

Sunday January 8th 2023

Walk - Hill of Fare 433m

Glorious views from this relatively low level but still challenging circular route, perfect to walk off the Christmas and New year excess. We start at a layby on the B977 south of Echt, map reference 743036. Please note that there are just 6 spaces for cars here, so car sharing will be essential.

We head due west on track up through the Arwen-destroyed woods, now moorland, striking off south west for Meikle Tap at about 350m. West takes us towards the remaining woodland, but again Arwen has wrecked havoc and the path through is impenetrable. So we go off piste at the edge of the wood heading uphill north west through bracken and heather towards the track to Hill of Fare, joining it at a disused quarry. This path is easy going and we will go up as far as we can to enjoy the delightful 360 degree views. We head down the same path and stay on it to descend east via Greymore keeping to the edge of the forest until we hit a forestry commission track through the forest and head back to our cars. Then down to Flora's on the B9125 for a well deserved cuppa.

Note: This walk is fairly straightforward in good weather, more difficult in winter conditions, and requires a moderate level of fitness.

Total Time 4 hours.

Meet 08:30 am for car-sharing at St Peter's Heritage Centre, Peterculter.

Book through Walk Coordinator J David Gair

Saunter - Coyles of Muick 601m

A deservedly popular A to B walk and a good way to start a new year of Saunters. From the improved car park NO341951 the track goes past Loch Ullachie, aways worth a short diversion and through the forest and onto open ground with good views already opening up. The footpath follows the edge of the trees and the high ground until the short steeper section to the summit of Coyles of Muick NO329911 at 601m. This walk will only take place if the weather, lying snow and road conditions allow. An alternative walk will be offered if this one is cancelled.

Total distance 9km: Ascent 400m. Time approx. 4.5 hrs. Meet 10:00am at car park NO341951 Book through the Saunter Coordinator, Malcolm Smith, by Thurs Jan 5th

Walkers must wear walking boots (gaiters essential), carry WARM and waterproof clothing, hat and gloves and take plenty of food and liquids.

Culter hillwalking club has no members who are qualified leaders or instructors. Therefore anyone volunteering to assist the club on a walk cannot be held responsible for other members' welfare. Members must be aware they are solely responsible for themselves at all times. Hillwalking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury and death. Those participating in these activities should be aware of the risks and accept the responsibility for their own actions and involvement. No responsibility can be accepted by Culter Hillwalking club committee, members, guests or co-ordinators of walks for any mishap, which may occur, during a walk. Dog owners must ensure that their dogs are on a short lead at all times.

www.culterhillwalking.org.uk