



## 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Auchnafree Hill from Loch Turret

After a bit of uncertainty around the weather forecast of thundery showers breaking out across the country, five met up at Broxden P&R at 8.30 and decided there would be a sufficient window to attempt the walk over Auchnafree Hill 789m (Corbett) and Choinneachain Hill 787m (Corbett top) from Loch Turret. The route was obtained from a Walkhighlands report. One car was sufficient to take us all up to the large car park at Loch Turret Dam, north of Crieff.

The weather was quite sunny for the start of the walk at 9.30 along a track on the eastern side of Loch Turret. The track runs along the whole length of Loch Turret reservoir (currently with low water levels) with wonderful views of the glaciated landscape, the crags above the loch on the other side and across to the Munro Ben Chonzie. As we walked along the track we were passed by two ospreys flying towards the dam in search of fish.

After just over 4.5km, soon after passing the head of the loch, a track junction is reached where a sharp right turn allows you to follow a track climbing back up the hillside towards Auchnafree Hill. We stopped at this junction for coffee before heading up the hillside on the track. After 1.5km, the ascent to Auchnafree Hill starts by following a track which almost doubles back to the left up to some grouse butts. At the grouse butts, another track turns off and heads up towards the summit, soon petering out into a path which crosses some peat hags and up to the flat summit which holds two small cairns, the second one with a sign 'Saoirse 2008-2020'. Although the summit is quite flat there are splendid views over to Ben Vorlich, the Lawers Range, Beinn A'Glo and down to the Lomonds. There was no shelter from the wind at the summit so we re-traced our steps back down to the track and carried on for another 100m and had lunch in a sheltered spot next to a bend in the track at a ford. While having lunch we were joined by a red kite hovering around looking for something to eat.

The route to Choinneachain Hill follows a winding and undulating track over the featureless Ton Eich. Choinneachain Hill features two large cairns, neither of which are at the highest point, and the second one (called King Kenneth's Cairn) offers great views down into Corrie Barvick and over to Creag Chaisean. By this time waterproofs had been donned, as the predicted rain had started. The official route follows a winding track down for several kilometres back to Loch Turret dam via a small dam on the Barvick Burn. However, in order to save around one hour of walking, we took an unofficial direct route straight down the slope to the main track. It wasn't the most enjoyable descent but at least we saved a good amount of time.

Everyone enjoyed the walk and what better way to finish it off by visiting the Glenturret Distillery for coffee and cake. The bar has been raised!

Distance walked : 15.3km/9.5 miles Walking time : 5hrs 15mins Ascent : 623m





Walking along Loch Turret



We start the climb up from the Loch to the moorland





At Auchnafree Hill Summit with its own sign



On route to Choinneachain Hill





At the summit of Choinneachain Hill



Looking down Creag Chaisean





Looking back down Loch Turret



Enjoying coffee and cakes at Glenturret Distillery