



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter July 2014

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Programme:
Monday 14th July 2014
No Monday Meeting this Month

Sunday 20th July 2014
The Eag
Focal Pt Dan Carr (07772 120558)
Community Centre Car Park 07:00

The Eag OS Sheet 36 (mostly)

Mike Taylor

We discovered this delightful little valley many years ago when a more ambitious walk in the area had been aborted because of bad weather and we were looking for an interesting way to spend the day. 'Eag' means 'notch' in gaelic hence Aonach Eagach, notched ridge

The start is below Corgarff Castle at GR 255089 on Sheet 37. The first few km of the walk, are along a private road to Delnadamp Lodge where the road becomes a Land Rover track. About 2km after the Lodge we take the right fork, cross the Feith Bhait then climb for 130m gradually up into a moorland corrie. We then descend into 'An Eag', the start of a deep cleft in the hillside which takes us down, via the Burn of Little Fergie, to the river Avon. The walk so far is 11.5km with about 200m of ascent.

The last time we did this walk we returned to Corgarff via Inchroary, a distance of about 13km which is a long, and not very exciting, walk. It is suggested that this time we turn right at the R Avon and walk down the river to the parking area south of Tomintoul. This is a lovely walk of 7km through a beautiful narrow valley with old birch woods, steep green sides and screes.

This will require some organisation to get cars in the right place. I suggest walkers are dropped at Corgarff and the drivers take their cars to the finishing point. One car could then return to Corgarff with all the drivers to be picked up on the way home. This is a round trip of about 20miles

The walk is about 18km with a total ascent of 200m - probably a 5-6 hour walk allowing for stops. It is suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you intend to join us, please let Dan Carr (07772 120558) know by Thursday 17th July

Forthcoming Events

Aug 17th Lairig an Laoigh & Bynack Mor
Sep 14th Carn Ban Mor and Sgor Gaoith
Oct 19th Cairnwell Munros (x3)
Oct 25/26th Ledgowan Bunkhouse Weekend

Ben Macdui and Cairngorm

Ingrid Taylor

The weather forecast was pretty favourable, so 9 of us set off from Ellon optimistic that we would get a clear Cairngorms plateau for at least part of the day.

We made it to the ski car park in good time and set off in slight drizzle and generally overcast conditions. We crossed under all the ski lifts and set off, turning off towards the Coire an Lochain path part way up. Then came the Fiacail Ridge scramble, interesting in places, but we topped out to a misty plateau. After a (deliberate) detour to test our navigation, we picked up the path and carried on to Ben Macdui. It was a busy summit, with Wendy's headcount coming out at 27! Something we said as we arrived must have upset them all, because they all left at once giving us the top to ourselves.

After a short rest, because the wind was pretty chilly, we set off back towards Cairngorm, with the other side of the Lairig Ghru clearing to give us great views across in the corries of Cairn Toul and Sgor an Lochain Uaine. Gradually as we crossed the plateau it continued to clear to show Beinn Mheadhion's tors looking impressive and Ben Avon in the distance.

As we passed the Fiacail Ridge, it had cleared, so we stopped to have a brief look at our earlier climbing effort then carried on to Cairngorm and down under the ski paraphernalia to the car park - with a few tempted to perhaps take the last train down rather than undertake that pretty unpleasant path back to the car park - something to remember for next time. But, we made it back to the car dry, which counts as a good day in the hills in Scotland. We headed into Aviemore for some well earned cake and drinks in the newly renovated Mambos, which is now the 'Super Panther?' - open late if you ever want a café in Aviemore open after 5pm. We all looked a bit weather beaten, but satisfied after a great day, in good company, with a few more miles under our feet!

