

## Torlum from Crieff 17th July 2023

Nine members set off from Crieff to climb Torlum.

At the beginning of the walk a small plaque references the wooden pipes which at one time brought the water supply to Crieff. The next gate incorporated a section of the pipe. We then followed field margins into woodland to the top of Knock Mary, the site of a clan battle between the Drummonds of Strathearn, supported by the Campbells, and the Murrays of Ochertyre. The date of the battle, varies from 1490 and 1511.

We had our coffee stop just beyond the summit. The wood is home to various fungi and plant-life and during our stop one of the group identified the delightfully named 'dog vomit' slime mould among the moss on a rock. It is also known as 'scrambled egg' slime mould.

The entry point to Torlum Wood followed a section of road walking. A large number of trees have been cleared making the route more open. Rather than follow the same track up to the summit and back again we approached Torlum from the other side. This made for an interesting route as the track gave way to head high bracken followed by rough ground where trees had been felled. On the steep ascent we were fortified by a plentiful supply of blaeberrries. A well-earned lunch was had on the summit with splendid views across the fertile plains to the Ochil hills.

Our return was more straight forward on a clear path, from which we saw a rather puzzling patch of newly sown grass, which seemed out of place among the rough ground and tree stumps. We then followed a track through Drummond Wood, which was bordered on one side by a broad band of rock. This was identified as a 'dolerite dyke intrusion'. Taking a short detour off the track we visited an area where beavers have been busy dam building. Other items of interest along the way included a good example of bracket fungus, a standing stone and an impressive avenue of Spanish or Sweet chestnut trees.

Everyone enjoyed a varied walk in good weather, with only a couple of short showers. We rounded off the day with coffee and cake at Crieff Visitor Centre.

9 miles 1800 feet



Fungo Septica (dog vomit)



Dryads Saddle



Common Nipplewort



In the woods of Knock Mary



The final section of the climb to the summit of Torlum



Summit of Torlum after lunch



Dolerite intrusion on way back to Crieff



Geological map showing extent of dolerite dyke-35