

WALK TITLE: Around Craig Leek

DISTANCE: 6 miles / 9.5 k.

OS GRID REFERENCE: NO 189913

OS LANDRANGER /EXPLORER SHEET: Landranger 43 / Explorer 404



BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

A walk around Craig Leek, through woodland, moss and moor, with good views in all directions. Moderate / steep climb in part.

GETTING THERE:

201 Braemar bus, but infrequent. Keilloch Car Park sign on A93 road, just before road crosses the R. Dee at Invercauld Bridge.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Leave the car park by the corner diagonally opposite the toilet block and immediately turn right. After half a mile Felagie Cottage, owned by the Girl Guides, is passed. Soon after the cottage take a track to the left, leading across the flat, boggy moor. There are a couple of very shallow fords in this section, before the track starts to rise fairly steeply round to the left. Although the valley and slopes of Craig Leek are now uninhabited, at one time this area supported a thriving community and many ruined buildings and folds can be seen on the slope. The track leads over the col and down the other side, giving good views over Braemar, Upper Deeside and the Cairngorms.

The track passes through a gap in the drystone dyke, continuing on a more level route around the hill, then down to a gateway through another drystone dyke. Soon after this dyke, take a grassy track up to the left - a short steep climb, then more gently undulating. Pass the Fog House and continue round Craig Leek so that you are again looking down on to the track you were on earlier to cross the moor. Your track now zig-zags down to the valley floor. When you reach a T junction turn right to return to the car park.

Added info: If some of your group want a walk that avoids any climb, they could take the main track, passing Invercauld House and continuing westwards, returning by the same route. An interesting objective on this walk would be to go to the Farquharson Monument. After a 3 mile walk, a gate on LHS, just before a radio mast, leads into a field. Monument can be seen in the field only a short distance from the track. There may be cattle in the field in summer.