

July 13th An Socach at Glenshee: Three on the Hot Snout

On Monday 13 July, the group met for the first time at the new Broxy Kennels / Destiny Bridge parking area just north of Perth. As there were only 3 of us, we could all fit in one car. We then travelled up a quiet A93 to Glen Clunie over the Cairnwell Pass, and parked very near the start of the track.

We then followed the landrover track along the Baddoch Burn, past the signs asking us not to approach the ponies, and the recently painted but unoccupied house at Baddoch. After crossing a couple of streams, one with a bridge and one without, we started to ascend towards the East top of An Socach. The sun was out so the ascent was hot work, and we all soon had sun hats on and had applied sun cream.

We started to see more birdlife, both red grouse and ptarmigan. At one point we saw a group of 8 ptarmigan. We also saw a number of red deer during the day.

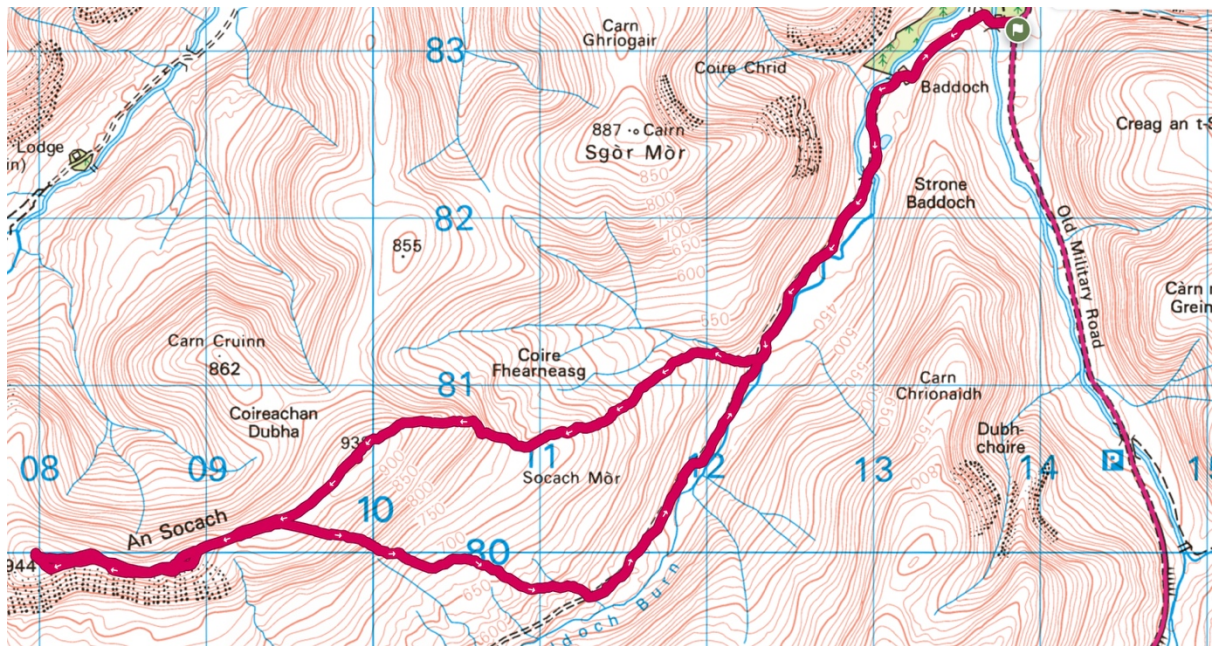
It's about 2km from the East top across stony ground to the main top at the western end of the mountain. By then it was lunchtime, and we had that at the top as there was no significant wind to need to shelter from it. The views of the Cairngorms were excellent, as there was no cloud on any of them. Very little snow was visible – just a few small patches.

We varied the route back by descending towards the Baddoch Burn from between the 2 tops of An Socach. Just before turning away from the ridge, we met the only person we saw during the whole day – perhaps surprising on a sunny day in the school holidays in July. This descent route included crossing a number of areas of muirburn, of which there were many more visible.

The landrover track down the glen undulated quite a lot, so was perhaps not as easy as the map might suggest – particularly in the heat that we were now experiencing. There were quite a lot of groups of trees enclosed by deer fences close to the river. These varied in size and a number had clearly been planted in recent years. We also noticed unusual devices along the river, which subsequent research found were related to the fact that the Baddoch Burn is one of the rivers that is used in national salmon monitoring.

We were back in good time, so we successfully made it to the café in Glen Shee for coffee/tea and cake before it shut.

Walk Details: 10.3 miles, time 5.5 hrs, ascent 2,165 ft



Coffee Break after the first main hill section



Looking south towards the Cairnwells



A view of the summit ridge – flat, stoney and now very dry



We reach the summit plateau with a top point of 944m (3,097ft)