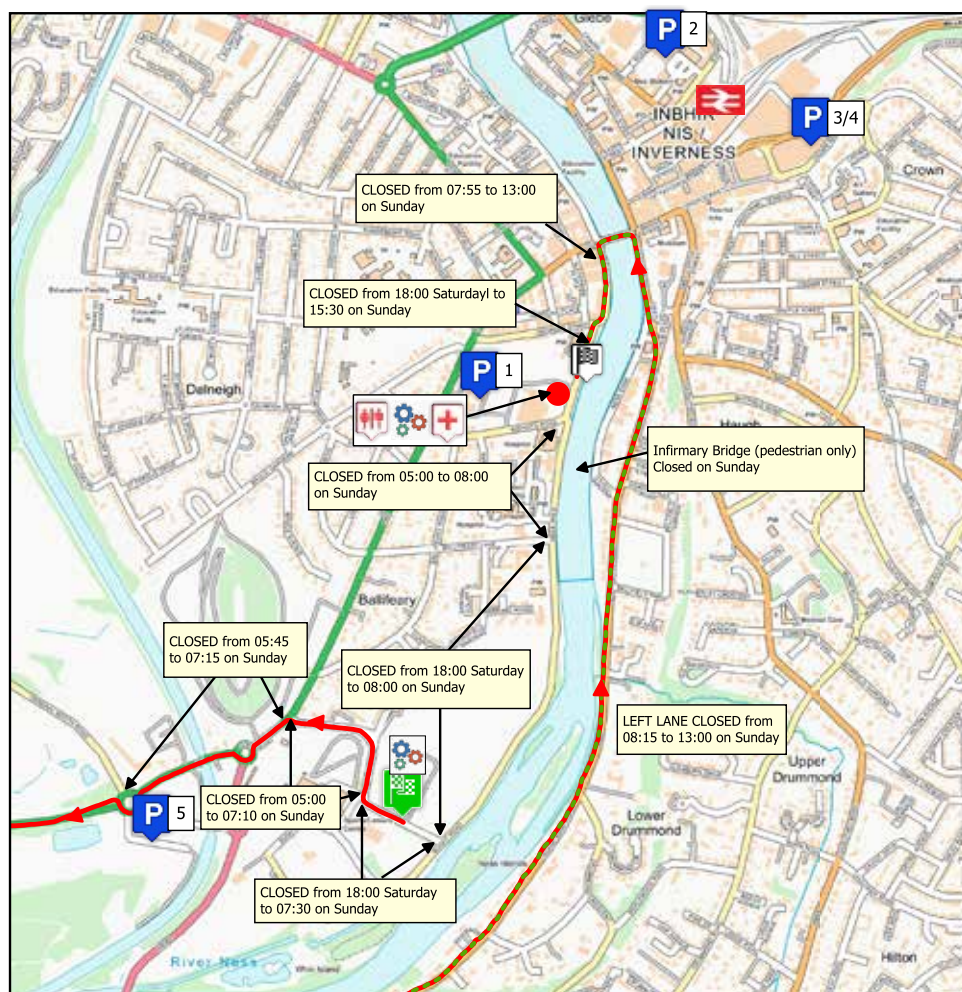
Please note the temporary traffic restrictions in place on Sunday morning and plan your journey carefully, allowing plenty of time for parking.

There is NO access or parking available at the Inverness Ice Centre, Inverness Leisure or Highland Rugby Club car parks.

Please be considerate towards local residents and businesses when parking for the event.

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

On Sunday, temporary traffic restrictions will be in place along the event route in Inverness and around Loch Ness – please plan accordingly. There will also be restrictions in place around the Event Hub and Bught Park area in Inverness on Saturday from 18:00. The Infirmary Bridge is closed 05:00-16:00 on Sunday. Please refer to our website [here](#).



ETAPE
LOCH NESS
Map Symbols

- Start
- Finish
- Event Hub @ Eden Court, Bishops Rd, Inverness IV3 5SA
- Toilets
- First Aid
- Mechanical Support
- Station
- Parking

Parking and Road Closures

Parking - charges may apply

1. Highland Council Car Park, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX
 2. Rose Street Multi Storey, Farraline Park, Inverness, IV1 1NH
(open 7 days a week 24 hours a day - not suitable for roof cycle racks)
 3. Eastgate Car Park, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Inverness, IV2 3PP
(open Sat 8am - 7pm; Sun 10am - 6pm - not suitable for roof cycle racks)
 4. Falcon Gallery Car Park, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Inverness, IV2 3PP
(open Sun 6am - midnight - not suitable for roof cycle racks)
 5. Torvean Car Park, Inverness IV3 8JL
- Please do not park at the Ice Rink or Inverness Sports Centre

Mandatory & Recommended Kit

MANDATORY KIT

Please be aware that weather conditions can change and deteriorate rapidly in the Scottish Highlands and you should bring appropriate clothing to keep warm in any adverse weather:

- Make sure that your bike is in PERFECT working order and has been serviced prior to the event (see page 14).
- Road bikes are preferable, but gravel, mountain and hybrid touring bikes are acceptable.
Please note that fixed wheel bikes (bikes that use pedals as a brake) are NOT permitted
- Helmet – the wearing of hard shell helmets conforming to CE standard EN1078 is mandatory and must be worn at all times when cycling
- Two filled water bottles & energy snacks
- **Mobile phone: please add Event HQ numbers: 07871 677195 and 07871 677317 to your phone.**
Please note these numbers are operational from 06.00 on event day and to be used in an emergency ONLY.

Mandatory basic bike repair kit that includes:

- 2 inner tubes
- puncture repair kit (with glueless patches)
- tyre levers
- multi-tool with chain splitter
- chain speed links (to join a broken chain)
- pump or air canister inflator
- spare gear hanger specific to your brand and model of bike
(this is the item that is most likely to bend or break during travel or a crash and without this our mechanical teams are unlikely to get you back on the road if it's badly damaged)



There are plenty of YouTube clips on how to change a tube, it's worth practising at home!

RECOMMENDED KIT

Other items we recommend that you carry:

- waterproof jacket
 - small first aid kit
 - clear lens glasses
 - emergency money / bank card
- In cool or adverse weather conditions, we also recommend:
- warm base layer
 - windproof jacket
 - insulated waterproof gloves
 - skull cap or buff for underneath your helmet
 - over boots on top of your cycling shoes
 - warm long or 3/4 length leggings to keep legs insulated from the cold

eBIKES

Please ensure all eBikes are fully charged the night before the event. Take chargers with you and ensure electronic gear shifting systems are fully charged the night before as they can be prone to discharging during travel if the levers are touched.

RECUMBENT BIKES

It is compulsory to have a head height safety flag attached to your recumbent bike or trike.

Registration & Event Pack

REGISTRATION

All participants **MUST** attend pre-event registration between 10.00-19.00 on Saturday at the Event Hub at Eden Court Theatre to collect your event pack.

Please check our website for your rider number before coming to Registration. If your name is showing twice on the list of riders, please log-in to your Active account in order to confirm which is your rider number.

During the registration process, you will be required to show photo ID in order to receive your event pack. If you are unable to attend Registration and wish to send a friend or relative to collect your event pack on your behalf, they must bring photo ID for themselves as well as a signed letter of authorisation from you confirming they are authorised to collect on your behalf. Template letter available on our website.

Please note there is strictly no registration on Sunday morning.

There are strictly no event weekend entries or transfer of places between riders, the deadline to transfer your place to another participant was 2 March. As per our terms & conditions of entry, we do not offer refunds or a deferment to the next edition of the event.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE EVENT HUB

There is lots going on at the Event Hub on both days for participants and supporters, with free entry for all.

Whether it's some new gear to ride in, some fuel to get you round or some last minute essentials for the ride, you'll be spoilt for choice at the Expo. A delicious selection of street food & drink will be on offer including a pop-up bar. Our mechanical team will be on hand on Saturday to assist with any minor tweaks and mechanical issues, please see page 14 for more information.

There will be a series of Q&A sessions on the podium taking place throughout Saturday. Keep an eye on our socials for the schedule.

EVENT PACK

Within your event pack you will receive the following:

- **Rider Number** – which must be attached to the **BACK** of your cycle top during the event (using the safety pins provided). Your number should be clearly visible at all times.
- **Bike Number with TIMING CHIP** – fixed to the handlebar of your bike using the cable ties provided, with the number clearly visible to the front. Do not bend the timing chip: see photo.
- **The timing chip** is registered to your rider number and will provide your official times for the event if used correctly. The timing chip will automatically start recording your time when you cross the start line, and will also provide a split time for the King of the Mountain stage.
- **IMPORTANT:** please complete the emergency contact / medical information on the reverse of your rider number before attaching to the **BACK** of your cycle top. If you have a medical condition, please put as much information as possible on the reverse of your rider number and put a red cross on the front. This is so medical teams are aware of any existing medical condition should you require assistance on the course.



LONDON CLASSICS

In 2025, riders can substitute RideLondon for the 2025 Etappe Loch Ness as part of their London Classics. Participants who wish to complete the London Classics at Etappe Loch Ness, should apply [here](#) by 16.00 on 10 April.

Merchandise



MERCHANDISE

If you have pre-ordered an Etape Loch Ness cycle jersey, you should collect this from the merchandise stand at the Event Hub during registration on Saturday. Cycle jerseys and other merchandise including tees and mugs will also be for sale during the event weekend, subject to stock availability. **Order your jersey by 20 April** to avoid disappointment.

www.etapelochness.com/shop



GETTING TO THE START

The start is located at Bught Park, 1km from the Event Hub at Eden Court. We encourage you to allow plenty of time to get to your start holding area. See parking map on page 5. Please follow signs and marshal directions to guide you to your start holding area and the start line.

We recommend cycling to the start where possible and use of lights to cycle safely.

There will be road closures in place in Inverness and around Loch Ness prior to the event start.

The Infirmary Bridge will be closed 05.00-16.00.

Please be considerate to local residents and keep noise levels to a minimum when making your way to your start holding area.

THE START

- Participants will be split into 4 waves (A-D) based on your estimated finish time.
- You will receive an email with link to your start wave (A-D) and your allocated time to arrive at your start holding area, and these times are posted on our website.
- Groups of riders will be released at 3 minute intervals between 06.00 and 06.50.
- Your start wave is based on your estimated finish time as provided when you entered online. This ensures that the fastest and most experienced riders start at the head of the field and allows you to cycle with participants of similar ability for your safety and enjoyment.
- Please allow plenty of time to get to your start holding area within your allocated arrival time. The start area is 1km from the Event Hub.

Start Wave A – access to start holding area between 05.30-05.50

Start Wave B – access to start holding area between 05.30-05.50

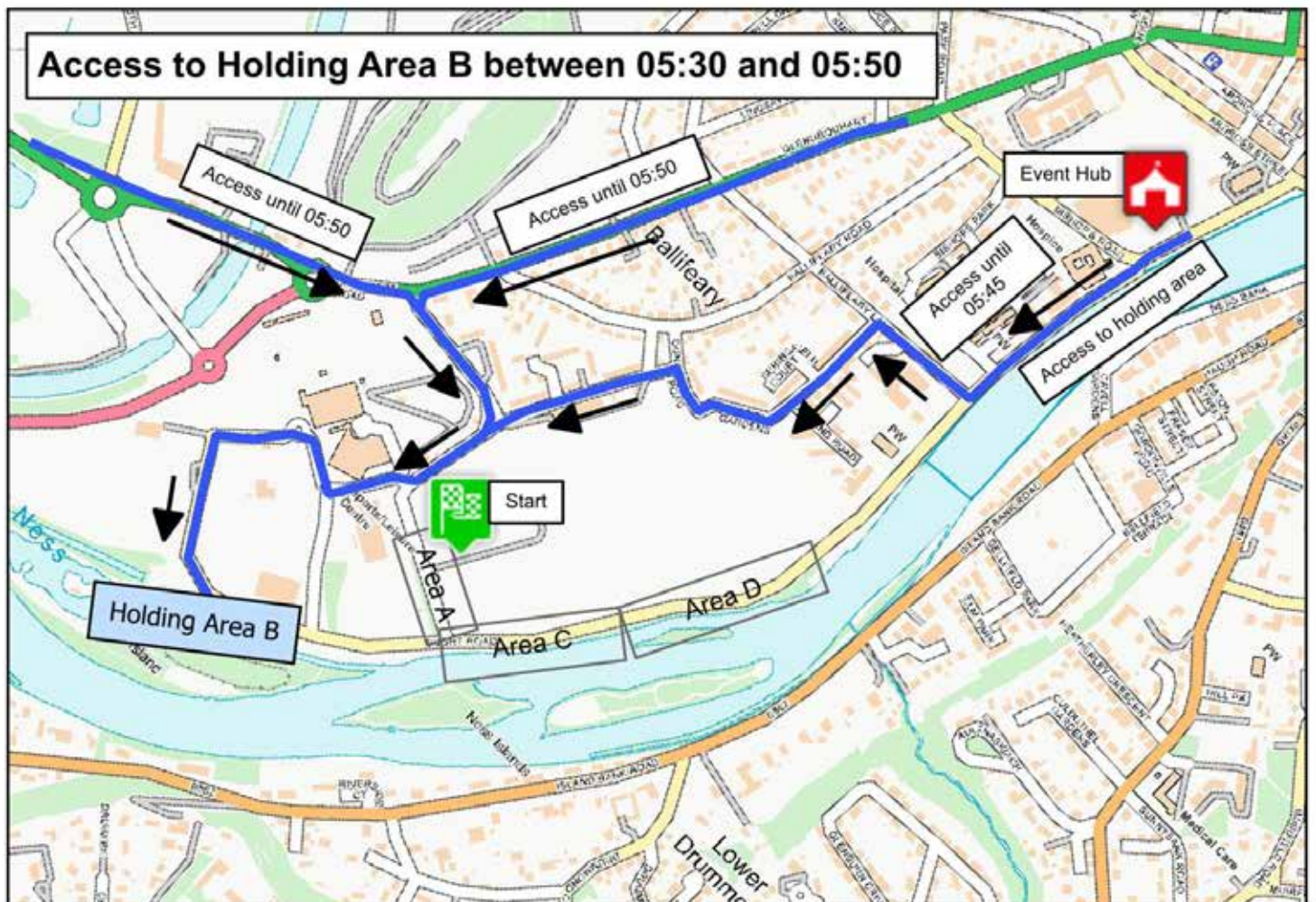
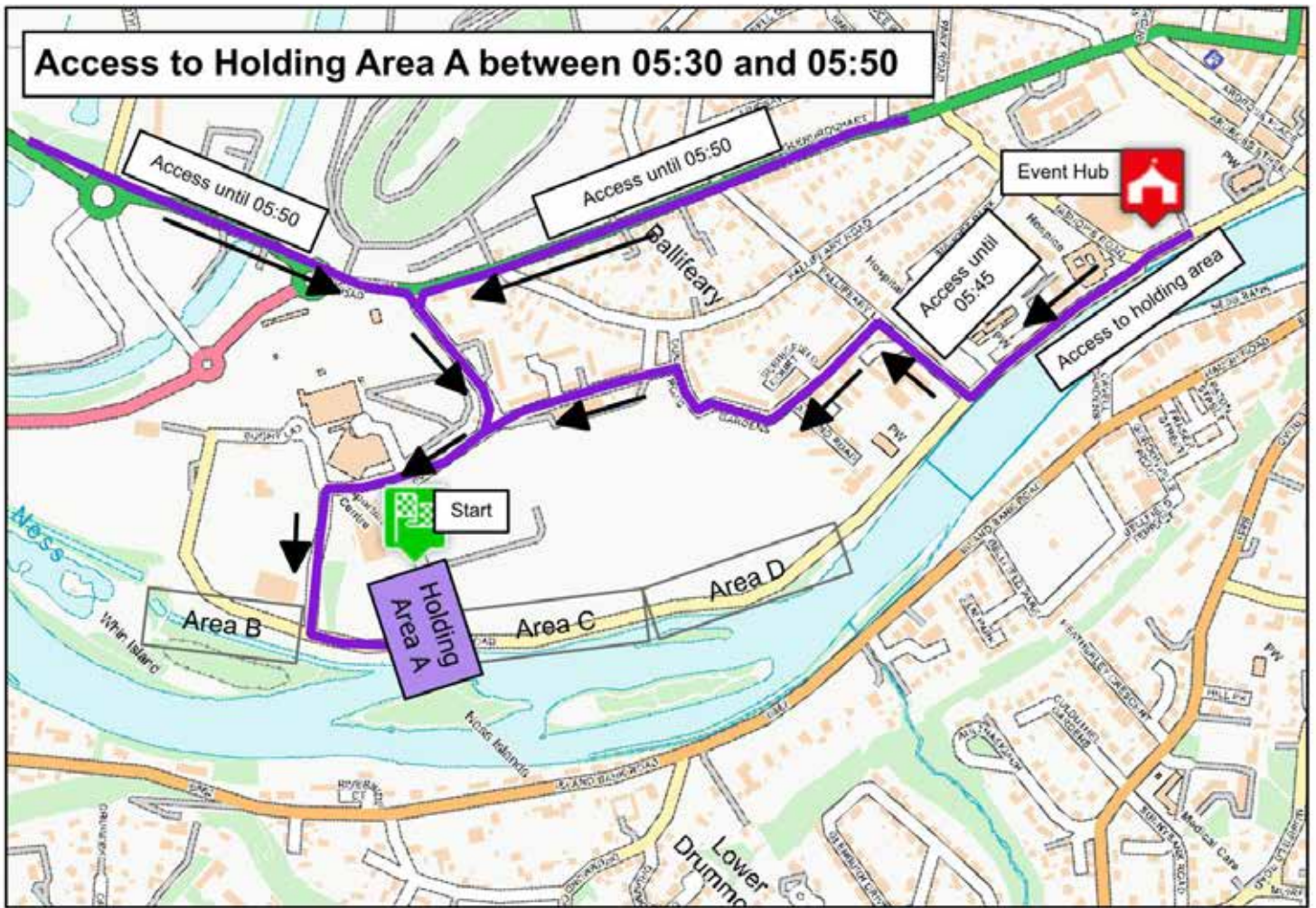
Start Wave C – access to start holding area between 06.00-06.20

Start Wave D – access to start holding area between 06.20-06.35

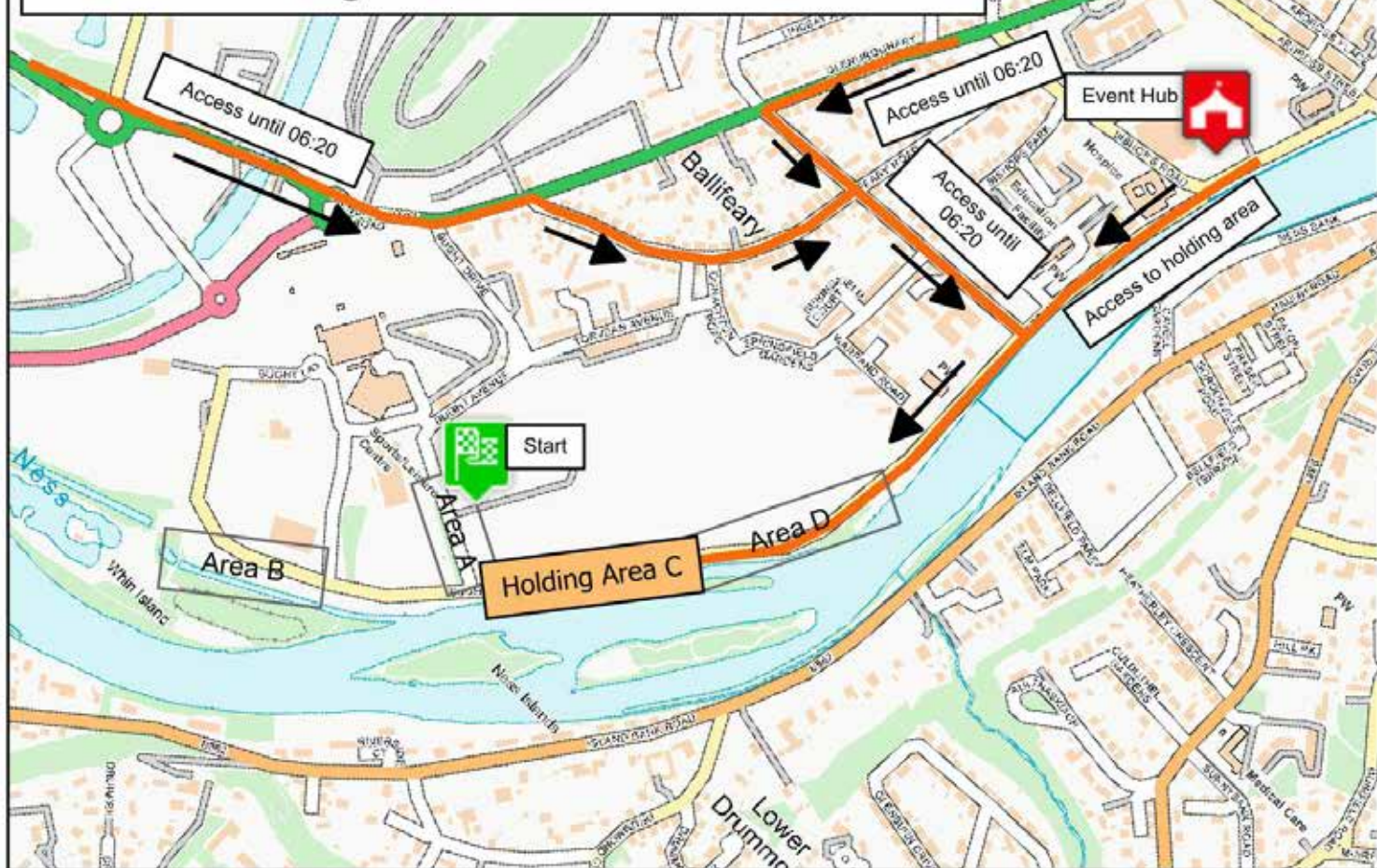
- Please note that there are different access routes to the start holding areas for each start wave. Please refer to the maps below. For start wave A and B, if arriving via Ballifeary Lane, please note cut-off time for access is at 05.45.
- If you miss your arrival time for your start holding area, you will be asked to join the last wave of riders. If you miss the final wave we are very sorry but you will NOT be allowed to take part in the event.
- **Please watch our video here on the start procedure.**

Please add the Event HQ numbers: 07871 677195 and 07871 677317 to your phone.

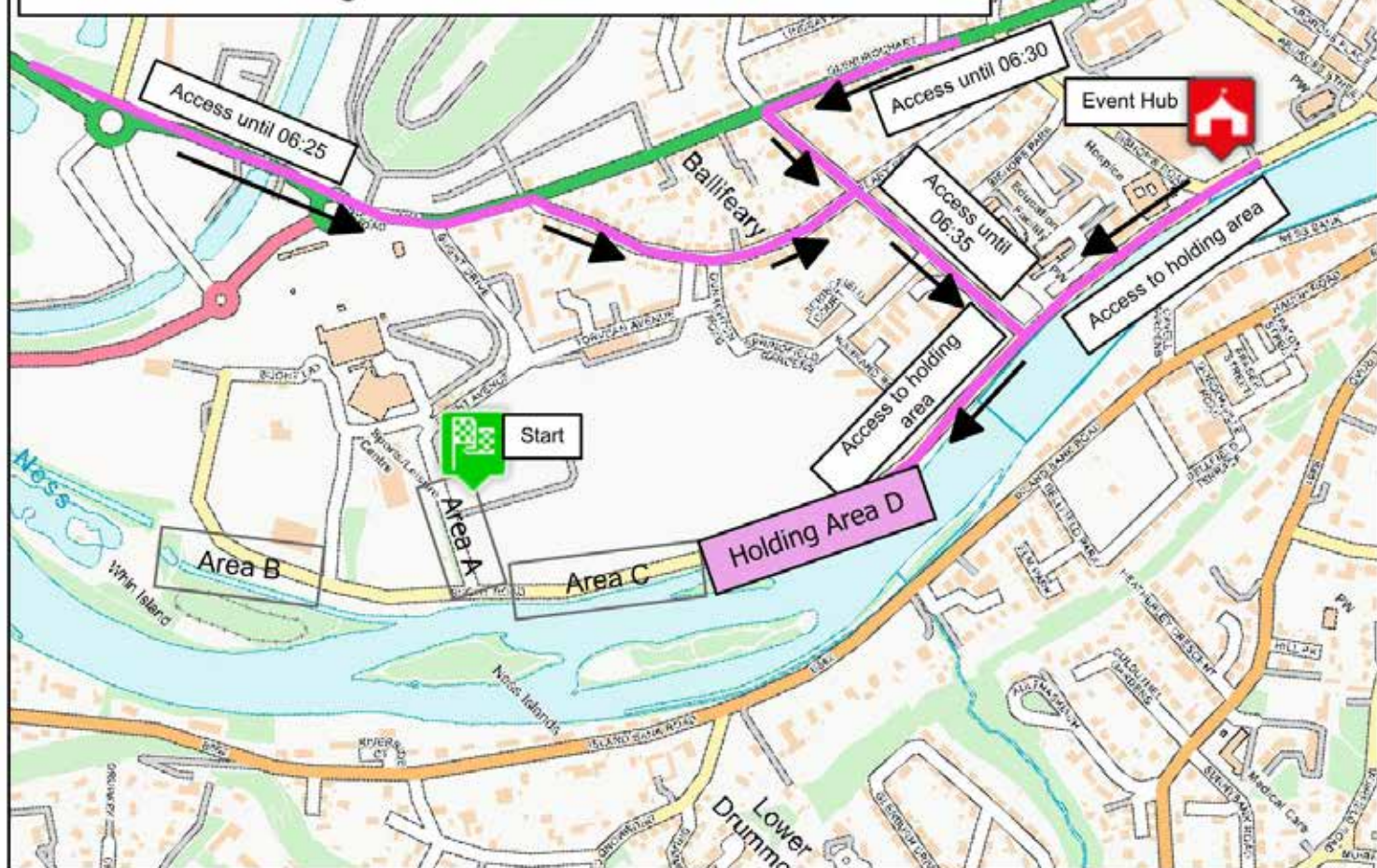
**Please note that these numbers will be operational from 06.00 on event day
and are to be used in an emergency ONLY**



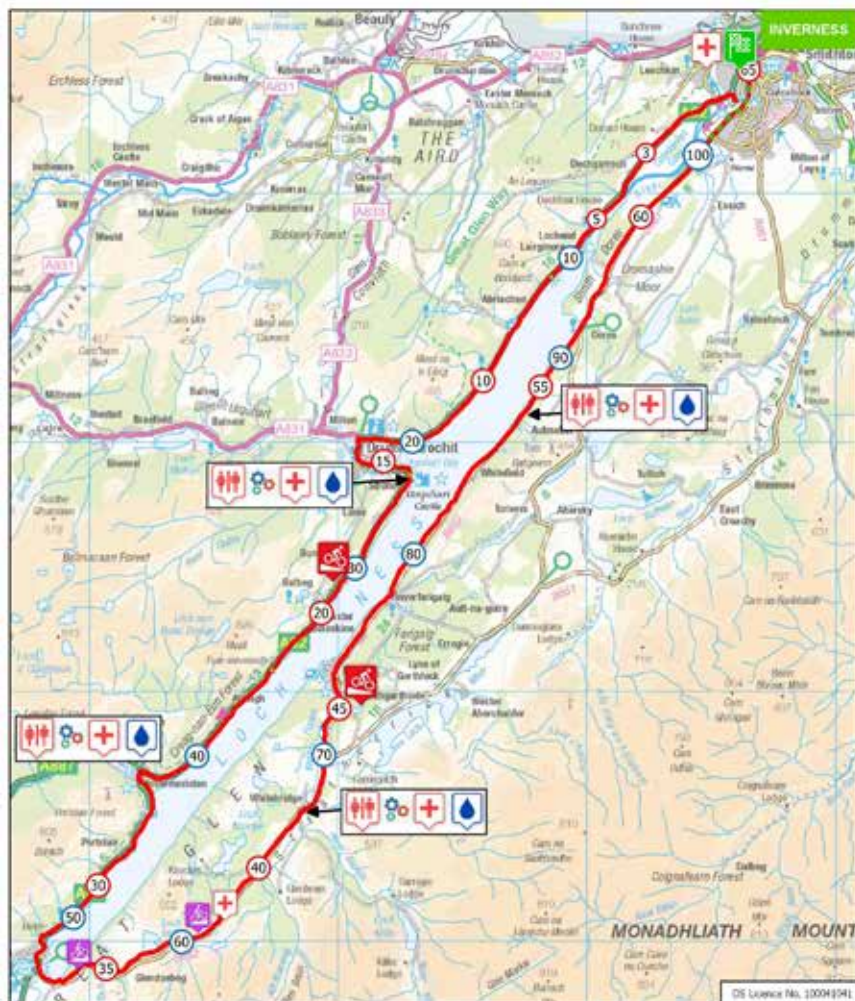
Access to Holding Area C between 06:00 and 06:20



Access to Holding Area D between 06:20 and 06:35



The Route



Route Profile



Map Symbols

- Start/Finish
- Mile Markers
- KM Markers
- Holm - Inverness (left hand lane closure only)
- Caution - Steep Descent/Bends
- King of the Mountain (4.8 miles)

Support Stations:

- First Aid
- Mechanical Support
- Toilets
- Water

www.etapelochness.com | info@etapelochness.com

Route Map

The Etape Loch Ness route covers a distance of 66 miles (106km) and has a total ascent of 900m. Please refer to the route map on page 12.

- We have priority on all roads throughout the event, however please keep to the left hand side of the road at all times as it might be necessary for emergency and official event vehicles to travel along the route in either direction.
- The event takes place on roads which are closed to all forms of traffic (access is allowed for emergency services and official event vehicles).
- **Please note that one section of the route is left lane closure only.** This is the final section on entering Inverness (from Holm roundabout) to the finish where traffic will be travelling on the opposite carriageway. **Participants must take extra care on this single lane section as there is a new ramp and several points where the route narrows.** Participants must NOT cross the central white line at any time, which would result in your disqualification.
- **Please cycle on the LEFT at all times unless overtaking. If you need to dismount and walk at any time, walk in single file on the LEFT.**
- Take care when passing other participants, and always look over your shoulder before overtaking. Please allow faster riders to pass you when possible.
- Make sure you know the route! There will be clear signage throughout but it is your responsibility to navigate the course successfully and safely.
- A GPX of the route is available on our website.
- **Emergency vehicles are required to attend incidents along the closed roads during the event, so be prepared to give way, stop and pull off the road for any emergency vehicles that require access. Be aware that emergency vehicles will travel on the 'normal' i.e. left-hand side of the road so may appear behind you. They will always try to travel in the direction of the ride but this will not always be possible, therefore may also be travelling towards you. Stay alert!**
- Take care when continuing straight through, or stopping at support stations – there are a lot of riders stopping at each of these and signs will be in place giving adequate warning of what side of the road the support station is on. Please pay attention to these and keep to the appropriate side. Pay particular attention to riders around you, as some may stop or change direction suddenly at these points.
- The roads around the route vary in width and there are steep descents and sharp bends. It is up to you to judge the safe speed at which to negotiate any part of the course. On fast descents, traffic islands or sharp corners either a 'Caution' sign or marshal will be present with a yellow flag and whistle to alert you to the hazard.
- Please do watch out for uneven road surfaces as these are a hazard along any sportive route.
- The route is marshalled for your safety with motorcycle marshals patrolling the route and marshals in static locations along the route. You must be prepared to slow down when necessary and obey the instructions of marshals or event officials.
- The Organisers reserve the right to alter the route if operationally required.
- You will be riding in a large group from the start, so please take care, especially when the route turns left onto Glen Urquhart Road shortly after the start, goes around two roundabouts and crosses the Caledonian Canal at the Tomnahurich Swing Bridge.
- There is a swing bridge in Fort Augustus over the canal which will resume operation after 09.35am (after the event sweep convoy passes over it). If the swing bridge is in operation, you will be asked to obey the road signs / warning lights, and any instructions from the Bridge Keeper. You will be asked not to use the lock gate walkways, and should wait for the road to open again.
- There are two cattle grids on the route: one at 1-mile into the King of the Mountain stage and one just beyond the summit of the King of the Mountain. The best way to approach a cattle grid is straight on: freewheel and don't brake on the grid, as the quicker you go over, the easier it is.
- **It is essential you are aware of your surroundings at all times, please do NOT wear music headphones or take or make mobile phone calls or take photos while you are riding.**

KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

At approx. 34 miles (55km) into the route as you leave Fort Augustus, there is a 4.8 mile (7.78km) climb gaining 380m in height with a gradient reaching 12%. The start and finish of the King of the Mountain section will be clearly marked and all participants receive a split time for this section, which will be included with your time.

If you walk up any of the King of the Mountain, please walk in single file and keep LEFT at all times.

What to expect along the route

HYDRATION & NUTRITION

Endurance cycling is a very intensive activity, remember to keep well hydrated for the duration of the event.

There will be 4 support stations on the course providing toilets, first aid, food, water and mechanical support, located as follows:

- Support Station 1 – Urquhart Castle, Drumnadrochit (mile 15)
- Support Station 2 – Invermoriston (mile 27)
- Support Station 3 – Wildside Centre (Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust) in Whitebridge (mile 42)
- Support Station 4 – between Inverfarigaig and Dores (mile 54.5)

High5 Energy Gels, sweet and savoury options from Harry Gow Bakery and fruit will be provided at the support stations. It will also be possible to refill your water bottles with water and High5 Energy Drink.

Please note that water will NOT be provided at the Start so please arrive at the Start line with TWO full water bottles and energy snacks to begin your ride. More water can be obtained at the support stations.

When you cross the finish line, there will be Harry Gow goodies and an Erdinger Alkoholfrei beer waiting for you!

Ensure you rehydrate fully in the days before and after the event and drink regularly along the route especially in warm weather. Remember to drink sensibly for the duration of the event, and remember not to take on too much or too little fluid.

Please keep your gel wrappers and other rubbish in your pockets during the ride and dispose of all rubbish responsibly at support stations where litter bins are available.



Getting your sports nutrition right will help you go faster, further and most importantly you'll have more fun! Our nutrition partner, **HIGH5** will be providing a selection of tasty products:

- **HIGH5 Energy Drink:** a great tasting carbohydrate and electrolyte drink to help you sustain your performance and enhance your hydration on the bike.
- **HIGH5 Energy Gels:** a convenient, fruity gel which delivers carbohydrate straight to your muscles when cycling.
- You will also receive a **HIGH5 Energy Bar** with your post-event goodies.

If you plan to use these products on race day, we recommend you try the products in training first.

More information here: www.highfive.co.uk

MECHANICAL SUPPORT

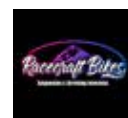
Make sure your bike is Etape ready! We recommend you take your bike for a full service prior to taking part in the event to ensure your bike is in top condition for the event. Most local bike shops are extremely busy in the weeks leading up to the event so they advise you to book your service in early.

Our mechanical team will be on hand during registration and on the course to assist with minor tweaks and mechanical issues. However, if your bike is requiring more in-depth attention during registration, you will be directed to local bike shops where time will be limited due to most staff being present at the Event Hub. So be fully prepped and avoid mechanical issues on the day by booking your bike in for a service now.

Mechanical support will be available at the following locations along the route:

- Support Station 1 – Urquhart Castle, Drumnadrochit (mile 15)
- Support Station 2 – Invermoriston (mile 27)
- Support Station 3 – Wildside Centre (Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust) in Whitebridge (mile 42)
- Support Station 4 – between Inverfarigaig and Dores (mile 54.5)

With thanks to our mechanical support partners:



What to expect along the route

LITTERING

It's a privilege to be able to cycle around iconic Loch Ness and Inverness, so please do everything you can to keep it free from litter and dispose of your rubbish responsibly.

Please keep your rubbish in your pockets and get rid of it at the support stations where litter bins are available.

Please use litter bins and do not drop litter.

There will be litter bins provided at each support station along the route, at the finish and Event Hub.

In addition, there are 4 clearly signed **'Litter Drop Zones'** which will be small sections of the road approx. 1-2 miles after each support station where you will be permitted to discard your litter. When using these zones, please take care to ensure you discard your litter at the LEFT edge of the road to reduce the risk of hazard to riders behind you.

Littering in any other locations along the route will NOT be tolerated. Please help us to keep Loch Ness and Inverness clean and tidy.



TOILETS

Portable toilets are available at the Event Hub, Start and located at each support station (mile 15, 27, 42, 54.5) and just south of the King of the Mountain summit (mile 37). For the consideration of residents, businesses and the local community, we request that you only use the toilet facilities provided.

CUT-OFF TIMES AND RETIRING

- Shortly after the last wave of participants has left the Start, our sweep convoy (consisting of a pace car and minibus with trailer) will follow riders along the route at a fixed speed of 13mph.
- All participants must adhere to the minimum speed of 13mph. Riders falling behind this will be given the option of returning to the Event Hub in the sweep bus or completing the course on open roads. This ensures that the roads are reopened as agreed with the authorities and local communities and once it is deemed safe to do so by the Event Organisers. This gives participants 5 hours and 38 minutes to complete the course on closed roads.
- Participants who are overtaken by the Pace Car will hear the following message: "This is the PACE CAR, you need to get ahead of us as roads will be reopening soon. Please follow the Highway code and keep left; there is a team behind who will support you."
- If you have a mechanical and are able to catch and overtake the Pace Car, you will be able to complete the course.
- We want everyone to complete the course and have a safe and enjoyable experience.
- For those participants who can no longer continue for mechanical, physical or medical reasons, the sweep team will take you and your bike back to the Event Hub in Inverness.
- The Event Organisers reserve the right to use discretion as to when riders are picked up. This would be on the grounds of safety of the rider or other road users, specifically on the section of the route on the A82, or for medical reasons. Please note the Event Organisers' decision is final.
- Any rider who refuses to get on the sweep bus will be asked to sign an event disclaimer; will have their timing chip and rider number removed and will be advised that the Highway Code and usual Road Traffic Laws apply.
- **IMPORTANT: For safety reasons, please do not leave the course without informing an Event Official.**

First Aid and Medical Support

FIRST AID & MEDICAL SUPPORT

Our medical team and Scottish Ambulance Service will provide first aid and medical care in both static and mobile units along the route. First Aiders will be located at every support station, other static locations and at the Finish. Please refer to the route map on page 12.

If you wish to retire at any point during the event, please approach an Event Official or one of our medical team. Should participants NOT be allowed to continue for medical reasons or require hospital treatment, Event HQ will be notified.

If you see another participant who is experiencing difficulty on the route and needs assistance, please report it to the nearest Event Official or one of the medical team, stating their rider number if possible.

IMPORTANT: Please give way, stop and pull off the road for any emergency vehicles that require access on the route.

If you are at the side of the road and need to stop a motorcycle marshal for any reason, please stand clear of the road facing oncoming participants, and raise your right hand, clearly indicating that you need assistance. When doing this, please make sure your hand is raised in enough time to allow for the motorcycle marshal to see you and stop safely.

MEDICAL ADVICE

Taking part in the Etape is an amazing experience however it is also a huge physical challenge so it is important to be aware of your fitness to participate, your hydration and nutrition on the day and how to look after yourself following the event. We recommend you consult with your GP prior to the event if you have any medical issues or if you are taking medication.

We hope your training has gone well but would like to remind you that if you have recently had a cold or have been ill it is important to seek medical advice prior to the event. Also, if your training has not gone to plan we ask you to give serious consideration to your ability to undertake the event.

Whether or not you have a medical condition, if you feel unwell on the event day we strongly recommend that you do not ride. The organisers reserve the right to prevent participation on the day due to medical grounds.

Cycling Etiquette & Group Riding

CYCLING ETIQUETTE

Please follow these simple steps to help ensure the safety of all those participating.

• LOOK, THINK, COMMUNICATE

- Try to maintain a predictable cycling line on the route – don't swerve suddenly.
- If you need to stop or change direction, please indicate your intention to other riders.
- If you notice potential obstacles or hazards ahead, let your fellow riders know.
- Cycle at a sensible speed and be aware of the variable quality of the road surface.
- Keep to the left-hand side of the road where possible, allowing others riding more quickly to pass on your right.
- If you need to get off your bike on hilly sections, always walk on the left allowing as much space as possible for riders to pass to the right.
- Stay alert! Emergency vehicles are required to attend incidents along the closed roads during the event, so be prepared to give way, stop and pull off the road for any emergency vehicles that require access.
Expect emergency vehicles on the route at any point, either crossing or driving along the route in both directions.
- Follow instructions given to you by event officials and marshals at all times.
- The Etappe Loch Ness is NOT a race, and you should not compromise your own safety – and that of other cyclists and spectators around you – by riding the sportive as if it was a race.
- We would ask you to be considerate to other riders regarding the use of a rear red light. As a closed road sportive, it is not strictly necessary to use any lights during the event. If however you would prefer to use a light we would encourage you to set it at the lowest intensity and consider using a rear light on your helmet instead of bike as this is above the general field of view of riders behind you.

GROUP RIDING

Riding in a large group for the first time can be quite daunting. If you get the chance to get out on the road with some other cyclists of a similar ability, it will bring on your speed and handling, and also reduce the fear of being in a large group.

Starting in a group of similar speed and ability will help keep your Etappe Loch Ness experience smoother. With less big changes in pace, this will prevent large groups passing other slower groups which can lead to confusion and heavy braking.

Consider the safety of those riding with you, and be aware that the cyclists around you will have varying levels of ability and experience.

It is important riders have an understanding of how to pass other cyclists with care. Think about a 3-4 lane motorway where you stay in the inside left lane unless you go to overtake a slower vehicle. When you go to overtake, you ensure nothing is passing you on the right, if it's clear then you move out and pass.

Group riding is no different, and there should be no big erratic changes in direction as you may well wipe out the front wheel of the rider/s coming up from behind. Always listen out for a shout from faster riders from behind and keep left to allow them to pass safely.

Remember in a group it's common for the riders in the middle not to see some of the obstacles or hazards in the road ahead. Calling out obstacles in the road such as potholes, cattle grids, riders stopped with mechanicals or a change in direction at junctions is good rider etiquette.

Confident riders will mark out obstacles by pointing them out, but some riders may prefer to call instead. These are the most common calls:

- **INSIDE** – lets riders know where a hazard or obstacle is e.g. a pothole or car on left hand side.
- **OUTSIDE** – indicates there is an obstacle on right hand side e.g. a pothole or car.
- **EASY** – lets riders know there is an obstacle or a slower group in front with little room to pass, a vehicle in the way or something blocking the road.
- **LEFT/RIGHT** – indicates there is a change in direction at a junction.

FINISH LINE

As you approach and cross the finish line, please continue to ride safely and sensibly until you dismount and be aware of marshals and other riders around you.

British Cycling has some useful **RideSmart** video clips on all aspects of taking part in a sportive which we recommend watching.

What to expect after the event

FINISH

The Finish line is on Bishops Road, Inverness. The finish area is a secure area with no public access. Once you cross the finish line, you will be presented with your medal and finisher goodies before being reunited with your friends and family in the Event Hub.

There are no changing facilities or showers available at the Event Hub.

SPECTATORS

The final 2 miles alongside the River Ness in Inverness provide the best vantage points for spectators and at the finish line on Bishops Road.

We encourage all spectators to come along to the Event Hub to welcome riders home. First riders expected from 08.45 onwards, and all riders expected between 08.45-13.00.

Please note the Infirmary Bridge (pedestrian bridge) will be closed from 05.00-16.00.

If you live in or are visiting Drumnadrochit, Invermoriston, Fort Augustus, Foyers, Inverfarigaig, Dores, why not get your friends and family to give the riders a cheer as they go past, it really does make a difference!

MASSAGE

Did you know post-event massage aids recovery, boosts circulation, removes lactic acid and promotes relaxation? After 66 miles of cycling, you'll definitely deserve it! Massage will be available at the Event Hub on event day for all riders.

DOGS

For safety reasons, no dogs, including assistance dogs, are permitted on the route. Dogs are welcome in the outside areas of the Event Hub in the grounds of Eden Court. Assistance dogs only are permitted inside the tents and inside Eden Court Theatre.

Please be aware the Event Hub will be very busy over the event weekend which can create a stressful environment for dogs. We therefore recommend that you leave them at home where possible.

Don't miss out

TIMES

You will receive a SMS text with your chip time on Sunday afternoon and chip times including KOM split times will be posted on our website later on Sunday.

PHOTOS

Your official photos from the Etappe Loch Ness will be going LIVE from the moment you pass a **MarathonPhotos Live** photographer around the course.

Share your rider number with your friends and family and they can **register here** to be notified as soon as your first photos are available online. They can then see your progress throughout the event. They might even buy your photos and your video as a well-done gift before you've even crossed the finish line!



Don't forget to share your photos and video on social media and with friends & family so they can share your achievement..

ITAB

Every event tells a story. Why not personalise your medal with an iTAB? If you wish to pre-order your iTAB, you can do so in our online shop by 20 April. If you have already purchased one, it will be posted to you by iTAB not long after the event.

PRESENTATION

The presentation for the first 3 male and female riders across the line and the King and Queen of the Mountain will take place at 10.30am on Sunday at the Event Hub. Please note there are no veteran categories.

Prizes are kindly donated by Ekoi.

HELPING OUR ENVIRONMENT

We are committed to making the event as sustainable as possible and to minimise the event's environmental impact. Please refer to our website for some of the ways we are eliminating waste and reducing the environmental impact of the event however we do need your help.



SAVE THE 2026 DATE!

The 2026 Etappe Loch Ness will take place on 26 April 2026.
Register your interest for priority entry immediately after this year's event.

www.etapelochness.com

Event Rules & Regulation

The Etape Loch Ness is intended to provide every cyclist with the best event experience. In order to do this, the following Event Rules & Regulations are in place to ensure the smooth running of the event. This list is not exhaustive and the Organisers reserve the right to amend these Rules prior to the event.

- Participants must ensure they adhere to the mandatory kit rules – these will be strictly enforced.
- Safety-approved cycle helmets (CE standard EN1078 or equivalent national standard) are compulsory and must be worn at all times when cycling. Any cyclist not wearing a helmet whilst participating in the event will be excluded.
- You must use a bike that is deemed safe for the purposes of the event in the opinion of the Event Organiser. Specifically, the following bikes are NOT permitted: fixed wheel with no brakes, fixed wheel with only a front brake, any bicycle with only one brake, handcycles, unicycles, Penny Farthings, quadcycles, BMX, towed trailers, child carriers/child seats, tag-a-long trailer bicycles, trailer bicycles, cargo bicycles, stride driven or stand up machines such as elliptical cycles, any bicycle without 360° rider visibility. Specialist time-trial bicycles are not allowed as they do not allow for immediate control of the bicycle.
- Unconventional handlebars (including triathlon bars, aero bars, clip-ons, prayer bars, Spinaci bars and cow bars) are not allowed. However, MTB bar ends are permitted on mountain bikes. Handlebars without bar-end plugs are not permitted.
- An electric bike or Ebike is permitted, provided it is a UK road legal bike with maximum electro speed of 15.5 mph (25 kph) and rated power output of 250 watts or less.
- A recumbent bicycle or trike is permitted however riders will be required to have a head height safety flag attached to the bicycle.
- Participants must display all rider numbers provided at Registration at all times: a bike number (with timing chip attached) fixed to the handlebars and a rider number attached to the back of cycle top with emergency contact / medical information completed in full on the reverse of the rider number.
- **You may NOT ride under someone else's rider number under any circumstance. Doing so will result in disqualification.**
- You must register on the date and times as specified by the Event Organiser.
- Participants will set off in waves every 3 minutes at the Start. Please arrive at your start holding area within your allocated time.
- Please cycle ON THE LEFT at all times.
- Keep left and in single file if you have dismounted.
- Be aware of other participants around you and allow faster riders to pass you on the right.
- Please note that there is one section of the route that is left lane closure only. This is the final section on entering Inverness (from Holm roundabout) to the finish where traffic will be travelling on the opposite carriageway. Participants must take extra care on this section and must NOT cross the central white line at any time, which would result in disqualification.
- You must not deviate from the official event route which will have directional signage throughout. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- Participants must adhere to the minimum speed of 13mph. Participants falling behind this will be given the option of returning to Inverness in the sweep convoy or can complete the course on open roads. The Event Organiser reserves the right to use their discretion to insist that riders get on the Sweep Bus. This will be on the grounds of safety of the rider or other road users, specifically on the section of the route on the A82, or for medical reasons. Please note the Event Organiser's decision is final.
- For safety reasons, please do not leave the course without informing an Event Official.
- You must follow the instructions provided by Event Officials, Marshals and Event Organiser at all times. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- The Event Organiser will provide water and support stations at specific locations around the route, but we encourage you to start the event with two full water bottles and enough snacks for the duration of the event.
- It is your responsibility to dress appropriately for the conditions on the event day. Remember that the weather can change and deteriorate very quickly in the Scottish Highlands; you should therefore bring appropriate clothing to keep warm and dry in any adverse weather.
- Please adhere to both the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the Highway Code for the duration of the event.
- **You may NOT use your mobile phone while cycling. You must stop at the road side if you need to make or receive a call.**
- **You may NOT use a music player with headphones while participating in the event.**
- Littering is both against the law and unacceptable behaviour; especially in an area of such outstanding natural beauty. Any participant seen disposing of litter other than in the bins provided at support stations, litter drop zones and at the Event Hub will be disqualified from the event.
- Toilets are available at all support stations on the route on the King of the Mountain and at the Event Hub. Please use these facilities and respect the local area and residents.
- The Event Organiser will make every effort to provide participants with a finish time but is not responsible for any electronic timing issues.
- The Event will only be cancelled or postponed due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances. In such an eventuality all participants will be notified by email or SMS as soon as possible. The Event Organiser shall not be liable in respect of any costs and expenses you may incur as a result of such cancellation or postponement.
- The Event Organiser has event insurance cover; however we recommend that participants have appropriate personal insurance cover.