

# Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: [www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk](http://www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

## Monthly Newsletter

May 2026

The Meet on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May is to Fersit/Tulloch

### DETAILS OF THE MEET

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 going via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Haymarket, Roseburn, Drum Brae, Forth Bridge, Perth, Pitlochry and Dalwhinnie with a comfort stop at Pitlochry. The bus is estimated to arrive at Fersit at 10.45 approx & will park for the day at the hillwalkers car park at the end of the public road.

**Bus convener:** Petra zur Lage

**Bookings and cancellations:** Email [bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

**Main map required:** OS 1:50 000 Sheets 35 Kingussie & Monadhliath Mountains; 41 Ben Nevis, Fort William & Glen Coe; 42 Glen Garry & Loch Rannoch area.

**The fare will be £25** and, while cash can be taken in the bus, it would be preferred if you could pay by bank transfer IN ADVANCE of the outing. The day before is fine. Please pay to:  
PTARMIGAN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (note name is not yet changed); 80-17-68; 00248765

### Bus departure times - a reminder

We always aim for our buses to leave Waterloo Place promptly at 07:30 am on the day of an outing. It is difficult to predict the times at which the bus will arrive at other pick up points which will depend on traffic, any roadworks etc but the roads are usually very quiet at that time of day. We have a note of who is due to be joining the bus at Waterloo Place and the other pick up points. If anyone is missing, the bus will usually wait for two minutes at any pick up point but will not normally wait for any longer than that."

### Route Options

#### Munros

Stob a' Choire Mheadhoin, 1105m, NN316736; Stob Coire Easain, 1115m, NN308730. Access: Fersit, NN350782.

**Doing these two Munros together is an option for fast parties only.**

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/easains.shtml>

If you're not returning by the long ascent route (3 hours), use the NW ridge from Stob Coire Easain into Coire Laire glen, then return via the marked 'dismantled tramway'; or reascend above the forest by Creag Fhiaclach (6 hours walking without stops). There is a track into Coire Laire beyond that marked on some OS maps. A direct return from Stob Coire Easain to Loch Treig is NOT recommended.

Stob Coire Sgriodain, 979m, NN356743; Chno Dearg, 1046m, NN377741. Access: Fersit, NN352781

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/chnodearg.shtml>

Beinn Teallach, 915m, NN361860; Beinn a' Chaorainn, 1052m, NN386851; Access: Roughburn, NN377813  
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/beinnachaorainn.shtml>

Creag Meagaidh, 1128m, NN418875; Carn Liath, 1006m, NN472903; Stob Poite Coire Ardair, 1054m, NN428888.  
Access: SNH car park at Aberarder <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/creagmeagaidh.shtml>

Beinn a' Chlachair, 1087m, NN471781; Geal Charn, 1049m, NN504812; Creag Pitridh, 924m, NN487814.  
Access: Luiblea, NN433831 <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/beinn-a-chlachair.shtml>

### **Corbetts**

The Fara, 911m, NN598843 may be combined with the Graham, Meall nan Eagan (see Grahams below)

### **Grahams**

Cnap Cruinn, 742m, NN302774

Binnein Shuas, 747m, NN463826; Binnein Shios, 667m, NN492857

Both these hills are outstanding viewpoints. Binnein Shuas has a specially recommended, scrambling summit with one of Scotland's best summer-climbing crags.

Meall nan Eagan, 658m, NN596874: a 'rather retiring' hill above Strath Mashie which may be combined with The Fara or accessed by a track (starting at NN636858) which follows the Allt an t-Sluic shortly after the bend in General Wade's road heading north from Dalwhinnie.

### **Low Level**

Kinlochlaggan to Dalwhinnie: bridge over the River Pattack 1.5km east of Kinlochlaggan (at NN555897), then due south following the river, then east to Ben Alder Lodge and north-east along Loch Ericht to Dalwhinnie (23km). Or in the other direction; or a shorter section there and back from either end.

The through walk via Lochan na h-Earba through remote scenery and native trees is highly recommended.

"Members and Guests sometimes ask whether there will definitely be a low level walk. The choice of walks is very much a matter for individuals and is very weather dependent. So, there can be no guarantee that will always be a low level walk. But, if you are interested in doing a low level walk or any of our suggested walks, please use our WhatsApp group to share your ideas. If you are not already in the WA group contact [secretary@ptarmiganmc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ptarmiganmc.co.uk)"

***The Club's Code of Good Practice (available at our website <https://ptarmiganmc.org.uk> under the Membership tab) lists the clothing and equipment to have on the hills. It is important to have warm clothing, good quality waterproofs and robust boots and to carry food, water, map, compass and a mobile phone. A first aid kit, survival bag, whistle and torch should also be carried.***

***Disclaimer: We do not have walk leaders, our groups walk as equals with shared responsibility for navigation and safety. The routes suggested above are merely descriptions of walks in the area; they do not represent invitations or recommendations by the Club or any of its Officers to walkers to go on these routes. It is the individual and sole responsibility of each walker to choose a route that is within their capability.***

### **WhatsApp Group**

You are reminded that we have now set up a WhatsApp group to enable members to exchange plans for the day in advance which may take some pressure off the bus convener. If you have not already joined and would like to do so, please email [secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

## Highways Hillwalking Club

For many years we have had an informal association with the Highways Hillwalking Club in terms of which our members are welcome as guests on their outings and vice versa without restriction of the number of such outings that can be attended. The HHC operates a programme very similar to ours, also using MacLeod Coaches, but usually on the second Sunday of the month. The combined programme for both clubs can be found in the Meets section of our website and full details of the HHC including how to sign up for their outings are available at their website: <https://sites.google.com/site/highways3102/home> "

### Carbost update

Planning for our trip to Skye is moving forward. There is a **WhatsApp group** that we will use for co-ordination (for example lift sharing) – if you are going on the trip and have not yet had a look at the group, please do so! We will soon post more there, for example a guide to the walks on offer. There is also **one spare place**, for a woman: if you are interested in taking this up please contact Colin, Wendy or Justin.

## What we did last month

### The Brack

Easter can be a saccharine affair: cute bunnies and primrose yellow cupcakes abound. In 2026 the real world got its retaliation in: Storm Dave was guaranteed to get rid of the fluffy stuff. In a surreal version of rock-paper-scissors, Dave beats the Easter Bunny. But of course, Ptarmigans beat Dave. So it was that six of us (Alex B, Christine, Morbhen, Norm, Petra and Justin) decided to take our chances with the forecast snow and gale, and headed up the Brack. Jim was able to take us to Ardgarten car park, which removed a long road walk at the beginning, and we were soon heading up the steep path. There was plenty of snow, and some tricky conditions towards the top with ice underfoot, strong winds and very little visibility. Which of course didn't stop us claiming the summit. We then headed southwest down a pathless shoulder towards the bealach, pausing for lunch (and some views) beside a lovely Lochan.



*A snowy ascent up the Brack & heading towards the Lochan: Pics by Alexandra Butler & Morbhen MacRath*

The bealach brought a decision: turn left to head down, or turn right to add Cnoc Còinnich. There was plenty of time, but there was also a thunderously black cloud racing towards us from the right. Alex, Christine, Norm and Petra headed down; Justin and Morbhen took the masochists' option. Walking into 50 mph hailstones was invigorating for the two of us, but we could soon turn to put the wind behind us, and set off up the slope. We enjoyed blue skies and sculpted snow at the top – we may have missed out on the full summer views, but it was just as enjoyable. The six of us were reunited at the bus and headed into Arrochar for a drink in the hotel. We enjoyed the happy buzz of a satisfying walk, and of beating Storm Dave. (Justin Elliot).

### Where's Dave – Arrochar 5<sup>th</sup> April

There were a few cancellations on the April bus, but a still respectable number of Ptarmigans took on the journey to Arrochar despite the threats of Armageddon to be caused by Storm Dave. I had started to consider how bad the storm was going to have to get before we turned the bus around and headed for home. As it turned out, Dave could a different route or maybe just couldn't be bothered! 10 of us left the bus at Inverbeg intending to walk over the hills north of Glen Douglas to reach the bus parked up in Arrochar.

#### *The Beinn Bhreac group: Picture by Alex Williamson*

We left the bus in brilliant sunshine – Dave nowhere to be seen – but before we even had time to sort our kit a wild hail storm swept in. And as soon as it had swept in, it swept back out again. That was to be the pattern for the day.

Wendy had spotted on her map a track which led from the road in Glen Douglas all the way to the summit of Beinn Bhreac. It was curious, because no-one apart from Wendy had the track on our maps. We decided to give it a go and sure enough there was a distinct ATV track visible going directly up the hill.

Before long we were toiling up a steep slope made harder by intermittent snow and hail showers. Snow was lying from about 300 metres. Before long the 10 of us formed into 2 groups: 1 group of 5 aiming for Beinn Bhreac and continuing to Tullich Hill; and the other 5 aiming to be satisfied with summiting Beinn Bhreac. There was little by way of views and it became harder underfoot with a fairly strong wind and continuing snow and hail showers. The second group caught up with the first just below the summit of Beinn Bhreac and we



joined forces when we each decided to retreat to Invergroin and follow the road through Glen Douglas.

#### *Ptarmigans on the summit: Picture by Coney Mak*

It was a steep descent, but it was made more enjoyable when we dipped under the mist and got some views into the Glen and west to Beinn Narnain. Coney was the only casualty of the day when she slipped and bent her walking pole. We had lunch in the sunshine just before joining the road.



Glen Douglas houses an extensive military base which is used for something secret. The nuclear arsenal is known to be housed down the road at Coulport, but maybe this is overspill or non-nuclear armaments – it's certainly an impressive set of bunkers leading into the mountain side. We walked alongside the high security fence heeding the multiple warnings about armed guards and dogs.



***The walk back to Arrochar & the Cobbler & Beinn Narnain across Loch Long: Pic by Alex Williamson***

After what seemed like a long time and a constantly uphill road we intersected with the 3 Lochs Way and used that to reach Arrochar enjoying brilliant sunny view of the Cobbler – by now it was a really nice day. Colin and I treated ourselves to a couple of beers in the Village Inn while the rest continued to the bus parked at the Arrochar hotel.

I don't know where Dave went, but he didn't hang around for long. What was forecast to be a dire day weather wise turned out very nice indeed. (Alex Williamson).