



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter August 2019

Secretary: Irene Jamieson, Mains of Leask Bungalow, Slains, Ellon. AB41 8LA. irenemjamieson@hotmail.com

Programme:

Monday 12th August 2019

No evening meeting

Sunday 18th August 2019

Jock's Road

Leave from Academy carpark 07:00

Focal Point – Richard Paton 07866 596613

August Walk Jock's Road Maps 43 & 44

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 Richard Paton (07866 596613) know by Thursday 15th August

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.



Glen Doll

Forthcoming Events:

September 15th - Carn an t-Saigairt Mor

October 20th – TBC

October 25th-27th – Bunkhouse – Corran.

July Walk - Newtonmore

Report and photos - Richard Paton

Lisa, Chris (new member) and I set off from the Riverside car park and we stopped at Aberlour to pick up Margaret, making a group of 4 walkers for the club's visit to the Newtonmore area.

It was agreed that we would start with A' Chailleach and Carn Sgulain, two Munros within 2 kilometers of each other to the North of the car park; and that we would decide about the return route when we reached Carn Sgulain. The weather was warm and pleasant as we set off on a good firm track with a lovely view of Glenbanchor to the West.

After around 2 kilometers the going became extremely boggy, hampering progress considerably until we were able to ford the Allt 'a Chaorainn, after which we found firmer ground on the lower slopes of A' Chailleach .

The path was somewhat indistinct at times; however, we were easily able to reach the large cairn at the summit where we could enjoy great views.

Progress to Carn Sgulain involved descending 100 metres and finding a way to cross the steep sided Allt Cuil na Caillich before making exceedingly arduous progress over soaking wet peat hags and bogs to the much firmer watershed slope (lined with old fence posts) to the summit.

As we had found the peat hags and bogs very heavy going, we decided to return via Am Bodach by following the fence posts East and descending to the valley in the hope of picking up a path that appears on the Ordnance survey 1:5K map printed from the Walkhighlands website.



There was some doubt about the existence of a path as it did not appear on any other map. As it turned out we didn't find a path until we reached the East side of Allt 'a Chaorainn and the return journey was perhaps even tougher than the ascent. Nonetheless, we were rewarded with great views of the cliffs of A' Chaillach.

After our long hard but rewarding walk we stopped for a meal in Kingussie at the Duke of Gordon Hotel, where by coincidence we were able to see the 5th set of the Wimbledon Men's final on the bar lounge television.

A'Chailleach and Carn Sgulian





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Tiny planet Carn Sgulian