



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter August 2016

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**Programme:**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016**  
**No Monday Evening Meeting**

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> August 2016**  
**Jock's Road**  
**Focal Pt Dan Carr: 07772 120558**  
**Riverside Car Park 07:00**

### Jock's Road OS Sheet 43

#### Mike Taylor

The Tolmount Track runs from Braedownie in Glen Doll to Auchallater in Glen Clunie and is one of the most rugged through walks in Scotland as it climbs to 910m and crosses a large tract of exposed high plateau with few landmarks. This right of way was the subject of an action in the Court of Session in 1886-87, and in the House of Lords in 1888, when it was proved that it had been for long the practice of drovers to take sheep from Braemar over the Tolmount to the market at Cullow, near Kirriemuir (Bartholomew et al, 1995).

The walk is 20 km long with an ascent of 690m from the Glen Doll side and 570 m from Auchallater - probably about a 7 hour walk. A minibus will drop the party off in Glen Doll and be driven around to Auchallater to meet everyone at the finish of the walk. From Glen Doll the walk starts at the car park near Braedownie (GR 284762) with a very pleasant woodland walk alongside the White Water. Once out of the forest the track climbs steeply up to the plateau; this part is Jock's Road, said to be named after a John Winters (Watson, 1975). On the way up to the highest point on Crow Craigies a small shelter, Jock's Bothy, is passed. After Crow Craigies the track descends towards Glen Callater with fine views of Coire Kander to the West. The track goes along the East side of Loch Callater then down a Land Rover track to Auchallater.

The charge for the minibus will be £20 per person. This is an interesting walk which, at this time of year, should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you do intend to join us please let Dan Carr (07772 120558) know by Thursday 11 August at the latest, as places in the minibus are limited

#### References:

Bartholomew et al, 1995, Scottish Hill Tracks Originally compiled by Moir in 1947, revised by Bartholomew, Bennet and Stone in 1995 Published by Scottish Rights of way Society  
Watson, 1975 The Cairngorms, Adam Watson, SMC

### Forthcoming Events

Sep 18<sup>th</sup> Glas Maol  
Oct 16<sup>th</sup> Carn a'Mhaim  
Oct 29/30<sup>th</sup> Bunkhouse Weekend

### Devil's Point Walk Report - July 2016

#### Irene Jamieson

It was day for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Munro in 2 months, a birthday and hopefully a new member. Malcolm, Andy, Tony, Neil, Emma and I left Ellon and met up with Margaret and Neil's friend Dave, visiting from Crieff, at the Linn of Dee carpark.

It was damp enough when we set off for some to put on the waterproofs, but it was mild and the breeze kept the midges away. We could see the fog, as forecast, was sitting around 1100m.

Arriving at the Luibeg most of us decided to avoid getting our feet wet on the outward journey so all but Dave, who had crossed first, detoured to the bridge.

As we marched on, noting Carn a'Mhaim our October walk on the way, the rain became more persistent and we arrived at the Corrou Bothy wet, hungry and hoping to have our lunch in the shelter. It was occupied but the lads were just leaving so kindly packed up their bags quickly to give us room. The rain easing, half the group decided not to squeeze in so not surprisingly were the first to be ready to move on again!

There was a good wind but we were sheltered as we climbed the steep path behind the bothy. On regrouping at the bealach there was a short discussion on whether we would turn right or left but the clear top of The Devil's Point was inviting and we all followed the path to the summit in our own time. It was then most of us learned it was Neil's birthday! The views were excellent along Glen Dee and towards The Lairig Ghru and Ben Macdui..... and just occasionally we felt the sun try to filter through - for a second or two!

Returning to the bealach, it was still foggy over Cairn Toul and the wind was quite strong. Some of the group felt they would rather not continue to another Munro and suggested descending to wait at the bothy. It was now well into the afternoon so with everybody being "happy either way", I decided to keep together and all head down. With hindsight I could have suggested splitting earlier, to allow for different options. The bothy was again occupied, this time with a group who were returning to the Sugar Bowl - something to think about for next summer?

It was a busy route. We had seen people all day on the hill but a few were still heading along the path with backpacks into early evening. Carrying shelter or hoping to find a space in the bothy?

Attempts to find the path via White Bridge failed due to the boggy ground so we retraced our steps returning to the cars around 7p.m. - most of the group having completed a new route and another Munro.



*Corrou Bothy and Devil's Point on a Better Day*  
Photo: Frogwell

