



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter January 2011

Secretary: Alan Murray, 2 Batchart Steadings, Aberdeen, AB12 5YQ. Tel: 01224 865515 email: alnj.murray@gmail.com

Programme:

Monday 9th January 2012

**AGM and Talk on Jordan – Allan Brown
Station Hotel Ellon 20:00**

Sunday 15th January 2012

**Ben Rinnes
Focal Pt Malcolm Leach (01358 723314)
Community Centre Car Park 08:30**

Ben Rinnes (OS Sheet 28)

Mike Taylor

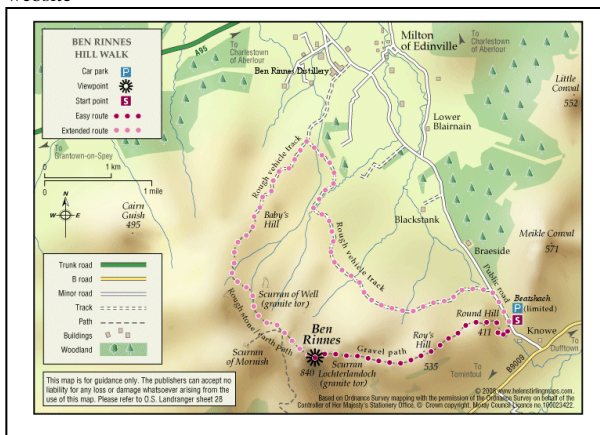
Ben Rinnes (Headland Hill), a very prominent landmark, commands glorious views over the Laich of Moray and across the Moray Firth to the hills of Ross, Sutherland and Caithness.

The quickest route up and down the hill starts at the small car park in the Beatshach on the B9009 (GR 285359). There is a good track over Round Hill and Roy's Hill to the summit which is a granite tor with the grand name of Scurran of Lochterlandoch. The trip there and back via this route is about 7.5 km with 550m of ascent – about 3 hours.

The usual starting point for Ellon Hillwalking Club visits has, however, been the Ben Rinnes Distillery (GR 259397). The track from here goes to Baby's Moss which is incorrectly labelled Baby's Hill on the OS map. This is named after a young lady called Barbara who was buried here in the days when suicide victims could not be buried in consecrated ground. From the old peat workings, the route heads across open, and in places boggy, ground to the rocky tor called Scurran of Well on the map. From here it is easy to find a route across the summit plateau to Scurran of Lochterlandoch. The return can be made by reversing the first route for part of the way and then dropping down to a track which follows the base of the north slopes back to the distillery. These northern slopes were the scene of a terrible air crash in 1943. A Wellington Bomber based at Lossiemouth, crashed into the hill whilst on a navigational exercise and all five crew members died. A former member of the ground crew who went to the site on the hill shortly after the crash described it as "the most complete burn-out he had ever seen". There are still a few fragments of the plane to be found and the outline of the crash site is still clearly visible from the north side of the hill where the ground was scarred so badly that nothing will grow there even today.

This route is about 14 km with 750m of ascent – between 5 and 6 hours.

This very helpful map of these routes was found on the Moray Ways website



This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but it is winter so bring plenty of food and warm clothes.

If you want to take part, let Malcolm Leach (01358 723314) know by Thursday 13th January

Forthcoming Events

Feb 19th Brown Cow Hill and bar meal
Mar 18th Tulloch Bunkhouse Weekend
Apr 15th Ladder Hills

Creag nan Gabhar

Alan Murray

The track to Loch Callater was more than a little icy and a group of seven Club refugees from Christmas shopping strode carefully along trying not to perform any "dancing on ice" routines. Despite the slippery conditions we soon reached the track which left the glen to go up the hill and conditions improved. Steady progress was then made up on to the ridge with superb views opening up across the Grampians to Beinn a Ghlo to the west and the Cairngorms to the north. From the number of little dots sliding about on the ski slopes to the south, it looked as if the Glenshee ski centre was having a good day.

Having posed for the obligatory summit photos and a break we headed down the hill picking our way carefully as the snow texture varied from soft to very hard – that is until we noticed that Les and George had just launched themselves down the hill on their backsides and seemed to be having a great time – so a few more of us joined in and had a fine slide down. Having run out of suitable snow for a sitting glissade, or "bum schuss" as it is also known, the going got more difficult and progress slowed as we made our way through deep heather and soft snow towards the a landrover track leading down into valley. As we reached the track and followed it a short distance down to the river it immediately became apparent that the crossing wasn't going to be without interest! Our track crossed the river by a ford before it joined the main Loch Callater track – the only options being to cross here or to plouter down the riverside in long heather, bog and soft snow for 1km to where the main track crossed back over (by a bridge). The lead group opted for a wade across the river; not a problem for those with Yeti gaiters ☺ - others chose to go for bare feet or a dash in ordinary gaiters – with a fair degree of success in terms of keeping feet dry. Having reached the main track it was a straightforward walk back to the minibus where, after a quick change the group made their way to the Kinord Hotel in Dinnet for a bit of a warm and a drink after a quality winter's day out in the hills.



Summit of Craig nan Gabhar; Picture Irene Jamieson

2012 Hillwalking Programme

The walks and talks programme for next year has been prepared in draft form and this is enclosed with this month's newsletter. There will be some changes to the Monday evening talks to accommodate speaker availability – a revised programme will be issued as soon as these have been agreed.

2012 AGM & Subscriptions

Alan Murray

Apologies from the secretary – due to a number of circumstances ranging from a dead computer which contained the minutes from the last AGM, to forgetfulness on my part, the documents for the AGM were not sent out. I understand that the meeting was only just quorate but a committee was re-elected (with one change from last year: Margaret Wilson replacing Brian Milne) and the annual subscription was held at the same level as last year: £15 for individual members; £30 for families and £1 for junior members. If you haven't already done so please re-new your membership promptly by sending a cheque for the relevant amount to the treasurer, Allan Brown, 8a Riverview Place, Ellon, AB41 9NW. Many thanks.

Draft 2012 Walks and Talks Programme

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point
Jan	9	AGM & Jordan Slide Show (AB)	20:00	
	15	Ben Rinnes	08:30	
Feb	13	Mountain Video	20:00	
	19	Brown Cow Hill & Bar Meal	08:00	
Mar	12	Swimming the Corrievreckan – Rohan Betts	20:00	
	18	Tulloch Station bunkhouse weekend; Alternative Sunday walk: Convals (Duffton)	08:30	
Apr	9	Outdoor Gear Update	20:00	
	15	Ladder hills	07:30	
May	14	Antarctica – Jack Orr	20:00	
	19/20	Skye Weekend – Broadford Backpackers bunkhouse	07:30	
	20	Glen Buchat		
Jun	11	Leask Heritage Tour	19:00	
	17	Lairig Ghru	07:00	
Jul	9	Gight Woods	19:00	
	15	Cairn an Tagairt Mor – the Stuic	07:00	
Aug	13	Collieston Coastal Walk	19:00	
	19	Mayar and Dreish via Corrie Fee	07:00	
Sep	10	St Kilda ??	20:00	
	15/16	Camp at Coylumbridge and walk to Shelterstone – Sunday walkers to join on the day	07:00	
Oct	8	Lands End to John o'Groats Cycle Ride?	20:00	
	14	Geal Charn (Nethybridge)	08:00	
	27/28	Sail Mhor Bunkhouse Weekend		
Nov	12	Cowal Way Walk??	20:00	
	18	Monamenach & Bar Supper	07:30	
Dec	10	Christmas Party	20:00	
	16	The Buck and Tap o'Noth	08:00	