

Aonach Beag (4B)

Report of summit survey carried out by Alan Dawson on 22 April 2012

1. Introduction

The purpose of this survey was to measure the height and drop of Aonach Beag, to determine whether it has the 100 metres prominence required to be a Hump and a New Munro. The summit is shown as 1116m on some OS maps, 1114m on others, with a col height of 1017m or 1016m. Heights were measured using a Leica Geosystems 1250 GPS receiver, with antenna on a one-metre pole, and subsequent processing by John Barnard using OS Rinex data to obtain precise measurements. Conditions for the survey were good: clear skies, light wind and very good visibility, but with several cm of fresh snow at both summit and col that made it difficult to locate optimum survey points.

2. Summit survey

The summit of Aonach Beag is about 6km north-east from Corrour Lodge, at the east end of Loch Ossian. There is a large cairn at the summit comprising numerous loose stones. The summit survey point was at the edge of this cairn. It was difficult to identify the highest natural ground, as the snow covered all the summit area, and the lower stones of the cairn spread out over the surrounding summit area. After several minutes of moving snow and stones, an area of earth was identified next to the cairn where it was possible to screw the pole into the ground. It was not possible to say with certainty that this was the highest natural ground, as there could have been slightly higher ground underneath the cairn or beneath a few cm of snow. It is estimated that the summit could be up to 10cm higher than the survey point.

Results:

Aonach Beag summit cairn: 60 minutes at NN 45786 74190, height 1115.70m

Although an hour was a long time to wait around in the snow on a high summit, the wind was light, the cairn offered some shelter, and the views were magnificent.

3. Col survey

The col between Aonach Beag and Geal-Charn is on a narrow ridge between quite steep slopes and would have been easy to locate precisely if it had not been under several cm of snow. The survey pole was used to scoop channels in the snow and locate earth in which to screw the pole. However, it was not possible to say with certainty that it was the exact col location, as there could have been slightly higher or lower ground underneath the snow within 3-4 metres in either direction. It is estimated that the col could be up to 10cm higher or lower than the survey point. Results:

Aonach Beag col: 60 minutes at NN46237 74238, height 1016.67m

4. Summary and conclusions

Hill:	Aonach Beag, section 4B
Categories:	Munro, Sim, Subhump
Summit:	1116m at NN 45786 74190
Col:	1017m at NN 46237 74238
Drop:	99m

The drop from Aonach Beag is estimated as $99\text{m} \pm 0.2\text{m}$, i.e. between 98.8m and 99.2m. Aonach Beag is therefore but not a Hump or New Munro. Its height has been revised from 1114m to 1116m.



Aonach Beag From Beinn Eibhinn

Survey point on Aonach Beag summit,
with Geal-Charn beyond



Aonach Beag from near its col with Geal-Charn

Survey point at Aonach Beag col, looking north



Survey point at Aonach Beag col, looking south