

Culter Hillwalking Club

NEXT WALK – SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY

Ripe Hill and Prince Alfred's Cairn

Distance 17 kms. Ascent 219 metres. OS map 44.

Our route starts from Easter Balmoral (GR NO265 943) and the track takes us up through woodland until we reach open country. We now have a clear view of our tree-topped hill of the day (and later of Ben Avon and Beinn a'Bhuird) but we first of all continue on track heading for Lochnagar, of which there are superb views, turning right at the first junction and (if time), left at the next on a detour to visit Gelder Shiel for an even closer view of this lofty peak. Now turning away from Lochnagar, we rejoin our chosen route and cross the Gelder Burn, turning off the track and heading straight for our hill off path. We aim for a gap in the wall through which we pass to climb steeply and off path up to the summit (519m), skipping adroitly over a number of fallen trees first of all, but then threading our way through pleasant woodland, keeping well to the right to avoid the crags. Having reached the impressive cairn, we then head north west steeply down the hill through the trees to join a track heading west first of all which eventually takes us down to the river and the Old Military Road. We follow this eastwards, skirting Balmoral itself, back to East Balmoral.

Total Time: Approx. 5 hrs including breaks.

Note: This walk is fairly straightforward in good weather and requires a moderate level of fitness but please note that there is some off-path.

Meet at St. Peter's Heritage Centre, Culter, at 8:30 am and return around 6 pm.

Transport by car (drivers required) – contribution to drivers please.

Refreshments, if time, at the Bothie, Ballater

Contact Bill Davidson Tel: 01330-850510; mobile 07730-000341.

Closing date Wednesday 1st February 2017.

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