



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter August 2010

Secretary: Alan Murray, 7 Earlsparke Avenue, Bieldside, Aberdeen, AB15 9BU. Tel: 01224 869896 email: aa.murray@btinternet.com

Programme:

Monday 9th August 2010

Brimmond Hill – Evening Walk

Meet at Car Park (GR 845086) 19:30

Ben Wyvis OS Sheet 20

Mike Taylor

Ben Wyvis stands on its own, apart from the major mountain ranges to the north and west, dominating the skyline of Easter Ross. The mountain consists of a series of summits and it is the whole range which comes under the name of *Ben Wyvis*. Opinions on the origin of the name vary. According to Drummond (Drummond, 1991), it has been linked to *fuathais* meaning *terror* but an obsolete use of the same word means *great quantity*. This has led to the suggestion that *awesome* is the most appropriate translation as this covers both meanings. The mountain was originally part of Clan McKenzie and Clan Munro lands. The clan chiefs held land on condition that the king was presented with a snowball in midsummer, which they could do as, in the past, snow patches lasted well into the summer in the northern corries.

The walk starts at the car park on the A835 just to the south of the bridge over the *Allt a Bhealaich Mhoir*. After crossing the stream, a well trodden path ascends the north side of the stream through the forest. Shortly after leaving the forest, the path, which has been newly reconstructed to avoid boggy sections, begins to ascend in a series of zig zags towards the peak of *An Cabhar*. From here, there is a wonderful 2 km ridge walk to the summit. A long stretch of this ridge is over a dense carpet of yellow-green woolly hair moss. This is the largest continuous expanse of its kind anywhere in the UK and it is easily damaged by being trampled on, so please keep to the path. The ridge narrows before the trig point is reached on the summit, which is called *Glas Leathad Mor – Big Greenish-grey Slop* - the highest of all the summits on *Ben Wyvis*. If it's a clear day, the Moray Firth can be seen to the north and east, the Cairngorms to the south and the Fannichs to the west. The easiest return is to retrace our steps.

The walk is 14km with 935m of ascent – about 6 hours. This is a reasonably demanding day but, as it will still be summer (!?), it should be within the capabilities of any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in taking part, please let Barbara Wyatt (01358 711733) know by Thursday 12th August.

References:

Drummond 1991; Scottish Hill and Mountain Names, Peter Drummond, SMC

Forthcoming Events

Sep 19 th	Devil's Point
Oct 17 th	Morrone
Oct 30/31 st	Bunkhouse Weekend
Nov 14 th	Meall a Buchaille & Bar Supper

Derry Cairngorm

Alan Murray

I arrived at the carpark in Aboyne at the appointed hour to meet the other walkers from Ellon and sort out transport, however, all thoughts of getting a spare seat were for the rest of the journey to Linn of Dee dashed as there had been a late spurt of interest in the walk; in all we had thirteen Club members on the walk – quite a record for a July walk.

We didn't tarry long at the Linn of Dee – the dreaded midgies making their presence felt – and made our way along the track to Derry Lodge at a reasonable pace, all the while thinking how less appealing this track was going to be on the return journey. As if to rub it in we were passed by a number of folks on bikes which sparked a renewed telling of Alan's grand idea to set up a

Sunday 15th July 2010

Ben Wyvis

Focal Pt Barbara Wyatt (01358 723314)

Community Centre Car Park 07:00

bike hire service; perhaps we should try to get Boris interested in extending the new London scheme to Braemar?

After a brief rest at Derry Lodge it was onwards, and more tellingly, upwards along a well constructed path through some woodland and then out onto the open hill. Steady progress saw us gaining height quite quickly with a number of stops to put on or take off rain gear. The views across to Ben A'an and Lochnagar opened up and as we climbed higher the nearby hills of the Devil's Point and Cairn Toul came into view. The summit was reached in time for lunch with views across to Macdui, Cairngorm and the cliffs of Corrie Sputan Dearg.

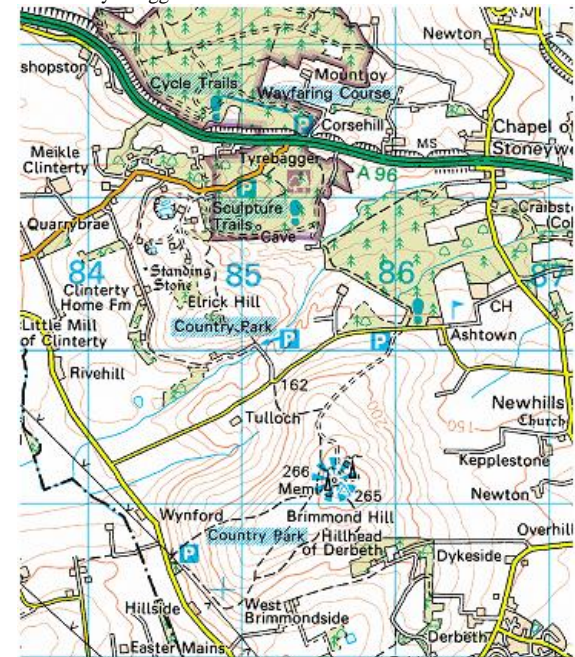
From there we headed northeast to a col from where we headed west and then south down the glen to the east of Corrie Sputan Dearg. In deciding to take this route there had been some discussion regarding whether there would be a path down this glen – the consensus being that there would surely be one..... not so! A path of sorts did appear as we got further down the glen – but it wasn't until we joined the path from Macdui down Sron Riach that we could make easy progress. From there it was a straightforward trip back to Derry Lodge along Glen Luibeg where we had another break to get ourselves ready for the slog back to the cars. To rub it in at least 5 other walkers set off on bikes whilst we were there.

The 5km back to the cars passed without incident and we were soon on our way home with the usual stop for refreshments at the Inver. It was agreed that it had been a classic hill day and the views and landscape prompted a number of people to vow to get back into the Cairngorms a bit more.

Brimmond Hill

Alan Murray

This month's evening walk is a return to Brimmond Hill to the south of Tyrebagger:



We will meet at the carpark to the southwest of the summit at 19:30 on Monday 9th August. Hope to see you there.

