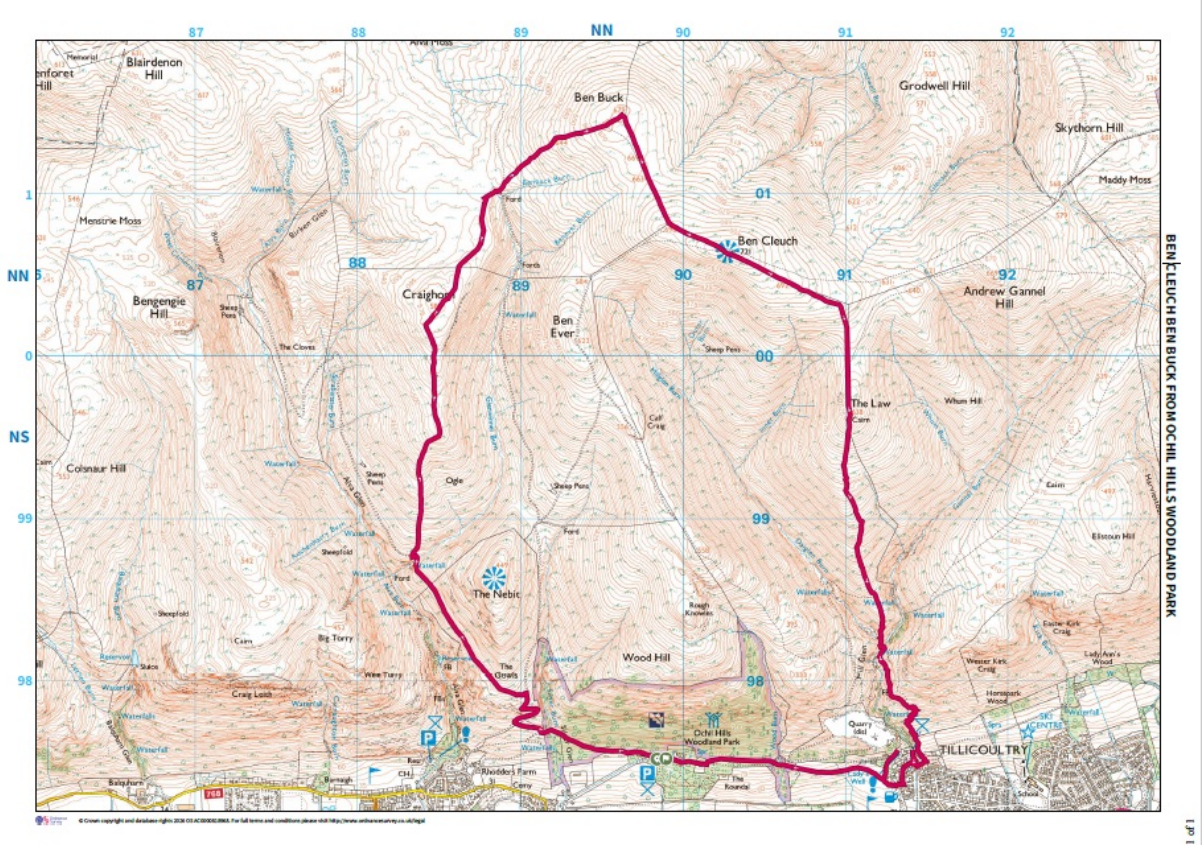
Ben Cleuch via Ben Buck from Ochil Hills Woodland Park, near Alva

Distance : 11km Height : 670 m Elapsed time : 5hrs



A gloriously sunny November day brought out 13 of the group to enjoy a walk in the Ochil Hills. The Letham4All minibus departed at 8.30 am from Broxden Park and Ride, arriving at the Ochil Hills Woodland Park for us to set out on the walk at 9.40 am. After walking up through a lovely birch wood for 15 minutes, we passed the Alva Silver Glen silver mine after which spectacular views along the Ochil foothills and over the Forth valley opened up. A switchback path took us quickly uphill for a stretch, followed by a track between The Nebit above us to the right, and Alva Glen down to the left. After crossing a ford on the track, we started the longish ascent of Craighorn on a faint path. After a welcome coffee half way up, we reached the 583m summit which offered a clear panorama of the Southern Highlands as far as the Cobbler.

Two of the group split off and returned down a good track between Ben Ever and The Nebit, returning to the Woodland Car Park. The remainder of the group carried on up to Ben Buck (679m) and then over to Ben Cleuch (721m) where lunch was consumed. The return journey was via The Law followed by a steep descent down to Mill Glen in Tillicoultry, arriving there at 2.30pm.

By this time, the minibus was waiting at Mill Glen, and we all rounded up the day with an enjoyable coffee and cake at the Tilly Tearoom.



At the start of the walk, within the Woodland Park



On to the hillside and getting ready for the mainwalk.



Approaching the start of the main hills



Coffee break and time to admire the view towards the Forth.





Approaching Craighorn and on the ridge we can look over towards the Trossachs and beyond





All together at Craighorn (583m)



Climbing up towards Ben Buck



At the summit of Ben Buck (679m)



At the summit of Ben Cleuch (721m)



On the decent towards Mill Glen



Dropping down to the burn



The final stage down to Tillicoultry