

Glen Prosen's Western Hills

WALK FACTS

Distance: 11 miles/17.7 km

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

Start/parking: Leave Kirriemuir on the unclassified road signposted Pearsie and Lednathie. Park 8 miles on at Easter Lednathie farm Grid Ref NO340631. Seek permission to park before leaving cars here.

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 and some quiet road walking. 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. An easy summer route but in winter weather or low cloud, some navigational skill may be required due to the many paths which crisscross the hill. This is commercial breeding land for grouse and pheasant and where sheep and cattle graze so dogs must be kept on a lead. Mountain bikes are not permitted.

Although the Angus hills and glens of Clova and Prosen are possibly the best known and frequented, many walkers know little of the area around Glen Uig and Glen Quharity to the west of Glen Prosen. Surrounding these two glens is a vast expanse of easy, broad, ridge walking on a scale that can be quite amazing when given the opportunity to look back and assess one's progress.

Leave the parking area and follow the single track, tarmac road sign posted to Wester Lednathie and Glen Uig for nine-tenths of a mile/1.4km to Wester Lednathie farm.

In the dip below the farm house there is a gate on the left. Pass through this gate and follow the wide track that sweeps gently uphill and right to a wall. With the wall on the right, continue uphill through Lerg Plantation to a gate at its upper end. An ascending moor track leads from here up to a gate at a junction of paths in an area known as Monthrey. Higher and to the left of here is the summit of Cat Law but that is for another day.

Pass through the gate and turn right, then descend north by northwest initially before rising over Cormaud. Bear west then southwest down the Shank of Glendye to a path junction in lower Glen Quharity at Grid Ref NO 287263. From here there are two options:

The first option:

For the first, turn left, south for ¼mile/400m through a ford and up to a gate. Do not go through the gate but turn sharp right following the fence line uphill past a stand of conifer trees. This track continues north-northeast over Cairn Corse to the cairned summit of Corwharn on open moor where arctic hares are easily spotted, especially when wearing their white winter coats. The views in every direction from the precarious looking cairn stack on Corwharn are spectacular on fine days. This option will add around ½mile/800m to the overall distance.

The second option:

For the second, turn right then carry on through tranquil Glen Quharity rising gently to where a track leads uphill off to the left at Grid Ref NO295642, a short distance before reaching a gate and fence. The track appears to be little more than a wide firebreak in the heather, but there is a path on the left side that can be followed most of the way up as the route heads west-northwest then northeast onto Corwharn, a 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.

From here follow the intermittent path that runs alongside the line of the fence to the northeast for a short way to where it joins with another fence beside a small gate at Grid Ref NO 290653. Turn right (southeast), still following the fence line for ½mile/800m, then east-northeast and northeast to the summit of Hill of Adenaich. This part of the route does not boast the luxury of a good path though one does appear from time to time just a few paces to the right of the fence.

Continue east then southeast - crossing to the opposite side of the fence line to gain the advantage of easy walking on a good double track leading to Finlet. As the track descends, it breaks way left close to a small gate at a junction of the fence. Pass through this gate and join another double track a few paces ahead that leads ahead and over Broom Hill. Along this section it is worthwhile crossing to the right hand side of the fence to join another good double track. After negotiating a final gate, this track skirts around a newly fenced off area of woodland before finally descending to exit onto a tarmac road at Grid Ref NO 339635. Turn right and it is a further ¼mile/400m downhill to the finish.