

Culter Hillwalking Club

NEXT WALK

SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2015

HILL OF CAT

Distance 17km, ascent 500 metres OS map 44

This is a beaut! An excellent circular walk in the Forest of Birse area, not too far, not too high, limited off piste with glorious panoramic views more or less from start to finish. The route is not steep; we are mostly on path and track, with just one short patch of peat hag where there is no path. The walk out is relatively short, quite steep but not at all challenging.

The walk starts at the marked car park on the edge of the forest past Burnfoot, ref. 533907 and we head clockwise up the Fungle Road. The route is south south west on an easy path with a gentle gradient. When we reach a boundary fence we go through the gate and follow the fence line until we reach the Firmounth Road and head north north-west on it to reach our first summit at Tampie. From here we follow the Firmounth Road until it becomes a new landy track (not shown on the map) which leads almost, but not quite, to the summit of Hill of Cat. This is where we start our only non-track element of the walk as we head east north east towards Gannoch, our third and final summit. It's not too bad a section of the route, about 1km through peat hags. From Gannoch, it's downhill all the way on a very clear track, we just need to take care to walk around Birse Castle on the signed track and not plunge on through the Castle grounds. This takes us back to the car park from where we will head to the Finzean Farm Shop for a well-earned spring warmer.

Total Time: Approx. 6 hrs including breaks.

Note: This walk is fairly straightforward in good weather and requires a moderate level of fitness.

Meet at Culter Village Hall at 08:30 am and return around 6.30 pm. Refreshments after walk at the Finzean Farm Shop. Contact David Gair Tel: 01224-867285, 07787 154849. Closing date Wednesday 1st April 2015.

Walkers must wear walking boots (gaiters also recommended), carry WARM and waterproof clothing, hat and gloves and take plenty of food and liquids. THESE ARE ESSENTIAL. Be prepared for possible wintry conditions on the top, whatever the forecast.

Culter hillwalking club has no members who are qualified leaders or instructors. Therefore anyone volunteering to assist the club on a walk cannot be held responsible for other members' welfare. Members must be aware they are solely responsible for themselves at all times. Hillwalking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury and death. Those participating in these activities should be aware of the risks and accept the responsibility for their own actions and involvement. No responsibility can be accepted by Culter Hillwalking club committee, members, guests or co-ordinators of walks for any mishap, which may occur, during a walk. Dog owners must ensure that their dogs are on a short lead at all times.

www.culterhillwalking.org.uk