

Culter Hillwalking Club

NEXT WALK – Sunday 7th January 2018

Benaquhallie 440m

Distance 14 km. Ascent 440 metres. OS map 37

Benaquhallie, challenging by name and by nature, nestled in the Corrennie Hills south of Alford. The walk has been configured to be an A to B through walk starting at a spacious parking area on the A944 Dunecht Alford road (Grid Ref NJ639126) close to Tillyfourie. After an easy gradient on forest tracks we head up a heathy former firebreak in a now felled forest leading to a loggers vehicle track amongst the brash and onto open moorland. Keeping to the remnants of an ancient track and passing at least one boundary stone we skirt Red Hill to descend to its bealach with Benaquhallie. Rough wheel tracks through the heather lead to the summit and trig point, whilst a short distance away, is an unusual stone cairn. There is a panorama of views in all directions. The northerly descent off the summit involves some heather-bashing before entering rolling, fertile Aberdeenshire agriculture facing across the glen to Craigievar Castle, and finally following a very old drove road to the Muggarthaugh Hotel, where, like the drovers themselves, we should find some form of refreshments.

Meet at St. Peter's Heritage Centre at 8:30 am and return around 5 pm. (Banchory departures 8.45 am)

Contact [June Barclay](mailto:junebarclay@hotmail.com). Tel: 07879 812248 email: junebarclay@hotmail.com indicating a willingness to drive, or not.

Closing date Wednesday 7th January 2018.

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