



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter – June 2011

Secretary: Alan Murray, 7 Earlsparke Avenue, Bielside, Aberdeen, AB15 9BU. Tel: 01224 869896 email: alnj.murray@gmail.com

Programme:

Monday 13th June 2011

Lenabo – Guided Walk

Gillian Leith (Forestry Commission)

Meet Ellon Community Centre carpark 18:30
or Lenabo Forest – Longside 19:00

Sun 19th June 2011

Lochnagar – with Black Spout option

Focal Pt Malcolm Leach (01358 723314)

Community Centre Car Park 07:00

Lochnagar via Left Hand Branch of Black Spout

Mike Taylor

The May walk is an interesting ascent of a mountain familiar to most members of the club. The route starts in the usual way at the Spittal of Glen Muick. A rough private road goes 1.5 km NW to a burn, the Allt na Giubhsaich, beside a small shooting lodge. The path to Lochnagar starts at the bridge over the burn goes through a plantation then curves above the dry gorge of Clais Rathadan to a col at 678m. A well constructed path goes west from here past a spring called the Foxes' Well to a col between the Meikle Pap and Cuidhe Crom. From here the views of the cliffs of Lochnagar are spectacular and the route diverges from the usual way up the mountain.

We head down into the coire picking our way through the boulders to a first aid box. From here the Black Spout is the largest gully on the cliff slanting up rightwards. (286 degrees from 1st aid box). It is described in the SMC Cairngorm Guide as a 'wide easy scree shoot which provides grand views of the cliffs. The Left Hand Branch is a gully which diverges from the Black Spout and goes straight on to the plateau. In the SMC guide, it is described as 'an easy gully with a huge chokestone' and features in a Tom Patey parody:

Of all the climbs on Lochnagar
The Black Spout is the best by far
While from the Ballochbuie
You can always climb the Stuite
But the pitch to make the experts blanch
Is the chokestone in the Left Hand Branch

I am told that this is not a difficult climb. It is a route up the mountain through some very spectacular cliff scenery and is suitable for anyone with a reasonable head for heights who is not too large to go through the gap at the chokestone! If you are interested in taking part in this outing but are a bit uncertain about it, I suggest you speak to one of the climbing members of the club at the meeting on 13 June. There will be an option to take the normal route up the mountain and meet the others at the summit.

If you plan to go on the outing please let Malcolm Leach (01358 723314) know by Thursday 16 June

Lenabo Evening Walk – Monday 13th June

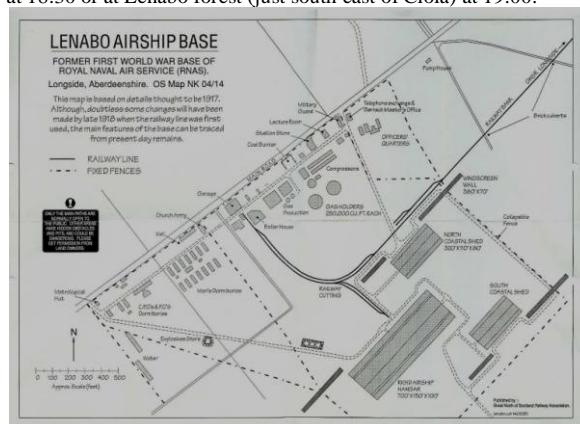
RNAS Longside, (Royal Naval Air Station) Longside, was a World War I airship station which was located approximately six miles (10 km) west of Peterhead at Longside in 1915. The station was also known as Lenabo.

Longside had three hangars, which would have been able to accommodate the largest airships being developed at the time, from the larger coastal or North Sea types of nonrigid craft, and those of the developing rigid fleet. From the memorial picture, it can be seen that airship accommodation at Longside followed the standard patter, with a large rigid airship shed flanked on each side by a smaller coastal shed, which were stepped forward to provide a sheltered area to the front of the rigid shed. The sheds were aligned with the direction of the prevailing wind. The rigid shed at

Longside was 45.87 metres (150 ft 6 in) wide, and could therefore accommodate two of the earlier 23-class rigids. The largest shed was 150 metres long and 30 metres high. Airships from the station would have patrolled areas across the north of Scotland and the North Sea.

The airbase was closed as airships were superseded by new fangled airplanes and the area was subsequently sold to the Forestry Commission and is now quite heavily wooded.

Gillian Leith from the Forestry Commission will be guiding us round the site and giving us some of the history of this fascinating area. Please meet either at the Community Centre carpark in Ellon at 18:30 or at Lenabo forest (just south east of Clola) at 19:00.



May Alternative Walk – Irene Jamieson

Since only three of us, George (Peterhead) George and myself, met in the car park, early Sunday morning, and the weather had been unpredictable lately, we decided on a change of plan and headed for Morven and a shorter day. We parked along the Groddie road and went left after the last gate, ascending mainly off track through heather. We then walked along the ridge and followed the steeper path down.

It was breezy and cold at the top and we were glad of the shelter to sit and have lunch but when out of the wind it was quite mild and the occasional drizzle was not heavy enough to warrant the removal of waterproofs from our packs. Although the cloud hid the higher tops we were still able to admire lovely views all morning. – especially on the ascent! Until nearly down, we enjoyed having the hill mainly to ourselves save for some grouse, Blackface sheep with their lambs and some very, concerned lapwings worried we may venture off the path and too near the nest.

It was an enjoyable alternative to the original plan which we will look forward to another day.

Forthcoming Events

July 17th Cairn an Tagairt Mor – the Staic
Aug 14th Cairngorm and the Shelter Stone
Sep 18th Carn an Righ

