

# Cairn of Barns

## WALK FACTS

**Distance:** 10 miles/16 km

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

**Start/parking:** The parking area beside the Glens and Kirriemuir Old Parish Church in Glenprosen Village: Grid Ref NO327657 has space for several cars. Take care not to obstruct access to the church on Sunday service days - 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month (correct in July 2004).

**Time:** Allow 5 or 6 hours with some additional time for stops

**Grading:** An open moor and hill walk mostly on good vehicle or hill tracks. There is no shelter to be had when out on this walk therefore care must be taken to ensure that proper footwear and clothing is worn. Recommended for most abilities of hillwalkers. Sheep and cattle grazing so dogs must be kept on a lead.

One of three main Glens in the Braes of Angus in the southern Grampians, Glen Prosen lies in the valley of the Prosen Water. It stretches into the Grampian mountains out towards Lochnagar and is overlooked by the peaks of Mayar and Driesh. The glen is fairly secluded; there are no roads through it, and it is home to a wide variety of animal, bird and plant life. Glenprosen Village lies at the junction of the Burn of Inchmill and Prosen Water, 10miles (16 km) north of Kirriemuir.

The Airlie Monument, a copy of one of the towers of Airlie Castle erected to the memory of David Ogilvy, 11th Earl of Airlie who was killed in the Boer War, overlooks the southern gateway to the glen from Tulloch Hill.

Leave the parking area and turn right towards Balnaboth and right again some 100 yards (160m) farther on, just before the post box and telephone kiosk. Follow the single track tarmac road quite steeply uphill until a short distance from the house it accesses, then bear right onto a rough hill road that continues - passing to the left of Glentairie cottage then parallel to a fence line - for some 2 miles (3.5km) to a point at Grid Ref NO325695 where it narrows to a single track. There are some wet sections to negotiate before beginning the short but steep and trackless climb up to Red Cairn. It is better to cross to the fence and follow the narrow path beside it until on the summit.

A short distance on, in the midst of an area of wet black peat, a fence junction is reached. Cross carefully over so as not to cause any damage then, with the fence to the left, head north west then west on a narrow and at times intermittent track up towards the cairned summit of Cairn of Barns (2,136 feet / 651m). Cross the fence to reach the cairn and enjoy the magnificent panorama then, with the fence now to the right, continue steeply downhill at first for 550 yards (500m) to the wet and boggy saddle at 1,818 feet (554m) then uphill once more, northwest, towards Cairn Inks. Before reaching the summit there is another fence junction at Grid Ref NO309720. Turn sharp left here onto a vehicle track and descend towards the northeast corner of the expanse of Glenclova Forest.

From here the route is quite straightforward as it follows alongside the forest boundary fence over Mount Bouie to Cairn Shiel. In the dip between these two tops a crossing track is reached, leading through a gate out of the forest and passing to the left. From here the track being followed is less well used and becoming overgrown with heather, but still fairly obvious. Stay close to the fence and climb the gentle slope rising over Cairn Shiel and through a gate to reach the corner of the forest at Craigiemeg Hill some 930 yards (850m) farther on. Take time to look back from here and overview the route that has been walked before crossing the lower fence, turning right and continuing southwest, downhill, following the high fence and the tree line until reaching a rough road. Turn left here and pass above Craigiemeg cottage.

Stay on this road as it continues through the Balnaboth estate, passing the small steading of Tombeth to its left, downhill and right, then across the bridge over the Burn of Glenlogie. Continue past the estate buildings always taking the left-hand, northern, tracks.

Take some time out to explore the ruins of the old chapel hidden in the trees on the right-hand side of the road at Grid Ref NO319668, affording due respect to this final resting place of the Ogilvy MacLeans. The earliest of the headstones is dated 1805 and the most recent 2001. In early summer the rhododendrons lining the track are spectacular.

Just over ½ a mile (approx. 1km) from here a fork in the track is reached. Follow the lower right-hand fork that leads downhill past the attractive gate lodge cottage at Balnaboth into Glenprosen village.