

A Cat and a Long Goat

by Andy Crawford

WALK FACTS

Distance: 11 miles/ 17.5 km

Map: OS 1:50,000 Landranger Sheet 44 or OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet 388

Start/parking: To reach the start of this walk, drive northwards from Kirriemuir on the route sign-posted to The Glens and take the turning left on the unclassified road to Lednathie. After 5½ miles (8.8 km) at Grid Ref NO355619 there is grass verge parking on the right-hand for up to a dozen cars. **DO NOT** block the access slip road into the woods.

Grading: This is a relatively straightforward, if at times exposed, route of quiet, scenic beauty suitable for walkers of most abilities. It includes an unique walking experience through the quiet Angus glens of Uig and Quharity before tackling the Graham peak of Cat Law. The Grahams is a collective name given to all the distinct mountains in Scotland that are between 2,000 and 2,499 feet (610m and 761m), and have a drop of at least 93 feet (150m) between them.

Cat Law, at 2,224 ft (678m) lies between Glen Prosen and Glen Isla, northwest of Kirriemuir. For several weeks in 1745, it was the hideout of one Robert Wedderburn of Pearsie, the Sheriff Clerk of Forfarshire who, during the Rebellion, raised a company of Clova men to swell Lord Ogilvy's Regiment, and after Culloden helped Ogilvy to escape, thereby becoming a wanted man himself. He later secured a protection warrant from the Lord Justice Clerk and resumed his official duties.

Most of the route is over good hill and vehicle tracks throughout but with little or no shelter on the tops. There is a short bit of road walking at the start that is mostly downhill. Sheep and cattle grazing therefore dogs must be kept on a lead.

From the start there is no off-road alternative to begin this fine circular walk so follow the tarmac road northwards - and mostly downhill - for 1¼ miles (2 km) to Easter Lednathie then westwards for a further mile (1.7 km) past Wester Lednathie to Glen Uig steading remembering to leave any gates as they are found. A grassy track leads into a very narrow valley between hills rising steeply on either side.

Carry on through this tranquil glen turning south southwest across the watershed and at Grid Ref NO295642 pass through a gate in a fence line traversing left to right from Tarpetmile to Corwharn into the head of the more open Glen Quharity. Continue until reaching a track leading uphill to the left at Grid Ref NO287622 and a short distance before a ford.

From a point just past the gate at Grid Ref NO295642, an additional 3¼ miles (5.5 km) can be added to this route by branching off on the wide track leading right, west-northwest then northeast onto Corwharn another Graham peak that rises to a height of 2,004 feet (611m). It is just one of the many peaks that separate Glen Prosen from Glen Isla.

Backtrack to the southwest from Corwharn over Cairn Corse towards Mildewan Hill before descending farther from Grid Ref NO281635 to the Glen Quharity track at the northeast end of the plantation near Longdrum Farm. Turn left for 155 yards (250m) crossing a ford then starting a gentle ascent to a track junction at Grid Ref NO287622.

To continue on either route option, follow this wide, bulldozed track gently uphill past an area known as the Clinking Cauldron (though quite why I don't know) to the flat summit of Cormaud then descending at first and ascending again alongside a fence line. Pass left through the wooden gate at Grid Ref NO312621 then immediately right again and continue the ascent to the flat, cairned summit of Cat Law. Shortly before reaching the cairn and trig point the fence breaks left and descends towards and over Long Goat. Lower down the slope it is best to cross the fence onto the track on the right hand side. It is an easy 'tramp' from here back to the start on an obvious double track.