

## Climbing notes — May 1987

*Sun 3 May* **Above Fort William** — ORBS — Landranger 41

Parked in the golf course car park at 136761, and headed up across various fences and fairways to join a track heading up the *Allt a Mhuillin* somewhere near where the old tramway crosses it. Up steadily and above the forestry more steeply on damp heathery grass, up the shoulder of *Carn Beag Dearg*. Higher up the gradient eased, but the ground was rockier and the lying snow thicker, plugged away over  $\triangle$  *Carn Dearg Meadhonach* (1179m, 3868ft) NN175726, to reach **▲ Carn Mor Dearg** (1220m, 4003ft) NN177721, some time about midday. Short stop for photography and some food.

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From here finely along the famous arête, thick with snow; no obvious difficulties, and thence up on much steeper snowy ground to reach the flat summit of **▲ Ben Nevis** (1344m, 4409ft) NN166712. More photos, and then down the main tourist track as far as the lochan, and then on rough ground back down to the golf course.

2

*Mon 4 May* **Glencoe – Aonach Eagach** — ORBS — Landranger 41

From Errachd, drove to the upper car park by the road in Glencoe at about NN173567, and from there up steeply on worn track to the high bealach W of *Sron Garbh*. Thick mist, but little rain. Turned W onto the ridge and up to  $\triangle$  *Am Bodach* (943m, 3094ft) NN168580, and so on to the up and down scrambles of the main ridge. Reached **▲ Meall Dearg** (953m, 3127ft) NN161583, and then more pinnacles and narrow paths. No views thanks to the mist, but noise of vehicles from far below. So up to  $\triangle$  *Stob Coire Leith* (940m, 3084ft) NN149584 and eventually up to **▲ Sgorr nam Fiannaidh** (967m, 3173ft) NN140583 in clearing weather. Thence steeply down on the rough, worn path to the W of the gully to the road near the Clachaig Inn.

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[Apparently then hitched to fetch the car, and so back to Errachd.]

*Tue 5 May* **On the way out to Knoydart** — ORBS — Landranger 33

Breakfasted and packed sacs, collected drying boots, and then set off north and drove round via Invergarry to park by the Loch Quoich dam at NH068023. Improvised insoles for boots, and set off S over the top of the dam, and then following the rough track on the other side to the forestry, to reach the bottom of the *Druim na Geid Salaich*, and so up on stalking path to flatter ground, on for a mile or more then very steeply up to read the top of **▲Gairich** (919m, 3015ft) NN025995, in worsening weather. Dropped down SW over *Gairich Beag*, to pick up another stalking path, which zig-zagged steeply down to the old green road at NN003987. After some discussion, decided to stay low in the increasingly heavy rain, so followed the old road S, and then SW up Glen Kingie for about 5 miles. The path was excellent, grassy and well drained giving easy walking except for occasion sections of land slip. Steeper towards the head of the glen with long zig-zags to reach the windy bealach at NM951965. Patched huge blister on ORBS heel, rain largely ceased by now. Continued up on narrowing ridge to reach *○An Eag* (873m, 2864ft) NM943958 by late evening. Dropped down to the W, then steeply down S to camp on a tiny bit of flat grassy ground at about NM938959 above a little lochan. Pitched tent and slept soundly. [13 miles, 1550m ascent]

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*Wed 6 May* **Knoydart traverse** — ORBS — Landrangers 33, 40

Up early, struck tent, and scrambled back up to the high bealach on the ridge, and thence over rocky ground to **▲Sgurr nan Coireachan** (953m, 3127ft) NM933958 before 0900. Weather much improved, breezy with high broken cloud. Steeply down to bealach, and then up with excellent ridge walking W to *△Garbh Chioch Bheag* (968m, 3176ft) NM918959, and so on to **▲Garbh Chioch Mhor** (1013m, 3323ft) NM909960.

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From here, dropped down on rough ground to the *Bealach na h-Eangair* at NM906965. Left bags and climbed up W to the third Munro of the day **▲Sgurr na Ciche** (1040m, 3412ft) NM902966. Returned to bags and then descended NW down beside the stream to pick up another stalking path down to the end of Loch Quoich, and then WE to the Lachan nam Breac. From here the path (still mainly excellent), led W for some miles rising gently to the wide col *Mam Unndalain* at NG887009. Left bags again, and headed up W on rocky ground over the *△East Top* (937m, 3074ft) NG872006, to reach **▲Luinne Bheinn** (939m, 3081ft) NG869007 some time late in the afternoon. Back down the ridge to retrieve the bags, then out NW to camp in Barisdale on flat ground near the sea. [16 miles, 1450m ascent].

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*Thu 7 May* Struck camp, and walked out seven miles on the delightful Kinloch Hourn path to reach the end of the road about midday. TET hitched a lift back to the car (which had been reported “missing” to the police), and having come back to get ORBS, both back to Errachd.

*Fri 8 May* Drove to Glencoe again, and started up Bidean nam Bian. Turned back after a while due to weariness and poor weather. Returned home next day.

## Climbing notes — January 1988

*Fri 1 Jan* **New year on Lochnagar** — PRE — Landranger 44

Short excursion to welcome the new year in thick snow. Lunched on the *△Meikle Pap* (980m, 3215ft) NO259860 on posh-but-unsuitable packed lunch from the hotel in Ballater.

## Climbing notes — May 1988

*Sun 29 May* **Not the Ring of Steall** — ORBS, DC — Landranger 41

Parked at the head of Glen Nevis, and up past the falls to the meadow, and so across the wire bridge and over the falls at Steall, so start the long climb up the stalkers path to **▲An Gearanach** (982m, 3222ft) NN187669. From here south over  $\triangle$  *An Garbhanach*, and down and then up steeply to **▲Stob Coire a' Chairn** (981m, 3219ft) NN185660. Turned E along the ridge and so up and over the  $\triangle$  *North West Top* (1041m, 3415ft) NN201654, and then onto the main summit of **▲Na Gruagaichean** (1056m, 3465ft) NN203652. Dropped down NE and then back up to  $\triangle$  *South Top* (1062m, 3484ft) NN211656, and on N to reach **▲Binnein Mor** (1130m, 3707ft) NN212663. From here dropped off N on rough moorland to reach (and ford) the Water of Nevis, and then back along the boggy path on the N bank, back to the car. [13 miles, 1800m].

*Mon 30 May* **Glenquoich Forest** — ORBS — Landranger 33

Drove round to Loch Quoich and parked near NH030030. DC to golf (?), but ORBS and TET up on damp stalkers' path, and narrow ridge to find the rtrig point on the top of **▲Gleouraich** (1035m, 3396ft) NH039053 and then E on a rocky ridge for an hour or more until eventually got to **▲Spidean Mialach** (996m, 3268ft) NH065043, then back down on rough ground, to pick up another path and so back to the car. [9 miles, 1200m].

Reunited, all three drove on to Kinloch Hourn and parked at the end of the road, and walked out to Barisdale to camp. [7 miles, 150m]

*Tue 31 May* **Knoydart I** — ORBS, DC — Landranger 33

Leaving the tents and kit, set off across the beach to find the path that winds up into Coire Dhorrcail. After this petered out, up N on steep wet pathless grass, and eventually to a broken ridge that led up to  $\triangle$  *Stob a' Choire Odhair* (960m, 3150ft) NG830043. From here steeply up SW and then W to reach **▲Ladhar Bheinn** (1020m, 3346ft) NG823039. Some complicated navigation in thick mist, to bring us back SE along the main ridge and so to Mam Barisdale and down a good path back to the tents.

*Wed 1 Jun* **Knoydart II** — ORBS, DC — Landrangers 40, 33

Back up to Mam Barisdale in the morning, and from there SE to climb **▲Luinne Bheinn** (second time for ORBS and TET), and then from here on rough ground S and SW out to **▲Meall Buidhe** (946m, 3104ft) NM849989. Retraced our steps, but contoured round NW to reach Mam Unndalain, and thence back to the tents.

*Thu 2 Jun* Walked out back to car, and drove back to Errachd to recover and get clean.

*Fri 3 Jun* **South Glencoe** — ORBS, DC — Landranger 41

Down to Glen Coe yet again, and parked near Loch Achtriochtan. From here up on the well-trodden path S, high up into the corrie. Steeply up the headwall to reach the narrow ridge on top at NN145544. Bimble N up to  $\triangle$  *Stob Coire nan Lochan*, then back SW and up steeply to **▲Bidean nam Bian** (1150m, 3773ft) NN143542. From here ESE along the ridge to the bealach and then up again to **▲Stob Coire Sgreamhach** (1072m, 3517ft) NN154536.<sup>1</sup> Down out along *Beinn Fhada* for some way, then dropped off down to the path beside the stream in *Coire Gabhail*, and so down to the bridge and on the old road back to the car.

<sup>1</sup>...which was not considered to be a separate Munro at the time, but is counted here for simplicity.

## Climbing notes — January 1989

*Sun 1 Jan* **Snowy Cuillin** — PRE, JY? — Landranger 32

Staying out beyond Dunvegan for Hogmanay with PRE and team. Having done Heal-abhal's Tables in a howling gale the day before, and first footed round the village, celebrated the new year in traditional style. Cold and clear, with lying snow and a fresh breeze. Drove round to Glen Brittle and parked near NG423258. Set off up the *Bealach a' Mhàim* path on wet-snowy-boggy ground to the big cairn at NG446268. From here up SSE on a ridge that narrowed to a sharp rocky edge and led to the trig point on the broad summit of **▲Bruach na Frithe** (958m, 3143ft) NG460251. Long wait in cold wind for PRE to catch up, then down and back to car, and drove back to Dunvegan with socks drying over the car's heating vents.

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## Climbing notes — May 1989

*Sun 21 May* Driving north, via PRE in Glasgow.

*Mon 22 May* **Poldubh day** — PRE, DC — Landranger 41

From RN hut at Polldubh NN141686, climbed directly up *Sron Dearg* to point 912m at NN146658. Thence W to over various small tops to **▲Mullach nan Coirean** (939m, 3081ft) NN122662. Returned the same way and then up steeply S to **▲Stob Ban** (999m, 3278ft) NN147654. Warm and sunny weather.

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Followed the ridge E, down and then up via the *Lochan Coire nam Miseach* and the contouring path to reach **▲Am Bodach** (1032m, 3386ft) NN176650. From here back W, and up to the summit of  $\triangle$  *Sgor an Iubhair* (1001m, 3284ft) NN165655 and so back down the *Allt Coire a Mhusgain* path to Polldubh in warm evening sunshine. [13 miles, 1790m climbing]. NR 8:00, Actual 9:00.

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With some persuasion, managed to get PRE to leave the hut and come to meet JMO at Errachd instead.

*Tue 23 May* **Rest and drive out** — DC, PRE=39 — Landranger 19

Long drive north via Glen Garry and Glen Torridon. Parked at Corrie Hallie NH114851 and walked out beyond Shenaval Bothy to camp by the river in the Strath na Sealga near NH064807. [5 miles, 370m].

*Wed 24 May* **Fisherfields I** — DC, PRE, JH — Landranger 19

Joined early by JH carrying a huge Bergen. From the campsite, crossed the river and climbed directly S up the broad shoulder of ●**Beinn a' Chlaidheimh** (914m, 2999ft) (1) NH061775.<sup>2</sup> From there down steeply, and then a long plod on a broad stony ridge to reach ▲**Sgurr Ban** (989m, 3245ft) NH055745 in fine sunny weather. From here more 24 excitingly down and then a steep 200m climb up to the pointy summit of ▲**Mullach** 25 **Coire Mhic Fhearchair** (1019m, 3343ft) NH052735.

At this point, not fancying the deep drop to *Bealach Odhar*, turned E along the ridge over △*East Top* (981m, 3219ft) NH056733 to ⊔*Sgurr Dubh* (915m, 3003ft) NH060729. Down via slabby rocks to Loch an Nid NH082745 and back to tents via the Achneigie path. [13 miles, 1440m climbing] [NR 7:45, actual 10:00].

*Thu 25 May* **Fisherfields II** — DC, PRE, JH — Landranger 19

From the campsite, walked out by Larachantivore and Glean na Muice Beag to the junction of the paths to the W of *Lochan Feith Mhic'-illean* at NH003775 and on SE upto *Fuar Loch Mor* (650m, 2130ft) NH011763. Thence up scree steeply to the long ridge of ▲**Ruadh Stac Mor** (918m, 3012ft) NH018756 for lunch. 26

Dropped down W slopes and so up the rounded shoulder of ▲**A' Mhaighdean** (967m, 3173ft) NH007749. Good views to the S, W, and N; some boulders investigated by JH. 27 Back via the NW ridge (pinnacles) to the W of *Fuar Loch Mor* to rejoin the path at NH015767. Retraced our steps to the campsite in Strath na Sealga NH064807 for tea. Struck camp and walked out to the car at Corrie Hallie. [20 miles, 1470m climbing] [NR: 9:15-10:30, Actual 9:30]

*Fri 26 May* Rest day back at Errachd.

*Sat 27 May* **The Grey Corries** — DC, PRE, JH — Landranger 41

Parked car above Coirehoille Farm at NN253794. Climbed up track through forestry into the Lairig Leacach as far as NN272760, then up into Coire Gaibhre and gained ridge at *Bealach Coire na Ceannain* NH259753. JH showing the way with the occasional detonation of spare thunder flashes. Turned N to △*Stob Coire na Gaibhre* NN260757 then S and up to ▲**Stob Choire Claurigh** (1177m, 3862ft) NN261738. Followed 28 ridge SW past the various tops △*Stob a Choire Leith*, △*Stob Core Cath na Sine*, and △*Caisteal*, as far as ▲**Stob Coire an Laoigh** (1116m, 3661ft) NN239725. Finally NW 29 over △*Stob Coire Easain*, and down N along △*Beinn na Socaich* as far as NN234745. Then ran down easy grassy slopes to dam at NN240765 (JH and DC walked over it, TET and PRE climbed down and forded the river), and so back via the old tramway. [13 miles, 1230m ascent] [NR 6:30-7:30, actual 7:00]

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<sup>2</sup>then considered a Munro, but no longer counted here.

## Climbing notes — May 1990

Wed 2 May **Arrochar** — DC, PRE, *et al.*

From PRE flat in Glasgow north to Arrochar and parked round beside Loch Long. Thence a gentle warm up stroll up the well-trodden path to ●**The Cobbler**. Stayed with AW in Helensburgh (?). (2)

Thu 3 May **Watt 200** — DC, PRE, AW — Landranger 50

Drove out on the Oban road past Lochawe to park near the power station. Up on the path to the reservoir, and then up to the ridge on the eastern side of the horseshoe and so over  $\triangle$ *Stob Garbh* and then upto **▲Stob Daimh** (998m, 3274ft) NN094308. From here down along the ridge over  $\triangle$ *Drochaid Ghlas* and up the final steep edge that rises to **▲Ben Cruachan** (1126m, 3694ft) NN069304. DC slightly too competitive on the ascent, as AW was trying to get there first and get his celebration bottle to cool in the snow. From there down the usual way into Coire Dearg and so back to the road. AW home; DC, PRE and TET to Errachd. Fine spring weather, lying snow melting in warm sunshine. 30 31

Fri 4 May At Errachd (?)

Sat 5 May **Glen Shiel** — DC, PRE — Landranger 33

Up, breakfasted, and sorted kit, then north to Glen Shiel. Parked beside the road at about NG969141. From here up on very good stalkers' paths up the E shoulder of *Meallan Odhar*, and so up more steeply on warm scrambly rocks up the famous ridge leading to  $\triangle$ *Sgurr na Forcan* (963m, 3159ft) NG940130, and then finely along on a narrow ridge to reach **▲The Saddle** (1010m, 3314ft) NG936131 for lunch. Continued W in lovely sunshine over  $\triangle$ *Spidean Dhomhuill Bhric* (939m, 3081ft) NG922129 and  $\triangle$ *Sgurr Leac nan Each* (919m, 3015ft) NG917133 to bathing in a small lochan and basking in the sunshine to get dry. Dropped down NW into the Coire Uaine to find good paths leading north to Shiel Bridge. TET and PRE paddled in the river, while DC ran back up the road to fetch the car. Camped in the campsite. TET won pool competition in the local pub. 32

Sun 6 May **South Cluanie Ridge** — DC, PRE — Landranger 33

Struck camp and drove back up to the same car park at NG969141. Took the other (equally good) stalkers' path that leads S up to the high *Bealach Duibh Leac*. From here turned E and so gently up to begin the ridge. A mile of undulating ground led up to the first Munro **▲Creag nan Damh** (918m, 3012ft) NG983112. From here dropped down quickly to 720m and then up to  $\circ$ *Sgurr Beag* (896m, 2940ft) NG997109, and down again briefly before a long climb up to **▲Sgurr an Lochain** (1004m, 3294ft) NH005104. 33 34

On eastwards in lovely sunshine; thick lying snow melting everywhere provided welcome replenishment for water bottles. Another mile and a half over **▲Sgurr an Doire Leathain** (1010m, 3314ft) NH015098 and  $\triangle$ *Sgurr Coire na Feinne* and then up to **▲Maol Chinn-dearg** (981m, 3219ft) NH032087. The ridge rather narrower now and more exciting. Stiff climb up to the wonderfully named summit of the day **▲Aonach air Chrith** (1021m, 3350ft) NH051083 (Trembling Ridge). Cliffs all along to the north, with easier ground to the south. Excellent views in all directions. Dropped down onto broader ground, and then rolled along further east over the  $\triangle$ *West Top* (938m, 3077ft) NH062082 of AaC and so up to **▲Druim Shionnach** (987m, 3238ft) NH074084 35 36 37 38

perched high above a large lochan 1000 ft below in Coire nan Leac. The last mile of ridge stretched along to **▲ Creag a' Mhaim** (947m, 3107ft) NH087077 and from there very steeply down on stalkers' path to reach the old motor road at NH101072. From here stomped out for 5 miles, past the Cluanie Lodge to reach the A87 at the head of Loch Cluanie, near the Cluanie Inn NH077117. 39

[Apparently then hitched back for car and drove back to Errachd.]

## Climbing notes — October 1990

*Mon 1 Oct* **Mamore Forest** — TET solo — Landranger 41

From Errachd by car with LST to Kinlochmore and parked somewhere about NN192621. Long tramp together NE on land rover tracks past the big lochan at NN224655, for a couple of hours to reach a convenient spot near a lochan about NN220674. Here LST rested, while TET scrambled up the loose scree on the steep cone of **▲ Binnein Beag** (943m, 3094ft) NN221677. Returned without incident, and then tramped back out the same way. [13m, 950m] 40

## Climbing notes — May 1991

*Fri 3 May* Driving north.

*Sat 4 May* **Glencoe** — ORBS, PRE, RG — Landranger 41

Parked at NN120564. Walked up track along Gleann Leac-na-muidhe, and then up steep hillside over  $\triangle$  *Stob an Fhuarain* (968m, 3176ft) NN118523 to bealach at NN114521, then up to **▲ Sgor na h-Ulaidh** (994m, 3261ft) NN111518. Down to SE to bealach at NN118512 and then round to *Bealach Fhionnghail* NN131525 and over into Fionn Ghleann (swimming). [9 miles, 950m] 41

*Sun 5 May* **Laggan locks to Cia-Aig Falls** — ORBS, PRE, RG, PD *et al.* — Landranger 34

Parked at Kilfinnan NN277958. Up to Kilfinnan Fall N271966, then steeply up along path and on via *Coire Buidhe* to **● Ben Tee** (904m, 2966ft) NN240972 [3.5 miles, 835m]. (3) Steep down to bealach at NN233967, then up (and up) to crest long flat ridge leading SW to  $\triangle$  *Meall a' Choire Ghlais* (901m, 2956ft) NN219957 and following the ridge round Coire Glas up to **▲ Sron a' Choire Ghairbh** (937m, 3074ft) NN222945 [6.5 miles, 1280m]. 42

Down to the Cam Bhealach path at NN223937 and then up, on rough ground, to **▲ Meall na Teanga** (918m, 3012ft) NN220924 [8 miles, 1590m]. Down via *Meall Odhar* to Cia-Aig path at NN186926. Swimming; lost Minox camera. Out past the Cia-Aig Falls to the second car at NN177889 and thence back to Errachd. [14 miles, 1600m] 43

*Mon 6 May* Gentle stroll out to the beach at Back of Keppoch, Arisaig.

*Tue 7 May* **Glen Etive I** — ORBS, RG — Landranger 50

Drove down to Glencoe, and down Glen Etive to park at NN137468. Crossed river by Coiletir Farm and climbed (relentlessly) by good path straight up the ridge to the W of *Allt name Meirleach* to **▲ Ben Starav** (1078m, 3537ft) NN125427 [3.5 miles, 1050m]. 44

Down via bealachs at NN139424 and NN144416 and then up again to **▲Beinn nan Aighenan** (960m, 3150ft) NN148405 [6 miles, 1440m]. Retraced steps to NN144416 then up to  $\triangle$  *Meall nan Tri Tighearnan* NN145426, and so on to **▲Glas Bheinn Mhor** (997m, 3271ft) NN153429 [9 miles, 1950m]. Down via bealach at NN163433 and path beside the *Allt Mheuran*. Camped near Coiletir [13 miles, 2000m].

*Wed 8 May* **Glen Etive II** — ORBS, RG — Landranger 50

Via Glen Ceitlin to Coire Glass NN163453 and up onto **▲Stob Coir' an Albannaich** (1044m, 3425ft) NN169443. Back over  $\circ$  *Beinn Chaorach*, NN158455 in warm westerling sunshine. TET lagging behind a bit, but eventually all back to car at Coiletir, and thence back to Errachd. [9 miles, 1040m]

*Thu 9 May* Rest day. Back up by Cia-Aig Falls to hunt vainly for lost camera. RG home on train.

*Fri 10 May* **Loch Ossian Hinterland** — ORBS — Landrangers 41, 42

Parked at Bridge of Orchy station and took the train to Corroul NN356664. With kit, by good road along south side of Loch Ossian to Corroul Lodge NN414694, by faint track to bridge at NN418702, and then up path by Uisghe Labhair to set up camp at NN446712 [7 miles]. Up NW to  $\triangle$  *Meall Glas Choire*, (924m, 3031ft) NN436727, and along rounded ridge to **▲Beinn Eibhinn** (1102m, 3615ft) NN448733 [10 miles, 600m]. NE via bealachs at NN453733 and NN455738 to **▲Aonach Beag** (1116m, 3661ft) NN457741 [11 miles, 750m]. Then E to **▲Geal Charn** (1132m, 3714ft) NN469746 [12 miles, 900m]. Down into Coire a' Chàrra Bhig, and damply back to tents at NN446712 [16 miles, 900m].

*Sat 11 May* **Ben Alder plateau** — ORBS, PRE — Landranger 42

PRE joined from Corroul by 1100. Climbed obvious nose up to plateau and across to **▲Ben Alder** (1148m, 3766ft) NN496718. Walked round to S top, and ridge at NN503709 to view good cornices and cliffs in Garbh Choire. Back across plateau and down to tents, and so out to Corroul Station for (concealed) supper and the evening train back to Bridge of Orchy [17 miles, 750m].

*Sun 12 May* Driving south.

## Climbing notes — October 1991

*Fri 25 Oct* **Druim Fada, Glen Loy** — LST, JMO — Landranger 41

Arrived by sleeper in the morning, collected by JMO from Spean Bridge. After unpacking and breakfast at Errachd, drove round to Glen Loy and parked up near Puiteachan at NN096847. Climbed up through wet grass and lovely ancient forest to *Stob a' Ghri-anain* (744m, 2441ft), NN087824, and then headed W along the *Druim Fada* to the trig point (716m, 2349ft) at NN055818, then back up to the point 729m at NN060822 and so down to the path and back to the car via Achnanellan. [8 miles, 720m]

*Sat 26 Oct* **Mamores again** — LST — Landranger 41

To Fort William to buy boots, then drove down to near Kinlichleven and parked at the Mamore Lodge hotel [£1.50] NN186630. Set out on LR track to NN208635, then good stalkers' path to *Coire an Lochain* NN225657, thence steeply up scree on W side of **▲Sgurr Eilde Mor** (1010m, 3314ft) NN230657. Down S slopes in mist, picked up poor stalkers' path at NN228650, and so down to LR track and returned. [9 miles, 830m]

*Sat 27 Oct* Rest day. Walked canal from Corpach to R. Loy, via Torcastle (vg). [7 miles]

*Mon 28 Oct* **Creag Meagaidh** — LST, JMO — Landrangers 34, 42

Parked at Aberarder NN483873. Good path (sleepers) to *Lochain a' Choire* high up in *Coire Ardair* NN439883, then steeply up to the Window NN426886, and sharply up a gully onto the plateau above. Thick mist. Compass navigation, via the vast memorial cairn, to **▲ Creag Meagaidh** (1128m, 3701ft) NN418875. More keen compass work to avoid the cliffs of the corrie and to find the top of the gully, but eventually back safely by the outward route. [14 miles, 900m]

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*Tue 29 Oct* Rest day. Walked at Achnacarry to the Cia-Aig Falls. [3 miles]

*Wed 30 Oct* **Behind the Grey Corries** — LST — Landranger 41

JMO drove us to the edge of the forestry above Corriechoile Farm NN256788. LR track to bothy in the Lairig Leacach at NN282737, poor, wet path up NE ridge over the small prominence (729m) at NN276727, and up to **▲ Stob Ban** (977m, 3205ft) NN266723, in cold mist with heavy showers. Down, on a wetter and worse path via the bealach at NN265726 and the *Allt a' Chuil Choirean* back to the bothy and then out down the LR track (weird mist and amazing cloudscapes), past Choirecoile and on the road to Spean. Picked up by Charlie O at NN239815 and so back to Errachd. [15 miles, 850m]

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Home by sleeper that evening.

## Martin Moran course — February 1992

*Sat 15 Feb* Arrived by car, via Glasgow and Fort William. Staying at Carron Lodge, Strathcarron NG940423. Felt ill with heavy cold. Room mate snored badly.

*Sun 16 Feb* **Ice axe training** — MMM team — Landranger 25

Parked near Achnashellach Station NH006485. Cold and sunny. Walked along the railway for a while, then up W over *Sgurr a Mhuillinn*, past lochain into E corrie NG980490. Practised ice axe technique, up via simple gully on R, above a steep snow slope to the top of **● Fuar Tholl** (907m, 2976ft), NG975489. Down via W corrie and back down to station. [8 miles, 900m]

(4)

*Mon 17 Feb* **Liathach semi-traverse** — MMM team — Landranger 25

Up early for drive round to Torridon. Parked by road at NG936566 just beyond Glen Cottage. Cold and windy with snow. Set off on the snowy path beside the *Allt an Doire Ghairbh* up into *Coire Liath Mhor* and then up via crags to the ridge at NG938581, and over the tops of  $\triangle$  *Stob a' Choire Liath Mhor* (983m, 3225ft) to **▲ Spidean a' Choire Leith** (1055m, 3461ft) NG929579. TET struggling to keep up. Continued along the pinnacled ridge to a top at NG922574, and from there steeply down to the road at about NG924560. [6 miles, 1200m]

55

*Tue 18 Feb* **Ice climbing** — VS, MMM team — Landranger 25

Clear, but bitterly cold out of the sun. Moderate breeze from N. Parked near Achnashellach Station NH006485 again. Followed forestry road, and stalkers' path for some miles into Coire Làir, and then up into NE corrie of *Sgorr Ruadh* to start climbs. TET + ANO seconded VS up *High Gully* (III), coming out at NG966505. Over point at 862m, then down central couloir, and back down the Coire Làir path.

*Wed 19 Feb* **Black Cuillin in snow I** — MMM team — Landranger 32  
 Long drive over the ferry to Skye, and round to Glen Brittle. Sunny morning, clouded up later. Parked beside SYHA at NG409225. Walked up path beside *Allt a Choire Ghreadaidh*, then S up into *Coir' an Eich* and onto the head wall ridge at NG435226. From here (TET very slowly) on easy ground with thick soft snow to reach **▲Sgurr na Banachdich – North Top** (965m, 3166ft) NG440224. Finely S along the main ridge over the  $\Delta$  *Central Top* to  $\Delta$  *Sgurr Dearg*, and climbed the long way up to the **▲Inaccessible Pinnacle** (986m, 3235ft) NG444215, moving together on rope, and then abseiling down N face. Cold rain and snow. Slept in very cold cave bivouac nearby. 56 57

*Thu 20 Feb* **Black Cuillin in snow II** — MMM team — Landranger 32  
 Up as early as possible after fitful sleep; packed gear, TET dropped helmet over the cliff. Back to the ridge encircling the upper part of Coire Lagan, and cut along Colley's Ledge to avoid the snowy tops. On to  $\Delta$  *Sgurr Thearlaich* (978m, 3209ft) NG450207, and then down to the stop of the Great Stone Chute. Briefly from here up to the summit of **▲Sgurr Alasdair** (992m, 3255ft) NG450207, and then returned and descended into Coire Lagan and back to Glen Brittle via the camp site as the rain came on. 58

*Fri 21 Feb* Drove home in the rain.

## Climbing notes — May 1992

*Sat 2 May* **Bridge of Orchy impromptu** — JPW — Landranger 50  
 Driving north in separate cars via PRE in Glasgow. JPW and TET parked by the station at NN300395. Soggy walk up to *Coire na Dothaidh* to reach bealach at NN325398, the S along broken ridge to **▲Beinn Dorain** (1076m, 3530ft) NN325378. Photography in evening sunshine. Back N to bealach at NN325398, then on up to complete round of **▲Beinn an Dothaidh** (1004m, 3294ft) NN331408, back via same bealach and soggy path, and then on to Errachd. [8 miles, 1140m] 59 60

*Sun 3 May* Rain. At Errachd.

*Mon 4 May* **9-year old's walk** — DC, PRE, JPW — Landranger 41  
 Rain. Drove to Fassfern, Lochelside. Parked at NN022789. Walked to Errachd by Glensulaig bothy NN029833, *Allt Fionn Doire* in spate, and soggy path to Achnanellan, then road to Inverskilavulin and finally forestry roads back to the house.

*Tue 5 May* **Mamores again** — DC, PRE, JPW — Landranger 41  
 Parked at Achriabhach in Glen Nevis NN145684. Climbed steeply up NW nose directly to summit of **▲Sgurr a' Mhaim** (1099m, 3606ft) NN164667. Descended along snowy NE ridge into fine corrie on good track. And so back to cars. [5 miles, 1050m] 61

*Wed 6 May* Rain. PRE home.

*Thu 7 May* **East of Drumochter** — DC, JPW — Landranger 42  
 Drove to Pass of Drumochter. Parked beside the A9 at NN633756 underneath the *Boar of Badenoch*. Crossed the railway and followed LR track up *Coire Dhomain* to NN593741, then S up ridge to **▲Sgairneach Mhor** (991m, 3251ft) NN598731. SW 62

then NW to bealach to NN583730 (in brief hail storm), then N gently up to **▲Beinn Udlamain** (1011m, 3317ft) NN579739. Thence NE along broad grassy ridge to **▲A' Mharconaich** (975m, 3199ft) NN604762 (with piles of ugly cairns). Back W down *Coire Fhar* to bealach at NN594766 and finally up over **▲Geal Charn** (917m, 3009ft) NN596782. Down broad NE nose and path to Balsporran Cottages NN628792. Hitched along the A9 to fetch car. [13 miles, 1200m] 63 64 65

*Fri 8 May* Rain, storms.

*Sat 9 May* **East of the Grey Corries** — DC, JPW — Landranger 41

Drove up Glen Spean, took Fersit Road, parked above *An Dubh Lochan* at NN349789. Up steeply on trackless heather beside *Creag Fhiaclach*, then on SW up broad ridge to new snow at 500m; climbed steep nose of *Meall Cian Dearg* in thick snow, then easily on up to sharp summit of **▲Stob a' Choire Mheadhoin** (1105m, 3625ft) NN316736. JPW treated us and my rucsac to hot chocolate from his leaky flask. 66

Down to high bealach at NN313732 and up to shapely top of **▲Stob Coire Easain** (1115m, 3658ft) NN308730. Down via snowy NW ridge into *Coire Laire* and out on good path beside river, then through forestry, and eventually by old tramway back to car. [12 miles, 1120m] 67

*Sun 10 May* Driving south. Harrogate for tea. DC to Leeds.

## Climbing notes — May 1993

*Fri 7 May* Driving north — PRE farewell drinks in Glasgow

*Sat 8 May* **Arrochar Alps** — JPW, ORBS, DC, JP — Landranger 56

Parked car beside Loch Long at 284039. Up through forest to dam at 280041 then N up, via Cruach nam Miseag, to **▲Beinn Narnain** (926m, 3038ft) 272067. Down to Bealach a'Mhaim, then gently up to **▲Beinn Ime** (1011m, 3317ft) 255096. Returned via Bealach a'Mhaim and **●the Cobbler** (881m, 2890ft) 259059, and then long SE ridge back to car. [8.5 miles, 1620m] 68 69

Stayed at Clachaig Inn.

*Sun 9 May* **Clachaig Gully** — JPW — Landranger 41

Climbed Clachaig Gully (Severe, 1500ft) from the Inn at 128568. Left climb on right at about 1200 ft, on thin edges, then steep chossy heather. Continued steeply up to join main path at head of the gully at 580134. Continued gently on to **▲Sgorr nam Fiannaidh** (967m, 3173ft) 141583. Returned via dreadful path beside gully. [3 miles, 950m] (ORBS, DC, JP, PRE, PD did **▲Meall Dearg** and **▲Sgorr nam Fiannaidh** via the Aonach Eagach). In evening drove north to Balmacara House.

*Mon 10 May* **Skye warm up** — JPW, DC, JP — Landranger 32

Parked car at 561217, and followed good path beside stream to Coire Uaigneich 535213. Climbed up steeply via N slopes of the corrie to fine top of **▲Blaven** (928m, 3045ft) 530218. Fine view of Cuillin ridge from summit. Returned via  $\triangle$  *South-west Top*, and SE ridge to small lochan at 534209, rested in sun, stoned bottle. Then back in to corrie and gently down same path. [5 miles, 950m] 70

*Tue 11 May* **Loch Coruisk walk-in** — JPW, DC, JP — Landranger 32

Parked car at Sligachan 485298. Walked on fine path to Loch Coruisk. Climbed up a short way to camp about 478199. [10 miles, 350m]

*Wed 12 May* **Cuillin Ridge Traverse** — JPW, DC — Landranger 32

Up at 0400, and walking in glorious sunshine with not a breath of wind by 0500. Up directly to ○ *Gars-bheinn* (910m, 2985ft) 467187. Along over ○ *Sgurr a'Choire Bhig* (875m, 2871ft), to ▲ **Sgurr nan Eag** (924m, 3031ft) 447195. Thence dipped to bealach 71 and up to ○ *Caisteal a'Garbh-Choire* (829m, 2720ft) and to rest on steep west side of ridge, by tiny spring. Left sacks and detoured to △ *Sgurr Dubh na Da Bheinn* (938m, 3077ft) and ▲ **Sgurr Dubh Mor** (944m, 3097ft) 456205. (Some climbing). Returned 72 to sacks and up v steeply to Thearlaich-Dubh gap, for abseil and climb on far side (V Diff, 90ft) up polished basalt chimney.

Triumphantly on to top of great stone chute in by now very hot sunshine. Up to ▲ **Sgurr Alasdair** (993m, 3256ft) 448208, summit of ridge traverse. Back to stone chute, and up steeply to △ *Sgurr Thearlaich* (984m, 3228ft). Extremely finely along, via Colley's Ledge and short pitch out of it (Difficult, 30ft), to ▲ **Sgurr Mhic Choinnich** 73 (948m, 3110ft), then long slog down to top of Coire Lagan scree, and up below An Stac to bottom of Inaccessible Pinnacle. Climbed by East Ridge (Moderate 150ft) to summit of ▲ **Sgurr Dearg** (986m, 3235ft) 444216. Abseiled down to cairn.

Steeply down now to Bealach Coire na Banachdich, then up over three tops and eventually to main top of ▲ **Sgurr na Banachdich** (965m, 3166ft) 440224. Given tea by friendly Scotsman. Tortuously on NE from there over △ *Sgurr Thormaid* (926m, 3038ft) NG441226 and increasingly broken ground to twin tops of ▲ **Sgurr a'Ghreadaidh** 74 (973m, 3192ft) 445232. Hard going down to several gaps in ridge (An Dorus) then up, rather losing best lines, to main SW top of ▲ **Sgurr a'Mhadaidh** 75 (918m, 3012ft) 447237. Descended on wrong side of ridge and had to climb back up gully at junction of side ridge to Sgurr Thuilm to regain the ridge. Here confronted with the first of the secondary tops of Sgurr a'Mhadaidh, decided to climb down below them and descended scree on NW side of ridge.

No simple route back onto the ridge was found and we decided to abandon the rest of the traverse. Descended slowly over difficult scree into Coir' a'Mhadaidh and picked up good path at 446247 for walk out. Path became indistinct crossing streams below Bruach na Frithe, but eventually found correct line and gained the main Glen Brittle to Sligachan path at Bealach a'Mhaim 448269. Back to Sligachan by about 2215 in gathering darkness.

Ascent from campsite to Gars-Bheinn was 1.5 miles, 820m. Traverse from Gars-Bheinn to Sgurr a'Mhadaidh, including Sgurr Dubh Mor was about 6-7 miles and about 1600-1700m of ascent, plus a lot of climbing down too. Descent and walk out was 6.5 miles and 150m of ascent. Approx total therefore [15 miles, 2600m]

JP walked out from Loch Coruisk to Sligachan via the walk-in route, with the kit.

*Thu 13 May* Recovered in the Talisker distillery; tea out beyond Carbost; beer, bridge then a curry in Portree. (Rain, snow down to 500 ft on hills).

*Fri 14 May* Driving south. (Rain, snow in Cumbria).

## Climbing notes — October 1993

- Mon 11 Oct* **Round of Errachd** — Jumble (LAT, JMO) — Landranger 41  
Took car round to Inverskilavulin, strolled up the Loy for while, then TET and Jumble over ●**Beinn Bhan**, (796m, 2612ft) 140857 while JMO & LAT drove round to Achnacarry. Met down by the White Bridge. (5)
- Tue 12 Oct* **Glenfinnan Late** — TET solo — Landranger 40  
Morning walk up past Glen Nevis waterfalls to meadow below Steall with LAT, JMO, and Jumble.  
Afternoon TET to Glenfinnan. Parked at 905809 by 3pm. Rode *Jean Twinch* up to Corryhully bothy at 913844. Set out about 4pm up LR track NE beside R. Finnan for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, then good stalkers' path (indistinct start) steeply up N, then NW to ○*Sgurr a' Choire Riabhaich* (852m, 2795ft) 908871, on in gathering gloom over broken steepening terrain and eventually in thin mist reached trig point on top of ▲**Sgurr nan Coireachan** (956m, 3136ft) 902880 soon after 6pm. Returned same way, back to bothy in last of the day, cycled out in darkness. [5 miles cycling + 7 miles, 970m, 3180ft] 76
- Wed 13 Oct* Trip out to Ardnamurchan, picnic lunch on White Sands at Sanna.
- Thu 14 Oct* **Above Laggan Dam** — ORBS — Landranger 34, 41  
ORBS arrived by sleeper, collected at Spean Bridge, and directly to hill. After abortive start at Fersit, parked above Laggan Dam at 372809. By road, forestry track and then gentle grass slope up by ridge of Meall Clachaig, steadily on through fresh snow to △*South Top* (1049m, 3442ft) 386846, then gently further N to ▲**Beinn a' Chaorainn** (1052m, 3451ft) 386851, and finally to △*North Top* (1044m, 3425ft) 383857. Down gently (to stalking party's vehicle despite assurances at Fersit) then up easy rocky ridge SW to ▲**Beinn Teallach** (915m, 3001ft) 361859. Down easy grassy slopes and forestry back to car. [12 miles, 1195m, 3920ft] 77  
78
- Fri 15 Oct* In morning TET, ORBS to golf at Spean. Afternoon TET, LAT walked from Torcastle to Errachd.
- Sat 16 Oct* **Glen Dessary — Coire Chicheanais Horseshoe** — ORBS — Landranger 33  
Parked car (illegally) near the lodge 969926, set off N on stalker's path in very wet patchy snow. Worked steadily WNW up increasingly rocky ridge to ●**Sgurr Cos na Breachd-laigh** (835m, 2740ft) 948948 in deep fresh powder. Took a long look at An Eag, Sgurr Beag and Sgurr Mor across Glen Kingie, but decided we did not have enough energy or daylight to reach Sgurr Mor. Completed horseshoe E over ○*Druim a' Chuirn* (815m, 2674ft) 962950, and down long grassy ridge. Met stalker (Sandy Walker) at bottom, who advised us to (a) leave our car at Strathan in future and (b) call him if its during the season. [6 miles, 840m, 2756ft] (6)
- Sun 17 Oct* **Ardgour** — ORBS — Landranger 40, 49  
Parked at 928597. Warm sunshine on backs as N up long *Druim an Iubhair* on E side of the corrie to ○*Sgurr Mhic Eacharna* (650m, 2132ft) 939631, down to bealach (stag) then on to ○*Beinn Bheag* (736m, 2415ft) 915635. Thence down scree and gully to Lochan Coire an Iubhair in bealach (540m, 1770ft) 902631. Extremely steeply up from here via

rocky faces to ●**Garbh Bheinn** (885m, 2904ft) 903622. Fine, high-speed descent from here down long *Sron a' Gharbh Choire Bhig* back to car. [10 miles, 1340m, 4400ft] (7)  
Home by sleeper in the evening.

## Climbing notes — Christmas 1993

*Wed 29 Dec* **White Corries** — PRE — Landranger 41

Arrived by sleeper, to find thaw setting in and a westerly gale blowing up from the sea. Errachd all but cut off by frozen drive, thawing snow elsewhere. Drove down to Glencoe, parked at White Corries ski lifts 266525, all closed because of the weather. Climbed up by ski lift to 500m or so in deep snow and spindrift. Driven back by gales and wet snow. Retired to Clachaig.

*Thu 30 Dec* **Beinn a' Bheithir Horseshoe** — PRE — Landranger 41

Parked at foot of forestry road in South Ballachulish at 046589. Climbed up to site of hut (no sign of the hut) at 046569. Steeply up through trees in thick snow, to stile at 050564. Very steeply up left on good snow to ridge at 056566, donned crampons, and turned south up ridge to ▲**Sgorr Dhearg** (1024m, 3360ft) NN056558.

79



Descended SE, in thick mist but with many foot prints to follow, to col at 048555 (757m, 2484ft); thence with many others up W along increasingly narrow ridge with fine snow arête at the top to ▲**Sgorr Dhonuill** (1001m, 3284ft) NN040555. Lunch with at least 20 others. Back to col at 048555, then directly back N in deep soft snow (more falling) to stile at 050564, then by forestry road back to car. [7 miles, 1218m, 3996ft] 80  
TET took sleeper home in evening, PRE to hogmanay in Edinburgh.

*Wed 16 Feb* AJFT born 1994.

## Climbing notes — April 1994

*Sun 24 Apr* Arrived late at Errachd via Barr and Greenock

*Mon 25 Apr* Showers, Glen Loy round, Robert and Rosie for tea, another Glen Loy round, then R and R to sleeper in evening.

*Tue 26 Apr* **Above Loch Laggan** — TET solo — Landranger 34

Parked in nature reserve car park at 483873, heavy showers easing momentarily. Set off up Coire Ardair path, as rain came on heavily. Turned N up the hill on fringes of ancient forest, on increasingly wet paths, wet snow above 2000 feet, mist, gales and sleet above 2500. Plodded on up gentle slopes, over several small tops to impressive cairn of **▲ Carn Liath** (1006m, 3300ft) 472903. Descended on compass bearing S in white out, then incessant rain, back to path and then car park. [5 miles, 772m, 2530ft]

81

*Wed 27 Apr* Rain, mended things. After lunch, drove out to Castle Tioram at south end of Loch Finnan. Locked keys in car. Rescued by JMO. PRE and PD arrived in evening.

*Thu 28 Apr* **Glen Nevis I** — PRE, PD — Landranger 41

Parked at Glen Nevis car park, rain eased, odd showers, and occasional glimpses of the sun. Waterfalls all in spate. Climbed up by Steall, then on along Courour path for a mile or two, then up into Coire Bhuic with lots of snow fields, onto pleasant ridge up to  $\triangle$  *Sgurr Choinnich Beag*, down briefly into snowy bealach, then up rocky ridge to **▲ Sgurr Choinnich Mor** (1094m, 3588ft) 227714. Lunched in mist and cold breeze. Brief excursion along narrow part of ridge to ascertain that the E top was indeed lower. Returned by same route. Ice axe training on descent. Very wet in lower stages. [11 miles, 1050m, 3450ft]

82

*Fri 29 Apr* Rain. JB for lunch.

*Sat 30 Apr* **Glen Nevis II** — TET solo — Landranger 41

Dropped off at Glen Nevis car park by LST, AJFT, JMO and Jumble, climbed up to Steall in pleasant sunshine. Delightful (damp underfoot) ascent above ruined cottage up SW ridge to  $\triangle$  *Sgurr a' Bhuic* (963m, 3159ft) 204701. Worked round above snow along steep edges to  $\triangle$  *Stob Choire Bhealaich* (1100m, 3609ft) 202709. Climbed steadily on good snow in gentle sleet showers, keeping beside huge cornices to **▲ Aonach Beag** (1234m, 4048ft) 196715. Cairn buried, lunch on N slopes looking at C.M.D. arête. Descended sharply to bealach at 194718, then up slowly on increasingly wet snow, in dreary mist and sleet to reach **▲ Aonach Mor** (1221m, 4006ft) 193729. Continued N in thick mist, and located top of the upper ski tow by noise. Descended main piste to Nevis Range ski hut at 188758. [8 miles, 1350m, 4430ft]

83

84

Called LST, who came up to meet me with AJFT on ski lift. Short excursion to *Sgurr Finnisgaig*, then descended by ski lift.

*Sun 1 May* Driving south (via Ayrshire again for wellies).

## Climbing notes — November 1994

*Fri 4 Nov* **Above Fersit** — ORBS — Landranger 41

Arrived by sleeper *en famille* and to Errachd by car. ORBS & TET out again by 1000 and drove to Fersit below Loch Treig. Parked at 350782 at 1050 and set off SE on road through farm, and then S on wet stalking paths over open country to the foot of the rocky ridge of Sron na Gàrbh-bhienne. Climbed up slabby shelves to easier slopes above and thence on S to **▲Stob Coire Sgriodain** (979m, 3212ft) 356743. Hence fine views down to Loch Treig, steep cliffs. On SSE over broken terrain of small ridges and shelves to  $\Delta$  *South Top* (958m, 3143ft), over second smaller top and on SE over wide bealach and then S gently up to  $\Delta$  *Meall Garbh* (977m, 3205ft) 372728. From here back N to bealach (lunch) and thence up in light cloud to **▲Chno Dearg** (1046m, 3432ft) 377741. Dropped off N out of fresh S wind to another low, wide bealach and up gentlest of grassy slopes to  $\circ$  *Meall Chaorach* (815m, 2674ft) 383757. Then back over damp heather to farm and track back to car. [10 miles, 1050m] [5 hours] 85

*Sat 5 Nov* **Glen Quoich Forest** — ORBS — Landranger 33

By car along the Kinloch Hourn road and parked at 010034 by post marking start of path. Climbed rapidly on fine stalkers' path up long ridge of *Bac nan Canaichean*, to  $\circ$  *Sgurr Coire nan-Eiricheallach* (891m, 2923ft) 999061. From here W in thick mist and drizzle, finely along increasingly narrow, rocky and steep ridge to **▲Sgurr a' Mhoaraich** (1027m, 3369ft) 983065. Descended S over steep, wet, grassy slopes to path in coire and so to road a mile from the car. Rutting deer on walk back. [7 miles, 990m] [3 hours 20 mins] 87

*Sun 6 Nov* AJFT, LST, TET, ORBS and Jumble for walk to Invermaillie from the White Bridge at Achnacarry with the buggy. Lunch in the Commando Bar, TET & ORBS to golf, LST & AJFT to swimming.

*Mon 7 Nov* **Glenetive Forest** — ORBS — Landranger 50

Drove to Glencoe and down Glen Etive, parked by old farm at Invercharnan 143483. Good forestry road to edge of trees at 120490 then dreadful, wet boggy path beside stream up to bealach at 106492; thence steeply up N into thick cloud & rain to unnamed top at 105498. From here gently down, then up over broken but good ridge to **▲Beinn Fhionnlaidh** (959m, 3146ft) 094497. Returned same way in clearing weather. [9 miles, 960m] [4 hours 10 mins] Home on sleeper in evening. 88

## Climbing notes — March 1995

*Tue 14 Mar* **Wake for the sleeper** — JPW, ORBS, DC — Landranger 41, 42

Arrived by sleeper at Corroul 356664 by 0730. High broken cloud, cold. Followed LR tracks E to N side of Loch Ossian, turned N up gentle slopes, in occasional snow showers to reach **▲Beinn na Lap** (935m, 3068ft) 376695 [3 miles, 530m] [1 hour 45 mins]. 89

Excellent glissade down hard frozen slopes, S back to track beside Loch Ossian. Followed shore E to Corroul Lodge estate houses. Stream crossing interlude [4 hours]. Emerged from forestry above estate houses and climbed steadily up N slopes of Meall Nathrach Mór. Wind rising and nasty black clouds in NW. Snowing steadily on long

drag E up to top of  $\Delta$  *Sgòr Choinnich* (929m, 3048ft) 443683 [9 miles, 1070m] [6 hours]. Very cold in strong WNW wind, thick cloud on top.

Dropped off summit S towards well-defined bealach, as weather worsened. Decided to get off hill, and abandon *Sgòr Gaibhre* and *Carn Dearg*. Turned W at bottom of bealach to slowly work our way down and round to N back towards *Loch Ossian*. Long snowy traverse of gentle slopes back to estate houses. [7 hours 30 mins] Walked out in worsening snow storm along S shore of *Loch Ossian* to reach *Corrour* at 1700. [16 miles, 1100m] [9 hours 30 mins]

Bothy locked (but fire burning merrily in the grate visible through the window) so brewed up in waiting room. Very cold and heavy snow. Took 1825 train to *Rannoch* to find bar (closed); sheltered in fishing hut for two hours with some train drivers until sleeper arrived at 2105. Home overnight to *Euston*.

## Climbing notes — May 1995

*Fri 5 May* **Ben Chonzie** — ORBS, DC — Landranger 52

Drove up from *Nottingham* in morning and parked by about 1500 at *Invergeldie Farm* 743273, north of *Comrie* near *Crieff*. Climbed rapidly on broad stalkers' road up to 840m, crossed broad ridge to shallow E corrie, much infested with hares, and so up to the sunny and windy top of **▲ Ben Chonzie**, 931m, 773308. Returned SW along broad summit ridge, then down into W corrie to rejoin path, and so back to cars. Swimming in the pool at the dam on the path. [8 miles, 710m] [3 hours 30 mins]

90

Stayed at the *Queen's View Hotel*, *Strathtummel*, 01796-473291, which was very good.

*Sat 6 May* **Beinn a'Ghlo** — DC — Landranger 43

Ben left in morning dress for *Sue Paton's* wedding in *Markinch*, TET & DC up to *Blair Atholl* and then parked (with many others) by *Loch Moraig* at 905671. Set off by 0940 on path round S of the hill into the valley of the *Allt Coire Lagain*. After a couple of miles struck across country on thin trods through the heather towards the SW nose of *Airgiod Bheinn*. Fine and rapid ascent up obvious shallow gully, onto narrowing rocky ridge, and easily to the top of  $\Delta$  *Airgiod Bhienn* 1061m, 961719. Dropped down N ridge to broad grassy col, then up very gently to the three tops of **▲ Carn nan Gabhar**, 1121m, 971733, meeting the first of the walkers who had gone round the other way.

91

From here SW back along the ridge then steeply down W to bealach at 958726, and so up steeply to snowy ridge and on to broad open summit of **▲ Bràigh Coire Chruinn-bhagain**, 1070m, 945724. Now on S over rocky ground down to deep bealach at 939714, and up serpentine ridge to rendezvous with RN team on top of **▲ Carn Liath**, 975m, 936698 at about 1500. RN party comprised PRE, Peter Dunlop, David Emes and Alan Hailwood.

92

93

TT & DC back to car by 1615, while others climbed BCC-b. All back to *QVH* in evening, where we gained *Robin Torrie* and lost *PD*. [15 miles, 1250m] [6 hrs 30 mins]

*Sun 7 May* **Ben Lawers Traverse** — ORBS, DC, RT + PRE, DE, AH — Landranger 51

Early start to ferry PRE, DE and AH to the hotel in *Fearnan* 720444 by 0930, then back to fetch DC & RT, get fuel and eventually to meet ORBS at *Fearnan* by 1045. Drove round to cairn on *Bridge of Balgie* road at parked at 594416. Walking by 1130.

At first over rough damp ground, in cool cloudy weather to bealach between *Coire Gorm* and *Coire Liath* at 614432. Left some kit and turned N up to broad flat top of

**▲ Meall a' Choire Léith**, 926m, 612439. From here back to bealach and slowly up S, 94  
in increasing breeze to narrow, grassy ridge of **▲ Meall Corranaich**, 1069m, 616410. 95

From here down very steeply to deep bealach crossed by the main path back to the NT  
visitors' centre, and up again to reach **▲ Beinn Ghlas**, 1103m, 626404 with occasional 96  
cold showers of rain. Met RN team on gentle slopes N of summit at about 1430. So  
on up an enormous, well populated path to climb the 300m to the summit of **▲ Ben** 97  
**Lawers**, 1214m, 635414, the high point of the day.

After a brief stop, continued N over  $\triangle$  *Creag an Fhithich* up to the very fine peak  
of **▲ An Stùc**, 1118m, 638430, now in thick cloud and occasional drizzle. Slithered 98  
uneasily down vertical cliffs and gullies on the N side to bealach at the head of Fin  
Glen, and up again to the fifth<sup>3</sup> Munro of the day, **▲ Meall Garbh**, 1118m, 644437. 99

From here the character of the walk changed as the landscape became moor-like and  
boggy. Turned E and descended gently at first then more steeply to a broad wet col at  
658441, and thence at last up very gentle and damp ridge to reach small rocky top of  
**▲ Meall Greigh**, 1001m, 674438. A rainbow appeared eastward towards Fearnan as 100  
the drizzle broke up into showers and thin sunshine, which helped to celebrate 100-up.<sup>4</sup>  
Descended for a mile or so NE over wet grass to reach a stalking path that led down  
through the forestry plantations back to the hotel at Fearnan, where the RN team were  
waiting with the car. [14 miles, 1650m] [8 hours]

ORBS off to Elgin, AH to Edinburgh, others to Errachd.

*Mon 8 May* **East of Lairig Leacach** — RT, PRE, DE — Landranger 41

A cool, showery morning. Decided to scrub round meeting ORBS in Newtonmore and  
instead do a shorter walk closer to Errachd. DC suffering from feet, so remained behind  
waiting for ORBS.

Drove car up to old aluminium company tramway above Corriechoille Farm. Took  
track up through forest then on up the Lairig. At the bridge over the burn struck SE  
up hill for a long (500m) pull up to the top of **● Cruach Innse**, 857m, 280763. Lunch. (8)

Descended S down steep slabby ground to wide bealach and up slopes of scree and  
broken cliffs to reach fine rocky top of **● Sgurr Innse**, 808m, 290748. Looked (quite (9)  
hard) for a route down SW spur but could find nothing safe. Retraced steps back to  
bealach and thence down to path, and back to car. [8 miles, 970m]

RT, PRE, DC and DE home in evening on train from Newtonmore. Called JH to find  
that he had been flooded out at home so was not coming up to join us.

*Tue 9 May* **On the Black Mount** — ORBS — Landranger 50

Fine cool weather with very occasional showers and lots of sunshine. In morning drove S  
to Bridge of Orchy and parked up near Victoria Bridge 271422 at Inveroran. Set off by  
about 1230 and followed well-maintained stalkers' paths up gradually at first then very 101  
steeply to reach scree covered upper slopes, and then on to **▲ Stob a' Choire Odhair**,  
945m, 257459.

From here descended long complex ridge into a high wild corrie and climbed impres-  
sively up beside snow field to reach a wonderful arête, another Aonach Eagach. Excellent  
scrambly ridge up to shapely peak of **▲ Stob Ghabhar**, 1090m, 230455 by 1600. De- 102

<sup>3</sup>Fifth at the time, **An Stùc** not having been promoted until August 1997.

<sup>4</sup>After the revisions of August 1997 this was actually the 101st: gained **An Stùc** and **Stob Coire Sgreamhach** on Bidean nam Bian; lost **Sgor an Iubhair** in the Mamores. Since 2014 it's back to being the 100th.

cided Meall nan Eun was just too far away, so settled for long descent around Coire Ghabhar and down onto more stalkers' paths in lovely evening sunlight to lonely farm at Clashgour and hence back along the Abhainn Shira to the car. [12 miles, 1220m] [6 hours]

The Inveroran Hotel suffers from being on the WHW and can be avoided in future.

*Wed 10 May* **Glen Affric I** — ORBS — Landrangers 25, 33

Drove up to just E of the Cluanie Inn, parked just off road at 091121. Walked in to Glen Affric to the SYHA hostel at Alltbeithe, 080202. Lunched here with another couple and then up on boggy path through Coire na Cloiche, to the bealach high up on the ridge. Turned W and climbed up narrow rocky ridge to the very attractive peak of **▲Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan**, 1151m, 057228. 103

Weather very cold with occasional snow showers, but plenty of sunshine, improving towards the evening. Descended very narrow and rocky NE ridge, turning grassy and so on over  $\triangle$  *Carn na Con Dhu* 967m, 072241 and thence all the way out N to **▲Mullach na Dheiragain**, 982m, 080259. Returned along ridge and camped in high shallow corrie to the NE of S nan C beside Loch Coire nan Dearcag at 072231. [15 miles, 1450m] [8–9 hours] 104

*Thu 11 May* **Glen Affric II** — ORBS — Landranger 25, 33

Awake early with the light, rose about 0700 to find tent and boots frozen. Walking by 0800, climbed awkwardly round side of corrie to regain main E ridge of S nan C. From here, rather wearily, up gentle, but rocky slopes to **▲An Socach** (921m, 3022ft) NH088229. Continued down E side of *An Socach* to *Bealach Coire Ghàdheil* at 099238. Decided against doing any more hills and returned down another damp stalkers' path through Coire Ghàdheil to Glen Affric for long walk out back to car. [12 miles, 450m] [6 hours] 105

*Fri 12 May* Louise & Fred arrived. Walked to Torcastle and back in the afternoon.

*Sat 13 May* ORBS home. Thurstons out to Arisaig for lunch on the beach and a stroll round the Back of Keppoch.

*Sun 14 May* Quiet morning, all walked in Glen Roy in afternoon.

*Mon 15 May* Driving south.

Date	Munros	Miles	Ascent (m)	Time
Fri 5	1	8	710	3:30
Sat 6	3	15	1250	6:30
Sun 7	6	14	1650	8:00
Mon 8		8	970	
Tue 9	2	12	1220	6:00
Weds 10	2	15	1450	9:00
Thu 11	1	12	450	6:00
Total	15	84	7700	

*Fri 23 Feb* CET born 1996

## Climbing notes — May 1996

*Thu 9 May* **Ben Lui** — ORBS — Landranger 50

Arrived by train at Tyndrum Lower 328302 by 1020 after sleeper to Glasgow and leaving bags at the Crianlarich Hotel. Fine clear weather with cold ENE wind. By forestry road W to Cononish farm 302285 and on to start climb up into Coire Gaothach. Steeply SW up *Stob an Tighe Aird*, and to rocky summit of **▲ Ben Lui**, 1130m, 266262. Lunch on north-west top. Steeply down to bealach at 258259, left kit and on up broad grassy slopes to small rocky outcrops at the top of **▲ Beinn a'Chleibh**, 916m, 250256. 106

Back to bealach then contoured awkwardly round SW slopes of Ben Lui and thence up by SW ridge to **▲ Ben Oss**, 1029m, 287253 in the evening sunshine. Followed several others down NE ridge and then up on fine, airy paths skirting impressive cliffs above the bealach. Long undulating ridge led to **▲ Beinn Dubhchraig**, 978m, 307254, by about 1900. Down very steeply on damp grass to camp (exhausted) around 316248. [14 miles, 1710m] [9 hours 30 mins]. 107

*Fri 10 May* **South of Glen Falloch** — ORBS — Landranger 50, 56

Woke early to warm sunshine, breakfasted and descended gently to cross railway, road and river near Derrydaroach farm 351219. Climbed steadily S up interminable damp grassy slopes, through open woodland onto rocky and undulating ridge up to *○ Stob Creag an Fhithich*, 700m, 349191. Then slowly SE then E over switchback ridge with many drops & climbs to reach **▲ Beinn Chabhair**, 933m, 367179 by 1400 or so. From here descended sharply E (SE looked like it might have been better) to deep col at 374184. Climbed up NW to ridge, left kit, and then rapidly up N to **▲ An Caisteal**, 995m, 379193. Weather still fine, but more cloud and a cooler wind. 110

Returned to kit on ridge and continued SE, then E over many small tops above 900m to reach **▲ Beinn a'Chroin**, <sup>5</sup> 940m, 393185 by late evening. Descended wearily N then cut back E down into corrie to find a campsite by 1930 around 397194. Saw no-one on hills all day this day. [13 miles, 1600m] [10 hours]. 111

*Sat 11 May* **Above Crianlarich** — ORBS — Landranger 50, 51 and 56

Woke at 0500 to the sound of falling snow. By 0800 there was a good 3 inch covering of fresh snow. Up by about 0900, chilly breakfast, snow melting. Set off down to bealach below intimidating SW face of Stob Glas, managed to find a route slanting up to the right, under cliffs round to broad open grassy corrie behind, and from there gently and steadily up to ridge at 412203 by about 1145. From here easily SE along to **▲ Beinn Tulaichean**, 946m, 416196. 113

Thence in clearing weather with fresh E breeze back and up steeply to reach **▲ Cruach Ardtrain**, 1046m, 409212 by 1330. In afternoon descended easily over *○ Meall Dhamh* and Grey Height, plus awful last mile through forestry to reach Crianlarich. Stayed at recently tarted-up Crianlarich Hotel. Supper with JMO (and Deb & Hugh) at Benmore Lodge hotel. [8 miles, 600m] [6 hours]. 114

*Sun 12 May* **The Crianlarich Big Two** — ORBS — Landranger 51

Started from hotel by 0930 and walked along A85 to Benmore Farm at 263258. From here relentlessly up and up NW shoulder to reach the rocky and exposed summit of **▲ Ben More**, 1174m, 432244 several hours later. Many people on route. 115

<sup>5</sup>In 2014 this hill was resurveyed and the Munro summit was relocated to 387185, which is now marked as 942m on the Landranger map. Our route took us over this top as well as the old summit.

Descended slowly S to wide col then up even more slowly over steep snow-covered rocky ground to reach **▲Stob Binnein**, 1165m, 434227 by about 1400. Tops were in mist, and fine drizzle of snow started on descent back to col. From col dropped down (over yet more damp grassy slopes) to farm track in Benmore Glen. Back to farm and road to Crianlarich. Supper at Benmore Lodge again, then train to Glasgow in evening & sleeper to London. [11 miles, 1300m] [6 hours 30 mins]

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Date	Munros	Miles	Ascent (m)	Time	Naismith
Thu 9	4	14	1710	9:30	8:30
Fri 10	3	13	1600	10:00	7:50
Sat 11	2	8	600	6:00	4:15
Sun 12	2	11	1300	6:30	6:35
Total	11	46	5210		

## Climbing notes — November 1996

*Wed 30 Oct* Drove north, stopped at Ben Lomond for a leg stretch, in rain and gathering dusk. Drove on to Errachd.

*Thu 31 Oct* Rain, gales.

*Fri 1 Nov* Rain, storms.

*Sat 2 Nov* **East of Drumochter** — ORBS — Landranger 42

Parked beside A9 at foot of old quarry road 640822, alt 400m. Climbed rapidly on a rough track to an old quarry on the broad ridge at 660802, then turned S following track over **○A' Bhuidheanach** 879m and on, over gently sloping rough ground, to **▲A' Bhuidheanach Bheag**, 936m, 660776. Turned about, and marched N back to the old quarry, then on NE in strong breeze and showers to eventually reach **▲Carn na Caim**, 941m, 677821. Returned down steep sided valley of *Allt Coire Uilleim*, and then over rough, boggy heather to start point. [11 miles, 840m] [4 hours]

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118

*Sun 3 Nov* Rain, gales, storms. ORBS home on sleeper.

## Climbing notes — March 1997

*Sat 22 Mar* Arrived in Crieff from Nottingham, *en famille*.

*Sun 23 Mar* Leg stretch up **●Am Bioran** by Loch Earn above St Fillans. RJW, TMcK and TET with AJFT in Macpac. Hard work up steep and trackless grassy slopes among the little cliffs and outcrops. Picnicked near the top. One to do again. Nice sunny day.

(10)

*Mon 24 Mar* Swimming, playpark etc

*Tue 25 Mar* **Lochearnside to Callander** — TET solo — Landrangers 51 & 57)

Dropped by RJW, JCW and the boys near Ardvorlich at 633232 before 1000. Walked swiftly S in increasing rain past Ardvorlich House, on fine old path that gained height rapidly. Into thick mist above 650m. Final steep section was not so steep and the trig point of **▲Ben Vorlich**, 985m, 629189, loomed up out of the mist surprisingly early by 1140. Short stop on top then down steeply to hillocky bealach on twisting but clear path, still mostly in the mist, down to 720m. Still raining on and off. Picked way up over boulder field, then forsook path for the direct line up the ridge, with some easy (but exposed) scrambling on rather wet and well-vegetated rocks, to reach the large cairn on top. Short rest then on S to the twin cairns at the other end of the summit ridge of **▲Stuc a' Chroin**, 975m, 617175, by 1245. 119 120

Thence gently down SE on broad, well drained, grassy slopes in heavy rain to pick up narrower greasier path at the bealach at 637157 which led down to a LR track at Arivurichardich, 643138. From here, as rain eased off somewhat, followed track to Braeleny Farm, 636110 and then motor road down to Callander at 1440. Sat in sunshine for an hour until picked up as arranged at about 1530. [13 miles, 1165m] [5 hours].

*Wed 26 Mar* Visit to Glenturret Distillery, etc.

*Thu 27 Mar* **Head of Glen Clova** — TET solo — Landranger 44

Long drive from Crieff (via Glen Eagles) on A9 then quiet country roads to Glen Clova and the forestry commission car park at Braedownie (283761). Walking by 1012. High, thin cloud, with occasional heavy showers (snow on plateau) in W to NW fresh breeze. Set off up N bank of *White Water* as advised by *Munros* guide book, past SYHA hostel, to bridge but went well past it, since both the diagram and GR given in the book are out by 400 yards. Decided to keep going & do the route in reverse (which was a better way to do it).

Followed forestry road over river at higher bridge and up gently beside the *Fee Burn*, then rough track to emerge from trees at 380m into a spectacular bowl of cliffs around the *Fee Burn* corrie with a fine waterfall at the back. Followed thin path across corrie floor and winding up beside the fall, then on S up onto the plateau. A rather dull  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile trudge over tussocky, snowy grass led to **▲Mayar**, 928m, 241738 which must look better from the S. Sheltered behind smallish cairn during brief but heavy snow shower. 121

When snow passed, set off E on easy ground following old posts to the col where the Kilbo path crosses the ridge, from here on steeper ground above the outcrops of the N slopes to reach flat summit of **▲Driesh**, 947m, 271736 in another snow shower. 122  
Lunched rather uncomfortably in large field which completely conceals the trig point and which was full of snow. Returned to col and descended on well-maintained path through trees back to miss-placed bridge and the car. Back to car by 1400. [9.5 miles, 860m] [3 hours 45 minutes].

*Fri 28 Mar* Lunch over at Kirkmichael with Jonathan and Christa.

*Sat 29 Mar* Returned home, via Keilder & Nottingham.

Date	Munros	Miles	Ascent (m)	Time	Naismith
Tue 25	2	13	1165	5:00	7:10
Thu 27	2	9.5	860	3:45	5:15
Total	4	24.5	2025		

## Climbing notes — May 1997

*Sun 4 May* Arrived at Cluanie Lodge in time for supper.

*Mon 5 May* **North Glen Cluanie I** — ORBS, NR — Landranger 33

Left car at the end of the Cluanie Lodge drive and walked down the A87 to the bridge over the *Allt a'Chaorainn Bhig*, and then up on damp path to the broad & boggy Bealach a'Choinich. Climbed up steeply on snowy grass along narrowing ridge to **▲ Ciste Dubh**, 982m, 062166. Wind was N to NE, strength 4–5 with stronger gusts in the showers. Returned to bealach in heavy snow, which cleared to brilliant sunshine in time to encourage us to continue on to the North Glen Shiel ridge proper. Fine climb on narrowing ridge to the shapely conical summit of  $\triangle$  *Sgurr an Fhuarail* which was partly in cloud. Turned to W and then sharply down (but not very far) and up again on narrow arête to reach broad top of **▲ Aonach Meadhoin**, 1001m, 048137. To the W, tempting views of *Saileag* and *Sgurr a'Bhealaich Dheirg* but stuck with the plan and descended directly and steeply S towards the road. Heavy going in thick snow over wet, boggy grass, then 30 minutes back along the road to the Cluanie Inn. [10 miles, 1300m] [5 hours].

*Tue 6 May* Frequent snow showers. TET *et al* with children, ORBS and ECF to *Falls of Glomach*.

*Wed 7 May* **Ben Sgritheall** — ORBS + ECF — Landranger 33

Long drive by Glenelg and parked by sea at Arnisdale. Wind N-NW, frequent sleet & snow showers. After some debate, changed, ate some food and set off up a wet path behind the houses that led up to a steep and slushy heather slope and then into a small shallow gully that was thickly covered in fresh snow from about 400m. Kicked steps rather arduously up to easier ground at *Bealach Arnasdail*. ECF returned to car. TET & ORBS up steeply WNW to a very snowy scree slope. Hard work up thick lying snow. Heavy snow showers with strong gusts. Eventually reached shapely cairn on  $\triangle$  *East Top* in thick cloud. Climbed along ridge in deep snow, at times difficult to follow the path. Especially good on narrow section, wind fortunately died down. Cloud cleared somewhat to give partial views as we reached the main top of **▲ Beinn Sgritheall** (974m, 3196ft) NG835126. Ate lunch in deep snow drift between summit cairn and broken trig point. Finished out along W ridge to lochan at 816126 then down on vague path to a fence that led down very steeply through some woods beside a waterfall. Walked back along the road towards Arnisdale, and collected by ECF before long. [6 miles, 1050m] [5 hours 30 minutes].

*Thu 8 May* **North Glen Cluanie II** — ORBS, NR, GC, APC — Landranger 34

Parked car in lay by at Lundie, then set off by about 1130, in brisk NE wind with occasional snow showers, up stalkers' path. This was mainly excellent and wound back and forth all the way up to a rather snowy plateau at 900m. Strode out across gently rising ground to reach the summit cairn of **▲ Carn Ghluasaid** (957m, 3140ft) NH145125 shortly after 1300. Dropped a little way to N and lunched in sunshine. Shortly after we restarted, ORBS (knee injury) and APC (sympathy) returned to car back down the stalkers' path. TET, NR & GC continued on (in the only really heavy snow shower) up gentle snowy ground to  $\triangle$  *Creag a' Chaorainn* (998m, 3274ft) NH137131 and then on to **▲ Sgurr nan Conbhairean** (1109m, 3638ft) NH129138 in clearing weather.

Continued north, following footsteps in the deep snow made by parties ahead, to reach **▲Sail Chaorainn** (1002m, 3287ft) NH133154 by about 1545. The northern top,  $\Delta$  *Carn na Coire Mheadhoin*, marked at 1001m on the map, looks distinctly higher, so we traversed along the delightful short ridge between them in thick snow (with no other footprints this time) just to make sure. Returned back the way we had come, bypassing *Sgurr nan Conbhairean* to the west and following its W ridge round to reach its western top  $\Delta$  *Drochaid an Tuill Easaich* (1001m, 3284ft) NH120134 by about 1700. From here descended the long S ridge back to the A87. Collected by APC after about 30 minutes marching back in lovely evening sunshine. [12 miles, 1200m] [6 hours].

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*Fri 9 May* **South Glen Shiel** — GC, ECF — Landranger 33

Parked beside the A87 just before the old quarry near Shiel Bridge. Light E to SE wind with high, scattered cumulus clouds. Climbed up on yet another excellent stalkers' path that led up to 500m very easily. Climbed up slightly more slowly to the foot of the Forcan Ridge in patchy snow and then traversed round following the old dry-stone wall (with deep drifts either side) to reach the Bealach Coire Mhalagain underneath *Sgurr na Forcan*. Climbed rather a sporting line up through the deep snow in the corrie to reach the S ridge of **▲The Saddle** just below the trig point, and so up to the summit, 1010m, 935130. Returned on a slightly less steep line back to the Bealach and climbed up easily SE to a broad ridge, then S up a rocky ridge with deep patches of snow to the  $\Delta$  *North West Top* (942m, 3091ft) NG943115 and finally SE over level ground to the summit cairn of **▲Sgurr na Sgine** (946m, 3104ft) NG946113

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Returned NW, then N and then on along narrow, snow-covered ridge to **●Foachang** with fine views all round. In increasing cloud & a fresher wind, descended steeply, but easily, from here down N ridge back to the car in Glen Shiel. [9 miles, 1350m] [5 hours 50 minutes].

(11)

*Sat 10 May* Returned home via Nottingham.

Date	Munros	Miles	Ascent (m)	Time	Naismith
Mon 5	2	10	1300	5:00	6:10
Weds 7	1	6	1050	5:30	4:10
Thu 8	3	12	1200	6:00	6:50
Fri 9	1	9	1350	5:50	5:50
Total	6	37	4900		

## Climbing notes — May / June 1998

*Sat 30 May* Arrived at Catherine & Tommy's late.

*Sun 31 May* **The Tarmachans** — ORBS, TMcK, IT — Landranger 51

Parked just above the Ben Lawers visitors centre and set off down large track, soon off on eroded path, increasingly steeply up the E side of the hill, passing several parties *en route*, over little top then narrowing rocky path up to **▲Meall nan Tarmachan**, 1043m. Then on easily to  $\Delta$  *Meall Garbh*, 1026m,  $\Delta$  *Beinn nan Eachan*, 1000m and finally down to  $\Delta$  *Creag na Caillich*, 916m. High cloud with occasional drizzle, gave way to lower clouds and continual rain. Dropped down from the bealach to the N of the last top, over damp, boggy ground. Back to car along the large track in steady rain; very wet & cold by the time we got back. Beer in Killin, ORBS & TET drove N to QVH at Strathtummel.

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*Mon 1 Jun* **Schiehallion** — ORBS — Landranger 51

A dull misty morning, keen to get at least one hill in before going north. Traipsed up the awful path from the large car park to **▲Schiehallion** (1083m, 3553ft) NN713547. Thick mist above 600m, but mercifully no heavy rain. Particularly unpleasant off-width rocks for most of the way along the ridge. Millions of unnecessary cairns. Identified summit by the debris from previous lunch parties and the fact that the ground dropped steeply away to the NW. Back to the car for lunch by about 1400, then away to Aviemore (to buy a coat & maps) and on to Sutherland. Stayed at the Crask Inn.

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*Tue 2 Jun* **Far North I** — ORBS — Landranger 16

On advice walked the hill from the Inn; a long way but worth it. Followed rough track, with entertaining bridges from the road at the Crask up beside the river, to a rough bealach some 3 miles up. Struck up hill from an old rusty gate at the bealach and climbed steadily for an hour to reach the rounded SW ridge. Thence round on narrowing ridge and finally steeply up to the rocky top of **▲Ben Klibreck – Meall nan Con** (962m, 3156ft) NC585299. Lunched with three others, and then on in chilly NE wind to the northern tops, and so round to find the memorial to the RN pilots killed on the hill in a crash in 1955. From here down damp, grassy slopes to the gorse-girt sides of Loch Choire. Strode back (7 miles or so) on well maintained stalkers road to the same bealach with the gate, and so back to the Crask. About 19 or 20 miles in all. Fine cool weather.

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*Wed 3 Jun* **Far North II** — ORBS — Landranger 9

A rather slow start from the Crask and narrow roads on the way to Strathmore to start the climb. Occasional heavy showers. Started from almost sea-level up well worn and wet path beside a fine series of waterfalls to gain flatter ground above 500m. On over rocky ground in snow showers. Heavy snow nearer the top. Had brief snowy lunch at the summit of **▲Ben Hope**, 927m. Mist obscured any views. Clouds cleared on the way down, giving way to warm sunshine. Leisurely descent, including quick dip in a very cold pool on the way down.

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Drove round towards Tongue to look at *Ben Loyal*, but put off by the long walk in and the late hour, decided to save it for another day. Pleasant stroll out to a castle in warm sunshine at Tongue.

*Thu 4 Jun* **Far North III** — ORBS — Landranger 15

Left the Crask with fond farewells and more advice (also good) about the best way to approach Ben Mor Assynt. Took the car all the way up Glen Casseli and parked by the gate at the end of the public road. Crossed river by a fine suspension bridge and followed rough stalkers path beside the river and slowly up over rising moorland (past ugly pipeline) to the east side of the hill. Climbed steadily and reach the main top of **▲Ben More Assynt** (998m, 3274ft) NC318201 around midday. Dipped down to the W, rockily over small tops to reach the summit of **▲Conival** (987m, 3238ft) NC303199 for lunch. Lunched hastily, and moved on as the wind died and the midges found us. Returned (stumbling) along the rocks to the  $\triangle$  *South Top of Ben Mor Assynt*. And thence S along narrow, grassy ridge with outcrops for a mile or two until we reached a low bealach with deer. Dropped easily to the E and regained the stalkers road after a couple of mile thrashing along over boggy heather. Back to the car for tinned beer, then a long drive in warm evening sunshine back to Pitlochry and the QVH.

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*Fri 5 Jun* **Glen Shee** — ORBS — Landranger 43

Parked in the ski area and started steeply up the hill from the road, upsetting nests of grouse. Climbed rapidly on heathery slopes to reach the much-defaced top of **▲The Cairnwell** (933m, 3061ft) NO134773. Strode out on good paths over springy, dryish moorland with high cloud, sunshine and a good breeze. Made good time across to **▲Carn a' Gheoidh** (975m, 3199ft) NO106767 and then back to the ski lift to finish this yomp over **▲Carn Aosda** (917m, 3009ft) NO134791. Descended a blue piste to get back to the car park. Left the car park around 1400. Supper at Nottingham and back to Kingston soon after midnight.

## Climbing notes — June 1999

*Sat 29 May* Party at Alton Albany

*Sun 30 May* Morning at Bargany, lunch at AA then to QVH

*Mon 31 May* Sunshine & stroll to Queen's View

*Tue 1 Jun* Up to Errachd for lunch, sausages on Loch Arkaig after noon. Warm and sunny.

*Wed 2 Jun* **Glencoe — Buachaille Etive Mor** — TET solo — Landranger 41

Parked by road at Altnafeadh, and took advice from climbers on best route. Set off in warm sunshine, E on climbers path, to the water slide slab, then up on stony slopes to foot of climbs. Followed vague directions for Curved Ridge, somewhat off route on steepish ground, but eventually back on track at foot of Crowberry Tower. Finely up on good holds and firm rock with magnificent views on each side. Climbed rapidly to cairn then scrambled round and up to  $\Delta$  *Crowberry Tower*. Down awkwardly then short scramble to north ridge to the summit of **▲Stob Dearg** (1022m, 3353ft) NN223543.

Thin cloud by now but still very warm. Strode out along ridge in good time over  $\Delta$  *Stob na Doire* (1011m, 3317ft) NN207532 and  $\Delta$  *Stob Coire Altruim* (941m, 3087ft) NN197530 to reach **▲Stob na Broige** (956m, 3136ft) NN190525 for late lunch. Back to head of gully east of Stob Coire Altruim (short snow slide) and down on steep ground to Lairig Gartain and boggy path back to road. [5 hours]. Rain in the evening.

*Thu 3 Jun* **Arrochar Rendezvous** — ORBS — Landrangers 50, 56

Met at Ardlui station in drizzle and midges at 0945. Very wet time of it (mainly underfoot) going round by Little Hills to get to the main top of **▲Ben Vorlich** (943m, 3094ft) NN295124 for lunch. Returned over  $\Delta$  *North Top* (931m, 3054ft) NN294130 and down very damp, rough grass on indistinct paths to the station. [5 hours].

*Fri 4 Jun* **Ardverikie Forest** — ORBS — Landrangers 34, 42

Parked beside the road at 432830 just after midday and followed broad forestry roads on long walk in to Lochan na h-Earba, with delightful sandy beaches. Thence up on damp, but direct, stalkers path to the bealach at 490800, climbed short steep section, and up into thick mist on broad and stony ridge that led SW for 3km to **▲Beinn a' Chlachair**, 1087m, 471781.

From there back to the bealach, following the compass, as cloud lifted, and steadily up another stony ridge with many false tops to reach shapely cairn on **▲Geal Charn**,

1049m, 504811, by about 1700. From here back down to the other part of the bealach around 490810 and up steeply on a good path to the fine top of **▲ Creag Pitridh**, 924m, 487814, shortly after 1730. Long descent W, and then SW in fine evening sunshine back to sandy beaches of Lochan na h-Earba and so out on stalkers roads to get back to the car by 1900. [7 hours] [18 miles, 1255m]. 144

*Sat 5 Jun* **East of Dalwhinnie** — ORBS — Landranger 42

Parked on A9 at 654867 just after 1200. Rapid walk in on hydro roads, in light showers beside half-empty aqueduct, past a small power station to a private bothy at 690870 inhabited by rabbits. From here up steeply at first on very boggy path, to stony ground above with more rabbits to the flat top (and huge cairn) of **▲ Meall Chuaich**, 951m, 716878. Rapid descent and walk out pouring rain, past the now active power station and the brim full aqueduct. Back to car at about 1540. [3 hours 40] [10 miles, 600m]. 145

*Sun 6 Jun* TET and family home, ORBS to *Stuc a' Chroin* and *Ben Vorlich* above Loch Earn.

## Climbing notes — October 1999

*Wed 20 Oct* **Gulvain** — TET solo — Landrangers 40, 41

Arrived by sleeper, to a damp, blowy morning; met by J and back to Errachd for coffee, then straight out again—J lending her car—and round to park at 961764 just past Kinlocheil at the foot of Gleann Fionnlighe. Called the stalkers' number on the sign post, but no reply. Walking by 1125. Long walk in on good LR track up pretty Glen, past stalkers' vehicles and so onto good track (boggy only on lower 1/2 mile) up open moorland, passing two slow ones dressed in bright colours. Track ascended gently without a break for 2km or so until the first rocky top at 885m (997858). From here on slightly easier ground still N on clear track in occasional sunshine, some mist, showers and increasingly strong E wind. Met two others just below the trig point, very enthusiastic. Made  $\Delta$  *southern top* easily then along easy and enjoyable ridge in rather wild weather (mist, rain and strong east wind 6–7, gusting 8) to main top of **▲ Gulvain** (987m, 002875) by about 1440 or so. Cold lunch in sleet drizzle. Very chilled after 10 minutes, and set off forgetting map bag with phone in it, luckily remembered after only 5 minutes down the hill. Steep clamber back up to southern top, then strode away down the path. Met (friendly) stalkers on the way out. Back to car by 1725. [6 hours] [14 miles, 1150m]. 146

*Thu 21 Oct* **Glencoe – Buachaille Etive Beag** — TET solo — Landranger 41

Parked by road at 213560 in cold, strong E wind, heavy showers and lowering clouds. Walking before 1100 (just). Followed the boggy mess that approximates to the *Lairig Gartain* path for 15 mins or so then turned directly up pathless, steep and wet grassy slopes (avoiding deer) to the cliffs below *Stob nan Cabar*, threaded rather damply through heathery low cliffs that look much steeper and less vegetated than they actually are, eventually to top in strong breeze.

From here easily along broken ground with many lochans, in broken mist to the charming top of newly promoted **▲ Stob Coire Raineach**, (925m, 191548) and so with no pause down steeply on loose scree to the bealach (huge cairn) in north-easterly gale. Met three others coming down. Up on easy ridge with well-defined path to the fine rocky summit of **▲ Stob Dubh** (958m, 179535). Sudden drop in wind speed on top. 147  
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Brief lunch stop, well-wrapped up. Returned in ridiculously strong NE wind, down to bealach, then dropped SE into Lairig Gartain, and so boggily back to the car by 1530. [4 hours 30 mins] [8 miles, 850m].

*Fri 22 Oct* **Corry Hully part II—six years on** — TET solo — Landranger 40

Parked in car park by Glen Finnan, and set off up the private motor road to Corry Hully. Much less wind, occasional light showers, sunny periods. At the bothy in 48 minutes from the road, and so on to LR track round into Coire Thollaidh, and up the long steep climb on to rockier easier ground of *Druim Coire a'Bheithe*. Cool, fresh NE breeze on top, with some mist clinging to the tops, showers. Eventually up N to **▲Sgurr Thuilm** (963m, 3159ft) NM939879 by about 1400. Returned same way, met no one on the hill at all, back to the car by about 1630. [about 5 hours 30 mins] [13 miles, 980m].

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Home by sleeper in evening.

## Climbing notes — May 2000

*Sat 6 May* **Mount Keen** — ORBS — Landranger 44

Late sleeper to Edinburgh, then hire car (from Avis near Haymarket Stn) and drove N to shop in Brechin, then on to Glen Esk. Parked in large car park at 447804, by 1100. Fine, warm and sunny after cloud as far as the foot of Glen Esk. From the car park at 1115, west then north-west following old drovers' route (a stony LR track for the most part), past Queen's Well 420829 and very smart Glenmark House. And so up steeply by Ladder Burn onto gentler heathery peat slopes at 405852. Easily up, across small snow patches to populous summit of **▲Mount Keen** (939m, 3081ft) NO409869 by 1315, having just missed Cairngorm Club Year 2000 photograph. Met Slococks Senior for long lunch. ORBS to NW with family, TET back S to get the car. Back at car park by 1530. Very hot. [12 miles, 680m].

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Stayed at very pleasant *Lys-na-Greyne* house in Aboyne, with MS and SS.

*Sun 7 May* **Lochnagar** — ORBS — Landranger 44

Drove to Spittal of Glenmuick and parked in the large car park. Soon after 0930, off W keeping to S side of Loch Muick on LR track, up steeply (lost knife) to broad rolling plateau still on wide track, with a final pull to the top of **▲Broad Cairn**, 998m at 240815. Thence back to track and on over broad moor land with gentle dip and rise to **▲Cairn Bannoch**, 1012m, 223825. And so NW in freshening breeze to the large cairn **▲Carn an t-Sagairt Mor**, 1047m, 208843, on a broad flat top. From here down by fence posts and a wreck of an aeroplane to lunch on bealach about 1315 at 212847. After lunch up steeply over first of many snow fields to  $\triangle$  *Carn an t-Sagairt Beag*, 1044m, 216848, and on in a wide loop to **▲Carn a' Coire Boidheach**, 1118m, 226845. From here back to well defined stony path over broad plateau in warm sunny breezes and then steeply up the large top of Lochnagar first to  $\triangle$  *Cac Carn Mor*, 1150m, 245857, and then over deep snow to the rocky summit tor of **▲Cac Carn Beag**, 1155m, 244861. From here back E and down steeply on rough path, well maintained in parts to LR track at 274860 and a long dusty march back to the car, a little after 1710. [19 miles, 1380m].

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Back to *Lys-na-Greyne* in pm, supper in Boat Inn, Aboyne. Changed car.

Mon 8 May **Central Cairngorms I** — ORBS — Landrangers 43, 36

From Aboyne, along to Braemar for brief shopping then parked at Linn of Dee. Walked in with full kit on hot shadeless roads, past Derry Lodge, 040934, on then by rough path into Glen Luibeg and up beside the Luibeg Burn. After some debate (this not being a very good area to camp) pitched Ben's tent at about 008956 and had lunch. At about 1500 set off W up very steep, heathery and stony slopes. An hour's stiff climbing in very hot sun brought us up to the first little top at 998949. Directly up to proper summit of **▲ Carn a' Mhaim**, 1037m, 994951, just to the NW. From here descended long rolling ridge to NW to wide flat bealach at 987972. Short rest in warm evening sunshine, and then unrelentingly steeply up, very stony slope E and then NE, coming out onto wide snow fields with rapid snow-melt flowing beneath. Trudged up NW and onto gently sloping broad plateau and so to the many and varied cairns and points-of-view of **▲ Ben Macdui**, 1309m, 988989, by about 1800. Views magnificent all round, to Ben Nevis (53.9 miles) and beyond. 156

Turned back east with sun on our backs to the eastern cliffs at the edge of the tops and so down rapidly NE on wide soft snow fields and then turned SE above (frozen) Loch Etchachan to broad col at 011990 and then up on stony rough ground to **▲ Derry Cairngorm**, 1155m, 017980. From here down to SE, then S and finally SW down snow and then steep wet heather and grass, and a damp burn crossing to reach the tent about 1930–2000. Hot chocolate, soup etc for supper then to sleep with a first quarter moon shining from the SW. [7 miles, 200m in from Linn of Dee, then 11 miles, 1150m]. 158

Tue 9 May **Central Cairngorms II** — ORBS — Landrangers 43, 36

Awake early, breakfasted and off before 0900 in warm sunshine (a few more clouds today) to walk S down the W side of the Luibeg Burn to reach the rough path near the bridge at 010 939, and then round with kit W and NW to the Corrou Bothy at 981958. [4 miles].

Set off at 1130 in hot sunshine, up large, rough path, (very) directly up the corrie behind the bothy, crossing snow field near the top to emerge on very wet slopes, running with snow melt. Turned SE and up final 100m to **▲ The Devil's Point**, 1004m, 976951. From here back to top of the Coire Odhar and so up on rocks and snow to  $\triangle$  *Stob Coire an t-Saighdeir*, 1213m, 962963. Very hot and sunny, but more clouds building up. Ate lunch in the sun, then down and up again to **▲ Cairn Toul**, 1291m, 963972 and again **▲ Sgor an Lochain Uaine (Angels' Peak)**, 1258m, 954976. On the far slopes met a strange man on skis who was going to ski down the (very steep and snowy) W faces of Coire an t-Saighdeir. 159

From here rather wearily on and up over the broad flat top of  $\triangle$  *Carn na Criche*, 1265m, 939982 and onto a quite enormous and deep expanse of snow covering the Wells of Dee. Meandered over this steadily rising to the sudden summit of **▲ Braeriach**, 1296m, 953998, by about 1700. From here E then N to cairn at the top of the descent route to the Lairig Ghru, but finding it blocked with thick and fissured snow at the top (and as far as one could see down), decided to go round by the N over  $\triangle$  *Sròn na Lairige* and so down (in brief hail storm) slowly, slowly to the junction of the paths where the Sinclair Hut used to be (959036) by about 1830. And then interminably up the Lairig over rough ground and much snow (as well as extra Pools of Dee) eventually down the long path back to the bothy by soon after 2100. Both very tired, TET dehydrated and cold. To sleep in bothy with mice. [about 17.5 miles, 1530m] 160 161 162

Wed 10 May **Retreat** — ORBS — Landranger 36

Woke in low cloud. Breakfasted and packed up by 0900, then walked out to car via Chest of Dee. [10 miles]. Lunch in Braemar then to Errachd.

Thu 11 May **West by the sea** — ORBS — Landranger 50

Drove round on Oban road, past smart new bridge, parked near Elleric at 036488. Warm and sunny. A mile on private road past Glenure House then very directly up farm land, then steep scrambly hillside above to dry streams and eventually a large corrie at 052464 and so up onto the ridge just below the summit for lunch. Scrambled up on to the top of **▲Beinn Sgulaird**, 937m, 053460 after lunch. Strong warm breeze and hot sunshine. Fine views all round. Descended slowly NE along steep and rocky ridge then down on steep grass on E side of little rocky top and eventually by a narrow gully back to good path in Glen Ure at about 074471. Major road construction going on in the glen, past this and so very hot back to Glenure House and then car by about 5pm. [8 miles, 950m].

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Fri 12 May **Sgurr Mor at last** — ORBS — Landrangers 33, 40

Away early from Errachd and round by castle and along the slow Loch Arkaig road, again in amazing hot and sunny weather. Joined many other cars parked at the end of the road. (Gate locked nowadays). Walking by about 1100. Followed road up to Glen Dessary, then rough stalkers path over the bealach to the very dry *Féith a' Chicheanais* bog, contoured round on dry ground, across the Kingie at about 964961 and so onto the old road and up on the wonderful zig-zags to the high bealach below *An Eag*, 952964. Lunch here about 1400. Then in strong and cooler breeze up on more zig-zags to *○Sgurr Beag*, 890m, 959971, then back down to 750m and up again on fine path to reach **▲Sgurr Mor**, 1003m, 965980 by about 1500. Excellent views of Ben Nevis, and all Knoydart. Cold in the breeze but very sunny and warm in shelter.

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From here rather wearily down to 975975 and then due S down steep grassy slopes with many small flowers back to the Kingie a little lower than before. ORBS to swim. Finally back up (on astonishingly dry ground) to the pass, down to Glen Dessary and back to the car by the road at about 1800. [14 miles, 1400m].

Sat 13 May Rest Day. Chores, Golf etc. In pm drove (through fire) down to Edinburgh for TET to catch plane home.

Sun 14 May ORBS did Cairn Mairg group solo.

Date	Distance	Climb	Time	Naismith
Sat	12	680	3.5	5
Sun	19	1380	7.5	8.5
Mon	18	1350	8	8
Tue	22	1600	12	11
Weds	10		4	3.3
Thu	8	950	6	4.5
Fri	14	1400	7	8
	<b>103</b>	<b>6680</b>		

Wed 5 Jul FMT born 2000

## Climbing notes — June 2001

*Thu 14 Jun* **Above Achnashellach** — DC — Landranger 25

Sleeper to Inverness, train to Achnashellach. Left luggage in front garden of nearest house, long tramp up glen and onto N ridge to get to **▲Beinn Liath Mhor** (926m, 3038ft) NG964519. From here on N and W down to deep bealach and then up steeply onto **▲Sgorr Ruadh** (962m, 3156ft) NG959505. Long descent on good paths, skirting *Fuar Tholl*. Walked some miles down the road to private hostel. Not recommended. 165  
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*Fri 15 Jun* **Wash out day** — DC, ORBS, GC — Landranger 25

Met up with Ben and Giles in the morning, and walked in to climb distant *Lurg Mhor*. High cloud thickened on cold E wind, and steady drizzle turned to driving rain above 600m. Turned round on *Beinn Tharsuinn* in gale, not fancying a bivvy bag in such weather. Met Alan Watt and team at Craig and so to hotel at Achnasheen.

*Sat 16 Jun* **Achnashellach Forest** — ORBS, GC *et al.* — Landranger 25

Walked in slowly from Craig, leaving DC to climb dozens of hills on his own complaining of feet. Long tramp on track in improving weather and then up grassy slopes to catch up AW team on the way up to **▲Maoile Lunndaidh** (1007m, 3304ft) NH135458. Descended W over  $\triangle$  *Carn nam Fiaclan* (996m, 3268ft) NH123455, and then down (a long way) to large boggy bealach and lochains. Thence up gradual, but large, slopes to **▲Sgurr a' Chaorachain** (1053m, 3455ft) NH087447, somewhat ahead of AW team who had taken a more "direct" line. Good ridge along to **▲Sgurr Choinnich** (999m, 3278ft) NH076446, and so back down to Pollan Buidhe track, and out. Slap up dinner in hotel. Flew home early next day. 167  
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## Climbing notes — March 2002

*Sat 2 Mar* **Ben Wyvis in the snow** — JPW — Landranger 20

Flew to Inverness on TT airmiles, hired car and drove to Garbut. Up on well maintained path through forestry, in windy overcast weather. Out of forestry and up onto ridge and snow. Wind strengthened to full gale and weather brightened for a while, until about 700m we were enveloped in thick cloud. Very cold; deep hard snow. Trudged up steep slopes to  $\triangle$  *An Cabar*, wind dropped as we topped the ridge. Continued N in complete white out with fresh breeze from NW. Narrowly avoiding the edges of the cornice, reached **▲Ben Wyvis – Glas Leathad Mor** (1046m, 3432ft) NH462683, without serious problems. Only one inch of trig point was left sticking out of the snow, but it was fortunately very visible in the surrounding whiteness. Occasional fence posts helped too. Continued N down to bealach, and then steeply down W to emerge out of the cloud on to very wet thawing snow. Soggy trudge on terrible path back to forestry and path back to car. Occasional showers. Stayed in Ullapool. 170

*Sun 3 Mar* **Stac Pollaidh** — JPW

Overcast, with strong breeze, persistent drizzle, and heavy showers. Drove out to *Stac Pollaidh* in the rain. An easy walk up the well made path. Good ridge with final scramble wet and rather exposed. Patches of snow. Fresh breeze from W, gusting 6–7. Cool in the showers. In the afternoon, drove round to Stoer peninsula to see the Old Man of Stoer sea stack.

Mon 4 Mar **Suilven** — JPW

Drove to Lochinver, and parked at the end of Glen Canisp. Breezy, overcast but bright before noon. Good path for 8km, then showers and increasing rain on strengthening SW gale. Very boggy path, and steep but easy gully. Very good ridge climb in strong gusty wind 7–8 gusting stronger. Heavy wintry showers mergins to extended snow storm on top. Rapid descent in clearing weather. Hail showers, clearing to late evening sunshine. JPW taking photographs. Retired to the fishermen's pub. More heavy showers later.

## Climbing notes — September 2002

Thu 12 Sep **Castle Farm Hills** — ORBS — Landranger 50

EasyJet to Glasgow, then car hire. Parked at foot of farm road, in promising weather, set fair and early cloud beginning to clear. Started at about 1040. Long tramp up well made LR track to about 300m. Then up steeply on slightly damp, grassy slopes increasingly rocky over about 600m. Emerged onto ridge as mist seemed about to clear at about 1230. Long rocky mile or so gradually climbing up ridge to reach, **▲Beinn a' Chochuill**, 980m, 109328 shortly after 1300. Lunched in increasingly gloomy and thick mist. Cool and damp, but little wind. Set off at 1330 and returned to bealach, and then on further down before climbing steeply over rocky ground to emerge directly at the summit of **▲Beinn Eunaich**, 989m, 135327 at 1430. Descended south over grassy slopes in thick mist until about 700m, then warmer and gently down ridge, until path turned W and very steeply back down to LR track, and so back to car by about 1645. Drove to Errachd, supper with James Darcy.

Fri 13 Sep **Five Sisters** — ORBS — Landranger 33

Set off from Errachd early (0830) and long drive to Glen Sheil. Parked in little car park at 009136 and thence at 1000 directly up very steep hillside on worn, boggy path. Already very warm and sunny, with haze in the valleys. Onto ridge at Bealach Lapain by 1100. From here turned W and along fine ridge with wonderful views. Many little rocky climbs eventually lead to the top of  $\triangle$  *Sgurr nan Spainteach*, 990m, 991150, by about noon. Descended steeply then stiff climb back to the first Munro of the day, **▲Sgurr na Ciste Duibhe**, 1027m, 984149 by 1300. Lunched in hot sunshine; many other parties. Amazing views south over Saddle, Knoydart, and most of Lochaber; also out to sea, Black Cuillins emerging from haze.

Steeply down, then toiled up rocky slopes to **▲Sgurr na Carnach**, 1002m, 977158, and then on thirstily, down again, and eventually up to the high point of **▲Sgurr Fhuaran**, 1067m, 978166 by about 1445 or so. Drank most of remaining water, enjoying views. From here, long steep and rocky descent to broad bealach, and then up sharply on narrowing ridge to  $\triangle$  *Sgurr nan Saighead*, 929m, 975178, and then along best section of the ridge with precipitous drops on N and many little rocky knolls and towers as far as  $\circ$  *Beinn Bhuide*, 869m, 970182. From here eschewing the fifth and final (non-Munro) sister, down boggy path on long gentle grassy slopes to a broad and wet bealach, and so N down steeply to pick up rough path beside Allt a' Chruinn, and so down to the road by about 1800. Hitched back to car easily, and drove back to Errachd. [7.5 miles, 1500m] (These figures agree with the guide books and my best guesses from the OS map but they seem like an underestimate). [The driver who gave us a lift was Eric].

*Sat 14 Sep* **Arrochar Swelter** — ORBS — Landranger 56

Warm sunny morning at Errachd and all drive south as far as Crianlarich, then into low cloud. Parked at the Inveruglas car park by the Sloy power station. Set off at 1250. Along path beside A82 as far as the road up the glen. Warm & muggy as climbed gradually beside forest of pylons on wide, new tarmac road. Over bridge, still with low clouds, and on a little further than was obvious to small cairn on right side of road. No view of the hill. Up gently, but boggily on worn path, then more steeply on grass emerging from mist into hot sunshine; many unpleasant insects. Deeply rutted path winds up to about 700m, then easier going but many false summits with lots of little ups and downs and one or two rocky pitches. Passed many parties coming down. Eventually onto wide, flat summit by about 1510. Pleasant breeze and wonderful views on top of **▲ Ben Vane**, 915m, 277098. Sat basking and lunching until nearly 1600. Then down stickily by same route. Back to car by about 1730. Supper in Luss (with Belgians) then late flight back to London.

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### **Climbing notes — February 2003**

*Fri 7 Feb* **Ben Lomond** — TET solo — Landranger 56

Escaped from end of conference at SECC. Hire car to Rowardennan, walking by 1100. Grey, overcast, little breeze below, fresher on top. Cloud above 600m on way up, much lower on descent. Underfoot very boggy with melting slush and snow, as there had been heavy snowfall earlier in the week, but a general thaw had set in on Thurs. Uneventful hike up the made path passing several other parties and two dogs. On top for lunch at 1255, **▲ Ben Lomond**, 974m, 367028. Sat in snow down N edge. Started down at 1315, fingers cold and painful for 10 mins or so. Back to the car by 1445, then slowly back to Glasgow airport.

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### **Climbing notes — April 2003**

*Sun 13 Apr* **Ben Challum** — DC — Landranger 50

Set off from Kingston early, stopped by A82 just N of Crianlarich shortly after 1315. On the hill by 1330. Past farm and up onto open moor beyond. Hazy and cool with high cloud building from W, with moderate to fresh from S or SE. Steadily up, over various fences to reach  $\triangle$  *Stob nan Clach*, 958m, 387352, then down short dip and up gently to  $\triangle$  *Ben Challum - S Top*, 998m, 386315. Dropped off to W to pick up ridge on up to summit of **▲ Ben Challum**, 1025m, 386322 by about 1600. Short stop and then long descent. Back to car by 1700 and then on to Errachd.

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*Mon 14 Apr* **Beinn Alligin** — DC — Landrangers 19 & 24

Off from Errachd by 0905 and drove N through Glen Shiel in improving weather, arriving in Glen Torridon by about 1300. Parked in small car park by bridge and set off across damp moorland on rough path. Wind light/moderate S, weather clearing to fine evening. Steep haul up corrie on endless stairway that emerged just below **▲ Tom na Gruagaich**, 922m, 859601, from where fine views of the rest of the Torridon Hills (although hazy). Steeply down and then on up to **▲ Sgurr Mhor**, 986m, 865612, for a late lunch. Warm sunshine tempered by cool breeze on top. Clambered over Horns of Alligin to finish, then very rough descent, TET having failed to find the (large) path off the hill. Stayed at 'An Airidh', Incheril; supper in very poor Kinlochewe Hotel.

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*Tue 15 Apr* **Tarsuin-Slioch Marathon** — DC — Landranger 19

Set off directly from the house along good track beside Kinlochewe River to the edges of Loch Maree (getting slightly lost where river meets loch). Warm and very sunny with light S breeze. Long march high above ravine in Gleann Bianasdale to stepping stones at the outfall of Lochan Fada, easy crossing with low water level. Tramped round loch to find long grassy slope up to N, gentle but lengthy climb eventually brought up to **▲Beinn Tarsuinn**, 936m, 039728 by about lunch time. Met team of four doing Fisherfield round. Back down to lochan (on good path this time) met more people, then back round to Glean B again.

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DC keen to add more laurels to the day, and spied out a route up the back of Slioch; some gentle (and damp) scrambling and then a long ridge climb brought us out to the top of  $\triangle$ *Sgurr an Tuill Bhan*, 934m, 018688 by 1700. Excellent march round in evening sunshine to  $\triangle$ *Slioch – North Top*, 980m, 004691, and on to **▲Slioch**, 981m, 004690 by 1730. Long and slow descent on the dreadful (truly awful) path back to Glean B, and then weary march out back to Incheril. Home by 2010, quick bath then dash to late supper at Loch Maree Hotel (which was excellent).

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*Wed 16 Apr* **Achnasheen stroll** — DC — Landranger 20

Gentle day to recover feet and heels. Parked at Achnasheen Station and walking by 1100. Hot sunshine, light SE breeze. Up through farm onto boggy path beside *Allt Achna Sine*. Path petered out on peat-hag moorland at about 500m. Slow gentle slopes, damp grass, up beside sunken stream and so onto ridge path as far as the trig point at **▲Fionn Bheinn**, 933m, 147621 by about 1300. Long lunch in very warm sunshine, then slowly E along delightful ridge for 2 miles or so, then down over boggy tussocks to find old path near a dry stone wall. Back through forestry and so to road, and back to the car by about 1500. Tea (actually beer and ice lollies) in friendly café by station then back to Incheril.

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*Thu 17 Apr* **An Teallach** — DC=40 — Landranger 19

One of the best ever days on the hill. Warm and sunny all day, with gentle S breeze. Set off by 0800 from Incheril and drove long way round (via Garve) to Choire Hallie on the Dundonnell road. Parked (with many other cars) by 0915. Marched in along CH track, already hot by 0930. Dropped down across stream and then boggily up to find better ground along the long line of quartzite slabs. Wonderful tramp ended by large lochan at about 450m, filled bottles in stream flowing into it, then energetically up steep grass and scree to reach  $\triangle$ *Sail Liath*, 954m, 071824 by about 1200, rather hot and thirsty.



Steep drop down to dip then up over  $\triangle$  *Stob Cadha Gobhlach*, 960m, 068825 and down to the main bealach. Up steeply following main crest of ridge, and then up onto rock pitch at the summit. This is in three steps with the crux in the middle step. Roped up briefly for this bit. Exhilarating pull up final section on to  $\triangle$  *CB Buttress*, 945m, 066831, then over remaining tops (skirting part of them in the interests of time) to  $\triangle$  *Corrag Bhuidhe*, 1020m, 065833 by nearly 1300. Down rocky steps and then back up to airy top of  $\triangle$  *Lord Berkeley's Seat*, 1047m, 064835 and so up final slog to reach **▲Sgurr Fiona**, 1060m, 064836 at last.

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Short break then down more steep rocky steps to bealach and stiff 140m pull up to **▲Bidean a' Ghlas Thuill**, 1062m, 068843 for lunch by about 1415. From here slowly down broad rocky slopes to big cairn in the bealach, turned E down the gully across a small (but slippery) patch of snow and then down steep grassy stair to find a very welcome stream, and easier ground below. Delightful warm sunshine and dry peaty ground underfoot. Good fast path down to waterfalls and bathing by 1600. Back to car through rhododendrons by 1650 to complete an excellent day.

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Drove south to Errachd in beautiful sunny evening, via the Commando Bar for celebratory pint and photograph.

*Fri 18 Apr* **Return to Craig Meagaidh** — DC — Landranger 34, 42

Parked in nature reserve car park at 483873, hot sunshine with gentle S breeze. Distant smoke from heath fire visible. Set off up Coire Ardair path and turned N up the hill on fringes of ancient forest, on thin and rather boggy path, marked by old fence posts. Long warm plod up gentle slopes, over several small tops to impressive cairn of **▲Carn Liath** (1006m, 3300ft) 472903.

Long gently-sloped march round over  $\triangle$  *Meall an-t-Snaim*, 970m, 459904 and  $\triangle$  *Sron Coire a' Chrioichairein* 993m, 447899 to  $\triangle$  *Stob Poite Coire Ardair - E Top*, 1051m, 437892 and onto **▲Stob Poite Coire Ardair**, 1054m, 428888 for lunch. Down steeply to window (dozens of other walkers about) and then up onto main plateau, tramped round edges to reach **▲Creag Meagaidh**, 1130m, 418875 by 1430 or so. Marched out E over  $\triangle$  *Puist Coire Ardair* 1071m, 437872, only to lose path and come down ridiculously steep grassy and heathery slopes back to Aberardair.

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*Sat 19 Apr* Home via Nottingham.

## Climbing notes — May 2003

*Thu 29 May* **Geal Charn – Monadh Liath** — AJFT, ORBS — Landranger 35

From Errachd, drove to Laggan and head waters of Spey, past Spey Dam to start. Overcast and breezy but not cold. Crossed old bridge and followed river N, soon onto small but clear boggy path beside river for several miles, then right up hill on similar path beside smaller stream. Path very indistinct after about 800m or so, return route showed that the correct line was to have kept left onto the highest part of the SW ridge as early as possible. Easy damp slopes, then onto improving stonier ground at about 550m, and so imperceptibly up, into thick mist to confusing summit plateau, which is nowhere near as flat as it appears on the map. Located large cairn on compass bearing, damp lunch to celebrate Fred's first full Munro, **▲Geal Charn**, 926m, 561988. Returned by same route in light drizzle. [9miles, 650m ascent, about 4 hours].

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## Climbing notes — November 2003

*Sun 9 Nov* **Beinn Bhuidhe** — DC — Landrangers 50, 56

Early flight to Glasgow and then hired car, and drove N to Arrochar, then Loch Fyne, and to park near Achadunan Farm at 194127 by 1100. Long march up tarmac road past farm and far up Glen Fyne to old house at Inverchorachan 228180 by 1230. From here up steeply on damp path beside ravine with waterfalls into a big corrie with more waterfalls. Weather overcast and breezy with occasional drizzle; thick cloud above 700m. Emerged onto boggy plateau above corrie, and worked steadily upwards on wet boggy grass through broken lines of crags to reach main ridge around 210190. Strong SE wind on top, with driving rain showers. Struggled along well defined ridge path to tumble-down trig point at **▲Beinn Bhuidhe**, 948m, 203187, some time after 1400. Too cold for more than a brief lunch stop, then back down the ascent route to road by 1530, and out to car in gathering dusk by 1700 or so. Drove on to Errachd via Clachaig Inn.

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*Mon 10 Nov* **North Black Mounth** — DC — Harvey's Glencoe map

Parked in small space by bridge over R. Coupall at 244543 by 1030. Weather cool, overcast, and breezy. Crossed R. Etive just above confluence and then very boggy tramp SE to steeper ground below *Sron na Creise*. Slowly up slippery scree and steep grass, to long open gully, in heavy showers. Eventually pulled out in thick mist and driving rain to  $\triangle$  *Stob a' Ghlais Choire*, 996m, 239516. From here on gently rising rocky ridge to reach **▲Creise**, 1100m, 238506 for brief and very cold lunch. Wind SE gusting strong to gale force. Ten minutes march brought us to obvious cairn at the junction of the ridges, steeply down, then steadily up for 30 minutes in very strong wind with driving rain to reach **▲Meall a' Bhuiridh**, 1108m, 251503 at the head of the ski runs. Boots full of water by now. Descended N on gentle rocky slopes with grass patches, much more sheltered from wind. Easy three miles down to car, although last mile was very boggy and river crossing was slightly more entertaining after a day's rain.

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*Tue 11 Nov* Rain, gales. Drove to Achallader farm by Bridge of Orchy and walked three hours up besides Water of Tulla and Cranach Wood.

*Wed 12 Nov* **Glen Dochart** — DC — Landranger 51

Parked beside main road above Auchessan farm at 447276. Weather cloudy, but clearing after heavy overnight rain. Light winds. Walking by 1050, left farm by 1100, and so up on boggy tracks beside large stream to leave *Creag an Uan* 441293 on our left, and then N in occasional showers and rainbows over very wet and boggy ground for three miles eventually to reach steeper ground and line of crags around 436317. Even boggier above, but then up onto main ridge and easily along to **▲Meall Glas**, 959m, 431321, for shared lunch. Delightfully round for a short mile to reach  $\triangle$  *Beinn Cheathaich*, 937m, 444327 in cool sunshine and gentle breezes. Then down very steeply to boggy bealach at 455325. From here up 'uniformly steep' grassy slopes to rocky ridge at 463322, and so S on level ground to small stony cairn of **▲Sgiath Chuil**, 920m, 462317 by about 1430. Descended a pathless and very wet three and half miles back to Auchessan by 1600 or so. Drove to Glasgow for evening flight home.

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## Climbing notes — May 2004

*Fri 28 May* **Above Killin** — DC — Landranger 51

Set off at 0540 from London, North Circular, M1, M6 (toll), M74, and made Killin by 1300. Drove up Glen Lochay to park (with several others) just beyond Duncroisk. Overcast but warm, occasional showers, not much breeze. Set out across fields meeting five or six people just coming off the hill. Good conditions underfoot after long dry spell 6–27 May. Trudged up would-be boggy path, easy to miss on the way up. Thick mist (10m visibility) above 700m, but easy going. Very wet, with fresh breeze above 800m, to reach top of **▲Meall Ghaordaidh**, 1039m, 514397, at 1520. Brief lunch in circular shelter round trig point, then back down in less than an hour. Stayed at guest house just outside Killin (not up to much).

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*Sat 29 May* **Glen Etive** — DC — Harvey's Glencoe map

Damp morning with forecast to clear later. Leisurely drive west for coffee at Kings-house Hotel. Then down Glen Etive to park above Coiletir by 1100. Sheltered from heavy showers for a while, then set out some time before midday. Very little breeze, and unpleasantly warm. Fine tramp round to Glen Ceitlein on farm tracks, then gently up on boggy path beside the stream. Prolonged showers. Path improved as slowly as it gained height, but eventually up to high bealach at about 184450 in thick mist and occasional rain. DC's GPS confirmed GR and height. Fifteen minutes of careful compass work over very gentle slopes brought us up to **▲Meall nan Eun** (928m, 3045ft) NN192449.

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Retraced steps (approximately) to bealach in even thicker mist, and then followed rough path over *○Meall Tarsuinn*, and down to broad bealach beside small lochans at 174446. From here steeply up on grassy slopes with outcrops of rock beside small stream running almost exactly north–south. Pulled out onto easier slope of the main east ridge at about 900m. Thence steadily up to large impressive cairn of **▲Stob Coir'an Albannaich**, 1044m, for lunch break. Thick mist with no views, but not very cold. Chatted to another walker for a while, then down SW across broken ground, gentle at first but then very steep, to reach even wider bealach (with large cairn) at 163433. From here TT down by Allt Mheuran, and DC up to tick off **▲Glas Bheinn Mhor** and down (eventually) by long ridge of Glas Bheinn Chaol. Warm and sunny after 1645; vile midgets in Glen Etive. Drove to Clachaig for swift half, then on to Errachd.

*Sun 30 May* **Glen Sheil** — DC — Landranger 33

Away from Errachd reasonably early on fine sunny morning. Drove up to Glen Sheil and parked beside Loch Cluanie where the Alltbeithe path meets the A87. Walking by 1100. Steeply up in warm sun on well worn and boggy path for about an hour. DC having gone far ahead, TT eventually up onto ridge by 1200, and then along delightfully on good paths to **▲A' Chralaig** (1120m, 3675ft) NH094147 for quick lunch (DC had already eaten his). Fine weather with high cumulus shading the tops to keep sun off. Pleasant S breeze. Bimbled along very happily, over *△Stob Coire na Cralaig* (1008m, 3307ft) NH091163 to reach the second Munro **▲Mullach Fraoch-choire** (1102m, 3615ft) NH094171 by 1400. Fifteen minutes break in pleasant sunshine, then slowly back along the ridge to the high bealach above Coire Odhar. From here down, steeply for first 200m, then very easily on faint grassy path that neatly avoided all difficulties to reach the An Caorann Mor 'path' in about an hour. Boggily along for a mile or two until the land rover track, then a couple of miles more march out back to

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car. Very warm, but rather too far from the river for swimming. Drove back to Errachd, via Spean Bridge. Back by 1800.

*Mon 31 May* **Above Bridge of Orchy** — DC — Landranger 50

Away early on another lovely sunny day, to Bridge of Orchy station. Up easily of broad scar of a path to rocky bealach. DC up to **▲ Ben an Dotaidh**, while TT slowly south along ridge to **▲ Ben Dorain**. Cool breeze on top, but fine views. Met again on the top, and then back to car by 1500. Back to London before midnight.

## Climbing notes — April 2005

*Tue 19 Apr* **North Glen Shiel Ridge** — AJFT, ORBS — Landranger 33

Parked beside road just beyond Cluanie Inn at 057115 (245m). Set off by 1100, up boggy path beside the *Allt Coire Tholl Bhruach*, which we then crossed and up steeply beside forestry to come out on ridge of Meall a Charra at 045123 (614m) about 1200. From here slowly up on grassy slopes with patches of snow to join main ridge at 037139 (885m) and then up more steeply to reach the level summit ridge of **▲ Sgurr a' Bhealaich Dheirg**, 035143 (1038m) about 1330. Good narrow rocky arête to get out to shapely summit cairn with fresh April snow. Lunch. Set off again by about 1350.

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From summit back to main ridge then gently and delightfully down over grass rock and more snow with several small ups and downs to reach bealach at 020146 (875m) and thence up over more rocky and snowy ground to the small cairn of **▲ Saileag**, 017148, (959m) by about 1500. Stopped for more food and photographs.

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From here slowly down to Bealach na Lapain, 010145, (766m), and then even more slowly down to the top of the forestry below at 011139 (386m) [380m down in about 600m], then scrambled under/over the fence and down just as steeply to find the end of the forestry road at 013136 (287m). From there a gentle stroll along excellent well maintained track to reach the road (and the car thanks to Ben striding ahead and getting a lift to fetch it) at 036119 by 1745. [8 miles, 980m, 6:45 hours].

*Wed 20 Apr* **Above Achalader Farm** — AJFT, with ORBS ahead — Landranger 50 (left in car)

From Errachd early and parked at Achalader Farm 332443 (176m) by about 1030. Walking by 1050, up through farmyard, across meadows, to the dilapidated railway bridge. From here three weary miles up an execrable boggy excuse-for-a-path to the bealach 340406 (762m) in about two hours (ORBS miles ahead). Strong and chilly SE breeze, otherwise delightful sunny weather. From the bealach up on much better ridge, with easy-angled steady climbing. Fred very cold in the wind. Reached  $\triangle$  *South Top* 342420 (1002m) in about 30 minutes, then down and slowly up to main top of **▲ Beinn Achaladair**, 346433 (1039m). Ridge looks higher further east, so bimbled along to large cairn at 347433 which the GPS thinks was 1043m. Lunch here sheltered from wind, 1410 to 1430.

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No map and both tired so decided to retrace steps rather than go on along the ridge. Tracked back to bealach in stiff breeze (cold and gusting to 35–45 mph), and then slowly down path, enjoying the dry bits and floundering in the boggy ones.

Back to car at 1705 having watched a distant Ben depart for airport about 1645. [10.5 miles, 950m, 6:15 hours].

## Climbing notes — August 2006

*Sun 13 Aug* **Glen Lyon stroll** — AJFT, CET — Landranger 50

From Falkirk en route to Errachd. Parked below the dam in warm, but cloudy weather. Many large, dopey cows on the road. Set off about midday, and gentle slow climb to  $\Delta$  *Sron Chona Choirein* (927m, 3041ft) NN493445. Cool and breezy. Gently down and round to main top of **▲ Stuchd an Lochain** (960m, 3150ft) NN483448 by about 15:20. Gently back to car and on to Jen's for supper.

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*Mon 14 Aug* Very happy walk out to Smisary with AJFT, CET, PRE, and JMO for picnic, bathing, and wonderful views of Rum, Eigg, and Skye. Hot and sunny.

*Tue 15 Aug* **Glen Nevis** — AJFT, CET, PRE – Landranger 41

Parked at Glen Nevis car park a little after midday, and strolled up to Steall. Played on wire bridge for a while, and then lunched on big rock under Steall falls (helicopter, midges). Set off very slowly up winding, steep path with fine views of Ben Nevis from the south, to reach summit of **▲ An Gearanach** in heavy (and cold) shower of rain by about 16:00. Quick turn around and then slowly down (vile midges). Skimmed stones at river crossing, back to car by about 18:30.

[An unfortunate child fell off rocks and died at Steall just after we had crossed river on the way back].

*Wed 16 Aug* Swimming?

*Thu 17 Aug* Stroll in Glen Loy

*Fri 18 Aug* Beach at Acharacle with Isobel and family

## Climbing notes — May 2007

*Thu 17 May* **West Cairngorm** — ORBS — Landranger 36

Early flights via Gatwick to Inverness. Hired car and through Aviemore to park all alone below Coire Cas. Breezy and bright, with 7/10 cloud cover, and fresh SW wind, but cool. Walking by about 13:00. Down wooden steps below abandoned chair lift, and so on boggy trods to low bealach about 014080 on narrow path between low cliffs. More steeply down to cross river about 022079 and then very sharply up (and up), eventually onto easier ground to reach rocky top of  $\triangle$  *Bynack Beg* (970m, 036068) by 15:20. Fifteen minutes for late lunch (and a game of 'Hunt the Glasses') then on over wide gentle slopes in fresh gale with occasional showers to **▲ Bynack More** (1090m, 041063) just before 16:00. In patchy mist, down to the Barns of Bynack and then very gentle tundra for another 30 minutes to  $\triangle$  *A' Choinneach*, (1016m, 032048). From here, in an increasing breeze down roughly to the high bealach at 018032 at about 17:00, and then (after a collective deep breath) up steadily NW for 45 minutes until gradient eased at about 1100m. Turned SW into full gale on rising ground with more patchy mist, to arrive at the huge cairn of **▲ Cairngorm** (1244m, 005040) by 18:15. Called hotel, and set off at the double down-wind for a wild hour of rough and wind-buffed descent back to the car park by 19:20. [11 miles (18km), 1450m, 6h20]. Stayed at Suie Hotel, Kincaig. 201

*Fri 18 May* **Glen Feshie** — ORBS — Landrangers 35 & 36

Rose late for relaxed start and hearty breakfast, then short drive up beautiful Glen Feshie, to park some way short of car park at about 848989. Walking by 10:30 in fine sunny weather, morning dreech having rolled away westwards. Followed road, then rough path for about 4 miles down valley to 848935 and from there up on well made (if boring) LR track that wound steadily up on the plateau and led directly to small, exposed summit cairn of **▲ Mullach Clach a' Bhlair** (1019m, 882927) at 13:20. Weather not bad (despite continuing SW gale) so decided to extend walk. Set out N and shortly picked up track heading in approx the right direction. Stopped for lunch by large stream (889939) 13:40–13:55, then on again in rain. Tramped along briskly with wind behind us in occasional heavy showers, some snow and hail, to reach  $\triangle$  *Carn Ban Mor* (1052m, 893971) by 14:45, and from there steadily northwards to reach precariously perched cairn of **▲ Sgor Gaoith**, (1118m, 902989) in exciting but short-lived blizzard by 15:15. Twenty rather damp minutes more brought us to  $\triangle$  *Sgoran Dubh Mor* (1111m, 904002), the wind still blowing a full gale and now very cold. Headed down the hill SW (directly into the wind); TET faffing about with overtrousers. Down on steep wet heather to pick up rough, but improving path, around 893993. Warmed up, and weather moderated, as we descended; eventually on well made path through pretty lower glen. Back to road (852012) by about 17:20 with rain coming on again. Ben yomped ahead for car to complete the round by about 17:40. [19 miles (30km), 1000m, 7h15]. 203

*Sat 19 May* **Above Aviemore** — ORBS — Landranger 35

Up to steady rain, late breakfast then to gear shops in Aviemore, and then to the other side of the A9 for a gentle Corbett stroll. Followed another good-but-boring LR track up for 600m climb in 6km at a very steady 1:10 gradient to **● Geal Charn Mor**, back on rougher, steeper track to farm at 863103, and then 2km of farm land back to car, weather having cheered up. [7.5 miles (12km), 600m, 3h20] (12)

*Sun 20 May* travel home — Ex-BA plane back to Gatwick from Inverness, TET home on train, Ben on to connecting flight to Bxls.

## Climbing notes — August 2008

*Tue 5 Aug* **On Mull** — LST, AJFT, CET, FMT — Landranger 47 or 48

Parked beside the road on bumpy ground facing the sea (495359) and walking by about 10:55. Weather sunny and warm with gentle NW breeze, clouds building over the hills. Walked northwards along the shore road for about a mile to the bridge over Abhainn na h-Uamha and then left the road on indistinct and boggy track beside the river for nearly two hours in sunshine at first to reach a broad grassy bealach (538344) for lunch by 13:00. Chilly breeze now and cloudy, walking again by 13:25. Up steeply on grassy slopes with rocky outcrops that rapidly narrowed to a fine bumpy ridge with some mild, and some slightly more exciting, scrambling. Line was mostly obvious but with a couple of successive bad steps high up that gave us some pause for thought; slow going brought us to  $\circ A'$  *Chioch*, (867m, 535333) by 14:15.



After a short pause to regroup, descended sharply to bealach at 531332 (770m), then rather dynamically up in a series of short steep scrambles to reach the large field at the top of  $\blacktriangle$  **Ben More** (966m, 525330) by just after 15:15. For a short while, sat with the dozen or so others who had (mainly) come up the easy way, then off down the broad and well-defined path following the NW shoulder over steep and rough grassy ground and slowly back to the car by 17:30. [10 miles (16 km), 1060m, 6h30]

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## Climbing notes — May 2009

*Thu 28 May* **Drive north and warm up** — AJFT — Landranger 25

Started about 9am from Nottingham and arrived Cnoc Hotel in Strathglass about 5.30pm. Out again by 6pm and drove down to Dog Falls (NH283283) at the foot of Glen Affric. Short leg stretch up a well-made stalkers' path to climb *Mèallan na Caer-daich* (566m, NH263286). Set off at 6.30pm, on top before 7.30 and back to the car before 8pm. Back to hotel for supper. Weather clearing. [3.5 miles (5.6 km), 370m, 1h30]

*Fri 29 May* **Strathfarrar Six** — ORBS, AJFT — Landranger 25

Up early to fine warm sunshine, breakfasted and then joined by ORBS before 10am. Sneaked in through the Strathfarrar gate thanks to the kindness of the gatekeeper and parked with a dozen others at 283386 and walking by 10:40; followed a land rover track, then another good stalkers' path north for 3 miles and a steady 850 m of climbing to reach **▲Sgurr na Ruaidhe**, (993m, 289426), by 12:30. After a short rest, set off again 206  
NW down the stony ridge to the bealach, and then up again on a well worn path to **▲Carn nan Gobhar**, (992m, 273439) by 13:20 with brilliant views all round. From 207  
here we descended to the Bealach Sneachda for the big climb of the day up to the large cairn and trig point on top of **▲Sgurr a' Choire Ghlais**, (1083m, 259430) by 14:10 208  
for some lunch.

Set off again NW by 14:30 and down steeply over rocky ground to Bealach Toll Sgàile and then up on a narrowing ridge to reach  $\triangle$  *Creag Ghorm a' Bhealaich*, (1030m, 245435) shortly after 15:00 and thence directly on broad grassy ridge to **▲Sgurr Fhuar-thuill**, 209  
(1049m, 237438) by 15:25. From here descended over the final top  $\triangle$  *Sgurr na Fearstaig*, (1015m, 228437) and then down a short snow slide to join a slightly boggy path that improved lower down. Brief stops for swimming and photographing the spectacular waterfall, brought us back to the road (224392) in very warm late afternoon sunshine by 17:20. Got a lift back to the car along the road (from a lone hillwalker called James), and so back to the Cnoc Hotel for supper. [11.5 miles (18.5 km), 1550m, 6h40]

*Sat 30 May* **Loch Mullardoch** — ORBS, AJFT — Landranger 25

Having heard about Karl and his boat (01456 415347) from James, arranged places for 10.30 and spent the early part of the morning moving to a smaller guest house in Struy for the extra night. Parked by the dam (220315) by about 10:15 and hurried along to the north beach beyond where the boat (with 5 others) was waiting; set off 10:30 sharp and disembarked 40 minutes later at the far end of the loch near 142310. From here set off directly W on a rough track that improved as it climbed. Soon left behind the other three who had got off with us, and paused to drink and fill bottles at about 12 noon around 118315 [3.1km, 240m], and then on steadily for another 90 minutes in warm sunshine and pleasant breezes to reach the summit of **▲An Socach**, (1069m, 100332) 210  
at 13:30 [6.7km, 900m].

Here we met James again who had decided against the boat and started early from the dam and had already completed the other three hills. Long pause for lunch and photography. Set off again NE at about 13:50 and descended fine narrow ridge and rocky scree slopes [TET fell over] for about 30 minutes to the bealach at about 860m and thence up, steeply at first and then on less steep but still very fine ridge to  $\triangle$  *An Riabhachan — West Top*, (1040m, 117337) by 14:40 and  $\triangle$  *An Riabhachan — South West Top*, (1086m, 123336) before 15:00. Ridge was broader now, and another 20

minutes on easy slopes brought us to the second Munro of the day **▲ An Riabhachan**, (1129m, 134344) by 15:20 [11km, 2000m]. After a short rest set off again E and then more steeply down SE in warm sunshine and gentle breezes to reach the deep bealach in about 30 mins; thence up steeply, stopping for 5 minutes to drink and refill bottles at a very welcome small spring right beside the path (156346), on grassy slopes that became rocky higher up to reach **▲ Sgurr na Lapaich**, (1150m, 160351) at 16:45 [14.3km, 1700m].

After a 15 minute break for some food we set off down again rather wearily now (and no longer passing any walkers this far round). The descent was steep and done at slightly different paces, regrouping at the bottom in westering sunshine we girded our collective loins for a final 30 minutes slog and reached the fourth and final Munro of the day **▲ Carn nan Gobhar**, (992m, 181343) at almost exactly 18:00 [17km, 1930m in 6h45; Naismith: 7h30].

From here the descent was long but not too arduous apart from the final very steep grassy section and the last mile of very rough boggy path beside the loch (what a blessing the boat was!). Back to the car below the dam at 19:40 [22.7km, 2050m (14.1mi, 6715ft) in 8h30; Naismith: 9h00].

Home to Drumbae for swift bath, then pub supper at Cnoc Hotel.

*Sun 31 May* **Glen Affric: Tom & Toll** — AJFT, ORBS + Eric — Landranger 25

Up betimes for a good breakfast at Drumbae then away to meet Eric at the shop in Cannich to buy lunch (but it does not open until 10 on Sun). Thence in convoy to park with the crowds in warm sunshine by the bridge at 215242. Sprayed and booted and equipped with whatever food we could collectively find we were walking by 10:00 NW up a stony LR track. An hour's warm march brought us to a welcome stream and a small cairn beside the path. After a short stop for a drink we left the LR track to head up hill on the well worn path, passing several coach parties on the way. After another hour of steady climbing the advance guard had reached the snow line (170266) above 1000m and paused to allow Eric and Ben to catch up. From here another 20 minutes fine ridge walking brought us steeply up to **▲ Tom a' Choinich**, (1112m, 164273) by 12:40 for an extended lunch stop (consisting of Eric's sandwiches and our emergency chocolate). [7.5km, 985m]

After a steep descent from the summit, in fine warm weather, the ridge was broader and gentle slopes brought us up to the barely perceptible  $\Delta$  *West Top*, (951m, 177275), and so on very pleasantly to the trig point of **▲ Toll Creagach**, (1054m, 194282) by 14:10 for another extended stop to admire the view. The descent from here goes due S over easy ground with many curious rocky ledges giving way to grassy slopes with boggy areas further down. Lower down we came to steeper ground and worked W to find a way down on steep grass and scree to the LR track, and so back to the car by about 16:00. [17km, 1300m (10.6mi, 4270ft) in 6h00; Naismith: 6h30].

Short swim in the rather lovely river, then a swift half in Cannich followed by a long long drive S to Falkirk. Eric home to Dumbarton. ORBS back to Cnoc and did **Fionn Beinn** solo on the Monday.

## Climbing notes — May 2010

*Thu 20 May* Flew up to Edinburgh, hire car to Suie.

*Fri 21 May* **Western Cairngorm** — ORBS, JPW — Landranger 43

Good breakfast at Suie Hotel, then drove round to Glen Feshie (getting a puncture in brand new hire car) and parked at car park at the end of the road (850985). Fair morning, but getting overcast. Set off before 10am, and had warm tramp up on good path to reach cairn at 1030m (893968) 11:40, then on over ground damp with snow melt on rough LR track over small top *Tom Dubh*, (918m, 921951) for about an hour to a river crossing at 925955. From here up snowy ground to reach the broad summit of **▲ Monadh Mor**, (1113m, 938942) by 13:30. Cooler now with occasional light drizzle 216 but very high cloud, pushed on directly over broad plateau and then down sharply to the bealach at 948928 and up steeply over stony ground to reach **▲ Beinn Bhrotain**, (1157m, 954922), by 14:20. After a short break for lunch returned over yet more snowy ground by more or less the same route. Absolutely soaked to the skin by a series of very sharp, slow-moving showers on the return. Back to the car just after 18:00. [30km, 1600m (19m, 5250ft) in 8h; N:8h40] 217

Drove north in the evening; changed car at Inverness for one with no puncture. Supper near Inverness, arrived at (execrable) Inchbae Lodge by 10pm.

*Sat 22 May* **Fannaich I** — ORBS, JPW — Landranger 20

After delightful breakfast, drove up the road to park (with some difficulty) beside the bridge on the A835 (277742). Cloudy and overcast today, and rather muggy with little wind. Walking by 10:15, followed a rough path on the right bank, up beside the Abhainn an Torrain Duibh. After nearly an hour inadvertently climbing away from the main stream up towards Loch Sgeirich, crossed the river and contoured across rough boggy slopes to the new bridge at 252712 by 11:30. JPW returned from just above here. TET and ORBS floundered about for about 30 minutes looking for a path before eventually picking up faint tracks which led to the outflow of Loch Gorm (241699) by about 12:30. Having skirted the eastern shore, climbed stiffly up steep grassy slopes for some 40 minutes to reach broad open Bealach Ban (238686) and then on stonier ground up to the summit of **▲ An Coileachan**, (923m, 241680) by 13:30 [5.7 miles, 660m, 3h15]. 218

Sat eating lunch and looking at the map for 20 mins and decided to press on and do the bigger horseshoe given the effort involved in getting thus far. Moving again by 13:50, back down to Bealach Ban and then a long steady pull up to  $\triangle$  *Meall Gorm – South East Top*, (922m, 232691) and thence on broad grassy ridge to reach **▲ Meall Gorm**, (949m, 221695) by 14:40. 219

From here steeply down in thickening mist to the bealach at 850m and then gradually up to  $\triangle$  *Meall nan Peithirean*, (974m, 207709) by 15:15 and thence directly on clear path but over difficult uneven ground with slightly-too-large rocky steps every few paces to reach the summit of the day **▲ Sgurr Mor**, (1110m, 203718) by 15:45 in dense mist with less than 10m visibility. After chilly 5 min break return S and then SE down very steep but well trodden path to emerge from the mist at the first bealach and then on much further down to about 840m before a short but steep climb back up to **▲ Beinn Liath Mhor Fannaich**, (954m, 219724) by 16:35. Long pause here trying (and failing) to get JPW's mobile phone number, so decided to return the long way instead of dropping off to the path on the N side of the hill. Walking again before 17:00 and the long rough 220 221

descent took about an hour back to the river and then another hour out to the car, where JPW was waiting with beer cooling in the stream. [26km, 1400m (16mi, 4600ft) in 8h40; N:7h30]

Fish & chip supper in Ullapool.

*Sun 23 May* **Braemore Forest** — ORBS, JPW — Landranger 20

Parked beside the farm house at Inverlael in the new walkers' car park (182852) and set off just before 10am. Marched on broad forestry roads to reach gate to open country (214849) in about 45 mins, and then on good path above the River Lael which has fine waterfalls to a small cairn at 234834. From here branched up on slightly rougher path and higher up on to steep grassy slopes to reach **▲Eididh nan Clach Geala**, (927m, 257842) in thick mist by 12:40. The summit cairn marked on the GPS map appeared to be slightly lower than the cairn a short way SE but the mist was so thick it was had to be sure, so did both. Long slow descent to a complex and confusing bealach, and then a very steep pull up to the broad plateau of  $\triangle$  *Ceann Garbh*, (968m, 259830). Mist thicker than ever; reduced to following the GPS directions step by step over stony ground for 45 minutes to **▲Meall nan Ceapraichean**, (977m, 257825) just after 2pm. 222

From here easily down in heavy drizzle to Bealach an Lochain Uaine (261819) by 14:30 to pick up the top of the excellent stalkers' path, made damp in the upper stages by large patches of melting snow. Uneventful return back to the forestry track by about 16:10 and to the car by 16:45. [24km, 1200m (14.9mi, 3950ft), 6h50; N:6h50] 223

More fish & chips in Ullapool in the evening.

*Mon 24 May* **Fannaich II** — ORBS, JPW — Landranger 20

Parked with several other cars beside the A832 (161761) and set off at 9:50 on good LR track down to Loch a' Bhraoin, complete with twee new diversion through the forestry and a restored bridge crossing the outflow of the loch. Continued on boggy path to cross the river on stepping stones and then climb steadily SSE to find a small cairn at 166735, and branched off upwards to climb up on to the ridge. Steep going at first eventually gave way to gentler but stonier slopes, with thick mist about 650m (yet again), and so on up to **▲Meall a' Chrasgaidh**, (934m, 184733) in just under two hours from the road. 224

After a 10 min break set off again steeply down to the rather complex three way bealach that connects to the rest of the Fannaichs ridge, eventually found the right lochan in the mist and thence steeply up, and up, to reach **▲Sgurr nan Clach Geala**, (1093m, 184714) by about 12:45. Cold by now, with heavy drizzle in the mist. Very long steep drop to the next bealach. 225

Spirits improved further on, partly by meeting a couple of other walkers (one very clean, and the other hopelessly lost) and then the mist clearing on the approach to the final summit **▲Sgurr nan Each**, (923m, 184697) by 13:30. Stopped for some lunch and photos. Then down over very steep wet grass to a fine shelter (174706) some 40 minutes later and from there a very straight forward tramp down a good (slightly damp) path back to the car in improving weather, before 4pm. [19km, 1060m (11.8mi, 3500ft), 6h00; NR: 5h40] 226

Beer in Dundonnell Hotel (very quiet), then supper in Ullapool again.

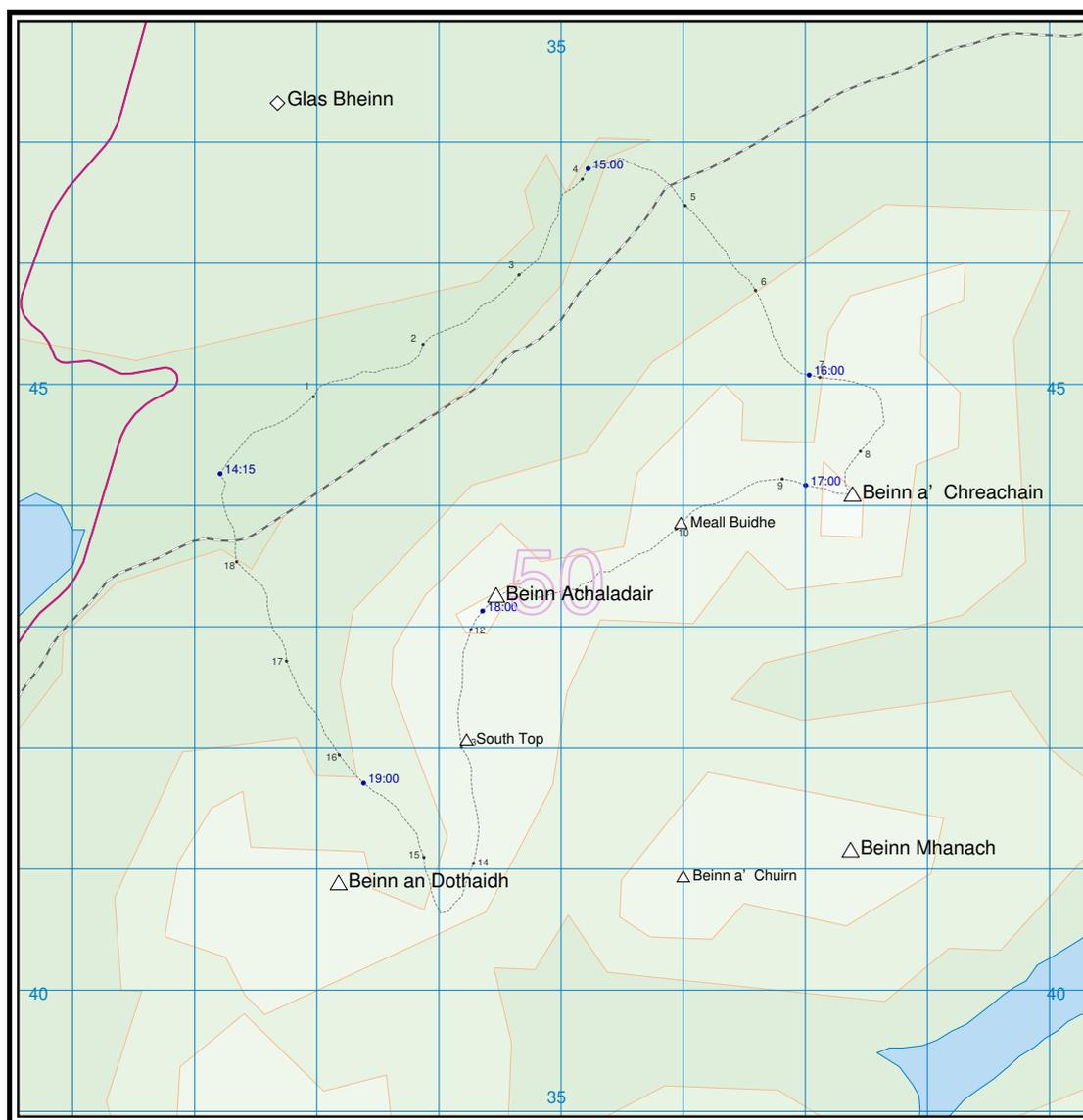
*Tue 25 May* Driving south to Edinburgh Airport for divers flights home.

## Climbing notes — May 2011

Sun 1 May Above Achallater — DC — Landranger 50

Parked at Achallater Farm (NN323444) about 2pm, after early start and long drive from Kingston. Fine sunny and breezy weather. Set off up the valley along the farm track, making good progress over the river one way and then back the other way over the little footbridge over the gorge (NN353468), passing some swimmers, so on up gentle slopes through ancient woodland to cross under the railway in under an hour. From here rather more slowly up gentle soggy slopes in warm late afternoon sunshine to gain height for an hour or more on good paths, eventually reaching the shapely cairn of **▲Beinn a' Chreachain**, (1081m, NN374440) at about 16:38 [9km, 905m in 2h20]. After a snack and some photos, continued on over  $\triangle$ Meall Buidhe by about 17:15, and then slowly over **▲Beinn Achaladair** and its  $\triangle$ South Top in the next hour, and so down to the major bealach (340405) by about 18:35 or so. And thence bounced down the rough track back to the farm and the car park by 19:40 [19km, 1304m in 5h25]. Stayed at the (rather good) Bridge of Orchy Hotel, very grateful for the baths.

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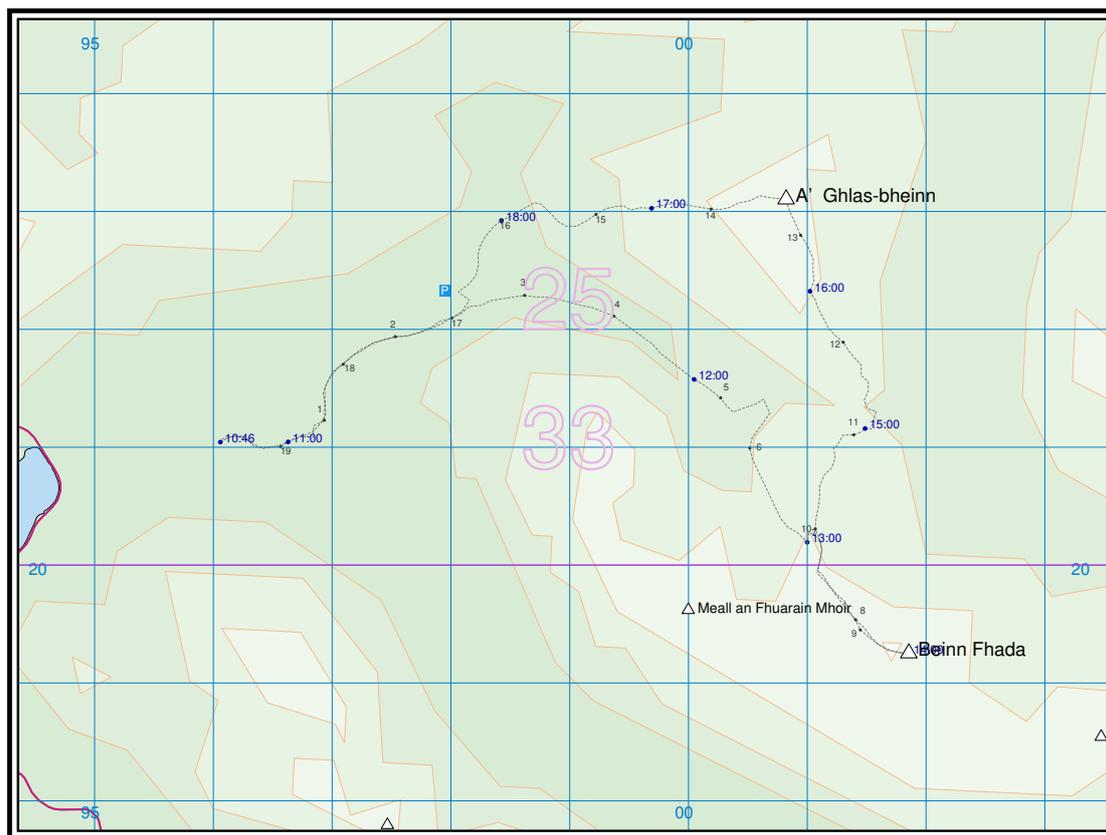
Mon 2 May **Up, down, up, down** — DC — Landrangers 25, 33

Up early, and off before 09:00 for long drive north: Glencoe → Fort William → Invergarry → Cluanie → Shiel Bridge. Parked at Morvich about 10:30 and walking by 10:54. Rapid tramp along good paths slowly climbing up the long Glenn Choinneachain between our twin objectives. Short stop after an hour and then steady climb on stalkers' paths to gain the summit plateau by about 13:00. Warm and sunny day, with easterly breezes. Following some weeks of dry weather, there were several heather fires burning, the closest on the end of the Five Sisters just to W. Steady progress over rising stony ground to the trig point at the top of **▲ Beinn Fhada** (1032m, 018192) about 14:00 [8.5km, 1073m].

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Retraced steps NW and then scrambled up and down along rough ridge to reach steep ground above the deep Bealach an Sgairne (014215). Thence down very steeply to below 500m and the old drove road that runs E into Glen Affric. Very long weary way back up, with DC well ahead on paths with countless false summits, to reach **▲ A' Ghlas-bheinn**, 918m, (008231) at about 16:15 [14km, 1561m]. Sat for about 20 mins, getting a little chilled and stiff despite the sunshine, and then set off W but almost immediately TET's right knee gave way. Very slowly down steep ground to reach forest fence with no obvious path. Climbing over, followed a large stream that led down eventually to a fortunate promontory whence dropped down to crossing of the main river and regained the hard-to-find forestry road.

229

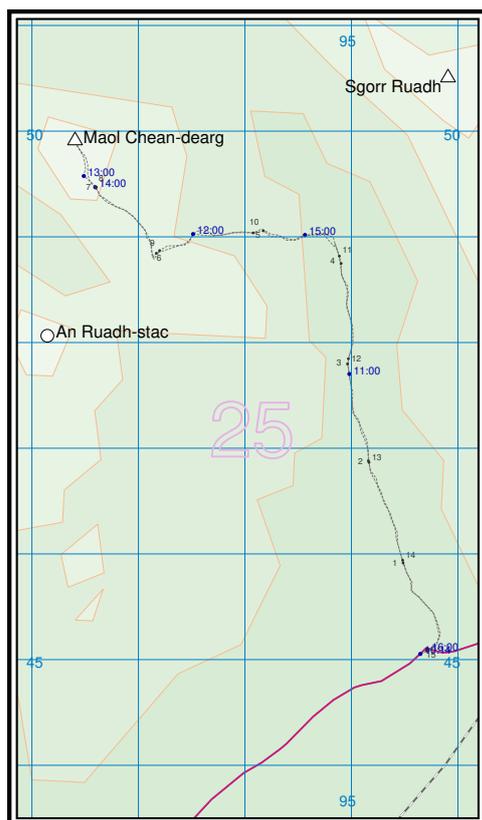


From there, apart from one tricky turn and general soreness, the route back was uneventful and brisk. Back to the car before 19:00 watching the rescue helicopter landing and taking off in the next field. [19.6km, 1626m in 8 hours]. Sunny evening drive over the bridge to Skye and on to the Sligachan Hotel (no baths, only showers, but good beer and good food).

Tue 3 May **Mixed fortunes** — DC — Landranger 32

Set off directly from the hotel at 09:20 on the excellent and newly repaired paths, (DC ran back for the forgotten rope after 15 mins or so), but TET's knee did not make it beyond about 300m up the hill, so at 10:30 DC went on alone to climb **▲Sgurr nan Gillean** solo (although two friendly Irishmen did help to lower him off the summit). TET sat about in the sunshine beside the river for a couple of hours. Out to paddle on the beach to the west later, then second night at Sligachan.

Wed 4 May **Sunny Strathcarron** — DC — Landrangers 25, 33 (OL8)



Two more good breakfasts at the Sligachan having been eaten, drove back over the bridge and north to Strathcarron to fill in a long standing gap. Parked just before the big bridge on the bend in the A890 at (956451) and were walking at 10:18.

In lovely warm sunshine, an easy dried-out path brought us up beside the *Fionn Abhainn* to the junction cairn in less than an hour, although TET was lagging a long way behind. From here climbed up on stony paths to the *Bealach a' Choire Garbh* (931488) for a short rest and a chat with other climbers in just under 2 hours [6km, 592m], and then an hour's further march over a series of steep sections, followed by easier ground, brought us to the summit of **▲Maol Chean-dearg**, 933m, (924499) by 13:20 [7.5km, 957m].

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Sat for 25 mins in warm sunshine eating lunch, resting knee, and photographing good views N to Liathach and Beinn Eighe. Returned by the same route, rather more quickly. Back to the car by 16:00. [15.0km, 978m in 5h45].

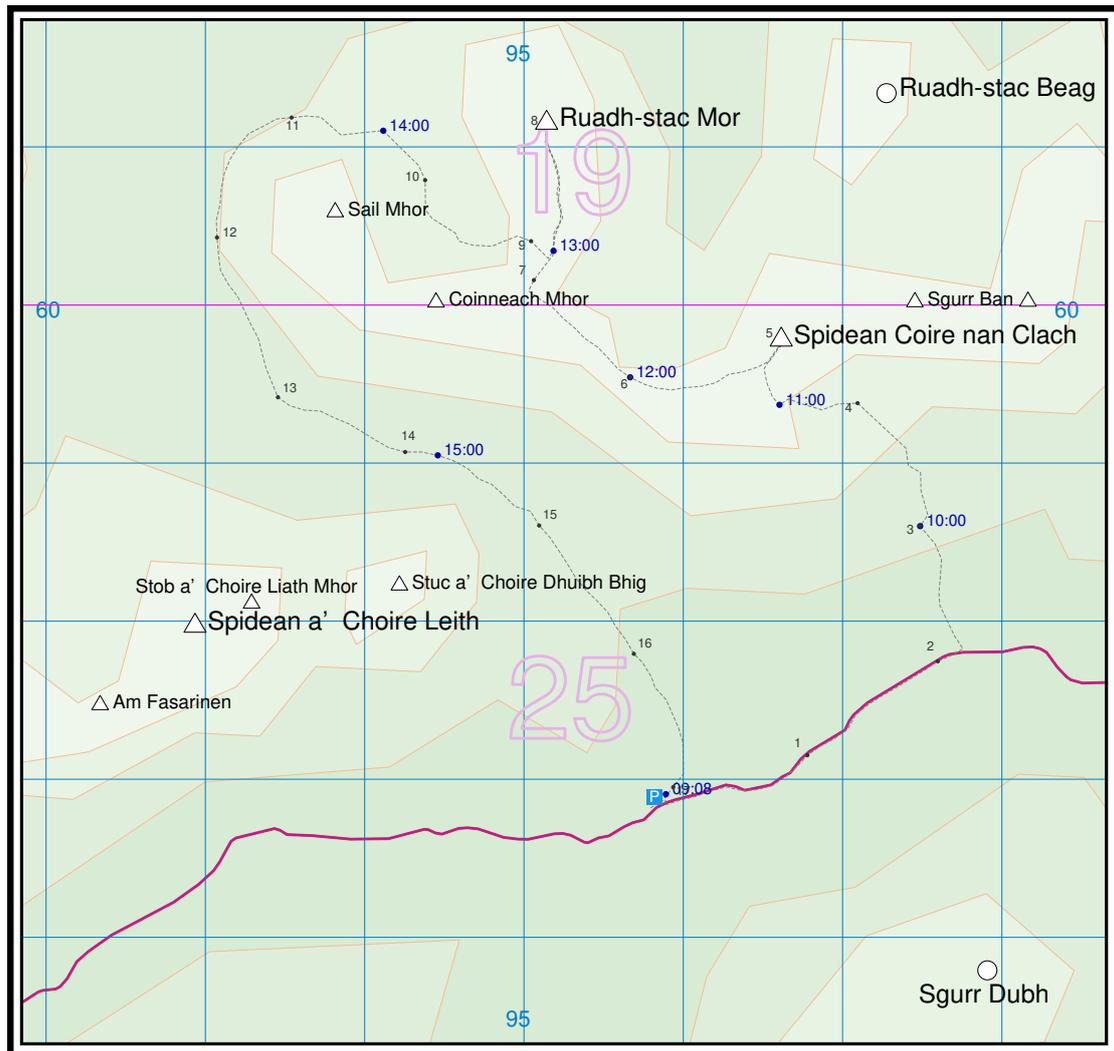
Drove round to Torridon Youth Hostel, which had narrowly escaped from being burnt to the ground the day before, when the heather fire died down at the last minute.

Thu 5 May **Beinn Eighe at the break in the weather** — DC — Landrangers 19, 25

Parked along the A896 at 959568 and walking by 09:10 under grey skies, to tackle Beinn Eighe. Good tramp along the road for 30 minutes then turned up on increasing steep and direct paths (DC way ahead again) up and up in to Coire an Laoigh, and so very steeply up onto the ridge to gain the trig point in just over 2 hours from the car and the summit of **▲Spidean Coire nan Clach**, 993m, (966597) shortly after [5km, 920m]. The ridge being narrow, wet, and windy, worked our way back to the trig point for a short rest, then set out W, along broader grassy slopes with rocky outcrops and awkward shelves to step up, over a small knoll (950601) to turn N, dropping briefly then up more steeply on stony ground onto the broad plateau from which rises the summit of **▲Ruadh-stac Mor**, 1010m, (951611) shortly before 13:00 and then, the rain coming on, turned tail and headed back to the poor shelter of the rocky tor at the top of the descent route for a rather damp and cold 15 minute stop for lunch. [9km, 1208m in 4 hours].

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After lunch down very steeply on huge wet rock steps into the stupendous Coire Mhic Fearchair beside the cathedral-like Triple Buttress (945605). And so picking our way through the tumbled boulder-chaos, round the loch to pick up the well paved path down and round  $\triangle$  *Sail Mhor*. Long tramp out on well graded but stony paths. Occasional spots of 'dry rain'. Back to the car by 15:40 [17.2km, 1307m in 6h30]. Back to the YHA in the evening and good supper in the local pub (Torridon Inn).

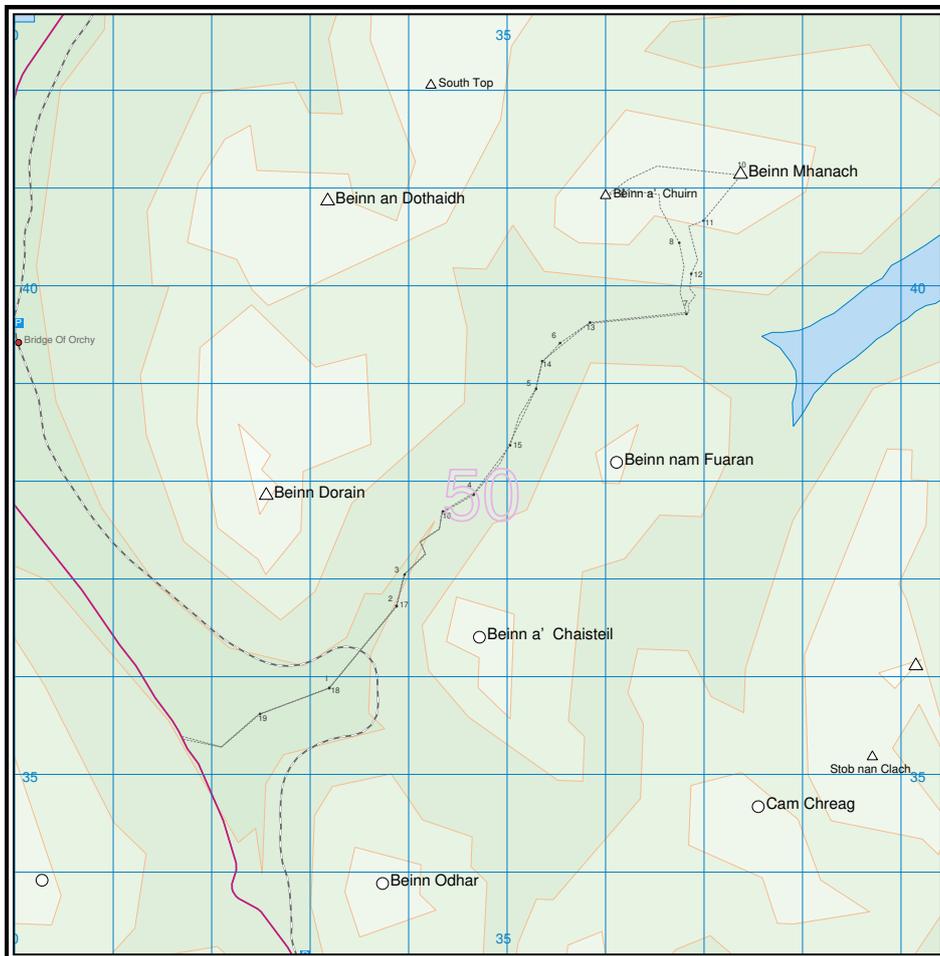
*Fri 6 May* Early start, drove south in heavy rain.

## Climbing notes — May 2012

Sat 12 May Auch Gleann — DC — Landranger 50

Early start from London, and parked slightly precariously beside the road above Auch farm at 317354, and set off in light showers about 14:00. After a long tramp up a rough LR track came to a bridge at 368397 with curious water works channeling the torrent flowing down to Loch Lyon. Set off up the right bank of this on faint path up steeply on damp grassy slopes. Still occasional showers and cool. Higher up the slope eased off but the ground became much boggy, and a sleety rain came on. Plugged away steadily to about 365409 and then turned W into the wind to gain the summit of  $\triangle$  *Beinn a' Chuirn*, 923m, (360409) by about 16:00 in what was by now heavy wet snow. Turned about smartly and set off with the wind and snow on our backs, down to the wide boggy bealach and so up on stonier ground to  $\blacktriangle$  *Beinn Mhanach*, 953m, (374411) just after 16:30.

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From here dropped off south down steep, wet, grassy slopes to rejoin the left bank of the stream and so back to the bridge and the track in about 40 minutes. The evening sunshine came out to dry us out a bit and cheer up the pleasant march back down the LR track, which did seem to go on rather a long way. A short, sharp shower spoiled the last five minutes and gave a sign of things to come on Sun. [20km, 900m in 4h30]. Stayed at B&B in Tyndrum, supper in Bridge of Orchy hotel.

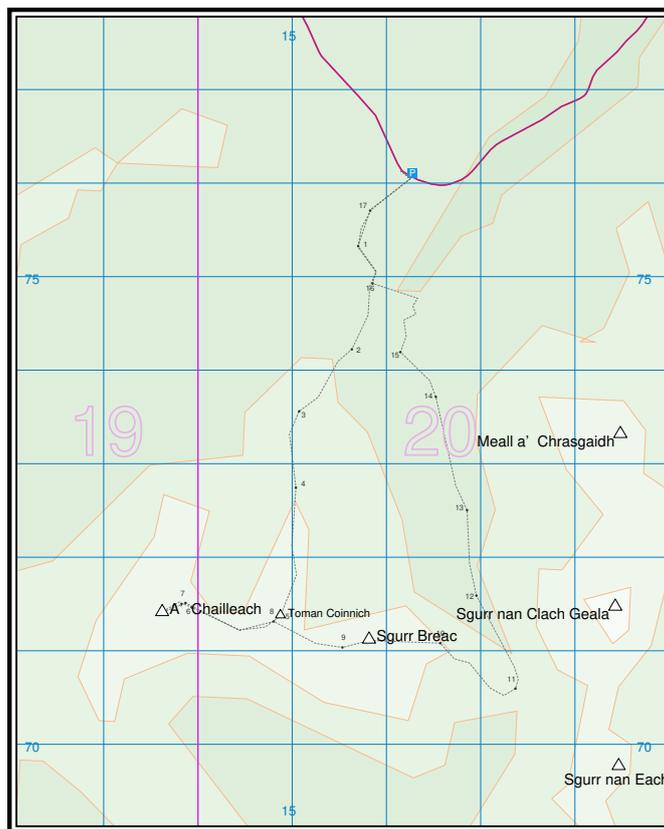
*Sun 13 May* Rain, storms. Wet stroll in Glen Nevis. DC poisoned in Glenmoriston Hotel. Drove to Braemore Square. Supper in Ullapool.

*Mon 14 May* **Western Fannichs** — DC, ORBS + dog — Landrangers 19, 20

Collected at breakfast by ORBS and drove to park beside the road 162761 soon after 09:00. Damp and chilly morning, with occasional heavy showers following the monsoon of the day before. Set off down the mile or so of LR track to cross the smart new bridge at the outflow of Loch a' Bhraoin, and thence up on boggy tracks that gave way to drier ground and threaded through the crags of Leitir Fhearne and so onto the pleasant ridge of Druim Reidh that gave excellent walking directly to the summit of  $\triangle$  *Toman Coinich*, 935m (149714) which was reached by 11am, with fresh snow on the ground. From here, descended easily W and climbed on stony paths to reach the snowy cairn of **▲A' Chailleach**, 999m, (136714) for a (very brief) celebration of Jojo-the-dog's first Munro. A strong NW wind made the going easier on the return; retraced steps to  $\triangle$  *Toman Coinich* and from there dropped on a narrowing ridge to the high bealach at 152711, and so up and along the narrow summit ridge to find the top of **▲Sgurr Breac**, 999m, (158711) by 12:45 [11km, 1100m in 3h40] in heavy snow.

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The descent to the field in the deep bealach (174706) was cold and slippery and took about an hour where a friendly couple coming up reminded us to use the bridge over the Allt Breabaig instead of attempting the river crossing. The descent was made at a sedate pace on the old path, allowing time for the ailing DC to catch up; crossed the wooden bridge (163748) at 15:10, and back in the car (with the rain coming on again) by about 15:40. [19km, 1120m in 6h30].

*Tue 15 May* **Am Faochagach** — DC — Landranger 20

Leaving ORBS to a family day, parked beside the Black Bridge on the A835 at 373709 and were walking by 09:50. A steady tramp on 5km of tarmac road in occasional showers brought us to Strathvaich Lodge, where a vague and muddy path led round the garden and up a woody bank behind the house. By 11:00 emerged onto a boggy argo-track that led up onto the rolling open country of Strathvaich Forest. While the track did not provide a good surface for walking, it was a fairly sure guide over miles of damp, heathery moorland, and two hours of non-stop walking brought us, in strong W winds that were blowing the fresh snow into streams of ice-particles, to the small cairn that marks **▲ Am Faochagach**, 953m, (304794), soon after 13:00. It was too cold and windy to stop, so began the return march and stopped a little further down for a brief 10 minute lunch. A cold walk in the wind, but cleared to a pleasant sunny afternoon for the long walk back along the tarmac of Strath Vaich. Back to the car at 15:40, [27km, 840m in 5h50].

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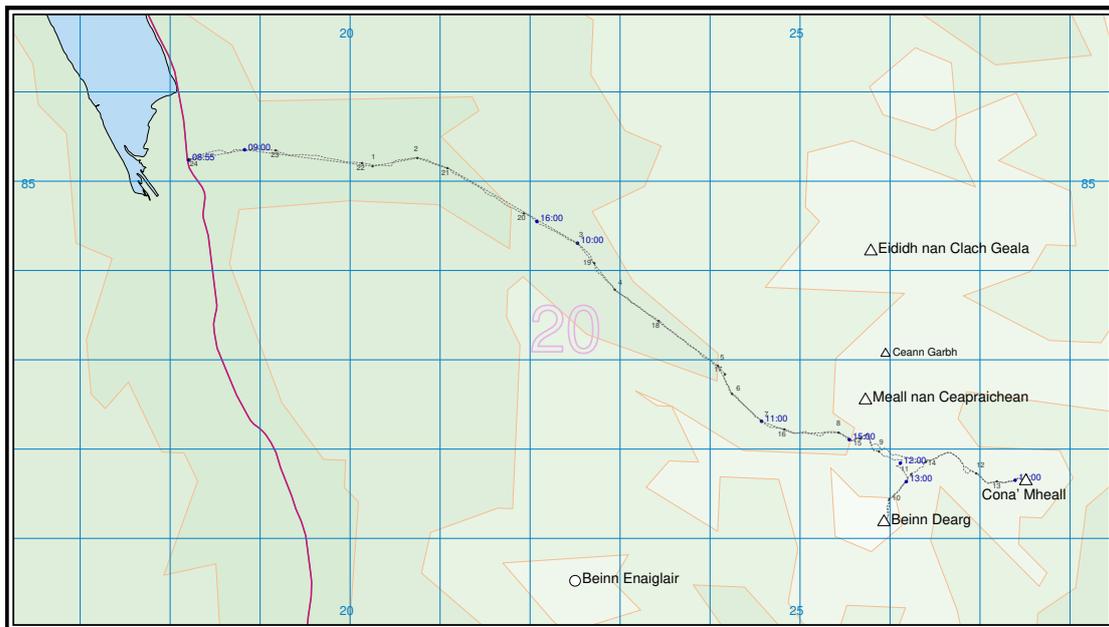
This approach, though long and boggy for the first couple of miles above the lodge, made a better alternative to crossing the river above Loch Glascarnoch which would have been swollen with all the recent rain.

*Wed 16 May* TET and ORBS did **● Spidean Coinnich** on Quinag with the family, while DC did Ben More Assynt and Conival.

(13)

*Thu 17 May* **Beinn Dearg epic** — DC, ORBS + dog — Landranger 20

Met early at Inverlael car park and set off in cool, cloudy weather at about 08:55 up the forestry road, to the new information board by the weir at the top of the Ullapool hydroelectric scheme, in about 40 minutes and from there out into the open country on the rough stalker's track. Climbed steadily for a couple of hours, with only one short break (to retrieve the errant dog), into increasingly thick snow.



Above about 600m the snow was falling steadily and thickly, obscuring the path. By about 11:35 caught up three others ahead who had left obvious footsteps, but were oddly

vague about where they were going. Passing them, and now in thick cloud as well, made our way up slowly, with a couple of detours in the mist, over rocky ground covered in loose fresh snow, to find the helpful guiding wall up to about 1000m and then when it turned ploughed on S on easier slopes in thick wind-blown snow. It was very cold, with strong E to NE wind blowing, but eventually reached the summit of **▲Beinn Dearg**, 1084m, (259812) by about 12:40. From here, descended rather painfully in almost zero visibility with no obvious paths to follow in the snow to the lochan at 264818, and so over the little top (886m) and up on rough uneven ground that gave poor walking in the fresh snow, to reach **▲Cona' Mheall** by about 13:40. Another hour of floundering in the snow and some careful work with the GPS brought us back to the head of the path north of Beinn Dearg, and despite DC's keenness to get further exercise, made our way down and were back at Inverlael about two hours later. [24km, 1520m in 7 hours]

*Fri 18 May* **More snow on Cairngorm** — DC — Landranger 36

Left Braemore Square after a final hearty breakfast and drove S (with the bad weather alas) to park at the Cairngorm car park (990061) before 11am. Walked up under the funicular and then rather more pleasantly in thick fresh snow to the W of the Choire Chais to gain a rather exposed and cold ridge leading up to  $\triangle$  *Fiacail A' Choire Chais*. Above 1100m the mist closed in, and the snow coming on harder in the freshening breeze, making a proper, complete white-out. Abandoning plans for descending to the Shelter Stone and climbing to Beinn Mheadhoin, traversed slowly carefully following the GPS bearing to reach the huge summit cairn of **▲Cairngorm**, 1244m, (005041). The only things to see were two cheerful skiers, so set off N again and emerged below the mist above the top station of the railway. After brief stop, strode down the fine new snow that had fallen, stopping for a bite to eat about 13:15 and then below the snow, following the walkers' track back to the car park before 14:00. [7.5km, 680m in 3 hours]

*Sat 19 May* Drove home (in lovely weather).

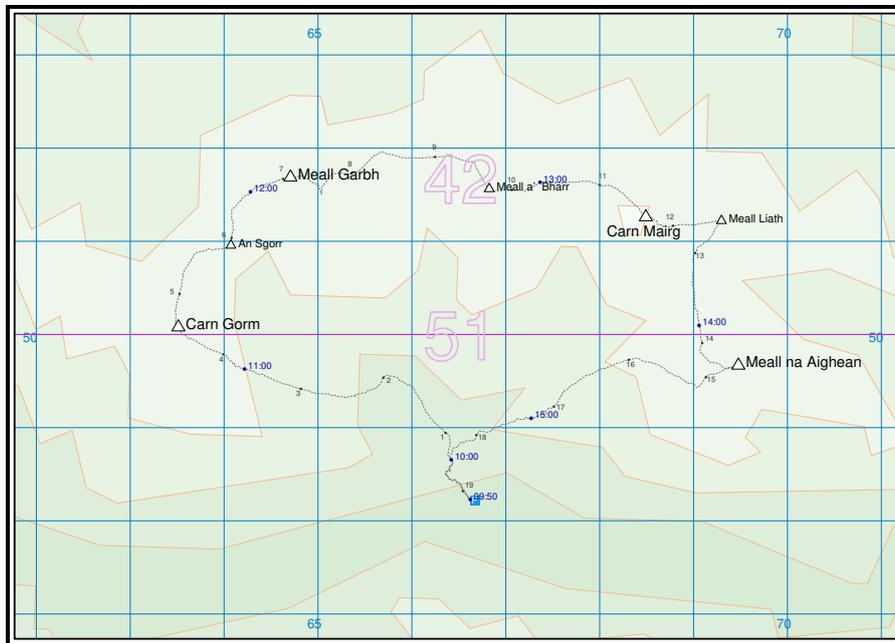
## Climbing notes — July 2012

Wed 11 Jul **Glen Lyon** — TET solo — Landranger 51

Drove from B&B (6 The Beeches) in Aberfeldy in steady persistent rain and parked at Inverar (NN666482) by about 9.15. Read the paper for a while hoping the rain would ease as promised, walking by 09.50. All very overgrown and lush along the paths with streams in roaring away in full spate. Plodded up cart tracks leading to little iron bridge across the burn at 659495. Despite the rain, too warm for fleece, so walked in base layer plus coat. Pulled up steadily on sodden but easy ground to reach **▲ Carn Gorm**, 1029m, (635500) in about 1h30. Rain falling steadily. Ate some food and pressed on N in cloud, over the shapely small summit of  $\triangle$  *An Sgorr*, 924m, (640509) and thence down and up slightly to meet the line of rusty fence posts that led on by midday to **▲ Meall Garbh**, 968m, (647517) whose (new) summit is now adorned with a weird cairn made from bits of the fence.

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From here, wandered slightly south looking for old cairn and then back to line of posts stretching east. Mist kept coming and going. Bimbled on following the posts gently down and up again to reach the rocky top of  $\triangle$  *Meall a' Bharr*, 1004m, (668515) by 12.50 and after a short stop pressed on in slightly lighter rain to reach summit of the day **▲ Carn Mairg**, 1041m, (684512) at about 13.20. Paused for two minutes to consider whether the other tops looked higher (they did but aren't) and then ate a cheese roll. From here down on steep stony ground rather losing best way for 15 minutes, then back up and onto eastern top  $\triangle$  *Meall Liath*, 1012m, (693512), in yet more thick mist and from there turned south away from the rusty fence posts at last and down on easy, wet grassy slopes to wet bealach below yet another easy grassy slope that led eventually up to the little rocky summit of **▲ Meall na Aighean**, 981m, (694496) by about 14.20 or so. Still raining, but more noticeable breeze. Turned back W and so down on steep bouldery grass to join track leading back to car. Delightful flowery meadows near the bottom before reaching bracken and then back to cart tracks beside the torrents and so back to the car at 15.30. [19.1km, 1716m] [Time: 05:39 NR: 08:15]

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*Thu 12 Jul* **Glen Lyon II** — TET solo — Landranger 51

Setting off early from Aberfeldy, drove as quickly as was compatible with the winds and dips of the little road up Glen Lyon and with retaining my tasty breakfast, and was parked at the dam (512464) and walking by 9.30. Set off up the short section of estate track and at the first junction headed north straight uphill over boggy and damp grass. Almost no breeze, and quite cool, with hints of blue sky in the high cloud cover. The path was faint in places but easy to follow despite the saturated ground, occasionally improved by thin ricky outcrops running approximately in the right direction. Despite the wet the going was fairly easy and despite the peat hags gaining the ridge was straight forward. Once on the ridge the going was much better, with a good path and on top level stony ground gave a straight forward stomp to reach **▲Meall Buidhe**, 932m, (498499) at 10.40. Sat about for 15 mins hoping the sun would really come out but it never did quite, so heading back, finding rather better scraps of path on the descent and meeting a couple of walkers, was back at the car at 11.52. [8.6km, 552m] [Time: 02:21 NR: 03:15]

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Changed and then set off for the long drive via Fort William and the Commando Memorial to Fiskavaig, beyond Carbost on Skye, to stay at a rather fussy B&B.

*Fri 13 Jul* **Back on the Black Cuillin** — Tony Handley the guide — Landranger 32

Met by arrangement at Sligachan before 9am and walking by about 9.05, nice morning, with light breezes and high broken cloud, still quite cool. Easy gentle progress on the well-maintained paths, up into the stupendous Coire Bhasteir with great views of the Pinnacle Ridge and good going on various slabby bits of rock. Paused on the hour every hour, and eventually came out at the head of the corrie at 11.42. Great views of the rest of the Cuillin Ridge and down into Coire Lhota. Put on harness and left bags (and the GPS) in a sheltered spot (468252) and set off along narrow paths and scrambly rock to find the foot of Twin Gully and Tooth Gully. TH free climbed up and TET followed on the rope (120ft, RI in Stainforth). Above the gully scrambled on up very fine rock, with mist swirling in, to meet two climbers slightly disoriented after 6 hours ascending Pinnacle Ridge, just below the summit. On up, through the little window in the rock to make the summit of **▲Sgurr nan Gillean** (964m, 3163ft) NG471252 at about 12.15.

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Walked on to look at the ways up the SE ridge, struggling to see the bit where DC got in trouble. Then back to the summit and so down passing the dithering climbers back to the ruck sacks for a bite to eat by about 12.45. After 15 mins TH went back to check on the other two and was away about 15 mins more. Cold and chilly as thicker cloud rolled in but eventually set off, again without bags, by 13.20. Easy going (thanks to TH's knowledge of every loose rock and every foot hold) up to the Bad Step, then briefly roped to climb down and so up to the summit of **▲Am Basteir** (934m, 3064ft) NG465253 by about 13.40. Looked down (a bit wistfully) at the route to the Tooth but it would have involved lots more technical work and then a long climb down and back to get the bags. Returned to bags (without using the rope), and then uneventfully tramped back to the Sligachan by 15.20. [Approx 14km, 1250m] [Time: 6:15] [Cost: £170]

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## Climbing notes — June 2013

*Sat 22 Jun* **Old Bridge of Tilt I** — DC — Landranger 43

Arrived by sleeper into Waverley by 7.20 and thence out to pick up a car at the airport and so to Catherine and Tommy for some late breakfast. From there north to Pitlochry to buy some provisions, and parked at the well-wooded car park at the Old Bridge of Tilt near Blair Atholl (874662) by about 11.35. Changed and booted by 11.45 and set off on little trails through the woods that soon gave way to a rather busy estate road heading up Glen Tilt. Weather was breezy with broken cloud. An hour and 20 minutes brisk walk brought us to the bridge at 901717. Stopped for a brief lunch as the rain came on. No shelter, so moved on fairly quickly and in about 10 minutes came to 908720 where a smaller path branched away NE and uphill; a short pull up this steep nose brought us out onto gentler ground and, with the weather improving, another broad estate track gave easy walking to **▲ Carn a' Chlamain**, 963m, (915758) by 14.45 [13km, 950m]. Set off again before 15.00 walking north and then west before turning south over **○ Braigh nan Creagan Breac** (898758) and then steeply back down in a very heavy but mercifully brief hail storm to the track at 902719 by 16.40, and thence another brisk walk brought us back to the car just after 18.00 [28km, 1100m] [Time 6:15, NR 7:30]. Drove back to Pitlochry and then over to our hotel at Kirkmichael.

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*Sun 23 Jun* **Old Bridge of Tilt II** — DC — Landranger 43

Back to Pitlochry after breakfast for shopping at the Co-op, then onto the same car park as the day before, and walking by 10.50. Overcast with occasional rain, and fresh breeze. The first 30 mins walk along rural lanes and through pleasant woodland brought us to a boundary gate at 855677, and the start of a long gently rising estate road heading north along which the main excitement was the fine cairn at 851690. The first couple of miles of this were fine and breezy but then the rain came on more steadily. We passed a slightly bedraggled DoE expedition on their way home, and then reached the well-kept bothy at 835736 by 12.50 during a brief respite from the rain. Ate lunch on the rather suburban picnic table outside. [9.5km, 300m in 2:00]

From the bothy climbed NE on a rather rougher track, that followed the river at first and then wound up onto the open moorland above, rising steadily northwards. In increasing rain and freshening breeze, reached the small field around the trig point of **▲ Beinn Dearg**, 1008m, (852777) by 14.35. [15.5km, 1000m in 3:45]

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Sheltered for ten minutes to tog up and eat a bit more lunch, by which time the wind had increased to a full gale with heavy showers. Turned about and retraced our steps back to the bothy by 16.00, and then the long estate road back to the forest boundary by 17.30 and to the car park just before 18.00. [31.6km, 1100m] [Time 7:05, NR 8:10]

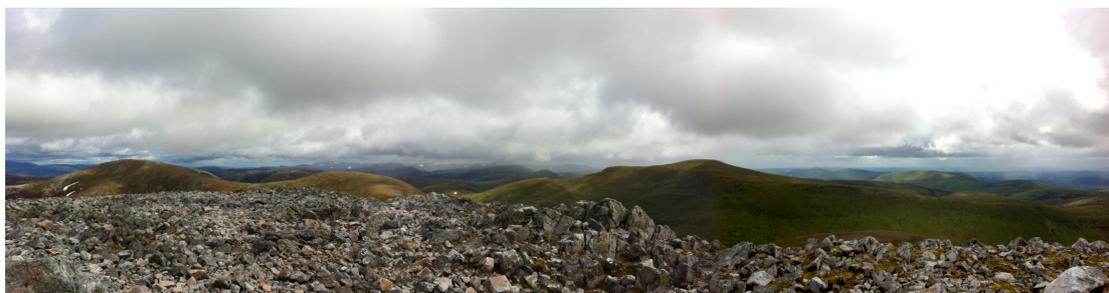
*Mon 24 Jun* **Three valleys walk** — DC — Landranger 43

Up and off early to Spittal of Glenshee, parking in the walkers' car park at Dalmunzie Hotel (091713) [£2.50]. Warm and a bit damp, with occasional showers. Set off at 9.30 following farm road and then track of the old narrow gauge railway line to the now ruined Glenlochsie Lodge. After the first km, lost the line of the railway at the point where it used to do a zig-zag to gain height, but DC found it again after a rather slower km of boggy floundering beside the Lochsie Burn, and then made rapid progress to cross the little bridge (063726) beside the ruin at about 10.25. From here picked up a broad estate track that gave straight-forward walking all the way to the summit of **▲ Glas Tulaichean**, 1051m, (051760) by 11.40 [8km, 700m].

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After a short break set off NE, and then N in better weather along the northerly ridge. Dropped down over steep grass into Gleann Mor and picked up a rather rough path at about 051774. Following this W under the steep sides of *Màm nan Càrn* led to a hanging bealach at 039771, 769m, and from there a clear path took us up steeply to the stony summit of **▲ Càrn an Rìgh**, 1029m, (029772) by about 13.10 [12km, 1000m]. Sat for 10 minutes taking photographs and eating lunch, then retraced our steps back to the bealach and decided to extend our day.

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Therefore climbed up the other side northwards to reach the broad ridge at about 048783 and thence on easy rocky ground up to the main top of **▲ Beinn Iutharn Mhor**, 1045m, (045792) by 14.45 [16km, 1300m]. After 5 mins rest and another photo to celebrate no. 250, set off S again on the long tramp back. Thirty minutes on gentle grassy, boggy slopes brought us up to  $\triangle$  *Màm nan Càrn*, and from there descended E and dropped down to the boggy area W of the beautiful Loch nan Eun. Sat for a few minutes in pleasant sunshine, and then dropped down the steep path beside the fine waterfalls that cascade into Glean Taitneach; 30 minutes of bouncing down this path and then an hour's tramp on yet another good estate road brought us to a foot bridge at 089724. Crossed into meadows that led back to the farm road and the car park at the hotel by 17.50 [28km, 1400m] [Time 8:20, NR 7:55]

250

*Tue 25 Jun* **End to end and overlapping** — TET solo, DC solo — Landrangers 43, 44

Pleasant day with high broken cloud and occasional bursts of sunshine. Long drive round to Glen Clova, to drop off DC to do Driesh and Mayar, and then back in reasonable time to the little car park above the Spean Spittle Bridge (148800). Set off by 11.30, crossed the old bridge and then followed a rough path, indistinct in places, that led up on increasingly stony, then rocky ground directly to **▲ Carn an Tuirc**, 1019, (174805) [3km, 550m] by 12.40, and then on directly on clear Argo-tracks and finally a long wall to reach the large rocky cairn of **▲ Cairn of Claise**, 1064m, (185788) at 13.15 [5.5km, 670m].

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From here turned NE following an initially clear path that became vague across the wetter ground (but followed a very occasional series of old fence posts), with many vociferous moorland birds. Crossing a deep ditch still full of old snow, eventually reached drier ground and a clear path to the little rocky top of **▲ Tolmount**, 958m, (210800) at 13.55 [8.5km, 720m]. Spoke to two lads from Edinburgh Univ., and ate a little. Then set off again S on similar rough paths to short pull up to the flat top and little cairn of **▲ Tom Buidhe**, 957m, (213787); settled down to wait for DC. [10km, 820m in 2:55]. After only a few minutes spotted DC coming up from Mayar and were able to exchange keys as planned; DC set off to Tolmount and back the way TET had come up, while TET headed back towards Cairn of Claise. After a tedious hour of contouring at about 950m on rough, damp grassy tussocks, reached the old drove road which gave rather

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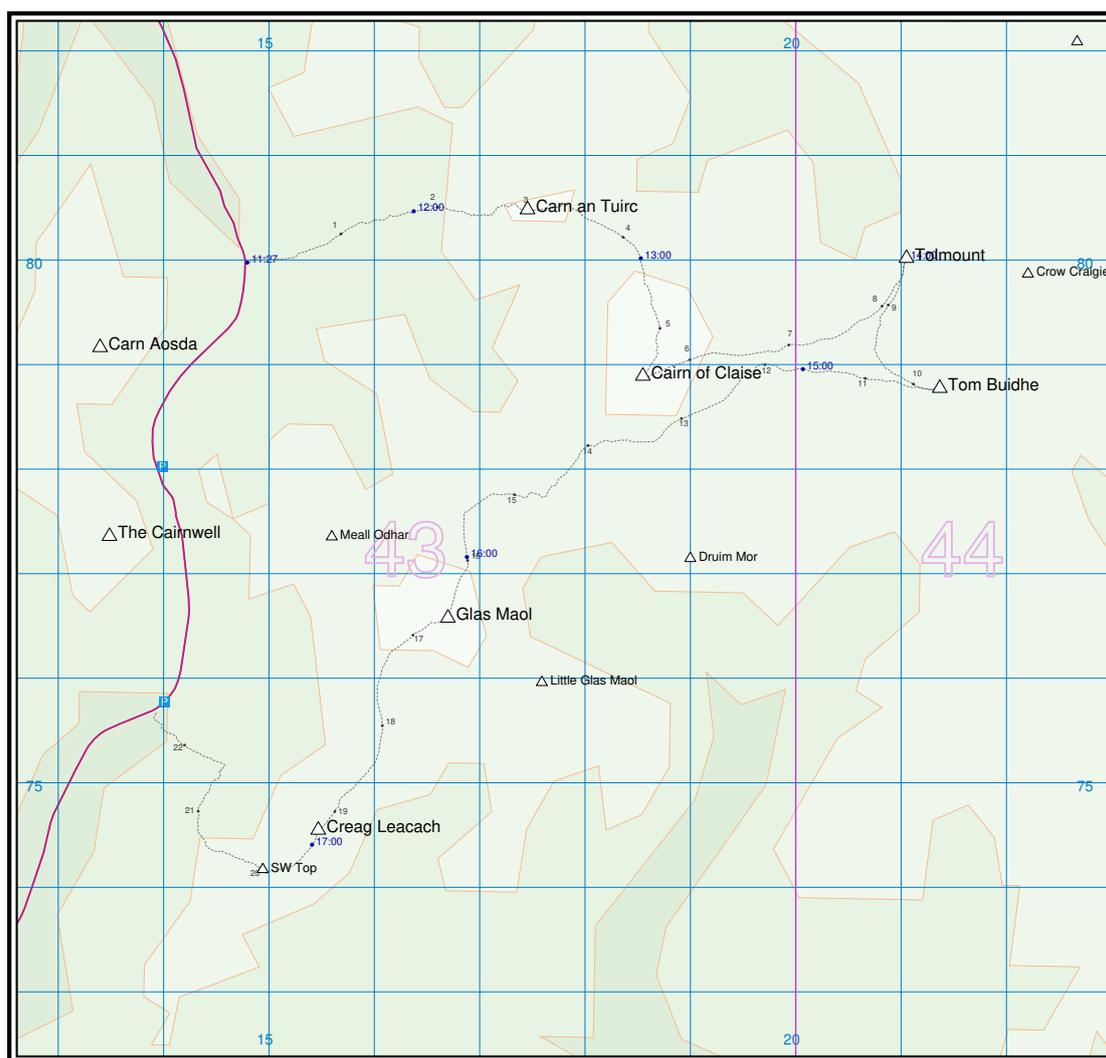
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easier going, and then branched off on gentle stony ground to the trig point and large shelter of ▲ **Glas Maol**, 1068m, (167766) by 16.10. [17km, 1050m in 4:40]

255

Stopped for 5 mins to change batteries in GPS, eat a little, and mend boot laces, then set off SW along the narrowing ridge of Sron Riabhach to scramble over several rocky tops to ▲ **Creag Leacach**, 987m (155745) by 16.55; the time getting on, pushed rather wearily on to △ **SW Top** and then NW to a broad grassy bealach and thence down on soft wet grassy slopes at some speed, crossing two small streams to gain the rough heathery path back to the car park at 139757. Descended the last slope, observing DC pulling the car into car park and so back to the car at 17.50 [23km, 1250km] [Time 6:20, NR 6:40].

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Wed 26 Jun **Carn Bhac round** — DC — Landranger 43

Parked at Inverey (089892) on slightly muggy, overcast morning. Ready to walk at 9.45 but managed to smash the GPS when closing the boot. Stomped off down Glen Ey, kicking the occasional stone. After a couple of km branched off SW over green fields to pick up yet another easy estate road that gave good going to nearly 740m at about 068842, from where followed vague slowly rising line over wet ground to the bealach at 061829 (777m) and from there up onto drier ground to reach the little cairn of ▲ **Carn Bhac**, 946m, (051832) [9km, 600m in about 2:00].

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From here headed W over the little  $\triangle$  *South West Top*, 920m, 041827, and then NW to  $\circ$  *Geal Charn* and so on N over flattish, rough, boggy ground following the inevitable Argo-tracks to pick up the well made estate road that comes up to about 035864. Strode out down this track for about an hour until the delightfully named *Allt Connie* narrowed into a small ravine with three beautiful waterfalls. Stopped for a short swim, and suitably refreshed, got back to the car by about 3pm. [21km, 700m] [Time 5:00, NR 5:20]

The excellent Braemar Mountain Sports and the rather smart café Taste helped to restore morale by about 5pm with a new GPS and much-needed coffee & cake.

*Thu 27 Jun* **Eastern Cairngorm plateau** — DC — Landranger 43

Arrived early at BMS to hire bikes. Set off down the A93 at 9.40 and rode to Brig of Dee, then turned into the Invercauld estate and followed the (slightly confusing) network of estate roads and forest tracks up Gleann an t-Slugain for an hour or so, and then left the bikes at about 116956 more or less on the 600m contour [14km, 450m in 1:25]. Rather overcast again with occasional heavy drizzle, forecast to clear up but never did.

Set off walking by 11.15 and dropped down for 5 mins over wet ground to cross the Quoich Water at 111959 and pick up the path heading up behind  $\circ$  *Carn Fiaclach*. On and on up this path on steep ridge and unpleasant boulder field higher up but mainly good walking on granite-gravel. Into thick mist above about 800m. Filled bottles from melting snow above 1100m, and eventually out onto the summit plateau in heavy drizzle and chilly wind. Very little visibility. Reached the new  $\triangle$  *South Top*, 1179m, (092986) by about 12.45 and pressed straight on over gently rolling plateau following path along the cliff tops. Occasional glimpses down into the impressive *Coire an Dubh Lochain*. Following GPS directions eventually found the main top of **▲Beinn a' Bhuird**, 1197m, (092006) by 13.15 [7km, 700m from the bikes in 2:00]. Ate lunch for 15 mins and then ambled round on gentle slopes to  $\triangle$  *Cnap a' Chleirich*, 1174 (108010), for another short stop. From there in slightly lighter drizzle descended sharply for 20 mins on fairly good path to the Sneck, 970m, (118010).

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From there climbed back up to E onto Ben Avon itself in even thicker mist. Good going on steep section, then strode out once it got flatter on top, and by 14.45 reached **▲Leabaidh an Daimh Buidhe**, 1171m, (131019) [12km, 1000m in 3:30]. Spent about 20 mins here scrambling up various monstrous piles of granite to decide which was highest, and then retraced our steps to the Sneck. From there down on an impressively maintained path that gave very good walking for 1h30 back to the bikes. [20km, 1050m in 5:20, NR 5:45]

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Being rather faster, the ride back was much more fun than the ride up; back at BMS in less than an hour. Total distance for the day was 20km walking plus 30km on the bikes.

*Fri 28 Jun* Leisurely day to recover. After breakfast and settling up, drove to Aberfeldy in gentle rain for (excellent) coffee at The Watermill bookshop, and then to the new(ish) Breadalbane Community Campus pool for a swim, followed by a very pleasant pub lunch at the Fortingall Hotel nearby. The rain having cleared up, spent a happy hour in breezy sunshine on the putting green in Aberfeldy before driving back to Edinburgh for the usual airport experience and a late flight to Heathrow.

## Climbing notes — May 2014

*Thu 1 May* Driving north, via Darlington Station, to Braemar. Hired bikes, evening spin up the track towards Morrone. Supper in Braemar Lodge hotel, staying at Cranford guest house.

*Fri 2 May* **North Atholl** — ORBS & Jojo — Landranger 43

Beautiful morning, nice breakfast reasonably early and drove round to Linn of Dee car park with bikes, and got going soon after 9am. Rode along rough tracks westwards for about an hour and a half to reach the ruin of Geldie Lodge (955867). Left bikes here. A pleasant sunny day but with a cold breeze blowing. Continued west on good path rising slowing round the northern shoulders of *Scarsoch Bheag*, passing the high point of the track by about 11am and then descending into the boggy trackless valley of Allt a' Chaorainn, floundered across it for the next hour. By midday, climbing steeply on stonier ground passing large patches of snow, and so eventually reached **▲ Carn an Fhidhleir**, 994m, (905842) at about 12:30 [7km, 420m in 2 hours from leaving the bikes]. Ate a bit of lunch in very chilly wind, and then down SE over rounded lump, and down steeply on large snow patches to deep bealach at 919829 and thence a steady pull brought us up to **▲ An Sgarsoch**, 1006, (933837) by 2pm [11km, 750m]. Finished lunch, then descended briskly over more snow and damp grass to a rough track skirting SB that brought us (nearly) back to the good path by 3pm, thence back to the bikes and rode out, at a gentle pace to allow the dog to keep up. Back to the car about 5pm and then packed up for the long drive north. [Total distance 43km, 1260m of which about 24km was on the bikes]. Five hours walking, three cycling.

In the evening, having collected bags and fuelled the bus, drove over Tomintoul and so to Inverness and up to far north Sutherland; stopping for an excellent supper at the Pier Café in Lairg over looking the beautiful Loch Shin. Lovely evening weather with early spring sunshine. Arrived Oldshoremore with the very last of the day about 10.30pm. Slept soundly.

*Sat 3 May* **Foinaven end-to-end** — ORBS, ECF, GO, & Jojo — Landranger 9

Awoke to greyish skies, but a hearty breakfast, and so off directly in two cars (via the old post office house), and, leaving one at the northern end, drove south down A838 to park by the little bridge at the S end of Loch Stack (298401). Walking soon after 11am, and tramped steadily up on LR track for couple of hours in occasional drizzle relieved by lively conversation; so reached the high point of the track about 1pm near the Bealach Horn. Sat on rocks eating our pieces for 20 minutes, then set off (in drizzle) up the gentle slopes of *○ An t-Sail Mhor*, 760m, (338483) and from there on with no pause to the sharp top of *○ Stob Cadha na Beucaich*, 808m, (325487) by about 3pm. From here the steep and rocky section of the ridge starts and there followed a happy hour of scrambling down and up with some mild exposure (and carrying Jojo from time to time) over the little rocky top of *○ A' Che'ir Ghorm*, to reach the broad anvil top of **● Ganu Mor** 911m, (315507) with its deceptive twin cairns. From here TET ran on to the outlying *○ Ceann Garbh* briefly, as the others descended the stony ground slowly to the shallow bealach at 312509. From here a long, steep, diagonal descent around the Loch na Claise Carnaich over rough and (by now) rather wet grass to reach the car at little before 7pm. [24km, 1500m, 7:45, NR 8:30].

*Sun 4 May* Rain, strong wind. Wet and rather chilly walk out along the wonderful coast line north of Oldshoremore to beautiful Sandwood Bay; somewhere to return with a picnic on a warm day. Very cold and wet slog out along John Muir Trust's path. Morale restored by warm baths back at the house, and some excellent wine.

*Mon 5 May* **More paw-bashing** — ORBS & Jojo — Landranger 20

Up fairly early for breakfast and tidying up, then away soon after 10am and drove back south to Oykel Bridge, and thence bumped along some miles of rather rough forestry roads to park in the luxurious hillwalkers' car park at Corriemulzie Lodge (328953). Saddled up again, and set off at 11.30 up Strath Mulzie on moderately rough track. Overcast with occasional spots of drizzle. Many small (and not so small) streams crossed the path. Passed a heavily laden but rather shiny, new Landrover bringing people and kit out from the bothy at Loch a' Choire Mhor, and another man on a bike with two grumpy labradors. After about an hour and a half on the path dismounted, and continued on foot to the river crossing (an easy paddle on nice gravelly river bed) at the mouth of the loch (301893). From here great views of the main corrie and the shapely nose of *Creag an Duine*, but rather slow going on steep damp grass with little in the way of a path. Sat in the shelter of some rocks about half way up to eat lunch, then toggled up to continue as a heavier drizzle set in. Eventually clambered up the final stony slopes to reach **▲ Seana Braigh**, 926m, (281878) a little before 3pm. Cold on top, but good views. The cairn and shelter are perched right on the eastern edge of the summit plateau above the steep cliffs that form the headwall of the corrie. After a brief stop for food and photographs turned tail and trotted back down, going rather better on the descent. Across the river, and back to the bikes by 4.30 and then blasted back down the path (ORBS again allowing the hound to keep pace) including some rather damp fords. Back to the car about 5.30. [24km, 1040m, of which about 14km on bikes].

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In the evening, a long drive back to Braemar. Arrived about 9pm to find that all the restaurants were finished for the evening. Consoled ourselves with fish & chips (ORBS), tea and cake in the Cranford (TET), and beer from the Co-op (both).

*Tue 6 May* **by the Baddoch Burn** — ORBS — Landranger 43

After another hearty breakfast, returned one of the bikes, and stocked up at Co-op, then up the road with reluctant and sleepy dog; decided to leave him in the car. Parked by the A93 with several others at 138831 and TET set off soon after 9.30 (ORBS followed by bike shortly after). A pleasant 50 mins stroll along a good track brought us to the foot of Coire Fhearneasg (122811). Parked bike and continued up vague, confused paths in deep heather. Aiming for obvious spiked cairn brought us to slightly easier going, although the conditions underfoot were very soggy below 750m. A cold pull up to the *△ East Top* soon after 11am, and from there a pleasant march along the fine broad and stony ridge in intermittent sunshine with a fresh breeze. Reached **▲ An Socach**, 944m, (079799) about midday and stopped for photos, an early lunch, and a pleasant chat about the independence vote with a friendly Scot. After about 20 mins, set off to retrace steps, keeping slightly S of original line and finding slightly drier going all the way back down. ORBS on bike back to the car, TET on foot a few minutes behind. Back to the car by 2pm. [16.5km, 790m, 4:30, NR 5:20].

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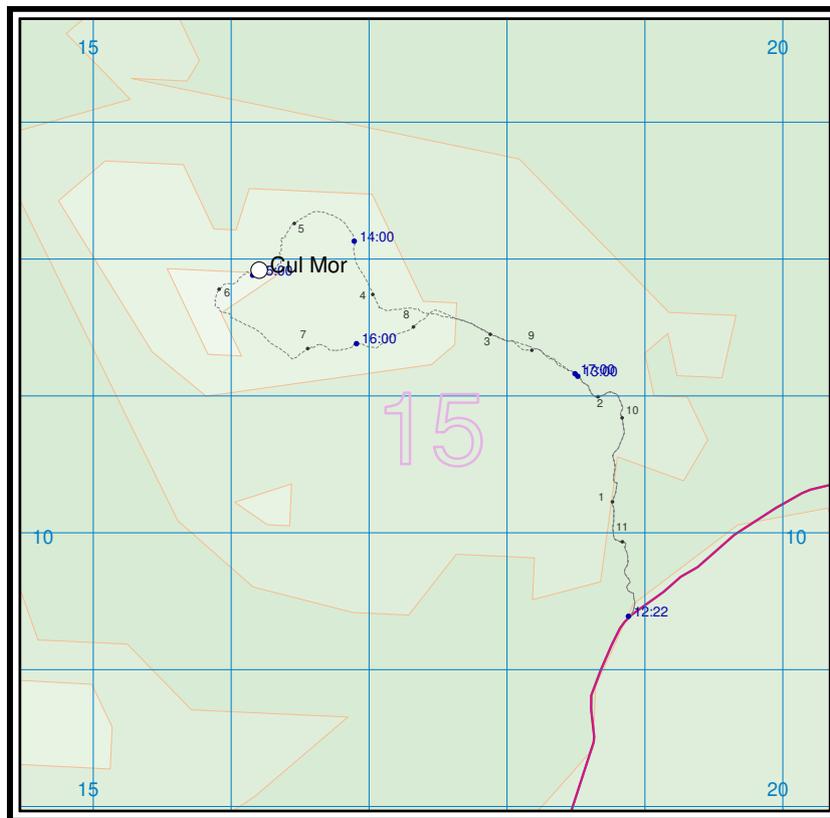
In the afternoon drove slowly round via Kirkmichael to upmarket B&B in Pitlochry, bathed, then hobbled to the hotel at Moulin for beer and hearty supper. TET home on the sleeper in the evening.

## Climbing notes — August 2014

*Tue 26 Aug* **Above the Summer Isles** — LST, FMT — Landranger 15

Drove round from house at Achiltibuie, and parked in the car park under Knockan Crag at NC182099. Lovely sunny day, but moderately cool and breezy. Set off N on path up the board shoulder of *Meallan Diomhain*. Grassy with slabby outcrops. After 2 hours climbing, reached much steeper and more rocky slopes, with no obvious path; 30 mins hard work zig-zagging up to the summit, ● **Cul Mor** (849m, 2785ft). Lovely views out to the islands; stopped for 15 mins for photographs and to tog up; LST very cold and tired. Dropped down S and then W for a slow mile into the more sheltered coire, and rested for another 30 mins. Then gently back to the path and so back to the car. [12km, 850m]

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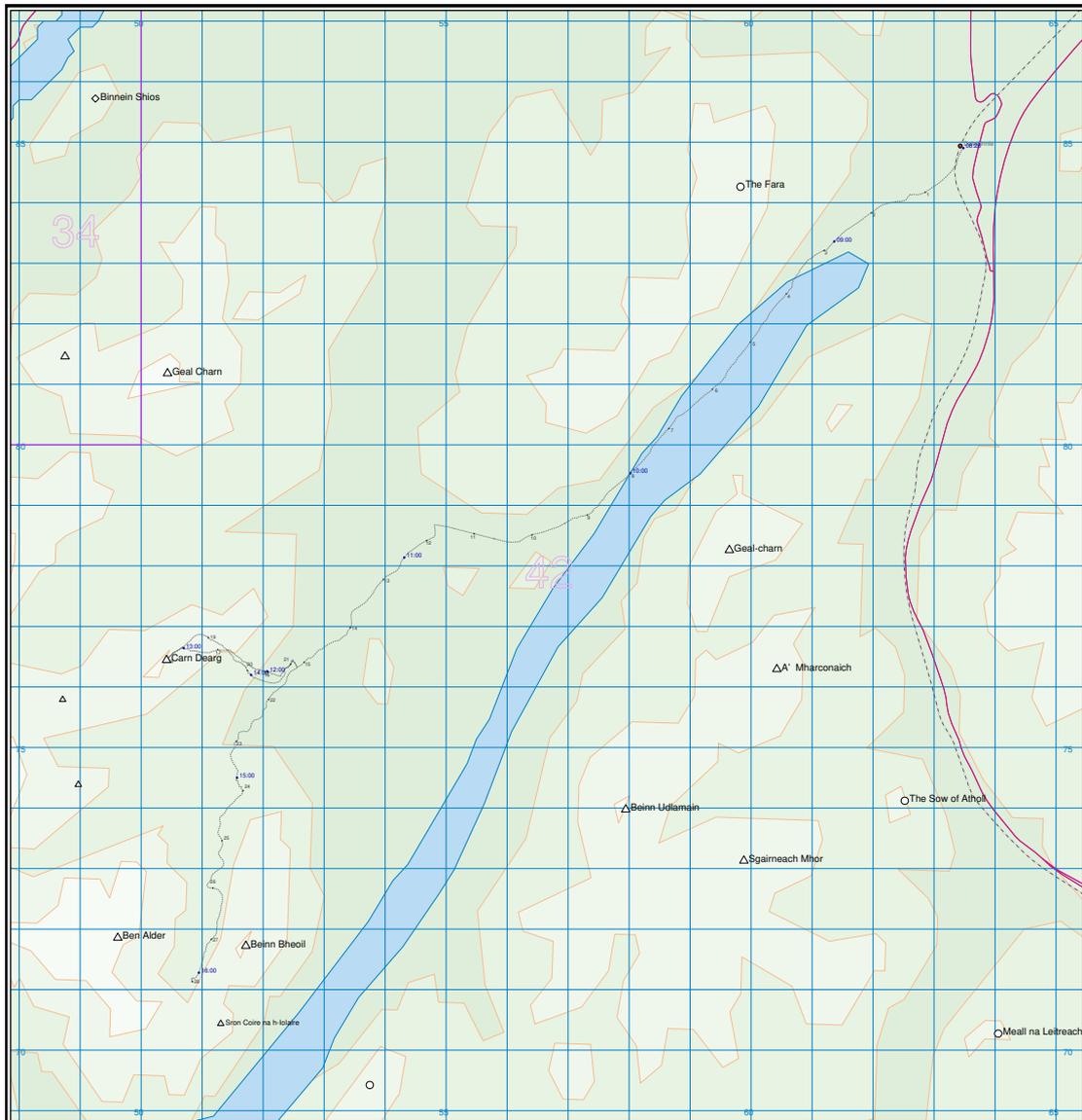


## Climbing notes — October 2014

*Fri 3 Oct* **Walk in to Culra** — DC — Landranger 42

Arrived by sleeper at Dalwhinnie just after 7am in strong wind and heavy rain. Retired to the rather cold and dark waiting room to sort out kit. At 7.45 wandered down to see if the promised early breakfast at the cafe was available, but it was not. Waited in the bus shelter for a while, but at 8.30 there being still no sign of breakfast, but slightly less rain, set off south over the railway crossing and onto a well maintained estate road beside Loch Ericht. Two hours steady tramp brought us away from the loch, out of the forestry and onto an excellent stalkers' path. Another hour on this path brought us across some wild and boggy moorland to the sturdy footbridge over the river near the Culra bothy (525764), [15km, 375m, 3h00]. Ate some food and rested for 20 minutes.

Leaving the bags under the near side of the bridge, crossed, briefly inspected the closed-but-not-actually-locked bothy, and, in improving weather, set off up the steep grassy slopes above. A series of stiff pulls and a short ridge walk brought us to the chilly top of **▲ Carn Dearg**, 1034m, (504765), at about 13.10 [18km, 960m, 4h40]. Returned to the bridge to retrieve the bags, and set off SW as the clouds gathered and the rain came on again, by about 14.25. Made good progress on the path for about an hour as far as the outlet of the *Lochan Bealach Beithe* (512727) where the path deteriorated to a boggy morass along the eastern shore of the lochan. In moderate to heavy rain, floundered along for another 30 mins to reach the southern end and a very welcome small patch of dry-ish level ground, which made a chilly campsite (508711) [28km, 1350m, 7h30].



Both got rather cold putting up the tent, but an hour in the bags followed by hot vegetable goo and chocolate improved things. Went to sleep to the sound of the stream, the deer, and the rain.

Sat 4 Oct **Across Ben Alder** — DC — Landranger 42

Up about 8am in cold and damp, breakfasted, struck camp and walking about 9.10am; a short climb up a rather better stalkers path brought us to the Bealach Breabag. Left the bags again (506703), and set off E up wet stony ground, in mist that kept coming and going. Some rough paths led us up to  $\Delta$  *Sron Coire na h-Iolair*, 955m, (513704), and thence down fairly steeply (with views back down to the campsite, and a brief shower of wet snow), and so up to **▲Beinn Bheoil**, 1019m, (517717) by 10.15 [3.5km, 375m, 1h00].

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From there, returned to bags and then very slowly up steep grassy slopes to reach  $\Delta$  *Sron Bealach Beithe* by 11.30 and so over the gentle rises and dips of the plateau to **▲Ben Alder**, 1148m, (496718) by noon [8km, 800m, 2h50]. From here descended westwards for an hour or more on gentle slopes that became gradually steeper down to the stalkers' path at 469721. Here DC unloaded some food etc into a carrier bag for TET and set off solo (but with three Scotsmen just behind him) to Bealach Dubh and thence to do **▲Geal Charn**, **▲Aonach Beag**, and **▲Beinn Eibhinn**. Meanwhile TET bimbled on down to cross the *Uisghe Labhair* at 462722 and then follow the boggy track on the N side down to camp at 433704. [17km, 950m, 6h00]. TET pitched camp, dried the inside of the tent, etc, and was re-joined by DC soon after 5pm [DC: 28km, 1600m, 8h00]. A fine cool evening with occasional blustery showers, was followed by a wet and windy night.

Sun 5 Oct **Rannoch and Corroul Forests** — DC — Landranger 42 mostly

Awoke to sounds of heavy rain with occasional droplets spraying through into the inner tent, and eventually up at about 8am again when the rain eased. Set off at 9.10am again, and immediately crossed the river (where it flows between two large rock shelves) to avoid the enormous hydro works lower down. Plodded up wet, boggy, heather-clad slopes, and eventually came out onto easier ground and thence up gentle slopes to  $\Delta$  *Sgor Coinnich*, 928m, 444683, by 10.20am. From there steeply down to about 800m, and then up again on thin paths in thick mist to **▲Sgor Gaibhre**, 953m, 445674, some 30 minutes later [4km, 600m, 1h45].

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From here, turned SW and with increasingly S to SSW breeze, thick mist and occasional rain descended steadily to bealach at 432669, and then long pull up in deteriorating weather, over a couple of small knolls and dips to the shapely cairn on **▲Carn Dearg**, 948m, 418661 before noon [7.5km, 840m, 2h50]. After only the briefest stops in thick cloud, descended WNW over boggy, heathery ground eventually to find the memorial and the stalkers' track at 393670 before 1pm. Sat for a while and eat some lunch, then trotted along the (occasionally very wet) track to the YHA hostel at the end of Loch Ossian by 1.40pm [13km, 870m, 4h30].

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Hostel was unpleasantly crowded, but beer and a steak supper at the Corroul Station House restaurant improved things, and the rough weather overnight confirmed the hostel was a better choice than the tent.

Mon 6 Oct Early train to Fort William for breakfast, coffee, shopping, swimming, steaming, reading, and a stroll before the evening sleeper home. Slept very well until (very) rudely awoken at 4am for unexpected train change in Edinburgh. Home a couple of hours later than planned but not too bad overall.

## Climbing notes — April 2016

*Wed 6 Apr* Driving north, stayed at M6 Travelodge, Knutsford

*Thu 7 Apr* **Southern Black Mounth** — DC, CET — Landranger 50

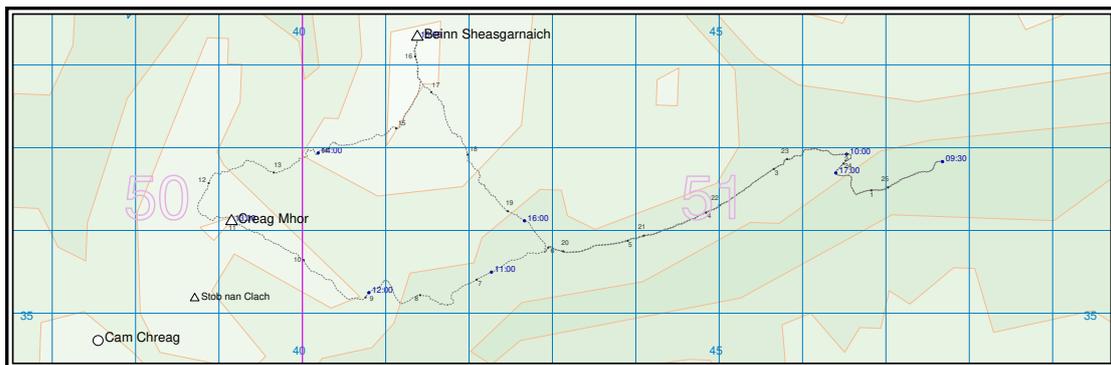
Up and on the motorway early; breakfast at Tebay, filled up with fuel near Helensburgh, then parked near Victoria Bridge 270418 by lunch time. Toggled up and set off by about 13:15 in fairly cool breezy weather with high cloud. An hour's march on landrover track and old stalkers paths brought us to a big stream crossing 253446. Paused to fill bottles in pleasant spring sunshine.

From there, up north-east, then northwards on a zig-zag track that was a bit damp in places, rather directly up to **▲ Stob a'Choire Odhair**, 945m, 258459, with TT lagging a long way behind (partly thanks to a phone call) by about 15:30. After that descended W to the flat bealach, where TT turned back down to the path and DC and CET went on to tackle the Aonach Eagach and **▲ Stob Ghabhar**, 1090m, 230455 apparently in nice thick fresh spring snow. TT back to the car by 17:49, CET and DC a couple of hours later. Good supper at Bridge of Orchy hotel and then stayed at Glengarry House, just south of Tyndrum (a little crowded but very good).

*Fri 8 Apr* **At the head of Glen Lochay** — DC, CET – Harvey's Glen Lyon

Good breakfast and away by 8.30, round to new car park near Kenknock Farm in Glen Lochay (476368), via the Co-op in Killin. Walking by 9.30, for about two hours, along farm roads and LR track alongside strange pipelines and waterworks. Eventually crossed a large stream in a deep gully and followed paths up steep grassy slopes of Sron nan Eun, coming out shortly after midday onto easier ground and better paths that led for a mile or so along the ridge to **▲ Creag Mhor**, 1047m, 391361, reached by about 12:50 [11km, 1005m, 3h20]. Despite the forecast of a fine day, it rained and then snowed quite hard on the upper part of the ascent.

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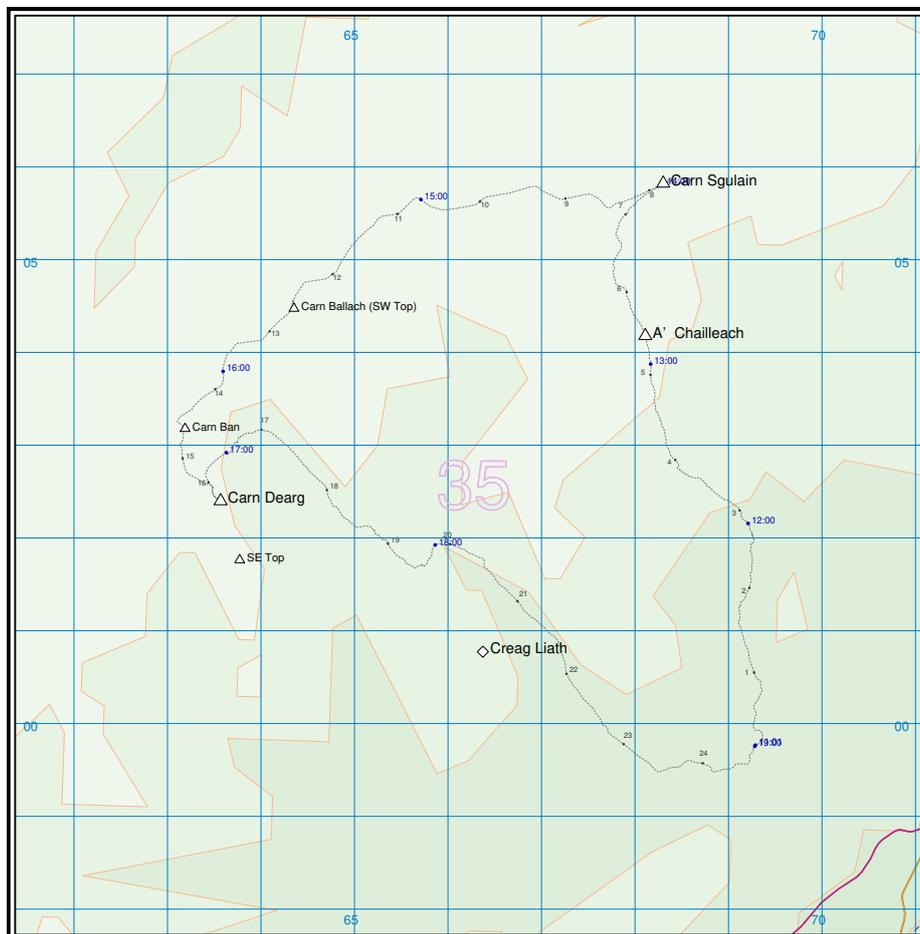
After a brief bite to eat in a very chilly N wind, descended W, then N, then NE over large patches of soft snow down to the bealach (397367), and then up steeply at first, and on firmer ground higher up, with the mist coming and going. Eventually along to **▲ Beinn Heasgarnich**, 1078m, 414383 by 15:00. [16km, 1480m, 5h25]. Back down on trackless snowy and very boggy grass to the waterworks track and so back to the car, a bit footsore, by about 17:20 [26km, 1560m, 7h50].

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Drove on to Coshievile House which was excellent (nice long bath with plenty of hot water). Good supper at Three Lemons in Aberfeldy.

Sat 9 Apr **Snow on the Monaidh Liath** — DC, CET — Landranger 35

After a fine breakfast at Coshieville House, and shopping for more food in Aberfeldy, drove round over Drumochter to Newtonmore and parked out at the end of the public road in Glen Banchor (692996).



Togged up in chilly wind, overcast and threatening rain, set off by 11:15 on good LR track. After an hour or so of very gentle climbing, this petered out and continued on boggy paths beside a small river. Crossed the river and then headed more directly NW up hill on very wet grassy slopes, which led us to **▲ A' Chailleach**, 930m, 681041 shortly after 1pm [5.4km, 630m, 1h55].

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Northwards the snow was much thicker; descended to a snow bridge in a little gully and then up on steep new snow on the Monaidh Liath plateau. Rather slow going over rough ground with thick snow brought us round to **▲ Carn Sgulain** by 14:00 [7.6km, 750m, 2h45]. From here, turned about, and followed the fence over many rolling miles with thick fresh snow in most places. Hard work kicking steps up the steep bits but not too bad on the flat. Capriciously the sun came out to mock our lack of sunglasses, but it was nevertheless an enjoyable, if tiring, snow-tramp for the next 2.5 hours, crossing the two tops,  $\triangle$  *Carn Ballach* 920m, 643045 and  $\triangle$  *Carn Ban* 942m, 631031. Reached **▲ Carn Dearg**, 945m, 635024 by 16:35 [15.6km, 1060m, 5h20]. From there, descended NE down some fine snow slopes, to a very boggy valley and floundered for the next hour until picked up the top of the estate path, which led down to wide green meadows and led back to the car by 19:00 [25km, 1150m, 7h45].

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Thence back to rather substandard accommodation in Newtonmore; make a point of avoiding the execrable Highlander Hotel in future.

*Sun 10 Apr* **A boggy leg-stretch** — DC, CET — Landranger 35

Having escaped from the hotel as early as possible, drove round to Garva Bridge (521947) and scrambled up on what must be some of the boggiest and worst maintained paths in the whole of the highlands to **▲ Geal Charn**, 926m, 561988. There being no obvious alternative escape route, descended the ascent route splashing down wet grassy slopes and finishing alongside a pretty stream and river. Back to the car on the dot of 13:00 [13km, 700m, 3h50].

Good lunch at the Watermill in Aberfeldy, then took DC to Glasgow Airport for flight. TT and CET to New Cumnock for supper with family (and a really good B&B at Dalleagles).

## Climbing notes — September 2016

*Sat 24 Sep* Drove north to stay with Catherine and Tommy.

*Sun 25 Sep* **Ben Ledi** — AJFT, CET — BMM Southern Highlands

Drove to Callander for map and food, and then on to park at the end of the public road just above Brig o' Turk 571073. Laced boots during heavy shower, and when it had passed, set off along a lane that wound through the woods above the Glen Finglas reservoir for about a mile. Crossed a large stream at about 532086, and from there up on rough grassy slopes with almost no path. Steeper and rockier further up, with a chilly breeze, brought us up to **● Ben Ledi**, 879m, 562098, by about lunch time. From the summit, walked north, then west to pick up the newish track further up Glen Casaig, and thence down to the road and back to the car. [13km, 750m, 4h] Back to Larbert for supper. (16)

*Mon 26 Sep* **Rivers and rain showers** — AJFT, CET — BMM Cairngorms

Drove north to Braemar, arriving about 11am. Drove round to Linn of Dee and then on to Linn of Quoich to park at 117910. Set off to inspect the ruined bridge, waded across the Quoich Water at about 12:00, and then spent 30 mins exploring the woods, before continuing out onto open hillside heading north. Mostly walking on rough boggy grass having failed to spot the small but well defined path (the Cicerone guide book not being very helpful here). An hour's steady climbing brought us up to **● Carn na Drochaide**, 818m, 127939 by about 13:30. Sat for 20 min eating lunch, then descended WNW along the ridge, before turning SW and picking up a good path that brought us back to the start, via a rather easier river crossing at a small waterfall in the woods. Back to the car by about 15:20. [11km, 590m, 3h30]. Back round to Braemar, and the Cranford Guest House in pleasant late afternoon sunshine. (17)

*Tue 27 Sep* **Gales and guns** — AJFT, CET — BMM Cairngorms

A late start to allow rain to clear, and then rather lazily drove a couple of miles south along A93 to park at 156882 by midday. Set off in strong breeze to walk up the Glen Callater path. Met 'stalkers' in smart Land Rover after less than a mile, and agreed to keep out of the way of the shooting party. Further up, saw a long cavalcade of vehicles heading away from our hill, so reverted to plan A, including another river crossing near

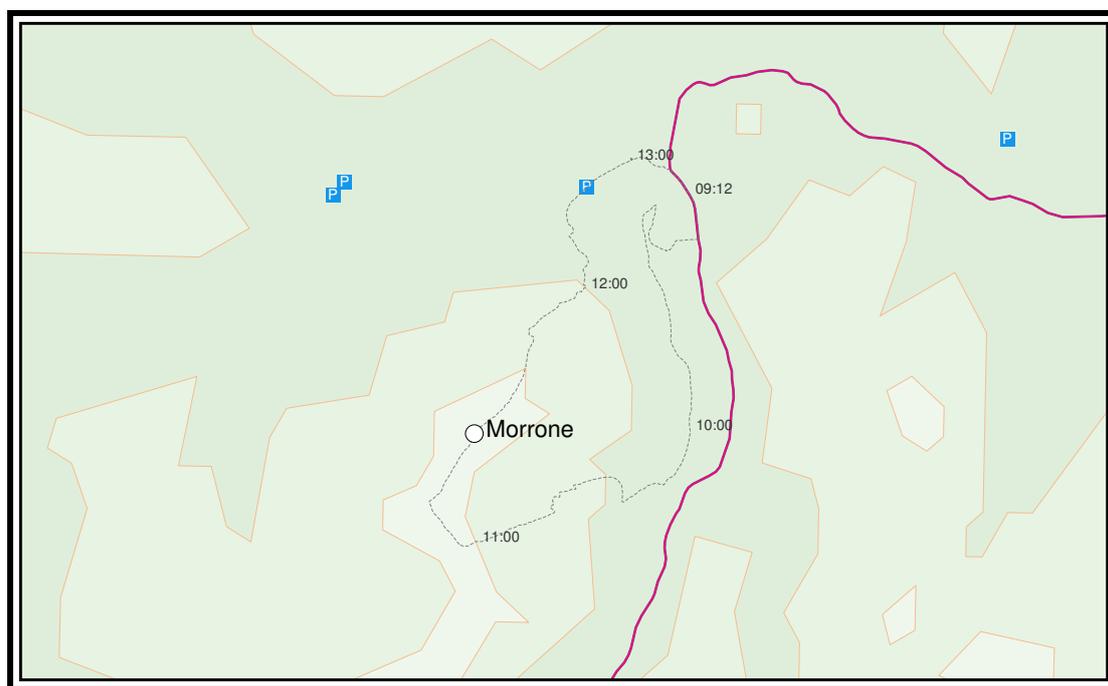
168851, and a second encounter with the same Land Rover (which appeared to have lost the rest of the party), then some cheerful beaters.

Heading up more steeply on good dry ground with broken rocks and short grass, a stiff haul into the teeth of the westerly gale brought us to the top of ●**Craig nan Gabhar**, 834m, 154841 by 14:00. Lovely blowy day with 40% high cloud and blowing a full Force 8 gale on top. Sat in the shelter of the cairn for about 15 minutes then down with the wind on our backs. Swung north, and then gently down for 4km with good going and fine views along the broad grassy ridge. At the end down by rather poor LR track to pick up the road at the bottom and so back to the car by 15:45. [14km, 590m, 3h45]. (18)

*Wed 28 Sep* **Birds and approaching rain** — AJFT, CET — BMM Cairngorms

Breakfasted early, and set off from B&B shortly after 09:00. Following advice, walked up to the golf course but were not brave enough to climb the fence and march across the fairways, so followed the path down to the river, then downstream to the public foot bridge at 150909 to cross the Clunie. Thence up the small road on the W bank for a mile or so to find the LR track that starts up the hill at about 152882 by about 10am.

Thence marched steadily up for some time. A grey morning, with a chilly breeze and very obvious approaching rain. Counted several hundreds of game birds, which had apparently taken refuge from the shooting on the other side of the A93. Gained the broad flat ridge in about an hour, and then after a little dip up on wide track to the disfigured summit of ●**Morrone**, 859m, 132886 by about 11:20. As the rain came on. (19)  
The disfigurement on top includes a large concrete block house and the radio mast. The clouds were still quite high, so the view was still extensive.



Down northwards on the prettier side of the hill, in moderate drizzle, and back to the town by about 12:30. [13km, 620m, 3h20]. Warmed up with lunch and coffee in ‘Taste’ café. In the afternoon hired bikes and cycled up to Linn of Dee and the Red House bothy.

*Thu 29 Sep* Drive home via Glasgow, and Hadrian’s Wall.

## Climbing notes — September 2017

*Sat 9 Sep* TET and AJFT drove north to stay at Marriott Worsley Park.

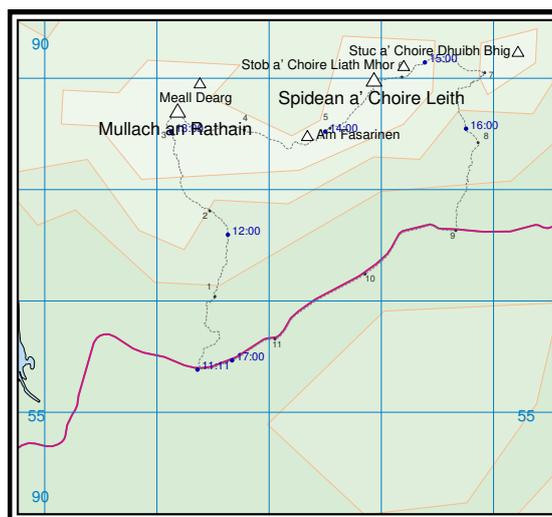
*Sun 10 Sep* On to Glasgow for lunch with FER, and thence to Old Manse Guest House, Lochcarron.

*Mon 11 Sep* **Liathach** — AJFT — BMM Torridon, Landranger 25

Up to pouring rain, as per forecast, and enjoyed a hearty slow breakfast. Set off about 10 and drove north to Glen Torridon, parked the car under the trees at about NG913553, got changed, and sat for a while watching the rain. At about 11.15 it eased off (again as forecast), and set out with small rainbows in the glen. Up rapidly on the well made path, which was amazingly dry given the torrential rain of the last few weeks. All the streams and falls in high spate. Pegged away steadily for an hour to reach *Toll Ban* corrie, and then increasingly steeply up, still on a good path that eventually gave way to rough sandy scree; emerged on the ridge just below the summit. From there steeply up on grassy ground at first then rocky scree to reach the tall finger-like cairn of **▲Mullach an Rathain** (1023m, NG911576) at about 13.15 [1000m, 3.3km]. Had lunch and decided to continue considering weather was not too bad.

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Set off eastwards on rough ground, with occasional glimpses of a view. Dropped quickly, bypassing most of the little tops on thin paths to south of the ridge. Occasionally coming back to the ridge at airy bealachs where the cloud was boiling up from the north in the fresh NW gale. Reached  $\triangle$  *Am Fasarin* (NG923574) about 13.45, and thence skirted below the south side of the pinnacle ridge, on very thin paths with steep drops, all very wet from rain, but no major issues. Rejoined the main ridge for last steep climb on unpleasantly rocky scree – hard going to reach **▲Spidean a' Choire Leith** (1055m, NG929579) by about 14.30 [1200m, 5.7km]. From here the rain came on. Worked our way further along the ridge, crossing  $\triangle$  *Stob a' Choire Liath Mhor* (983m NG932581) and then along to the top of the path by about 15.15. From here steeply down, in frequent heavy showers, merging to longer spells of heavy rain on a rough path, that did not really improve lower down despite obvious attempts to make a proper path. Very wet in the lower slopes and hard going; down to the road by about 16.30.

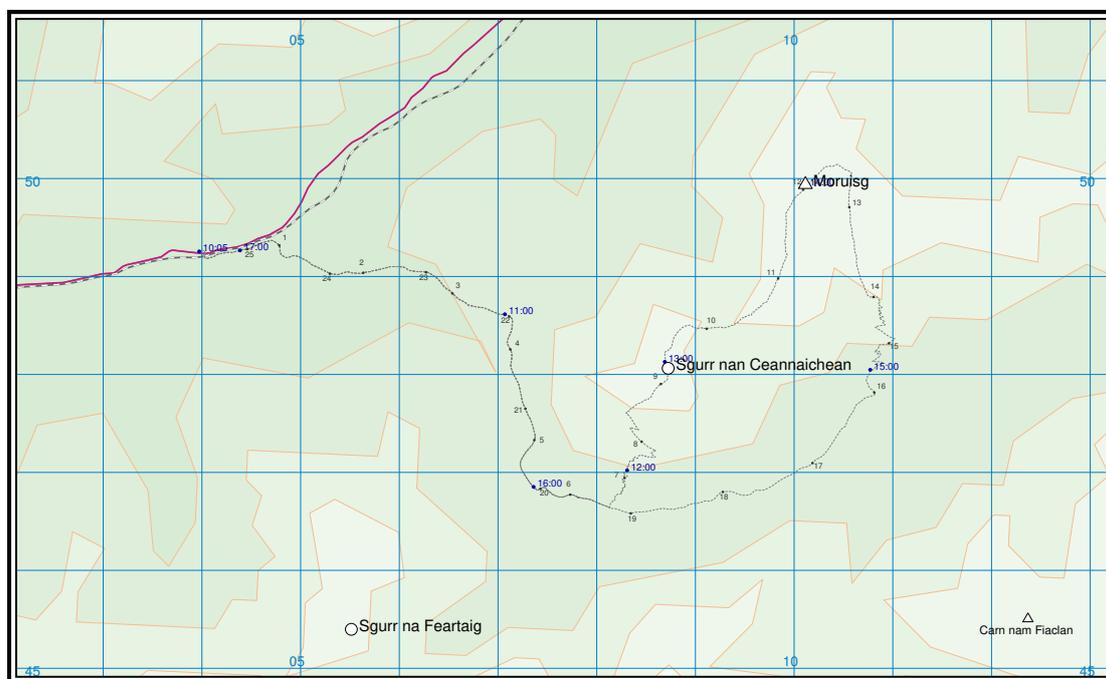


And then walked back to the car in about 45 minutes, including an enjoyable 20 minutes of warm sunshine that had almost dried us out, when yet more heavy showers closed in

for the evening. Back to the car by about 17.10 [about 13.5km, 1250m climbing, plus very steep descent]. Naismith 5h30, actual 6 hours. Which shows that Naismith knew nothing about the terrain on Liathach.

*Tue 12 Sep* **Moruisg** — AJFT — Landranger 25

Parked in the very dank, hidden car park opposite the private level crossing at Craig (NH 040492). Changed and set off soon after 10am in drizzle. Crossed the road, and the level crossing onto the well made estate road which dips to a concrete bridge across the river then swings away from some new hydro scheme or other plant, to climb steadily up, with the Allt a' Chonais roaring away below, to a high point of about 285m at about NH069486 by 11am. From here the path gets a little rougher, and drops down beside the upper part of the river, where there is a precarious wire bridge, and a series of little cairns mark the various boggy paths branching off to the south for Lurg Mhor etc. Followed the track further east as it began to climb up again; reached the foot of the first old stalkers' path at NH081466. [6.4km, 300m, 1h35].



The path, indistinct at first, and grassy and soggy underfoot, rises in a well-engineered series of zig-zags up the steep grassy SW slopes. In places it is washed away but it was always easy to find and made for a gentle ascent. Higher up the zig-zags get rather longer, until they eventually stop at an open stand at about NH083476. From here made our way up on steep wet grass with occasional stony outcrops, to reach the smaller cairn that marks the true summit of ● **Sgurr nan Ceannaichean** (NH087480) by about 1pm. (20)  
The top is now officially re-surveyed and confirmed to be 913.43m, or about 3 ft short of a Munro, and has been classed as separate Corbett. Walked over to the larger (but lower) cairn and had a very quick bite to eat, as the chilly rain came on [9.3km, 1040m, 2h55].

From here dropped down rapidly to the col (728m) at NH093484, and thence steadily up on easy ground with a few small hillocks, to reach ▲ **Moruisg**, 928m, NH101499, 274  
about 2 pm [13km, 1270m, 4h00]. Chilly NNW breeze and more or less incessant rain.

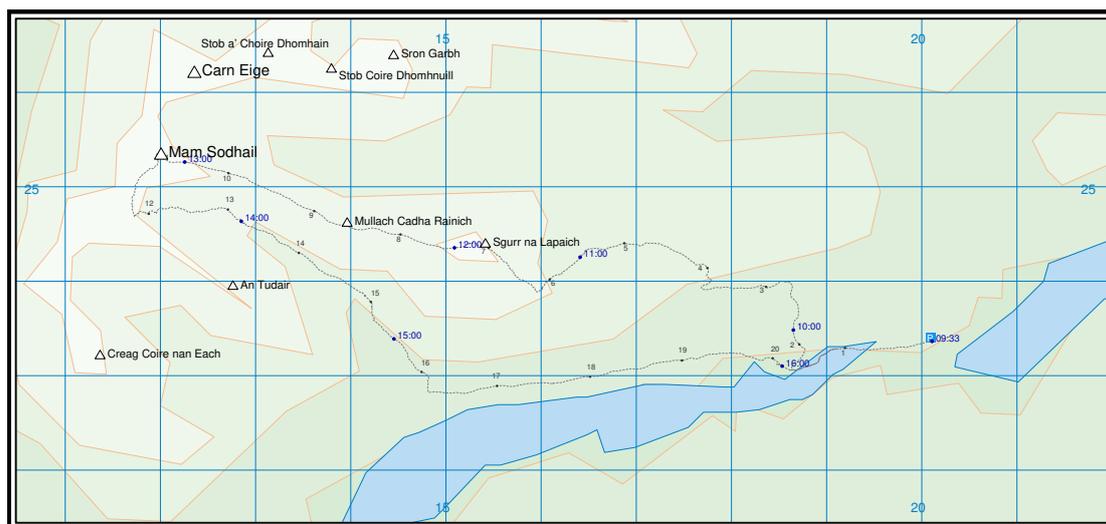
Headed off north, round the head of the broad depression to the east of the summit, then back south down wet and boggy grass, to cross a deep stream, and find the tiny cairn that marks the start of the other stalker's path. Another series of well-made zig-zags took us down damply to a big stream above the shooting lodge, and from there dropped directly to the estate track, shortly after 3 pm. From there tramped out the 9km back to Craig in good time, with mixed showers and sunshine, returning to the car park just after 5pm [26km, 1520m, 7h00] (Naismith 7h45).

In the evening drove over to Muir of Ord to Home Farm B&B, for tea, baths, and later rubbery burgers in the Lovat Arms in Beaulieu.

*Wed 13 Sep* Rest day, pottering about the Black Isle, including a good leg stretch along the beaches between Fortrose and Rosmarkie. Supper in the Indian restaurant in Beaulieu, waiting for (and later giving up on) Ben. Second night at Home Farm.

*Thu 14 Sep* **Glen Affric wash out** — AJFT, ORBS — Landranger 25

Up betimes, and met Ben as arranged in Beaulieu. Thence in convoy to Cannich and beyond to the big car park at the end of the public road in Glen Affric (NH201233). Booted, gaitered, and prepared pieces hastily thanks to midges and set off down the road just after 09.30. A damp morning, with drizzle and occasional sunshine.



Just before the posh new gates of the much enlarged estate house, left the road and followed an estate track winding up the hill to the north, to gain the low ridge, where a much rougher path leaves at a tiny cairn. Followed this across 2km of boggy moorland, as the rain came on and the wind picked up, to reach the long, steep nose up to  $\triangle$  *Sgurr na Lapaich* (1036m, 3399ft) NH154244. Reached the top after a tiring 30 minutes climb, a little before noon [7km, 920m, 2h20].

From here the ridge rolled away WNW for 4km, and would have given delightful walking were it not for the full NW gale and the incessant driving rain. Struggled along at a fairly good pace, crossing or at least passing very close to the top of  $\triangle$  *Mullach Cadha Rainich*, and then up the final steep pull to reach  $\blacktriangle$  **Mam Sodhail** (1181m, 3875ft) NH120253 soon after 1pm. [11km, 1250m, 3h35].

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Climbed into the huge square shelter-cairn to escape the wind, togged up, and ate a bit of lunch. Constant rain and thick cloud, wind gale force NW — the weather being quite so cold and wet, and showing no signs of relenting, decided to turn back and escape

down into Coire Leachavie. Climbed out of the shelter, and set out S and SW past the ruin of the Victorian surveyors' shelter, and so down to the obvious cairn marking the head of the path up from Loch Affric. Dropped down steeply, on wet grass and rough wet path, beside the roaring Allt Coire Leachavie, relieved to be in slightly less of the gale. The rain did not let up, and after an hour ORBS slipped and damaged an ankle. Slowly down to the broader path at about NH140240, and then TET on ahead to fetch the car as far up the road as possible.

TET back to the estate lodge by about 4pm [21km, 1475m, 6h30], got a lift along to the car, and drove back to the estate. AJFT and ORBS reached there about 5.15pm [21km, 1475m, 7h45]. Rain had broken up into sunshine and (heavy) showers, with rainbows by about 3.30pm. In the evening drove via Inverness and Tomintoul to Braemar. TET with intermittent renal colic. Stayed at the ever-reliable Cranford (but arrived too late for supper).

*Fri 15 Sep* **Bikes to Bhreac** — AJFT — Harvey's Cairngorms

Up fairly lazily for breakfast, and potted into Braemar (a) to get things for Ben from the chemist, and (b) to buy a new top and hire bikes from Braemar MS. Eventually stashed the bikes in the car and drove to a rather damp and midgy Linn of Dee car park (now £3 to park) (NO063898). Cool morning with showers and a NW breeze. Set off with bikes just after midday. Short muddy track leads north to a wooden causeway across a bog and then eventually onto the estate road leading to Derry Lodge. Rode about 1km beyond the lodge to leave the bikes in the heather beside the path at 044943, and then walked on for another 600m to find a small cairn at 045950, marking the start of a very wet path up through the trees. With showers now merging, climbed up on the open grassy slopes following the clear, boggy path, up onto firmer steeper slopes, to reach the col between the two tops, and then swing E to reach **▲Beinn Bhreac**, (931m, NO058970) by 2pm [10km, 715m, 2h00].

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Stopped for five minutes lunch in the (minimal) shelter of the cairn, and then headed off south, down gravelly banks which gave good walking for 1km until as far as the steeper ground. Then worked W and SW to pick up our upward path around 050955, and then damply back to the bikes by 3pm. Rode out in occasional sunshine, with rainbows and more frequent heavy showers, and were back to the car park at 3.25pm. [19.7km, 850m of which about 12km cycling, and 8km of walking, in 3h25].

Back to Cranford for baths, tea, and then later supper over the road in the Braemar Lodge Hotel. ORBS hobbling about with ankle strapped up.

*Sat 16 Sep* **Bikes to Chaorainn** — AJFT — Harvey's Cairngorms

Up rather earlier for breakfast and back to Linn of Dee with rather muddier bikes. Left the car park about 10am, and rode up beyond Derry Lodge again (where the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue were starting an exercise, with four Landrovers and the Coastguard helicopter), leaving the bikes a bit further on at 045949. What had been quite a pleasant morning, soon gave way to heavy showers on the NW breeze, that eventually became continuous driving rain again. Tramped on N up Glen Derry on the (mostly) good path, that became increasingly wet and boggy further up. After about an hour and several wet stream crossings, reached the *Glas Allt Mor* coming down from the *Moine Bhealaidh* up above us to the E in full spate thanks to all the rain. Climbed up beside it for some way looking for safe crossing points, but finding none decided to push on up on to the moorland anyway. Slow going on very steep, wet grass with only the occasional sheep-trod to follow.

Eventually emerged on to the boggy plateau, that is cut across with innumerable peat hags and little streams flowing W. Floundered along in driving rain and cold wind blowing NW force 6-7. Slowly up on to steeper ground with less bog but more unstable rocky scree outcrops, and reached the large cairn of pinkish rocks that marks the summit of **▲Beinn a' Chaorainn** (1083m, NJ045013) by about 1.30pm. [15.5km, 1000m, 3h30]. Stopped for 5 mins to tog up and eat something, then turned tail and fled S, downwind, back down the ascent route. Descending it was easier to find a slightly better line across the bog, but the second half of the 4km or so back to the path was hard going down wet grassy, heathery slopes, and it was a relief to get back to the path by 2.30pm. Marched out in improving weather, back to the bikes by about 3.40pm, and back to the car park by about 4.10pm. [31km, 1210m of which about 13km cycling, 17km walking].

Back to Braemar to return the bikes, then to Cranford for more baths, tea, and supper in the Braemar Lodge again.

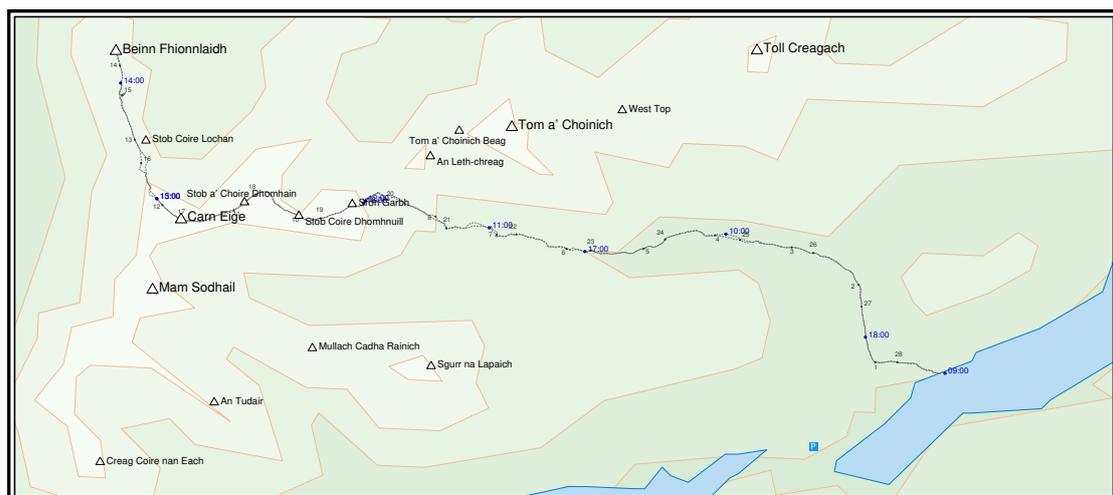
*Sun 17 Sep* Driving south — TET, AJFT to Larbert for coffee and scones, then motorway slog back to Kingston — ORBS more slowly, via Dundee and St Andrews to EDI for flight home.

## Climbing notes — September 2018

*Wed 12 Sep* TET drove north with car load for Avondale Place. AJFT drove us on in the late afternoon to Drumnadrochit, via Dalwhinnie and Spean Bridge. Breezy early autumn day with showers. Stayed at High March B&B (rather twee, and smelled of soap). Supper next door in even stranger pub that served ersatz-Italian food, and very strange beer from Skye. Slept very well.

*Thu 13 Sep* **Return to Glen Affric** — AJFT — Landranger 25

Up for breakfast at 7.30, and off shortly after 8.00. Parked in the new and entirely empty, car park at NH216243, and set off shortly after 9.00 on the neat new path up through woodland that cuts off the lower section of the track and the road.



Breezy and overcast, with occasional showers. Good going for a couple of miles as far as the new micro-hydro scheme at NH195259, then rather rougher going for more than an hour on very boggy, undulating ground beside the *Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh*,

underneath the steep SE shoulder of **▲Tom a Choinnich** as far as the big stream coming down from the high corrie south of *An Leth-chreag*. From here steeply up on remnants of old paths and wet grass to a big cairn on the ridge, and then a short but brutal ascent up to  $\triangle$  *Sron Garbh* (1131m, NH144263), shortly after midday [9km, 1140m 3h10].

From here, very fine ridge walk over the pinnacles of the two Stob Coire tops,  $\triangle$  *Stob Coire Dhomhnuill* (1137m, 3730ft) NH137262 and  $\triangle$  *Stob a' Choire Dhomhain* (1147m, 3763ft) NH131264, brought us along to the summit of **▲Carn Eige** (1183m, 3881ft) NH123261, just before 13.00 [11.7km, 1275m, 3h50]. The breeze had developed into a full SW gale (about force 8, gusting 9 or more), with more or less continual showers, but cloud mostly just above the tops, so visibility was still good. Pushed on directly north and (a long way) down on good paths, but fighting a buffeting cross-wind. Steady going and then some steep climbing along the ridge with odd pockets of calm and then some ferociously exposed areas. The little outcrop of rocks at the top of the last climb up provided the best shelter. We reached here about 13.30, and then it was level going for the last few 100 metres to the large cairn of **▲Beinn Fhionnlaidh** (1005m, 3297ft) NH115282. Fine views all round, with clear air and cloud scudding along above us [13.8km, 1440m, 4h35]. Returned to the little outcrop just to the south to tog up and eat a bit. A bit chilly to sit about for long in the minimal shelter.

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Set off again about 14.00, descending rocky paths down the rounded shoulder of the ridge on the way back down to Bealach Beag. In a sudden squall Fred's glasses were blown off his nose and flew out of sight; fortunately after 20 mins of diligent searching found them again, over 60m down wind. Continued on down, then steeply back up, in buffeting wind to reach **▲Carn Eige** shortly after 15.00. From there back along the winding ridge for an hour with the wind more or less on our backs, and so down the steep rocky nose of *Sron Garbh* and back down on wet grass. Back to the 'path' by about 16.30, and then a wet and tiring hour floundering beside the river brought us back to the hydro road, and so easily back to the car by about 18.25. [29km, 2240m, 9h25]. Naismith: 9h32.

*Fri 14 Sep* **Central Cairngorms** — AJFT — Harvey's Cairngorm map

Stayed in Kincaig at Braeriach Guest House (which was rather good). Up for breakfast at 8am, and drove round by Feshiebridge and Loch Morlich to the Coire Cas car park in the Cairngorm Ski area (NH989060).

Set off a little before 10am and marched steadily up the ski roads, and then the well-made Fiacaill ridge path, to reach the large cairn (1141m) at the top in about an hour from the car. Still breezy SW wind, heavy rain on the drive up, cleared to showers. Chilly up on the plateau. From the cairn, set off south heading to Coire Raibeirt, and soon picked up another well-made path, descending on a very easy gradient with good views ahead. After a mile the path drops steeply as the stream becomes more of a cascade. Roughly down on rocky steps, and eventually across the stream to descend diagonally on an even rougher and more rocky path to the edge of Loch Avon, crossed the river (NJ004017) and then wound our way up the other side on a better path, to emerge on the slightly damp, but easier, ground below Loch Etchachan. After 10 minutes or so, spotted a minuscule cairn (NJ011005) and then turned ENE and up hill for a steep kilometre which brought us to the first of the bairns, from there gently descended, then up over rocky ground to reach the fine tor that marks the summit of **▲Beinn Mheadhoin** (1182m, 3878ft) NJ024016 by 13.25 [9km, 1100m, 3h30]. Walked round the back to the gentler side, and scrambled up to sit on the broad flat top, with

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two circular stone basins eroded by pebbles. Too cold in the breeze to stay for long, so scrambled down again and toggled up to eat lunch (rather good provisions from Mellis in Stockbridge).

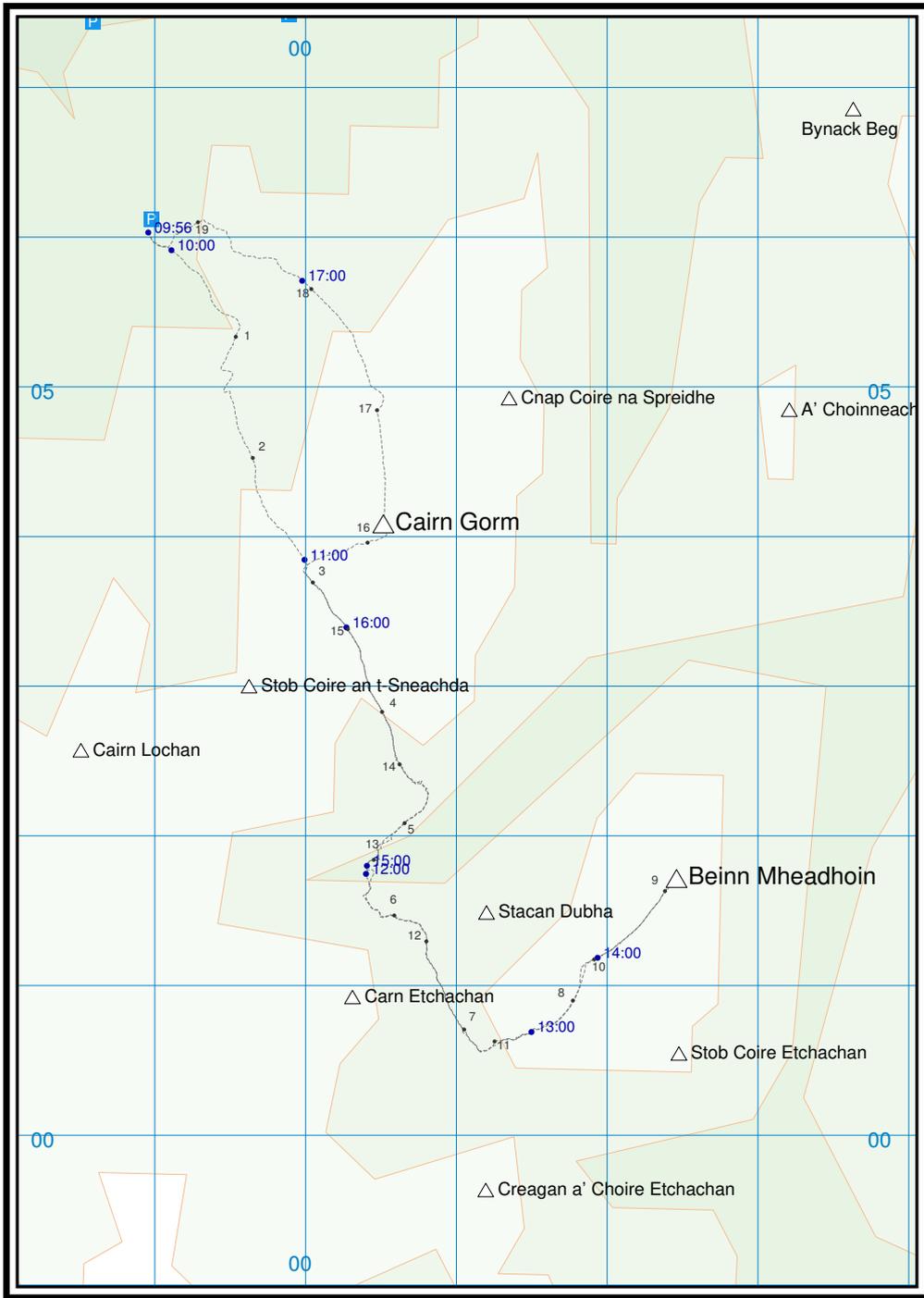
Set off again in hats and gloves (and with the lightest of snow flurries), to return. Back down to Loch Avon and very steeply (and fairly slowly) back up Coire Raibeirt. Back on the plateau, in more general evening sun, turned E and tramped up the broad path to ▲ **Cairngorm** summit, shortly before 16.30 [16km, 1800m, 6h30]. Met a very cold Dutchman dressed in jeans and without gloves. Thence down the line of cairns and the roped path back to the restaurant, and so very pleasantly down the well-maintained path down the ridge that sweeps north and west above the ski area, so get back to the car at about 17.30 [20km, 1850m, 7h30]. Naismith 7h05.

In the evening to burgers at the Boathouse beside Loch Insh, followed by baths at the Braeriach guest house, and a couple of pints in the Suie Bar.

*Sat 15 Sep* **Fife leg stretch** — AJFT — Landranger 58

After a leisurely breakfast, drove back south during the morning to reach Falkland by about lunch time. Strolled round the village finding things for lunch, and then drove up to the Lomond Hills car park at NO227061, for a gentle stroll on pleasant downland to the grassy mound of *West Lomond* with a trig point on top. (NO197066, 522m) Ate lunch admiring the fine views over rural Fife and bits of the North Sea. Back to the car by about 2.30 [7.5km, 250m, 2h00]. Thence back to Stockbridge to meet LSW and a fine supper at the Stockbridge Restaurant.

*Sum 16 Sep* After breakfast and marketing in Stockbridge, L & T drove home (fairly slowly at first on quiet roads through the Borders), and so back to Goring by about 8pm.



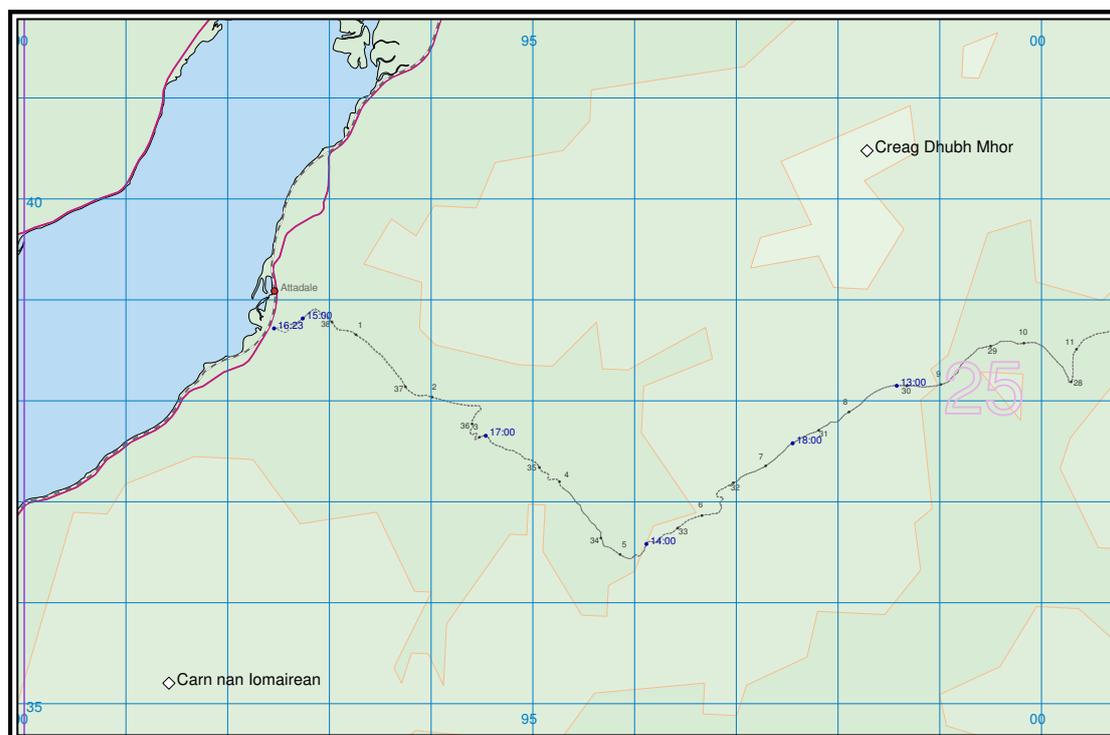
## Climbing notes — June 2019

*Fri 21 Jun* Drove north from Catherine & Tommy's via Patrick's of Camelon, Waitrose of Stirling, and Morrison of Inverness; car rather full. Arrived at *An Cos* in Shildaig about 5pm; house very good. Ben arrived about 6, David soon after midnight.

*Sat 22 Jun* **Warm up and walk in** — DC, AJFT + ORBS — Landranger 25

Quiet morning settling into the house, and seeing the village, waiting for Fred & Fiona to arrive. ORBS took off to investigate bike hire and 'look at' **Maol Chinn-dearg**, which took many hours and apparently included a quick inspection of the summit.

TET, DC, and AJFT set off about 1530 and drove to the walker's car park by Attadale Gardens at 924397. A pleasant sunny evening, with gentle westerly breezes enough to discourage most midges. Set off at 1623 for the long 12 km tramp out to Bendronaig Lodge; the old landrover track now obliterated by the much upgraded road for the hydro construction traffic. Rather hard going underfoot and a bit bleak to look at, with a surprising amount of climbing, but made good speed and got to the bridge beyond Bendronaig Lodge 018391 at about 1900. Left a note and some arrows for ORBS and turned right up the side stream to camp in *Coire na Sorna* at about 031393 with lovely late evening sunshine on *Ben Dronaig*. Pitched tents and had supper. ORBS joined us soon after 2100, just as the breeze died and the midges found us. Retired to sleeping bags and slept well (at least in part). [14.5km, 800m, 3h30]



Sun 23 Jun **Completion** — AJFT, ORBS, DC — Landranger 25

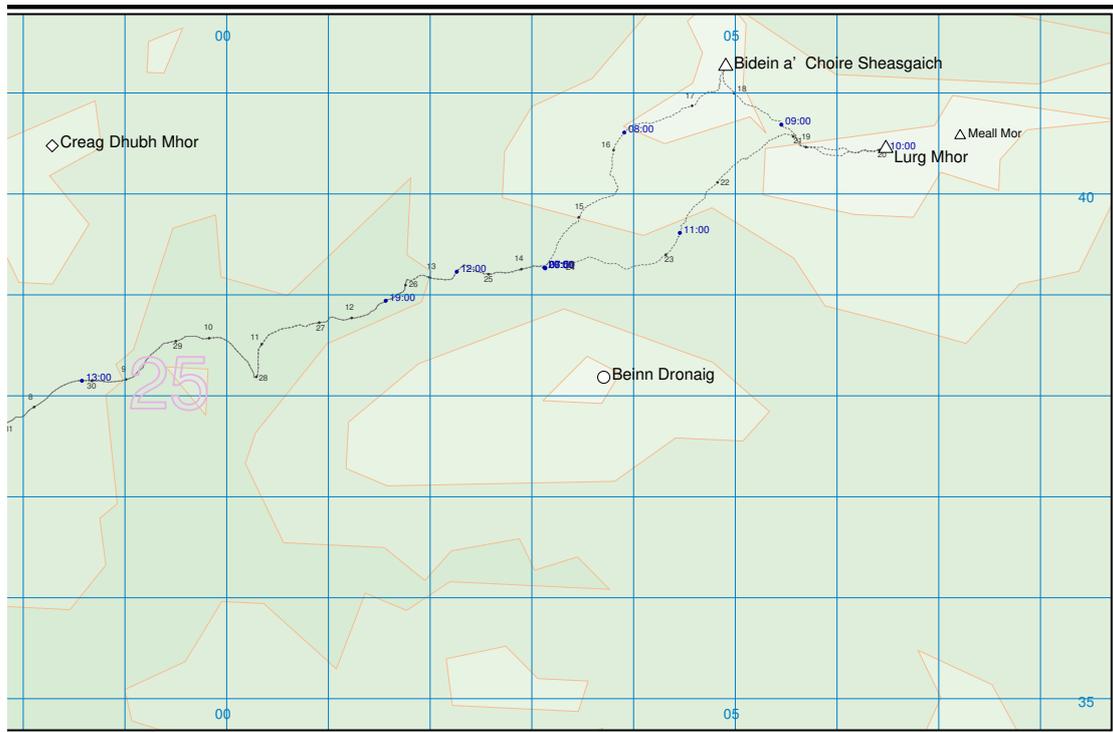
Up at 0600 to find the wind had shifted easterly, and strengthened to a fresh breeze. Cool but very pleasant with some high cloud, and promise of a good day. Having breakfasted and tidied up, set off (leaving tents) NE on fairly gentle grassy slopes with rocky outcrops to reach  $\circ$  *Sail Riabhach*, 038404, 771m after about 50 min of steady climbing. Fine views opened up on all sides, with low banks of light cloud blowing over in the brisk E wind. Regrouped in the lee of a large outcrop, togged up lightly then continued along the narrowing ridge, to reach the elegant summit of  $\blacktriangle$  **Bidean a' Choire Sheasgaich** (945m, 3100ft) NH049412 at about 0840 [3.5 km, 650m, 1h40]. After short stop to admire the view, especially to the west, regrouped and dropped down to the col to the E (NH055407, 730m) and then up on rocky ground, with a couple of steep shelves, but good walking and a clear path for about 2km to reach the neat cairn of  $\blacktriangle$  **Lurg Mhor** (986m, 3235ft) NH064404 perched close to the northerly cliff edge, and with wonderful views all round [5.5km, 980m, 2h40].

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AJFT produced a very welcome (and cold) bottle from his bag and we had a very happy celebration of TET's completion for about 20 mins in pleasant sunshine and what was by now a gentle breeze as the low cloud dispersed and the day got warmer. Soon after 1000 turned back W and climbed back down the steep shelves to the col, then yomped down fairly easily on damp, slightly boggy grass, beside the Allt Coire Calavie, to reach the LR track near the head of the loch at about NH043394 soon after 1100. From there gently back to the camp site to strike and pack the nicely dry tents. Set off from there about 1130 in increasingly warm sunshine for the long tramp back to the cars. Back at the car soon after 1500. [24km, 1470m, 8h00].

Stopped at the Strathcarron Hotel for a celebratory pint on the way back to An Cos.



Mon 24 Jun **Liathach Redux** — DC – Harveys Torridon Hills

A grey, wet, and windy day; something of a repeat of 11 September 2018 for TET, except that there were no rainbows. Parked under the trees beside the road, and set up on rough paths at first (because TET missed the main path), then on the well-maintained stone steps, up and steeply further up until the steep sandy scree below the summit ridge. TET going rather slowly but not far behind DC to the ridge. Then along steeply for the final 30m climb to **▲Mullach an Rathain** (1023m, 3356ft) NG 911 576. It being too cold and blowy to hang about much, descended on narrow rough ground for a little way and then along the slightly easier part of the ridge before coming to the first of the pinnacles leading to  $\triangle$  *Am Fasarinen*. Dropped down to the right as before onto the narrow path that skirts them to the south. Worked along here with little bother, despite the occasional hint at the exposure (at one point heard motorbikes on the road 900m below, invisible through the enveloping cloud). The path works its way back to the ridge at several deep gaps which gave glimpses the rocks and pinnacles to the north looming through the mist, eventually brought us back to the steep and slightly scrambly steps up to the second summit, **▲Spidean a' Choire Leith** (1055m, 3461ft) NG929579.

From the broad, shattered remains of the summit cairn, stepped gingerly down on the rough path, dropping to a tiny bealach and then back up again to the final top,  $\triangle$  *Stob a' Coire Liath Mhor* (983m, 3225ft) NG 932 581, and so down to the big cairn that marks the start of the steep path down. Hard going back to the road, despite (or possibly because of) the stone steps on the lower parts of the track. The rain had more or less ceased by this point, and a gentle stroll (spoiled only by the number of vehicles on the road) brought us back to the car by ....

Tue 25 Jun **Beinn Shialdaig** — FMT, AJFT, FER – Landranger 24

DC off to do **Maoile Lunndaidh**; ORBS to **Moruig**.

For the others, a gentle morning in *An Cos*, and then TET, FMT, AJFT and FER made a piece and drove up to Glen Shialdaig as far as the little section of old road at NG846485. Set off at 1325. Lovely warm day with gentle NW breeze; slightly midgy by the stream. Dropped down to cross the *Abhainn nan Lùb* and so up on easy grassy ground with large gentle sandstone slabs to the first top *Meall Dubh*, 266m, NG852488 with a large perched boulder. Slightly breezier on top. Set off NW along the broad ridge with many small perched boulders and little lochans, skirting various side valleys, and crossing the two tops at 439m and 497m to reach the small cairn of *Beinn Shialdaig*, 534m, NG833524 in a couple of hours. Retraced our steps slightly more slowly most of the way back, then dropped off down steep grass to the side for a short paddle in the stream on the way back to the car. Back to car soon after 1810. [11km, 940m]

Wed 26 Jun DC set off to Glen Affric to climb six more big hills (via an overnight camp), ORBS went to do **Slioch**. Thurstons drove north a little way to the end of the road at Red Point NG734677 and a short walk along the track to the lovely *Eilean Tioram* beach. Low cloud kept it rather cool, but had a good bonfire and some brief, bracing swimming. Back to the house for supper.

Thu 27 Jun Leisurely breakfast in blissful weather, then short stroll round the village to buy some more smoked fish for supper and a kite, and to visit one of the local potters. Then packed up a picnic and set off in two cars to visit Applecross. Wound up slowly to a very crowded and hot Bealach na Ba giving amazing views out to Skye and beyond. We set off vaguely in the direction of Beinn Bhan, but after a short stomp up the track

to the weather station, tried and failed to find an easy way to climb down the rough ground to the NE. Sat in the sunshine for a while eating lunch, then worked our way back (rather more easily) to the cars, and so west to the coast (even more crowded and hot), and then up round the coast road to the north. Stopped at an inviting looking beach at NG683492, but the tide was in, and a strong and chilly northerly wind had sprung up, which made it a rather bracing experience. At least three Thurstons swam for at least some of the time, but after about an hour gave it up and drove back to the house via the very attractive northern end of the peninsula. Good last supper, with smoked fish and pate followed by pasta bake, with yet more of Ben's delicious wine.

*Fri 28 Jun* Up betimes for a last breakfast, then ORBS off to the airport at about 0830, while the rest of us finished packing and tidying up. Weather warm and sunny. Handed over the keys to Fiona Moys the house keeper and set off at about 1000. Fred and Fiona home to Avondale Place via Inverness, LST, FMT and TET south via a picnic and a paddle in a very hot (32°C) Glen Loy, and a long slog down via Crianlarich, Calendar, the M80, M74, M6, and M40. Home,; rather weary, just after midnight.



282 Munro summits, 181 days on the hill (so far)  
ORBS shares 149 Munros and 78 days; DC shares 111 Munros and 65 days